



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

Reunion Reg. Form available on last page of this newsletter.



Dinner on the flight deck under the "Big 41" at MVA's 2013 reunion

Reunion Sign-up Progressing At Flank Speed

By the time this newsletter hit the stands, MVA's reunion team was feeling confident about the number of veterans, family members and guests signing up. Momentum has been steadily building toward the **September 11-13, 2017**, reunion in San Diego. We are billing the reunion as *an experience you will long cherish*, and nothing about that statement has changed since our last newsletter – it's still as true as true can be.

Keeping with the reunion's theme of honoring America's POWs and MIAs, we are working with Al and Merry Padilla – San Diego chapter – National POW*MIA Families Association, and making excellent progress. Perhaps one of the best known POWs we will honor on banquet night is Eddie Murphy, executive officer of the USS *Pueblo* who was held captive for one year by the North Koreans, along with the rest of the *Pueblo* crew.

More good news – the Midway Museum has stepped up in support of our POW*MIA theme and is sponsoring a table

on banquet night for our POW*MIA honored guests. This will be a big help in potentially drawing more of these honored guests and their families to the reunion.

IMPORTANT: If you plan to attend the reunion, make your hotel reservation and reunion registration **NOW!** You have until August 20 to book your hotel room at the \$153/n rate, and until August 16 to register for the reunion to be guaranteed space available on all the events and tours advertised. Go to MVA's website at <http://ussmidway.net/home.html> to get it done!

WE'LL WORK WITH OUR REUNION PLANNING CO. (AFRI) AND THE WYNDHAM HOTEL TO SEE IF IT'S POSSIBLE TO EXTEND THESE DEADLINES SO ALL HANDS WHO WANT TO ATTEND CAN! BUT WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT PAST THE DEADLINES, MEANS "SPACE AVAILABLE ONLY" AND HIGHER HOTEL RATES.

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

MVA's 2017 Reunion in San Diego. 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!

Battle of Midway Commemoration Ceremony

Naval Technical Training Center

San Antonio, Texas

By Andrew Perez III, Captain, USN (Ret.)

Arriving at 6:15 a.m., June 6, 2017, at Lackland AFB, I didn't know what to expect other than I was to meet up with my Midway shipmate Steve Tichenor, a fellow San Antonian, to represent the USS Midway Veterans Association (MVA) at a Commemoration Event.



(L-R) Master Chief Knox – and, representing the MVA, Steve Tichenor, Andy Perez, stand in honor as ceremonial wreath is placed at base of Command Flag and Command Plaque.

The ceremony began promptly at 6:30 a.m. After Colors and muster of Training Center personnel, CDR J. P. Martin, Commanding Officer of the Naval Technical Train-

ing Center, introduced **SK1 Steve Tichenor, USN (Ret.)** (Storekeeper First Class, aboard Midway 1976-78) and me (**Captain Andrew Perez III, USN (Ret.)**), aboard Midway 1963-65), representing the MVA and the USS Midway as honored guests. CDR Martin also introduced Master Chief Knox, the speaker at this year's ceremony and a former instructor at the Naval Technical Training Center. A special ceremonial wreath was placed at the base of the Command Flag and Command Plaque before Master Chief Knox began his remarks on the significance and meaning of the Battle of Midway.



Midway Veterans Steve Tichenor and Andy Perez stand before the Command Flag During BOM ceremony at Lackland AFB.

This year's ceremony commemorated 75 years since the Battle of Midway. Master Chief Knox's presentation focused on the meaning of the Battle Midway and how it changed the outcome of World War II in the Pacific Theater. Beginning on June 4, 1942, and going on through June 7, the final turning point of the battle was June 6, the day the fourth and last Japanese carrier was sunk and the battle was won by U.S. forces. The commemoration of the battle is held on June 6 of every year, the anniversary of the sinking of the last Japanese carrier. Outnumbered and outmanned in carriers and ships, the U.S. Navy prevailed. I'd heard the story many times before, but, as Master Chief Knox told it, it demonstrated that against all odds training, discipline, and experience coupled with courage, tenacity and creativity led to a decisive victory, a very important message for training technical personnel. It was a very moving ceremony on a special day, and Steve and I were proud to be there representing the USS Midway Veterans Association.



