

USS RANKIN NEWS

ISSUE #18 • THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS RANKIN ASSOCIATION • JANUARY 2012



AKA-103

1945-1947

1952-1968

LKA-103

1969-1971

GOLD E

1960-1961



USS Rankin Challenge Coin



Charming Charleston



USS Muliphen

AKA-61

1944-1968

1952-1968

LKA-61

1969-1970

REUNION REPORT / FUND DRIVE



Shipmates and guests from USS Rankin and USS Muliphen aboard the USS Yorktown (CV-10) at Patriots Point, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, October 8, 2011.



Entrance to CSS H. L. Hunley exhibit



Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum



Rankin and Muliphen folk at the Confederate Memorial at Charleston's Battery
"To the Confederate Defenders of Charleston—Fort Sumter—1861-1865"

2011 RANKIN/MULIPHEN REUNION—CHARLESTON!



The USS Rankin (AKA-103/LKA-103) and USS Muliphen (AKA-61/LKA-61) held a joint reunion in Charleston, SC from Thursday to Sunday, October 6-9, 2011 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel. Registration began on Thursday just before noon, and when all had arrived, a total of 108 former shipmates and their guests were signed in to enjoy a few days of reminiscing, touring, and sharing sea stories.

Skip Sander from the Rankin and Jerry Wotherspoon from the Muliphen kicked off a cocktail reception at 5:00 PM on Thursday, followed by dinner on our own in the hotel and other area restaurants. Each ship had its own hospitality room, and both rooms were busy that evening with old and new friends recalling their days in the Navy and at previous reunions.

Friday began with breakfast in the hotel restaurant, followed by a Civil War in Charleston tour. The group saw the Battery, which was fortified during the war, Charleston's famous military college The Citadel, and many other sights in old Charleston. Our very memorable tour guide was a Citadel grad, a retired Army Colonel, and a man well versed in both the Civil War and the war between the sexes, at least as it played out in the old South.

For lunch, the group was on its own to see the Historic Charleston City Market and to eat at one of the many charming restaurants there.

In the afternoon, we visited the

amazing Warren Lasch Conservation Center, which houses the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley. On February 17, 1864, the sub sank the Union warship Housatonic by ramming her in Charleston Harbor. This was the world's first case of a submarine sinking a warship. The Hunley herself sunk with all hands that day, remaining lost on the bottom until she and her crew were recovered on August 8, 2000. Since then, she has been undergoing archaeological study and conservation treatment at the Warren Lasch Center. The study has uncovered numerous artifacts that all of us saw at the Center, including a lucky gold coin that the ship's captain had carried with him during the war. That coin was the inspiration for the USS Rankin Challenge Coin that Skip Sander personally presented to each Rankin shipmate in attendance at the reunion.

Friday evening featured dinner at the hotel, followed by the hilarious "Oldies Newlywed Game," in which four married couples were asked questions about their lives together. Participants were Frank & Lola Gersbacher, Stew & Eleanor Gully, Ray & Alice Spicer, and Harry & Norma Zimmer. The winners in a close finish were Ray and Alice Spicer.

Saturday began with breakfast in the hotel restaurant and a tour to Patriots Point, the world's largest naval and maritime museum. The group spent most of its time on the aircraft carrier Yorktown (CV-10), having lunch there in the Chiefs' Mess. The Yorktown's many aircraft were one of the best parts of the tour, as were the USS Clamagore (SS-343) and a replica of a U.S. Navy Support Base in Vietnam.

The tour ended with a "man overboard drill" of sorts, when a

botched count of participants led to Skip Sander, John Beck and several others combing Patriots Point for two missing group members, who turned out not to be missing at all.

After the tour, each ship held a business meeting. Though everyone deemed the joint reunion a major success, the Muliphen, which had always had its reunions in the spring, decided to go back to that schedule for 2012. We'll miss them.

Saturday evening began with a cash bar and a photo session for the reunion book. A prime rib dinner was served, featuring a chocolate mousse dessert that qualified as the Guinness Book of World Records' tiniest dessert ever served. Persons on diets liked its low calorie nature, while the others just laughed when they saw it.

After dinner, the group held a memorial service paying tribute to deceased shipmates. Presiding were Jerry Wotherspoon from the USS Muliphen, and Skip Sander, Rev. Elmer Mayes, and Ed Miller from the USS Rankin.

Our worthy after dinner speaker was Charleston author Brian Hicks, who described the remarkable history and recovery of the lost submarine H.L. Hunley. Great talk!

Following a series of raffles conducted by the Muliphen for all who wanted to play, the banquet was over and the remainder of the evening was spent in good conversation with friends from both ships.



The World's Smallest Dessert

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Enclosed with this newsletter are a colored sheet about our fund drive, and an envelope in which to send your contribution. We hope you will read that paper carefully and make whatever contribution you think is suitable. The names of contributors for 2010 and 2011 appear on pages 4-6 of this newsletter.



