



Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 67 | April, 2019

Board of Directors

Ernie Gallo

President
ernie7900@aol.com
386-446-6855

Larry Bowen

Vice President
larryb1946@verizon.net
410-551-3647

Ron Kukal

Secretary and Chaplin
lvasec39@gmail.com
307-752-6693

Bob Scarborough

Treasurer
bobascarborough@gmail.com
706-593-1898

Gene Six

Member at Large
sixeugene@yahoo.com
951-663-0810



Letter from the Editor

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Dear Veterans and LVA Members,

It has been a busy year for the Liberty Veterans Association and for all of us here at *Liberty News*. As the board works to find new and better ways to keep our members updated about all the efforts that are going on across the country to tell the important story of the *Liberty* and the events that took place in June of 1967, we appreciate your continued support more than you know.

One key change you should be aware of is that I have taken on an interim role of Editor here at *Liberty News*. I have been operating behind the scenes for the past six years or so, putting these newsletters together every few months. And at the board's request, I will also be acting as Editor for the unforeseeable future. I first became aware of the Liberty story in 2008, when I came under the employment of crew-member and prior board member Moe Shafer. While I could never understand the gravity of the events that took place that day in 1967 like you all undoubtedly can, I respect the critical nature of the work being done by the LVA and am excited to lend a greater degree of support to the Association. To the acting board, thank you for your trust. And to all members, thank you for your continued support of the Liberty Veterans Association.

Sincerely,
William Graves

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:

William Graves, Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Letter from the President

A lot has happened since our last newsletter which I hope we will capture in the following pages. But first, our June 8, 2019 Memorial Service will be held at the Navy Memorial, 701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20004 at noon. I admit it would be more moving to have the service at Section 34, Arlington Cemetery, however, because of security, logistics, and cost issues, the Navy Memorial is the better choice. In any case, prayer and remembrance can occur anywhere the heart is. I hope to see you there.

As this newsletter is being prepared, Chaplain Ron Kukal will have attended a Memorial Service for Master Chief Stan White at Sturgis, South Dakota, where his ashes will be interred. Ron is representing the LVA and his report should be included in this newsletter. Stan will be missed immensely. In my opinion, he was one of the best Navy Chiefs that have ever served in the Navy. While Jim Ennes may be the father of the LVA, Stan had a major impact on pulling us together to create the LVA.

The USS Liberty Veterans Association will be attending the VFW convention this year. It is being held in Orlando, FL, July 20 to the 24th, 2019. We will have a booth and manned by Bryce, Marine Sargent extraordinaire, Lockwood and Bob, the movie mover, Scarborough and I. If you cannot make it, we will take pictures. As always, it is a great opportunity to meet folks and tell our story, handout free campaign buttons and literature, and sell Liberty goods.

Dave Lucas will have his ashes interred at Arlington Cemetery on June 26, 2019. I do not have a time or specific location. If you would like to attend, I would suggest contacting Arlington Cemetery. A number of the crew have indicated they will be attending.

The USS Davies reunion will be held in Charleston, NC, Oct. 3 to the 6th. If you are interested in attending, contact me for more details.

In February, author Joan Mellen came to Florida for a book signing in Tampa and Orlando. In preparation, I ordered books (Blood in the Water) to be sold at the event. The event was great as well as Joan's presentation. I think everyone was impressed, however, all the books did not sell and so if you would like a signed copy, let me know. The cost is \$30 which includes postage. If you have not read her book, you are missing out on the details of why Israel deliberately attacked our ship.

Your board of directors is planning the LVA's June 8, 2020 reunion. You should be receiving ballots from Moe Shafer. Mark the stamped postcard with your choice of first and second choices and drop it in the mail. I would predict by our August newsletter, we should know the selected city location. We can then lock in a hotel and advise at a later date.

