



**USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION**

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

**May 2014**



**USS MADDOX DESTROYER  
ASSOCIATION  
S71 W14562 Hidden Creek Ct.  
Muskego, WI 53150**

**TO:**

## USS Maddox Association Officers and Board

### Officers

President:	Dan Holland	2014
Vice President:	Jim Slattery	2014
Secretary:	Bob Wannamaker	Appointed
Treasurer:	John Bayley	Appointed
Chaplin:	Rev. Justin McMenamy	Appointed
Parliamentarian:	Cliff Gillespie	Appointed
Historian:	Roy Hyer	Appointed

### Board of Directors

Bob Dinwiddie	2013
Earl Miller	2013
Edward Shultz	2013
Al Raines	2014
Russell Harvey	2014
Ed Pirie, Jr.	2014
John King	2014

### Appointed Positions

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



### **A Message from the President**

Hello Shipmates!

The time for our 2014 reunion is fast approaching. I am really looking forward to Baton Rouge, since this is where the first reunion was held. With this being the 25th anniversary of the reunions, we would like to encourage each member to call, text or email their shipmates wherever they may be and give them a special invitation.

Bill & Joyce have once again done a splendid job of planning the event. Dennis & Kathy are doing such a good job with the newsletter & keeping the Maddox Association website updated. Thanks to John & Sandy for their diligence in maintaining our finances & keeping the membership roster updated. And to all those who work behind the scenes to keep our organization alive, we say "thank you". Some of you have spent lots of time each year locating more of our shipmates.

Judy & I have a new address and telephone number. The address is 7500 Hwy 101, Lexington, AL, 35648 and the phone number is 256-229-6830. Moving is definitely for a younger generation.

God speed,

Dan Holland

AMERICAN PATRIOT  
AND  
USS MADDUX (DD-731) PLANK OWNER

Submitted by Mel Cunningham

Ensign Melvin R. Laird joined the pre commissioning detail of the USS Maddox (DD 731) as the Supply Officer for the initial outfitting of the ship. The ship's allowance was pre determined but making it happen was the responsibility of the Supply Officer. MADDUX successfully completed her acceptance trials & training for combat during refresher training. In the wardroom, he was known as "Pay Laird" because of many collateral duties he was the Dispersing Officer and paid the crew monthly, hence the nick name in the wardroom, Pay Laird.

During the final outfitting in Boston, two Captain Chairs magically appeared & were installed on the port & starboard sides of the bridge. These were a luxury that no other in can had. It was a masterful sleight of hand.

The MADDUX REFTRA was in the warm climate of Bermuda & the training team was professional at the mission to get the ship ready for combat. The Supply Officer was always in the thick of it with refueling, messing, replenishment of stores & munitions. Ensign Laird's professional handling of his duties was a major influence on the MADDUX success in training.

It was not long before the wardroom found that Ensign Laird could type 120 words a minute & he immediately became a Communications watch officer. He enjoyed this additional task as he was the first to review the secret & top secret traffic.

MADDUX went from the home front to the upfront where ENS.. Laird's organizational talent kept MADDUX in beans & bullets. He was badly wounded from a Kamikaze but remained in MADDUX for the entire war. After the war he continued to dedicate himself to his country.

AMERICAN PATRIOT - PART 2

Melvin Laird was born in Omaha, NE but grew up in Marshfield, WI. where he returned after his WWII service in the Navy. A Purple Heart recipient, he was elected to the WI state Senate while still serving in the Navy. He completed the un-expired term of his late father and was re-elected to another 4 year term. After serving in the state Senate he went on to serve 9 terms in the US House of Representatives, serving on two Appropriation Committees subcommittees, Health, Education & Welfare & labor, as well as Defense. He became the senior Republican member of the HEW-Labor subcommittee in 1955 & of the Defense subcommittee in 1966.

