



Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 59 | August, 2016

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Letter from the Editor

Donald Pageler has been most busy for the past several months giving lectures and presentations on the Liberty. So has the 'ol Sarge and many others. God bless all of you in your endeavors. I have found that if I just wear my Liberty shirt and cap when I am out it opens many doors of opportunity to discuss the Liberty. We can all do our part in telling the true story.

For those of you who did not make this years Graveside Ceremony at Arlington all went well. It was a beautiful day and we were all impressed by the tour guide on the bus and her knowledge of what happened to the Liberty. As she gives tours daily she never fails to tell the story of the Attack. She is much appreciated.

Hope you all are planning to attend upcoming Reunion. Frank O'Classen plans to take formal portraits of all shipmates and also plenty of other pictures. We hope to even be able to put together a booklet of pictures for all to have.

Take care all! Continue to tell the story.

-Wayne

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Letter from the President

The Israeli attack on the USS Liberty was an event that changed our lives. As we gathered together, we began to realize lies were being said about the attack from our own government which deliberately falsified a Naval legal procedure. Eventually at our 20th reunion, we also discovered Sixth Fleet aircraft were recalled from coming to our aid by our own President. So, it has become supremely important to the mission of the USS Liberty Veterans Association to bring the truth to the American public. That ideal had no political bent and will never have one.

However, I am here to tell you that we have inspired a political movementa great movement in my opinion that we would be proud to be associated. To wit: Merlin Miller has written a wonderful book entitled, "Eagles are Gathering". I strongly suggest you acquire a copy to learn and understand how much our plight has inspired people. The new political movement is called the "American Eagle Party".

I met Merlin years ago through our deceased Liberty honorary crewman, Richard (Dick) Thompson. Mr. Miller made movies and Dick was interested to create a USS Liberty movie. Once Merlin discovered details of the Liberty story, he was mentally electrified and never the same. The story changed his life and captured that change resulting in this book.

This is the story of one American's journey from rural Iowa to West Point to Hollywood and back again in search of the American dream. A dream all Americans one held in common and expected to achieve in their lifetimes. But something happened along the way.

Contained in this book are answers. Eagles are Gathering is an urgent clarion call to action. The author implores us to stop fighting among ourselves and gather in unison to stop the forces of greed and mayhem that have engulfed us in perpetual debt and perpetual war – and ever-diminishing freedom. We the People must heed the dire warnings and the inspirational message of hope contained within the book.

-Ernie

LIBERTY VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION 50th Anniversary Reunion

WHEN: June 8th - 11th, 2017

WHERE: Norfolk, Virginia
Sheraton Waterside



Register at www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/LIBERTY

Statement of Purpose

IN JUNE 1967 jet aircraft and motor torpedo boats of the Defense Forces of the State of Israel brutally assaulted the American naval intelligence-gathering ship, USS *Liberty*, while in international waters off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea. The attack was preceded by more than six hours of intense low-level surveillance by Israeli photo reconnaissance aircraft, which buzzed the ship as low as 200 feet directly overhead. The carefully orchestrated assault that followed was initiated by high performance jet aircraft. This was followed by slower and more maneuverable jets carrying napalm, and was finally turned over to lethal torpedo boats, which blasted a forty-foot hole in the ship's side. The attack lasted more than two hours, deliberately killing 34 Americans and wounding at least 171 others. Over 821 rocket, cannon and machine gun holes were inflicted. When the *Liberty* stubbornly remained afloat despite her damage, Israeli forces machine-gunned her life rafts, firefighters, stretcher bearers, and sent troops carrying helicopters to finish the job, no survivors were to be taken.



At this point, with Sixth Fleet rescue aircraft supposedly en route, the government of Israel apologized and the identity of the assailants became known.

