



Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 52 | June, 2014

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Letter from the Editor

We will soon be in Washington again to remember and celebrate the lives of our shipmates lost during the Attack by Israel on June 8, 1967. We will remember them for many reasons. We will honor them. We will not forget them. As their names are called out and the bell rings out remember them as they were and that they did not die in vain.

For those of us that are helping to keep the Memory of the Attack alive by telling the world about the Attack may God continue to bless. If we tell just one more person, just one more, maybe this will be the person that will remember what they were told and then pass the message on.

Remember you Survivors are the "Band of Brothers." God continue to bless you all.

--

Wayne Kelley Sr, Editor

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Letter from the President

Your USS Liberty Board of Directors will be busy in the near term “getting the word out.” I will discuss more on this later.

But first, I want to share a phone call I received from our Chief Brooks who wanted me to consider a new approach of “getting the word out”. That is, we should consider asking the state of Israel and the U.S. Government to simply provide the crew with an apology for the attack. The more I thought about it, the more I liked it because for either of them to apologize sincerely would mean they would be apologizing from a truthful level. Therefore, the apology must incorporate the fact the attack was deliberate. Could we then live with that? I would love to hear from you.

What I could not live with is the bigotry we have suffered. That would be very hard for me personally to put behind me. In other words, the American Legion would not only have to apologize for not believing the attack was deliberate but also for their wrong doing especially to Glenn Oliphant. They were also belligerent to our supporters Alison Weir and Ted Arens. That also holds true for the Navy League.

I am very happy and pleased to report that a group built a wall in Marseilles, IL listing names of servicemen killed in the Middle East wars. When we confronted them that the Liberty suffered 34 KIA, they agreed to include their names. Therefore, on May 21, those names will be added. Bryce Lockwood and Jack Beattie will represent the LVA for the ceremony.

As indicated in the last newsletter, our yearly memorial service in Washington, DC will be held at the Navy Memorial this year on June 8th at noon. Afterwards, we will walk to a nearby restaurant for lunch. If you can attend, please consider joining us. This year, the American Cold War Veterans, our brother organization, will be joining our memorial.

The VFW convention is scheduled for 18-23 July at St. Louis. Jack Beattie, my wife Patricia, and I will be passing out literature at a Liberty booth. The VFW originally did not want us there because the American Legion told them we were trouble makers. However, after discussing the American Legion details, the VFW who was suspicious of their claim, changed their minds and once again support us.

The Purple Heart Convention will be held in Denver, CO from August 6-9 and Bryce Lockwood and Glenn Oliphant will occupy a booth passing out literature. In addition, Don Pageler may join them.

As you can see, this Board of Directors will be very busy getting ready for the upcoming activities. Printing material and travel expenses add up and we need your dues and/or donations. Please help to keep us going as we are proud to serve you to “get the word out”. Warmest Regards, Ernie Gallo

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

March 7, 2014 Washington, DC Summit

Just after the first of the year, Alison Weir sent me an email requesting my presence at a conference to be held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC on March 7, 2014. I was thrilled. She wanted the LVA to tell the USS Liberty story. The focus of the summit was "Reassess the US-Israel "Special Relationship". Each speaker was limited to 15 minutes. I also made myself available for a book signing. From commits I received, I believe everyone was taken aback by the Liberty story and this group will have future meetings. I know we will be invited as the Liberty story is very important to them. I also realized the timing for the publication of my book could not have been better for me and the LVA. The group is made up of Council for the National Interest, If America Knew, Institute for Research Middle East Policy, and Washington Report.

I was one of 24 speakers which included former Representative Paul Findley, Delinda Hanley, Brigadier General James J. David, USA, (Ret.), Alison Weir, and 3 former CIA officials. One of the CIA officials who was invited but did not attend was Michael Scheuer who authored, "Imperial Hubris". I was very disappointed as I brought my copy for him to sign. Needless to say, the day was filled with very interesting speakers providing their point of view based on their expertise.

