



Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 80 | August 2023

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Letter from the Editor

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Dear Veterans and LVA Members,

This issue of Liberty News is simply packed full of content.

From recaps of the 56th Anniversary Reunion, to remembrances of crewmates we have lost, to stories of the *Liberty* story being faithfully told to all who will listen, there is a lot to take in.

The energy surrounding the LVA is only growing, and that is only bolstered by the energetic support of the new board listed here to the left.

As a reminder, if you have content you feel should be in an upcoming issue, please do e-mail it to me at editor@lvnews.org.

Thank you. Have a healthy and happy remainder of 2023.

Sincerely,
William Graves
Editor

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

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.

Letter from the President

Dear survivors' family's friends,

July has been a very solemn and sad month. Within two weeks we lost two more survivors - Robert Scarborough and Lloyd Painter. May they all rest in peace along with all the others who have gone before us. The thirty-four that did not come home are together now with their brothers. None of you will ever be forgotten by us. We will continue the good fight with you in our hearts.

This past reunion was very good. A lot happened - a new board took over: me, along with Frank Oclassen, Ed Bechtel, David McFarland, and Miranda Internicola. Technology is on our side. I can't promise you anything specific, however working together, I see good things coming our way. This is my fourth go around as president. This one I feel will be the most important in all those years. To be honest, I am truly humbled representing "American Heros". That is an honor money can't buy. Thank you. Anything you can suggest furthering our goals, please contact me. For the ones who could not make our reunion, you were not forgotten. I know Smitty has gone through more surgeries on his back to count. He told me if he could have made the reunion he would have. Ernie has had health issues, as have others.

Our monument is looking for a home in the Norfolk/DC area. Our newsletter as you will see has all bases covered. Special shout out to Cathy Meskel you will learn about her. Patriot friend I have been blessed to know.

Respectfully,
Phil

Letter from the Chaplain

From day one of the attack, I have felt very strongly that considering the effort that was made to kill us, the effort to keep us quiet, the threats to our lives, and so many other things, that we are only here because of Divine Intervention.

From day one it was Divine Intervention up until this very day, and even longer. About 3 months ago I was made aware by that small tiny voice inside me, that the battle is over. I hardly paid attention, as I was very sure I had to keep on, keeping on. Now I am seeing it, it appears to me that those who lied to us, will get what is coming to them.

Compared to 56 years ago, when you could hardly say anything about Israel without a huge backlash, we have made some real progress in that area as I see protests by Jewish people in New York, protesting sending any more military aid to Israel, I would venture to say that our work over the last 56 years has borne fruit. The spiritual side of this battle has been won, really it has. Look around you, and see how much trouble is coming upon these people. Well you know who they are, and you know what they do, and sometimes how they do it. I don't think we are going to have to fight back like we have in the past. I think these people are being found out, and time is somewhat near for us. We have done nothing wrong, never have, other than adhering to our oath, telling the truth, that at one time would have saved us a lot of pain.

This nation was brought up with Christian values, and I know that prayer was said before each form of government with the colonies was tried. Sort of reminds me of the Indian Chief who said to George Washington, "Why aren't you dead, we know we hit you several times, and your clothing was in tatters, yet you remained alive? Well that story isn't much different than ours.

WE WILL NOT BE DEFEATED

THE BATTLE HAS BEEN WON

We have followed our oath,, we have defended this nation to the hilt, and I doubt if anyone has given more than you men and women have.

Psalm 91 lends itself to this situation when it speaks of the protection we have with our Almighty God. Please take the time to read it, and be at peace. We have won.

Ron Kukal
Chaplain, USS Liberty Veterans Association

56th USS Liberty Anniversary Reunion - Moe Shafer

To the Crew and Supporters of the USS Liberty:

Our 56th Anniversary Reunion was held this year from June 6th through June 9th and The Mining Exchange (a Wyndham Grand Resort Hotel) in Colorado Spring, CO.

We were very blessed to have 14 crew members along with family and other supporters who gave us a group of 50+ people. Our agenda was full and one of the best groups of guests we have had in years. Arrivals were on the 6th with our hospitality suite full of shipmates and friends. On the morning of the 7th our program started with Frank O'Classen, President opening the meetings and setting the stage for the reunion. We had 5 speakers along with a couple new crewman taking with our group. First this was Larry Slaven's first reunion with the crew since the attack. This was quite a special reunion as Larry has had no contact with any of the crew since the attack.

