



Liberty Veterans

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY VETERANS

Volume 51 | March, 2014

Have you paid your 2014 dues?
\$20 due to the LVA

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Letter from the Editor

It has been an interesting winter has it not? It was either too much of one thing or not enough of another. But it is almost over. The seasons turn again and life goes on.

I have received so many emails from you guys telling me of the wonderful presentations and speeches you are giving around the country about the Liberty. Keep up the good work. And I tell you this: If you just talk one on one, or to hundreds - you have done a wonderful job. Ol' Sarge has an excellent idea. He has set up booths at local gun shows and displayed banners and pamphlets about the attack. *Any place, any time, any how* should be the motto.

I hope to continue receiving emails from all of you letting the Newsletter staff know of all the times you have told someone about the attack.

There has been some talk about making the Newsletter an online newspaper. Let the Board know what you think. It is most important to keep the Liberty memory present.

God continue to bless you all.

Happy gardens!

--
Wayne Kelley Sr, Editor

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Letter from the President

As miserable a winter we have experienced, for many years the USS Liberty Survivors, family, and our USS Liberty supporters have reason to look forward to the tide turning and the coming spring.

The fact that we survived and the ship did not sink was our saving grace but also our cross. That is, with our eyes opened to the deceit of the Johnson Administration and the Israeli supporters ready to label us anti-Semitic, along with the bigotry we have endured for close to 47 years. We also know it is vitally important Americans know the truth. Our cause is a higher cause. We have witnessed the takeover of our Congress by Israeli supporters circumventing their oath to defend America first, not Israel. In order for our democratic republic to continue as created by our founding fathers, the current situation must be rectified.

I am optimistic that conditions in America are moving ever so slowly but moving and America will be hearing the truth of the Israeli deliberate attack. I have never seen so many people who now heard about us or who are interested in hearing the truth. I anticipate we will see a fire storm of interest. The Israelis have not disappointed us in that they continue to build new settlements in East Jerusalem and our Congress never says a word of condemnation. In addition, our Secretary of State, Kerry, is labeled anti-Semitic by Israelis and Israeli supporters for wanting the peace talks to resume. Palestinian peace – how great would that be? And still Congress never says a word of condemnation.

My point is I believe America is finally waking up to the fact that Israel is not a peace loving country and supporting them goes against the values our fathers fought for in WWII. The die hard Israeli supporters are beginning to understand our frustration of fighting lies and bigotry. Instead of turning a blind eye as they have in the past, folks are looking at our evidence indicating it was a deliberate Israeli attack.

So, don't despair shipmates and supporters. Our day is coming and when it does the push back will be awesome but that is OK because we have 47 years experience and the proven metal to do it.

Warmest regards, Ernie Gallo

Statement of Purpose

IN JUNE 1967 jet aircraft and motor torpedo boats of the Defense Forces of the State of Israel brutally assaulted the American naval intelligence-gathering ship, *USS Liberty*, while in international waters off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea. The attack was preceded by more than six hours of intense low-level surveillance by Israeli photo reconnaissance aircraft, which buzzed the ship as low as 200 feet directly overhead. The carefully orchestrated assault that followed was initiated by high performance jet aircraft. This was followed by slower and more maneuverable jets carrying napalm, and was finally turned over to lethal torpedo boats, which blasted a forty-foot hole in the ship's side. The attack lasted more than two hours, deliberately killing 34 Americans and wounding at least 171 others. Over 821 rocket, cannon and machine gun holes were inflicted. When the *Liberty* stubbornly remained afloat despite her damage, Israeli forces machine-gunned her life rafts, firefighters, stretcher bearers, and sent troops carrying helicopters to finish the job, no survivors were to be taken.



At this point, with Sixth Fleet rescue aircraft supposedly en route, the government of Israel apologized and the identity of the assailants became known.

