



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



Midway Veterans' "Color Guard" Assembled, Flight Deck, USS Midway Museum, Sept. 14th, 2013

The Greatest Generation - MVA's 1945 Veterans

Many great moments played out at SD13 last September during the Grand Banquet on the flight deck, as some 320 veterans, family members and friends cheered on. Perhaps the best of these moments was the ceremony to honor of our 1945 members – our plankowners.

MVA's "Greatest Generation" of veterans (those men who were members of Midway's original 1945 commissioning crew) were presented WWII Victory Medals by our two high-ranking guests, former Midway captain RADM Riley M. Mixson (USN, Ret.) and former Midway chief engineer RADM Bill Center (USN, Ret.), in an inspirational ceremony. The men who received the medals were: **Jack Lawler, Blake Smith, Art Timson, Arthur Weiss, Joel Husebo, and Sid Friedlander.** Two other 1945 plankowners were present at the reunion who had received their WWII medals at previous reunions: **Gene Slingerland and Charles Girolamo.**

In addition to these eight men, the MVA is proud to have three other 1945 plankowners in their ranks: **George Fowler** (not present at the reunion, but who received his medal at the 2010 reunion, **Robert Shedd** (not present at the reunion), and **William Barrett**, not present but who received his medal from his family at home in Salt Lake City (see article on next page).

Of our eleven 1945 plankowners, **Robert Shedd** is the only one who hasn't been awarded the WWII Victory Medal. He lives in Boynton Beach, Florida, with his wife Cynthia and hopes to attend a future reunion. We hope he can, because we've got a medal for him, one that he so richly deserves!

The Wild, Wild West - MVA's Facebook Page

"This Facebook Page has given us another tool to be able to 'reach out' to the Ex-Crewmembers of arguably the Greatest U.S. Navy warship of the 20th century, and now the greatest museum ship of the 21st century. Through this FB Page, combined with the MVA Home website (www.ussmidway.net/home.html), we have been successful in reaching hundreds (maybe thousands) of Ex-Midway Sailors otherwise unreachable. Each week we post information, comments, and photos of the ship, and her crew. As we recruit new members to the MVA, regardless of the source, a 'WELCOME MESSAGE' is posted on the Facebook Page with their name, rank/rate, division, and the years they served aboard the Midway. This alone has produced many favorable comments from members and visitors to the FB Page. Collectively they make up 'Midway Nation'; they come from all walks of life and they have either served on Midway or are family members and friends of men who did.



(www.facebook.com/ussmidwayveteransassociation)

"There are other Navy Veterans Facebook pages as well, (US Navy Veteran, Midway Magic (CV-41), USS Midway CVA 41, and others) and we are able to log onto these other pages, and place information from our Facebook Page. During these past few months we have had as many as 1500 + viewers in any given week, and several new members have come from this exposure."

Ronald Pope, US Navy Retired

MVA Membership Committee and MVA Facebook Administrator

Editor's note: 1945 plankowner William Barrett couldn't attend SD13 due to illness. So Oscar Granger mailed the WWII Victory Medal to William's son, Robert, and the Barrett family held the medal ceremony at home. Following is his son's report on how things went.

Family Presents MVA Plankowner WWII Victory Medal at Home

"Oscar: I want to thank you on behalf of my family members for the medal that the Association sent for my father (WWII Victory Medal). I presented it to him at Thanksgiving before a gathering of Barrett Family members numbering about 52 souls. We had the room fixed up with my father's uniform, photos, Book of Mormon that he carried with him, etc, etc. All the various generations seemed to enjoy the displays and the stories that were related. I have attached one of the photos that was taken.

"My father William, enjoyed all of the refreshed memories and most certainly, all of the attention."



Plankowner William Barrett receives his WWII Victory Medal from son Robert at family gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah

"This Grand Lady - The Mighty Midway"

"I hadn't seen the mighty Midway in over 38 years until the 2013 reunion. The flight deck dinner was awesome and sorta made you feel like when we were aboard her serving our country. Don't reckon a dinner anywhere else or at least our final gathering would compare or even come close to last year's Flight Deck Dinner. I relived many memories while there for the 2013 reunion. I would immensely enjoy being in company with *this Grand Lady - The Mighty Midway* for another flight deck dinner any time."

... Danny Garcia (73-75, AO2, GM)



Tom and Marilyn Heidrick on the flight deck of the USS Midway Museum at the 2013 reunion. The night of the grand banquet they celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary, so it was a very special occasion for them and their family. Tom was a LTJG in OR Division, 1957-60. He left active duty shortly after he got off Midway, retiring from the Navy Reserve 21 years later as a LCDR. Tom and Marilyn live in Desert Hot Springs, California.

