

USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



News Letter

Vol. II, No. 16

November 2008

Reunion Recap

By all accounts, the October gathering in the nation's capital lived up to the long tradition of successful, memorable, U.S.S. Rochester reunions. The 162 shipmates, wives, guests, and family members in attendance included 3 Plank Owners, 6 Honorary Members, and 8 shipmates over the age of 80. Beginning on Thursday, we were welcomed by the Association President, Garry Phillips, at a reception at the Holiday Inn, Rosslyn.

The *absolute centerpiece* of Friday's schedule (and the reunion) was our visit en masse to the Navy Memorial in Washington, where the Rochester Plaque was dedicated, we honored 58 shipmates who had passed since the last reunion with a reading of the roll call and ringing of a ship's bell, and the placing of our wreath with blue ribbon inscribed with "*The Gray Ghost*" at the statue of the Lone Sailor in the courtyard...the official U.S. Navy quarterdeck, according to our host (see our group photo).

On Friday evening, 100 of us boarded the MV "*Spirit of Washington*" for a dinner cruise on the Potomac River, with night views of our capital and Alexandria, and with many shipmates going topside to get their sea legs back in shape and feel the wind blow through their hair...much as it was on Rochester in open ocean.

Then it was time for the next 2 days of tours to George Washington's home at Mount Vernon, the new Air & Space Museum at Dulles Airport, National Memorials (WWII, Korean War, the Vietnam Wall, and Lincoln Memorial). The ladies trekked out by Metro to go shopping at Fashion City Mall on Saturday while the guys held their business meeting and decided, among other things, that the next Rochester reunion in 2010 will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The banquet on Sunday evening was a gala affair, as always. Our speakers were Garry Phillips and Senior Chief Petty Officer Mary Roat, C.O. of the Rochester NY Sea Cadet Unit. In true style, Larry Stone ran a very spirited raffle. Many shipmates and spouses remained after dinner to dance the night away to music provided by our DJ.

Our Chaplain, Frank West, blessed everyone with a safe journey home during his remarks at the farewell breakfast on Monday morning and then...the reunion was over. Could it have been such a short time together?, with many shipmates wishing we could have continued on for a few more days (or forever?)...see you in Milwaukee...and we can do it again!

On behalf of Garry Phillips, and all who attended this memorable event:

Ed Willis, Pete Russell, and Chip Chipley

UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL
October 3, 2008

1946 **USS ROCHESTER CA-124** 1973



KOREA

Dedicated by those who proudly served aboard "The Gray Ghost"



USS Rochester CA-124
Commemorative Plaque Dedication

Editor's Note

Gordon W. Cargill, 1st Vice President

A Reunion – What it means to me

The USS Rochester means many things to each of us today. For many, this was the first time being on our own and the start of what we are today. It was when we learned to take responsibility for ourselves. During this time, there were many friendships developed. It is at these reunions we realize how important they were, and the way we look at them today. For many it was a stepping-stone for a naval career and for others who went back to the life of a civilian, the preparation for various professions. There have been entrepreneurs, teachers, business owners, and employees of corporations, public service, private and small business among us. One thing in common, the life aboard the USS Rochester prepared all of us for what we have accomplished in our life. Fifty, sixty years later, we gather together every two years to reunite those friendships. Those shipmates who attend have a feeling of bonding and expressing the friendship that has carried over for many years without seeing one another. During these gatherings it is evident that the USS Rochester was a very important experience to all of us. I wish there were more shipmates that would make an effort to attend the next reunion in Milwaukee in 2010. They would find it very rewarding.

USS Rochester Memorial Plaque

The attending membership at the D.C. reunion voted to purchase the replica of USS Rochester Plaque for \$150.00. This replica will be displayed at each future reunion. Additionally the Rochester Memorial Fund was held in a Savings Passbook account. Joe Hill reported that the association still had a little over \$2,000.00 in that account. A vote was taken at the business meeting and it was passed to make a final donation of that money to the U.S. Navy Memorial. A cashier's check in the amount of \$2,011.79 was made out and sent to Ed Willis for delivery to the U.S. Navy Memorial.

At the meeting conducted at the Washington D.C. on Saturday October 4, 2008, all of the Association Officers were re-elected.

