



Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 69 | December, 2019

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Letter from the Editor

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Dear Veterans and LVA Members,

It's a bit hard to believe that this is the December edition of *Liberty News*. The years definitely go by in a hurry, but the fervor for telling the *Liberty* story that I've been lucky enough to witness for the past 10 years never fades.

In this season of thankfulness, I could not be more grateful for the commitment to truth and the telling of it that I see from those who send in articles, comments, and feedback each issue.

Special Note: Be sure to mark your calendars for the 53rd annual reunion on June 5th-7th! Additional details can be found on page 14.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all of us at the newsletter, thank you for your continued support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,
William Graves
Editor

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Letter from the President

Let me begin by wishing you a very Merry 2019 Christmas and Happy New Year. Speaking for the board of directors, we hope you have a healthy, wonderful, joyful, and safe Holiday Season.

Recently I underwent Open Heart Surgery. While recuperating and reassessing what is important to me, I could not but think once again about the importance of the USS Liberty story and the LVA to the American public. I am sure as an organization, we have endured our share of complex issues and relationships and at times have tested our commitment to each other. I pray you feel as I that we must continue our fight for justice until our last breath and if necessary pass it on to family and supporters. I would expect that along with that justice, the notoriety of our cause would be forthcoming to the American public. Therefore, the USS Liberty Veterans Association must continue and the only way our viability for justice will survive is we remain a united force. That is, we must obtain justice for the Israeli murder of our 34 and breaking International Law by machine gunning our life rafts and stretcher bearers.

The USS Liberty crew was symbiotic. To recapture both sides of our relationship and camaraderie, the fundamental mission of the USS Liberty was to allow the Communications Technicians (CTs) to do their classified job, however, in order for that to happen, the Liberty's ship service personnel (deck force and engineers) were essential they do theirs. In other words, we were inter-dependent on each other in order to successfully complete tasks as ordered. As I have said many times, as a former CTM, surviving CTs and others would not be alive today without our engineers. However, there was a problem: CTs could not discuss what they did to anyone other than CTs. To make matters worse, CTs were segregated from the crew; separate living/sleeping location; and, the CT workspace was forbidden to enter. The arrangement had to create an atmosphere with the remaining crew to wonder "who are these stuck up guys with their nose in the air and keep to themselves?" To put it mildly, it did not create an atmosphere conducive to amiable relationships. In spite of this, we prevailed and have come together to take on a deceitful United States government and Israel. My love and admiration for both sides are equal and immense. As stated in the Bible, the truth will set ye free!! And with that, justice would finally belong to us. Keep the faith as we will prevail.

Since our last newsletter, a Christian web site TruNews has been very busy interviewing and we expect great things from this experience. In addition, another effort is underway for a full length motion picture story of the attack. I don't have any information to provide at this time.....stay tuned. We will be collecting names for our future Board of Directors and therefore, please consider running for office.....more to follow in the next newsletter.

God Bless, Ernie

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 helicopters carrying troops 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 HEROIC CREW TO THE AWARENESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

The USS Liberty Veterans Association Chaplain: Ron Kukal

Shipmates,

I want to wish everyone with whom I served with on the Liberty, a very Merry Christmas. It appears that saying Merry Christmas is not acceptable in some circles today. Well I will be in their face with that one, you can be very sure of that.

Those of you who were very active in getting the truth out about the attack, are blessed, of that I am very sure. I am honored to have served with each and every one of you, and of course we were not alone that day. In my opinion, the Power of God, was around us like nothing I have ever known. So many miracles occurred on that day, that they may be countless, and the weapons that were used against us, should have been able to put us to the bottom. Well because I am here writing this, we all know, that didn't happen.

My earnest prayer for you, during this wonderful season, is that you will be put at peace after all these years, and this is indeed, the season of spreading good will, and peace. Knowing the division there was with the crew of the Liberty back during those days, I want to offer my sincere apologies to every man who I might have offended. I just turned eighty in October, and to be very candid, and I do not want to leave this earth, knowing I didn't make every effort, to make peace with every one of you. Every last one.

