

USS RANKIN NEWS

ISSUE #21 • THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS RANKIN ASSOCIATION • MAY 2013



USS RANKIN REUNION

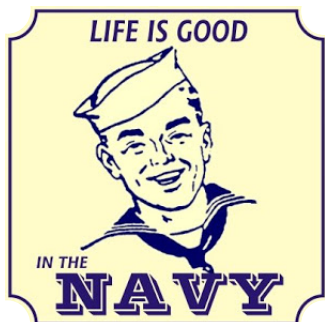
October 10-13,
2013

SAN ANTONIO, TX

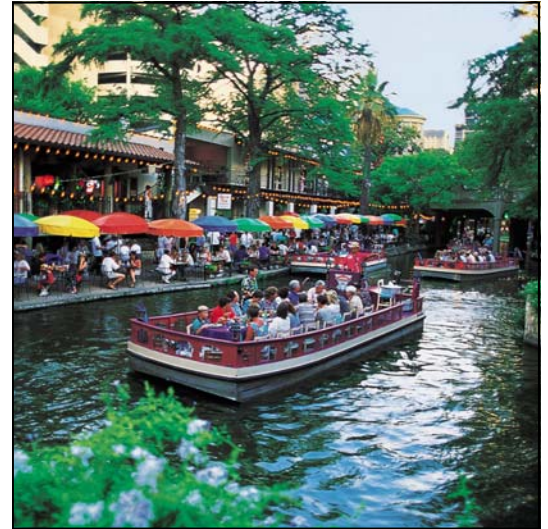
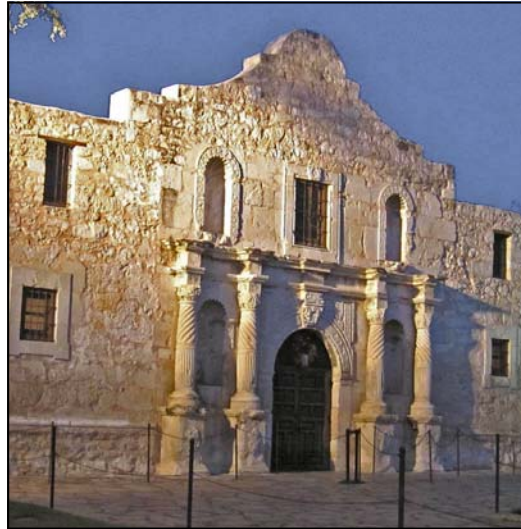
NEW MEMBERS

These shipmates have joined our Association since the last time we published such a list:

John A. Breen
C. Wayne Burkhart
August Collier
Raymond W. Delavan
Richard A. Devinny
Paul N. Federer
Edward J. Felter
Larry D. Fisher
Clifford B. Hagedon
Richard T. Harmon
Donald C. Johnson
James G. King
Timothy L. Latimer
George Mayo
Ronald J. Miller
John D. Psilopoulos
Vincent Reilly
Daniel J. Thornton
Joseph Williamson
Larry E. Wright



SAN ANTONIO BOUND!



Our tenth annual reunion will be held from October 10-13 in sunny San Antonio, the most-visited city in Texas. It's also the seventh most populous city in the United States, and the fastest-growing of the top 10 largest cities in the country.

San Antonio is famous for The Alamo and other Spanish missions, the River Walk, a unique Tex-Mex culture, and the Tower of the Americas, as well as the four-time NBA champion San Antonio Spurs and the annual

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo.

Millions of people visit each year to enjoy the world-famous River Walk, one story below the busy downtown streets. (And yes, our hotel is right on the River Walk!) A few blocks away is the Alamo, where in 1836 William Travis, Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett, and 186 others fought to the death against a thousand Mexican troops.

You can see more about San Antonio and the 2013 reunion inside on Page 2.

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

The envelope that brought you this newsletter also brought a paper about our Annual Fund Drive. We hope you will read it carefully and make whatever contribution you think is suitable. You can see a list of 2012's contributors inside on Page 4. The number of contributors was up substantially from 2011—Thank you!

Our Association has no annual dues, so our funding depends on voluntary contributions from shipmates like you. Thankfully, these contributions have been generous over the years, so we can run an operation that every Rankin sailor can be proud of.

