

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



## News Letter

Vol. II, No. 32

November 2012

### From Secondary Con

#### Great Reunion in San Diego “San Antonio Here We Come!”

The 2012 reunion in San Diego was great. Everything, including the banquet and tours, was fun and well planned. A hearty *Well Done* to Gordon and all those that helped him make this reunion a success. To all those who attended, it was great to see you again. To all those who couldn't make it, we missed you greatly and hope to see you in San Antonio.

The Association overwhelmingly selected San Antonio, Texas, for the site of the next reunion. We also voted to hire a company that specializes in military reunions to make the arrangements for us. In the meeting, we also voted to delete the By-Laws rule that requires the member recommending the city to live within 150 miles of the selected site. Among other reasons for selecting San Antonio was that San Antonio is somewhat near the center of the United States – considering the 2008 reunion in Washington, DC, and the 2012 reunion in San Diego. Members remarked that San Antonio has excellent hotels, the famous River Walk, the Alamo, favorable weather in October, and is “military friendly.” More information will be provided regarding the 2014 reunion as it becomes available.

The Association elected three new board members, Frank Dayak, Keith Moon, and Chip Chipley. Frank Dayak had been temporarily appointed to serve out the term of Lou DiRusso who passed away in late September 2012. Merle Scheller is the other board member. We will greatly miss our beloved shipmate and friend, Lou DiRusso. Lou was a founding member of the Association.

The Association elected two new officers including myself as President and Pete Russell as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The indomitable Dick Becker, outgoing President, agreed to serve as Storekeeper

after the retirement of Larry and Mary Stone. At this point, let me pause to give Larry and Mary a big “Bravo Zulu” for their many years of service as the Ship’s Storekeeper. They carried a heavy load a long time and served the Association well with an efficient operation.

I would like to thank my friend and shipmate Dick Becker for his service as President. Dick was instrumental over the past two years in the drive to locate former ROCHESTER shipmates and introduce them to the Association. Dick worked very hard on both the 2010 and 2012 reunions. He has held almost every office in the Association and now continues to serve as Storekeeper.

The Drake Family: We were particularly pleased to get acquainted with the family of our shipmate, Lawrence (Larry) Drake who served in A Division from 1952 to 1956. Larry passed away in 2011 and his family honored him, and us, by attending the 2012 reunion in San Diego. We want to thank his wife Dorothy; sons Charlie, Mike, and Mark; daughter Debbie; brother Chuck; and nieces Terri and Kim for gracing us with their presence and for honoring our shipmate.

The Bogan Family: ROCHESTER Plank Owner Ray Bogan served on board from 1946 to 1948 and passed away in 2009. His wife Betty had planned to attend the 2012 reunion but passed away one week before the reunion. Their son Rob and Rob’s wife Bev, in honor of his father and mother, attended the reunion and celebrated his parents’ lives with the Association. A nephew of Ray and Betty, Jack Meyers, also attended. We want to thank Rob and Bev and Jack for spending this time with us and for the donation of Ray’s plank which was given to grateful Art Riola. We want to commend you for honoring our shipmate in this way. We hope to see you all again.

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## CHIT-CHAT From the EX-PRES

Well folks, for those of you that missed the reunion, it was a dandy. It was smaller than a lot of them, but we all had a very good time. A big thank you to Gordon and Cindy, and the whole crew out there for the super job.

Thanks also to Pete, Joe, Ed and everyone on the email list that pulled everything together. As you will see on the list of officers, we have had a major re-shuffling on the leaders of your organization. We had Don Schnirel step down as the 2nd Vice President. We had Larry & Mary Stone step down as your Storekeepers, and the real shocker was the loss of Lou DiRusso just before the reunion. As most of you know, Lou was one of the founding fathers of this group and had been very active and he and Connie never missed a Reunion. He was and will always be missed at the reunions. A BIG-BIG thanks to all of the past folks for keeping the Association going so smoothly and the store full.

