

# USS MASSEY DD-778 ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER

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[Massey Website: www.ussmassey.org](http://www.ussmassey.org)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### **BRANSON:**

All members should have received the Branson flier and registration form. Our reunion is rapidly approaching, and I urge all attendees to send in their registration forms ASAP. Remember, the fall of the year is a very busy time in Branson, and we must surrender half our blocked rooms 60 days out (July 24, 2006). We want all our shipmates to stay at the same location, so please send in your reservations. I urge all who are able to attend to do so. This will be a memorable reunion.

#### **ELECTIONS:**

Biennial elections will be held during the reunion business meeting. Anyone who wishes to hold an office should make their wishes known. Please contact me or any of the association officers to place your name for consideration. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

#### **STOREKEEPER:**

The death of Red King has left the position of Storekeeper vacant. If you would like to permanently fill this position, let me know. Your duties will be to take custody of the Ship's Store inventory, order replacement and new items as needed, develop an inventory catalog for possible inclusion on the website, handle some mail orders, and ship inventories to the various reunion sites. It is my understanding that there will be no ship's store aboard the cruise for the 2007 cruise reunion.

Enjoy your summer; I look forward to seeing you all in Branson.

Phil Smith  
President

### SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Thanks to all who responded to our request in the last newsletter for updated e-mail addresses. Thanks, also, to those who sent information on members and their significant others who were ill or had passed away. We send the appropriate card from the association and try to notify other association members so they may also send cards.

The 2006 reunion information packet and registration form were sent out around March 1. You should have received yours. If you did not get one, you may contact Branson Hospitality, Inc. at: **PO Box 1167, Branson, MO 65615, call toll free: 800-877-8687, fax your request to 417-334-1866, or contact them online at [www.bransonfun.com](http://www.bransonfun.com).**

Be sure to tell them you are inquiring about the USS Massey DD-778 Association Reunion being held September 24-28, 2006. Remember, the deadline for receipt of your registration form is July 24, 2006. **The Cobblestone Inn has been renamed the Branson Windmill Inn**, so please keep this in mind when you arrive in Branson.

The website is running and may be accessed at [www.ussmassey.org](http://www.ussmassey.org). I think you will be pleased with the site and find it informative and easy to navigate. Dick Pearsall has done a great job with this project, and it's something of which we can all be proud.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Branson.

Jerry Goodson  
Secretary/Editor

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Don Heenan, Treasurer  
E. Gerald Goodson, Secretary  
Gordon A. Risk, Historian  
Francis Zucco, Master at Arms  
John Bertram, Past President

**VETERANS' CORNER**

**VA to Seek DNA of all Veterans**

Researchers are mapping the human genome for the day when physicians will use a patient's genetic profile as preventive medicine. To that end, the Department of Veteran's Affairs plans to create a genetic database from potentially millions of VA patients. The VA plans to collect the first 100,000 samples in October, 2007 and foresees a database as large as the number of veterans who are willing to contribute samples of their DNA. VA also plans to write rules regarding handling a person's genetic profile while using it in research.

"The Veterans Report" May 2, 2006, a Military.com publication

Shipmates, Veterans and Military Retirees:

The new VA booklet "Federal Benefits for Veterans and their Dependents" may be downloaded from the following sites:

<http://home.earthlink.net/%7E6929297/fedben.pdf>  
or  
[http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current\\_benefits.asp#pdf](http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp#pdf)  
or  
[http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current\\_benefits.asp](http://www1.va.gov/opa/vadocs/current_benefits.asp)

Submitted by Russell Spangler from e-mail by  
YNCS Don Harribine, USN(ret)

**MASSEY HISTORY**

*The USS Massey Post Korea (DESDIV 162)*

After the ship's return to Norfolk, VA in July, 1951, MASSEY participated in fleet exercises in the Atlantic until May 1952 when she entered the Norfolk Shipyard for regular overhaul. Between August 1952 and April 1953, MASSEY underwent a training period at Guantanamo and participated in general fleet exercises in the Atlantic. In April 1953 MASSEY departed the US with a hunter-killer group for Joint Anti-Submarine School at Londonderry, North Ireland. After participating in joint ASW operations with British units, MASSEY proceeded on to join the US SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean for a six-month tour.

On 3 July, in Genoa, Italy, CDR H. Kriloff was relieved by CDR R. B. Harrell, USN.

