



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



Dinner on the flight deck at MVA's 2017 reunion. No one left the ship hungry or bored after this event.

A Magical Night Aboard Midway

We are proud to announce that the **September 11-13, 2017**, USS Midway reunion hosted by the USS Midway Veterans Association (MVA), in San Diego, lived up to its top billing and then some. With the Grand Banquet held on the flight deck of the USS Midway Museum, it was an event to behold. We honored America's POWs and MIAs, our three eras of plankowners, including those from Midway's commissioning crew, and WWII veterans, and enjoyed a great keynote address by RADM Mac McLaughlin, USN (Ret.), president and CEO of the USS Midway Museum. The tours and events for the three days were entertaining and well received, and about two dozen Midway veterans discovered the MVA for the first time and joined our ranks.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Reunion of Midway-Class Carriers Announced

Plans were announced to hold a Reunion of Midway-Class aircraft carriers in 2019 (date TBD), bringing together the veterans from the three great ships in the class: Midway, Coral Sea and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"We've been talking about a way to unite the crews of these three great aircraft carriers for some time," said **MVA President Oscar Granger**, and earlier this year we made firm contact with the presidents of the Coral Sea and FDR associations and saw how excited they were about the idea. So we decided to go for it."

The focal point of the 2019 Midway-Class reunion will be the USS Midway, since she's the only ship of the class still "afloat." Stay tuned for more information on this upcoming reunion as planning goes forward. Much more to follow!

Let the Grand Banquet Begin!

The Grand Banquet got underway at about 1830 on a typically beautiful fall evening in San Diego, just the way we drew it up. A soft breeze wafted in off the bay as some 330 veterans, family members and guests relaxed at their tables on the flight deck of the USS Midway. They were here to celebrate the sixth shipwide reunion of the USS Midway Veterans Association since its inception in 2010. Generally, at these reunions, we honor the ship and her veterans for their service, as well as welcome family members and guests onboard. We like to show off the “Old Gal,” of course, and who can blame us? When we served on this ship, none of us had even the slightest inkling that we’d be up here one day doing something like this: a banquet on the flight deck? You gotta be kidding!



Eager to get the show on the road, MVA President Oscar Granger, Master of Ceremony, got the banquet program underway

To lead off the formal program, MVA’s all-volunteer color guard posted the colors in smart fashion, and the banqueters sang the National Anthem with patriotic zeal. MVA’s **Tim Miller** led us in the Invocation, and, following Oscar’s introduction of the guests at the head table, including the MVA Board Members, we were rocking and rolling.



Looking quite smart, MVA’s Color Guard received high marks posting the colors. They couldn’t wait to volunteer!

Stand and be Recognized

Next, in what he calls the “Stand and Be Recognized” ceremony, **MVA Secretary/Treasurer Dave Payson** introduced the Plankowners from the three major eras of Midway’s history: 1945 (commissioning, shakedown), 1957 (angled deck added), and 1970 (extensive modernization of infrastructure and equipment). As the veterans of each of these eras stood and were recognized, they were greeted with loud applause and cheers from the banqueters. Payson concluded his part of the program by introducing a very special group of Midway veterans: the “senior-most of all,” represented by four Midway veterans age 90 and over, **Ronald D’Arcangelo, 90; Blake Smith, 90; Sid Friedlander, 98;** and MVA’s Elder Statesman, **John Cantor, 100**. All four of these men are MVA members.

POW/MIA Commemoration

Next it was time to honor our nation’s POWs and MIAs in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2017, which took place two days following our reunion.



Working with **Al and Merry Padilla (above)**, who head up the San Diego POW/MIA chapter, we did just that – honored five POWs and their guests in a ceremony that saw each POW stand and be recognized as Al read their stories of wartime imprisonment. His account of each POW was loudly applauded by the banqueters. It was a format that worked well. The POWs honored on this night included two child prisoners held by the Japanese during WWII, **Tom Crosby** and **Jorge Taitano**; two WWII USAAF pilots held by the Germans, **Ralph Kling** and **Jim Reily, Sr.**; and the former executive officer of the USS Pueblo, **Eddie Murphy**. (The ceremony also included a reading of the Missing Man Ceremony by Al Padilla.) The POW table is shown on the next page. Below that the POWs are pictured individually along with a brief description of their imprisonment.



POW table with most (but not all) POWs honored pictured



◆ **Tom Crosby** - Civilian child POW held by the Japanese in the Philippines from Dec. 1941 until Nov. 1944. Tom is a US Navy Veteran.

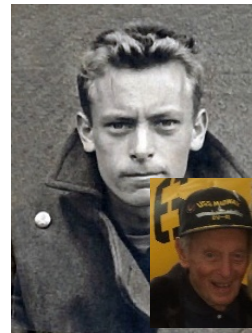
◆ **Jorge Taitano** - Civilian child held by the Japanese on Guam with this family, from Dec. 1941 until Nov. 1944. Jorge is a US Navy veteran.



