Spring 2010 Volume 12 Issue 1

Reunion 2010 - More Information

Location: Tampa, Florida Airport Marriott Hotel
Date: September 15th (Wed.) thru September 19th (Sun.)
Time: Noon Wednesday 9/15/10 to 6:00 PM check-in and registration. Farewell breakfast 9/19/10 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

The Marriott Hotel is located at the Tampa Airport 4200 George Bean Parkway. For reservations call 1-800-564-3440. Let them know you are with the Mount McKinley Association to get the group room rate which will be $89.00 per night.

Getting to the Hotel from the Airport is very easy. If your Airline is Continental, Air Tran, or Southwest take the tram to the main terminal, once inside the terminal, go past security and turn right. The Marriott will be directly in front of you. If you have checked baggage take your baggage claim to the front desk. While you’re checking in the bell desk will pick up your luggage and deliver it to your room. If you are driving there is a $6.00 per day fee for parking (self park, not valet). It is located at the drive-up main entrance.

There will be two tours available. The First one will be on Thursday Sept 16th, and the second tour Friday September 17th. Thursday’s tour will be a City of Tampa tour this will primarily be a stop at Ybor City. It comes highly recommended. The tour will begin at the Ybor City Museum with historical displays of the unique society that created a cigar industry. There will be time for shopping, lunch or just browsing at Ybor City. Other highlights will include a drive past the University of Tampa Campus with historic Tampa Bay Hotel along Bayshore Boulevard, where upscale homes overlook the Bay. We may be able to go to the shops at Channel side depending on available time. The tour is expected to last four hours and the cost will be $25.00 per person. We are aiming for a 10:00 AM departure from the hotel.

Friday’s Tour will take us through St Petersburg and the Armed Forces Military Museum. At the Museum, you will experience a unique plunge into the fight for freedom through the eyes of American heroes. We will walk through a WW1 trench to the flight deck of the Japanese carrier, Akagi. There will be displays showing the attack on Pearl Harbor. There will be film clips from the movie “Tora, Tora”. Further there are exhibits that cover the South Pacific, D-Day landings, Third Reich, Korean War and the 8063 MASH. They are enhanced with simulations of smoke sounds of planes and other special effects. After the Museum we will stop at “The Pier” with galleries, shops, boutiques etc. The sparkling Florida water surrounds the Pier. You can view it all from the top floor observation deck. This tour will last approximately five hours and the cost will be $33.00 per person.

Reunion Registration form is enclosed. Mail it in at your convenience.
From USS Bataan Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NNS) -- Multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) and embarked Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) completed support to Operation Unified Response and departed Haiti March 24 after 10 weeks on-station.

Bataan surged from her homeport of Norfolk, Va., just 48 hours after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated Haiti, and arrived on-station off the coast of the island nation Jan. 18.

Within two days, 23 patients had been brought to the ship either by helicopter or landing craft air cushion (LCAC.)

Multipurpose amphibious assault ships like Bataan have a unique design: a 844-foot flight deck for air operations and a well deck to launch and recover amphibious craft. Those inherent capabilities - along with a medical facility second only to the Military Sealift Command hospital ships USNS Comfort and Mercy - made the platform ideal for the mission in Haiti.

"These ships are made to be flexible. As the mission evolved, our tasks changed frequently, but we were able to meet every requirement," said Capt. Steve Koehler, Bataan's commanding officer. "Add that to the work of a dedicated crew that never said no, and I was inspired every day we were on station."

Helicopters and LCACs operating from Bataan transported nearly 1,000 pallets of relief supplies, medically evacuated 97 patients to Bataan and provided transport for another 524 Haitian patients to and from USNS Comfort, USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) and hospitals throughout Port-au-Prince.

"The Sailors and Marines aboard Bataan gave unselfishly of themselves for more than two months, and made a life-changing impact on the people of Haiti," said Capt. Tom Negus, commander of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group.

"It's one thing to be told you're making a difference, it's another to look into the eyes of a life you've changed forever," said Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman (SW/AW) Huben Phillips, an independent duty corpsman who treated patients ashore by day and returned to Bataan to treat more patients at night.

Bataan collectively looked into those eyes when 8 lb., 3 oz. Theo Joe, a baby boy, was born healthy Jan. 30 in the ship's hospital. His mother had been medically evacuated to the ship by LCAC from Grand Goave.

The Bataan crew unofficially adopted the child's hometown, conducting 22 "Sailors Ashore Missions" (SAM), ultimately removing 150 tons of rubble, building 65 shelters for 130 families and distributing more than 500,000 meals.