In the Mediterranean, MASSEY took part in Operations "Blackwave" and "Weldfast" in the Greek-Thrace area. The ship visited the ports of: Cannes, France; Valencia, Spain; Genoa, Naples, Venice, Taranto, and Trieste, Italy; Izmir, Turkey; Phaleron Bay (Athens & Pyraeus) Greece; and Cagliari, Sardinia. In August 1953, MASSEY was directed to proceed with USS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT (CVA 43) to the Greek Ionian island of Cephalonia to render aid to the survivors of its disastrous earthquake. Along with other naval units in the area, MASSEY served in giving medical and material assistance to the stricken. In October 1953, MASSEY was detached from SIXTH Fleet and returned to her homeport, Norfolk, VA.

From October until November, MASSEY operated in the Norfolk area but was then sent to Pensacola, Florida to act as plane guard for USS MONTEREY. Upon completion of this assignment, MASSEY returned to Norfolk for the annual holiday period. This was followed by a period of intensive ASW training in the Norfolk area.

On 6 May 1954, MASSEY entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, at Portsmouth, for her regular two-year overhaul. Upon completion of the yard period in August 1954, MASSEY was ordered to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for a six-week refresher training period. During this period, MASSEY visited two liberty ports: Santiago, Cuba and Port au Prince, Haiti, then returned to Norfolk in October. During October and November MASSEY participated in ASW and type exercises, then entered port for the holiday leave and upkeep period in December.

On 5 January 1955, MASSEY departed Norfolk to join SIXTH Fleet for a six-month cruise in the Mediterranean, arriving at Oran, Algeria on 19 January. During this deployment, MASSEY participated in various SIXTH Fleet operations and exercises plus visited the following ports: Malta, Istanbul, Phaleron Bay, Naples, Monaco, Livorno, Toulon, Palma de Mallorca, Tangiers and Gibraltar. On 7 May MASSEY was detached from SIXTH Fleet and departed Gibraltar for Norfolk, VA. After arriving in Norfolk, MASSEY was once again

assigned to HUKLANT and engaged in various ASW and type exercises.

In August 1955, CDR F. L. Englander, USN relieved CDR R. B. Harrell, USN as Captain.

In September, MASSEY departed Norfolk for a two-month cruise to Lisbon, Portugal and participated in Operation Centerboard. Upon returning from Lisbon, ASW and type exercises were resumed and conducted with December and January 1956 being set aside for in-port leave period.

Gordon Risk  
Historian

### Free Navy Log Entries

Now through the end of July 2006, all members and veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines are eligible to record their service information in the U.S. Navy Memorial's Navy Log without charge or obligation. The Navy Memorial sponsors the Navy Log, a permanent public registry where Sea Service members and veterans may record their name, duty stations, awards, photos and memories. The Navy Log may be viewed at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., or via the internet at [www.lonesailor.org](http://www.lonesailor.org). The goal of the Memorial is to record the service history of all eligible uniformed individuals and veterans.

Family members and friends may record service information for veterans who are deceased or those who are unable to record their own information. To enroll your information or to enroll family members, link to the Navy Log at [www.lonesailor.org](http://www.lonesailor.org). If you have any questions, please contact the Navy Log Department of the U.S. Navy Memorial, at 1-800-NAVY LOG (1-800-628-9564).

### IN MEMORIAM

Since the last newsletter, we have learned of the following deaths:

**Frank Earp**, 58-60, 2004

**Harold Widick**, 58-60, October, 2005

**Leonard J. Meyers**, 63-66, January 27, 2006

**James E. Woolway**, 64-66, April 18, 2006

Let us keep our shipmates, their spouses, families and their significant others who have gone to eternal rest, in our thoughts and prayers.

### THE BINNACLE LIST

Since the last newsletter, we have learned of the following shipmates who are ill:

**Tommy O. Moon**, 3035 Kellipe Road, Glen Allen, VA 23059

**Dale Luzader**, 222 Wooster St., Lodi, OH 44254

They could use some cheering up; send a card.

If you know of a shipmate or a spouse who is ill, please notify me so that the association may send a card. It is important to keep in touch.

### ANNUAL DUES

If you have not sent your 2006 dues, please do so. Your \$10 gets you a new membership card and a current roster.

Make your check payable to: **USS Massey Association** and mail it to:

E. Gerald Goodson  
491 Fairway Drive  
Somerset, MA 02726-4008

Your association card and current roster will be mailed to you shortly after receipt.

Your dues cover the costs of newsletters and roster lists.

### MAIL CALL

From **Dale Luzader, 62-64, BT3**

"Shipmates, USS Massey DD778,

I was a 3rd class BT onboard Massey from 1962 to 1964 and worked in the After Fireroom. I stayed in the Navy for 23 years and retired in 1980 as Chief.

