Regardless of whether you like George W. Bush ....

First, an observation: Have you noticed a difference in the salute given by our military men and women as President Bush walks by? Most folks would not notice anything, but those who have served in the military see it right away.

Next time, watch: When President Bush leaves his helicopter or Air Force One, the honor guards salute and face him as he disembarks, then turn their faces toward him as he passes by. They continue to salute his back as he walks away.

This kind of salute has not been seen in the previous eight years, even though it is customary courtesy to the Commander-in-Chief. You see, soldiers are not required to turn and face the President as they salute. They are not required to salute his back. They are only required to salute. They can remain face-forward the entire time. And that is what they did during the previous administration. Our soldiers were forced to obey his orders, but they were not forced to repect him. From their salutes, we can surmise that they did not.

Why is such respect afforded to President Bush? He “doesn’t even know how to bite his lower lip and not get teary-eyed whenever he speaks”!

The following incident from Major General Van Antwerp may give us an insight. Gen. Antwerp is president of the Officers’ Christian Fellowship. He lost nearly all his staff when the Pentagon was attacked Sept. 11, 2001. His executive officer, LTC Brian Birdwell, was badly burned and in the hospital when President Bush visited him. As the President was getting ready to leave, he went to the foot of Brian’s bed and saluted. He held his salute until Brian was able to raise his burned and bandaged arm, ever so slowly, in return. The Commander-in-Chief almost never initiates a salute except in the case of a Congressional Medal of Honor winner. The injured soldier did not have to return the salute, but he did, out of respect to his President -- a Soldier’s President.

Congressman JC Watts (Rep. Oklahoma) said, “Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking.” In this time of war and danger, I am so grateful to have a President whom the soldiers salute -- fully.

On Special Report with Brit Hume, at the close of the show when they normally have some funny video clip, they showed President Bush and the First Lady on their way to Maine to leave for Camp David for the weekend. As the video starts, the First Lady is leading with the spaniel dog on the leash and the President is right behind her with the Scotty on the leash. As the First Lady entered the chopper, the Marine at the gangway saluted and held his salute. The Scottie dog that the President was walking decided it wanted to sit when he arrived at the steps. The President pulled on its leash, but the stubborn Scottie persisted in sitting. The President bent down and scooped up the pooch and entered Marine One. After he entered, the Marine cut his salute and returned to the position of attention. Moments later the President reemerged from the helicopter and out onto the steps. The Marine was standing at

Continued on page four
It seems like dues paying time always bring more donations. During the first three months of 2003 we have received $511 in donations. Those members making donations include


I especially want to thank four members whose combined donations totaled $402. They are Edward Bannan, Frank Borges, Braine Mitchell and Ralph Walker.

A big Thank You to these 18 members
Bill Ellis, Treasurer

---

**USS Mount McKinley Association**

**Statement of Financial Condition**

*As of March 31, 2003*

**Income:**
- Ship’s Store Sales: 337.00
- Less Cost of Goods Sold: 284.03
- Gain on Ship’s Store Sales: 52.97
- Advertisement: 25.00
- Dues: 3623.00
- Donations: 511.00
- Interest: 19.27

**Total Income:** 4231.24

**Expenses:**
- Newsletter: 511.24
- Postage: 9.98
- Ship’s Store Shipping & Supplies: 50.00
- Supplies: 166.81
- Bank Charges: 2.70
- Web Service: 105.95

**Total Expenses:** 846.68

**Net Income Year-to-Date:** 3384.56

**Cash January 1, 2003:** 13263.48
**Ship’s Store Inventory January 1, 2003:** 4287.41
**Add Income as of March 31, 2003:** 3384.56
**Total:** 20935.45

**Cash-Bank Of America:** 5774.15
**Cash-Zurich Money Market:** 10906.21
**Total Cash March 31, 2003:** 16680.36
**Ship’s Store Inventory, March 31, 2003:** 4255.09

**Total Assets:** 20935.45

Submitted By: William K. Ellis, Treasurer
We just finished digging out from a once-in-100-year spring snow. We had 48" at the house and there were some areas that measured 72". This will be a big help for our drought. It's spring and a beautiful time of the year when so much returns from its dormancy and comes to life.