"I was on the very first SAM, and I remember the streets being empty, and rubble and ruin everywhere," said Aviation Ordnance man (AW/SW) Howard King, from Charleston, S.C. "By the last SAM, there was a huge difference; the streets were full of people, stores were open, and life was rejuvenated in Grand Goave."

The Navy and Marine team worked with various U.S. and partner government organizations, numerous independent aid organizations operating in the area, and local Haitian leaders delivering aid, and helping the communities prepare for long-term reconstruction.

The Department of the Navy has become increasingly involved with other U.S. government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) since it adopted a new Maritime Strategy in 2007 that elevated stability missions to the same priority as combat operations and committed itself to working more closely with its civilian partners.

For more news form USS Bataan visit www.navy.mil/local/lhd5.
Hello Shipmates,

Today was a welcome change of weather, 79 degrees and lots of sun! It couldn’t come to soon for me. Along with the change of seasons comes the reminder that our annual reunion is fast approaching. This newsletter should have additional information for you to make those travel plans, and to book you rooms so you don’t get shut out. Please don’t wait till the last minute. It really makes planning for us a lot harder. If you wish to register, the registration form is also enclosed with this issue.

Last year we took in members from the Flagship Alliance and many of them attended our reunion in Corpus Christi, TX. It was a pleasure meeting them and hearing some different sea stories for a change. I am pleased also to see that many of those members have renewed their memberships and are indicating a desire to continue on with us. I especially want to thank our members for showing them some good old fashion hospitality. Any way, I want to give our newfound members a “Welcome Aboard!”

The winter has been pretty quiet for me as President. I was expecting a lot more problems to turn up but there just weren’t any! Not that I’m complaining! I also happen to be the Commander of my local VFW Post, and if you belong to one, you know there is never a shortage of problems to handle there. The business meeting for the upcoming reunion should hopefully also be fairly quiet. We only have one issue to discuss at this time and it’s a minor one at that.

I know that my predecessor, Bill Ellis is already hard at work with his nominating committee and I also expect that to go very smoothly from what I have seen so far. We as an association have been very blessed with some highly dedicated people who have preceded me for this office. It is because of them that I am enjoying the fruits of their labors. Gentlemen, I salute you all!

At this point, I’d like to remind all of us to pray for those who are ill, and to give comfort to those who have lost a loved one this past year. Every year we see many of our shipmates leave us, we can however keep their memory alive by keeping them in our hearts. Smooth Sea’s and following winds!

Dennis Pilny

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**Shipmates, we have a present for you.**

Gene Witherspoon, a Fire Control man 3rd class was on board the McKinley from 1949 to 1952. Gene took a lot of pictures during his cruise and has over 150 of them on a DVD.

The DVD pictures are in color, with a narration by Gene of each scene.

They start in San Diego with operations off the coast of San Diego, to the Seattle area and on to Pearl Harbor. They also include time in Japan, the Inchon invasion and the return to the States in 1952.

This DVD is available for you, just send an email to me at, bill1000@aol.com or call me at 386.676.9863 and I will provide one for you.

Bill Ellis, SN 2nd Division 1951-53

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**Thoughts for the Day**

IF A TURTLE DOESN'T HAVE A SHELL, IS HE HOMELESS OR NAKED?

WHAT WAS THE BEST THING BEFORE SLICED BREAD?

IS THERE ANOTHER WORD FOR SYNONYM?

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**Just for Laughs**

Two guys, one old and one young, are pushing their carts around at Home Depot when they collide. The old guy says to the young guy, “Sorry about that. I’m looking for my wife, and I guess I wasn’t paying attention to where I was going.”

The young guy says, "That's OK. It's a coincidence. I'm looking for my wife, too. I can't find her and I'm getting a little worried."

The old guy says, "Well, maybe we can help each other. What does your wife look like?"

The young guy says, "Well, she is 27 yrs old, tall, with red hair, blue eyes, long legs, big boobs, and she's wearing tight white shorts. What does your wife look like?"

The old guy says, "Doesn't matter — let's look for yours.

**Ethel and Mabel, two elderly widows, were watching the folks go by from their park bench.**

**Ethel said**, “You know, Mabel, I've been reading this 'Sex and Marriage' book and all they talk about is 'mutual orgasm'. Mutual orgasm here and mutual orgasm there. That's all they talk about. Tell me, Mabel, when your husband was alive, did you two ever have mutual orgasm?"

