

USS McKean DD 784 / DDR 784 SCUTTLEBUTT

June, 2009

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(J'aibon Esperance)
"I Have Good Hope"
Courtesy of George Lyons

**IF YOU HAVE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS,
PLEASE SEND IT TO JOE WINKEL AT joe.winkel@comcast.net.**

USS McKEAN REUNION UPDATE

The Charleston Reunion deadline for sending your registration to Chuck Horvath is only 5 weeks away. We have ordered 2 busses which hold 25 people each for our tour and transportation. If we don't have your registration by July 31, 2009, you may not have a seat. If we get your registration before that date or earlier, we can make bus adjustments. If we guess wrong on how many will be attending, we can either be short a bus or have to pay for a bus we ordered but don't need. We currently only have 33 attendees registered for the reunion.

Don't miss out on this one. Let's have a great turnout.

USS McKEAN REUNION 2009

From Chuck Horvath

The 2009 USS McKean Reunion will be held on September 25, 26 and 27, 2009 in the Charleston, SC area at the Holiday Inn Patriot's Point hotel located at 250 Johnnie Dobbs Blvd. Mt Pleasant, SC 29464. Make hotel room reservations by calling the hotel at 800-290-4004 by July 31, 2009. Identify yourself as a McKean reunion participant to receive the special room rate of \$119 per day. This room rate is also available 2 days prior to and 2 days after the reunion dates. The McKean Reunion Association registration fee this time is \$75 per person, reduced from \$85 at the last reunions. Send the completed registration form

and your check to Chuck Horvath at P.O. Box 509 Nevada, MO 64772-0509 by July 31, 2009. The registration form is included in this Scuttlebutt issue. Staying at the hotel is not required; however, attendance at the reunion without registering with the Association is not permitted. **It is important that you meet the July 31, 2009 deadline for both hotel reservations and Association registration** to assure that you will have a room available and be included in all reunion activities. Charleston is a historic area and has many local attractions that will be of interest to just about everyone and we are sure that this reunion will again be a memorable and enjoyable experience for all attendees.

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**USS MCKEAN TENTATIVE REUNION
EVENTS SCHEDULE**

FRIDAY SEPT. 25, 2009

**HOTEL REGISTRATION—LOBBY REUNION
REGISTRATION—HOSPITALITY ROOM
(SEABROOK)**

SATURDAY SEPT. 26, 2009

**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN OR CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST IN HOSPITALITY ROOM**

**8:30 AM MEET IN FRONT OF HOTEL FOR TOUR
OF HISTORIC CHARLESTON**

**NOTE: The bus tour will leave the hotel at 8:30
Saturday morning on Sept. 26, 2009. You have to be
there on time to get on the bus or you could miss
the entire event. It is possible to join the event at
the Naval Museum at 11:00 AM if you miss the bus
and have transportation.**

**11:00 AM ARRIVE AT PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL
MUSEUM**

**12:00 AM LUNCH ON USS YORKTOWN IN CPO
MESS**

**1:00 PM MEMORIAL SERVICE ON USS
YORKTOWN FOR DEPARTED SHIPMATES**

**FREE TIME FOR USS YORKTOWN, USS LAFFEY,
MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM AND NUMERIOUS
EXHIBITS**

**4:00 PM BUS LEAVES PATRIOTS POINT FOR
RETURN TO HOTEL**

**DINNER ON YOUR OWN - HOSPITALITY ROOM
OPEN**

SUNDAY SEPT. 27, 2009

**7:00 AM BREAKFAST ON YOU OWN OR
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST IN HOSPITALITY
ROOM**

**FREE TIME LUNCH ON YOUR OWN -
HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN**

**5:00 PM GROUP PICTURES (SETUP
LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED)**

**6:00 PM MEET IN BANQUET ROOM FOR
CHAIRMAN WELCOME AND RECOGNITION**

**6:30 PM DINNER IN BANQUET ROOM
GUEST SPEAKER**

**8:00 PM MEETING FOR NEXT REUNION AND
RAFFLE / AUCTION**

**MCKEAN ITEMS FOR SALE AT THE
REUNION**

McKean 60th Anniversary mug - \$4.00 each; add
\$5.00 if mailed

McKean Cap (Pre-FRAM, Post-FRAM or DDR) -
\$15.00 each; add \$5.00 if mailed

McKean Leather Coaster - \$3.00 each or 4 for
\$10.00; add \$2.00 if mailed

McKean Badge - \$2.00 each; add \$1.00 if mailed

Membership Dues Notice

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES OF \$25 ARE
PAYABLE EACH JANUARY.**

**MAIL CHECK TO:
CHUCK HORVATH
P.O. Box 509
Nevada, MO 64772**

**NOTE: DO NOT ADDRESS YOUR MAIL TO
"USS McKean Reunion Association"**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:
USS McKean REUNION ASSOCIATION
NOTE: DO NOT MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
CHUCK HORVATH**

Some of The Many Charleston Sites

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

The history of Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum began in the summer of 1975 when the legendary aircraft carrier USS Yorktown appeared on the horizon of Charleston Harbor. A few months later, celebrating the October 13th birthday of the United States Navy, Yorktown was opened to the public as a museum and the Patriots Point mission was underway.

