



# Station Ship News



DING DING . . . DING DING . . . SHIP'S CREW ARRIVING . . . ABOVE AND BELOW DECKS  
IN THE AIR, AT SEA AND IN PORT . . . DING DING . . . DING DING

## Pensacola Here We Come!

Save the dates, shipmates: April 25th-27th, 2016. That's when "Midway Nation" will converge on Pensacola, Florida, to hold its next reunion. The USS Midway Veterans Association (MVA) is proud to host this reunion in Pensacola, a Navy town if there ever was one! Plan to arrive with family and guests a day early (Sunday, April 24th) in order to be ready for the tours and activities that kick-off bright and early on the next day.



Most of the information you need – hotel, registration, tours, activities – has been sent to you previously. So let the registration begin! Working with our reunion planning company, Gatherings Plus (GP), last December, we launched an "all-points" E-blast (broadcast e-mail) to some 430 Midway veterans.

This E-blast was specially bundled with the key electronic forms described below.

The link below takes you to our special customized reunion homepage, with instructions on how to register for the reunion.

<https://reunionpro.com/sponsors/uss-midway-veterans-association>  
Open link, scroll down to **registration form (RF)** and **itinerary** links (both shown in red font). Here you'll also find a list of attendees and a photo gallery featuring pics from previous MVA reunions. Open, print and complete the RF, then mail it along with your check to GP. GP's mailing address is provided on the RF. For those of you who don't have e-mail service, we have snail-mailed you the reunion forms, in line with the following MVA policy: *we leave no members behind.*

### Other important details to keep in mind as we count down the days until the reunion:

- ◆ The negotiated hotel rate of \$119/n ends Mar. 24, 2016
- ◆ A 50% down payment is requested by Feb. 24, with final payment due by Mar. 24, when registration ends
- ◆ Refunds on cancellations after April 17 will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- ◆ You can register by credit card, but you have to do so by phone (phone # is provided on the RF), and there is a 4% processing fee.

Note: links for MVA's website and Facebook pages are provided on the last page of this newsletter.

## Midway Veterans Honor USS Midway at Plaque Ceremony in Nation's Capital Ceremony at U.S. Navy Memorial



U.S. Navy Memorial's Paul Haley (Director of Planned Giving) and Jim Hayter, MVA's VP of Reunions, point to newly installed Midway plaque on Memorial's Plaque Wall

**Editor's Note:** On 18 December 2015, a representative group of USS Midway Veterans gathered at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., to honor the Midway with a commemorative plaque. The plaque, purchased and donated by the MVA, was permanently installed on the memorial's Plaque Wall at the ceremony. Jim Hayter, MVA's Vice President of Reunions, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Below is Jim's recount of the event.

All photos in this article courtesy of Jeff Malet Photography

**18 December 2015** was a great day to be at the United States Navy Memorial on historic Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. This is such a special place for all of us who have served in the sea services, as the exhibits and displays pay tribute to all Navy men and women, past and present. **Robert Wolf, LTjg, 82-85, tolls the bell as each deceased Midway veteran's name is read at plaque ceremony** The reason this day stands out so much



for USS Midway veterans is that our ship was honored to join over 500 ships, squadrons, and individuals recognized  
SEE PLAQUE, PAGE 2

FROM PAGE 1, PLAQUE on the Memorial's Commemorative Plaque Wall. When MVA found out about this program, we quickly determined it was definitely time to spotlight the USS Midway and her 47 years of exemplary

service to our country. **Charles Girolamo, FC (right), member of Midway's 1945 commissioning crew**



The Navy Memorial folks, Paul Haley and AV Specialist Walter Thomas, are old

hands at this and guided us all along the way from plaque design to our formal Dedication Ceremony on this cool day in December. I was joined by over 25 Midway veterans and their friends who served aboard in all different years and in different specialties on the USS Midway. Although only a few of us knew other people there, it didn't take long for our common bond of service to kick in and reunite us as shipmates once again. The ceremony went well and



**Midway Veterans from all years honor Midway at plaque ceremony**

we did the old girl proud by giving her this long overdue recognition.

When you visit the Navy Memorial you can find her plaque at the top of panel 34, right next to the USS Forrestal (CVA-59) and the USS Bradley (DE-1041), or search the plaque wall online at [www.navymemorial.org](http://www.navymemorial.org). Too bad all Midway veterans couldn't have been there with us on 12/18/2015 to participate. But wait! You can see it all in pictures and video on our website. Have a great Navy day!