1. Ceasar Kalinowski, Attorney for Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP from Seattle, WA was our first speaker. Michelle Kinucan, Honorary Member LVA, who has spend the past several years fighting for us and the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) asked Caesar to come and he told us about the fight they have continued to battle in getting to the truth with the documents that have been sealed for over 50 years. Caesar informed us that they are making progress and hopefully in our time we will have all the facts that have been covered up for so many years. Caesars discussion was very informative and productive for our crew. Thanks Michelle and Caesar for all your hard work.
2. James Bamford, Author was our very distinguished guest who wrote many books of National Security including the "Body Of Secrets" "The Puzzle Palace" and "Spyfail" spoke to us about his tenure as a writer, reporter, etc. working with NSA (National Security Agency) CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) Etc. James has been a big supporter of the USS Liberty over the years and we were very privileged to have his with us for the few days. Thanks James
3. Peter Hounan, a British Journalist who worked for UK Sunday Times, Daily Mirror, BBC Television, etc. and the Author of Operation Cyanide and also Co-Producer of our BBC Documentary "Dead in the Water". Peter spoke to us via remote TV in 2021 and he and his wife Hillary visited us from Scotland this year. Peter spoke on the 7th during our meetings, and also was our Keynote for our Banquet on Saturday night. Peter did an outstanding job of telling us our story from his vision over all these years. Thanks Peter
4. Mark Hilley – If Americans Knew – was our guest speaker representing Alison Wier who has been one of our biggest supporters over the years, has spend hundreds of thousands of dollars doing bill boards, Fox News TV Commercials, and hundreds Radio Ad in 2022 and 2023 for the USS Liberty. Mark did a special documentary "Justice for Liberty.org" with our crew last year, and he shared that with us and told us all about the ad campaigns they did. Bob Scarborough's our crew members is representing us on all the images that are out there including the new billboards that will be going up this year. Thanks Mark and Alison
5. Special Guests: Cathy Meskel & Lark Able attend our reunion as very special guests who have designed and built our beautiful new Marble Monument which you will see featured in this Newsletter. Phil Tournay was instrumental in finding this opportunity for us with this memorial and Cathy and her team took on this project with our any financial support from the LVA. The monument is completed and we are not looking for a home for this to display our story in Washington DC. The Board of Directors is working on this as we speak. Funds were earmarked by a donor and in the end could not come up with the funds needed to support this. Thousands had already been invested and we were \$25,000 short of our goal with no resources. David McFarland our new legacy Board Member suggested we start bidding and he started the first bid and within 8 minutes we had raised \$28,000 from 5 Crew Members and 4 family and supporters. This was the most fascinating few minutes anyone could ever imagine with the excitement and the supported no one really expected that evening at our Banquet. Needless to say Cathy and Lark have been very busy completing this beautiful piece of ART and MEMORIAL to our fallen Shipmates and Survivors.
6. Banquet - This was our final event for the 2023 year with over 55 in attendance, our Keynote speaker Peter Hounan speaking to us, and the most amazing fellowship anyone could ever have.
7. New Board: Our new Board of Directors was presented with Larry Bowen, Ron Kukal, Bob Scarborough and Terry McFarland stepping off. Your new board is Phil Tournay, President – Frank O'Classen, VP, - Ed Bechtel, Sec/Treas – David McFarland, Member at Large and Miranda Internicola, Member at Large - We are very proud to welcome David and Miranda as family members to our board.
8. Major kudo's to Donna Shafer for all the does as an "Honorary Crew Member" for the USS Liberty Veterans Association

Moe Shafer
Executive Director, LVA

56th USS Liberty Anniversary Reunion - Bryce Tourney



My name is Bryce Tourney, I am proud to say that I am the eldest son of Philip Tourney. After more than 20 years, since I was just a boy, I attended my first reunion with the crew and family of the USS Liberty. I was welcomed warmly and immediately once I arrived at the venue in CO Springs CO. We were hosted at a lovely historic hotel in the middle of downtown. Snow capped Pikes Peak in the background and flanked to the west by the beautiful Rocky Mountains. I watched lifelong friends exchange handshakes, hugs, and smiles with each other as the sun began its early retirement leaving us in the shade Cheyenne Mountain on the first evening.

The men of the crew I remembered from my youth and from pictures my father had hanging in his house had changed of the last two decades. As with everything, including the crew, time does not wait for anyone. They were all much older and to my sad realization, there were far fewer in numbers than I had expected. Although the anniversary of their attack had been more than 50 years prior, their resolve and fire had not faded.

My three children and wife were able to attend the event with me for the first time. I always lived with the Liberty and understood the geopolitical significance of what had happened to him and his shipmates. But my

family had only heard about the attack from my father when my kids would ask him "What is that?," referring to a cut out rocket hole hanging on the wall. My kids ate up everything about being with the crew and seeing their Papa speak and interact with old friends. All my children needed to have hats and shirts. They wanted to share that with him and show their love for him in that way.

I was able to interact with many of the crew on quite different level than I was even ready for. I had always looked up to these men for the bravery they showed during the battle but moreover the 50 years of hardship dealing with trying to get their story told. The crew treated me like I was their equal. There was no sense of arrogance or of demanded entitled respect for what they had been through. These were God fearing blue blood Americans, despite everything they love their country.

I shared my combat experience, my faith, and my family with the crew. Although the age gap between me and them was average of 40 years different, the three things I just listed had transcended any of that. We are just people doing our best. I heard some accounts of the attack from a new perspective that I have not heard before. I saw men shed tears for the fallen, for themselves, for the years lost and what might have been had the attack not been park of their story.



There were many special quests and sympathizers that came to speak, to dedicate monuments, ask questions and to just spend time with the crew. I saw my dad get to open up and to his friends and with such pride and love, share his grandchildren with them. The dedication of marble memorial took place on the last night of the event. The commissioner of the monument had a donor back out before it was completed leaving her little option financially to have it completed. But with the generosity and love of the crew, they were able to produce almost \$30,000 to donate to have it finished. It was a beautiful moment of solidarity and affirmation on the crew's part.

Overall, the experience was very humbling, I had seen the story through new eyes as an adult. I have in the passing years come to value people like the crew of the Liberty, as men like them are being replaced by a generation that is afraid of people unwilling to make a stand. Without the actions of these men our country and our world would look vastly different. And because the Lord was holding that ship in his hands, I am here, I am alive. He gave me my wife and children; He allowed me to be a father and pass on the account of His grace on the USS Liberty.

