Corpus Christi Fun!!

On Thursday afternoon we had free time to socialize and explore etc.

About 5:30 PM September 10th, busses picked us up and we went on a cruise on the Gulf of Mexico. The cruise began warm and breezy and ended with some rain. It was fun!!

On Friday, September 11th, one group toured the USS Lexington, another went to the Texas State Aquarium, and still others went to the Texas Science Museum. All very interesting. Then we went back to the Hotel for free time and to socialize in the hospitality room.

Saturday morning was show and tell memorabilia. In the early afternoon we held the Board meeting followed by the General meeting. Saturday evening we had our banquet and DJ and dancing.

Sunday morning was the farewell breakfast.

Farewell shipmates!! We hope to see you and more shipmates in Tampa!!

Boy! Did they fool us! this shipboard life is pretty easy!!

I mean business!! I stand for freedom and the United States of America.

(Beautiful Eagle at the Texas State Aquarium)
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.

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Schermerhorn
Master-at-Arms: Bud White
Historian: Lee Temanson
Visit us on the web:
www.ussmtmckinley.com

Amendment to USS Mount McKinley Association constitution approved at our general meeting September 12th, 2009

Ammend the Constitution, ARTICLE IV - DUES As of September 12, 2009

Section C. Dues for each 12 month period shall be due and payable on January 1st. Failure to pay dues by May 1st will result in forfeiture of membership.

Background: The current provision is for forfeiture of membership if dues are not paid by August 1st. Each year we lose several members who decided not to renew their membership. By changing the date from August 1st to May 1st we reduce the amount expended in mailing the July Masthead and in carrying them on our roster enclosing another dues notice in the July Masthead.

By actual practice, they will receive a second dues notice with the April Masthead. In addition, by practice we will mail each person a letter around the middle of April informing them that their membership will be changed to inactive for failure to pay the required dues. Included with the letter would be a notice that payment of their dues by May 1st will continue their membership in good standing. This letter will be mailed by the Membership Secretary. The mailing of a separate letter will help to insure that each member is aware of his status and should help in maintaining them as active members. In past years members have responded that they did not see the notice with the Masthead or they forgot. The letter will be a last chance to renew.

New Association Officers and Directors
From Left to Right: President:Dennis Pilny, Director: Frank Trickel, Vice President: Donald King, Director: Walt Kuecks, and Director Walt Kupson

Old Farmers advice: Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you’ll enjoy it a second time. If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin’. Forgive your enemies, it messes up their heads. Live simply, Love generously , Care deeply, Speak kindly, Leave the rest to God
Did I hear a sigh of relief from my good friend Bill Ellis? Seriously, Bill did an outstanding job as Vice President taking over the duties of President early on due to the illness of Dave Nelson, and then assuming the position himself. I personally want to thank Bill for his professionalism and dedication. I only hope to do as good a job as he did.

Now, we have to move on to a new and changing Association. In Corpus Christi, we welcomed our newest members, of which there were several, and the membership from the now defunct Flagship Alliance. I commend our existing members in their hospitality and willingness to accept these new shipmates. I hope we’ll continue to see the Alliance at our reunions for many years to come.

Being the first of the Vietnam Veterans to take the office of President, I feel a responsibility to make sure this organization remains strong and vibrant as it enters its final era existence. As our older members depart, and us “younger” mates assume the duties of responsibility, it’s going to become harder to continue in the spirit of those who have made this a great organization. We can thank those visionaries for the soundness of this group. Unlike them, who had to establish a treasury, membership and panel of officers to provide the leadership needed to keep us going, we have all that in place. Our responsibility will be to use our financial assists wisely, to look for additional members, and to be responsible to the values our past leaders have set for us.

Knowing all that, I gladly accept that responsibility because of the relationships I’ve made as a member. I have made friendships over the years that I will always treasure and remember. One of my most dear friends was Dick Armstrong, in his memory I will always do whatever I can for this group.

In closing I want to make sure all of you understand you can contact me with any problems, or ideas you may have. Please use e-mail whenever possible as it is the easiest for me since I, like many of you, have found I have a serious hearing problem. Please also note the e-mail address printed in the new roster is incorrect. It should read Popz222@wowway.com, make note of the Z in popz.

Yours in service,
Dennis “Pops” Pilny

President Dennis Pilny

Mt. Mac's Twilight Cruise 1969

During her second and third deployment to Vietnam, Mount McKinley continued to provide communications and specialized support for Commander Amphibious Force, Seventh Fleet. The ship participated in numerous over-the-beach landings. There were more than 16 in the 1967-68 deployment alone. Though she was about to enter her 25th year of service, Mount McKinley continued to provide the needed communications for the Admiral and his staff.