I am trying to locate some of my former shipmates because I have been diagnosed with asbestosis. I need someone who worked with me in the fireroom to write a letter stating that I was very much in

contact with asbestos. I need proof to present to the Veterans Service Commission, as I am trying to submit a claim. I need the letter to be notarized and if there are any charges, I will reimburse you. I could also use any pictures that anyone has of me in the fireroom, showing the boilers if possible.

I have a whole list of things I must round up to submit. They make it as hard as possible to get a claim put through. Any help that anyone can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Dale Luzader, 222 Wooster St., Lodi, OH 44254,  
dale.luzader@worldnet.att.net"  
(Secretary's note: Thanks to all who responded to the e-mail we sent out pertaining to this request)

**Tommy O. Moon**, 51-54, GM  
From Sadie Moon

"April 17, 2006  
Want to thank those who sent Tom cards. He is still doing chemo and getting close to the end (of treatment,) we hope! We really enjoy the newsletter.

Tom and Sadie Moon"

From Arlett Frederick, sister of **Leonard J. Meyer**, 63-66, SK1

"This is to inform you that Leonard J. Meyers passed away on February 27, 2006. He spoke often of the Massey reunions and of the great group of friends. Thanks so much for keeping in touch and your friendship."

### NEW MEMBERS

Give us a hand in finding more shipmates. The more we find, the more old friendships may be renewed, and the more memories relived.

### 2006 REUNION

The 2006 reunion, hosted by Phil Smith, will be held at the Branson Windmill Inn in Branson, MO, September 24-28, 2006.

It consists of a package deal:

Price/package: \$549 Single

\$427 Per Person Dbl. Occupancy

\$387 Per Person Tpl. Occupancy

The hotel will offer a rate of \$69 per day inclusive for 3 days on each side. Approx. 1/2 the rooms are equipped with a refrigerator. Please, don't request one if you don't need it; take pot luck. If you need one for meds, etc., state so and it will be furnished.

**YOU SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED YOUR FLIER ALREADY. IF NOT CONTACT BRANSON HOSPITALITY, INC. (SEE INFO IN SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK).**

If you plan on attending, PLEASE return this form early. The hotel will release 1/2 our reserved rooms 60 days out and the rest 30 days out. Don't find yourself without a room. Also, a decision on the size of the hospitality room has to be made 60 days out. We don't want to be crowded; however, to order a room larger than we need wouldn't be fair to the hotel. A \$50 deposit will be required with your reservation. A charge card will be accepted. Should you have to cancel, you will be refunded \$40.

Some brief highlights: there will be a welcome reception; a continental breakfast each AM; sightseeing; Veteran's Memorial Museum; 3 shows--one of them being a dinner cruise; a banquet; and a group photo for everyone prior to departure. I feel this is a great package that all will enjoy, so please plan on attending. Options have not been included, mainly due to the uncertainty of numbers, best pricing, and transportation costs. Transportation alone will be approx. \$23/day/person and will cover all scheduled events.

Branson Hospitality Inc., Tel. 1-800-877-8687 Ext. 0, will provide airport shuttle service to/from Springfield Regional Airport; however, you will have to call with schedule and flight information at least 14 days prior to your arrival.

### **2007 Reunion**

Tom Potoskie, SK3, 1963-66 is the chairman for the 2007 reunion which will be a **CRUISE** reunion and reports the following:

#### **2007 USS Massey DD 778 Reunion November 4 thru 11, 2007**

Dear Shipmates and their Mates,

I received only a handful of responses from the folks wanting a cruise and the major concern was hurricanes. The departure date should spare us that problem. The largest response was to visit the Eastern Carribean.

The departure site and ports of call have been finalized for the 2007 USS Massey Cruise Reunion. The Port of Miami will be the departure site based on ease of transition from the Miami Airport to the Port of Miami. We will depart from there on Carnival Cruise Lines "VALOR" November 4 and return November 11, 2007. VALOR is one of the largest ships owned by Carnival. It should ride better than MASSEY on her best day!