Before I close, I just want to make the point from emails and letters I receive. Americans out there are counting on us to keep up our fight for the truth of the attack to be known by the American public. I know many of us would not quit, however, our message and story is so important to the future of America, we can never give up. Make no mistake, we are in this until our Lord takes us into the next life. Therefore, we should move forward with our arms locked with our love for each other and love of our country in our hearts. With that said, send the names of any blood relative (spouse, child, brother, sister, etc.) of a deceased USS Liberty crewman and have paid LVA dues for the period coinciding with the fiscal year. Please send the name(s) to: LVA, PO Box 680275, Marietta, GA 30068 or contact our Secretary & Chaplain, Ron Kukal.

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 helicopters carrying troops 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 HEROIC CREW TO THE AWARENESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Remembering Stan White

Stanley W. White - 84
3/25/1934 - 12/14/2018
Walnut, Illinois

Stan W. White, 84 of Walnut, died Friday, December 14, 2018 at the Citadel of Sterling. Stan was born on March 25, 1934 in Vermillion, SD, the son of Wayne W. and Alice B. (Maxwell) White. He married Laura L. Ewing on November 25, 1978 in Sioux City, IA. He is a United States Navy Veteran and retired from the Navy after 20 years as a Master Chief Petty Officer. Survivors include his wife, Laura of Walnut; two daughters, Tracy (Mike) Chamberlain of Vermillion, SD and Jill Koertner of Prairie Village, KS; three sons, Chris (Ines) White of Vermillion, SD, Jon (Shawna) Rothwell of Sioux Falls, SD and Pat Rothwell of Sioux Falls, SD; 17 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister. Burial will take place in the Black Hills National Cemetery in the Spring. Cremation rites have been accorded with the Garland Funeral Home in Walnut, IL.



(L-R) Moe Shafer, Chief Brooks, Master Chief Stan White and



Stan White's urn



Preparing the flag for folding before presentation to Laura White.

Open Letter to the Liberty Faithful

A few years ago, the two of us, along with Phil Tourney, more or less on our own recognizance, got in touch with a screenplay writer, Clint Burnette. We felt then as many of us did, and now do, that the only way to break through the barriers—after several books and documentaries, following the Navy’s attempted silencing of survivors—was to work toward production of a blockbuster feature film.

Clint worked with Ron, Phil, and me for three years, spending literally thousands of hours researching, interviewing, and writing [all for free, because of Clint’s exceptional commitment to the truth and justice of the cause], to create what virtually everyone who reads it regards as the most powerful and gripping story imaginable of how it was for us... during the attack and afterward having to live with the lies and coverup and the physical and mental suffering.

Longtime liberty activist, author, and independent publisher, Brian Wright, came to our 50th reunion in Norfolk shortly after having an epiphany of the depth of the dark forces that were arrayed against the men of the Liberty from day one... and the absolute urgent need to bring light to bear. With his assistance we have published Clint’s brilliant screenplay in book form and posted it on Amazon here: http://bit.ly/2G31IND_Enemies_Within

The whole idea is to generate a grassroots movement of support within and about the Liberty community to encourage a producer of excellence and courage to step forward, and with financing, to read the screenplay and breathe life into it for the silver screen. [It should be realized that Mr. Burnette, has a deep knowledge of the film making business, has his own production company. He is currently living in Australia, where—for stealth and general movie-making-excellence reasons we speculate the movie will be made.]

What we’re looking for is readers and, then, reviewers and cheerleaders. Contact Ron and/or me for directions on how to obtain a hard copy of Enemies Within at roughly a 40% discount (\$20 + \$5 Media Mail). Or if you will commit to a positive review on the Amazon page—with emphasis on survivors and those who helped clean up the Liberty after the attack—here is the free unadorned pdf: http://bit.ly/2qY91xm_Enemies_Within_Abridged

Note: we have already had some serious pro-Liberty interest on the production financing end. Keep in mind the main purpose of putting the screenplay up in public is to rapidly attract a producer, not to sell books. Having said that, a generous portion of the proceeds will go to the LVA. The book is very attractive, with David Dees’ artwork, a collector’s item.

