

USS McKEAN

DD 784 / DDR 784

SCUTTLEBUTT

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The reunion association would like to thank Donna Gardner for editing the Scuttlebutt and maintaining the association roster these past years. Other demands on Donna's time have made it necessary for Donna to relinquish these roles, although she will continue to maintain our Website.

Thank you, Donna, for your good work.
(Joe Winkel, Newsletter Committee)

USS McKEAN DD/DDR 784 REUNION
ASSOCIATION
FROM THE CHAIRMAN; CHUCK
HORVATH

The McKean Buffalo Reunion was a great success thanks mainly to Bob Tokarczyk who did most of the planning and footwork. We had a lot of people helping at the reunion which also contributed to one of the best reunions that I have ever attended and I have been at the last four. I would have liked to have named everyone who helped but I feared I would miss someone so thanks to everyone that helped. Volunteers always make everything go smoother and unburden those who have the prime responsibilities

We had 25 shipmates and 24 guests. We were expecting a larger turnout because this was the 60th anniversary of the McKean's commissioning and we planned some extra events. All those attending received a McKean anniversary mug and a McKean patch. Our speaker, Lt Cmdr Wiggs, also gave everyone gifts. The small group allowed me to talk to all the shipmates and most of the guests. The banquet was outstanding as well as the tours. Old acquaintances were renewed and new friends acquired. Based on the comments and subsequent letters that I have received, everyone had a great time. We regret that we could not share this event with more shipmates and guests.

The shipmates voted to hold the next reunion in 2007. We found that an annual reunion did not give us enough time to accurately plan the reunion. Bob did an

excellent job using some guesswork because we weren't sure how many would be attending due to late reservations. We really needed more time because hotels require this information months in advance. When you sign a hotel contract you have to pay for all reserved rooms and banquet dinners even if some people don't show up. The Association doesn't want to risk this happening again in the future. We were pleased that Marv Saugstad volunteered to plan the next ship's reunion to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in September 2007. Marv has already gotten a good start on planning this event. If you can assist Marvin in some manner email him at sag3@execpc.com. Thanks Marv.

Donna Gardner has maintained our website, published the Scuttlebutt, updated the roster, made the reunion badges and did a lot of other tasks for the Association for many years. Donna can no longer do these activities due to her workload and other commitments. We simply cannot thank Donna enough for all that she has done for the Association. Fortunately, Joe Winkel has volunteered to take over this task. You can email your articles to Joe at joe.winkel@comcast.net. Thanks Joe.

We still have McKean mugs for \$9.00 and McKean patches for \$3.00 which includes handling and shipping. Make checks payable to "USS McKean DD/DDR Reunion Association" and mail to Chuck Horvath, 1309 S. Baft Ln, Diamond Bar, CA 91765. My email is taxshop1@aol.com.

Remember that your \$25 membership dues for 2006 are to be paid in January, 2006. Dues are used to publish and mail the Scuttlebutt. You will not receive the Scuttlebutt if you are not a paid member.

**USS McKEAN DD/DDR 784 McKEAN
REUNION – 2005 AT BUFFALO, NY
FROM THE REUNION CHAIRMAN; BOB
TOKARCZYK**

The early arrivals on Thursday, 8 September faced a dreary day that ended in showers, not the most congenial beginning for a ship's reunion.

However, as the first day opened we were greeted with warm weather (in the 80's) and we enjoyed those temperatures for the rest of our time in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

The day was spent in acquiring our needs for the group and finishing the arrangements that Chuck Horvath began two days earlier. Our agenda took a beating with revisions which, at first, made things look bad but, as time wore on, all the setbacks and glitches proved to be to all our benefit.

The McKean people took time to see the area on Friday and to visit such restaurants as the Anchor Bar (Buffalo wings originated there); the Buffalo House restaurant where the fish special was called the Naval Park Special (a large helping of white fish which over-lapped the plate on a bed of macaroni and cheese); and a cupful of coleslaw and a choice of potatoes for \$7.95. The Deco Restaurant at the Adams's Mark also proved to be a reasonably-priced place with good food as well.

Saturday was a day that had us all moving and taking in the Naval Park in full measure. Our scheduled memorial service for 53 missing shipmates began at 10 am instead of 11:30 am and went well with Chaplain Boardman conducting the service attended by the area Sea Cadets. Chuck Horvath and Joe Winkel did the ceremonial tossing of the wreath. Don Kessler handled the bell while the departed shipmates were given recognition.

After touring the USS Little Rock, USS Grouper, and USS The Sullivan's the reunion group walked about 200 yards to the Miss Buffalo for the two-hour cruise. Jackets and sweaters were used by many for seat cushions. A splendid buffet was served shortly after departure, but not before some members noticed our wreath afloat in our wake.

Past the lighthouse and the old and new water-intake stations we also passed a number of breakwaters

crowded with people fishing. Sailboats and motor craft with some friendly and attractive folks on board greeted us as we went past. We sailed under the Peace Bridge which unites Buffalo with Ft. Erie in Ontario.