**Mabel thought for a long while. Finally, she shook her head and said,** "No, I think we had State Farm."
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. Now continues October 4th, 1944 LTJG Burdick writes:

4, October, Wednesday D + 19 days.

Don’t seem to be able to find out what the delay is, but we are still here, lying off Peleliu. No one seems to know where or when we will go. The storms have cut loose a bunch of mines and they are just drifting around. An LCI and an LCT were blown up by one. We sighted one and exploded it with 20mm fire. A big convoy arrived just at dusk with back-up supplies and garrison troops. Admiral Reeves is due here to set up the Island Command. Then we will leave. We are still directing everything from the ship. Colonel Donohue was buried at sea today with full military honors. The Funeral was quite impressive, but really makes one think.

5, October Thursday D+ 20 days.

Still one pocket of Japs left up in “Bloody Nose” and they can’t get to them without suffering heavy losses. They are trying every means they have to drive them out, but so far, with no success. The total Jap dead is well over 10,000. The weather is very bad, typhoon still to the north. We will run out tonight then back in the morning 20 to 24 watch for me.

6, October Friday D+ 21 days

Three weeks ago was D Day and they are not finished yet. We are not too patiently awaiting the arrival of Admiral Reeves to set up his Island command. The typhoon has held him up north. The weather is calling down, they managed to tow two LST’s that were beached too – off the beach with no damage. Out we go again tonight.

7, October Saturday D + 22 days

Transports moved in with supplies today, and at noon Admiral Reeves arrived. It is expected we will leave tomorrow for Pearl Harbor. The day was hot and we have our old weather with us again. Mail may reach us in the morning. Captains inspection today. I have a Summary Court Martial case to fight any day as soon as the charges are written up. The boy is a signalman. Out we go again tonight and back in again in the morning-20 to 24 watch again this evening–Some fun eh?

8, October Sunday D + 23 days

A quiet, peaceful day – an expected air raid at mid-night last night never developed. Any-way we were 64 miles out. That’s our usual policy of late — haul out each nite and return each morning. We just lie around off the beach - while small boats take people to and from the ship. The weather is very hot again with no let-up. The air field at Peleliu has really grown up steadily. There are loads of planes here now. They went on the world’s shortest bombing mission. Took off, flew one mile, dropped bombs on the Jap pocket, then returned one mile and landed. Yes! There are still some Japs left, and it’s still too costly to rush them and take the place.

9, October Monday D + 24 days

We left the States four months ago yesterday. Sure have done some traveling, – We are about 4,150 miles west of Pearl Harbor. Tomorrow I will tell you a few stories about the fighting on the beach. One Marine killed 400 Japs, then was killed himself. They are still trying to get the remaining Japs out there but no luck yet. (continued on page 7)
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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### 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</td>
<td>Navy Blue, S, M, L, XL</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Khaki, Navy Blue, Stone w/ Navy bill, XXL, XXXL</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps</td>
<td>3 1/2&quot; Mountain, 6&quot; Diesel Gang Patch, 5&quot; Association Mermaid/Turtle, One Size - Adjustable</td>
<td>16.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship's Patches</td>
<td>Task Force 90 Patch, Snipe Force Patch</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Fleece (pull over)</td>
<td>Navy Blue 1/2 zipper Embroidered Logo</td>
<td>30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mouse Pad</td>
<td>M, L, XXL</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Laser Engraved Key Tag</td>
<td>Red Cover 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
<td>Call Steve Schermerhorn 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>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matted Color Print</td>
<td>16x20&quot; Matted Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td>32.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11A, 11B, 11C</td>
<td>Ship's Photos</td>
<td>8x10, Black &amp; White Photos - Listed at Bottom (A-C)</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
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**More photos and items are listed on the website ussmountmckinley.com. New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.**

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### Order Information

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<th>Item #</th>
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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: 

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### USS MOUNT MCKINLEY ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st Quarter 2010

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<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Cash/Asset</th>
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<td>Ships Store Inventory</td>
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<td>'10 Reunion Registration</td>
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<td>Interest American First Bank</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship Store Inventory sold</td>
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<td>Office Supplies &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<td>Masthead Print &amp; postage 1st quarter 2010</td>
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<td>Reunion Expenses</td>
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<td>Refunds: Bank charge.</td>
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<td>And reunion refunds</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Less Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$2810.91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net + or - 1st quarter 2010</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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**New members since 12/31/09**
- Donald Davis # 1176
  - ETN2 CE Div 67-68
  - Mount McKinley