Sincerely,
Ernie Gallo, ernie7900@aol.com
Ron Kukal, lvasec39@gmail.com



ENEMIES WITHIN

*When Israel Declared War on the
United States of America...*

and 'the USA' sold out its warriors on the spot

**SCREENPLAY BY
CLINT BURNETTE**

The Importance of Joan Mellen's book, "Blood in the Water"

Why is author Joan Mellen's book, "Blood in the Water" so important to us? Please read on.....Ernie

ANOTHER LOOK: "Blood in the Water" by Joan Mellen

Dear Friends: Please grant a hearing to my new effort to expose the tragedy of your lives which was the attack on your ship, the USS Liberty. My ambition was to penetrate fifty years of obfuscations and lies, and to shed light on why the highest officers our own land set out on a course that led to the murder of American innocents, and then to compound the evil by lying about it shamelessly for more than fifty years. I have been met by the main stream media with cold disdain and indifference.

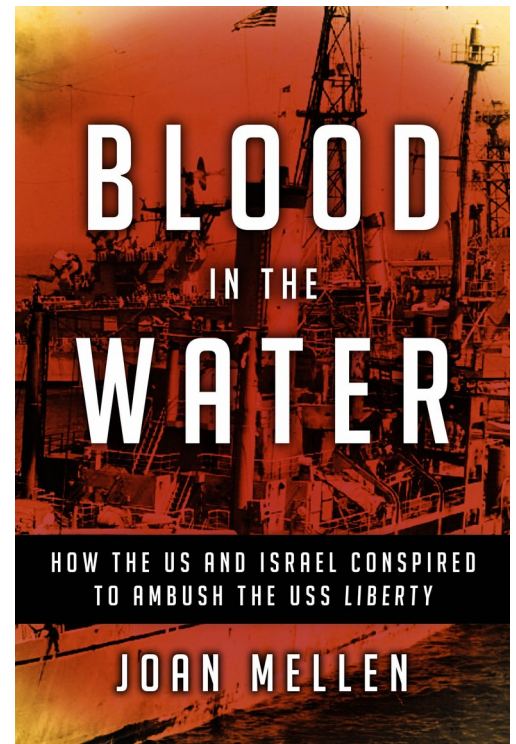
That this is my 24th book meant nothing. I had ventured, not for the first time, into the forbidden, a taboo subject that belies constitution-waving claims to freedom of the press. I was not to be forgiven. One of the sailors called me a "liar." Please check my facts. I am not a liar, and I am Jewish, not an anti-Semite. Two nations share the blame for the murders recounted here, not one.

As I examined when the plot to sink Liberty originated, I had to decide how far back to go. Instead of the April 1967 meeting of the 303 Committee, I chose a moment a decade earlier when a Colonel in the Egyptian army, Gamal Abdel Nasser, took power and so became a target both of the United States and of Israel. Nasser was a figure popular in the third world as a "neutral" force, neither capitalist nor communist. He was so beloved that when he died shortly after these events, five million people poured into the streets of Cairo.

A decade before the assault on the USS Liberty, Israeli intelligence concocted a terrorist scheme designed to destabilize Egyptian society as a means of channeling US foreign aid destined for Egypt to go instead to Israel. You can't really talk about the USS Liberty without going back to "Operation Susannah" where Israeli operatives recruited a group of young Egyptian Jews to plant and concoct bombs in Cairo and Alexandria. They were Zionists who hoped to make Israel their homeland by becoming terrorists in the tradition of the Irgun and the Haganah.

A decade later, all the elements were in place. Israeli intelligence with its growing collaboration with US intelligence, was ready for this grotesque, false flag operation. Israel had attempted to blame Egypt for various incursions in the Sinai and elsewhere, using the media, then radio. But none was as ambitious as the operation against Liberty. It depended on a particularly psychopathic CIA officer long with the Agency, and prior to that, OSS, named James Jesus Angleton, head of Counterintelligence and of what at the Agency was termed the "Israeli desk."

