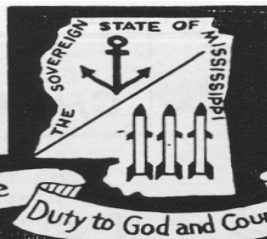


The



Pirate

Pride of Service

Duty to God and Country

Pride of Workmanship

Volume 9, Issue 3

June 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MISSISSIPPI EAG-128



Special Points of Interest

- See what your surveys revealed as to what you want for your Nashville reunion. The cover article tells all.
- A message from your president is on page two.
- Two new names for Welcome Mat are on page two. Hope you will make them feel welcome.
- If you know where to find a model kit of the USS Mississippi, John Cannon would like to know. See Mail Call on page three.
- If you haven't let ML&RS, Inc. know how you wish to receive information from ML&RS, Inc. and the newsletter, the coupon is printed again on page four.

2006 REUNION SURVEY RESULTS

As a result of the preliminary surveys that have been returned, the top choices for the reunion activities seem to be a visit to the Grand Ole Opry, a city tour (including the Hermitage) and the General Jackson Showboat. If those choices hold up, ML&RS, Inc. will plan for those activities for your October 5-8, 2006 reunion in Nashville.

Other choices show an overwhelming yes for a Welcome Reception and breakfast all three mornings of the reunion. Most chose no entertainment after the banquet.

Speaking of the banquet, if the Grand Ole Opry holds up as a favored activity, then the banquet will be held on Friday night instead of Saturday night. (The Grand Ole Opry is only performed on Saturday nights.) Usually a light supper is served on Saturday evening before departing for the Opry, and then dessert and coffee are offered upon returning to the hotel that night.

If one or more of your top choices is not scheduled for the reunion, you may

be interested in extending your stay in Nashville to take in the additional attractions. You can add extra days on your reunion registration for the same rates as the reunion for 48 hours before and 48 hours after the reunion dates. One of the things you might want to see is the Gaylord Opryland Hotel where you can ride the Delta Flat boats, view a lazer light and fountain show and see the 44 foot waterfall—all inside the hotel! You can take in other shows in the city besides the Grand Ole Opry and see some of the rising stars in the Country Music scene, as well as some of the more established entertainers who sometimes make an appearance. There's lots to do in this city, so stay awhile and enjoy all it has to offer.

Your registration packets should be arriving in the mail or by e-mail in July. We hope to have a big crowd for this reunion since it is within driving distance for a lot of the shipmates. Make you plans now and persuade an old buddy to attend with you. It will be a great time!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it's getting closer and closer to our reunion in Nashville. Here we are in July and the way the time flies by, if you blink too fast, October is here. Well, not exactly, but close.

Heard from several shipmates via phone and e-mail, and a lot of interest has been shown, in so far as attending is concerned. All particulars pertaining to the reunion should be out in the mail real soon.

Hope that all who have been touched by the rough weather recently came through AOK. Here in "sunny California" we start sweating out the fire dangers.

June Story, Howard's lady, went through some rough surgery and is getting back slowly. Wish her well!

This is all for now, so looking forward to seeing you in Nashville. It should be a good one.

Jake

Financial Statement

Balance remaining after 03/06

\$810.95

Funds collected since 03/06

\$125.00

Funds available for 06/06

\$935.95

Funds expended for 06/06

\$248.04

Balance remaining for 09/06

\$687.91

Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc.

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"Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To"



WELCOME MAT

The USS MISSISSIPPI Association cordially welcomes the following shipmates who have been located since the last newsletter.

We hope to see you at the next reunion, and we hope you will take an active part in the association.

Roy Barnes (1952) YN2

4281 Highboune Dr

Marietta, GA 30066

770-971-9995

cl107navy@bellsouth.net

Lyle Windsor

604 County Rd 2000

Jeromesville, OH 44840



TAPS

The Pirate has learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The entire crew sends our deepest sympathy to the widow, family and friends of the deceased.

Malcolm Gyllenberg

Died October 25, 2005

Gary Sweet

Date of death not reported

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Again we need more stories from you for the newsletter. Please let us hear from you!

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PIRATE is the official publication of the USS MISSISSIPPI Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in March, June, September, and December, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the MISSISSIPPI. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

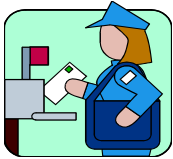
All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to grammar, and/or space limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family by submitting your stories and suggestions.



MAIL CALL

The Pirate,

I will not be able to attend the reunion in Nashville this fall but do enjoy reading the Pirate and have already made contact with a former shipmate thanks to your services. Keep up the good work.

As a hobby, I am a model maker, and understand that there is a model kit for the USS Mississippi. Do you or any of your subscribers know where I could locate the kit?

John Cannon
903 Tranquility Cir
Osprey, FL 34229
941-966-5656

Shipmates,

Here is an amazing website about the Sea Power of the United States. It will give you chills!

