



NEWSLETTER

2st Issue 23rd Year

01 March 1, 2015



Association Officers

President

Ron Zimmerman Sr.
474 SW Prater Ave
Port St. Lucie, FL 34953
(772) 621-4016
ae17assn@bellsouth.net

Vice President

Jim Dunno
272 Stone Hedge Row
Johnstown, OH 43031
(740) 817-2177
mgdjim60@gmail.com

Secretary

Jim Perko
PO Box 675
Barnegat Light, NJ
08006
(609) 361-9456
perk1shore@yahoo.com

Treasurer

George Kaiser
311 W. Oak Lane
Glenolden, PA 19036
(610) 237-1652
dcckaiser@juno.com

Chaplain

Mark Rucker
241 Larchmont Ave.
Springfield, OH 45503
(937) 322-1327
ruckerml1@att.net

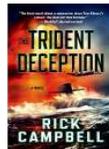
Editor (Non-officer)

Dorothy Hodnichak
25850 Lake Shore Blvd.
Euclid, OH 44132-1107
(216) 731-5289
dhodnichak@aol.com

Association's Web Site:
www.greatsitkin.org

From Our President: Not much going on right now. Just getting ready and working on finalizing the 2015 Reunion. Fred Kiesel has really been beating up the hotel and the tour companies to get us good rates. Check out his report and the 2015 Reunion flyer for full details. As for me, I just finished another round of maintenance Chemo and everything is going good – still in remission. God willing, we will see you all in Tampa!

At this year's reunion, we are going to have a raffle for two autographed books written by retired Navy Commander Rick Campbell: *The Trident Deception* and *Empire Rising*. Both books have received fantastic reviews, with *The Trident Deception* being hailed by Booklist as "The best submarine novel written in the last 30 years since Tom Clancy's classic - *The Hunt for Red October*." The second book, *Empire Rising*, has been selected by Barnes & Noble as one of their Top 12 February Thrillers! Tickets will be on sale at \$5.00 for 6 tickets. First name drawn will have his/her choice of books.



All proceeds will be donated to the Fisher House Foundation, along with matching funds from our General Operating Account. The Foundation provides comfort suites and homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. Fisher House is one of the very few organizations where over 90% of the funds raised go to support the program.

Website Update: Believe it or not, I FINALLY got the reunion pictures done and uploaded to the website. Thanks to Dorothy for giving me a hand with the pictures and writing the narrative for each section. It is very much appreciated.

New finds: Wendell G. Hileman, FN, '68 - '70
William J. Winder, BT3, '64 - '68

Ron Zimmerman, President

A word from the Vice President: I just looked out in the yard and following



b a c k
took the
photo:

Yep! Spring is almost here! That groundhog won't see his shadow this year! In December, Joy and I went to Arizona to visit my brother. We took a side trip to the Grand Canyon. It was 50 and 60 degrees at the canyon until the next morning with 3" of snow.....go figure! Still, it was beautiful to see. Joy just entered the retirement mode. We can take off and visit more than usual, so don't be surprised if you see us at your door for a visit. Yes! We will leave the same day! LOL.

Membership: As of now, we have 74 paid members, which are about half the number I reported at the reunion. If you have contact with the other guys, please remind them to send in their dues.

Next: If you change your E-mail address, please let me know. Home addresses and phone numbers too. I don't want to know about girl friends or significant others, that is TMI! (Too much information) for those of you who don't text or do Facebook.

Jim Dunno, VP & Membership Chairman

Secretary Report: I'm writing this report when the temperature is nine degrees without the wind chill. It takes some effort to stay positive and imagine warm spring days, but those days will come.

It also takes some effort to remain positive about our membership. We need to work hard to keep it growing! Please do all you can to contact former members or invite new members who were your shipmates. Remember: **EACH ONE REACH ONE!**

We would like to see more members sign up for our Tampa reunion this year. The dates are September 9 thru September 13. We can almost guarantee sunshine! This may be the time to join us and to share memories of our service on the USS Great Sitkin. I am hoping to hear from you, even if it is just to say "hello" and establish contact. If you plan to join us in Tampa or if you have any questions or concerns, our Association is here for you.