We really need your support this year, since we have less money on hand right now than we've had since the end of 2007. We're in good shape overall, with an excellent "rainy day fund," but our checking account is about \$3,200 less than we'd like it to be. The cure for that is this year's fund drive.

Last year's fund drive started late and wasn't well publicized, so receipts were significantly lower than in other recent years. We were fortunate to have the Alliance of Military Reunions, another organization operated by Skip Sander, pay most of our office and online expenses, but we still had to cut back on our publishing schedule. We have a full schedule for 2012, and we think you'll like the things we have in store for you.

What we need from members this year is continued strong contributions to operating expenses. We spend about \$900 a month to bring you these newsletters, our web site, and the other things it takes to keep the organization running. We are tight with a dollar, and no money goes for wages or salaries, though many people put in lots of effort to keep our operation running.

As always, there is no requirement to send any money, but every penny you send is put to good use. Most people who send money send \$25, but a significant number send more. Even a few dollars helps. This year we are offering some premiums for special contributors: Those who send \$100 will get a rare and valuable USS Rankin Challenge Coin. Those sending \$30 or more will get a shipmate directory, showing everyone who was on board during the years you were there, including contact information if we have it, and indicating which shipmates are alive, deceased, or whose status is unknown to us. It's a really useful tool for finding and contacting your shipmates.

USS Rankin Association—Records of Funds on Hand

	12/31/2009	12/31/2010	12/31/2011
Checking Account	\$3,669.98	\$4,917.03	\$1,291.40
Savings Account	5,717.26	5,743.80	5,259.25
Memorial Fund	200.00	200.00	100.00
Certificate of Deposit	<u>10,860.76</u>	<u>10,914.86</u>	<u>10,969.16</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$20,448.00</u>	<u>\$21,775.69</u>	<u>\$17,619.81</u>

2012 REUNIONS

We've started planning for this year's USS Rankin reunion. We haven't finalized a time or location, but it's looking like it will be in October in New Orleans or another nearby city. The WWII Museum there is a wonderful attraction, featuring a LOT of amphibious material, including a fully restored LCVP. Full details will be made available once we have them... by email to those whose addresses we have, and in the April newsletter for everybody on the mailing list.

Also, since our joint reunion with the USS Muliphen was so successful, the Muliphen group has invited all Rankin personnel to their reunion in Chattanooga from May 21-24. This will give a reunion opportunity to those who can't get away in the fall, or who prefer Tennessee to the Gulf Coast. If you are interested in attending this reunion, call Skip Sander at (412) 367-1376, or email him at ussrankin@aol.com

We've learned a lot from other reunion groups over the years. One is that it's very useful to plan your reunions two or three years in advance. During 2012, we plan to evaluate locations for 2013 and 2014, and to find ways to get all of our shipmates involved in the decision. So think about places you'd like to go, and stand by to be asked about them.



Another thing that's popular is to have mini reunions in cities where a lot of shipmates live. They are an inexpensive way for people to get together, and usually consist of a lunch at a local restaurant or VFW post. They are great for people who can't travel or who are on a limited budget. We would like to organize one of these in Norfolk, probably during late spring or early summer. If you might possibly be interested in attending such an event, please contact Skip Sander at the phone number or email address shown above.

OTHER GOOD STUFF

Last month **Ralph Ayasse** found missing shipmate **Cliff Hagedon** just by wearing his USS Rankin hat. Trucker Cliff was hauling 30,000 pounds of scratch-off tickets for the New Jersey lottery when he saw the hat at a truck stop. "That's my ship," he said to Ralph, and the two sat down for coffee. Both had been signalmen on the Rankin, but at different times in the 1960s.

Speaking of lotteries, a new **USS Rankin Lottery Pool**, with better odds and bigger jackpots, starts on January 31. For \$25, players get a chance at "winning the big one" in 52 separate Powerball and Mega Millions drawings. If you want to play, see the web site or get in touch with Skip.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

These shipmates made financial contributions to The USS Rankin Association during calendar 2010 & 2011. Their generosity is our lifeblood—without it, we couldn't have these newsletters, our extensive web site, our reunions, or any of the other things that make the group worthwhile. All 1,345 of our living members and friends give them a Bravo Zulu and a very meaningful Thank You!

The number of donors in 2011 was small, since we didn't do our normal fund drive in March. We sent a minor fundraising plea in August, with the promise that we'd send something more substantial in the next newsletter. This is that "next newsletter." As discussed elsewhere on these pages, our fundraising is back on track, and we're hoping to have a prosperous 2012.

