

# USS McKean DD 784 / DDR 784 SCUTTLEBUTT

March, 2011

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(J'aibon Esperance)  
"I Have Good Hope"

Courtesy of George Lyons

## **THE 2011 USS McKEAN REUNION IS QUICKLY APPROACHING**

Chuck Norvath reports that we have 20 shipmates confirmed so far for the reunion. If you have been thinking about attending, now is the time to act.

The reality of reunion associations like ours is that they don't go on forever. Act before it may be too late. See you in Branson.

Hotel reservations must be booked by July 31, 2011.

## **AUCTION ITEMS ARE NEEDED FOR THE REUNION**

On Saturday night we will hold our reunion auction. We need items to auction off. Please bring an item or 2 with you that you can offer up as auction items.

## **THE USS McKEAN REUNION IS AT BRANSON, MO. SEPT., 2011**

***We are locked into contractual numbers so we need to determine approximately how many people will attend the reunion. Even if you don't make reservations yet, please***

***let Chuck Horvath know ASAP if you plan to attend. Plans can change, but we need a planning estimate. Contact Chuck at e-mail [taxshop1@aol.com](mailto:taxshop1@aol.com) or by mail P.O. Box 509 Nevada, MO 64772.***

The reunion will be held on Friday 9-23-2011, Saturday 9-24-2011 and Sunday 9-25-2011 at the Radisson Hotel Branson, Mo.

The Tentative Schedule is:

- Friday - 10:00 AM Registration and Hospitality Room opens.
- Saturday – 8:00 AM Hospitality Room open  
8:30 AM Board Bus to Veterans Memorial Museum  
10:30 AM Board Bus to Branson Belle Showboat  
11:30 AM McKean Memorial Service aboard the Branson Belle  
12:00 AM Lunch and Entertainment aboard the Branson Belle  
2:30 PM Board Bus to the Branson Landing; a 95 acre retail and entertainment promenade. There is no scheduled activity. This is free time.  
NOTE: Trolley service is available at the Landing for non-walkers.  
4:00 PM Board Bus back to Radisson

Hotel

7:00 PM Raffle, Auction, and Discuss  
the Next Reunion.

Sunday - 8:00 AM Hospitality Room opens.

Free Time Until 4:30 PM.

4:30 PM Pictures taken

6:00 PM Banquet and Guest Speaker

You can make reservations at the Radisson Hotel by calling 1-800-333-3333 (or 417-335-5767) before July 31, 2011. Specify that you are with the USS McKean Reunion for a special room rate of \$93.00 per night plus taxes. This rate is being offered by the hotel for up to 3 days before the reunion and 3 days after the reunion.

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### TIN CAN SAILOR

In February, our association contributed \$200 to the Tin Can Sailors for use by the Thomas J. Peltin Destroyer Museum Grant Program. This contribution should be reflected in the next issue of Tin Can Sailor.

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### OUR NEW WEB SITE

<http://www.ussmckeanreunion.org/>

If you have not checked out our new WEB site, mastered by John Bishop (FTG 64-65), now is the time.

The "Wall of Honor" tab lists our deceased shipmates we are aware of. If you know of any names that should be added, send an email to Joe Winkel with all the information you have.

Also, check out the "Reunions" tab. If you have any comments or pictures that you would like to have added, send these to Joe Winkel.

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### **THE FIRST USS McKean (DD-90, later APD-5), 1919-1943**



**DD-90**



**APD-5**

USS *McKean*, a 1060-ton *Wickes* class destroyer built at San Francisco, California, was commissioned in February 1919. She served in the Atlantic area during 1919-1922, making one deployment to European waters in May-July 1919. Decommissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in June 1922, she remained in reserve until mid-1940, when she was reclassified as a high-speed transport and given the new hull number APD-5. Following conversion for her new mission, *McKean* recommissioned in December 1940 and operated in the Atlantic for more than a year.

In May 1942, *McKean* was sent to the south Pacific, where she arrived in time to take part in the invasion of Tulagi in early August. During the long and difficult campaign to hold Guadalcanal she performed in logistics support and escort duties. After an overhaul in the first part of 1943, *McKean* returned to the south Pacific to join in the Allied offensive up the Solomon Islands chain. She participated in landings at Rendova and New Georgia in June and July 1943, and at Vella Lavella in August. During late October and early November, she landed troops at Mono Island,

Choisul and Cape Torokina, on Bougainville. During the morning darkness on 17 November 1943, while bringing up more Marines to Bougainville, *McKean* was torpedoed by a Japanese plane. She sank within a half-hour, with the loss of more than a hundred crewmen and Marines.