President's Report

Nearly half a year after the 2013 reunion and we're still reeling from the good times, and it's likely to continue until the next reunion in 2015 – just goes to show that you can't have too much of a good time!! Even with all those effects and the good times, your Board is digging in again and has already started the planning for San Diego - 2015. We've raised the bar so-o-o-o high that it's going to take some spectacular events to raise to the level of the 2013 party. We're up for the challenge and, short of getting the Midway underway from its berth at Navy Pier, it's going to happen.

The Aircraft Carrier – Battleship (CVB-41) was named to commemorate the Victory of the United States Navy at the Battle of Midway in June of 1942. The USS Midway Museum is busy developing an entire venue in the forward hangar bay depicting the Battle (Battle of Midway Experience) and the victory that crushed the aspirations of the Japanese for domination of the Pacific theatre and control over the natural resources that Japan needed to support its wartime industry. The BOME was originally planned to open in the fall of 2014, but scheduling difficulties have now pushed the opening back into the winter of 2014 (Nov./Dec. timeframe), according to a message we received from Admiral McLaughlin, president and CEO of the Midway Museum. Thus, our plans for the 2014 reunion have been pushed back accordingly to the spring of 2015. Stay tuned and we'll soon have the dates locked in so you can get it on your calendar.

Shifting gears - - - probably the single biggest challenge we're trying to overcome is how to capture all of the

memories that, put together, have become the “Midway Magic” that we extol virtually every day. At SD13, we tried to generate interest among the attendees to work the ship’s historian, Karl Zingheim, to capture those stories and memories for the ships archives. We had some success, but nowhere near the success that either we or the museum were looking for. The museum has copies of all of the cruise manuals that were ever published and that certainly helps them when developing displays depicting life aboard the ship throughout her 47-year history. However, the history should also take into account life aboard the Midway with personal touches related by the guys that created the Magic – us! We’re going to take another shot at making that happen at the 2015 reunion. In the meantime, if you have stories and memories that you would like to share, put them down on a piece of paper or in an email and get them to us. We can turn those stories and memories into the best parts of the “Midway Magic” that the museum has to offer its visitors – and it will make us all the more proud of who we are and what we accomplished during our service lives aboard the Midway.

Stay tuned, my friends, for SD15. We have a long way to go and we all need to pull together to keep us moving forward.

All ahead flank!!

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association



Sunset on the Flight Deck

VP-Reunions’ Report

Even though we are over a year away from gathering in San Diego in the spring of 2015, preliminary work goes on in planning our next event. First, a quick recap how we got here. We left SD13 with the idea of coming back to our homeport in the fall of this year, but that plan was contingent on the Battle of Midway Experience on the ship being open for business. Since there was no hard opening date for BOME, we flexed to Plan 2, Pensacola

in September of 2014. When the members picked this as our back-up reunion location, many at the business meeting voiced their concerns about planning a Gulf Coast event in hurricane season. I listened to that guidance and tried to get weather-related kick-out clauses in the contacts we were negotiating, but there were no guarantees, so I turned to Plan 3—back to San Diego with the centerpiece of this reunion being BOME.

Our reunion planning company is negotiating with four hotels in downtown San Diego to see who will land our business in 2015. It’s still too early to call, but I will keep you updated as we move forward. We are trying to keep the room rate close to what we had for SD13, but spring is a busy time there, and very few hotel rates seem to be going down as the economy improves. The good news here is that because of our big room numbers for the last reunion, the hotels are submitting very competitive bids. While no dates have been chosen yet, I am looking primarily at weekends between mid-April and mid-May.

A bad thing about going back to San Diego so soon, is I have to find new events to keep you entertained at SD15. Not to worry, there is plenty to see and do in San Diego. One thing we are investigating is attending a San Diego Padres baseball game. What makes this difficult is I have to commit to hotel dates long before the 2015 major league schedule is announced, so they may be in town, or not. I am also blocking significant leisure time on the planning calendar for attendees to spend time aboard Midway and to take advantages of everything downtown San Diego has to offer. If anyone has suggestions about things they would like the group to do this time around, call or send me an e-mail.

So far, I talked about what we are thinking about doing, now I will touch on something we will not do at our next reunion—dinner on the Flight Deck. Yes, it was a memorable evening, and yes, everyone enjoyed the Grand Banquet, but it’s too soon to try and reproduce the Midway Magic of that perfect September evening. Trust me, we will do it again, just not at SD15. And trust me on this one as well, I am always looking for volunteers to help with the hundreds of details that go into planning an MVA reunion; contact me if you want to help. Jim Hayter - 703-264-0542 and mva41vpr@comcast.net

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association

Sec.-Treas./Newsletter Ed.’s Report

We’re off to a good start in collecting our 2014 dues. It’s early in the year, and already we’re about half-way to matching last year’s total number of paid members. In another month or so, I’ll E-blast a list of the members who have paid for the year. If your name’s not on the

list, then you'll know that you haven't renewed your 2014 membership yet. Your help in keeping the Magic alive is greatly appreciated.

