

USS MASSEY DD-778 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Volume I Issue 10

November 2005

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Massey Website: Temporarily unavailable

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to thank Pete Hedley for the superb reunion he organized. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. I would also like to give special thanks to our honored guests: Commodore Buzz Little and Mary; Lance and Judy Massey; Capt. Phil Rush; Stuart Hedley, Chaplain of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association; and our ever-loyal plankowners. Chaplain Hedley held an impressive two-bell memorial service for our deceased shipmates.

I know the distance made it prohibitive for many of you to attend this year's reunion. This is unfortunate; however, we hope to see all of you in Branson, September 24-28, 2006.

In Branson, you won't find the nautical attractions you do in a seaboard state. However, you will find an All-American City where everyone honors and respects the flag and loves country, God, family and veterans. I believe you will find it a refreshing change from many places you may visit.

I close by wishing you all a very happy and healthy holiday season and am looking forward to seeing you all again.

Phil Smith
President

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

CORRECTION: At the Memorial Service in San Diego, **Harvey Janney**, was inadvertently omitted from the list of deceased shipmates. I apologize for the oversight and corrections have been made.

In our last newsletter, we reported that **Red King** was ill. With great sadness, we report that Red passed away May 17, 2005, at the Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, from pneumonia after heart surgery. He was interred in the Agawam Veterans Cemetery in Agawam, MA on May 20, 2005. Cards may be sent to Vicki at: 53 Old House Road, Montgomery, MA 01085-9825.

Again we ask, if you know of any shipmates, and/or their spouses or significant others, who are ill or have passed away, please notify us so that we may send the appropriate card from the association.

Many members have inquired as to the status of the Massey website. The site will have to be reconstructed from scratch. At the reunion, both Tom Potoskie and Dick Pearsall volunteered to undertake this project. Tom, at present is planning the 2007 reunion and Dick is working on the website project. So far, a web designer has been contacted; tentative quotes received for design of the site; and discussions undertaken by the Executive Committee as to content, etc. As this progresses, I'm sure they will be asking for input from each of you, especially pictures, stories, etc.

Jerry Goodson
Secretary/Editor

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Gordon A. Risk, Historian
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John Bertram, Past President

MASSEY HISTORY

This column will continue in the next issue. I need stories from those of you who served during the Korean War. Send them, and they'll be published.

VETERANS' CORNER

Veterans Prescription Fraud Alert

It has been reported that veterans are receiving calls from a company identifying itself as the "Patient Care Group." This company is claiming that veteran's prescriptions are now being dispensed through them and if they (veterans) want to continue to receive their meds, they will need to provide a credit card number.

Veterans are advised that the VA has not changed the process of receiving and dispensing prescriptions. Veterans are also advised to never give out their personal information, including social security or credit card numbers, to any organization without first verifying their legitimacy.

If you feel you may be a victim of this scam, visit **www.consumer.gov/idtheft/law_resources.htm** to contact the appropriate law enforcement agency. To learn more about how to avoid being taken advantage of by this or any other scam you should visit the **Federal Trade Commission's "Identity Theft"** website to learn what steps you need to take. **<http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/>**.

Submitted by Russell Spangler from Veterans Report

Stop Medicare Reductions in Physicians Reimbursements. Stop Medicare Physicians Payments Cuts and Protect Patients

Contact your legislators today! (Not tomorrow!)

We know you're busy, but here are a few quick facts to ponder. If you are a military retiree under age 65, please take particular note of Fact 4.

Fact 1: Congress has only a few weeks left in this year's legislative session to stop Medicare Law from cutting your physician payments by 4.4% on Jan. 1, 2006.

Fact 2: If this cut occurs, the average Medicare physician payment rate in 2006 will be less than it was in 2001. If physicians are already refusing new Medicare patients, then this cut will hasten the process.

Fact 3: If Congress doesn't fix the underlying payment formula, Medicare Law will slash what it pays physicians who treat America's seniors by 26% over the next six years. This means that in six years, or before, you will be hard pressed to find a physician who will accept Medicare.

Fact 4: TRICARE reimbursement rates are directly controlled by the corresponding Medicare reimbursement rates. This means that if you are a military retiree under age 65, this upcoming change in Medicare rates will directly impact you even though you are not yet eligible for Medicare! If many physicians are already refusing TRICARE Standard patients, think of what the situation will be like in six years.

Fact 5: Time is running out. It's critical that Congress hear from you and your colleagues TODAY! There are three bills in Congress--S 1081 in the senate and H.R. 2356 and H.R. 3617 in the House--that would protect America's patients by stopping drastic Medicare physician payment cuts over the next two years. Tell your representatives to stop Medicare physician payment cuts by supporting these bills.

Even if you have already contacted your two senators and one representative about this issue in the last week or two, you must do so again. On active duty we were a team, let's become a team again and tell Congress how the Medicare cuts will affect your quality of life as military retire or senior citizen.

