



# SAVE THE DATE

USS Hollister DD-788

2025 Reunion

September 15-18, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn

Groton, Connecticut



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# U.S.S. Hollister

JANUARY 2025 NEWS AND REVIEWS



## THIRTY SIXTH USS HOLLISTER REUNION Mystic Connecticut

Monday September 15 to

Thursday September 18, 2025

Hosts: Mike and Sheila Wolber  
John and Teresa Moran  
Casey and Chris Orr

# Invitation to Mystic Connecticut

**Mystic** is a village and census-designated place (CDP) in Groton and Stonington, Connecticut, United States.



Mystic was a significant Connecticut seaport with more than 600 ships built over 135 years starting in 1784.<sup>[4]</sup> Mystic Seaport, located in the village, is the largest maritime museum in the United States and has preserved a number of sailing ships, such as the whaling ship *Charles W. Morgan*.<sup>[5][6]</sup> The village is located on the Mystic River which flows into Fishers Island Sound.<sup>[7]</sup> The Mystic River Bascule Bridge crosses the river in the center of the village.<sup>[8]</sup> The name "Mystic" is derived from the Pequot term "missi-tuk" describing a large river whose waters are driven into waves by tides or wind.<sup>[9]</sup> The population was 4,348 at the 2020 census.<sup>[2]</sup>

## A final farewell to our friends

Walter Hansen FT3—Passed September 10, 2024, on board 59/61

Les Allen Moat ET2—Passed October 4 2024, on board 77/79

Allyn Smith F1/c —Passed August 22, 2024, on board 46/49

# U.S.S Hollister

After a six-month repair and training period, *Hollister* left Long Beach on 25 June for the Far East once again. Arriving on 15 July, she screened carriers and prevented infiltration of supplies to the Viet Cong. *Hollister* remained in the Far East, where she was on station in May 1967.

After completing a Fleet in-depth overhaul in 1972, *Hollister* again departed Homeport, this time for her eighteenth deployment to the Western Pacific, carrying a new missile configuration. On 10 August 1972 *Hollister* became the first U.S. Naval Vessel to ever fire a Surface-to-Surface missile in anger. The missile silenced a North Vietnam Radar site. Only a day before, while on a three ship daylight raid on the Quang Yien storage complex, *Hollister* received at least 250 rounds of hostile fire. The Task unit destroyed a huge ammunition cache with *Hollister* returning 193 rounds of fire against enemy shore batteries on the heavily fortified island of Hon Me. This was considered the most daring Destroyer operation of the Vietnam War. The target was destroyed and the Task Unit retired without damage or a single casualty.

*Hollister* returned from the Western Pacific for the last time in February 1973. *Hollister's* record included completing 21 Western Pacific deployments and action in two major conflicts.

In September 1973 "Hollister" was entered into the Reserve Fleet unit Desron 27, NAVSUPACT, Long Beach, California, with four other ships, the USS *McKean* DD784, USS *Higbee* DD806, USS *DeHaven* DD727 and the USS *Henderson* DD785. She operated as a training vessel for approximately 124 Naval Reservists. She had an active duty crew of approximately 212. During her reserve assignment she maintained high standards of preparedness to meet any assignment to which she was called.

*Hollister* was decommissioned in September 1979. She was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 31 August 1979.

On 3 March 1983, *Hollister* was transferred to the Republic of China.

In the 2023 annual meeting it was voted on to donate \$750 to the Tin Can Sailors. We received the following note from the Tin Can Sailors.

# Tin Can Sailors, INC

## The National Association of Destroyer Veterans

ATTN Mr. Casey Orr, Treasurer

Dear Mr. Orr:

Thank you for your letter and generous \$750 check from the USS Hollister Reunion Association. Contributions such as these help to carry out the three-part mission of our association:

- To promote comradery among our members through our many events, our quarterly 44 page newspaper and the facilitating reunions of former shipmates;
- To promote the preservation of destroyer history and work to broaden the public's understanding of the contributions made by destroyers and those who served aboard them;
- And to support today's Navy and encourage understanding of its importance and mission.

