

# USS Casa Grande LSD-13

*“From sea to beach-head always ready”*

MAY 2020.



**Greetings Shipmates from your President Elmo Sherman.....**

*Hello shipmates. I can hear the Boson’s pipe now, piping down the “Attention all hands, this is your captain speaking”! “It has been brought to my attention we are in for some bad weather so we must secure the cargo and prepare for the storm”. How many times have we heard those words? I remember Hurricane Donna. That was a storm I’ll never forget as long as I live.*

*I have been talking to Bob Moody, DC2, our reunion planner and comptroller. We were going to have our next reunion in Hampton, Va. in May, but as the storm has arrived in the form of the Coronavirus from China that has shut down the entire country. I and the reunion board have contacted the hotel and decided to cancel the reunion for the health and safety of all our shipmates and families. This breaks my heart because this is one of my greatest times to gather with my fellow sailors and their spouses to share the love*

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*of the sea and rekindle the seafaring stories, we know to be true. Well, they aren't, are they?*

*Bob Moody has some plans up his sleeve for another venue with some “Gator Sailors”, and he will explain in detail. In closing, I have been President of the Casa Grande LSD-13 for 2 years. The 2018 reunion was really great then you elected me your President and Ron Hiles, MM2, Vice President. We cancelled any plans for a 2019 reunion and now the 2020 reunion. Not a very good record and I am sorry to have let you down but we have no choice at this time. Elmo Sherman CS3 USS Casa Grande LSD-13.*

## **Message from Bob Moody “Reunion Planner”**

*We tried our best to move the reunions from the Fall of the year to the Spring of the year to avoid hurricane season. Our intentions were very good so we planned a grand reunion in Hampton, Va. for May of 2020, as we most certainly would not concern ourselves with any hurricanes. Yep, we were right... no hurricane but who knew back then that we would experience a Corona Virus pandemic? So here we are back to square one wondering what to do next.*

*The Executive Board has a very good idea that we feel will be a perfect fit for the USS Casa Grande Reunion Association. Here is some background. Earlier this year we were contacted by a gentleman named Louis “Skip” Sander who is the lead for another reunion group named the Amphibious Ships Reunion. This group has been together for a few years and has had very successful reunions but only for anyone who served in the “GATOR NAVY”. Skip is also the founder of the Alliance of Military Reunions which assists military groups in the planning of their reunions no matter what branch of service you served in. He is extremely knowledgeable in all phases of military reunions and has addressed many reunion groups over the years and is highly respected by military reunion planners nationally.*

*Skip has invited the USS Casa Grande Reunion Association to join them this September in Annapolis, MD. for their annual reunion. We can attend with our ships organized reunion group so we will still be together and hold our annual meeting along with making new “Gator Friends”. I think you will find that the agenda for the reunion sounds outstanding and I am really looking forward to the trip. The reunion will start on Monday, Sept. 21 with hotel checkout on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020 at the Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel.*

*I have attached the Amphibious Ships Reunion Registration form to this newsletter. As an incentive to join us, the Casa Grande Reunion Association will reimburse shipmates for their registration fee which is \$45 per person. The Executive Board feels that we*

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*should also cover the \$45 registration fee for the spouses or significant others since they are associate members of the organization. That is a savings of \$90 per couple that will be paid either after the reunion and/or during the reunion. You must send in your registration fee at the time you make your reservations however. Please note all reservations must be in no later than August 10, 2020 which is the absolute deadline.*

*Shipmates who have email addresses with the Association have already received this information and the response has been outstanding. This newsletter will get the word out to the remainder of the shipmates who have not provided me with any contact information as I maintain the ships roster. I need updated mailing addresses, years served, email addresses, rate while onboard, and significant others name. I have no way of knowing where you are unless I am notified of any change at my email address of [mowedge@zoominternet.net](mailto:mowedge@zoominternet.net).*

*Hosting a reunion is a tremendous amount of work and takes a minimum of 2 years to put on a good reunion that covers all the bases. The host must negotiate a reasonable contract with the host hotel, arrange meals provided by the hotel, select venues that we will tour, and provide transportation (which is extremely expensive) during the reunion and this just barley covers all the work involved. We are an aging group and the ability, even though the desire might be great, to host is just not possible anymore. Obviously, if anyone is interested in hosting please let myself or some-one else on the Executive Board know and we can assist as much as possible and get the ball rolling. We feel attending the Amphibious Ships Reunion is a perfect fit for our group. It does not cost the association a penny so let's give it a try and see how things work out for us. It's only the shipmates that attend this year's reunion in Annapolis that will decide if we want to continue with this group. **This does not mean we will end the USS Casa Grande Reunion Association.** If anything, this will in all likelihood keep the group together longer once the responsibility of not having to arrange a reunion is behind us. It's hard to believe it's been two years this Sept. that our group has been together and we need to correct that. There is no future reunion in the pipeline right now other than this Sept. in Annapolis, so we need to act now. Come on shipmates we still have 312 shipmates on the roster so let's make this a great turnout. I would appreciate being notified if you will be planning on attending, so I can keep Skip Sander in the loop for his planning purposes. If you no longer want to receive emails or newsletter's just email me at [mowedge@zoominternet.net](mailto:mowedge@zoominternet.net) or call 724-766-8015 and request to be removed.*

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## **USS CASA GRANDE REUNION ASSOCIATION WEBSITE**

Does everybody know we have a website? The website is [www.usscasagrande.com](http://www.usscasagrande.com). The website contains a ton of information about our beloved CG and the vast majority of the information I never knew. All of the history of the CG is there to review and its good reading. Just wish I knew who put it all together as I would like to personally thank them.

Any shipmate may post messages on the website such as hunting for a shipmate, or just saying hello. It's a great way to keep up to date with Casa Grande news and posts. By the way, if you are looking for a particular shipmate, just contact me and I will see if he is listed on our roster. If you know of a shipmate and have kept in contact with him over the years, please provide his contact information and I will get him added to our roster. Anyone know what this picture is????????????????



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## USS CASA GRANDE LSD-13 REUNION ASSOCIATION

### 2020 DUES FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RATING \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS SERVED ON THE USS CASA GRANDE 19 \_\_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Casa Grande Reunion Association

Annual shipmate dues: \$15.00

Annual Associate Member Dues \$5.00

Mail to:

Bob Moody, Treasurer

324 Dutch Road

Harmony, Pa. 16037-8905

Phone: 724-452-7065

Email: [mowedge@zoominternet.net](mailto:mowedge@zoominternet.net)

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[USS CASA GRANDE LSD-13 REUNION ASSOCIATION](#)

[c/o BOB MOODY](#)

[324 DUTCH ROAD](#)

[HARMONY, PA. 16037-8905](#)