Details of the attack were hushed up in both countries. Israel claimed that her forces mistook the *Liberty* for an Egyptian ship, and our government quietly accepted that excuse despite evidence to the contrary. No ship in our history has ever received such damage and casualties by accident. Then our government downplayed the intensity of the surveillance and the severity of the attack, and imposed a news blackout on the crew to keep the story under control. The official version is that the *Liberty* was reconnoitered only three times and only from a great distance. The American people were told that the air attack lasted only five minutes and that it was followed by a single torpedo and an immediate apology and offer of assistance. Nothing could be further from the truth. In June 1982, fifteen years after the assault, crewmembers reunited for the first time in Washington, D.C. It was a tearful, joyful reunion in which the men not only released their pent up emotions and decided that the **USS *Liberty* Veterans Association** would be formed with the firm goals of finding all crew members, holding reunions, proper recognition of Captain and crew (in particular those who lost their lives), obtaining a Congressional investigation into the attack, and...

TO BRING THE TRUE STORY OF THE ATTACK ON THE U.S.S. LIBERTY AND HER

Support from Don Pageler

I gave 3 presentations in northern CA while staying with my sister's in Los Altos.

First was on Saturday, June 25. It was video taped. Jane Bark and Tom Matson bought dinner for my sister (Linda), Alison Wier, Wanda MacClarín, and my self before the event. The notice of the event and pictures are attached.

A resulting article can be seen at:

<https://berkeleycalling.wordpress.com/2016/06/29/uss-liberty-vet-speaks-in-berkeley/>

A video of the presentation can be seen at:

<https://youtu.be/9WXAAMJcOI0>



A Note from Bryce Lockwood

NCVA Reunion, Norfolk, VA May 3rd thru 7th the LVA Booth sold \$881 in merchandise. The 20 50th Anniversary Challenge Coins Donna Shafer sent to us at the hotel were sold within a few hours of receipt.

George Keller, retired CT Mat man, bought a coin for me to give to Admiral Mike Rogers, Director, National Security Agency, who was our banquet guest speaker. Adm. Rogers presented a wonderful speech on integrity and accountability in the Intel Community and was given a well deserved standing ovation. As he was returning to his seat, I stepped in front of him and presented the Liberty Coin. Adm. Rogers stated how proud he was to receive the coin, then added that he keeps a picture on his desk of a "burned sailor" on Liberty's Bridge with obvious destruction all around, to remind him of the peril his cryptologists are in every day.

I had to say "excuse me, sir. That's a JARHEAD." The Admiral was given the picture two years ago at the NCVA Albuquerque Reunion.

Saturday, May 14th I attended the Oklahoma Republican State Convention with a Merchant Marine Captain friend, Hugh Smith, who has been a huge Liberty supporter. Capt. Smith took pictures of me with Congressmen Tom Cole and Steve Russell. Hugh intends to use the pics to press for an investigation. Since they agreed to have their pictures taken with a Liberty survivor, they cannot claim to be unaware of the attack. Capt. Smith bought all the Liberty merchandise we took along to "persuade appropriate people."

Warm regards and Semper Fi!
Ol' Sarge

A Letter from Wyoming Senator Michael Enzi

MICHAEL B. ENZI
WYOMING



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

May 20, 2016

Dear Friends:

Each year on Memorial Day we come together, one nation under God, to remember those who have served in our armed forces since the days of our American Revolution. We owe each of them a debt we will never be able to repay. Thanks to them our nation is strong and free.

Over the years we have lost far too many of our American heroes as they have served all over the world, giving their all to safeguard our nation and our cherished way of life. Ceremonies like this one remind us of those heroes and the countless sacrifices they have made on our behalf.

Our debt to our nation's veterans is never more clear to me than when I visit the memorials and monuments that are present in our nation's capital and in cities and towns across the United States. The National World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial remind us that freedom comes at a very high price. It isn't free and we should never take it for granted.

As we remember those who gave their lives for the cause of freedom, we should also keep in mind those who are standing guard at outposts all over the world to defend our nation and our American way of life. The USS Liberty and her crew, which we remember in a special way today, especially those who were wounded or lost their lives on board that ship, make the cost of military service very clear. The decorations and medals they earned for their actions under fire speak to their valor, bravery and courage.

Diana joins in sending our heartfelt appreciation to all the members of our military – active duty and retired. They took on the greatest challenge there is – changing the world – and they succeeded. May God bless those who love peace and freedom, a cause that will always motivate our best to give their all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Mike Enzi".

Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

Military.com Article on the Liberty Survivors

Nearly a half century after the USS Liberty -- a lightly armed American spy ship -- was almost sunk by Israeli air and sea forces during the Six Day War, survivors say the U.S. still prefers to avoid dealing with what happened and identifying who attacked the ship.

