

USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION

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

November 2011



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ASSOCIATION
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YORK, SC 29745-8748**

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
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Kings Mountain, NC
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TO:

"HOWGOESIT NEWS"

USS Maddox Destroyer Association _____ November 2011

A Message from the President



Another reunion has come and gone, and for those of you that did not make it to Branson in August, well.....you missed another good one!!! Branson was a fun place to visit, there were plenty of shows to see and attractions to visit. Our hotel –The Lodge of the Ozarks - was beautiful, the food was great, the staff showed great respect for “our veterans” and we were treated very well. I heard no complaints; so as far as I know, a great time was had by all.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to the three new members of the Board of Directors, Robert Dinwiddie, Earl Miller and Edward Schultz. Also, thank you to the outgoing Directors - Robert Fairbanks, Russell Harvey, Sr., and John King, your help and input over the past two years has been greatly appreciated.

Two very important positions have changed hands since my last article. Dennis Stokhaug has accepted the position of our new Webmaster. He is busy at work adding information to the website (www.ussmaddox.org). Kathy Stokhaug has graciously accepted the position of Editor of the “Howgoesit”. Thank you both.

This is sounding like a “Thank You” letter, but so many folks need to be thanked for all they do every year to keep our association; up, running smoothly, alive and kicking - our Officers, Board of Directors, Joyce and Bill Metcalf, Ed and Norma Pirie and Justin McMenamy, just to name a few. Thank you to our

A Message from the President (cont’d)

general membership, without your support, there would be no USS Maddox Destroyer Association.

The location of the 2012 Reunion has finally been determined. Joyce Metcalf has had her hands full trying to straighten out problems, needless to say, she has persevered; did we have any doubt???? The 2012 Maddox Reunion will be held in Reno, Nevada. Exact dates have not been determined, keep a look out at the website and start making plans to attend another great get-together. God willing, we will see you all in Reno next year.

Al Raines

REUNION 2011 **Branson, MO.**

REUNION BYWAYS

Bob and Sarah Wannamaker

Dennis and Kathy Stokhaug arrived at the Branson Airport from Wisconsin about the same time we arrived from So. Carolina. We are indebted to Grace Mikita’s daughter Cheryl for guiding us “old people” from the airport to the Lodge of the Ozarks in Branson. Anyone who loves skydiving and enjoyed riding the Zip Line, like Cheryl, is hard to follow in traffic; she often slowed to a stop so I could catch up! Thank you Cheryl for waiting for us.

Kathy and Sarah have proven over the years to be excellent navigators; we found that we cannot get lost, only misdirected. On our first excursion, we headed for the Laura Ingalls Wilder home and museum in Mansfield, MO. Though the trip should have taken an hour or so, we took the cross country scenic route. We saw deer and squirrels on the way through the very

Branson Byways (cont'd)

beautiful mountains that reminded me of the mountains in north-western South Carolina.

Arriving in Mansfield, we stopped at the town square to visit the Mansfield Historical Museum. We saw local historical memorabilia and pictures that dated from the earliest beginning of the town through the civil war and modern times. One of the exhibits of period clothes there was a sweater that one of the town founders wore when he was shot by "bushwhackers" after surviving the battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield, MO. We were directed to the only local restaurant where we met the town's folk and then made our way to the Ingalls' home.

Dennis and I both agree that we did not read any of her books or see much of the award winning television series of *Little House on the Prairie* by Laura Ingalls Wilder. I ranked her books along with the Lewis and Clark expedition on the reading "to do" list. In 1894 she and her husband Almanzo moved from DeSmet in Dakota Territory & built a small home on a farm that she named "Rocky Ridge Farm". They had a daughter, Rose Wilder Lane, whose writing career inspired her mother to pursue a writing career of her own. Laura wrote from her memories of pioneer life. We saw some of her original works written in pencil on the old style notebooks.

Rose became a very wealthy writer in her career. In 1928 she returned to Mansfield & built a modern stone house for her parents. We toured the stone house that was built from a Sears plan and supervised by Rose personally. The house was wired for electric lights, running water and indoor bathroom. Rose paid for electricity from the town's electric supply to be run to both homes. However, soon Rose left for her writing duties back east and her parents moved out of the stone house and back into their old home. Rose married for a short while and divorced leaving no blood relatives to receive the family royalties. These funds go to an adopted son's daughter.

