THE END OF ANOTHER DECADE

Begin a new decade with plans for San Diego September 9th – 13th

Naval Base San Diego (32nd Street Naval Station)
San Diego, California
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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Directors 2018-2020  
James Evans  
Paul O’Donohue  
Don King  

Directors 2019-2021  
Don Waggoner  
Gary Davies  
Bob Halas  

**HELP WANTED**  
(Contact Ray Zall  Elections)  
For positions of:  
**ASSOCIATION SECRETARY**  
**ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS**  
For service periods  
And 2020-2021  
And Webmaster  

**Navy News**  

NORFOLK (Jan. 4, 2020) The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) approaches its berth at the conclusion of deployment. Leyte Gulf returned to its homeport of Naval Station Norfolk following a successful nine-month deployment as part of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Joshua D. Sheppard/Released)  

**Additional Important Positions**  

Immediate Past President  
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Don King  

Ships Store  
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Reunion Chair  
Ray Zall  
davidlong1944@msn.com
Fellow Shipmates,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It has been a busy fall and beginning of winter. Pauline and I got to visit our grandson in Quantico and attend the Marine Corps Ball in Washington DC in November. He is a newly commissioned 2nd Lt in the Marine Corps. In October I was able to go on an Honor Flight to Washington DC. It was an amazing day. There were 102 of us on the flight, 16 WWII with an average age of 92, 25 Korean War with an average age of 87, and 61 Vietnam veterans with an average age of 74. If you have not, I encourage you to sign up for this once in a lifetime experience.

On a sad note, as most of you already know we lost our Shipmate David Long on Jan 6, 2020. He was a friend to us all and an active as well as key member of the Association. He served as reunion chairman as well as Director, VP and President. We will miss him dearly and extend our heartfelt condolences to Darlene and his family.

Planning is underway for our September reunion in San Diego, It will be Sept 9 to 13. Since it is the 50th anniversary of the de-commissioning of the Mt McKinley we are hoping to have a good turnout. The reunion committee consists of myself, Ray Zall and Wes Brubacher. More information will be provided in this edition of the Masthead.

Many of you may know that the VA has approved disability benefits for (BWN) Blue Water Navy Veterans.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, Veterans who served as far as 12 nautical miles from the shore of Vietnam, or who had service in the Korean Demilitarized Zone, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides, such as Agent Orange, and may be entitled to service connection for any of the 14 conditions related to herbicide exposure. You can check the VA website for a list of the 14 diseases associated with Agent Orange Exposure.

The Mt McKinley is listed with the VA along with many other ships that were documented to be in Vietnam Waters.

Yours in Service

Dan Moffett, President
From your Membership Secretary -

A new year and the first quarter – that can only mean that it is dues time. Notices of “dues due” have been emailed or mailed via USPS to 53 members who owe dues for 2020. I’m asking that dues be sent in by 29 February in order that I have that out of the way before Reunion activity gets going.

Writing about the reunion, think San Diego 9 to 13 September 2020. Make your plans early and help your fellow shipmates celebrate the 50th anniversary of the decommissioning of the USS Mount McKinley.

Current contact information is needed for all members. If you move, change email and/or USPS mail addresses or change your phone number, please send me the updated information. A special emphasis on updating contact information is needed for all Life Members.

I am still enrolling new members in the Association so I know there are still former shipmates who are interested in joining. If you know or hear of any of your old buddies who are not members, encourage them to contact me about becoming an active member. And if you know of anyone who has dropped out but is still interested encourage them to get active again.

Wes Brubacher, Mt Mac '60-'61

Mt. McKinley De-Commissioned 26, March 1970

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.
USS MOUNT McKinley ASSOCIATION’S 2020 REUNION AND BUSINESS MEETING

Dear Shipmate,

Plans for our USS Mount McKinley Association’s 2020 Annual Reunion and Business Meeting are well underway. This year it is being celebrated in San Diego, California, the location chosen to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the decommissioning of the USS Mount McKinley AGC 7.

