Reunion 2009
Corpus Christi, Texas

It’s time for reunion registration once again. This year we will be in Corpus Christi Texas from Wednesday, Sept. 9th through Sunday Sept. 13th. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn, which is close to the airport. The rooms are $89 per night and reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 361-289-5100.

Be sure to let them know you are with the Mt. McKinley association so you will get the special rate. The hotel offers free airport shuttle and an on site restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Next to the hotel is the Astor restaurant. The Astor has received some pretty good reviews. The Astor serves steaks, seafood, burgers, sandwiches, and has a full bar.

We have reserved the party room at the hotel that should seat everyone as well as having space for the ship’s store items. The Party Room is close to a door so carrying items in and out should be easier. There is also space to set up the Wednesday afternoon registration and an evening reception tentatively scheduled for 7:00pm.

Ladies “Hatitude” tea will be Thursday afternoon in a room (TBD) from 1:00-2:30pm. See page four for more details.

This year we are offering something a little different regarding tours. On Thursday, Sept. 10th, we will be having an evening cruise on Capt. Clark’s Flagship.

Buses will pick us up at the hotel between 5:30pm and 6:00pm. We will board the boat at 6:30pm and settle in for a cruise around the bay. I would recommend an early dinner since we leave the hotel at 6:00pm, however, they do offer snacks for sale such as nachos, hot dogs, drinks, etc. The cruise should last around 2½ hours at which time we will board the buses and return to the hotel. There will be free time during the day for visiting. Cost will be $26 per person.

Friday, we have a “choice” of three separate tours. 1) The USS Lexington at a cost of $27 per person. Commissioned in 1943, it served longer and set more records than any carrier in the Navy.

(continued on back page)
U.S. Navy News

Turkey Joins Counterpiracy Mission In the Gulf of Aden
Story Number: NNS090227-07
Release Date: 2/27/2009 1:50:00 PM

Top Story

By Lt. John Fage, Combined Task Force 151 Public Affairs

MONTEREY, At Sea (NNS) -- The Turkish frigate TCG Giresun (F-491) joined Combined Task Force (CTF) 151 Feb. 26 and began conducting counter piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden alongside other coalition naval forces.

"Bringing another professional navy into the fold is going to make it even more difficult for the pirates to operate out here," said Rear Adm. Terence McKnight, commander, CTF 151. "Giresun and her crew will add even more experience and manpower to a very robust counter piracy mission. We're making life very difficult for those looking to disrupt the free flow of commerce in the area."

Commanded by Capt. Cenk Dalkanat, Giresun joins CTF 151's flagship USS Monterey (CG 61), the Danish flexible support ship HDMS Absalon (L 16), and other ships from the U.S. and U.K., which have conducted operations as part of the task force.

"Having the ability to call upon several ships sailing under different flags is a unique and extremely useful tool in our belt," said Cmdr. James Harlan, afloat operations officer, CTF 151. "It gives us a wide array of experiences, a lot of flexibility and allows us to cover a lot more water space. The coordination between our ships is a key to the success of our task force."

CTF 151 is a multinational task force that conducts counter-piracy operations in and around the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Red Sea and was established to create a lawful maritime order and develop security in the maritime environment.

What is a veteran

A veteran is someone, who at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA for an amount up to and including his/her life, that is HONOR- and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand that concept.

Welcome Aboard!

New Members: Since December 2008 Newsletter

Robert Cooper BM3 62-66 1st & 2nd Div

Robert Horrell ET3 50-53 "T " Division

Bill Richards MM3 61-63 "E" Division

Horace Brooks Coxsain '45 "1st' Division

Donald Hubert AG1 48-51 Navigation Division

Farewell Shipmates! In memory of Members Deceased:

Bobby Mosier Passed 2/19/09 MM3 54-58 "M" Division

Don "Duffy" Douglas passed 3/27/09 SN2 46-47 2nd Div
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether at times of war or peace.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Hi Shipmates,

Spring has arrived and weather wise things are looking up. Our northern shipmates, both east and west have had a tough winter. Hopefully you are recovering now.

I want to thank Bud White for stepping forward and volunteering to again serve as our Master-At-Arms. Thanks Bud.

I have several different subjects I want to bring to your attention. First of all those of you who have attended reunions will remember the raffle our Storekeeper, Steve Schermerhorn conducts during the evening dinner-dance. If you have some Navy memorabilia that you no longer want, bring it to Corpus Christi and donate for the raffle, you can be assured it will be among some of the first items selected. Secondly, our website is another subject. Those of you with internet access, either at home, or at your local library are encouraged to visit our web site www.ussmtmckinley.com. Our Webmaster, Ken Oxenrider, has an excellent site and continues to add new features. There are so many that I won’t even try to mention more than one. That is the link to the official association membership certificate. Just log on and the second item listed is where you start. Just follow the instructions and print off a Certificate of Membership that will look great framed and hanging on your wall.

