# 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



One picture is worth a thousand words, they say. Well, here it is: Dinner on the flight deck, MVA's 2013 reunion

#### Reunion Signup Well Underway

Clear the flight deck! Wake the town and tell the people! Shout it from the highest steeple! MVA's next reunion is set for **September 11-13, 2017,** in San Diego. Registration is well underway, and, as you might've heard by now, RADM Mac McLaughlin, USN (Ret.), president and CEO of the USS Midway Museum, will be our keynote speaker. Mac will work his magic for us under a sky full of stars, and, who knows, maybe even a full moon over San Diego Bay. Do not miss the banquet, ladies and gentlemen, for it's an experience you will long cherish.

But wait, there's more! In concert with the USS Midway Museum, we will celebrate POW\*MIA National Recognition Day in a special ceremony on the flight deck as part of the banquet program. Not only that, but to share in this celebration, we have invited veterans from Midway's two sister ships: the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, CV-42, and the USS Coral Sea, CV-43, as well as veterans from the USS Kitty Hawk, CV-63.

With all these carrier crewmen and pilots potentially present on banquet night, we hope to cover a large section of the flight deck with former flattop sailors. MVA president Oscar Granger likes the idea of having a large number of "bird farm" sailors and pilots holding down the flight deck. "It just feels right," is the way he put it. He's right – it does feel right.

True, we've been bombarding you with reunion registration information lately, but we want to be sure that everyone understands the process. First, open the MVA website (<a href="http://ussmidway.net/">http://ussmidway.net/</a>). Next click on the link in the second paragraph to register for the reunion (this link allows you to register either by credit card on the page that opens, OR by printing out and completing a registration form and mailing it with your check to the address on the form). The link in the third paragraph opens to our special "passkey" page where you can either book your hotel room online (Wyndham San Diego Bayside, close by the ship), OR by phone (phone number provided on the page).

<u>Questions</u>? Contact Jim Hayter, MVA VP-Reunions, at (703) 264-0542 or mailto:mva41vpr@comcast.net

#### DINNER ON THE FLIGHT DECK BECKONS!



MVA's 2013 banquet on the flight deck. Twilight falls gently over the Midway and San Diego Bay

Experience three days (or more) of fun, sun and camaraderie on the "Big 41." You may travel the world over and never have another experience like this.

Tours and activities to include: ◆ A day at Balboa Park
◆ Welcome Reception ◆ Meet & Greet with Museum's
Leadership Team on ship ◆ Seal Tour ◆ San Diego
Lights Tour ◆ Dinner Cruise ◆ Brewery Tour ◆ Hotel
Del Coronado Tour ◆ Grand Banquet on Flight Deck
◆ Celebration of POW\*MIA National Recognition Day
on Banquet Night

Remember to bring a prize from your home state for our raffles and fundraisers; donations go to the USS Midway Museum's charitable programs and the Fisher House Hotels for Heroes program!



Editor's note: Marion "Mick" Hersey served on Midway from 1982-86 as a baker and a cake decorator. Doing this job he learned how to pay attention to detail, a lesson he now, some 30-plus years later, applies to being a "preservationist" of memorials. On May 30, 2017, he received a Special Achievement Award in Historic Preservation at a ceremony in Seattle. Last year, in this newsletter, we featured a story on Mick titled "The Monument Man." It described how Mick has unselfishly given his time and effort to preserving historical and cultural memorials (such as grave markers and plaques) up and down Washington's Olympic Peninsula and beyond, including the USS Midway plaque on Bremerton's waterfront. The Special Achievement Award described here recognizes Mick's relentless efforts in preserving and refurbishing these memorials, so many of which have been long neglected, and while he may garner more of these awards in the future, winning them isn't what drives him. Not by a long shot. He is totally motivated and committed to restoring the memorials of those who have come before, and he works at it almost every day and with some "special sense," it seems. His accomplishments, recognized by this award, are truly remarkable, and we salute him for it!

#### SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT: MARION ("MICK") HERSEY



Mick Hersey accepts his Special Achievement Award at May 30 ceremony in Seattle. At left is Dr. Allyson Brooks, Director, Washington State Archeology and Historical Preservation Department.

The following is the narrative that was read when Mick was presented the 2017 Special Achievement in Historic Preservation Award . . .