2011 - 104 donors (not a full fund drive)

Abell, Kay	See Note 1	
Allen, Paul M.	ENS(SC)	1946-1947
Anderson, Harry V.	BTG2	1945-1945
Bagwell, Harold	SM3	1960-1961
Baire, Ronald E.	SK1	1968-1971
Baisden, Robert	YN3	1954-1955
Ballou, Joseph F.	LTJG	1957-1958
Beck, John W.	LT	1963-1964
Berkman, Eugene	LT(MC)	1963-1964
Black, Roy	BMSN	1952-1954
Blankenship, Elmer H.	COX	1945-1946
Boyles, Eugene E.	SHSN	1959-1961
Breen, John A.	SN	1952-1953
Buckner, Paul H.	EN3	1957-1958
Capley, Bobby W.	SFP3	1961-1965
Carrick, Marshall	QM3	1952-1952
Collier, August D.	ENFN	1953-1954
Conwell, Stephen G.	ICFN	1965-1965
Cramer, Charles	BM3	1966-1968
Crane, Roger H.	MR3	1957-1959
Cromack, Dan	LTJG	1963-1963
Dawson, Patrick	S1C	1945-1946
Decker, John	SF2	1960-1962
Declat, Daniel	DC3	1966-1968
Deep, David	See Note 2	
Devault, Robert	SM2	1959-1962
Devroe, William P.	SK3	1963-1965
Doherty, Hugh J.	SN	1959-1961
Duncan, Charles D.	FN	1961-1965
Falker, Raymond	MMFN	1964-1967
Frost, S. David	LT(SC)	1958-1959
Gauthier, Leo	ET2	1958-1961
Gilbert, George	EM2	1957-1960
Giles, John	BMSN	1957-1959
Ginn, Raymond	MM3	1956-1958
Golfman, David	SN	1961-1963
Gully, Stew	LTJG	1957-1958
Haney, Norma	See Note 3	
Hardegree, Howard L.	ENS	1960-1961
Haring, Jacob	BMSN	1953-1955
Head, Hillyer	S2C	1945-1945
Healey, Dennis	MM2	1953-1956
Heffelfinger, Karl	FT3	1960-1961
Hoyt, Gerald L.	BM2	1952-1954
Hughes, Richard B.	BT3	1959-1962
Hurwitz, Alfred	S2C	1946-1947
Icardi, Ed	EN2	1965-1967
Jenkins, Neil	DC1	1961-1967
Johnson, Donald V.	CS2	1952-1954
Johnson, Luther	LT	1960-1962
Johnson, Verne D.	SK1	1952-1954
Joyce, Harry H.	RM3	1945-1946
Kasid, Al	ENS	1957-1958
Kortkamp, Gary	LTJG	1961-1964
Lacy, Richard	ENS	1958-1959
Lafkas, James K.	YN1	1956-1958
Landreth, Windy	See Note 4	
Lane, Jerry L.	CS3	1968-1969
Levine, Abraham	ENS	1946-1946

Lewis, Vincent	S1C	1945-1945
Lindsey, William E.	LTJG	1965-1967
Lloyd, Charles R.	LTJG	1970-1971
Lobello, Thomas	RDM 2/c	1945-1946
McCourt, James	RD3	1963-1966
Melia, Raymond	CSSN	1966-1966
Modesto, Paul A.	CPL, USMC	1957-1958
Moore, Johnnie E.	QM3	1955-1958
Moretz, Charles	SKCS	1968-1969
Moyer, Glen I.	SK2	1957-1961
Munch, Melvin	S1C	1946-1946
Newell, Allen G.	RM3	1959-1960
Nixon, Carl R.	SN	1952-1955
Norman, Thomas A.	EMFA	1964-1965
Pena, Manuel J.	RM3	1963-1964
Pisano, John	SHBRE3	1969-1971
Plumb, Edward	BT3	1966-1968
Prentice, Colm N.	BT2	1965-1969
Quinlan, Frank	EM2	1966-1968
Reding, Patrick G.	RMSN	1952-1954
Reed, Donald A.	ENS	1952-1953
Reedy, R. Wayne	EN3	1960-1961
Reid, Allen	S1C	1945-1946
Richard, Norman E.	YN3	1954-1957
Rose, M. H.	CDR	1967-1968
Roy, Alfred	RM2	1962-1966
Schneider, Tom	BM3	1966-1969
Seifert, Donald J.	ENS	1947-1947
Sherer, C.W.	LTJG	1963-1965
Sirois, Ronald	SM2	1965-1966
Smith, John Thomas	ENS(SC)	1960-1961
Spicer, Shirley	BT3	1960-1963
Steger, E. H.	ENS	1958-1959
Stith, Edward E.	1LT USMC	1959-1961
Stone, David L.	LTJG	1960-1963
Taylor, Linwood	MM1	1953-1956
Tommer, Albert	FN	1956-1957
Trigiano, Lucien	ENS	1945-1946
Vander Well, Lester	YN3	1954-1957
Veasey, William	GM2	1956-1956
Wakelee, David	LTJG	1952-1954
Weltner, Howard	LCDR	1964-1967
Williamson, Rod	QMQ3	1952-1954
Wirt, Neal	QM2	1960-1963
Zimmer, Harry	LTJG	1958-1960

