

USS MASSEY DD-778 ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Volume I Issue 16

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Massey Website: www.ussmassey.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I trust that all members who attended the cruise reunion had a wonderful time. I know that Tom did everything in his power to make it a success.

I'm sorry that I wasn't there to enjoy it with you. Back in 2000, I had several rather serious surgeries, and their aftermath cause me to be on a rather heavy regimen of medication to keep me on an even keel. Every once in awhile, my system becomes unbalanced; and this happens very rapidly and without warning. At these times, I need immediate and competent medical attention with, generally, a few days of hospitalization to make things ship shape. I decided not to gamble on my health as I would not want to be caught at sea or in some foreign country should this happen. I would be very uncomfortable anywhere outside CONUS. So, I hope you understand.

Gordon Risk is moving forward to ensure we have a good time in Traverse City, MI, and I am looking forward to seeing you all there. Look for his write-up in this newsletter.

Also, for planning purposes, Juan de la Cruz has stepped forward and will host the 2009 reunion in San Antonio, TX.

Phil Smith
President

SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Outside, it's cold, windy and rainy, a typical New England autumn (read winter) day. It is a far cry from the balmy, sun-filled, blue sky days of our week in the Caribbean. To add insult to injury, we have been suddenly thrust back into having to cook our own food, wash dishes and make our beds. What happened to all those towel animals? Are they

now hibernating? Haven't seen a single one since our return on Sunday. The 70 members, wives, significant others, family, and friends who attended the cruise reunion had a wonderful time and have fond memories of our week aboard Carnival Valor. Tom and Mary Lou Potoskie, working with Brian Forrester of Cruise Holidays of Scottsdale, put together a truly memorable reunion. Thanks and Bravo Zulu for your hard work. Now back to the real world.

An e-mail forwarded to daze@ix.netcom.com was returned as "user unknown." "Daze," please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Thanks, also, to those who send information on members and their significant others who are ill or have passed away. We send the appropriate card from the association and try to notify other association members who wish to do the same.

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.

The next newsletter will be published in mid-February, 2008.

On behalf of all the association officers, Aggie and I wish you the best for the upcoming holidays. May your families be healthy, your fires warm, and your friends many.

Jerry Goodson
Secretary/Editor

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VETERANS' CORNER

VA Reaches Out to Veterans and Spouses

Washington (NNS)--The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans about an under-used, special monthly pension benefit called Aid and Attendance.

"Veterans have earned this benefit by their service to our nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Jim Nicholson. "We want to ensure that every veteran or surviving spouse who qualifies has the chance to apply."

Although this is not a new program, not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities.

Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Attendance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement. To qualify, claimants must be incapable of self support and in need of regular personal assistance.

The basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit includes the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment.

For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to qualify for this special pension, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after September 8, 1980 (October 16, 1981, for officers)

must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or the period for which they were ordered to active duty.

If all requirements are met, VA determines eligibility for the Aid and Attendance benefit by adjusting for un-reimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below the annual income threshold for the Aid and Attendance benefit, VA pays the difference between the claimant's household income and the Aid and Attendance threshold.

The Aid and Attendance income threshold for a veteran without dependents is now \$18,234 annually. The threshold increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent, and by \$1,866 for each additional dependent. The annual Aid and Attendance threshold for a surviving spouse alone is \$11,715. This threshold increases to \$13,976 if there is one dependent child, and by \$1,866 for each additional child.

Additional information and assistance in applying for the Aid and Attendance benefit may be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000. Applications may be submitted on-line at

[**www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/main.asp**](http://www.vabenefits.vba.va.gov/main.asp). Information is also available on the web at [**www.va.gov**](http://www.va.gov) or from any local veterans service organization

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

Agent Orange and Type 2 Diabetes

Vietnam veterans with Type 2 Diabetes are eligible for disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) based on their presumed exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides. In 2000, the VA added Type 2 Diabetes to the list of presumptive diseases associated with herbicide exposure. That action followed a report from the National Academy of Sciences that found "limited suggestive" evidence of an association between the chemicals used in herbicides during the Vietnam War, such as Agent Orange, and Type 2 Diabetes.

The evidence of a link between exposure to Agent Orange (or dioxin, the problematic contaminant in Agent Orange) and diabetes is modest. Most

association between Agent Orange and diabetes comes from studies of people who lived near or worked at manufacturing plants that produced large quantities of Agent Orange dioxin. In those cases, there appears to be some relationship between Agent Orange exposure and increased insulin resistance, the precursor to Type 2 Diabetes. In general, the exposure that Vietnam veterans had to Agent Orange was much less than in the populations studied by scientists. Still, the VA has added diabetes to the list of conditions for which Vietnam veterans are eligible for disability compensation.

