

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Vol. III, No. 4

# News Letter

February 2016

## From Secondary Conn...

*Garry Phillips*

You will notice the Charleston reunion registration forms in this issue of the Newsletter. We encourage you to begin registration as soon as you can. You will not only avoid the rush at the end, but it will help us finalize plans for a better reunion. Our goal has been to make each reunion better than the last, and so far, we've been successful – thanks to the Reunion Committee. A lot of hard work goes into organizing and planning, but it pays off. I know Pete Russell and Joe Hill greatly appreciate the efforts of those on the Committee who have worked to ensure the success of this 2016 Reunion!

### ... and, on another subject:

We recently reconnected with a shipmate, plank owner Morris Sharaf, ET2, USN (1946-48). After his active duty service, he had a distinguished civilian career working with Navy missiles and electronics. He had vivid memories of his early days aboard ROCHESTER, so I asked him if would share some of them with his shipmates. Following is his response: “I arrived on-board the USS Rochester after graduating Electronic Technician training at the Naval Research Laboratory, Anacostia DC in July 1946 while [the ship] was still docked at Fore River Shipyard in Massachusetts. While supplies, provisions and ammunition were being loaded, we became acquainted with all the new radio transmitters & receivers, Radars, Sonar, and IFF electronic equipment, including their schematic diagrams, together with their compartment/deck locations.”

I asked Morris if he recalled the famous storm the ship endured during the shakedown cruise. He responded, “Yes, I was aboard when we weathered the Caribbean storm; the bow went under water an untold number of times and the seas sluiced aft and rolled over the fantail, but we survived!”

“The most significant deployment for Rochester commenced 1 March 1948 when VADM Forrest Sherman came aboard at Gibraltar as Commander, Sixth Fleet. We visited Algeria, Tunisia, Greece, Malta, France, Italy, and Crete. After demonstrating the firing of our 8-inch and 5-inch and 40-mm anti-aircraft weapons successfully, we sailed for Philadelphia 2 June 1948. I was Honorably Discharged from the US Navy 18 November 1948, the day before my 21st birthday!”

“In civilian professional work, I followed-thru with the design and manufacturing of guided-missile computers for the US Navy. My team at Bendix Aviation designed the computer for the TALOS ship-to-air guided missile aboard Heavy Cruisers. And for almost forty years, I was with teams from the Charles Stark Draper Labs (MIT) that designed (and Raytheon Company which manufactured) the Digital/Analog Guidance Computer System for lofting Polaris, Poseidon, and Trident ICBM's from POLARIS and TRIDENT nuclear submarines. As an added note: at our 50th anniversary Rochester reunion we discovered that our T-Division officer, Ensign Robert H. Blount, had become Rear Admiral Blount and had commanded one of the SSBN Polaris nuclear submarines.” / God Bless / Morris I. Sharaf , ET2 USN, T-Division, USS Rochester (1946-48).

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## 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. 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).

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## Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President     Pete Russell, Executive VP  
Steven van Westendorp, 1<sup>st</sup> VP     Vacant, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Joseph S. Hill, Secy/Treasurer     Frank West, Chaplain  
William W. Berkley, MAA     Betsy Phillips, 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.rmhc.org](http://www.rmhc.org)

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## Ship's Store

Betsy Phillips is waiting for your order for items from the Ship's Store. Use the enclosed Order Form to make your selections and have your items before the warm weather gets here. If you have any questions, please contact Betsy Phillips at [Eliz\\_Phillips@yahoo.com](mailto:Eliz_Phillips@yahoo.com) or calling 731-336-4090.

If you would like to see our entire line of USS ROCHESTER (CA-124) items, or if you desire a larger size than what is listed here, please go online to [www.WSSRochester.org](http://www.WSSRochester.org) or contact me via the email address or phone number listed above. I'm looking forward to helping each of you find just the right item to show your ROCHESTER pride!

*Betsy Phillips*

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## Change of Address, Email, and Phone Number

To keep the mail flowing to your in box, please file change of addresses both mail and email, and/or phone numbers with Joe Hill. This should keep the information flowing without interruption in service.

