

THE MESSENGER

Volume 14 Issue 4

October 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS MARIAS, USS CADMUS, USS AMPHION, USS ARCADIA, USS NANTAHALA



USS MARIAS



USS CADMUS



USS AMPHION



USS ARCADIA



USS NANTAHALA

Special Points of Interest

- **Your responses to the question about how the Navy benefited your life are found on pages one thru five. Thanks so much for your help with this issue.**
- **Smokey's advice to you—wear your ship's hat and find a new shipmate. See his story under Mail Call on page five.**
- **Seven new members were located for the Welcome Mat. See page five.**
- **Those of you who have attended reunions will be saddened to read the obituary of Wilmer Anderson on page six.**
- **If you didn't contribute to "How did the Navy benefit your life?" please do so for the next issue.**

HOW THE NAVY BENEFITED MY LIFE

How did the Navy benefit my life? Are you serious, do you want to write a newspaper article or a book? :-)

I joined the Navy one year out of high school, April 1957. I was a farm boy, trying to figure out what I wanted to do with my life. The Navy Recruiter kept pestering me when I graduated, but I did not like him, so waited until he transferred to sign up.

I was recruited in a special program called High School Seaman Recruit and guaranteed 15 weeks of training in the electronics field. In boot camp at Great Lakes, I was classified to be an Aviation Electronics Technician and after boot camp, came to Millington, TN for training. Shortly after

classes began, I realized that I did not want to be in electronics and started trying to figure a way to get reclassified to be an Aviation Structural Mechanic so I could learn a trade, mig welding, before I 'got out'. That didn't come to be, however.

I was attrited out of school for "improper attitude" and sent to sea in Valley Forge where I was assigned to V-4 Division to train as an Aviation Boatswain Mate. That too was not to my liking and I volunteered for a draft assignment to Naval Air Station Port Lyautey, Morocco. While on an extended tour of Mess Cooking, the mess deck master-at-arms was tasked to provide a 'volunteer' to be assigned to COMNAVACTS Staff in

an administrative flunky position.

I was the volunteer and became the staff 'flunky'. No, I really didn't like that job either, but, I soon got a YN2(SS) supervisor who didn't care whether I liked my work or not, 'just do it'. A long story short about here, he got my attention. When I left the staff some 15 months later, I was strongly recommended to strike for the Yeoman rating.

When I reported to USS TARAWA, I was assigned to the Air Operations Office in a YN billet. There I began the long journey of learning my trade. TARAWA was decommissioned on 13 May 1960 and I

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was transferred to USS CADMUS. While on CADMUS I still did not like the Navy and was sure that I would be 'getting out' at the end of my enlistment, 1 April 1961. However, I made YN3 in June 1960 and was sent away to Naval Justice School to become a Navy Court Reporter. I returned to the ship on a Friday evening from Naval Justice School and I was assigned weekend 'duty'. That was the frosting on the cake to seal my decision to 'get out'.

All day that Saturday I fumed about the Navy, being assigned the weekend duty, the -- Navy, and the -- Navy. On Sunday I had cooled down a bit and decided to follow the career counselor's advice - make a list "Why I should get out" and "Why I should stay in". Needless to say, my "Stay In" list was much longer than my "Get Out" list, so that evening I proudly submitted my request chit asking for permission to re-enlist. The rest is history. I re-enlisted in February 1961 in the STAR program and was guaranteed YN'B' school as part of my reenlistment bonus.

In May 1961 I made YN2. In October 1961 I transferred to YN'B' school, and April 1962 I reported to USS Page County as the Leading Yeoman. Me, the guy that wanted out, wanted out, wanted out, now a YN2 and the senior YN onboard a ship. In September 1962 I received orders for assignment to duty in Washington, DC. In December 1962 I reported to the Pentagon for duty and much to my surprise I was assigned to the CNO's personal staff in OP-004S. You guessed it, I was the junior yeoman in this office and the 'flunky'. That soon changed however, because I had my sights set on making YN1 and in February 1963 took the YN1 exam. In May 1963 I was promoted to YN1.

In 1966 I volunteered for submarine duty and in August 1966 reported to USS LEWIS & CLARK (SSBN644)(B) as Leading Yeoman again. In January 1967 I was promoted to YNC. In June 1967

I was promoted to WO1 Ship's Clerk and became the junior officer on board.

