

McCaffery Newsletter

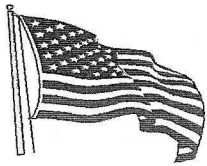
SPRING - SUMMER

"2005"



At Sea: 1965

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Ahoy Shipmates!

This fourth of July, our country celebrated it's 229th birthday. As Americans, we love to celebrate the 4th to show our patriotism towards our country. It's a day when we all love to get together, with our families and enjoy all the festivities, including fireworks, parades, and barbecues. It seems to be the order of the day for many families, (at least at my house). It also kicks off the start of summer vacations. Let's also, remember all the service men and women, who are on active duty, and away from their families. We should never forget the sacrifices they have made for our freedom. We are so fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world, and we should never take freedom or liberty for granted!

From the Staff of the "Mighty Mac", we wish each and everyone, a safe and happy summer!

Ex - POW, Laid to Rest

Vice Admiral James Stockdale, one of the country's most decorated Vietnam War Veterans and a one time Vice Presidential candidate, was buried in July, at the U.S. Naval Academy.

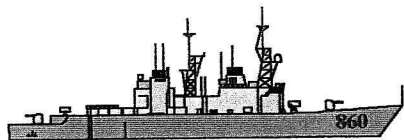
During the Vietnam War, he was a Navy fighter pilot, based on the USS Oriskany and flew 201 missions, before he was shot down on Sept 9th 1965. Stockdale, became the highest ranking Naval Officer captured during the war. He endured more than 7-1/2 yrs as a POW, at North Vietnam's infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison and spent 4 of those years in solitary confinement, before his release in 1973. He was tortured repeatedly and his resistance has become an example, a legend, and a model for young Officers today. He retired from the Military in 1979, as one of the most highly decorated Officers in Naval History. Stockdale, received 26 combat decorations, including the Medal of Honor, the Nations highest Medal for valor.

Mac Patches

McCaffery patches are still available. There are two to choose from: "**Drive them into the Sea**" (Bougainville), and the "**SeaHorse Riding a Hedgehog**" with a shamrock background. Both patches are brilliantly colored, and are of excellent quality. The cost is **\$5.50** each, including postage. To order: please send a check or money order to **Bill Maslak**

"Mac" Shirts & Hats

Shirts & hats are available in Navy blue, with the ships logo. Prices include shipping:
Hats - \$12.00
Shirts - M-XL \$15.00
Shirts - 2X-3X \$17.00
To order, please send check or money order to:
Gordon Leiser



McCaffery Staff

Gordon Leiser - Newsletter, Hats, Shirts & Donations

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A Reunion Which Might Not Have Been....

The McCaffery, had been trailing a Soviet freighter in Cuban waters, for two days. It was believed, that the vessel was carrying missiles. A simple order was given to the Gunners Mates, "Fill the ready rack with live ammo".

Trying times in October 1962 - do you remember where you were, when President Kennedy thru down the gauntlet? Most of the world knew what was happening. Tom Wert (60-63), Art Schaffer (61-64), and Meryl Benner (62-63) aboard at the time, were so close to the enemy they could have waved, but they were not fully aware of what was going on. Tom, is quoted in the paper as saying,; "It was better that way".

The trio met 40 years later to swap stories and reminisce about the time. It was a reunion that might not have been, had Kennedy & Khrushchev launched the missiles on October of 1962.

Paraphrased from the Daytona Beach News/Journal
provided by Tom Wert (60-63)

"Events of October 1962, indicated, as they had all through history, that control of the sea means security. Control of the Seas, can mean peace. Control of the Seas, can mean victory. The United States must control the seas if it is to protect your security....."
President John F. Kennedy, 6 June 1963
on board the USS Kitty Hawk

Reunion "2006"

As mentioned in the last newsletter, plans are underway for our next reunion which will be held in Buffalo, N.Y. from Sept 13 thru 16th.

It's a bit early to make your room reservations, but we do have the Holiday Inn (Airport) reserved for our big event. The next newsletter (Fall-Winter Edition) will contain all the necessary information that you'll need pertaining to the reunion.. In the meantime, mark your calendar with the dates above.

