



Station Ship News



D.C. 2012 – A Capital Success!

The Admiral and Friends



(L to R) MVA President **Oscar Granger**; Keynote Speaker **RADM "Gar" Wright**; VP-Reunions **Jim Hayter**; Secretary-Treasurer **Dave Payson** (Picture taken at the Grand Banquet, third night)

The Day Before (September 19, 2012)

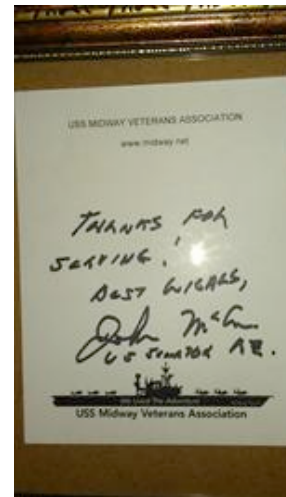
Finally the much-ballyhooed reunion of the USS Midway Veterans Association was about to get underway, and, as stated in earlier promotion material for this event, MidwayVeterans and families converged on the nation's capital like lobbyists at a political convention, though in a much more civil and orderly fashion, of course.

A day early, reunion leaders and their families had set up station at the reunion hotel, Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner in McLean, VA, and began the important business of making ready for the reunion. Grocery runs to Costco, the "stuffing" of registration packets with tour and dinner tickets, name badges and other USN trinkets, and working with hotel staff to make things right—all of that and more was accomplished.

Something else quite remarkable took place this night before the reunion as the hospitality suite filled with early arrivals. Before our eyes, Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, morphed into Robert Preston's Harold Hill from "Music Man" and commenced working the room, selling raffle tickets for a fund-raising effort to raise money for the USS Midway Museum's education/scholarship program. Everyone quickly got into the

spirit of the effort, recognizing it for it was: a worthy cause for our ship, a thing of beauty!

So the day before the reunion was in the books, that is, things were put mostly in order before the reunion kicked into high gear tomorrow. Come what may, we would be ready.



Senator John McCain, R-AZ, thanked Midway Veterans for their service on this page of our newly minted "ship's note paper." (Shipmate **Robert Srabian** (63-66), traveling back to LA on the same flight as the Senator following the reunion, managed to get this note from him.)

Day 1 – "The Memorials" (Sept. 20, 2012)

If you build it, they will come – and come they did on this first day of the reunion. By 0915, in accordance with the POD (Plan of the Day, a famous Navy acronym you'll be hearing a lot in this report), Midway Veterans and families gathered in the lobby to load on the bus for the first day's tour of Military Memorials.

National Mall

By 0930, a full bus-load of us were underway for the National Mall and its colossal marble and granite memorials, monuments and buildings. For the next few hours

we toured the Vietnam, WWII, Korea, and many other military memorials on the Mall that recognize the Defenders of our Freedom. The other iconic monuments there, such as the Washington Monument and the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, sprawled before us on this picture-perfect morning.



WWII Memorial – Washington DC Mall

Navy Memorial/Ceremonial Guard

Following the tour of the military monuments on the National Mall, we bused to the Ronald Reagan Building, ate lunch in its cafeteria, then headed on to the US Navy Memorial in downtown DC for a very special ceremony in our honor performed by a unit of the Navy’s Ceremonial Guard. It was the highlight of the day’s tour. Opening remarks by MVA President Oscar Granger and a prayer by our minister, Ray Bettis, were followed by a presentation of the colors by the Guard, as they saluted us. And there in prominent location, stood the Lone Sailor statue, the symbol of this reunion. It was a humbling experience to be honored in this way, and a high spirit of patriotism and pride carried us through the day and remained with us for the balance of the reunion – and beyond!



President **Oscar Granger**, with Ceremonial Guardsman standing tall, leads us at the Navy Memorial Ceremony



Ceremonial Guard present colors after MVA ceremony at the Navy Memorial. In center are our wreath and Lone Sailor statue.

Welcome Reception/Hospitality Suite

Eventually the first day of touring came to an end, and the bus returned us to the hotel. Soon most of our veterans and their guests found their way to the hospitality suite, featuring a two-tap Keg-o-Rater and plenty of good chow. But food and beverages were only part of the show. The telling of sea stories and sharing memories carried the evening. The attendees had found their second wind.

Next, in accordance with the POD, it was time for the Welcome Reception in the Hotel Courtyard, and the party moved outside. “Passed Hors D’ Oeuvres served with a cash bar available,” the POD read. We commingled in the dusky Virginia evening, swapping sea stories, and rekindling old friendships, until darkness settled in like a soft blanket. Okay, so it wasn’t exactly a scene out of “The Great Gatsby,” but it was, after all, a gathering of “bird-farm” sailors and their mates, not of English socialites.