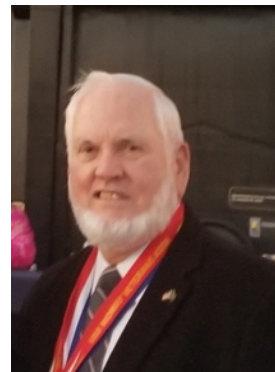
◆ **Ralph Kling** - USAAF WWII P-47 pilot, held prisoner by German forces, from Sept. 1944 until Apr. 1945.



◆ **Jim Reily, Sr.** - USAAF WWII P-51/P-47 pilot, held by German forces, from May 1944 until April 1945. Represented by son Jim Reily, Jr., Midway veteran and Capt., USN (Ret.)



◆ **Eddie Murphy** - Executive Officer of the USS Pueblo, captured by the North Koreans in international waters on Jan. 23, 1968.



Dinner Plus Dessert

Following the POW/MIA ceremony, the banqueters took out their belts a notch or two and enjoyed a many-course buffet dinner fit for a Fleet Admiral, and topped off by a totally decadent ice cream Sunday with oodles of toppings, in a great BIG bowl. There have been times at past reunions when the banqueters let it be known rather loudly that they didn't get dessert with their meal. This was not one of those times! Kudos to the catering company for preparing and serving us this thoroughly enjoyable meal. And kudos to **Jim Hayter, MVA's VP of Reunions**, who, from his perch on the dais, kept the banqueters in sync, by directing them when their tables could be released to join the "chow line," thereby saving us from potential chaos on the flight deck, not unlike an Air Boss bringing his planes in for safe landings on a choppy sea.

Admiral Mac Delivers Powerful Keynote Address

With dinner over, it was time to enjoy our keynote speaker, **RADM Mac McLaughlin, USN (Ret.)**, the President and CEO of the USS Midway Museum who is

a master at firing up the troops with his inspirational talks that leave veterans looking for the nearest Navy recruiter to re-up, seventy years old or not. Yes, he's that effective of a motivational speaker, and on this night he didn't disappoint the banqueters, delivering a strong pro-veteran message, like why isn't the country doing more for its veterans? Mac, not for the first time, brought us to our feet. There's a good reason Mac heads up the most popular ship museum in the world: Himself.



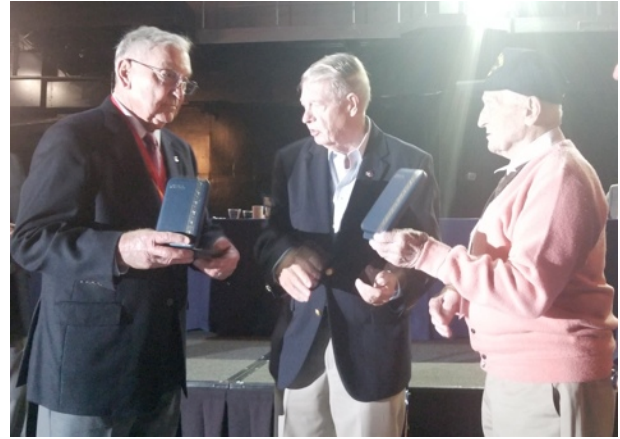
Ever-cool, RADM (Ret.) Mac McLaughlin delivered the keynote address to a flight deck full of Midway veterans, family members and guests as they cheered him on.

Honor to the Greatest Generation

Also on the night of this gala affair, special honors went to two veterans who served our country during the Second World War, **Ralph King** and **Ronald D'Arcangelo**. Each veteran was awarded the WWII Victory Medal by former Midway commanding officer (1985-87) **RADM Riley D. Mixson, USN (Ret.)**.

Ralph King spent two years in a German prison camp in WWII and was recognized earlier in the banquet program as one of the POWs. Ronald D'Arcangelo was also recognized earlier as one of four Midway commissioning crew Plankowners present at the reunion and for being one of three MVA members present who were age 90 (he was 90 then, 91 now) or older. Ron spent all of his WWII duty as a machinist mate in the engine room of the troop ship USS Orizaba (AP-24) during the Battle of the Pacific.

Admiral Mixson, who delivered the keynote address at MVA's 2013 reunion (our first on the flight deck), is a strong supporter of the USS Midway Museum, and he played a major role in bringing Midway to San Diego and getting her established as a ship museum. It was a great honor to have him participate in this reunion.