I quote an Angleton colleague named Arnold M. Silver, in a classified memoir obtained by a close friend of mine who specializes in the activities of CIA and who slipped it for me. From the bowels of Agency amorality, Silver attests to James Angleton's mental frailty, his ruthlessness and hysteria in words you'll see in print in my book for the first time. The happiest moments for a writer are those "Eureka!" moments when facts collide with what you were certain of, but couldn't prove.



The Importance of Joan Mellen's book... (contd.)

Angleton's closest comrade in the planning of the attack on the USS Liberty, which he planned to blame on his old nemesis Nasser, was the head of the Mossad, Meir Amit, whose smiling face I put on the back of the book jacket. Unlike Angleton, Meir Amit was sane, if also vicious, unbending, charming and a formidable enemy. And I show in "Blood in the Water" it was Meir Amit's visit to Washington, D.C. in late May 1967, the weekend before the beginning of the Six Day War that set into motion the horrendous attack on your poor, stalwart ship. The first person upon Meir Amit called on that trip was James Angleton, and after Liberty had departed for Malta, it was Angleton whom Meir Amit accompanied on a sight-seeing trip of the East Med.

I found the proof of Vance's complicity in the report written by a task force team assigned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It's available in the National Archives to anyone, although I am apparently the only person who found it. I believe that sentence about Vance was meant to be redacted only for someone to make a mistake.

Our country owes an immense debt of gratitude to Commander David Edwin Lewis, to whom my book is dedicated. Dave's loyalty was not to authority, but to his comrades, alive and dead, to bring to light the truth as Admiral Lawrence Geis recounted it to him, that Lyndon Johnson personally ordered that the planes sent to aid Liberty return to base because he did not want to "embarrass an ally."

Dave's heart was with the fallen, and not to the office of the president, an idea that has now in our time finally met its demise. He has found a way to live with the contradiction of his having remained loyal to his oath as a military officer. Part of my book is a biography of Dave Lewis, an extraordinary American in whom flourish qualities of humility and gratitude that are rapidly disappearing from our culture.

Near the end of my book I include a list of those who took part in the attack, by which I do not mean the pilots commandeered by the Israelis to kill the sailors and sink their ship, latter-day Adolf Eichmann's. I wanted to print the names of those who were complicit for history. They include, not surprisingly, Admiral William Inman Martin, who was in charge of the sixth fleet; David D. Engen, who was the captain of the USS America and was made an admiral after these events concluded; Captain Joseph Tully of the USS Saratoga, who after receiving Liberty's SOS immediately sent planes to the site of the USS Liberty, only afterward requesting permission from Washington, earned no such promotion. Many years later Joe Tully stated that he was "puzzled" why he dispatched rescue planes, but Captain Engen of the USS America did not. His reply was "WHT" (what the hell!). Nor can we forget John S. McCain.

Cyrus Vance, the Assistant Secretary of Defense, having served on 303 as a favor to a friend, resigned from the Johnson government shortly after the attack. Of course there is also Johnson himself, his earlier murders trailing behind him, as well as heartless Robert McNamara, his Secretary of Defense, the scourge of Vietnam for many of us. A crime of this magnitude requires more than a handful of participants and begins many months before the first shots are fired, the first blood shed.

I discovered, yes, a conspiracy. You cannot describe what happened to the USS Liberty without reaching into both the US government, and the highest levels of Israeli power. Moshe Dayan is a bit player in these events, despite disinformation spread otherwise, and the view that it was he who determined that Liberty be attacked, that he issued the order, is misleading, part of the cover-up.