2010 - 236 donors (full fund drive)

Allen, Leslie	SFP3	1963-1966
Allen, Paul M.	ENS(SC)	1946-1947
Anderson, Harry V.	BTG2	1945-1945
Anderson, Ruth	See Note 5	
Ayasse, Ralph	SMSN	1959-1962
Baire, Ronald E.	SK1	1968-1971
Baisden, Robert	YN3	1954-1955
Ballou, Joseph F.	LTJG	1957-1958
Beaty, M. Paul, Jr.	PN2	1957-1959
Beck, John W.	LT	1963-1964
Becker, Jerry T.	CAPT	1970-1971
Beeler, David	ETN3	1963-1966
Biance, William T.	GM3	1961-1963

Biersteker, Bruce J.EN3.....1953-1956
 Biggin, Theodore.....SKSN.....1961-1961
 Bivens, Rodger.....ETR2.....1967-1971
 Black, Roy.....BMSN.....1952-1954
 Boehmer, David.....EN3.....1962-1965
 Boone, Arthur D.BT3.....1966-1969
 Breslau, JillSee Note 6
 Briggs, Wayne S.PC3.....1960-1962
 Brumitt, Lawrence.....BT2.....1957-1961
 Buck, Nelson D.ET2.....1957-1960
 Buddle, HenrySN.....1964-1966
 Burke, John J.EN2.....1966-1970
 Caldwell, Geoff.....LTJG.....1965-1967
 Capley, Bobby W.SFP3.....1961-1965
 Carrick, Marshall.....QM3.....1952-1952
 Casto, MarkENS.....1957-1958
 Chapparone, Anthony L.....LTJG.....1953-1955
 Christensen, W. V.LTJG.....1945-1945
 Cline, GuyEN1.....1964-1966
 Coccaro, Richard.....CAPT USMC.....1970-1970
 Cramer, Charles.....BM3.....1966-1968
 Crane, Roger H.MR3.....1957-1959
 Cregan, John D.LTJG.....1954-1955
 Cromack, DanLTJG.....1963-1963
 Damiano, V. JayLTJG.....1968-1971
 Dawson, PatrickS1C.....1945-1946
 Decker, John.....SF2.....1960-1962
 Deegan, Robert F.....LT.....1963-1965
 Deep, DavidSee Note 2
 Delavan, Raymond W. Jr.S2C.....1945-1945
 Desnoyer, David.....EM2.....1957-1961
 Devault, RobertSM2.....1959-1962
 Devroe, William P.SK3.....1963-1965
 Doherty, Hugh J.SN.....1959-1961
 Domowski, Edward.....SK3.....1969-1971
 Domurat, BenLTJG.....1969-1970
 Doom, Henry E.E-4.....1968-1971
 Dougherty, Alexander.....EN.....1953-1953
 Dousman, James M.FTSN.....1962-1962
 Duncan, Charles D.FN.....1961-1965
 Dunning, Willie D., III.....PFC.....1962-1962
 Dyer, George B.BM3.....1964-1967
 Ellett, Frank.....LTJG.....1960-1961
 Falker, Raymond.....MMFN.....1964-1967
 Felter, EdwardSSMB3.....1945-1946
 Fields, MichaelIC3.....1959-1961
 Forde, HughMMFN.....1961-1962
 Fowler, Joseph R.DK2.....1957-1959
 Fulton, Mike.....LT.....1966-1968
 Gagne, Donald P.....SKC.....1955-1955
 Gardner, George D.MR2.....1968-1968
 Garner, Austin.....RM2.....1967-1970
 Gauthier, Leo.....ET2.....1958-1961
 Gilbert, George.....EM2.....1957-1960
 Gimpel, Earl R.CAPT USMC.....1952-1953
 Ginn, Raymond.....MM3.....1956-1958
 Given, Philip R.LCDR.....1970-1971
 Golfman, David.....SN.....1961-1963
 Gould, Elton.....CSSN.....1956-1960
 Grant, Gerald M.EM2.....1958-1960
 Green, Carl S.RD2.....1953-1954
 Gregg, Geraldine.....See Note 7
 Gully, StewLTJG.....1957-1958
 Guthrie, Sidney.....EN3.....1967-1971
 Hack, John.....SN.....1961-1962
 Hadley, Nelson.....EM2.....1963-1966
 Hallman, Herbert E.WT3C.....1945-1946
 Hand, William J.LTJG.....1959-1961
 Hansen, Robert.....RM3.....1960-1962
 Hardegree, Howard L.....ENS.....1960-1961
 Haring, Jacob.....BMSN.....1953-1955
 Harmon, Richard.....See Note 2
 Hassman, George.....EM3.....1952-1955
 Hawks, Merle G.F1C.....1945-1946
 Head, Hillyer.....S2C.....1945-1945
 Healey, DennisMM2.....1953-1956
 Heenan, R. DennisLTJG.....1952-1953
 Heffelfinger, Karl.....FT3.....1960-1961
 Hickey, WilliamLTJG.....1969-1971

