

USS RANKIN NEWS

ISSUE #5 • THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS RANKIN ASSOCIATION • MARCH 2007



AKA-103

1945-1947

1952-1968

LKA-103

1969-1971

GOLD E

1960-1961

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these 30 new shipmates, found since our December newsletter:

Harry J. Armstrong
Preston F. Bartlett
Edward S. Beavers
Larry G. Blunt
Jerry E. Bumgarner
Robert V. Clough
James M. Corbett
Charles E. Cramer
Mike Dousman
Earl E. Gambill
Gerard E. Geist
Charles G. Halloran
Raymond R. Hersey
Ronald W. Holcomb
Floyd D. Jones
Ronald J. Juricek
James B. Knightly
Raymond E. Loescher
Gerald T. Martin
Gaylord McKoy
Harry J. Onderwater
Lloyd I. Piercey
William B. Ruhl
Samuel J. Sampson
James H. Skelton
Mark A. Thomas
Morris A. Thompson
Thomas H. Ullmer
Leslie W. Washburn
Ronald L. Woodyard



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE!



The envelope that brought you this newsletter also brought a blue paper about our Annual Fund Drive. We hope you will read that paper carefully and make whatever contribution you think is suitable.

As you know, we have no annual dues or initiation fees, so our funding depends 100% on contributions from shipmates. Thankfully, these contributions have been generous over the years, so we can run an operation that every Rankin sailor can be proud of.

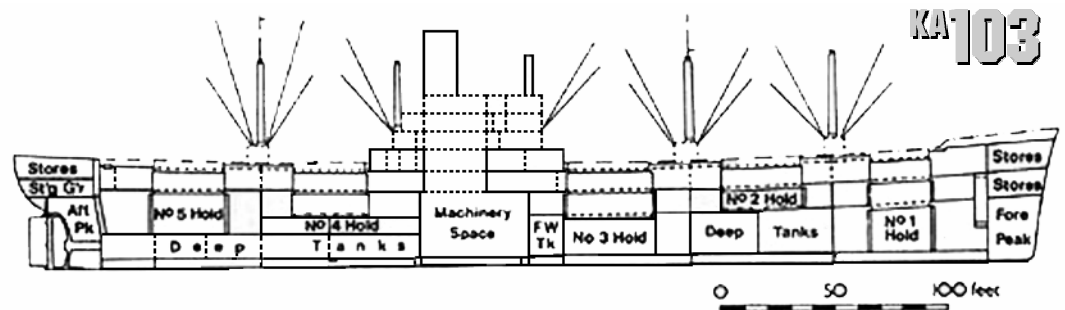
We think we have one of the best, if not *the* best reunion and reconnection groups for a ship of the Rankin's size. Our web site is second to none, and our reunions have been nothing but spectacular. Any member can get a personalized directory of all his shipmates, including current contact information where we have it, not to mention a

wide assortment of hats, shirts, etc. And this year, we'll be mailing four newsletters like this one, one copy to every former shipmate. We hope you like them.

If you made a contribution just a short time ago, feel free to delay this year's check as long as you see fit. In the past, we've spread the fund drive over three to six months, but from now on we'll be holding it once a year, in March. The change has to do with our new non-profit postal qualifications. By making one fundraising mailing instead of several, we save almost a third of our mailing costs. (We operate very frugally, and if there's a chance to save money, we jump on it.)

Our policy is to provide full and honest disclosure of all financial information. If you'd like to see a current financial report, just let us know and we'll send you one.

A GATOR FREIGHTER REMEMBERED...



HONORING OUR SHAREHOLDERS

These shipmates have each contributed \$100 towards the Association's "rainy day fund." Their generosity has let us set aside enough money to keep operating in the event of hard times, and to assure our continued survival through any foreseeable setback. The money is in interest-bearing accounts at the Navy-oriented CBC Federal Credit Union in Oxnard, California.

