

DING DING . . . DING DING . . . SHIP'S CREW ARRIVING . . . ABOVE AND BELOW DECKS IN THE AIR, AT SEA AND IN PORT . . . DING DING . . . DING DING



### MCR Team Meets in San Diego To Settle Dates and Hotel for 2019 Midway Class Reunion

**Breaking News!** The 2019 Midway Class Reunion (MCR) bringing together the veterans of the three Midway Class Sister Ships has been set for **May 6-10, 2019**, in San Diego. We will name the reunion hotel once contract negotiations have been completed. Three days of events, on **May 7, 8 & 9**, have been scheduled, with the Grand Banquet on the flight deck set for Thursday evening, **May 9**. Monday, **May 6**, will be check-in and registration, and Friday, **May 10**, will be check-out. Much more to follow on this reunion as we get things setup, including registration, events, etc. The report below provides details on the reunion planning team's trip to San Diego.

**O**n February 12-13, 2018, veterans from the three Midway class aircraft carriers—USS Midway, USS

Courtesy of Garry Coston / Midway Class Carriers F.B. Group

Franklin D. Roosevelt, and USS Coral Sea—traveled to San Diego to conduct initial planning for a 2019 three ship reunion in San Diego that few dreamed would ever happen. Billed as the MCR—Midway Class Reunion—this reunion is also referred to as "The Three Sisters Reunion."

The objective of the MCR team was threefold: (1) to select a date for the reunion, (2) to select a hotel for the reunion, and (3) to meet with the USS Midway Museum's leadership team and exchange ideas on how they could best facilitate the reunion.

With only two full working days in San Diego to work with, the MCR team, whose members covered their own expenses for the trip, went to work to gather as much information as possible on available flight deck dates and potential reunion hotels—information they vitally needed



to select the when and where of the 2019 reunion. In the hotel search, they interviewed the sales managers of five San Diego hotels, over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  days, and toured the properties, with the understanding that the sales managers would get back to them shortly with their proposals.



Three Sisters Patch/Logo Design for 2019 Reunion

Tuesday's (September 13) meeting on the ship went extremely well. The Museum's leadership team was totally supportive of the idea of a Midway Class reunion, and said they'd help set up events normally held on the ship during MVA reunions (that is, the "Meet & Greet" and Grand Banquet on the flight deck). They also provided the MCR team with names of potential keynote speakers, agreed to allow reunion attendees free admission to the ship with a reunion nametag, alerted the MCR team on tightened security measures making it more difficult to tour Navy ships, and offered attendees "behind the scenes" tours of the ship conducted by docents.

Back home several days later, the MCR team members joined in on a teleconference and made their final decision on the hotel and the reunion dates unanimously, choosing the reunion hotel (to be named after the contract is signed) and a date for the reunion (May 6-10, 2019). The Grand Banquet on the flight deck is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 9, and that date is being held for the Midway Class reunion by the Museum.

MVA's President Oscar Granger said he was pleased with the way things went in San Diego. "With veterans from all three sister ships involved, it seemed at first a bit like "Mission Impossible"—all the moving parts and variables in play to deal with. But we got the dates and hotel set for the reunion and met with the Museum staff and the business managers of five hotels. Not bad for a couple of days' work, I'd say. We've been successful to this point, I believe, because we've worked together as a team, and now, more than ever, we're determined to make this reunion happen to honor the legacy of our three great ships and their crews."

### **Midway Class Reunion Team**

- ♦ Oscar Granger, MVA President
- ◆ Bob Siefker, FDR President
- ◆ Wayne Attkison, Coral Sea President
- ♦ Mil Phillip, Coral Sea Past President
- ◆ Dave Payson, MVA Sec.-Treas./Ed.
- ◆ Richard Wooster II, MVA VP-Admin
- Tim Miller, MVA Membership Chair

\* Jim Hayter, MVA's VP-Reunions, advised the team from his home in Reston, Virginia.