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## **SHIPMATE CONTRIBUTIONS**

From Bob Tokarczyk

### **U.S.S. New York**

USS New York was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center.

It is the fifth in a new class of warship designed for missions that include special operations against terrorists. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-ready Marines to be delivered ashore by helicopters and assault craft.



Steel from the World Trade Center was melted down in a foundry in Amite, LA to cast the ship's bow section. When it was poured into the molds on Sept 9, 2003, 'those big rough steelworkers treated it with total reverence,' recalled Navy Capt. Kevin Wensing, who was there. 'It was a spiritual moment for everybody there.'

Junior Chavers, foundry operations manager, said that when the trade center steel first arrived, he touched it with his hand and the 'hair on my neck stood up.' 'It had a big meaning to it for all of us,' he said. 'They knocked us down. They can't keep us down. We're going to be back...'

The ship's motto? **'Never Forget'**

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HUMOR From Bob Tokarczyk

### **The Clever NAVY CHIEF...**

One day, a Navy Chief went to the Officer's Club with his Captain to eat lunch. When they entered the main dining room, they found the place was quite crowded. They did notice three Lieutenants sitting at a table with two empty chairs, so the Captain asked them if they could join them.

They promptly invited them to join them. They ordered lunch and joined them in conversation as they ate. At one point, the Chief mentioned that he had observed characteristics about many officers from which he could determine the source of their commissioning. The Lieutenants were

eager to hear about this and asked if he could tell how each of them had been commissioned.

The Chief turned to the Lieutenant on his left and said he went through ROTC. The Lieutenant confirmed that was correct and asked how he had noted this. The Chief replied that the Lieutenant, through his conversation, seemed to have a strong academic background but limited military experience.

The Chief then told the Lieutenant on his right that he had gone through OCS with previous enlisted service. The Lieutenant confirmed that this was correct and also asked how he had determined this. The Chief said, again through his conversation, that the Lieutenant seemed to have a firm military background and a lot of common sense.

The Lieutenant across the table from the Chief asked if he had determined his source of commission. The Chief replied that the Lieutenant had definitely graduated from the United States Naval Academy.

The Lieutenant, with Amazement, stated the Chief was correct and asked if it was his high level of intelligence ??, precise military bearing ??, or other superior qualities acquired at the Naval Academy that gave him away ??

The Chief replied that it was none of these that led to his determination. He had simply observed the Lieutenant's class ring while he was picking his nose.

You can't take Navy Chiefs any where...

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**REUNION ASSOCIATION NOTICES**

**McKEAN ITEMS FOR SALE BY MAIL**

All items include shipping cost:  
McKean 60th Anniversary Mug - \$8.00 each

McKean Cap (Pre-FRAM, Post-FRAM or DDR) - \$19.00 each

McKean Leather Coaster - \$4.00 each or 4 for - \$10.00

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**2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE**

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

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:**

**USS McKean REUNION ASSOCIATION**  
**NOT TO CHUCK HORVATH**

**MAIL CHECK TO:**  
**CHUCK HORVATH**  
**Not To "USS McKean Reunion Association"**  
**P.O. Box 509**  
**Nevada, MO 64772**

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**REQUEST FOR YOUR SHIPMATE'S SCRAPBOOK PAGE**

Over the years, some of our shipmates have completed and sent a scrapbook page for our reunion scrapbook. This scrapbook is available at each of our reunions. If you have not sent one (or would like to update yours), do so using the last page of this Scuttlebutt.

Please complete send and your page as soon as possible so we have it for the reunion in September. Use the mailing information on the page, below.

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**IF YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED IN THE PAST YEAR,**

**PLEASE SEND IT TO JOE WINKEL AT:**  
**[joe.winkel@comcast.net](mailto:joe.winkel@comcast.net)**

# **USS McKEAN REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**

( ) I WILL ATTEND THE 2011 REUNION in Branson, MO., Sept. 23-25, 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name for Name Badge (Nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **The following guest will also attend the reunion**

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 for Name Badge (Nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

Name 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Name 3 for Name Badge (Nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

Name 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Name 4 for Name Badge (Nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number attending** \_\_\_\_\_ x **\$80.00 = 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.

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**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 Your Hotel Reservation:** Call the Radisson Hotel at 1-800-333-3333 (or 417-335-5767) before July 31, 2011. Specify that you are with the USS McKean Reunion for a special room rate of \$93 /