Following the Welcome Reception, it didn’t take long for activities to pick up again in the hospitality suite. Evidently, the sea stories were so compelling they deserved to be told and retold. The rack could wait. But would these hardy veterans, many of whom were on Midway in the fifties and some even before then, be up for early reveille the next morning to make the 0900 departure to the Naval Academy? Did they have the right stuff to make muster?

Day 2 – “The Yard” (Sept. 21, 2012)

The “right stuff” question was answered quickly on the morning of Day 2 – not a problem! The POD called for attendees to assemble at 0845 in the lobby, and there they were, assembled and eager to board the two buses that would take them to the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland, or, “the Yard,” as it is informally called. Their body language and words said it plainly enough, “let’s get the show on the road!”

Naval Academy/"The Yard"

Right on schedule, at 0900, we headed for Annapolis and the Yard, creeping along through Virginia's morning traffic at a snail's pace before entering D.C.'s infamous Beltway, and then, a little farther down the highway, Maryland. Welcome to the land of compressed humanity, where DC and two states can be reached in a stretch of 20 miles.



Navy Midshipmen form up at the Naval Academy to march to lunch while spectators, including MVA reunion attendees look on

After we rolled into Annapolis, our first stop at the Yard was the base souvenir store, where all things Navy and Naval Academy could be purchased. We stimulated the sluggish economy by buying merchandise for our kids and grandkids, and then were ushered into a small theatre where we met our two guides, both retired Navy captains and Naval Academy graduates, and watched a movie on the Academy, past and present. So this is how the steel of our naval leaders is forged!

The Yard's historic buildings and impressive landscape did not disappoint, though we were there on a day when the Yard was crowded with Plebes, Midshipman, and visitors. Several of the classes were holding class reunions, which was a huge attraction, of course. Our first stop at the Yard was at the historic Naval Chapel, a non-denominational cathedral of worship of profound beauty and diversity, rich in visual treasures, such as incredibly ornamental and colorful stained glass windows and etched marble and granite pillars and tablets.

Following our tour of the Naval Chapel, we watched (along with several hundred other spectators), the Brigade of Midshipmen emerge from their classrooms and form up and march to lunch accompanied by a Navy band, a long-standing tradition at the Academy. It was tough to see over the taller people in front, but it was one of those events you *experienced* as well as saw. Very impressive! And the Midshipmen, oh my, they looked so young!

Between attractions at the Yard, we stopped at the Battle of Midway Memorial and took group photos. How appropriate that was – members of the Midway Veterans

Association assembled before the plaque commemorating the pivotal WWII battle after which their ship was named.

Lunch at the Drydock Restaurant proved to be very competitive, for the restaurant's cavernous cafeteria was jammed packed with Plebes, Midshipmen, camp followers, etc., who like us were there for lunch, all arriving simultaneously at the same point, or so it seemed. Fortunately we had pre-ordered our meals, and they were waiting for us once we found our designated eating area within the restaurant. Famished, we consumed turkey, ham, and roast beef sandwiches as if we'd been lost at sea for a month and had survived only by clinging to a life boat and eating flying fish that we snatched from mid-air! The fact that this lunch came together under extremely tight time constraints and crowded conditions, we owe to the superior planning and coordinating skills of two people: Nancie Wysong Moyer of the Drydock Restaurant, and our own man, plankowner Charles Girolamo.

Harbor Queen Boat Tour

Following lunch, many of us took a boat cruise on the sparkling waters of Chesapeake Bay, or at least its estuaries. Our vessel, *Harbor Queen*, knew her way around these waters and navigated the harbor with confidence. An impressive body of water this Chesapeake – and, as sailors again on an almost full ocean, we kept a keen eye on the horizon for potential dangers, as well as the vessels around us, most of which were under sail and we determined to pose no threat. Finally relaxed, we exchanged sea stories among ourselves and any civilians who appeared even remotely interested. Indeed, it was good to be at sea again!