Every year we are more and more convinced that we have one of the best, if not *the* best reunion and reconnection groups for a ship of the Rankin's size. Our web site is second to none, and our reunions have been memorable and well-attended. Any member can get a personalized directory of all his shipmates, not to mention a wide assortment of hats, shirts, ship's pictures, etc. And every year we mail three or four newsletters like this one, with a copy to every shipmate, family member or friend in our database. We hope you like them, and we hope you will make a contribution to our cause.

2013 REUNION ITINERARY

San Antonio, Texas – October 10-13, 2013

This will be a great reunion, and we expect about a hundred people to attend. As always, we've scheduled some great optional tours, and there will be plenty of time for getting together with friends or exploring San Antonio on your own. Here's the tentative schedule:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

10:00am - Hospitality Room opens. Enjoy the day visiting with friends. Lunch is on your own.

3:00pm - Check in to the Crowne Plaza. Early check-in may be available, but is dependent on previous guests checking out on time. The hotel has no control over this – you can ask for it, but nobody can promise it.

5:30pm - Water Taxi departs from the back of the hotel (Event A)

6:00pm - Dinner at Casa Rio Restaurant

7:30pm - Sightseeing cruise departs from the restaurant

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

6:30am - 10:30am - Breakfast in the hotel's *111 Grill*

9:00am - Bus departs for San Antonio City, Missions & Alamo Tour. (Event B)

11:00am - Alamo IMAX Movie

12:30pm - Lunch on your own in Alamo Plaza

3:00pm - Bus returns to the hotel

4:30pm - Business Meeting

6:00pm - Bus departs for Rio Cibolo Ranch tour and Buffet Dinner (Event C)

10:00pm - Bus returns to the hotel

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

6:30am - 10:30am - Breakfast in the hotel's *111 Grill*

9:00am - Bus departs for Fredericksburg, Texas and the National Museum of Pacific War (Event D). Lunch is on your own in Fredericksburg

4:00pm - Bus returns to the hotel

5:30pm - Cash Bar

6:00pm - Formal Dinner Photos and Group Photos

7:00pm - Banquet Dinner

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:30am - 10:30am - Breakfast in the hotel's *111 Grill*

9:00am - Memorial Service in the Hospitality Room. Say your good-byes until next time.

11:00am Hotel check out time

Registration forms will be available online soon. Our website, www.ussrankin.org/reunion2013.htm will have all the details as soon as they are published. If you want to receive printed registration forms, just check the appropriate box on the enclosed yellow form.

SHIPMATE FEEDBACK

On Attending Rankin Reunions

If you've considered coming to a reunion, but haven't yet taken the plunge, we'd love to see you in San Antonio. Here's what shipmates are saying about USS Rankin reunions:

"Our time on the Rankin was something special. Some good memories, some not so good, and some of them "terrific." To attend a reunion is a time to find old friends, make new ones, and if you're lucky, to meet a few of your shipmates from your time on the Rankin. But we're all shipmates, and the reunion is the best thing on my annual calendar"

Ed Gaskell, Navigator, 1954-1956

"I like going to the reunions because it allows a chance to see new places and renew friendships. Every one of us have served on the ship at some time, and we can share our views and enjoy the few days we have together."

Elton Gould, CSSN, 1956-1960

"For those of you who have never attended a Rankin Reunion, I would strongly encourage you to do so this year. My wife and I attended the first one in Norfolk in 2004, and have attended all but one ever since.

"This year, San Antonio offers a unique opportunity to visit one of America's foremost reunion cities. The hotel this year is an excellent value and is in the heart of San Antonio's famous Riverwalk area. If this year's reunion matches up with others in the past, you will have the opportunity to share sea stories with your old shipmates while eating one of the planned meals or touring the many local cultural and historical sites. The hospitality room lets former Rankin sailors and their spouses renew old acquaintances and meet those who were aboard during different eras.

"I promise that you will enjoy the experience and hope to see you in October."

George Berninger, LTJG, 1962-1964

"Bette and I are looking forward to attending our 8th USS Rankin reunion. Over the years, we have thoroughly enjoyed the comradeship of the Rankin shipmates and spouses. Generally, we take a few extra days and make it a mini vacation. You will enjoy the friendship of attendees, reminisce old sea stories, and enjoy the planned San Antonio tours and activities. You will not be disappointed."

