

# USS McKean DD 784 / DDR 784 SCUTTLEBUTT

March, 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 THE EMAIL ADDRESS, ABOVE**

## USS McKEAN REUNION UPDATE

The Charleston Reunion deadline for sending your registration to Chuck Horvath is only 4 months 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. **Get on board ASAP !!!** We currently only have 13 persons registered for the reunion.

### 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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## **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.

### **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***

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## McKEAN REMEMBRANCES

### Beautiful – But Dangerous, Destroyer McKean Pays A Visit To The 7th Infantry At Otaru, Japan

Straight out of the morning sun she came, gracefully choosing her path between the rust-caked freighters that wallowed in the blue waters of Otaru harbor.

The trim, sleek-hulled Destroyer, USS McKean, beautiful despite her bristling guns and battle dress, glided majestically to the wharf and gently came to rest.

Aboard the 2250 ton vessel, 250 enlisted men and 31 officers swarmed over the entire 290 foot length of her deck attending to the thousand and one duties required when a voyage is over.

According to naval custom, one-half of the crew could be granted shore leave at one time, while the other half remained aboard for maintenance and security purposes. At exactly 12 o'clock noon, smartly dressed sailors lined the ship's rail to have their passes checked by the Officer of the Deck. With a snappy salute to the Officer of Deck and another salute for "Old Glory" waving over the stern of the ship, the men descended the gang-plank and for the special train that awaited them on the pier.

Mingled with the blue of the Navy group was a sprinkling of khaki-clad enlisted soldiers from Headquarters and Service Group, General Headquarters. These men, 21 in all, had been chosen as the most deserving individual units and granted two weeks tour on the McKEAN. They ate, slept, and lived in complete harmony with the crew, and indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed the privilege.

At 12:30, the train pulled out from the pier with two coaches completely filled with naval and military personnel headed for Sapporo and Camp Crawford. The scenery along the right-of-way between Otaru and Sapporo provided a striking contrast to the visitors. Through the left side windows of the comfortable day coaches the familiar sight of sparkling blue water crashing against the sandy beaches greeted the eye, while through the other side the alien green of rolling valleys and towering mountains parade by. At Sapporo the sailors were escorted to waiting

trucks and hustled off to Camp Crawford. Following a briefing on recreation and entertainment facilities to be found, they were turned loose for the remainder of the day and evening among the troops of the 7th Infantry Division. Throughout the post in the theater, the Service Club, the Post Exchange Snack Bar, the ball diamond, and on the streets, occasional specks of unfamiliar blue could be discerned in the khaki kingdom of Camp Crawford. Unaccustomed though they were to a Naval invasion, the soldiers warmly welcomed the crew of the McKEAN in their barracks, mess halls and sports domain. Before the first watch returned to their ship, a baseball game was arranged between the "dogfaces" and the "swabbies" for the following day when the other half of the ship's personnel would be free to visit the camp.

On the following day the game was played as scheduled. Although the "swabbies" were finally defeated by score of 5-2, they played an excellent game all the way through. Considering the fact that there is no opportunity for practice at sea, it was a fairly even match. Despite their lack of practice, the sailors only committed two errors in the entire nine innings.

When it came to topics of conversation between the two services, the naval men were quite willing to speak on any subject. However, mention of the McKEAN brought forth an almost eager response. They would tolerate no misunderstanding of the fact that she was finest ship afloat.

As the last of the crew were saying goodbye to the soldiers at Camp Crawford, one G.I. remarked, "I'd sure like to see your ship. It must be a nice looking job"

The "swabbie" just grinned and drawled, "L'il ole Miss McKEAN is sure enough beautiful - but dangerous".

I received this from Bill Bockhacker, ET who served on the McKean 1949-52. Some of you that were aboard during the tour of duty in 1949 may remember this. At this time I do not know the author. Hopefully some of those that read this will know and tell us.

Dick Shaw  
USS McKean DD 784

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# 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**