As you also have seen, I am no longer your President. It has been a real pleasure and honor to have led such a great organization and I enjoyed every minute of my time in office. The highlight of my tenure was my last official duty as Pres, and that was to present a LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP to our good friend and Treasurer and Secretary and all around buddy to all - Joe Hill. Joe is a major cog in the wheel and I can't think of anyone more deserving of this than him. This was co-sponsored by Merle Scheller and Larry Stone and was one of Lou DiRusso's last wishes.

Everyone be healthy and will see you at the next reunion.

*Richard Becker*



## TAPS

The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.

Name	ST	Yr	Div	OnBd
Louis DiRusso	MA	2012	R	48-51
Vernon Hickox	GA	2004	Fox	48-52
Donald J. Lish	KY	2012	K/OI	52-55
Donald W. Parker	CA	2012	3rd/K/OI	57-59

### *Passing of Honorary Member:*

Betty Bogan, wife of Plank Owner Ray Bogan (deceased 2009) passed 10-1-2012

## Donations Received

The Association wishes to thank the following for their generous donations:

Howard Behle donated \$200.00

Mark Buchman donated \$30.00

Jack Meyer donated \$100.00 received from raffle

Don Sandrich donated \$50.00

Rob Bogan donated \$60.00 received from raffle

Lonnie Holder donated \$25.00

Reunion Raffles brought in \$430.00 to the Ship's Store.

## New Members

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS ROCHESTER Association members:

Name	Div	OnBd
Neuhaus, Robert E.	2 <sup>nd</sup>	53-62

## Association Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's Officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill, 11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127-1229. If you would like to submit an item of information or a story to the newsletter, mail it to the address above or email it to: [scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net).

# San Diego Reunion 2012

## Officers Elected/Appointed:

Garry L. Phillips - President  
Ed Willis - Executive Vice President  
Gordon Cargill - First Vice President  
Pete Russell - Second Vice President  
Joseph S. Hill - Secretary/Treasurer  
Frank West - Chaplain  
William W. Berkley - Master-At-Arms  
Richard D. Becker - Storekeeper (Appointed)

## Elected Executive Board Members:

### Elected to Four Year Term:

Frank Dayak  
Merlin A. Scheller

### Elected to Two Year Term:

Charles L. Chipley, Jr.  
Donald K. Moon.

## Life Time Member:

During the General Meeting, a motion was made and seconded that Joseph S. Hill be extended the privilege of being a **Life Time Member**. Joe has been a driving force in the functioning of the Association over the years.

## Reunion Attendees:

Sam Andrus, M Division (51-55)  
Einar Backstrom  
Richard & Raejean Becker, OI Division (57-59)  
William Berkley, B Division (52-56)  
Gene & Ann Bieber. Plank Owner, 5th, 6th & Fox Divisions (46-58)  
Rob & Bev Bogan, Rob is son of Ray Bogan (deceased)  
John & Angela Brittain, 5th Division (54-56)  
Gordon & Margaret Cargill, E Division (51-55), and daughter Cindy Cargill  
Richard & Fran Carlson, OR Division (58-59)  
Charles & Ruth Chipley, S-1 Division (49-52)  
Frank & Jean Dayak, E Division (50-52)  
Glenn & Marian DePue, OI Division (60-61)  
Honorary Member Dorothy Drake, Larry Drake, A Division (52-56) (deceased), sons COL Mark Drake, Mike Drake, and Charley Drake, and daughter Debbie Colombu.  
Chuck Drake, brother of Larry Drake (deceased), nieces of Larry Drake, Teri Bemus & Kim Zweifel  
James & Anne Edwards, OE Division (58-59)