**Frederick Howcroft #1177**
- SN Deck Div. 64-65
  - Mount McKinley

**Susan Reniff #1178A**
- Daughter Paul Reniff BM2
  - 44-45 Mount McKinley

**Notified deceased since 12/31/09**
- Joseph D'Arms SKSN
  - USS Catoctin AGC-5 44-45
  - Passed 12/30/09
- Benjamin Murray
  - Phibgru 7 44-46 plank owner Mount McKinley
  - Passed 9/2/09
- David Nelsen LT SC – Supply Div. 61-63
  - Mount McKinley
  - Passed 2/20/10
- Louis McQuaid L13 OA Div.
  - 62-63
  - Mount McKinley
  - Passed 12/12/09
- Albert Bernier RM 3 C Div.
  - 44-46
  - USS Auburn AGC-10
  - Passed 7/20/09

**Sail on to your reward!**
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on several extraordinary ships in service to their country whether at times of war or peace.

October 10th, Tuesday D + 25 days- October 11th, Wednesday D + 26 days- October 12th, Thursday D + 27 days- October 13th, Friday D + 28 days- October 14th, Saturday D+ 29 days

October 15th, Sunday D + 30 days

We left today finally!, but instead of heading for Pearl Harbor as per schedule, we are on our way to Manus in the Admiralty Islands off Northern New Gunea. There we are to join the Seventh Fleet operating under General MacArthur. We are alone, being escorted by three destroyers making 15.5 knots and should reach our destination some time Tuesday. What we are to do, still remains in the dark, but our guess is the Philippines and soon. One task force is already on it’s way to hit either Mindanao or Danao. We passed part of it today. We hope we will be in on the show. We received a thank-you officially, from the 1st Marine Div. for our part in the operation at Palau, and so just after one month-the Palau show becomes Marine and Naval History. When time permits I will describe some of the incidents that happened there.

October 16th Monday – At Sea

225 miles to go- Manus the largest of the Admiralty Group is in Latitude 2 degrees South and is off the North coast of New Guinea. It is 50 miles long and 12 miles wide. It’s highest point is about 3000 feet. We will pass thru the reefs between Los Negros and Seeadler Islands. The latter Island is famous because it derived its name from Count Von Tuskner “The Sea Devil” Raider of the last war The “Seeadler”. She was driven ashore there in a typhoon and wrecked. Hence the population is a combination of German and natives with a few other nationalities including Dutch mixed in since then. The principal trades of the Islands are, Copra, Coconuts, Rice Oysters, pearls and sea food. The largest part of Manus is Copra Plantations. How long we will remain there is not known. We may after a few days move over to Humboldt Bay, Hollandia in New Guinea. At any rate we will bid Admiral Fast and his staff good-bye within the next few days and then report for duty with the Seventh Fleet which is commanded by Admiral Kinkaid.

After finishing one Summary Court, I now have another one to fight. Hope I am successful with this one too. Plenty of watches and navigation and not so much sleep. G.Q. is at 0355 in the morning, the earliest we have had it so far.

October 17th Tuesday – Manus

With our arrival here at Manus at noon our first operation ends, and quite successfully too. Into all of our records goes a commendation for our part. This makes number six in mine. It is getting quite impressive.

The harbor here is tremendous as of last week there were 600 ships anchored here. We don’t know yet what part we will play, but it looks like the Philippines from here.

We Dropped anchor at 1130 and spent the rest of the day getting all squared away, and ready to load stores and supplies tomorrow

October 18th Wednesday - Manus

Here is a letter received from Admiral Fast on his arrival in Pearl Harbor, to Captain Graham “Doubtless you have seen many commendatory dispatches sent to various sub-commanders on their part in it, and wondered if all the praise went outside the “Family” With a newly commissioned flagship faced with a complex and difficult operation, you gave your best efforts and the result was an outstanding performance. So to the “Family” a well deserved “Well Done”

/S/G.H. Fast  A pretty nice compliment to the officers and crew of the Mount McKinley.

We will be here for a few days to come-taking on stores and supplies, fuel and water. Then!! It’s still unknown. So I will skip the in port routine and pick it up again when we move on. (Journal continues in next Masthead)
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)

Experience Florida with your shipmates at the Mt McKinley Reunion this September!

Old Tampa Hotel on the Bay

Tampa Skyline

Tiger Exhibit at Busch Gardens

Ahoy Mates! Looks like a good Place for a reunion!

Let's Drop Anchor and go ashore Here!!

A Photo from the traffic circle near the Royal Caribbean Cruise Terminal. Looking North on the right You see Tampa's World Trade Center in the distance, Selmon expressway, beyond that, Ybor City.