Recognizing the “higher than normal” costs of a California locale, your Reunion Committee negotiated with four hotels in San Diego before approving a proposal. It is critical that you understand that some commitments were required to obtain the significantly low room rate offered. One of those commitments requires that the minimum number of rooms be booked by 11 August, 2020...one month prior to our Reunion dates. With that in mind, your Reunion Committee requests you make your room reservation as soon as possible which will assure the hotel that the minimum bookings are being met. Failing to meet that minimum rooms commitment obligates the Association to make up the hotel’s revenue shortfall. Additionally, however, knowing the accurate number of attendees early on helps the Committee in ordering meal count numbers, thereby saving funds from over ordering on costs for meals. Your help in this room reservations effort is sincerely appreciated!!

THE DATES: Wednesday, 9 September to Sunday, 13 September 2020

THE LOCATION: Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside

4875 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92106

The hotel provides FREE Airport Shuttles

ROOM (GROUP) RATE: $139 plus taxes. Rate is valid for booking through 8/11/20 and is available for three days pre and post Reunion.

Important: Remember that the Room Reservation is a separate action not tied to our Reunion Registration.

RESERVATION INFORMATION: (Group code UMM)

Call 1(619) 224-3621, ask for reservations (Ext 701) or call toll free 1(800) 662-8899.

Make sure you identify yourself with the USS Mount McKinley Association!!

Please know that the Reunion Registration Form, including an Association Subsidized registration fee, banquet meal selections and tour events, will be included in the next (2nd Quarter) edition of The Masthead.
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.

Walter Kuecks,

Association member 767

on board Mt Mac '56-57

EN2 in “A” Division.

His wife Janet resides in Peoria, Illinois.

Report for heavenly duty

No new members since 9/30/2019

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!

U.S.S. Mount McKinley Association Financial

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<td>$15,136.10</td>
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1. If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.
2. Age is a high price for maturity.
3. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you a mechanic.
4. Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
5. If you must choose between two evils, pick the one you have never tried before.
Due to the complexities of planning our reunion for 2020 in San Diego we need to conduct a survey of our Association membership to see how many, God willing, are hoping to attend the 50th year Decommissioning Celebration of the USS Mount McKinley. The reunion will be held 9 to 13 September 2020.

The following information would be very helpful to the committee -
1. Name of the Association member and number of additional guests.
2. The number of rooms you will require.
3. Your preferred contact method and number or address.

Please return this information to Wes Brubacher Treasurer/Member Secretary: via any of these three methods:

webob@vbbn.com (email)
P.O. Box 376 Geyserville, Ca, 95441 (snail mail)

Alexander Bell’s updated invention 707-857-3522
by 15 November 2019 - Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.


Naval aviation began its seventh decade with the United States embroiled in the Vietnam War, but an uneasy truce resulted in disengagement from the war in 1973. Two years later, naval air power assisted in the evacuation of refugees who fled the North Vietnamese conquest of South Vietnam. Eastern Bloc naval expansion challenged Western control of the sea and Soviet cruise missiles threatened aircraft carriers. The Navy struggled to meet its commitments because of a diminishing and aging fleet that eroded through constant use, at the same time confronting declining budgets that hindered the acquisition of replacements, recruitment shortfalls and difficulties in retention, drug and alcohol abuse, and racial unrest. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr. shook up the Navy with his mandates, known as “Z-Grams.” Americans faced recurring crises in the Middle East, and in 1979, Iranian militants captured the United States Embassy in Tehran.

The burden of naval air action in the Vietnam War fell upon the carriers and aircraft of the Seventh Fleet. Helicopters served in combat, and land-based patrol aircraft scoured the South Vietnamese coastline in search of infiltrating enemy vessels during Operation Market Time. Operations Linebacker I and II waged heavy interdiction and bombing campaigns against the North Vietnamese.

Naval aviation nevertheless made headway in research and development. The 1970s witnessed the decommissioning of most of the remaining World War II–vintage Essex (CV-9) class carriers and the commissioning of a new class of nuclear-powered carriers, the Nimitz (CVN-68). The F-14A Tomcat, and AV-8A vertical and/or short takeoff and landing Harriers were introduced to the fleet. The Light Airborne Multipurpose System combined shipboard electronics with helicopters to confront the growing threat from submarines.

*****
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)

Join us next September in San Diego, for a memorable experience!

Here are some San Diego images