Details of the attack were hushed up in both countries. Israel claimed that her forces mistook the *Liberty* for an Egyptian ship, and our government quietly accepted that excuse despite evidence to the contrary. No ship in our history has ever received such damage and casualties by accident. Then our government downplayed the intensity of the surveillance and the severity of the attack, and imposed a news blackout on the crew to keep the story under control. The official version is that the *Liberty* was reconnoitered only three times and only from a great distance. The American people were told that the air attack lasted only five minutes and that it was followed by a single torpedo and an immediate apology and offer of assistance. Nothing could be further from the truth. In June 1982, fifteen years after the assault, crewmembers reunited for the first time in Washington, D.C. It was a tearful, joyful reunion in which the men not only released their pent up emotions and decided that the **USS Liberty Veterans Association** would be formed with the firm goals of finding all crew members, holding reunions, proper recognition of Captain and crew (in particular those who lost their lives), obtaining a Congressional investigation into the attack, and...

TO BRING THE TRUE STORY OF THE ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. LIBERTY AND HER

Washington DC Memorial Service

I regret to inform all that this year and probably future years until Arlington Cemetery rules are changed, we are going to have our yearly memorial at the Navy Memorial (USNMF) at 7th & Pennsylvania Ave, NW. As always the memorial service will take place at noon, June 8th.

The reason we are moving the memorial service is because Arlington Cemetery has initiated and enforces a new policy which prevents folks from driving into Arlington to our mass grave in Section 34. You must be issued an automobile pass which is provided if you have a relative buried there. Anyone else is not permitted to drive their car into the cemetery. They suggest that the LVA rent a bus; however, the bus would make only one trip. If someone misses the bus, the walk to section 34 is too far and still make the service. Anyone who wishes to visit the cemetery on your own before or after our service is welcomed to do so.

Navy Memorial managers have been and still are still very happy to have the LVA at their facility.

There is a parking garage behind the Navy Memorial and a short walk to the Navy Memorial. Anyone utilizing the Washington Metro, will find a Metro subway stop right at the Navy Memorial. I believe the stop is called "Farragut Square".

The PMI parking garage located on D Street NW, between 8th and 9th Streets (entrance directly next to the Caucus Room Restaurant) opens at 6:00am Sunday – Thursday and closes at Midnight. On Fridays and Saturdays this PMI garage is open 24 hrs. This is the preferred garage of the US Navy Memorial. PMI set its own parking rates; 1 hr @ \$12.00, 2 hrs @ \$17.00, Max to Close @ \$25.00. If a vehicle enters after 5pm, on weekdays: \$10.00, and on the weekends: \$15.00. The USNMF has no authority on these parking rates. There are a number of other parking garages in the immediate area. The USNMF no longer is able to validate parking tickets for the LAZ Parking garage attached to the 701 building.

**The USNMF offers the option to validate parking tickets to the PMI Parking Garage on D Street on the day of your event at a reduced price of \$8.00 per ticket which is available at the SHIP STORE located inside the Naval Heritage Center between the hours of 9:30a to 5pm.

Warm regards,
Ernie

Liberty Photo



ABOVE:
The USS Liberty, 1964
Source Unknown



LEFT:
USS Liberty Lecture - 01/30/2014
Source - Bryce Lockwood
Front Row: Lois Lockwood, Ol' Sarge, Jack Beatty. Row 2: Rev. Steve Rains (son-in-law), just behind and between Mom & Dad, Dr. Marcia Rains EdD-dau.), far right is Capt. Hugh Smith, organizer of the event(s). Capt. Smith is a former Navy Lt. and Merchant Marine Captain who takes jobs no one else wants (read pirate seas). Four attendees left before we could get a group picture.

Survivors Recall Attack on USS Liberty

Posted by Lisa Bowman at <http://okgrassroots.com/?p=430446>

Thursday afternoon I had the pleasure of attending a special Liberty on Tap event in Tulsa. Hugh Smith of Oklahoma City invited these two gentleman to speak at several engagements during their short visit. They are two survivors of the attack on the USS Liberty in June of 1967.

I did not have a lot of expectations, other than obviously hearing first hand personal accounts of what must have been a terrifying experience for both of them. I knew little of the history other than what I read in Wikipedia, which offers the 'official' story and a small mention of the controversy surrounding it. That was about it. What I heard was not another glorified 'war story'. It was a disheartening tale of an intentional surprise attack on a non-combatative ship by US 'allies' and the US government's collaborative burying of facts and refusal to investigate.

I will share a little bit of what I heard then give you links to explore on your own.

