

USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION

**12686 W. Highway 55
York, SC
29745-8748**

October 2014



**USS MADDOX DESTROYER
ASSOCIATION
S71W14562 Hidden Creek Ct.
Muskego, WI 53150**

TO:

USS Maddox Association Officers and Board

Officers

President:	Jim Slattery	2016
Vice President:	Al Raines	2016
Secretary:	Bob Wannamaker	Appointed
Treasurer:	John Bayley	Appointed
Chaplin:	Rev. Justin McMenamy	Appointed
Parliamentarian:	Cliff Gillespie	Appointed
Historian:	Roy Hyer	Appointed

Board of Directors

Richard Lagro	2015
Joe Stout	2015
Dennis Stokhaug	2015
Hoot Gibson	2016
Dan Holland	2016
Bill Metcalf	2016
Ed Pirie, Jr.	2016

Appointed Positions

Nominating Committee Chairman:	Hoot Gibson
Membership Committee Chairman:	Dennis Stokhaug
Webmaster:	Dennis Stokhaug
Newsletter Editor:	Kathy Stokhaug



A Message from the President

Jim Slattery

The 25th reunion has come and gone, I hope everyone had as great a time as Donnetta and I did as most of you know it was also our Honeymoon. What a great way to spend it with my ship-mates and our friends.

I want to start by thanking Ed & Norma; you did a great job with the hospitality room as you always so keeping it stocked. John, Dennis, Kathy, Justin, and Bob I cannot thank you all enough for all you do throughout the year. Dan you have been a great president, I will do my best to do as well. Joyce, there are not enough words to thank you, not only for this year and next year but also for the past years making the reunions run smoothly. Thanks for a job well done.

There were 61 in attendance with 35 members and 2 new members. Thanks to all for coming.

We will see you all 10 Sept 2015 in Wichita, Kansas, and I wish to welcome you all to my home state.

Jim

SEA DRAGON

Felix Arthur

On 2 August 1968, MADDOX again returned to the Gulf of Tonkin, and on 4 August was ordered to join USS BOSTON and form a Sea Dragon unit to operate off of the coast of North Vietnam. These dates marked the anniversary of the dates of the two attacks on MADDOX by North Vietnamese PT boats.

The period on Sea Dragon unit, MADDOX was an exciting experience and hard work. Going to General Quarters three and four times a day for three hours, then rushing to a new station for an underway replenishment became the general routine.

While a Sea Dragon unit, MADDOX had many exciting experiences. However, two dates stand out in particular. 8 and 11 August 1968 will be dates well remembered by MADDOX crew members. It was on 8 August 1968 that MADDOX first came under fire from North Vietnamese gunners. Most of the fire was directed at USS BOSTON, but MADDOX still received a good deal of attention from the gunners, receiving more than 200 rounds fired at her. MADDOX immediately returned the fire destroying the gun site. Again on 11 August, MADDOX came under fire from the North Vietnamese guns. The first salvo exploded in the water only 50 yards beyond the ship. Splashes from the shells soaked those people on the bridge, and shrapnel landed about the decks. MADDOX again returned the fire and was not hit.

Sea Dragon was a test of every man on MADDOX. The experience culminated months of training designed us for the challenge, which MADDOX met.

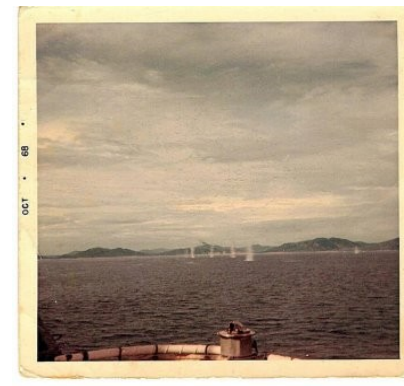


Splash and explosion hit near the MADDOX off of North Vietnam

SEA DRAGON (cont'd)

Felix Arthur

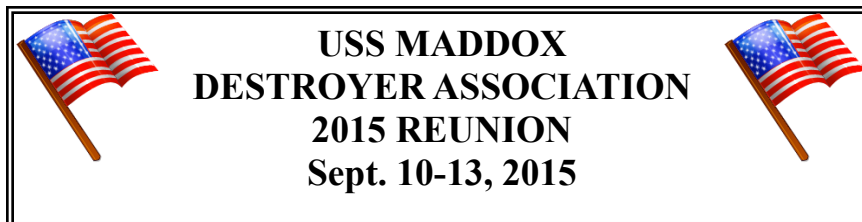
Below are more pictures when the MADDOX came under fire off the coast of North Vietnam.