Get Together

It's a long time between reunions (2 years). To use an old cliché, make hay while the sun shines or strike while the iron is hot. How many more opportunities will you have to renew old friendships and experience a reunion? If your in touch with an old navy buddy, make arrangements to meet in Buffalo for the 2006 reunion. If you don't know where they are, check with **Bill Maslak**. If a particular friend is not on our roster, Bill will try to locate him for you. Nothing gets done until someone does something, so, **DO IT**. Call or email a buddy!



Welcome Aboard!



This column was launched recently, and it's sole purpose is to list the names of recently found shipmates, who served on the "Mac". Thanks to the endless efforts of shipmate Bill Maslak, our roster keeps growing. The following, is a list of new shipmates who have just joined us, and as you can see, we are beginning to find many who were on board during the 60's and 70's..... **Welcome Aboard Mates!**

Battiest, Cyrus Jr.	70	Francis, Terrence	69-70	Matranga, Michael	66-68	Portwood, James	68
Baughn, Ronald E.	72-73	Geltz, Milton	49-50	McDermott, Terry	70-71	Ramsey, Paul	58-60
Bosko, Joseph P.	71-73	Hanna, David	72-73	McGegor, William	66-70	Ries, Mauritus	51-54
Buendia, Robert	63-65	Jacobus, John	68	McIntyre, James	62-65	Robarts, John E	68-69
Cannon, Robert	65-68	Jindra, Leonard	68	Messier, Walter	65-67	Rothenbuehler, G.	69-70
Christiaens, Wm	66-69	Kassing, Wm.	65-66	Moore, Randy	66-68	Schibler, George	67-68
Cohee, Tom	45	L'Hote, Robert	65-70	Moore, Steven C.	67-69	Semenec, Carle E.	66-69
Coke, Charles	66-69	LaPoint, Grant	68	Nolan, Danny	68-69	Vandver, Paul	68-70
Cranor, Lee	69	Lorino, Joseph	68-69	Peoples, Edward	51-52	Wagstaff, Jerry	70
Duffy, Bobby D.	68	Manuel, Almus	71-73	Phillips, John L	66-68	Wills, Williams	68-72



"McCaffery on Wheels"

This photo was sent to me by Fred LaChance, who lives in Virginia Beach, VA. Fred said, "that he was lucky to get the tag numbers from the Motor Vehicle Dept, for his new "Vet". I hope your wearing a Macshirt and hat when your driving, to complete the look.

Fred served on the McCaffery from 1971-73. Talk about a dedicated sailor! This must draw some attention. Way to go Fred!

Can you Top This???

Harry O. Nichols (Deceased), served aboard McCaffery progressing through the rates FA to MM1 from 1949 to 1959

Why is a Ship called a "She"?

" A ship is called a she, because there's always a great deal of bustle around her.....because there's usually a gang of men aroundbecause she has waist and stays....because she takes a lot of paint to keep her looking good....because it's not the initial expense that breaks you, it's the upkeep....because she is all decked out.....because it takes a good man to handle her right.....because she shows her topside, hides her bottom and, when coming into port, always heads for the buoys".

Shipboard Showers

Do you remember water hours? Do you remember wetting down for a shower.....turning the water off...soaping up.....and turning the water back on to rinse?

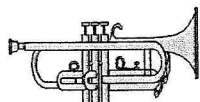


"Mail Bag"

I want to thank those who took the time to drop me a line. It's great hearing from you, Please keep the letters coming, because it helps me out more than you know. Here is the latest news from our mail bag, since the last newsletter.....