Who could resist the Branson Auto Museum which boasted classics, muscle cars, street rods, and even the Batmobile and #53 Herbie the VW? Dennis and I met a volunteer from

Branson Byways (cont'd)

southern Texas who spends his summers in Branson working at the Auto Museum. He gave us a private showing of his newest possession and other cars not in the museum. He had a 1956 Chevrolet 2 door hardtop, red with a cream top. He bought the car on EBay for \$20,000 since no one else bid on the car but him. After a new paint job and all the stainless shined, he was asking \$50,000. If you like classic cars like I do it truly was a beauty and worth every penny. I keep telling Sarah these vehicles are an investment but it falls on deaf ears.

That afternoon we toured the College of the Ozarks, a private Christian college located at Point Lookout, near Hollister, MO. The college charges no tuition to students and offers 30 academic majors through a student work program. This interested me because I attended a work-study junior college in Spartanburg, SC. The college later dropped the work plan to allow students to go full time, so I had to work nights and shift work to supplement my VA funds while attending.

We also found that "Hard Work U" located two miles south of Branson & perched on top of a bluff overlooking Lake Taneycomo has one of the best museums in the country. The 3 floors of old and new memorabilia ranged from the "T" model truck used on the Beverly Hillbillies how to a hand gun used by Billy the Kid. The Ralph Foster Museum is very modern, well kept, and truly is the best kept secret in the Branson area. It is dubbed the "Smithsonian of the Ozarks". While the men were parked in the gun section of the museum, the ladies had a full tour of the campus. They later allowed us to go to the farm tractor museum where a full line of antique John Deere, Farmall, and Case tractors have been refurbished & looked ready to plow. We toured the fruit cake bakery and enjoyed a piece of cake while also enjoying the fellowship of the young ladies who were baking and packaging the cakes for sale and shipping and making apple butter which smelled heavenly.

The college has an excellent restaurant that is open to the public. The food was delicious and we actually ate 3 meals there. When you can satisfy Sarah and Kathy, you know the menu is

Branson Byways (cont'd)

varied and nutritious. In addition to the restaurant, the college has hotel accommodations and is a fully functioning farm, from dairy and beef cattle and pigs, to vegetable gardens, greenhouses, and a stone ground grist mill. These not only feed the students but also allow them to work for their tuition as well as being an attraction for tourists. All of the students we met were exceptionally courteous and enthusiastic about their studies and the college.

The lobby of the hotel restaurant houses a veterans' display thanking all vets for their service to our country. There are also pictures of past presidents as well as famous military leaders and actors who have visited the campus. We were all impressed with the neatness of the campus and attitude of the students. It is a place worth visiting next time in Branson.

On Saturday we visited Bass Pro Shop's Big Cedar Lodge which is South of Branson also. Kathy & Dennis had the opportunity to stay at the lodge on a previous trip and once again were our tour guides. We visited the main lodge of the 800 acre complex on Table Rock Lake. Big Cedar opened in 1998 and is owned by Bass Pro Shop. This is a very beautiful vacation spot in southwestern MO and very near the Branson Airport (which is decorated like the Bass Pro Shop). We had lunch at one of the restaurants on site, the Devil's Pool Restaurant, a former country retreat for Frisco Railroad executive Harry Worman. The waitress was a joy to be around and was celebrating 19 years at Big Cedar Lodge. She shared with Sarah and Kathy some of the favorite recipes from the restaurant.

Sunday was the final tour starting with the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield near Springfield. This was the first battle of the Civil War between union forces and Missouri home guards where the first union General was killed. When you tour Civil War battle sites with Dennis & Kathy, one must be careful when describing who the "good" guys and "bad" guys were; we were a nation divided. The National Park Service offered a short movie and great guide maps and knowledgeable park rangers. We were most impressed with the John K Hulston Research Library and Museum near the battlefield. After driving the 5 mile loop to

Branson Byways (cont'd)

major points on the battlefield, we could see where the terrible loss of life and destruction took place.