I also want you to know that I did have involvement in the Stan White funeral this year, at Sturgis SD. Never have I ever been so humbled, as to do so. I meant with the whole family, and we did break bread together, It was also satisfying to know that his uniform had been placed in the exhibit case, that my own uniform had been displayed in, at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. He will not be forgotten, and my own uniform will be retired, and from the remarks I heard from the officials, it needed to be. Exposed to the light for that many years, didn't do it any good.

By this time when this newsletter comes out, we will know if my donor from Facebook, will have given a significant donation to TruNews, to get our USS Liberty segments out in the spring of this coming year. The words from Matt Skow, were very significant, in which he said, this would give this effort a real shot in the arm. I am paraphrasing on that one. I am just elated that the donor, is well heeled, and could really make a difference into how soon this will come out, and even more, a good chance that more will come out from TruNews. I find it quite interesting.

Enjoy your Christmas, and your family. Remember that you have been very instrumental, in making sure that families remain intact, and that you can break bread together, with your family members on the holidays. God Bless you all.

Ron Kukal
Chaplain, USS Liberty Veterans Association

Stan Bozich Plaque Presentation



The state of Michigan is becoming a significant supporter of the USS Liberty Veterans Association (LVA) and our story. Not that the state hasn't been a strong supporter in the past, but in November there were two significant events happening in Michigan that once again showed how much they care about our fallen shipmates and our crew.

As some of you may have known, many years ago a memorial stone honoring our 34 fallen shipmates was dedicated to a city in Michigan in hopes that it would find a permanent home there. Unfortunately, due to the controversial nature of our tragic attack and subsequent cover-up, the city wasn't able to receive the memorial without serious resistance from both local and political factions. Fortunately for the LVA, in stepped Mr. Stanley Bozich from nearby Frankenmuth, Michigan recommending that the Michigan Military Museum in Frankenmuth take possession of the memorial. The city agreed and the memorial stone was moved to the Museum in Frankenmuth where it remains today. Our Memorial Stone has a place of Honor right next to the front entrance and right under the American Flag.

The Museum is now called the Michigan Heroes Museum and contains artifacts and memorabilia from past and present heroes from the state of Michigan. There is a wall with a glass case which is dedicated to our XO LCDR Armstrong. Next to the Case is a picture of our skipper CDR McGonagle with his Medal of Honor.

The purpose of my visit to the museum on November 10th was to present a plaque honoring the efforts of Mr. Stan Bozich and the Museum for saving the Memorial Stone honoring our fallen shipmates. In talking with the Executive Director of the Museum while I was there, he indicated that as long as he was there that they would always have a wall dedicated to the USS Liberty and her crew. If you ever get to Frankenmuth, Michigan, I would strongly recommend you stop by the museum to see the stone and to visit the display inside.

University of Michigan Presentation by Larry Bowen

This Veteran's Day was extra special for me in that I had the opportunity to speak at the University of Michigan about the attack on the USS Liberty. The University actually takes the entire week to honor veterans and started in off with a kick-off luncheon on Monday the 11th followed by my presentation on the truth about the attack on the USS Liberty. The Director of Military and Veterans Services on campus, Mr. Phil Larson was responsible for coordinating my visit and made it clear that he felt this topic was one that needed wide distribution.

One of the highlights for me, in addition to being able to get the truth out to another interested audience, was meeting a crew member from the USS Saratoga who was on board on June 8th, 1967. He shared with me how he worked the flight line on the carrier and when the pilots returned after being recalled they were so upset that they were throwing their helmet in discuss. The gentleman's name was Charlie Evans and he was as thrilled to see me as I was to see him. He brought with him three booklets that I had never seen before. Two were from the US Navy JAG Corps and the other was a Research Paper done by a LCDR Richard D. Lee while he was attending the Air Command and Staff College Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. Mr. Evans had retained these books for years but upon hearing my presentation on Veteran's Day decided that I should have them to share with getting the truth out.

My talk was only scheduled to be an hour long, but I wanted to show the DVD Justice for the LIBERTY as part of the presentation which made the whole thing run for two and a half hours. One of the professors was going to suggest student (s) take this topic on as a study project. I also had someone from Colorado indicate they would like a presentation done for them out in Colorado.