### **USS Midway Museum Team**

- ◆ Mac McLaughlin, President & CEO
- ◆ Scott McGaugh, Marketing Director
- ◆ Jill Hammons, Membership Director
- ◆ Pat Pfohl, Event Sales Director
- Alexis Famania, Event Sales Coordinator.

# Navy's First Black CPO Honored in Bremerton, WA, Ceremony

**O**n March 30, 2018, the Navy's first African American Chief Petty Officer, Chief Gunner's Mate John Henry (Dick) Turpin, was symbolically laid to rest at the Ivy Green Cemetery in Bremerton, Washington, next to his first wife's gravesite. The ceremony was led by **Marion** (**Mick) Hersey**, a lifetime member of the MVA who served on Midway from 1982-86. Mick is well known for his selfless work refurbishing memorials and grave markers up and down Washington's Peninsula. His efforts have been featured in this newsletter previously, most recently in the spring 2017 edition for winning the Washington State's Special Achievement Award in Historic Preservation.



Mick, technically known as a Historical Memorial Preservationist, explained how the ceremony memorializing Chief Turpin came about. "Last summer I was contacted by a local reporter here in Bremerton and asked if I knew where the grave or memorial of Chief Gunner's Mate John



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#### THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE USS MIDWAY VETERANS ASSOCIATION (MVA), ISSUE 32, WINTER/SPRING 2018

Henry (Dick) Turpin was. As one of the Historians of Ivy Green Cemetery, I checked the records and found that his first wife, Anna Turpin, was buried there, but not Turpin himself. [Chief Turpin, it turns out, was cremated and buried at sea in 1962]. So I started researching the man, the legend and the myth, which led to my making a Memorial marker honoring Chief Turpin to be placed at his wife's gravesite."

Mick contacted the Pacific Northwest Chief Petty Officer's Association, of which he is a member, with his idea of holding a memorial ceremony to honor Chief Turpin, and the chiefs agreed to sponsor it, and even helped Mick renovate Anna Turpin's gravesite for the ceremony.

The Memorial Ceremony honoring GMC John Henry (Dick) Turpin took place on March 30, 2018, and went off without a hitch. Mick served as the Master of Ceremony, wrote the program and put together the schedule of events. Over 200 dignitaries and spectators attended, and the Mayor of Bremerton and Kitsap County Commissioners proclaimed it Chief John Henry (Dick) Turpin Memorial Day in Bremerton and Kitsap County.



Mick Hersey places placard of Chief Turpin at Memorial Service

So, the story of the first African American chief petty officer was finally told. Chief Turpin was a genuine hero, and the recognition was long overdue. When he enlisted in the Navy in 1896, people of color were only allowed to serve as mess attendants. During his almost three decades in the Navy, he survived the sinking of two ships, saw combat in China during the Boxer Rebellion, and was recalled to service when the U.S. entered World War I. He was one of only 90 survivors out of a crew of 350 when the battleship USS Maine sank in Havana Harbor in 1898. In 1905, the gunboat he was on, the USS Bennington, suffered a boiler explosion, killing 66 of the 102 men onboard. Turpin survived and is reported to have saved the lives of fifteen men by swimming them to shore one at a time. Eleven men on the Bennington were awarded the Medal of Honor, but Turpin was not among them. His skin was the wrong color.



Gravesite marker made by Mick Hersey for Chief Gunner's Mate John Henry "Dick" Turpin

An excellent story about the memorial service for Chief Turpin, by reporter Julianne Stanford, with photos by Larry Steagall, ran in the *Kitsap Sun* the day following the service. Click *here* to read the *Sun's* story, click *here to* view Chief Turpin's biography, *here* to view his press release, and *here* to view the flyer on his memorial service.

One quote in particular stands out in the *Sun's* story, a quote that epitomizes Mick Hersey's passion for honoring and memorializing those who came before:

"(This ceremony) is just the start of the dream," Hersey said. "What we still really want to get done is to have him recognized with a Medal of Honor."