Strafed by machine-gun fire, hit by napalm and torpedoed over the course of the 75-minute attack, the Liberty has one of the most highly decorated crews in American naval history.

Out of that single action came one Medal of Honor, two Navy Crosses, a dozen Silver Stars, 20 Bronze Stars for valor, nine Navy Commendation Medals, more than 200 Purple Hearts and a Presidential Unit Citation.

But even when the ship is remembered, as it was last month with a rededication of carillon bells at Naval Station Norfolk's chapel, an important part of Liberty's story is avoided: It was attacked by Israel.

"It's probably political," said Terry McFarland, a Liberty survivor who organized a memorial service held Wednesday at Arlington National Cemetery.

"But we still try to make Americans aware of what happened," he added, "for the memory of our shipmates and ... and to get a complete and full investigation of all the facts" about the attack.

Transcripts of radio communications between Israeli pilots and their controllers indicate the attackers identified the ship as American yet continued the assault. But U.S. and Israeli officials still claim it was a case of mistaken identity.

Members of the Liberty Veterans Association organize a service annually at Arlington, where six of their dead are buried in a group grave and others, including ship's skipper Capt. William McGonagle, are interred in separate plots.

The U.S. Navy routinely provides a bugler to play Taps for the occasion. Survivors say the sea service offers little else.

Citing the military's failure to identify Israel as the attacker on dozens of awards citations and the Arlington group headstone, to claiming the incident was an "accident" -- an excuse that even the State Department has never officially accepted, Liberty survivors they feel like they've been slighted for almost five decades.

"They don't want to talk about it, they don't want to listen to us, they don't want to do anything," Joseph Meadors, a signalman aboard Liberty during the attack, told Military.com. "They don't want to acknowledge our existence."

The story of the Norfolk chapel Carillon bells in the Navy news publication "The Flagship" is only the latest example of that unwillingness to confront history, they say.

Josie Toth Linen, whose brother Stephen was killed in action on Liberty, called the omission of Israel in the account of the incident "typical." She said, "We've been treated this way since 1967."

Base spokeswoman Kelly Wirfel concedes the omission was deliberate, but said that's because who attacked Liberty was not germane to the story.

"From my point of view, as the base public affairs officer, and the person who edited the story, the purpose of the ceremony was to rededicate the bells. It has nothing to do with the controversy ... We wrote the story, someone on my staff, and I'm very proud of the job that [she] did with the story."

Retired Lt. Cmdr. Jim Smith, a Liberty survivor who spoke at the service, doesn't recall either of the other speakers -- Command Chaplain Diane Lantz and NSN Commander Capt. Doug Beaver -- mentioning Israel.

"I don't believe that the plaque even says that," Smith said, referring to the dedication tablet placed in the chapel.

In weeks leading up to the event, he said he spoke to Lantz and asked her if she was meeting any resistance to dedicating the Carillon to the Liberty.

"I told her there are people out there who don't want us broadcasting that it was Israelis who attacked the ship," he said. But she assured him she was not hearing any opposition, he said.

Neither Lantz nor Beaver responded to Military.com's request for comment.

CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE >>

Military.com Article on the Liberty Survivors (contd.)

From the start, the attack on Liberty was a political controversy, with a succession of presidents, lawmakers and military leaders showing little or no willingness to fully investigate it. The few lawmakers who pressed for an investigation of the incident have often been dismissed as conspiracy theorists and even anti-Semites.

Just days after the attack, even before a brief Naval Court of Inquiry finished a limited investigation into the case, the Navy was calling it an accident in official telegrams sent to the families of the dead.

The Court limited its inquiry into whether Liberty was where she was supposed to be and how the crew responded to the crisis, though Adm. John S. McCain, commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, concluded the attack was accidental.

The Medal of Honor awarded to Liberty's skipper, Capt. William McGonagle, was presented in a private ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard by Navy Secretary Paul Ignatius -- not at the White House by President Johnson. (At the time of the presentation, wrote James Scott, author of "The Attack on The Liberty," Johnson was in the East Room overseeing the graduation of the Capitol Page School.)