**Jim Hayter, MVA VP-Reunions**

SEE PLAQUE, PAGE 3

### Call for 2016 Dues!

**Shipmates:** The time has come to collect our 2016 dues. We request that you send in your payment by the end of **Feb. 2016**. Help us continue our world-class reunions and providing you with the best newsletters, memorabilia, etc. in the retired fleet. Plus you get a cool MVA membership card! (**Note:** this message does not apply to Lifetime members, 1945 plankowners, honorary members (e.g., widows of deceased Midway veterans), those who have paid in advance, or those who pay as part of the reunion registration process.

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- ◆ \$30.00/yr for veteran + spouse/partner
- ◆ \$50.00/yr for veteran and family
- ◆ \$150.00 Lifetime (one-time payment)

Make check payable to **Midway Veterans Association** and mail to Dave Payson @ 410 Cottonwood Dr., Richland, WA 99352.

**Correction to Jan. 9 Call for Dues Notice:** 2016 dues collected during the current campaign are considered paid through Jan. of 2017.

If you have questions about your dues, please contact Dave Payson at the email/phone # below and he'll let you know.

email: [minandave@charter.net](mailto:minandave@charter.net); ph: (509 946-0810)

### A Day in a Young Sailor's Life

#### President Truman's Visit Aboard USS Missouri (BB 63)

by Richard Remington, FA MM1/M Div., 1948-53

Early on a Saturday morning (December 4, 1948), the Engineering Department aboard the Midway was awakened and ordered to light off the main engines (no easy task aboard an aircraft carrier) in preparations for getting under way. After lighting fires in the designated boilers, raising vacuum on the main condenser, and warming up the main turbines, we were ready to answer all bells. We were ready to go, but had nowhere to go. As it turned out, the harbor tugs moved the Midway 300 feet forward on pier #7 to allow the USS Williamsburg (the President's yacht) to get behind us. Once moved, we then had to go through the motions of shutting down the engineering plant. Again, shutting down an engineering plant isn't like parking your automobile and turning off the engine. Once the engineering plant was shut down and the in-port watch was set, we all thought that was it. Seems that was only the beginning. A good many of the sailors aboard Midway had no idea what was happening at the time; it didn't take too long to find out. One problem, every day (including weekends) there's a "Plan of the Day" posted letting everyone know what was happening on a particular day. There was nothing in the POD for 4 December 1948 that mentioned what was happening this morning. At about 0900 we were all told to get into our dress blue uniforms and go to assigned stations on the flight deck to man the rail. Keep in mind that this was the 4th of December; the weather was

what you might expect in December – cold, drizzly and breezy. And, oh yes, we found out why we were up there; the USS Williamsburg pulled in behind Midway with the President and his party aboard. **Richard Remington (right), aboard Midway '48-'53, was a machinist mate first class.** Seems that someone with an extra \$10,000.00 was giving a silver service set to the “Mighty Mo” and President Truman was doing the honors. Thus we were manning the rail to render honors to the President of the United States. And, sure enough, soon after the Williamsburg tied up, the President, typically waving his Stenson, was walking down the pier on his way to board the Missouri. What a day! To say the least, December 4, 1948, was a day to remember; getting to see the President, his yacht, and to listen to his speech (mostly about the Mighty Mo). As might be expected, the President didn't stay too long and by noontime we were back to our normal routine. For a young sailor, it was good getting to see the President up close.



## Close Encounters of the Midway Kind

**USS Midway**, circa early 2004, docked in Oakland, Ca., rusted and weathered after a decade in the mothball fleet at Bremerton, WA. She was on her way to San Diego to become a museum ship when Oscar Granger ran across her (photo courtesy of Oscar Granger).



In early 2004, while on a business trip to Oakland, Ca., Oscar Granger, who is now MVA President, came upon an amazing sight as he was driving through town to another destination. There, docked at the Charles P. Howard Terminal, looming before him like, well, like a mighty aircraft carrier, was the USS Midway, the very ship Oscar had served on as a young sailor in the early 1960s. Quite by coincidence, he had come across his old ship in Oakland. It was a serendipitous moment for him, to say the least.