Donald Faubion, A & M Divisions (55-59)  
Joe & Judy Hill, M Division (55-57)  
Lonnie Holder, OS Division (57-59)  
Horace & Ruth Howell, 3rd Division (51-54) and guest Patty  
Ray Hutchinson, S-2 & S-3 Divisions (52-55)  
Jack Hyman, B Division (58-61) and guest Dorothy Fistell  
Melvin & Carol Ike, 4th Division (51-53)  
Jess Johnson, S-1 Division (50-54) & guest Yen Mach  
Charles Kinnick, E Division (57-59)  
Bill Kinnick, E Division (57-58)  
Darrell "Buz" & Marilyn Krull, E & M Divisions (58-61), and daughter Jennifer Griffin  
Lee Leonard, M Division (52-55)  
Daniel & Delnora Martinez, Supply (55-56)  
Morris & Irene Martinez  
Jerry & Marilyn McCloskey, S-4 Division (60-61)  
Jack Meyers, nephew of Ray Bogan (deceased)  
Donald & Gloria Moon, E Division (51-54)  
Russell & Paula Newman, OR Division (59-61)  
Theo & Debby Nowak, E & 2nd Divisions (52-54)  
Honorary Member Joan Ochoa, Gilbert Ochoa, 4th Division (50-54) (deceased), and daughters Sheri Rexroat and Faith Copeland.  
Daniel & Haydee Osborne, OR Division (60-61)  
Garry & Betsy Phillips, X Division (56-60)  
Art Riola, A Division (56-59)  
Honorary Member Karen Kadushin Robinson, Bill Robinson, PI Officer (58-60) (deceased)  
Robert & Doris Rowe, OR Division (57-60)  
Pete Russell & Julie Ruby, E & Fox Divisions (58-61)  
Robert & Diane Sanchez, B Division (58-61)  
Merlin & Shirley Scheller, S-2 Division (56-59)  
Ken Scroggins, A Division (57-60)  
Honorary Member Juleen Session, Lavell Session, BMC, 3rd Division (52-61) (deceased)  
Eugene & Ellen Smith, Plank Owner, 1st Division (46-47)  
John & Rickie Snyder, M & B Divisions (59-61)  
Eugene & Suzanne Valla, OR Division (59-61)  
Anthonie & Dorothy Voogd, 5th Division (59-61)  
Frank & Bunny West, R Division (51-55)  
Edmund Willis, 6th Division (57-58)  
Dennis Winkle, X Division (57-58)  
Kenneth & Joanie Woods, E Division (52-56)



### Tribute at Ship's Reunion:

A festive banquet was the setting at which Reunion Chairman Gordon Cargill presented a plaque to shipmate Stanley A. Muci. Frank Dayak accepted the plaque for Stanley who was unable to attend the Reunion. The inscription on the plaque reads as follows:

*A Special Thank You and Recognition Presented to  
STANLEY MUCI*

*For his humanitarian task of making and delivering several hundred walking canes and desk crosses for our wounded Marines at the US Marine Corp Hospital in Camp Pendleton, California and his donations to the USS Rochester Association.*

*Presented by the  
USS ROCHESTER CA-124 ASSOCIATION 2012  
San Diego Reunion October 11, 2012*

For his personal mission, he certainly has earned a NAVY "Well Done" and a 4.0.

*Submitted by Frank Dayak*



### 2014 Reunion:

Cities suggested for the 2014 Rochester reunion:

San Antonio, Texas  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Quincy, Massachusetts

San Antonio, Texas had the winning vote: 21

### Photographs:

Photographs of the San Diego Reunion will be available in the near future. Donald "Keith Moon is accepting pictures if you would like to send him the pictures on a CD disc. Please send to D.K. Moon, 6034 Terrace Drive, Johnston, IA 50131. Keith will compile the pictures received by December 31<sup>st</sup> and make them available to you on a CD. More details will be in the next Newsletter.