"In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"
1 Thessalonians 5:18

56th USS Liberty Anniversary Reunion - Photos (1)



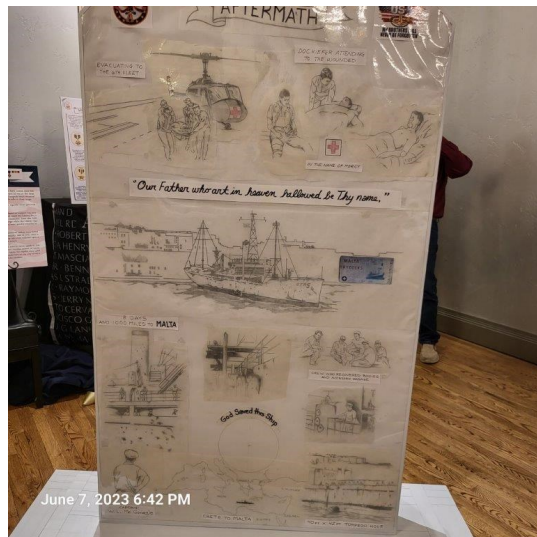
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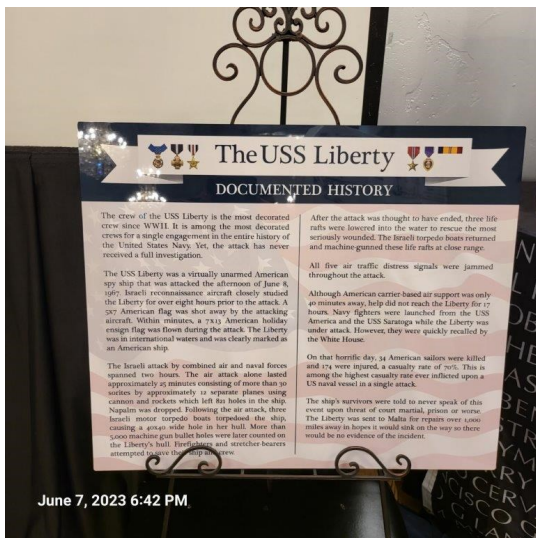
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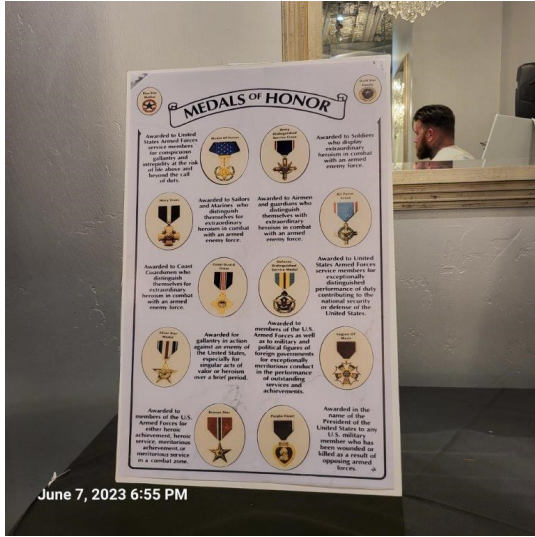


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56th USS Liberty Anniversary Reunion - Photos (2)



56th USS Liberty Anniversary Reunion - Photos (3)



56th Anniversary - Letter from Rich Carlson

Today is the 56th anniversary of the attack on my ship, the USS LIBERTY AGTR-5 on June 8, 1967. The USS Liberty incident was an attack in international waters on a United States Navy technical research ship, USS Liberty, by Israeli Air Force jet fighter aircraft and Israeli Navy motor torpedo boats, on 8 June 1967, during the Six-Day War killing 34 Americans and wounding another 171. Seven out of every 10 crew members were either killed or injured.

The names of the 34 men who gave their lives:

CT3 William B. Allenbaugh, USN
LCDR Philip M. Armstrong, Jr. USN
SN Gary R. Blanchard, USN
Allen M. Blue, NSA Civilian (CT2 Reserve)
SN Francis Brown, USN
CT2 Ronnie J. Campbell, USN
CT3 Jerry L. Converse, USN
CT2 Robert B. Eisenberg, USN
CT3 Jerry L. Goss, USN
CTI Curtis A. Graves, USN
CTSN Lawrence P. Hayden, USN
CTI Warren E. Hersey, USN
CTSN Alan Higgins, USN
SN Carl L. Hoar, USN
CT2 Richard W. Keene, Jr., USN
CTSN James L. Lenau, USN
CTC Raymond E. Linn, USN
CTI James M. Lupton, USN
CT3 Duane R. Marggraf, USN
CTSN David W. Marlborough, USN
CT2 Anthony P. Mendle, USN
CTSN Carl C. Nygren, USN
LT James C. Pierce, USN
ICFN David Skolak, USN
CTI John C. Smith, Jr., USN
CTC Melvin D. Smith, USN
PC2 John C. Spicher, USN
GMG3 Alexander N. Thompson, Jr., USN
CT3 Thomas R. Thornton, USN
CT3 Philippe C. Tiedtke, USN
LT Stephen S. Toth, USN
CTI Frederick J. Walton, USN
Sgt Jack L. Raper, USMC
Cpl Edward E. Rehmeier, USMC

I recently was given a copy of CULTURE WARS, December 2003, VOL. 23 NO.1 which has the attached article DETOUR ON THE ROAD TO ARMAGEDDON: THE ATTACK ON THE LIBERTY.

I contacted the editor of CULTURE WARS, Mr. E. Michael Jones, Ph.D. by email requesting permission to share this article. He gave me permission to do so.

