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MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUE SERVING AS 
MASTHEAD EDITOR(S)

We ask you to submit articles, pictures, items of interest that we and your ship-
mates may also find interesting.

Since we will be traveling again in June, you may use snail mail up to the end of 
May then by e-mail until year-end.

The Masthead is for your information and enjoyment. It is our desire to fulfill 
those goals with your participation to keep the Masthead something you continue 
to look forward to receiving.

Next Reunion In Colorado Springs, CO.

Mid-September begin planning!

Colorado is the only U.S. state that lies entirely about 3, 281 feet 
in elevation. The point where the Arikaree River flows out of Yuma 
County, Colorado, and into Cheyenne County, Kansas, is the lowest point 
in Colorado at 3,317 feet elevation.
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served on these extraordinary ships in service to their country whether in time of war or peace.

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Tom Welch
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Gerald Critz
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**Legal Advisor**
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**Elections**
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CHARLESTOWN, Mass. (Jan. 2, 2014)

Sailors assigned to USS Constitution walk near the ship's berth in Charlestown Navy Yard during Winter Storm Hercules. More than 12 inches of snow is forecast for the greater Boston area. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Peter D. Melkus
(Released) 140102-N-SU274-003
Dear Shipmate,

I hope your Hanukkah, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas were times of joy and reflection with family and friends, and Santa treated you as well as he always has. Maybe even better!

And now, it’s the New Year….hopefully, with positive events, happy times and some pleasant surprises! Like many of you, I’m sure, there was a time I wouldn’t have missed the midnight ball drop from Times Square and being up ‘til 3 or 4 in the morning. Not now! Oh, no. Now it was a wonderful dinner out with a bunch of friends, home by 10 PM, caught the last of a bowl game, read about everything else in the morning, and we prepped for the onslaught of other bowl games. Hope your favorite teams won!!

Breaking news:…. It’s only nine months until our 26th Annual Reunion in Colorado Springs. Dave Long, Reunion Chairman, is in “heavy seas” gathering information and searching for the most appropriate site – one that can both accommodate our size and will allow our social activities.

Good news:… We’ve located a few more shipmates and they have joined our Association.

Good news:…. One of our most recent Association members, Sam Saveine, has volunteered to take over the Treasurer position from Mike DeBol. Big thanks! goes out to Sam from the Association officers and directors!!

Bad news:….. We are still in need of a shipmate to step up and take over as Secretary of the Association; and, we still need a husband/wife team or a couple of shipmates to take over the responsibilities of the Hospitality Room at our reunions. Both positions are critical for our continuing success…. one from an administrative standpoint; the other from a social activity standpoint. There’s plenty of assistance, guidance and support to be given by our current position holders, so don’t think you’ll be “hanging out there to dry” on your own. Let’s make your decision to serve the first early positive event of our new year. Just contact one of the officers or directors. With thanks, in advance!

Carol joins me in wishing you and your family a Happy New Year….for a fantastic 2014…for the blessings of good health, for happiness, for good fortune, and for success in your chosen ventures or adventures!

Yours in service,
Ray Zall

2014 Member Dues
$12.00 per year (preferably 2 years) due January 1st- pay $12.00, next due 1/1/15 or pay $24.00 next due 1/1/16.

You are not due unless there is a “dues” next to your name/address on this Masthead. Send your check or money order, (To USS Mt Mckinley Association) noting your name and member # after January 28th TO:
Sam Saverine
30 Westleigh Dr.
Harwinton, CT 06791

This year’s dues(2014) must be paid by or before April 30th.
This Newsletter is dedicated to all the men who served aboard these extraordinary ships in service to their country whether in times of war or peace.

Reunion Hospitality Room Help needed

Since the Reno, Nevada Reunion, Tom and Carol Welch have voluntarily been “in charge” of the Hospitality Room.....and have done an “outstanding job” providing an assortment of beverages and snacks for reunion attendees. As with many long term volunteer efforts, a break is sometimes needed. This is their time.

The Association is seeking a couple of volunteers...another husband and wife team or a couple of shipmates working together..... willing to assume the Hospitality Room responsibilities commencing with the 2014 Colorado Springs Reunion. Tom and Carol have offered their assistance and guidance to the new “hospitality team” to ensure a smooth and successful transition. In addition, over the years Carol has maintained detailed records of purchases and supplies of required products, so all the “homework” has been done for you! What is needed is a team, with vehicle, willing to arrive at the reunion site a day or two early (the Association will pick up the cost of an additional night’s stay), purchase the needed beverages and snack supplies (Costco, Sam’s, BJ’s, etc.), and set up the Hospitality Room bar and snack tables. Again, Tom and Carol are offering to help the new team in this effort.

Important …. “New Treasurer”

Starting February 1st Sam Saverine will be assuming duties of the association’s Treasurer. Begin sending all membership renewals, lifetime memberships, Ship Store order payments & Reunion registrations and payment .

To: Sam Saverine

30 Westleigh Dr

Harwinton, CT 06791

Phone # 860-485-1385

Beginning January 28th, 2014

For Sam,

From all of us:
Traditionally the first deck log of the year is written in “verse”

A young MOUNT MCKINLEY officer penned this account of his mid-watch January 1st (70s)
While the Ship steamed with TASK FORCE 76 in the South China Sea.