Jim Perko, Secretary

Repair 3: OK Shipmates! Another newsletter, another "what to write about" perplexes this Damage Controlman. I've already mentioned the Nashville reunion in my last report. I guess I could make a pitch for this year's reunion in

Looking ahead to Y2016, it turns out some of the East Coast Executive Board members will be putting on the reunion in New York City. Before you think \$300 a night hotel rooms, please know that our digs will be on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. A lot more planning has to go into this before details are forthcoming, but start planning for a USS Great Sitkin Reunion in the Northeast in Y2016!

Here it is February 2015: 44 years ago today we were underway in the North Atlantic on the 1971 Med Cruise. Speaking of February, tomorrow is Presidents' Day, a federal day-off event. Most of us remember when we got two school days off; Lincoln on the 12th and Washington on the 22nd.

Do you know what connection our Navy has with the US Presidents? Can you name the six 20th century Presidents who credit the US Navy for helping them develop into the leaders they would eventually become? Before you go to Google to find out, here they are: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, James E. "Jimmy" Carter and George H.W. Bush.

President John F. Kennedy made the following remarks at the U.S. Naval Academy on August 1, 1963, on the subject of naval service: I can imagine a no more rewarding career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: **"I served in the United States Navy!"**

The 21st century Navy has changed quite a bit, even from our own individual times as Sailors. The kids I know who today go to the sea in ships seem

to have pretty much the same view. I hope that 44 years from now when all of us have gone on to our Eternal Reward, they will be looking back with the same sense of pride and accomplishment.

Speaking of going to our Eternal Reward and reporting to the Staff of the Supreme Commander, I'd like to just say, "Fair Winds and Following Seas" to BM3 Doug Hauser. He was a driving force for the Association since Y2000. We all will miss him.

George Kaiser, Treasurer

The Chaplain's Corner: "Good Day to all of you."

Well, winter is upon us, and I am sitting here writing this article and thinking about the snow we are going to get this evening. I am tired of snow and cold weather. I guess I am better off than you folks who live in the New England area. It makes me think back to those cold winter nights in Bayonne or down the coast tied up at Earl, NJ.

I remember my first Med cruise. We left Bayonne and headed south to St. Thomas. It was so nice to get up each day and feel how much warmer it was the farther south we sailed. I would like to be sitting on the beach in St. Thomas right now.

The untimely passing of a good friend and faithful member of our Association, Doug Hauser, has touched us all. I will certainly miss him at the reunions.

It's time to say good-bye for now. Let's keep those families in our prayers that have lost a loved one who sailed aboard the Great Sitkin.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You.

Honor Roll Update:

Elbert English Jr. Captain '64 -'65

Douglas D. Hauser BM3 '53 -'56

James A. Kurczodyna SN '68 -'69

George W. Schnyer DCFN '51 -'54

Spouse Honor Roll:

Connie Neeland

Spouse of shipmate, Jerry Neeland '55

Connie Pasquarella

Spouse of shipmate, Pat Pasquarella '52

Henrietta Wesolowski

Spouse of shipmate, Ed Wesolowski '53

Mark Rucker, Chaplain

Comments from the Editor: The Association is celebrating its 23rd year. Time marches on! When we lose a Sitkin shipmate or his spouse, we all grieve. We are a Naval family that has bonded through the years.

In January, we lost Doug Hauser, suddenly, and we grieve again. Doug was VP of the Association for several years. He and his wife, Kathy, put together seven reunions. He loved his shipmates and talked by phone to them on a regular basis. (For those of you who do not know Doug, he is highlighted in the June 2014 newsletter.)

Doug was initially responsible for my becoming Editor of your newsletter. I will always be thankful for his friendship and everything he did for me. I, too, shall miss him very much.

Dorothy nichak,



H o d - Editor

To the Officers and Members of the USS Great Sitkin Association:

My Mother and I would like to extend our deepest thanks to you all for sending the beautiful flower spray. It was tasteful, beautiful, and the perfect touch to stand beside my Dad. Most of all, we are honored that you all would do this for my Father. The Association meant so much to him and to know you honored him in this way is probably the best tribute we could possibly imagine for him.

On a lighter note, I did want you to know your spray adorned one side of my Father's flag-draped coffin, and on the other side... eventually...the Navy flag. When we were first shown into the parlor for some family time before the viewing, Mom and I sat just looking at how honorably and respectfully everything had been done for Dad. I looked with pride at the flag standing to one side of the coffin, then noticed something...it's not the Navy flag I remember usually seeing. I got up and pulled the flag straight...they'd put the Army flag next to him! My husband got the funeral home attendant and they quickly replaced it with the Navy flag. It was a nice break for a quiet laugh, just imaging what my Dad would have said if he had seen it. It was an anecdote I imagine you all could appreciate as well.