MVA members and family members pose in front of Battle of Midway Memorial on the grounds of the Yard

Historic Annapolis

Before leaving Annapolis, we were treated by a Colonial re-enactor, a lady dressed in the clothes of the period, who came aboard our bus, and, guiding the bus driver through town, told us interesting tidbits about Colonial history while pointing out some of historic homes along

our route. This lady said one thing that particularly tickled both the ladies and the guys on the tour. It was, she said, acceptable for the women of that time to show cleavage but not their elbows. (And from this point on, as you can well imagine, the guys spent a fair amount of time checking out the gals' elbows.) We made one more stop in Annapolis before heading back: at the WWII Veteran's Memorial there, still one more impressive memorial in a land of impressive memorials. That night, back at the hotel after spending the better part of the day at the Yard and cruising the Bay, we enjoyed some downtime in the hospitality suite, telling our mostly true stories, and participating in the selling of the fund-raising raffle tickets by Jim Hayter (they were going fast!), and reflecting on some of the finer points of the day. The life of a veteran sailor is never easy!

The Dinner That Didn't Happen

One final report on this day. In accordance with the POD, a special dinner was set to be thrown for us by the hotel restaurant, Tuscan Grille. But it didn't happen because of a scheduling conflict (a wedding party had already been booked). As payback, the restaurant donated a couple hundred chicken wings and side-snacks for our cause, and served them in our hospitality suite. Our reunion revelers were having so much fun they barely noticed the change in plans, scarfing down the free food in record time in-between the telling of their stories without complaint.

Had the Tuscan Grille dinner happened as planned, we had the following dinner titles ready to add to its menu (all in good fun, of course):

- ◆Launch & Recover Lunch ◆Mess Cook Mash
- ◆Monkey Meat on a Stick ◆Jet Jockey Jerky
- ◆Green Around the Gills Gravy ◆Semper Fi Pie

Hence Day 2 drew to an end. It had been another long and eventful day, but the sea stories and Keg-o-Rater finally tapped out, and everyone hit the rack to regenerate. Tomorrow was the last day of the reunion and there was a lot on our plate, commencing with the business meeting at 0900. According to the POD.

Day 3 – Arlington National Cemetery/ “Grand Banquet” (Sept. 22, 2012)

Business Meeting

Per the POD, the general business meeting commenced shortly after 0900, with 52 members and several spouses and guests in attendance. The meeting, which followed the procedures of the Newly Revised Roberts Rules of Orders, was called to order by President Oscar Granger. Executive Board members Jim Hayter (VP Reunions) and Dave Payson (Secretary-Treasurer/Newsletter) also made ready to report on their business areas. It was

made known that one board position, Vice President of Administration, was vacant, and members were asked to consider applying for the position. None did.

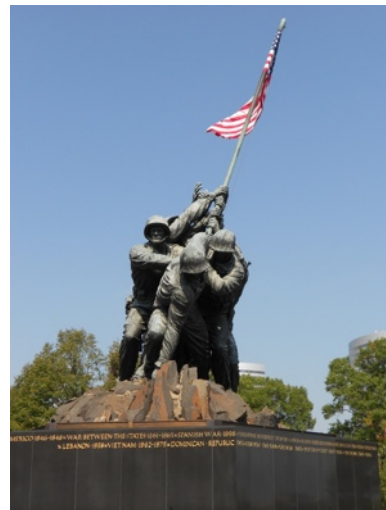
After much discussion, members voted on future reunion sites and raising the amount of our annual dues. Jim, for his part, discussed the reunion planning process, and it was agreed by members that the Board should look into the use of reunion planners to help plan future reunions. Jim was applauded for his hard work on the reunions and presented with a Midway jacket by Oscar.

Next, Dave and his wife, Mina Jo, presented MVA's financial report, and shipmate Bob Srabian, a CPA, gave an overview on nonprofit organizations. Earlier this year, MVA had applied to the IRS to become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; news on this application is expected soon from the IRS, as they are working through a backlog of applications.

Members present amended three MVA bylaws that are bound to change the course of things to come: (1) annual dues were increased from \$20.00 to \$30.00; (2) the frequency of reunions was changed from every other year to every year; and (3) the location of reunions was changed to every other year in San Diego, commencing in San Diego in 2013.

The meeting was conducted in an orderly and bipartisan manner. That is, the left side of the aisle got along just fine with the right side of the aisle, something that rarely happens in this town.

At about 1125, Oscar adjourned the meeting, and the men (sea lawyers all!), their work done, were freed to move about the hotel, to prepare for the next item on the POD: the tour of Arlington National Cemetery.



U.S. Marine Memorial – Raising the Flag at Iwo Jima

Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), perhaps this nation's most hallowed ground, didn't disappoint. Our

members and families made two separate bus tours to ANC, each about equally divided in number of attendees; the first bus went at 1200, the second at 1330.