Anonymous (6)	-	-	Leroy H. Keihn	BOSUN	1945-46
Leslie M. Allen	SFP3	1963-66	Robert E. Keith	ENS	1953-55
Paul M. Allen	ENS(SC)	1946-47	John M. Kersh	LTJG	1958-59
Forrest P. Anderson	ENS	1953-54	Gary R. Kortkamp	LTJG	1961-64
Albert J. Ashurst	LTJG	1952-54	Roger S. Labonte, MD	HM2	1963-66
Elmer "Ike" Auer *	SH2	1952-55	Richard B. Lacy	ENS	1958-59
W. Harry Austin	LCDR	1958-60	Allen L. Lathrop	SN	1957-59
Ralph F. Ayasse	SMSN	1959-62	Abraham Levine	ENS	1946
M. Paul Beaty, Jr.	PN2	1957-59	Paul C. Lint	RD2	1964-67
John W. Beck	LT	1963-64	Noble W. Malik	DK1	1951-52
George R. Berninger	LTJG	1962-64	Marion D. Matthews	RM1	1957
William H. Bieberbach	FTG2	1965-66	James P. McCourt	RD3	1963-66
David W. Bradley	QM3	1964-66	Glenn McCullough	CS3	1968-69
Jill Suzanne Breslau	**	**	Gaylord McKoy	BTC	1961-64
Carl D. Brewer	SN	1959-62	V. Harley Miles	F1/c	1945-46
Wayne S. Briggs	PC3	1960-62	H. E. "Ed" Miller, Jr.	LTJG	1962-63
James A. Brown	BM1	1965-67	Glen I. Moyer	SK2	1957-61
Paul H. Buckner	EN3	1957-58	Melvin M. Munch	S1/c	1946
Kevin W. Burgess	SN	1969-71	Elmer J. Plancey	S1/c	1945-46
Bobby W. Capley	SFP3	1961-65	Harold E. Pontious	RM2	1945
Stephen G. Conwell	ICFN	1965	John E. Prevar	QM3	1970-71
Roger H. Crane	MR3	1957-59	Frank M. Quinlan	EM2	1966-68
William R. Cronin, Jr.	LTJG	1961-63	Jack L. Raso	LTJG	1963-64
Robert L. Devault	SM2	1959-62	Patrick Reding	RMSN	1952-54
William P. Devroe	SK3	1963-65	Robert A. Reynolds	LTJG	1962-64
William J. Dwyer	BM3	1961-65	Leon E. Robsahm	CS2	1952-54
James S. Edward *	BM2	1960-62	Jack Rowland	S1/c	1945-46
Frank T. Ellett	LTJG	1960-61	Alfred J. Roy	RM3	1962-66
Arthur "Duke" Ellington	BM2	1955-61	Leo J. Savio	LTJG	1959-61
John F. Feeley	LTJG	1961-63	Jerome J. Seigel	PN2	1955-57
George J. Fields	LTJG	1964-66	M. Clifton Sellers	F2/c	1946-47
Frederick T. Flavell *	BMSN	1952-54	James C. Shearl	RM1	1953-55
Hugh J. Forde	MMFN	1961-62	Ercole C. Siciliano, Jr.	CS3	1963-64
Harry Fuerstenberger	ICFN	1965	Charles T. Smith	PN3	1964-65
Austin B. Garner	RM2	1967-70	Leroy J. Smith	RD3	1960-62
Leo Gauthier	ET2	1958-61	Vernon C. Smith	LTJG	1956-58
Edward T. Gellenbeck *	ENS	1945-46	S. Ray Spicer	BT3	1960-63
Peter H. Goebel	RM2	1958-59	Tex R. Spicer	BT3	1960-62
Leon S. Goodall	ENS(SC)	1947	Stan Stanzin	LT	1952-53
Elton Gould	CSSN	1956-60	Walter "Buddy" Stringer	MM3	1965-69
Gerald M. Grant	EM2	1958-60	David P. Stromberg	LT	1965-67
Stewart E. Gully	LTJG	1957-58	David L. Stump	LTJG	1957-59
Nelson B. Hadley	EM2	1963-66	Mark A. Thomas	IC3	1967-69
Homar H. Hall *	DC2	1965-68	Al Torgan	LTJG	1963-64
Howard L. Hardegree	ENS	1960-61	Lucien Trigiano, MD	ENS	1945-46
R. Dennis Heenan	LTJG	1952-53	Charles F. Ulsas	SK2	1945-46
L. William Hennings	LTJG	1964-66	Herbert Waddington	SN	1953-54
William A. Hickey	LTJG	1969-71	Howard A. Weltner	LCDR	1964-67
Matthew "Jack" Hitchcock	LTJG	1962	Donald L. Wilburn	LCDR	1965-67
Edward W. Icardi	EN2	1965-67	Leslie J. Wilson	LT	1952
Neil E. Jenkins	DC1	1961-67	Neal H. Wirt	QM2	1960-63
Verne D. Johnson	SK1	1952-54	Robert W. Woodward	MM3	1963-65
Harry H. Joyce	RM3	1945-46	Harry J. Zimmer	LTJG	1958-60