For members without internet access, I will print and mail a Membership Certificate for you. Just give me a call at 386-676-9863 and it will be done.

Next, at the last two reunions Gene Witherspoon has presented a slide show of many pictures he took while on the Mac. Gene called and said at the Reno reunion, a shipmate told Gene he could produce a DVD of Gene’s pictures. The problem is Gene does not recall who it was. So if the man who volunteered to make a DVD will contact either Gene or me, then Gene will again do the show, otherwise he will not do the show a third time.

Lastly, if you are visiting in the Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, or Orlando area, give me a call so we can get together and visit. I like so see old friends and make new ones.

That’s it for now, but remember, Keep Sailing Shipmates,

Bill

P.S. Please keep us informed if your address, phone number or e-mail address changes. Send to Jerry Critz, he is listed on page 2.

...While the boy and his father were watching wide eyed, an old lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched as the small circles lit up above the walls.

The walls opened up again and a beautiful twenty four-year-old woman stepped out.

The father looked at his son anxiously and said, “Go get your own gas, and on to a fast food restaurant where you carry your own tray, and what is it called? A Service economy!”

“I love it. You go to a coin-operated store to wash and dry your clothes, then you go to a filling station where you pump your own gas, and on to a fast food restaurant where you carry your own tray, and what is it called? A Service economy!”

Funny Story

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a nearby mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny silver walls that moved apart then back together by themselves.

The lad asked, “What is this, father?”

The father, having never see an elevator, responded “I have no idea what it is.”...

From an energy expert... Oil prices will go up or down, more or less, unless there are some unforeseen circumstances.

J.P. Morgan financial genius was asked how the stock market will do he replied “it will fluctuate.”

If all the economists were laid end to end...they still couldn’t reach a conclusion!
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**Old Ironsides...**

The USS Constitution, Old Ironsides, as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. However, let it be noted according to her log:

"On July 22, 1798, the USS Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

Making Jamaica on 6 October, 1798 she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November, 1798. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef, and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November, 1798 she set sail for England. In the ensuing days, she defeated five British men-of-war, and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, 1799 her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmored, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of a single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then, she headed home.

The USS Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799 with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

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**Navy Names Littoral Combat Ship USS Coronado**

Story Number: NNS090312-19
Release Date: 3/12/2009 4:56:00 PM

From the Department of the Navy

WASHINGTON (NNS) – Secretary of the Navy Donald Winter announced March 12 that the fourth littoral combat ship (LCS) will be named USS Coronado.

The announcement continues the practice of naming the agile LCS vessels after American mid-sized cities, small towns and communities. The ship is named in honor of the patriotic citizens of Coronado, Calif.

Home to Naval Air Base North Island (NASNI) and Naval Amphibious Base (NAB), Coronado has been home to the Navy since 1917.

More than 90 tenant commands reside at NASNI, including the Naval Aviation Depot, the largest aerospace employer in San Diego. The base is homeport to two aircraft carriers, USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76).

NAB Coronado has approximately 5,000 personnel and more than 30 tenant commands including Naval Surface Force Pacific and Expeditionary Warfare Training Group Pacific. The base is also home to Naval Special Warfare Command including several SEAL (Sea, Air, Land) and special boat teams, and the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUD/S) training center.

Two previous ships have been named for Coronado. USS Coronado (PF 38), a Tacoma-class patrol frigate, earned four battle stars for supporting landings in New Guinea and Leyte during World War II. USS Coronado (AGF 11) served as flagship for the Third Fleet and was decommissioned in 2006.

Designated LCS 4, Coronado will be designed to defeat littoral threats and provide access and dominance in coastal waters for missions such as mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare and surface warfare. There are two different LCS hull forms - a semiplaning monohull and an aluminum trimaran - designed and built by two industry teams, respectively led by Lockheed Martin and General Dynamics. These seaframes will be outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called mission packages, which can be changed out quickly. Mission packages are supported by special detachments that will deploy manned and unmanned vehicles and sensors.

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**Hello Ladies of the Mt McKinley Association**

Do you like to wear Hats??

Then the Ladies Tea during the reunion in Corpus Christi is the place for you.

Do you have an attitude about Hats? Well I have a HATTITUDE and guess what? I want all to bring their most lovely, unusual or outlandish hat so we may all enjoy it during the Ladies Tea. Don't have a hat, that's OK, come and enjoy anyway. We'll share our tea sans crumpets, with gracious attitude, have a hat parade, then pick ourselves some winners from those with HATTITUDE.

Tea is scheduled for Thursday afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30 in an room to be determined.

