



Station Ship News



DING DING . . . DING DING . . . ALL CREW ARRIVING . . . ABOVE AND BELOW DECKS
. . . IN THE AIR, AT SEA AND IN PORT . . . DING DING . . . DING DING

The Veterans' Veteran

At age 94 and counting, **John Cantor** is the senior veteran among us, and he has an amazing story to tell. If Hollywood made a movie based on his life, it would have to be Parts 1 through 3, at least, to capture it all.

John joined the Naval Reserve in 1934, went on active duty a year later, and by the time Midway was launched just after World War II, he'd already served in the Navy for a decade.



**John Cantor - Chief Warrant Officer, S-1 Division
USS Midway, 1950-53**

Spared heavy action in WWII, John still saw his share. "In 1941, my ship, the USS Moffitt (DD-362), was on convoy duty out of Portland, Maine, and Newfoundland, and we were dropping our depth charges on U-Boats long before December 7th," he remembers.

Okay, John, now you've got our attention. *You were in WWII even before America entered the war.*

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1917 and raised in Detroit, Michigan, John's 30-year Navy career was off the charts from the beginning. He held so many jobs, ranks and ratings during the course of those 30 years it's enough to make your head spin.

Along the way, he was a Chief Storekeeper, an Ensign, a Lieutenant Junior Grade, a Chief Warrant Officer, and about everything else in-between in This Man's Navy, it

seems. And while most enlisted men leave boot camp as Seaman Apprentices, due to a technicality, John graduate as a Seaman 2nd Class (Great Lakes, 1936). Probably a USN first!

His Midway tour was from 1951-53, during which time he made two Med cruises. He was the Chief Warrant Officer in S-1 Division. "I was responsible for ordering all the general stores, electronics and spare parts for the machinery when we went on the Med cruises, and not once did we need an urgent air shipment," he says with considerable pride.

He has many memories of his three years on Midway, like the time the ship hit and "sank" a whale somewhere in the Atlantic.

Then there was the "incident" in Barcelona. "Someone turned on the sprinkler system in Hangar Bay 1 as we were having a ladies dance party," he recalls. "They all got soaked. Then to top it off the seas got rough and the ladies had to stay aboard until the next morning. Many junior officers had to give up their bunks."

Some of John's Midway memories are painful. "One of the planes landing on the flight deck went through the Davis Barrier taking several planes off the bow of the flight deck into the Atlantic Ocean," he remembers. "We lost four pilots that day."

He also recalls the time Midway was underway one night on a course to Guantanamo and a Marine jumped over the side. "The Lord was with him as he was located by searchlights and rescued," John tells. "I think he was put in the booby hatch."

In addition to Midway John served on USS Altair (AD-11), the aforementioned USS Moffett, USS Ajax (AR-6), USS Jason (AR-8), and USS Lenawee (APA-195). His shore duty, too numerous to recount here, ranged from Naples to Guam to Newfoundland to Virginia and beyond.

John retired from the Navy in 1965 as a Chief Warrant Officer-4. His last duty station was at the Nuclear Weapons Training Center, NAS North Island, Coronado, San Diego, where he served as Logistics Officer. After he was discharged from the Navy, John and his wife Lois made San Diego their permanent home.

They've been married for 70 years and are understandably proud of the life they have made together and their many children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, not to mention their two Yorkies.

John attended our 2010 reunion in San Diego and liked what he saw. "I have an everlasting good impression of the reunion," he says. "Everyone was so cordial and pleasant. My only regret is that I haven't met any Supply people from my years on Midway."

"I guess I can attribute my activity at this age to good genes, walking my Yorkies each morning, and my faith in the LORD," he concludes.

Happy 95th birthday in a month or so from your Midway shipmates, John. You are an inspiration to us all!



John and Lois Cantor have been married 70 years

President's Report

Men, we all entered into adulthood when we volunteered for service to this great country. We provided that service for 1 year or 4 years or 20 years – with the full understanding that what we were giving was all that we had to give. It was all about the adventure and the world. It was never about reunions and friendships and camaraderie and wives and families. It was about us – sailors – heroes – legends.

As we matured into the sailors and marines that we were to become, the value of our service started to surface. We made new friends! We visited new places! We learned new skills! We became the collection of individuals who today we acknowledge as the USS Midway Veterans Association.

These team members all went their separate ways when their service commitments were completed – but with a whole new outlook on life. The sailors, the heroes, the legends – turned out to be the friends, the buddies, the shipmates that we would eventually scour the country for in search of 'one more sea story'!

This is what the MVA is all about! It's the best vehicle we have available to reconnect with our friends, our buddies, our shipmates – it's the venue for telling those sea stories that no-one gets tired of hearing and everyone loves to tell.

The Midway Veterans Association exists for you. We're a microcosm of the USS Midway Museum, and while we don't get a million visitors to our website every year, fact is that every person who reaches out to the Association gets a response from us – and hopefully signs on as a new member.

