

LEYTE NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LEYTE (CV-32) ASSOCIATION

May 2017

PRESIDENTS LETTER

First I would like to thank Andy and Betty Makar for all the hard work they have put into making all the arrangements for the reunion in Maryland. Most of us don't know how much goes into setting up a reunion - many phone calls, emails, vendor meetings and a thousand other things. Be sure to make reservations early if you need a handicap room as they are limited in number. This newsletter may get to you a little late as it was hard getting things finalized to make the reunion another great one..

A group of us including Bruce Cameron, Bill Carr, Angelo Masi, Jim Nelligan and Fran Zygmunt went to Bath, Maine for the launching of the USS Thomas Hudner DDG-116. There were about 1000 people there, the weather was in the low 30s, snowing, and we were outside sitting on metal folding chairs. The special program lasted about three hours. They passed out plastic ponchos to help keep us dry but most of us were still cold and a little wet. I would do it again!

We had a great reunion in Virginia Beach last year with the exception of the power outage at the very end. Hope that the weather is better the whole time this year as am looking forward to another great reunion.

I wish everyone 'Smooth Sailing and Fresh Warm Breezes'. Charles Hill, President

USS THOMAS HUDNER DDG-116

The ship is named after Captain Thomas J. Hudner who as a Lieutenant (jg) received the Medal of Honor for his attempt to save his flight leader Ensign Jesse Brown, the Navy's first African American aviator, that had been shot down and crash landed in the freezing North Korean mountains. They were flying F4U Corsair's from USS LEYTE in close air support for outnumbered U.S. Marines fighting Chinese and North Korean troops in the Chosin Reservoir area. Browns plane was hit and he crash landed 15 miles behind enemy lines. Hudner, noting that Brown was still alive, intentionally ditched his aircraft nearby and made a valiant attempt to save Brown. The attempt failed and he was forced to evacuate by helicopter flown by Marine Lieutenant Charles Ward. Planes from

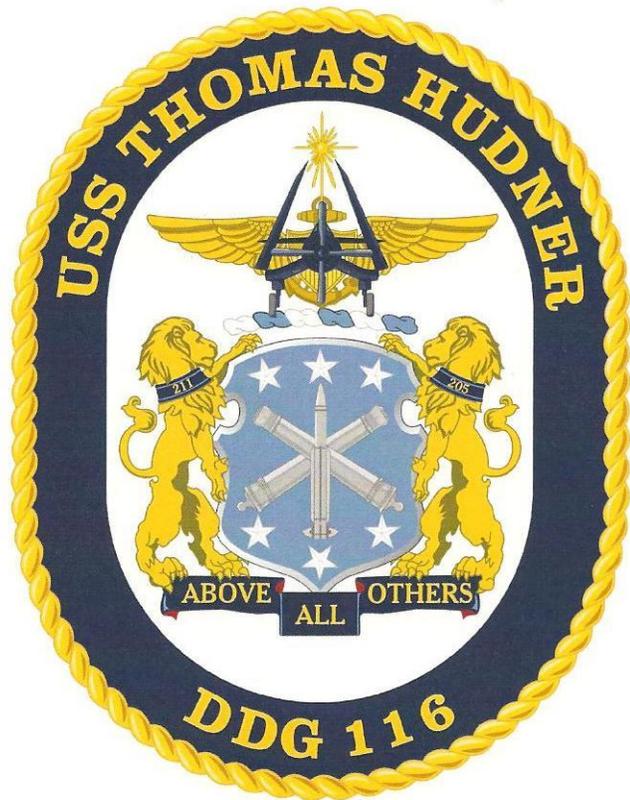
LEYTE later dropped napalm on the two aircraft giving Brown a warrior's funeral. Details can be found in the book "Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship and Sacrifice" by Adam Makos.

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I am sure everyone knows what the letters GMC on the front of a truck or car stands for. "General Motors Corporation". Well I would like to change that to something more meaningful, "God Means Commitment". Are you committed to God or are you committed to this world? General Motors runs the motor vehicle life. Who's running your life? Is it the world around you or is it God? When you have a problem with your car you take it in for service. Do you take your problems to God for His service? It is free and lasting, and makes you feel better. Try it! You will like it.



MAIL CALL

Items from the meetings at the reunion in Virginia Beach of interest to members. The total attendees at this reunion were between 64 and 68. Chaplain Frank Koehler reported that 34 shipmates had passed since the last reunion. Chief Master at Arms Van Wagenen reported that a letter he received stated that the bell was a possession of the Naval History and Heritage Command Organization but has been recently misplaced again. Efforts are being made to locate it and we will be notified of any progress. Registration Jim Nelligan reported that because we have several dangles left over each year that we go to one color leaving less left over. Small Stores Charlie Hill indicated that very little stock is remaining and only hats will be replenished. It was reported that the USS Hudner commissioning will be in Boston at a date unknown at this time. The book "Devotion" by Adam Makos was discussed as a story of Hudner – Jesse Brown and members who have not read it are encouraged to do so. We were reminded of the outstanding job being done by the LEYTE web site webmaster Steven Perry and the special rate that he obtained. Members are encouraged to visit the site at ussleytecv32.com. He has done an excellent job upgrading it that is continuing. Memorabilia is always a concern and smaller amounts will be available each year.

