

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



## Newsletter

Vol. II, No. 02

May 2005

### Membership & Mailing Information

*Cookeville, TN* - The Association runs on its active membership. We can't thank you enough for renewing your membership and doing it on time. However there still are a good many shipmates who have not renewed their memberships for the Year 2005. Notice address label near your last name. The Year dues were last paid will appear as 04 and if paid 05. Membership dues cover the period 1 January through 31 December. If you wish verification of your status or further information, Joe Hill will be glad to talk with you. He can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone (931) 432-4848; FAX (931) 432-2534. Email is: [joehillsr@multipro.com](mailto:joehillsr@multipro.com) Joe will also provide members' addresses and phone numbers upon request. If you haven't paid your dues, do it now!

If your address, phone number or e-Mail addresses change, let Joe Hill know. Also if you have both a Winter and Summer address let Joe know so that your newsletter and other information will be sent to you on time.

There has been a few cases where dues were not paid because shipmates did not let the association know their winter address.

It was stated in the last Newsletter that the dues year was from 1 October to 30 September. This had been changed some time ago but the By Laws were not amended. A correction to the Membership dues period should read from 1 January to 31 December. A correction to the by-laws will be submitted at the next reunion meeting in Branson.

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### FOX Division

The FOX Division, 23 members, spouses and friends recently returned from a cruise that had better accommodations than that aboard the USS Rochester of years gone by. This time the ship was the "*Enchantment*" and sailed from Ft. Lauderdale FL. Various ports of call were Key West, Florida where the 25 mph winds and the 62 degree temperature were a bit chilly but the Key Lime Pie and museums were great.

The next port was Cozumel, Mexico where the weather was warmer. A visit to the Mayan ruins in Tulum and plenty of typical tourist shopping for gems, food, and souvenirs kept everyone on the move. Not much time ashore to take in all the sights and sounds.

Aboard ship shy ol' Marv Hufford gained a quick reputation as a winner in pool side contests for "The Most Touristy Legs", posed for the camera in an x-rated video, selected to model feminine undergarments in the Quest competition, and won a Cozumel T-shirt in a drawing. Everyone had a great time and believe it or not nobody put on a pound during all the eating and partying that went on. Don't believe it. The food was a little bit better than that aboard the Rochester. All in all it was a great time to enjoy the CAMARADERIE of lasting friends.

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## **Branson, Missouri 2006**

*St. Louis, MO* – Bob Cosgrove, our reunion coordinator for Branson has signed a contract with Branson Hospitality Inc. to host our reunion. This will be at The Lodge of the Ozarks, Sunday, October 1 to Wednesday, October 4, 2006. **MARK YOUR CALENDERS.** More information will be coming as information is available from Branson Hospitality Inc.

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### **New Members**

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS Rochester Association members:

Alexander Campbell, EM2, E Division  
Abington, MA DOB 51-55

Samuel McCulloch, EM3, E Division  
Clarinda, IA DOB 58-59

Donald E. Schnirel, FTG3, F Division  
Tonawanda, NY DOB 59-61

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### **Wedding Anniversary Congratulations!**

Shipmate Bill Couch and his lovely wife Ellie will celebrate their 60th wedding day on June 3, 2005. Bill was one of the founders of the Association. He is a plank owner and served aboard from 1947-1950

Shipmate Jan and Nita Basham celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary in February 2005. Jan was in the R Division 1954 to 1956.

