



Station Ship News



Haven't registered for the reunion? Act fast, because all forms and payments must be received at AFR by March 25, 2015. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis!

(See Jim Hayter's VP-Reunion Report, page 3, for information on how you can register after March 25.)

Register **NOW** for the San Diego Reunion

MVA's April 23-25, 2015, reunion in San Diego is almost upon us! But it's not too late to join in the camaraderie and fun with your shipmates, family, and guests under the warm California sun. Here are a few of the great tours/events awaiting reunion attendees: ♦ listen up at the Grand Banquet as our honored guest Larry Ernst, Midway's last C.O., delivers the keynote address ♦ tour the mighty aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, CVN-67 ♦ take in a big-league ballgame between the San Diego Padres and Los Angeles Dodgers ♦ be part of a Meet & Greet in the hangar bay hosted by the museum's leadership team, coffee and donuts provided ♦ be on hand at a special showing at the museum's Battle of Midway Theater ♦ experience all this and much, much more!! To register, go to our reunion planner's website at the link below, follow link to the registration form at upper right of website, under "Event Documents"), open, print, complete form, and mail to address on form, along with your check. Note: you can register online at this site for a 3% service charge.

www.afr-reg.com/midway2015.

Battle of Midway Theater Opens at Midway Museum in Spectacular Fashion

In mid-January, 2015, the Battle of Midway Theater, "A Cinema and Holographic Experience," came to life aboard the USS Midway Museum, with its movie and exhibits capturing the magnitude and scale of the famous WWII Battle of Midway that is credited with turning the tide of the War in the Pacific in favor of the U.S. — and, of course, is the namesake of the USS Midway.



Courtesy: USS Midway Museum

MVA officers Oscar Granger and Dave Payson traveled to San Diego to be on hand for the theater's long-awaited opening, as well as to attend to reunion business with museum and hotel staff.

"Very impressive," Oscar, MVA President, said after taking in a special showing for major donors the night before the public opening. "The museum has once again lived up to its high standards, capturing the entire spectrum and scale of the our war with Japan in the Pacific. There's a lot more to their presentation than just the cinematic effects. It tells a story that needs to be told and retold."

Dave, MVA's Secretary-Treasurer/newsletter editor, who attended the official public opening of the theater the following day with his wife Mina Jo, was equally impressed: "MVA is getting its money's worth," he said, referring to the major donation the MVA recently made to the museum toward the theater's completion and upkeep.



Courtesy: USS Midway Museum

"We'll announce the details of the donation at the April reunion," Dave said. "As you file into the theater to take your seat to watch the presentation, take note of the USS Midway Veterans Association's name on the major donor plaque that is prominently displayed there. It's a place we're proud to be."

Conclusion: The USS Midway Museum's Battle of Midway Theater is far more than just a fancy high-tech display designed to wow visitors. Obviously the USS Midway Museum is the perfect venue for the theater and the story it tells of the Battle of the Pacific and the brave men and women who fought it. And now, with over a million people visiting the museum annually, many, young and old alike, will have a chance to learn more about this important period in our country's history.

Larry Ernst, Captain USN (Ret.), USS Midway's



fortieth and last Captain. We are honored to have Larry as our keynote speaker at the Grand Banquet, Saturday, April 25, 2015, commencing at 1930, Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel. Get there early for social hour, wet bar and tall tales.



The Passing of Our Webmaster

Craig William Harper, MVA's Webmaster, passed away February 27, 2015, at the Veterans Hospital in Reno, Nevada, taken by a fast-acting cancer. An OS2 in Midway's OI Division from 1975 to 1977, Craig had been our Webmaster since 2005, ushering us into the 21st century with his advanced Web skills and innovative ideas. His tech support skills were invaluable to us at reunions, for he kept the confounding machines running. Craig posted all the MVA news that was

"fit to print" on our website. He also played a key roll in our reunion fund-raising efforts, cheerfully volunteering his time to help run the raffles, drawings and various contests we put on to raise money for the Midway Museum's charitable programs. Craig was a great shipmate and friend.

Gone but not forgotten, he will be sorely missed. May he rest in Peace.

Craig Harper, 1957-2015



President's Report



Shipmates: We're down to the wire and counting to SD15 in San Diego. This is the first time we've hired a reunion planner to assist us putting the entire event together, and, as it stands now, we believe the process has been a success. It hasn't been flawless, but like everything in life, we start with baby steps and grow into the process as the needs arise.

