



# Station Ship News



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

THE “YEA’S” HAVE IT! Recently our members voted via e-blast and telephone ballot to change our organization’s name to:

## USS Midway Veterans Association

The Board proposed the name change because it emphasizes the fact that we are all Midway Veterans (and *incredibly* proud of it!). In addition, the new name factors better with our goals to support the Midway Museum’s Education programs and establish ourself as a not-for-profit organization, which we’re moving toward. By an overwhelming majority our members agreed and voted in favor of the name change. Thank you, Men!

## Operation Frostbite2 Mission Accomplished!

Two members of the USS Midway Veterans Association (formerly the USS Midway Reunion Group) – Plankowner Charles Girolamo (‘45-’46) and Secretary-Treasurer Dave Payson (’63-’64) – accompanied a contingency of USS Midway Museum staff and Museum members, along with some 2,800 seasick-prone “civilians,” on a roundtrip cruise from Seattle to Alaska (Juneau and Skagway) and Canada (Victoria, B.C.) July 22-29, 2011.

Dubbed **Operation Frostbite** after Midway’s historic 1946 winter operation by that name in the North Atlantic, the present cruise went off without a hitch. Though she carried no aircraft, cruise ship *Rhapsody of the Seas* proved herself worthy of the Midway legacy cruise by successfully navigating the waters of Alaska and Canada, avoiding all icebergs in her path. While *Rhapsody* patrolled northern waters in search of fun, far to the south Midway remained “on station” in San Diego Harbor, taking a well-deserved break from her 47 years of service to her country – and, oh yes, plying her trade as the most successful floating museum in the world, thanks in large part to many of the USS Midway Museum crew on this cruise, who went out of their way to make us feel like members of the “Midway Family.”

It was a great honor for Girolamo and Payson to represent the Midway Veterans Association, and Girolamo’s very presence on the cruise was truly remarkable, for it earned him the distinction of being the *only* person on the planet to have made both the original Frostbite cruise on Midway and the present cruise on *Rhapsody*, some 65 years apart (“a lot of water under the bridge”)!

Pictured below is the **Big Check**, presented by Girolamo and Payson to Midway Museum staff on behalf of the Midway Veterans Association at a Midway farewell party on the last night at sea of Operation Frostbite2. The \$500 donation will go to the Museum’s Annual Fund/Education/Scholarship programs and secure us a place on the Museum’s Honor Wall for 2012. We thank our members and their families for their generosity in making this donation possible!



Photo: Mina Jo Payson

## Big Check Ceremony Aboard *Rhapsody of the Seas* during Operation Frostbite2 Cruise - left to right:

**Jill Hammons**, Membership Director and “Senior Morale Officer” of the Midway Museum cruise team; Plankowner **Charles Girolamo**, participating in “back-to-back” Operation Frostbite cruises 65 years apart, Midway Veterans Association; **Dave Payson**, Secretary-Treasurer, Midway Veterans Association; and Rear Admiral (ret.) **Mac McLaughlin**, President and CEO of Midway Museum, and “Commanding Officer” of Museum’s cruise team.

**Additional Midway Museum Cruise Team Members:** On the cruise but not pictured above were 1) **Scott McGaugh**, Marketing Director and author of *Midway Magic* and *Battlefield Angels*, who served as “Executive Officer” of Midway’s cruise team; 2) **Rudy Shappee**, all-around Funny Guy and “Chaplain’s Assistant” of Midway’s cruise team; and 3) **Vanessa Pineda-Ruiz**, Marketing Manager and “Morale Officer” of Midway’s cruise team. **Ari Petersen**, Vice President of Development, didn’t make the cruise, but the Midway Veterans Association thanks him for his help in setting up our Annual Fund/Education Program donation. (Read more about our plans to support the Midway Museum’s Education Program in President Oscar Granger’s report, this newsletter.)

## President's Report

"Guys! Thanks again for your support with the name change to the USS Midway Veterans Association. The final vote tally was 106 to 1 in favor of the name change. The Midway Museum executive staff is solidly behind us with the change and has given us permission to place postcard-size information about our organization at the Veteran's sign-in table on the Quarterdeck.

"Mike Levin from the Membership Committee and I met with Mac McLaughlin, President and CEO of the Midway Museum; Scott McGaugh, Marketing Director; Ari Petersen, Director of Planned Giving; and Sarah Hanscom, Director of Education, to discuss our plan to support the Museum's education/scholarship programs. The Board has authorized an annual donation of 20% of our membership dues (donations) to the Museum and we are currently in discussions with the Museum Leadership Team regarding how that will be managed. It is important to note that this will not increase our annual membership dues (donations) and the money will be earmarked to support the Museum's education/scholarship programs.

