



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

MVA Meets with MM on CV-41

On August 18, 2011, Association President Oscar Granger and Membership Committee member Mike Levin met with Midway Museum President and CEO Mac McLaughlin; Marketing Director Scott McGaugh; Education Director Sara Hanscom; and Membership Director Jill Hammons on Midway, to discuss our Association's plans to contribute to the Museum's education and scholarship programs as well as to discuss other business items.

Several positive outcomes came from this meeting; one was the Museum's agreement to let us take an active role in offering Midway Veterans who join our ranks with membership privileges (details still being worked out); in addition, the Museum agreed to let us place our promotional (Veterans Association) postcards on Midway's Quarterdeck, by the veteran's logbook.

This second offer was made good in October when Mike Levin hand-delivered a thousand of our postcards (which were designed by Oscar Granger) to Mac's office, and the postcards have since been placed on the Quarterdeck and made available to Midway Veterans as they check on board. We're hoping to see an increase in new members as a result of these postcards.

2012 Dues Cycle Fast Approaching

Your annual membership dues (donations) for 2012 (\$20) are due by the end of January 2012. To help you keep track of whether you've paid (and we know many of you already have), we'll add a "dues paid" column on our membership roster on the website as well as periodically send you the list of dues payers. If your name isn't on the list . . . well, you know what that means, men – they're due!

We're going to start calling the old reliable term "dues" by a new name: "donations." This is because we're in the process of filing for non-profit status (501c (3)) with the IRS, which will mean that your future "donations," including special donations, such as those we make to the Midway Museum's education and scholarship programs, will be tax deductible.

But whatever you call them, they're due by the end of January 2012. We'll keep you posted!

President's Report

If you haven't already heard, the USS Midway Museum is **big** and getting **bigger**! RADM (Ret) Mac McLaughlin, President and CEO of the Midway Museum, addressed the Port of San Diego recently, proposing a significant expansion of "Navy Pier," which currently contains a 4-story garage and the parking for the Midway Museum. If adopted, Navy Pier would be rebuilt from the waterline up with parking accommodations for about 500 vehicles on a lower level and a 5-acre landscaped Veterans Park on the upper level, along with a Community Arts and Events Venue that could become the permanent home for the City's Summer Pops concerts. You can view the proposed project on their website at www.VeteransParkNavyPier.com. There's a link on their webpage that allows you to submit comments! I encourage every Midway Veteran to take a minute to remind the Port of San Diego of the importance of the USS Midway, not just to the City of San Diego, but also to the nation as THE West Coast symbol of Strength, Freedom, and Peace. An expansion of Navy Pier to honor the Veterans of the United States Armed Forces is an honorable and patriotic project and will strengthen the City's maritime emphasis and its ongoing commitment to the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

I would also like to take a minute to let you know that we've moving forward with the membership drive and have delivered Midway Veterans Associations post cards to the ship in San Diego, to be available for any Midway Veteran who visits the ship. We've been working closely with the Museum staff to allow us to post our Veterans Association cards and information brochures on the Quarterdeck so that when Midway Veterans do come aboard, they can take a card and send it to us with their contact information. If you happen to have a shipmate or know a Midway Veteran who hasn't joined up yet, let us know and we'll get them a post card and some MVA information to chew on!

Last piece from the "Prez" – with the Holidays rapidly approaching, you don't need to be reminded that we're going to be overwhelmed with the continuous barrage of commercialism that is synonymous with the holiday season. I'd like to add to that barrage with these requests – first, throughout the holiday season and the new year, continue to honor our Veterans for their service and our freedom; second, keep our young men and women

wearing the uniforms of the United States Armed Forces in your thoughts and prayers; and third, consider making a donation to the Disabled American Veterans (DVA) website we sent you in our Veterans Day E-Blast message.

Have a wonderful and joyful holiday season, shipmates.

