

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



## News Letter

Vol. II, No. 04

November 2005

### Branson, Missouri 2006

Garry Phillips and Joe Hill went to Branson for a site survey. They went, they saw, but Bob Cosgrove had already conquered. Garry and Joe visited the Lodge of the Ozarks Hotel and met with the reunion coordinator. The hotel was very nice and had modern facilities. It appeared very clean and the staff was exceptionally friendly. The hotel has hosted dozens of military reunions and knows what to expect from military people. The facility's ballroom is plenty large to host our banquet, and the hospitality room and ship's store room are next to each other. Plenty of room in each.

The reunion coordinator works for an agency that organizes (coordinates) reunions for all sorts of organizations, big and small. Our individual coordinator currently does only military reunions, so she's used to the drill.

Garry indicated that he had never been to Branson before, and had fixed in his mind that there were four or five theatres that provide six or eight shows. Wrong! They have dozens of theatres and provide dozens of shows every day – usually two or three times a day. It's a lot more "homey" and much less glitzy and noisy than Las Vegas. It also probably has a wider variety of shows. It is also the home of several discount malls.

After the first of the year, the reunion coordinator will be sending out information on the reunion and registration information.

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### For The Cause of Freedom

America's freedom is priceless  
It is our country's greatest treasure  
And the price of those who bore it's cost  
Is beyond comprehension or measure

Freedom was won for all posterity  
And each generation has a sacred duty  
To preserve our freedom and protect our country  
America the land of hope and beauty

We owe it to those who have gallantly served  
To keep the torch of freedom burning bright  
To contribute to the defense of the freedoms we enjoy  
And be able to say we have earned the right

It is an honor and a privilege  
To serve this wonderful Land of the Free  
In a military branch of service  
For the cause of freedom and liberty

Not everyone can wear the uniform  
But we can support the ones who do  
There are a myriad of ways to serve our country  
Civilian patriots are needed too

When opportunity arises to serve your country  
And to preserve the freedom that you hold dear  
Be patriotic and seize the moment  
Step forward and volunteer

*Jess Johnson*  
02-25-05

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## From Secondary Con

Garry Phillips

Last August my wife and I were fortunate to be invited to the U.S. Navy Band's final summer concert conducted outside at the Navy Memorial at 7<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania Streets in Washington. We parked our car at the adjacent parking garage and made our way to the elevator to attend the reception before the concert. We were met at the elevator by members of the Navy's honor guard, who escorted us into the reception area. My wife and I were struck by their sharp military appearance and demeanor. I know, I know. ... They are hand picked for that job, but the young enlisted men (and women) exuded the sharpness and confidence that the military has always known. They renewed in me a pride that made my heart swell up.

The concert was attended by "tons" of Washington's brass as well as members of the general public. However, the people that most impressed me (other than the honor guard!) were the older guys and their spouses who were obviously former, or retired, military. You could see it in their faces and in the way they demonstrated respect for the ceremonies! Some of them so old that they could hardly stand, but they popped right up at the first note of the National Anthem. Those stood, the best they could, at attention, and many with their hand over their heart.

At one point, the band master asked that those who were veterans stand when the band played their services' song – and every veteran answered the call! The guy in front of me had to be helped to his feet by his wife, but he stood sharply at attention with the help of a cane when the Army's song was played.

The concert was wonderful and the music great. But the night was made for me when I looked into the hopeful faces of those veterans who stood proudly when their song was played. The night was made brighter, however, by seeing those sharp young men and women of the honor guard who carry on the tradition.

Have a wonderful autumn and holiday season.

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## Membership & Mailing Information

*Cookeville, TN* - The Association runs on its active membership. However there are still a good many shipmates who have not renewed their membership for the year 2005. On your address label, after your name is the year your dues were last paid. If it shows 04 you are behind on your dues. PLEASE PAY UP, AS YOUR 06 DUES ARE RAPIDLY COMING DUE.