RADM (Ret.) Riley D. Mixson (center) presents WWII Victory Medals to Ralph King (left) and Ronald D'Arcangelo (right)

Gala Affair Winds Down with Bag of Prizes

With the banquet program fast winding down, it was time to wrap up the fund-raising activities that had been ongoing during the reunion, with the objective of raising money for the Midway Museum's charitable programs. The man who leads these efforts is Jim Hayter, aka "Magic Man," whose bag of tricks includes running contests, such as raffles, auctions, and drawings, which he pursues with boundless energy.

Navigating his way around the flight deck like a man possessed (which he sometimes seems to be), Hayter determined the winners of the various contests in play, usually by luck of the draw from his pool of lottery ticket winners. Winning the Lone Sailor statue was **David Denbow**; winning the two shadow boxes containing American flags flown over Midway were **Bob Bergevin** and **unidentified Midway veteran**; and **Roger Jewett** cast the winning bid for the magnum of California wine. Three other Midway veterans – **Richard Burzynski**, **Forrest Fifer**, **Danny Garcia** – won free dinners.

Tim Miller closed the banquet with the Benediction, and **Oscar Granger** gave the signal that we were done and that everyone could move freely about the flight deck, following the proper protocols of socializing on an aircraft carrier's flight deck, of course. Again, this night of celebrating on the flight deck of our old ship is something we would never have imagined back in the days when we crewed her.

Tours & Events

The three days of the reunion featured many tours and events, which were, for the most part, well received by those who signed up for them. Day One through Day Three reports follow.

Day One - those who took the *Balboa Park Tour* had a chance to see and explore one of the most beautiful parks on the West Coast, with its Spanish architecture and beautifully groomed grounds. The only down side was that we were there on a Monday and many of the museums were closed. For a cost of \$11/person and “free” transportation, attendees got a good deal.

Later in the day the *Welcome Reception* (see photo, below) in the Loma Vista Terrace at the hotel was a hit with attendees. We enjoyed an excellent variety of culinary delights in a beautiful setting, and had a chance to meet old acquaintances going back all the way to our service on Midway, in many cases, and to the previous reunion in others.



Day Two - it was early rise & shine to attend the *Meet & Greet* on the ship, hosted by the Midway Museum’s leadership team. They provided us with a generous amount of coffee and pastries, and Market-

ing Director Scott McGaugh (see photo, below) caught us up on the museum’s successes over the past year, while President & CEO Mac McLaughlin looked on. Museum Historian Karl Zingheim also explained the museum’s program to compile Midway veterans’ stories on audio and video.



Day Two attendees participated in either the *Seal Tour* or two optional tours, *San Diego Night Lights Tour* or the *Dinner Cruise on San Diego Bay*. These tours were well received, especially the dinner cruise, which was by far the most popular tour of the reunion; some 140 veterans and guests turning out for the dinner cruise.

Day Three - reunion tourists had a choice between “brew pub hopping” (the Brewery Tour) or visiting the historical *Hotel Del Coronado*; (see photo below). These were “Odd Couple” tours, for sure, but both were very entertaining. It must be said, however, that those who went on the Brewery Tour remember very little about it. Then, it was the grand event in the evening, the Grand Banquet.



“We’re Just Delighted to be Here”

Jim Hayter, 1960-63/RD2, OI Division

One of the things I like most about MVA reunions is you never know when you’re going to meet a brand new, and interesting person (in this case a couple). Here is my story about meeting Ron and Mary D’Arcangelo.



Ron and Mary D’Arcangelo stand before a Dauntless Dive Bomber (about the same vintage as Ron’s years on board) in Midway’s hangar bay

This all began six months before our San Diego 2017 reunion and was facilitated by the magic of the Internet. It started with a message that was sent to my MVA e-mail account from John D’Arcangelo telling me about his 90-year-old father, Ron, who was a “throttleman” on the commissioning crew of the USS Midway in 1945. I was already intrigued because being a “scope dope” in my Midway days, I had no idea what a “throttleman” was, or, for that matter, what they did. John went on to say Ron and his mother Mary really wanted to attend our reunion in San Diego but getting there from Boston presented a large problem for them. I wanted to help, but MVA does not have the resources to assist people traveling cross country to attend a reunion. The clincher for me was a video clip link attached to son John’s e-mail. It was a clip from a local TV station about a 90-year-old veteran who chased a thief who stole money from his VFW collection pot—yep, that was Ron!

Here is the rest of the story shown in the video. Ron didn’t chase down the thief, but a nearby policeman saw what was going on and arrested the guy. This is my fa-

vorite part. When the TV station interviewed Ron, he said, “It was no big deal,” and the (unsuccessful) thief said, “I don’t know what I was thinking. I am an idiot.”