The twilight cruise for the Mount McKinley began in January of 1969. She received her new designation (LCC-7) at that time and immediately deployed to Vietnam to cruise the waters off Danang. The ship participated in over ten landings during this deployment. On May 1, 1969, Mount McKinley celebrated her 25th year of continuous commissioned service and also looked forward to her final transit back to the States and a well deserved rest.
My Continuing Saga: By Ed Bannan

Let me begin this article by telling you all how disappointed I was to miss this year’s reunion. The last reunion found me in the hospital finishing up a successful battle with Colon Cancer. If you remember, my last article was about my celebratory trip to drive the track at Daytona International Speedway. In that article I referenced the two faces of fate and I enjoyed the pretty face for a brief period of time. Well guess what! The ugly one showed up again. Some days you just can’t catch a break.

I woke up one morning with a hip pain. Long story short, it worked its way down my leg. After having cancer, any unusual pain gives you what I term *Carcinoma Paranoia*. Off I go to the doctor again. After seeing doctors 1, 2, and 3, doctor 4 determined I had nerve damage from radiation. It has a fancy name, but over cooked is over cooked. Doctor 4 is a Neurologist in the DC area. To add insult to injury, I got food poisoning from a hamburger in Dulles Airport on the way back home to Florida earning me two more days in the hospital. In addition to the hospital stay I had several days of, *I told you not to eat there*.

But wait…. Here is the good part. (always look for some good if you can), I ended up getting a handicap parking permit out of the deal. I have driven in some of the finest and not so fine parking lots on the East Coast. I’ve always complained (silently) about the over abundance of handicap parking spots. As I drove up and down the rows looking for a spot I would always think, why are there so many handicap spots? At least half of them were empty. In fact when going to our favorite Mall I marveled at the over abundance of handicap spots. Now that I have a parking permit they are no longer empty. In fact it’s quite the opposite. I have discovered a whole subculture of people in South Florida. They drive 15 year old cars and race up and down the rows trying to and succeeding in beating me out of my rightful due. Yesterday I saw an empty handicap spot at the end of the row I just entered. I gleefully thought this one is mine. My car is Turbo Charged so I am careful not to hit the gas pedal too hard. I don’t want to speed in a parking lot. I was within three car lengths of the spot and out of nowhere 85 Cadillac with rusted out tail lights turns into the row and into my spot. I’m not sure but I think I saw the driver on the today show. Willard Scott was announcing her 100th birthday. At first I didn’t recognize her as she was wearing those dark glasses the eye doctor gives out after cataract surgery. Now for all you “Gun Smoke” fans, I have to tell you I am walking like Marshall Dillon’s Deputy, Chester. It’s humiliating to lose a race to a rusted Cadillac with plastic flowers taped to the antenna, but then I have to limp to the store from the back of the lot. What a bummer. Oh the humiliation of it all!

These days we find ourselves driving to places we wouldn’t ordinarily go to just to use the permit. This morning we ended up in a strip mall with a Goodwill Thrift shop, a burned out bakery and three empty stores. But I did have my choice of four parking places.

Well my Doctor tells me this too shall pass, so hopefully, Georgette and I will see you in Tampa next year. *I’ll be the one drinking Scotch.*
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.

### Mount McKinley Ship's Store - Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size / Color / Style</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golf Shirt (Short Sleeve, 100% Heavyweight Cotton)</td>
<td>Navy Blue S, M, L, XL XXL, XXXL</td>
<td>29.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps</td>
<td>Khaki, Navy Blue, Stone w/ Navy bill One Size - Adjustable</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship's Patches</td>
<td>3 ¼&quot; Mountain, 6&quot; Diesel Gang Patch, 5&quot; Association Mermaid/Turtle,</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Task Force 90 Patch, Snipe Force Patch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fleece (pull over)</td>
<td>Navy Blue ½ zipper Embroidered Logo M, L, XXL</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mouse Pad</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Laser Engraved Key Tag</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;Master Roster&quot; by Dick Armstrong</td>
<td>Red Cover 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
<td>Call Steve Scherherhom 574-831-2843 for special order form</td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;Cruising in the Mac&quot; by Ken Boenitz</td>
<td>A Chronology - USS Mount McKinley, AGC - 7, 1944-1970</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matted Color Print</td>
<td>16&quot;x20&quot; Matted Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11A,B,C</td>
<td>Ship's Photos</td>
<td>8x10, Black &amp; White Photos - Listed at Bottom (A-C)</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Image of the items available for order]

More photos and items are listed on the website [ussmtnmckinley.com](http://ussmtnmckinley.com). New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Color / Style</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Make Checks Payable to: USS Mount McKinley Association  
Mail Order to: USS Mount McKinley Ship Store c/o Steve Scherherhom  
69272 County Road 23 New Paris, IN 46553