If your address, phone number, or e-mail address changes, let Joe Hill know. The last News Letter that was sent out there was seven returned because of the Post Office being unable to deliver. Most were due to "forward time expired".

If you have both a Winter and Summer address let Joe Hill know so that your News Letters and other information will be sent to you on time.

Joe Hill can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38505-7663. Phone 913 432 4848; FAX 931 432 2534. E-mail is [joehill@multipro.com](mailto:joehill@multipro.com). See inside back cover of this News Letter.

Membership to the Association is critical in keeping it alive. If anyone knows of a shipmate that is not a member please try and convince them to join or rejoin if they have lapsed in their membership. At the reunions it is always a time and place where new members meet shipmates they have not seen or had contact within a long time. This is what it is all about. Keep in touch with each other, from the past, when it was the best of times for most of us who were in the service in our early years. Lets start now to make the Branson Reunion the one with the largest attendance.

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## Apology

In the last August News Letter I published a poem that was inappropriate. To me it was a funny jester that was meant to be humor. To some of our members it apparently offended them and I do apologize for the publication. (The editor)

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## **New Members**

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

Wendell E. Baroch, BMG3, 5<sup>th</sup> Division  
Hickory Corners, MI. DOB 56-57  
Larry A. Brilla, SM1, CS Division  
Sun City, CA DOB 46-52, Plank Owner  
Edward H. Cahill, CDR, B/Officer Division  
Virginia Beach, VA. DOB 46-50, Plank Owner  
Paul R. Chalupa, EM 2, A Division  
Tampa, FL. DOB 46-48, Plank Owner  
William R. Corcoran, ENS, E, X & F Division  
Windsor, CT. DOB 59-60  
Jarvis Ray Everett, S 1/C  
Greenville, NC. DOB 46-50, Plank Owner  
Crowell J. Hansen, MM3, M Division  
Fresno CA. DOB 50-53  
Phillip R. Nowels, ENC, A Division  
Waukegan, IL. DOB 48-52  
Paul F. Reeves, BM3, Unknown  
Cave City, AR. DOB 54-61  
Ronald G. Stalsberg, Sr., GMGC, 5<sup>th</sup> Division  
Newaygo, NY. DOB 52-56  
Edwin A. Stearns, SH3, S-3 Division  
Blairsville, GA. DOB 52-54

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## **Chaplain's Corner**

*Frank West, Chaplain*

### **INSIGHTS FROM CHINA**

While traveling in China October 10-21 with a group of 16, I was reminded of what the Psalmist said, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, what is man that thou art mindful of him?" This was a VIP tour that had been arranged by our leader with the Chinese Christian Council (CCC). We were received by the president of the CCC in Shanghai. A video presentation of what is happening in China was followed by a Q&A session. A tour of the facility the government has turned over to the CCC was made. We visited the seminary afterwards that has a nice campus.

A visit to Nanjing was made next. We toured the Amity Printing plant that has printed over 38,000,000 bibles plus other literature. A bible comes off their assembly at the rate of one per second with their high-speed equipment. A tour was made of the seminary, which is the only accredited seminary with a master of divinity degree. (However there are 16 seminaries in the country) On Sunday we worshiped at the new church in Hangzhou that has only been open for one year. It seats 5,000 people and had over 3,000 present for the service. Our group had the honor of singing for the service.

We took a flight to Chongqing, a city of 32 million people. We visited churches and a seminary. Next was an 11-hour bus trip to villages inland among the hills. The first village had a thriving church where a missionary couple that was friends of mine had done work years before. Our bus took us back about half way after spending the night to another city where the couple had landed when they first began work in the country. That church is also thriving. Our group was given a special welcome by the people.

When arriving back in Chongqing we were given a tour of the new church that is under construction on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> floor of a commercial building. It is next to a high rise apartment complex 32 stories tall. The church will seat 1,000 people and they plan to have it ready for services by Christmas. They will have three elevators to accommodate their people.

