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Jacksonville was a Blast!

Tom and Carol Welch, good times!
Jerry and Gloria Critz enjoying!

2020 WILL BE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE USS MT. MCKINLEY’S DECOMMISSIONING,
JOIN US IN SAN DIEGO TO COMMEMORATE THIS
HISTORIC EVENT!

Naval Base San Diego (32nd Street Naval Station)
San Diego, California
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on these extraordinary ships in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.

Officers & Directors

President (interim)
Dan Moffett
danmoffett3275@sbcglobal.net

Vice President (interim)
Ray Zall
zallrite@earthlink.net

Secretary
Dennis Smith

Treasurer/ Membership
Wes Brubacher
webob@vbbn.com
P.O. Box 376
Geyserville, Ca, 95441
707-857-3522

Directors 2018-2020
James Evans
Paul O’Donohue
Don King

Directors 2019-2021
Don Waggoner
Gary Davies
Bob Halas

HELP WANTED

(Contact Ray Zall Elections)

For positions of:
ASSOCIATION SECRETARY
ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

For service periods
And 2020-2021
And Webmaster

191002-N-DM308-001 The Littoral Combat Ship USS Cincinnati (LCS 20) will be commissioned Saturday, Oct. 5. (Graphic illustration by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Paul Archer/Released) October 2, 2019

Help wanted

Immediate Past President
Ray Zall
zallrite@earthlink.net

Legal Advisor
Don King

Ships Store
Bob & Mary Ruth Halas
mrhalas2001@yahoo.com

Webmaster
Ken Oxenrider
webmaster@ussmtmckinley.com

Chaplain
Ron Kilgas
rkilgas@att.net

Additional Important Positions

Newsletter Editors
Mike & Lynne DeBol
archangel.debol51@gmail.com

Master at arms
Jerry Critz

Historian
Ray Zall

Elections
Ray Zall
zallrite@earthlink.net

Reunion Chair
Dave Long
davidlong1944@msn.com

Navy News
Fellow Shipmates:

By the comments from some of you it appears the 2019 Reunion in Jacksonville Fl was a success. The hotel staff was accommodating and the meeting room arrangements were satisfactory, even though we had to travel a bit to get to the SAGO room. As usual, Ray Zall, our interim Vice President, did an outstanding job of providing an Honor Guard (First Coast High School JROTC) for our Saturday night dinner dance. It is encouraging that we still have such outstanding young men and women that are on a path to serve our country. Additionally, the tours of Jacksonville and St. Augustine were very good. We had a total of 47 attendee’s at this year’s reunion in Jacksonville. A big thank you for everyone that pitched in to help make this years reunion a success.

While we all had a good time at the reunion, we very much missed our President Dave Long and Vice President Steve Schermerhorn. It was not the same without them. We look forward to both of them returning to the association as soon as they are able.

It was decided in Jacksonville that we would have next years reunion in San Diego, where we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the De-commissioning of the USS Mt. McKinley. With a little luck and planning, we hope to be able to visit the 32nd Street Naval Station in San Diego, that was the location that our ship was berthed when stationed stateside in the 7th Fleet. We are hoping for a big turnout next year. Additionally the Board of Directors decided that the 2021 reunion would be in one of three cities, Chicago, Las Vegas, or Nashville. The decision on which city and the planning for that reunion will not be done until next year.

Secretary Dennis Smith is working on the minutes of the Jacksonville membership meeting and as soon as they are done, they will be posted on the website for your reading or downloading. For those who receive the Masthead by U.S. Mail, you can contact me or Dennis Smith, or any officer or board member, and request the minutes. We will gladly mail a copy to you.

In closing I want to wish all of you a Happy Halloween and a Very Happy Thanksgiving. Most of all I wish you and yours good health and for those of you traveling over the holidays, please be safe. See you all in San Diego next September.