Jack Beattie spoke first. He worked in engineering on the ship and recounts how the USS Liberty would go on four month patrol missions up and down the coast of Africa. On the second patrol mission, in June 1967, they were 13 miles off the coast of Israel. The Six Day War had begun at this time. He recalls how the Israeli jets had flown over several times in the morning and the crew on the ship waved at them. The US flag was flying and snapping in the wind. There was was no cause for concern among the crew.

On June 8th, after general quarters, Jack had a work request for a motor boat engine, a boat that was used for overboard rescue. He was working on the engine with one other man. He noticed the ship look-outs were looking up in the sky through binoculars when the bridge exploded into flames. Right after abandoning the boat they were working on, a rocket destroyed it. What followed was the rest of the horrifying events of that surprise attack. After 40 minutes, there was a lull and the men were instructed to prepare for a torpedo attack. The torpedo killed 25 men. Jack worked his way up to the main deck. Three torpedo boats were circling the ship and machine gun fire was destroying the life boats. The attack commenced for more than two hours. Over 170 men were wounded and 34 men killed.

Jack explains how well marked the ship was, that the flag was up and there was no doubt that the Israelis knew who they were. The flag had been shot down two times, and a new one raised three times. The following morning, two ships arrived and brought them some food and supplies. They got the boilers up and running and moved at a slow pace of four knots toward Malta with a badly damaged ship. They reached Malta four days later. Admiral Kidd boarded the ship and addressed the men. They were instructed "to keep their mouths shut" or they would end up in prison. For fifteen years the men were quiet.

Bryce F. Lockwood, a Marine linguist, spoke next. He was stationed on June 7. His orders, along with the other linguists, was to monitor the Soviets and United Arab Republic transmissions. At 1400 hours, he recalls, the attack began. Large caliber strikes and rockets were fired, picking out all of the transmitting antennas, preventing any possibility of getting out a mayday. Distress frequencies along with tactical were being jammed.

Continued on following page.

Survivors Recall Attack on USS Liberty (contd.)

The attacking aircraft were unmarked. The torpedo boats shot five times, and four of them missed. Bryce's face was burned from an exploding torpedo. The men were put into the radio room. A mayday was finally sent off by running cable to a broken antenna, the only antenna, that had not been destroyed. The minute the mayday was acknowledged, the shooting stopped. Life rafts were then thrown over the side by crew members, followed by machine fire from the torpedo boats, which had destroyed all of the the remaining life boats.

After the mayday had been sent off, rescue planes were launched by the USS Saratoga and the USS America, both aircraft carriers that were in the Mediterranean. The planes were ordered back by Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Commanding officer Larry Geis requested the order from a higher authority, which was Lyndon Johnson. Bryce quoted Johnson as saying, "Get those GD aircraft back on deck. I don't care if the ship sinks and every man drowns. I will not have my allies embarrassed." Bryce asked, how did Johnson know they were allies since the aircraft were unmarked and the crew of Liberty did not know who attacked them? This is just one question among the many surrounding the events of that day.

In June 2007, members of the Liberty Alliance Group, who are all former ambassadors and retired admirals, filed formal war crimes charges against Israel. The members consisted of: a former US ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Admiral Tom Moore – Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mark Hill – retired two star admiral and 2nd in command to Admiral Tom Moore, and Admiral Merlin Staring – Senior Naval Officer for the entire US Navy. It is the obligation under US law for the Secretary of the Army to investigate all charges of war crimes against US citizens or military. The Secretary of the Army never investigated the attack. A year later, Admiral Mark Hill and Admiral Merlin Staring wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Army demanding he look into the charges. He never answered the letter. Most of the men of the group have since passed away. This is the only incident where a US ship was attacked by a foreign power and never formally investigated. The Israelis still maintain it was a mistake.

There are a few speculations as to why Israel attacked the USS Liberty that day, but a case of mistaken identity is not one of them. Both of these men, among other surviving crew, maintain there was absolutely no mistaking that the USS Liberty was an American ship, marked a GTR – a known non-combatative ship. An Israeli pilot served five years in prison for refusing to attack the USS Liberty.

I am grateful to these men, and Bryce's lovely wife, for taking the time to travel to Tulsa and share this personal experience and insight with us. Though they were stoic in their presentation, it was not without some emotional pauses. The frustration and injustice expressed by these men, I believe, was felt by the audience as well.