Patriots Point would become one of the largest museums of its kind in the world with the addition of other ships such as the destroyer USS Laffey, known as The Ship That Would Not Die. The Treasury class Coast Guard cutter Ingham would join the Patriots Point battle group along with the Balao class submarine Clamagore.

Priceless war planes from WWII and Korea are featured in Yorktown's hangar deck and on the flight deck an array of aircraft from the Vietnam War and Desert Storm up to modern marvels such as the F-14 Tomcat and S-3 Viking.

And from the deltas of southeast Asia, the Vietnam Base Camp replica tells the story of the River Patrol Boats and the HAL-3 Seawolves helicopter crews.

Patriotism. Honor. Character.

Patriots Point staff is making repairs to the USS Laffey. Due to this maintenance work, the ship is closed indefinitely to the public.

Congressional Medal of Honor Museum

The Congressional Medal of Honor Museum is located on board the historic aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. This national museum is also home to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the most unique and perhaps the most exclusive organization in the United States. Its members share the distinct honor of wearing our nation's highest award for military valor.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Museum features interactive exhibits that explain the origin of the Medal of Honor and what it stands for. Perhaps of greater importance, these exhibits tell the stories of brave Americans who displayed remarkable courage such as Audie Murphy, Sergeant Alvin York and Jimmy Doolittle. Even now, the Medal of Honor continues to touch the lives of Americans as the museum pays special tribute to the first Medal of Honor recipients from the War On Terror; exceptional Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point has become the premier visitor attraction in the Greater Charleston area. Come experience the embodiment of honor, courage and sacrifice.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Museum is included in the Patriots Point admission.

Vietnam Naval Support Base Camp

Patriots Point's Vietnam Naval Support Base Camp features many of the various craft used to combat the dangers of patrolling the jungle and rivers throughout the Vietnam War. This true-to-scale exhibit shows the operational and living areas of a U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB) during the Vietnam War. The visitor is taken back to South Vietnam (1965-71) when the US Navy supported ground troops and counterinsurgency operations throughout the vast network of waterways. The primary mission of the "Brown Water Navy" was to block the movement of insurgents and their supplies into South Vietnam. The exhibit features a rare Mark 1 River Patrol Boat (PBR) dedicated to Medal of Honor recipient James Elliot Williams (see Medal of Honor Exhibit for more info).

This exhibit also features a UH-1m Huey gunship dedicated to the "Seawolves" of HAL-3. This elite Navy helicopter squadron help provided close air support for the PBR's and other Brown Water Navy watercraft). Other helicopters featured in the exhibit include a UH-1H Medevac, UH-34 Seahorse, and AH-1J Sea Cobra.

The Marine AH-1J Sea Cobra helicopter on the berm outside the Vietnam Advance Tactical Support Base is on loan from the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA.

Fort Sumter National Monument

Revisit The Civil War at Fort Sumter National Monument

Fort Sumter National Monument (photo courtesy of the National Park Service)

History provides us with defining moments from which we judge where we are with where we have been. The Civil War provides the United States with one of its critical defining moments that continues to play a vital role in defining ourselves as a Nation. Fort Sumter is the place where it began.

America's most tragic conflict ignited at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, when a chain reaction of social, economic and political events exploded into civil war. At the heart of these events was the issue of states rights versus federal authority flowing over the underlying issue of slavery.

Charleston Carriage Tours for All to Enjoy

There are many ways that you can explore the great city of Charleston, South Carolina. You can go on walking tours and experience the beautiful Historic District of Charleston, or you can take one of the many carriage tours that they provide in the great city. Taking a carriage tour provides you with a leisurely journey, which allows you to relax and enjoy all that you will discover that much more. These carriage tours are a perfect way for you to experience an interesting tour that comes complete with a guide who informs you about the many great sights that you will see during your ride.

Some of the many great tours that you can take pleasure in include:

Classic Carriage Tours – This is one of the popular carriage touring companies located in Charleston. They provide you with different tour options and offer couples a quaint carriage for two, and can also easily accommodate groups in one of their carriage wagons. During your one hour tour your driver will inform you of many interesting facts about the area you visit.

Carolina Polo and Carriage Company – This is the famous carriage company located in Charleston. It is owned by an old family whose heritage dates back to 17th century Charleston. They provide guests with wonderful tours of the city, and even offer private carriage rides for romantic adventures and weddings.

Olde Town Carriage Company – This is another well-known carriage tour located in Charleston that has been in business for over 25 years. This carriage company can accommodate large groups and even caters special events. You will experience a fantastic journey through historic Charleston, and learn all about its history through one of the company's professional tour guides.

