



Reunion Organization of the USS Chikaskia (AO-54) www.usschikaskiaao54.com February 2019

Executive Board

Richard Fiorentino Board Chairman P.O. Box 7973 Pittsburgh, PA 15216 412-207-9142 rmf1999@yahoo.com	Bob Grant, Vice Chairman & Communications Coordinator 2252 Valley Oak St The Villages, FL 32162 352-753-7552 bobgrant1942@gmail.com	Bob Wilson Treasurer 6533 Wood Thrush Way Stone Mountain, GA 30087 770-469-3489 RWLW3489@bellsouth.net	Paul W Croeber Secretary & Editor 73 Wethersfield Rd Bellingham, MA 02019 508-966-0681 NSFOatSea@gmail.com	Ron Kik Board Member 1126 Crescent NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503 616-451-8948 leonardkik4309@gmail.com
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Ahoy Shipmates...

Our 39th Annual Reunion will be held at the Marriott Suites in Deerfield, Illinois on September 25 – 28, 2019.

The reunion will be held jointly with the USS Mispillion AO-105. We will be going back to where it all started:

Great Lakes Naval Training Center where we will be attending a graduation ceremony and a tour of the base. This will be followed by lunch at the Port O' Call Restaurant and after lunch, we will proceed to the National Museum of the American Sailor or the Navy Exchange.

The Chicago Architectural 90 Minute Boat Cruise on the Chicago River explains how the Great Chicago Fire jumped a river and allowed visionaries of structural steel and plate glass in less than ten years, lift Chicago from the ashes of the fire to new heights, and made Chicago the birthplace of the skyscraper.

The Museum of Science and Industry: Board the U-505 submarine, the actual craft that stalked the waters of the Atlantic before it was blown to the surface and captured on June 4, 1944. From the cramped quarters to the feel of battle, it's an interactive walk through a piece of history that you will never forget.

Go Underground at the Museum: Since 1933, Coal Mine has taken MSI guests down the mineshaft, along the rails, and through the walls of a true-to-life coal mine. Step on the hoist and ride down into an experience with atmosphere so real, you may start wondering where to punch your time card.

2018 Reunion Recap: Our 38th Annual Reunion was held in Daytona Beach Florida from Sunday September 30 to Friday October 5, 2018 at the Residence Inn Daytona Beach Oceanfront. For the fifth year, the reunion was held jointly with the USS Mispillion (AO-105) Shipmates Association. Early arrivers had the day to explore Daytona Beach and the surrounding area on their own. The Hospitality Room opened Sunday at 2:00pm and early arrivers had a chance to gather and enjoy the good company of shipmates and their guests while sharing an assortment of Hospitality Room comestibles. The Captain L.J. Hasse Golf Tournament was held Monday morning at the Daytona Beach Country Club and was won by Bob Walker. Tuesday's activities featured outings to the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Daytona Speedway Tour with Lunch at Racing's North Turn Restaurant. We were treated to lunch by Sam Pollack of the Daytona Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau as they wanted to honor US Navy Veterans. Racing's North Turn Restaurant is where the Daytona course started and went South for 2 miles on Route A1A to the end of the road where the drivers accessed Daytona Beach which was the South turn and then back 2 miles to the North turn. The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse in Florida and the second tallest masonry lighthouse in the country, second only to Cape Hatteras, NC. Some shipmates climbed the 203 steps to the top to enjoy magnificent views of the world's most famous beach. The lighthouse keeper's dwellings and other historic buildings were also opened to tour. One of the finest collections of restored Fresnel Lenses was also on display and explained by a lighthouse guide.