Addition information on this topic may be found at:
[**www.diabetes.org/type-2-diabetes/agent-orange.jsp**](http://www.diabetes.org/type-2-diabetes/agent-orange.jsp)

Additional information on how the VA is handling Agent Orange claims may be found at:
[**www.nap.edu/datalog/9982.html**](http://www.nap.edu/datalog/9982.html)

Information supplied by Tom Truesdale, 70-71.

MASSEY HISTORY

Gordon Risk, Historian

USS MASSEY 1958-1960

In April 1958, CDR Charles J. Hemmingson relieved CDR Daniel V. James as commanding officer.

In November 1959, CDR Stephen L. Rusk relieved CDR Charles J. Hemmingson.

By late 1944, as the speed and power of aircraft greatly increased, the 40-mm and 20-mm guns were less effective. After World War II, the Soviet submarine threat was a major concern. The destroyer took on the challenge of this underwater threat which, during the 1950s, resulted in two major standoff weapons, the Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter (DASH) and the Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC). The standard procedure for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) in WWII was for the surface ship to pass as close as possible over the submarine to drop underwater explosives. Both the SUMNER and GEARING classes were aging and in need of major overhaul and reconstruction to accommodate the new weapons systems. After careful analysis of the situation, the Secretary of the Navy ordered the Fleet Rehabilitation and

a complete refurbishment of the ship's hull and machinery and the addition of new superstructure. The FRAM program consisted of two levels of modernization with the FRAM II developed primarily for the SUMNER class, which had insufficient hull length amidships to accommodate the ASROC system.

After 15 years of carrying out the missions of a destroyer, MASSEY entered the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in December 1959 for a 7-month overhaul FRAM II program. In addition to the new helicopter flight deck and hanger for the DASH, numerous new equipment and structures were installed to give the ship greater capabilities and extended life. The DASH drone looked like a big leggy insect with a 300 horsepower turbine. The two rotors would go in opposite directions and would be controlled from a console by means of a joy-stick and an altitude knob. The new superstructure was made of aluminum to prevent the ship from being top-heavy. The helicopter deck and hanger provided an area of great versatility.

With completion of the 7-month overhaul, MASSEY returned to the warm waters of GTMO for refresher training. The ship deployed with the SIXTH Fleet in September 1960 for six months of operations. The cruise, a very successful and rewarding one, included visits by numerous VIPs (one of whom was Princess Grace of Monaco), the first landing of a **manned** helicopter aboard the flight deck of a SIXTH Fleet destroyer, the setting of fueling records with 2 fleet oilers and emergency assistance to a sinking Italian merchant ship.

As far as history goes, a lot can be found on our website. I will try to scan all the flat items that I hold and consolidate them on a floppy/CD. For those of you who have a cruise book and access to a scanner, please scan to a floppy/CD and send me a copy. This will work well for any old photos and documents, too.

IN MEMORIAM

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

**Robert H. Cook, 62-
Charles Gay, BT3, 55-57**

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

THE BINNACLE LIST

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

Frank Zucco, MMC, 65-67, who is presently undergoing chemotherapy in his ten-year battle with cancer. Cards may be sent to him at:
PO Box 875
Milesburg, PA 16853-0875

James J. Donohue, BT2, 64-66, was hospitalized with congestive heart failure November 8, 2007 and was released November 23. Cards may be sent to him at:
859 Harbor Circle
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Sydney Andrews, WT3, 44-46, plankowner, has recovered and was able to join us for the cruise reunion.

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 or 2008 dues, please do so. Your \$10 gets you a new membership card and a current roster. Your 2008 dues are due starting January, 2008.

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. As you know, postage keeps increasing and our dues have not. At present, to mail 500 copies of this newsletter costs \$290 just in postage. If you are not presently a dues-paying member, please consider

becoming one. Remember, when you pay your dues you receive an updated membership roster.

MAIL CALL

From **Fred J. Borsetti, QMSN, 46**

Dear Massey shipmates,

I'm enclosing a check in the amount of ten dollars for the membership fee.

I'm glad to read that the Branson, Missouri reunion was a happy success. Missouri is a wonderful state; fine people, excellent restaurants and many scenic areas.

I want to thank all the shipmates who responded to my request for the ship's history. I was pleased to learn that MASSEY and NEW JERSEY provided cover fire for my brother when his outfit was attacked by Chinese troops that crossed the 38th parallel in Korea.

Please provide me with the name and address of the Tin Can Sailors. It would be an honor to belong to that association.

With all good wishes and kindest regards.