"By actively supporting the Museum's education/scholarship programs, we are ensured a place for our organization's name on Midway's Honor Wall! These donations and the reasoning behind them should also provide answers for Midway veterans who might have questions about the Midway Veterans Association purpose when they're considering signing on with their friends and shipmates. We now have a joint purpose for the organization – organizing regularly scheduled reunions for the membership AND supporting the education/scholarship efforts of the Midway Museum.

"Two additional matters that the Association is working on that will add to the viability of the organization also bear mentioning here.

"First, the Membership Committee is reaching out to our shipmates who we know are still interested, but haven't kept current with their dues (donations). We hope they'll renew their membership in the USS Midway Veterans Association, join us at our reunions, and work with us in supporting the Museum's education/scholarship programs. Along these lines, we can use your help to reach out to any of your Midway Veteran shipmates who haven't joined us and let them know that there's a place for them in the USS Midway Veterans Association.

"Second, the Board is proceeding to file with the IRS for tax-exempt status for the organization. As a 501(c)3 organization, we will be eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions in accordance with IRS Codes, and you will receive the tax benefit for your donations.

"The changes in our organization, while seemingly small, are monumental in terms of our Mission, Vision, and Values. We continue to stand tall as a leader in the community of veterans organizations.

"Pray for every one of our servicemen and women to be safe and out of Harm's Way. God Bless America and our men and women in uniform!"

**Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association**

## VP-Reunions' Report

"Thirteen months and counting until we gather the Midway Veterans Association members in Washington, D.C., for our next reunion. For me it's now time to start finalizing the planning that has been taking place since we left San Diego last September. The first thing I need to do is select our reunion hotel and get a contract in place. I have preliminary proposals from six hotels in the area so I have plenty of choices; thanks to shipmate Charles Girolamo for contacting some of these hotels for me. The hotel recommendation will be presented to the Board next month. The next step will be to select tours we plan to offer, followed by the endless details that need to be addressed to deliver a memorable reunion. Since a reunion is only as good as the people who attend, I look forward to seeing most of our members in the nation's capital from September 20-22, 2012, with the 19th and 23rd being suggested travel days because reunion activities will take place on the 20-22. As a separate attachment to this newsletter you will see a piece asking you to indicate your interest in attending the reunion. Please e-mail or mail me the requested information at the respective addresses on the attachment so I can start getting an idea how many people may be attending."

**Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association**



USS Midway Veterans Association

## Member to Serve as Air Wing Rep

Cdr. John Newlin, USN (Ret.), former VF-21 F3H Demon pilot aboard Midway 1960-62, has agreed to serve as Air Wing Rep for our association. His primary job, working through our Membership Committee, will

be to recruit more veterans who served in Midway squadrons, including pilots and all air-related ratings and ranks, and reach out to “Airedales” already in our ranks and get them to do the same – that is, recruit, gather, mingle, swap Midway Memories about life in the air and on the flight deck. If you’re interested in joining John in this endeavor and loved all things *Air* on Midway, e-mail him at [jnewlin@cox.net](mailto:jnewlin@cox.net). In addition, we’re looking for other Division reps (for example, R Div., G Div., 2nd Div., OE Div.), as well as commissioned officers, to do the same thing with their like-rated and like-ranked reunion-mates. If you’re interested in being a Division Rep with like duties for your men that John has for Air, then contact the editor at [minandave@charter.net](mailto:minandave@charter.net). Pulling together we can grow, men, and move our organization far ahead!

### ***New Members***

*These men have joined our ranks since the last newsletter. Like us, they sailed the high seas on Midway. Or in the case of the pilots, flew over the high seas from Midway. Welcome aboard, Men!*

*Allan Beard - Elsie, MI*

*Ronald Blank - Ramsey, MN*

*William (Bill) Ayers - West Richland, WA*

### **Vice President of Administration Sought**

The Midway Veterans Association’s Board of Directors is looking for a VP of Administration. Duties would range from writing and updating our Articles of Confederation and Bylaws to reunion planning to coordinating the activities of the Membership Committee. To qualify for this challenging and rewarding Board position you must be a member in good standing of our Reunion Association. If the VP-Admin position sounds right for you, men, e-mail or phone President Oscar Granger (see his contact information in the Masthead).

**Editor’s Note:** Shipmate Jim Daugherty, a yeoman aboard Midway 71-73, retired from the Navy with 20-plus years of service, and along the way he served on the last non-nuclear sub in the Navy, USS Blueback. But he never forgot his Midway days, in this case Subic Bay and Olongapo, Philippines, as he recounts in this Midway Memory.

### **Faulty Radar**

by Jim Daugherty, 1971-73 / YN/X-Division

“During the 1972 Vietnam WESTPAC (can’t remember the exact date), the ship was pulling out of Subic Bay, Philippines, heading back to Vietnam. Usually we got underway early in the morning, around 0800 and would be back dropping bombs the next afternoon. So we had a day and a half to recover from our liberty in Olongapo before going back on the line.