In April 1968, with 11 years service, I reported to USS PROTEUS as Personnel and Postal Officer. In June 1969 I was promoted to CWO2. Before I left PROTEUS I had qualified as Officer of the Deck, Underway (independent steaming) and qualified to Succeed to Command at Sea. I might be the only CWO2 Ship's Clerk to ever have qualified OOD Underway and qualified to Succeed to Command at Sea. While assigned to PROTEUS I was also promoted to YNCS(SS) because I held a dual promotion path.

From PROTEUS I went back to Washington, DC for my second tour of shore duty. I was assigned to BUPERS (Pers B2132) Rating Control Officer for Strategic Weapons Systems personnel. In July 1973 I was promoted to CWO3. Also, while assigned to Pers B2132, I was promoted to YNCM(SS).

In August 1973 I was transferred to USS CANOPUS in Holy Loch, Scotland where I was assigned as Administrative Officer, Personnel Officer, Discipline Officer, Postal Officer and X Division Division Officer. I also re-qualified as Officer of the Deck Underway on this steam propulsion, single screw ship. In 1975 I was reassigned to COMSUBRON FOURTEEN in Holy Loch and promoted to LTJG.

In April 1976 I was transferred to COMSUBRON FIFTEEN in Apra Harbor, Guam, where I served at Squadron Secretary. In April 1977 I was promoted to LT. In July 1977 I was also promoted to CWO4 in my dual promotion status. In the summer of 1979 I reported to Commander Naval Forces Marianas (COMNAVMAR) where I was assigned as Staff Personnel Officer and Action Officer for implementation of the Pay/Personnel and Passenger Transportation concept in Guam. One year later, in 1980, I was assigned as the first Executive Officer at PERSUPPACT Guam. In March 1982 I was promoted to

LCDR.

In May 1982 I was transferred to PERSUPPACT Memphis, Millington, TN where I was assigned as the Executive Officer. In March 1987 I was selected for promotion to CDR. This presented a unique situation in that I was approaching 30 years active duty and by the law that I had been promoted under to LCDR I was required to retire two months after I had completed 30 years active service. Knowing that I would not be promoted until FY88, under a different law, the Bureau convened a special Continuation Board for six of us old geezers to remain on active duty until we were promoted. In December 1987 I was promoted to CDR and started looking for a new job. In January 1988 I reported to Chief of Naval Technical Training (CNTECHTRA) for duty as the Staff Administrative and Personnel Officer. I remained in this billet until my retirement on 1 April 1992, having completed 34 years, 11 months, and 29 days continuous active duty.

During my career, I was promoted 19 times, held all grades from E-1 thru E-9, WO1 thru CWO4, LTJG thru CDR (note: I was never an Ensign). With my dual promotion status, I was at one time a YNCM (SS), permanent CWO2 and a temporary CWO3. When I was selected for LCDR I had to give up my dual status and choose to go permanent LCDR so I could remain beyond 30 years. Not bad for a guy that wanted out, wanted out, WANTED OUT!

An interesting tid-bit of information. When I enlisted in April 1957, my monthly base pay was \$78.00. By the time I had 10 years active duty, I had been promoted to YNC and my monthly base pay was \$369.60 - my total base pay for that 10 years was \$21,884.87 for an average of \$2,188.48 per year. My total cumulative base pay for 35 years was \$635,646.98 for an average of \$18,161.34 per year.

Obviously I did not stay in the Navy for the money, although I must

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admit that it was better than cotton farming in Arkansas. So why did I stay, what did the Navy mean to me - opportunity, adventure, travel. My career was a picture of the Navy recruiting poster "Join the Navy and See the World". I did just that.

David A. Gschwend

If it weren't for the Navy I never would have met my wife nor had three wonderful children.

Bill Spahr

It gave me the opportunity to travel the world, enrich my cultural opportunities, advance my education, meet and interact with many people of different backgrounds, learn a trade, to serve my country, and lay the groundwork for my retirement.

William Blansfield

As a kid I wasn't exposed to the world, kind of grew up relatively sheltered and was somewhat of a loner. I hated high school and actually didn't do very well. Joining the Navy gave the lift I needed. I made friends, traveled, got use to being on my own and making my own decisions and was exposed to people from all walks of life. I really learned a lot about me and about the world.