Submitted by Russell Spangler from Take Action

IN MEMORIAM



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

Redford King, 46-47, May 17, 2005

Lois J. Gawlik, wife of John Gawlik, 52-54, June 2005.

Warren L. Fredericks, 65-68, 2003

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

THE BINNACLE LIST

Jack Zagaros, (Plankowner and founder of Massey Association), SN 1/C, 44-46, has recovered from surgery to remove his left lung and was able to join us in San Diego. At the banquet, he thanked all who sent him cards, emails, prayers and spoke to him by phone. All these things aided him in his recovery. The Massey, crew members and association are very special to him.

David McKee, 59-60, has been seriously ill, recently having a kidney removed and suffering a heart attack. Cards may be sent to:

David McKee, 6329 Birchwood Lane, Milton, FL 32570-5406, tel. (850) 623-5594.

Joe Bellon, 50-54, is confined to a wheel chair and can use some cheering up. Please send cards to him: Monmouth County Care Center, John L. Montgomery Division, 115 Dutch Lane Road, Freehold, NJ 07728.

David and Dolly Standley, 64-66, in July, were involved in an auto accident in Dave's antique car. Both were thrown from the car and were injured, Dolly more seriously than Dave. She suffered broken bones, head injury and lacerations requiring hospitalization, surgery, and long rehabilitation. Dave is now fine; Dolly's recovery is slow, but she's making progress. Cards may be sent to her at: 144 Thurlow St., Georgetown, MA 01833-1147, tel. (978) 352-7077.

Tommy O. Moon, 50-54, has reoccurring lung cancer and started chemotherapy in July, 2005. Cards may be sent to him at: 3035 Kellipe Rd., Glen Allen, VA 23059-4752, tel. (804) 266-5588.

Leonard Meyer, 63-66, is confined to a nursing home. He fell about 2 years ago and lay unconscious for quite some time before he was discovered. His sister says that he responds to mail of any sort, and it may help him to know there are people concerned about him. Cards may be sent to him at: Heritage Manor, 4885 Asbury Road, Dubuque, IA 520002

ANNUAL DUES

If you have not sent your 2005 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 2006 dues are payable in January, 2006.

MAIL CALL

From **John Bertram, 62-64**, past president of the association.

Dear Shipmates,
Two years ago in Hershey, we had selected Virginia Beach for the 2004 meeting and were looking for a 2005 location. Someone at our business meeting said we ought to try to find a volunteer for the west coast. I believe it was Andy Kubishen who stood up and suggested our Ops Officer, Pete Hedley. He lives in San Diego and knows how to organize these things.

Even though Pete had not attended a Massey reunion, he had been President of the Holiday Bowl and Fleet Week committees and knows everybody in San Diego who counts! Before our Saturday night dinner dance, I called Pete at home. I wasn't sure he'd remember who I am, hadn't seen or talked to him in 40 years! Pete said yes!

He attended his first reunion last year in Virginia Beach; Dick Pearsall taught him everything he knew about these Massey things.

So, now San Diego is history! What a great reunion it was! Thank you to Pete and Pat, Jim Woolway and Caroline, and all the others who helped put it together.

See you in Branson,
John Bertram

NEW MEMBERS

Charles E. Trite, SN 2/c, 46-, and wife Betty
Bruce L. Feters, SM3, 60-62
Bennie Cooke, Jr., PC3, 65-68, and wife Carol
Theodore E. Peveler, BTFN, 52-55
James M. Harden, GMGSA, 57-58, and wife Glenice
Joseph Pawlak, 47-51, and wife Alice
Jesus M. Ortiz, BT3, 63-65, and wife Sandy
Jay E. Ferguson, SH3, 59-63, and wife Rachel
Charles R. Cooke, SH3, 65-68

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

2005 SAN DIEGO REUNION REVISITED

Our hospitality room was on the 25th floor and provided us with a gorgeous panoramic view of downtown San Diego, the waterfront, bay and Coronado in the distance. Music and sing-a-longs were provided nightly by plank owner Bob Doll and Gwen Hanlin.

On Thursday, we took tours of downtown SD, the restored gaslight district and the SD Zoo. Tours were on trolleys and the tour guides/drivers were excellent. At 5:00PM our business meeting was held.

On Friday, using the trolleys again, we toured Coronado in the morning, including the Naval Air Station. In the afternoon we had self-guided tours with earphones of the USS Midway CVA 41 museum. At 3:30 PM the Memorial Service was held on the flight deck forward and was conducted by Stu Hedley, Chaplain of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and Massey plankowner.

Saturday morning found us again boarding the trolleys to be shuttled to the waterfront and boarded the Lord Hornblower for a luncheon buffet and great

view of the Sea 'N Air Parade up the bay. At 6:00 PM our banquet was held in the Diamond room at the hotel.