I believe getting the word out is still one of the best ways to build momentum. I'll continue to help any way I can. For anyone who would like to see the article from the University daily newspaper here is the link: <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/campus-life-uss-liberty-survivor-shares-government-secrets-about-Israel-social-media>

The entire presentation was being filmed by the Director of Military and Veteran Services so I will see if I can get a copy of that when it becomes available.

Moe Shafer Submissions

A Moe Shafer Encounter

Very interesting experience yesterday. I played in a Wounded Warriors Golf Tournament yesterday 11/25/19 and in this Tournament I met a Congressional Medal of Honor winner from Vietnam.

His name is: COL H.C. "Barney" Barnes USMC (RET) He was a Marine in Vietnam and won his medal in 1969. He led his Navy team to victory yesterday over the Army. A wonderful day raising monies for the Wounded Warriors.

The ironic thing is I told Barney that I was on the USS Liberty during the 6 Day War and he immediately remembered and then told me he was very close friends with our Captain Bill McGonagle our Captain and also Congressional Medal of Honor winner. I told him that Lyndon Johnson would not honor him with his medal and that he had to go off to a naval yard to receive. COL Barney also stated that LBJ also would not pin him Medal of Honor on him and that he had to go somewhere else.

What a small world to meet this great man, who is a true hero, and have him be friends with our Captain Bill McGonagle. WOW!!

Don't know if something like this should be printed, but it is a great story.

Auburn University Speech

The OLLI Auburn adult education arm of Auburn University invited me to speak at one of their event on November 6, 2019. With Bob Scarborough living so close I also invited him to join me and we both went to Auburn for our presentation of our USS Liberty story. I did the presentation of my personal story, and then Bob joined to go through a significant slide presentation of our picture gallery. While, intentionally, long winded our presentation went almost 90 minutes. We had a great audience with a mix of Veterans, local residents, and a couple of students. We feel our presentation was well received, we had lots of questions. Since this presentation we have received a couple of notes and donations to the LVA

We did not get a lot of pictures, however there is a link to our presentation if one wants to watch.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIFoC8Vj7qs#action=share>

The Passing of Ronald E. Trader

Ronald E. Trader **1946 - 2019**

Snow Hill - Ronald Earl Trader passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 16, 2019 at PRMC. He was born at home in Snow Hill Maryland on December 11, 1946. He was the son of the late Joseph Earl Trader and Doris Donaway Trader. He is survived by his mother Doris Trader, brothers Gary Trader and his wife Brenda, and Michael Trader and his wife Sharon, as well as several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Ron graduated from Snow Hill High School in 1964. He served in the U.S. Navy and was a survivor of the USS Liberty. He was also stationed in Vietnam and worked at NSA for many years before his retirement.

Ron enjoyed NASCAR and was an avid photographer. His greatest joy was meeting with fellow survivors of the USS Liberty. As Uncle Ron, he was known for giving Teddy Bears to all of the new children.



A graveside service for family and friends will be held at Powellville Cemetery on Tuesday Oct 22, 2019 at 2:30 pm.

In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation to usslibertyveterans.org or if you prefer donations may be mailed to USS Liberty Veterans Assoc., PO Box 680275, Marietta GA., 30068.

Arrangements are in the care of the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin, Maryland. Letters of condolence may be sent to the family at www.burbagefuneralhome.com.

Published in The Daily Times from Oct. 18 to Oct. 19, 2019

A Poem by Francis David Whitcomb

The crew was on deck tanning in the sun
Never suspecting a plan had begun
Waiving and smiling at planes overhead
There to sink the ship and insure all were dead

With control of the skies and no fear of attack
The planes strafed the ship and then they came back
Attacking the ship till they could do no more harm
Then gunboats moved in fully armed

They fired torpedoes and machine gunned the crew
Without regard for life then claimed no one knew
That the ship was American it's flag on display
Hull markings white and ship painted gray

Assuming their target would fall fast
That American resistance would not last
They failed to stop them from running a wire
To get out a message dodging bullets and fire