Our schedule is:

Sunday/Miami/Depart at 4PM

Monday/Nassau/Bahamas 7AM-2PM

Tuesday/Fun Day at sea

Wednesday/St. Thomas/US Virgin Islands 9AM-8PM

Thursday/St. Maarten/ Leeward Islands 7AM-6PM

Friday/Fun Day at sea

Saturday/Fun Day at sea

Sunday/Miami/Arrive at 8AM

The prices for a 7-day cruise start at \$699 per person (based on double occupancy-**DOES NOT INCLUDE AIR FARE**) for an inside cabin. The prices include all onboard meals, 24-hour complimentary room service, all onboard entertainment, including Las Vegas/Broadway style production shows, all port fees, all government fees, all applicable taxes, **all gratuities** onboard for your dining room wait staff and room steward, a private cocktail reception and fully escorted by our own cruise representative. **There will be a banquet every night.** There are **no other hidden costs.** If you don't drink alcoholic beverages, buy gifts, or gamble, the listed price is the total cost. That alone is a great price when factoring in the cost for airfare to a large airport featuring non-stop flights. **Shuttle service is not included.** Upgrades to rooms are available at additional costs. Prices for parking and hotel prior to and after the cruise will be negotiated.

#### **Price schedule-DOES NOT INCLUDE AIR FARE:**

Inside Cabins \$699 per person

Ocean View Cabins \$831 per person

Balcony Cabins \$964 per person

This reunion is open to family and friends. Those not affiliated with the Massey Association will receive the same amenities as members. Amenities will vary, based on the total number of cabins booked. Our cruise representative, Brian Forrester of Cruise Holidays of Scottsdale, AZ will be on hand in our hospitality room in Branson to answer all questions and provide any information one may have concerning cruising. For those not attending the Branson reunion and requiring information about the cruise, you may contact Brian Forrester at [brian@cruiseholidaysaz.com](mailto:brian@cruiseholidaysaz.com) or Tom Potoskie SK3 at [twpotoski@nni.com](mailto:twpotoski@nni.com). We will make sure you receive information to help you plan for the 2007 Cruise Reunion. We have a limited number of cabins blocked in each category. Do not be disappointed; book early for best availability. A deposit of \$100 per person will be accepted at Branson to guarantee your cabin. If you are not attending Branson, you may call Brian at 800-998-1228; or after September 28, 2006, book online at [www.cruiseholidaysaz.com](http://www.cruiseholidaysaz.com). Registration forms will also be mailed to all members sometime in March, 2007. All deposits are fully refundable prior to 90 days of sailing.

**NOTE: A passport (good for 10 years) is required for everyone, as they will be mandatory for any travel outside the US regardless of which country you visit, effective December 31, 2006. Trip insurance, purchased separately, is also recommended.**

This cruise should be a memorable one for all Massey sailors and their guests. I do realize that planning for a cruise 1-1/2 years away may seem a bit early and difficult to some, but the whole scheme is to have the group together, both in cabins and for dining arrangements. We don't want to have 6 banquets with folks at different seatings and/or spread throughout the dining room. The earlier you can make your commitment, the better our chances of remaining in a single group.

Brian and I look forward to serving you in Branson and in the following months. We are ready to provide you with any and all information about this cruise reunion you may require.

Tom Potoskie, SK3, 63-66  
Chairman, 2007 Reunion

## 2008 REUNION

At our reunion in Branson, MO, we will be asking for someone to chair the 2008 reunion. Why not volunteer to have that reunion in your part of the country? It is work, but usually there are other members in your vicinity who will pitch-in and help.

Some places of interest that have been mentioned in the past are Charleston, Chicago, and Myrtle Beach.

We have experience now with all kinds of scenarios, so give it a shot. You will have two years to make plans and arrangements. Advice is always available from previous chairmen. The worst that could happen is that we all have a good time!!!

## NAVY TRIVIA

Why Quartermaster? The Quarter Deck area was originally officers' country, and enlisted men were not allowed there unless called for. However, seasoned, trusted seamen were allowed there as helmsmen. Because they had to know how to steer a given course, they also had to learn how to read a compass and then care for it as well. So, too, with the ship's chronometer and then gradually the sextant, charts, and other navigating equipment. Eventually, selected sailors became "masters" of the Quarter Deck area, particularly when it came to navigation. Hence, Quartermaster.

Is this true? I don't know but it makes an interesting story.

Late Item just received today May 18, 2006.

**Tommy O. Moon, GM, 51-54**, passed away May 16, 2006 after a long battle with cancer. He's to be buried May 22, 2006.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP or RENEWAL USS MASSEY ASSOCIATION

(PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION EACH YEAR SO WE CAN VERIFY AND UPDATE OUR RECORDS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(FIRST, MIDDLE INITIAL, LAST) (FIRST, M.I.)

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET OR PO BOX CITY STATE ZIP+4

Phone \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Years On Board \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Mail check and application to:  
(SUCH AS 58-62) (SUCH AS LT/FTG2)

Make checks payable to: USS Massey Association

E. Gerald Goodson  
491 Fairway Drive  
Somerset, MA 02726-4008