Association Officers

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Garry L. Phillips, President | Richard Becker, Executive VP |
| Gordon W. Cargill, 1 st VP | Donald Schnirel, 2 nd VP |
| Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer | Frank West, Chaplain |
| James Young, MAA | Larry Stone, Storekeeper |
| Louis DiRusso, Director | Merlin A. Scheller, Director |

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
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Association website:
www.USSRochester.org

New Members

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

Nelson J. Deveau, OCSM, OE Division
DOB 46-48
Ernest Hefley, QM3, N Division
DOB 53-55
Jacques "Jack" C. Miller, EM2, E Division
DOB 50-53
Robert W. Rowe, LT, OR/OI Division
DOB 57-60
Carroll H. Schmeling, EM2, E Division
DOB 51-52

Update

A note from shipmate George McDonald, Collins, MS

Cardiologist of Southern Heart Center in Hattiesburg, MS implanted a 'Pace Maker' for me on Thursday morning, Aug. 14th. I was released from Hospital yesterday, Aug. 15th. My heart is clicking along at one beat per second, so the surgery seems to be successful. I must abide by doctor's instructions -- mostly restrictions with respect to movement and use of left arm.

Chaplain's Corner

Frank West, Chaplain

Making Decisions

While taking the tour of Mt. Vernon and watching the video at the new visitor's center, I was very impressed at the decision making ability of George Washington. His activity in the French Indian war and then his planning and decision to cross the Delaware River in boats to fight the enemy was challenging. It was amazing to realize that while fighting wars, he still took time to write instructions to the overseers of his properties for over 20 years micro managing what to plant, where to plant and how to do things.

Decision making is something we all have to do in life. Menial daily activities have to be accomplished. On the Rochester we had schedules to keep. Remember the "Plan of the Day" we were to follow. There were always the exceptions, such as General Quarters, for which we were trained and could respond.

At the stage of life where we find ourselves, ongoing decisions have to be made. In reviewing a report from the Harvard Medical School, they state fewer than 30% of Americans have filled out Advance Directives. This is important when you consider the HIPPA regulations the government has put in place.

A good guideline for decision making is given to us in the Bible and states, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths". (Proverbs 3:5-6) In our individual lives and in our Country, we need all the help we can get in our decision making.

Donations

Mrs. Ellie Couch made a donation of \$10.00 to the Association.

Shipmate William L. Robinson donated \$100.00 to the Association.

Update on Prints of "GRAY GHOST" Painting

For those of you who indicated an interest in purchasing prints of the oil painting of the Rochester that was displayed at the reunion in Washington, the planning committee wants to let you know that the project is still alive...Ed Willis and the artist (David Poole) are working to achieve a first-rate print. The original painting has been re-photographed to clear up the spots of light, and David has been in touch with the producer to tell him that the color of the trial print was not identical with the painting. Ed has asked to see a print on canvas (giclee) before sending him the names of interested parties. We will continue to keep you informed.

USS Rochester Museum

Don Schnirel, 2 VP, Museum Coordinator

Today, 10/23/08, Joan and I traveled to the Rochester Museum and Science Center to meet with Lee Kemp, the Museum Librarian, at 0930 to deliver the items that were given to me at the reunion. She gave me a receipt for all the items and they will meet sometime in the future to decide what they want to keep (hopefully all the items). Those who donated items will be getting a letter to sign and return, donating the items to the museum should they decide that they want them. Just keep in mind that this may take some time as they only meet once a month. Lee is also going to look up what cruise books have been donated. We will then know what we need to ask for from our association members.

Donations

Mrs. Betty Ann Shaver (Honorary Member) donated \$25.00 to the Association.

Carlton E. Duckworth, brother of James R. Duckworth made a donation of \$50.00 to Rochester Memorial Plaque.