The Nominating Committee is busy finding people to fill the opening that we have and will be voted on at the 2003 reunion in California. These openings consist of President, Vice President and three Directors. If asked, gave it serious consideration.

If you have not checked the Association's Web Site you are missing an experience. There is so much interesting information. It will take you many hours to review everything and at the same time keep your interest. Ship's store has a large inventory and its manager is waiting to fill your order. It is a very vital part of our Association and its income defers some of the expenses that we incur such as printing and mailing the Masthead.

Freedom for Iraq - a big question! There are so many people questioning if America should even be in this war. When asked, we only have to remember what evil Saddam Hussein has done to humanity within his country with so much suffering and hardship. Knowing this, he must be stopped by whatever means and we must also support our President.

It's getting closer to the 2003 Reunion. Every fourth year we have a reunion out west, and this year we will be in San Mateo, California. It's a beautiful area and close to San Francisco. If you have never been there, you're in for a real surprise. Please make your travel plans and hotel reservations now. Your attendance is what makes our reunions so memorable and fun.

We have an open line of communication. If you have any input let us hear from you by contacting any Officer or Director. "The door to the human heart opens only from the inside".

GOD BLESS OUR MILITARY, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!

See ya, Les Mayer

---

Mr. Pilny,
As always, we appreciate the support. You've done your part. Now it's our turn.

Very Respectfully,
JO1(SW) O'Dell Isaac II
Assistant Public Affairs Officer
USS Mount Whitney (LCC/JCC 20)

The above statement was in response to my e-mail to the USS Mount Whitney expressing my support for what they have been doing. The e-mail address is on our Association web site, drop them a line and let them know how we support them.

I am wondering if anyone remembers my father-in-law. His name is Tom Welch and was aboard from 63-67. I believe he was a printer. I would love to surprise him with some old buddies!
Lisa Welch twobignuts@charter.net

I believe my grandfather, Antoine Austin Viator was on this vessel in the 1940's. If anyone remembers him please e-mail me. He is doing well, and would like to get in contact with some of his former shipmates.
Robert Forrester ashes1802@aol.com
The President leaned over and tapped him on the left arm. The startled Marine turned his body toward the President and received the President’s return salute!

I was so impressed by this true act of respect for our military people by our President! He really does get it. Most any other person of his stature would have just continued his journey, disregarding the neglected return salute, not George W. Bush. He is earning the respect of the military community, not expecting it – as most have and would.

On September 11, he was thrust into a position known only by the likes of Roosevelt, Churchill, Lincoln, and Washington. The weight of the world was on his shoulders, and the responsibility of a generation was on his soul. So President George W. Bush walked to his seat at the front of the National Cathedral just three days after two of the most impressive symbols of American capitalism and prosperity virtually evaporated.

When the history of this time is written, it will be acknowledged by friend and foe alike that President George W. Bush came of age in that cathedral and lifted a nation off its knees. In what was one of the most impressive exhibitions of self-control in presidential history, President George W. Bush was able to deliver his remarks without losing his resolve, focus, or confidence. As he walked back to his seat, the camera angle was appropriate. He was virtually alone in the scene, alone in that massive place with God.

Please take a moment after you read this to “pray for him.” He truly does have the weight of the world on his shoulders. Pray that God will sustain him and give him wisdom and discernment in his decisions. Pray for his protection and that of his family.

It was with great anxiety that I have included this story in our newsletter. I do not believe our association newsletter is the correct forum for anything political or controversial. However, because of our obvious ties to the military, and because of all of our concerns about this war in Iraq, I felt this really showed the metal and resolve of our President. It was reassuring to me to know that he is an honorable man and that his actions appear to be guided by good intentions.

I also want to make note that this article was taken off the internet and is, as far as I can determine, anonymous. The story includes several different stories about various incidents, and I have verified all of the incidents as actually having occurred. I have also taken the liberty to edit the article both for content and size. If there is any negative response to this article, I will make available space to anyone wishing to express an alternate view of these events.