Thanks to the Navy I learned self discipline, ended up getting two college degrees, and being confident enough to try new things. After 20 years at MIT I retired and became self employed, I started my own business on Cape Cod, a Bed and Breakfast, which I recently sold and now I'm really retired and enjoying my passion, photography, full time!

Although I'm not the Career type, I think the Armed Forces, especially the Navy, should be a

must for all citizens!

Paul Church

I owe the Navy everything I know today from age 17 until I retired in 1968.

John English

I'm a Korean War vet on the Amphion (AR-13). I put in 4 years in the Navy in return for 4 years in college on the GI Bill. I felt that was a good swap and have never regretted it. I got married right out of boot camp and probably never would have returned to college without the GI Bill. My college education has helped me be a good provider for my family, and the military discipline was good for me. Being in the Navy and working with others from all over the country broadened me. I think both the Navy and college helped me for life and taught me to be useful and happy.

Paul Putnam, EM 2/c

The Navy did benefit my life by providing a way of seeing a lot of the world. I also received two years of college under the ADCOP program. I was allowed to program computers for many years gaining experience in programming communications and then business applications.

Ben Booth

I enlisted at age 17, a very immature kid. By the time I reached the Amphion I was maturing, promoted to YN2 and looking for good things. I enjoyed most of the Amphion service, but on inspection day I had to descend four decks to get hot water in a bucket to do the floor. This was despite the fact that my office was next to the chief's quarters where water could have been easily obtained. But I was not senior enough. That plus some other things convinced me that the next time I would

be on the Amphion it would be as an officer. Upon separation I enrolled in college and also the Navy Reserve. The next year for my 2 weeks training duty, I found myself back on the Amphion, still a YN2. Shortly thereafter I was promoted to YN1 and then YNC with eleven years service. I graduated from college and chose to stay in the Reserve, retiring with 24 years service with the rank of CWO4. So I made my goal and I believe my experiences on the Amphion, plus instruction and encouragement from some chiefs and officers for which I am very thankful, contributed to a great navy experience.

Fred Rohm

Twenty year fair retirement and thanks to President Bush, a very good medical plan and meeting many swell shipmates over the 20 years of service.

Richard Cohagan

Navy life changed my life and made a lifetime career of communications and electronics.

C.E. "Buck" Shell RMC USN/RET and I am still doing it as W4AXH EXTRA CLASS.

I entered the Navy during the height of the Vietnam War. I volunteered for submarine service and was sent to the Navy Nuclear Power School. Between Nuke school assignments, I was sent to the USS Cadmus (AR14) and received a brief, 6 month education in motor rewind. I continued my training and finished my Navy career on the USS Nathanael Greene (SSBN636). On my second deterrent patrol on the Greene, a key piece of equipment failed and my rewind training from old Can-do came to the fore. I performed a hand rewind of a 15 hp, key motor

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of the ship's air conditioning system which allowed us to complete the assigned patrol without interruption, (a nice commendation hangs in my den to this day for that little job).

Upon completion of my second tour, the commercial nuclear industry beckoned and I responded. I obtained a Senior Reactor Operator's license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and functioned in management of one of the largest Boiling Water Reactor plants in this country. Retired at the tender age of 52, I now enjoy chasing the Sports Car Racing circuits as a track official and run the reunion association of the 636 in my spare time.

Without what I learned in the Navy, I'd be selling hammers at Home Depot. I owe everything I am to what the Navy gave me. JFK stated it perfectly when he said, "Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile...can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, 'I served in the United States Navy.'"

Tom Carr

Reflecting back on my Navy experience it demonstrated to me, my intelligence, my leadership abilities, which allowed me to overcome any self doubts and expand my self confidence into areas I could have never reached. It provided me with advancement and rewards while serving in the Navy and later on in civilian life. The Navy provided me with the experience of successfully dealing with people on military command levels and on personal levels. The Navy experience also taught me the meaning of responsibility and its relationship to military rank all which benefited me in my civilian life with the responsibilities of marriage, fatherhood and executive leadership. I find myself singing our national anthem while facing our flag at sporting events and thinking of how good it felt standing on our ship in some foreign ocean passing another one of our ships with its flag waving in the

breeze and know how fortunate I am to be a citizen of this country, the home of the free because of the brave.