Bill Devroe, SK3, 1963-1965

"It was pure joy going to my first reunion last year. It was enjoyable going over old experiences with people I served with and listening to the WWII shipmates. I look forward to seeing all of you again."

Randall Jameson, CS3, 1966-1968

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CAMPAIGN, 1965



CAPT W. T. Rapp, Rankin C.O. in 1965

In April, 1965, USS Rankin was engaged in routine training as part of the Navy's Caribbean Ready Group. Late in the month, she was anchored off the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

Electrical Officer Bill Hennings remembers what happened then:

"One Sunday morning the order unexpectedly came to steam west to the Dominican Republic. Our first task there was a show of force off Santo Domingo, the capital. I wonder if the bad guys on shore paid much attention to seven amphibs in a column going back and forth!

"Several days later I heard the order to man battle stations, without the expected preface "This is a drill, this is a drill!" We launched the landing force with the embarked Marines and their equipment. An embarked Marine warrant officer was killed by friendly fire in the operation.

"The campaign was successful, as the unrest was put down and the Dominican government has been relatively stable ever since."

For her role in the action, the Rankin received a commendation from the Secretary of the Navy. All hands were authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

The Secretary of the Navy also presented Rankin's Operations Officer, LCDR Howard A. Weltner, with the Navy Achievement Medal. The citation reads:

"As officer in charge of Rankin's landing party, Commander Weltner led three landing craft into the port of Haina, the first U.S. naval surface craft to enter the harbor, and, under threat of hostile fire, successfully evacuated twenty-one dependents of United States personnel assigned to the Embassy in Santo Domingo. Additionally, he planned and assisted in the implementation of several other operations

during this period, including the patrolling of the Dominican Republic coast line to prevent infiltration of arms, personnel and material, and Sneak Attack Defense Coordinator for the port of Andres. Commander Weltner's professional competence and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service."

These activities and the 1965-1966 U.S. occupation of the Dominican Republic came to be known as Operation Power Pack. You can Google that term and find a LOT more information about it.



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in commending the following commands and units:

Commander and Staff Amphibious Squadron TEN
Tactical Air Control Squadron TWENTY-TWO, Detachment INDIA
USS BOXER (LPH-4) with nucleus JTF-122 Staff embarked
USS FORT SNELLING (LSD-30)
USS RALEIGH (LPD-1)
USS WOOD COUNTY (LST-1178)
USS RUCHAMKIN (APD-89)
USS YANCY (AKA-93)
USS RANKIN (AKA-103)
6th Marine Expeditionary Unit
Marine Corps Security Guard, American Embassy, Santo Domingo

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For exceptionally meritorious service from 26 through 30 April 1965 in connection with the Dominican Republic crisis. Arriving off the coast of Santo Domingo on 26 April 1965, ships and Marines of Amphibious Squadron TEN commenced the mass embarkation and evacuation of over 1,000 United States civilian nationals and other refugees, among whom were large numbers of women and children from the Dominican Republic. As the situation on shore worsened, Commander Joint Task Force-122 landed combat Marines of the 6th Marine Expeditionary Unit to guarantee the safety of evacuees and for the protection of U.S. and foreign property. This major amphibious operation, introducing the first combat troops into the Dominican Republic, was smoothly conducted and all objectives achieved with minimal loss of life. The fact that the entire evacuation and troop landing operations were successfully conducted in the face of unusual conditions and obstacles, is a tribute to the dedication of all personnel involved and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

All personnel attached to and serving on board any of the above designated units during the period 26 through 30 April 1965 are hereby authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

Paul H. Nitze
Secretary of the Navy

ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

These 195 shipmates and friends made financial contributions to The USS Rankin Association during calendar 2012. 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 1,363 of our living members and friends give them a Bravo Zulu and a very meaningful Thank You!