Pete Jankoski (NY) wrote to say , he enjoys reading the newsletter, and mentioned, that he is looking for shipmates that served with him in 1960. If any of you remember Pete, he was an MM3.....**Rich & Sheila Ammon (FL)** trip to the Grand Canyon was quite exciting. They went hiking with a group of people on the "Bright Angle Trail" and Rich said, it was 108 degrees when they reached the bottom, carrying backpacks, books, etc. You guys have to be in good shape to endure all that!.....**Bob Adgent (TN)** made the last reunion in Savannah and stated how much he enjoyed attending. Hope to see you in Buffalo, it should be another great one.....**Robert Annis (NY)** dropped a line to say, "what a small world it is". Bob was on loan to Dunlop Tire Co in NY, when lo and behold, he met an old McCaffery sailor, named Jim Olmstead. Although, Bob and Jim served at different times on the "Mac", they had a lot of sea stories to share.....I want to thank **Clint Goddard (SC)** for sending a copy of an old post card, with a picture of the McCaffery, taken in Venice, Italy back in 1954. It seems, Clint, sent this to his Mom, and she held on to it, for all these years. God Bless Mothers!!! I'm sure I'll use it, in a future newsletter.....**Ken Johnson (FL)**, was another unfortunate shipmate, to lose his home due to Hurricane Charlie. We hope everything is going well for you and your settled in your new home. May you have fair winds ahead of you.....**Richard Achorn (ME)** said he was sorry to see Jack Teagues name on the "Taps" List. He served with Jack on the Mac in the 50's He went on to say, that he and his wife Betty did a lot of traveling at one time, but not any more. In fact, he just sold his motor home. By the way, thanks for sending your new email address.....**Herman Dexter (CO)**, wore his McCaffery cap proudly on his trip to Alaska. However, the weather wasn't to kind to it (lots of rain), so he decided to order a new one, to replace it. Herman wears it proudly, and says, many people notice it.....**Tex Fulks (TX)** and his wife Margie, wrote to say "hi". Tex is an old buddy of mine and has made all of our reunions to date. Looking forward to seeing you both in Buffalo.....**Leonard Grady (CA)** thanks for letting us know you recently moved. It sure helps to keep our records straight.....Heard from **Mickey Strickland (OK)**, who served on the "Mac" back in 66-68, as a CS3. Hope the hat you ordered, will call attention to another shipmate, **Bill Willett (OK)**, who also, lives in Broken Arrow. It would be great, if you two guys could get together...The family of the late **Walter Kellar (PA)** wrote to thank the McCaffery Staff, for all the great memories our newsletters provided for him. All our shipmates are like brothers to us, and we try to keep the memories of the McCaffery alive. Thanks for writing.....**Joseph McCaffery (GA)** nephew, of Col. Joseph Patrick McCaffery (our ships namesake), contacted me to order Mac hats. It seems the McCaffery Clan, was holding a family reunion in Detroit over the 4th of July. I certainly hope your reunion was a huge success. Joe requested, that he be added to our mailing list (which we will do by all means)!.....**Anthony Urbano (FL)** moved this past year from Alabama, to be closer to his grandchildren in Florida. Anthony, was my right hand man back in the early 80's, when we started to plan the first reunion. He's a real workhorse and refuses to retire, and is still in the machinery business. The Urbanos, hope to make the Buffalo reunion in 2006, and plan to include a trip to the "Falls", as they did on their honeymoon back in 1950.....

(Continued on page 6)



Taps.....

The following, is a list of shipmates who have died some time ago, and we learned of their passing just recently. Included, in this list also, are a few who died this year. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families. If you know of a shipmate who is ill, hospitalized or recently deceased, please notify us, so that we can respond in an appropriate manner.

Alexandrowicz, G.	51	Mixer, Roland	56-58
Bride, Jack	66-67	Overfield, Wm.	49
Buzak, Joseph	52	Pacholski, Vincent	47-48
Current, David	45-47*	Pantle, Walter	47
Elias, John	69-70	Pikey, Michael	70
Evens, Allen	45*	Priokletti, F. W. Jr.	46-47
Fournier, Duval,	46-48	Rozell, Leaun	46-47
Huyck, Frank	45*	Tate, Wadus	66-69
Kellar, Walter	45*	Wageley, John	68-69
Kohr, John	57-59	Waller, Jerry	58-61

* Plank Owner

Reup

The McCaffery was in Hong Kong Harbor in February 1973. I have a picture of a swabby on deck, in dress blues, shipping over. Skipper Sam Coulbourn is administering the oath and XO Bill Glover is the witness., with Hong Kong in the background. I would like to locate the sailor, to give him the picture.