Again, thank you all for honoring my Father this way. We could not be more proud of his service, both in the Navy and with the USS Great Sitkin Association.

Sincerely, Kathy Hauser & Jennifer Geoppinger

A Sailor's Poem

Come gather round me lads and I'll tell you a thing or two;
About the way we ran the Navy in Nineteen-Sixty-Two.

When wooden ships and iron men were barely out of sight;
I am going to give you some facts just to set the record right.

We wore the ole bell bottoms, with a flat hat on our head;
Always hit the rack at night and never "went to bed."

Our uniforms were worn ashore and we were mighty proud;
Never thought of wearing civvies, in fact, they were never allowed.

What happened to the KiYi brush and the old salt-water bath;
Holy stoning decks at night cause you stirred old Bosn's wrath!

We always had our gedunk stand and lots of pogeY bait;
And it always took a hitch or two just to make a rate.

In your seabag all your skivvies were neatly stopped and rolled;
And the blankets on your sack had better have a three-inch fold.

Your little ditty bag, it is hard to believe just how much it held;
You wouldn't go ashore with pants that hadn't been spiked and belled.

We had scullery maids and succotash and good old SOS;
And when you felt like topping off, you headed for the mess.

Oh, we had our belly robbers, but there weren't too many gripes;
For the deck apes were never hungry and there were no starving snipes.

Now you never hear of Davy Jones, Shellbacks or Polliwogs;
And you never splice the mainbrace to receive your daily grog.

Now you never have to dog a watch or stand the main vent;
You even tie your lines today, back in my time they were bent.

We were all two-fisted drinkers and no one thought you sinned;
If you staggered back aboard your ship, three sheets to the wind.

And with just a couple hours of sleep, you regained your usual luster;
Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, you still made morning muster.

Rocks and shoals have long since gone, and now it's UCMJ;
Then the old man handled every thing if you should go astray.

Now they steer the ships with dials, and I wouldn't be surprised;
If some day they sailed them from the beach computerized.

So when my earthly hitch is over, and the good Lord picks the best;
I'll walk right up to HIM and say, "Sir, I have but one request.

Let me sail the seas of Heaven in a coat of Navy blue;
Like I did so long ago on earthway back in Nineteen-Sixty-Two."

19 Terms Every US Navy Sailor Will Understand

Sailors have a language all their own. And all Sailors from the “old salts” to the newly initiated are familiar with the following terms:

- **Chit:** A chit in the Navy refers to any piece of paper from a form to a pass and even currency. According to the Navy History Museum, the word chit was carried over from the days of Hindu traders when they used slips of paper called “citthi” for money.
- **Scuttlebutt:** The Navy term for water fountain. The Navy History Museum describes the term as a combination of “scuttle,” to make a hole in the ship’s side causing her to sink and “butt,” a cask or hogshead used in the days of wooden ships to hold drinking water. Thus, the word scuttlebutt means a cask with a hole in it.
- **Crank:** The term used to describe a mess-deck worker, typically a new transferee assigned to the mess decks while qualifying for regular watch.
- **Cadillac:** This is the term used to describe a mop bucket with wheels and a ringer. When Sailors are assigned to cleaning duties, they prefer the luxurious Cadillac over the bucket.
- **Knee-knockers:** A knee-knocker refers to the bottom portion of a watertight door’s frame. They are notorious for causing shin injuries. Drunken Sailors hate them.
- **Cumshaw:** The term used when obtaining something outside of official channels or payment, usually by trading or bartering. For example, Sailors on a deployed ship got pizza in exchange for doing the laundry of the C-2 Greyhound crew that flew it in. Younger Sailors may use the term “drug deal” instead of cumshaw.
- **Turco:** The chemical used for washing airplanes.
- **Pad eye:** These are the hook points on a ship’s surface used to tie down airplanes with chains.
- **Gun decking:** Filling out a log or form with imaginary data, usually done out of laziness or to satisfy an inspection.
- **Muster:** The term Sailors use interchangeably for meeting and roll call.
- **Gear adrift:** The term used to describe items that are not properly stowed away. Also, sometimes phrased as “gear adrift is a gift.”
- **Geedunk:** The term Sailors use for vending machine and junk food.
- **Snipe:** The term used to describe Sailors that work below decks, usually those that are assigned to engineering rates, such as Machinists’ Mates, Boilermen, Enginemen, Hull Technicians and more.
- **Airdale:** These are Sailors assigned to the air wing - everyone from pilots down to the airplane maintenance crew.
- **Bubble head:** The term Sailors use to describe submariners.
- **Mid-rats:** Short for mid-rations. The food line open from midnight to 6:00 a.m. that usually consists of leftovers and easy-to-make food like hamburgers, sandwich fixings and weenies.
- **Roach coach:** The snack or lunch truck that stops by the pier.
- **Bomb farm:** Areas on the ship where aviation ordnancemen store their bombs.
- **Nuke it:** The term used when a Sailor is overthinking a simple task. Here’s how the Navy publication *All Hands* describes the term: The phrase is often used by Sailors as a way to say: “Stop over-thinking things in the way a nuclear officer might. Don’t dissect everything down to its nuts and bolts. Just stop thinking.” But that’s the thing; Sailors who are part of the nuclear Navy can’t stop. They have no choice but to nuke it.