Here are some links that present the story in more detail and may shed some light on the big question I think we all have...Why?

This article can be read online at <http://okgrassroots.com/?p=430446>

Liberty Booth at Gun Show in Springfield, MO

On January 18th and 19th, the Ol' Sarge and his wife Lois manned a USS Liberty Info booth at the Ozarks Empire Fairgrounds Gun Show in Springfield, MO. While not a lot of Liberty merchandise was sold, over 400 John Crewdson "New Revelations..." brochures were passed out as well as a large number of the "If Americans knew" info brochures. Jim Ennes told me he wondered where all those new orders for his book came from. Cameras were forbidden at the show, or we'd give you a picture. That large banner Joe Meadors had made, "Abandoned Under Fire", hanging from a six foot frame over our table, made a big impression among all those gun-nuts. Three of the men from our church came by Saturday and one asked "Do you think there will ever be an investigation into this?" I answered emphatically "NO!!" "The only way there will ever be an investigation is for one of us to run for Congress and do it ourselves." He replied "Well, you've got three votes right here!"

Warm regards,
Ol' Sarge

Phil Tourney at Veteran's Day Banquet



This picture was taken at a Veterans' event the weekend before Veteran's Day. Phil Tourney (pictured left) was the speaker at the banquet that Saturday night and did a good job teaching about the Liberty from June 8, 1967, to present day.

Submitted by:
Gary Brummett
(pictured right)

O' Sarge at the Marine Cryptologic Support Branch

Gysgt. Bryce Lockwood, UMMC, USS Liberty Survivor, was the Guest of Honor for the Marine Cryptologic Support Branch at the annual Marine Corps Ball the 9th of November in Baltimore, MD. There were 446 paid guest, and they were well informed of the USS Liberty attack.

Notes from Bryce:

The unit is Marine Corps Cryptologic Support Battalion, the group I served under throughout my tours in Europe and from which I was assigned to VQ-2 in Rota, Spain, and sent from to the USS Liberty.

I laid it on the line that the attack was deliberate and cited the reasons, i.e., 2 flags shot down, 3 run up, the jamming of our distress and tactical frequencies, the hull markings (unmistakable), the unmarked aircraft, the difference both in color of the hulls and the profile, the difference in draft from El Quesir (torpedoes would have missed), troop helos sent out to finish us off, and machine-gunning of our life rafts. The final insult was the Israeli helo with the US Naval attache on board dropping his card on deck in a paper sack weighted down with an orange, landing near a severed leg, and written on the back "Have you casualties?". That got a big "Ooohh!" from the audience.

I stated the plight of the Palestinians, i.e., 1.7 million kept in concentration camp conditions and told the audience it was time to rethink our foreign policy toward a more balanced position with knowledge that would raise a fire-storm. The audience gave us a standing ovation and just wouldn't sit down.

The CO, Colonel Steve Riffer, presented me with a ship's bell engraved with the occasion and the Marine Corps Emblem, - and another standing ovation. We'll bring the bell to our next gathering for the ringing of the Two Bell Remembrance ceremony.

If you go to my facebook page, there is a copy of the program and bio page. If that's too small, let me know, and I'll mail you an original.

Sorry I was so late in getting this to you - I've always hated writing letters and papers, besides I was a Marine.

Warm regards,
O' Sarge

Good News: These Used Books go Anchors Away

**Excerpted from article by Sandy Strickland
Available on The Florida Times-Union website at Jacksonville.com**

Navy veteran Ernest Gallo survived the 1967 bombing of the USS Liberty in the Mediterranean Sea that killed 34 Americans and wounded 171. But he's found a way to honor its captain, William McGonagle, as well as relieve the boredom that can accompany long months at sea.

Gallo collects and donates used books to Navy bases, including Mayport Naval Station and Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. He's distributed 12,000 books since launching the project in 2005 as a member of the St. Augustine Navy League. The latest batch went to the USS New York based in Mayport, but other service branches have benefited as well — the Marines and Coast Guard Station Ponce de Leon Inlet in New Smyrna Beach

"Lots of people have books they've read and don't know what to do with afterward," said the Palm Coast resident, now a member of the Daytona Beach Area Navy League.