(Bill Maslak)

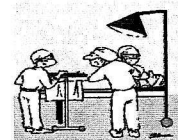
Navy Slang

Reefer - refrigeration ship carrying frozen foods.

Sea Lawyer - an argumentive, cantankerous old sailor.

Goat Locker - Lounge or galley for the exclusive use of Chief Petty Officers.

Bulkhead Remover - an in-joke, shared by veteran sailors and often delegated, as a task to new sailors, as in "Go get me a can of bulkhead remover".



WWII Sailor Honored

This past February, the Navy honored a former Pharmacist's Mate, with a Commendation Medal, more than 60 years after he saved a young sailors' life, by performing an emergency appendectomy, aboard a submarine, during WWII.

Wheeler Lipes performed the surgery in 1942, with his patient stretched out on a dining table, as their sub lay submerged 120 ft beneath the Pacific Ocean. Lipes was 23 when he performed the surgery on Darrel Dean Rector, aboard the USS Seadragon. Rector was too tall to lay on the table, so a cabinet was opened, and Lipes put the patient's feet in the drawer. He used makeshift instrumentsbent spoons for retractors, alcohol from torpedoes for sterilization and hemostats for knife handles to hold the blade. They wore sterilized pajamas, in place of operating room gowns.

Rector was back on duty in 13 days. Unfortunately, he died two years later aboard another sub the USS Tang, when the Tang fired her torpedoes and they circled back and struck their sub.

After 60 years, Lipes was awarded the Medal of Commendation from the Navy. Among the 100 people who attended the ceremony, was a former shipmate from the USS Seadragon. The two hadn't seen or spoken to each other, since the war. Lipes who is battling pancreatic cancer, retired in 2002, after a long career as a hospital administrator.

Did it happen??

McCaffery was anchored in Da Nang Harbor 12 and 13 December 1972. As related to me, "while below deck, I heard the clang of metal on metal, then footsteps running. Later, single footsteps returning. There was an explosion. Someone said, that a handgrenade had been thrown onto the deck". Can anyone add to this incident?

Bill Maslak



Newsletter Donations

Since our last newsletter, the following shipmates have sent in donations, so that we can continue to send you the "Mighty Mac" Newsletter. Thanks guys, it really helps. At present, our mailing list is over 1,200, and that adds up to a lot of postage. If you haven't made a donation, please consider doing so. As I have mentioned previously, we have no annual dues or membership fees, so all donations are truly appreciated and are used only for the publication of the McCaffery Newsletter.

Achorn, Richard*	45-46	Flynn, Eugene	56-58	Markward, Harold	53--56	Salafia, Anthony	52-57
Adgent, Robert	62-63	Fulks, Tex	50-54	May, John	51-54	Serie, Robert	66-68
Amrhein, Richard	53-54	Gehers, Ron	62-64	McCaffery, Joe(Nephew)		Stoltenberg, G	50-54
Astarita, Ralph	51	Giles, David*	45	Mogensen, Carl	52-54	Steiner, James	58-62
Barnes, Ernie	49-52	Goodrich, Joseph	62-65	Moore, Donald	55-56	Strickland, M.	66-68
Berube, Wilfred	55	Grady, Leonard*	45-46	Norris, Gilmer	63-64	Waits, Clarence	46-49
Blessman, Don*	45-47	Griffith, Alan	71-72	Oar, Ross	68-60	Wright, Dave	54-56
Brown, Stephen	63-66	Harker, William	61-65	O'Rourke, Loren*	45-46	Urbano, Anthony	53-55
Cernava, John	65-67	Jankoski, Peter	60	Overfield, Don	50-52	Anonymous - - - - -	
Davis, Robert	51-53	Johnson, Kenneth	53-54	Parrish, Jerry	64-68	* denotes plankowner	
Donatiello, Nick	57-59	LaChance, Fred	72-73	Romano, Mike	55-56		

(cont'd from page 4)

"Mail Bag"

