USS *Macdonough* Reunion Association

Newsletter - Winter 2012

Join us one and all for the first ever Michigan reunion of the USS *Macdonough* Reunion Association

The 2012 Macdonough Reunion will be held June 24-27 in beautiful Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our hosts are Al and Linda Buchanan. The schedule and sign up sheets are right here in the newsletter. Simply mail in your reservation and plan to have a fun time with shipmates in beautiful Grand Rapids.

In case you haven't had the pleasure of visiting Grand Rapids before, here's a little background on the city. It is best known for its wonderful summers, and family adventure times. The best time of year to visit is May through September. Our June reunion is perfect timing!

Other facts: Though nicknamed "Furniture City," Grand Rapids is not only a manufacturing site. Indeed, the city offers historic sites, arts centers and beautiful gardens, for starters. It is the home of the Gerald R. Ford Museum, the final resting place of the 38th President of the United States. The Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts is located downtown, and houses art exhibits, a movie theater, and the urban clay studio.

Trivia Question: What is the name of the river that flows through Grand Rapids?

President's Column

Victory At Sea Redux - by Lee Blankenship

It hardly seems that almost a year has passed since our 2011 Reunion aboard the Carnival Freedom and our very own "Springboard" exercises in the Caribbean. I had such a marvelous experience during the cruise that, upon returning to California, I convinced my wife that we should celebrate our respective summer retirements by taking another cruise.

So, we surfed the web, looked for "deals", evaluated cruise lines, and checked out itineraries. We settled on a 9-day Carnival cruise to the Mexican Riviera aboard the Spirit, departing from the Port of Los Angeles with port visits to Ensenada, Cabo San Lucas, Puerto Vallarta, and Mazatlan. From my experience aboard the Mac, I thoroughly enjoyed the Riviera (the French one, of course), so the Mexican Riviera seemed a natural, eh?

Spirit was about 2/3 the size of Freedom, so fewer crew and ship's company, fewer passengers, smaller dining rooms, fewer pools on the Lido Deck. But there were the same daily pastimes – eating morning, noon, night, and midrats; similar port tours, bazaars, and hucksters; almost identical shows and cruise director activities; and photographers everywhere.

Some things were different, however. First, as soon as our check deposit cleared, Carnival cancelled Mazatlan because of safety and security concerns and added La Paz instead; next, we discovered that one of the reasons for the bargain fares was that we would be cruising during the hurricane season; then, Susie, my dear loving wife, informed me that she had

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DUES REMINDER

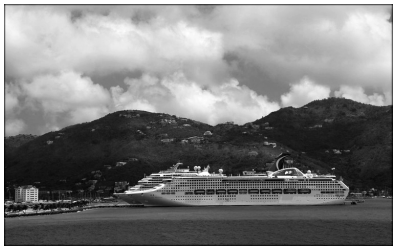
Dues are due now. Our membership year runs from January through December. Your dues help pay for flowers for memorials, the newsletter, reunion host gifts, and prepayments for reunions. The dues remain at only $20 per year. Please support your Macdonough Reunion Association and send your 2012 dues to:

The USS Macdonough Reunion Association
c/o John Curtin
6938 Maynard Rd.
Portland, MI 48875

Victory At Sea Redux - by Lee Blankenship *(con't from p.1)*

a propensity for seasickness and having a stateroom forward on the sixth level might not be a really good idea. But the wanderlust of the ocean prevailed, and news on the Weather Channel notwithstanding, we drove from Fresno to Long Beach to catch our ship.

The boarding process was pretty much the same as for Freedom out of Ft. Lauderdale, except that Ken Brown didn't chauffer us to the cruise parking lot and parking costs a lot more in California. It seems that no matter when one arrives to check in for the cruise, the process will take at least two hours. We arrived early anyhow, were assigned boarding group 3 (which I thought was a good sign), waited for 50 other boarding groups to be called before us (oh, they had the black numbers, we had the red numbers), were informed that a hurricane was pummeling the Mexican Riviera so that Puerto Vallarta was being cancelled in favor of a second day in Cabo San Lucas, and were finally invited to pass through metal (and bottle) detectors to board the ship and cruise the buffet lines on the Lido.



