

USS McKean DD 784 / DDR 784 SCUTTLEBUTT

January, 2012

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(J'aibon Esperance)
"I Have Great Expectations"

On behalf of the USS McKean Reunion Association I wish you a safe and healthful 2012.

The 2011 Reunion Was A Smashing Success

I received many comments, calls, and cards of thanks from those who attended. They were very pleased with the venue and events. All of these thanks and comments are because of the planning done by Chuck and Sandra Horvath. They did it all and I am grateful for their efforts.

Thank you, Chuck and Sandra.

2011 Reunion Report By Chuck Horvath

The 8th USS McKean ship's reunion was held on Sept. 23-25, 2011 in Branson, MO. We had 34 shipmates and 27 guests. We had mostly the regular attending shipmates but did pick up 6 new shipmates who had never before attended the reunion. We were glad to see our old friends and make some new friends. We had great weather during the reunion, A hospitality room was open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with a continental breakfast served on Sat. and Sun.

After considering comments from previous reunions, we decided to have all the tours, the auction and the meeting on Saturday. This

seemed to work better for everyone but crammed a lot of activity into one day. Our tours started at the Veterans Memorial Museum. There were loads of military items to view as well as impressive bronze statues of military personnel. There were memorials to those who gave their lives for our freedom. The memorial service to honor our McKean shipmates who made their last deployment was held in the beautiful gardens on the Branson Belle Showboat grounds. Miss Belle a gracious lady dressed in old southern style garb hosted the service. All the names of the departed shipmates were read and a ship's bell was rung after each name. The bell furnished by the Branson Belle facility is an actual destroyer ship's bell. After the service we went aboard the Showboat for some great music during a good meal and then some excellent entertainment. We got to stand on deck and view the area while the boat cruised the lake. The tours ended at the Branson Landing, an outdoor mall. A fun time was had by everyone at the Saturday night auction.

Peter and Sharon Disciascio will plan and host the 2013 McKean reunion in Portland, OR.

We had a great banquet on Sunday night. Our speaker was Dr. Todd Baker, MD, an Army Major

who headed the Baghdad military emergency room with a medical team who saved the lives of 96% of all incoming wounded. A raffle was held for shipmates only and the reunion was officially over. We said our goodbyes to all our friends until 2013.

Our Next Reunion

As Chuck mentioned, above, our next reunion will be during 2013 in Portland, OR. The dates will be published when the planning has been done. Our past reunions have been during the late September / early October timeframe. It is likely that we will try to meet during this same timeframe in Portland.

Pete (Chief) and Sharon Disciascio (BT1/C, 1952-1956) have generously agreed to plan our reunion. Thank you, both, for taking this challenge on.

SHIPMATE CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributed by Morris Ramsey

A little history most people will never know. Interesting statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, DC:

- 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.
- The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized.
- Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E - May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as the wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus the war's beginning and end meet.
- The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.
- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- 8,283 were just 19 years old.
- The largest age group were 18 years old; 33,103.

- 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.- 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.
- One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- 54 soldiers on the Wall attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia.
- 8 Women are on the Wall. They were nursing the wounded.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.
- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.
- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.
- The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties

SEA DUTY EXTENSIONS

Some of us thought we spent a lot of time at sea, but maybe not:

September 22, 2011 - Stars and Stripes by Trevor Andersen

TOKYO — The Navy announced this week that more than 60,000 sailors will be required to spend more time on sea duty.

"Since 2008, the number of sea duty billets has increased, while the number of shore duty billets has decreased," Capt. Michael White, Navy Personnel Command assistant commander for Career Management, said in a news release.

The change affects 36 ratings, with the sea time being increased from anywhere between six months and two years. Those scheduled to rotate to a new duty station before March 2012 will not have their projected rotation date adjusted, according to the release.

Additionally, there are now 18 job ratings categorized as "sea intensive," meaning sailors in those jobs can expect to spend more than one-half of their career on sea duty, the Navy said.

MUSEUM DESTROYER SHIPS

In case your travels take you to any of the locations, below, here is a list of the destroyer museum ships you might enjoy visiting:

USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, JR. (DD-850)	Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA
USS KIDD (DD-661)	USS Kidd & Veterans Memorial, Baton Rouge, LA
USS LAFFEY (DD-724)	Patriots Point, Charleston Harbor, SC
USS SLATER (DE-766)	Destroyer Escort Historical Museum, Albany, New York
USS STEWART (DE-238)	Seawolf Park, Galveston, Texas
USS THE SULLIVANS (DD-537)	Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park, Buffalo, NY
USS TURNER JOY (DD-951)	Bremerton Historic Ships Association Bremerton, WA

THE LAST DESTROYER LOST IN WW II

71 destroyers (DDs) were lost in WWII. The last destroyer sunk in WW II was the USS Callaghan (DD792). It was hit by a kamikaze plane carrying a bomb just after 12:30 a.m. on July 29, 1945. The attack took place less than two hours before the destroyer was to be relieved by another ship in order to return to the States for an overhaul. Callaghan was also the thirteenth destroyer to be lost off Okinawa.

The Callaghan crew rejoiced when they found out on the morning of July 28, 1945, that they would return to the U.S. after one final night of radar picket duty. However, a Japanese plane hit the destroyer on the starboard side of the

superstructure. It crashed into Callaghan's after deck house and into her No.3 5-inch gun's upper handling room. Two violent explosions split the hull plates. The ship sunk two hours later. Other destroyers and small LCS (Landing Craft Support) ships at the same picket station picked up survivors from the sinking destroyer and from the water covered with fuel oil.

REUNION ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

2012 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

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Email addresses change often. You can check to see what email address we have for you on the Crew's List at our We site:
<http://www.ussmckeanreunion.org/>

If yours has changed, notify me:
joe.winkel@comcast.net.

SHIPMATE'S SCRAPBOOK

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 and is a huge success. 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.