So it quickly went through my mind: a WWII Navy man, a member of Midway’s 1945 commissioning crew, and a vet who had no business chasing a 23-year-old perp—that’s a guy who needs to be at our reunion. For the next few months, there were a lot of e-mails exchanged on how, or even if, we could assist. I called in some favors, and worked with some truly special people, and, thanks, perhaps, to the forces of Midway Magic, things all came together. Ron and Mary joined us in San Diego. Because I was so involved in getting them to SD17, I kept an eye on them. Did they need special assistance?—absolutely not. Was there anything I could do for them?—no thanks we’re just delighted to be here.

Ron and Mary are the embodiment of MVA reunions. People of different ages and different backgrounds, with little in common, start talking and in a very few minutes, you are like old friends. True story—at the Welcome Reception, Mary found me and wanted to buy me a drink, I said thank you very much, but no three times. But I learned something about Mary then—you do not tell her no. It was the best drink I had in San Diego. The highlight of all this was Ron receiving his well-earned WW II Victory Medal at the Grand Banquet. Best part—we were able to keep the secret, and he had no idea he was going to be recognized for his service, so it was truly a special moment. The last I saw of this pair was them heading for the airport. I hope to see them again at our Midway Class Reunion in San Diego in 2019.

When I phoned Ron to clarify a few details on this story, he summed up his and his wife’s reunion experience far better than I ever could: *“Mary and I had a wonderful time at the reunion, and we’re grateful we had the opportunity to attend. Being awarded the WWII Victory Medal by a former Midway commanding officer was one of the greatest honors of my life. This reunion was the first time I had been on Midway since I left her in 1946, and it’s an experience I’ll never forget. I loved the ship then when I served on her as a machinist mate, and I love her now, maybe even more.”*



Missing Man Table

Editor’s note: As MVA member Martin (“Marty”) McCormick states in the article below referencing our 2017 reunion’s theme . . . “While we honor our POWs and MIAs, let us also honor our currently serving military men and women who now operate in harm’s way around the world. It’s a tough environment every day and we need to let them know we care.” Marty has a grandson in the army who is currently training to be an Army Ranger. He attended the 2017 reunion.

**USS Midway Veterans Association
Our Tribute to the Serving Armed Forces
Marty McCormick, 1954-55/AEM3, VF-12 Division**

The world has changed in so many ways since we served our nation aboard the USS Midway. Political upheavals, violent attacks against the Homeland, ongoing threats of nuclear annihilation from fanatical despots, religious, political and racial strife with street protests that have at times turned Americans against Americans.

In many ways it seems there has been a sad progression of disturbing events across the length and breadth of the land that, in recent times, with 24/7 press coverage, seem to be the new norm.

Yes, we are living in upsetting times and our sons, daughters and grandchildren will be caught up in it well beyond our time on this earth. God willing they will find a way to turn it around; it is not what we want to see continued nor envisioned when we walked these decks.

On the occasion of this latest reunion of USS Midway Veterans Association (MVA), we are reminded of frightening times in our nation’s history that were overcome by the heroes of those days, such as at the Battle of Midway. Those men and women, civilians and



military pulled together and turned the fears and tragedies of those days into victory and promise for those that followed. Our Association remembers respectfully those Missing in Action and the Prisoners of those Past Wars who are so deserving of our thoughts and prayers as we honor their service.

It is also important that as we remember our past during this reunion and look to the future for what will be, that we recognize the world of today still needs its heroes, maybe now even more than ever.

As Midway Veterans we know we don't have to look far to find Heroes. They are the men and women of the armed Forces currently serving on active duty. They are keeping us safe by being willing to go in Harm's Way in trouble spots around the globe to keep our sworn enemies at bay.

Therefore, in this regard, we resolve as proud veterans of Service aboard this storied vessel and members of the MVA, to join hands and send our combined voice of respect, admiration and thanks to the men and women presently serving in this nation's armed forces who are so often overlooked and ignored by the press and public of today

To each and every one of those Heroes, now standing in Harm's Way for our nation, we, the members of the MVA extend to you our ultimate compliment for your service.

THANK YOU and WELL DONE



John Cantor - Billed as the "Oldest Living Midway Veteran Alive," at age 100, John is still going strong, both physically and mentally. In fact, we tried to sell him a lifetime membership to the MVA recently but he wouldn't bite.

Call for 2018 Dues!

Dear MVA members, we're asking that you pay your 2018 dues by the end of January 2018, as called for in our bylaws. Please follow this schedule as closely as you can. Greatly appreciated!

\$30 keeps you active in our organization and earns you quarterly newsletters, reunion news, a cool MVA membership card and other bennies!

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

Questions? Contact Dave at (509) 946-0810, or email him at: minandave@charter.net

If you're a Midway veteran and want to join the MVA, but you're not sure how to make it happen, contact Dave (above) and he'll get you set up.