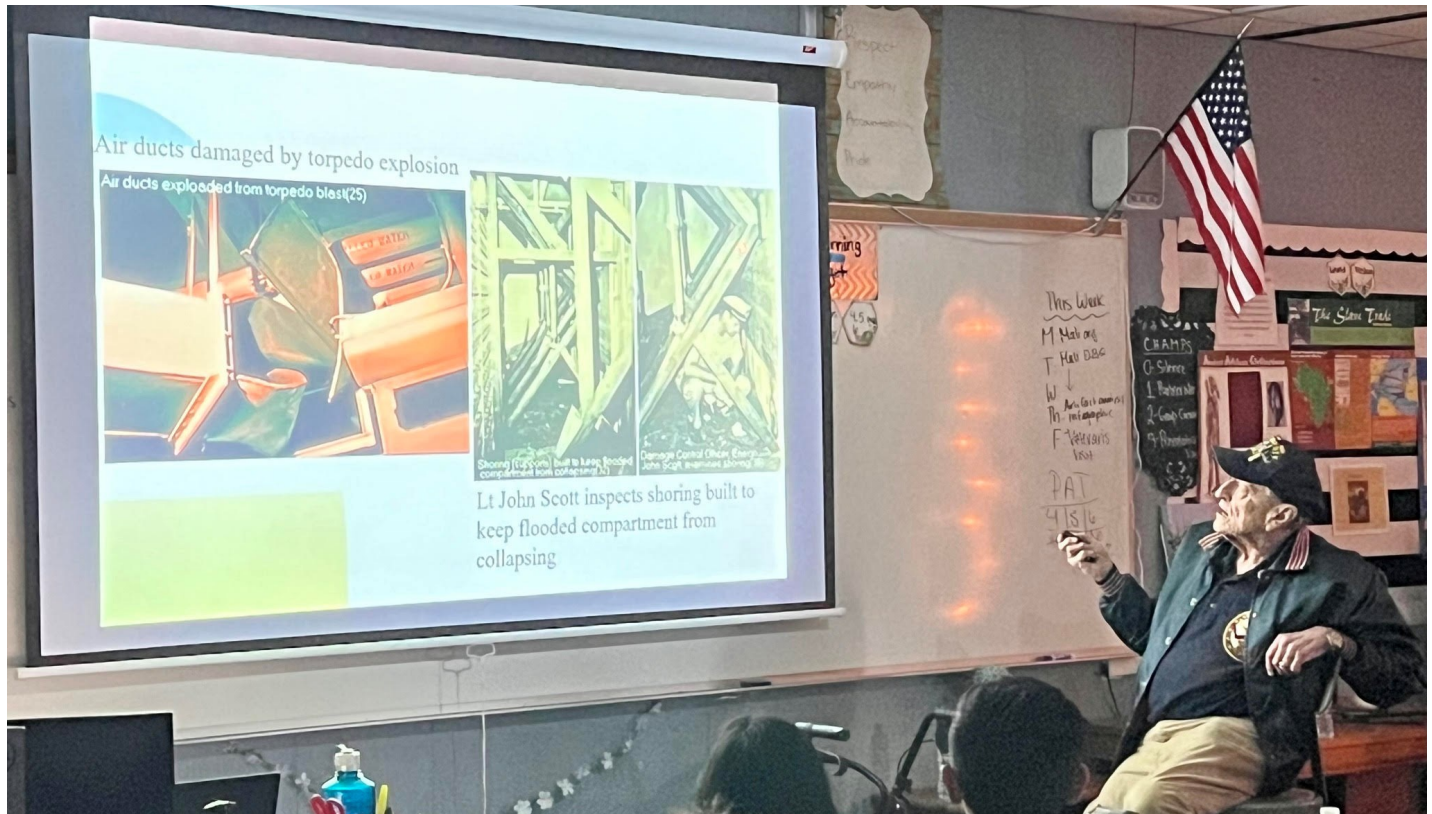
Feel free to share this with anyone else.

Dick Carlson
USN Ret
USS LIBERTY (survivor)

Update from Don Pageler (1)

On 3/31/23 I was honored to be able to speak to 2 separate 7th grade classes at TeWinkle Middle School in Costa Mesa, CA. The students and teacher were very interested in our story. One girl continuously asked questions. This is the 3rd year I have been at TeWinkle. One needs to keep in mind that these are civilians. Because I separated from the Navy after 3 years and 9 months as a 2nd Class Petty Officer they address me as Officer. I do not know if they understand the difference of a commissioned officer.

-Don



Update from Don Pageler (2)

On 4/12/23 and 5/10/23 I spoke to the following classes.

Mr. Saul Lankster



Contact Information

Mr. Saul Lankster

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Department: Professional Studies

SLankster@nu.edu

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Los Angeles Campus

Contact S. Lankster 310.528.2585

NU TERRORISM CLASS MEETS DON PAGELER, TERRORIST ATTACK SURVIVOR

Dr. Saul E. Lankster's International and Domestic Terrorism class of 30 National University students experienced a 1 hour, 15 minutes PowerPoint presentation by a true American hero, Navy veteran Donald Pageler.

The detailed PowerPoint presentation took the class, via zoom, on board the USS Liberty, which was violently and viciously attacked from the air and from the Sea by the Israeli Air Force and Navy, despite the fact that the USS Liberty was flying the American flag high above it ship. Donald Pageler and his surviving Shipmates were all Sworn to Silence and Secrecy after the attack, and threatened with imprisonment if they told anyone about this attack.

Students were allowed to question Pageler without restrictions. Some of the students of this undergraduate class are retired military and some were active military, while others have no military experience at all.

Pageler showed dozens of pictures in this graphic presentation. One of the pictures depicts the tombstone of the mass grave where the remains of the body parts of Pageler's comrades are buried. These body parts were picked up from the deck on the ship after the attack.

One student asked Pageler what it was like to endure the attack and then gather the body parts of his fallen Shipmates. Pageler explained his difficulties and his PTSD and the physical effects on his body caused by not being able to talk about the attack by one of America's allies.