Gallo frequently gives speeches and will mention his project. That helps generate donations. Navy League friends, church members and even his sister in Pennsylvania have brought him books. Sometimes he gets magazines and DVDs. What he won't accept are romance novels.

When he delivers a box of books, he includes a picture of McGonagle, who died in 1999. He also includes an explanation of how McGonagle received the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions aboard the Liberty.

Jay Cristol is At it Again

A recent article on The Florida-Times Union website (Jacksonville.com) shows us that Jay Cristol is at it once again.

In the article, Jay describes the Liberty incident as "the result of mistaken identity caused by a series of blunders by both Israel and the United States."

Now, more than ever, it is imperative that we tell our story.

In Memoriam - Charles F. 'Chuck' Jones



NEW WATERFORD – Charles F. “Chuck” Jones, 66, passed away late Monday evening, Dec. 16, at St. Elizabeth Boardman Health Center, following an extended illness.

Mr. Jones was born on Feb. 4, 1947, in East Fairfield, a son of Robert and Faye (Dickey) Jones. He was a life-long area resident.

Chuck graduated from Crestview High School in 1965, and shortly afterward, joined the U.S. Navy. He served as communications technician second class. He was a survivor from the attack on the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967, during the six day Cold War. After the attack, he was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany.

Mr. Jones worked for Snyder-Bentley Co. in Youngstown, Whole’s Trailer Sales in Salem, and Lamplighter Village Mobile Homes Sales in Rogers as a salesman and at Quaker City RV as owner/operator.

Chuck was an avid hunter and fisherman, and enjoyed the outdoors. While stationed in Germany, he was a singer in a band. Above all, he loved being with his grandchildren and telling them stories.

He leaves to cherish his precious memory, his wife, the former Martha Nenadic, whom he married on April 21, 1973; daughter Rachel Lindsay of New Waterford; son Bob (Julie) Jones of Negley; and four grandchildren, Jarred and Alaina Jones and Autumn and Charles Lindsay.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, John and David Jones. Funeral services will be held Monday, Dec. 23, at 11 a.m. at the Seederly-Mong and Beck Funeral Home, 154 South Elm St. in Columbiana, with Pastor Charles Ready officiating. The family will receive friends from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22, at the funeral home and also one hour prior to the service at 10 a.m. at the funeral home.

Burial will follow at Achor Cemetery in East Palestine, where the Salem AmVets Post 45 will perform full military honors.

The family has entrusted the Seederly-Mong & Beck Funeral Home in Columbiana with the arrangements for their loved one.

Family and friends are invited to visit www.seederly-mongandbeck.com to sign the guestbook or send private condolences.

Middle East Memorial Wall

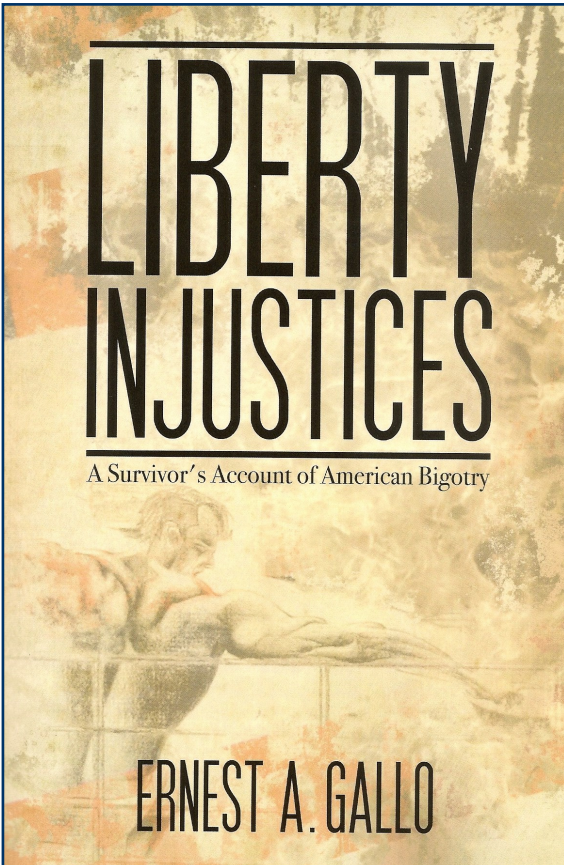


I made contact today with Illinois Valley Cellular (IVC) company and the Freedom Runners (FR) Group and at this time the USS Liberty names most likely will be added to the wall this coming June. I will keep you posted as to my progress on this matter. The wall is on the IVC property in Marcelles, IL and the FR group maintains the memorial property.