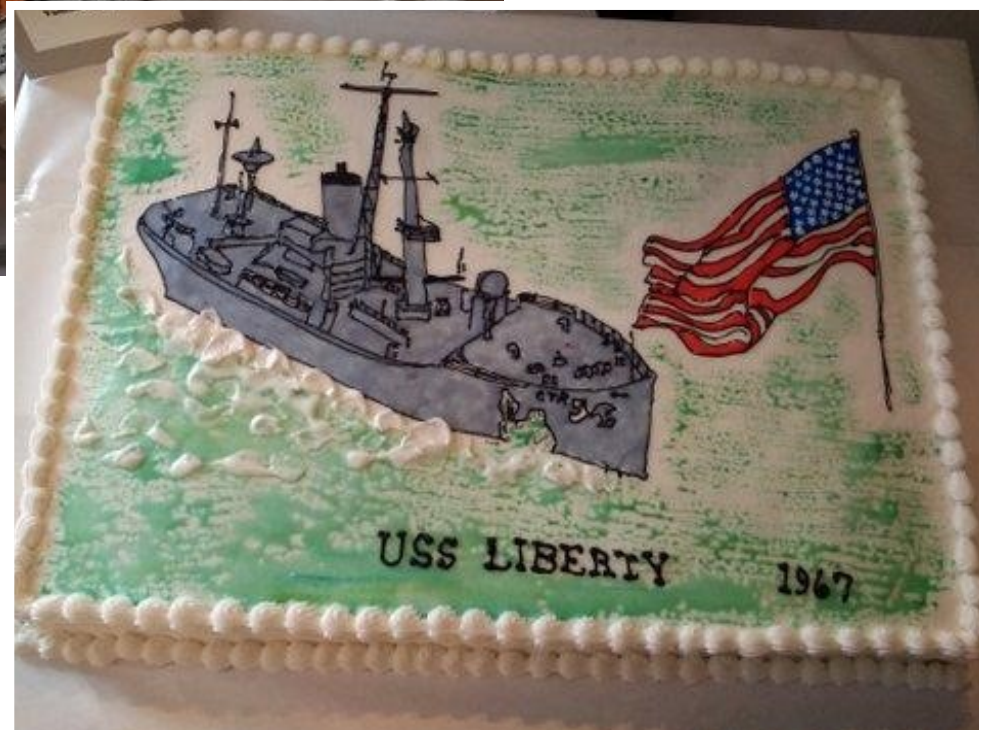
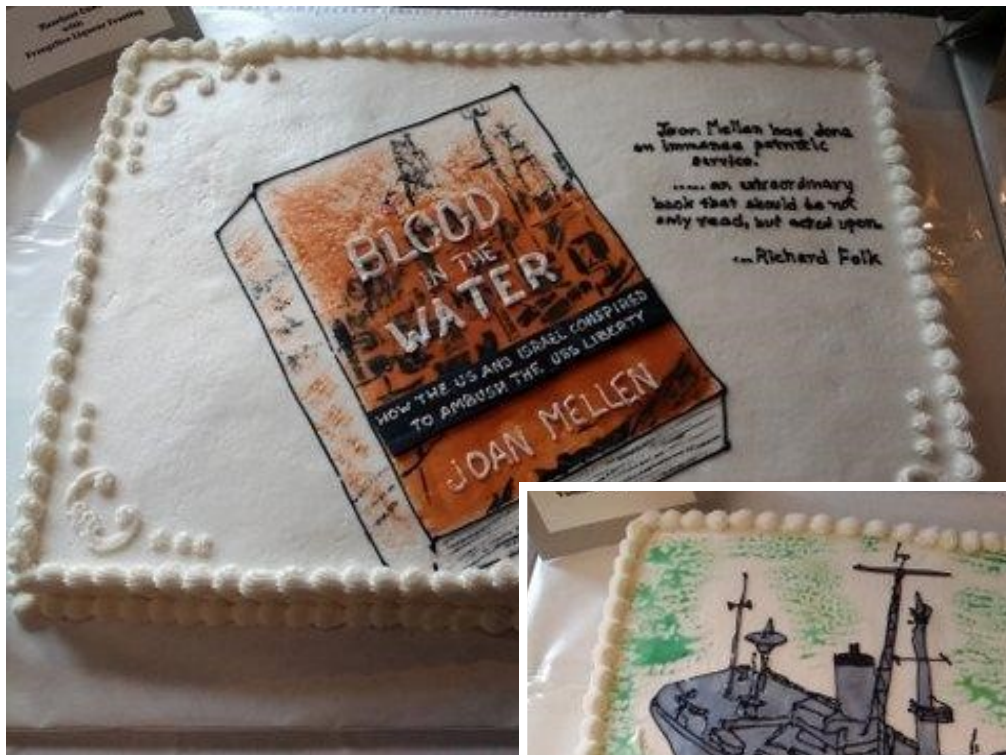
Blood in the Water Book Signing by Frank O'Classen

The book signing was yesterday., December 1, 2018. CDR Lewis has a tremendous following in the Colebrook area. The pictures show the CDR and MS Mellen and the cakes that were prepared for the event. The next email will show the crowd.

