

# USS McKean DD 784 / DDR 784 SCUTTLEBUTT

July, 2011

Newsletter Contact: 1994 Thomas Ave., San Leandro, CA 94577, 510.351.5426

e-mail: [joe.winkel@comcast.net](mailto:joe.winkel@comcast.net) website: <http://www.ussmckeanreunion.org/>



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

## **THIS IS THE LAST REMINDER TO SIGN UP FOR OUR 2011 REUNION**

### **DON'T MISS OUT. OUR 2011 REUNION IS QUICKLY APPROACHING**

At last count we had 25 shipmates and 19 guests confirmed for the reunion. If you have been thinking about attending, now is the time to act.

**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 for the auction. 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 how many people will attend the reunion. If you have not made reservations yet but intend to, please let Chuck Horvath or Joe Winkel know***

***immediately. Contact Chuck at e-mail [taxshop1@aol.com](mailto:taxshop1@aol.com) or by mail P.O. Box 509 Nevada, MO 64772. Contact Joe at e-mail [joe.winkel@comcast.net](mailto:joe.winkel@comcast.net) or by mail 1994 Thomas Ave, San Leandro, CA 94577.***

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.

.....

### **OUR NEW WEB SITE**

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

If you have not checked out our Web site lately, now is the time. John Bishop (FTG 64-65) is our Webmaster and has made many improvements during the past year.

The "Wall of Honor" tab lists the deceased shipmates that 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.

---

### **SHIPMATE CONTRIBUTIONS**

From George Johnson  
GMM3 (ASROC)

ATTENTION : USS MCKEAN CREW MEMBERS WHO WENT TO VIETNAM IN JULY 1965

I served aboard the Mac from 1964-1966, and deployed on the 1965 Westpac to Vietnam in July 1965.

While in Vietnam, we supported a beleaguered outpost at Nha Trang which was commanded by a lone American advisor. Thru out the night of Dec 14-15, 1965, we supplied naval fire with our 5 inch guns at the direction ( BY RADIO) of the American Advisor, and literally kept his post, defended by the American Advisor and about 70 or so South Vietnamese from being overrun by a Battalion of North Vietnamese soldiers.( a Battalion can be up to about 600 or so ) The American Soldier credited the McKean with saving their lives.

I've often wondered who the advisor was and whether he came home. I think Captain Mitchell made the statement "that we would probably never know who this brave soldier was". While reviewing the VA website, in 2010, I came across a 'classified section" in which a gentleman posted " Anyone aboard the McKean at the battle of Nha Trang in 1965, please call me". This peaked my interest and I called the gentleman, and during the course of our conversation, he disclosed that he was THE AMERICAN ADVISOR who directed our naval gunfire BY RADIO at Nha Trang in 1965. His name is Jim Hoeh, now 83 years old and a retired LT. Colonel with the 101st Airborne, 187th Combat Brigade( Rakkasans) out of Fort Campbell , Kentucky. He was a Captain and fire controller at that time in 1965. In any event, he and his family reside in Cincinnati, Ohio, and would love to talk to other shipmates aboard the McKean during that time.

He invited me and my wife to attend a reunion and ceremony in Feb this year at Fort Campbell, which we did and it was indeed an honor to meet him for the first time...after 46 years. I have pictures I will gladly share with you if you care to post them on the Website.

I also have a news article printed in a Long beach, California newspaper which was printed the day after we arrived home in January 1966, which I have saved in my scrap book. Colonel Hoeh has also provided me with interesting documents which are also worthy of posting. I don't have a scanner, but I will be glad to mail them to you, and I have been given permission to share his phone numbers with our crew members...he is anxious to talk to our crew members who were aboard the McKean during that time at Nha Trang.in 1965. He has also asked me to share that " he is eternally grateful for our assistance, which he feels surely

saved his life as well as those who were defending his outpost at Nha Trang during that engagement."

Please post this e-mail on the McKean Website and encourage our shipmates to call him. He is a very kind and courageous gentlemen. My wife and I attended a second reunion with him and his wife, Ms Etta yesterday (June 16th, 2011) in Hopkinsville, Ky...The second time I have been honored to be in his presence.

Contact info:

Lt. Colonel James Hoeh, Retired  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
513-256-5494 (Cell)  
513-481-4045 ( Home)  
e-mail: rakkasan@fuse.net

Best wishes, I look forward to your reply.

George Johnson, Gmm3 ( Asroc)  
Nashville, Tenn  
(615)280-1060

rancher78465@yahoo.com

---

## **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

---

## **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**

---

## **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.

.....  
**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.

---

**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 /**

