REUNION 2011
Cincinnati
Join the fun & camaraderie. Share Stories, Memories. Don’t miss out!

The dates are Sunday Sept. 11, through Thursday Sept 15. We will be located at The Holiday Inn Airport, which is near the Cincinnati Airport, at 1717 Airport Exchange Rd., Erlanger, Kentucky. Reservation should be made by or prior to August 14th by calling 1-800-HOLIDAY or 859-746-5608. Rooms are $90.00 per night + tax.

The Holiday Inn has free shuttle service for those flying into the Cincinnati Airport. For those driving from the North, head south on I-75 to I-275, then East on I-275. Exit at Exit # 2 at Mineola Pike. Turn left at the first light. The hotel is on the left. For those Driving from the South (on I-75 North) exit at I-275 West (airport exit). Follow I-275 to the first exit (Mineola Pike). Turn right on Mineola Pike. The hotel will be on your left.

“Your registration form is enclosed in this Masthead”

Welcome  Sunday evening will be our Welcome Reception with a deli sandwich dinner at 6:00 PM.

Tours  There will be two tours available. One on Monday, September 12th, the second on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Tour # 1 is a Cincinnati Museum Tour ($39.00 per person). A full day tour at Cincinnati’s former Grand Central Station, which now houses the Cincinnati Museum Center. The Tour will include Admission to the Historical Museum, the Museum of Natural History and Science, and the Omnimax Theater. The detail is amazing and well worth the price. There is a Café located in the Museum center for lunch on your own and at your leisure.

Tour # 2 is a grand sightseeing tour ($30.00 per person) of Northern Kentucky, and a riding tour of Cincinnati, Covington and the infamous Newport area. The Newport area has some shopping availability, and restaurants. Lunch will be on your own, one of the interesting restaurants noted by Dave Long was the Hofbrauhaus.

(Continued back page)
The Amphibious transport dock ships, USS Antonio (LPD-17) and USS New York (LPD-21) are underway together in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Virginia. San Antonio’s second phase of sea trials, which are primarily focused on combat systems testing and developing crew proficiency.

U.S. Navy photo by mass communication Specialist 1st Class Edwin F. Bryan (released) 110609-VL218-336 6/9/11

**Important Please Read**

**Stars and Stripes Honor Flights**

**Honor Flight Network** recognizes American veterans for your sacrifices and achievements by flying you to Washington, D.C. to see YOUR memorial at no cost. Top priority (for which we are currently accepting applications) is given to **World War II and terminally ill veterans from all wars**.

In the future, **Honor Flight Network** will be expanded to include Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. In order for **Honor Flight Network** to achieve this goal, guardians fly with the veterans on every flight providing assistance and helping veterans have a safe, memorable and rewarding experience.

We encourage all Veterans (friends or relative may assist) as mentioned in the first paragraph to **apply ASAP**. A copy of the application will be made available at our web site, ussmtmckinley.com

If you know of someone who is a World War II veteran or a veteran with a terminal illness, please fill out an application and send it in. **And remember, every World War II veteran flies free.** We will **not** accept a donation from a World War II veteran.
President’s Report

The year is already half way over and thoughts of the September reunion are beginning to be anticipated. Dave has been working hard to make this reunion as good as it can be. He’s going to have a tough time beating the last one! It was right up there with some of our best.

Our reunion is only a few months away now, so please send your reservation forms in as soon as possible. By waiting till the last minute you really put a lot of pressure on Dave in trying to estimate how many will be attending. It affects everything from planning for food, to buses and tours. Also, don’t forget to make the hotel reservations as soon as possible so you don’t get locked out, we only get a limited number of rooms, and there is a deadline for the association discount.

The year has been somewhat quiet and there really isn’t too much to report on, and for that I am thankful! It just means that my predecessor did an excellent job of getting everything in order for me. My time in office is winding down and I look back and wonder how it went so fast?

Mike DeBol brought up something he thought worth bringing to our membership. It’s about the Honor Flights! If you’re not aware of them, more information will be in the newsletter and on our website. My VFW has been very involved with their local organization, and has been sending WWII veterans and guides for several years. Look for Honor Flight additional information on page 2.

Another thing you may want to consider before heading down to the reunion is the elections we hold for various officers and directors. If you have any interest in throwing your hat in, just give Bill Ellis (nominating chairman) a call, or drop him a note. There is always room for a new face!