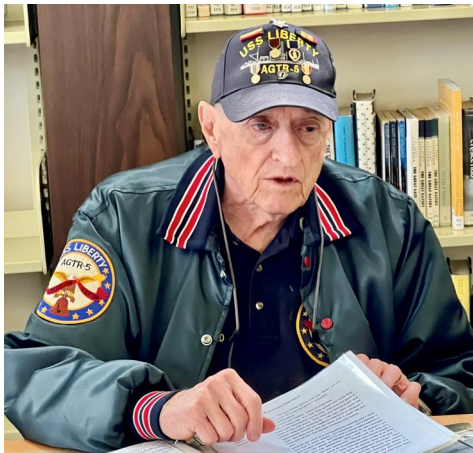
Several students thanked the professor for affording them the opportunity to meet this true American hero and terrorist attack survivor.

Update from Don Pageler (3)

On 5/18/23 I spent the morning speaking to 4 groups of Costa Mesa High School students. It was a wonderful event. They had students meet us in the parking lot and escort us into the school. We sat at tables in the library and they rotated groups of students to our tables to hear our stories.



On 5/23/23 I had the privilege to talk to students at Newport Harbor High School in Newport Beach. This was the second year I had been at this school. The history teacher was a graduate of UC Davis in Northern California. They fed us lunch afterward.



USS Liberty Memorial - From Ed Bechtel

At the 56th reunion of the USS Liberty in Colorado Springs this past June, there were several hi-lights featuring guest speakers. This article contains one of those. On the right is Cathy Meskel and on the left is Lark Abel. They are standing with a life-size mock up (styrofoam) of a memorial that has been months in the making. The original is made of stone. The two pieces consist of a base and headstone which weigh over 1200 lbs. Lark has spent countless hours etching the front and back of the headstone depicting the horrific and unprovoked Israeli attack and the aftermath of the attack on the USS Liberty. Cathy, Lark, and anyone else on their team have done an amazing job with detail on the memorial. The presentation was a surprise to most all at the reunion and overwhelmingly received. After dinner, an impromptu auction was held to raise money with the mock up going to the highest bidder. A fun time was had, and a surprising amount of money was raised and donated to finishing up this project.



The intent is to find a permanent home for this memorial, possibly somewhere in DC. In the meantime it will be stored at Roger Stone waiting for that permanent home.

This memorial is so important in that it tells the story of that fateful day on 8 June 1967 long after the survivors are unable to do so. The LVA extends a heartfelt thanks to Cathy, Lark and their team for this contribution.



USS Liberty Memorial - From Cathy Meskel

July 21, 2023

The beginnings and conception of the USS Liberty Monument started back in November 2022. Let me explain, after the 11th annual Stars and Stripes Military Ball, Phil Tourney got up and spoke about me and what I have accomplished with the other 8 monuments, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq-Afganistan, Veterans Creed, Medal of Honor, and lastly Battle field crosses. I was so moved that I turned around and was sobbing just knowing what Phil was saying, actually I didn't even hear a word, I was so overcome with emotion. I turned around and saw all of my Veterans standing, crying applauding and cheering for me at what they had just watched and witnessed. WOW!! I started this project 2 years ago when a really dear friend Art Lindsey passed away here in my home town of Cedaredge, Colorado. He was a tail gunner and was shot down 3 times in the North Sea. He was a dear man and my friend. His family really didn't do anything special for him no real services and it hurt my heart. So along comes Veterans Day and I was driving by his house and I felt so bad, I went and got a Flag and the hardware store which he founded 46 years ago, typed his story up and put it on his fence. It was a really nice tribute. After several months his neighbor brought the flag back and said his family said it was up long enough. I was shocked. The next day I was driving to the local grocery store drove past his house and with tears in my eyes, I said Art I am so sorry there is nothing I can do, it's not my property. Sitting at the only light in town, I said wait a minute I think I will make a Veteran's monument, and I did starting right after that. Not only did we do one, we are now on number 9, the USS Liberty. Just as a note, the marble was donated to me by the Colorado Stone Quarry out of Delta Colorado. It is the same marble that came from Marble Colorado which by the way is the same quarry that all of the monuments in Washington D.C. were made from. Pretty darn cool, our monuments and yours came from that quarry.