"The first award for outstanding achievement in historic preservation is made in the Special Achievement category. Awards given in this category recognize individuals, organizations, programs, or special efforts that do not quite fit into the other award categories but have made a significant impact toward the preservation of cultural or historic properties. This year, the recipient in this category is Marion (better known as "Mick") Hersey (HER SEE) from Bremerton [Washington State]. Mick is recognized in special achievement for his countless volunteer hours devoted to preserving and restoring historical markers, military markers, cemeteries, grave stones, and historic military artifacts located not only in Kitsap but in counties up and

down the I-5 corridor and Olympic Peninsula. This is a timely honor in view of the Memorial Day holiday we observed yesterday as well as 2017 marks the centennial observance of the United States' entry into the World War I conflict.

"Mick got started in his mission to preserve historic markers in 2010 after noticing neglected memorials along the boardwalk in downtown Bremerton. On his own volition, he repainted over 300 of these plaques at no cost to the public.

"Himself retired from the Navy, Mick is motivated by his patriotism and love of history. He believes that the restoration work he does brings honor and dignity to the persons, actions, and events in history that the memorials were created to commemorate.

"...To help on his projects, Mick enlists his own family members, many friends, active-



duty military personnel, historical and veterans groups, and all levels of government entities. His many accomplishments include the restoration of over 400 grave stones, memorials, and historical markers in addition to 100 bronze markers. Mick has cleared many overgrown cemeteries, restored 4 gun placements, 5 anchors, and 12 flagpoles. Amongst his most ambitious project was repainting a F-8 Crusader fighter jet at Bremerton's NAD Soroptimist Park.

"What we have described here barely scratches the surface of all that Mick has accomplished to preserve these symbols of our heritage and the sacrifices of others. But as the Daughters of the American Revolution wrote to us in their nomination of Mick, "He gives totally of himself for his love of preservation." Mick, at this time, it is truly an honor to present you with this award."



Mick working to restore plaques and monuments along Bremerton's waterfront, including one we all recognize.

#### **President's Report**

Shipmates: three years ago, in June of 2013, in re-



sponse to unfair and unfound accusations from the Squadrons and Shipmates organization founder, I sent out a considered response to the entire MVA membership and to USS Midway Veterans in general. We've now come under scrutiny from the Squadrons and Shipmates group again with their latest

recriminations from their past president, Raleigh Plesko. This is an attempt to scuttle the MVA Commemorative Reunion honoring our POW\*MIA families in September aboard the ship in San Diego.

Mr. Plesko has taken exception with the Grand Banquet and the costs associated with having the commemorative celebration on the flight deck of the Midway. Your VP-Reunions, Jim Hayter, has done his usual stellar work at negotiating with both the Midway Museum Events Staff and the Catering Company to ensure the best possible experience for the celebration. As a Military Reunion organization, the Midway provides us with a discount for the use of the flight deck, and for the equipment, tables, chairs, ceremonial flags, electronics, speakers accommodations, etc. Finally, we also engage the services of a reunion planner, and the fees to accommodate those services are paid for, in part, through the costs associated with the Grand Banquet.

I stand by what I wrote three years ago and would hope that our detractors take the time to read that message and end the incessant bickering. What I said then, and what I say again is, "No one organization has any right to hold itself above any other organization in service to our veterans. This is not a competitive business! There is no need for anyone to denigrate or belittle the work of anyone else. We veterans of the USS Midway are a vanishing breed and we must be respectful of and to each other – to work together to ensure that the legacy of our great ship endures beyond our mortal selves. Incessant bickering serves no useful purpose and only deflects our focus to matters that are counterproductive to the good work of our veterans organizations."

The USS Midway Veterans Association readily and regularly engages with the USS Midway Museum in support of their many and varied programs – benefitting veterans of all services and children from around the world. Twenty percent of all money raised through our

association dues go directly to the Midway Museum in support of its Education and Endowment programs. We raised over \$12,000 from our members to help offset costs associated with the Battle of Midway experience. We are a tax-exempt organization under the IRS rules, section 501(c)(19), offering our members the opportunity for a tax benefit for all monies they donate under the auspices of the USS Midway Veterans Association.

As I asked in my 2013 letter to the membership, "Let us all stand tall out of respect for each other and our service to our country. We will not justify our existence to any one person or organization. We are all doing what needs to be done as human beings, as veterans – we are bringing the past and present together in a camaraderie of friendship and caring and love. Don't lose sight of the bigger picture."

As a final note, Shipmates, your 2017 POW\*MIA Commemorative Reunion is less than 3 months away. RADM (Ret.) Mac McLaughlin is our keynote speaker, and he will be looking for you to join us on the flight deck of the ship for the Grand Banquet on Wednesday, September 13th. Check out the MVA website at http://ussmidway.net/for your registration and hotel information.