I won't bore you with all the details of the cruise (if you've read this far); we had a terrific time; Susie managed her motion sickness with patches, wine, and lots of food; the wine country tour outside Ensenada was very good; two days in Cabo San Lucas is one day too many; one day in La Paz is one day too many; and the re-revised itinerary to include Puerto Vallarta more than made up for all of the other snags in our adventure as we were able to visit one of the most beautiful ports on the Mexican Riviera. The Chef's Table, the Steakhouse, and the tour of the ship were each well worth the additional expense; it is not necessary to buy portrait packages from the photographers; being nice to dining room wait staff will garner an extra lobster tail (or two); trying to teach cribbage to someone on the verge of seasickness is doomed to failure from the start; the shower in the spa, after the seaweed and mud "therapy", is one-half the size of the shower in the smallest cabin on the ship (and the bulkheads are colder); and we'd do it all over again for an even longer cruise if given half the chance!

Of course, I quickly realized that one of the prime reasons that I had a great cruise in the Caribbean on the 2011 Reunion was that there were almost 65 other Mac veterans and family aboard. Frankly, on the Mexican Riviera I missed the camaraderie of shipmates and familiar faces, shared experiences and sea stories, friendships developed and nurtured over past reunions, and memories of shipmates who have passed on. I think that these aspects of our reunions are far more important than where or when we meet, what is on the menu, and what the agenda includes.

So, I invite and encourage you to sign up for the 2012 Reunion in Grand Rapids, MI. Al Buchanan and his crew have planned an excellent gathering. We especially look forward to first-timers coming to the Reunion to join our annual party, and locals (defined as those shipmates within 10-hour driving distance) are invited to join us for the day in our hospitality suite. We have a lot more fun than on the Mac (if that's possible), we don't have to stand watches, we don't get shot at, there's no preventive maintenance to perform, we rarely use call signs during our conversations, and our spouses add a touch of class to everything that we do. I hope to see each of you in Grand Rapids June 24-27!

Thomas Macdonough (December 21, 1783 – November 10, 1825) was an early-19th-century American naval officer noted for his roles in the first Barbary War and the War of 1812. He was the son of a revolutionary officer, Thomas Sr., who lived near Middletown, Delaware. He was the sixth child from a family of ten siblings and was raised in the countryside. He entered naval life at an early age, receiving a midshipman's commission at the age of sixteen. Serving with Stephen Decatur at Tripoli, he was a member of "Preble's Boys", a select group of U.S. naval officers who served under the command of Commodore Preble during the First Barbary War. During the War of 1812, Macdonough commanded the American naval forces that defeated the British navy at the Battle of Lake Champlain. The defeat helped lead to an end to the war.

In Memorium

Robert R. Clarke

Robert R. Clarke, Commander, USN (ret.), loving father and devoted husband, age 81, of Prescott, Ariz., passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012. Robert was born in Albany, N.Y., on July 15, 1930, to Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Clarke.



He is survived by his wife Patricia A. Clarke of Prescott; a brother, David Clarke of Carlsbad, Calif.; a daughter, Sally Risinger; grandchildren Sarah and Nicholas Risinger, all residing in Newton, Pa.; and two stepdaughters, Cynthia Feurriegel from Dewey, Ariz., and Wendy DeBrock of Mineral, Ill.

Being a native of Albany, N.Y., he attended and graduated from the Milne School and the University of Rochester, under the Naval Reserve officers training corps program. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy in June 1952. By subsequent promotions, he attained the rank of Commander, effective Sept. 1, 1966.

He served on the USS *Latimer*, USS *John Paul Jones* and USS *Forrest Sherman* from July 1952 to July 1958. Until 1960, he served as Force Plans Officer on the staff of Commander Destroyers, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, followed by a tour as Executive Officer aboard USS *Claud Jones*. During the period of 1962-1964, he served in a Joint Planning Billet in the Strategic Plans Division (OP-60) of the office of the Chief of Naval Operations.

Commander Clarke also served as Executive Officer of the USS *Sellers*; director of Naval Personnel, Sixth Naval District; and as a chief field advisor of the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group, Germany.

Commander Clarke assumed the duties of Commanding Officer, USS *Macdonough*, in October 1969.

Following his 22-year career with the Navy and living in Atlanta, Ga., he devoted his life to helping make other lives better. He was a longtime member of the Peachtree Presbyterian Church. He served on the board, and was a deacon and a major supporter of the church. Because of him, Peachtree Presbyterian Church grew physically and spiritually and was known to many for the love and care it gave back to the community.