One thing is certain. Marion (Mick) Hersey won't rest until he does everything he can to get Chief Turpin his Medal of Honor.

# My Last Day on Midway

#### David Payson, 1963-64/RDSN, OI Division

My last active-duty day on Midway was May 26, 1964, the day we pulled into Midway's home port at Alameda, California, back from the 1963-64 West-Pac cruise. Although I had my orders to radar school at nearby Treasure Island and my seabag was packed, I was in no hurry to leave the ship, I remember. I was having a hard time coming to terms with the fact that I had to say goodbye to the life of adventure I had experienced on Midway, to the new friends I had made on the cruise, and to Midway herself.



I hung around CIC on that last day for as long as I dared, experiencing what I could for the last time, soaking it all in. Finally, it was time to leave, and, reluctantly, I made my way down the gangplank. Looking back at the ship from the pier, my feelings were mixed, somewhere between sadness and awe. But I knew I had to get on with the next chapter in my life, I suppose, and I found a taxi



to take me to T.I.

Fast forward a few months to the fall of 1964. I was halfway through radar school, and several of us were sitting around the barracks, too broke to go into the City By the Bay, listening on the radio to the numberone pop hit in the country "Sugar Shack," when the

song was suddenly interrupted by a news bulletin. In a distant country called Vietnam, the announcer said, in a place called the Gulf of Tonkin, North Vietnamese torpedo boats had attacked the destroyers USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy, and our destroyers had sunk two of the torpedo boats in retaliation. "They better not mess with us," I remember one of the men saying, breaking the silence that had fallen over us as we digested the news (which eventually was revealed to be false, or at best, inaccurate). The rest of us nodded in agreement, pondering what this incident, which became known as the "Gulf of Tonkin Incident," might mean to us down the road. We had no clue, and put it out of our minds. We were struggling to unravel the complex theory of Ohm's Law, after all.

A year later, the impact of that radio broadcast really hit home for me. For by then, I was in Vietnam, *in* the Gulf of Tonkin, a radarman on the USS Wilhoite, DE/DER-397, a radar picket ship converted from a WWII DE. We were at war with North Vietnam, and, patrolling the coastal waters off South Vietnam, our job was to stop weapon's smuggling by sea. They called it Operation Market Time. We carried out this mission with few complaints, and a whole lot of Navy Pride. There was no "Hell no, we won't go." We were already there.

In 1965, the Midway was operating in the Gulf of Tonkin, waging war on North Vietnam from Yankee Station, a couple hundred miles off the coast, at the same time I was there on the Wilhoite. I remember from my duty station in Wilhoite's CIC, listening to her exchanging radio messages with the other U.S. ships in her Task Group. "School Boy" was her radio call sign. Wilhoite's was "Smokey Hill."

That '65 Vietnam patrol was the last time I crossed paths with Midway in Vietnam, for she "retired" from the active fleet for the next several years to undergo decommissioning/recommissioning at the San Francisco Bay Naval Shipyard, Hunter's Point, California.

Although I returned to Vietnam waters in '66 and '67 on Wilhoite (we were home ported out of Pearl Harbor), I took great comfort in Midway's presence there in 1965.

Now, all these years later, I still take great comfort in her presence as she serves her country as a world-class ship museum in San Diego.

### **MVA Membership Volunteers Sought**

The MVA is looking for volunteers to help find and recruit Midway veterans into our ranks, with the objective of turning them into proud MVA members. There's probably well over a hundred and fifty-thousand of these Midway veterans still out there who haven't found us yet. (No one knows for sure what the real figure is, but it's lots.) Thus the primary job of **MVA's Membership Committee** is to help these "lost" Midway veterans find their way home to us and discover what a good thing we have going in our organization. We believe that we are the best damn reunion group in the retired fleet. We want all Midway veterans to share in the camaraderie and spirit of the unique position that we in the MVA enjoy. We are veterans of the number-one ship museum in the world, settled comfortably in San Diego, with nearly 1.5 million visitors per year. If you're interested in volunteering for this committee, please contact:

Tim Miller, Chair: <u>vokohamakid01@gmail.com</u> Phil Zuniga, Vice Chair: <u>angelson17@aol.com</u>

### Last Call for 2018 Dues!

**Shipmates**: MVA's 2018 annual dues (\$30.00) are past due. If you haven't paid yet -- and you know who you are -- please do so ASAP. We don't want to lose you as a member. Help us continue our world-class reunions and provide you with the best reunions, newsletters, etc. in the retired fleet. An added incentive to pay: you'll receive a laminated, wallet-size MVA membership card!

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

\$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 **MVA** and mail to Dave Payson @ 410 Cottonwood Dr., Richland, WA 99352.

Don't know if you've paid your 2018 dues? Contact Dave Payson at the email/phone # below and he'll let you know.

Need help with your dues? Let me know, and we can work something out. Your continued membership is worth far more than \$30 to us.

Email: minandave@charter.net; ph: (509 946-0810)



### In Memoriam

**Shipmate Joel Husebo**, 89, passed away in October 2017 under the care of Hospice in Roswell, Georgia. Aboard 1945-46, he was a Seaman 2nd and a member of Midway's original decommissioning crew. At the 2013 San Diego reunion, he was awarded the WWII Victory Medal. He is survived by two children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

**Shipmate Edward Carr**, 85, passed away in October 2017 in Palm Desert, California. He was a lifetime member of the MVA, and was on the ship 1950-52 as an RD1 in OI Division. He leaves behind his wife Jeanette and two children and five grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Richard Kreitz, 83, passed away in November 2017, after a long struggle with dementia, at the Central Utah Veterans Home in Payson, Utah. He served on Midway in 1965 as an RD2 in OI Division. He leaves behind two children. May he rest in peace.

**Shipmate Doug Swift**, 90, passed away in September 2016. He was a charter member of the MVA and lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He served on Midway from 1964-66 and was a CDR/Chief Engineer. He is survived by his wife Jane, five children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate William E. "Bill" Rehr, 71, passed away in January 2018 in Wheaton, Illinois. He served aboard Midway from 1970-71 as a QM3 in Navigation, and was the cruise book editor for the 1971 WestPac cruise. He is survived by his wife Paula of 45 years, four children and three grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Charles "Charlie" Bolton, 88, passed away in December 2017, at his home in Winston-Salem, NC. He served on Midway from 1947-50 as an RD3 in OI Division. He is survived by his wife Mary, three children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

Shipmate Donald Humetewa, 83, passed away in March 2018. He was a member of the Hopi Tribe and resident of Kykotsmovi Village near Santa Fe, NM. He served on the Midway from 1954-58 as a BT2. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ella, three children and one grandchild. 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."

### My Time in Midway's Brig

### Martin (Marty) FitzGerald, 1957-60/AN, V-4 Division

Way back in 1958, I think it was, I was on Family leave for a few weeks at my home in Bothell, WA, and Midway was tied up at the pier at Alameda NAS, some 800 miles away. My leave was almost up and I had arranged to drive a rental car back to San Francisco for free. All I had to do was pay for the gas. Well, to make a long story short, I got to NAS Alameda and the duty officer told me the Midway left Alameda and went to Hunters Point NSY in San Francisco. So I got over there as quickly as I could, but when I went aboard the Officer of the Deck ordered the Master at Arms to take me directly to the Brig. Standard procedure in a case like this, I learned the hard way, is Three Days Bread and Water, and that's what I received for missing ship's



movement.

After I'd served my three days, I went before Captain Blackburn at Captain's Mast. He asked me if I had learned anything. I responded, "Yes Sir, not to miss ship's movement again." At this point he let me off the hook, so to speak, and I never missed ship's movement again. So at the 2017 reunion in San

Diego, Ship Historian, Karl Zingheim, said the Museum was looking for anyone who may have done time in the Brig, and if that person or persons would be willing to make an audio recording of their experience for the Museum. They were going to open the Brig for part of the new tour and wanted someone to tell their story. I contacted Karl and made the audio recording of the experience that the ship is now using on that tour. I'm not proud of spending three days in Midway's brig on bread and water, but I did a no-no and had to pay the piper. It happened just that way.