All ahead full speed to the 2017 USS Midway Veterans Association Reunion.

Oscar Granger, President USS Midway Veterans Association

#### **VP-Reunions' Report**

As I write this report, the countdown clock on the MVA website just dropped below 100 days until our gathering in San Diego in September. My Reunion Planning Committee (RPC) has done its preliminary work and now it's time for our members to continue signing-up for the events and activities we have planned for SD17. Our goal was to develop a



variety of new things for you to do while keeping you busy, and still giving you time to enjoy all that downtown San Diego has to offer. I think we met our goal. At this point I would like to thank the RPC members for their time and dedication to this task. Take a bow—Marty Fitzgerald, Ron Pope, Ken Radek, Bob Roberge, and Ken Zuorro. These guys have put it lots of hours in research, and always exciting conference calls, to produce the events you see in our reunion program and our registration form (RF). They also broke a rule I was taught early in my Navy hitch—never volunteer! They did, and I am thankful for their help and advice. Go to

www.ussmidway.net and look for the links, and then signup for your choices.

Speaking of signing-up, that is now each member's primary assignment. Each time we talk with a vendor, their first question is how many people you are expecting; our stock answer is always we are not sure at this point, but use XXX for planning purposes. Vendors like to deal in absolutes (like how many trolleys, how many seal vehicles, and how many seats) because they take this information and reserve things for us. That takes whatever we are negotiating out of their inventory, and potentially out of their revenue stream. Based on past experience, we can get pretty close to what we need, but actual numbers are what seals the deal. OK, that it makes planning easier, but why should that matter to me signing-up? Because at this point that reserves you a spot on the event you are picking. If you want to be Tail End Charlie, and wait until the last minute to decide what you want to do at SD17, then don't be disappointed if you watch full buses pull out as you wave at your mates leaving on their tours, and you with no seat. We do our best to be sure we have plenty of space for each event, but as we get closer to the reunion the less flexibility we have. My favorite line from the movie The Ten Commandments is "so let it be written, so let it be done." Not much doubt about what that means. Remember, you saw it written here in June.

The fun thing about reunion planning is to see it all come together in mid-September. With Dinner on the Flight Deck II this year, we are expecting big numbers for SD17. Make sure you join us for all three days of our upcoming reunion. The memories you make, and take home, are what this is all about. See you in San Diego! Jim Hayter (mva41vpr@comcast.net or 703-264-0542) if you have questions.

Jim Hayter, VP-Reunions, USS Midway Veterans Association

#### Sec.-Treas./Newsletter Editor's Report

The subject is numbers. Numbers are everywhere

these days. There's no escaping them; in many ways, they have taken over our lives. In every conceivable enumeration, large and small, we are constantly bombarded with numbers. Like now, for example, for our 2017 San Diego reunion. Gotta have them numbers!



Let's face it, numbers are the measure of success (or failure) in just about everything we do in life – votes in elec-

tions, TV ratings, audience reached in advertising, winning sports teams, etcetera, etcetera. The beat goes on.

And yes, we're looking for big numbers at our next reunion. Our last two reunions in San Diego drew crowds surpassing 300. Is that good enough? Maybe. But we keep looking to set the bar higher. How about we go for 400-plus?

Speaking of numbers, there is a special set of them that are germane to our 2017 reunion, and perhaps to our 2019 reunion as well. These numbers, 41, 42, and 43, tie directly to three famous aircraft carriers built following the Second World War: USS Midway, USS Franklin D. Roosevelt, and USS Coral Sea, built in1945, 1946, and 1947, consecutively. These are the "Midway-class carriers," the largest and baddest warships of their time, bar none.

The FDR and the Coral Sea were scrapped many years ago, and only Midway survives today as the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, now the most-successful museum ship in the world, by the latest polling (again with the numbers)!

While the FDR and Coral Sea are long gone, their veterans have kept the memories of these ships very much alive through reunions, newsletters, websites, and the like. So the idea came to us – invite the veterans of our sister ships to the 2017 reunion, and, further, let's look into hosting a Midway-class reunion sometime in 2019. Really do it up big on the USS Midway Museum.

Speaking of still more numbers, against 40-1 odds, did you hear that a horse named Battle of Midway finished third in this year's Kentucky Derby? Midway Magic rides again!

But wait, it looks like I'm not done with numbers yet. Before I sign off, allow me to don my MVA dues collector's (Treasurer's) hat, and remind you of another important set of numbers: your 2017 dues. Please pay them ASAP. Your dues are what keeps this ship running strong and long, men. In addition, you pay and you get a cool membership card from the MVA.