The first major attraction our members visited at ANC – and perhaps the most awesome – was the Marine Memorial (located just outside the cemetery grounds proper). This is an iconic sculpture done on an incredible scale of our Marines raising the American flag at Iwo Jima, one of WWII’s famous island battles.

Following the stop at the Marine Memorial, we were on our own for the tour the cemetery grounds, either on foot or via the Grey Line tram. There was much to see, and we branched out and spent time at the Kennedy Family gravesite, Audie Murphy’s grave, and the Changing of the Guard Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns, just to mention a few of the stops at the National Cemetery.

But perhaps the most memorable (and solemn) sight that will forever stay with us were the fields of white grave markers marking the dead from the various wars that our country has fought. Seeing the grave markers laid out like that drives it all home, knowing these soldiers sacrificed it all for us and the country; you can’t adequately describe it by words or pictures.

On this day, then, the reunion attendees knew they were seeing something special at our country’s national cemetery, the hallowed ground where so many who gave their lives for us are buried. It was probably the last time that many of them would have to visit this hallowed ground, and they made the most of it.

Ahead was the Grand Banquet, the Grand Finale on the schedule – and it had all the makings of the greatest feast and program ever at one of these ship’s reunions!



The solemn grave markers at Arlington National Cemetery – we owe them our freedom and liberty!

Grand Banquet

There came a time at this reunion of the USS Midway Veterans Association in Washington, D.C., that you had to shake your head in wonder at what was transpiring before your very eyes. And that time was now! For at the end of three days of almost nonstop activities, here

they were again, not looking a bit worn out or partied out. No, they still looked plenty energized to honor a ship that many of them hadn’t served on in over fifty years. They looked like they were ready for more, and just so, for the Grand Banquet program had something for everyone, including a Flag Admiral as the keynote speaker, a drawing for two flags flown over Midway, the culmination of the charity raffle to raise money for the USS Midway Museum’s scholarship program, with Jim Hayter at the helm pitching raffle tickets as he’d been



The President and the Admiral striking up a Grand Banquet pose before reunion dinner

doing the entire reunion. And don’t forget a great meal, with a dessert that was to die for.

The evening started with the formal pictures of the banqueters, taken by Craig Harper, normally our Webmaster but pressed into duty to cover the scene photographically. Rarely have so many good-looking and smartly attired people been assembled under one roof! Craig was assisted in this photo work by Turner Mann, normally our Membership Committee chair but also pressed into duty. (See many of Craig and Turner’s pictures in the photo section on our website.)

Order of sorts was established and the program was commenced. President Oscar Granger got things rolling, thanking everyone for attending the reunion and for their hard work and being on their best behavior. (He didn’t say it out loud, but he was thinking it: *Not bad for a bunch of old Sea Dogs!*)

Next up, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Payson led in the Pledge to Allegiance, and with that dinner was underway. Or as they say, *served*. There have been no complaints lodged about that dinner, before, during or since. It was delicious in the *extremes*, especially that dessert! (Hats off to the Crowne Plaza’s Executive Chef and the entire banquet staff!)

Following dinner Capt. (ret.) Andrew “Andy” Perez introduced our keynote speaker, Rear Admiral Garland “Gar” Wright, who honored us by giving the keynote speech, talking about today’s, scaled-down but super-intelligent navy. Fittingly, ours was his penultimate

speaking engagement before retiring (bringing to an end his long and illustrious career) at the end of September 2012. His timing, as well as ours, couldn't have been better!

“Gar” described to us how the modern navy, greatly reduced in ship numbers but automated with high-tech weapons and systems, can hold its own in the future. Though the fleet's no longer there in numbers, the sailors and officers are better educated, skilled and trained to run the show. Interesting stuff it was from this Flag officer who began his career as co-captain and All-



RADM “Gar” Wright delivering the keynote speech

American of the 1977 Naval Academy's National Championship sailing team and ended it as the deputy director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency. He deserved the thunderous ovation we gave him at the conclusion of his talk. Not only did he receive this ovation, but Oscar presented him with a jacket sporting our monogrammed 3-ship Midway patch over the left pocket and his nickname “Gar” over the right.

Then it was time for the drawing for the two American flags flown over the USS Midway Museum, each with a certificate signed by RADM Mac McLaughlin, President and CEO of the USS Midway Museum. All members present had put their names in a bowl, and RADM “Gar” Wright drew the names of two winners, from the bowl: Doug Owens and Herb Choy. Also at this point, the Admiral recognized the one plankowner present, Charles Girolamo (45-46). Charles received a standing ovation.

