

KALAMAZOO TIMES

Volume 1 Issue 1

Summer 2010

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS KALAMAZOO (AOR-6)



Points of Special Interest

- **A recap of the 2010 reunion in Jacksonville serves as the cover story.**
- **A list of reunion attendees is on page two.**
- **Dates for the 2011 reunion in Kalamazoo, Michigan are announced on page two.**
- **Help name the Kalamazoo newsletter. See the form on page two.**
- **Read about the city of Kalamazoo on page three.**
- **Kalamazoo has many attractions. Some are described on pages three and four.**
- **Please fill out and return the Kalamazoo survey on page four.**

2010 JACKSONVILLE REUNION RECAP

Through the efforts of Frank Taylor, the first reunion of the USS Kalamazoo (AOR-6) was held in Jacksonville, Florida, on April 22-25, 2010 at the Jacksonville Crowne Plaza Hotel with nineteen members and fourteen of their guests attending. Mr. Taylor came up with the idea for a reunion of the USS Kalamazoo crewmembers, and through much work on his part, the first reunion was a big success! Everyone enjoyed getting reacquainted or learning to know those from another time on board, and they were especially happy to see in attendance Admiral Tuttle, who was the second commanding officer of the Kalamazoo.

Registration for the reunion began on Thursday

around noon with Rodney Beck being the first to register. As the afternoon continued, the hospitality room became the gathering place for everyone to meet and share stories and enjoy refreshments. The first official event of the reunion was the 5:00 pm Welcome Reception. Frank Taylor started the reception by introducing himself and asking others to do the same. All the men were excited to see that Admiral Tuttle had arrived and enjoyed catching up on his life. The remainder of the evening was free to have dinner either at the hotel or at one of Jacksonville's many restaurants. The hospitality room was open late to enable anyone to congregate for sharing memories and enjoying the

company of old friends.

Friday morning after a good breakfast those who chose to participate in the tour to Mayport Naval Station boarded the bus for a day of sightseeing. Since its commissioning in December 1942, Naval Station Mayport has grown to become the third largest fleet concentration area in the United States. With more than 3,400 acres, NS Mayport is host to more than 80 tenant commands, 21 naval ships and six Light Airborne Multi-purpose System (LAMPS) Mark III helicopter squadrons. NS Mayport is also the operational and training headquarters for the SH-60B Seahawk LAMPS MKIII with a primary mission of anti-submarine war-

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fare. During the tour the group was able to tour the USS Roosevelt, where they also had lunch in the old Officers Club. Along with the USS Kalamazoo attendees, crewmembers from the reunion of the USS Ingraham were also touring the ship. Following lunch, the group took a riding tour of the base. The whole tour was very informative and gave everyone a lot to talk about on the way back to the hotel mid-afternoon. After returning to the hotel, the business meeting was held. Kalamazoo, MI was the choice for the 2011 reunion, with late summer being the first choice for the time frame. Friday evening's dinner had a tropical theme, with pork chops, chicken, mahi-mahi, plantains, shrimp salad, red beans and rice, lemon & coconut cakes and more. After dinner the group entertained themselves by having a "Name That Tune" game, which everyone seemed to love. Mary Squilla won from the female contestants and Patrick Fleenor as the winning male contestant. Mary Squilla won because she sang and danced to most of the songs! Kevin Kosiba sang all of "Love Potion Number Nine" and lots of other songs. It was a very entertaining evening!

Saturday morning the group headed off to tour St. Augustine, the oldest "continuously occupied" city in the U.S. During the drive to St. Augustine, the tour guide, Jim, related the story of Henry Flagler and his three wives and the many buildings he built, plus many more interesting facts and legends of the city. Mary Squilla also entertained the group with jokes. Also, the driver took the scenic AIA route, pointing out places of interest. The trip was as much fun as the destination! Upon arrival in St. Augustine, there was free time to explore the city's many interesting sights—the Fountain of Youth, Ripley's Believe It or Not, St. George's Street, shopping and having lunch. The tour returned to the hotel around 2:00 pm, giving everyone a chance to stop by the hospital room for refreshments and conversation. Everyone spent a relaxing afternoon before the main reunion

event—the USS Kalamazoo (AOR-6) banquet. The evening's festivities began at 6:30 pm with the pre-dinner cocktail hour and photo session. Pictures were made for the post reunion Memory Book as the shipmates and guests enjoyed their favorite beverage. Three crewmen came dressed in uniform—Dennis Strasser, David Reidenbach and Jeff Conant. Quite impressive, guys! Then at 7:30 pm the USS Kalamazoo's first reunion banquet began with Dennis Strasser ringing the bell to announce the arrival of the USS Kalamazoo crewmen and guests. After the playing of the National Anthem, Anchors Aweigh and the Pledge of Allegiance, Frank Taylor welcomed everyone to the banquet. Dinner consisted of Crowne salad, prime rib, twice baked potatoes, vegetable mix and chocolate cheese cake for dessert. The after-dinner speaker was Admiral Tuttle who spoke of his time on the Kalamazoo. Following Admiral Tuttle's speech, the Memorial Service to remember all known deceased from the USS Kalamazoo was held. Jim Phillips served as Chaplain and Dennis Strasser as bell ringer. As Jim Phillips read the names of the deceased, a bell rang in their memory. Those remembered were as follows: Al Crane, Noa Goff, Rudy Kohn, Scott McCumber, Wayne Rosinsky and Roger Van Slooten. After the Memorial Service, Frank Taylor spoke of his memories aboard the Kalamazoo, beginning with one about his deceased shipmate Al Crane. This began a series of other crewmen who also stood and related their fondest memories of their time aboard the ship. It was a wonderful way to end the evening and everyone left feeling good about the reunion.