Allen, Paul M.....	ENS(SC)	1946-1947	Gaskell, Edward P.....	LT	1954-1956
Ayasse, Ralph	SMSN	1959-1962	Gauthier, Leo	ET2	1958-1961
Baisden, Robert.....	YN3	1954-1955	Gersbacher, Pete.....	LTJG	1959-1961
Baisden, Robert.....	YN3	1954-1955	Gilbert, George.....	EM2	1957-1960
Ballou, Joseph F.....	LTJG	1957-1958	Ginn, Raymond	MM3	1956-1958
Barth, William A., Jr.....	EN1	1954-1956	Goebel, Peter	RM2	1958-1960
Becker, Jerry T.	CAPT.....	1970-1971	Golfman, David.....	SN	1961-1963
Beeler, David.....	ETN3	1963-1966	Gould, Elton	CSSN	1956-1960
Berkman, Eugene	LT(MC)	1963-1964	Grant, Gerald M.	EM2	1958-1960
Biance, William T.	GM3	1961-1963	Gregg, Geraldine	See Note 1	
Bivens, Rodger.....	ETR2	1967-1971	Gully, Stew.....	LTJG	1957-1958
Black, Roy.....	BMSN.....	1952-1954	Guthrie, Sidney	EN3	1967-1971
Boyles, Eugene E.	SHSN.....	1959-1961	Hack, John.....	SN	1961-1962
Brady, Robert E.....	LTJG	1952-1953	Hadley, Nelson	EM2	1963-1966
Buckner, Paul H.....	EN3	1957-1958	Hallman, Herbert E.	WT3C.....	1945-1946
Buddle, Henry	SN	1964-1966	Hand, William J.	LTJG	1959-1961
Burke, Dennis	FN.....	1964-1964	Hardegee, Howard L.	ENS	1960-1961
Burke, John J.....	EN2	1966-1970	Haring, Jacob	BMSN.....	1953-1955
Caldwell, Geoff.....	LTJG	1965-1967	Harper, J.W.....	USS Chara (AKA-58)	
Carrick, Marshall.....	QM3	1952-1952	Harris, Stephen K.....	LTJG	1969-1971
Casto, Mark	ENS	1957-1958	Hatten, Frederick.....	RM3	1964-1966
Cayo, Richard.....	BTC	1958-1962	Head, Hillyer	S2C.....	1945-1945
Christensen, W. V.	LTJG	1945-1945	Heenan, R. Dennis	LTJG	1952-1953
Clauson, William.....	BTFN	1956-1958	Heffelfinger, Karl	FT3	1960-1961
Crane, Roger H.....	MR3	1957-1959	Hickey, William.....	LTJG	1969-1971
Cregan, John D.....	LTJG	1954-1955	Hitchcock, Matthew H. ..	LTJG	1962-1962
Cromack, Dan.....	LTJG	1963-1963	Holly, Leland.....	COX	1945-1946
Dawson, Patrick.....	S1C.....	1945-1946	Houser, Dennis.....	BMSN.....	1963-1965
Decker, John	SF2.....	1960-1962	Hoyt, Gerald L.....	BM2	1952-1954
Declat, Daniel	DC3	1966-1968	Hughes, Richard B.	BT3	1959-1962
Desnoyer, David.....	EM2.....	1957-1961	Hunton, Bud	HM2	1964-1965
Devault, Robert	SM2.....	1959-1962	Icardi, Ed	EN2	1965-1967
Devroe, William P.	SK3	1963-1965	Izyk, James J.....	RM2	1960-1964
Doherty, Hugh J.	SN	1959-1961	Jenkins, Neil	DC1	1961-1967
Domowski, Edward.....	SK3	1969-1971	Johnson, Donald V.	CS2.....	1952-1954
Domurat, Ben	LTJG	1969-1970	Johnson, Luther.....	LT	1960-1962
Dousman, James M.....	FTSN	1962-1962	Johnson, Verne D.	SK1	1952-1954
Duncan, Charles D.....	FN.....	1961-1965	Jones, Iver.....	DC1	1954-1957
Dunning, Willie D., III ..	PFC.....	1962-1962	Kasid, Al	ENS	1957-1958
Edmisten, J. W.....	EMC	1961-1965	Keith, Robert L.....	ENS	1953-1955
Ellett, Frank.....	LTJG	1960-1961	Kellerman, Richard B.	EM3	1966-1967
Falker, Raymond.....	MMFN	1964-1967	Kennedy, Claude C.	S2C.....	1945-1945
Fields, Michael	IC3	1959-1961	Kersh, John M.	ENS	1958-1959
Fisher, Larry D.....	SFP3	1966-1968	Kortkamp, Gary	LTJG	1961-1964
Fleming, F. Donald	LTJG	1958-1960	Kraus, Joseph.....	LT(SC).....	1963-1964
Forbes, Wayne	HN.....	1964-1966	Laboda, Matthew.....	EN2	1955-1956
Forde, Hugh.....	MMFN	1961-1962	Lacy, Richard.....	ENS	1958-1959
Frost, S. David.....	LT(SC).....	1958-1959	Landreth, Windy.....	See Note 2	
Fulton, Mike.....	LT	1966-1968	Lane, Jerry L.....	CS3.....	1968-1969
Gagne, Donald P.....	SKC	1955-1955	Lathrop, Allen L.	SN	1957-1959
Gardner, George D.....	MR2.....	1968-1968	Lents, Thomas J.....	IC3	1958-1959

