



## **Greetings Springfield and Little Rock Shipmates:**

The Association “Les Américains et la 6<sup>ème</sup> Flotte à Villefranche sur Mer” was founded last year by President Valérie Blouin, grand daughter of Mere Germaine, whose restaurant has become famous through out the fleet and possibly world wide. The goal of our organization is to educate the young and old about the history of the Sixth Fleet in Villefranche and to commemorate the 50 years since the departure of the fleet on 20 January 2017.

The board of directors of the Navy League in Cannes are also members and we support this Association with great enthusiasm.

Since the first issue of this NewsLetter last June, we have had several meetings and many ideas on how to organize the commemoration of the Sixth Fleet in VilleFranché sur Mer. In the mean time we have also heard from many Springfield members who are very enthusiastic about our project for 2017 and would like to attend the event. They have also been very helpful in finding shipmates who were stationed in VsM. James Guignard then a J.O. is one of those stationed ashore, Jim was one of the last men to leave VsM and helped with the Springfield’s move to Gaeta on Jan 20 1967. Henry (Batch) Batchelder also a J.O. on Springfield was asked, or was rather instructed by the captain to produce a plaque to present to the citizens of Villefranche, he was responsible for the commissioning of the Springfield plaque which is still visible today on the street next to the Welcome Hotel.

Our goal is to contact as many shipmates as possible from all ships and shore based personal in VsM as well as spouses and their children.

Recently we were fortunate to have the help of Art Tilley (Little Rock 62-63) he is the Little Rock Webmaster and has been most helpful with a very big list of Little Rock sailors and getting the word out on his website.

Originally we discussed having the event both on 20 Jan 2017 and also on the 4th of July, however the 4th of July week being the busiest time of the year in VsM, it will be hot, Hotels will be full, parking and traveling difficult. So we are now only concentrating on celebrating from 19 Jan.-22 Jan. 2017. the date that Sixth Fleet H.Q. departed Villefranche to its new Head Quarters in Gaeta.

On Page 2 you will find our proposed Agenda which of course is subject to changes, but the dates of 19-22 January 2017 are fixed. (Dutch) More news to follow as we go along.

### **Below information from Little Rock Webmaster Art Tilley**

#### **All US 6th Fleet Flagships serving at VsM:**

- USS Albany CG-10
- USS Boston CAG-1
- USS Columbus CA-74
- USS Des Moines CA-134
- USS Little Rock CLG-4
- USS Newport News CA-148
- USS Northampton CLC-1
- USS Salem CA-139
- USS Springfield CLG-7



August 2015, Meeting at Mom’s place with RADM Philip Dur (ret) ex Little Rock Ltjg. L to R. Mrs. Dur, Dutch, Phil Dur, Thierry Blouin, Valérie Blouin, George Hughes, Jo Masnata, Philip Depoy, Mrs. Depoy.

**Note:** Philip Dur was also CO on the **USS Compte de Grasse** and made many port visits with her in Villefranche

**Les Americains et la VI éme flotte à Villefranche sur Mer  
Preliminary Program**

**Thursday 19 Jan. 2017 17:00h  
18:00h**

**Registration Gare Maritime.  
Welcome Cocktail reception in the Gare Maritime  
(fleet landing) building**

**Friday 20 Jan. 10:00 -12:00**

**Meeting for discussions among shipmates.**

**A U.S Navy Destroyer, or USS Mount Whitney, 6th fleet  
flagship to be in port for the events, a ship visit and or  
a reception is a good possibility on this day. Protocol  
visit by Ships officers at the Mayors office.**

**Friday 19:30h**

**Welcome dinner at La Mere Germaine**

**Sat. 21 Jan. 19.30h**

**Gala dinner in the citadel with U.S Navy flag officer, and  
Consul General, local Mayors etc. in attendance.**

**Options still on  
the table**

**Luncheon at the Yacht Club de Monaco**

**Cocktail reception Villa Rothschild  
[www.villa-ephrussi.com/en/home](http://www.villa-ephrussi.com/en/home)**

**Sunday 22 Jan.**

**Open to several excursions for those staying another  
day.**

**Note: Except for the above dates, some of the events may be re-arranged and events added to fill the blank spaces depending on the number of attendees we will have. We are hoping to have several VIP's and dignitaries at the events which will also require some adjustments,**

Guest and speakers to be invited.

Mrs. Jane Hartley, U.S Ambassador to France  
Ms. Monique Quesada U.S Consul General in Marseille  
HSH Prince Albert II de Monaco  
Prefecture Alpes Maritime  
Prefet Maritime (French Admiral)

Commander NATO Forces Europe and Africa \*  
Commander U.S Sixth Fleet \*  
Captain Louis (Skip Army Naval Attaché in Paris  
Captain Edwin Grohe U.S Navy Liaison in Toulon

Mayors of: Nice, Cannes, Grasse, St Jean Cap Ferrat,  
Beaullieu

\* Presently Adm. Mark Ferguson and VADM James Foggo

**Last minute News.**

On Thursday 5 November, I had the great pleasure to finally meet Henry (Batch) Batchelder for dinner in VsM along with two other Springfield shipmates, Barry Lindquist and Monte Ball, who wanted to celebrate their 50th anniversary since joining the ship in VsM. Needless to say the evening was full old funny seastories and way to short. All three are looking forward to attending our 2017 events.  
Dutch

Future news will include more  
details, Hotels, apartment rentals  
and hopefully a list of Shipmates  
planning to attend.

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