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In Jax, you can experience a different side of Florida, combining both relaxation and adventure, and letting you choose just how active you want to be. Enjoy our 22 miles of beaches, extensive park system, world-class fishing, historic neighborhoods, street arts scene, creative coastal cuisine, vibrant nightlife and so much more!
Navy News

USS Wasp, Marines arrive in the Philippines for Balikatan exercise

190330-N-RI884-0165 SUBIC BAY, Philippines (March 30, 2019) Sailors aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1) man the rails while arriving in Subic Bay for Exercise Balikatan. Exercise Balikatan, in its 35th iteration, is an annual U.S., Philippine military training exercise focused on a variety of missions, including humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, counter-terrorism, and other combined military operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Barker/Released)
Fellow shipmates;

We have been able to finally nail down all the details on the upcoming reunion in Jacksonville. Mike will have all the details in the next Masthead. We were able to get a room rate of $105 per night, and that includes the breakfast buffet each day. And of course, we are looking forward to seeing everyone again in September. One note, the cutoff date for registrations and menu selections will be August 12th. However, if a registration isn’t received by then, the hotel will probably be okay with it. So try to get things in by the 12th. And while I still have some minor details to take care of, things are pretty well set for the reunion.

Hopefully, we all survived this past winter and now are looking forward to warmer weather. Our winter wasn’t as bad as we anticipated. We did have a couple pretty bad snowstorms, but the streets were clear the next day and all we had to contend with was the cold. Darlene and I did manage to get to sunny Florida if only for a week, but it gave us a taste of the great weather to come to Ohio soon. Even though it is cold and rainy as I write this.

I did want to mention those who live in Nebraska. Sadly, people have been dealing with some pretty bad flooding over the past month so we hope that they will get through this disaster with minimal damage.

And back to the website. I know that VP Steve has spent some time researching different hosting companies and speaking with people who do this kind of work. I too have searched to find a web hosting company that would be able to take over the admin work of redesigning and maintaining the association’s website. It seems that once they take a look at the current website and find out how much work that Kenny has put into it, they tend to back away. I know that there are websites that can be done and they would give us a basic website, but to have something as complete and as versatile as our current site would take someone with the same expertise as Ken and so far, we haven’t found someone like that. So, until a new person is found, we will continue to rely on Ken’s talents to maintain the website in its current form.

For those who haven’t paid their dues yet, I am sure you will be receiving a note from our treasurer Wes reminding you of the importance of the dues.

In closing, I just want to say that I am looking forward to the reunion this year and especially next year. So don’t forget to get your registrations sent in. There will be one more newsletter before the reunion and I hope to give everyone updates on anticipated attendance.

Enjoy the Spring!
Mount McKinley's third Mediterranean cruise from 20 February to 26 August 1959 was marked by seven amphibious exercises involving U.S. and NATO forces.

In February 1960, the ship sailed to Valparaiso, Chile, via the Panama Canal, to provide communications support for President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Good Will visit to Latin America. On 19 April, she again deployed to the Sixth Fleet, returning to Norfolk on 7 December.

Upon completion of her yard period in the summer of 1961, Mount McKinley made her fifth deployment to the Mediterranean from September to February 1962, acting as flagship for several large-scale amphibious exercises.

In October 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Mount McKinley served at flagship for Commander Amphibious Force, Atlantic (ComPhibLant) and ComPhibGru 4. Following the Cuban Quarantine, she sailed for the Mediterranean on 10 January 1963 to act as command flagship for the Amphibious Strike Force. Arriving back in Norfolk on 2 August, she entered Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for a Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM) II overhaul that extended from September 1963 to January 1964.

After refresher training and Exercise Quick Kick V, Mount McKinley departed Norfolk on 10 May 1964, arriving at San Diego on 26 May via the Panama Canal. Immediately after the Tonkin Gulf incident that summer, she was deployed to Southeast Asia, sailing from San Diego on 25 August 1964 and arriving off Luzon on 16 September. She relieved Eldorado (AGC-11) at Subic Bay a week later, becoming flagship of the Seventh Fleet, Amphibious Strike Force. She took station in the South China Sea, with other elements of Amphibious Group 1, prepared for any contingency.

