

# USS McKean DD 784 / DDR 784 SCUTTLEBUTT

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

***NOW HEAR THIS: Don't Miss The 2015 USS McKean Reunion.  
Reserve Your Hotel Room And Register For Our September 25-27,  
2015 Reunion In Indianapolis, Indiana Now.***

## MORE ON THE 2015 REUNION:

Thanks to the hard work of Mike Colby (1965-1967, IC3), we will have another excellent venue for our 2015 reunion. Our reunion will be at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 2930 Waterfront Parkway West Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46214 ([www.clarionwaterfront.net](http://www.clarionwaterfront.net)).

All rooms feature cable television, coffee makers and hairdryers. Some rooms also include refrigerators and microwaves. Non-smoking rooms are available.

Additional amenities include:

- Free deluxe continental breakfast
- Free wireless high-speed Internet access
- Free newspaper
- Indoor heated pool & hot tub
- Fitness center
- Free outdoor parking

Make your reservations as soon as you possibly can by calling the Clarion Hotel at 317 299 8400.

The room rate is \$79 per night plus 17% tax.. This rate applies 9/23/15 through 9/30/15. The room rate is guaranteed until **8/23/15**. This is our cutoff date. On this date, rooms which have not been reserved will be released to the general public. Rooms will then be based on availability at the then current rate.

## REUNION UPDATE:

We will not be able to visit the Indianapolis Motor Speedway as a group on Sat, 9.26. Unexpectedly and for unknown reasons, the speedway will not be open to the public on this day.

The speedway will be open to the public on Sun., 9/27. Therefore, you may choose to visit it on your own or in small groups on Sun., which is a free day.

We are including the speedway visiting information here for you to use. At our assoc. meeting on Sat. night I will ask how many of you intend to visit the speedway. If enough of you are interested, we can plan to visit it in small groups using our own vehicles on Sun.

### Indianapolis Motor Speedway

It is the home of the Indianapolis 500 and the Brickyard 400. It is located at 4790 W. 16th St. Indianapolis, IN 46222 on the corner of 16th Street and Georgetown Road.

- The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame Museum, located on the grounds of the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, is recognized as one of the most highly visible museums in the world devoted to automobiles and auto racing. In 1987, the museum and Speedway grounds were honored with the designation of National Historic Landmark.

- Adult Museum admission is \$8.

- Track Tours - Track Tours (1 lap on the 2.5-mile oval track in an IMS bus, narrated) are available on any day except for when there is racing, testing, special events, and construction or winter weather conditions.
  - Adults \$8
- Ground Tours - The 1.5 hour narrated tour of this historic facility gives guests the opportunity to tour the oval track, plus visit the media center, the Pagoda, victory platform, garage area, and a Gasoline Alley suite, plus stand on the famous 'Yard of Bricks' at the start/finish line. In addition, guests will also tour the Hall of Fame Museum.
  - Adults \$30 (includes museum tour)

### **Itinerary:**

#### **Friday 9/25**

10:00 Reunion Check-In & Hospitality room opens

#### **Saturday 9/26**

09:30 Board bus at the hotel for travel to the Indiana State Museum and the IMAX Theater

10:00 Tour museum and possibly view an IMAX movie depending on show times and length

12:00 Depart museum for lunch at Shapiro's Deli, a landmark deli in Indianapolis

13:30 Depart Shapiro's Deli for the Indiana War Memorial

14:15 Conduct shipmate memorial at the Indiana War Memorial Museum

15:00 Tour the Indiana War Memorial Museum

16:00 Depart Indiana War Memorial Museum and return to hotel

16:30 Arrive at hotel

18:00 Hospitality room opens.

19:00 Attend the association meeting and auction.

#### **Sunday 9/27**

Free day for you to sight-see until 16:30.

08:30 Hospitality room opens

16:30 Group & Couples Pictures (See Note)

18:00 Banquet with a Guest Speaker

**Note:** Couples pictures will be taken immediately before the Group pictures. The charge for couple's pictures will be \$10 for an 8 x 10 photograph to be collected by Joe Winkel. All pictures will be mailed to you 2 to 3 weeks after the reunion.