Hodurski, David A.....CS3.....1967-1968
 Holbrook, Hilliard.....LT.....1960-1961
 Holly, Leland.....COX.....1945-1946
 Homan, Walter W.....HM2.....1961-1964
 Houle, Michael J.FN.....1961-1962
 Houser, DennisBMSN.....1963-1965
 Hoyt, Gerald L.....BM2.....1952-1954
 Hughes, Richard B.BT3.....1959-1962
 Hungerford, James.....LT.....1952-1952
 Hussey, Rodney T.....IC3.....1965-1966
 Izyk, James J.RM2.....1960-1964
 Jannie, William.....BM3.....1956-1958
 Jenkins, Neil.....DC1.....1961-1967
 Johnson, Donald V.....CS2.....1952-1954
 Jones, Iver.....DC1.....1954-1957
 Joyce, Harry H.....RM3.....1945-1946
 Karsevar, Michael D.....CS3.....1967-1967
 Keith, Robert L.ENS.....1953-1955
 Klun, John S.LTJG.....1968-1969
 Kortkamp, Gary.....LTJG.....1961-1964
 Kristof, Gregory.....EMFN.....1965-1965
 Laboda, Matthew.....EN2.....1955-1956
 Labonte, Roger S.....HM2.....1963-1966
 Lafkas, James K.YN1.....1956-1958
 Landreth, Windy.....See Note 4
 Lane, James Hartwell.....SM2.....1956-1958
 Lane, Jerry L.....CS3.....1968-1969
 Laskorski, Lawrence R.....F1C.....1945-1946
 Lathrop, Allen L.SN.....1957-1959
 Lechaton, Michael.....EM2.....1953-1957
 Len, William J.LTJG.....1962-1964
 Levine, Abraham.....ENS.....1946-1946
 Lewis, Raymond.....GMG3.....1960-1963
 Linner, John.....LT(MC).....1945-1945
 Lint, Paul.....RD2.....1964-1967
 Lobello, Thomas.....RDM 2/c.....1945-1946
 Lowery, MarvinSN.....1966-1968
 Mamikonian, Stephen A.LTJG.....1968-1970
 Manders, Karl L.LT(MC).....1953-1954
 Mangan, Kenneth J.....MM2.....1959-1962
 Matthews, Marion.....RM1.....1957-1960
 May, George S.LTJG.....1968-1969
 Mayes, Elmer S.....HMC.....1962-1965
 McAllister, Bennie.....BT3.....1964-1966
 McCourt, James.....RD3.....1963-1966
 McDade, Thomas C., Jr.SN.....1961-1963
 McGranahan, Mark J.FTG3.....1965-1968
 McLain, Thomas.....SN.....1961-1963
 Meinig, George.....LTJG.....1958-1960
 Melecosky, Anthony.....MM2.....1960-1963
 Melia, Raymond.....CSSN.....1966-1966
 Melinn, Milan.....WT3.....1945-1946
 Modesto, Paul A.CPL, USMC.....1957-1958
 Montalbaine, Gary.....LT.....1961-1963
 Moore, Carmen.....See Note 2
 Moore, Johnnie E.....QM3.....1955-1958
 Moretz, Charles.....SKCS.....1968-1969
 Moyer, Glen I.....SK2.....1957-1961
 Munch, Melvin.....S1C.....1946-1946
 Nau, Tom.....MMC.....1968-1970
 Newell, Allen G.RM3.....1959-1960
 Oroz, DanENS.....1966-1967
 Ortolon, James C.S1C.....1952-1954
 Ostman, EricS1C.....1945-1946
 Parmelee, Ralph.....SF3.....1956-1958
 Patch, AlanRM3.....1952-1954
 Peck, TedMM2.....1968-1970
 Pietsch, Donald L.MR2.....1955-1959
 Pillsbury, David.....FN.....1960-1961
 Pisano, John.....SHBRE3.....1969-1971
 Plancey, ElmerS1C.....1945-1946
 Plumb, Edward.....BT3.....1966-1968
 Pontious, Harold.....RM2C.....1945-1945
 Prentice, Colm N.BT2.....1965-1969
 Quinlan, Frank.....EM2.....1966-1968
 Raso, JackLTJG.....1963-1964
 Reding, Patrick G.....RMSN.....1952-1954
 Reed, Donald A.ENS.....1952-1953

Continued on Page 6...

2010 FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

Continued from Page 5...