The USS Great Sitkin Association was given special permission to replicate *19 Terms Every US Navy Sailor Will Understand*, written by Orvelin Valle. It originally appeared in *We Are The Mighty*, Copyright 2015. Follow: *We Are The Mighty* on Twitter.

Anthony S. Fusco, MM2 - U.S. Navy - 1943 and 1952 - Aboard USS Great Sitkin '50 - '52
World War II Veteran and Honoree
Salvage Diver on French Liner SS Normandie 1943

Diver Who Worked On Normandie Joins Navy In Double Capacity *Reprinted from Newspaper*

Volunteering for double combat duty is the answer Seaman Anthony S. Fusco of 23 Enfield Street has for the Axis.

Relaxing Sunday at the newly opened Armed Forces Club, Fusco, a seaman with a fireman's rating, told of his experiences as a volunteer salvage diver working on the submerged French liner Normandie. He had asked for the position because he "craved something interesting and really exciting."

Satisfaction of that desire took the form of volunteering for salvage diver's work on the Normandie, which was not only exciting, but also played an important role in Allied transportation, he said.



"It was fun watching the ship come up two or three degrees every day and know I had some part in it," he said, "even though I didn't do any of the really big jobs." The reason for this, he pointed out, was that he had not yet completed the salvage diving course. Work on the French liner was "all in the line of training us for salvaging ships and materials lost underwater and for repairing harbor installations for Allied use." he said.

In zero visibility, wearing suits that averaged 220 pounds, the divers patched the ship's bulkheads, put concrete into her sides where patching was not feasible, cleared the mud away and made it possible for the Normandie to be brought to the surface.

The men worked at depths of 50 to 200 feet. They rotated on three shifts of eight hours each, rarely remaining at underwater posts for more than three or four hours at a time. "The reason for this," Fireman Fusco explained, "was the length of time it takes to come up." An underwater stay of three hours makes it necessary for the diver to rise to the surface in stages to release the pressure and change the atmosphere gradually.

Perfect nerve coordination and presence of mind, as well as practically perfect physical condition, are prerequisites for the work. "Without these, it's easy to crack up," said the diver, pointing out that large numbers drop from the course because of claustrophobia, imperfect ears, fright, or "just because they don't feel like continuing."

"Sure, I was frightened the first time," he replied in answer to a question, "but I got over it the minute I went in. Now it's just routine." He added that "once you know how to adjust the air in the diving suit and learn to control it, the hardest part is over." Pointing to his bruised hands, he explained that the divers work without gloves or light. As a result, the work is "all a matter of feeling what's wrong. We study blueprints of the ship and get familiar with the situation before any work is begun."

The seaman, who was graduated from the boat training course at Newport, RI, from a course at the Wentworth Institute in Boston and from a machinist's mate school with a fireman's rating, was at the Armed Forces Club to "see what it was like and to relax."