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## Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Ed Willis, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Pete Russell, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Joseph S. Hill, Secy/Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
William W. Berkley, MAA	Richard D. Becker, Storekeeper
Frank Dayak, Director	Merlin A. Scheller, Director
Charles L. Chipley, Jr., Director	Donald K. Moon, Director

Association website:  
[www.USSRochester.org](http://www.USSRochester.org)

Rochester Museum and Science Center  
[www.rmssc.org](http://www.rmssc.org)

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## Navy History and Heritage Command

*Submitted by Joe Hill*

The Navy History and Heritage Command is a very, very important part of the United States Navy. This website has a tremendous amount of information that may interest you. You may see a few surprises.

Their Mission: \*Collect, preserve, protect and make available the artifacts, documents, and art that best embody our naval history and heritage for present and future generations. \*Advance the knowledge of naval history and heritage through professional research, analysis, interpretation, products and services. \*Make naval history & heritage "come alive" for our Sailors & Marines to enhance readiness & esprit de corps. \*Remind America of its need to maintain a strong Navy and Marine Corps to protect its citizens, their freedoms, and the nation's maritime commerce.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval\\_History\\_%26\\_Heritage\\_Command](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_History_%26_Heritage_Command)

[www.navetsusa.com](http://www.navetsusa.com)

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## Chaplain's Corner

### BENEFITS

The one word from Psalm 103:2 I shared at the prayer for our banquet lingering in my thoughts is "Benefits." Although it was during wartime, as shipmates, we had many benefits. During the reunion, one of the shipmates I met reminded me, "I used to wash your clothes in the laundry." We had the benefit of food, cook, doctor, education plus the exciting places we visited. The Reunion was a great time of fellowship, looking at photos, and recalling the times on the "Roc."

One of the benefits available to us is the opportunity to be of encouragement to one another. The many kind words and thoughts shared to my wife, who is recovering from an auto accident, and I was greatly appreciated. One thought from verse 5 is, "Who satisfies your desires with good things?" While enjoying the fellowship of another couple in San Diego, we found some of the best ice cream we had ever had. If you discover who likes peach ice cream you will know who we were with. You are encouraged to read the complete Psalm. You will find nuggets of benefits the Psalmist David shares with us.

*Frank West, Chaplain*  
[fawest@jps.net](mailto:fawest@jps.net)

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### Association Dues

The 2013 dues are due on January 1, 2013. Folks have been pretty good about sending in their renewals, but we still have some outstanding. **PLEASE look at the mailing label and slightly to the right of your name is the year in which dues were last credited. If there is a 2011 or 2012 after your name, please send in your past dues and current dues for 2013.** As of July 31, 2012, any members with outstanding 2011 dues were placed on the Inactive Shipmate Roster and removed from the NewsLetter mailing list. ***Any outstanding dues for 2012 must be received by April 1, 2013 to keep from being removed from the Newsletter mailing list and placed on the Inactive Shipmate Roster.***



If you are not sure, Joe Hill will be glad to verify your membership status. Joe can be reached at: 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone Number 931-432-4848. E-Mail: [NiteCrawl@twlakes.net](mailto:NiteCrawl@twlakes.net)

*These are difficult times and if a Shipmate has difficulty paying their dues, please let Joe Hill know. The Officers of the Association have previously voted to grant and waive dues requirements. No attempt will be made to investigate, Joe just needs to know.*

### SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS

Change of addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses – especially you SNOWBIRDS who move with the weather, should send these changes to Joe Hill. A reminder via email to Joe or a note will do.

Notification of these changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.

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### Chipotle Deviled Eggs

*Submitted by Joe Hill*

If you're looking for a deviled egg with a kick, try this recipe for a chipotle-infused deviled egg. This recipe not only will give your taste buds a jump, but it also combines everyone's favorite staples: ham and cheese. How can you go wrong with a party in your mouth? Recipe yields 2 dozen.

#### Ingredients:

12 hard-cooked eggs  
1/4 cup mayonnaise  
3 tablespoon chipotle sauce  
1 teaspoon prepared mustard  
1/4 teaspoon hot pepper sauce  
1 cup diced tasso ham  
1/2 cup shredded cheddar  
A pinch paprika

#### Directions:

Slice eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks and set whites aside. In a small bowl, mash yolks. Stir in the mayonnaise, chili sauce, ham, cheddar, mustard and hot Chipotle pepper sauce. Pipe or stuff into egg whites. Sprinkle with paprika. Refrigerate until serving.