While proceeding to Bangkok, Mount McKinley came to assistance of Herkimer, whose master was severely ill, taking him on board for further treatment in Singapore while the MSTS ship sailed on to Saigon. In early March and again in mid-April 1965, the flagship coordinated the landing of USMC reinforcements at Danang and Hue, South Vietnam. Relieved by Estes (AGC-12) at Subic Bay in April, she returned to San Diego on 15 May 1965.

The amphibious force flagship sailed again from San Diego on 15 March 1966, reaching Subic Bay on 17 April via Pearl Harbor. Based there, the ship visited ports in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Okinawa, acting as flagship of ComPhibGru 1. On 23 August, Mount McKinley sailed for home, arriving on 19 September.

She sailed on her third WesPac deployment on 1 July 1967, arriving off Danang on 28 July to become once more the flagship of Commander, Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force. She provided communications support for search and destroy operations against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Regulars. Relieved in mid-January 1968, Mount McKinley reached San Diego on 10 February.

Mount McKinley's designation was changed from an amphibious force flagship, AGC-7, to an amphibious command ship, LCC-7, on 1 January 1969. She engaged in type training and amphibious exercises on the west coast as flagship of ComPhibGru 3. Ultimately, she was decommissioned on 26 March 1970.

Entering the Reserve Fleet at Suisun Bay, Calif., on 23 November 1970, Mount McKinley was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on 30 July 1976. She underwent stripping (17 January - 1 March 1977), then was sold, for non transportation use, on 22 September 1977 to National Metal & Steel Corp., San Diego. The veteran of service in three wars was withdrawn from the Reserve Fleet on 19 October 1977 to be broken up.

Mount McKinley received five battle stars for her World War II service, eight stars for her service in the Korean conflict, and three for service in the Vietnam War. In addition, she received four Navy Unit Commendations (World War II) and a Meritorious Unit Commendation for her sterling work during the Vietnam War between 30 July 1967 and 21 February 1968.
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.

Reunion Registration 2019

Jacksonville Florida September 11th-15th

Crowne Plaza Hotel 14670 Duval Rd.

Jacksonville, Florida 32218

Reservations made separately

Phone (904) 741-4404

(Mention our group USS Mt McKinley Association)

Return this form with your payment on or before August 12th 2018

Register the following for the 2019 Reunion. Print your name (s) Residing in.. City & State as you wish them to appear on the name badges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State of residence</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you wish your Name badge to include the Ship you served on, your rate/rank and actual years served aboard that ship (ex. 59-62) Please complete the following:

Ship name or Flag staff_________________ Rate/Rank_______ Yrs. Served______
Division_____

Total # of persons Registered ____@ $65.00 Each......................................total $____

Tours are optional

Thursday September 12th  Tour ___ Tickets@$45.00 Each.....................total $____
Friday September 13th  Tour ___ Tickets@$??.00 Each.................total $____

Total amount enclosed (reunion+ tours).................................................Total $____

Banquet Meal Choices (choose desired meals)

Chicken Parmesan____Beef Medallions____Vegetarian selection____

Make Check to : USS MT McKinley Association

Mail To: USS Mt. McKinley Association Attn: Wes Brubacher P.O. Box 376 Geyserville, CA 95441
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 12/31/18

James Schadt #1222 Mt Mac '65-'67 RD2 o1 div.
Earl Maddadlena #738 Mt Mac '55-'57 Sgt USMC Det.
Richard Dietz #1190 Mt Mac '51-'53 PI3
Don Haugen #665 Mt Mac '62-'63 DKSN S1 Div.
Russ Haring #121C Mt Mac '46-'49 DC2 R Div.
Paul Barefoot

Report for heavenly duty

No new members since 12/31/18

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!