The USS America and Saratoga were quick to respond
To rescue their brothers in time honored bond
But President Johnson without reservation
Ordered their recall and back-stabbed our Nation

These brave Americans fought valiantly
They never gave up so the world could see
What really happened that horrible day
No matter what predetermined reports might say

Speaking of the event by the crew was barred
Medal Of Honor awarded "not" by the President at a
Naval Shipyard

So many Americans injured and killed
Holes in the story that still are not filled

The crew of the Liberty are Heroes they prevented
a war
That would have gripped the world and gone way
to far
We'd all be at war it would be a different place
But for these Heroes Forgotten just to save face

Congressmen say they'll stand by our service-
men's side
But when asked by survivors they all run and hide
Ignoring their dying and desperate pleas
Answering on form letters only a tease

Heroes who changed the course of history when
called
Congress wants to forget them we should all be
appalled
Not standing for what they know is right
A search for the truth nowhere in sight

Closing their eyes waiting for survivors to die
Choosing instead to let sleeping dogs lie
Denying Heroes sacrificed in the past
Well deserved closure and peace at last

Honoring these Heroes should be our mission
Our Nation owes them the highest recognition
Americans that went through so much for you and
me
The Heroes of the U.S.S. L I B E R T Y

Joint letter from Larry Bowen and Phil Tourney

President Donald J. Trump September 16, 2019
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

President Trump,

I wrote to you back in October of 2018 and again in January of 2019 to express my support for your agenda despite your lack of support from across the aisle. The reason for my subsequent letter is to request your support for my original inquiries for which I have still not heard anything back on, and to show you that my concerns are not singular in nature. My fellow shipmate and author Phillip Tourney (Author of "What I Saw That Day" and Erasing the LIBERTY") is co-issuing this letter in hopes that you will listen to our plea for justice and honor after almost fifty-three years of abandonment.

You may recall that I raised concern over the international uproar regarding the attack on the journalist murdered in Turkey. My concern was then and remains now that after almost 53 years our United States (US) government has yet to investigate the June 8, 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty that killed 34 men and wounded another 174. With NO congressional inquiry and NO international uproar, we have allowed a US ally to get away with murder. Where is the justice?

As survivors of that attack, my shipmates and I have been trying for over 52 years to have Congress publicly, impartially, and thoroughly investigate the attack on the USS Liberty and its aftermath so that we survivors might come to grips with our demons. Many of us are looking for the truth behind this attack so that we might finally get some closure which has been haunting us for decades. The American people and the Liberty survivors deserve to know the truth about this attack.

We were sent into harm's way by our government. Our ship was the most sophisticated intelligence gathering ship in the world. We were all proud to serve aboard the USS Liberty, even more so serving our great country. On that infamous day, our government abandoned us, leaving a ship in distress, when they knew we were under attack by the Zionist State of Israel.

We were ordered, under penalty of prison, fines or worse, by our government never to talk about this. How disgusting is it that something like this could happen in our United States. This was premeditated, cold-blooded murder, period. Everyone with any military background knows this. Admiral Thomas Moorer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was our most ardent supporter and his Independent Commission Report, read into the Congressional Record (Ref E1886) on October 11, 2004, was never acted upon by the Navy or Congress.

In 2013, the Veterans of Foreign Wars at their National Convention approved Resolution 423 which called for Congress to immediately investigate the attack on the USS Liberty to determine the truth behind the attack however nothing was ever done by Congress.

In 2017, The American Legion at their National Convention approved Resolution 40 which called for Congress to "publicly, impartially, and thoroughly, investigate the attack on the USS Liberty and its aftermath." Once again nothing was done by Congress.

Continued on following page.

Joint letter from Larry Bowen and Phil Tourney (contd)

It is my firm belief that if you open the records on this tragic event the Democrats will panic since they were the ones who colluded with Israel to make this deliberate attack appear to be a "false flag" event. If we sank. Once our distress signal got out Israel claimed it was a "mistaken identity." The survivors are not getting any younger, sir, and we would like to have our testimony heard before it is too late. Your support for the military and veterans is very commendable. Is Israel more important than American servicemen who gave their lives freely for our great country? This cover-up has gone on far too long. This act of war and various war crimes was absolutely devastating. One war crime in particular was the machine gunning of our three life rafts being lowered over the side to evacuate seriously injured. This injustice will not be investigated or even talked about by our Congress.