**The following is a Roster of the
Shipmates and Spouses/Guests that
attended the Reunion in Washington, DC
October 2-6, 2008**

Charlie & Betty Allsopp
Red and Alice Anderson
Jess Barbosa
Dick and Raejean Becker
Bill Berkley, Jr.
Gene & Ann Bieber
Jim & Earlene Biggs
Jack Brtant
Patsy Bullard (Guest of Herman Wainright)
Bing and Sonny Buso
Bob and Connie Cadden
Gordon and Marge Cargill
Jane & Cherv Cherveney
Chip and Ruth Chipley
Bob and Elvy Cosgrove
Bill & Eleanor Couch
Art and Elaine Cox & their guest Kolkman
Paul Coyle
Frank and Jean Dayak
Andy and Mary Decker
Rick and Carol Deime
Nelson and Lucille Deveau
Lou and Connie DiRusso
Arthur and Alice Dobbins
Paul and Florence Dunkelberger
Mona Drexler
Ray and Nancy Everett
Dick and Patricia Farrar
Kirk Ferguson
Tom and Lil Finnegan
Harold and Elsa Ford
Duane and Wanda Fox
Linda Francia (Daughter of James and Earlene
Biggs)
Mike and Sandy Giacchetta
Paul Gladstone
Verlan and Helga Hanson
Joe and Judy Hill
Sonny and Ruth Howell
Jeff and Walt Hubbard
Melvin and Carol Ike
Alfred and Winnie Jaques
Darrell L. Krull
Lee and Helen Leonard
Alison Lewis (First Mate of Joe Stanya)

Bob & Miranda Liebscher (Miranda helped with
the D.C. Reunion)
John and Sally Linck
Charlie and Jean Lupton
Ron Marak
John and Jane McAuliffe
George and Trudy McFall
Jacques and Sandra Miller
D. Keith and Gloria Moon
Carolyn and Rod Neal
Paula Newman and Russell Newman, Jr.
Crystal Patterson (Rochester Sea Cadet Unit)
Garry and Betsy Phillips
Earl and Dorene Pitkin
David Poole (Military Artist)
John and Gret Pospiel (Not members - friends of
Rochester)
Carl and Jeanetta Ray
Juli and Carey Reece (Friends of the Association)
Ron Richards
John and Janet Rigoni
Mary Roat (CA-124 Sea Cadet Unit Commanding
Officer)
Bill, Karen and Grace Robinson
Louis and Jo Roybal
Julie Rose Ruby (First Mate of Pete Russell)
Dominick Ruggiero
Pete Russell
Bob and Diane Sanchez
Merle and Shirley Scheller
Roland and Nancy Schneider
Don and Joan Schnirel
Sno Schnoebelen
Harold Sewell
Betty Ann and Pamela Shaver (Betty Ann is
Honorary Member)
Jack and Susan Sherman
Thomas and Angela Seigenthaler
Ralph and Gerry Spears
Larry and Mary Stone
Joe Stanya
Ray and Evelyn Sutherland
Dot and Lars Tatom (Dot is Honorary Member)
Veida Tenhagen (First Mate of Sno Schnoebelen)
Van and Mary Jane Van Arsdale
Rudy and Lois Velez
Herman and Audrey Wainright
Frank and Bunny West
Reb Whitten
Ed Willis

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 |
|------------------------|----|------|-----------------|-------|
| Robert J. Calvert | FL | 2008 | 6 th | 53-55 |
| Robert I. Carter | OR | 2008 | A | 52-55 |
| Paul R. Chalupa* | FL | 2008 | A | 46-48 |
| James R. Duckworth | CA | 2008 | S-2 | 54-58 |
| Garnet D. "Spud" Fross | IN | 2008 | S-1 | 48-51 |
| Edward J. Illanne* | TX | 2008 | M | 46-49 |
| Edward J. Lesar | OH | 2008 | R | 52-54 |
| Thomas G. Roberts | MI | 2008 | S1 | 56-59 |
| Joseph L. Varney, JR. | GA | 2008 | 2 nd | 47-51 |

*Plank Owner

Remembrance

A letter was received from Jan A Copeland, son of Richard G Copeland. He was the Executive Officer aboard the Rochester during part of the Korean conflict. In essence, the content of the letter is a remembrance of his father's experience.

I remember that during the time that the U.N. forces were being pushed back by the Chinese. The Rochester went as far as possible up a river to give artillery support to the U.N. forces. This was a desperate maneuver because the ship was a sitting duck and could only extricate itself by backing out.

I remember that my father spent many days never leaving the bridge, and getting no sleep except occasional cat-naps. When he did dose off, he had the same dream. In the dream he was walking along a dirt road in the country. I think he thought he was maybe in Ireland.

I remember that the helicopters on the Rochester were used for rescue missions. In the film "The Bridges Of Toko-Ri" helicopters from the Rochester rescued pilots that had to ditch in the sea.