USS Mount McKinley Financial Statement as of March 2019

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“This Financial Statement is a summary of the activity of the Treasury of the Association. If anyone desires a complete detailed statement, contact the Treasurer directly.”

From your Membership Secretary:

"Dues Due" emails, and letters for those who don’t have email, have been sent to 16 Association members who still owe dues for 2019. It would be greatly appreciated if your dues, along with the requested update information, are sent to me as soon as possible. The update information is particularly important if any of your contact, as well as the other, information has changed during the past year(s). Please, make your dues payment check out to the USS Mount McKinley Association, not to me.

You say that you haven't communicated for many years with that close buddy you had on the Mt Mac?? Because we're all getting older it's more important than ever to "reach out" to that buddy because you don't know how much longer either of you will leave footprints on this earth. This was brought home to me recently and made me think hard about the situation. If you need help trying to locate someone contact me and I'll see if my nearly complete roster will help.

Think Jacksonville and we'll all meet there this September!

Wes Brubacher, Mt Mac '60-'61

A salty Navy Chief and a crusty Marine First Sergeant are at a bar arguing about who had the tougher career. "I did 30 years in the Recon," the Marine declared proudly, "and fought in three of my country’s wars."

"Fresh out of boot camp, I hit the beach at Okinawa, clawed my way up the blood-soaked sand, and eventually took out an entire enemy machine gun nest with a single grenade."

"As a sergeant, I fought in Korea alongside General MacArthur. We pushed back the enemy inch by bloody inch all the way up to the Chinese border, always under a barrage of artillery and small arms fire."

"Finally, as a staff sergeant, I did three consecutive combat tours in Vietnam. We humped through the mud and razor grass for 14 hours a day, plagued by rain and in a fire fight, we'd shoot until our arms ached and our guns were empty, then we'd charge the enemy with bayonets!"

Looking straight ahead, the Chief says nothing. Then after a deliberately long, slow drink, the Chief says, "Yeah, it figures...all shore duty."
Dear Sirs

I joined the Navy Sept 19, 1948 and went to recruit in San Diego. When finished was sent to fire control school in San Diego. When finished school was transferred to the Mt McKinley in Feb 1949. Soon after the USS Mt McKinley, USS Cavalier, USS Union were advised we would be headed to Camp McNair in Japan and pick up the 1st Cavalry to be Amphibious landing with them. While on board the North Koreans crossed the 38th parallel. We took the 1st Cavalry and landed at Poh Han in South Korea. The third of us returned back to Japan and arrived with the 1st Marines were ready for Inchon landing & invasion. In December the Mt McKinley was sent to North Korea and pick up the wounded and the remainder of the 1st Marines and returned them to Japan. Then we headed to the States. We arrived in Vallejo yards in Jan. 1951. When we left the yard I was sent to FCR school in San Diego. When left school was transferred to Fleet Gunnery school in San Diego for two years. Following that, I was sent to FTB school in Great Lakes. From there I was transferred to the USS Princeton. I was later transferred to the USS Midway until I was discharged in November 1958. I was FT1C and passed the FTC exams three times.

Gene Witherspoon
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)

Kansas City, Missouri Reunion this September
12th to 16th 2018 Hotel information

Crowne Plaza Hotel 13670 Duval Rd. Jacksonville, Fl. 32218 Phoe (904)741-4404

Tour information Tour # 1  Tour our Nations oldest City (tour cost $45.00)

8:45 Am board bus @Hotel
9:45 arrive at the St Augustine Welcome center Bathroom break an pick up our tour guide
10:00 am Start the tour of Our Nation Oldest City our step on guide will give us a wonderful tour of St Augustine telling the history and stories of how it became the nations oldest city
12:00pm Arrive back @ welcome center ,bid farewell to our guide, Bathroom break and souvenir shopping in the welcome center
12:30 pm Depart for hotel  1:55pm arrive back at hotel

Tour # 2

Old Spanish Fort
St Augustine

Information in next Masthead