

# USS RANKIN NEWS

ISSUE #11 • THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS RANKIN ASSOCIATION • SEPTEMBER 2008



## AKA-103

1945-1947

1952-1968

## LKA-103

1969-1971

## GOLD E

1960-1961

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome these new members, found since last September's newsletter:

Richard C. Anderson  
Steve M. Bramlett  
Marion D. Cox  
Norman J. Dikdan  
Maurice C. Ezell  
Lowell E. Goltry  
Jerry L. Lane  
Carlos Robles  
Carlton L. Rollins

We've put together a program to find more shipmates by sending postcards to people whose names and ages match those of people on USS Rankin crew lists. It worked well for us several years ago, and we think it will work for us again.

Our plans to start the program have been in place for many months, but for various reasons we haven't been able to put them into action. We hope to start mailings after this year's reunion.



Sinking of USS Rankin off Stuart, July 24, 1988. Position 27°12.1' N, 80°06' W. Depth 140 feet.

## LAST CALL FOR STUART, FLA.

Our fifth annual reunion will take place in Stuart, Florida, from Thursday, October 30, through Sunday, November 2, 2008. Registration packets were sent out in August, and it is NOT too late to register, but you should act within the next few days. To register, just call Military Locator & Reunion Service at 828-256-6008.

Our ship is now a fishing and diving reef off the coast of Stuart, and one of our reunion activities is a Friday boat trip out to the site. If all goes well, those of us in the boat will get to see a live video feed from divers exploring the wreck on our behalf. This reunion marks the last chance that most of us will have to visit the final resting place of the ship we remember so well.

Friday evening will feature a Florida seafood dinner at our hotel. During and after dinner there will be plenty of opportunity to share sea stories, including those of the trip to the ship.

Saturday's optional tour will cover Hutchinson Island in Stuart and Fort Pierce. During WWII, this island housed a huge amphibious training base where sailors from the Rankin and elsewhere learned how to execute an am-

phibious landing. There was boat training with LCMs & LCVs, and debarkation training from a mockup of an AKA.

The Fort Pierce trainees included the first members of the Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams—the famous Navy frogmen. Their birth and evolution are memorialized in the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, which we'll visit on Saturday morning.

We'll also visit the St. Lucie County Historical Museum, with its restored LCV and many other displays and artifacts from WWII gator training, as well as fascinating material about the island's early history. Did you know that Florida was once a world center for pineapple

*(Continued on page 2)*



Rankin on the bottom. Diver in 40mm gun tub.

(Continued from page 1)  
production?

Time permitting, we'll visit the Florida Oceanographic Museum, known as a "nature lover's Disney world." Opened in 1994, the 44-acre site, surrounded by coastal hammock and mangroves, is its own small ecosystem and serves as an outdoor classroom, teaching visitors about the region's flora and fauna. The main building features a salt water tank with a generous population of manta rays and other similar creatures. Visitors can have the safe, exciting, and unusual experience of feeding the manta rays by hand. It tickles.

The city of Stuart has some interesting attractions for us, too. The shopping district is charming and cars are not allowed, making for a safe and unusual shopping experience. For those who'd rather not walk, a free tram stops close to our hotel.

Adventurous travelers can rent Segway personal transporters and take a little ride around the city.

## MEMORIALS

This special reunion will feature several memorial presentations. We will place an underwater wreath, and possibly an underwater flag, at the site of the Rankin's sinking. Details haven't been worked out yet, but we are hoping that the memorial will include the names of every crew member.

We'll also unveil a memorial brick in the walkway at the UDT-SEAL museum, in honor of the many UDT men who rode the Rankin during her lifetime.

Finally, we'll present an original USS Rankin bronze plaque to the city fathers of Stuart and Martin County, in honor of their efforts to honor, preserve and promote the memory of our ship.

## GETTING THERE

Stuart is about 40 miles north of West Palm Beach along Interstate 95. If you are flying, you should fly into Palm Beach International Airport. The most economical way to get to the Ramada in Stuart is to use our SuperShuttle pool, which will allow several reunion attendees to share the cost of a shuttle.

To use the pool, you must make arrangements in advance by calling Military Locator and Reunion Service at (828) 256-6008. Do it as soon as you know your flight times.