One of Bob's most endearing achievements after retirement was the 17 years of volunteer work he did faithfully at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta. His many generous gifts helped build a new wing on the hospital. His name is well known in the halls of St. Joseph's Hospital. HE WILL BE MISSED!

Michael J. Worley

Captain Michael J. Worley USN (Ret.) died of cancer on February 4, 2012 at the age of 64. He was preceded in death by his beloved parents Captain Jesse D. Worley and Patricia Worley. Mike was born in San Diego, CA, September 7, 1947. Mike followed his father Jesse's footsteps (USNA '39) and attended the United States Naval Academy, graduating in 1969. A Surface Warfare Officer, he commanded the USS *Macdonough*, USS *Mount Baker*, and Destroyer Squadron 36. After retirement from the Navy, he joined Rolls Royce where he served for 14 years as the Vice President of the Naval Marine Programs.

In 1973 Mike met Irene Ayres and a marriage-for-life took place in the summer of 1974. The Worley family was completed with the birth of Brendon in 1976. A family man, Mike applied the same passion, dedication, organization, and drive that made his military and Rolls-Royce careers so successful intohis approach to tackling the Game of Life. His love of family and friends was the essence of the man. Feisty, competitive, witty, with a moral foundation and integrity second to none, Mike was a role model for all. Hisjoy for life was contagious. Captain Worley was an accomplished athlete who starred on the Naval Academy baseball team for three years. A devoted father, he managed to carve out time from his demanding professional career to teach and coach his son life's lessons through soccer, football and rugby participation. The San Francisco 49ers, San Francisco Giants, and Boston Celtics have never had a more loyal fan, and he was passionate about Navy and Boston College football. Captain Worley is survived by wife Reanie, son Brendon, brothers Jay and Peter, and too many friends and loved ones to list.

Donations may be made in Capt. Worley's memory to the "Church of the Nativity - Starfish" or The American Cancer Society at www.Relayforlife.org.

Recently Gary Beanland had the good fortune to meet James "Jim" Allen, a former sailor from the USS *Macdonough* DD-351, the predecessor of the USS *Macdonough* DLG-8/DDG-39. The DD-351, a *Farragut*-class destroyer was launched in 1934 and served through World War II until 1945.



Jim's service on board the USS *Macdonough* was between June 1944 when he enlisted and the date of its decommissioning. After joining the Navy in June 1944, he attended boot camp and torpedo school in San Diego and then went to Pearl Harbor where he boarded the USS *Macdonough*. During his tour of duty he was at Ulithi Island, Yap, Truk, Guam, Okinawa and possibly Wake Island. After leaving the USS *Macdonough*, he served aboard the USS *Guilford* for the remainder of his service. Above is a photo of the two Macdonough veterans together in front of the Kitsap County History Museum, in Bremerton, Washington.

Membership Corner

Thanks to the diligent work of Bob Kahle, each year a few more shipmates are found and added to our roster. Below is the current status of our association membership.

- Active: 775
- Deceased: 116
- Contacted - not interested: 59
- Missing: 33

Potential: probably more than 2,224, so we have located slightly less than half. Please help. Contact Bob Kahle if you know of shipmates who have not yet been found or included in the roster.

Also, if you have moved, have a new phone number or new email address, please let Bob Kahle know. rek1@comcast.net or call: 732-238-1103.

USS *Macdonough* Reunion Association Executive Committee

Here are the shipmates to contact for memberships, address changes, obituaries, complaints, questions or kudos

President: Lee Blankenship
P.O. Box 1833, Salinas, CA 93902
Lee_Blankenship@comcast.net

Vice-President: Fred Steinke
8346 E. Eureka Rd, Eau Claire, MI 49111-9633
Freddeansteinke@hotmail.com

Treasurer: John Curtin
6938 Maynard Rd, Portland, MI 48875
Jcurtin@broadstripe.net

Secretary: Gary Beanland
PO Box 653, Port Orchard, WA 98366
Sdaniel537@aol.com

Membership: Bob Kahle
17 Kossman Street, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Rek1@comcast.net
732-238-1103

Chaplain: Al Buchanan
12148 Wisner Ave, Grant, MI 49327
albuchanan@ncats.net

Reunion 2013

The USS *Macdonough* 2013 Reunion will be held April 28 - May 1st at the Springmaid Beach resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Grand Rapids, MI Reunion 2012 Agenda