While serving on the HEW-Labor subcommittee he formed a partnership with Rep. John Fogarty, Democrat of RI. Together they worked to increase support for & to expand the National Institute of Health. Both Congressmen believed increased NIH research funding was necessary for the country's future health. They successfully advocated for increased NIH budgets over the recommendations & personal objections of Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy & Johnson.

The result of this bipartisan partnership led to building up NIH research programs resulting in 8 regional cancer centers, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention in Atlanta, GA, the Natl. Library of Medicine in Bethesda, MD, and increases in all phases of medical research. These two men stood together on the House floor, voted together in all House-Senate conferences & served together as US delegates to the World Health Organization. For their efforts they received recognition & awards from the media, House & Senate & organizations throughout the nation.

As a member of the House Defense subcommittee Melvin Laird listened to and questioned testimony, went over budgets for all branches of the military as well as for the CIA, National Security & Defense Intelligence Agencies. He inspected Defense Dept.

## AMERICAN PATRIOT (cont'd)

installations and military bases in the US & throughout the world.

In 1969 during his 9th term in congress, he resigned to accept the appointment as Secretary of Defense & was confirmed immediately by the US Senate. At his insistence, Laird had complete control over military & civilian personnel appointments with no interference from the Nixon White House. Along with his Deputy Secretary of Defense, David Packard, he assembled a leadership team that believed & practiced participatory management of our government's largest department.

The team of Laird-Packard ended the draft & established an all-volunteer military service. The team also instituted reforms in procurement, net assessment, personnel, total force planning & intelligence.

Mel Laird's leadership of the Dept. of Defense was praised by US Comptroller Generals and in 1980 members of the Washington Press Corps covering defense & national security named him the best Secretary in the history of the Defense Dept.

In 1973 Laird accepted the position of White House Counselor to the President along with Bryce Harlow. They oversaw the resignation of Vice President Agnew & the appointment & confirmation of Gerald Ford as Vice President. Laird also served as a member of the National Security Council as well as the Domestic Council with cabinet rank. Laird left the White House shortly after the Ford confirmation and began a career as a private citizen.

The Marshfield Clinic's Laird Center for Medical Research was named to honor Melvin R. Laird and to recognize his lifelong service to the clinic, his support of medical research & efforts to improve health care throughout the nation. The Laird Center houses the Clinic's major medical research facilities, the Magnin Medical Library, Froehlke Auditorium & Laird Office & Conference

## AMERICAN PATRIOT (cont'd)

Room. The office is a replica of Mr. Laird's offices and contains personal and historic memorabilia.

### OLD NAVY SHIPMATE

As I walked along life's path one day

I met an old Navy shipmate who came my way

His hair was gray, but so was mine.

We talked of our ships & battles,

Of old Navy shipmates lost to time.

Our memories flowed like a river

Of the bad and good old times

Sadly, I watched as he went on his way

But I thank you Lord

For sending that old Navy shipmate

Along my way.

Author: Pat Boyle  
USS Taussig (DD-746)

## A BUCKET OF SHRIMP

Submitted by Dick Lagro

It happened every Friday evening, almost without fail, when the sun resembled a giant orange & was starting to dip into the blue ocean.

Old Ed came strolling along the beach to his favorite pier. Clutched in his bony hand was a bucket of shrimp. Ed walks out to the end of the pier, where it seems he almost has the world to himself. The glow of the sun is a golden bronze now.

Everybody's gone except for a few joggers on the beach. Standing out on the end of the pier, Ed is alone with his thoughts...& his bucket of shrimp.

Before long, however, he is no longer alone. Up in the sky a thousand white dots come screeching & squawking, winging their way toward that lanky frame standing there on the end of the pier.

Before long, dozens of seagulls have enveloped him, their wings fluttering & flapping wildly. Ed stands there tossing shrimp to the hungry birds. As he does, if you listen closely, you can hear him say with a smile, 'Thank you. Thank you.'

In a few short minutes the bucket is empty. But Ed doesn't leave.

