

USS MASSEY DD-778 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Mary Ann and I wish everyone a healthy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Each year our Massey members support a motion for a donation to the Tin Can Sailors. For those of you who are not members of this organization and therefore do not get its publication, I would like to make you aware of how these funds are spent.

Two checks were sent to the Patriot's Point Development Authority restricted account for restoration and preservation of the USS Laffey. This is the 15th year TCS has supported the Laffey with over \$284,000.

This past year, the USS Kidd received \$5,850 and the USS The Sullivans; \$4,850. A donation was also made to the JP Kennedy. Total donations to the Destroyer Preservation Funds this past year were \$25,850.

I feel proud that our USS Massey DD-778 Association members see fit to support this noble cause.

Remember the new year brings with it the payment of annual dues. Please send your \$10 dues to Secretary Jerry Goodson; and if you haven't already done so, consider making your plans and commitment for our upcoming cruise reunion.

Phil Smith
President

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

The secretary's job has several facets. Reading the minutes at the annual business meeting is the easiest one. Maintaining an accurate roster data base is the biggest and most important job, followed closely by recording dues payment, mailing membership cards and roster lists, newsletters and association get-well and sympathy cards. All these tasks, excluding reading the minutes, share one thing in common; they all require correct addresses. Your continued support in keeping addresses current is greatly appreciated.

An important part of our communications network is current e-mail addresses. With correct addresses, it is much easier to notify you when we learn of members who are ill or have passed away. Also, it assists us in tracking down members who may move and forget to notify us of the change in their address. Thanks to all who notify us of changes in their 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.

If you know of individuals who are not presently on our rolls, please let me know their names and addresses so I may send them a copy of the newsletter. We want to identify as many shipmates as possible. Some may not wish to participate in our activities, but they deserve to be offered the chance.

Looking forward to seeing you onboard VALOR in November.

Jerry Goodson
Secretary/Editor

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VETERANS' CORNER

EXTRA EARNINGS

Your Social Security benefit depends on your earnings, averaged over your working lifetime. Generally, the higher your earnings, the higher your Social Security benefit. Under certain circumstances, special earnings can be credited to your military pay record for Social Security purposes. The extra earnings are for periods of active duty or active duty for training. These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. Social Security will add these extra earnings to your earnings record when you file for benefits.

If you served in the military from 1940 through 1956, including attendance at a service academy, you did not pay Social Security taxes. However, you can be credited with \$160 a month in earnings for military service from September 16, 1940, through December 31, 1956, if:

- You were honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service, or you were released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty; or
- You are applying for survivors benefits based on a veteran's work and the veteran died while on active duty.

You cannot receive these special credits if you are receiving a federal benefit based on the same years of service, unless you were on active duty after 1956. If you were on active duty after 1956, you can get the special credit for 1951 through 1956, even if you are receiving a military retirement based on service during that period.

If you served in the military from 1957 through 1977, you can be credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

If you served in the military from 1978 through 2001, you can be credited with an additional \$100 in earnings, up to a maximum of \$1200 a year, for every \$300 in active duty basic pay. After 2001, additional earnings are no longer credited.

If you began your service after September 7, 1980, and did not complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with the Social Security Administration for more information.

<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10017.html>

Submitted by Ruth Prentiss

MASSEY HISTORY

Gordon Risk, Historian

Due to space limitations in this issue, this article will be published in the next issue.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Webb Trammell, CDR, 54-55, 2005

Richard P. Umbrel, LTJG, 51-55, August 18, 2006

William E. Zinn, MCM3, 44-46, November 10, 2006

Leon Woodworth, 44-46, December 6, 2006

John R. Gawlik, ME3, 52-54, January 22, 2007

Sherman, H. Owens, LCDR, 66-67

Frank Cowley,

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

THE BINNACLE LIST

Since the last newsletter, we have not learned of any who are ill.

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 2007 dues, please do so. Your \$10 gets you a new membership card and a current roster. Thanks to those who have sent them in already.

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 **Richard Thompson, Jr., 44-46, EM2, Plankowner**

". . . watching President Ford's memorial service, discovered he served aboard USS Monterey CVE 26 which Massey escorted during the Okinawa campaign. I have a log book entry that on April 7, 1944 we were refueling from the Monterey. A little bit of trivia."

From **Rolland E. Madara, 44-46, LTJG, Plankowner**

"'96 and still in pretty good condition, although the hearing is not good. Check in on Navy Amateur Radio Net and TCS Net every week and read a lot."

From **Homer W. Whitman, Jr., 53-54, LTJG**

"Thank you for my 2007 Massey Association member card and the accompanying roster.