Business Meeting

San Diego, CA September 29, 2005, Wyndham Hotel

Meeting was brought to order by Phil Smith, President. It opened with the Pledge of Alliance to the Flag and a prayer.

Old Business:

Treasure Don Heenan gave his report: on 9/28/05 the treasury balance was \$10,761.69. The report was accepted and filed.

Secretary Jerry Goodson read the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were accepted and filed.

Historian Gordon Risk read a letter from USS Yorktown Association stating that our Massey memorabilia would be displayed on special occasions and safely stored at all other times.

New Business:

Motion made, seconded and carried to send newsletter to wives of deceased members.

Various sites were proposed for the 2007 reunion. After lengthy discussion, a vote was taken and the winner was a **crui**se to be chaired by Tom Potoskie. Please see the survey form at the end of the newsletter, and respond with your input as soon as possible so that negotiations may begin.

Jack Zagaros received special recognition for attending all 16 Massey reunions.

Attendees at this reunion were:

Bernie Barilla, 54-56, and wife Mary Jane
Plankowner Bob Bergren, 44-46, and son-in-law Douglas Ross
John Bertram, 62-64, and wife Lynne
John Campbell, 53-54
Marvin Christensen, 48-51, and wife Phyllis
Bennie Cooke, 65-66, and wife Carol
Charles Cooke, 65-68

Juan de la Cruz, 60-62
George Dienes, 53-56, and wife June
Plankowner Bob Doll, 44-46, and Gwen Hanlin
Richard Eggert, 46-48, and wife Norma
John Gawlik, 52-54
Jerry Goodson, 58-62, wife Aggie and Jane Stokes
William Gregory, 51-55, and Christina Frye
Robert Grigas, 51-54, and wife Priscilla
Michael Groom, 67-69, wife Donna and Karen Rocheleau
Joe Gum, 61-65
Peter Hedley, and wife Pat
Plankowner Stuart Hedley, 44-46, and wife Wanda
Don Heenan, 64-65, and wife Rachel
Ray Hendricks, 50-54, and wife Lois
Ed Holderness, 52-54, and wife Teri
Ralph Kistler, 61-64, and wife Dale
Michael Kubishen, 63-65
Lance B. Massey and wife Judy
James McKee, 69-72
Joseph Milner, 48-52, and wife Margaret
Thomas Norman, 60-62, and wife Carole
William O'Byrne, 52-56, and wife Irene
James Ogle and wife Mary Lou
Gerald Owens, 50-53, and wife Eleese
Tom Parker, 57-59, and wife Nancy
Plankowner George Patton, 44-46, and wife Rose Marie
Richard Pearsall, 64-66, wife Vicki, daughter Shannon and daughter Holly
Theodore Peveler, 52-55
Tom Potoskie, 62-66, wife Mary Lou, daughter Kristin Cotruffello and granddaughter Julia Cotruffello
Robert Radziwon, 68-71, and wife Sue
Gordon Risk, 62-65, and wife Theresa
Robert Rowe, 68-72
Philip Rush, 63-65
Robert Schuckmann, 68-70, and inlaw Bob Nelson
George Semencar, 56-60, Wife Sondra Sue and son David
Phil Smith, 64-66, and brother Jerry
Herb Sohl, 60-62, and wife Linda
Gordon Speer, 50-54, and wife Marilyn
Vera Sullivan, wife and Colleen Canavan, daughter of deceased member Gerald Sullivan
Thomas Truesdale, 70-72, and wife Kathy
Wilson Walters, 59-61, and wife Joan
Dave Wands, 63-66, and wife Roseanne
Jim Woolway, 64-66, and wife Caroline
Plankowner Jack Zagaros, 44-46

2006 REUNION

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

It consists of a package deal:

Price/package: \$549.00 Single

\$427.00 Per Person Dbl. Occupancy

\$387.00 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 WILL RECEIVE A FLIER FROM BRANSON HOSPITALITY IN FEB. OR MAR. PLEASE DON'T THINK THIS IS JUNK MAIL AND DISCARD IT. USS Massey DD-778 will be on the top. This will have all your reunion information and the registration form will be included. 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 and 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 is the chairman of the 2007 reunion. See the form at the end of the newsletter for details.

2008 Reunion

At our next reunion in Branson, MO we will be asking for someone to be the chairman of 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. You also have two years to get everything together. Help is always available from previous chairmen. We have a lot of experience now with all kinds of scenarios, so give it a shot. The worst thing that could happen is that everyone has a good time!!

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 _____

On Board Years _____ - _____ Rate & Rank _____
(SUCH AS 55-59) (SUCH AS BT2)

Mail check and application to:

Make checks payable to: **USS Massey Association**

E. Gerald Goodson
491 Fairway Drive
Somerset, MA 02726