## ANCHOR PARTY

One, or maybe two, of the USS Rankin's anchors are on public display in Stuart. One is under the Roosevelt Bridge, and the other is at, or will be at, the city marina.

Time permitting, we will assemble a working party to paint one of the anchors (or at least part of it), in memory of the many, many times that Rankin crewmembers painted it when the ship was alive. Photos

will be taken, and we are looking for a boatswain's mate to be in charge of the detail.

## TATTOO PARTY

Tattoos and other body art, formerly limited to sailors, Marines, and similar riff-raff, are one of the 21st century's most prominent cultural phenomena.

Skip Sander has found a tattooed lady, who's also a Registered Nurse, to advise reunion attendees on getting genuine tattoos in Stuart. For those who decide to get that long-desired tattoo at last, he has arranged for senior citizen discounts at Chicago Ink, one of Stuart's best and most famous tattoo parlors.

For those who aren't ready to take that permanent step, he's acquired a large collection of temporary tattoos that can be applied at no charge to Rankin sailors and their guests.

Get one of these beauties while they're available—it will be great to talk about when you get home, and it's easily removed with alcohol.

## SHIPMATES ON PARADE

Melvin Munch enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and went through communications training in Hawaii. In August, 1945, he landed with the Marines in the invasion of Okinawa. While on the beach and eating K rations, he said "I can bake better than this stuff, myself." The C.O. overheard him, asked if he really meant what he said, and made Mel into a baker.

After three months on Okinawa, he got 30 days of rehabilitation leave in the states, then spent six months as the Rankin's baker as he headed toward discharge and home. His apple turnovers are fondly remembered by many of his former shipmates.

After the Navy, Mel returned to Louisiana and became a Master Plumber.

Melvin and Melanie celebrated their 62nd anniversary on September 25, 2008. They have three children, four grandchildren (one a USAF major), and two great-grandchildren.



# THE GATOR

AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET

The articles in this section are reprinted from a February, 1959 issue of The Gator, PHIBLANT's official newspaper. The issue commemorates the seventeenth birthday of the Amphibious Forces. Back then, gators couldn't spell "role."

## UDT Play Important Roll In PhibLant



The Underwater Demolition Teams had their beginning at the landing on Tarawa, November 1943. Landing craft were halted by underwater reefs and had to drop Marines off some 400 to 800 yards from the beach, forcing them to wade ashore. Casualties ran high as the Marines tried to reach the beach under direct enemy gunfire.

Thus came the UDT, whose job was to survey the ocean floor and the beach prior to a landing, and insure that the way was clear for a landing.

Assigned to PhibLant, UDT 21 twice a year trains prospective frogmen candidates for the role of Frogmen. They undergo rigid training, reaching their severest test in a week appropriately named "Hell Week."

## Rankin Names Lloyd L. Malseed Man of Month

Lloyd L. Malseed, MM2, has been selected as the February Man of the Month on the Force ship Rankin, after being recommended by his division officer and department head and selected by the Commanding Officer.

This selection was made on the basis of Malseed's outstanding record and performance of duty while acting as leading petty officer of the "M" Division on the Rankin. His professional competence and willingness to work is compounded with his sense of responsibility to produce a highly efficient level of work completed. The tenacity he displays when confronted with a difficult problem is highly regarded by his seniors.

In addition to these professional qualifications, Malseed displays a remarkable interest in his men, and has instilled a bond of pride in the division that has been very

beneficial. The personal leadership he displays is an example to the rest of the department, and has served as a standard for the leading petty officers of other divisions. Since being relieved of the position as leading petty officer in the division by a new first class machinist mate, Malseed has lost none of the vigor he previously displayed.

As a reward for his accomplishments and being selected as Man of the Month, Malseed has been given a special 96 hour weekend to spend some time with his family and parents.

## Rankin Climaxes List of Awards With Green 'E'

While operating off the Virginia Capes during the week of January 19, the Force ship Rankin won the green "E" for excellence in the ship's Operations Department, which is headed by LTJG J. T. Sherrill, Jr.

This award climaxes the record

of accomplishments of the Rankin, for the ship now holds every type award possible for an amphibious ship to obtain. She has more awards than any other ship in the Amphibious Force since the end of World War II.