Yours in Service
Dan Moffett, Interim President
New members are being enrolled in the Association so I know there are still former shipmates who are interested in joining. If you know or hear of any of your old buddies who are not members, encourage them to contact me about becoming an active member. And if you know of anyone who has dropped out but is still interested encourage them to get active again.

Now that another good reunion is behind us we can start looking forward to San Diego 9 to 13 September 2020. Make your plans early and help your fellow shipmates celebrate the 50th anniversary of the decommissioning of the USS Mount McKinley.

Current contact information is needed for all members. If you move, change email and/or USPS mail addresses or change your phone number, please send me the updated information. A special emphasis on updating contact information is needed by all Life Members. Thanks.

Dues notices for those owing dues for 2020 will be sent out in early January. If you don't get a dues due notice, you don't owe dues.

Think San Diego and we'll all meet there in September 2020!

Wes Brubacher, Mt Mac '60-'61

My Purple Heart: One Vietnam Veteran’s Story of Survival

On Christmas Eve 1964 in Saigon, Vietnam, a Navy nurse stood at the window in her room to watch her maid leave through the gate with an escort. As the nurse focused on the maid and the wrapped present she carried in her arms, the enemy attacked, making the holiday less like Christmas and more like a massacre. Vietnam veteran, and retired Navy nurse, Ann Darby Reynolds, was the first of four Navy nurses to receive the Purple Heart for heroic actions during the Christmas Eve explosion at the Brink Bachelor Officers Housing (BOQ) quarters.

Reynolds would go on to devote 26.5 years to the Navy, rarely speaking about the incident or her duty at Naval Station Hospital Saigon, but never forgetting what she called “the most traumatic experience” of her life.

“The heat and stench of Vietnam have always stuck with me,” said Reynolds, describing her March 1964 arrival to the capital city of Saigon. “It was as if I had stepped into a furnace filled with rotting eggs and death; even that depiction does not suffice.” Two months after receiving orders to Vietnam during Christmas 1963, Reynolds made the trip from Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, Calif., to Saigon in the cargo bay of a tightly packed C-130 Hercules aircraft. “I remember how hot, dark and squashed the plane ride was,” said Reynolds, who at the time was only a Lieutenant junior grade. “I was squeezed between Army personnel, wearing my service dress blues with heels, while holding a paper cup to catch condensation droplets that fell from the ceiling.” She spent two days on the cargo plane before entering the skies of Vietnam to land at Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base, Saigon. Upon landing, she was quickly escorted to her new command - Naval Station Hospital Saigon by the hospital’s chief nurse.
Reynolds compared the hospital conditions to that of “an old disheveled prison” with barbed-wire grenade screens and three high-rising lookout towers, which were manned 24 hours every day. “The hospital was originally a five-story apartment building, with no kitchen areas to cook food for patients, no operating elevators and very small rooms,” Reynolds said of the facilities. “The hospital staff consisted of nine doctors, eight nurses and seven hospital corpsmen. Our working days could last for 36 hours before you handed duty over to one of the other nurses. The days were long and sometimes very strenuous.”

During Reynolds’ tour, Vietnam had only two military hospitals: Naval Station Hospital Saigon in the south, and the Army 8th Field Hospital in Nha Trang, located 200 miles north of Saigon. Countless trips were made from the hospital in Saigon to Nha Trang to obtain more supplies and to help the Army nurses when needed. Reynolds and her fellow nurses were instructed to travel in pairs or groups because the radical “Viet Cong” (South Vietnam rebels who fought against the Americans and South Vietnamese) had offered $150 bounties to any Vietnamese willing to harm the nurses. “The Viet Cong understood that the American military had limited personnel available,” said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught, the President of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation. “If they could get rid of the nurses, that obviously meant the troops would not be treated; therefore, resulting in permanent damage to the American forces.”