These pictures, along with the Flag that was flying over the Maddox during this attack was on display at our 25th reunion. Thank you to Felix Arthur for providing this information and the flag to the Maddox Association.

MADDOX TRIVIA

Did you know that the Maddox actually "Bagged a Train"? On May 17, 1953, in the Songjin area of North Korea, the Maddox bagged a train by hitting the engine with 5" shells causing two secondary explosions. Fires from the burning engine provided illumination for completely destroying the train.



BIENVENUE!

Baton Rouge Trip - Sept. 8-14, 2014

Bob Wannamaker

Sarah & I left after Sunday school & started our trip to the 25th Maddox reunion. We had a nice drive to Baton Rouge & arrived at our hotel around 2 pm on Monday. We registered, unpacked & met Dennis & Kathy to plan our assault on LA. We decided to see the WWII Museum in New Orleans the next day.

On Tuesday we had breakfast on the way to New Orleans & had an hour's drive to the Museum. We had picked up discount coupons at the welcome center but gave them to other folks because there is a veteran's discount. The Museum was designated by Congress in 2003 as America's National WWII Museum. The staff was veteran volunteers who advised us to see the Japanese/American confinement story before the movie started. The movie **Beyond All Boundaries** was narrated by Tom Hanks & featured snow falling from the ceiling, spotlight at a German Concentration Camp, vibration from a heavy German tank operating in the movie & many more features that told the story of America being caught off guard when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The Museum was certainly worth the money & time to see a well done & well operated business. We had a very tasty lunch at the Stage Door Canteen, but bring your pocketbooks, it is pricy! We managed to see some of the exhibits & artifacts of the war. They had short films of the D-Day landing & progress of the war as you wandered through history.

After lunch we went to the Boeing Center & rode the elevator up four stories. From the cat walk we could feel the experience of a B29 bomber that was the work horse of the Army Air Corp & as we wandered down the different floors of the building we saw the different airplanes that were used in the war. Between floors the different enlisted & officers' service uniforms were on display.

When we returned to Baton Rouge, everyone was still full from the huge lunch, but we forced ourselves to eat ice cream for dinner. I told Sarah she could pick out the ice cream on the shared Baskin Robbins' banana split & when I heard she wanted to have

mint chocolate chip as one of the three scoops, we disagreed! I could not visualize anything but the three standards - vanilla, chocolate & strawberry! She gave in reluctantly & joined me for a dinner meal of a banana split.

Wednesday was a planned visit to see friends, John & Carol Benoit in Lafayette. We got an early start at the hotel & were underway to have lunch with them. We did get across the Mississippi River where we stopped at the welcome center in west Baton Rouge. Everyone in LA. has an alligator display as it seems everyone wants to brag on who has the largest alligator. The west Baton Rouge welcome center had one of the largest. We heard some troubling news - there was a bad wreck on I-12 west on the bridge crossing the bay. They recommended we take a detour to Lafayette. We decided to take the detour on US190 which took longer but was a much more scenic route. We saw soya beans, sugar cane & cotton, much like out SC farms. Their small towns reflect our rural economy because each looked deserted with many of their buildings boarded up.

Lafayette was a thriving Cajun city & we had no trouble locating the Benoit's with our trusty Garmin. John & Carol have a beautiful place with flower gardens everywhere. Both seem to be experts with the names & types of flowers at their home but their specialty is beautiful roses. We had a light lunch & wonderful conversation with the Benoit's, Dennis & Kathy with the expectation of touring Lafayette. The first stop was the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center where we met the director. We had the most interesting tour of the university & other public buildings. We visited a National Park Acadian Cultural Center depicting the sad story about the Acadians who resettled there. These French settlers, originally from Nova Scotia (New Scotland), were driven out of their homes, put into prisons & later rescued by the French King. These folks were so westernized that their native France did not welcome them back. They decided to return to America to a French providence around New Orleans. These folks were the Creole & Cajun: the people of the Louisiana Delta. Our host, John is a descendent of the Acadian people. He said he spoke French in his younger years & was forced to learn English. The Benoit's took us to one of their favorite restaurants

Randol's. The brochure reads *La Cuisine et la Musique Cajun!* We were personally welcomed by the owner, a good friend of John's. We enjoyed a wonderful spicy meal of fried alligator tail, crawfish, & shrimp with plenty of water to chase it down. We were seated near the dance floor where we heard the band play lively Cajun music & watched the local folks dance their unique Cajun dance. Thanks to John & Carol, we had a wonderful day.