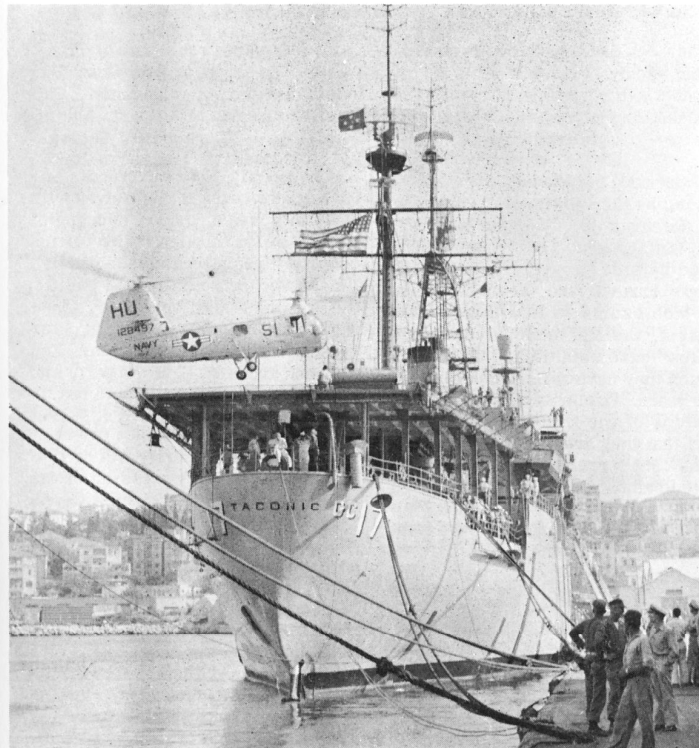
In addition to the green E, the ship holds the red "E" for Engineering, an "E" for the 5" gun, a 40MM "E," the Assault Boat Insignia for outstanding performance of the ship's boats in a simulated landing operation, the Squadron Battle Efficiency Award for the best performance of any ship in the squadron, and the Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award for being chosen by the Chief of Naval Operations as the best ship in the Atlantic Amphibious Force last year.

The Rankin is commanded by Captain John Harlikee. Her Executive Officer is Commander Paul W. Hopkins.





# 1942 - Phibs a Gamble; 1959 - Phibs a Necessity



**BEIRUT, LEBANON** - The first ship to tie up in Beirut after troops were landed last year was the Taconic, flagship of Admiral James L. Holloway, Commander in Chief, Specified Command, Middle East.



**CROSS-EYED MONSTERS** - The huge copters, appropriately named, lift troops and equipment from ship to shore ten times faster than the conventional method.

Although United States amphibious operations date back to 1776, when a party of Marines and Bluejackets effected a landing at Nassau, in the Bahamas, it was not until the beginning of World War II that a full-scale amphibious force was established in both oceans. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as Commander in Chief, called his Joint Chiefs of Staff together in February 1942 and introduced a program for the construction of landing craft. The program was, he said, to be of sufficient size to be effectively employed in the Atlantic and Pacific.

Upon being notified of the President's decision, Admiral Ernest J. King, then Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, originated a message to Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet and Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet on February 20, 1942, setting forth the order to establish an amphibious force.

Thus began a program that would exceed all expectations. It was approved by military leaders, though there existed among them grave doubts and misgivings as to how much could be accomplished by such a force against modern shore defenses. Conservative members of the Staff stated the plan was fantastic and a gamble in time, energy, and national resources. Yet both Roosevelt and Churchill, faced with total war, and approached by shipbuilders with a variety of ideas concerning the advisability of amphibious craft, had approved the new assault weapon, and the President's arguments prevailed.

It was the birth of a completely new type of warfare - unknown, untried, and at a time of world crisis. On March 14, 1942, Rear Admiral Roland M. Brainard hoisted his flag



**AGGRESSOR THWARTED** - Assault strong aggressor forces, whose

**A COMPLETE LANDING PARTY** ashore by the Boat Units.



**CAUSEWAYS** put jeeps, tanks, guns, and men ashore high and dry in amphibious exercises.



THE  
TOR

ault landings such as BRIGADELEX face  
existence adds realism to the invasion.