I believe the timing of this conference is significant. As I have indicated in the past, our time is coming. This conference, albeit just a beginning, signals a determination to see a change in our Middle East Foreign Policy. That is, persuade our government officials they need to come to grips that the conditions we have created has allowed Israel to become belligerent. The tide is turning.

After laying a basis of the USS Liberty attack, my focus was to prove that it is our Congress that has capitulated their responsibility thereby frustrating "checks and balances" our founding fathers engineered into our Constitution. It is clearly defined because they refused to investigate the Liberty attack to include requests over the years. The point I make is that once you peel back the Liberty story, Congress would have had a major problem with the '67 Navy Court of Inquiry just as Rear Admiral Merlin Staring and the war crimes committed. That is if they had the back bone to objectively examine the Liberty evidence. Since the military comes under the Execute Branch, they can order the military to do anything they like if Congress does not get in their face when something appears amiss. While I did not include this in my speech for brevity reasons, a good example is the Benghazi incident as Congress tries to find the details. Wouldn't it be great, if Congress would do the same for the Liberty crew?

All in all, I believe this trip has given us a major shot in the arm. As matter of fact, of all the speakers, I was the only one who received a standing ovation. I hope the next time, more Liberty crew members can come to be recognized by this awesome group.

You can see the entire day's progress at:

<http://www.c-span.org/video/?318179-1/reassessing-usisrael-relations>

-Ernie

Our Story in a Nutshell

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/05/16/american-legion-honchos-betray-liberty-veterans/>

If anyone knows of a journalist who might be interested in following up on this with an article detailing The American Legion's response to this article please ask him.

-Joe

Our Story in a Nutshell

From: Art Murodov, CPO365 Ship's Training LCPO
To: Chairman of the Liberty Veterans Association
Subject: Outreach/request for training support

Dear Sir and the LVA Board of Directors,

My name is Art Murodov and I am a Navy Chief currently stationed in Augusta, GA at Navy Information Operations Command Georgia. Recently, I began doing some research on the attack on the USS Liberty, beyond the limited information that I had. What I have found so far has made a profound impact on me. I am deeply moved by the sacrifices the USS Liberty crew had to make. I know that I only scratched the surface of the knowledge that still waits to be shared and remembered by our Sailors.

Preserving our Naval heritage and learning more about our history is one of the most important charges of the Chiefs' Mess. As you know, one of the functions of the Chiefs' Mess is for our CPO's to mentor the enlisted force and the junior officers. Recently this process has been officially recognized as the CPO365 program, aiming to promote this mentorship amongst the Chiefs, First Class Petty Officers, and the Junior Officers continuously throughout the year, hence the "CPO365" term.

Additionally, since our command is so large we split into smaller training groups, which facilitates more effective training. We also named each group after a ship that has had a significant impact on our Naval history and especially in the field of cryptology. I was very lucky to be assigned to the USS Liberty CPO365 ship!

I would like to reach out to the USS Liberty survivors and to invite them to our training sessions; we could even organize a video teleconference. I would also like to organize a Two Bell ceremony, on 6 June 2014, to remember our fallen Shipmates and cordially extend an invite to attend the ceremony.

Please let me know if any of the USS Liberty survivors would be interested in sharing their memories and thoughts with us.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
CTIC(IDW/SW/NAC) Art Murodov, NAVIOCOM Georgia
CPO365 Ship's Training LCPO - USS Liberty
work email: artem.m.murodov.mil@mail.mil
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cell phone: (706) 294-2612

Liberty Representation at Gun Show



Lois Lockwood operates the USS Liberty Booth at the Springfield, MO Gun Show May 3rd. Pictures weren't supposed to be taken, but the gentleman manning the booth behind us graciously offered to take a chance, and forwarded the pics. We had a new "Abandoned Under Fire" banner made with the official Navy shot of the heavily damaged ship taken the morning after the attack. It was a beautiful, warm day after a bitterly cold week, so attendance was down, but that banner got a LOT of attention! The fine print reads "Rescue Aircraft Recalled" "While Still Under Fire."