After recovering from all that Cajun food & entertainment, on Thursday morning we returned to Denham Springs for a day of antique shopping. This Livingston Parish area was unique because of the number of antique stores concentrated within two city blocks with ample parking. We toured all & enjoyed talking with the clerks; however, the most interesting was the Theatre Antiques Mall Store. The store was an old movie theatre with all the seats removed & was filled with treasures for everyone. The unique thing about the old theatre was the clerk, who loved to tell its history. It had its beginning in the late 30's; was ordered to integrate during the civil rights era but instead closed & changed ownership then reopened only to close again because of competition & lack of business. The business was reopened & turned into an antique store complete with life-sized cardboard actors & actresses from the days of the theatre's popularity. Everyone enjoyed the day & invested in some of the antiques they could not live without.

On Friday Joyce lined everyone up for the Association's visit to the USS Kidd Veterans Museum in Baton Rouge. The ship was named after Admiral Kidd, the captain of the Battleship Arizona which is now at rest in Pearl Harbor. The members were welcomed by the museum's superintendent who gave a brief but informative layout of the ship's museum. They had a wonderful display of artifacts from the WWII & Korean conflicts. The most interesting part was that the ship was open for viewing. They even opened the partially restored engineering spaces like the after-fire room & engine rooms. The Kidd was a Fletcher Class which was smaller than the Maddox but it had the same 'D' type boilers & main engines in the engineering spaces. It was my first time below deck on a destroyer since leaving the Navy. After an interesting morning down in the hot spaces on a 90 degree LA.

day, we cooled off with a buffet lunch at the Hollywood Casino Restaurant. Many members had time after lunch to enjoy the sights & sounds of the Casino. It was a great outing for all the members who attended.

Saturday brought our breakfast & business meeting and our banquet. After enjoying our dinner, John Bayley introduced our speaker who was in the Marines for four years as an Embassy guard. Randy was a young Marine assigned to the Saigon Embassy during the latter part of the Vietnam War & was one of the last Marines to leave by helicopter. Randy spoke about his wonderful success in the Marines, first by joining at age 17 when he finished high school & then being chosen for Embassy duty from a large number of soldiers. He gave a very emotional & detailed talk about defending the Embassy from the South Vietnamese people while the North Vietnam army was at the edge of the city. Randy & the other 41 marines thought they were left behind when no one came back to retrieve them after spending a night & the next day on the Embassy roof. He said the sweetest sound he heard was the noise of the rotor blades of the helicopter coming to pick them up. Randy went on to become a 4th grade teacher in Florida where he now resides.

We had a great farewell breakfast in the hotel on Sunday morning & got to see everyone off with hopes to see everyone in Wichita, Kansas in 2015.

Bob Wannamaker



Randy Smith giving his presentation at the Maddox 25th Reunion



Randy Smith & John Bayley



Chaplain's Corner

**LIVE LIFE TO THE
FULLEST**



For most of us, Summer gets filled with all kinds of activities - - such as travel, sports, visiting, etc, - - and that's as it should be - whereas in Winter, those things tend to slow down. In other words, we enjoy certain freedoms of movement that are not restricted by weather conditions. God, in his divine wisdom for his earth dwellers, provided us with this gift. We need to be grateful and enjoy to the max these beautiful activities of summer. The message herein to each of us is, enjoy even the small things life provides - - look and smell the roses.

We are all aware of "why" to the above, but in our busyness of activities, we go right past blessed moments. Being ordained, people, at a different level, share and request counseling with me for many reasons. I crossed paths this week with a woman friend of ours that I had not seen for a couple years. She had a personal story to share and asked if I had time for a cup of coffee? Of Course. Her story fits into this message today from your chaplain. I want to share it.

About 4 years ago, this friend, who at the time, was about 50 years old, and a high school teacher, suddenly lost her husband due to a heart attack. For a brief moment we reminisced, and then she said I want to share something I did during this year in my junior high students' classroom when we had about a month left in the school year. She said it was profound, touching, and, as she said, it was one of the greatest pieces of education she ever gave her students.