Reichert, Paul L.	EM3	1952-1954
Reid, Allen	S1C	1945-1946
Reilly, Vincent	RM3	1957-1960
Reynolds, Marty M.	ENFN	1960-1963
Reynolds, Patricia	See Note 8	
Richard, Larry J.	PN3	1965-1966
Richard, Norman E.	YN3	1954-1957
Riley, Robert E.	DK2	1962-1963
Rose, M. H.	CDR	1967-1968
Ross, Ronnie Lee	SN	1960-1964
Rowland, (Orville) Jack	S1C	1945-1946
Roy, Alfred	RM2	1962-1966
Saunders, Lyle P.	SK3	1963-1965
Savio, Leo	LTJG	1959-1961
Savoca, Eugene T.	RM3	1965-1969
Schiell, Frank	LTJG	1945-1946
Schmieder, Raymond P.	RM2	1953-1954
Seifert, Donald J.	ENS	1947-1947
Shaw, Frank	BM2	1959-1961
Shearl, James C.	RM1	1953-1955
Sherer, C.W.	LTJG	1963-1965
Siciliano, Carl.	CS3	1963-1964
Sirois, Ronald.	SM2	1965-1966
Smith, Charles T.	PN3	1964-1965
Smith, John Thomas.	ENS(SC)	1960-1961
Smith, Vern.	LTJG	1956-1958
Spicer, Shirley	BT3	1960-1963
Spicer, Tex	BT3	1960-1962
Stadtmiller, Victor	FA	1970-1970
Steyer, Scott	SF3	1969-1971
Stika, John J.	BM3	1952-1953
Stith, Edward E.	1LT USMC	1959-1961
Stone, David L.	LTJG	1960-1963
Stringer, Walter.	MM3	1965-1969
Stromberg, David P.	LT	1965-1967
Stuart, Albert J.	EM1	1965-1967
Stubbs, James	BM3	1960-1961
Suarez, Emilio	SN	1967-1967
Tamayo, Genaro	SD2	1970-1970
Thomas, Mark A.	IC3	1967-1969
Thomsen, Kenneth	EN2	1956-1959
Torgan, Al.	LTJG	1963-1964
Trigiano, Lucien	ENS	1945-1946
Vander Well, Lester	YN3	1954-1957
Vaughn, Dan (Dale)	RD3	1954-1956
Veasey, William	GM2	1956-1956
Vick, Jerrauld O.	SH3	1957-1957
Wade, Lewis.	LTJG	1955-1956
Wakelee, David.	LTJG	1952-1954
Wall, Kermit	BMCM	1968-1971
Wallis, Clyde.	MR2	1952-1953
Walton, Edward P.	SA	1946-1947
Warms, Donald E.	QMC	1953-1955
Weaver, Jack	BT1	1957-1957
Wentz, William A.	LT	1952-1952
White, Lyle J.	LTJG	1969-1971
Whyno, Peter	BM3	1952-1955
Wilburn, Don	LCDR	1965-1967
Williamson, Rod	QMQ3	1952-1954
Wilson, James G.	LTJG	1953-1955
Wisniewski, Paul	LTJG	1961-1962
Wood, Warren H.	GM1	1955-1958
Woodward, Robert W.	MM3	1963-1965
Yeager, Dale A.	SFM1	1955-1957
Yergeau, Richard	BM2	1965-1967
Zimmer, Harry	LTJG	1958-1960

NOTES:

- 1 – Wife of Ted Abell, RM3, 1953-1954
- 2 – Distinguished friend of the USS Rankin (AKA-103)
- 3 – Wife of Bill Haney, S1/c, 1945
- 4 – Wife of Jim Landreth, MMCS, 1959-1963
- 5 – Wife of Elliott “George” Anderson, FC3, 1945
- 6 – Daughter of LT Maxwell Breslau, Chief Engineer, 1952
- 7 – Wife of William “Mike” Gregg, QM3, 1945-1946
- 8 – Wife of Timothy Reynolds, LTJG(SC), 1966-1969

SHIPMATES ON PARADE



**Cadet Midshipman Gaskell
1950**



**Running with the Warriors
2011**

CDR (Ret.) Ed Gaskell is a frequent sight at our reunions, usually seen in impeccable blues while making toasts at the banquet, or hanging a 48-star U. S. flag that formerly flew from Rankin's starboard yardarm. He's had an interesting life and career—so have his daughter, an archaeologist in Virginia, and his son, a tennis pro in Baton Rouge.

Ed grew up in Paris and Normandy, France, where his father was an executive with United States Lines, the famous operator of ocean liners and merchant ships. He was educated in France and the U.S., ultimately graduating in 1950 from the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. After graduation, he spent four years on United States Lines cargo ships to Europe, Korea, and Australia, then two years as a LTJG and LT aboard USS Rankin as 1st Division Officer and Navigator. With his background he was an exceptionally well-qualified junior officer.

He left the Navy and began a civilian career in public relations, where he produced motion pictures for Union Carbide and the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Somewhere along the way the Navy recruited him for a reserve intelligence officer program, in which he diligently served for 25 years.