Sunday June 24:	**Check in Country Inn Suites starts at 3:00 pm**
	Pizza and gathering Hospitality room at 6:00 pm
Monday June 25:	**Morning free (options: golf, shopping, downtown museums or hangout in the hospitality room).**
	9:00 am executive board meeting (board room)
	2:00 pm Gerald R. Ford Museum tour museum. $15.00/person
	5:00 pm Memorial Service Ford Museum Auditorium followed by laying wreath on Ford's gravesite. **Dinner on your own.**
Tuesday June 26:	**8:00 am depart hotel by bus**
	9:45 am Mac Woods dune Rides
	12:00 pm Ludington, MI shopping and lunch on your own
	2:30 pm Amber Elk ranch tour with wagon ride and unique gift shop
	4:30 pm Cherry Point Farm and Market: Time to stroll through the gardens, vineyards and chance to purchase delectable pastries and preserves, followed by feasting on a traditional fish boil with delicious homemade pie for dessert.
	8:00 pm leave for the hotel. Cost for day: $86.00/person
Wednesday June 27:	**9:00 am leave for Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, this will include Trolley Ride of the Gardens, time allowed to tour on your own both inside and out and food voucher to have lunch in the café. Return to hotel at your leisure. $21.00/person**
	3:00 pm business meeting
	6:00 pm Banquet $40.00/person by Applause catering at Country Inn.
	Entertainment: Classic Fun this will be a night to remember!

Breakfast is available in the dining area just off the hotel lobby each morning 6-9:30 AM

Optional Activities

For before or after the scheduled days

- **Golf Outing** — **Contact Ed Wilson Manager of the Country Inn Suites**
- **Gilmore Car Museum** — **Senior Admission $9.00 /person contact John Curtin**
- **Charter Fishing** — **Cost $600.00/day max of 6 passengers On Lake Michigan Contact Fred Steinke**
- **Ship Museums** — **Contact Alan Buchanan**
  USS Silversides, MacLane — **$7.50 per person self-guided tour**
  LST 393 — **$5.00 per person**
  Muskegon, MI
- **Tour of Ryzebol Dairy Farm** — **Contact Alan Buchanan/ no charge**

These activities will not be paid for in advance, but some may have to be scheduled in advance, so please contact the person listed and document your interest on the registration sheet along with preferred day.

USS *Macdonough* Reunion Association
c/o Bob Kahle
17 Kossman Street
East Brunswick, NJ 08816



Published by the U.S.S. *Macdonough* Reunion Association for its members. Correspondence should be sent to U.S.S. *Macdonough* Reunion Association, c/o Lee Blankenship, P.O. Box 1833, Salinas, CA 93902, or by email to: Lee_Blankenship@comcast.net

USS MACDONOUGH 2012 REUNION

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Registration Form

Lodging: Country Inn Suites, 420 East Beltline NE (East Beltline at I-96 exit 38), Grand Rapids, Mi 49546 Ph # 616 942-7000 or toll free 800-456-4000. Ask for Macdonough reunion rate. Nightly rate $87.00 for King or two queen guest rooms. Breakfast included. Handicap accessible available. Reservations made on your own, deadline for this rate is May 24, 2012. Shuttle service from the airport is available; please make this need known at the time of your reservation.

Please complete this form and make check out to USS Macdonough Reunion Association and mail to: John Curtin, 6938 Maynard Rd. Portland, MI 48875

Name:_____**Guest:**_____

Address:_____ **City:**_____ **Zip:**_____

Home ph#_____ **Cell#** _____

		# of persons	Cost
Registration fee:	**$15.00/person $25.00/couple**	____	_____
Monday 6/25/12	**Gerald Ford Museum $15.00/person**	____	_____
Tuesday 6/26/12	**Lakeshore experience $86.00/person**	____	_____
Wednesday 6/27/12	**Meijer Gardens including lunch $21.00/person**	____	_____
	Banquet $40.00/person	____	_____
	Total		_____

Please list optional activities you would like to include:

REGISTRATION DEADLINE & PAYMENT IN FULL IS MAY 24, 2012

http://www.experiencegr.com/USSMacDonough/

T-Shirt Order Form

The tee shirts will be gray with the black logo as pictured here. The shirts are available in sizes Small-3XL.

Sm-1XL	$10.00 ea
2XL	$11.50 ea
3XL	$12.75 ea



Name:_____

Number of tee shirts:_____

Sizes:

Total amount due: _____

Please send check for shirts along with registration