Many had said their good byes at end of the Saturday evening banquet because of differing travel plans for Sunday, but those who could, stayed for breakfast Sunday morning and said their good byes then. Everyone agreed that the reunions should continue and look forward to seeing one another again next year in Kalamazoo.

2010 REUNION ATTENDEES

Rodney & Stacy Beck
 Jeffery Conant
 Croteau Walter
 Patrick & Barbara Fleenor
 James & Alisen Guyet
 Edward Hassler
 Mark & Glenna Hays
 Kevin & Regina Kosiba
 William & Gwen Oglesby
 Kim Phillips
 David & Robert Reidenbach
 Wayne & Linda Smith
 Dennis Strasser
 Don & Kathy Taylor
 Frank & Mary Taylor
 Jerry & Barbara Tuttle
 Hoyt & Pat Ward
 Timothy & Kim Whitt
 Mark Zimmerman & Ronda Williams

Total Members: 19
Guests: 14
GRAND TOTAL: 33

2011 USS KALAMAZOO REUNION

AUG. 11-14

KALAMAZOO, MI

A KALAMAZOO NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to see a Kalamazoo newsletter similar to this one, but with added features of stories from former crewmen and other items of interest, let us know with a contribution for expenses using the enclosed envelope. Any monetary amount will be acceptable.

Also, what would you like the newsletter to be called? Did the ship have a newsletter, and if so, what was its name? Do you want to use that, or something else? Fill out your choice by using the survey on page four.

KALAMAZOO, MI WILL WELCOME THE USS KALAMAZOO REUNION IN 2011

ABOUT THE CITY

The USS Kalamazoo (AOR-6) was named for the city of Kalamazoo, Michigan, which was believed have originated from an Native American name, although its exact origin hasn't been pinpointed. Kalamazoo has several nicknames—"The Paper City, for its many paper and cardboard mills; "The Celery City" after the crop once grown in abundance; "The Mall City" after the construction of the first outdoor pedestrian shopping mall in the United States in 1959; and "The Bedding Plant Capital of the World" as the county is the home of the largest bedding plant cooperative in the U.S. Hundreds of thousands of plants are sold each year to home gardeners and landscapers nationwide. With a population of approximately 77,000 persons, Kalamazoo is just about 2 hours from Chicago and is home to Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College and Nazareth College. A vibrant Art Deco downtown sets the stage for quality dining, unique shops and galleries and live entertainment. The city has 55 parks, 3 golf courses and many more nearby. Four major shopping malls, including the first pedestrian mall mentioned above. Southwest Michigan is known for its wineries and micro-breweries, whose products can be enjoyed at the wide selection of restaurants in Kalamazoo. Read on for a description of some of the attractions in the Kalamazoo area.

ATTRACTIONS

Gilmore Car Museum

Rated as one of the 10 best automobile museums in the United States. On 90 landscaped acres in restored historic barns, you will find more than 175 extraordinary vehicles spanning more than 100 years of automotive heritage. Visitors will find exhibits ranging from an 1899 Locomobile to the classic Duesen-

berg, the elusive Tucker, the Model T and the muscle cars of the '60s. Enjoy lunch at the George and Sally Blue Moon Diner, a 1941 Silk City Diner, the newest addition to the Gilmore Car Museum.

W. K. Kellogg Manor House

Step back in time during a tour of the W. K. Kellogg Manor House located on picturesque Gull Lake near Hickory Corners. Built in 1925-26, the Kellogg Manor House is a classic example of Tudor Revival architecture with leaded glass bay windows, quarter-sawn oak coffered ceiling, a hand carved stairway, and beautiful Rookwood tile fireplaces and bathrooms. Built 110 feet above Gull Lake, this 32 acre estate includes a carriage house with chauffeur's cottage, a boathouse, an authentic Dutch windmill, a lakeside pagoda and several beautiful gardens.

Cornwell's Turkey U.S.A.

From the early 60s county fair booth, to today's 450-seat restaurant and dinner theater, Grandma and Grandpa Cornwell have welcomed their guests with the best in country hospitality. Cornwell's Turkey U.S.A. consists of Turkeyville Restaurant serving Grandma's homemade recipes, The Country Junction Gift-Shoppes, the General Store with old-fashioned candies, the Bakery with fresh baked goods daily and the Cornwell Dinner Theater featuring Top Hat Productions, offering some of the best professional theater in the state of Michigan.