So, let's get on with the USS Liberty. A couple of weeks later Phil Tourney called me and asked Cathy would you consider doing the USS Liberty Monument, I said hmm let me think about it. I called him back a couple of days later and I said yes, it would be an honor. He said you know you could get in some trouble, and my response was "I don't give a shit". We started the process on January 9, 2023. I am going to explain all of what took place and how it came to be. I googled USS Liberty and started studying the history, looked at every document I could get my hands on, Phil gave me 3-4 books which I studied, and then later in the month I watched Sacrificing the USS Liberty. I came across it by accident, and I sat for 4 hours glued to my chair afraid to turn it off, thinking it would vanish, on a side note, as I was getting the pictures, by computer starting running really slow and some other tricky things started happening, here's why I was on the computer for hours and hours studying coping pictures and learning as much as I could about the Liberty. For 2 months my team Lark Abel, and REDACTED, we were at Lark's studio with a design wall up, we had hundreds of pictures all on the floor, adding taking down, putting back up to acquire the perfect depiction of what happened on that faithful day June 8, 1967. We worked almost everyday for months. Interesting fact in around March, I couldn't sleep as all I did was eat, drink and sleep the Liberty, I kept going on the computer to find the perfect pictures, and low and behold at first after 2 months of acquiring pictures, when I kept trying the images were flagged, then said inappropriate images, and then my computer crashed. Cost me \$350.00 to get it up and going, wonder why? I suppose I know why and so do you..... The pictures were then given to my other team member REDACTED, and Lark Abel who started drawing and redrawing all of the chosen images. Those two girls spent hours and hours, days and weeks, perfecting what is on your monument. As a funny note us girls not being sailors couldn't tell the front from the back, after they spent weeks on the drawings, we had it on the design wall one of my military friends said Cathy the ship is going the wrong way and the torpedo hole is on the wrong side. I said holy shit, are you kidding me. So, we had to flip the drawing and start over, poor Lark, she agonized over that ship drawing. We have done so much research to make sure everything that is on your monument is correct. I just want to share with you some of the funny things that have happened along the way. So once the drawings were corrected with the ship we continued on with the rest of the story. As you will see from the pictures, we have a time line and story of what happened on that faithful day, we start on the top of the fly byes of the Israel plane, the ship is off the coast and just chilling, as Phil explained it a typical cool day, nothing noteworthy. Then the shit hit's the fan, and we have done our best to document everything that happened that afternoon. We have the planes dropping napon, the torpedo boats, we tried to show all of the damage that was possible. It was very difficult. Then we showed the SOS rockstar rockstar we are under attack. We also included the USS America and the USS Saratoga, as they could have been pivotal in your rescue and support. But they were told to stand down. Really pisses me off!!! Then we have one of the original rocket holes and the list of all of the fallen. Also, all of the medals that the USS Liberty crew acquired. Let me tell you the tears that I have cried over this monument will never ever be explained enough. It has touched me and my team so profoundly and deeply.

We then go to the backside, oh my goodness, this was rough. On the back which we called the aftermath, we tried to portray everything we could in a respectful way showing the damage, personal injury and what happened to the ship. We start with the evacuation to the 6th fleet, the injured being attended to in the mess hall by Dr. Kiefer, it was so sad seeing these pictures.

Contd. on following page

USS Liberty Memorial - From Cathy Meskel (contd.)

Next, we follow your ship as it went into drydock in Malta. We did our best to show the damage as best we could.

Then we show Capt. McGonagle assessing the damage, we showed the damage to the hatch doors, the radio towers, and the hardest was the crew recovering the bodies and accessing the damage. Next, we showed the ship going from Crete to Malta, and finally we show the torpedo hole with sailors looking down from above in Malta.

This monument was a work of dedication and commitment to show everything we could possibly show on what happened to the USS Liberty.

We had the honor of taking a mockup which was exactly the correct size and shape of your monument 5 1/2 feet tall, 36 inches wide 4 inches thick on a base. We decided not to take the marble monument because it is over 8 hundred pounds just the monument itself, the base is also another 300 pounds. It was really the most humbling experience of my life, showing your shipmates that attended what we have accomplished. I have never been so proud in my life. I had your shipmates ask me who drew that's me, explain where they were on the ship during the attack I just stood there and cried, hearing all of these stories. I will never forget those three days.

I would like to brag about my team Lark Abel, she is the artist, sandblaster, she is the lead person on everything we do on the monuments. This woman is amazing, she is as she calls it nit-noid, about every little detail and how it is going to look. She is 71-year-old women that has such a force about her. She is an amazing artist, and sand-blaster. REDACTED is our chief artist; she looks at the pictures and changes them into her own design and the detail she puts into these drawings is beyond belief. She will stand and critique her work over and over and Lark and I will say Briggey it's amazing. Stop. She has taken your monument to the next level.

The process on how these are made is as follows. We get the marble cut and polished, then it is delivered to Lark and put into her sand blasting booth. We then tape the monument with resist, it looks like a big brown bandage, it covers the entire marble slab. The next thing we do is we take the pencil drawings that Lark and Briggey have drawn and transfer them backwards onto the resist. They are burnished on the resist and then the work begins. Each of the drawings that you see have been hand cut with an exacto knife, every single little detail is studied and cut with permission. Then the sand blasting is next, Lark suits up and it took her over a week to get the blasting done on each side. Then the black paint is applied and once it is dry that is where the hard part comes, you have to remove each little teeny tiny little piece of resist off of the monument. It takes hours to do that. Once the resist comes off then it is cleaned and the color is painted by hand with a little brush. Let me tell you these girls are incredible.

When we finish, we all stand there with tears running down our faces and look at each other with awe. Can you believe what we just did, is what we say to each other. I am so so proud of these girls.

It is with deepest respect and honor that I was asked to do this monument for you in honor of the USS Liberty, it is the finest thing I have ever done in my life. I couldn't be prouder of what we accomplished. I cannot wait for it to get to its final resting place in Washington D.C. or Norfolk Virginia. I am so excited to show this to the world. Guess what maybe it will go to both places, as we have more marble cut and ready. You can go to supportoursoldiersfoundation.org this is my web page and you can see everything that we have done. Each monument has the spoken history of each war, and then a description of each picture that I have chosen and what it means. We are working on getting all of the monuments with QR codes by the end of next week. WWI and WWII are up and running take a peek.