Note: Anthony S. Fusco passed away at age 93 on October 10, 2014



USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association Active Membership: Active Member status in the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association is open to all crew members. Dues are \$20.00 per year and are used to cover the cost of the newsletters, Website hosting, domain name, administrative and other expenses. The membership year is 1 January through 31 December. Membership cards will be issued to all crew members paying dues and will identify the individual by name, expiration date and number of years of Active Membership.

Payment of dues is not required to participate in any official function of the Association but is required for being an Active Member. Notices pertaining to dues will be posted on the Website and in the newsletters. Active Members must have their dues paid prior to the annual meeting each year in order to retain their status and eligibility to vote.

To become an Active Member of the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association, please complete the application form below and send it along with a check made payable to the:

USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association, c/o Jim Dunno, 272 Stone Hedge Dr., Johnstown, OH 43031

USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association Active Member Application & Renewal Form

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Dates Served Aboard: _____ Application Date: _____ [] New [] Renewal

Amount Submitted: \$ _____ [] 2015 YR (\$20.00) [] 2016 YR (\$20.00) [] 2017 YR (\$20.00)

[] Please send me a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Comments: _____

USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association - Ship's Store Order Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Ball Caps:

Note: Where sizes are indicated, please circle the size/sizes you want.

USS Great Sitkin Ball Caps (solid back) \$15.00 ea. Blue Quantity: _____

USS Great Sitkin AE17 Ball Caps (solid back) \$15.00 ea. Blue Quantity: _____

USS Ship Name & Silhouette Caps (mesh back only) \$15.00 ea. Blue Quantity: _____

Shirts:

Sizes

USS Great Sitkin Polo Shirts - Blue \$25.00 ea. M L XL XXL Quantity: _____

USS Great Sitkin Polo Shirts - Gray \$25.00 ea. M L XL XXL Quantity: _____

USS Great Sitkin Polo Shirts - Pink \$25.00 ea. S M L XL Quantity: _____

USS Great Sitkin Ship's Picture T-Shirt \$18.00 ea. S M L XL XXL Quantity: _____

USS Great Sitkin Ship's Picture Sweatshirt \$25.00 ea. L XL XXL Quantity: _____

Jacket/Hoodie:

USS Great Sitkin All Weather Hooded Zip-Front Jacket - Blue
(Note: Jackets are on special order) \$45.00 ea. M L XL XXL Quantity: _____

Aluminum water bottles: \$10.00 ea. Quantity: _____

All prices include postage.

All orders should be sent to:

Please make check or money order out to **USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association**

USS Great Sitkin Association
c/o George Kaiser
311 Oak Lane
Glenolden, PA 19036

Note: **DO NOT** include your "Dues" payment in with your Ship Store Order
They need to be separate checks or money orders.

Questions about Ship's Store items can be E-mailed to: ae17dc3@verizon.net

Ship's Store



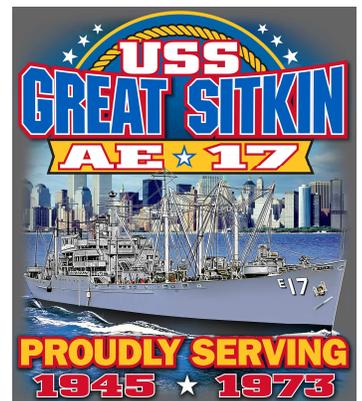
Ship's Ball Caps \$15.00 each



Aluminum Water Bottle \$10 each



All Weather Jacket Blue, \$45 each
(Jackets are Special Order)



Ship's Picture Shirts
T-Shirts \$18 ea
Sweat Shirts \$25.00 ea
Back of shirt has picture,
Front has Ship's patch design



Polo Shirts

Men's and Ladies, Dark blue, Grey, Pink \$25.00 each
(Dark blue not shown)

USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association
23rd Annual Reunion Itinerary - September 9 - 13, 2015
Tampa, Florida



Headquarters:

Marriott Tampa Westshore
1001 N. Westshore Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33607

Reservations: 813-287-2555 Mention "USS Great Sitkin Reunion"

(Special room rate will apply 3 days before & 3 days after) Check in: 4:00 p.m. Check out: Noon

Room Rates: \$125.00 per night (special rate) which includes breakfast for two (each day) and all taxes. You will only be charged \$125 per night. Complimentary on-site parking. Last day to book special rate is August 12, 2015. 20% discount in hotel restaurant. Two large malls & many restaurants are nearby.