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## New Members

### New Associate Members:

Asia Hill - Granddaughter of Joe Hill  
Marie Mosley - Granddaughter of Joe Hill  
Meredith L. Jaques - Daughter of Alfred L. Jaques



## Association Dues

**The 2016 Dues were due on January 1, 2016.**  
Your current dues status is noted near your address on mailing address block. If there is a 2014 or 2015 after your name, PLEASE send in your PAST and CURRENT DUES or let us know your intentions.

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## Donations Received

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

Gene L. Mayo donated \$100 to the Association to help with Newsletter expenses.  
Harold Ford donated \$10 to the Association.

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## 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
Charles L. Arndt	NC	2015	3rd/CR	51-54
Jack M. Conner	KY	2013	CS	47-48
David A. Hodges	MA	2014	CS	48-52
Jeff F. Hubbard	OH	2013	5th/7th	50-54
Stanley A. Muci	CA	2015	E	50-53
Donald J. Sandrich	OR	2015	3rd	56-60
Randall C. Steffens	NV	2015	6th	580-61
Ray H. Sutherland	IN	2015	Marine	52-53
Jeannette Smith		2015		
<i>Wife of plank owner Gene Smith</i>				

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## South Carolina



State bird  
Carolina wren



State flower  
Yellow jessamine



State tree  
Palmetto

## SCUTTLEBUTT

*Submitted by Pete Russell*



### OOD Board...

An Ensign was sitting for his first qualification board for Officer of the Deck at sea.

After several hours of watching the young officer answer difficult questions from the members of the board, the ship's Captain decided to finish by placing the Ensign in a hypothetical emergency situation. "What would you do if a sudden storm sprang up on the starboard side?" he asked.

"Throw out an anchor, Sir," the Ensign replied.

"And what would you do if another storm sprang up aft?"... "I'd throw out another anchor, Captain."

"And if another terrific storm sprang up forward, what would you do then?" asked the Captain... "Throw out another anchor, Sir," the Ensign said.

"Hold on," said the Captain. "Where are you getting all those anchors from?" The Ensign smiled and replied, "From the same place you're getting all those storms, Sir."

### Good Idea

Having passed the enlistment physical, Jon was asked by the doctor, "Why do you want to join the Navy, son?" "My father said it'd be a good idea, sir." "Oh?, and what does your father do?" "He's in the Army, sir."

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## Attention All Hands

The USS Rochester Association is looking for your help. When we convene in Charleston, South Carolina in September the Association will be electing a new slate of officers. Officers can be elected from the Active and Associate Members in good standing.

One such office with a vacancy will be the 1st Vice President. The duties of this office is to publish the Association Newsletter on a quarterly basis. It is a very important task that keeps the shipmates informed of what the Association is doing, updates on what other shipmates are doing, and items of interest to all. I think we can all say we enjoy the tidbits of information gathered and submitted each quarter. For some members, it is a vital link to a very important time of their lives.

Cindy Cargill, the person who currently puts all information into the Newsletter format you see each quarter, has agreed to help and work with the new 1st Vice President, if so desired.

We also need a 2<sup>nd</sup> VP. The duties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP is to interface with the City Museum in Rochester NY. The City of Rochester has graciously allowed a portion of the museum for the history of the USS Rochester. Over the years the museum has collected numerous USS Rochester artifacts that have been donated by shipmates, their families, and others. This is a very important part of keeping the USS Rochester ships so named alive and providing significant history. Items of interest about the museum would make interesting articles for future Newsletters.

If you can serve the Association as either the 1st or 2nd VP by publishing the Newsletter or interfacing with the Museum, please contact President Garry Phillips and let him know.

*Submitted by:  
Gordon Cargill*

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## Chaplain's Corner

### Let

A key word in the Bible is "let" and is used over forty times. It was used by God in creation by saying, "Let there be" and light then all the other items He created were formed one by one.

David used "let" in a prayer when he stated, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord my strength and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

Jesus used "Let" in a comforting way in John 14 by saying, "Let not your hearts be troubled". Later He stated, "Let not your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid".

This suggests to me we have the choice to not let our hearts be afraid. Many factors in life contribute to fear. The daily news, world problems, health and financial issues, struggles of aging and daily conflicts that come to us are fear contributing elements. It is our choice to not let us be afraid.