MS Mellen's talk was supposed to start at 1300. The crowd wanting books signed was so large that they did not get finished signing until after 1430. Her talk was well received by the group.

Bryce and Lois drove out from Missouri and were selling Liberty memorabilia. There was much interest in the items they had. As always, Bryce looked sharp in his Dress Blues.

It was inspiring to see all the support that Dave (up there he is known as Ed) has. He is much loved and respected.



Bob Scarborough & Politicians

This morning, January 11, 2019, at a Veterans Breakfast at the National Infantry Museum at Ft Benning, Columbus, GA, I had an opportunity to meet Governor Elect Bryan Kemp and presented the Governor a USS Liberty Challenge Coin. I had a moment to briefly explain our desire for a June 8, USS Liberty Remembrance Day and gave him my DAV business card. He was very receptive, we'll see where that goes. I met one of his reps at our December DAV meeting, told her our story, I have her business card so I may be able to get a book to Governor Kemp through her.



I also met & had a picture taken with our new Mayor, Skip Henderson, but I don't have any more coins. I'll be able to get with the Mayor at a later date.



Making Some Progress in Washington by Larry Bowen

Last summer I worked tirelessly with my Maryland Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger trying to get a congressional committee to investigate the attack on the USS Liberty. When those efforts failed, I decided to write a letter to the Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer requesting that he consider naming a future ship after our beloved USS Liberty or our skipper Captain William L. McGonagle. In my letter, which went out under our President Ernie Gallo's name, I also requested a meeting with the Secretary of the Navy so that I might talk with him about the recommendation made by Admiral Moorer's Commission which to this date have never been acted upon. My letter was subsequently endorsed by Congressman Ruppersberger which is probably why the Secretary felt compelled to respond. The letter you see in this newsletter is the Secretary of the Navy's response to our letter which gives me "some" hope that we may still see some recognition for our fallen shipmates before we are all gone from this earth.

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer
Secretary
United States Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon,
Washington, DC 20350-1200

Dear Secretary Spencer:

It was a pleasure and an honor for members of the USS Liberty Veterans Association, including our Vice-President, Mr. Larry Bowen, to meet you at the Surface Navy Associations Annual Banquet back on January 11th.

You may recall that Mr. Bowen, along with two of his shipmates, came to your table prior to the dinner to introduce themselves, at which time they presented you with a USS Liberty Challenge Coin. They fondly remember you apologizing for not having one of yours to offer in return but suggested that they should come by your office sometime so that they could receive one. If possible, they would like to take you up on that offer in the future if you feel it is appropriate, but that is not the main purpose of this correspondence.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the United States Navy is currently planning to grow the fleet to an estimated 355 ships. Knowing that the Navy will soon be commissioning new naval ships to modernize our fleets, the USS Liberty Veterans Association would like to formally request that one of these new vessels is named either the USS Liberty, or the USS McGonagle, in memory of the skipper of the USS Liberty, Captain William L. McGonagle, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The crew of the USS Liberty has been trying for over 51 years to educate the American public about what happened to the USS Liberty. While we understand that many of the details surrounding the attack on our ship remain classified, we feel very strongly that a public acknowledgement of the service and sacrifice of the USS Liberty crew is deserved and long overdue. The Liberty crew was awarded: 1 Medal of Honor; 2 Navy Crosses; 12 Silver Stars; 26 Bronze Stars; 208 Purple Hearts; the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Action Ribbon. and more. We believe the USS Liberty is the most decorated Navy ship for a single engagement since World War II and possibly ever. Naming a new vessel in memory of the USS Liberty or Captain McGonagle would certainly help to provide this acknowledgement of the crew of the USS Liberty.