President's Report



Gentlemen and Ladies:
to begin with, my heartfelt thanks to all our USS Midway Veterans, family members and friends who continue to support the work that your MVA Board of Directors conducts on your behalf. Your continued support means that there will be a

viable veterans organization in place for every Midway veteran for many years to come. Also, and without a doubt, the MVA is one of the most fortunate Naval veteran's groups in the entire nation, in that we have available to us the ship that we all served on that we can now call our 'homeport'! Our ship sits proudly and dominates the waterfront at Old Navy Pier in downtown San Diego, California. We all have a lot to be thankful for in this regard.

Permit me to shift gears here – for those of you who receive the AARP Bulletin each month, you'll probably already have read the articles about our nursing homes. My work takes me into nursing homes all over the state of Washington every week, and it breaks my heart to see so many aging veterans among those residents who are, quite literally, put 'out to pasture,' ostensibly because they no longer serve any useful purpose.

I don't want to discuss the 'quality of care' issues that you can read about. However, I do want to put a bug in everyone's ear that there are volunteer opportunities out there that are pleading for attention. The Department of

Veterans Affairs, in 2016, published a manual entitled “No Veteran Dies Alone.” The purpose of the manual is to provide “general guidance for developing and sustaining a volunteer program with the overall goal of enhancing end-of-life care for Veterans and their families.”

The manual itself is extensive, very thorough and provides guidance for recruiting volunteers and training them in improving end-of-life care for veterans. Volunteers are needed to provide presence, companionship and reassurances to the dying veterans. When the volunteers complete their training, they will have expertise in military culture and will be able to provide the comfort of presence at the bedside when family and friends are not available to be near their loved ones.

Besides the DVA program, there are other private programs that provide similar services to dying veterans – the Twilight Brigade, the Last Watch, and the Eleventh Hour, for example, also provide inspiration and guidance on how to address the issue of people dying alone.

So, my friends, Midway veterans have a history of ‘stepping up’ when called. Midway’s history provides stories of some of the greatest humanitarian missions that our country has ever been involved with. Well, here’s one that’s a lot closer to home for many of us. Like taxes, dying is the only other thing we can be entirely sure of in this life. The ‘calling’ to assist the dying is not something that many people are comfortable with. On the other hand, we’ve all known family members and friends who have passed away and many of us have experience in providing that end-of-life care to a loved one. If you’d like to know more about this, do not hesitate to contact me, either by email (orgranger@gmail.com) or by telephone (425-831-6891).

Take care and stay healthy, Shipmates!

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association

VP-Reunions’ Report

Another successful reunion is now in the books. All the work and planning that went into San Diego 2017 came together from 11 September to 13 September when over 300 MVA members, guests and special invitees gathered for fun, fellowship, and telling and retelling the sea stories that bring back those memories of our days on the USS Midway.

Everyone seemed to have a good time, and my review of the survey forms that were com-



pleted says we did pretty darn good, for a bunch of “senior” sailors. Were there some bumps in the road, of course there were, but overall most things went as planned. The things that didn’t go well go into our lessons learned (the hard way) file and help us plan and execute better for the next reunion. My note of thanks to my brand new Reunion Planning Committee—Marty FitzGerald, Ron Pope, Ken Radek, Bob (and Patti) Roberge, and Ken Zuorro—for the time they put in, the ideas they suggested, and the helping hands they offered when assistance was required. Special thanks for the “old pros” who pitched-in during registration—Mina Jo, Dave, Karen, and Oscar. Special recognition goes to Tim Miller. He lives in San Diego, so I always go to him for local help; in fact, we know Tim as our “boots on the ground guy.” Whatever the request, Tim always came through for us; without his help, having reunions in San Diego would be much more difficult. Bill Romer, Tim’s reunion cohort, also helped by pitching in to help with Costco and Commissary runs. Bravo Zulu, ladies and gentlemen.

Now back to the survey forms; one is put in each registration package, so you can tell me how we did, or how we can do better. You guys didn’t do your job very well this year because I only got a return rate of less than 10%. The way to improve MVA reunions starts here, so do better in 2019. With a small number of forms, it’s hard to see trends, but that’s what I try to do. If I see specific concerns I refer them to our vendor. Here are two areas that showed-up on multiple forms, so I would like to discuss them here—the hotel and the transportation.