Steve, Andy and Master Chief Knox visit after BOM ceremony.

After the ceremony, Steve and I had the opportunity to address the trainees and the Commanding Officer of the Training Center, and we told them about some of our experiences serving aboard the Midway during the last century. Overall, Steve and I both agree that participating in this BOM commemorative ceremony was a very worthwhile and memorable experience.

Jim Hayter, Still Onboard After All These Years

Jim Hayter, MVA's VP of Reunions and self-proclaimed "Inside Skinny Man" who's usually gets the story well ahead of the rest of us, was chosen recently by Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., our reunion planning company, as its "Veteran of the Month." Following is Jim's interview as it appears in AFRI's latest newsletter. (Printed with permission of AFRI.)

Click [here](#) to open the article on Jim (PDF Document).

In Memoriam

Shipmate Robert (Bob) Srabian, 77, passed away July 12, 2017, in Fresno, CA. Bob served on Midway from 1963-1966, during the Vietnam War, as a CIC Air Controller in Ops. He was preceded in death by his wife, Arlene, in 2012, and is survived by a son, a daughter and four grandchildren. He was a lifetime member of the MVA. 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."

Editor's note: E. "Manny" Voeltz and his son Chan Voeltz traveled to Washington, D.C., in May to visit the national memorials built in honor of military veterans as part of the Badger Honor Flights out of Wisconsin. (Read about these Honor flights at the end of this article.) This story is remarkable on a couple of different levels. First, Manny and Chan are both Midway veterans who served on Midway over two decades apart, 1958-61 and 1983-88, respectively – Manny as an Electricians Mate Second Class and Chan as a Boiler Technician Second Class. The fact that Chan ended up on the same ship that his father served on was purely coincidental. Dad played no role in that, other than advising his son that perhaps he should consider enlisting in the Navy. Second, these days both men often team together on military-related activities such as the Honor Flights described here and volunteer work for the VA. Also, one would also like to point out that Manny and Chan are both lifetime members of the MVA, dedicated to the core.

Badger Honor Flight #27

By E. "Manny" Voeltz, EM2(P1)/E Div.



Chan

"Manny"

Saturday, May 13, 2017

At 3:30 a.m. I arrived at the Dane County Regional Airport in Madison, Wisconsin, to meet my son Chan who was to be my guardian for the day on Badger Honor Flight's 27th flight. He is a retired Navy veteran and Life Member of the Midway Veterans Association. At 4:30 a.m. we started the registration process where we received our jackets, caps and credentials.

After a military sendoff ceremony, 90 veterans, their guardians, along with the BHF staff and Medical volunteers (from the VA and University of Wisconsin Hospitals) and a few other dignitaries boarded the plane.

We departed Madison at 7 a.m., arriving at Washington's Reagan National Airport around 10 a.m. where a crowd

of over 200 welcomed us. Many of them members of the University of Wisconsin Alumni Association and Badger Honor Flight volunteers who cheered us on with Military music and Thank You's. My oldest son, Todd, his wife, two grandsons and a great grandson were part of the Welcome to Washington group.

We boarded our four buses and drove to Arlington Cemetery where we walked around the grounds then viewed the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony – What a precise Military presentation. It was also at this location I was honored to have some four generation pictures taken with my son, grandson and great grandson.

As we traveled from one memorial to another we were escorted by the Washington, D.C., and US National Parks Service Police Departments. We never stopped for a red light and if traffic was congested in our lane we moved into the lanes of oncoming traffic and kept moving. What a trip!

Our second stop was the Marine Corps Memorial (the Iwo Jima flag raising) where all 90 veterans gathered at the base of the monument and had our picture taken. (This picture was sent back to Madison to be printed and in our swag bag when we returned home.) Next we drove to the Vietnam/Korean Memorial areas where we had a couple of hours to walk around and visit with many other veterans. Besides 8 other Honor Flights in D.C. that day were many Police officers and Sheriff's deputies, from all over the United States, who were there to honor their fallen comrades.