In addition, McGonagle's Medal of Honor citation did not identify Israel as the aggressor -- an omission repeated on all but one of the many award citations (and that, Meadors believes, likely got through by mistake). The attacker was also omitted on a group headstone at Arlington National Cemetery where six of the sailors are buried.

Instead, the citations and the headstone said only that the attack and the deaths occurred "in the Eastern Mediterranean." It was only after sustained pressure from survivors and supporters that the stone was changed to include "Killed USS Liberty." But it doesn't mention Israel.

And while a Pentagon wall display does reference the incident, it suggests Israel mistakenly attacked the ship -- despite the radio chatter that indicated otherwise. For example, the display marking events in military intelligence history references the Liberty using a reproduced headline from The New York Times of June 9, 1967 -- before the court of inquiry had even convened -- declaring "Israel, in error, attacks Navy ship."

Meanwhile, the Navy denies that it dropped Liberty as the planned name of the second Littoral Combat Ship to avoid the controversy. But as previously reported by Military.com, the name appeared high on a list of recommended names to the Navy secretary and the official Naval Vessels Register identified LCS-2 as Liberty before it was changed.

Philip Giraldi, a former CIA case officer and Army intelligence officer who now writes for The American Conservative and other publications, was at the Arlington ceremony on Wednesday, where he met with survivors and their families.

"This was a deliberate attack" by Israel, he said. "But our country has done everything it could to make it appear it was an accident."

McLaren said he's already looking ahead to next year's anniversary of the attack -- the 50th -- when survivors, family and supporters plan to rally at Norfolk, which was Liberty's home port.

"The [Liberty Veterans] Association will continue to talk about the Liberty in the coming years, until none of us are around anymore," he said, "and then hopefully our families will continue on."

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Article written by Bryant Jordan

Bryant Jordan can be reached at Bryant.jordan@military.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@BryantJordan](https://twitter.com/BryantJordan).

Article can be viewed online at:

www.military.com/daily-news/2016/06/09/liberty-survivors-say-us-still-plays-down-israels-attack-on-ship.html

Carillon Dedication at Naval Station Norfolk

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK

DAVID ADAMS MEMORIAL CHAPEL

16 MAY 2016

(by Jim Smith)

The dedication of the new USS LIBERTY Carillon was every bit as meaningful as the first Carillon dedication back on 8 June 1969. The same players were not there with the exception of Jim Smith and his wife Barbara. The Naval Station was well represented by CAPT Douglas Beaver (CO), CAPT Rich McDaniel (XO) and the Command Master Chief. CAPT Houk (CHC) (CNRMA) was in attendance also. CDR Vinson Miller (CHC) Naval Station Norfolk Command Chaplain and LCDR Diana Lantz (CHC) Naval Station Norfolk Chaplain, who were the driving forces behind the new Carillon, were instrumental once again as Ceremony participants. Guests included some High School classmates of Jim and Barbara, Roger Kelly (son of survivor BT3 Jim Kelly and nephew of survivor Glenn Kelly) and several civilians from the Naval Station.

The Welcome remarks were given by Chaplain Lantz followed by the Invocation by Chaplain Miller. Next were remarks by CAPT Beaver and survivor LCDR Smith. CAPT Beaver and LCDR Smith then unveiled the new plaque upon which is a likeness of the LIBERTY at the top and the following inscription –

THE USS LIBERTY (AGTR-5) MEMORIAL CARILLON

DEDICATED IN THE DAVID ADAMS CHAPEL 8 JUNE 1969

DESTROYED BY FIRE CIRCA 1974

REDEDICATED 16 MAY 2016

IN MEMORY OF THE 34 CREW MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AND IN HONOR OF THE VALIANT MEN (INCLUDING 174 INJURED) WHO SAVED THE SHIP.

The Presentation of the Carillon was followed by the Acceptance of the Carillon and the Litany of Dedication. At the conclusion of the dedication, all adjourned outside to listen as The Navy Hymn was played on the Carillon.

We all owe Chaplain Lantz gratitude for her selfless pursuit to ensure the men of LIBERTY will be remembered forever.