, including trucks and tanks, can be put



without ceremony aboard the transport William P. Biddle. Officially, the Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet, was a going concern, composed of one ship, one commander, and four staff officers.

It was rigorous duty, the amphibious assignment. Long hours and ever-mounting heaps of routine matters, as well as policy matters, soon had the staff shaking with fatigue and thin nerves. Cramped quarters and a lack of facilities didn't help; and as more officers joined the staff, they found themselves assigned a soap box seat and plank board desk, with orange crates for filing cabinets, instead of the usual office equipment.

If the Service Force resented the intrusion of the new Force, nothing was said about it. The mysterious infant, the Amphibious Force, continued to thrive and flourish and use more space. Admirals and captains and yeomen and wide-eyed ensigns

jammed Building 132 at the Naval Base, their only office space, until the bulkheads bulged. Finally the Force acquired the second floor of the Nansemond Hotel, in Ocean View, where facilities were a little better. Not until September did they establish an amphibious training base at Little Creek, Virginia.

The problem confronting the Force was the need of training in amphibious warfare. Nineteen ships were ordered to the force, and Admiral Brainard set forth the first operation order on March 28, 1942. A plan of training was drawn up, but never completed because of prior commitments on the ships.

Here, then, was a somewhat confusing military picture. The President had made a decision in ordering the creation of an amphibious force, and there had been every intention to allocate a fair number of ships to the Force for training. Yet overriding the plan was the dismal reality that the Navy had just so many ships for all purposes, and these with heavy commitments. The Navy had to get troops and equipment to Europe, and an expedition to the Pacific to at least check the Japanese advances. Training for the amphibs would have to wait. There was simply too much to do, and not enough ships to do it.

While still in the planning stages, scarcely a month after its formation, the Force received a new commander, Rear Admiral Henry K. Hewitt, who became one of the world's leading authorities on amphibious warfare.

The Force began to crawl forward, for it was not yet on its feet, though its first major operation was only seven months away. From his headquarters in Nansemond Hotel, Admiral Hewitt and other military leaders including the late General Patton, laid plans for "Operation Torch," which was to land 37,000 troops and 250 tanks on the shores of North Africa. In pre-embarkation talk, the General said, "Never in its history has the Navy landed an Army at the planned time and place. If you land us anywhere within fifty miles of our objective and within one week of D-Day, I'll go ahead and win..."

The Gators surprised the General. His troops were landed on time, and in most cases on the appointed spot. The Amphibious Force grew through determination, and though their landings were long and costly engagements, they were all successful and vital to allied victory. The operations themselves became a history of the war - Tarawa, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Salerno, Sicily.

Since World War II, the Amphibs have been in the midst of nearly every major United States military invasion. Inchon, Korea - a case of "envelopment by amphibious assault" - has been said to have been the action which ended North Korean aggression. There also was the re-development at Wonsan and the evacuation at Hungnam, in which Phibs were in the



**THE FAST WAY IN** is by helicopter. Vertical envelopment by helicopter is the function of PhibRon 10, a true fast landing force.

forefront. At Indochina in 1954, it again was the Phibs who were put into action. Phib units evacuated more than 260,000 Vietnamese refugees from Northern Indochina, and lifted 7,600 vehicles and 66,000 tons of cargo in the operation significantly called "Passage to Freedom."

In 1955 the Phibs were summoned for the evacuation of 15,000 Chinese civilians and 19,000 Chinese Nationalist troops from the Tachen Islands, near the mainland. Men of the Gator Navy headed the Dewline and Sunec re-supply missions north of the Arctic Circle - re-supply missions vital to the defense of the United States against enemy air attack.

Called on in 1956 during the Middle East Crisis, five ships of the Amphibious Force evacuated more than 1,500 United States and foreign nationals from Egypt and Israel as fighting raged between the two countries. Other ships evacuated hundreds of persons from cities even during air attacks.