The banquet program was winding down. The last activity scheduled on the POD was to pick the raffle winners and determine how much “ship's money” we had raised for the USS Midway Museum's scholarship fund over the course of the reunion. Right on cue, then, front and center, Jim Hayter, Ticket-Maestro, commenced that phase of the program, reading the winning ticket numbers and working the room, much to the delight of the banqueters, who listened intently for the ticket numbers,



Mina Jo Payson and Elaine Sensenig collect members' names for the drawing of the two American flags flown over Midway

hoping for a winner. Someone yelled Bingo! when his winning number was read, which drew a good laugh from the banqueters. Then, finally, with the raffle prizes claimed and the money raised for the museum, it was time to close the show and wrap things up. As the song goes, “Turn Out the Lights the Party's Over.”



But hold on just a gall darn minute! as Festus on “Gun-smoke” used to say. Something else was happening in the banquet hall. RADM Wright stepped forward and presented two Challenge Coins to the youngest and oldest sailors in the room. The former to the aforementioned plankowner Charles Girolamo; the latter to Chase Granger, in the Navy for just one year. (*Chase is shown receiving his coin from RADM Wright in the photo above*). Behind Chase, dad can be seen beaming proudly from the stage, it might be noted. The crowd cheered mightily. *That* was it, then. The party – the reunion – was officially over. Turn out the lights! Everyone go home. Yes indeed, it was a great one!

(None of the stuff in the above paragraph was in the POD.)

See you in San Diego next year, Amigos!



Karen Granger and the RADM at Grand Banquet finale

President's Report

"I never cease to be amazed at how we're able to keep our stories straight – even after all these years of telling and retelling them. Some of them even have an element of truth, but most still fall in the category of the "Sea Story"! Regardless, they are the essence of what constitutes a navy reunion and without all those "memories" to share, our reunions would probably compare with your local church social.

"WDC 12 was an event you were proud to be a part of! The location in the nation's capital is as exciting and vibrant a venue as you can find anywhere, and our Reunion Planning group, with guidance from our own Jim Hayter, did an awesome job of organizing events for all 3 days. The survey results from the members who attended the reunion scored it about 99% "on the money" in all the survey categories – a strong message as we dig into the planning for San Diego 2013 (SD 13).

"The wreath-laying ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial and the Grand Banquet were stellar Navy events. The former featured the Navy's Ceremonial Guard parading the colors for us at the Navy Memorial, and the latter Rear Admiral "Gar" Wright's great speech at our dinner. It just couldn't have been put together any better. The weather was totally cooperative for all 3 days and the most contentious thing we had to deal with was the normal Washington, DC traffic as we tried to keep ourselves on schedule. When the reunion was all over with, we could honestly say that it was the best of the best.

"We've already started the planning for the next reunion, to be held in San Diego around the same timeframe. We're working with the U.S. Midway Museum at this time to lock in dates toward the end of September or early October. As soon as we get them locked, we'll be notifying everyone so you can get your calendar set for SD 13. You'll remember from the 2010 reunion when Admiral McLaughlin let us know that the Museum would be working closely with us for the next reunion at the ship. We're going to move ahead with the plan for the Grand Banquet on the flight deck!

"We're making a big push to attract more Midway Veterans into joining the USS Midway Veterans Association and to get as many of them as we can talk to interested enough to want to participate in SD 13. Seeing our guys faces light up as they see shipmates and friends they haven't seen in decades makes everything we're doing worthwhile. Talk to your buddies and shipmates and let them know how important it is to all of us that they stay in touch. We're all we've got when it comes to maintaining the Midway Magic – it's something that we created and we have to work to keep it alive.

"All Ahead full, Shipmates. SD 13 is on the horizon!"

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association

The Raffle Results

Thanks to the generosity of the reunion attendees who supported this fund-raising event, the USS Midway Veterans Association raised \$500.00 for the USS Midway Museum's scholarship fund through this raffle! By the time this newsletter hit the stands, we had mailed a check for that amount to the USS Midway Museum (c/o Ari Petersen, Vice President of Development), and Ari had returned the museum's official tax letter to us, documenting and thanking us for our donation.

VP-Reunions' Report

"And didn't we have a grand three days in Washington, DC! From my standpoint, everything went almost exactly as planned (which is almost unheard of), and the glitches were minor. I have reviewed the survey forms you left as you were leaving, and I think it is fair to say you agreed that MVA hit the target for this reunion. I'll have much more on surveys later in this newsletter. Yes, all the planning is important for making a reunion a success, but the real test is the personal interactions that take place during the reunion, and everyone made that part of WDC 12 a big success as well.