With deepest respect and honor to the USS Liberty,

Cathy Meskel



Founder of Support Our Soldiers Foundation

**SUPPORT OUR
SOLDIERS
FOUNDATION**



Remembering Bob Scarborough

Robert Allen (Bob) Scarborough, Sr. passed away on Monday, July 3, 2023.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 11:00am in the chapel of McMullen Funeral Home and Crematory. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will take at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 1:00pm

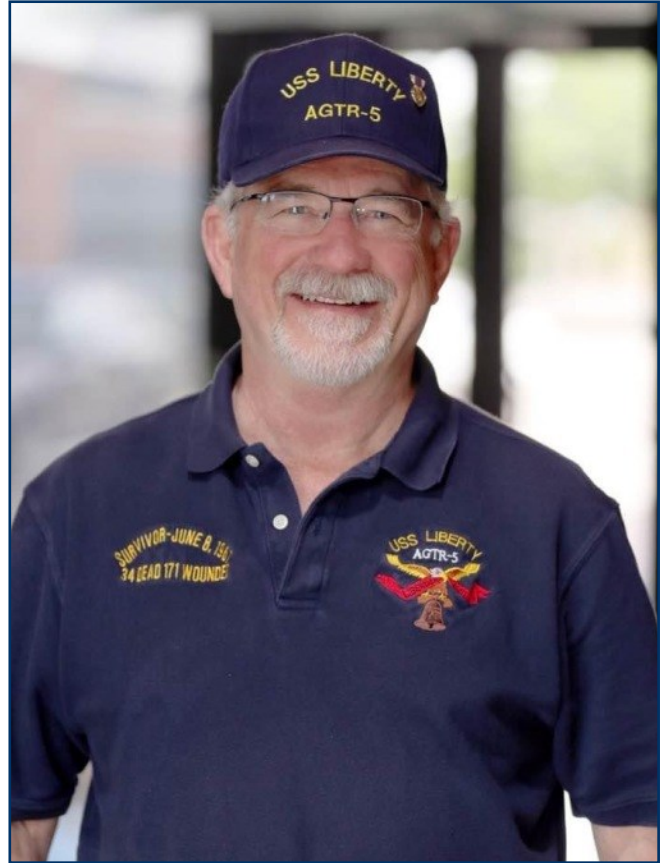
Bob was born on March 24, 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the son of the late Thomas Harold Scarborough, Sr. and the late Martha Mooney Scarborough. He was a graduate of Anderson High School.

Bob served in the US Navy from 1966 until 1970. He served aboard the USS Liberty as a Cryptologist and was a Purple Heart recipient.

Bob had a 47 year career in the Motion Picture Industry. He began his career at Universal Pictures in film distribution in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a member of the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO), where he served as President in Dallas, Texas while working for Carmike Cinemas. In 2016 he retired as a Senior Film Buyer, after 34 years of service to Carmike Cinemas in Columbus, Georgia.

Bob was active in many charitable organizations that he was passionate about including: The Disabled American Veterans Association, where he was a lifetime member and served as Sr. Vice Commander of Columbus, Georgia Chapter 7. Additionally, He was a member of Variety, The Children's Charity of Georgia where he served on the Board of Directors. Bob was also a member of the USS Liberty Veterans Association, where he served on the Board of Directors as Treasurer.

He was an avid guitar player, fisherman, and golfer, in addition to being an original member of the Maple Ridge Golf Club. Bob also enjoyed vacationing in the mountains of North Carolina and West Virginia.



Survivors include his spouse Peggy M Scarborough, children Robert Jr. (Jenny), Alison (Richard) Grandchildren; Ty, Blake, Konrad, and Kiernan. Additionally, he is survived by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Thomas Jr., Ronald, and his parents Thomas Sr., Martha and his beloved dog Max.

The family would like to extend gratitude and thanks to the many wonderful staff at Columbus Hospice of Georgia & Alabama.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to USS Liberty Veterans Association <https://www.uslibertyveterans.org/>, Disabled American

Veterans Chapter 7 – Columbus, GA dav.org or Variety The Children's Charity of Georgia Varietyofgeorgia.org.

Memorial video available online at: <https://www.mcmullenfuneralhome.com/obituary/Robert-ScarboroughSr>

Remembering Lloyd C. Painter

Lloyd C. Painter of Kerrville, passed away quietly and suddenly in his sleep at his Comanche Trace Hill Country home on July 11, 2023.

Lloyd will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery with military honors.

Lloyd was born on May 1, 1941, in Dos Palos, California, to Jean (nee Sorg) and Lloyd A. Painter where he grew up in a very modest family with his younger sister, Terri, in the Central Valley of California.

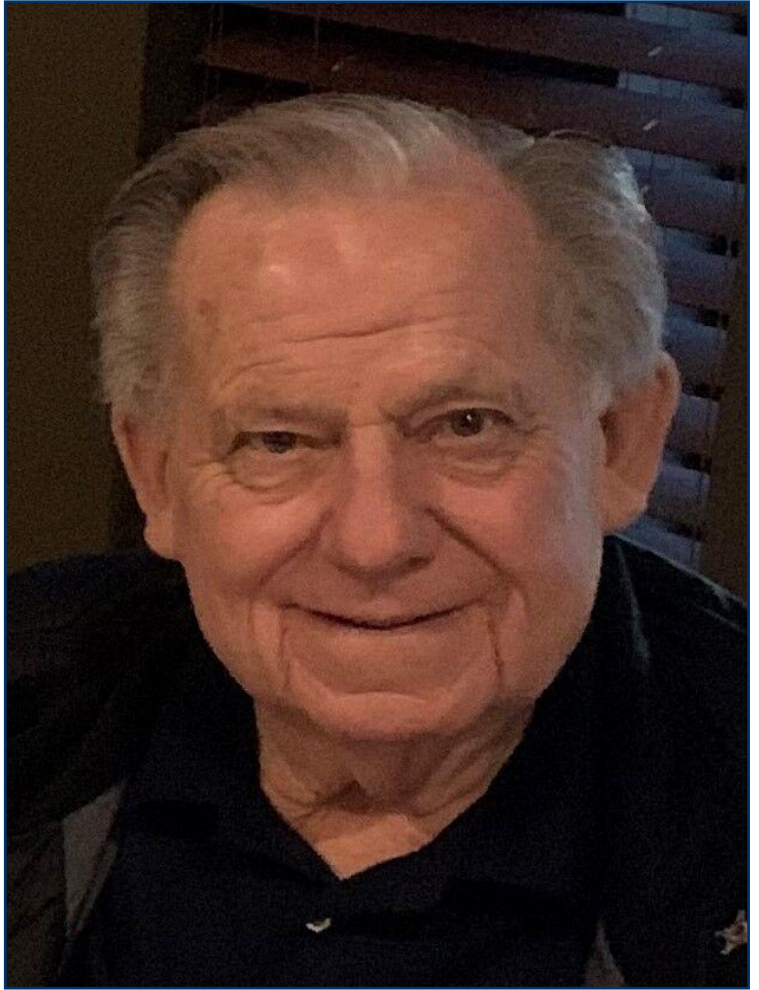
He dedicated a lot of time working on farms, tuning his cars, and spending time with family and friends. He was well-liked and could make any stranger feel like a life-long friend through his friendly conversation and stories of his exceptional life experiences. He graduated from Dos Palos High School in 1959 and attended California State University, Fresno, graduating in 1965 with a bachelor's degree.