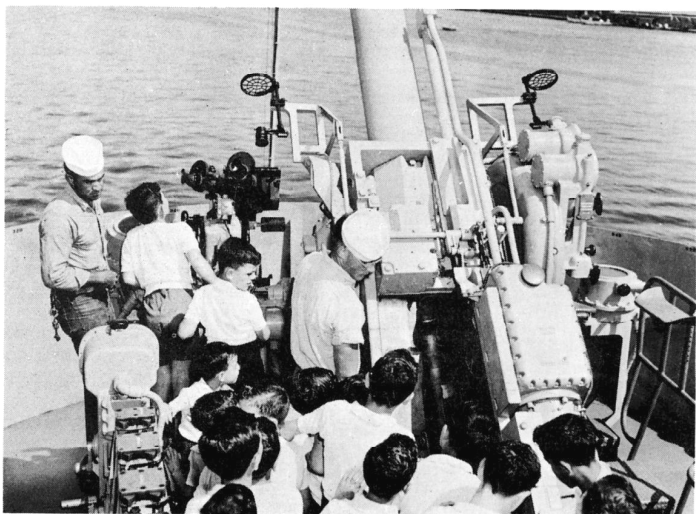
Lebanon became the scene of amphibious operations in 1958, when Force ships put 5,200 troops ashore in Beirut, at the request of the Leb-

anese government, to protect the lives of American nationals and guard Lebanon against indirect aggression.

The latest evacuation, that of 55 Americans from Nicaro, a nickel producing town on the north coast of Oriente Province, where Cuban rebels had taken over, was performed successfully by the Force ship Klein-smith.

The Gator Navy began with landing craft, and landing craft remain its backbone. Yet advances have been made, and the Gator, which has become the symbol of the Amphibious Force, has learned to fly. The newest addition to PhibLant, the amphibious assault ship Boxer, a converted carrier, has proven herself capable of landing troops ten times faster, by helicopter, than the conventional across the beach method.

Only seventeen years old today! A youngster on the seas; yet a youngster with experience and know how, with rows of wartime commendations, and with the hope that, through remaining strong, she need never enter war again.



**YOUNG ALLIES** - Ships' tours in Mediterranean ports such as Naples, Cannes, and Athens, help to create good relations with our neighbors.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1959

# TraLant-Source of Well Trained Combat Gators

In August, 1943, the Amphibious Training Command, Little Creek, Virginia, was activated coordinating the Amphibious training which was then being conducted at five separate bases located on the Atlantic coast. The value of amphibious training was forcefully driven home in World War II, during which the Command trained more than 200,000 Naval personnel and 160,000 Army and Marine Corps personnel in amphibious warfare.

The mission of the Amphibious Training Command - to give men a thorough knowledge and understanding of amphibious warfare - is required to insure the success of an operation.

The Command trains men from all of the services, and the training ranges from boat and cargo handling to gunfire support. The training devices are among the most elaborate in the Navy, including two radio-controlled ship models.

The most heard-of training device is the Amphibious Assault Evaluator, the only one of its kind in the Navy, which is about the size of a basketball

court. Set up with detailed models of ocean, beach, ships, landing craft, aircraft, fortified buildings, gun emplacements, etc., the Evaluator is a valuable aid in planning practice amphibious assault landings and could also be used to plan an actual wartime operation.

Currently commanded by RADM W.K. Romoser, the Amphibious Training Command coordinates the training, planning, and operation of its several subordinate commands - including Landing Force Training Unit, Naval Amphibious Base, Amphibious Operational Training Unit, Naval Amphibious Schools, and the Naval Amphibious Test and Evaluating Unit.

Basic amphibious courses are given to "foot soldiers" by the Landing Force Training Unit. Instruction includes lectures, training films and demonstrations. Skill in boarding landing craft is developed by climbing down cargo nets from a two-story steel-reinforced platform and is called the dry-net phase. Other training includes simulated approaches to the beach,



SIX "FOOT SOLDIERS" scamper down a cargo net as part of their amphibious training. The net is suspended from a two-story, steel reinforced platform.

going over the side of the LSM's and LCM's in case the ramp door jams, and transferring from landing craft to landing vehicles in the water which will land the men "dry-shod" on the beaches.

Following the "dry runs," men are taught the wet-net and wet-boat phases. For this they go aboard the decommissioned amphibious transport Burselon to practice actual landings again and again.

Vehicle waterproofing, reconnaissance, medical, shore party and staff planning are other courses given by LFTU.