While planning these reunions is the single biggest undertaking that your Board of Directors oversees and participates in, over the course of time between reunions, there are numerous other business activities that comprise the day-to-day running of this non-profit organization. The financial aspects of the organization are handled, in their entirety by Dave and Mina Jo Payson, our Secretary/Treasurer, with Dave doubling as our newsletter editor. Jim Hayter has been instrumental in working with our reunion planner (Armed Forces Reunions Inc. – AFR) and has amassed hundreds of hours of his own time to ensure that they are doing what we (MVA) want done to make the reunion memorable. While not on the Board, our MVA Chaplain Ray Bettis handles all of the outreach to our family of Midway veterans when those needs arise – and it's happening all too often! Our Membership Committee, under the skilled leadership of Turner Mann and Ron Pope, is doing an admirable job of seeking out Midway shipmates for membership in the organization. We (the Board) maintain regular communications with the Midway Museum Leadership Team to make sure that the Midway veterans interests are recognized and noted. Believe me, there's more than enough work keeping this organization afloat to justify more help.

So put on your thinking caps and help us come up with some ideas that will translate into a more efficiently run organization, with enough resources to do what needs to be done. When we get to the business meeting, share your ideas with the gathering and let's make the MVA the Premier Veterans Organization that we know we are.

The sad news is that we lost three of our own during this period, men – our Webmaster Craig Harper (see article on left) was taken from us suddenly, struck down before his time by cancer at age 57. One of our 1945 plankowners, William Glenn Barrett, left us in January of 2015, at age 91. His obituary will run in our next newsletter. Finally, one of my Radar Chiefs on Midway, James Burns, an

MVA member, passed away at age 81. See his “In Memoriam,” page 5.

The good news, Shipmates, is that the reunion’s just around the corner. See you there!

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association

VP-Reunions’ Report

Just about six weeks from now, Midway veterans from across the country will be gathering in San Diego for our 2015 reunion. When I start planning these events, I am never sure how many people to expect, so I watch the incoming registration forms very closely—and you vets are doing me proud. At last count over 150 people have registered for this reunion, and we still have time to go! The best seller for SD15 is the Grand Banquet, and why not, we all want to hear from Captain Larry Ernst about the decommissioning of our great ship. Next comes our visit to a Navy ship on Thursday, April, 24. In this newsletter, Editor Dave Payson says it will be the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN-76), so who am I to disagree? Actually everything is looking great for this to happen, but I remember 2013 when we got close but lost this tour due to her operating commitments. I am an optimist, but I won’t feel secure until we pull up to the pier and there sits the *Gipper*. I will keep you informed. A close third in sign-ups is a tie between the SD trolley tour and the Padres baseball game.



It is important that you fence sitters register for SD15 ASAP. The cutoff date established by AFR, our reunion planning company, is March 25. They need time to assemble the registration packets, finalize our tour numbers, and set the stage for a great reunion. Does that mean we will not accept late comers? Of course not, we want as many Midway veterans to join us as possible. **However**, some things will change after the cutoff date. The online registration site will close down. In order to register after 3/25/15, you will need to print the registration form and mail your check to AFR’s address in Norfolk VA, which is on the form. Why? Because all events after that date are on a space available basis. We do have some flexibility with most activities, but why chance it? Take action now, so you can do what you want to do at SD15.

Watch your e-mail in-box closely over the next few weeks. I will be sending *Inside Skinny* reports to all hands giving you the important details about how to

maximize your reunion experience. As we all remember, there were always guys on the ship who knew what was going on before anyone else, they had the “inside skinny,” and so will you if you read and heed my *IS* reports. As always, contact me with any questions you may have—703-264-0542 or mva41vpr@comcast.net. SEE YOU IN SAN DIEGO—SOON!!

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association

Call For 2015 Dues

If you haven’t paid your 2015 dues yet, please get them to us ASAP, shipmates. Your dues (membership fees) help offset the costs of writing, producing and mailing our quarterly newsletter and the many other costs associated with hosting our reunions.



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

Make your check payable to Midway Veterans Assn. and mail to Dave Payson @ 410 Cottonwood Dr., Richmond, Washington 99352.

Thank you in advance . . . Dave Payson, sec.-treas./MVA

(509) 946-0810 minandave@charter.net

Sec.-Treas./Newsletter Editor’s Report

Okay, now we’re getting down to it, packing our gear and getting ready to ship out to San Diego! The Countdown Clock has wound down to just a few weeks, and “Channel Fever” has set in big time, for this reunion is going to be one “port-of-call” we won’t soon forget.



Not only do we have a great lineup of tours and things to do while we’re in San Diego, but our veterans and their families and guests will once again get a chance to meet with museum visitors, as well as museum staff and the incredible group of docents and other volunteers who keep things running smoothly at the museum. But for

many of the veterans, when they return, just another chance to experience the ship is all they need.