I remember that the Rochester was a beautiful ship and that my father was very proud of her.

In Loving Memory of

GARNET D. FROSS

02-21-28 - 09-17-08

Garnet D. Fross

Fondly called Spud by all
Received orders from the Supreme Commander
And Spud has answered the call

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 was a husband, father and grandfather
His family was his life
He adored his children and grandchildren
And Helen his lovely wife

Spud was a special person
He was everybody's friend
For his family and all who knew him
His memory will never end

Spud loved our flag and country
A Korean veteran who wore Navy Blue
He was a storekeeper on the heavy cruiser
Rochester
And served with pride and honor too

His sailing days are over
He will sail life's sea no more
His final cruise has ended
And he is safe on the other shore

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

We did not know that he would leave us so quickly
Now he rests beneath the trees
But he left a legacy of cherished love
And a lifetime of fond memories

Our hearts are sad and heavy
All who knew Spud share our loss
The World was made a better place
Because of Garnet Fross

Jesse Johnson
09-18-08

Ship's Store

Larry & Mary Stone

Greetings to all you Rochester Shipmates

The Ship's Store is taking this time and space, first, to thank the '08 Washington DC Reunion Host Committee for all the energy, enthusiasm, forethought, and organization. They did a GREAT job! For all you first-time attendees, since you have nothing to compare to, please take the word of the "regular" attendees that this was a GREAT Reunion. There was ample time and space for folks to visit and get acquainted; or, for old friends to "catch up;" and, ample opportunity for those who chose, to see some of the sights (and sounds) of our Capitol. What a great event. Great job you guys. We'll do our best to maintain the same standards in Milwaukee, 2010.

Secondly, a HUGE "Thank you" from the Ship's Store to all the energetic and thoughtful volunteers. We could not have done it without you. Please accept our gratitude and our offer of a free meal and/or pot of coffee anytime you're passing through.

Remember, your Ship's Store is a fine place to do some of your gift buying for the close-at-hand Christmas Season. We will have our re-stock of winter ball caps soon. The "Grandfather's Ship" T-shirts and Sweat shirts are available on Special Order. Please order those as soon as possible. We'll do our very best to see that the orders are shipped in the best way possible to arrive on time.

On the heels of the Christmas Season is New Year's. Another year in the books and another year "to be writ." Your Ship's Store Keepers want to take this space to wish you and yours a peaceful, happy Holiday Season chock full of memories to make you smile, and all the Best in 2009. (Think Milwaukee for 2010.)

Smooth sailing for us all,
Larry & Mary Stone
Ship's StoreKeepers

Membership & Mailing Information

DUES FOR 2008 ARE DUE NOW

2009 DUES ARE DUE 1 JAN 2009

THERE ARE STILL 61 SHIPMATES WHO HAVE NOT SENT IN THERE DUES FOR THE YEAR 2008. THIS ASSOCIATION RUNS ON MEMBERSHIP DUES. EACH ONE OF YOU WHO ARE MEMBERS IS APPRECIATED GREATLY.

Dues for 2008 should have been mailed soon after January 1st. Hopefully those who are behind will mail their dues in soon. If you are unsure of your status, check the address mailing label of your News Letter. An example: Bill Jones 08 would indicate your dues have been paid up for the year 2008. Joe Hill will be glad to verify your membership status. Joe can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone: 931-432-4848. E-Mail: NiteCrawl@twlakes.net

These are difficult times we are living in and the officers of the Association realize that there may be those who are not able to pay their dues. The Association will forgo membership dues for up to 10 members who have financial difficulty. At present we have 2 shipmates in this category. WE DO NOT attempt investigations. WE ACCEPT YOUR WORD. Contact Joe Hill if this applies.

SNOW BIRDS—SNOW BIRDS—SNOW BIRDS

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES ESPECIALLY YOU SNOW BIRDS WHO MOVE WITH THE WEATHER SHOULD SEND THESE CHANGES TO JOE HILL

Notification of changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.

Crew News

August of this year, the annual \$1500.00 donation was made to the USS Rochester CA124 Division U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp. This has been a very active organization in preparing our future citizens a solid foundation for their future careers. The commanding officer LTJG Mary Roat is very enthusiastic in the training of the cadets.