It is interesting Jesus used this statement in the context of peace when He stated, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you".

Thinking of peace, the song that comes to me is, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me".

*Prayerfully submitted,*

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

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## Ahoy!!!...It's Time to Register for the Charleston Reunion

### *The U.S.S. Rochester (CA-124) is Sailing to Charleston in 2016*

Registration is now open. In this newsletter you will find the form to fill out and send in to the Association Secretary-Treasurer, Joe Hill, along with your remittance for your events of choice. **The deadline for registration is Friday, 26 August 2016.**

Over the past two years, we have tried to plan a schedule that provides opportunities to experience the culture of this historic city. Reunion tours include Historic Charleston and Market Square, with an optional add-on of a narrated Harbor Sightseeing Cruise, and a visit to the beautiful colonial-era Magnolia Plantation and Gardens.

The schedule also provides for more relaxed personal time for visiting with our shipmates and their families. A more lengthy description can be found in our several newsletters over the past year, and on the Rochester Association website at <http://communityassociations.net/ca124/>. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

### **Avast and Ahoy!!!...Charleston Reunion Hotel Now Accepting Room Reservations**

The reunion in Charleston is officially scheduled from Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> through Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2016. We will be staying at the **Crowne Plaza Charleston Hotel**, located at 4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd., North Charleston, SC 29418. Our special room rate is **\$129.00** per night plus tax, which includes two full breakfast buffets per room daily. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay after the reunion ends, the same room rate will be available for three days prior and three days after, based on availability. Parking at the hotel is complementary.

Make your reservations by calling the hotel **direct at 843-744-4422**. Tell them you are attending the U.S.S. Rochester Reunion (booking code is "RCH"). Make sure they quote you our negotiated daily rate of \$129.00, plus tax.

Hotel check-in is 1600. You may cancel your hotel room up to 24 hours prior to arrival without penalty. The hotel requires a deposit or credit card

number to guarantee your room reservation. The hotel reservation cut-off date is **September 6, 2016**. Thereafter, reservations will be taken on a space available basis only.

If you have any questions about the reunion arrangements, or need assistance in completing the form, please call or e-mail either Pete Russell, 703-569-7733 [peterussell@cox.net](mailto:peterussell@cox.net); or Joe Hill, 931-432-4848 [NiteCrawl@twlakes.net](mailto:NiteCrawl@twlakes.net).

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## From the Members...

### Navy Terms and Trivia

*Submitted by Joe Hill*

**Sounding Bells** - By tradition 16 bells are struck on midnight of New Years...the oldest person on the vessel strikes the first 8 no matter what his rank (enlisted, admiral or whatever)..the second 8 are struck by the youngest person on the vessel.

**White Hat in 1852** a white cover was added to the soft visor less blue hat. In 1866 a white sennet straw hat was authorized as an additional item. During the 1880's the white "sailors hat" appeared as a low rolled brim high-domed item made of wedge shaped pieces of canvas to replace the straw hat. The canvas was eventually replaced by cotton as a cheaper more comfortable material. Many complaints on the quality and construction led to modifications ending in the currently used white hat.

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### *I've Learned...*

I've learned...

That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned...

That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

I've learned...

That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned...

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned...

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned...

That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

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## ***"Pearl Harbor Through The Eyes of a 9-Year-Old"***

As another Pearl Harbor Day passed, it brought back many memories. December 7, 1941 did not start out well at all. When you are nine years old, you look for the Sunday funnies. They never did arrive that day – and it only got worse. While standing on the sidewalk looking for the funnies, a fighter plane went right over our house. I thought that was pretty neat. It looked like maneuvers. The only problem was it was not ours! The Japanese had arrived!

My Dad took one look and said, “My God, we are at war!” We lived in the Navy housing 300 feet from the fence of the Navy Base. My father was a submarine attack teacher at Pearl Harbor and he had to get back to the base. He moved my Mother and me to the other side of the housing compound away from the oil tanks, and quickly went to the base with a friend. That night the Marines patrolled the housing area and warned everyone that it was “blackout” and “if you put a light on ... we’ll shoot it out!” My mother and the other wives made coffee all night for the Marines. Later some of our fighter planes from the carriers came in flying over the Navy base that was off limits, and sadly, we shot down some of our own planes. Tuesday my Dad took me to the base so I could see it. In my mind it looked like a hurricane had been there. There was still smoke and fires burning from the attack. I remember well the body bags lying on the once nice tennis courts. My Dad said to me, “One day when you grow up ... maybe you will remember this.” He was right.