Airport: Tampa International Airport (TPA) - Call hotel for courtesy shuttle from & to the airport (**813-287-2555**) Hotel courtesy shuttle is free within a 2-mile radius (upon availability)

Car Rental:

<u>Hertz</u>	OR	<u>Budget</u>
5503 West Spruce Street		4030 George J. Bean Inbound Parkway
Tampa, FL 33607		Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: (813) 874-3232		Phone: (813) 396-3126

Note: Both car rental agencies are nearby the Marriott Tampa Westshore Hotel.

Reunion Package: (1 Person - \$175.00) (2 People - \$350.00) (3 People - \$525.00) (See registration form)

Wednesday: 9/9 Main Registration Day in the Hospitality Room when you arrive.

6:00 p.m. - ??? A welcome reception will be held in the Hospitality Room. The following food will be provided: Assorted cheese, sliced fruit, grilled & chilled vegetables and a carving station with Steamship beef, roast turkey and baked ham. Bring your appetite! Yummmmm!

Thursday: 9/10 **8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Narrated Tampa Area Tour with guided tours of the H.B. Plant Museum and the Ybor City State Museum. Time will be allotted to explore the shops, have lunch on your own or buy a hand-rolled cigar as a souvenir. There will be a guided tour of the American Victory Ship Museum where the Memorial Service will be held. Return to the hotel to get some rest.

6:30 p.m. Barbeque at the pool. Cash Bar

Friday: 9/11 **(Optional tour) Salvador Dali Museum** Cost includes transportation. Public gallery tour OR enjoy the galleries at your own pace w/audio guides - all with group admission. See more at <http://thedali.org> - Take the virtual tour!

Free day for others. Tampa has many other things to do: Busch Gardens, Big Cat Rescue, Streetcar from downtown to Ybor City, Florida Aquarium, Lowry Zoo and many other sites to choose from.

Saturday: 9/12 **8:30 a.m.** The Association business meeting which will be held in the Hospitality Room.

Free time after the business meeting until the Banquet.

5:30 p.m. Cocktails - Cash Bar

6:30 p.m. Annual Banquet with sit-down dinner. Choice of Mediterranean Chicken, Grilled Mahi Mahi, Braised Short Ribs. All served with salad and dessert. Cash bar.

7:30 - 11:00 p.m. Music provided by the TnT Show

Sunday: 9/13 Farewell Breakfast

Fred Kiesel, Reunion Chairman, Phone: 772-770-6339

TAMPA, FLORIDA

American Victory Museum Ship



The American Victory is now a museum ship. It was built by California Shipbuilding and delivered on 20 June 1945. The ship saw service in the Pacific in the last months of World War II and in the Vietnam War. It delivered Marshall Plan aid to Europe in 1946-1947. The ship is 455 ft. (139 m) long and is rated at 10,750 long tons deadweight. (DWT) Of the 534 Victory ships completed, only three remain working ships: American Victory at Tampa, SS Lane Victory at Los Angeles and SS Red Oak Victory at Richmond, California. (*Thursday's tour*)

Henry B. Plant, Railroad & Hotel Tycoon



Former hotel, now the **H.B. Plant Museum**, located on the University of Tampa campus. (*Thursday's tour*)



José Gaspar Pirate Ship on Bayshore Blvd. Ybor City State Museum



José Gaspar, known by his nickname Gasparilla, was a purported Spanish pirate, the "last of the Buccaneers," who is claimed to have raided the west coast of Florida during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.



Cigar-making Factories (*Thursday Tour*)

Salvador Dali's Museum (*Friday's Optional Tour*)



Extensive collection of surrealist art by Salvador Dalí housed in a building with 900 glass panels.



Busch Gardens



Tampa Aquarium



Take the Bay Spirit II to experience Tampa Bay wildlife, guided by one of The Florida Aquarium's experienced naturalists. The 72-foot catamaran is one of very few tours that offer a unique opportunity to view the incredible ecosystem of Tampa Bay. One of the largest and busiest deep-water ports in the Southern U.S. Port Tampa Bay. You will see the Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins, many species of threatened or endangered birds, and even the occasional manatee or turtle!



Lowry Park Zoo



Big Cat Rescue - 55 acres



Science Museum



Tampa Museum of Art



Sunshine Skyway Bridge 21,877 feet long (4.1 miles)