Making Some Progress in Washington (contd.)



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

August 30, 2018

The Honorable Dutch Ruppersberger III
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Ruppersberger:

Thank you for your August 16, 2018 letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Ernest A. Gallo, President, USS LIBERTY Veterans Association, requesting a new ship be named either USS LIBERTY or for former LIBERTY's commanding officer, Captain William L. McGonagle.

As you note in your letter, LIBERTY and its crew served our nation with honor and distinction, and naming a future ship USS LIBERTY is a fitting tribute to those lost in 1967.

I appreciate the interest of all who participate in the ship naming process, and I can assure you the recommendation will be given every consideration. If I may be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Spencer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard V. Spencer

2019 Washington Conference on the Hill Trip, Larry Bowen

This year at the annual National Commanders Conference on the Hill in Washington, DC I had the opportunity to meet with eleven (11) different Congressmen and women's representatives regarding our USS Liberty goals. I also had the opportunity to meet with the next National Commander of the American Legion and talk briefly with him about our being thankful for the Legion's support to the USS Liberty in the past. I will have another opportunity to speak with him in August since he now has our Remember the LIBERTY book by Phil Nelson and a USS Liberty Challenge Coin. I have to say that James W. "Bill" Oxford (the incoming National Commander from NC) is a very down to earth and understanding individual. When I gave him our donation and made my remarks, he pulled me back for a photo and said he wanted to talk after he read the book. I believe him. As for my meetings with the various congressional offices, three (3) of the eleven (11) are worthy of return calls by me next week. If I get calls back from any of the others I would be surprised.

I also have two (2) American Legion Executive Committee Members who are now going to contact their state representatives on our behalf. I have to say that I didn't get to meet Mr. Dan Wheeler to discuss the issue of us getting a booth at the National Convention in August because when I was at the Capitol he was in meetings and when I was back at the hotel he was not around. I will definitely see him in August at the National Convention. I will say that we have a lot more people in the American Legion hierarchy who are more aware of us now and more willing to support us.



Submission by Larry Bowen

Over the past several months, your LVA Vice President has been actively trying to get our message out to the American public. I attended the annual Conference on the Hill, held in Washington, DC, the last weekend in February where I was able to meet with numerous congressional staffers who assured me that they understand our frustrations even though they couldn't assure me that they were going to be able to change anything any time soon.

So, I again called upon my friends and brother legionnaires from New York to help in getting our message out to the public. The Department of New York American Legion invited me to join them for their Mid-Winter Conference and their Hill Day activities in Albany, New York where they met with State Assemblymen and Senators to discuss Legion specific agenda items for 2019. The third item on the agenda this year was Recognition for the USS Liberty and her crew.

I had the honor and privilege to meet with the Honorable State Senator Pamela Helming in her office on Monday March 11th where I shared a brief history of the USS Liberty tragedy. She had never heard of our ship but was so taken by the incident that she said SHE would draft a resolution for the State. I provided the senator's staff with a folder of material along with a draft resolution to work from in hopes that it might help expedite things. On Thursday March 14th, I received an email from Senator Helming's staff along with resolution J.738 which is being introduced into the NEW YORK State Assembly to recognize June 8th as USS Liberty Remembrance Day. God Bless women like Senator Helming.



- - -

The American Legion Post 276 Department of Maryland

Hereby submit a resolution to petition the Maryland State Legislature and the Governor to recognize the crew of the USS Liberty and the thirty-four servicemen killed by dedicating a memorial and establishing June 8th as USS Liberty Remembrance Day in Maryland and to set aside June 8th each year as USS Liberty Remembrance Day and authorize the placement of a memorial within Annapolis.

Whereas, on June 8, 1967 the USS Liberty and her crew of 294 (including 3 civilians) was operating in international waters; and,

Whereas, in an unprovoked attack by Israeli war planes and torpedo boats resulted in the death of 34 Americans including one civilian from the largest Department of Defense employer in Anne Arundel County and the wounding of 174 others; and,

Continued on following page

Submission by Larry Bowen (contd.)