In any event! I look forward to seeing all of you again, and especially when sharing the camaraderie of very good friends.

Remember to keep your loved ones in your heart, wish well those who are ill, and live every day to it’s fullest, and pray for our servicemen & women!

Smooth Seas, and following winds!
President Dennis Pilny

Ship Store Important Information

Steve Schermerhorn and Connie Schermerhorn have worked very hard operating the Ship Store these last 10 years and deserve a huge "THANK YOU" from all of us for their hard work and dedication.

We have just learned that Connie is seriously ill, (Your thoughts and prayers are important), and has quite a rough road ahead for treatment. Steve will need to be her helpmate 24/7, and will have to give up the Ship Store duties.

We are looking for someone to step forward and take on that task. It involves storing the inventory at your house, bringing or shipping the necessary inventory to the reunion, operating the Ship Store there, ordering new purchases, filling sales requests, and working with the treasurer and the board to keep things operating smoothly. Steve and Connie have done a great job. We believe there is someone in our organization, who will step forward and carry on for them. Please contact Dennis Pilney, Don King, Bill Ellis or Mike DeBol when you’re ready. (Phone #’s on the opposite page)

Steve and Connie Schermerhorn
Thank you for 10 years of dedication and hard work!

Thoughts and Prayers for Connie.
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 and now continues February 3rd, 1945.

Feb 3rd—Finds us back off Tolosa, Leyte Gulf, at our old anchorage. We received no mail either—guess it’s still lost. We do not know what the future will hold for us, nor when we will move on again. But it is a pleasure to have movies out in the air again. Commodore Carlson left today so once again we are alone (no flag aboard).

On Feb 9th—we are still sitting in Leyte Gulf. Admiral Kiland is back aboard with us now. We expect our next show will be Okinawa. It’s between Formosa and Japan proper. Nice and cozy eh?? Well, we will see. It won’t come off for quite some time yet but it will be a pip when it does.

We moved to Tarraguama on the 10th of Feb.—and expect to be here until the end of the month at least.

Tokyo was blasted on Feb. 16th by a 2000 plane strike. One of four before our operation. We expect to be the first S.O.P.A. in Japan. Yes! We are going to sit there while a base is established. Some fun eh?

Feb. 18th the news broke about the 2 day carrier raid on Tokyo. The place must be an awful mess. Also the landings in the Bonins on Iwo Jima. Well, that helps to make our coming operations a little easier. Paratroops landed on Corregidor today and the last of the Japs in and around Manila are being wiped out.

The 77th Div. the outfit we are taking will begin loading aboard ships the first of March. Then our job on the McKinley begins. And it will not end until we have been sitting in Japan for 104 days as S.O.P.A. (Four months wow!!!) and we expect many more carrier strikes before we ever leave here. When we do go we hope it’s good bye to the Philippines. By the way, we now rate a new campaign ribbon for the liberation of the P Islands “Blue and White vertical stripe” on a red background—pretty nice, I’ll bet.

Feb. 26th—finds us still at Tarraguama with a whole fleet of transports beginning to load the 77th Division. On our run up we will be escorted by 3 CVE’s (carriers) 12 DD’s and 12 DE’s with a total of 3 transport divisions and the AGC-18—the Biscane whom I met at Salerno. Met my old skipper Cpt. Swinson who now has the Drew APA 162. Also several members of Admiral Hall’s Staff Whom I knew in England. More and more of the Atlantic Fleet are out this way.

The Marines have taken 1/2 of Iwo Jima but the cost to us is heavy. The Airfield is ours now. The Islands we will hit are directly west of Iwo and south of Kinshu, the Jap mainland—Nice eh?!