He spent the next six years in the Navy on assignments such as Midway Island and as a young Lieutenant line officer on the USS Liberty. This otherwise uneventful assignment impacted him for the rest of his life as he was the officer of the deck when the Israeli Defense Forces attacked the ship near Egypt for several hours on June 14, 1967, killing dozens of US Servicemen and wounding over a hundred more.

He was awarded the Purple Heart and was in charge of organizing the wounded while the ship limped to Malta where a very high-level US government investigation was opened and quickly closed. He was then assigned to Bremerhaven, Germany, for his next and last assignment in the Navy that brought another life changing event for him where he married the love of his life, Ingrid Klotz, on December 4, 1969. His discharge brought them back to California where he experienced another impactful event when he found a flyer on a wall seeking people for the U.S. Secret Service. He served from 1971 until his retirement in 1997 as a Special Agent in the US Secret Service where he worked protecting Presidents, visiting political dignitaries, and religious leaders. He was assigned to George Wallace's detail when he was shot, the Eisenhower ranch, the White House, and various field offices. During his time in the Secret Service his proudest moment came when his daughter, Tara, was born.

After retirement they spent some time in California but ultimately felt at home in the Comanche Trace community of Kerrville, TX, where Ingrid and he spent the last 17 years of his life. He loved the community, spending time with Ingrid, Tara, and Jim, speaking at many engagements, retelling his experiences for the History Channel and many authors, being a member of the Kerrville Rotary Club, Comanche Trace Association, US Secret Service Association, USS Liberty Veteran's Association, and many others.

He is survived by his wife of 54 wonderful years Ingrid, his daughter Dr. Tara Malec and her husband Jim Malec (Colonel, USAF ret), and many close family and friends.



Honoring Jerry Leroy Converse - Verne Lyon

Jerry Leroy Converse was a high school and university classmate of mine. He was, as you know, a CT2 onboard the USS Liberty on June 8th 1967. He was killed alongside 32 others that day. His memory fell through the cracks until 2014 when I submitted a request to Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa to add his name and a star in the memorial wall of fame in the Memorial Union on campus. Since then, I have raised the money to place a permanent memorial to him at 9th & Story streets in Boone, Iowa. Additionally, we are placing a memorial paver near the Freedom Rock located near the Boone County Courthouse.

If interested in publishing this info, let me know and I will send you photos of the new memorial.

Also, I have tried contacting his brother and sisters but to no avail. If you have them in your data base, please help me contact them with this news.

Thank you.

- Verne Lyon



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
- REMEMBER THE LIBERTY Almost Sunk by Treason on the High Seas** \$20.00
 By Phillip F. Nelson with Ernie A. Gallo, Ronald G. KuKal and Phillip F. Tourney
- LIBERTY'S WOUNDS - By Jeremy P. Amick: A biography of Bryce Lockwood, USMC Survivor** \$20.00

VIDEO

- 25th Anniversary Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery (DVD Video)** \$15.00
- USS Liberty Survivors: Our Story - Patrick King Documentary (DVD Video)** \$15.00
- Loss of Liberty - New Detailed Film of Attack and Cover-Up (DVD Video)** \$20.00
- Dead in the Water - Documentary: Find out how a nuclear war in the Middle East was averted at the last minute (DVD)** \$20.00
- Justice for the Liberty - An All American Documentary by Break of Dawn Productions** \$20.00
- A USS LIBERTY REMEMBRANCE of 50 Years of US Government Cover-Up of the Attack** \$15.00
- History Channel DVD** \$15.00

LIBERTY WEAR

- Blue Multicolor Tee Shirt - (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL)** \$22.00
- White w/ Black Ship & 34 Lost Shipmates Tee Shirt - (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL)** \$22.00
- Grey w/ Black Ship & 2 Lost Marines Tee Shirt - (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL)** \$22.00
- Golf Shirt: White OR Navy (each with tan stitching) - (M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL)** \$35.00
- USS Liberty Baseball Cap - Solid Fabric, Not Mesh with Plain Bill** \$25.00
- USS Liberty Unstructured Golf Hat - Navy or Tan** \$20.00

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** \$30.00
- USS Liberty Lapel Pin OR 50th Anniversary Lapel Pins** \$ 5.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 3 Inch** \$ 6.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 5 Inch** \$ 8.00
- Challenger Coin - With the Names of 34 Fallen Shipmates** \$10.00

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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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