We had lunch in nearby Republic, MO where the waitress offered us a slice of delicious homemade 3 layer Pineapple Cake for dessert. This was our first time to find real sweet iced tea and she even said they serve grits at breakfast, a treat not easily accepted by a divided nation.

Later Sarah and Kathy allowed us to visit the headquarters of the Bass Pro Shop in Springfield which covers a city block. John L. Morris began his career in sporting goods with a fishing section in the back of a Brown Derby liquor store owned by his father in Springfield on the road to Branson. What a wonderful American success story! The highlight of the store was visiting the fine gun section where a rifle recently sold for \$82,000 to a crop duster pilot. He sprayed the oil slicks on the Gulf with chemicals to break down the crude oil and made a nice profit. Good for him and his dangerously hard work!

Our group finally finished the day with ice cream at Andy's and returned to the Lodge to get our boarding passes ready for the flight home. The reunion was absolutely wonderful and we had a great time visiting with all the old shipmates and meeting the new shipmates. Our hats are off to Bill & Joyce Metcalf for providing us with such good accommodations, tours and food at Branson. We look forward to visiting the sites and meeting our shipmates in Reno, Nevada next year. We will look for you there!

Bob & Sarah Wannamaker

**2012 MADDOX REUNION
RENO, NEVADA
DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!**

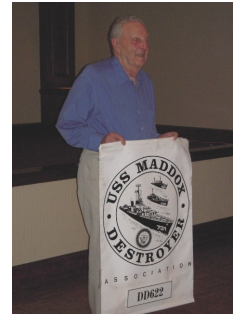
USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION
REUNION
August 25 - 28, 2011
Branson, MO



WHY VETERANS REUNITE

“I know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades....such good men.”

Author Unknown



DD622 SURVIVOR

DD731
1940 - 1948



DD731
1949 - 1957

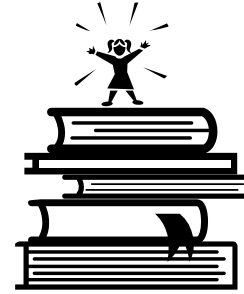


DD731
1958 - 1972



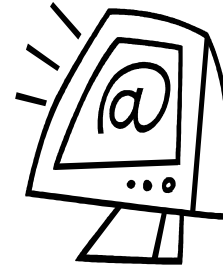


BOOK CORNER



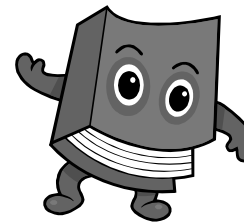
We have received information about a book that is a sea story about a U.S. Navy destroyer and her crew. The book is titled Three Years Aboard A Navy Destroyer by Otis Ted Holly. The author served on the USS Brush (DD745) for a little over 3 years in the early 1950's. The book is available on Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle version but if you are interested you will need to hurry as the supply is limited.

WEB SITE



Have you checked out our web site lately? Dennis Stokhaug has been updating the site so be sure to check it out at ussmaddox.org for the latest information. Don't forget to turn your sound up.

FACEBOOK



Did you know you can find the Maddox Organization on Facebook? Just look for USS Maddox Org. and join in on the conversations. You will find information on the Maddox, some great pictures and I challenge everyone to put names to those sailors pictured there. There are also some people who are looking for information from any Maddox sailor who might have known their Dad, Uncle, or Grandfather who also served on the Maddox. Thanks to Roy Hyer for creating and maintaining this Facebook Page.

Chaplain's Corner

NONE OF US LIVES FOR ONESELF

God has plan. Don't kid yourself -- He does! It's that we help one another.

It seems to me that we are experiencing one National Catastrophe on top of another -- they have been unrelenting. Maybe it's me -- do you feel the same way? Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, earthquakes -- coming with lightening speed. They are all predicted in Sacred Scripture, but it doesn't say there would be so many in such a short period of time.