March 1st—met three enlisted men today with whom I served with on the Ancon They are still BM2/c running Admiral Hall’s Barge on the Teton AGC-14. It was good to see them again. Tokyo got it again. Well, it’s only the beginning for them.
# 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Golf Shirt</td>
<td>Navy Blue</td>
<td>29.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Short Sleeve, 100% Heavyweight Cotton)</td>
<td>S, M, L, XL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>XXL, XXXL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps</td>
<td>Khaki, Navy Blue, Stone w/ Navy bill</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One Size - Adjustable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship’s Patches</td>
<td>3 ¾” Mountain, 6” Diesel Gang Patch, 5” Association Mermaid/Turtle, Task Force 90 Patch, Sippe Force Patch</td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Laser Engraved Key Tag</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>“Master Roster” by Dick Armstrong</td>
<td>Red Cover 1944-1970 (listing of all years)</td>
<td>30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Custom Laser Engraved Plaque</td>
<td>Includes your name, division and years of service</td>
<td>Call Steve Schermerhorn 574-831-2843 for special order form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>“Cruising in the Mac” 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>8</td>
<td>Matted Color Print</td>
<td>16” x 20” Matted Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td>32.00</td>
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</table>

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

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Shipping</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Subtotal
Shipping 5.00
Total

Ship to information: Please Print Clearly or attach your address label

Name ___________________________ Address ___________________________

City ___________________________ State ___________________________ Zip ___________

Phone # area code ( ) __________ E-mail address ___________________________

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**USS Mount McKinley Association Financial condition 2nd quarter 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Name</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Cash/Asset</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TD Bank Checking</td>
<td>$ 3734.78</td>
<td>$</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD Bank Money Market</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$ 7708.07</td>
<td>$22475.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TD Bank CD</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store inventory</td>
<td>$ 4461.26</td>
<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store Cash on hand</td>
<td>$ 16.77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ship Store sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Member Dues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Member Dues</td>
<td>$ 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td>2011 reunion registrations</td>
<td>$ 2139.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest TD Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$ 5174.93</td>
<td>$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Items sold from SS inventory**

- $ 141.70  
- $ 1100.00  
- $ 155.94  
- $ 1538.62  
- $ 418.00  
- $ .93  
- $ 30.41  
- $ 0  
- $ 0  
- $ 0  
- $ 150.00  
- $ 394.34  
- $ 5174.93  
- $ 3954.54  
- $ 1220.39 (+)  

**Total Income 2011 YTD**

$ 5174.93

**Les + or—2011 YTD**

$ 1220.39 (+)

**Total Assets 2011 YTD**

$38396.26

**Total Assets YE 2010**

$37175.87

**Difference**

$ 1220.39 (+)

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**Three men are sitting stiffly side by side on a long commercial flight. After they're airborne and the plane has leveled off, the man in the window seat abruptly says, distinctly and confidently, in a low voice, "Admiral, United States Navy, retired. Married, two sons, both surgeons." After a few minutes the man in the aisle seat states through a tightlipped smile, "Admiral, United States Navy, retired. Married, two sons, both judges." After some thought, the fellow in the center seat decides to introduce himself. With a twinkle in his eye he proclaims, "Master Chief Petty Officer, United States Navy, retired. Never married, two sons, both Admirals!!**

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**“LADIE’S TEA”**

**Pajamas, Popcorn, & Movie**  
Bring a pair of your “special” jammies, and accessories such as slippers, robe, curlers etc. and the rest will be provided. Exact date and time will be announced at the reunion, and will not interfere with any other reunion events. Contact Mary Ruth Halas if you have questions at 440-396-3992.
During the past few days or rather nights, we have had a small raid each night. No damage but a few bombs were dropped. Otherwise our staging is coming along on schedule. General Bruce is now aboard and his 77th Div. Staff, so today March 6th we have three days before we leave on our maneuvers. They last till about March 17th then we return here. Capt. Swinson on the Drew will be in our outfit. We all feel a little better now because the added one more carrier to our group, giving us four.

March 11th, we are all ready to go now. First we will have a training exercise. Probably leave Tuesday for that, then back here for a few days and leave for the Operation on the 20th or 21st. It’s going to be a gigantic job and we will spend some 120 days at it. We have been having all sorts of drills, gunnery practice, parariones, fire fighting, O.O.D school plane recognition and such, and it has kept us very busy to say the least. Have hopes of seeing the Ancon AGC-4, somewhere soon. Letters from home have been coming in regularly, now, we will have to wait again.

Everyone talks so much of home. But when we do go back, we want to stay there so. Let’s get to it.