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## **IN LOVING MEMORY OF MELVIN M. JOHNSON**

Melvin M. Johnson  
Fondly called Johnny or Mel  
Has answered the Supreme Commander's Call  
At the tolling of the bell

His time on earth has ended  
Life's cares and woes are o'er  
The pain and suffering that he knew  
Are gone forevermore

He lived a good and useful life  
One of service and dedication  
His love of flag and country  
Were ever his inspiration

He chose a career in the Navy  
And served in peace and war  
A veteran of Korea and Vietnam  
And a patriot on ship and shore

Taps has sounded for this brave sailor  
His flag now flies at half mast  
He helped to preserve our liberty and freedom  
And we walk in the shadow he cast

We know that he is at rest now  
And through we feel bereft  
There is comfort in the love he gave  
It's the legacy he left

When we say goodbye to a loved one  
And their soul in peace departs  
Words can't express the way we feel  
Or what is in our hearts

They seem to leave so quickly  
And wing their way above  
Leaving us behind with memories  
And the warm glow of their love

Our hearts are sad and heavy  
As we bow our heads in prayer  
We thank the Lord for this good man  
and commend him to God's care.

*Jess Johnson*  
03-27-05

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## Ship's Store

Montrose, IL - Lots of news from your Ship's Store this month. Please check the list below for CLEARANCE SALE items. These particular items are discontinued; so if you've been thinking about ordering some shirts for the grandkids, NOW is the time to take care of that before they're all gone. (The shirts; not the grandkids.) We also have golf shirts without pockets on clearance. We will still have the golf shirts with pockets.

The San Diego 2004 Reunion Books have sold really well. There are about a dozen left. The price is still \$25.00 which includes the shipping charge. And, like the other items below, once these are gone, they're gone. The Reunion was a great experience. Everyone had a great time. So, again, if you've been thinking about ordering a Reunion Book, please get your order(s) in quickly. The books will be sold on a first come, first served (first checks received, first books sent) basis. And, just special with these last few books, we're going to include two complimentary San Diego 2004 Reunion pins.

Please check our USS Rochester website for information about new items added to your Ship's Store. We'll be adding things, hopefully, before the next newsletter reaches you.

'til the next time,

Following Seas and Smooth Sailing !!

Larry and Mary Stone  
198 Co Rd 650 E  
Montrose, IL 62445  
(217) 924-4109  
[mdlrstone@aol.com](mailto:mdlrstone@aol.com)

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## SHIPS STORE SPECIAL

### Clearance Sale Order Form

#### Grandfather's Ship T-shirts (gray only)

Child T-shirt	size L	4 avail	\$5.00	_____
Adult T-shirts	size S	4 avail	\$6.00	_____
	size M	2 avail	\$6.00	_____
	size L	4 avail	\$6.00	_____
	size XL	7 avail	\$6.00	_____

#### Adult Grandfather Sweatshirts

	size S	5 avail	\$9.00	_____
	size M	4 avail	\$9.00	_____
	size L	4 avail	\$9.00	_____
	size XL	5 avail	\$9.00	_____

#### NO pocket golf shirts

	size XL	2 avail	\$10.00	_____
	size 2XL	6 avail	\$10.00	_____
	size 3XL	2 avail	\$10.00	_____

#### Shipping Information:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Order Total: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Shipping: \$\_\_\_\_\_

(Same shipping charges apply)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Chaplain's Corner

Frank West  
Chaplain

### WHY WORRY?

As we go through the cycles of life "worry" can become an issue as we cope with the things that confront us. How we deal with worry can make a big difference in how we enjoy life. A wise sage stated, "Worry is like a rocking chair, it keeps us in motion but doesn't get us anywhere". Worry can cause depression, loss of sleep, social anxiety, physical ailments and panic attacks. Corrie Ten Boom stated, "Worry does not empty tomorrow. It empties today of its strength". Dale Carnegie suggests if you can't sleep, then get up and do something instead of lying there worrying. It's the worry that gets you, not the lack of sleep. A Bible answer that helps me is in 1st Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you". The committing our worry to God in prayer can be a good release from worry.

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### Thoughts For The Day

By Frank Dayak.

When nobody around you seems to measure up, it's time to check your yardstick.

Man does not live by work alone, despite the fact that sometimes he has to eat them.

A great teacher never strives to explain his vision—he simply invites you to stand beside him and see for yourself.