While the Wyndham San Diego Bayside (WSDB) Hotel generally got high marks, there were some questions. First some history of MVA and WSDB. This is our third reunion at this property. It’s easy to come back here because of its proximity to the USS Midway Museum, its downtown location, and because it’s reunion friendly—to MVA (they really seem to like us). A quick review of all three. **Location:** less than a mile from the USS Midway, it’s easy to spend as much time aboard as you want; **Downtown:** all the popular downtown destinations (restaurants, shopping, and attractions) are close, and easily accessible. In the past, we held many San Diego reunions in the Hotel Circle area. The specific hotel was good, rates were cheaper, and we had a good time, but we were far away from our main destination, the ship, and San Diego’s downtown attractions. **Reunion Friendly:** this is planner-speak for a hotel that welcomes reunion groups (not known a big spenders) and is willing to give us concessions that other groups may not get. Few big name, downtown hotels will allow groups to provide their own snacks and beverages (read Hospitality Suite essentials), nor will they work with you to sponsor reasonably priced

events at the hotel. Because MVA is a repeat customer we get lots of discounts from WSDB. Are downtown prices more expensive? You bet, but when you look at all the options, MVA believes we give a good value for what you spend on a reunion? We do review hotel options before every reunion, and are doing so now for 2019—more to follow. And yes, WSDB is looking at adding refrigerators to their guest rooms.

Transportation can be a tough nut to crack. Being downtown means we are close to almost everything. For most that means an easy walk to where you are going, but for others even a short walk is difficult. Chartering a coach is an option, but we would need 3-4 for an MVA group, and here is the sticking point: they charge by the hour, with a four-hour minimum. When a destination is 3-5 minutes away, and most events are less than four hours, that means a lot of waiting time while the clock ticks. This year we selected the Old Town Trolley and Seal Tours of San Diego as our official transportation sponsor (we sound like the NFL), and they gave us some really good pricing, but there was no way we could use them for all of our events, without really increasing our price per event. So what do we do? Encourage those who can walk to do so, and encourage cab sharing for those who are less mobile. We will continue to look at transportation. But as I said, it's a tough nut to crack.

Planning for San Diego 2019 is in the very early stages. Something new for 2019 is what we call a Midway Class Reunion, an MCR. We have asked reunion groups from the FDR and Coral Sea to join us in celebrating all three ships and their service to America. We are so fortunate that Midway is the only remaining ship of these three sisters that you can actually see and touch. Smooth sailing, Shipmates!

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions USS Midway Veterans Association

Sec.-Treas./Newsletter Editor's Report

Shortly after the San Diego reunion, my wife and I took a guided tour of eastern U.S. and Canadian cities. As our motor coach (not a bus, mind you) rolled along and we observed the fall colors and the sights in the big and little cities in both countries, the 2017 reunion was still fresh in my mind. Too fresh.



Most of the people on the tour with us were Australians – “Aussies.” Some of them seemed quite impressed with my reunion SD17 T-shirt and my Midway cap; clothing

items I wore occasionally on the trip. Their interest emboldened me to brag about the ship and my stint in the U.S. Navy. Australia doesn't have an aircraft carrier in its Navy, a fact that made it somewhat easier for me to “embellish” a few of the details in my sea stories about life on a flattop, aka “bird farm.” Not that I'd ever do such a thing as stretch the truth, mind you.

Discussing the Midway with these Aussies reminded me of all the “ship's work” I had waiting for me back home – paying the reunion bills, writing and putting together this newsletter, collecting next year's dues, working on recruiting, etc. Hey, wait a minute, I reminded myself, you're on vacation, you shouldn't be worrying about ship's work! Nonetheless, I did.

It worked out okay, though, and I finished the trip in high spirits, relating well with the Aussies, even though I never had much luck understanding their version of English. Back home, I caught up on my ship's work in due time. I mean, here's the newsletter, and there's a sidebar in here about the importance of paying your 2018 dues; we need the money to keep our ship afloat. You know the drill. Annual dues should be in by the end of January 2018. Pay them and I'll send you a cool membership card.

Growing our membership is very important. So help us recruit new Midway veterans into our ranks, won't you? Just think, if each of us recruited just one Midway veteran in 2018, we'd double the size of our organization. Talk to Tim Miller, our Membership Committee chair, if you're interested in serving on MVA's membership committee to help with this effort.

Regarding charitable donations and their importance to our mission as a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization, **through our fundraising efforts at the reunion, with your support, in 2017, we raised and donated \$3,500 to the USS Midway Museum's charitable programs (Education Scholarship Fund and Preservation Endowment).** This was made entirely possible by your generosity, and we thank you for your tremendous support.

In closing, I'd like to thank the people of the United States of America, especially those who run the nation's restaurants, for the free meal (excluding beverage) I was awarded on Veterans Day for being a military veteran. My meal only came to \$2.50 (ice tea). I brought my family with me (my wife and two adult kids) to help me celebrate. Their share of the bill came to \$70.00 (My children always get the most expensive items on the menu when mom and dad take them to dinner.) Total cost to me, including the tab for the family: \$80.00. I am humbled.