Fort Custer National Cemetery

Named for General George Armstrong Custer, the original Camp Custer was built in 1917 as part of the military mobilization during World War I. After the war, it also served as a demobilization camp. The cemetery itself was not created until 1943. During World War II, it

was expanded to serve as a training ground and as a place to hold German prisoners of war, 26 of which died while in captivity and were buried in the cemetery. It was not until 1981 that Fort Custer cemetery officially became Fort Custer National Cemetery. The Avenue of Flags is a row of 152 flag poles along the main drive. At the end of the drive is an additional 50 flag poles, one of each state flag.

Air Zoo

Sit down, strap in, hang on and get ready for a great time! The Air Zoo offers something for all different ages and interests. *Adventure...* Elite fighter jets poised for action. Awesome 360-degree full-motion flight simulators. Indoor amusement park rides. A breathtaking 4 D theater that takes you on a World War II mission. Experience the weightlessness of walking on the moon. Train like an astronaut and blast off to Mars. We're ready for you—the question is...Are you ready for this adventure? *History...* with more than 50 historical and rare aircraft in two buildings, your group will be amazed when they see the world's only remaining SR-71B Blackbird, a Curtiss P-40N, one of the best-kept collections of Grumman Cats and more. The Air Zoo is also home to the nationally-recognized Guadalcanal Memorial Museum, the Michigan Aviation Hall of Fame and the Michigan Space Science Center, where you can train, live and work like an astronaut. This is a must see!

Kalamazoo Valley Museum

The Museum was voted the top small museum in Michigan by readers of Michigan Living Magazine. The Museum offers "Adventure You Can Touch," celebrating history, science and technology in a highly interactive, hands-on way. It features a Digistar Theater and planetarium; simulated missions to space via the

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Challenger Learning Center; a 2,300 year-old mummy; an interactive history gallery and the Science in Motion gallery. Newly opened is the "Out of this World: Extraordinary Costumes from Film and Television." It showcases more than 40 costumes, artifacts and objects from "Star Wars," "Blade Runner," "The Terminator" "Star Trek," "The Forbidden Planet," and other popular science fiction-related productions. These include the costume worn by George Clooney in "Batman and Robin," the outfit worn by Jim Carrey as the Riddler in "Batman Forever."

Michigan Maritime Museum

Experience the rich maritime heritage of the Great Lakes by visiting Michigan's most distinguished institution of maritime research, preservation and education. Five separate buildings offer a variety of engaging opportunities for the Museum visitor including permanent and changing exhibits on Michigan maritime history, a center for the teaching of boat building and related maritime skills, and a regionally renowned research library. Waterfront festivals and events are complemented by the hustle and bustle of modern harbor and vast sandy beaches in one of

west Michigan's most picturesque shoreline communities. The sloop *Friends Good Will* promotes tourism in West Michigan by providing the public with a wide variety of cultural and educational experiences. The historic replica is the only Tall Ship to sail the Great Lakes with a state-of-the-art interactive, floating classroom designed for year-round instruction. *Friends Good Will*, fully U.S. Coast Guard approved for passengers, is available for day sails, as well as private charters.

Kalamazoo Nature Center

Among the many exhibits in the Nature Center is Parfet Butterfly House which contains an indoor tropical sun-rain room, an outdoor garden and a barn which houses farm animals. Also on site are an 11-acre arboretum and nature trails.

DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO

Bronson Park

Kalamazoo's traditional downtown centerpiece is Bronson Park, named for the community's founder, Titus Bronson. The park's notable features include an Indian mound on its south side; a fountain designed by Alfonse lanelli depicting the brutality of white settlers toward

Native Americans; and a sculpture, "The Children May Safely Play" by Kirk Newman, in the west reflecting pool. Abraham Lincoln made his only public speech in Michigan here; a historic marker honors the event.

Stuart Avenue, South Street and Vine Historic Districts

Stately old houses line the grand streets of these neighborhoods, giving passersby a glimpse of restored grandeur from the previous century.

Frank Lloyd Wright Homes

Designed as a cooperative neighborhood by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the late 1940s, Parkwyn Village contains examples of Wright's Usonian style of home. More Wright homes are found in a rural setting south of the city of Galesburg.

Kalamazoo City Hall

An acclaimed 1931 example of Art Deco Style, City Hall has a three story, skylit atrium. Visitors are welcome.

As you can see, there's a lot to do and see in Kalamazoo, so help us plan your reunion by filling out and returning the survey below.

2011 USS KALAMAZOO SURVEY

In order to provide the kind of reunion you want, not what we "think" you'd like, please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to ML&RS, Inc. right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the chairman's input. Let your voice be heard. Mail surveys to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.
P O Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603-6402

Or Fax to: 828-256-6559

Or on line at: www.mlrsinc.com/kalamazoo

Return by September 20, 2010

Reunion format:

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group? _____
 or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday? _____

Do you want entertainment after the Saturday night banquet?
yes no

Activities: *Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda.*

- Gilmore Car Museum
- W.K. Kellogg Manor House
- Cornwell's Turkey U.S.A.
- Fort Custer National Cemetery
- Air Zoo
- Kalamazoo Valley Museum
- Michigan Maritime Museum
- Kalamazoo Nature Center
- Short tour of Downtown Kalamazoo sites

Name the newsletter _____