There is only one person in this world that will hand out the justice we seek. Mr. President, that person is you, sir. The buck stops with you. The USS Liberty is the most decorated ship ever, for a single action. Is the motto of this country "leave no man behind, except when Israel does the murdering?" The crew, family, and friends of the USS Liberty believe that to be the case and it is heart breaking for all of us.

The gallant crew of the Liberty has been labeled Anti-Semitists, Nazis, traitors and other disgusting terms by our elected officials in America just for trying to get the true facts out to the American public. Why is our government still covering up the murder of 34 American patriots and protecting the "relationship" with Israel? Our crew didn't murder anyone it was the Israeli Defense Forces with probable collusion from United States governmental officials.

Mr. President we ask for your serious consideration of this request to issue an Executive Order for the investigation into the Attack on the USS Liberty or require the Navy or Congress to act on the Moorer Commission report (Congressional Record E1886). Thank you in advance.

Very Respectfully,

Larry L. Bowen, CWO3 USN (Ret)
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Moe Shafer & Bob Scarborough at Auburn University

Moe Shafer - Bob Scarborough - The OLLI Auburn adult education arm of Auburn University invited me to speak at one of their event on November 6, 2019. With Bob Scarborough living so close I also invited him to join me and we both went to Auburn for our presentation of our USS Liberty story. I did the presentation of my personal story, and then Bob joined to go through a significant slide presentation of our picture gallery. While, intentionally, long winded our presentation went almost 90 minutes. We had a great audience with a mix of Veterans, local residents, and a couple of students. We feel our presentation was well received, we had lots of questions. Since this presentation we have received a couple of notes and donations to the LVA.

We did not get a lot of pictures, however there is a link to our presentation if one wants to watch.

Auburn University 11/6/19

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/aIFoC8Vj7qs>



Letter from Robert J. Michael, JD

Dear Congressman Biggs,

This story takes place on June 8, 1967. The heroes are the American men aboard the American Navy Ship, the USS Liberty.

The men of the USS Liberty are true American heroes because they kept the Liberty afloat after it was deliberately attacked by the Israeli Air Force and Israeli Navy in their attempt to sink the Liberty under the alleged joint scheme with President Lyndon B. Johnson. After the purported sinking of the Liberty, Johnson's putative plan was to nuclear bomb Cairo in retaliation for Egypt's supposed sinking of the Liberty. By showing his toughness in attacking Cairo, Johnson was hoping that his decisive action would capture the unfettered support of the American people to retaliate for the loss of an American Naval Ship and 293 American lives and would guarantee his 1968 reelection, because Vietnam was becoming his Albatross.

EXCEPT THAT, the Liberty crew kept the Liberty afloat and many of the crew were still alive. The ostensible plot was scuttled, the US could not bomb Cairo in retaliation for the false flag sinking of the Liberty by Egypt because the Liberty crew could identify Israel as the attacker.

The Liberty crew had no understanding that day as to why they were attacked by Israel. But by keeping the Liberty above water, the Liberty crew seemingly prevented America from going to war against Egypt and Russia. They also probably averted World War III, because as was later uncovered, Russia was poised to nuclear bomb Jerusalem if the US had nuclear bombed Cairo. In times of war (The Six Day War in this case), contingency plans are made by all participants and allies.

I have neither met nor known any heroes greater than the crew of the USS Liberty. To keep the ship above water while under unrelenting airplane attack and small boat torpedo attack was an enormous accomplishment. The Liberty only had four .50 caliber machine guns to defend the ship (it was non combatant), and those guns were disabled during the first wave of attack. The crew had to fend off rockets, bullets, napalm, torpedos and more while struggling to seal off incoming sea water and rig up inner walls and compartments to keep the Liberty floating.