He stands there lost in thought, as though transported to another time & place. Invariably, one of the gulls lands on his sea-bleached, weather-beaten hat - an old military hat he's been wearing for years.

When he finally turns around & begins to walk back toward the beach, a few of the birds hop along the pier with him until he gets to the stairs, & then they, too, fly away...And old Ed quietly makes his way down to the end of the beach & on home.

If you were sitting there on the pier with your fishing line in the

## A BUCKET OF SHRIMP (cont'd)

water, Ed might seem like 'a funny old duck,' as my dad used to say, or, 'a guy that's a sandwich shy of a picnic,' as my kids might say. To onlookers, he's just another old codger, lost in his own weird world, feeding the seagulls with a bucket full of shrimp.

To the onlooker, rituals can look either very strange or very empty. They can seem altogether unimportant...maybe even a lot of nonsense.

Old folds often do strange things, at least in the eyes of Boomers & Busters.

Most of them would probably write old Ed off, down there in Florida. That's too bad. They'd do well to know him better.

His full name: Eddie Rickenbacker. He was a famous hero back in WWII. On one of his flying missions across the Pacific, he & his seven-member crew went down. Miraculously, all of the men survived, crawled out of their plane, & climbed into a life raft.

Capt. Rickenbacker & his crew floated for days on the rough waters of the Pacific. They fought the sun. They fought sharks. Most of all, they fought hunger. By the 8th day their rations ran out. No food. No water. They were hundreds of miles from land & no one knew where they were.

They needed a miracle. That afternoon they had a simple devotional service & prayed for a miracle. They tried to nap. Eddie leaned back & pulled his military cap over his nose. Time dragged. All he could hear was the slap of the waves against the raft.

Suddenly, Eddie felt something land on the top of his cap. It was a seagull!

## A BUCKET OF SHRIMP (cont'd)

Old Ed would later describe how he sat perfectly still, planning his next move. With a flash of his hand & a squawk from the gull, he managed to grab it & wring its neck. He tore the feathers off, & he & his starving crew made a meal - a very slight meal for 8 men - of it. Then they used the intestines for bait. With it, they caught fish, which gave them food & more bait...& the cycle continued. With that simple survival technique, they were able to endure the rigor of the sea until they were found & rescued (after 24 days at sea...).

Eddie Rickenbacker lives many years beyond that ordeal, but he never forgot the sacrifice of that first lifesaving seagull. And he never stopped saying, 'Thank you.' That's why almost every Friday night he would walk to the end of the pier with a bucket full of shrimp & a heart full of gratitude.

Reference: (Max Lucado, *In the Eye of the Storm*, pp. 221, 225-226)

PS: Eddie was also an Ace in WWI & started Eastern Airlines



## LOOKING FOR....



Usually this space is reserved for a request to help find a shipmate or a greeting from a shipmate we have not heard from in awhile. In this edition however, it is a request to everyone to join in an effort to congratulate a former Maddox sailor on his 90 birthday, John W. Chinchin. The request comes from Steve Spencer, John's son-in-law who relates that John served on the Maddox in 1944. Steve & his family are missionaries in Malawi, Africa & have been for the last 25 years. He is trying to find folks from the Navy to send a letter or card of congratulations to John on his birthday. The family is getting together at the end of June to celebrate that event. He found our website and emailed Dennis his request along with this short bio:

John W. Chinchin is a member of America's "Greatest Generation". Born in San Jose, CA on 6/30/1924, Jack was raised in the fruit growing industry (pears & apples) right out of a scene from Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. Jack's great grandpa invented the first continuous spray pump machine. The family company (FMC) would go on to invent the first amphibious tanks. Following his graduation from Midshipman school at Columbia Univ., Jack served his country as a naval officer (Lt. Jg) in WWII aboard the USS Maddox in 1944. He was trained as a Recognition Officer to combat the Japanese Kamikaze planes that were giving the Navy all kinds of trouble.