### **REUNION REGISTRATION FEE**

The USS McKean Reunion Association registration fee is \$75 per person. Complete the attached registration form and send it along with your check to Chuck Horvath at P.O. Box 509, Nevada, MO 64772-0509 by July 31, 2015. **Make your checks payable to: USS McKean REUNION ASSOCIATION.**

Staying at the hotel is not required; however, attendance at the reunion requires being a member of the association and paying the registration fee. **If you have not paid your 2015 reunion association dues, add \$15 to the check.**

We have made contractual obligations for this reunion so we need to determine how many people will attend very soon. Even if you haven't made hotel reservations yet, please let Chuck Horvath or Joe Winkel know ASAP if you plan to attend. Plans can change, but we need your feedback as soon as possible. Contact Chuck at [taxshop1@aol.com](mailto:taxshop1@aol.com) or Joe at [joe.winkel@comcast.net](mailto:joe.winkel@comcast.net).

### **SATURDAY ACTIVITIES**

#### ***Indiana State Museum***

Located in White River State Park in downtown Indianapolis, the Indiana State Museum is the place to explore Indiana's past, present and future — from mastodons and dire wolves to contemporary art by some of Indiana's best artists. Special exhibits can, also, be viewed or explored.

#### ***Saturday Lunch***

<http://www.shapiros.com/menu/>

Cook good, serve generous, price modestly, and people will come." These words to live and nosh by have been the guiding philosophy of Shapiro's Delicatessen and Cafeteria since 1905. More than 2,000 customers drop in each day for breakfast, lunch, and dinner at its two locations. It is far and away Indiana's, and many would argue the Midwest's, prime forum for corned beef and pastrami piled high on rye or egg bun and for matzo ball and chicken noodle soups, and for such comfort foods as Swiss steak, baked chicken, meat loaf, macaroni and cheese, and unconscionably high-rise pies, cakes, and pastries. And it is perhaps the last Hoosier haven for smoked pickled tongue.

#### ***Indiana War Memorial and Museum***

[HTTP://WWW.IN.GOV/IWM/INDEX.HTM](http://www.in.gov/iwm/index.htm)

This magnificent building has three main floors. On the upper level is the breathtaking Shrine Room. The Shrine Room, symbolizing peace and unity is made of materials from all over the world, symbolic

of the world wide nature of the "Great War." The room is 110' tall and 60' square. The 24 blood red pillars made of Vermont marble support the vast ceiling. Hanging in the center of the room is the Star of Destiny made of Swedish Crystal to guide the welfare of the nation. Below that is the flag of the United States. In the center of the room, below the flag, is the Altar of Consecration, the altar to the flag. The altar inspires good citizenship and is a place to remember fallen soldiers and comrades. Those who visit the Shrine Room leave with a renewed sense of patriotism and an appreciation for the sacrifices of those who fought in the "Great War".

The main floor houses exhibit space, the administrative offices, two meeting rooms, and the Pershing Auditorium. The meeting rooms and the auditorium are available for public use for a nominal fee. Listed on this level are the names of all Hoosiers who participated in WW I and all Hoosiers killed or missing in action from WW II, Korea, and Vietnam.

The building also contains a free military museum that portrays the history of Indiana's gallant veterans from the Battle of Tippecanoe, through the several wars in which we have been engaged, to the present.

Among the interesting exhibits and items on display are the USS *Indianapolis* (CA-35) Gallery, numerous military firearms and uniforms, an AH-1 Cobra Attack Helicopter, and hundreds of other artifacts, photos and documents.

### **REUNION ASSOCIATION DUES**

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 future reunions, and subsidize the registration fee for our reunions.

In order to ensure continued receipt of our newsletters (Scuttlebutt), please keep your annual dues paid up and current.

### **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.

Send your page as soon as possible so we have it for the reunion in 2015. Use the mailing information on the scrapbook page.

### **Just a Touch of Humor**



### **CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SHIPMATES**

Shipmates in central California held a mini-reunion lunch in February. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that they met for lunch. A great time was had by the shipmates, spouses, and significant others. The sea stories flowed freely, but they seemed to have grown since the last time they were told.

The shipmates in attendance were:

1948-1952	Jim Hinrichsen	FC (Ginnie)
1948-1952	Max Phillips	YN3 (Lorraine)
1948-1950	Donna and Debbie Saugstad	Wife and Daughter of Marv ET3
1949-1950	Albert (Tony) Orsillo	ET3 (Patricia)
1953-1956	Bill Opalka	BT2 (Donna)
1953-1954	Allen Everett	ET2
1964-1966	Joe Winkel	ETR2 (Diane)
1968-1971	Woody Woodward	BT2
1969-1971	Art Stevens	STG3





If you know of shipmates living near you, get them together for a lunch or dinner and let us know about it. We will include it in a future Scuttlebutt.

