June and I took the trip of our dreams this past summer, leaving on June 9, 2008 and heading north to Alaska. June’s sister and brother-in-law, both of us pulling fifth-wheel campers, accompanied us. We entered Canada just south of Winnipeg, Manitoba. On our way west and north, we drove through Rocky Mountain National Park, viewing bears and bison, spent the day in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, then on to Alberta. We got our first look at the beautiful Canadian Rockies. They put ours in the lower 48 to shame.

When driving to Alaska, there are only two highways in. One goes to Chicken, the northern route, the other goes to Tok, the southern route. When you enter at Chicken, you have to drive through Chicken, south to Tok, and then back northwest to North Pole, Alaska, where we visited Santa and his house. We were fortunate enough to get to spend the night in North Pole, just outside of Fairbanks.

Finally on Tuesday morning, we went south to Denali National Park, the home of beautiful Mt. McKinley. Although it was cloudy and raining when we pulled into the RV park, we purchased tickets for the Park tour on Thursday, July 10th. It was a beautiful day and we became members of the 30% club. Only 30% of the people who visit the park actually get to see the awesome sight of Mt. McKinley. This was definitely the highlight of our trip. We took a 12-hour bus ride to see the park and the mountains. Cars are allowed in about 12 miles, but the remainder of the nearly 70-mile trip is by park tour bus only.

We drove back to Coldfoot that afternoon, spent the night then headed south again for Fairbanks. About 100 miles north of Fairbanks, my brother-in-law’s new Chevrolet truck blew a rod. With no communication up in the mountains, June and I drove back to Fairbanks to make arrangements for them to be towed in. We found that it can take 15 hours and $2500.00 to get towed off a mountain in Alaska. After 11 days in Fairbanks, he was forced to trade trucks so we could continue our trip.

We headed east from British Columbia to Alberta, where we stopped at both Jasper National Park and Banff National Parks. We reentered the lower 48 in Eastport, Idaho, then headed across Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa to Missouri and home. We returned home on Tuesday, July 30th, having spent seven weeks on the road and driving 11,087 miles and taking 1100 still pictures, plus movies.

Dewey Standley

Contents
Mount McKinley! ..........1
Officers, Directors
2009 reunion info.
Navy News ..........2
Presidents Report, Farewells ..........3
More Navy news & Ladies Tea... ....4
Mt McKinley Ship’s Store..........5
Financial Report, some humor..........6
AGC Flagship Alliance............7
Walt Kupson’s Story ..........8
Reunion 2009 Preliminary Information

The Hotel Will be the Holiday Inn near the Airport located at 5549 Leonard St Corpus Christi TX. Dates: from Wednesday September 9th thru Sunday, September 13th. The reunion fee will be the same as last year $72.00 per person. This includes the Saturday Banquet dinner, and of course snacks and beverages in the reception room daily.

The Rooms again are $89.00 per night and there is a shuttle available to and from the airport.

Tours will be available to the USS Lexington, The Texas state Aquarium and Capt. Clark’s Flagship-tour. Pricing will be announced in upcoming issues.

Corpus Christi offers many attractions. For example, The Padre National Seashore, a Wildlife refuge, an Asian cultural Center, museums, Art centers, Marinas, Nature walks, golf courses and even a company that rents Mopeds for those of us adventurous enough to try.

A ladies tea is planned, and a separate area will be set aside for that function as soon as we have an approximate count.

A toll free number will be made available for making Hotel reservations as soon as it becomes known to us.

Last month, the US Navy and General Dynamics took the lid off the new U.S.S. Independence littoral combat ship (LCS). This beast will sail close to the shore and throw everything imaginable at an enemy, from armored vehicles and helicopters to shells, torpedoes and missiles. Plus, it can hustle at a rumored 60 knots. Basically, that means the enemy will have a difficult time escaping the wrath of this mighty vessel no matter where they are.

You could be sitting in a Port-a-Potty in the middle of the desert and this thing would probably drop out of the sky hurling torpedoes up the @&*#%. And the best part is that the price tag tops out at only $208 million, which is fairly frugal for the US government. That’s why the Navy plans on building 55 of them in the near future.
Hi Shipmates,

We welcome 112 former members of the AGC Flagship Alliance to the USS Mt McKinley Association. We now have over 550 members in our association. As reported in the last Masthead, the Flagship Alliance membership had declined to the point where they could no longer continue as an active group and they asked if they could become Associate members our Association. Our members at the Reno reunion agreed to invite the former members of the Flag Ship Alliance to join with us. So again--Welcome formers members of the Flag Ship Alliance, we are now all members of the USS Mount McKinley Association.

With this issue of the Masthead is a notice of dues payable for members whose dues are due January 2009. I urge you to submit your payment now to our treasurer, Mike DeBol. If you have an e-mail address you have previously received an e-mail advising you that your dues are now payable.