Levine, Abraham	ENS	1946-1946	Smith, Leroy	RD3	1960-1962
Lobello, Thomas.....	RDM 2/c	1945-1946	Smith, Vern	LTJG	1956-1958
Lowery, Marvin.....	SN	1966-1968	Spicer, Shirley.....	BT3	1960-1963
Mamikonian, Stephen A.	LTJG	1968-1970	Spicer, Tex	BT3	1960-1962
Manders, Karl L.....	LT(MC)	1953-1954	Stadtmiller, Victor	FA	1970-1970
Mangen, Kenneth J.	MM2	1959-1962	Steger, E. H.	ENS	1958-1959
Matthews, Marion.....	RM1	1957-1960	Stockwell, Glenn A.	OS1	1969-1970
May, George S.....	LTJG	1968-1969	Stone, David L.	LTJG	1960-1963
McCall, Barry R.....	TA	1958-1962	Street, Leon E.	QM3	1962-1964
McCourt, James	RD3	1963-1966	Stringer, Walter.....	MM3	1965-1969
McDade, Thomas C., Jr.	SN	1961-1963	Stuart, Albert J.	EM1	1965-1967
McGavin, Joseph J.	ENS	1957-1958	Sutton, James E.	SM3.....	1966-1969
Meinig, George	LTJG	1958-1960	Thomas, Mark A.....	IC3	1967-1969
Melia, Raymond.....	CSSN	1966-1966	Thomsen, Kenneth	EN2	1956-1959
Melkonian, Armen.....	BM3	1967-1971	Thornton, Daniel J.	SF3	1966-1967
Miller, H. Edward.....	ENS	1962-1963	Toay, W. J.	RM3	1963-1965
Miller, Ronald J.	BMG3.....	1952-1955	Tommer, Albert.....	FN	1956-1957
Modesto, Paul A.	CPL, USMC.....	1957-1958	Trigiano, Lucien.....	ENS	1945-1946
Montalbine, Gary.....	LT	1961-1963	Vander Well, Lester.....	YN3	1954-1957
Moore, Johnnie E.	QM3	1955-1958	Vick, Jerrauld O.....	SH3	1957-1957
Moretz, Charles.....	SKCS	1968-1969	Wakelee, David.....	LTJG	1952-1954
Munch, Melvin.....	S1C.....	1946-1946	Wallis, Clyde.....	MR2	1952-1953
Navatto, Donald J.	MM3	1959-1961	Walton, Edward P.	SA.....	1946-1947
Newell, Allen G.	RM3	1959-1960	Weaver, Jack.....	BT1	1957-1957
Norman, Thomas A.	EMFA	1964-1965	Weigel, Jesse A.	LT(MC)	1961-1962
Oroz, Dan.....	ENS	1966-1967	Wentz, William A.	LT	1952-1952
Pillsbury, David	FN.....	1960-1961	West, Robert H.....	LTJG	1964-1966
Plumb, Edward.....	BT3	1966-1968	Whyno, Peter.....	BM3	1952-1955
Pontious, Harold	RM2C	1945-1945	Wilburn, Don.....	LCDR.....	1965-1967
Prentice, Colm N.....	BT2	1965-1969	Williamson, Rod	QMQ3.....	1952-1954
Quinlan, Frank.....	EM2	1966-1968	Wilson, James G.	LTJG	1953-1955
Raso, Jack.....	LTJG	1963-1964	Wirt, Neal	QM2	1960-1963
Ratté, Arthur J.....	SH2	1960-1961	Wisnewski, Paul.....	LTJG	1961-1962
Reding, Patrick G.	RMSN.....	1952-1954	Wood, Warren H.....	GM1	1955-1958
Redler, Gary	EN2	1962-1965	Wright, Larry E. Jr.....	MM3	1962-1963
Reed, Donald A.	ENS	1952-1953	Zimmer, Harry.....	LTJG	1958-1960
Reid, Allen	S1C.....	1945-1946			
Reynolds, Patricia	See Note 3				
Richard, Larry J.....	PN3.....	1965-1966			
Richard, Norman E.....	YN3	1954-1957			
Riley, Robert E.....	DK2.....	1962-1963			
Rose, M. H.....	CDR.....	1967-1968			
Rowland, (Orville) Jack ..	S1C.....	1945-1946			
Rupp, Jean K.....	See Note 4				
Sander, Louis "Skip"	LTJG	1961-1963			
Saroka, Frank	HA	1961-1961			
Satrom, Robert.....	LTJG	1968-1970			
Savio, Leo	LTJG	1959-1961			
Savoca, Eugene T.	RM3	1965-1969			
Schiel, Frank.....	LTJG	1945-1946			
Schneider, Tom.....	BM3	1966-1969			
Seifert, Donald J.	ENS	1947-1947			
Shaw, Frank.....	BM2	1959-1961			
Siciliano, Carl.....	CS3.....	1963-1964			
Sirois, Ronald	SM2.....	1965-1966			
Smith, Charles T.	PN3.....	1964-1965			
Smith, John Thomas	ENS(SC)	1960-1961			