A few days later, as in a kid’s mind, we got to do some “neat things,” like getting gas masks and walking through the teargas chamber. I remember going down to the beach with my family and seeing a two-man sub that had washed up. It was a different way of life after that.

The Navy sent my mother and me back to the States in March of '42, arriving in San Francisco and being met by the American Red Cross. They handed out warm sweaters for everyone. We lived the rest of WWII in New York City with my Grandmother. My Dad spent the rest of the war in the Atlantic, taking part in the D-Day invasion.

*Submitted by:*  
*Ralph Spears, FT3, Fox Division*

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## ***Coins Left on Tombstones***

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave.

These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

In the US, this practice became common during the Vietnam war, due to the political divide in the country over the war; leaving a coin was seen as a more practical way to communicate that you had visited the grave than contacting the soldier's family, which could devolve into an uncomfortable argument over politics relating to the war.

Some Vietnam veterans would leave coins as a "down payment" to buy their fallen comrades a beer or play a hand of cards when they would finally be reunited.

The tradition of leaving coins on the headstones of military men and women can be traced to as far back as the Roman Empire.

*Submitted by:*  
*Tom Finnegan*

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## From the Members...

### *E Division Mini Reunion*

Staying connected is the goal of many Shipmates who served on the USS Rochester together, and so a Mini Reunion was held in San Pedro, California Tuesday, October 20, 2015. The first stop for Keith and Gloria Moon, son Brian, daughter-in-law- Carla, and Frank and Jean Dayak was to tour the Battle Ship, USS Iowa. The Moons were invited to board the ship as Iowan guests; no entry fee for Iowa citizens. The self-guided tour was wonderfully presented, from the main deck up to the Conning Tower. Below deck, the tour continued through the mess hall, sleeping quarters, which included President Roosevelt's private quarters with king-size bath tub. It was the only Navy ship that contained a bath tub.

After the two hour tour on the ship, the Moons and Dayaks met with Gordon & Marge Cargill, and Theo & Deborah Nowak at Trani's Italian Restaurant in San Pedro for lunch. Good drinks, good food, and lively conversations regarding early experiences of the shipmates on the USS Rochester were enjoyed. Ask Theo Nowak to recount the meeting of the Junior Officers with the Executive Officer and his admonishments to them. (Interesting and funny)

Up-dates on current travel, and plans to stay healthy and meet again in South Carolina in 2016, were discussed by all. No good-byes, Only fare-wells at this time, and smooth sailing.

All in all, this event earned a Navy 4.0

*Submitted by Jean & Frank Dayak*

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## *Daily Chuckle*

Growing up is a weird notice to wrap your mind around. As you go through life, your perspectives on almost everything will change.

How you define success will change as well. Things that you thought were important at the age of 35 will be useless when you're 65. You may not realize it now, but everything will shift.

At age 4 success is not peeing in your pants.

At age 12 success is having friends.

At age 16 success is having a driver's license.

At age 20 success is having sex.

At age 35 success is having money.

At age 60 success if having money.

At age 70 success is having sex.

At age 80 success is having a driver's license.

At age 85 success is having friends.

At age 90 success is not peeing in your pants.

It all comes full circle, whether you like it or not.

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### *Retire to the South?*

A Florida senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he pushed it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left. 'Amazing,' he thought as he flew down I-95, pushing the pedal even more.

Looking in his rear view mirror, he saw a Florida State Trooper, blue lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, 'What am I doing? I'm too old for this!' and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival.

Pulling in behind him, the trooper got out of his vehicle and walked up to the Corvette. He looked at his watch, then said, "Sir, my shift end in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give a new reason for speeding, a reason I've never heard before -- I'll let you go.."

The old gentleman paused then said, "Three years ago, my wife ran off with a Florida State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back."

"Have a good day, Sir," replied the trooper.

*Submitted by Cindy Cargill*

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