We also have a life membership available. Almost 100 of our members have elected to pay a one time amount and are now paid life members. If you are interested, contact our membership chairman, Jerry Critz or myself for an application.

Our phone numbers are on page 2. We have printed the application on the reverse side of the "Notice of Dues" included in this issue (insert) for those members whose dues are now payable. Another bit if information for you. If you haven't visited the Ships Store on our Web Site, you are missing an opportunity to purchase some great items at a reasonable price. Our Store Keeper, Steve & Connie Schermerhorn have several items on sale. Go to our web site, www.ussmountmckinley.com and check out Ships Store plus much other information.

To all members who plan to attend the reunion in Corpus Christi, I need one of you to step forward and VOLUNTEER to be our Master-at-Arms. This is an appointed position. Maybe one of our new members from the FSA will help us out. Give me a call!!

Speaking of the reunion, I know times are tough just now, cost of living is up, investments are down and some may be struggling. But this is the time when you need to come and fellowship with former shipmates. We never know who will not be with us next year, so this is not the time to stay home, but the right time to be with guys just like you and relive memories of our younger years as shipmates.

With that thought, I leave you, but remember

Keep Sailing Shipmates
Bill

Farewell Shipmates! In memory of Members Deceased:
Arthur Ure SK2 (44/45) unknown
Del Bennett TE2 (49/51) Jan 2007
Ed Hurley RM2(44/46) Mar 2007
Ray “Smitty” Smith BT1 15 Dec 2007
Bill Rhyne CRT(44/45) 2 Jan 2008
Bud Hoggard (58/61)BM1 10 April 2008
Luther Ellison MM3(44/46) 13 June 2008
Dick Armstrong MM3(45/46) 30 Sept 2008
Non-Members Deceased:
Robert E. Berry 29 Feb 2007
James Pecoraro Unknown
Vincent Van Gorkom Unknown
44-46

Things in Washington D.C. aren’t often related to the real world. For example, where but in Washington would they call the department that’s in charge of everything outdoors...the Department of the Interior?

Why is it that every time Congress hammers out a budget we’re the ones that get nailed?
The Power of the Almighty Chief Petty Officer. As a crowded airliner is about to takeoff, the peace is suddenly shattered by a five-year-old boy who picks that moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated, embarrassed mother does to try to calm him down, the boy continues to scream furiously and kick the seats around him. Suddenly, from the rear of the plane, an older man in the uniform of a US Navy Chief begins to make his way up the aisle. Stopping the frustrated mother's upraised hand, the white haired, courtly, soft-spoken Chief leans down and, motioning toward his collar, whispers something into the boy’s ear. "Excuse me Chief", she asks quietly, "could I ask you what magic words you used on that little boy?"

The Chief smiled serenely and gently confides, "I showed him my anchors, service stripes, and battle ribbons, and then explained to him that they entitled me to throw one passenger out of the plane."

At age 84, he was bundled into a thick overcoat. He wore running shoes but ambled along with a cane. Capt. Kevin O’Flaherty, commander of the ship’s pre-commissioning unit, hustled down the pier to greet a fellow naval aviator.

At the podium before a crowd of about 18,000, Bush asked to speed through his remarks during a memorial service for the 47 casualties of the April 19, 1989, battleship Iowa explosion. He wasn’t in a hurry. He was trying to keep his composure.

Later his daughter, Dorothy Bush Koch, the ship’s sponsor, gave the call to bring the ship to life and with a loud “Aye, Aye Ma’am” the ship’s company jogged aboard to man the rails, holding their covers to their heads. The radars turned, the fog horn blew and the band played “Anchors Aweigh.”

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 can 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, Then pick ourselves some winners, From those with HATTITUDE.

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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Baseball Caps, Khaki, Navy Blue, Stone w/ Navy bill</td>
<td>One Size - Adjustable</td>
<td>16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ship's Patches, 3 3/4&quot; Mountain, 6&quot; Diesel Gang Patch, 5&quot; Association Mermaid/Turtle, Task Force 90 Patch, Snipe Force Patch</td>
<td></td>
<td>5.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fleece (pull over), Navy Blue 1/2 zipper Embroidered Logo M, L, XXL</td>
<td></td>
<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 Schermerhom 574-831-2843 for special order form</td>
<td></td>
<td>65.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;Cruising in the Mac&quot; by Ken Boenitz, A Chronology - USS Mount McKinley, AGC - 7, 1944-1970</td>
<td></td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Matted Color Print, 16x20' Matted Color Print on Canvas</td>
<td></td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Image of items: Golf Shirt, Caps, Patches, Fleece, Mouse Pad, Key Tag, Roster, Custom Plaque, Cruising the Mac, Matted Print, Ship's Photos](image)

More photos and items are listed on the website [ussmackinley.com](http://ussmackinley.com). New items will be available at the USS Mount McKinley Association Fall Reunion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Color / Style</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Make Checks Payable to: USS Mount McKinley Association
Mail Order to: USS Mount McKinley Ship Store c/o Steve Schermerhom
69272 County Road 23 New Paris, IN 46553

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ship to Information: Please Print Clearly or Attach a Address Label

Name ___________________________________________ Street Address ___________________________________________
City __________________________ State __________ Zip __________
Phone # ______________________ Area Code (_____ ) Email ___________________________________________

Waiting for God...