As to the latter, I noticed that it still lists my good friend and shipmate, Webb D. Trammell. I'm sorry to report that Webb died last year (2005). I think I sent notice of this earlier, but it must of just fallen through the cracks.

Webb was a Naval Academy graduate, as was his father, and was Commanding Officer when I reported aboard in 1953.

He retired years ago as a Commander, after which he was Assistant Treasurer of the Rockefeller Foundation. He was interred at Arlington and is survived by his wife Susan, and teen-aged son, Philip.

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members to the association:

Joseph P. Spahn, 61-65, RD3 and his wife Connie
William C. Dressler, Jr., 61-63, SN and his wife Evelyn

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

2007 Reunion

Information and reservation sheets are at the end of the newsletter.

2008 Reunion

Gordon Risk is the 2008 reunion chairperson and reports the following:

The Traverse City, MI, MASSEY reunion is scheduled for 9/28 to 10/1/2008. Ernest Hemingway enjoyed this northwestern corner of the lower peninsular for its lakes, woods, towns and scalloped shoreline around Grand and Little Traverse Bay. Traverse City is the region's largest community.

The Traverse City airport is 10 minutes from the hotel. It is new with flights via Northwest, American Eagle, Delta and United Express. These carriers currently provide direct flights from Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati and Minneapolis. The driving time from Detroit's Metro airport is five hours with a lunch stop. For our shipmates who would like to combine the reunion with a cruise, the SS Badger and the Lake Express provide car ferry from Wisconsin.

Our hotel, the Holiday Inn-West Bay has 179 rooms, with most having a bay view--www.tcwestbay.com. It has all the amenities that we would expect, plus convenience to downtown. Both indoor and outdoor pools are heated! The Boardman River flows through Traverse City, past the hotel to the bay. At this time of year, homesick salmon will race us as we stroll into town along the boardwalk. For those that like exercise, the Traverse Area Recreation Trail (TART) passes by the hotel for seven miles of delightful walking, cycling or roller blading. During this time, you have the view of the glorious bay.

Traverse City has more than 100 specialty shops--some craft rustic furniture, art shops, museum and a plethora of area restaurants make this town a top tourist destination in the state--www.mytraversecity.com. One unique development is where the city took over Gothic turn-of-the-century structure of the state's abandoned asylum. This now consists of shops and condos. Be sure and see Sleder's Traver built in 1882 with tin ceiling and a famous stuffed herd on the wall. Be bold and "Smooch the Moose."

Leeward of the hotel is the Great Lakes Maritime Academy and the 200 foot T/S STATE of MICHIGAN.

Area tours: The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Park. On the return, we travel through Fishtown which is a cluster of 1860's weathered gray fish shanties turned into shops of local art. The Blue Bird restaurant has been serving food through three generations of the same family since 1927. Next is Sutton's Bay and Bahle's store, then the Black Star winery. The moderating lake influenced temperatures make the area big for fruit orchards and grapes.

Another possible tour (10 hours) would be to Mackinac Island. It is a 15-minute boat ride from Mackinaw City. Once on the island, made popular by the Victorian elites, transportation will be by bicycle, foot or horse taxi. Rent a bike and go around the flat perimeter about 12 miles. Most will have a great tour of the island by way of the horse taxis. The fort is manned by a knowledgeable staff in uniforms of the era--www.MackinacParks.com. They fire a cannon shot every day at the Iroquois hotel. Since you have come all this way, you should pay the small price to be allowed into the Grand Hotel as a non-guest--www.grandhotel.com.

The final tour day will find us at the Great Lakes Maritime Academy and training ship. Our memorial service will be aboard the MICHIGAN. This would give us time to see the Mission Point light house (there are 104 around Michigan), winery visit or perhaps the very fine mechanical music museum.

There is free time each day, and this schedule is subject to change. Costs will be promulgated in a later note.

2007 Reunion

CRUISE REUNION 2007
November 4 thru 11

SPECIAL NOTE: NO PASSPORTS REQUIRED

Now that the Christmas Holidays and the New Year celebrations are behind us and the Christmas decorations are stowed away but the fruit cake is still in the 'fridge, it is time to start thinking about attending the longest reunion on record. Seven days. If the last cruise you were on was aboard the Massey, you are in for the best seven days you can experience on a ship.