(Note - some of you may remember Chaplain Houk as he presided at several 8 June ceremonies at Arlington)

Arlington - Section 76, Gravesite 433 - April 2, 2016

The temperature was a cool 56 degrees or so. The skies were cloudy and overcast. A slight breeze was blowing and a mist was falling after the morning rain had gone. And three survivors (Frank O'Classen, Terry McFarland and Jim Smith – with wife Barbara) gathered with family members as Terry Halbardier's ashes were laid to rest with military honors. Terry's daughter Kim was there with her two oldest children as was Terry's stepson Mike Spruill from Texas. Also in attendance were Greg Hicks (Senior Policy Advisor from Congressman Devin Nunes office) and two long time LIBERTY supporters Ray McGovern and Mike Wright. The ceremony was brief followed by a 21 gun salute and the playing of taps by a Navy bugler. A short, simple but meaningful tribute to a true hero of the USS LIBERTY. Rest in peace, Terry.

Submitted by Jim Smith

A Note from Kevin O'Connor

To the survivors and the family members of The USS Liberty,

My heart goes out to you for the pain and suffering you have had to deal with since that fateful day on June 8th 1967. My grandfather and my mother were both officers in the Navy and I am extremely proud of their service. I think what our government did to cover up Israel's attack in disgusting.

As for Israel I do not think they have ever even come close in apologizing for their heinous and premeditated attack on The USS Liberty.

I along with many other American's would like to see Our government step forward and officially acknowledge what really happened. Although you cannot be fully vindicated for what happened I believe it would at least be one step closer.

Deepest Sympathy,

Kevin O'Connor

Negative Response to Liberty Billboard

West Haven I-95 billboard on USS Liberty is anti-Israel, critics charge

By James Walker, New Haven Register

Posted: 03/25/16, 9:19 PM EDT | Original Article Link: <http://goo.gl/mduvvy>

WEST HAVEN >> A billboard on Interstate 95 is sparking outrage from a local lawyer and criticism from the Anti-Defamation League for what they say is its anti-Israel message.

But the veterans organization and its supporters that sponsored the billboard say it depicts one of the most controversial mysteries in U.S. Navy history and they are still demanding answers.

The message on the billboard, in capital letters, reads: "Help the USS Liberty Survivors." Underneath, in smaller letters, also all capped, the message continues: "Attacked by Israel." The red, white and blue colors of the American flag are faded and serve as the background of the large sign. The billboard depicts a ship on one side and a wounded sailor on the other. The bottom of the billboard lists the website <http://honorlibertyvets.org/>.

What is driving the controversy is an incident that occurred on June 8, 1967, during the Six Day War. Israeli warplanes and torpedo boats attacked the USS Liberty, an American intelligence-gathering ship, while it was on a surveillance mission in international waters off the shores of El Arish in the Sinai Peninsula. Thirty-four Americans died, 171 were injured and the ship sustained heavy damage. Israel claimed it mistook the Liberty for an enemy vessel.

On June 8, 2007, the National Security Agency finalized the review of all materials relative to the attack. Investigations by the United States and Israel determined that though a horrifying tragedy, the attack was an accident and a case of mistaken identity.

But many veterans, including retired Adm. Thomas Moorer, a former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, and Capt. Ward Boston, a former Navy attorney who helped lead the military investigation, believe the attack was deliberate, according to the USS Liberty website. Boston signed an affidavit stating former President Lyndon Johnson and his Defense Secretary Robert McNamara ordered that the inquiry conclude the incident was an accident. Moorer calls it "one of the classic all-American cover-ups."

So, the controversy continues.

Max Buxbaum, an attorney who lives and works in New York but grew up in New Haven and has a home in East Haven, says he did a double-take as he drove up I-95 Wednesday evening and spotted the billboard.

The sign is located between exits 40 and 41 on the southbound side of the highway but is only visible to motorists from the northbound side.

"Inoffensive to southbound drivers but highly offensive to northbound drivers," Buxbaum said.

In an email, Buxbaum said he was shocked when he saw the billboard.

"It's one of those conspiracy theories that are kept alive by the same sort of people who say that Jews are responsible for everything from Pearl Harbor to 9/11," he wrote. "Considering that my father's entire family was wiped out in the Holocaust, it was particularly troubling to me on a personal level."