Ed recently moved into the Vinson Hall military officers' retirement community near Washington. The staff there kept bugging him to enroll in one of their fitness programs, and he kept telling them he didn't need to, because he was in pretty good shape already. To show them he meant what he said, last September he signed up for the “Run with the Warriors” 5K charity race. He ran with a contingent of “wounded warriors” and other youthful athletes. At age 83 he was the oldest person to run the race, and the oldest one to finish.

Needless to say, management is no longer bugging him about enrolling in their fitness programs.

2011 REUNION ATTENDEES

These 108 happy people enjoyed themselves, each other, and the wonders of Charleston, South Carolina, at the USS Rankin / USS Muliphen cooperative reunion from October 6-9, 2011.

USS Rankin (AKA-103 / LKA-103)

Ron Altman, YN3, 1954-1955, Batavia, Illinois
Coy Barker, DC3, 1962-1965, Cape Coral, Florida
John Beck, LT, 1963-1964, and Sondra Beck, Brandon, Mississippi
George Berninger, LTJG, 1962-1964, and Rita Berninger, Camarillo, California
Paul Buckner, EN2, 1957-1958, and Sylvia Tomlinson, Peachtree City, Georgia
John Burke, EN2, 1966-1970, and Lorraine Burke, Pompton Plains, New Jersey
Bobby Capley, SFP3, 1961-1965, Miami Springs, Florida
Vince Christensen, LTJG, 1945, and Evelyn Christensen, Naples, Florida
Dan Declet, DC3, 1966-1968, and Terri Declet, Toms River, New Jersey
Bob Devault, SM2, 1959-1962, Fredericksburg, Virginia
Bill Devroe, SK3, 1963-1965, and Bette Devroe, Wayne, New Jersey
Ray Falker, MM3, 1964-1967, and Jackie Falker, Ellicott City, Maryland
John Feeley, LTJG, 1961-1963, and Meg Feeley, Crystal Lake, Illinois
Ed Gaskell, LTJG, 1954-1956, McLean, Virginia
Frank "Pete" Gersbacher, LTJG, 1959-1960, and Lola Gersbacher, Anaheim, California
Elton Gould, CSSN, 1956-1960, and Margaret Gould, Fall River, Massachusetts
Stew Gully, LTJG, 1958-1959, and Ellie Gully, Raleigh, North Carolina
Norma Haney, wife of deceased shipmate Bill Haney, S1/c, 1945, Cambridge, Ohio
Jacob Haring, BMSN, 1953-1955, and Pat Haring, Beatrice St. Clair, Edythe Newkirk, Kalamazoo, Michigan
Hillyer Head, S1/c, 1945-1946, and Gary Smith, Oxford, Georgia
Richard Hughes, BT3, 1959-1962, and Marie Waldman, Mansfield, Ohio
Neil Jenkins, DC1, 1962-1967, and Lynn Jenkins, Clover, South Carolina
Tom Jones, F1/c, 1945-1946, and Ruth Jones, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Dale Koepp, EN3, 1962-1964, Amherst, Ohio
Dick Lacy, ENS, 1958-1959, and Martha Lacy, Jamesville, New York
Tom Lobello, RDM2/c, 1945-1946, and Lee Lobello, Jacksonville, Florida
Elmer Mayes, HMC, 1962-1965, and Ruth Mayes, Saint Cloud, Florida
Ed Miller, ENS, 1962-1963, and Henrietta Miller, Gallatin, Tennessee
Allen Newell, RM3, 1959-1960, and Donna Newell, Cumberland, Wisconsin
Ed Plumb, BT3, 1966-1968, and Tom Sheedy, Hampden, Massachusetts

Jack Raso, LTJG, 1963-1964, and Barbara Raso, Ellicott City, Maryland
Daniel Rogers, SN, 1960-1961, and Susan Rogers, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Louis "Skip" Sander, LTJG, 1961-1963, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Frank Shaw, BM2, 1956-1959, and Alberta Shaw, Sauquoit, New York
Charley Smith, PN3, 1964-1965, and Mary Smith, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Ray Spicer, BT3, 1960-1963, and Alice Spicer, Brooklyn, New York
Tex Spicer, BT3, 1960-1962, Thurmond, North Carolina
Walter "Buddy" Stringer, MM3, 1965-1969, and Arleen Stringer, Islip Terrace, New York
Mark Thomas, IC3, 1967-1970, and Linda Thomas, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Irving Wetmore, SFPFN, 1961-1963, Taftville, Connecticut
Neal Wirt, QM2, 1960-1963, and Tonya Cromer, Pulaski, Virginia
Harry Zimmer, LTJG, 1958-1960, and Norma Zimmer, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

USS Muliphen (AKA-61 / LKA-61)

