

A THOMAS J. GARY REFLECTION

There was a special day
in the year of nineteen forty-three
It was the commissioning of the Gary
surrounded by crew and family

Another destroyer escort
was cast upon the sea
To begin a decisive mission
to keep our country free

Named for a sailor from Texas
who lost his life at Pearl
While saving lives of shipmates
as the attack continued to unfurl

Her missions were quite varied
for this ship to undertake
When not escorting convoys
she kept a vigilant wake

As members of the crew
I think we may agree
That when we were in port
we longed to be at sea

And when we were at sea
we very often thought
Of family, friends and good times
from the last liberty that we got

Whether stationed on the bridge
or perhaps you were below
We all manned our stations
while rocking to and fro

The Gary served quite proudly
throughout her career
And she was home to all of us
whether traveling far or near

In the finest tradition
the Ensign proudly dips
To another in a line
of distinguished naval ships

The Gary is now decommissioned
but her memory carries on
Members of the crew still gather
even though the ship is gone

We have a reunion group
and I can tell you this
It is made up of crew and family
as we gather to reminisce

Now before I conclude
we would really like to say
Thank you for planning our reunions
to Ron and Sheila Day

Composed by Bill Buttimer QM3
crewmember 1960

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