Subtotal  
Shipping 5.00  
Total

Ship to Information: Please Print Clearly or Attach a Address Label

Name: ____________________________  
Street Address: ____________________ 
City: _____________________________  
State: ___________________________  
Zip: _____________________________  
Phone #: __________________________  
Area Code: ________________________  
Email: ____________________________
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Cash/Asset</th>
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<tr>
<td>AmericanFirst Ckg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$ 2827.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AmericanFirst MM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 7668.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>American First CD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Ship Store Inventory</td>
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<td>Ship Store Cash</td>
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<td>Ship Store Sales</td>
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<td>Annual Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Life Membership dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>'09 Re-Union Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest American First Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store Inventory sold</td>
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<td>Office Supplies &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masthead Print &amp; postage 2009</td>
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<td>$ 3281.58</td>
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<td>Reunion Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
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<td>$ 988.49*</td>
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<td>Roster Printing</td>
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<td>Refunds: Bank charge.</td>
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<td>And reunion refunds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciliation Discrepancy</td>
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<td>Webb hosting</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$ 20680.96</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Less Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Income + or - thru 3rd Qtr 2009</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td>$37,705.52</td>
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*includes postage to mail rosters $748.80
We received a journal written by Clarence M. Burdick, LTJG, the Assistant Navigator on the Mt McKinley from 1944 until September 20, 1946. He was a plank owner. The journal was donated to our Association by his wife, Elizabeth Burdick.

The journal begins September 20, 1944. Three days of action. Now continues September 23rd, 1944. LTJG Burdick writes:

**23 September, Saturday** 

Here we start our second week of fighting for a place they thought could be secured in 48 hours. This has been and is a tough nut to crack. But its only 560 miles from Mindanao. News reports claim that there are only 3000 Jap's left. A little under stated.

Early this morning a fleet of Jap barges tried to land on the northern end of Peleliu, but they were met by planes and destroyers. None of them returned home. They probably came down from Babelthuap to try and evacuate some of the Japs here. Part of the Army troops came over from Auguar to help take Peleliu and more are due to come over as soon as they are released. Again the northern end of the Island took a blasting by plane and ship, even that little Island to the north got the works. There is a thistle causeway that connects the two Islands. Each day it is blown up and each morning it is once again whole. The Japs rebuild it at night.

Washing Machine Charlie made another raid on us at 2130. Dropped 4 bombs on the air-field and ran like the blazes. Everyone shot at him but he got away. Earlier in the afternoon a big 4 engine Liberator bomber made an emergency landing. One engine dead, part of his tail shot up and holes through the fuselage and out of gas. To top it off, he came in and landed like a feather. The marines ashore have made no new gains, they are dog tired. Tomorrow afternoon they will make another push. So the attack on Negusebus just north of Peleliu has been held up a while although the ships have been shelling it all along. The night was very quiet.

**Skipping forward to 28 September, Thursday** 

The "Mighty Mac" did it today. We fired on Jap held territory. The marines took Ngesebus this morning, so we lined up with the fire support ships and we blasted away for three-quarters of an hour with our 5". It was really good shooting. The boys blasted hell out of their targets. The range was 10000 yards (5miles).

No news as yet about how the fighting is going but the start was good. They took off from the northern end of Peleliu in about 70 tanks, roared across the shoals as they went firing 75's all the way. Marine pilots and Navy Avengers strafed and bombed the place. Its military importance lies in its fighter landing strip. We are having some brutal weather, storms and rain all day, but it is most welcome. The ship is really rolling and tossing about. Everyone is very happy now that we have fired at Japs.

**Skipping forward to 30 September, D+15 Days.**

The only thing of any interest today was the coming of Admirals Halsey and Nimitz on a destroyer to visit Peleliu. They and seven two star admirals stayed aboard the ship overnight. Quite a sensation and quite an honor for us.

Only one pocket of Jap’s remains on the island and they are really being worked over. We are in the Typhoon belt and so far have only had the tail end of storms.
USS Mt McKinley Association - Our Purpose: To Promote patriotism and Camaraderie among those who served on board the USS Mt. McKinley during that ship’s 25 years and 10 months active service to the U.S. Navy from May 1st 1944 (Commissioned) to March 26th 1970 (de-Commissioned)

Imagine That! They all had a hat!!

Plank Owner’s

Some dancin’ goin’ on!!

Some were unique!!

On board during the 1950’s and 60’s

Bill gets some Hattitude!!

Now That’s “Hattitude”

On Board during the 1960’s and 1970’s

Farewell Breakfast Say goodbye Dave...