See you in Texas... Lynn Ellis
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, Khaki, Navy Blue, Stone w/ Navy bill</td>
<td>One Size - Adjustable</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship's Patches 3 1/4&quot; Mountain, 6&quot; Diesel Gang Patch, 5&quot; Association Mermaid/Turtle, Task Force 90 Patch, Snipe Force Patch</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fleece (pull over) Navy Blue 1/2 zipper Embroidered Logo M, L, XXL</td>
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<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<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 Red Cover 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque Call Steve Schermerhorn 574-831-2843 for special order form</td>
<td></td>
<td>65.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;Cruising in the Mac&quot; by Ken Boenitz A Chronology - USS Mount McKinley, AGC - 7, 1944-1970</td>
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<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matted Color Print 16x20 Matted Color Print on Canvas</td>
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<td>32.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11A,B,C</td>
<td>Ship's Photos 8x10, Black &amp; White Photos - Listed at Bottom (A-C)</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
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</table>

![Images of various items available for order]

More photos and items are listed on the website ussmountmckinley.com. New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.

### Order Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size / Color / Style</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
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Make Checks Payable to: USS Mount McKinley Association
Mail Order to: USS Mount McKinley Ship Store c/o Steve Schermerhorn
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 __________________________
Ponderisms:

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned most people die of natural causes.

Garden Rule: When weeding, the best way to insure you are removing a weed and not a good plant is to pull on it, if it comes up easily it is a good plant.

Have you noticed since nearly everyone these days has a camcorder, or cell phone that records no one talks about UFO's like they used to?

In the 60's people took acid to make the world look weird. Now the world is weird and people take prozac to make it normal.

How is it a careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box of matches to start a campfire?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze those dangly things here and drink whatever comes out?"

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?

Why does the OB-GYN leave the room when a woman gets undressed?

Do illiterate people get the full effect of alphabet soup?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of a bottle?

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Never take life too seriously, nobody gets out alive anyway.

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<td>MM</td>
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<td>Life Membership dues</td>
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<td>'08 Re-Union Registration $ 0.00</td>
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<td>Interest American First Bank</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Office Supplies &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets*</td>
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Navy to Decommission Tarawa After 32 Years of Honorable Service

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- The U.S. Navy announced that the amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1) will be decommissioned March 31, 2009, at Naval Base San Diego.

Tarawa completed her 14th and final Western Pacific deployment in June and returned from her last operational exercise -- Fuerzas Aliadas Panamax 2008 in the Panama Canal zone -- to her homeport of San Diego Aug. 29.

"I think it hit heavy on the way back [to San Diego] when [the crew] realized they would not be doing this again," said Capt. Brian Luther, Tarawa's commanding officer.

Panamax was the final chapter for Tarawa, which has readily served as a key asset in the defense of the United States for 32 years.

"It's going to be tough knowing that my ship will no longer be in service," said Damage Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Jerry Wirth, Tarawa's damage control work center supervisor.

"Because of the ship's obvious age, it takes quite a bit of energy and personnel to maintain damage control measures to the Navy's standards. We try and exceed them. That's why the 'Big T' has been around longer than any other LHA in her class. I'm sad to see her go."

Tarawa, named in remembrance of the Battle of Tarawa that began Nov. 19, 1943 and lasted for 76 hours, was the first of the LHA class of ships and is the third to be decommissioned. During Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, Tarawa played a major role.

Tarawa was also called upon to aid with humanitarian assistance operations during Sea Angel and Sea Angel II following the deadly cyclones that affected Bangladesh in 2007. These humanitarian assistance efforts were instrumental in the ship being awarded the 2007 Battle Efficiency Award.
Re-union 2009 (continued from front page)

2) The Texas state aquarium which is a block from the entrance to the Lexington. **Cost for the aquarium is $29** per person. At the aquarium, you will see close-up views of the wonders of the Gulf of Mexico “Islands of Steel”, a variety of water turtles, otters and the only albino alligator in captivity. See dive shows, feeding demonstrations and have a hands-on experience with sharks and stingrays.

3) The Museum of Science and History and the Art Museum of Southern Texas. The science museum has a vast collection of treasures that preserve the natural and cultural history of the area. On display are artifacts, pictures, documents, weapons and memorabilia that show the colorful past of south Texas. You will see treasurers of the world famous Spanish shipwreck of 1554 along with Smithsonian institution exhibits. The museum also has replicas of the Santa Maria and the Pinta. The art museum has recently expanded to include over 1,300 pieces focusing on fine art and craft of the Americas. **Cost for the two museums will be $26.**

At our banquet on Saturday evening we will once again have a DJ playing music for enjoyment. For dinner we will have a choice of Chicken Picatta, Prime Rib of Beef, Snapper or Tilapia. The Snapper and Tilapia are similar, and what is served will depend on the availability of the freshest fish at the time of our banquet. **Dinner will have a garden salad, main entrée, rolls, potatoes, vegetable and dessert and is included in the registration fee.**...Dave Long Reunion Chair  Davidlond01@roadrunner.com 490-292-7389