Dave Payson, Sec.-Treas., USS Midway Veterans Association

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!*

John Sides (69-72) - FPO, AP
Robert Allen (73-75) - Rochester, WA
Jack Shultz (49-51) - Union, IL
Ronald D'Arcangelo (45-46) - Swampscott, MA
Charles (Buzz) Trimnell (62-66) - Vineland, NJ
Anthony Blatnik (60-64; 72-73) - San Diego, CA
Gregory LeDoux (69-72) - Los Gatos, CA
William Eudy (64-66) - Cisco, TX
John Sponsel (75-77) - Lovell, WY
Craig Engdahl (61-62) - Chula Vista, CA
Jimmy Moore (86-88) - Homeland, CA
David Keesey (85-86) - Bensenville, IL
Dennis Beaty (80-83) - St. Augustine, FL
Kenneth Borowka (70-73) - Sparta, MI
Forrest Fifer (71-73) - Lapeer, MI
Mark George (79-81) - San Jose, CA
Steven Lane (77-79) - Glendale, CA
Kevin McGowen (77-79) Westville, IL
Larry Visner (72-75) - Grand Haven, MI
Michael Jones (69-73) - Maxwell, CA
Charles Hehman (76-80; 85-89) - Erlanger, KY
Robin Boyd (73-76) - La Mesa, CA
Joseph Davis (51-52) - Mukwonago, WI

Editor's note: I received this email message from MVA member Charles ("George") Goble who ran across a "true friend" while attending his high school reunion in Minnesota – still one more example of the positive impact Midway achieved during her humanitarian missions over the course of her career.

"Anybody from Midway is a Close Friend"

Dave,

When I was in Minnesota for my fiftieth high school reunion, I had to have my Honda Pilot serviced. While I was in the garage waiting for the service, I saw a man crouching in front of my vehicle with the Midway plate

on it having his picture taken. I walked over to ask him what he was doing. He said that when Saigon fell, he was flown by helicopter to the Midway. His name is Trunh Van Le. We started talking about it, and I learned that he is a mechanic at the Honda dealership in Hopkins, Minnesota. He has a sister who lives in San Diego. As we talked, he started to get emotional about the whole thing. He said that he considers anybody from the Midway to be a close friend. We exchanged names, shook hands, and said, "Have a good day."

I have attached a picture of the two of us in front of my car with the Midway plate.



Charles (George) Goble, ABH3, V1 Division, 1969-1971, and his "Midway buddy"

Editor's note: Lauree McKeown, widow of Ronald "Mugs" McKeown, is shown below with MVA's Marty FitzGerald, at Tuesday's "Meet & Greet" on the ship, as he presents her with a special plaque honoring her and her late husband. Mugs, who passed away in 2015, was an F-4 Phantom pilot on Midway during the Vietnam War, who, in 1969, along with his RIO Jack Ensich, shot down two MIG-17s on one mission.

Dear Marty, "Thank You" are small words but so deeply felt. I am so honored to have received such a beautiful plaque and honorary membership from the USS Midway Veterans Association. Please tell everyone not only does the plaque have a special place in my heart but it is along side Ron's other awards.

Thank you again so much for your thoughtfulness.

I look forward to seeing you again in 2 years at the next reunion.



My very best,

Lauree McKeown

SD17 Hospitality Room

A Place for Business & Fun

Our hospitality room, officially the hotel's Porthole Room, was the social hub for the reunion, a gathering place for land-locked Midway sailors and their mates and guests.

Registrations, dispersal of registration packets and pre-ordered items (such as shirts, tour and banquet tickets) and a host of



other things happened here. Sweet rolls, coffee, etc. were provided in the morning for the frugal sailor not wishing to spring for breakfast in the Claim Jumper, the hotel's restaurant, or the nearby Hazelwood's Deli. Beer, wine, soft drinks, and snacks were plentiful, but if you wanted hard stuff you brought your own. Sea stories, flowed endlessly in this place from the veterans camped out around the tables. They sounded vaguely familiar, these stories, even more incredible than when you heard them previously, at a past reunion.

Young Seaman Chats with Commanding Officer

Jim Yoder, 1961-63/ETN3, OE Division

As my first job as a technician on my first ship, the Midway, I was assigned to the remotes – which included the phone stations connected to transmitters and receivers one uses to talk (or listen) to someone – like a pilot.

Well, we in the electronics maintenance shop received a trouble call from the pilot house (in the superstructure) that the captain's remote wasn't working. So the petty officer I was working for and I headed up there. Me being the 'low man on the totem pole' was



asked to find out what the problem was. So I walked out past the OOD, helmsman, and whoever else was there, to where the captain was sitting (overlooking the flight deck operations) and asked him about the problem. What I hadn't realized was the protocol of getting permission to even to go out there, let alone talk to the captain. Everybody but me was aghast, waiting for the captain or someone to chew me out big time. Surprise! The captain just answered my questions and talked to me like in a normal conversation between two shipmates. I didn't get in trouble over the incident, but sure got told about it in no uncertain terms. **Note:** That was one of those things I wouldn't have done on a bet had I known.