He believes Alison Weir, founder of "If Americans Knew," is one of the people behind it. Weir is a journalist who says her website "analyzes media coverage of Israel-Palestine" and "provides information on topics that are substantially misrepresented or unreported in the US media."

Weir acknowledges her allegiance to the veterans group and said "there really is no doubt about it whatsoever" that the attack on the Liberty was deliberate.

CONTINUE READING ONLINE AT: <http://goo.gl/mduvvy>

Letter to Editor re. USS Liberty's Bell

Good Morning Mr. Kelley—

I just received my latest copy of the Newsletter and it reminded me that I needed to send an update on the status of the USS Liberty's ship's bell.

The short story is the bell is alive and well here at Liberty High School. The bell has an honored place here in the Liberty NJROTC spaces. Our cadets shine the bell at least once a week and they consider it an honor to be assigned that task. It is also the object of lessons in Naval History. I do a series of presentations to my classes each year, using material from Mr. Jim Ennes and of course, the bell itself to present the story to my cadets. You can be assured that the cadets will remember the USS Liberty for a very long time.

As an added note, we also use the bell in all of our formal ceremonies. Pass in Reviews, Formal Inspections and Change of Command ceremonies just to name a few. We are also required by Liberty High School to produce and present the Annual Veteran's Day Assembly. The bell is placed in the middle of the gym floor each year and the student body is reminded of its importance and relevance. At the end of each presentation the bell is rung and taps is played to honor the men of the USS Liberty.

So even in our little corner of this great country the USS Liberty and its story live on. It is my hope that the ship's company can take some small satisfaction that the story continues through the USS Liberty's Ship's Bell.

v/s
ADC AI Torstenson USN (ret)
Naval Science Instructor
Liberty High School
Renton, Washington

Introducing the Challenger Coin - Now in the Store!

We are excited to now be carrying the Challenger Coin in the Liberty Store - available for \$10 plus a \$5 shipping charge.

This commemorative coin features the names of each of the 34 fallen shipmates lost during the attack on the Liberty!



A Note from Terry R. Stewart

My thanks to you for the story in the June issue of FRA Today. My father, Earl W. Stewart, and I are both retired NAVY and FRA members. We both served in The Naval Security Group, and both remember very well when the Liberty and Pueblo events occurred. We have talked at length over this story and greatly appreciate the details and accuracy contained. For many years I have tried to relay this story to others, as well as my own children, but never had enough real information. In 1972-73 I was stationed with CTT1 Phil Long, another survivor of the Liberty, but he never actually talked of it, as directed. Thanks to your story, my kids now actually believe that I was not just a dotted old sailor, and that there may be merit in my dislike/distrust of many of our renowned government officials from the past, particularly those involved with the Bay of Pigs, USS Liberty, USS Pueblo, and Viet Nam. I have encountered numerous people over the years who cannot believe that our own government has repeatedly sold out so many of our servicemen. Now, with your story in print, I can, at last, help spread the word and, just maybe, help in some small way to get the attention of the public drawn to the deplorable treatment of our service members by our own government without so much as an official "Sorry".

I will continue to support anyone who works towards righting these, and other, wrongs for our service members. Please accept my personal Well Done for your continuing efforts.

Terry R Stewart, CTMCS, USN, ret.

A Charge from Joe Meadors

With the publication of Jay Cristol's self-described true account of the June 8, 1967 Israeli attack on the USS Liberty the myth that the US government has conducted 13 complete investigations of the attack was created.

That myth can be easily and officially refuted with a simple email to your Congressional Delegation.

Naturally, USS Liberty survivors have tried but to date our requests have been ignored.

If you are interested in finally putting this claim into the trashcan of USS Liberty revisionist history send an email tousslibertyinvestigation@usslibertyveterans.org and learn how you can do it.

Those firmly entrenched in the Israeli camp can officially prove the veracity of their myth by emailing the same email address although I suspect few if any in that camp will take us up on the offer since they're not interested in learning the truth about their claim.

Remembering Chief Communications Technician Raymond Linn

NAVY HISTORY AND CHIEF HERITAGE!

REMEMBERING ONE OF OUR BROTHERS!