NEW MEMBERS

The following shipmates have been added to the roster:

Steven E. Powell, SFP3, 68-69 and wife Cecelia
Fred A. Voss, MM2, 54-57 and wife Patricia C.
Hollis Campbell, EM2, 49-52 and wife Virginia L.
Richard Warren, 54-

Richard Gurak

Phillip K. Smith, MM3, 65-67 and wife Dallas K.
John C. Peck, EM3, 69-72 and wife Mary
Richard Stevenson

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 WRAP-UP

The 2007 reunion, hosted by Tom and Mary Lou Potoskie, was held aboard cruise ship Carnival *Valor* sailing from Miami, FL November 1-11

2007, and visiting Nassau, St. Thomas, and St. Maarten. We were escorted by Brian Forrester of Cruise Holidays of Scottsdale who handled any and all minor problems that arose onboard the ship. Brian arranged with the cruise ship for various lounges to be made available each day, 10AM to 4PM as hospitality rooms. Our Memorial Service was held on board with the captain of *Valor* attending and speaking. On Saturday, our last day at sea, Cruise Holidays of Scottsdale hosted a cocktail party for our enjoyment.

Many thanks to Brian for all his work.

Special thanks go to Tom Potoskie and wife, Mary Lou, for the tremendous job they did in arranging and coordinating this reunion. They had a busy two years, and the quality of the reunion reflected their effort and hard work. Many, many thanks.

A message from Tom Potoskie, 2007 reunion chairman:

Another Massey reunion has come and gone. The cruise reunion turned out to be the best one I have attended because we had more time to share with shipmates. We got to talk and share more memories and to catch up on what happened to our members over the past year, not to mention seven banquets, great entertainment, and beautiful island ports of call. Everyone I spoke to said they had a great time and were thankful for the extra time with friends.

Seventy members, family and friends attended. First time attendees were: **James and Maria Mowry, BTCS, 65-67; Kerrah Stone, FN, 64-67; Bob and Ethel Ford, MM3, 66-68; Fred and Jane Knight, ENS, 46-48; John, Mary, Patrick and Nicholas Peck, EM3, 69-72.**

The other attendees were: our cruise escort, Brian Forrester; Bob and Priscilla Grigas; Butch and Joan Walters; Bill Gregory and Christina Frye; Jerry and Aggie Goodson with friends Penny Phillips, Larry and Barbara Rozul; Al and Bonnie Figaszewski; George and June Dienes; Bernie and Mary Jane Barilla; Pat and Joan O'Brien; Tom and Nancy Parker; Russ and Patti Spangler; John and Judy Curtis; Tom and Carole Norman; Bill and Dolly Frizzle; Juan de la Cruz and Loretta Zarate; Bill and Irene O'Byrne; Jack and Diane Smoak; Dave and Dolly Standley; Stanley Pekol and Dolores

Sheroney; (Plankowner) Sydney and Wilma Andrews; Tom and Kathy Truesdale; Mike and Donna Groom; George, Sondra and Dave Semencar; Bob and Phyllis Ciosek with friends Ron and Pat Benoit; Bob, Suzann and Margaret Radziwon; Jerry and Eleese Owens; and my wife Mary Lou and I, who were happy to host the reunion.

I would like to thank Jerry and Aggie for their support with the newsletter articles for the 2007 reunion. Thanks also to Jack and Diane Smoak for their contribution of patriotic pocket ribbons and corsages and Tom and Carole Norman who provided a disc of photos, not only of the 2007 reunion, but also from previous reunions. Tom was up all night "burning" them for all attendees.

During the year of preparation for the reunion, advertisements were placed in the VFW, American Legion, and Tin Can Sailors magazines. I had many calls from MASSEY sailors wanting to receive our newsletters. I urge all the new contacts to join our association for only \$10 per year (3 mailings) so we may continue to meet the expenses of publishing and mailing the newsletter. I also encourage our current members to send in their 2008 dues. The registration form is at the end of this newsletter.

We can now look forward to the 2008 reunion that will take place in Traverse City, Michigan.

BUSINESS MEETING

No business meeting was held during this reunion as we did not have a quorum.

2008 Reunion

Photos are provided courtesy of the Traverse City Convention & Visitors Bureau

Gordon Risk is the 2008 reunion chairman and submits the following:

The Traverse City, Michigan 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 our 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. 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, and to the bay. At this time of year, homesick salmon will race us as we stroll into town along the boardwalk.



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.

The weather in Traverse City this year on September 30 was 77/58, and the sun set at 7:15 PM. Let's hope conditions will be as good for the 2008 reunion; but just in case, plan to bring a jacket and an umbrella.

At 45 degrees latitude, the sun's special cosmic rays (I will not go into detail) can also kick up a green pulsating glow in the night skies.

Without any lights at all and no cloud cover, the sky is so full of stars that you can see the Milky Way for the first time since you stood mid-watch on the bridge.

But hey, wait a minute! What about all those sunsets across Lake Michigan and that crystal blue water from spring-fed lakes and streams! Yes, that's there, too, plus golf courses, miles of trails, federal and state parks, Petoskey stones, wineries and other



attractions that make this the area the number one vacation destination in the state of Michigan.