Another unit of the Training Command is Naval Amphibious Schools, which conducts seven specialized schools, covering various phases of amphibious operations - communications, intelligence, medical, landing craft control, beach group, air support and naval gunfire support. They also furnish boats and boat crews on troop requests and provide

lecturers, on occasion, to other training activities.

The Amphibious Test and Evaluating Unit is responsible for testing, under field and sea conditions, experimental equipment designed for use in amphibious operations.

The mission of the Operational Training Unit is to conduct shake-down and refresher training for assigned ships and crews. It conducts the training, ashore, and afloat, and makes readiness inspections of ship's equipment and material.

Beach Group Two, when based ashore, supports the Training Command by providing services such as beach party teams, pontoon causeways, transfer barges, landing craft, boat repair personnel and equipment.

Whether it be in peace time or during a war, the Amphibious Training Command is ever present to furnish the landing force with skilled personnel ready to perform the job they were trained for.



A LANDING CRAFT rests beside an attack cargo ship waiting for the last three men of its load which will be transferred to the beach as part of an amphibious landing. By putting their amphibious training to practical use, these men will be able to better bring about the success of the operation.



DOWN COMES THE RAMP door and out pour men and equipment to storm an enemy beach.



The Rankin Times was a newspaper published on the ship in 1958-59. The editor was Glenn I. Moyer, SK3. This is from Volume 1, #3, of 31 July 1958.

Below is a reprint of a Plan of the Day for the Rankin which was published in 1946. This copy was found in the galley behind the ranges during the yard period.

U.S.S. RANKIN(AKA-103)  
PLAN OF THE DAY

Wednesday 30 January 1946

0300 - Call the watch.  
0430 - Call the duty cook.  
0530 - Call the duty Master-at-Arms.  
0600 - Call all idlers.  
0615 - Turn to. Sweep down.  
0700 - Pipe crew to breakfast.  
0716 - Sunrise.  
0730 - Relieve the watch.  
0800 - Muster on stations. Liberty expires. Turn to.  
0830 - Set the special sea detail.  
0900 - Underway.  
1115 - Sweepers.  
1130 - Pipe crew to dinner.  
1155 - Relieve the watch.  
1245 - Sweepers.  
1300 - Turn to.  
1545 - Relieve the watch.  
1615 - Sweepers.  
1700 - Pipe crew to supper.  
1730 - Relieve the watch.  
1730 - Sunset.  
1910 - Movies.  
1920 - Eight o'clock reports.  
1930 - Movies.  
1945 - Relieve the watch.  
2330 - Call the watch.

NOTES

1. Last boat will leave the Fleet Landing at 0730.
2. We will arrive in San Diego, California Thursday afternoon.

FOR P.O.D.

ADVANCEMENTS IN RATING TO BE EFFECTED 1 FEBRUARY 1946.

	FROM	TO
WALKER, M.C.	StM1c	St3c
LODELLO, T.(Jr.) Jr.	RdM3c	RdM2c
HOTCHKISS, J.L.	RdM3c	RdM2c
SHUTTS, C.E.	Slc	Cox.
KEMNITZER, J.I.	Slc	Cox.
DeCESARE, R.G.	S2c	Slc
MILLS, HOWARD (n)	Slc	Cox.

MEN IN ALL RESPECTS QUALIFIED - WILL BE ADVANCED WHEN VACANCY EXISTS:

	FROM	TO
HARTMAN, T.P.	RdM3c	RdM2c
CALIN, W.O.	RdM3c	RdM2c

ROBERT TEPPER

## POWERBALL!

The next USS Rankin Lottery Pool runs from November through January. A \$25 contribution will get you a share of the winnings for 26 draws in the lottery. (The Pool will use some of its future winnings to pay for the extra draw.)

There are 64 players in the current pool, up from 55 in the last one. We play every drawing in the multistate Powerball lottery. Drawings are held every Wednesday and Saturday, with a minimum cash jackpot of \$7.5 million, and a maximum in the hundreds of millions.