Old South Carriage Company – This is a fantastic tour that leads you through the streets of historic Charleston, and the tour guide will inform you of the over 300 years of history that is embedded deep within the architecture, nature and streets that are home to the historical city. On the tour you will travel along cobblestone streets, see a variety of churches, and the antebellum

mansions. If you are interested in this tour, you will be able to spot the employees of this great carriage company by the delightful red sash that they wear about their waists.

These are just a few of the great carriage tours that you can enjoy during your stay in Charleston. Take advantage of one of these great events, and have the time of your life exploring the past.

THE FIRST USS McKEAN REUNION (1999)

The first McKean reunion was 10 years ago in Baton Rouge, LA. Here is brief accounting from Bob Tokarczyk of that first reunion and the shipmates we have to thank it.

McKean Reunions - Thanks to Bob Hancock

Ten years ago the McKean Reunion Group had its first reunion in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Wife Phyllis and I met Bob and Geri Hancock in April of 1999 while on a consolation vacation in the SE states. Since we were in Florida on the way to Texas we decided to see where Bob and Geri lived and to stop and see them.

Although unexpected, the couple greeted us as old friends and we treated them to lunch where Geri confided that Bob was disappointed with the eleven responses to date.

Never did he (or we) expect the turnout that, to date, has exceeded any turnout since then. By the time I made arrangements the hotel had already filled up and we ended up at a nearby hotel and walked to where the McKean group was meeting.

Adding to the somewhat slight discomfort was the need for the banquet to overflow into the foyer. Bob and Geri were out in the foyer with about a dozen of us when the banquet began.

A great beginning thanks to Bob and Geri and to the Donald Hudnal family. Special thanks to Don's daughter Donna Gardner and her fine organizational work.

Bob (Toke) Tokarczyk

Bob Hancock
SM 3/C Plank Owner
First McKean Reunion Organizer



miles and headed south on a paved county road. We came to water flowing across the road. It was about 30 yards wide and about 6 inches deep. I am in my pickup and I drove through it. Coming over a rise I now see a low spot with water crossing the road that is about 12 inches deep and 50 yards wide. A truck with a 30 foot trailer is now behind me and I am unable to turn around. Seeing a pickup from the opposite direction cross the water, and not heeding "Turn Around Don't Drown", I slowly crossed it with white knuckles and a very high pulse rate. I vowed never to do that again.

This brought back a memory of too much water on the USS McKean. We had been in high seas for about a week. The main deck had been secured so no personnel were allowed on it during the storm. That also meant that there was no fantail watch. If you fell overboard, nobody would know about it. I had a waste basket full of trash and rotting fruit that I wanted to dump. I went out on the main deck where the structure breaks the waves from the bow. I couldn't throw the trash over the side because it would wash back onto the ship. I timed the waves going to the fantail and if I ran fast enough I decided that I could follow the water, dump the trash and run up a ladder to the 2nd deck before the next wave came. Having not considered all possible consequences and apparently not yet having reached the complete age of reason, I started my run down the starboard side. Half way to the fantail, the ship makes a rapid turn to port. I am now floating in 6 feet of water moving towards and above the fantail railing. I am either going to be killed by the ship's wake or be lost at sea. The water recedes and drops me within 3 feet of the railing. I threw the waste basket with its trash off of the fantail and retreated to the 2nd deck. We don't get a lot of second chances like this during our lives. I vowed to never to do that again.

SHIPMATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Too Little or Too Much Water By Chuck Horvath

We know that we can't survive on too little water but we can also not survive in too much water. This reminds me of two water encounters in which I was involved.

This last year in Missouri we have had heavy rainfall which results in area flooding. After one of these rains, my wife Sandra and I decided to go to Joplin about 60 miles south of our home in Nevada, Mo. The main highway 30 miles south was closed due to flooding. We went east about 3

USS McKEAN REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

I WILL ATTEND THE 2009 REUNION in Charleston, SC (Area), Sept. 25-27, 2009

Name _____

Name for Name Badge (Nickname) _____

Address _____

Rank/Rate _____ Years on USS McKean _____ to _____ (ex 1948 to 1952)

The following guest will also attend the reunion

Name _____

Total number attending _____ x \$75.00 = Total registration fee enclosed: _____

Please add me to the USS McKean DD/DDR 784 Reunion Association. \$25.00 is enclosed.

I plan on using my personal car or a rental car during the reunion. Free parking provided.

TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT \$ _____
(Includes registration & association dues if applicable)

Make Checks Payable to: USS McKEAN REUNION ASSOCIATION
NOTE: DO NOT MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CHUCK HORVATH

Mail Checks & Registration Forms to: Chuck Horvath, PO Box 509, Nevada, MO 64772-0509
NOTE: DO NOT ADDRESS YOUR MAIL TO "USS McKean Reunion Association"

Make Hotel Reservation: Holiday Inn Patriot's Point Hotel, Mt. Pleasant, SC (800) 290-4004