

USS McKean DD 784 / DDR 784 SCUTTLEBUTT

January, 2014

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

***Now that the holidays are behind us,
I want to wish you all a safe and enjoyable 2014***



2013 Reunion Recap:

Our 2013 reunion in Portland, OR was a huge success. Hats off to Sharon Disciascio (Pete, BTC, 52-56) for her work to select the hotel and the activities. She did a first class job and was a gracious hostess. Thank you, Sharon.

We had 21 shipmates and 20 guests in attendance. The weather cooperated as we had very little rain for a location that normally experiences a lot of it. The hotel accommodations, hospitality room, and services were 1st class.

On Friday, 9/20, most of us checked into the hotel and got reacquainted with or met for the first time our shipmates and their spouses/guests. That night most of the group had dinner together at Salty's Seafood Grill on the Columbia River. It was an impromptu dinner organized by Sharon Disciascio. A great dinner was had by all.

On Saturday 9/21, we conducted a memorial ceremony at the hotel. We then went by bus to the Spirit Mountain Casino in Grand Ronde and had a buffet lunch from a very large selection of food. Several shipmates didn't want the calories so they took their chances in the gaming rooms. From the casino we went to the Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville. Our guided tour included the Hughes Flying Boat (Spruce Goose), a B-17 Flying Fortress, and many other vintage aircraft. After dinner, we held our association meeting and auction. Gene Henrickson (BT3, 65-68) and Mike Colby (IC3, 65-67) conducted the auction and what a team they made. Just watching them was worth the price of the trip to Portland. Gene and Mike, thank you for the entertainment.



On Sunday 9/22, we each spent the day in our own way attending churches and taking in some of the many sites in and around Portland. Afterwards, group and couples pictures were taken at the hotel followed by an excellent buffet dinner.

Our guest speaker was Ed Van Dyke, Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. He served 22 years in the U.S. Army (*for which he was forgiven*) and retired at the most senior non-commissioned rank of sergeants major. For 15 of those 22 years, his primary role was that of leading the effort to recruit soldiers into the Oregon Army National Guard.

After dinner most of us met for the last time in the hospitality room and told our last "sea" stories and said our good-byes until the next reunion.

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The 2013 reunion attendees were:

Anderson	Andy	BT/3	1976-1978
Bowman	Gary	QM/SN	1959-1963
Colby	Mike	IC/3	1965-1967
Cushing	Hal / Rosie	BT3/C	1951-1955
Deters	Don / Barbara	BT2/C	1954-1957
Disciascio	Pete / Sharon	BT/C	1952-1956
Edmison	Darrell	BT/3	1977-1979
Grau	Irwin / Carol	BT3/C	1956-1957
Henrickson	Gene / Kathy	BT3/C	1965-1968
Hoy	Marvin / Hally Sullivan	YN 3/C	1956-1957
Jolly	Ray / Jean	CSCS	1969-1970
Kessler	Pat / Wife of Don	FT2	1957-1961
Mickelsen	Gary Louise	CPO	1978-1981
Namchek	James / Donna	RM/3	1979-1981
Opalka	Bill / Donna	BT/2	1953-1956
Orsillo	Tony / Pat	ET/3	1949-1950
Richardson	Dave / Bonnie	MM/1	1953-1955
Rosas	Shannon / Wife of John (Milo)	SrCPO	1968-1970
Smith	Paul / Betty	LtJG	1945-1946
Thomson	John / Marian	MM2/C	1954-1958
Weese	Virgil	EM/2	1955-1959
Winkel	Joe	ETR/2	1964-1966
Winovitch	Adam / Ann	BR/C	1952-1956

2015 Reunion

Our 2015 reunion will be held in Indianapolis, IN. The dates are to be determined but they will most likely be late in September.

Mike Colby (IC3, 65-67) has generously volunteered to coordinate our venue and activities. Thank you, Mike, for taking on the task.