At the Vietnam Wall I found the name of a family relative (my sister's nephew through marriage).

Chan and I walked over to the Korean War Memorials to take some pictures and after we finished, two ladies that were observing us came over to ask a favor. Not knowing what she wanted and being a little reluctant I finally said yes. She asked if she could take a picture of me wearing a helmet that she took out of a carry bag. I did not ask the reason for the helmet but after many pictures were taken both ladies thanked me. As they were walking away I heard one of them say, "Dad would be so proud of us."

Next stop, the World War II Memorial – What a beautiful sight. As were walking around we came upon a group of high school students from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, who had been rewarded the trip because of their Academic Achievement. They asked a lot of questions and couldn't thank us enough for our service.

Our last stop was the Air Force Memorial – what a beautiful presentation of the "Missing Man Formation" – this stop afforded us a great view of the D.C. area.

As we headed back to the airport we were given a tour of Washington, D.C. Our American Airlines charter flight departed Reagan National at 8 p.m. toward "Home Sweet Home."

On the way home we heard the words "Mail Call" and every veteran received a packet of mail from family and friends thanking them for their service. The rest of the flight was very quiet except for a few sobs from veterans who were overcome with what was happening.

We arrived home at the Dane County Regional Airport at 9:30 p.m. A crowd of over 5000 family, friends and just plain citizens were there to welcome us home as we walked down the center of the concourse with our guardians and military escorts. A WONDERFUL WELCOME HOME !!

One of the Vietnam veterans said to me "When I came home from Nam I was spit on and had dog feces thrown at me. It has taken a while, but this day is my "Welcome Home."

Honor Flight is a National Volunteer Organization that was formed about 10 years ago with the purpose of taking veterans to Washington, D.C., free of charge, where they can see the national memorials built in their honor.

The Badger Honor Flight was started in 2009, and has completed 27 flights and taken over 2300 veterans to D.C. They have two fall flights in 2017 and four more in 2018. We also have over 800 veterans on the wait list and receive more applications each day. Every one of them will get their "Trip of a Lifetime."

Editor's note: Martin (Marty) McCormick's Letter to the Editor below is well taken: as we honor our nation's POWs and MIAs at the reunion, we should also honor those who are presently serving in our country's military around the world. (Marty's grandson is currently training as a Ranger in the U.S. Army.) I'm working with Marty on ideas on how the MVA can so honor these active-duty warriors.

Dave:

"I wish we could honor those serving and fighting today somewhere along the way as well. The MIA theme is great, but every day it seems some very brave guys and girls are putting it on the line. Just yesterday 7 sailors were lost at sea in that collision [i.e., June 17 collision between a Philippine cargo ship and the guided missile

destroyer USS Fitzgerald off the coast of Japan], let alone the Rangers shot by our so-called allies. It is a tough environment every day and we need to let them know we care. I have a grandson in Ranger training now and I have pride and worry in his willingness to go in harm's way. At the very least it helps when the Homeland support is known and clear to those serving. We had our turn, so we know the importance of feeling respect for our service. If our reunion group could send a solid message of support and respect to those on the front lines today I'm sure it would be well received.

Sincerely,

Martin (Marty) McCormick, AEM3/VF-12, 1954-55"

Link to: [U.S. Central Command](#)

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!*

Garry Postma (76-78) - Chula Vista, CA
Forrest McNight (89-91) - Austin, TX
Jerry Delgado (84-86) - Lancaster, CA
Jack Hyle (74-75) - The Villages, FL
Matthew Lucido (71) - Sterling Heights, MI
James Bentley (70-74) - Mesa, CO
Richard Morton (79-81) - Pace, FL
Willie Laws (81-84) - Sharon, MA
Richard Burzynski (78-80) - Millington, TN
Milton Alexander (75-78) - Munford, TN
David Montgomery (58-60) - San Leandro, CA

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>

Notice: the MVA is looking for an MVA volunteer to run this ship's store, someone who is creative and has an eye for detail and a love for memorabilia. Duties include coordinating, ordering, maintaining and replenishing MVA's memorabilia stock. Strong people and computer skills are required. Apply within, that is, to the editor of this newsletter -- Dave Payson (minandave@charter.net).