The first time I made a cruise brought back a lot of memories of the "working cruises" I had on the Massey. I remember being at sea, sitting on deck and watching the waves and stars with total darkness in the background. Now imagine the same setting with family and friends to enjoy that peaceful time lying back on a deck chair. You snipes weren't allowed on the main deck in daylight on Massey. Now is your opportunity to lie back and have someone "waiting on you" with a refreshing cold drink. Relax in a hot tub. Swim in a fresh water pool. Eat food you never dreamed of on the Massey, and best of all, I personally made arrangements that no one has to stand the mid-watch, everyone can have mid-rats, and there are no Sea Bat exhibits.

You know all the details by now. I will touch on them briefly:

- The cost for an interior cabin is from \$699 per person, which includes all taxes, gov't fees, port fees, and gratuities. (Oceanview and balcony cabins are available at additional costs.)
- Sailing is at the end of hurricane season
- Fully refundable deposit until 8-14-07
- Alcoholic beverages, gambling and shopping extra
- Complimentary 24-hour room service

Note: If you do not have passports, they are not required for this cruise. Original birth certificates or certified copy of the original (raised seal) plus state ID with picture, are required in lieu of a passport.

Accommodations are available at:

Airways Inn & Suites
Miami International Airport
5001 N.W. 36 Street
Miami, Florida 33166

Room costs are \$79 double and \$69 single. You can make your reservations directly with the hotel, toll free 800-824-9910. Be sure to mention you are with the USS Massey group.

They have complimentary airport pickup and shuttle to the cruise ship. If you are driving and want to stay at the hotel pre-cruise, you will be able to leave your car parked there at a cost of \$4 per day.

Directions from the north:

I-95: South to 826 North exit 36S . Airport 1-1/2 miles on the left next to McDonald's.

If you fly into Miami International Airport, you need to arrive in Miami no later than 1400. That is ample time to get to the Carnival ship VALOR. If you have bought cruise line transfers, you will proceed to the baggage claim area, retrieve your luggage, then locate the Carnival Cruise Representative (who will also be looking for you). You will be directed to a coach, which will take you to the ship. The cost of this service is approximately \$14 per person each way. Call Brian Forrester if you wish to purchase the transfers from the cruise line.

There is another shuttle service available at the airport called Super Shuttle. They are located just outside the baggage claim area, and the shared cost is \$14 per person. You do not need reservations, as there are always plenty of vans available.

If you are driving directly to the Port of Miami, I personally know that the exits are clearly marked and you should not have too much trouble to have your car parked in a secure lot. The cost is approximately \$10 per day and for RV's \$20 per day. Parking is free for handicapped individuals who have a handicapped license on their vehicle, had a window placard, or other proof of disability.

Parking at the Port of Miami can be paid with a credit card.

Driving directions to the Port of Miami :

From I-95

You will exit onto I-395 (Dolphin Expressway) headed towards Miami Beach (East). Exit and follow the signs to US-1 (Biscayne Blvd.) Turn right (South on Biscayne Blvd. Turn left (East) on 5th Street (Port Blvd.) From there, follow the signs for parking and the port facilities.

From I-75

Follow I-75 to SR 826 (Palmetto Expressway). Go south on SR 826 to SR 836 (Dolphin Expressway). Follow SR 826-Dolphin Expressway (becomes I-395); stay in the extreme right lane(s). Go south on Biscayne Blvd. to Port Blvd into the Port.

The phone number for the Port of Miami is: 305-371-7678 and their website is:
www.miamidade.gov/portofmiami

If you have special requirements such as wheel chairs, special cabins, special needs, etc., please contact Brian Forrester. The cruise lines have a very limited number of wheel chairs, so plan on bringing your own. There is also a limited amount of handicapped cabins; so if you need to book one of these, please do so as quickly as possible. They are all ADA compliant.

If you plan on attending, you need to contact Brian Forrester of Cruise Holidays 800-998-1228 or brian@cruiseholidaysaz.com. **Please fill out the registration form attached, and send ASAP** to the address on the form. If you need a flyer and a deck plan, please e-mail or phone Brian.

Early registration will enable the MASSEY folks to be seated in the same area of the dining room, and if you want certain members or guests to be at your table, you may pre-arrange that with Brian. Every night will be a banquet, so you can enjoy your table mates every night. Booking early will also give you the opportunity to have a better selection of where your cabin will be located if you choose a cabin assignment.

****Please be advised that our prices are only guaranteed until June 1, 2007, so please get your deposits in to secure your space. Deposits are fully**

refundable until time of final payment, which is August 14, 2007.

I am looking forward to seeing my MASSEY shipmates and all their guests on the cruise.

Tom Potoskie, SK3, 1963-1966
twpotoski@nni.com
2007 Cruise Reunion Chairman