NOTES:

- 1 – Wife of William “Mike” Gregg, QM3, 1945-1946
- 2 – Wife of Jim Landreth, MMCS, 1959-1963
- 3 – Wife of Timothy Reynolds, LTJG(SC), 1966-1969
- 4 – Wife of Harold Rupp, LT, 1952

FROM OUR COLLECTION OF SHIPMATES' PICTURES...



CAPT Lampman



Winowiecki, MR3

SHIPMATES ON PARADE



Roy, Alfred J. – RM2, 1962-1966

Back in 1961 I was working for my dad, and we had a long talk about my future. He had been a Carpenter's Mate in the Seabees when they started up in 1942, and he offered me \$50 if I would enlist in the Navy.

That was a good deal, so I went to see the recruiter. I passed the physical and all the tests and got sworn in. I was supposed to go to boot camp in California, but they sent me instead to Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Illinois. There were 2' of snow on the runway when we landed at O'Hare.

Our bus arrived at Great Lakes at 4:30 AM, when they lined us up and marched us to old wooden barracks with steam heat. All I could think of was "What did I get myself into? It's cold here, and reveille is at 0600!"

I was assigned to Company 26 and began my Naval career. Whether I liked it or not, I learned what was expected of me and became a sailor. I graduated boot camp and went to RM "A" school in Bainbridge, Maryland. Expecting to go to NAS Bermuda, I went to Norfolk instead, to something called USS Rankin (AKA-103). No sooner had I come aboard than the Cuban Missile Crisis came up, and we were off to the beautiful island of Cuba. "Now hear this! General Quarters, General Quarters, this is NOT a

drill!" Being a radioman, I got to hear what was going on and use the skills I was trained for.

In the years following I was promoted to RM3, then temporarily busted to RMSN. That made me a messcook for three months, in the scullery with all the roaches. I'm itching just thinking about it.

I finally straightened out and enjoyed my time aboard old Rusty Nuts, a.k.a. NEPY, Citrus Delta, and more. I learned to respect and care for the old girl, and I didn't like it at all when she was finally sent to the bottom.

I left the Navy in May 1966, after a four-month extension due to the conflict in Vietnam. I was a civilian again, and back working for my dad, the former Seabee.

Over 20 years later, I went to see the recruiter and joined the Navy Reserves. I went to a Seabee unit as an E-3 since I had been out so long. I did the courses for Steelworker and was designated a SWCN. A year later I made SW3, did all the courses up to chief, and was advanced to SW2. I went on active duty as a Naval Reserve Recruiter for Manchester, New Hampshire. I did this for two years, earning gold wreath awards for recruiting goals achieved each month.

I attended many schools, and was Seabee military instructor, career counselor, training PO and LPO. I had good rapport with the Marine detachment, and I had the Marine Captain swear in all my female recruits.

My two-week ACDUTRAS were interesting adventures. In Fort Benning, Georgia, we constructed new sidewalks.