March 14th-Morning, we left on our training run, went out into the Pacific, turned, and arrived off Cabugau Chico in Surigao Strait the morning of the 15th. The weather could not have been worse. Rain all the time. We stayed all of the 15th and came back to San Pedro Bay at 1630 on the 16th. The cruise served its purpose and the landings were well made. Soon it won’t be practice, but the real thing. This 77th Div. is about the army’s best. Now we are all mail hungry again. Possibly get some tomorrow.

March 21st-We got underway for Okinawa Jima in the Archepelago just to the South of Kyushu it’s 260 miles south an 300 miles North of Formosa in a line between the two. they separate the China Sea from the inland (Jap) Sea. With us are 22 transports 12 APS’s, 12 DD’s and 3 CVE’s nice size outfit eh?

We will land our 77th Div. on Kasema Ritto 10 miles SW of Okinawa on the 25th. Six days later four more task forces hit Okinawa. With us up there will be the Seventh Fleet fire support BB’s four of Admiral Mitcher’s fast Carrier Forces and 20 CVE’s.

We expect to anchor in the Islands after the sixth day and remain there as SOPA for 120 more days.

March 22nd–we are on our way toward two Jima with the Philippines some 250 miles West of us. We had A/A practice all morning and the C.A.P. until it returns to the Carriers, will dive around to give the gunners tracking practice.

March 24th–we fueled all our escorts and were 435 miles out at noon. At noon tomorrow I am to be taken off the watch list and will do nothing but navigate until we finally anchor. That may be more than a week after we arrive. Everything is running along just fine. No enemy action of any kind yet.

March 26th-we hit Kerama Retto, a group of islands about 15 miles from Okinawa in the Ryuku chain. There are eight rugged Islands in this Group. Two air raids developed in the morning and 3 suicide dives were made hitting one DD (Destroyer) . Otherwise there was only slight opposition. A large majority of the population are Koreans. Most of the troops were moved over to Okinawa last week. Their number now totals 75,000 to 80,000 and it looks like the big fight will be there. Our job, when these Islands are secure, will be to establish a Seaplane Base, a Logistics base and a re-armament depot. Establish a Bouyage system lay sub-nets etc. We hope to get over to Okinawa on D-Day there to see the scrap.

Up to now we have not had a minute to ourselves, an it’s the 29th of March. Our main concern here is land based Air Raids either from Formosa or Kyushu. And the Jap fleet is always a threat. Although we have good Aircraft as well as surface protection here. Each night until Okinawa is hit, we and the transports form up and run out overnight. After D-Day we may stay in the anchorage inside Tokashika Jima. The 77th has met very little opposition ashore and in three days have lost 17 men killed and about 65 wounded. The amazing part of it is the fact that these Japs are surrendering to the Army.

The homes and villages here are quite modern and the people dress quite similarly to the Western Ideas. Their principle industry is lacquering various articles Okinawa Lacquer is world famous.

At least the climate here, so far, is quite cool. We are once again using blankets at night. Needless to say everyone feels much better and have lots more pep as a result. Personally I’m eating like a horse.

One interesting item the native boys 12 to 17 have been given bayonet’s by the Jap Army. These are attached to long Bamboo poles. To be used against us on our invasion. Nice play toy, eh?
USS Mt McKinley Association 2011 Reunion will be in Cincinnati, Ohio
Make your plans to be there! “Registration Enclosed in this Masthead.”

(Reunion continued)

**Other activities** You can venture out on your own to a large local mall, with plenty of shopping and a variety of restaurants. The Holiday Inn has offered to have their driver take people to and from the mall at no charge. There is a riverboat cruise available, but that would be on your own. The Montgomery Inn is another Restaurant recommended by Dave long. The ribs are excellent, but it can be somewhat pricey. In the Holiday Inn we will have a hospitality room where you can gather and relax with friends, shipmates, have some snacks and a beverage or two, share stories, purchase Ship store Items, and just have fun!

**Banquet, Dinner, Dance** There will be a DJ after the Banquet on Wednesday Evening. There will be three choices for Banquet dinner (included in your registration fee). #1 Prime Rib, #2 Roasted Chicken with Supreme Sauce, #3 Baked Tilapia. Each dinner will include a vegetable medley, roasted red potatoes, and your choice of fruit pie or a pudding parfait for dessert. Dinner will include a salad and beverage of your choice. There will be a cash bar at 6:00PM, dinner at 7:00PM and dancing and socializing after the dinner.

Registration form is also available on the Mt McKinley website.