Speaking of keeping the Magic alive, what a pleasant surprise that fourteen of you have signed up for our new Lifetime Membership category (one-time payment of \$150.00)! These men have made a strong commitment to our organization, and have become our top stakeholders. I say to them: may you live long and prosper – and thank you! The names of our fourteen "Lifers" are listed on the last page of this newsletter. Hopefully, more of you will consider this option. It all leads to good things. Our donations to the Midway Museum totaled over \$3,000 last year. Local school kids benefitted from our education/scholarship donations, as did the ship, from our donation to her preservation endowment. Our name is on the museum's Honor Wing wall thanks to your generosity, men. And we intend to keep ourselves on the Wall!

Our MVA memorabilia campaign is doing well. MVA challenge coins, lapel pins, and Midway caps are finding their way to Midway veterans across the country and beyond, for example, Australia. In addition, we now have CVBs and CVAs caps available, and we can offer you a high-quality cap at a reasonable price. We're also looking into producing and selling a Midway fleece vest, perfect for these cold winter nights. See ad in next column over for pricing and mailing information. So take heed, shipmates! Don't be the last one on your block to get your hands on this cool MVA memorabilia!

Finally, as MVA's newsletter editor, writing and producing a quality newsletter is at the top of my list. A good newsletter is to a Navy reunion organization what a good hospitality room is to a Navy reunion – a must! In *Station Ship News*, I strive for original content, not "canned" copy. Send me your best stuff, your sea stories, bios, profiles, etc., and I'll publish it in the newsletter or post it online in "Midway Memories." I believe there is no end to our collective talents, men. For a life at sea and/or in the air has left us much to contemplate and write down. We are, perhaps, wise beyond our years.

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



Any man who may be asked in this century, what he did to make his life worthwhile, can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served in the United States Navy".

Pres. John F. Kennedy

**MVA Coins, Pins and Caps
Get 'em while the supply lasts!!**

To purchase, indicate choice, make your check payable to Midway Veterans Assoc. and mail to **Dave Payson, 410 Cottonwood Dr., Richland, WA 99352**. You'll have your order within a week. ph: 509-946-0810, minandave@charter.net

MVA challenge coins - \$8.50/coin, includes shipping



MVA lapel pins - \$4.50 a pin, includes shipping



Midway caps (CVB & CVA) - \$12.00 apiece, includes shipping

New!



In Memoriam

Shipmate Gary Stuart McClellan, 72, Phoenix, AZ, passed away July 9, 2013. He served on the Midway from 1957 to 1961 with the Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron. Following the Navy, he married, had children and had a long career with the Westinghouse Corp. as an electrical test engineer. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Ira Warshaw, 81, Phoenix, AZ, passed away December 4, 2013. He joined the Navy in 1951 and was a lithographer on Midway. He was married with three children and was a respected hair stylist in Phoenix. 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."

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!*

Jason Chang (88-89) - Fresno, CA

BJ Denihan (78-80) - West Chicago, IL

Walter Sheridan (75-77) - Cape May Courthouse, NJ

Conrad Perreault (54-55) - Keene, NH

David Lynch (60-61) - Albany, OR

Scenes from SD13



Just before dinner on the flight deck



Command Chaplain Paul Murphey leads banqueters in prayer



Former Midway skipper Riley Mixson delivers the keynote speech while former chief engineering officer Bill Center looks on



Midway veterans, families and friends converse and eagerly await their dinner on the flight deck under a "canopy" of choppers



This lucky veteran won an American flag flown over Midway



Plankowner Art Timson, family stand proud before Midway banner

“LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP”

USS Midway Veterans Association

(May you all live long and prosper)

- Don Widga - V-4 Div. 1957-1959
- Tommy Moore III - 5th Div. 1969-1963
- Walter Sheridan - 2nd Div. 1975-1977
- Philip Hinshaw - E Div. 1954-1955
- Ken Radek - X Div. 1963-1966
- Craig Yort - V- 4 Div. 1971-1973
- John Hughes - 1st Div. 1960-1963
- Robert Hinton - N Div. 1961-1963
- George Flower - OI Div. 1960-1964
- John Guzzetta - S Div. 1971-1972
- Ron Lemire - VF-161 Div. 1975-1978
- William Hale - VM CJ-1 (USMC) 1974-1975
- Neal Casey - F Div. 1947-1948
- Robert Ammann - OI Div. 1963-1965

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

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

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.

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The Masthead
USS Midway
Veterans Association

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

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