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN RAYMOND EUGENE LINN

A full year had passed since WWII ended and global peace prevailed once again. There wasn't much opportunity for a young man in the community in 1946, so Chief Linn enlisted in the US Navy at the age of 18, leaving Ohio. Chief Linn moved around a lot and his Navy career blossomed. He moved through the ranks easily and made it to Communications Technician Chief Petty Officer. Chief Linn career reached a turning point in 1966 when he passed the 20 year mark and was eligible to retire.

Chief Linn was scheduled to retire from the Navy in July 1967. He liked Florida so his plans were to move to Florida with his daughter, Joy Linn Evans and to purchase a Dairy Queen after he retired. That was not to happen. Chief Linn was on his final deployment on board the US Navy intelligence ship USS Liberty AGTR-5 when on 8 June 1967 the ship was suddenly and brutally attacked on the high seas in international waters by the air and Naval Forces of Israel. After surveilling the USS Liberty for more than nine hours with almost hourly aircraft overflights and radar tracking, the air and Naval Forces of Israel attacked the ship in international waters without warning. USS Liberty was identified as a US Naval ship by Israeli reconnaissance aircraft nine hours before the attack and continuously tracked by Israeli radar and aircraft thereafter. Sailing in international waters at less than five knots, with no offensive armament, the USS Liberty was not a military threat to anyone. The Israeli forces attacked without warning and without attempting to contact the ship. Thirty four Americans were killed in the attack and another 174 were wounded. The ship, a \$40-million dollar state-of-the-art signals intelligence platform, was later declared un-salvageable and sold for scrap. Chief Linn's life was ended when a torpedo ripped into the USS Liberty's starboard side killing him and many of his shipmates instantaneously. In April 1969, the BEQ at The US Naval Security Group Activity, Hakata, Japan was renamed the LINN BEQ. In February 1978, The US Naval Security Group Operations Building at Sugar Grove, West Virginia, was renamed the Raymond Eugene Linn Operations Center.

Taken from Navy Chiefs Forever Facebook Page.

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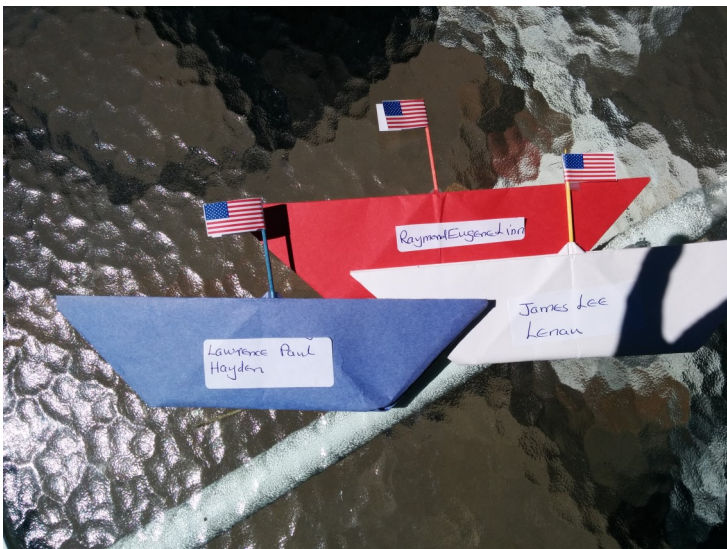
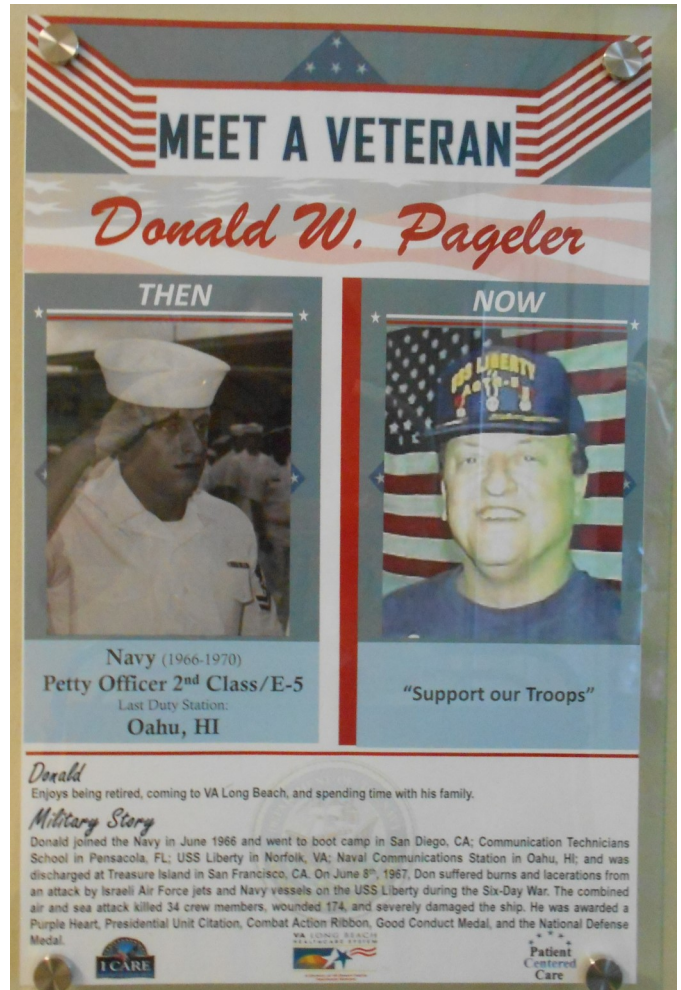
Dick Carlson
USN Retired