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## San Diego Reunion Highlights

I was honored when my Dad told me the 2012 USS Rochester Reunion was coming back to San Diego. I was also a little anxious because I wanted the shipmates to experience something different than 2004. There were a few hiccups in the beginning with the hotel, but overall I think we had another very successful reunion. I especially enjoyed watching a shipmate see an old friend for the first time in over 40 years & how they talked as if only a few years had passed. My most treasured memory was of a shipmate introducing himself to a widow & then sitting down to talk to her for the next hour. I hope that those who attended the reunion experienced what the reunion was meant for and also got to see some of San Diego they hadn't before. Those who did not attend were missed.

The Horton Grand Hotel, with its old Victorian charm, and location within the heart of the downtown Gaslamp Quarter, provided ample accommodations for the group. Almost anything you wanted was within a short walking distance. Because this was not a large, corporate chain hotel, service and amenities were on a smaller scale but adequate.

The Welcome Reception was filled with stories, old & new, and lots of raffle prizes. The Banquet Dinner was filled with good food, DJ Michael, and beautiful raffle prizes. As Master-At-Arms William Berkley tolled the bell, Chaplain Frank West read the names of 61 shipmates who have passed since the 2010 reunion in Milwaukee. I thank you all for the service you have given for our freedom and to help make our country a better, stronger nation. A special recognition goes to Daniel & Haydee Osborne for keeping everyone entertained all evening watching the two of you dance so beautifully all night long. You truly are the meaning of living life to its fullest and enjoying every moment of it.

The San Diego City Tour, on board the Old Town Trolley, was well attended & everyone seemed to enjoy the local sights of *America's Finest City* & lunch in Old Town. The trip to the mountains of Julian, with lunch & wine tasting at a local winery, proved to be a wonderful trip. People commented on how nice it was to see a different part of San Diego they hadn't expected and really enjoyed the shopping, lunch, apple pie, and of course the wine tasting. Unfortunately, the Stars & Stripes USA-11 Sailing trip was cancelled due to the weather. Yes, we did have not-so-perfect weather one day.

It was my pleasure to be a part of this reunion and I hope to plan my vacation in San Antonio in 2014!

*Happy Holidays!*  
*Cindy Cargill*

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## A Sailor's Prayer

*Submitted by Frank West, Chaplain*

This prayer was given to me by Mrs. Juleen P. Session at the Reunion. This was the first Reunion she has been able to attend in 11 years. Her husband, Lavell Session, was a BM3 and was on board from 52-61 and passed away in 1970. This is a reminder of the importance of the Newsletter to stay in touch with our Honorary members.

### A SAILOR'S PRAYER

Here I am in a war torn land  
Holding six lives in my hand  
Though young or old which ever they may be  
All are here so their families can stay free  
We travel the river both day and night  
Hoping to catch the V.C. in sight  
There are many bad days and long hours too  
But one of these days, we will all be through  
Our loved ones, they wait for our return  
Then the old letters they will probably burn  
Dear God, I know you're the only one  
That can do anything under the living sun  
So help me Dear God in some small way  
I want to bring these boys home some day  
They are all good boys, just like my own  
Someday, I want them to be able to walk home  
So Dear God, please let our loved ones know  
That we over here all love them so  
My children are both young, they don't understand  
Why their Dad has to stay in some distant land  
But one of these days, the small ones will know  
The reason I'm here is I love them so  
Then one day, I will be standing there  
The children, their eyes, will all be aglare  
Sitting around checking the family tree  
All of us glad to be united and free  
Dear God, this will be all for this day  
Just hoping you will help us in your special way.

L. Session, BM1 (1967)