MVA 2017 Reunion T-shirt

Officers Up for Reelection at Reunion

- MVA President Oscar Granger
- MVA Secretary/Treasurer David Payson

Both men are up for reelection at this reunion. They will have served four-year terms. The election will be held at Wednesday morning's Business Meeting.



MVA Color Guard, assembled in 2013 for MVA's San Diego reunion.

Note: We're looking to form another MVA Color Guard detachment for this reunion. So if your uniform still fits, bring it along.

**The Masthead
USS Midway
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 Website
<http://ussmidway.net/home.html>

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

ATTENTION: The registration form for our 2017 San Diego reunion is included as the last page of this newsletter. To use the form to register, remove the page, complete, and mail in with your check to AFRI's address on the form. **OR** register by credit card by opening the top link on the form: (<https://www.afr-reg.com/midway2017/>)



Table of happy MVA banqueters waiting for the banquet to begin, circa 2013 reunion.

USS MIDWAY VETERANS ASSN. ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2017

Listed below are registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Send the total amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. If a valid email address is provided, a receipt will be sent electronically. Otherwise, your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/midway2017 (3.5% will be added to credit card charges). All forms and payments must be received by August 16, 2017. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. Call 757-625-6401 to cancel and obtain a cancellation code. Please visit www.ussmidway.net to access our dedicated Wyndham Hotel reservation link.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: Midway Veterans

OFFICE USE ONLY
Check # _____ Date Received _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/16/17	Price Per	# of People	Total
TOURS/OUTINGS			
MONDAY, 9/11: DAY AT BALBOA PARK	\$11		\$
MONDAY, 9/11: WELCOME RECEPTION	\$22.50		\$
TUESDAY, 9/12: MEET & GREET	No Charge		No Charge
TUESDAY, 9/12: SEAL TOUR	\$27		\$
Please choose only one of the following tours since they are offered at the same time			
TUESDAY, 9/12: SAN DIEGO CITY LIGHTS NIGHT TOUR	\$22		\$
OR			
TUESDAY, 9/12: HARBOR DINNER CRUISE	\$49		\$
Please choose only one of the following tours since they are offered at the same time			
WEDNESDAY, 9/13: BREWERY TOUR	\$37		\$
OR			
WEDNESDAY, 9/13: HOTEL DEL CORONADO TOUR	\$13		\$
BANQUET			
WEDNESDAY, 9/13: FLIGHT DECK DINNER ON USS MIDWAY	\$65		\$
MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes Hospitality Room and reunion expenses.	\$30		\$
OR			
BANQUET ONLY REGISTRATION FEE			
If attending the Wednesday Flight Deck Dinner Only	\$10		\$
OTHER ITEMS			
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES - 2017 \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES - 2018 \$30 <input type="checkbox"/> LIFETIME DUES \$150 <input type="checkbox"/> NEW MEMBER			\$
OPTIONAL DONATION TO MVA OPERATING FUND. Write the amount in far right column.			\$
REUNION APPAREL			
REUNION REGULAR T-SHIRT – LIGHT GRAY Indicate size: <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	\$13		\$
REUNION POCKET T-SHIRT – LIGHT GRAY Indicate size: <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Large <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL	\$15		\$
REUNION LADIES T-SHIRT – LIGHT GRAY Indicate size: <input type="checkbox"/> Large (12/14) <input type="checkbox"/> XL (16/18) <input type="checkbox"/> 2XL (20/22) <input type="checkbox"/> 3XL (24/26)	\$13		\$
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST _____ LAST _____

ON WHICH SHIP DID YOU SERVE? _____

YEARS ON BOARD (EX: 1962-65) _____ DIVISION/SQDN _____ RATE/RANK _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES (IF ATTENDING) _____

MEMBER STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be arranged by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

For questions regarding the reunion, please contact Chairman, Jim Hayter at 703-264-0542 or mva41vpr@comcast.net.