A Simple Salute

continued from page one

attention, head and eyes straight ahead. The President leaned over and tapped him on the left arm. The startled Marine turned his body toward the President and received the President’s return salute!

A Re-occurring Problem

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE ! ! ! ! ! !
If you have a dues notice in this edition of the newsletter, please pay it. It will save us a lot of extra work trying to keep you current. Dick has to track down everyone and send out notices advising of dues still owed. This will be the last newsletter you will receive until you become current. As always, our dues remains only $12.00 a year.

We do ask that if possible, you pay for two years at one time. This simple act effectively cuts our work in half and helps keeps our members current. Please give Dick a break and get those dues paid. Send your payments directly to Bill Ellis, 504 Sandy Oaks Blvd., Ormond Beach, FL 32174-6130.

Thanks for you help!

Sometimes the best way to convince someone he is wrong, is to let him have his own way.
Where do I start. It is so hard to comprehend that since the last printing of this newsletter, a war has been started, fought and won by our US Forces. The world is now minus a cruel dictator, and a country is now free from oppression. War as we used to know it has forever changed. It is just a small thing, but to me it is amazing that I was able to send and receive an e-mail to a ship in a combat zone. Even in Vietnam we weren't allowed to do that. (see my e-mail in bits & pieces) It is a very different world that we are now living in. Think about all that has happened since our Cleveland reunion less then two years ago. Our reunion is only about 5 months away and everything is falling into place. In the next issue all the registrations and details will be posted. You can start making your hotel reservations now by calling the hotel directly, and mentioning the Mt Mac Assoc. For all you guys on E-mail, please note that my personal address has changed and it is now Pops222@Wowway.com however, you can always use the Masthead@USSMtMcKinley.com address. Drop me a line and give me something to put in the paper. I love hearing from all of you.

Our cruise plans seem to be moving along just fine. At the time of printing we have 37 people signed up and a few more still thinking about it. Because we met our first deadline with the cruise company, we now have until May 31st to sign up any additional members who might like to go. We have a block of cabins assigned to us with our special pricing of $272.55 per person. There are additional costs involved if you want to take the chartered bus with us down to LA from the reunion. The bus will leave the hotel at 11:30 on Sunday and drive to Monteray. We will follow the 17–mile drive from there to Carmel and stop over for awhile. We will continue on to Pismo Beach and overnight at the Sea Crest Hotel. The next morning we leave at 8:30 AM and drive to Solvang where we can shop and pick up some great bakery. It is a really nice little town. We will arrive at the dock in San Pedro at about 2:30 PM to board the ship. Contact Darlene Long for all the details about this and the cruise. This cruise is being put together through Leez Travel X-change LLC. You can contact Darlene Long at 1-800-833-3506.

Darlene also advised me that an airfare add-on is often very reasonable to get you to the reunion and home again. Darlene is the wife of our Dave Long, member #913, and is more than happy to answer all your questions and to assist in your travel plans.

So you want to take a cruise!

Life is like a hot bath, the longer you stay the more wrinkled you get.
The following was written by Ron L Carter, RMSN and member 951. Ron also advises us that he is planning on getting his two brothers to join the Association. Welcome aboard Ron.

Ron was on board from June, 1951 to March, 1954. His friends included Eugene Weaser, Carl Butler and Diaz. Ron, who is a retired preacher, wrote the following:

My brothers and I were on the USS Mount McKinley AGC-7 during the Korean war. My oldest brother, Jack Carter, joined in 1948 and began serving on the ship right after boot camp. My brother Dave Carter, joined August of 1950 right after the war broke out. He was sent to the Philippines after boot camp. I finally talked my parents into signing for me in March of 1951 when I was still 17. I went onboard with Jack right after boot leave in June of 1951. A month later I turned 18. Then, after writing letters, etc. our brother Dave came on board in December of 1951. We were all three together until June of 1952 when Jack was discharged. I left the ship in March of 1954 and Dave left in August of 1954. Jack was a Second Class Printer, Dave a Third Class Electrician and I was a Radioman.