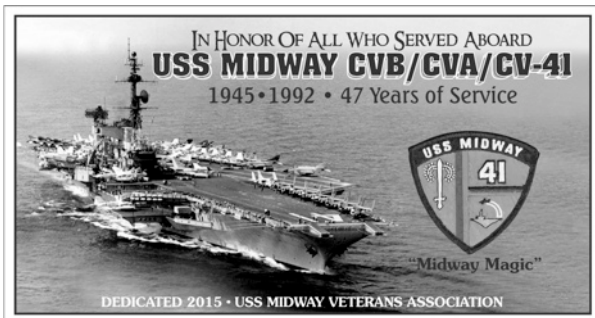
FROM PAGE 2, PLAQUE



Courtesy of Jeff Malet Photography

**“When I got close,” Oscar remembered, “I was dumbfounded to see the Midway as she was being refurbished before being towed to San Diego. She was on her way from the mothball fleet in Bremerton to her Museum destiny in San Diego. I talked to the engineer at the site and he allowed me to go aboard, and that’s when I snapped these pictures.”**

Prior to Oscar's surprising encounter with Midway in Oakland, she had spent the past decade rusting away in the cold, saline waters of Puget Sound, at the Inactive Naval Ship Maintenance Facility in Bremerton, Wa. Going back even further in the ship's timeline, Midway wouldn't even have been in Oakland for Oscar to run across if a San Diego-based group that included many loyal Midway veterans hadn't won a 10-year battle to save her from the “mothball fleet” where she had languished all those years in Bremerton. But there she was in Oakland – “tugged” (towed) from Bremerton and undergoing “external refurbishment” while waiting to be towed the rest of the way down the coast to San Diego, where they were working on Navy Pier, getting it ready for her. Oscar, not one to miss this chance opportunity to visit his old ship in this unlikely context, found the responsible site engineer, talked his way aboard, and took the rare photos of Midway you see here and on our website.



The rest of the story, as they say, is history. Following Oscar's visit, Midway completed her journey to San Diego, arriving on the morning of Jan. 4, 2004. As we all know, she has gone on to become a world-class museum ship there, attracting a million-plus visitors a year. Visitors keep coming, and they consistently give the highest praise for their Midway experience: **Spectacular!** Once given up for dead, the Midway has made an amazing comeback. And to say that we, her veterans, are a vital part of her story is as true as true can be.



**Oscar Granger** stands in Midway's Combat Information Center amid a collection of vintage radar equipment in Oakland, Cal., in 2004, when Midway was en route to San Diego from the mothball fleet in Bremerton, Wa., to become a museum ship. As a radarman aboard Midway in the early 60s, this was familiar turf for Oscar, although this radar room was considerably different than the one he worked in (photo courtesy of Oscar Granger).

To view Oscar's rare photos of Midway in Oakland in 2004, including the two shown here, visit MVA's website. Go to bottom link and click on "Pictures of the Ship," hover over, then click "Before."

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### Active Duty USN Ships and Submarines, By Class

The current number of combat and auxiliary ships and submarines in the United States Navy is down from previous years, but is still a lethal force. Follow the link below to see how our modern navy stacks up.

[http://www.raytheon.com/capabilities/rtnwcm/groups/ids/documents/content/rtn\\_242005.pdf](http://www.raytheon.com/capabilities/rtnwcm/groups/ids/documents/content/rtn_242005.pdf)

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### Operation Frequent Wind Veterans Unite at SD15

Pictured here at MVA's 2015 reunion in San Diego are five Midway veterans who shared in the experience of helping rescue more than three thousand South Vietnamese fleeing from the invading NVA army on that infamous day (19 April 1975) known as the Fall of Saigon.



**L to R:** LTjg Bill Lindman (Deck Dept, 1st & 4th Divisions), LT Craig Walsh (Air Dept APO), LTjg John Morgan (OPS), LTjg Hans Quitmeyer (Engineering Dept, B Division), LTjg Fred Lydic, Engineering Dept, R & B Divisions

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**Pensacola Reunion T-shirt:** *Breakaway! – The Angels Climb High*

(Note: the body in this T-shirt does come with a head.)

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### Order Your MVA Memorabilia Here!

Check out MVA's custom line of memorabilia – Nick Danger episodes, vests, challenge coins, decals, patches, lapel pins, CVB & CVA-41 caps – on MVA's website. Follow the link below to browse the only Midway/MVA memorabilia available on the planet. See ordering and purchasing instructions on the site.