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association

VP-Reunions' Report

Pack your sea bag and grab your mate! The 2012 reunion in Washington, D.C., is a happening thing. The reunion hotel has been selected, and they have given us a very attractive room rate for the reunion dates, plus they will offer that rate three days before and three days after the reunion for those of you who want to make it a vacation when you come to our Nation's Capital. The Midway Veteran's Association will be gathering at the **Tyson's Corner Crowne Plaza** hotel on **Thursday, September 20, 2012 through Saturday, September 22, 2012**. The negotiated room rate is **\$95 per night plus tax**. You can take a virtual tour of the hotel by going to <http://www.cptysonscorner.com/>. In the next few weeks, we will have a dedicated link to the hotel's reservation system plus telephone options for making your reunion reservations. Why am I talking about making reservations ten months before the event? The first question hotels, and banquet managers, and tour operators ask me is how many people will be coming to the event. As you can imagine, I have been doing a lot of educated guessing because I have no idea how many people will be joining us in September 2012. As I see reservations start coming-in, I will finally start getting an idea whether I will be seeing 50, or 250, of you in WDC. There is no secret that the more people we have attending the more clout we have in our options and attracting a top-level speaker for our banquet. Not to get lost in all this planning is the real reason we have reunions—to renew acquaintances and share the fellowship of our shipmates who served on the USS Midway during her 47-year career.

Here is a teaser of how the reunion is taking shape right now (the tours will depend in the number of people interested and how much we can reasonably cram into a day): **Day 1—a bus tour of military-centric memorials** (some possibilities—Viet Nam, Korean, WWII, Navy, Marine Corps, Arlington National Cemetery, the 911 memorial at the Pentagon); **Day 2—a bus tour to Annapolis, MD (historic Annapolis, USNA, and a harbor tour)**. Other options—a **dinner cruise on the Potomac, a visit to the Washington Navy Yard, a visit to Mt. Vernon**. I am open to any suggestions, but the key here is the number of people interested that will drive the price per person. There will be many more updates on WDC12 as events are finalized. If you want to contact me, you can call 703-287-0508 during the day, or even better e-mail me at: jim.hayter@comcast.net.

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association



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!

Dick Anderson - Lake Oswego, OR

James Doran - Whiting, NJ

Richard Remington - VA Beach, VA

Find us on Facebook!

The USS Midway Veterans Association is up and running on Facebook. Check out our new Facebook site at the link below. We've joined the social media family! Facebook has a tremendous potential as a recruiting tool as well as for advertising reunions, etc. Already we've linked up with the Midway Museum's Facebook page and have begun sending them updates on our DC reunion, which they will post on their Facebook site to a wide Midway audience of fans, veterans and civilians alike. It doesn't take long, men. Remember, this information travels at the speed of light! Just like we used to. So follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/USSMidwayVeteransAssociation>.

Insurance for Veterans

Listen up, men. Shipmate Charles Girolamo (45-46 Plankowner) sent us some good information on a military-related insurance company called USAA. Many of you may have heard of USAA and carry their insurance, but if you haven't, it's worth checking out. Formed in 1922 for Army officers, nowadays it's offered to veterans, military members and their families at bargain prices.

Girolamo says this about his USAA deal: "I joined the group and had my auto insurance cut 50%. Also, my home insurance is about 50% less. I wanted other USS Midway Veterans who might not know about USAA to be able to save as much."

Learn more about USAA on the internet at USAA.com. And thanks for the tip, Charles!



When Ships Were Wood and Men Were Iron

Dick Remington, a machinist mate on Midway from 48-53, sent us an interesting "technical note" about USN aircraft carrier classes and designations, including the Midway Class. Midway, of course, was the first CVB, built from a Battleship hull, that is, the first aircraft carrier with an armored-steel flight deck. There wasn't room in this issue for Dick's entire note, but his career path in the Navy took an interesting twist related to carrier classes, etc.. After serving on Midway for 5½ years, he transferred to the Essex Class USS Tarawa, CV-40, of the old wooden flight deck class. So, in effect, he went backwards in Navy time and technology, from CVB-41 to CV-40, from steel to wood. Wood or steel, it probably didn't make much difference to Dick, since he spent most of his time in the engine rooms of both carriers.