### **The Last Destroyer: The Story of the USS Callaghan**

USS *Callaghan* (DD-792) became the last destroyer sunk in WWII when hit by a kamikaze plane carrying a bomb just after 12:30 a.m. on July 29, 1945. The attack, which killed 47 crewmen, 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.

The first four months of *Callaghan's* service in the Pacific War turned out to be routine with no battle action. On June 17, 1944, to the east of Saipan, *Callaghan* gunners shot down the first three planes of a total of 12 aircraft they would shoot down during the war. Two more Japanese planes were destroyed by *Callaghan* guns on October 14 as Task Force 38 ships fought enemy aircraft off Formosa. From October 1944 to March 1945, *Callaghan* participated in battles and other operations in support of air strikes on the Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Indochina, and Formosa.

The crewmen of *Callaghan* witnessed several successful kamikaze attacks and shot down or hit several kamikaze planes. On January 21, 1945, they witnessed two kamikaze planes dive into the aircraft carrier *Ticonderoga* (CV-14) off the coast of Formosa. On April 6, they saw another successful kamikaze attack when a plane hit the destroyer escort *Witter* (DE-636), which damaged her so extensively that she was later scrapped. The next day another kamikaze plane hit the battleship

*Maryland* (BB-46) near *Callaghan*. During May 1945, the destroyer's crew viewed three more kamikaze hits on close-by warships.

*Callaghan* had several close calls while off Okinawa. In the early morning of March 27, 1945, three Val dive-bombers attacked *Callaghan*, but gunners shot down all of them. The second plane splashed just 100 yards off the port side, and the last plane snapped the main wire antenna as it went over the ship and hit the water just next to the ship. Later that morning a crewman spotted the periscope of a midget submarine. Captain Bertholf ordered depth charges dropped to destroy the submarine, and the subsequent oil slick and debris from the submarine provided proof of the sinking. On March 31, a Judy dive-bomber headed toward *Callaghan*, but the ship's anti-aircraft fire persuaded the plane to withdraw. On the next day, *Callaghan* gunners helped shoot down two more attacking planes.

On May 25, 1945, two twin-engined planes suddenly appeared out of the clouds and headed toward *Callaghan*. The gunners hit the lead plane, which crashed into the sea after passing less than 100 feet over the ship, but the smoking second plane flew away. Two men climbed out of the crashed plane, and a rescue party from *Callaghan* picked them up. The pilot died aboard the destroyer, but the plane's navigator regained consciousness and was transferred to the battleship *New Mexico* (BB-40). The navigator, Kaoru Hasegawa, contacted *Callaghan* survivors and met with them at the ship's 1995 and 1999 reunions in order to express his gratitude to the ship's crew for saving his life.

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 "biplane with floats" hit the destroyer on the starboard side of the superstructure after 12:30 a.m. on July 29. 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. *Callaghan* lost 47 men in the attack and became the last ship and the 14th destroyer sunk by kamikaze planes during WWII.



# USS McKean REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

## A Note About Our Auction On Saturday Night:

One of our most fun events is our auction after the association meeting. Please bring with you a few inexpensive, fun items for the auction. Typically they are hand-made crafts or second-hand gifts or "re-gifted" items . We auction them for whatever we can get and add the proceeds to our collected association dues to fund expenses and future reunions. It is fun and entertaining. Some items are appreciated and useful to the auction winners while some are brought back and auctioned at the next reunion.

( ) I WILL ATTEND THE 2015 REUNION IN INDIANAPOLIS, IN, SEPT. 25-27, 2015

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

**The following person(s) will also attend the reunion as my guest:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Total number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$75.00 = Total registration fee enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_**

( ) I am including my USS McKean DD/DDR 784 Reunion Association dues of \$15.00.

( ) 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)*

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**Make Checks Payable to: USS McKean REUNION ASSOCIATION**

**Mail Checks & Registration Forms to: Chuck Horvath, PO Box 509, Nevada, MO 64772-0509**

**To Make Hotel Reservations Call : Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 2930 Waterfront Parkway West Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46214 at 317-299-8400.**