Photo Submissions by Don Pageler



ABOVE: Don Pageler stands in front of plaque honoring him as a veteran.

RIGHT: The plaque featuring Pageler.



Jane Jewell invited Don Pageler to represent the Liberty in the Marin County Memorial Day Parade. She created these commemorative boats, with the name of each of the 34 shipmates slain in the attack on the Liberty.

LVA Memorabilia Store - Order Form

READING MATERIALS

- Assault on the Liberty: The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship** - By Survivor and LVS Historian, \$30.00
 Mr. James Ennes, Jr.,
 SEND ORDER TO: Jim Ennes, PO Box 789, Woodinville, WA 98072
- The Attack on the Liberty** - The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship, By James Scott, son of crew . . . \$25.00
 member Lt. John Scott,
- What I Saw That Day: Israel's June 8th, 1967 Holocaust of US Servicemen Aboard the USS Liberty and its Aftermath** \$25.00
 By USS Liberty Survivor Phil Tourney and Mark Glenn

VIDEOS

- 25th Anniversary Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery** (DVD Video) \$15.00
- USS Liberty Survivors: Our Story** - Patrick King Documentary (DVD Video) \$25.00
- Loss of Liberty** - New Detailed Film of Attack and Cover-Up (DVD Video) \$25.00
- Dead in the Water** - Documentary: Find out how a nuclear war in the Middle East was averted at the last minute (DVD) \$20.00
- Justice for the Liberty** - An All American Documentary by Break of Dawn Productions \$25.00

LIBERTY WEAR

- Blue Multicolor Tee Shirt** - (M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL) \$20.00
- White w/ Black Ship & 34 Lost Shipmates Tee Shirt** - (M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL) \$20.00
- Grey w/ Black Ship & 2 Lost Marines Tee Shirt** - (M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL) \$20.00
- Golf Shirt: White OR Navy OR Black (each with tan stitching)** - (M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL) \$30.00
- USS Liberty Color Jackets: Lined navy blue nylon fabric** - (M, XL, 2XL, 3XL) \$50.00
- USS Liberty Baseball Cap - Solid Fabric, Not Mesh with Plain Bill** \$20.00
- USS Liberty Unstructured Golf Hat - Navy or Tan** \$16.00

MEMORABILIA

- USS Liberty Bumper Sticker** \$ 2.00
- USS Liberty Key Chain** \$ 4.00
- USS Liberty Cigarette Lighter** - Zippo, Brushed Chrome, Ship Insignia on One Side and Silhouette on the Other \$25.00
- USS Liberty Lapel Pin** \$ 5.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch** - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 3 Inch \$ 6.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch** - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 5 Inch \$ 8.00
- USS Liberty Ship Patch** - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 10 Inch \$12.00
- Challenger Coin** - With the Names of 34 Fallen Shipmates \$10.00

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ITEM DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL**

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