A college Professor, an avowed Atheist, was teaching his class. He shocked several of his students when he flatly stated he was going to prove there is no God. Addressing the ceiling he shouted: "God, if you are real, then I want you to knock me off this platform. I'll give you 15 minutes!"

The lecture room fell silent. You could have heard a pin drop. Ten minutes went by. Again the Professor taunted God, saying, "Here I am, God! I'm still waiting!"

His count-down got down to the last couple of minutes when a Marine, just released from active duty and newly registered in the class, walked up to the Professor and punched him full-force in the face. The Professor tumbled from his lofty platform, and he was out cold before he hit the floor.

At first the students were shocked, and they babbled in confusion. The young Marine took a seat in the front row and sat silently. The class fell silent... waiting.

Eventually, the Professor came to. When he finally regained the power of speech, he glared at the young Marine in the front row. "What's the matter with you? Why on earth did you do that?"

The Marine smiled. "God was busy. He sent me."
AGC FLAGSHIP ALLIANCE

Update on the AFA by Frank Reda and Ed Smith

As of this date there are “12 former AGC Flagship Alliance members who have joined the Mt McKinley Association.” Welcome! and we hope to see you at the reunion in Corpus Christi in September. We will include news of all members in the quarterly newsletter. The Masthead. Please send any information to me, Frank Reda or to the Membership Secretary, Jerry Critz.

Ed Smith has held the enrollment offer open for the AFA to pay the first year’s dues for any late comers. As of February 1, 2009 the AFA treasury books will be closed. If you know of any former AFA members that want to join with us, let them know to send in their applications to Ed Smith now. The AFA will pay their 2009 dues if Ed gets their application by mid-January. The final action of AFA will be to donate any remaining funds to the “Veterans History Project” in Washington, DC. After final expenses are paid we expect to have about $2300 to donate. There is still some merchandise available for former members of the AFA. Included are eleven caps, two Adirondack, (AGC-15), one Pocono (AGC-16), two Estes (AGC-12) and six Mt Olympus (AGC-8). There are also ten AFA logo golf shirts (white) including six extra large and four large. These are available at no charge, just contact Ed Smith.

Finally, if any one has a suggestion as to what to do with the AFA banner, flag and deceased member plaques, please contact me or Ed Smith. We sincerely hope to see you at future reunions of the Mt McKinley Association.

Mementos sent to amphibious dock ship (LPD) Green Bay

The Associated Press
Posted: Friday Jan 9, 2009 11:17:34 EST

GREEN BAY, Wis. — A truckload of Packerland memorabilia is on its way to California to become a permanent part of the USS Green Bay, docked in San Diego.

The Navy ship will be commissioned Jan. 24 in Long Beach, Calif. Its flight deck is named Lambeau Field.

Over the last three years, Green Bay businesses and others have contributed to a campaign organized to collect mementos for the ship.

Super Bowl memorabilia, commemorations from the city’s 150th birthday and memorial plaques for Green Bay area military personnel who lost their lives in combat were among items loaded on a Schneider National truck Thursday.

Students from Lombardi Middle School will witness the commissioning, which is expected to draw thousands of people.
This Newsletter is dedicated to all of the men who served on this extraordinary ship in service to their country whether in time of war or peace

C/O Gerald Critz Membership
Secretary
10 Euphorbia Court
Homosassa FL 34446-5935

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)

Walt Kupson, Mount McKinley Association, honored to escort the Intrepid into New York!

New York (WABC) -- As a member of the U.S. Navy (Walt was on The Mt Mac From '62-'66 EN3 in “A” Div.) serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis and in Vietnam, Walter Kupson's greatest contribution may be to his family and community. Walter and his wife raised three children together, and he cared for his wife through two separate illnesses.

In the community, Walter, as a member of the Milford Sport Fishermen Club, volunteers his time helping underprivileged children from the local Boys & Girls Club. Walter and the club take these kids fishing and host an annual fishing contest for them.

Walter's dedication to the community also landed him onboard Torpedo Patrol boat 728 out of Kingston, NY as a volunteer crew member helping to bring the USS Intrepid back to its berth on October 2, 2008.

Start making plans now!! Attend The Reunion In Corpus Christi Texas September 9th thru 13th, 2009. See page 2 this issue- more details next issue.