Other winnings can range from \$3.00 to \$200,000, depending on the tickets we hold. Because we have so many players, we win at least one prize every week. Our biggest win so far was \$100. If we win a Jackpot or other substantial prize, we'll divide the money equally among all the players, with one share going to The USS Rankin Association. (If we get lucky, stand by for a truly special reunion!)

The chance of winning a jackpot is pretty slim, but it's a LOT of fun to play. Each player gets a list of all our numbers, so he or she can check for winners on the Internet. Skip Sander checks for them, too, and keeps a list on the USS Rankin web site. There's also a lot of other info up there. You can see it all at: [www.ussrankin.org/lottery.htm](http://www.ussrankin.org/lottery.htm)

You can even win money after the pool is over. When the Jackpot gets over \$100 million or so, we buy extra tickets out of our past winnings. If one of those tickets is a big winner, we will divide the money among all those who have ever played in one of our pools.

If you'd like to play in the November through January pool, send \$25 for 26 drawings to USS Rankin Lottery Pool, 153 Mayer Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15237. All money must be received by Saturday, November 1. Make checks payable to USS Rankin Lottery Pool #5.



## FOR OUR DEPARTED SHIPMATES

This rousing song was sung in the Navy for years, usually during war-time when death was a constant companion. Today, some reunion groups sing it to honor those who are no longer with them, and to acknowledge the mortality of the many who remain.

We are arranging for it to be performed at our upcoming reunion. If all goes well, we hope to sing along. If you're at all musical, now is the time to get into practice.

### The Last Carouse



Not here are the goblets glowing,  
Not here is the vintage sweet;  
'Tis cold as our hearts are growing,  
And dark as the doom we meet.  
But stand to your glasses, steady!  
And soon shall our pulses rise;  
A cup to the dead already—  
And hurrah! for the next that dies!

There's many a hand that's shaking,  
And many a cheek that's sunk;  
But soon, though our hearts are breaking,  
They'll burn with the wine we've drunk.  
Then stand to your glasses, steady!  
'Tis here the revival lies;  
Quaff a cup to the dead already—  
And hurrah! for the next that dies!

Time was when we laughed at others,  
We thought we were wiser then;  
Ha! Ha! let them think of their mothers,  
Who hope to see them again.  
Nol stand to your glasses, steady!  
The thoughtless is here the wise;  
One cup to the dead already—  
And hurrah! for the next that dies!

Not a sigh for the lot that darkles,  
Not a tear for the friends that sink;  
We'll fall 'midst the wine cup's sparkles,  
As mute as the wine we drink.  
Come, stand to your glasses, steady!  
'Tis this that the respite buys;  
A cup to the dead already—  
And hurrah! for the next that dies!

There's a mist on the glass congealing,  
'Tis the hurricane's fiery breath;  
And thus does the warmth of feeling,  
Turn ice in the grasp of death.  
But stand to your glasses, steady!  
For a moment the vapor flies;  
Quaff a cup to the dead already—  
And hurrah! for the next that dies!

Who dreads to the dust returning?  
Who shrinks from the sable shore,  
Where the high and haughty yearning  
Of the soul can sting no more?  
No, stand to your glasses, steady!  
The world is a world of lies;  
A cup to the dead already—  
And hurrah! for the next that dies!

Cut off from the land that bore us,  
Betrayed by the land we find,  
Where the brightest have gone before us,  
And the dullest remain behind.  
Stand! stand to your glasses, steady!  
'Tis all we have left here to prize;  
A cup to the dead already—  
Hurrah! for the next man that dies!

"The Last Carouse" was written years ago at the time when the Plague was raging in India. It bears a certain depressing note due to the tragedies revealed but the magnificent spirit and swing of it make it well worthy of its adoption by the Navy.

## VET'S SALUTE

Though it's not yet officially authorized, more and more veterans are rendering a hand salute when the National Anthem is played or on other ceremonial occasions.

It is not necessary to be in uniform or to be wearing a cover. Just stand at attention and salute.

All members are encouraged to salute at our reunion ceremonies, but you're welcome to do it "the old way" with your right hand over your heart if you'd like.

The bill to authorize this practice was passed unanimously in the Senate, and is awaiting action in the House. You can follow its progress and see a list of cosponsors here: <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h110-3380>

If you favor this bill, ask your congressman to support it.



### USS RANKIN NEWS

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