REUNION ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

Starting in 2014, the annual reunion association dues are \$15/yr instead of \$25/yr. We are taking this action because we believe that \$15 is adequate to fund our ongoing expenses, cover deposits for the 2015 reunion, and subsidize the registration fee for the 2015 reunion.

For those of you who have already paid \$25 for 2014, \$10 of your dues will be applied to 2015.

We will reassess the dues amount after the 2015 reunion.

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES OF \$15 ARE DUE EACH JANUARY.

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

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

SHIPMATE CONTRIBUTIONS

From David Mulliken
Ens/Lt(jg) 1967-69

McKean was my initial assignment following graduation from OCS in June 1967. The ship was returning from a Westpac deployment and I was in San Diego attending EMO, CIC and Air Controller schools, but I eventually caught up with the ship in Mare Island during its overhaul. I was EMO until July 1968 when Jim Sullivan left and I became CIC officer following a spot promotion to Lt(jg). I remained in that billet until early 1969 when I was sent back to Westpac on another ship,

I remember many of my fellow officers and crew well. Captain Hawkins left not long after I came aboard and was replaced by Cdr. Loggan. Pete Thompson was ExO and a good one; glad to see he made Captain! Erik Jensted was Weapons Officer, Jack Blair was Ops Officer, Jack Matthews was Supply Officer and Jerry Beaver, who was an ex-mustang, 1st rate officer and all-around great guy, came aboard sometime in late-67 or early 68 as Engineering Officer. Jerry Jennings, Terry Dooling, Pete King, Jack Stark, Moe Spearman and I all arrived about the same time as boot Ensigns with lots to learn, but fortunately we had a great crew and they taught us quickly.

Highlights of our '68 deployment included doing ASW exercises off Hawaii and ending up tracking an unidentified (presumed Soviet) sub for two full days, patrolling in the Sea of Japan, surviving a major typhoon somewhere in the South China sea (I was OOD when we hit 53 degrees, very close to the ship's max righting moment...never forget that one), doing gunfire support and coastal interdiction in the II Corps area of RVN, lots of plane guard duty for the carriers in the Tonkin Gulf, a low-water boiler casualty that put us into Kaohsiung Harbor for several weeks (where we were hammered by another typhoon during the time the ship was moored alongside a repair tender and couldn't get underway disabled, losing an anchor off the coast of RVN and great liberty calls in Yokosuka, Sasebo and Hong Kong.

I have great memories of my time on McKean and am so sorry I missed the 2004 reunion in San Diego, where I was living at the time. Thank you for your efforts in compiling and updating all the pertinent info about McKean. Job well done!

All the best,
David Mulliken

A Walmart Senior Greeter

You may have seen this on the internet already. Even if you did, it is worth another read.

You just have to appreciate this one. Young people forget that we old people had a career before we retired.....



Charley, a new retiree-greeter at Wal-Mart, just couldn't seem to get to work on time. Every day he was 5, 10, 15 minutes late. But he was a good worker, really tidy, clean-shaven, sharp-minded and a real credit to the company and obviously demonstrating their "Older Person Friendly" policies.

One day the boss called him into the office for a talk.

"Charley, I have to tell you, I like your work ethic, you do a bang-up job when you finally get here; but your being late so often is quite bothersome."

"Yes, I know boss, and I am working on it."

"Well good, you are a team player. That's what I like to hear."

"Yes sir, I understand your concern and I will try harder."

Seeming puzzled, the manager went on to comment,

"I know you're retired from the US NAVY. What did they say to you there if you showed up in the morning late so often?"

The old man looked down at the floor, then smiled. He chuckled quietly, then said with a grin,

"They usually saluted and said, Good morning, Admiral, can I get your coffee, sir?"



One of my favorite stories, ever!

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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 a scrapbook entry (or would like to update yours), do so by printing and completing the **USS McKean SCRAPBOOK PAGE** at the end of this Scuttlebutt.

Please complete and send your page as soon as possible so we have it for the reunion in 2015. Use the mailing information on the page.

