WHEREAS,

USS MT. McKINLEY

Gathered in Milwaukee September 16th -20th 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Airport 6401 S 13th St. for Their annual reunion, a grand event, that calls all surviving crew members together, and

WHEREAS, the reunion honors the crew of the USS Mt. McKINLEY, and many gathered in Milwaukee from all over the United States to remember friends and to celebrate their service to this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, the USS Mt. McKINLEY first saw action in World War II in the invasion of Peleliu Island in the Pacific in 1944 and then participated in the invasion of the Philippine Islands, and their ship later journeyed to the Kerama Islands, near Okinawa, and oversaw the landing of the 77th Infantry Division in the days leading up to the invasion of Okinawa, and immediately after the war, the ship helped land Occupation Forces in Japan, and

WHEREAS, the USS Mt. McKINLEY—also known as the Proudest Command Ship of the Gator Navy—Received for battle stars for World War II, Eight Battle Stars for Korea— with Gen. Douglas MacArthur aboard, four Campaign Stars for the Vietnam War, and a Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation, and

WHEREAS, The USS Mt. McKINLEY served as command ship for the Operation Crossroads Atomic Tests in the western Pacific Ocean— with U.S. Navy Secretary Forrestal aboard, and also serve as Command Ship during the Cuban Missile Crisis with 26 Captains and 3 Admirals aboard; and

WHEREAS, The USS Mt. McKINLEY’s crew were hardworking, dedicated and determined, brave men and women who fought for the ideals of their country stands for, they are the protectors of freedom and role models for every American, and have rightfully earned the respect and admiration of all Americans, and the City of Milwaukee especially thanks these heroes for their distinguished service; and

WHEREAS, The USS Mt. McKINLEY has come together for the purpose of sharing memories with old friends and remembering the eternal bonds formed thru service to their Country; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith recognizes the crew of the USS Mt. McKINLEY welcomes its reunion members to Milwaukee and extends its best wishes for a successful and enjoyable reunion, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to the crew of the USS Mt. McKINLEY on the occasion of its reunion.

Introducing by Council Member Terry L. Witkowski and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on September 22nd, 2015.

______________________________
Alderman Michael J Murphy
President of the Common Council

______________________________
James R. Owczarski City Clerk

This plaque was presented to the crew of the Mt McKinley at our banquet in Milwaukee. No one knew about it. It was a very nice, complete surprise!
More Amphib. Action!

A landing craft air cushion (LCAC) approaches the well deck of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) as the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) transits the Atlantic Ocean. The Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group and 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (26th MEU) is on a regularly scheduled deployment in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet area of operations. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin Yarborough (Released) 151008-N-JO245-447.
Dear Shipmate,

Small crowd; BIG fun! The 27th Annual Reunion held in Milwaukee was a blast, which included two terrific tours in and around the beautiful city of Milwaukee. Encompassed in the tours were visits to Miller Park, home of the Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Team, the old, original Pabst Brewery, the inspiring Milwaukee County War Memorial and new Art Museum, both on the shore of Lake Michigan, a drive through the south side, mid-town, and north side of Milwaukee where the beautiful, “movie set” mansions of the 1800s still exist on the bluff overlooking the lake. Also enjoyed was a lunch at famous Mada’s German Restaurant, complete with an accordion playing singer.

Our ladies enjoyed an afternoon at Greendale Village, home of Taste of Home cook books, “working” in their test kitchen, visiting the unique 1940s constructed homes that comprise the historic village, plus --- you guessed it --- shopping in the village stores. Yep, a good time was had by all…..made even better by absolutely pristine blue skies all week.

The clear highlight of the week and our Saturday evening banquet was the surprise appearance of Alderman Terry L. Witkowski and the honor awarded by the City of Milwaukee Common Council. Representing the city’s governing body, he presented the USS Mount McKinley Association with an Award of Recognition plaque for the service rendered by our ship and crew. The detailed inscription on the plaque indicated clear evidence that someone within Milwaukee’s city government researched the proud years of service history of our ship. I was honored to accept this Award of Recognition on behalf of all shipmates who served aboard.

As I close out these words about the festive week of the Milwaukee Annual Reunion, let me be the first to invite you to our 28th Annual Reunion, to be held in September 2016 in

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA!!

I’m pleased to inform you that our transition of The Masthead from all hard copy to computer availability went very smoothly and has saved the Association more than $700 in printing and mailing costs from just this first issue. Thanks for your cooperation in helping realize this positive financial result. Cost savings was our goal; the savings will continue from each issue.

Lastly, the primary reason we experienced such a small crowd at this year’s reunion was the last minute cancellation by members who had befallen ill or had experienced accidents causing major injuries. I ask that you keep all our members in your thoughts and prayers for full recovery and good health.

Yours in service,

Ray Zall
A Shipmate’s Story

(transcribed by his son Bruce Fournier)

Donald Fournier RMN3 1925-2014 (R.I.P)

July 28th 1943  Sent to Great lakes boot camp. Great Lakes Company 1043 Chief Johnson Company Commander. He was Company Bugler, Graduated October 1943.


Assigned to CASCU, transferred to Naval Air Station , North Island, Coronado Beach, Ca.

Trained with U.S. Marines Camp Pendleton, Ca. Upon completion of training Flown to Naval Air Station at Puunene, Maui, Hawaii. Assigned to landing team and 24th Army Corp. on Oahu, from there sent to Schofield Barracks for Combat Training. Our objective was to take the Island of Yap.