Jerry Berlin

Jim Stout here from the USS Marias AO57. The Navy did benefit me in two ways. 1. It helped me to grow up 2. The work I did in the Navy was also my life work (diesel mechanic). That occupation has been good to myself and my family.

Jim Stout

The Navy benefited me in a number of ways. The main benefit was my job working for the State of New Jersey/under their pension rules you were given veteran preference on all Civil Service exams. After twenty years you received half pay for your retirement which I am now enjoying. Also the fond memories of 4 years of active duty and I also was an instructor at the Naval Reserve Center in Perth Amboy, New Jersey for 4 years. I am still in contact with a couple of guys from the Cadmus and also from the Air Force which I served on temporary duty for 2 years.

Jim Sheldon

Coming from small town in central Minnesota, leaving home after getting out of high school in 1957, was a challenge coming from a family of 12 and being the youngest to leave the nest. All my brothers and sisters left and got into different fields. Five of us were in the military. One in the Women's Army Nurse Corp. We lost her in WW2. If it wasn't for my grandfather who came to the USA to Buffalo, NY, then to Minnesota with 25 cents in his pocket, I would not be here trying to type out this memo. My first duty station was right out side Washington, DC, NAS Anacostia where I worked with and met for the

first time VIPs, etc. I got to learn and respect my fellow shipmates. Going aboard ship for almost three years I got to meet a lot of fellows from all over the USA that made me glad that I did my duty for my country. A few names come to mind: CDR E Bracken, one of my EX; CDR H Glasser; Dentist G. Lackey, YNC who I first worked for aboard ship; Ford Phillips, PNC, who I worked with; Lou, Jerry, Bobby, Dave, Bob; I could go on. They are just a few that I benefited by meeting. These past 12 years going to the reunions brought us closer together. My big benefit is that I could serve my country and meet all of you.

Francis "Smokey" Schmolke

I joined the Naval Reserves while I was a junior in high school. I attended Boot Camp, went on a North Atlantic Cruise during a hurricane and attended SK "A" School, all prior to my going on active duty. I was also married and expecting our first child before leaving for active duty. I was probably much more mature than many young seamen and junior petty officers. SK "A" School taught me to be fiscally responsible. Throughout the remainder of my 33 year career I attended many schools and college courses which benefited me immensely, as well as helped me advance professionally. The Navy is not for everybody, but it is a lot for everyone if taken properly.

Michael R. Moseler

I grew up in a small town or "hamlet" in the Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. When I say small, I mean less than 20 in my graduating class.

I enrolled in college and wished to become an elementary school teacher. This plan lasted until the Easter holidays. At that

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point the Dean of Students called me into his office. As he reviewed my records he suggested that I should join the Navy and see the world. Despite eight months of wonderful college life, I accepted his professional opinion and signed up.

From boot camp (Bainbridge) through the Brooklyn Navy Yard and sea duty aboard an oiler, I did see much of the world. More importantly, I learned self-discipline, the value of hard work, tolerance of others different from me and finally, despite enjoying the Navy life, I renewed my pledge to become an elementary school teacher.

Upon my discharge I returned to college, graduated (with the help of the G.I. Bill) and taught elementary school for 32 years.

The Navy was not a career choice for me, however, I have continued contact with many "ole salts" at annual reunions. Many of these comrades did make the Navy their profession. The length of one's service, combat, peacetime, state-side, foreign will never diminish service rendered.

"How did the Navy benefit my life?" It contributed to what I am today; a husband, a father, a grandfather, a great-grandfather, a retired teacher, and a happy "ole salt."

Jim Denio

Editor's Note: These letters are in response to an e-mail that was sent out asking how the Navy benefited your life. If you did not get an e-mail, please respond for the next issue at the ML&RS, Inc. address below.

Published By:

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



WELCOME MAT

The MCAAN Group proudly welcomes these recently located shipmates. Welcome aboard! We hope you will become an active member in the association by contributing both financially and with stories for the newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at a reunion.