In a book titled Station Hospital Saigon written by retired Navy Nurse Lt. Cmdr. Bobbi Hovis, the capital city was locally known as “Bombsville.” In the book, Reynolds recalled numerous situations in which she would pass by a building right before the detonator went off. “The frontline concept didn’t exist in Vietnam,” said Vaught. “It was said on many occasions that women shouldn’t be involved in that type of thing; that women shouldn’t have been there. There was never really a frontline in Vietnam; destruction was everywhere, all the time.”

It was only a matter of time before Reynolds would experience firsthand what it was like to be part of the chaos surrounding her. Christmas Eve 1964: Attack on the BOQ Rumors that the Viet Cong were planning a massive attack somewhere in the country circulated around the city of Saigon. Because of those rumors, security to and from American government facilities had been heightened. “We knew that something was going to happen somewhere in the country,” said Reynolds. “We were told by our chief nurse to be alert. We had no idea where the attack would be or when it would take place.”

Around 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Reynolds, and her three BOQ roommates, had just given their cleaning lady a wrapped present. “I can remember it like it was yesterday,” said Reynolds, as she flipped through an old photo album. “I had my nose pressed tightly against the glass of the French window in my room.

During the chaos following the attack on the Brink Bachelor Officers Quarters, the hospital staff received word that Naval Station Hospital Saigon was the next facility to be attacked.
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. 

### USS Mount McKinley Financial Statement as of September 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 Y/E</th>
<th>ADDITIONS</th>
<th>SUBTRATIONS</th>
<th>YTD BAL</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1/1 - 8/31</td>
<td>9/1-9/30</td>
<td>1/1 - 8/31</td>
<td>9/1-9/30</td>
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<td>Masthead</td>
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<td><strong>Net 2019</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total 2018</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total 2019</strong></td>
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<td>$8,299.84</td>
<td>$6,836.26</td>
<td>$13,882.16</td>
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Members and non-members reported deceased since 9/30/2019

**Lloyd L Branch #309 Mt Mac ‘44-‘46 EM1 “E” Div. Passed 8/27/2019**

Report for heavenly duty

No new members since 9/30/2019

**Shipmates,**

*Always looking for stories for the Masthead, any remembrances from your time on the Mt Mac., or historical events involving the Mt Mac.*

**Thank you!**

On an old man's shirt was written a sentence

'I am not 80 years old;
I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.'

*That's ATTITUDE.*
Due to the complexities of planning our reunion for 2020 in San Diego we need to conduct a survey of our Association membership to see how many, God willing, are hoping to attend the 50th year Decommissioning Celebration of the USS Mount McKinley. The reunion will be held 9 to 13 September 2020.

The following information would be very helpful to the committee -
1. Name of the Association member and number of additional guests.
2. The number of rooms you will require.
3. Your preferred contact method and number or address.

Please return this information to Wes Brubacher Treasurer/Member Secretary: via any of these three methods
webob@vbbn.com (email)
P.O. Box 376 Geysersville, Ca, 95441 (snail mail)

Alexander Bell’s updated invention 707-857-3522
by 15 November 2019 - Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Funny news stories

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
This one I caught in the Tribune the other day and called the Editorial Room and asked who wrote this. It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible! They put in a correction the next day.

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
Really?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Now that’s taking things a bit far!

If Strike Isn’t Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Ya think?

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
Who would have thought
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 to (commissioned) to March 26th 1970 (de-commissioned)

Jacksonville Florida 2019 reunion : some pictures

Join us next September in San Diego, for a memorable experience!

Navy J.R.O.T.C honor guard from First Coast High School presented colors at our banquet.

Before presenting colors, they lined up at the door, and saluted each of us as we entered. Very Touching.

Masthead editors, Mike and Lynne enjoying ourselves, at the banquet.

“Irish Bill” Madden and his beautiful wife Agnes Madden, banquet fun.

Tom Hempfer supplying badge, reunion packets enjoying the banquet.

Beautiful Church Built by Henry Flagler Dedicated to his daughter in March of 1890, who passed away in 1889. Memorial Presbyterian St Augustine, Florida