We boarded LST 105 and started our Journey. We were told (to our surprise) as we got underway, that we were being sent to Leyte in the Philippines. The LST was crewed by the U.S. Coastguard, we had no ship privileges and all of us including our officers, LTJG Charles Heinbock and LTJG Marcus Hanna, had to sleep topside on canvas cots, to make matters worse our cots had bed bugs sending some to Sick Bay. The hot sun on deck, soon took care of the bugs. After 33 days at sea, we arrived at Dulag-Jaclobon area of Leyte.

On D-Day and H-Hour we went ashore. General ???????, was in charge of the landing Force. We got our Jeep and radio equipment and contacted our air support and CASCU, aboard the USS Mt. McKINLEY AGC-7 under the Flag of Admiral CT Joy.

After three days on the beach head, as the Battle of the Philippine Sea was being waged, we were unaware how crucial that engagement was,

we could seen the flashes of Naval Gunfire from Admiral Halsey’s 3rd Fleet.

If we had lost that Battle, we would have been isolated and at the mercy of the Japanese.

Three days later, we were put on a PT Boat and take to the Mt. McKINLEY. We proceeded to Lingoyen Bay and provided air support. We were told the Mt. McKINLEY was the Flagship and we were on our way to Okinawa. We were Anchored in the Bay and handled all the air support for the Operation.

We were at General Quarters for 3 days and under attack from Kamikazes.

The Ship that was anchored astern of the Mt. McKINLEY was hit, and many of it’s crew killed or injured.

After that Operation ended, The “Mac” was ordered to return to Shoemaker, Ca. to be outfitted with new guns, on arrival we were given 30 days leave.

The war ended while we were on leave, and I was sent to Great Lakes, Illinois for discharge as I had accumulated all my points, returning home after 2 years, 8 months, and 4 days. A good tour with a solid outfit, it was a privilege to serve with CASCU.

I remained in the Naval Reserve and was recalled in September of 1950. I went to Japan and Korea, I was personal Radioman for Admiral CT Joy at Munsan Ni the UN Basecamp, and at Pusan Korea.

His Wife, Virginia died in 2007 (R.I.P), Bruce Fournier (son) Chicago, IL.
"SHOW A LEG"

Many of our Navy's colorful expressions originated as practical means of communicating vital information. One such expression is "show a leg". In the British Navy of King George III and earlier, many sailors' wives accompanied them on long voyages. This practice caused a multitude of problems, but some ingenious bosun solved one problem that tended to make reveille, (wake up time for civilians), a hazardous event: that of distinguishing which bunks held males and which held females. To avoid dragging the wrong "mates" out of the rack, the bosun asked all to "show a leg". If the leg shown was adorned with silk, the owner was allowed to continue sleeping. If the leg was hairy and tattooed, the owner was forced to "turn-to". In today's Navy, showing a leg is a signal to the reveille petty officer that you have heard the call and are awake.

"KNOT"

The term "knot", or nautical mile, is used worldwide to denote a vessel's speed through water. Today we measure knots with electronic devices, but 200 years ago such devices were unknown. Ingenious mariners devised a speed-measuring device both easy to use and reliable: the 'log line'. From that device we get the term knot. The log line was a length of twine marked at 47.33-foot intervals by colored knots. At one end was fastened a log chip; it was shaped like the sector of a circle and weighted at the rounded end with lead. When thrown over the stern, the log chip was floated pointing upward and remains relatively stationary. To measure the ship's speed, a sailor would throw the log line over the stern and allow it to run free over the side for 28 seconds before hauling it aboard. He then counted the knots that had passed over the side to determine the ship's speed.

The Whole 9 Yards

The term “The whole 9 yards” came from WW2 Fighter Pilots in the South Pacific. When arming the planes on the ground, the 50 cal. machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 ft. before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilot fired all the ammo at the target, it got “The whole 9 yards.”
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on these extraordinary ships in service to their country whether in times of war or peace.

Members and Non Members reported deceased since 9/30/2015

Donald Burnette RMC CR Div. ‘66-’69 #893

New Members since 9/30/2015

Don Sand RM2

WELCOME ABOARD!

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2014 CASH

Current CASH $ 24,124.86 $ 12,038.00 $ 11,649.43 26,520.30

Reminder
If you have personal remembrances from your time on the Mighty Mac. (see story on page 4) That you wish to share, please send them to me for consideration in the MASTHEAD.

Mike Debol editor to: Archangel.debol51@Gmail.com

Thank you

@Gmail.com
Special Forces

Prior to the invasion of Iraq, the Pentagon announced the formation of a new 500-man elite fighting unit called the United States Redneck Special Forces (USRSF). These Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia boys will be dropped off into Iraq and have been given only the following facts about terrorists.

1. The season opened today.
2. There is no limit.
3. They taste just like chicken
4. They don't like beer, pickups, country music or Jesus.
5. They are DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE for the death of Dale Earnhardt.

The Pentagon expects the problem in Iraq to be over by Friday.

___________________

IDIOTS IN SERVICE:
This week, our phones went dead and I had to contact the Telephone repair people. They promised to be out between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. When I asked if they could give me a smaller time window, the pleasant gentleman asked, "Would you like us to call you before we come?" I replied that I didn't see how he would be able to do that since our phones weren't working. He also requested that we report future outages by email. Does YOUR email work without a telephone line?

___________________

IDIOT SIGHTING #1:
I was at the airport, checking in at the gate when an airport employee asked, "Has anyone put anything in your baggage without your knowledge?" To which I replied, "If it was without my knowledge, how would I know?" She smiled knowingly and nodded, "That's why we ask."
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

Some Pictures from Milwaukee Reunion 2015

We did not get enough pictures at the reunion, if any of you have some that can be attached to an e-mail, send them, maybe we can include them in the next MASTHEAD.

Banquet Conversation, Etc.

Ladies Tea enjoyment!

More Ladies tea Fun

The ladies had a grand time!