At the Daytona Speedway shipmates experienced a 90 minute guided tram tour and a unique opportunity to explore the 2.5 mile speedway from a variety of vantage points. Shipmates came face-to-face with the track as they visited the well-known start/finish line and 31-degree high banks and rode down pit road to get a close-up view of the pit stalls. Shipmates had the opportunity to stand next to the car of the 2017 Daytona 500 champion, left in the same condition as the day it conquered the World Center of Racing. Wednesdays activities featured a trip to historic St. Augustine where we learned about the incredible history of St. Augustine and Florida and how it grew and prospered under Spanish, British, French and American rule. We toured the Old Jail and then toured all of the attractions with our All-Day Pass for the Hop On Hop Off Old Town Trolley. The trolley rode through the Fountain of Youth property and the guide shared the fable of the Fountain, Ponce de Leon's discovery of La Florida, and his encounter with the native Indians. There was time for exploring, shopping, and lunch in this quaint little town. St. George Street, which is a reconstruction of Old World Florida, is lined with stone houses with overhanging balconies and walled garden patios. St. George and its neighboring side streets are where we found many historical spots, boutiques, gift shops, restaurants and cafes. The Business Meeting was held on Thursday at 10:00am. The Financial and merchandise reports were presented to the Executive Board, Ron Kik was nominated for another 5 year term on the Executive Board and Paul Croeber was nominated to complete the unexpired Executive Board term of Al Gordon. Paul Croeber was confirmed as Secretary, Jerry Maynard was confirmed as Assistant Treasurer and Richard Fiorentino was confirmed as the Chairman of the Executive Board. Further nominations for open positions were solicited from the membership at the open meeting and, hearing none, shipmates voted on those nominated by the Executive Board. Group photos were taken at 5:30 followed by the Ship's Toast at 6:00 and a Banquet Dinner immediately following. Farewells and wishes for Fair Winds and Following Seas until we meet again in 2019 were exchanged at breakfast on Friday October 5th.

2018 REUNION ATTENDEES

Fred Bailey – 60s	Amanda & Marti Gianolini – L. Escher guests	Charles & Janet Peterman – 60s
George & Elaine Bauer – 60s	Richard Fiorentino – 60s	Edward & Doreen Peznowski – 60s
Linda Cordts – G. Bauer guest	Bob & Beverly Grant – 60s	John Raiter – 60s
Normand Bolduc – 60s	Bob & Judy Brown – B. Grant guests	Susann Raiter – J. Raiter guest
Dave Nichols – N. Bolduc guest	Judy Hanvey & Brenda Ray (Jim Hanvey 50s)	Doris Ann Petrzilka – J. Raiter guest
Clarence (Sonny) Butler – 60s	Don Holland – 60s	Bruce & Christine Raymond – 60s
Larry & Vickie Cannon – 60s *	Leonard "Ron" & Joyce Kik – 60s	Gary & Sharon Rowles – 60s
Paul & Nancy Croeber – 60s	Michael & Joanna Lattery – 60s	Michael & Pat Runkle – 60s
Henry & Cheryl Daigle – 60s	Michael Little – 60s	Mike Singleton – M. Runkle guest
Kenneth & Cindy Richard – H. Daigle guests	Michael Conner – M. Little guest	Robert Walker – 60s
Randy & Geraldine Himel – H. Daigle guests	Jerry & Sandy Maynard – 60s	Joyce McCoy – R. Walker Guest
Thomas & Carol Dono – 60s	Peter Nicholas – 60s	Bob & Linda Wilson – 60s
Louis Escher – 40s	Pam Mears – P. Nicholas guest	

Shipmates (24 – 60s, 1 – 40s)	25
Spouses & Guests	33
Chikaskia Total	58
Mispillion Shipmates Spouses & Guests Total	9
Total Attendance	67

* First Time Attendees

Welcome Aboard: We are pleased to welcome newly located shipmates Richard Pomerleau 60s, Rosiario M. Rosalez 60s, Mike Moore, Lester Sexton, Norman Piumley, Robert N Kauppinen, and Terry Palmiter.

Taps: We've sent our sincere condolences to the families of the following shipmates whose deaths were reported to us since our last newsletter:

Raymond E. Hammenken, MM2, 1962-1966, died on April 17, 2018 in Concord NC at the age of 75 years. Ray last attended the 2015 Orlando FL Reunion where he won the Captain L.J. Hasse Golf Tournament.

Joseph D. Isbell Jr., died in December 2016.