If a small thing has the power to make you angry, does that not indicate something about your size?

## TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
Melvin M. Johnson	VA	2005	S-1	49-52
Michael Ward, Jr	IL	2005	E	52-52
Francis B. Knight	NJ	2005	4 <sup>th</sup>	54-56
James E. Patton	FL	2005	Fox	49-51
John C. Cronce	NJ	2004	EX	50-52
Garland W. Stanley	NV	2004	3 <sup>rd</sup> ,4 <sup>th</sup> ,7 <sup>th</sup>	51-54
*Plank Owner				



### Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President  
Gordon W. Cargill, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer  
James Young, MAA

Richard Becker, Executive VP  
Bart Bartholomew, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Frank West, Chaplain  
Larry Stone, Storekeeper

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing  
Gordon Cargill  
11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127  
(858) 592-9366  
[scotsmann31@aol.com](mailto:scotsmann31@aol.com)

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### Help Our Overseas Service Personnel

Pray for them.

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## **A SHIPMATE IN NEED**

The Law Office of Baron and Budd, P. C., has requested that anyone knowing Chief Gene Mendenhall while he was aboard the ROCHESTER contact the law firm. Chief Mendenhall, Store Keeper, was aboard ship from 1957-61. The firm stated that it is pursuing a case for him involving Mesothelioma. Any shipmate that may have information or needs more information that may help in this case can contact Yvonne Jacobus, paralegal, at the firm. The firm's telephone number is (800) 222-2766."

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## **REUNIONS BRING BACK MEMORIES AND FRIENDS**

NOTE: Application originated from Shipmate Jess Johnson. Here is his note written at the bottom of the membership application:

Dear Joe,

Donald Herzog and I were shipmates on the Rochester during the Korean War. He and I pulled liberty together in Hawaii and Japan. He is a real nice guy. I often wondered what ever became of him. When I received my reunion memory book this past week I was happily surprised to see a picture of Don with a Marine named Rogers and another sailor by the name of Billy "Sam" Andrus (who sent in the photo). I called Sam and he was able to put me in touch with Don. After I talked with Don and learned that he was not a member of the Association I thought it might be a nice gesture on my part to give him a gift membership. When you send him his membership card you might enclose a note to let him know that his membership is a gift from his old shipmate.

Thank you.

Your shipmate,  
Jess Johnson

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## **THE BOMBING OF THE USS ROCHESTER**

Various shipmates have contributed information on the day, September 17, 1950 at Inchon Korea. This was the day that two aircraft from the North Korean Air Force made a surprise attack at the USS ROCHESTER. I am extracting information that I have received from various shipmates about that fateful morning as to what has been written by members of the crew that was aboard on that day.

At hour 0555, just before sun up the first plane passed on the port side, from bow to stern, and dropped two, (estimated) one hundred pound bombs. They hit the water just forward of the port quarterdeck and exploded in the water near the Marine Detachment compartment. It was a rude awakening and left a pretty good dent in the hull. The second plane came from the same direction on the starboard side. It also dropped two bombs. One went into the water but the other hit the top of the crane, on the stern and bounced over to the port side and exploded sending shrapnel over the deck.

At this point, shipmate Earl Lancing, the fantail sentry loaded his rifle and opened fire on the attacking aircraft. General Quarters was not set at the time and no orders were given to open fire upon the attacking aircraft. This left open a lot of questions and decisions that had to be made regarding the conduct of Earl Lancing. A later chapter.

The plane then turned and came back some distance away on the starboard side. At this point the pilot strafed the British cruiser, H.M.S. JAMAICA, killing one crew member and wounding several others. The H.M.S. JAMAICA returned fire and shot the plane down. All this in a very short time. A wheel from the aircraft was recovered and confirmed it was Russian made YAK aircraft.

\*\*If any shipmate has a version of what happened on that day and will write it down, please send it to Gordon Cargill.\*\*

More to this story will follow in coming News Letters.

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