Our Story in a Nutshell

Shipmates -

Is there still anyone who has not received the medals and awards they deserve? This seems to be an on going thing and should have been corrected by our government years ago. There are several of you including Frank O'Classen that are up to date on this matter.

Frank mentioned that there is a Correction of Military Record form available via the link below should anyone need it: <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0149.pdf>

-Wayne

The USS Liberty - "What Really Happened"

WhatReallyHappened.com has some excellent coverage of the Liberty story that is definitely worth checking out. Content includes a video from BBC, photos, and more!

Take a look at: <http://whatreallyhappened.com/WRHARTICLES/ussliberty.html>

Letter from a Supporter

Hello,

My name is Johnny M. Jones, ex-Navy Engineman 2nd. I have read the book by Mr. Ennes, 'Assault on the Liberty', several times over the years, and have just finished it again. I loaned it to a friend who did not believe me when I told him about my time doing 'spook' duty, and the Liberty's story. I guess the "Secret" classification of my duty has expired, since 1970, or maybe I am now old enough not to care or worry about talking about it. I am just writing to support you guys in what you are doing, and to tell you that there are still some of us around who know what can happen, and what did happen. I was on the USS Forster, DER 334, stationed out of Key West, and our main mission there seemed to be to follow the Soviet Navy around Cuba. Those of us who passed the 'Secret' test were sent to Cuba, and this was in 1970 and 71. The Soviets were helping build a submarine base on the southern coast, in Cienfuegos. We went into a Navy shipyard to have the latest radar unit installed before we deployed, and a couple civilian 'spooks' and Marine guards came along for the ride. We tried to stay as close as possible to the new base, and also Havana harbor, as in 3.1 miles. We followed their every move, and they really did not like it! The gunboats, subs, cruisers, Badger and Bear bombers were constantly getting in the way, and they could all go a lot faster than we could. 17 knots with a tail-wind is all we could do in our 30 year old ship. We were on our own, although with promised air support from Key West, if needed. We all said that would be too late, except to look for survivors. We did have 2 3" guns, a few 40 MMs, torpedoes and depth charges, but we were way outgunned and outnumbered. After hearing about the Liberty, the Pueblo, Muller, and the others, we didn't trust anyone or anything, no matter how many stripes and scrambled eggs we saw. All the time we chased and snoopied, I never saw one of our units. We did have comms to Pentagon, direct, for what it may have been worth. Anyway, this sailor has not forgotten the feeling of helplessness and frustration. Later, our ship was given to the S. Vietnamese Navy, and I was an Advisor. I felt safer than I did in Cuba, for sure. Good luck and following seas to you all.

-Johnny M. Jones

Remembering the Fallen



Remigio Naguit Mercado
February 7, 1943 – January 25, 2014

Letter from Mrs. Mercado:

“My husband Remigio N. Mercado who was a USS Liberty survivor passed away on January 25, 2014 from pancreatic cancer. He retired from the Navy after 20 years of service and was so proud of his military career...”

Remembering the Fallen



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.

VFW Liberty Memorial

A 4-year ceremony took place at the VFW Liberty Memorial officiated by Commander Steven Momano.



GO DIGITAL!

Want to see the newsletter in FULL COLOR? Want to help the LVA reduce its operating costs? You can now receive the LVA quarterly newsletter. To switch to an e-mail format, please visit the link below and complete the form:

SIGNUP LINK: <http://goo.gl/mzbwre>

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

NAME: _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

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ITEM DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL

PLEASE MAIL LVA STORE REQUESTS TO: Moe Shafer, PO Box 680275, Marietta, GA 30068
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USS LIBERTY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

*For a one year membership in the USS LIBERTY Veterans Association and Newsletter Subscription, send \$20 to Moe Shafer.
 Contributions are tax deductible! So please give and give generously!*

Liberty News is the official journal of the **USS LIBERTY Veterans Association** - a California nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation representing the **USS LIBERTY** Survivors and former Crew Members, their families, and other patriotic Americans.

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.

Make your tax-deductible check payable to:
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Send articles and items of interest to:
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