“We had left the carrier pier in Cubi Point and were making our way through the bay and out to sea when suddenly the word came over the IMC that the ship was preparing to drop the anchor and soon we were at anchor about half-way between the carrier pier and Grande Island.

“The Captain got on the IMC and said that one of the radar antennas had fallen over at about a 45-degree angle and might drop down onto the flight deck. They had to move all the planes out of that area. The XO and I suppose an engineer type climbed up and looked at the radar. It was highest radar antenna, just above the island. I guess they decided that it had to be removed/ fixed before we could go to sea.

“So we sat there in the middle of Subic Bay. After a while the Captain got back on the IMC and informed us that we were going to wait in the middle of the bay while they moved all the ships off of the main pier (I believe Alpha pier) on the Subic side of the bay. It was the only pier with a crane that could reach that high. Well, there were a lot of ships moored at the pier, some 2-3 deep and it took most of the morning for the tug boats to move them.

“Then they moved us up to the pier and the Captain said we might get one more night of liberty! Big cheer from the crew. But it was short lived. The shipyard did not take long to remove the antenna and soon after that the Captain announced that the high brass had decided we didn’t really need that radar system, as the small boys around us could provide it for us. I believe it was air search and wasn’t needed for flight operations. So the high brass told us to continue on our way and during our next inport in Subic Bay they would replace it. Big moan from the crew.

“Our next inport visit was great. We spent the whole inport period at the pier in Subic; we could walk to the Main Gate and almost everywhere. No fighting/waiting for a taxi or bus to go to the Main Gate. The snipes were happy as it was the only time during the 11 month WESTPAC that they got to go cold iron with shore power!”

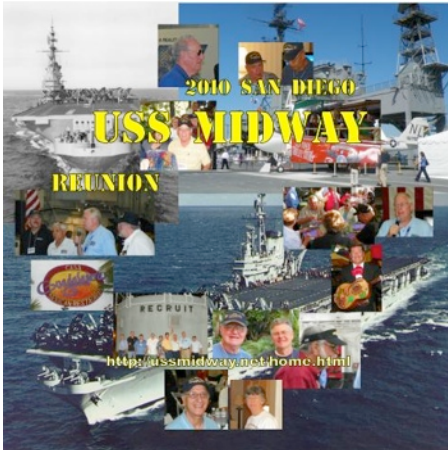
### ***Wanted: electronic newsletter customers***

*As before we are promoting our electronic newsletter service. Every newsletter we can send our members electronically (PDF file sent to your email address) saves about \$3.50 in printing and mailing costs. Let the editor know ([minandave@charter.net](mailto:minandave@charter.net)) if this works for you, and he will add you to the “launch list.”*





**2010 San Diego Reunion DVD Ready for Order. Plus Bonus You Tube Video!**



**2010 Reunion DVD label**

Our 2010 San Diego reunion was one of the greatest ship’s reunions ever, and now it has been captured on DVD for our members to enjoy. Thanks, Rick Wyman, for doing such an outstanding job on the videography, music and cover art (above) Thanks also to shipmate Mike Walker for assisting Rick on this project.

Augmenting the DVD presentation, which is about 50 minutes long, is a 5-minute video, also created by Rick, that uses the San Diego reunion as a backdrop to promote our 2012 reunion in Washington, D.C. View this video, linked from You Tube, on our website (side link, Reunion Video)! Watch it, men. You will love it!

The DVD is available (limit one per member) for \$4.00 per copy, which covers burning and mailing costs. It plays on your DVD/TV as well as on your computer (Windows or Mac platform). Commencing in early October, we will have 50 copies to move on a first-come first-serve basis. But we can order more if these run out. Make your check payable to **USS Midway Veterans Association** and mail to **410 Cottonwood Drive, Richland, WA 99352**. It should take about a week for your DVD to arrive in the mail.

Midway Museum online store:

<http://enssc.com/?store=502>

**The Masthead  
USS Midway  
Veterans Association**

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

*President*

Oscar Granger - (425) 831-6891  
North Bend, Washington  
ogrange@comcast.net

*Vice President-Reunions*

Jim Hayter - (703) 264-0542  
Reston, Virginia  
jim.hayter@comcast.net

*Secretary-Treasurer  
Newsletter Editor*

Dave Payson - (509) 946-0810  
Richland, Washington  
minandave@charter.net

*Webmaster*

Craig Harper - (775)-544-3700  
Reno, Nevada  
craig\_harper@sbcglobal.net

*Membership Committee Chair*

Turner Mann - (405) 732-2890  
Midwest City, Oklahoma  
turner.mann@okdhs.org

**USS Midway Reunion Group Web Site**

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

**Notice:** Our members' roster is posted on our website with members' permission. If for privacy reasons you do not want your contact information published, let us know and we will remove it.