<http://objflicks.com/SeaPower.htm>

Robert Bowman RM3
usbowmans@cox.net

**USS MISSISSIPPI
2006 REUNION**

OCTOBER 5-8

NASHVILLE, TN

**EMBASSY
SUITES
HOTEL**

KOREAN & VIETNAM WAR ERAS

KOREAN WAR ERA

- Korean War (actual hostilities): June 27, 1950 to July 27, 1953
- Official Korean War Era: June 27, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (The extended period was designated by Congress to define a period of eligibility to include a period of uneasy peace negotiations following hostilities.)
- 6.8 million served on active duty during the Korean War Era, making them veterans of the war, the war era, or both. 997,000 also served during WWII, 347,000 during the Vietnam War and 291,000 during all three wars.
- 1.8 million served in theater during the three-year period of hostilities.
- 4 million served elsewhere in the world during the period of hostilities.
- 36,940 died in theater during the era—33,665 from battle wounds and 3,275 from causes unrelated to battle. Of the 33,665 battle dead, 23,898 were determined Killed In Action, and 2,438 died while prisoners of war.
- 17,320 U.S. Military servicemembers died elsewhere in the world during the Korean War Era.
- More than 92,100 U.S. military servicemembers were wounded in theater, some multiple times, accounting for more than 103,200 incidents in which U.S. personnel were wounded.
- 8,176 are listed as Missing In Action (bodies not recovered). This number is subject to change as remains are identified

- 7,140 were POW's, of whom 4,418 returned, 2,701 died in captivity, and 21 refused repatriation.

VIETNAM WAR ERA

- 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam Era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.
- 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam
- Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.
- 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam Era.
- 58,148 were killed in Vietnam/
- 75,000 were severely disabled
- 23,214 were 100% disabled
- 5,283 lost limbs
- 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.
- 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.
- Of those killed, 17,539 were married.
- Average age of men killed: 23.1 years
- Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
- The oldest man killed was 62 years old.
- As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.
- 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.
- 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.

ATTENTION REUNION ATTENDEES

The Association is asking all 2006 reunion attendees to bring an item of \$5.00 to \$10.00 value for a raffle to be held during the reunion. The money raised will go to the Association to help fund the newsletter.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information contained in this letter is very important! Please read it very carefully and respond as necessary! **You must respond as indicated in this message to continue receiving information about your reunion through the US Postal mail!**

Big changes are going on here at ML&RS, Inc! They're not going to happen overnight, but the process has begun. As you are certainly aware, rising costs for hotel rooms, meal prices and fuel for autos and tour buses makes for a more expensive reunion! We are doing everything we can to keep our costs to a minimum. However, prices continue to rise, including postage (which has gone up again the first of this year). In an effort to offer you and your fellow attendees the lowest possible cost, we are going to make some changes to the way things have been done in the past. We hope you will work with us to implement these changes as smoothly as possible!

Due to the multitude of requests we have received over the last few years, we are going to now upgrade our web site to include a variety of information pertaining to your reunion. There will be a small web site within our company's web site for each of the reunion groups we work with. The main page for each group will contain basic information about the upcoming reunion, as well as links to several other pages, including but not limited to lists of those who have signed up, the actual registration packet as a web page, a link to the profiles that were previously printed in the Sentimental Journal, newsletters, and after the reunion a link that can be used to order copies of the memory books that will now be included as part of the reunion package. Also, we will not duplicate anything your group already has on their web page. We will do our best to keep personal information secure. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Email addresses will only be published with permission.

Beginning with the 2006 reunions, we will be discontinuing our memorabilia sales, including the Sentimental Journal. There are so many web sites out there now where hats, t-shirts, etc can be ordered, and the turn-around time is just a matter of days. When we first started this business, this was not the case. We

began offering these items as a service to the reunion groups who didn't know where else to order items. Due to the increased availability of memorabilia, our sales have declined over the last few years, and it is no longer cost effective for us to continue offering these items. Also, there are a lot of groups who prefer to sell the items themselves as a fund raiser for the association. We certainly do not wish to compete with your association sales!

In place of the Sentimental Journal, we will begin including a 2006 Memory Book as the memorabilia item given away at the reunion. This will replace the note cards, clocks, pens, etc that have been given in the past. However, they will not be given at the reunion, they will be sent to each attendee (who signs up for one of the Option Packages or orders one as part of their Individual Option) following the reunion. The 2006 Memory Book will contain photos from the reunion and "then and now" photos that have been submitted prior to the reunion each year. The very popular profiles will now be accessible from the web site.

Now that the group's web site is up and running we will discontinue the majority of the paper mailings we sent out. Newsletters, Surveys, Introductory Letters and Questionnaires, and the Registration Material will all be available on the web site. Your group's web site is www.mlrsinc.com/eag128. Be sure to visit the site frequently and take advantage of the information that will be/is available there. If your profile is not listed in the Crew Profiles, then be sure to sub-

mit yours via www.mlrsinc.com/questionnaire.htm.

We do realize that there are still some people who do not have or do not want internet access. Because of this, we will continue paper mailings to those who let us know they want their info via the postal mail. **You must return the "coupon" at the end of this letter if you wish to continue receiving paper copies of the various materials we send out—newsletters, registration packets, surveys, etc.** If you do not mail in this coupon, we are assuming you have internet access and can obtain all the necessary reunion information off your group's web site.

At some point in the near future, we plan to add on-line registration capabilities to each group's web site. That probably won't happen this year, but I do foresee it happening soon. That is another feature we got a lot of requests for.

As we strive to provide you and your reunion group with the best possible value for your reunion dollar, it is sometimes necessary to change the way some things are done. Our ultimate goal is to offer each and every reunion attendee a great reunion at a reasonable price. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions!

Respectfully,
Dina Coffey
Office Manager
M L&RS, Inc

Return this coupon if you want to receive all future mailings from us on paper via US Postal Mail:

Reunion Group: _____
(ship or unit name)

Your name: _____

Your mailing address: _____

Your phone number: _____

Return this coupon to:
ML&RS, INC
PO DRAWER 11399
HICKORY, NC 28603