See Dick's story "**Full Power Run**" in the Midway Memories section of our website.

Veterans Day E-Blasts

Twice this Veterans Day just past, we launched E-Blasts your way. The first was the "Thank you for the support of your country" message with the USN YouTube clip; the second, later in the day, was shipmate John Newlin's very pertinent message about supporting the Disabled Americans Veterans program, which you can do through their website here. <http://www.dav.org/>

We used our E-Blast system still again a couple of days later when we asked you to support the Midway Museum with your vote in their favor as part of the Califor-

nia nonprofit organization, to possibly earn the Museum another \$5,000.

Now, we're loading up our E-Blast system again to do a straight up or down, Yea or Nay vote on attending the DC reunion in September of 2012. As VP of Reunions Jim Hayter explained in his message earlier in this newsletter, it's important that we start getting some accurate numbers on attendance, because the more attendees we have at the reunion, the more bargaining power we will have for deals with the hotel and the tours.

So expect another E-Blast coming your way in a few more days, men, in an effort to capture these important reunion attendance numbers.

2010 San Diego Reunion DVDs Available

We still have a good supply of the subject DVD presentation men, for only \$4 apiece. Especially those of you who attended this reunion will want one. See the YouTube short version on our website as a sneak preview. Mail check for \$4 made out to USS Midway Veterans Association and mail to USS Midway Veterans Association, 410 Cottonwood Drive, Richland, WA 99352. You'll have your DVD in less than a week.

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Editor's note: Mike Levin, V-2 Division, 52-54, who spent his share of time on Midway's flight deck as a telephone talker for the LSO (Landing Signal Officer), sent us the following article on Naval Aviators. Many of you will relate.
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The Naval Aviator

The Naval Aviator As Seen by Himself:

An incredibly intelligent, tall, handsome, innovative & highly trained professional killer, idol to countless females, & Gentleman Adventurer, who wears a star sapphire ring, carries a hair-trigger .45 automatic in a specially designed hand-stitched, quick draw holster along w/his trusty pearl-handle survival knife, who's always on time thanks to his ability to obtain immediate transportation & the reliability of his Rolex watch.

As Seen by His Wife:

A disreputable member of the family who comes home once/yr all bruised up, driving a stolen jeep up to the back door carrying a B-4 bag full of dirty laundry, wearing a stained flight suit, smelling of stale booze & JP-4, wearing a huge watch, a fake ring, & that damn ugly beat-up pistol in that stupid holster, who'll 3 months later go out the front door, thankfully for another yr.

As Seen by His Squadron Commander:

A fine specimen of a drunken, brawling, jeep stealing, woman corrupting liar, w/a star sapphire ring, fantastic-

ally accurate Rolex watch, an unauthorized .45 in a non-regulation shoulder holster, & rusty survival knife.

As Seen by Fleet Ops:

The embodiment of a drunken, brawling, jeep stealing, woman corrupting, lying, zipper-suited Sun God, w/a ring, a proscribed 1911 A1 .45 in a non-regulation shoulder holster, & a Rolex watch, who for some reason carries a survival knife.

As Seen by the Dept of Defense:

An overpaid, rule-ignoring, over-ranked tax burden, who's unfortunately totally indispensable simply because he's volunteered to go anywhere & do anything, at any time, only so long as he can booze it up, brawl, steal jeeps, corrupt women, lie, & wear a star sapphire ring, Rolex watch, & carry an obsolete handgun & survival knife.

As Seen by the Enemy:

The terrifying face of death!

Electronic Newsletter Service

We continue to promote our electronic newsletter service in order to save printing and mailing expenses. To be added to the "launch list," send the editor an email requesting such at minandave@charter.net.

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.

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USS Midway Reunion Group Web Site

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

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