Reunion Host Tim Miller. He never slowed down.



VP-Reunions Jim Hayter takes timeout for a beer during fundraising efforts in hospitality room. He, too, never slowed down.

Order Your MVA Memorabilia Here!

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

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

Notice: We are still seeking a volunteer from our membership to run our Ship's Store, someone who is creative with an eye for detail and a love for memorabilia. Duties include coordinating, ordering, maintaining and replenishing MVA's memorabilia stock. Strong people and computer skills are required. Apply within, that is, to the editor of this newsletter – Dave Payson (minandave@charter.net).

Tommy Moore III Update

We learned recently from his VA nurse in Florida that our good friend and reunion-mate Tommy Moore III, most recently present at the September 2017 reunion in San Diego (the third reunion in a row that he has been able to attend), suffered an irregular heart rate and possible blockage. (Tommy Moore III, left). Tommy is scheduled to undergo an angioplasty/bypass procedure sometime in the near future to improve his condition. We're pulling for you Tommy. See you in 2019!!



Jim Reily, Jr.'s "behind-the-scenes" tours were a big hit at the reunion. Jim is a Midway Museum docent and an MVA member.

Credits

The MVA Board would like to thank the following individuals, organizations, and general groups for their help in making this reunion a success.

(Listed first name/last name but ordered alphabetically by last name)

Martin "Marty" FitzGerald, Karen Garst, Oscar and Karen Granger, Jill Hammons, Jim Hayter, Scott McGaugh, Mac McLaughlin, Tim Miller, Riley Mixson, Tommy Moore III, Al and Merry Padilla, Steve Palka, Dave and Mina Jo Payson, Ken Radek, Ron Pope, Jim Reily, Jr., "Skip" Thompson, Ivy Tiongco, Mary Seekamp, "Manny Voeltz, Marnette Voeltz (Photography), Karl Zingheim, Ken Zuurro,

Ex POWs: Tom Crosby, Jorge Taitano, Ralph Kling, Jim Reily, Jr (for his deceased father)

MVA Color Guard: Floyd Hecker, Doug Kenyon, Elroy Wiens, Chan Voeltz, Mick Hersey, Oscar Rocha (and 2 more unidentified)

=====

In addition, thanks to:

- ◆ Staff and management of the USS Midway Museum, for letting us borrow your "platform" on which we held our reunion banquet, and for financing two tables of guests for us.
- ◆ Staff & management of the Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel.
- ◆ Staff & management of Continental Catering. (What a meal!)
- ◆ Staff and Management of Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFRI)
- ◆ All those who stuffed reunion packets and helped in the hospitality suite in so many different ways.
- ◆ The POWs and their guests who participated in the banquet ceremony.
- ◆ All those who volunteered for other reunion duties.
- ◆ The Midway veterans, spouses and guests who attended this reunion; you were all great!

Finally, we thank everyone who wanted to be here but couldn't make it. Storms at sea and across the land kept many of you home, but we hope to see you next time around.

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

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



Share this form with your Midway shipmates, anyone who has served on Midway. All Midway Veterans are welcome to join our ranks.

USS MIDWAY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Application for Membership

I wish to join the USS MIDWAY VETERANS ASSOCIATION, which is open to all Navy and Marine Corps veterans, regardless of department or air wing affiliation, who served on Midway at any time she was in commission. I hereby submit the following information:

Full Name: _____ Date _____

Spouse/Partner Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number Home: _____

Email: _____

Actual years served aboard: _____ to _____

Rank/Rate/Division while aboard (e.g., RM3/CR Div.): _____

Rank/Rate when Discharged/Retired (e.g., RMC): _____

Years served in military _____ to _____

How Did You Hear About Our Reunion Association? _____

Fill out this form, print, and mail along with amount for membership for one of the three categories below:

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

Make check payable to: USS Midway Veterans Association. You will receive your membership package within 14 days, which will consist of the latest newsletter and other information from the group's leadership team. Mail to:

USS Midway Veterans Association

410 Cottonwood Dr.
Richland, WA 99352

Attention: The USS Midway Museum supports the USS Midway Veterans Association in preserving the legacy of every Midway sailor, regardless of department or air wing affiliation.

(The USS Midway Veterans Association is a 501(c)(19) not-for-profit organization; contributions (aka, dues) are tax-deductible as provided by law. MVA donates 20 percent of its annual contributions to the USS Midway Museum's Education Scholarship Fund and Midway Preservation Endowment.)

Contact: David Payson, MVA Secretary-Treasurer, at minandave@charter.net;
phone 509-946-0810

We Lived the Adventure!