* Deceased

** Jill is the daughter of LT Maxwell Breslau, who was aboard the ship in 1952.

DEPARTED SHIPMATES

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the deaths of these members of the Association:

Joseph S. Burke
 Charles G. Duffy
 Allen W. Krieg
 Melvin L. Middlebrooks
 Thomas E. Miller
 Elvius E. "Tex" Moore
 Constantino Nello Pierozzi
 Terry S. Stein

We learn of other deaths as we try to locate missing shipmates, but we do not list them here unless they were members while alive. Our web site has a complete listing of all deceased shipmates of whom we are aware, including obituaries for those where any details of their death are known.

There are over 300 obituaries on the web site, ranging from simple listings of dates of birth and death to very complete obituaries with photographs, newspaper reports, and funeral cards. Our goal is to have an obituary for every deceased individual who ever served aboard the Rankin. You can see what we have so far by visiting the web site and clicking on Deceased Shipmates.

At each reunion, we have a memorial ceremony at which the names of all newly-known deceased shipmates are read and solemnly remembered. A bell is tolled for each name.

NEW SERVICES

We now have a toll free phone number to make us easy to reach: **888-AKA-0103**, or **888-252-0103** if you prefer. We'll be using it in our search for missing shipmates.

We also have several high quality email lists that members and others can subscribe to. Some are for jokes or Navy news, and one is for news of the Association. All are intended to please, and it's very easy to subscribe or unsubscribe—nobody should get any unwanted email. To subscribe, visit www.ussrankin.org and click on **Subscribe to Our Mailing Lists**.

VA BENEFITS

Do you know a veteran or veteran's spouse who is in an assisted living facility, nursing home, or similar institution, or who needs someone at home to help him or her with the activities of daily life?

If you do, you should ask the family to look into the Veterans Administration's Aid and Attendance (A&A) benefit. This little-known benefit can provide up to \$1,700 per month for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing or taking care of the needs of nature. It is also available to people who are blind, or in nursing homes because of mental or physical incapacity.

To qualify, a veteran must have served, even for a very short time, in wartime, including WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Combat service or military retirement are not required. There is a limit on the value of assets the veteran can own, and there is a requirement to prove financial need.

This is an extremely valuable benefit for those who qualify, and most people who can use it have no idea that it exists. To learn more, contact the VA and ask about Aid and Attendance.



FINDING FRIENDS

It's easier than ever to find your friends and former shipmates on our web site. The Crewmember Rosters page now has year-by-year lists of everyone aboard, including their name, rank or rate, years on and off the ship, and their current status if we know it. Check it out at www.ussrankin.org

WHAT IS IT?

A SCUBA diver removed this intriguing object from the wreck of the USS Rankin, probably from the main deck. It's made of solid brass, but it is believed to have been painted when it was in place. Who can tell us what it is? The best guesses so far have been a connector for some sort of snipe liquid, or maybe a connector for electrical or electronics work. If you think you know, send email or call us toll free at 1-888-252-0103. We have a prize for the first man who is able to identify it.



HELP WANTED

The Association has a need for someone to serve as our Photo Editor. We've got a drawer full of photos that need to be scanned and organized so they can be put on the web site. We also need to extract crewmembers' photos from three cruise books. The work can be done by someone with a scanner, basic skills in Photoshop or a similar program, and the time and dedication to do what needs to be done. We can provide a copy of Photoshop Elements, which will be yours to keep. Let us know if you think you might be interested.