"After a short time to decompress from our Washington reunion, the initial planning for San Diego 2013 (SD 13) is already underway. I am not ready to make a formal announcement yet, but we have dates in late September in mind and we are working with vendors to get facility availability and preliminary cost data for bringing the MVA back to our homeport. For those of you who have attended previous reunions of our group in San Diego, get ready for some big changes. I am looking at changing the hotel that has served so well over the years in order to get us closer to the USS Midway Museum and also closer to the activities and attractions in the heart of downtown San Diego.



Jim Hayter with wife Pamm. Jim takes a break from pitching raffle tickets to reunion attendees in his relentless effort to raise money for the USS Midway Museum's scholarship program. Shifty as a riverboat gambler, he rarely slowed down from his appointed task. Pamm just rolled her eyes when asked if he was like that at home.

“Speaking of big changes, how about this one, what if we change the location of our Grand Banquet from a stuffy hotel dining room to a very, very large, gray floating restaurant? Notice I didn't say which one, and who knows, McDonald's may have a gray floating restaurant somewhere in San Diego Bay to attract all those free-spending sailors based in San Diego. Once I have a chance to evaluate the proposals I have requested, we will broadcast the preliminary details of SD 13 to all our members and followers, so you can carve the dates in stone in your September 2013 calendar. One other thing to think about, and again nothing has been confirmed yet, is that we may cut down on the tours a bit, and try to do a collaborative project with the USS Midway Museum. One of the guiding principles of SD 13 is that we want to be sure that we give all attendees plenty of face time on the USS Midway Museum, so we can remember those exciting days when we all did our various jobs to keep her at the tip of the spear.

“Much more to follow as things start falling into place. Now I need your help. If anyone is interested in helping plan and execute SD 13 raise your hand and volunteer – forget what they told you in the Navy about volunteering, putting a reunion together and successfully pulling it off is fun. I especially need people in the San Diego, or Southern California, area to be my “boots on the ground” team, but all help, wherever you live is greatly appreciated; it's amazing what you can accomplish by telephone and e-mail. I have contacted some reunion planning companies to see how they can help us, but we know San Diego pretty well, so this time we will probably use only parts of their services. The other thing you can do starting right now is tell your former shipmates about SD 13. I have boldly told vendors that I expect 150 people to attend this reunion – that's a 50% increase in the number we had at WDC 12. The more people we have, the more clout we have in negotiating rates, and the more attention people will pay

to MVA when we contact them. Dig-out those old cruise books, and start calling people to spread the word. SEE YOU IN SAN DIEGO!!!”

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association

The Four Horsemen Ride Again

Let it be said right up front here that the four Midway Veterans or, “The Four Horsemen,” as we call them in this article, were all officers and gentlemen aboard the Midway. And as far as we know, they still are – gentlemen, that is.

They showed up at the reunion ready for fun, and fun they had, as did their their lovely wives – Nancy (“Nan”), Ann (“an Alabama girl”), Mary, and Cathie. (Wives' names match up to their husbands L to R in the photo below.)



The “Four Horsemen” together again—(L to R) **J. Ray Gayle, Bruce Nyman, Lee Rhodes, Allan Ryan**

We suspected these Midway veterans and their wives would bring plenty of excitement and enthusiasm to the reunion, and they didn't disappoint. Best friends through thick and thin, they hadn't all been together since 1963 at J. Ray's wedding. They had a lot of catching up to do!

Here's the roll call:

Lee Rhodes (61-64), a Deck and Fox Division Officer and an OOD underway on Midway, put it this way: “We all have the same wives over all the almost 50 years, so that must count for something.” Oh, it counts all right, Lee, though we haven't been able to add it up! Lee was the only one of the Horsemen who stayed in the Navy, retiring from the Naval Reserve in 1982 as a Commander. He and Ann live in Lebanon, PA.

J. Ray Gayle (62-64), a Legal Officer and a Navigation Officer and the navigator during sea detail on Midway, just might have been the leader of this pack. A retired judge who spent 30 years on the bench, he at least tried to keep this bunch on an even course. He was the officer we all counted on to find our way in and out of the harbor and to find that distant port somewhere over the

horizon. We gave him “bum skinny” at least once during the registration process, telling him we’d heard he’d canceled his reunion attendance. For a while there, we had J. Ray so confused that he didn’t know whether he was coming or going. This is not a good thing for a former navigator of an aircraft carrier. But he knew where he was when he said this: “We have not all been together at once since Nan and my wedding in 1963, so this reunion was a special occasion.” We all found our bearings with those words from J. Ray. He and Nan live in Angleton, TX.