Additional funds allow us to make an impact on the lives of sailors from yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

On behalf of Tin Can Sailors, I once again thank the USS Hollister Reunion Association for their generous contribution.

Sincerely,

James V. Jones  
President



## Hilton Garden Inn Groton, Connecticut



### Reservations

Hilton Garden Inn Mystic/Groton  
224 Gold Star Highway  
Groton, CT 06340

For Reservations:  
Call 1 (860) 445-6800

Ask for Group code HR

### Features and Amenities

- Complimentary hot breakfast
- Rates offered 2 days pre and post reunion
- Hospitality Room
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Complimentary Parking
- 145.00 + tax per night

**Reservations no later than**

**August 15, 2025 to insure the reunion rate.**

**USS Hollister General Membership Meeting September 29,2024**

President, Joe Namie called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

Opened the “All Hands” Business Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance **and prayer.**

Minutes of the last meeting, October 9, 2024, were read by Carol Coyne and a motion was made to approve the minutes by Bear and seconded by John and was approved.

Treasurer: Balance on hand is \$15,200 after all expenses were paid for. The auction raised a fantastic amount of \$7000. Thanks to all who contributed and participated. It is also a fun event with lots of laughs.

This year’s anchor pool brought in \$600. Well done to Mike and Sheila for stepping up to do the task.

The 990-N was sent to the IRS in March as required.

We now have 92 paid members.

**Donation:**

A motion was made by Joe Namie to donate \$750 to the Tin can sailors organization.

It was seconded by Alec Tan and approved.

New slate of officers for 2025

<b>President</b>	Bear Cannon	<b>Trustees</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> VP</b>	Brad Moomey	<b>Past President</b>	Joe Namie
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> VP</b>	Alec Tan	<b>First Trustee</b>	Dave Hall
<b>Secretary</b>	Carol Coyne	<b>Second Trustee</b>	Orval Mills
<b>Treasurer</b>	Casey Orr	<b>Hosts 2025</b>	Mike & Sheila Wolber
<b>Chaplain</b>	Peter Rustigian		Casey & Chris Orr
<b>Communications</b>	Chris Orr	<b>Historian</b>	Bear Cannon



Hats and shirts are always available for purchase in the Hospitality room. Don't be caught without one!!



**New Business:**

Chaplain’s report – Peter’s position is a lifetime appointment. No marriages this year.

Peter was having medical issues and we hope to see him next reunion.

We needed a first and second VP. Bear made a motion to nominate Brad Mooney as first VP and Alec Tan. It was seconded by Tom Bowers and was accepted.

2025 Reunion will be in Mystic CT. Hosts will be Mike & Sheila Wolber, and Casey & Chris Orr. The hotel will be The Hilton Garden Inn in Groton, CT.

The quoted price for a double room is \$135 which includes breakfast.

The hospitality room is free with 25 rooms booked.

There is a lot to see— Mystic Seaport Village, Harbor tour and memorial, and the Mystic aquarium.

Dates are Monday September 15 thru Thursday September 18. 2025. A motion was made to accept the 2025 reunion in CT by Bear, seconded by Orval and approved.

Ideas for the 2026 Reunion were

Cincinnati Ohio by Bear, Flyrod and help from Sarah, Joe Namie mentioned Memphis and Casey mentioned Omaha. We will see.

**Communications:**

The Hollister web site is up to date and Rusty gets his information from there. The newsletters consist of January, April and July. Always asking for stories on the ship to share and put in the newsletter. Remember when?

Bear is always looking for pictures.

Thanks to our hosts for 2024, John and Carolyn Kuykendall and Matt and Carolyn Applin, for a wonderful time in California.

A motion was made by Joe Namie to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Carol Coyne, and approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM

Respectfully submitted by Carol Coyne

We are always looking for Reunion Hosts. If you are interested in Hosting a reunion contact Casey Orr (319) 651-9426 for Host guidelines.