In the Seabee base at Gulfport, Mississippi, we trained by building a temporary advance base. As an SW2, I was in charge of assembling a 500 barrel water tank. The week after it was completed, another crew of Sea-

bees did their training by taking it down. I still have pictures of me and my crew assembling that very large water tank.

During the Gulf War, I spent two weeks on the island of Crete, on a NATO base from which planes were flying to support the war.

I made SW1, and with that there was some hazing and additional responsibilities.

I took the test for SWC three times, passing it and becoming board eligible, but there were no slots for me due to steelworker chiefs retiring. I decided that time was getting short and I was getting old and the Navy would probably retire me. I left in October, 2001.

During all this time I was driving tankers for EXXONMOBIL. I retired from there in March of 2005.

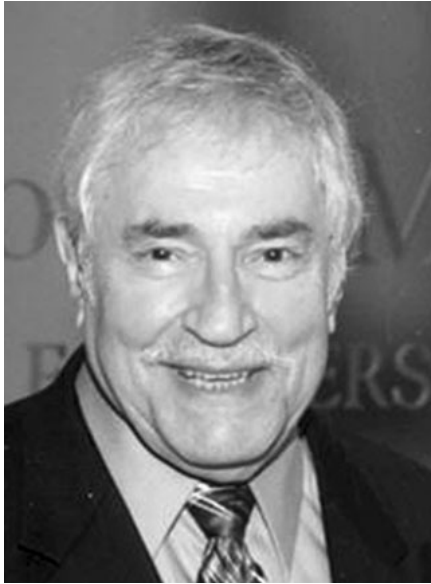
Now I putter around and drive my 1949 Chevy custom/rod. I am the handyman of my street, and I'm even a substitute teacher's aide in the middle school.

Oh yes! I work out with my uncle in his gym three days a week. He is 91 years old, and was in the Army as a communications specialist in a jeep in Germany during WWII.



Baby Alfred J. Roy, Destined for the Navy

SHIPMATES ON PARADE



L. L. Trigiano, MD, F.A.C.P.

I was born in Easton, PA in 1926. My parents owned a corner grocery store where I worked as a kid. At an early age, I knew I wanted to be a doctor. When WWII started in 1941, I was a sophomore in high school, in the band and orchestra and playing on the football and baseball teams.

Every 18-year-old was required to register for the draft, and I realized that the more education I had, the better would be my chances of choosing the service branch I wanted. So on Thanksgiving Day 1942, I applied for admission to Ohio University. After much discussion, the principal and superintendent of schools let me drop out of high school to attend the university. So off to Athens, Ohio for my first time away from home.

I contracted polio in the summer of 1943. I was unable to walk and could not attend classes for several weeks. With time and many trips to the gym my physical status improved and in December 1943 I was accepted into the Navy's V-5 Naval Aviation Cadet program.

Active duty started at Milligan College in Tennessee, where I played baseball and football. In September 1944, I was transferred to Texas

Christian University in Fort Worth. Football was in full swing, and I became a member of the team. As a result, I was a member of the 1945 TCU Cotton Bowl team!

In February 1945 the Navy sent me to Princeton University for pre midshipman school. From there to Northwestern University Midshipman School, where I was commissioned an ensign at the ripe old age of 19.

From there to Fort Schuyler, New York, to await assignment to school for Underwater Demolition. On August 15, 1945 I was in Times Square in New York City when the news came that Japan had surrendered and all military personnel should return to their bases. The next thing I knew my orders for Underwater Demolition were cancelled and I was assigned to the USS Rankin, which was somewhere in the Pacific at the time.

After a few days at home in Pennsylvania, I boarded a United Airlines plane for San Francisco. It took 24 hours to get across the U.S. because the DC3 was slow and stopped at many towns along the way. Two weeks after arriving in San Francisco, the Navy located the Rankin and I was put aboard the U.S. Army ship SS Mormacdove for transport to the Philippines.

I landed in Manila and took a narrow gauge railroad to Lingayen Gulf in northern Luzon. I spent a month there, sharing a tent with Bill Daley, an All-American football player from the universities of Minnesota and Michigan.