Bruce Nyman (61-63), a Division Officer in R Division on Midway, said, “We didn’t do anything on the Midway as a foursome because we had different duty days, but we stayed close friends,” citing their attending J. Ray and Nan’s 1963 wedding as an example. “The reunion was great. I didn’t know what to expect, but it far exceeded expectations.” Bruce is a retired insurance agent and teacher supply store manager. He and Mary live in Overland Park, KS.

Last but not least among this crew is *Allan Ryan (62-64)*, a CIC Officer who served on Midway with his brother, an SA assigned to the Captain’s office. Allan shared this story with us about J. Ray: “J. Ray was given the name of ‘Gator’ since in our first deployment – as soon as the ship arrived in Hong Kong he immediately left the ship and purchased a pair of alligator shoes. He still to this date wears ‘gators’ at every important function including the reunion this year.” Allan works as a consultant with electronic manufacturing companies in the Midwest. Allan and Cathie live in Chicago.

(Editor’s note: “Gator’s” shoes aren’t shown in the photo above, but now we know why the lights blinked off and on every time he walked into the room – it was his alligator shoes and that orange tie!)

So “the Four Horsemen” (of the Midway) got a chance to ride again at the DC reunion, and we hope they’ll have many more chances at future reunions. They were a great bunch!

We do have one request, though. “Gator,” can you do something about those alligator shoes and orange tie you wore at the reunion? The Crowne Plaza contacted us recently and wanted to know why their electricity bill shot up during our reunion!

Manny & The Pope

A lot of water has passed under the flight deck since Emanuel “Manny” Voeltz and Ron Pope last saw each other – 52 years’ worth, in fact.

“Manny & the Pope” were shipmates and buddies on Midway from 1958-60. Fellow Electrician’s Mates, they worked in the power shop deep in the bowels of the ship. They were both so excited about the reunion, they could barely contain themselves, experiencing something akin to “Channel Fever” before the reunion.



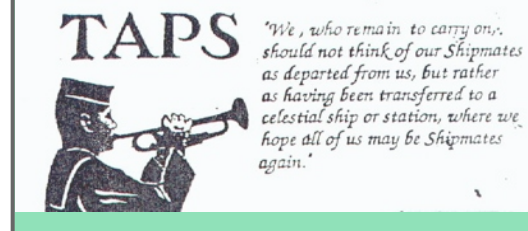
Emanuel “Manny” Voeltz and Ron Pope, Midway shipmates and buddies for life, meet again after 52 years at the DC reunion

“Lone Sailors” at the reunion they may have been, but not so back home. Manny lives in Madison, WS, is married to Marnette (31 years), has two sons (one who was on Midway for 10 years – sounds like MVA material!) and six grandchildren. Ron lives in Plano, TX, is married to Nancy (33 years) and has one stepson (by Nancy’s first marriage) and four grandchildren and four great-children by his first marriage.

In Memoriam

Shipmate Ron Bovelle, 57, Havertown, PA, passed away September 21, 2012. An Airman in V-3 Division, he served on Midway from 1972–75. He planned to attend the DC reunion, but his health prevented him from traveling. Our prayers and condolences go out to his widow Joanne Bovelle.

Shipmate Steven Ellis, 43, Keene, NH, passed away September 23, 2012. He served on Midway during her Gulf War deployment.



Following their Navy service, Manny and Ron went their separate ways, each having long civilian careers, Manny at “Ma Bell” and Ron in the “Grocery Business.” Also, Ron joined the Naval Reserve and served several more years, retiring the equivalent of a Supply Chief. (This included a stint with a SeaBee unit, on the supply side.)

These two E-Division EMs shared the same berthing quarters, worked in Midway’s power shop, and sometimes were a twosome on liberty on the two West-Pac cruises they made together.

“As Ron has said, we were good friends all the time we served on the Midway, and we will remain good friends till death do us apart,” Manny said.

Although this was the first time they had seen each other in person in over a half century, they’ve stayed in touch via phone, internet, e-mail, and Facebook, as so many of us have reunited these days via the social media.

Each was asked to recount a Midway story. Ron went first. “I spent my ‘duty watches’ in the after-steering compartment where I learned to spit shine shoes during those lonely 4 hours, so I became the Go-To-Guy for a good ‘liberty or inspection spit shine,’ and found that I could do about six pair during one 4-hour watch (\$ 3.00 PER SHINE). I branched out later after finding a friend in the laundry area (who was running a ‘slush fund’ there) that I could use the steam press (for a cut of my take) when I was off-duty to press Uniform Blues and wrinkled Whites for guys . . . \$ 3.00 and \$5.00 dollars a pair. That is why the MVA’s Chaplin Ray Bettis recognized me at the reunion, as he remembered when I would come down to the SH Division areas to use the steam presses . . . I was just beginning my life career as a “salesman.”