I attended the first onboard Radio School, and after graduation I was put in charge of Radio Two and Radio Three. This is where the transmitters were, and I and the five men I had working for me were responsible for changing frequencies when we received word from Radio One. We even had a transmitter (TBA23) that was capable of sending facsimiles from Japan to Washington, D.C. I also started the onboard radio station with disk jockeys, etc. When Mister Keepers, our Exec found out, he even allotted money to help us.

We traveled from the states to Japan three different times. I have always wondered if other guys ever dream about being onboard ship again like I do. I am very interested in gathering as much information about the ship and those who served on her during our years.

If you have a story to tell, pass it along to us and we’ll put you in print. It’s always nice to hear from our members.

I have always wondered if other guys ever dream about being onboard ship again like I do.

---

Lest we Forget, These former shipmates who departed us this past quarter:

**Albert McNary** 214  
MSCS, S Div., 49 – 50  
Died Feb. 22, 2003

**Charles Jackson** 405  
YN1, 44 – 46  
Died Nov. 6, 02

**William Cichon** 218(P)  
SPX1, C Div., 44 – 46  
SN, CS Div., 54 – 55  
Died Nov. 6, 02

**Philip Reslock**, 82  
Non-member

---

Necessity is the mother of taking chances.
New Members

943 Carl W Jones
EM1, E Div., 68 – 69
2400 Alpine Blvd. #78
Alpine, CA 9191-3996

944 Phillip F Mussari
SN, 1st Div & Radio, 56 – 58
16 Kenwood St, Apt 1
Brockton, MA 02301-6951

945 George F Clark
RM2, Flag, 62 – 63
113 N Fairview Ave.
Upper Darby, PA 19082-1405

946 Robert L Beebe
ET3, CE Div., 56 – 57
16582 Oakhaven Lane
Sonora, CA 95370-9168

947 Frank E Potts
AG2, Weather, 1948
2302 Prairie Road
Madison, WI 53711-4152

948 Gerald D Whelpley
FTG 2, 3rd Div., 64 – 66
2333 W Lupine Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85029-3449

949 William Schlaud
SN 1, 2nd Div., 46 – 47
3980 Five Lakes Road
North Branch, MI 48461-8400

950 Nicholas B Roemer
RD3, OI Div., 66 – 68
450 Schultz Road
Elma, NY 14059-9258

951 Ronald L Carter
RMSN, C Div., 51 – 54
5340 Coneflower
Colorado, CO 80917-1418

we are still looking for both a recent and service picture of you so we can post them on our web site.

Gator Navy Patch

Peter Funk and Arthur Skipper are at it again. They have come up with this interesting patch that is now available in our Ship’s Store for $8.00 each. This time around though, Peter had some help with the cost. The following members also chipped in to provide these beautiful patches for our membership to purchase through the Ship’s Store: Alan Sanders, Walt Kupson, Walt Kuecks, Bill Den Dooven, Don Bush.

When ordering your patch, make sure to tell us which patch you’re ordering. They are in stock now and ready to ship. Use the order form on page 10 to place your order. Once again, we thank all those who made these available.

Success is going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.
Due to an increased work schedule for Peter Funk, it is with much regret that I inform you that he has resigned as Vice President of the Association. Dwight Janzen has accepted the appointment as the Association Vice President. He has served as Secretary and attends the reunions regularly. He has brought several ideas to the Association that have been implemented. Dwight and Shirley bring a lot of enthusiasm to the Association and we look forward to his contributions. Dwight has also accepted the nomination as our next president.

Ken Oxenrider has asked me to remind you guys that we are still looking for both a recent and service picture of you so we can post them on our web site. Please mail them to Ken and include a stamped self-addressed envelope. These photos are rotated on the first page of the web site every time it is accessed. Ken has also included some additional features, like a picture postcard that you can e-mail to anyone you wish. You can also set up a one-page personal web page, and you can have an e-mail notification if someone posts a new photo or signs our deck log. Our web site is always changing.