Kudos to all of the MVA members who have worked so hard behind the scenes to make this reunion possible. Thanks also to our reunion planning company, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR), who has done a great job helping us keep things straight.

Remember, if you haven't yet paid your dues for the year, please do so. Help keep our organization afloat so that we can keep bringing you these reunions. You can pay your dues through the registration process, and the money will get back to us through AFR.

Also, I remind you that we run these reunions in part as a nonprofit organization. Our bylaws describe us as both a social and a charitable organization. Yes, we have fun, but we also raise money for good causes such as the museum's Education Fund and Midway Endowment Fund. Last year, we donated over \$1,700 to the museum for these programs.

With this in mind, we'd like you to bring an item to the reunion that we can use as a raffle prize at our reunion fund-raising events. Totally optional, of course, but it'd help us out.

Finally, I would like to say goodbye to my good friend Craig Harper, the Webmaster I worked closely with for so many years to keep our website interesting and well stocked with good information. Craig died of cancer on Feb. 27, 2015. Just like that he was gone, and it is a very sad thing. When we are able to resume operations on our website, we will post a special tribute to Craig.

SAN DIEGO AND OUR SHIP BECKONS. SEE YOU THERE!!

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!*

Gary Dunmire (57-60) - Tigard, OR

Chan Voeltz (83-88) - Madison, WI

Donald Hall (87-90) Roseville, CA

James Thomas (84-85) - Green Cove Springs, FL

Dan Scanlon III (79-81; 82-84) - Bensalem, PA

Ken Broers (53-55) - Auburn, NE

Mitchell Cook (73-76) - Ford City, PA

Fred Sterner (69-72) - Wilton, IA

Terrell Randall (83-86) - Waldorf, MD

Stanley Benwell (85-87) - Grovertown, IN

Steve Weir (77-79) - Vancouver, WA

Steven Orckekowsky (87-89) - Newcastle, WA

Marion Hersey (82-86) - Bremerton, WA

Barry Rauchle (1964) - San Ramon, CA

Jay Kennerly (63-64) - Springfield, IL

Richard Wooster II (80-83) - San Francisco, CA



Marty FitzGerald (AN ABG/V-4 Div., 57-60) stands proud in his new MVA vest. Marty, a member of MVA's Membership Committee, plans to show off his MVA vest at the April reunion, as will many other attendees. Follow this link <http://ussmidway.net/mvashipsstore.html> to access the MVA Ship's Store, to order your own vest and other memorabilia.



Editor's note: If anyone knows the origin of the Tiger Head logo pictured below that was painted on Midway's starboard superstructure near "Vultures Row," please contact Doug Bohs at enviar@frontier.com. And if you happen to run across his long-gone missing 35mm slide of the logo let him know about that too.

The Year of the Tiger Head

"As memory serves, this logo was painted on the starboard superstructure and I observed it as I climbed up to "Vultures Row" to watch arrested landings. About 30 years ago I had the picture painted from a 35mm slide,

which I cannot find. I just wanted to know if anyone knew the origin of this logo, etc. Or, for that matter, if

anyone even remembers seeing the tiger head, which carried the motto, "BE ONE." (After awhile you begin to doubt where you saw it . . . or for that matter if you even did see it, since I can't find the slide.)



Thanks . . . Doug Bohs, AQF2/VF-21, 63-65

In Memoriam

Shipmate Craig Harper, 57, passed away February 27, 2015. See article this newsletter.

Shipmate James R. Burns, 81, passed away September 13, 2014. He was born February 21, 1933, in Colby, Kansas, and is survived by his wife Dale Burns and two daughters and a son. He served on Midway from 1960-1967 as a Chief Radarman in OI Division. May he rest in peace.

Charlotte Coker, 70, died March 7, 2012. She was the widow of Midway veteran Bobby Coker, a radarman aboard Midway 1960-64, who died in August 2004.

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."

How To Make SD15 Hotel Reservation

Book your room using either the Wyndham's "passkey" website or our dedicated phone number below. If you phone, ask for the USS Midway block of rooms. The current room rate is \$179/night, but it may be going up again soon (we have heard). We are in the process of checking rates at other hotels in the vicinity of the Wyndham, and will make that information available.

◆ **Web:** <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2015USSMidway>

◆ **Phone:** (877) 999-3223

◆ **Reunion** events/activities will take place April 23, 24, 25, 2015. So get there a day early if you can.

◆ **Remember:** Operation Frequent Wind 40th anniversary ceremony is happening on the ship the day following the reunion (Sunday, April 26th).

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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