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TAPS

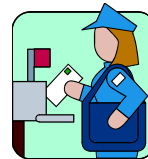
The Messenger learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. The death may not have been recent, but we just learned of it. Every member of the Association sends his heartfelt sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

Richard Newton

USS Amphion (1961-62) IC2
Date of death not reported

Wilmer Anderson

USS Marias (1944-45) PM2/c Med
Died July 23, 2007



MAIL CALL

MCAAN Messenger,

Two weeks ago I flew down to Dallas for a wedding. While waiting at DFW with my sister for another flight coming in from Baltimore, MD, I was watching people going by and one person caught my eye. He was wearing the Navy Blue cap that had a ship on it. When he walked by I told him I just came back from my ship's reunion. I told him that I was stationed aboard the USS CADMUS. Well, he stopped in his tracks and said he was aboard the USS AMPHION. I told him that they were in our group. He was leaving to go visit family in Dallas. I went outside and we talked for a bit. He was stationed aboard the AMPHION in '62 and '63. I e-mailed him the info about the locator to contact them. His name was Thomas L. Boyd.

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My sister told me to wear my hat to find more old shipmates. Small World.

Smokey

MCAAN Friends,

Wilmer (Anderson) loved seeing everyone at the reunions. I am glad we got to see all of you in Chicago.

Peggy Anderson

OBITUARY

Wilmer B. Anderson, 81, of Baytown, born September 25, 1925 in Trinity, Texas to Marshall and Willie King Anderson, passed away on July 23, 2007 after a short illness.

Mr. Anderson graduated from Trinity High School. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII as a Pharmacist Mate, 2nd Class, participating in the Battle for Okinawa on the USS Marias (AO-57).

When Wilmer returned from service, he opened the Trinity Leather Shop and was united in marriage to Peggy Loraine Campbell on September 27, 1947. In 1955, Wilmer and Peggy moved to Baytown and founded Anderson Shoe & Saddle, a business he owned and operated until his retirement in 1990.

Wilmer was an active servant of the Baytown community as a member of the Baytown Lions Club, a Charter member of the Baytown Youth Fair, and a member of the Chamber of Commerce. He was also a Life Member of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. As a tribute to his community involvement and pride, Wilmer was appointed as an Honorary Deputy Constable by Constable James Douglas of Harris County, Precinct 3. He attended Second Baptist Church and enjoyed flying in the Prop Nuts Model Airplane Club.

Wilmer and Peggy's bay home was always open to family, friends, and animals for church parties, little

league parties, reunions, anniversary and wedding celebrations, traditional Sunday dinners, and holiday gatherings. Wilmer was always ready for a batting lesson, fishing, or a good lecturing during a long, long walk down the pier. Wilmer/Papa/Andy, with those sparkling blue eyes, warm smile, and tight hugs, will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Mr. Anderson is survived by his wife of 60 years, Peggy Anderson, his dachshund, Pumpkin, his three daughters and their husbands, six grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one brother, one sister, and numerous other relatives and close friends.

A SENIOR STORY

A college student challenged a senior citizen, saying it was impossible for their generation to understand his. "You grew up in a different world," the student said. "Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers..."

Taking advantage of a pause in the student's litany, the geezer said, "You're right. We didn't have those things when we were young; so we invented them! What are you doing for the next generation??"

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance from 07/07 **\$1994.51**
 Funds received since 07/07 **\$0**
 Funds available for 10/07 **\$1994.51**
 Funds expended for 10/07 **\$290.93**
 Balance remaining for 01/08 **\$1703.58**

The Messenger is being mailed by USPS only to contributors and reunion attendees who do not have e-mail. All other contributors and reunion attendees will receive it by e-mail, so be sure we have your current e-mail address. You are considered a contributor if you have donated money within the last calendar year from the time of the current newsletter. Please continue to support the newsletter. Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc. at the address on page five..

RETURN COUPON FOR NEWSLETTER

If you enjoyed this special issue of the MCAAN Messenger and would like to continue receiving it, please send your \$5.00 dues to ML&RS, Inc. at the address below. Because of the cost of publishing and mailing the newsletter to such a large group as the MCAAN membership, only those who have attended the reunion or have contributed to the newsletter fund can receive the newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving the MCAAN Messenger, please fill out and return the coupon below along with your \$5.00 dues.

MCAAN MESSENGER COUPON

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