Perhaps you may want to come a few days early, stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island www.grandhotel.com, or the many B&Bs on the Leelanau Peninsula www.leelanau.com, or even become the lighthouse keeper at Grand Traverse Lighthouse www.grandtraverselight.com. Our home-away-from-home in Traverse City may be found on www.mytraversecity.com, and the Holiday Inn www.tcwestbay.com.

We will enjoy a day tour of the Leelanau Peninsula



with breathtaking views of Lake Michigan and the Sleeping Bear Dunes. This area is home to the old Coast Guard life saving station at Glen Haven, Fishtown (a pre-

servation of the 20th century fishing industry), 14 wineries, and five of the 123 Michigan lighthouses.



The SS MICHIGAN is moored beside the Great Lakes Maritime Academy, which is next to our hotel. This will present a great opportunity to observe the equipment and training of future Mates, both of the Deck and Engineering. Our memorial service will be held onboard because the other choice of a sunset background on Lake Michigan at 7:15 PM, 30 minutes from the hotel and with perfect weather and sound system may be too much for which to hope.

All who come this far should see Mackinac Island, a Victorian sanctuary of the wealthy. Their love of horse-drawn vehicles is still in evidence today. History has also been preserved from the French and Indian wars, as the mighty Mackinac Fort with its garrison still defends the magnificent five-mile suspension bridge (The Mighty Mac), which was completed in 1957. Since this would require a ten-hour day, and some of you have shown interest in making this a destination on your own, we will make it an option. When the ZELLARS was here, approximately one-third of their members took the tour and it was one of the most talked-about events for years.

Detailed reports will follow, along with the cost of the package. This 2008 reunion in Traverse City will be one of our most memorable. To help me in advanced planning, please e-mail me at: gordonteri@netzero.com to express your interest in attending.

2009 Reunion

The 2009 reunion will be hosted by Juan de la Cruz in San Antonio, Texas. Juan will be working hard for the next two years to ensure we all have a great time. Details will be published as they become available.

2007 Cruise-Reunion in pictures

All photos courtesy of Tom Norman, 60-62



The 2007 Cruise Reunion Attendees: L. to R. --yeah right!!



Friends of the Goodsons: L. to R. Larry Rozul, CPO (ret.) and Barbara Rozul, Penny Phillips



L. to R. Butch and Joan Walters



Cocktail Party, L. to R. Delores Sheroney, Stan Pekol, and
Aggie Goodson



First time attendees: L. to R. Kerrah Stone, Bob and Ethel Ford.



Cocktail party, L. to R. Mary Lou and Tom Potoskie, Mary
Jane Barilla, June and George Dienes, Bernie Barilla



L. to R. First time attendees Jim and Maria Mowry,
photographer Tom and Carole Norman



Cocktail party, L. to R. Dave, Sondra and George Semencar



L. to R. Plank owner, Sydney and Wilma Andrews



Cocktail party, L. to R. Irene and Bill O'Byrne



Cocktail party, L. to R. Dolly and Dave Standley, Donna and Mike Groom, First Time attendees Jane and Fred Knight,



L. to R. Diane and Jack Smoak, Nancy and Tom Parker



Cocktail party, L. to R. Margaret, Bob and Suzann Radziwon, Tom and Kathy Truesdale



L. to R. Christina Frye and Bill Gregory, Al and Bonnie Figaszewski



Cocktail party, seated, Judy and John Curtis; standing, Loretta Zarate and Juan de la Cruz, 2009 reunion chairman.



L. to R. Priscilla and Bob Grigas



L. to R. Pat and Joan O'Brien, Patty and Russ Spangler



L. to R. John and Judy Curtis, Bob and Phyllis Ciosek



L. to R. Friends of Bob and Phyllis Ciosek, Pat and Ron Benoit, Loretta Zarate and Juan de la Cruz



Nassau, Bahama Islands



2007 11 7

St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands with our ship Valor



2007 11 8

St. Maarten, N.A.



2007 11 8

The dining room staff entertained us each night during dinner.



2007 11 7

Then, again, some times we entertained them!!



2007 11 6

An impromptu, late-night and probably illegal Massey champagne party on the Lido deck.



2007 11 6

Lindy Lounge (hospitality room du jour) L. to R. Dave Semencar, Sondra Semencar, Brian Forrester our cruise host.



Sunset at sea.



Hey Mom, thanks for the college education.



Anyone for a swim or the hot tub?



Strange, nocturnal caribbean aquatic animals.



How about some calypso music?



We only have two days to get rid of all that mar-velous food, fabulous desserts, wine, and . . .

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 _____ - _____ (SUCH AS 58-62) Rank/Rate _____ (SUCH AS LT/FTG2) Mail check and application to:

Make checks payable to: USS Massey Association E. Gerald Goodson
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