So there you go. As I get ready to go to press with this newsletter, the countdown clock has ticked down to just over 82 days.

In conclusion, enough with the numbers, already!

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



## VP-Administration's Report

Down to the wire, and forging forward, we are on the road to San Diego. Noteworthy is we are getting it all together for you in a good precise way. It takes longer to digest stuff, but our illustri-

ous team has every corner covered. My task is still very arduous; I did not realize the amount of effort and time need to revise the MVA By-laws. It has been a slow and time-consuming endeavor with respect to other irons in the fire. I am hoping to be near completion soon.

Richard Wooster II, VP-Admin., USS Midway Veterans Association

**Editor's note:** The following article, marking the 75th anniversary of the famous WWII sea battle, comes from an interesting source, demonstrating, perhaps, that the USS Midway remains popular to this day in Japan.



### Namesake carrier, survivors mark 75th anniversary of Battle of Midway in San Diego

SAN DIEGO – Ceremonies marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Midway are underway in San Diego aboard a retired U.S. Navy aircraft carrier named for the clash.

A small group of survivors of the June 1942 battle, all in wheelchairs, received a standing ovation Monday aboard the USS Midway, which is now a museum in San Diego Bay.

The battle marked a dramatic victory over the Japanese and helped turn the tide of World War II in the Pacific.

It occurred as Japanese forces were attacking U.S. forces on a small Pacific atoll roughly halfway between the U.S. West Coast and the eastern edge of Asia.

American warplanes sank four Japanese aircraft carriers while the U.S. Navy lost one carrier.

#### 2017 Dues Are Past Due!

Men, if you haven't paid your 2017 dues yet, please consider doing so ASAP. We don't want to lose you from our ranks.

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

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

(OR pay your dues on the form when you register for the reunion)

Don't hesitate to contact Dave if you have questions,

**Editor's note:** Steve Palka's article about Midway winning the 1976 Ney Award is illustrative of how seriously the Navy takes its food service operations. Be advised this is the condensed version of Steve's original writeup, i.e., the "editor's cut." The full version of Steve's very comprehensive article can be found in the "Midway Memories" section of our website.

#### **NEY AWARD 1976**

by Steve Palka, MS1/MSC, S-2 Division, 1974-1977

The Captain Edward F. Ney Award was instituted in 1958 to recognize the best small, medium and large afloat and ashore Navy Food Service Operations. While many people say the way to win the Ney Award is with "Good Chow," this award and winning it encompasses so much more.

In 1976, Midway was a participant in the award, and as both the Food Service Division and the rest of the ship found out, it was more than just "Good Chow." It wasn't until the competition was well underway that we found out that Midway was one of the three ships in the Large Mess Afloat Category that was in the running for the NEY Award.

As with all inspections there is a checklist that everyone must follow and points are awarded in each category. The categories of the NEY Award checklist included such areas as: Food Preparation and Service, Sanitation, and Training.

From the outset we knew that winning this award was going to require assistance from other departments within Midway. It was going to have to be a team effort, including the personnel from the Wardroom, CPO Mess, the Captain and Admiral's Galley, as well as both the Forward and Aft Galley, Bake Shops, Vegetable Preparation Rooms and the stores conveyors. In short, it was going to require

just about everything having to do with food preparation aboard Midway to win this award competition.

Our first inspection was by the Type Commander, COM-NAV AIRPAC, while in homeport Yokosuka, and we had no problem passing this inspection. The second inspection was conducted by the Officer-in-Charge of the Navy Food Management Team Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. For this inspection we were underway from Singapore on our way to the Indian Ocean. The inspector was onboard for about 2-3 days and this allowed him more than enough time to check all the food service spaces.

Our final inspection was conducted in Hong Kong. When the final inspection party came on board Monday morning they were met on the quarterdeck by Captain Chambers, the XO, the Supply Officer, and the Food Service Officer. Captain Chambers had them come up to his in port cabin for a Welcome Aboard cup of coffee and then the inspection party commenced their inspection of Midway's Food Service Spaces. The inspection party consisted of the XO of the Navy Food Service Systems Office in Washington D.C, the Training Officer from the Navy Food Service Systems Office, a Medical Service Corps Officer and a civilian from the International Food Service Executives Association.

For the following hours this inspection team was everywhere to be found in Midway's Food Service Spaces, going over every possible detail pertaining to food preparation, sanitation and messing and berthing, and many more details, with a fine-tooth comb. The Inspection Party did not leave the ship until after 1700, telling Captain Chambers the results would be out in about 2 - 3 weeks.