Don Blessman (IL) and his lovely wife Joyce, seem to be always traveling. This year, Don said they plan to take a three week trip, traveling thru the Northwest States. This will include, Mr. Rushmore, Crazy Horse and thru the Dakotas. The Blessmans, have relatives in White Rock, Canada, and are hoping to meet up with them in Montana or Idaho for a visit. Have a great adventure!.....**John May (IL)** hopes to make the next reunion in Buffalo. John stated, that the reunions they have attended were great. John said, that his wife Pat, is limited on traveling, due to her health, but they will try to make it. Hope to see you both in 2006!.....Just recently recieved and email from **Ken Farrell (FL)**, informing us that he and his wife Eileen, will be moving into their new home shortly. They lost everything during Hurricane Charlie, and are just getting back to normal. The best of luck to you in your new home!..... **Carl Mogensen (WI)**, was wearing his McCaffery shirt and hat at a craft fair in his little town of Elkhorn, and while stopping to view the Veteran's Memorial Booth, a fella came up to him to shake his hand and said, that he too served on the McCaffery, during the early 70's. Carl said, "he was amazed to meet **Norman Heiser**, a former Mac shipmate, right here in his little town". To quote Carl; "It certainly is a small world"!.....and last, but not least,.....without sounding like I'm tooting my own horn, (I) your editor, celebrated my 70th birthday on July 3rd. My family gave me a party, and 85 people came to help me celebrate, right here in Spotswood. Good food, good music and great people, made it an enjoyable time for all. Thanks to my wife June, for planning one terrific party, that I'll remember for a long time. So you see, turning 70 isn't so bad after all!!!!.....



"USS Indianapolis" 60 Years Later!

Survivors of one of the final Naval tragedies of WWII, gathered this July, to honor hundreds of shipmates from the USS Indianapolis, who were killed when their ship was torpedoed, leaving hundreds of sailors adrift on the Pacific Ocean, amid circling sharks.

The ship had sped 5,000 miles across the Pacific in ten days, to deliver key components of the atomic- bomb, to Tinian Island, that would be dropped on Hiroshima. After it left Tinian, it was struck during the night of July 30th, by two torpedoes fired by a Japanese sub. The ship sank within minutes, with about 300 men trapped inside. The others were thrown into the sea. More than four days later, barely a quarter of the crew of 1,197, came out of the water, with enough strength to survive.

It's mission was so secret, - the crew did not know the cargo - that the Indianapolis sailed alone, not escorted by ships better equipped to detect and fight Japanese submarines. Because of the missions secrecy, no one else knew what had happened. Blast injuries, shark attacks, drowning, dehydration, and delirium, killed many of the sailors, before the crew of an anti-submarine plane, accidentally spotted them and radioed for help.

Approximately sixty survivors held a reunion, in Indianapolis honoring their fallen shipmates. Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England was part of the service and memorial. Of the 317 survivors, just 93 are still alive. The Commander of the Indianapolis, Capt. Charles McVey III, was court-martialed, for not sailing a zigzag course to evade submarines. His men believed he was made a scape goat.. In 2000, 32 years after McVey committed suicide, Congress passed an Act clearing his name.



From the Desk of.....Bill Maslak!

Lost and Found

I have a medallion that was found on the beach, by a British citizen in the (village of Walberswick), Suffolk, England, in 1981. (She kept it for 20 years.) Walberswick, is on the East Coast of England. The McCaffery, was in Europe in 1969 and visited several cities in England at the time, (not Walberswick). The medallion is about the size of a fifty cent piece. The Navy emblem is on the front and a silhouette of a destroyer is on the back, with the name USS McCaffery DD-860. The medallion is made of brass, with raised silhouette and lettering, with a black (worn) background. It probably was lost, because the bale is broken off. I would like to return it to the owner.

Our Navy.....Then and Now!

- Then** - If you left the ship, it was in Blues or Whites. Even in home port.
- Now** - The only time you wear Blues or Whites is for ceremonies.
- Then** - Mail took weeks to come to the ship.
- Now** - Everytime you get near land, everyone is topside, trying to use their cell phone.
- Then** - The ships Office yeoman had a typewriter on his desk for daily reports.
- Now** - Everyone has a computer, with Internet access and they wonder why, no work is getting done.
- Then** - You wore a dixie cup all day with every uniform.
- Now** - It's not required and you have a choice of different hats.