Herman Autry, SM1, 1961-1966, and Nancy Autry, Raeford, North Carolina
Richard Baer, YN3, 1964-1966, and Darren Baer, Simpsonville, South Carolina
Gary Ebert, SN, 1961-1964, and Patti Ebert, Allentown, Pennsylvania
David Elder, QM3, 1962-1966, and Ruth Elder, Elizabeth City, North Carolina
John Ellas, RM3, 1959-1962, and Neva Ellas, Hilliard, Ohio
James Finley, EM3, 1957-1962, and Billie Jo Finley, Hertford, North Carolina
Louis Gross, RM2, 1961-1963, and Connie Gross, Shady-side, Ohio
George Hollins, YN1, 1966-1968, and Rachel Hollins, Bumpass, Virginia
Richard Markley, PNSN, 1963-1965, and Faith L. Markley, Millington, Tennessee
Edward Martin, EN3, 1961-1964, and Louise E. Martin, Birch Run, Michigan
Edward McCaffrey, RD2, 1963-1966, and Theresa McCaffrey, Vero Beach, Florida
David Olcefski, MMFN, 1961-1963 and Barbara Olcefski, Richmond, Virginia
Carl Olson, YN3, 1960-1961, and Carol Olson, Chatham, Massachusetts
Richard Schroeder, MM3, 1949-1952, and Ginny Schroeder, Hatboro, Pennsylvania
Ron Wiant, HM2, 1964-1966, and Joan M. Wiant, Newark, Delaware
Gerald Wotherspoon, YNSN, 1964-1965, and Liz Wotherspoon, Seffner, Florida

DECK LOG—ADDITIONAL REMARKS SHEET
USS RANKIN (AKA-103)
0000-0400 watch, Monday 1 January 1962



Tonight upon the midnight clear
 The good ship RANKIN lies portside to a pier.

I STAND THE WATCH.

"My God," I said, "'61 sailed by,
 Faster than the Enterprise."

"Let us not look back though," said my ego to my id
 "Not when there's poetry to be written on the mid."

SO?

You see, in the Navy by tradition
 The mid log is penned in poetry fashion.
 I'll write my epitome of trashery
 Along the style of Ogden Nashery.

I STAND A TAUT WATCH.

The Skipper and XO both are ashore
 Mr. JOHNSON is the CDO. (Ed. Note: Mr. Johnson
 had the general and chemical alarms, ship's whistle
 and siren, and 21MC placed out of commission
 for a short period this evening. He feared some of
 the more frivolous members of the crew as well as
 some of our fun loving J.O.'s would think the New
 Year Baby should be beeped and welcomed
 aboard with such ceremony as befits a VIP.)

TAUT?

We are moored alongside Pier 11, Berth 106
 With various yard and district craft we do intermix;
 We did not come here of own accord
 More like a losing gambit on a chess board.

YES TAUT!! meaning tough; firm; or snug; tidy; in a
 neat and proper condition or tense as taut nerves.

We are down here at St. Helena Annex alongside the
 mothball fleet

With which we most favorably compete
 Like the Packers and Giants!

**BY WHAT MISFORTUNE DID YOU DRAW THE
 WATCH?**

Don't worry about drifting into another craft
 We have off-shore wires both fore and aft.
 And standard mooring lines doubled up.
 And standard mooring lines doubled up.

POETIC ABILITY?

The engine room is on a 4-hour standby
 Upon which we'll not totally rely.
 So we'll keep number 2 boiler and number 1 and
 number 2 generator on the line.

NO.

Zero two forty-five. Time to commence a short trek
 to ascertain YOKE is set below the main deck
 and X-RAY main deck and above.
 and X-RAY main deck and above.

A THOUSAND TIMES NO!!

By the way, SOPA is Commanding Officer, U.S.S.
 CANBERRA (CAG-2)

P. S. Wisniewski
ENS USNR

USS Rankin Deck Log from the U.S. National Archives, College Park, MD

DECK LOGS

You may remember the Navy tradition that the first midwatch log entry of the New Year should be written in verse. The one to the left was written fifty years ago by Paul Wisniewski, who had been aboard the Rankin for only nine months. His English skills were lacking back then, so when he learned he had to write the log, his first thought was to find a Mike boat to hide in. But the resourceful Ensign collected his thoughts and began to write. He also phoned his bride of 16 weeks, whose inspiration and encouragement helped him in his work.

In the years since then, Paul had a career as an executive in the insurance industry, where he blossomed as a writer and public speaker. He and Lorraine live in his old home town, and have two children and four grandchildren. He's still involved in the world of verse—since 2002 he has sponsored an annual poetry reading to benefit the local public library. Every year he twists arms, cumshaws door prizes, and acts as Master of Ceremonies at what has become the area's major literary event.



Here's a previously unknown photo of the Rankin at the moment of her sinking in 1988. It was sent to us last month by Dan Hains, who was the Officer in Charge of the EOD detachment that provided the explosives and expertise to sink her. Thanks, Dan!

USS RANKIN NEWS

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