On our return segment Chuck had the pilot take us through the inner channel and into the locks which lowered/raised boats that entered and left the old canal. Many had never seen a swinging bridge or a Bascule bridge (either side of the locks) let alone travel through one. A highlight on the return was our passing of the CPO Club and the friendly banter between the sailors there and our own Navy veterans. We returned in ample time for the members to freshen up and get ready for the photo shoot and banquet. Incidentally, some members returned home to find that the photos had gotten there before they did.

The banquet was superb with a three-entrée selection, four salads, red potatoes and a California blend. Desserts were more than the members could handle. Several people took second (third?) helpings back to their rooms.

Chuck Horvath handled all introductions and with the aid of wife Sandra and Phyllis Tokarczyk got the prizes distributed.

Yours truly led the prayer. Our guest speaker, LCDR James Wiggs, was well received and went all out with US Navy cups, key rings and copies of All Hands as handouts. He spoke with admiration about the service that all former war veterans had performed including those of the USS McKean.

The long day ended and many were glad of the chance to sleep in on Sunday morning. The morning ended with our members already through US/Canada customs and ready for lunch at the Penthouse Restaurant atop the Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario where we had an excellent view of the American and Canadian Falls. A subsequent ride to the upper level of the Canadian "Table Rock" made possible the viewing of the rapids before they cascaded over the Canadian Falls as well as the rusted scow beached about a mile upstream and sitting there since 1914.

A visit to the Floral Clock garden and the site where the Falls had once been some 2100 years ago brought an end to the Canada tour.

On the American side the members had an opportunity to make a souvenir purchase before our departure for the Maid of the Mist. Surprisingly, although he told us he was also involved with the Niagara Park Commission, we again met with Chaplain Boardman but this time in uniform. The boat ride was spectacular. Besides getting wet, many of us got pictures of double rainbows formed at the lower ends of the falls.

Thus, we came to the end of our travel. The day did not end, however, until we held our auction (well done) and our regular meeting.

Membership Renewal Notice

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE PAYABLE
EACH JANUARY.
(ANNUAL DUES ARE \$25.00)**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
USS MCKEAN REUNION ASSOCIATION**

**MAIL CHECK TO:
CHARLES HORVATH
1309 S. BAFT LANE
DIAMOND BAR, CA 91765**

Eternal Father — The "Navy Hymn" (Submitted by Joe Winkel, ETR3, 1964-1966)

Not too long ago, I came upon the movie "Crimson Tide" (Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington) on my local cable service. As I listened to the Navy Hymn, I remembered how beautiful and haunting it is.

Here I have included a brief history of the hymn, the original words, and the Navy Website this information came from. The hymn can be listened to at this Website. I hope you enjoy it.

Download *Eternal Father* by the U.S. Navy Band's Sea Chanters

<http://www.navy.mil/palib/questions/eternal.html>

(Information from *The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion*

by Linda H. McKim, Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville, Ky. 1993)

The "Navy Hymn" is *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*. The original words were written as a poem in 1860 by [William Whiting](#) of Winchester, England, for a student

who was about to sail for the United States. The melody, published in 1861, was composed by fellow Englishman, [Rev. John Bacchus Dykes](#), an Episcopalian clergyman.

The hymn, found in most hymnals, is known as the "Navy hymn" because it is sung at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. It is also sung on ships of the Royal Navy (U.K.) and has been translated into French.

Eternal Father was the favorite hymn of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and was sung at his funeral in Hyde Park, New York, in April 1945. It was also played by the Navy Band in 1963 as President John F. Kennedy's body was carried up the steps of the U.S. Capitol to lie in state. Roosevelt had served as Secretary of the Navy and Kennedy was a PT boat commander in World War II.

The original words are:

Verse 1: Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Verse 2: O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Verse 3: Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Verse 4: O Trinity of love and power!
Our brethren shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

There are alternate verses.

NOTICE TO SHIPMATES FROM THE NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Future issues of the Scuttlebutt will be delivered by email unless you have not provided an email address as part of your membership information. If you have provided an email address and still require that the Scuttlebutt be mailed to your home, please contact me and let me know:

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HUMOR

New Submarine Ensign

The new Ensign was assigned to subs, where he'd dreamed of working since a young boy.

He was trying to impress the Master Chief with his expertise learned in Submarine School.

The Master Chief cut him off quickly and said, "Listen, 'sir', it's real simple. Add the number of times we dive to the number of times we surface. Divide that number by two. If the result doesn't come out even, don't open the hatch."

A Young Naval Student

A young naval student was being put through the paces by an old sea captain.

"What would you do if a sudden storm sprang up on the starboard?"

"Throw out an anchor, sir," the student replied.

"What would you do if another storm sprang up aft?"

"Throw out another anchor, sir."

"And if another terrific storm sprang up forward, what would you do then?" asked the captain.

"Throw out another anchor, sir."

"Hold on," said the captain. "Where are you getting all those anchors from?"

"From the same place you're getting your storms, sir."

LOOKING FOR ARTICLES FOR THE SCUTTLEBUTT

Do you have something you would like to share with your shipmates? These could be experiences while aboard McKean or other experiences that you think might interest your shipmates.

Submit your articles to Joe Winkel, by email, at joe.winkel@comcast.net. If you don't have email, send articles to:

Joe Winkel
1994 Thomas Ave.
San Leandro, CA 94577