CREST

**USS THOMAS HUDNER
(DDG 116)**

SYMBOLISM

SHIELD: The colors light blue and white are representative of the Medal of Honor ribbon and also allude to the sky and clouds, the field of action of a fighter pilot. The six mullets (stars) are representative of the six-aircraft flight squadron of which Thomas Hudner was a member. The inverted star in base symbolizes his element leader and friend, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, the Navy's first African-American carrier pilot, who then- Lt. j.g. Hudner valiantly attempted to save in 1950. The cannons and missile represent the ammunition of the advanced weapons systems and the naval surface combatant technology.

CREST: The torse or wreath takes the first metal and color from the shield and here, also, symbolizes the sky and the snowy, frozen terrain on which Thomas Hudner landed his plane during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir (the "Frozen Chosin"). Captain Hudner was the only Naval Aviator in the Korean War awarded the Medal of Honor, also represented by the twisted wreath colors. The wings and shield are from the Naval Aviator Badge and reflect Hudner's service in Naval Aviation. The star-burst is modeled after the symbol of the "Chosin Few." The wings of the Corsair are raised in salute.

SUPPORTERS: Lions represent strength, courage and fortitude, and are known for protecting their own and thrive as group hunters. They also allude to Captain Hudner's valiant actions that earned him the Medal of Honor. The lion on the left wears a dark blue collar with the tail number of Jesse Brown's plane, "211." The lion on the right has a dark blue collar with Thomas Hudner's tail number, "205," in gold, also symbolizing his distinguished Navy career.

MOTTO: On a blue banner, in gold letters, the inscription: "ABOVE ALL OTHERS."

Individual photos are not taken at the reunion but members are encouraged to send copies of theirs to the webmaster at the LEYTE website for posting. Angelo Masi will be handling the reunion 2018 in Savannah, GA as was recommended at the last reunion. We will continue to handle our own reunions but getting a good price is getting more difficult. Future sites for 2019 were St. Louis and Branson. Founding President Clark Farnsworth gave another inspiring talk. It was approved to give a \$100 donation to USS Slater museum that Clark has worked on as a welder for 18 years.

MAIL CALL continued

A letter from Lisa Bronson informing us of the passing of LaVerne "luboil" Jones who truly enjoyed the reunions. She would enjoy continuing to receive the newsletter. A letter from Patricia Ryan saying the Sydney C. Ryan had passed. He was one of our WW II veterans that served in LEYTE and he also served in Midway. He enjoyed getting the newsletter. A letter from Life Member William Farrell saying that due to illness they were unable to attend the 2016 reunion and that they were moving. And from Charlie Hill information on the USS HUDNER christening/launching in Bath, ME which was used in this newsletter. Then there were two emails on shipmates injured at the reunion. Clarkson who fell and ended up in the hospital where the doctors informed him that he needed a pacemaker. His niece and husband came and took him home. When he got home his doctor put him in the hospital and then in nursing rehabilitation to get back walking and in shape. He was sorry to have missed all the shipmates at the banquet on Saturday night. Then from Chris Rathmann, Walter also spent some time in the hospital saying that he is doing well as far as no pain, strength, etc. however found out that his C-2 vertebra has not healed at all. Had the option for an operation or wear a neck brace. He made the decision to wear the neck brace. Walter says Hi to all his shipmates. Chris is also responsible for sending a shipmates gathering photo from the reunion that appears in this newsletter. And finally be sure to bring your gifts to the reunion to be used in the raffle hosted by Betty Hill each year.

TAPS

Charles C Buchanan 6/16
John F Carr 1/17
Donald Corley 1/17
William M DeBruyn
William G Farrell 12/16
Frank L Frausto 11/16
James H Harris 4/17
LaVerne D Jones 8/15
John F Kelsey 11/16
Sydney C Ryan 9/16
James Weaver 1992
Robert B Whitmoyer 11/16
John L Woods 1/17
Alvin C Woolford 12/16

FROM THE EDITOR

Input from shipmates is needed for the newsletter. If you have an article or remembrance of something happened while you were in LEYTE please send them in to the Editor at the address on this newsletter. I am sure that your shipmates will be glad to hear of your adventure(s). I am sorry for the late notice in this newsletter as it has been difficult to get all the arrangements made for the 2017 reunion and get them into shape for the announcements in this newsletter.

***** USS LEYTE (CV-32) ASSOCIATION RENEWAL/APPLICATION *****

I Mbr#_____ apply to renew () **or** for membership () in the USS LEYTE (CV-32) Association and forward in consideration a gift of \$ 15.00. **or** Life membership () 59 years or less = \$150; 60-69= \$100; 70 up = \$50.

Name: _____ () Wife's Name: _____ ** 2017 DUES**

Info Change() first/mi/last nickname

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ + _____

Phone: Home () _____ - _____ e-mail Address _____

Crewmember: From _____ - _____ to _____ - _____ Division(s): _____ Rank/Rate: _____

mo yr mo yr

Mil. Retired? No _____ Yes _____ If yes, Rank/Rate _____ USN/US _____ [Mbr# _____ Paid \$ _____]

Return Form to: **Angelo R. Masi, 127 Glen Eagle Cir., Naples, FL 34104**

Please make checks payable to USS LEYTE CV-32 ASSOCIATION

***** A Non-Profit Organization of former crew members *****