Setting the ship-to-ship transfer detail at sea.
Provided by Ed Basham

Be careful of your thoughts; they may become words at any moment.
SEA STORIES

My favorite sea story is our in-port collision in Naples- November, 1961. We were med-moored along the Chilton and the rest of our sixship squadron. A very strong wind came up from seaward and the APA Chilton pulled a bollard out of the pier. She swung loose and her stern hit the ship to her port and her bow struck us amidships on our port side putting a hole in our side above the water line. We had boats in the water and I think we also broke loose from our mooring. What a mess! Anyway, we had to go into the Royal shipyard in Malta for repairs. That was a lot more fun than another amphib exercise. Anyone else remember that night in Naples? I always need a blackboard to describe the sequence.

I also remember the storm off the Balleric Islands in 61-62. I was one of the OOD's and Captain Lauerman's basic instruction was "keep your bow into the sea" good words of advice.

Lee Temanson, 933 lateman@attbi.com

Reunion 2003 Hotel

On September 10th we will once again be meeting for our 15th annual reunion. The site is officially San Francisco; however, as you know San Francisco is really a large metropolitan area. Downtown San Francisco is very pricey and really out of our general budget. Our Hotel is situated only minutes from the San Francisco Airport and includes a free shuttle.

We have contracted with The Villa Hotel in San Mateo, just south of the airport. It’s about a 25-minute drive into the San Francisco downtown area. The hotel has given us a very favorable rate of $85.00 per night for a single/double deluxe room. Our rates are guaranteed for Monday, the 8th through Tues, the 16th. This should allow for some additional free days to do tours and general sightseeing or just plain visiting with long-lost friends or relatives.

The hotel has 295 guest rooms and is designed for the utmost comfort. It also recently underwent a $10,000,000 renovation. The rooms feature: in-room refrigerator, 27” TVs, High speed internet access and wireless phones. It is also near the San Mateo Train station for easy access to San Francisco. There are also 15 great restaurants within walking distance from the hotel. There is a heated outdoor swimming pool and fitness center. It's only three blocks to the Hillsdale shopping center.

Reservations MUST be made before August 25, 2003 to receive the special room rates negotiated for you. Make sure to mention the Association when calling for rooms.

Call (650) 341-0966 for reservations.

You can also view additional information on the inter-net by visiting their site at www.villahotel.com.

This special room rate also includes: free parking, daily continental breakfast and airport shuttle. The Villa Café serves breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. The Villa Lounge serves your favorite cocktail, and Monday through Friday has complimentary hors d’oeuvres starting at 5 PM.

From all that I’ve seen, I think you'll like this place!

It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference.
**Ship's Store**

**Operated by:** Steve Schermerhorn

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<td>Mount McKinley Ship’s Patches</td>
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<td>Laser Engraved Plaque..</td>
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Due to reduction of stock on t-shirts & golf shirts a substitute color will be supplied if your selection is no longer available in your size.

Our Ship’s Bell’s are temporarily out of stock.

**Please include a “ship-to” mailing address**  
Make check payable to:  
USS Mount McKinley Association & mail to:  
Steve Schermerhorn  
69272 County Rd 23, New Paris, IN 46553

**Sorry, No Credit Cards.......**

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San Francisco Reunion Sept. 10th to 14th, 2003

Dutch & Trudy Hockman (Plank Owner)
Nice to be around For the third cruise!

"IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED"

CHARLES J. WORREL
WORREL EXPLORATION, INC. OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION GEOLOGICAL CONSULTATION
WORREL EXPLORATION INC. P.O. BOX 6786 SAN ANTONIO, TX 78209-6786 (210) 822-7171

"Come and help us enjoy the bright lights of Frisco. Dick & Viv Armstrong".

The above picture was taken by HM2 Greg Shipe #935 While serving in Vietnam, 1969

USSMTMCKINLEY.COM Visit our web site, it’s quite an experience!