**January 1.. 00-04**

As we steamed through the night, our radars do lock, On South Vietnam’s Cape of Saint Jacques.
We cruise in “dry” company with Seventh Fleet ships, While landsmen do revel, with cups to their lips,

SEVENTH FLEET PHIB FORCE is still OTC; By his orders we happen in these sea lanes to be.

Formation is five-one; the axis due North.. Our station is Zero, we venture not forth.
Course zero-six-zero, speed still ten knots, Observances of past years steal into our thoughts.
Guide is with BEXAR, in position A-four, My J.O. keeps station ...the task I abhor.
Condition of readiness, as usual, is four; Yoke has been se at each water-tight door.
GUNSTON-HALL and LENAWEES nearby should be Cruising in stations A-one and three.
THOMASTON, WASHBURN and PRICETON we fix Filling out stations two, five and six.
PORTERFIELD, ANDERSON and COOK form the screen; the “small boys range far, and seldom are seen.
At three minutes past midnight, Flag beaks our thoughts, and reduces base speed, to just seven knots.

Our number one boiler has silt in the sops;
The Black Gang starts blowing, and the steam pressure drops.
Then alas and alack; Old BEXAR looks strange...with bearing quite steady and decreasing range.
Mr. Perry is worried, concern he'll not hide, but Flag Plot comes through, and makes us the guide.

At three o’clock even, the BTs desire to restore boiler one, and light off its fire.
Permission is granted; the JV man tells that in just thirty minutes, they’ll answer all bells.
Skoal! Let’s our ‘nog to the overhead reach.. That we may spend next New Year’s back on the beach!
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Members and Non Members reported deceased since 9/30/13
None Known During this time period.

The U.S. Navy answers the question: "Why did the chicken cross the road?"

Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS): Due to the needs of the Navy, chicken was involuntarily reassigned to the other side of the road. This will be 3-year unaccompanied tour and we promise to give the chicken a good-deal assignment afterwards. Every chicken will be required to do one road-crossing during its career, and this will not affect its opportunities for future promotion.

Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC): This event will need confirmation; we need to repeat it using varied chicken breeds, road types, and weather conditions to confirm whether it can actually happen within the parameters specified for chickens and the remote possibility that they might cross thruways designated by some as "roads."

Naval Intelligence: What chicken?

* January 2nd, 2014 transferred balance of MM acct. to checking to avoid low bal.. Monthly fee ($15.00)
MARINETTE, Wis. (NNS) -- The Navy, along with the Lockheed Martin-led industry team, christened and launched the future USS Milwaukee in a ceremony at the Marinette Marine Corporation shipyard Dec. 18, marking an important production milestone for the littoral combat ship program.

The ship joins the future USS Jackson (LCS 6), which launched Dec. 14 following construction at the Austal USA shipyard in Alabama. These ships are the first vessels procured under the block buy contract awarded in 2010 and represent the true beginning of "serial production" for the class. With serial production, the Navy is able to realize benefits such as improved cost structure per vessel and reduced construction time.

"Milwaukee will be an exceptional ship and I am pleased with the progress being made," said Rear Adm. Brian Antonio, program executive officer, Littoral Combat Ships. "With serial production lines now in full swing at both LCS building yards, we are looking forward to each new ship joining the fleet on a regular and consistent timeline. This is a significant step for the program and the Navy."

As is tradition, ship sponsor Sylvia Panetta struck the bow with a bottle of champagne, officially naming the ship. LCS 5 is the sixth U.S. Navy vessel christened in tribute to the Wisconsin city. Panetta, wife of former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, has been a tireless supporter of the military and longtime advocate for public service.

"It is a true privilege to serve as the sponsor for this ship as it begins its journey of service and commitment to our powerful fleet," said Mrs. Panetta. "I am proud to support the ship's crew members over the course of her service to ensure it leads with strength and protects our freedom. My congratulations to the city of Milwaukee as this ship assumes its name."

The christening ceremony was followed by a dramatic side launch of the ship into the Menominee River.

Milwaukee will continue to undergo outfitting and testing at Marinette Marine. The ship is expected to deliver to the Navy in early 2015 following acceptance trials.

The LCS Class consists of two variants, the monohull design Freedom variant and the trimaran design Independence variant. The ships are designed and built by two industry teams, led by Lockheed Martin and Austal USA, respectively. Milwaukee is the third LCS constructed by the Lockheed Martin team.

Both variants of the LCS are fast, agile, focused-mission platforms designed for operation in near-shore environments yet capable of open-ocean operation. They are designed to embark specialized mission packages to defeat "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines, and fast surface craft.

The Navy has been able to incorporate much of the knowledge gained in the construction, test and operation of LCS 1 and LCS 2, the lead ships of the class, into follow on ships. Many of those are currently in various stages of construction, and will deliver to the Navy over the next few years. These include Milwaukee's sister ships - Detroit (LCS 7), Little Rock (LCS 9), Sioux City (LCS 11), Wichita (LCS 13), and Billings (LCS 15).

Program Executive Office Littoral Combat Ships is affiliated with the Naval Sea Systems Command and provides a single program executive responsible for acquiring and sustaining mission capabilities of the littoral combat ship class, from procurement through fleet employment and sustainment. Delivering high-quality warfighting assets while balancing affordability and capability is key to supporting the nation's maritime strategy.
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

Reunion 2014 In Colorado Springs, Colorado

Despite its mountainous terrain, Colorado is relatively quiescent seismically. The U.S. National Earthquake Information Center is located in Golden.

Downtown, Pikes Peak in the background.