Not sure if any Liberty survivors have ever lived in or currently live in Arizona's Fifth District, but undoubtedly some of them have been here or have passed through. Even if none of the Liberty crew have resided in the Arizona Fifth District, that should not disqualify them from recognition. The likelihood that they prevented a major war by spoiling an alleged sinister plan, and the fact that you as a Congressman can give recognition to their efforts should make all of us proud to be Americans. For the Fifth District of Arizona to honor the crew of the USS Liberty would be a tremendous showing of respect for the Liberty crew and a magnanimous gesture of patriotism by Arizonans.

I reside in Arizona's Fifth District, my life and the lives of many other Americans have been greatly affected by the actions of the Liberty crew on June 8, 1967, and I deeply appreciate what they have done. I salute all of the members of the USS Liberty as true American heroes, those who died on June 8, 1967, those who have died since, and those still alive.

Congressman Biggs, please give recognition to the accomplishments of the USS Liberty Crew in saving the USS Liberty that day, in your THANK A HERO program. Thank you.

Robert J. Michael, JD
Vietnam Era Veteran, US Army Reserves
25818 S Brentwood Drive
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248
rjm390@gmail.com
480-200-1870

A Finnish Supporter

Dear Sirs Hi,

I have followed the tragic and unfortunate history of USS Liberty and its crew since summer 1967. I used to be a radio officer on commercial fleet sailing Atlantic coasts and Mediterranean ports including Haifa Israel. Already by 1966 we faced hostile attitude of Israeli officials to foreign sailors. By November 1966 I paid off my maritime duties. To keep up my English language I occasionally read Time and Life-Atlantic magazines, and there it was.. Israelis had attached American "spy-ship" USS Liberty. Since then I have promoted the USS Liberty's story in my home town to my sailor friends and even in political circles. Unfortunately Finnish media still suffers "Finlandizing" syndrome, that is, what you are allowed to print (self censorship). So anyways, I feel to be a brother-in-arms with your association of USS Liberty. I would like to send a bit of written Finnish War history to your association and for that I like to have an address where to send it.

Sincerely yours,
Esa Nykanen
Oulu, Finland

53rd Annual Reunion for the USS Liberty *Mark Your Calendars!*

Dates: June 5-7, 2020
Location: Pensacola, Florida
Hotel: Holiday Inn Pensacola
7813 N Davis Hwy, Pensacola, FL32514

Arrive on Friday the 5th and check on on the 8th of June. We will have our Memorial Service on Monday morning the 8th of June.

Activities: To Be Determined
Dress: Casual

Hospitality Suite
Banquet - Details to Follow!
Special Guests TBD!

More Congressional B***S*** - by Joe Meadors

The response I received from Senator John Cornyn is so outrageous that it deserves far more than the meek and mild "BS," it warrants a more emphatic, spelled out description of what it is: B***S***.

For decades USS Liberty survivors have been waiting for Congress to tell us they are beginning an investigation of the attack on our ship. Not an unexpected event given the fact that Congress has investigated every attack on a US Navy ship since the end of World War II.

You can understand our surprise when in the late 1990's we learned from our Congressional Delegations that "there have been ten official US investigations (including five congressional investigations)" of the attack.

Actually, more confusion than surprise.

You see, despite so many investigations of the attack, not a single USS Liberty survivor was questioned. Well, that's not entirely true. There was a US Navy Court of Inquiry that was conducted. A few USS Liberty survivors were interviewed by that Court. But we know that some testimony has been removed from the record of the Court.

The removed testimony that we know about is Lloyd Painter's. He testified about his witnessing the attacking torpedo boats deliberately machine gun the life rafts we had dropped over the side in anticipation of abandoning ship.

Why the Court picked his testimony to remove from the record is anyone's guess. Perhaps they didn't want to embarrass our "best friend and only ally in the Middle East."

Maybe that's the reason the US Navy removed the written statements submitted to the Court at its request by 65 USS Liberty crewmen. Maybe something they wrote in those sworn statements would embarrass the people who attacked us.

Clearly that was paramount in their minds. Just like it was during the investigations of the attacks on the USS Pueblo, USS Stark and USS Cole as well as the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut. <Sarcastic mode off>

Where does Senator John Cornyn enter the picture?