### **New Men**

The following USS Midway Veterans have joined the proud ranks of the USS Midway Veterans Association since our last newsletter. *Welcome aboard, Men, for our own special brand of Midway Magic!* 

Michael Jones (69-73) - Maxwell, CA Timothy Jordan (83-86) - Hillsborough, NJ Richard Lovejoy II (71-74) - Apache, OK



Douglas Street (77-79) - Yuma, AZ Heath Abbott (90-92) - Smithsburg, MD Ronald Romero (83-85) - Lindenhurst, IL Ronald York (69-71) - Gardner, KS

### Ice Fog Diverts "Big E" Jets to Midway

#### CWO John Trolinger, COMCARGRUFIVE Staff, 1982-83

While operating in the North Pacific off Alaska in January and February of 1983, USS Enterprise (CVN-65), USS Coral Sea (CV-43), and USS Midway (CV-41) as a Three Carrier Battle Group made Naval history. FLEETEX 83-1 was a show-of-force demonstration attempting to test the Homeland Defense capabilities of the Russian Northeast Coast. During Blue Water Ops (no divert field) Enterprise steamed into an Ice Fog while recovering aircraft, the flight deck instantly iced over



suspending flight Ops with three aircraft yet to recover. The Big "E" contacted Midway to pull some of its MIDWAY MAGIC, and we recovered all three aircraft safely, two F-14 Tomcats and one A-6 Intruder. Yes, Two Tomcats, lots of interest on deck, another first for the Midway. The Fighter and Attack Squadrons hosted the Air Crews that Night and presented them with a MIDWAY 100

Traps Patch with the two Zeros XX Out. The following morning the Enterprise flew over Squadron maintenance personnel from VF 114 and VF 213 to launch the Tomcats, another Midway first.

# Hotels for Heroes—MVA is Supporting a Worthwhile Cause

#### Jim Hayter, 1960-63/RD2, OI Division

Most of us go home from reunions thinking about the great time we had remembering days gone by. You will be glad to know, that MVA celebrations also lead directly to supporting wounded warriors and their families through a hotel rewards points donation program called **Hotels for Heroes**, a group under the umbrella of Fisher House charities. For our last three San Diego gatherings, MVA has donated all the hotel rewards points it earned from events held at the Wyndham San Diego Bayside (WSDB) to this wonderful organization. These events include Welcome Receptions, Grand Banquets, and miscellaneous hotel charges that go to our master bill. Here is how this program works. Everyone who stays at the hotel can earn reward points for most charges on their hotel bill (i.e., room, meals, and miscellaneous charges). You earn 10 points for every dollar spent, with a minimum of 1,000 points per room night. For example, for SD17, if you stayed for four nights at the Wyndham you earned 6900 points (\$172.51 room and tax X 4 nights). These are your own personal points to use in any way you chose. To claim, and use, your points you need to register in the hotel's reward system, and set up an account.

Since MVA points are earned by the Association, and cannot go to an individual, we wanted a way to donate our points to a deserving organization. Enter Hotels for Heroes. Here are the hotel chains that support this worthy organization:  $\bullet$  Americinn,  $\bullet$  Best Western,  $\bullet$  Choice Hotels,  $\bullet$  Hilton,  $\bullet$  La Quinta Inns & Suites,  $\bullet$  Marriott,  $\bullet$  Wyndham.