The churches are all functioning with government approval. Most of them have medical and dental clinics in their facilities. They also build and operate homes for the elderly. I was deeply impressed with the dedication, vision, work and leadership of the people. This is post denominational work. I was just reminded of, "What is man that thou art mindful of him".

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## **Help Our Overseas Service Personnel**

Pray for them.

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## USS Rochester CA 124 Sea Cadets

“The Crews News” is a monthly publication of Rochester CA 124 Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp. In the October 2005 edition, the following article appeared: “The **U.S.S. Rochester CA 124 Association** is an organization of past officers and crew members of the ship Rochester (CA-124). Each year and for many years, this organization has sent a check in the amount of \$1500.00 to support the work of our unit named after the cruiser. This year their generous donation helped us “invade the Academy,” as the major cost is always the bus. Thanks veteran sailors, one and all for your generosity.”

### From The Bridge Operation “Invasion of the Academy” Complete

When you leave town with 28 teenage Cadets and return with 28 teenage Cadets I guess you can call the invasion a success.

Arriving Friday night September 2, 2005, we borrowed two of the U.S. Navy’s YP’s (108 feet of yard patrol boat) for berthing. Eating was with the Navy on base. On Saturday the Navy took the Cadets and Officers on a cruise of the Severn River, both in the morning and in the afternoon. This gave the Cadets an opportunity to be at the helm of the boat and learn the proper responses to command, practice “man overboard” drill, learn line handling, and fire fighting including manning firefighting gear with OBA, (oxygen breathing apparatus). The Navy’s Exchange got a chance to liberate some money from the Cadets and in the evening while gathering on deck, the group played a few games and got some words of wisdom from the Commanding Officer.

On Sunday we were bused to the U.S. Naval Academy. Here we toured the Academy’s Museum, the grounds, Bancroft Hall, toured the Visitor’s Center, and had mess in Kings Hall, where the midshipmen are fed...2,500 at a time out of a brigade of more than 4000. This apparently was parent’s weekend for the class of 2009, for we weren’t the only visitors on the grounds... but perhaps the best looking. The highlight of the day’s visit happened in the undercroft of the Navy’s

Chapel, for here under guard is the tomb of John Paul Jones. It was here that the Cadets paid its respects to this great American hero. A blue and gold wreath was placed at the tomb from our Officers and Cadets.

We returned to the Naval Station for evening chow, Checked out the Exchange again and then some sailors invited the Cadets to join them for a game of touch football. Back to the YP’s to chill out and then the CO gave the Cadets the same citizen’s test required for an immigrant hoping to become an American citizen. No one got it right, makes you wonder?

A Cadet must leave an area better than what he found it so it meant cleaning up the TP’s.

After chow Monday morning the Unit headed for home with a storehouse full of memories and a greater respect for boat handling and a greater appreciation of the United States Naval tradition. Arrived home Rochester, New York.

Sincere thanks to BMC McDaniel, BMC Miles, & Senior Chief Ramos, USN.

*LCDR George Allen CO. U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.*

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## Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Richard Becker, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Bart Bartholomew, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
James Young, MAA	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  
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# 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
Joseph W. Bel, Sr.	CA	1981	B	50-51
Daniel J. Casbeer	TX	2005	Fox	58-61
James A. Chastain	SC	2005	E	46-48 *
Lucien E. Croteau	CA	2002	S2	51-55
Louis A. Mango	AL	2005	CR, E	47-50
Galen M. Martin	KS	2001	2 <sup>nd</sup>	47-50
Robert E. Seifert	TX	2005	T	50-52
Milton C. Sellers	GA	2005	2 <sup>nd</sup>	49-51
Norman Stocks	NC	2005	A	57-60

*\*Plank Owner*

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*A recent e-mail from shipmate Louis DiRusso provided some good information. It is something everyone should be aware of if ever in a similar situation*

## Heart Attack

Let's say it's 6:15 PM and your driving home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, frustrated, stressed, and upset.

Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only five miles from the hospital nearest your home. Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.

### What To Do???

You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that conducted the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.

## How To Survive A Heart Attack When Alone

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

### What To Do

Do not panic, but start coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough. The cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get OXYGEN into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood CIRCULATING. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, the heart attack victim can get to a hospital.

*{Article published on N.° 240 of Journal Of General Hospital Rochester}*

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## A Shipmates Request

Shipmate Jerry B. Falls is interested in purchasing cruise books for the cruise years of 50-51 and 52-53. His address is: 1250 Scottsdale Drive, Ormond Beach FL. 49060. Phone number 386-671-6964 and e-mail [topical32@yahoo.com](mailto:topical32@yahoo.com).

In the last News Letter a request from James A. Farnsworth, Sacramento, CA is interested in purchasing cruise books from the early 1950's. The telephone number listed was in error. His correct phone number is 916-331-1018.

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## Bombing of the USS Rochester

*Gunner's Mate Tom Kelly (50-52) has submitted what he remembers of that fateful day.*

We had been going to dawn and dusk alerts from the start of the war in June. For those of you who do not remember, that meant General Quarters from one hour before sunrise until sunrise and sunset until one hour after sunset. We had received no enemy response including the days of the pre-invasion bombardment. We were in condition 3 readiness at all times at sea. The four on eight off and two hours of General Quarters each day was a bit wearing. The powers that be, and I think it had to be an Admiral, decided to give the boys a little more rest. Dawn and Dusk alerts were secured on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. I do believe they were restarted on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

It was about 5:50 AM. Mount 47 reported two aircraft circling the Hospital Ship to the air defense officer. The air defense officer told Mount 47 that they were British "Sea Fires"...WRONG! The YAK 9's picked the best target available in Inchon Harbor and made their run. The first plane dropped a string of two or four bombs along the port side. The number of bombs dropped can be disputed. I thought they dropped four each. A slight wobble to the right saved us from the first plane. That plane banked right and escaped out over the mud flats. The next plane dropped his string off the fantail with one bouncing off the Crane which was trained in. Mount 40-13, which is right by the Crane, was manned in condition 3. A delayed release of a fraction of a second saved us from the second plane. The HMS Jamaica was off our starboard quarter. The plane banked toward the Jamaica and was shot down almost at once. Whether it strafed the Jamaica or not, I will leave that to someone else. I don't think it did. The stem sentry fired three rounds with his MI at the second plane.

Damage was to the Crane and I understand Main Battery Plot was knocked out by the near miss off the port side. The dent in the hull as mentioned in another newsletter is doubtful because we had an Armor belt of 6-8 inches that extended well above the waterline in that area.

I believe our only claim to fame in this affair, is that to my knowledge, we were the only ship damaged by an aircraft in the Korean War.

Some other asides: we had allowed planes to make approaches to the ship to drop dispatch packs. One member of the Mount 47's crew said as the first plane released its bombs, "This is a hell of a time of the morning to be dropping mail." A piece of shrapnel ended up in the Director for Mount 45 with the two operators without touching either one. One member, and probably others of Mount 40-13's crews, I believe his name was England, was in the front row at church that morning after seeing where the bomb hit over their heads and bounced off without exploding. I was Mount Captain of Mount 47 for General Quarters. When I arrived on the mount I was followed by a member of the crew bleeding from what I thought was a head wound. No purple heart for this guy...he had run into a ladder in his dash for his GQ station.

I am sure there are as many different views of that morning as there were people aboard. It was a learning experience we did not forget. The job the Rochester did in Korea cannot be faulted. The ships achievements up and down the coast for the next three or so years are well recorded. However, if you run into a member of the HMS Jamaica crew, as I did later in Japan, you might want to consider lying about what ship you were on.

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**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