It was 2:15 p.m. on a Friday. School would soon be dismissed for the weekend. She said she looked at the class of 30 kids and

Chaplain's Corner (cont'd)

paused, and then said, "Class is over. I would like to share with all of you a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important. Each of us is put here on earth to learn, to love, to appreciate and to give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end. It can be taken away at any moment.

Perhaps this is God's way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day. She said her eyes began to water, but she went on to say - - I would like all of you to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see - - it could be a scent in the air, it could be the sound of the breeze rustling the leaves in the trees, the tweet of a bird, the way the morning light catches an autumn leaf as it falls cherish them. For, although it may sound trite to some of you, these things are the stuff of life. The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy. God has sent them to us and we all too often take them for granted.

The class went absolutely hush, and in a couple minutes, the bell rang. Not a sound was made when the class filed out the door.

She went on to say that even she, driving home that afternoon, took special notice of a couple things she had overlooked many times. She even stopped by and had a double dip ice cream cone.

As we get older, it's not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do that we could have. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

God bless you HAVE A GREAT DAY!

(continued)

Chaplin's Corner (cont'd)

A Servant of the Lord,

Justin McMenemy

Rev. Mr. Justin McMenemy, Chaplain
USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION
3623 Harvard, Independence, MO. 64052
816-254-1528
E-Mail: jmcme1528@aol.com

PRAY FOR THOSE DECEASED SINCE OUR LAST
"HOWGOESIT".

Members: James (Jim) Stice
James W. Hutchison

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
May their souls rest in peace.
Amen.



Thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of the *HOWGOESIT*, especially to Sandy, Susan, Sarah and Gloria for sharing pictures. Look to the next issue for some interesting stories on the role the Great Lakes played in WWII, the Commissioning Pennants from the DD731, and some information Dennis has acquired about the ships bell and where you can see it on display.

LOOKING FOR



Over the past few months Dennis has heard from several people with information about their relative who served aboard the Maddox. They do not appear to have ever belonged to the Association but I am sharing them as I am sure there are some of you who remember sailing with them.

Tom Jordan served on the Maddox from 1945 - 1947. Kenneth Jordan, Tom's brother notified us that Tom had passed away in 2008. Tom was a radar man 3rd class and his home was in Salina, KS. Kenneth saw the article about the reunion in Sept, 2014 and was hoping that someone would remember his brother and contact him if you do. This information would also be shared with Tom's only son. You can contact Kenneth Jordan at lin-travel928@gmail.com or by snail mail to P.O. Box 296, Wickenburg, Arizona 85358.

Les Gates served in the early 60's Bob Wannamaker talked with the son of Les and learned of his passing.

Dale Kelly. We have no information about when Dale served on the Maddox, just a note from his wife that he had passed away on Dec 1, 2013 at the age of 97.

Billy Wayne Rhodes served on the Maddox in the early 60's. He lived in Hamilton GA. And passed away on Aug. 22, 2014 at the age of 71.

If you get information on a shipmate, please be sure to pass it along to Dennis Stokhaug and Justin McMenemy

USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION 25TH REUNION - BATON ROUGE, LA

Attendees:

Felix & Florence Arthur
 Cruz Basquez
 John & Sandy Bayley
 Bob & Gloria Bernal
 Harvey & Evelyn Burdette
 Charles Burkett
 Alvin & Joyce Christmas
 Doug Deauzat
 Bob & Judy Dinwiddie
 Bob & Susan Fairbanks
 Hoot & Evelyn Gibson
 Cliff & Becky Gillespie
 Bob & Gladys Graham
 Ronald & Arlene Green
 Dick Hageman
 Herbert Hazelwood & Tony
 Dan Holland
 Ron Jones

John King
 Dick & July Lagro
 Jim & Mildred Langerak
 Justin McMenemy
 Royce & Susan McKinney
 Bill & Joyce Metcalf
 Earl Miller
 Johnny Morphew
 Ed & Norma Pirie
 Fred & Dolores Retzlaff
 Ed & Lois Schultz
 Jim & Donnetta Slattery
 Dennis & Kathy Stokhaug
 Joe Stout
 Pat & Faye Walsh
 Elmer Walth & Shawn
 Bob & Sarah Wannamaker
 Randy Smith - Speaker



Ed Pirie enjoying a drink from Sandy Bayley



USS
KIDD
DD-611