And that gets me to the crux of my message for this edition of the Association Newsletter – MVA needs your support to reach out to your Midway Veteran friends, buddies, shipmates and get them engaged with all of us. It's a \$20 bill once a year that supports everything we do, including planning for that next reunion. In addition, it provides funds to support the Midway Museum's Education and Scholarship program to the tune of 20% or our member's annual donations.

Incidentally, if you haven't sent us your annual dues, take the next few minutes to write out that check payable to the USS Midway Veterans Association and slip it in the mail. You'll be amazed at what the return on that investment will get you.

Thanks to all of my friends, buddies, and shipmates that support the MVA. It won't happen without you!

Fair winds and following seas, Gentlemen. See you in DC this fall!

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association

VP-Reunions' Report

In just a little over 7 months, the Midway Veterans Association will be gathering in Washington, DC to hold its biannual reunion; the dates are September 20–22, 2012. While there are still lots and lots of details to wrap-up, things are already coming together very nicely. A big item was checked-off when we selected the reunion hotel, the Crowne Plaza – Tysons Corner. This is the same hotel chain we used for our last reunion in San Diego, and I believe them to be very military reunion friendly. Not only do they offer a very attractive \$95 room rate, they are also extending a 15% discount for all food and drink purchased at the hotel for MVA reunion attendees. The further good news is that this rate is offered for three days before and three days after the reunion for those of you want to spend more time in the Washington, DC area. I encourage you to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible, especially if you want to extend your stay; options for making reservations are shown at the bottom of this report. We're also working with the hotel banquet staff to set menus and make Hospitality Suite arrangements. On your behalf, I have al-

ready attended a beer-tasting event to decide what to put in our Keg-o-rator, and a food-tasting for our reunion banquet (feast) is being scheduled soon. It's tough duty, Mates, but someone has to do it. Tours will be a large part of our activities on Thursday (military memorials in WDC) and Friday (Annapolis). Shipmate **Charles Girolamo** and I have been in touch with local tour operators to get detailed proposals for evaluation. We do not have firm pricing yet, but the early information indicates we can get reasonable rates for what we want to see and do. There are many places to visit in our nation's capital, so we may have other sightseeing options to offer as well.

The really hard part about this part of planning a reunion is not knowing how many people will be attending, because numbers will drive the cost of everything we do. If you are planning on joining us, you can help out by reserving your hotel room soon or letting me know that you are putting the reunion on your schedule. It really makes a difference when I tell the hotel and tour people that our group is going to be 200 strong instead of, say, 50. There is bargaining strength in numbers! All this preparation work will result in the reunion registration form being ready for distribution in the May timeframe. At this time, you will be able to see everything we have planned for the reunion, and the cost associated with each activity. Once this work is all done, we can then concentrate on the hundreds of small details that make for a successful reunion—but that is material for later reports. **I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN WASHINGTON, DC IN SEPTEMBER.**

HOTEL RESERVATIONS (mention the USS Midway Veterans Association)—call 888-233-9527 (national reservation center) or 703-893-2100 (direct to the hotel) or go on the web:

https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=8120537&utm_source=55620&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=10404222

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association

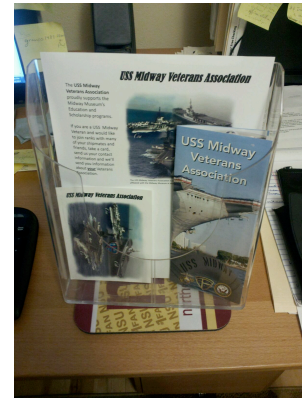


2012 MVA Reunion Logo – “The Lone Sailor”

New Member

Norman Nadeau (53-54) of New Bedford, MA, has joined our ranks since the last newsletter. Like us, he sailed the high seas on Midway. Welcome aboard, Norman!

MVA Marketing Literature Display Holder Set for Quarterdeck Duty



With the support of the Midway Museum, MVA's marketing literature display holder (pictured above) will soon be in place on Midway Museum's Quarterdeck, at the Veteran's logbook station there. The display holder is designed to hold our recruiting material (postcards and trifold brochure) and attract the attention of non-MVA Midway Veterans checking onboard – providing us with an opportunity to sign them up!

Application for Recognition of Exemption Filed by MVA

We completed an Application for Exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Form 1023) and submitted it to the IRS on February 16, 2012. If approved by the IRS – and we have no reason to believe that it won't be – MVA will become a tax-exempt organization, entitled to all the benefits and advantages thereof.

Achieving this tax-exempt status from the IRS means that the MVA members will qualify for a charitable deduction for their annual membership fees (dues) as well for the individual donations they make to the Midway Museum's education and scholarship program.

We owe a special thanks to shipmate **Robert Srabian** (a CPA in civilian life and a LTJG in the Ops Dept. on Midway 63-66) and **Mina Jo Payson** (wife of MVA Secretary-Treasurer Dave Payson) for their hard work and patience in putting together this complicated application as they worked their way through a flight-deck length of red tape in order to come up with the correct solutions and examples requested in the instructions, dotting every “i” and crossing every “t” along the way.