Dues: In order to keep your membership current and to continue receiving our newsletters, we encourage shipmates to pay their annual dues. The dues year runs from April 1 – March 31. If you have not paid your dues for this year (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019) please complete and mail the dues coupon on this page to our Treasurer, Bob Wilson. We would like to thank the following shipmates who have paid their dues through this year and, in several cases, beyond: (note: dues are waived for all 1940s shipmates and spouses). The below list includes payments received and recorded on or before January 30, 2019:

Stephen S. Applegate – 60’s	Robert A. Grant – 60’s	Peter C. Nicholas – 60’s	Michael Runkle – 60’s
Frederick H. Bailey – 60’s	Robert H. Jackson – 50’s	Harold Northrop – 60’s	Frank Sheehan – 60’s
George A. Bauer – 60’s	Robert N. Kauppinen – 60’s	George M. Novotny – 60’s	Hugh J. Shevlin – 60’s
Sam Bunch – 60’s	Ron Kik – 60’s	Charles E. Peterman – 60’s	G. Darrell Stephens – 60’s
Larry T. Cannon – 60’s	George Kristufek - - 60’s	Edward J. Peznowski – 60’s	Felix H. Strozski – 50’s
Paul W. Croeber – 60’s	Michael D. Lattery, Sr 60’s	Richard E. Rainville – 60’s	Lloyd G. Subriar – 60’s
Henry C. Daigle – 60’s	John D. Lavallee – 60’s	John L. Raiter – 60’s	Oliver Tudor – 60’s
Joseph DiLiberto – 60’s	Allen Lipscher – 60’s	Richard Rice – 60’s	Marcel Vales – 60’s
Louis A. Escher – 40’s	Michael R. Little – 60’s	William F. Ripple – 60’s	David E. Wantuck – 60’s
Michael Fortenbacher – 60’s	Walter Lockland – 50’s	Gary Rowles – 60’s	Robert C. Wilson – 60’s
Clinton V. Fouch, Jr. – 60’s			

We sincerely appreciate dues payments and the additional contributions shipmates send in to help defray the costs of mailing our newsletters and the other expenses necessary to sustain our organization. We have received generous donations from several shipmates specifically designated for stocking the Hospitality Room. Because of that, we have not had to assess a Hospitality Room charge for attendees.

USS CHIKASKIA DUES \$20			
If you have not yet paid your dues, please clip this notice and send with your payment. We send this notice with every mailing. Additional contributions are gratefully accepted. NOTE: Dues are waived for all 1940s shipmates and spouses			
NAME _____	YEARS ABOARD _____	RATE/RANK _____	
(e.g. 1960-62)			
ADDRESS _____			
Street	City	State	ZIP
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____			
Please make your check payable to: USS CHIKASKIA AO-54 and mail to: Bob Wilson, 6533 Wood Thrush Way, Stone Mountain, GA 30087-4857			

Ship’s Store

The following Chikaskia items are available at the reunion and by mail. If you wish to order, please mail your order with your check made payable to USS CHIKASKIA AO-54 to Bob Wilson. His contact information is at the top of page 1 below the masthead and at the bottom of the dues coupon above.

<u>Items</u>	<u>Prices</u>
NEW! Blue Hats (photo at right) with silhouette of ship	\$15.00 (\$20.00 if mailed)



Sweatshirt Front Sweatshirt Back



Sweatshirt Orders Only: Shipmate Harold “Bud” Northrop is taking orders on an individual basis for new blue sweatshirts with name and silhouette of the ship on the back, and the two ship’s patches on the front as seen in the above right photos: Sweatshirt cost is \$35 plus postage. Postage cost will be determined by your shipping destination. **FOR SWEATSHIRT ORDERS ONLY CONTACT: BUD NORTHROP 331 S. LUBEC ROAD, LUBEC, ME 04652 PHONE: 207-904-7646**

Roster Information: We want to keep the roster as current and accurate as possible. Please submit any changes of address, phone number, email address, marital status, etc. to our Secretary, Paul Croeber. His contact information is at the top of page 1 below the masthead. Also, please send us any information on any new shipmates you have contacted, or information on deceased or missing shipmates that we have been unable to locate. In order to have quick and easy communication with as many shipmates as possible, we would also like the email addresses of all shipmates who have email, or access to email through a relative or friend. Due to the large size of the roster, we would like to send that primarily by email and we will offer hard copies only upon request. If your dues are paid up to date, or if you are a 40s shipmate or spouse, and you would like a copy of the roster, please contact Paul Croeber.