Manny added his own lighter moment of life on Midway: “There were a few times when we’d catch someone snoozing we’d load up his hand with shaving cream and then tickle his nose. The shaving cream would really splatter!”

“Manny & the Pope” at DC 12 . . . Buddies to the core. USS Midway shipmates to the end . . . Priceless!

“Earth Angel’s” Prayer Request

Editor’s note: *The wife of our Chaplain Ray Bettis, Barbara Bettis, aka “Earth Angel,” is a very special person and a guiding light in her own right who keeps Chaplain Ray on the straight and narrow, should he deviate. Barb left us with this Prayer Request at the reunion, which we agreed to publish in this newsletter, which we do here without reservation.*

Prayer Request

I have a prayer request. There’s a lady I’ve known forever. She’s very sick. On top of that, she’s being abused by those to whom she has given everything. Lies about her abound, and seem to come from all sides. Just breaks my heart. Seems there’s nothing I can do alone. But maybe, if we join in and lift her up together we can heal her. She’s well over 200 years old, but way too young to die.



Her name is: “America” and I love her.

MVA Shirts and CV Hats Available

A limited supply of Tee shirts , Polo shirts, and CV-41 and CVB-41 hats are left over from the WDC 12 and SD 10 reunions. If you’re interested, contact Dave Payson, and he’ll coordinate the transaction on a first-come, first-serve basis. Prices are \$15/shirt or hat, plus \$3.50 shipping. Check with Dave for availability first, then make check payable to USS Midway Veterans Association and mail to Dave at 410 Cottonwood Drive, Richland, WA 99352.

In addition to shirts and caps, more memorabilia will be available at the San Diego reunion next September. We’ll post an inventory in the near future.

TEE SHIRTS - WDC 12

- 2 Blue M
- 3 Ice Grey M
- 6 Ice Grey XL
- 2 Ice Grey 2XL

POLOs - SD 10

- 1 Blue XL
- 2 Grey XL

HATs

- 1 CVB-41
- 5 CV-41

New Men

The following USS Midway Veterans have joined our association since the last newsletter:

- Robert Shed (45-46) - Boynton Beach, FL
- John Silk (65-66) - Milford, OH
- Charlie Bolton (47-50) Winston-Salem, NC
- Kenneth Radek (63-66) - Omak, WA
- Lee Rhodes (61-64) - Lebanon, PA
- John Seiden - (83-85) - Alexandria, VA
- Darrell Lindsey (54-55) - Salt Lake City, UT
- Frank Morgera (54-55) - Sacramento, CA

Welcome aboard, Men, for our own special brand of Midway Magic!

Photo Credits:

- ◆ Craig Harper ◆ Turner Mann ◆ Dick Remington ◆ Ron Pope ◆ Sandy Burk ◆ Mina Jo Payson

To view and download reunion images (jpg files), go to our website (web address next page); ◆ click on side-link **2012 Reunion Photos**; photos are organized under two topic areas: ◆ **Dinner** ◆ **DC Area Photos**.

If you have reunion photos you want to share, email to editor Dave Payson or webmaster Craig Harper (email addresses for both on last page in “The Masthead”), and they will make sure your photos get posted.

Important Notice!

YOU CAN BEAT CITY HALL! As we've been advertising, men, **pay your dues before 31 January 2013 and save \$10!** Members at the DC reunion voted to increase annual dues from \$20 to \$30, effective 1 Feb. 2013. Until that date, make your \$20 check payable to the USS Midway Veterans Association and mail to David Payson, 410 Cottonwood Drive, Richland, WA 99352. Your dues are the lifeblood of our operation. We appreciate your support!



Order Midway/USN memorabilia at:
USS Midway Museum online store:
<http://enssc.com/?store=502>

USS Midway Veterans Assoc. Website
<http://ussmidway.net/home.html>





**The Masthead
USS Midway
Veterans Association**

A newsletter serving USN veterans who served aboard USS Midway, and who are friends eternal.

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Electronic Newsletter Service

Have your newsletter delivered directly to your computer electronically and save printing and mailing expenses. To be added to the "launch list," send the editor an email at minandave@charter.net.



USS Midway Veterans Association

(Design by Rose Zanders)