Because MVA has used the Wyndham San Diego Bayside as our reunion hotel for our last three gatherings, we had earned a large number of points. What better way to use these points than by supporting our wounded warriors and their families. Individuals can also donate their points, so if you have Wyndham Rewards points from our past reunions sitting around doing nothing, here is a

great place to put them to work. A caution, in the Wyndham Rewards system your points expire after 18 months, so you lose them if you do not use (or donate) them. Here is how it works:

> 1. You must apply for a Wyndham Rewards ac-



count. If you have one, the points from your stay are automatically applied to your account when the hotel has your Rewards number.

2. You can donate online-

www.wyndhamrewards.com or call the customer service center at 866-996-7937. You can donate all of your points, or give only a portion of them, if you plan on using them yourself for Wyndham hotel stays.

#### Who can use points donated to Hotels for Heroes?

The Hotels for Heroes program provides hotel rooms for the families of wounded, injured, and ill military service members who are undergoing treatment at authorized medical centers when a Fisher House is not available. Rooms are made possible through the donation of rewards points by the hotel's rewards members.



#### Two categories of eligible recipients:

- 1. Servicemen and women with military authorization may be given a free hotel room while receiving medical care if they are not eligible for government funded reimbursement.
- 2. Qualifying servicemen and women may be given a free hotel room to enable their family or close friends to visit them while they are being treated at the medical center, if they are not eligible for government funded reimbursement.

As mentioned earlier, MVA earned a lot of points because of events we held at WSDB. The total number of points MVA earned from the three reunions was 258,700. A free room night in the Wyndham Rewards system costs 15,000 points per night. So our donations to Hotels for Heroes means we gave 17 room nights to deserving wounded warriors. What a great way to put these points to work for deserving servicemen and women!

### **Order Your MVA Memorabilia Here!**

Check out MVA's custom line of memorabilia, which includes vests, challenge coins, decals, patches, lapel pins, souvenir pins, CVB & CVA-41 caps, and memory sticks of Nick Danger adventures from Midway's "Gonzo Patrol" days. The link below takes you to MVA's Ship's Store, where you can view and purchase the only Midway/MVA memorabilia available on the planet.

#### http://ussmidway.net/mvashipsstore.html

Notice: We continue to advertise for an MVA member to run our Ship's Store—someone who is creative with an eye for detail and a love of memorabilia and "nautical" souvenirs. Strong computer skills and interpersonal skills are an advantage. Duties include coordinating, ordering, maintaining and building MVA's stock of memorabilia. Apply within to newsletter editor Dave Payson (minandave@charter.net), or call at (509) 946-0810.

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

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

Visit MVA's Website and Facebook page (links above). Both are chock full of interesting stuff about the USS Midway and the MVA!

#### 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.

<u>President</u>

Oscar Granger - (425) 831-6891 North Bend, Washington orgranger@gmail.com

Vice President-Reunions

Jim Hayter - (703) 264-0542 Reston, Virginia mva41vpr@comcast.net

Vice President-Administration

Richard Wooster II - (415) 752-5408 San Francisco, California keywi@gmx.com

> <u>Secretary-Treasurer/</u> <u>Newsletter Editor</u>

Dave Payson - (509) 946-0810 Richland, Washington minandave@charter.net

<u>Membership Committee Chair</u>

Tim Miller - (619) 476-9410 Chula Vista, California yokohamakid01@gmail.com

Membership Committee V Chair

Phil Zuniga - (480) 272-7404 Gilbert, Arizona Angelson17@aol.com

Facebook Admin.

Ron Pope - (469) 353-8676 Frisco, Texas ronpope2@yahoo.com

<u>Webmaster</u>

B.J. Denihan - (630) 386-0136 denib@comcast.net

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Share this form with your Midway shipmates, anyone who has served on Midway. All Midway Veterans are welcome to join our ranks.

# 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 aboard:	to	
Rank/Rate/Division while aboard (e.g., RM3/CR Div.):		
Rank/Rate when Discharged/Retired (e.g., RMC):		
Years served in militaryto		
How Did You Hear About Our Reunion Association?		

Fill out this form, print, and mail along with amount for membership for one of the three categories below:

- \$30.00/yr 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!