I returned to Manila and joined the Rankin on November 7, 1945. Exciting things quickly began to happen—on Christmas Eve, the ship's medical team did an emergency appendectomy at sea. One week later on New Year's Eve, they did another one! Appendectomies were serious operations in

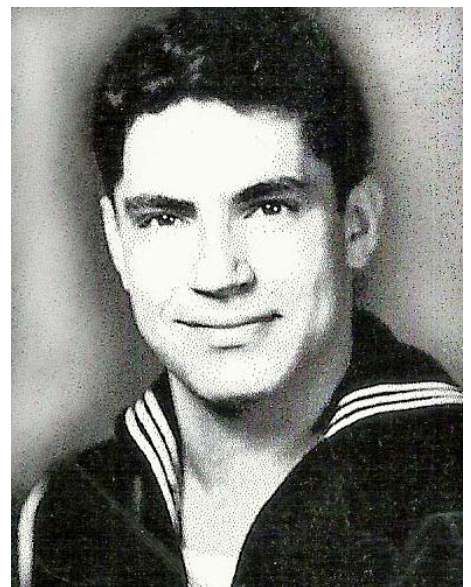
those days, and to have one done at sea was quite exceptional.

I remained aboard the Rankin until July 19, 1946, when I was discharged to the Naval Reserves.

I went back to Ohio University and graduated from Temple Medical School in 1952. I practiced rehabilitation medicine in Johnstown, Pennsylvania until moving to San Francisco in 1973. I had gotten a pilot's license in the 1960s, and in San Francisco I developed a consulting practice that enabled me to fly to every state including Alaska and Hawaii. Life was good, and I had a seven passenger plane with pressurization and all the latest navigation gear, with medical licenses in Pennsylvania, New York, Oklahoma, Nevada and Hawaii. I lived in Las Vegas for 11 years, returning to Easton in 2007.

I am now retired but still active. I'm on the Board of Visitors at Temple University Medical School and belong to the Raleigh Tavern Society of Colonial Williamsburg. I'm 87 years old, but still mow three acres of grass!

I'm grateful that I can still write emails, speak to my friends, and have close contact with all that I hold dear, including, of course, AKA-103.



Aviation Cadet Trigiano, 1944

HORSEPLAY IN GIBRALTAR – 1954

Art Fernandez, ET1 1952-1955, sent us 14 slides from sometime around 1954. Says Art, “The crew was planning the special ceremony for being relieved of Med duty. Captain Ramage had his way of doing things like this – mostly fun!

“Some guys may remember the exact time and who replaced the Rankin. It took place at Gibraltar.” Some of Art’s material appears below. You can see it all at www.ussrankin.org by clicking 1954 Gibraltar Photos on the home page.

We have our own questions: What was in the box? Who was Miss Bone (no doubt named after Bone, Algeria, a Rankin port of call)? Who, long before the days of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” was the shapely bathing beauty, and has he/she ever shown up at a reunion? Who was the guy in the Fez, and what is written on his scroll? Plus, who’s the sailor with the white tie and the upside-down crow?



OUR CAPTAINS

These men commanded the USS Rankin beginning on the dates shown. All held the Navy rank of Captain except for Captains Price and Given, who ranked as Lieutenant Commanders.

Thomas D. Price – 2/25/45
 William L. McDonald – 11/25/45
 Griswold T. Atkins – 5/20/46
 George D. Arntz – 3/10/47
Decommissioned – 5/21/47
 Bernard H. Meyer – 3/22/52
 Lawson P. Ramage – 4/11/53
 Malcolm T. Munger – 7/19/54
 James D. Ferguson – 7/20/55
 W. F. A. Wendt – 10/4/56
 John Harlee – 11/6/57
 John S. C. Gabbert – 2/19/59
 Leonard E. Harmon – 2/10/60
 Thomas F. Howe – 3/10/61
 John S. Leidel – 5/29/62
 George C. Cook – 7/16/63
 William T. Rapp – 8/22/64
 Thomas C. Hurst, III – 8/6/65
 Lester B. Lampman – 8/8/66
 John D. Exum – 9/26/67
 C. Nello Pierozzi – 4/14/69
 Jerry T. Becker – 8/9/70
 Philip R. Given – 2/2/71
Decommissioned – 5/11/71

USS RANKIN NEWS

USS RANKIN NEWS is published by:

The USS Rankin Association
 153 Mayer Drive
 Pittsburgh, PA 15237
 412-367-1376
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www.ussrankin.org

Back issues can be viewed online at
www.ussrankin.org/news.htm

The USS Rankin Association is a non-profit 501(c)(19) veterans' organization incorporated in Pennsylvania. Donations to the Association qualify as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

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