Maybe it's because Joplin, MO., is so close to where I live that a fact (evidence) surfaced that "None of Us Lives for Oneself", or by himself or herself. The outpouring of personal sacrifice, effort, risk-taking, generosity, time, muscle/brain power put to work to help the suffering, grieving, tormented people who survive a natural disaster is overwhelming. If one hovered 500 ft. over the scene there would be a clear picture of the rescue efforts taking place by countless people -- some rushing from hundreds of miles away.

For those who have faith, we can see that God, in creating human beings, instilled in souls an urgent desire to help the devastated. Help comes seemingly out of nowhere for them and from a variety of places. It's from people who have a sudden "urgent rush" from deep inside, to abandon self. Energy and sudden strength beyond self appears from nowhere, for instance, to lift cars off trapped persons, etc., etc.. Every day there remains opportunities for people like us, to provide assistance to those who survive catastrophes.

Everyone who comes into our presence becomes a thread in the "fabric" of our lives. Some are but a single thread, others provide enough to make a patch and still others take up enough space to make a full image or design that covers enough space to sustain a lifetime with us.

Chaplains Corner (cont'd)

When I sat, meditated, on putting this together, I couldn't help but think of us Navy Personnel being on a ship at sea -- all alone -- in a way totally dependent on one another -- that in some sort of catastrophe -- we would have no one else arriving for support and help -- if we didn't help one another in those moments -- perhaps, no one would survive. May God bless all of our Military People, especially all in our U.S. Navy.

May God sustain us in His peace and give us strength for the work yet to be accomplished in the remaining years we have left on this earth. Let us continue to pray for one another.

A Servant of the Lord,

Rev. Mr. Justin McMenemy, Chaplain
USS MADDUX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION
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816-254-1528
E-mail: JMcMe1528@aol.com

PRAY FOR THOSE DECEASED SINCE OUR LAST **"HOWGOESIT"**

Joe Sullivan, Sr., Joe Smith, Alvis Harding Harris, Donna Slattery and Charles Slattery, brother of Jim Slattery. May our God of Mercy welcome them home. May perpetual light shine upon them and may they rest in peace. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND THOSE REQUESTING **OUR PRAYERS**

Good and gracious God, we entrust the members of our association and their families who are sick or suffering at this time. Lord, grant them comfort and healing. Amen

From the Editor:

Our reunion this year was another great time, visiting with old friends and welcoming new members to the association. There were great tours of the Titanic Museum and the Veteran's Memorial Museum in Branson. The Veteran's Museum was an excellent tour that included a very impressive bronze sculpture of 50 life sized soldiers storming a beach. Each figure is modeled after an actual combat veteran, one from each of the fifty states and was sculpted by Fred Hoppe, an internationally



known sculptor.

known sculptor.

Of course we can't forget the "Hospitality Room" which is kept well stocked with food and drink by Ed & Norma Pirie. You can drop in there any time and find good stories, lots of laughter, conversation, and of course, the famous "card game". We hope to see all of you again next year and hope you will encourage other Maddox Sailors you might be in touch with, to join us.

Going forward we would like to publish an issue of the "Howgoesit" newsletter on a quarterly basis. In order to do that I will need your input, please send your suggestions, stories, announcements, pictures, or anything you would like included in the next edition of "Howgoesit". Ladies, this means you also, we know this is the Maddox Association but you are an important part of the association too and I would like to have some suggestions as to what you would like to see in the newsletter. This is a great way for all of us to stay in touch beyond the reunion once a year, so send your "Howgoesit" news to KStokhaug@aol.com or you can mail it to me at S71W14562 Hidden Creek Ct., Muskego, WI 53150. I am looking forward to hearing from everyone and seeing you all in Reno.

Kathy

USS Maddox Association Officers and Board

Officers

President:	Al Raines	2012
Vice President:	Dan Holland	2012
Secretary:	Bob Wannamaker	Appointed
Treasurer:	John Bayley	Appointed
Chaplin:	Rev. Justin McMenemy	Appointed
Parliamentarian:	Cliff Gillespie	Appointed
Historian:	Roy Hyer	Appointed

Board of Directors

Jim Slattery	2012
Hoot Gibson	2012
Dennis Stokhaug	2012
Robert Graham	2012
Bob Dinwiddie	2013
Earl Miller	2013
Edward Schultz	2014

Appointed Positions

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