<http://ussmidway.net/mvashipsstore.html>

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### Nick Danger USB Memory Sticks Sold Here!

USB Memory Stick loaded with the complete episodes of Nick Danger in the Indian Ocean, Gonzo Station, 1979-80, USS Midway, authored by J.R. Reddig

With your purchase of \$20 (includes shipping and handling), you are not only making a donation to the USS Midway Museum's charitable programs, you are also buying an important piece of Midway history for yourself!

Make check payable to MVA and mail to Dave Payson, 410 Cottonwood Dr., Richland, WA 99352

**But Wait! There's More. You will also receive a cool lanyard and silver shipping box with your memory stick free of charge!**



**Nick Danger is still on the case and his memory sticks are still available. Order one now for a good cause** – \$20/for hours of fun reading as you follow Nick Danger's misadventures on Gonzo Station during Midway's 1979 and 1980 cruises in the Indian Ocean. **All proceeds go to the USS Midway Museum's charitable programs.** (For full ad open memorabilia link on previous page and see first ad.)

### New Men

The following USS Midway Veterans have joined the proud ranks of the Midway Veterans Association since our last newsletter. **Welcome aboard, Men, for our own special brand of Midway Magic!**

James Wise (71-73) - Medford, OR

Richard Baker (85-88) - Columbia City, IN

Peter Greenhalgh (78-80) - Buffalo, NY

Charles Keating (70-71) - Dayton, WA

Bill Lovejoy (45-46) - Brevard, NC

Ronald Griffiee (62-64) - Rockford, MI

Gregory Schuller (76-78) - Pensacola, FL

Larry Jones (63-64) - Kansas City, MO

**MVA's end-of-year donation beats deadline, worth twice the money!** On Dec. 29th, 2015, the USS Midway Museum received MVA's donation of **\$1,820.00**, representing twenty percent of the dues we collected from members during 2015. The money, actually **\$3,640.00** after it was doubled by the museum, was divided equally between the museum's General Education Fund and Preservation Fund. Once again, we thank our members for their generosity. As the Midway Museum put it in its acknowledgement letter: "Thank you again for always answering our call for support, and we hope to see you aboard soon." **Norma Nicolls, Director of Major Gifts, USS Midway Museum**

### In Memoriam

**CAPT Ronald E. "Mugs" McKeown, USN (Ret)**, 76, passed away Nov. 21, 2015, after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's Disease. Arguably Midway's most famous fighter pilot, Mugs was an extraordinarily leader. In 1972, while leading a squadron of Midway F-4 Phantom Jets, Mugs, along with his RIO and best friend, Jack Ensich, shot down two MIG-17s on a single combat air patrol in the skies above Hanoi. For this feat, Mugs and Ensich were awarded the Navy Cross. After Mugs left Midway, he became the first commanding officer of TOPGUN. His combat record boasted 440 combat missions in Southeast Asia and 997 carrier landings. Mugs was laid to rest Dec. 9, 2015, at Miramar National Cemetery with hundreds in attendance from across the country to pay their last respects. Mugs is survived by his wife of 54 years, Lauree, two daughters, and two granddaughters. May he rest in peace.

**Pete Dunn**, 58, passed away October 7, 2015. He lived in Milford, Ohio. Born August 14, 1957, he served on Midway from 1974 to 1978 as a BT3 in B Division. Pete is survived by two daughters and one son. May he rest in peace.

### TAPS



*"We, who remain to carry on, should not think of our Shipmates as departed from us, but rather as having been transferred to a celestial ship or station, where we hope all of us may be Shipmates again."*



Photo courtesy of Jeff Malet Photography

**Jim Hayter** stands proud before a giant projection of the USS Midway plaque – at USS Navy Memorial plaque dedication ceremony, Washington, D.C.



**Notice:** We post our organization's roster on our website only with the permission of our members. If you don't want your contact information published, let us know and we'll remove it.

As awarded by the IRS, the MVA is a 501 (c)(19) nonprofit organization whose members are entitled to full tax deductibility for their donations and contributions.

*USS Midway Veterans Association Web Site*  
<http://ussmidway.net/home.html>

*USS Midway Veterans Association Facebook*  
<http://www.facebook.com/USSMidwayVeteransAssociation>

### **The Masthead USS Midway Veterans Association**

A quarterly newsletter for USN and USMC Veterans who served aboard the USS Midway, and who are friends eternal.

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