Everybody that I spoke with today was very enthusiastic and cooperative and wanted to get our 34 USS Liberty names on that wall.

Godspeed....
J.P. Feldmann

LIBERTY - Be Proud!



I have published a book entitled, *Liberty Injustices - A Survivor's Account of American Bigotry*. It is about the Liberty crew, the attack, and more importantly subsequent events that have taken place up to 2013. It is available from BarnesandNoble.com, Amazon.com, and BooksAMillion.com.

However, if you order the book from me, I pay the postage, tax, and I will sign it. In order to see the book in print, I had to self publish which means I need to recoup my investment. The book sells for \$20 (soft copy). I believe the message is very important to every American.

My address is: Ernie Gallo, 6 Clearview Court South, Palm Coast, FL 32137. Send me a check and a signed book will be on its way.

Cheers,
Ernie

LVA Memorabilia Store - Order Form

READING MATERIALS

- Assault on the Liberty: The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship** - By Survivor and LVS Historian, \$30.00
 Mr. James Ennes, Jr.,
 SEND ORDER TO: Jim Ennes, PO Box 789, Woodinville, WA 98072
- The Attack on the Liberty** - The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship, By James Scott, son of crew . . . \$25.00
 member Lt. John Scott,
- What I Saw That Day: Israel's June 8th, 1967 Holocaust of US Servicemen Aboard the USS Liberty and its Aftermath** \$25.00
 By USS Liberty Survivor Phil Tourney and Mark Glenn

VIDEOS

- 25th Anniversary Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery** (VHS Video) \$15.00
- USS Liberty Survivors: Our Story** - Patrick King Documentary (DVD Video) \$25.00
- Loss of Liberty** - New Detailed Film of Attack and Cover-Up (VHS Video) \$25.00
- Dead in the Water** - Documentary: Find out how a nuclear war in the Middle East was averted at the last minute (DVD or VHS) . . . \$20.00

LIBERTY WEAR

Most tees and golf shirts available in XXXL as well.

- Blue Multicolor Tee Shirt** - (M, L, XL, and XXL) \$16.00
- White w/ Black Ship & 34 Lost Shipmates Tee Shirt** - (M, L, XL, and XXL) \$15.00
- Grey w/ Black Ship & 2 Lost Marines Tee Shirt** - (M, L, XL, and XXL) \$17.00
- Golf Shirt: White OR Navy OR Black (each with tan stitching)** - (M, L, XL, and XXL) \$30.00
- USS Liberty Color Jackets: Lined navy blue nylon fabric** - (XL, and XXL) \$50.00
- USS Liberty Baseball Cap - Solid Fabric, Not Mesh with Plain Bill** \$14.00
- USS Liberty Baseball Cap - Solid Fabric, Not Mesh with Scrambled Eggs** \$16.00
- USS Liberty Unstructured Golf Hat - Navy or Tan** \$14.00

MEMORABILIA

- USS Liberty Bumper Sticker** \$ 2.00
- USS Liberty Key Chain** \$ 4.00
- USS Liberty Cigarette Lighter** - Zippo, Brushed Chrome, Ship Insignia on One Side and Silhouette on the Other \$20.00
- USS Liberty Lapel Pin** \$ 5.00
- USS Liberty Coffee Cup** \$10.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch** - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 3 Inch \$ 6.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch** - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 5 Inch \$ 8.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch** - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 10 Inch \$12.00
- USS Liberty Coin** \$10.00

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 Contributions are tax deductible! So please give and give generously!*

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The yearly subscription rate is **\$20.00 for an associate member (former and non-crew member)**. Due to our small size, however, we cannot survive solely on subscriptions. We are grateful to, and rely heavily upon our many members who voluntarily donate more generously with each passing year.

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