When the results did come out, the U.S.S. Midway was the winner of the NEY Award for the best large mess afloat in 1976. We had beaten out the U.S.S. Prairie (AD-15), which was homeported in San Diego and some Amphib ship that was homeported in Norfolk.

Captain Chambers was very pleased with the outcome and when the Midway got back to homeport Yokosuka he proceeded to throw a party for everyone involved in the NEY Award. This winning of the NEY Award in 1976 is just another instance of "Midway Magic."

The plaque for this award can be seen on the Midway museum even today. It is on the aft mess decks port side adjacent to the Unrep exhibit. **Editor's note:** Quite often we receive a letter or message from the son or daughter of a Midway veteran who has passed that touches our hearts. This one is exceptional. The MVA sent Kevin and his family a sympathy card to pay tribute for the loss of his father... *He spent four years in the Navy but always acted like he spent 50.* 

#### An Honorable Man...

Greetings honorable sailors.

It is with regret that I forward that my father (Vincent C. Johnson) has passed away yesterday after a short illness. He was 87 years old

His naval career found him on 4 carriers to include the Coral Sea, the Oriskany, Midway and Roosevelt.

He spent four years in the Navy but always acted like he spent 50. He loves this country, his family and his sailors. He has supported me in my 35 years as a paramedic / firefighter and I want you to know that he admires his ships and those that served on it.

He was an honorable man, a gift to his country and a friend to all. May those of you that served with him, knew of him or simply believe that what you have done in your past reflects the honor of the future, be blessed in heaven.

May his soul rest in peace, but know that you are all legends among men, hero's among the stars and forever will be in my heart.

Kevin Johnson Fire Rescue Stone Mountain, Ga

#### **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!* 

Charles Homchosky (79-82) - Warren, OH Gary Mellor (79; 81-84) - FPO, AP Michael Hovatter (69-71) - Manalapan, NJ John Trolinger, Jr. (82-83) - Ingram, TX Anthony Stiles (91-92) - Slidell, LA Allan Kingston (58-60) - Lincoln, CA Gib Godwin (89-92) - Aldie, VA Jeffrey Jenkins (69-73) - S. Ponte Vedra Beach, FL Victor James (73-76) - Storm Lake, IA Dave Batson (61) - Melbourne, FL Alan Hart Sr. (81-84) - Atoka, TN Robert Sitze, Jr. (83-86) - Sanford, NC John Friel (77-79) - Yuma, AZ Gordon Guthrie (73-75) - Snohomish, WA Steve Beverlin (60-62) - New Braunfels, TX John Conkey (78-80) - Port Matilda, PA

#### 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/mvashipsstore.html

#### In Memoriam

Shipmate Richard Rumbaugh, 75, passed away April 17, 2017, at the Hospice Care Center in Akron, Ohio. Richard served on Midway 1964-66 as an Ensign in FOX Division. He retired as a Captain in the Navy Reserve in 1991. He was a lawyer and practiced law for many years in Akron. He is survived by two sisters, several nephews and nieces and their children. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Thomas Heidrick, 82, passed away March 30, 2017, at the Hospice Care Center in Desert Hot Springs, CA. He served on Midway 1957-60 as a LT(jg) in OR Division, making two West-Pac cruises during that period. He is survived by his wife Marilyn, five children, and ten grandchildren. He retired as a LCDR in the Navy Reserve. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Bernard Chaback, 88, passed away April 5, 2017, in Jenkins Township, PA. He was a Navy veteran of WWII, and after that war served on the USS Midway as the ship's first quartermaster. May he rest in peace.



'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.'



**MVA 2017 Reunion T-shirt** 



Midway veterans' color guard at banquet dinner 2013. Four years later can they still fit into their uniforms? Stay tuned.

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

USS Midway Veterans Association Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/USSMidwayVeteransAssociation

## The Masthead <u>USS Midway</u> 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 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 ab	oard:to		
Rank/Rate/Division w	hile aboard (e.g., RM3/0	CR Div.):	
Rank/Rate when Disch	arged/Retired (e.g., RM	C):	
Years served in militar	yto		
How Did You Hear Abo	ut Our Reunion Associat	ion?	
Fill out this form, print, a	and mail along with amour	nt for membership for one o	f the three categories below

- ◆ \$30.00/vr 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 <u>minandave@charter.net</u>; phone 509-946-0810

We Lived the Adventure!