Jack married his war time sweetheart, Nell in 1945. Their romance took them on a sentimental journey that say them survive the war, back to the pear orchards of CA, & after coming to know Christ as a result of reading the Bible (he read the Scriptures to his wife Nell every night), ultimately to the missions fields of Africa for the last 45 years. Jack & Nell have been married for almost 70 years & have 7 children & 39 grandchildren. The Chinchin's have built 3 colleges in Africa dedicated to training Christian leaders. Jack Chinchin is celebrating his 90th birthday this

LOOKING FOR (cont'd)

year! Please join us in celebrating this distinguished American, patriot, World War II veteran, preacher, missionary, husband, and father.

Please send your birthday greetings to the following address:

Dr. Steve Spencer  
1208 Summers End Dr.  
Fenton, MO 63026

Dennis also received the following letter:

I served aboard the USS Maddox from 1966 to 1969, with two tours to Vietnam.  
Sorry I won't be able to attend our ships reunion in September. I just thought I'd mention that this old "Snipe" is still alive & well.

Doug Naylor BT2  
PO Box 27  
Myrtle Creek, OR 97457





**USS MADDOX  
DESTROYER ASSOCIATION  
2014 REUNION  
Sept. 11-14  
Holiday Inn South  
Baton Rouge, LA**

**Reunion packets have been sent out. If you did not receive one and would like to attend, please call Dennis Stokhaug at 262-679-9409 or email him at [maddox64@aol.com](mailto:maddox64@aol.com)**

**This is the 25th reunion for the USS MADDOX Association so we are looking forward to a large turn-out of our members. Please encourage any shipmate you are in touch with to join us for this celebration.**



From the Editor:

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Please continue to submit your stories or comments to me at [kstokhaug@aol.com](mailto:kstokhaug@aol.com).

Don't forget to fly your flag  
And Thank a Veteran!!!





## CHAPLIN'S CORNER



**SEEK GOD IN ALL THINGS**

Holy Scripture tells us that God's ways are far beyond our ways, and we are to seek God in all things.

Through our "ups and downs" the "good times and bad" of life, we grow in the belief that we are destined for something greater than we can even imagine. Deep inside everyone, (some only fleetingly), there is a longing for something that is greater than what this life offers. We can call that a longing for eternal life. This longing in our soul has been placed in our hearts by God. It's not a dream, but rather an impetus to strive onward, in faith, as we follow what we know to be the path of truth. It's what drives one to strive to live a good, moral, charitable, kind, patient life - - to do our best to help others (especially the unfortunate).

We sometimes experience the dashing of our hope for blessings that we might have anticipated out of life. But, we may also have failed to see the whole picture, how the present moment is to unfold in the plan of God's ever-faithful love and care for each of us. All of a sudden, at some moment or at some event, our eyes are opened to the mysterious, yet wondrous working of God's hand in how everything is unfolding or in how it is all happening. As we move through the difficulties and uncertainties, we can accept that God has been with us. He is leading us to something new and life-giving.

Through these very circumstances, (good or bad), we have to smile and say, "Its God's way of manifesting His divine presence.

I have a close friend, who is the epitome of having a positive attitude about everything. One of her favorites is, "Oh, yes, the pit

## Chaplin's Corner (cont'd)

is inside the cherry, but one has to separate the two." Another one of hers is, "A couple times I had to reinvent myself and find new hope and new meaning in life." How true!

May God bless all of you with springtime joy, sunshine, and a little rain.

A Servant of the Lord,

Rev. Mr. Justin McMenamy, Chaplain  
USS MADDOX DESTROYER ASSOCIATION  
3623 Harvard, Independence, Mo. 64052  
816-254-1528  
E-Mail: [jmcm1528@aol.com](mailto:jmcm1528@aol.com)

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

Member: John Miller

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.  
May his soul rest in peace.  
Amen.