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1958

The Rankin Named Best In Atlantic Navy Group

The U. S. S. Rankin, an attack cargo transport, arrived here yesterday to receive the Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Award. The award, which amounts to \$500, was given the Rankin for being the best ship in the Atlantic Amphibious Force.

At the same time in San Francisco, an equal amount is being given the U. S. S. Manoning County, a landing ship, tank, as the best of the Pacific Amphibious Force. Both ships were picked by Adm. Arleigh Burke, Chief of Naval Operations.

Girl, 13, Started Fund

The Rankin came to New York from her base in Norfolk, Va., to pay tribute to the woman for whom the award is named, the late Mrs. Marjorie Sterrett Raun. In 1916 when Marjorie Sterrett was thirteen

and lived in Brooklyn, she sent a dime to The New York Tribune with a letter suggesting that it be used to start a fund from patriotic American children which could be used to buy a battleship.

There was an immediate response and eventually more than \$22,000 was collected. But when Congress refused to allow the Navy to accept it, the money was put into a trust fund, whose income was to be used as prizes for the best ships in the fleet.

Marjorie Sterrett became Mrs. Peter Raun, of Wattsburg, Pa., and died when she was twenty-four. The trust fund now has grown to a value of about \$40,000 and, administered by the Chase Manhattan Bank, provides two annual awards of \$500 each.

The prize money is competed for each year by ships of one particular type, such as cruisers or destroyers. The winner in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets is picked by the Chief of Naval Operations and the money is put in the crew's recreation fund.

Holds 'E's'

This year the competition was among Amphibious Force ships. The Rankin, which won in the Atlantic, is commanded by Capt. John Harlee and already holds about every other possible award.

She holds "E's" for excellence for her engineering department, five-inch and forty-millimeter guns, and an Assault Boat Group Insignia, which corresponds to an "E" for her boats.

She won the Battle Readiness

Plaque this year for the fourth time in the last six years and she hopes to win the Green E for operations. If she does, the Rankin will become the first ship in the Navy to hold both the Green E and the Red E for engineering.

The Rankin, which has a C-2 freighter's hull, was designed to carry and land on beaches a small number of marines and most of the supplies to support a battalion. She is a veteran of the Okinawa campaign and is now in Transport Squadron 8.

3 Wyoming Roads Closed by Snow

SHERIDAN, Wyo., Oct. 21 (AP).—Three highways over the Big Horn Mountains of northern Wyoming have been closed by snow whipped into drifts three and four feet high.

Newspaper courtesy of Alton K. Peterson, CWO2, USS Rankin, 1955-58.

2007 USS RANKIN REUNION

This year's reunion will be held from November 1-4 at the Radisson Hotel New London, Connecticut. It will be a truly outstanding event, and one of our biggest goals is to offer it at a very affordable price.

The reunion will start with a reception on Thursday afternoon and end with a group breakfast on Sunday. There will be a dinner on Friday and a grand banquet Saturday evening, complete with entertainment and a raffle of exciting and not-so-exciting prizes.

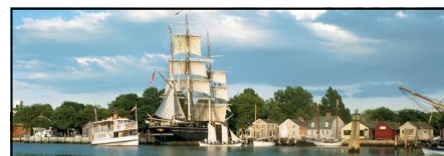
If you haven't yet been to one of our reunions, you're missing one of civilian life's best opportunities for good comradeship, good food, and exciting adventures in exotic locales. (It's just like Rankin liberty, except nobody drinks as much.)

New London is an old and interesting city with strong ties to seafaring and the United States Navy. It's a stone's throw from the famous

Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport, pictured to the right. It's also the home of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. For those who like gaming, the famous Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casinos are a short drive away.

Larry Eckard of Military Locator & Reunion Service is once again managing the event—this is a great situation, since Larry works hard so that none of us really have to. Unlike so many reunion groups, we don't ask our members to host or arrange any part of our annual event. Larry takes care of everything, and since he does a hundred reunions a year, he takes care of it pretty well. All *we* need to do is show up and enjoy ourselves.

Tours are being planned right now. You'll see the details in the June issue of this newsletter. Registration packages will be sent out this summer, probably in July.



USS RANKIN NEWS

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