We all know that Congress has never investigated the attack on our ship. Despite this, Members of Congress routinely reply to constituent's inquiries by insisting the US government (and Congress) has conducted numerous investigations of the attack. John Cornyn is no different. He lies about the USS Liberty investigation right along with the best of them.

I thought the best way to educate Members of Congress that there has been no Congressional investigation is to ask them to provide me with a copy of it. And not only me, but everyone who is sick and tired about Congress lying about the attack on our ship.

So, I created an easy way to email your Congressional Delegation to ask for a copy of their investigation (<http://bit.ly/2ZxggTI>) and I encourage everyone to do so. Just click here to email to your Congressional Delegation asking for a copy of the Congressional investigation of the attack on the USS Liberty.

I sent a request to my Texas delegation. John Cornyn responded by claiming:

"I have received your recent letter and regret the problem you describe does not appear to be one over which I have jurisdiction as a United States Senator. Consequently, I am unable to afford you the assistance you requested."

So a United States Senator, second in the Senate only to Senator Mitch McConnell, cannot send me a copy of the Congressional investigation of the attack on our ship nor can he contact the Congressional Research Service and have them send me a copy of any US government investigation of the attack because it is not in his jurisdiction!?

If you are as outraged at this turn of events as we are, please email your Congressional Delegation with a request that they send you a copy of the Congressional investigation of the attack on our ship. When they respond, please send a copy of their response to us at congressionalresponse@usslibertyveterans.org.

Highly Praised US Navy Historian Ignores 50+ Years of USS Liberty History

The US Naval Institute Press heaps praise on Naval Historian Robert J. Cressman: “Naval historian Robert J. Cressman lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. His *The Official Chronology of the United States Navy in World War II* received a John Lyman Book Award (1999) and his body of work on U.S. naval aviation history was recognized by the Admiral Arthur W. Radford Award (2008).”

-by Joe Meadors

The US Naval Institute Press has a history of publishing authors who write accounts of the USS Liberty attack without interviewing any USS Liberty survivors.

They first did it when they published Jay Cristol’s screed, *The Liberty Incident Revealed*. (<https://www.usni.org/press/books/liberty-incident-revealed>)

In the advertising for that book, The US Naval Institute Press claims that Cristol wrote it “After . . . interviewing all then-living individuals directly involved in the incident.”

There is no way to characterize that claim other than what it is.

It is a lie.

Jay Cristol didn’t interview a single USS Liberty survivor in the preparation of his doctoral thesis, his first book, *The Liberty Incident*, or his latest screed, *The Liberty Incident Revealed*.

Now, another US Naval Institute Press author has written a history of the USS Liberty without interviewing a single USS Liberty survivor. To add insult to injury, he has ignored all the evidence that has come to light in the 52 years since the attack. (<https://www.uslibertyveterans.blog/2019/06/10/selected-uss-liberty-documents/>)

On June 12, 2017, Robert J. Cressman published the Official US Navy’s History of the USS Liberty (AGTR-5). (<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/l/liberty-agtr-5-iii.html>)

Absent from the official US Navy history of the USS Liberty (AGTR-5) are the apparently mundane facts that the Israelis used unmarked aircraft, they jammed our radios on both US Navy tactical and international maritime distress frequencies, their torpedo boats deliberately machine-gunned serviceable life rafts we had dropped over the side in anticipation of abandoning ship, their torpedo boats slowly circled the torpedoed ship while firing from close range at USS Liberty crewmen who either were trapped topside or who ventured topside to help our wounded shipmates, and the immediate departure of the torpedo boats after they ceased hostilities only to return 90 minutes later in an obvious attempt to lay the groundwork to claim they were coming to our assistance.

These facts are readably available to anyone writing a history of the USS Liberty.

Why do authors who are held in such high regard by The Naval Institute Press ignore these facts?

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- Assault on the Liberty: The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship** - By Survivor and LVS Historian, Mr. James Ennes, Jr. SEND ORDER TO: Jim Ennes, PO Box 789, Woodinville, WA 98072 \$30.00
- 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 member Lt. John Scott . . . \$25.00
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