Continued from previous page

Whereas , after sending out distress calls stating the ship was under attack and requires immediate assistance the attack continues for approximately 22 minutes involving 30 to 35 sorties and following the air attack three Israeli motor torpedo boats fire five torpedoes one of which strikes Liberty on the starboard side resulting in the deaths of twenty-five (25) of the thirty-four (34) men killed; and

Whereas, the crew of the USS Liberty fought valiantly to overcome the battle damage that included severe structural damage and save their ship often placing themselves in extremely hazardous situations in total disregard for their personal safety finally succeeding to reach port; and.

Whereas, due to the sensitive nature of the USS Liberty's equipment and documents crew members still reeling from the attack with some having suffered wounds during the attack were tasked with entering the severely damaged area and recovering the bodies and body parts of their fellow shipmates; and,

Whereas, having suffered through the attack and subsequent recovery the crew was informed that under penalty of arrest, fines and imprisonment they were forbidden to speak about the incident which further compounded the effects of Posttraumatic Stress; and,

Whereas, because of unsupported statements by some U.S. Government officials that the attack was accidental, the Liberty survivors have been vilified in some quarters for over 50 years because they refuse to be part of the government's cover-up; and,

Whereas, the USS Liberty is the most decorated Navy ship for a single engagement. To wit, Captain William McGonagle received the Medal of Honor, and the crew received 2 Navy Crosses (posthumously); 12 Silver Stars (3 posthumously); 26 Bronze Stars; 9 Navy Commendations; 208 Purple Hearts (34 killed in action); the Combat Action Ribbon; the Presidential Unit Citation; and,

Whereas, at its national convention in 2017, the American Legion adopted Resolution 40 calling upon the United States Congress "to publicly, impartially, and thoroughly investigate the attack on the USS Liberty and its aftermath; and,

Whereas, no memorial befitting the heroic actions of the crew of the USS Liberty has been established due in part to the incident being shrouded in controversy; now be it

Resolved, that the members of American Legion Post 276 Department of Maryland assembled in convention in Ocean City, Maryland July 16 – 19 2019 urge that the Maryland State Legislature formally recognize the date June 8th as USS Liberty Remembrance Day now and forever and dedicate a memorial befitting the courage and dedication of the Liberty's crew and Lieutenant Steven S. Toth a United States Naval Academy Graduate who lost their lives be placed in Annapolis, Maryland; and be it further

Resolved, that the American Legion Post 276 Department of Maryland reaffirms Resolution 40 and calls upon all members of Maryland's U.S. Congressional delegation to heed the resolution's call for Congress "to publicly, impartially, and thoroughly, investigate the attack on the USS Liberty and its aftermath"; and,

Resolved, that this resolution is forwarded to the National Organization for its support.

New York State American Legion Sets the Mark High

By Larry Bowen

Last summer I had worked with New York States' American Legion Director of Legislative Affairs Mr. Frank LaMarsh in helping to draft resolution number 18. That resolution not only passed the department level in New York but was forward on to the National Convention Resolution Committee. It was also "approved" at the Convention Committee level with amendments. Each of these steps are significant in moving ever closer to getting Congress to hear our voices.

During my January visit to the New York State American Legion Mid-Winter Conference in Albany, New York I had an opportunity to meet with numerous legionnaires who were very supportive of our Liberty Veterans Association goals. I attended the Legislative Town Hall meeting on January 25th where several key resolutions were discussed including our resolution 18 regarding the USS Liberty. It also came up again during discussions on Saturday and during the closing General Session on Sunday morning. To say that the USS Liberty didn't get well talked about during this Mid-Winter conference would be an understatement.

The attached resolution is what one state is doing to help spread the word and take a formal stand that lets the rest of the world know our voices should be heard. I respect the courage these fellow veterans are showing by supporting our fallen shipmates with this resolution. If every state follows the lead of New York it won't be long before Congress will see the ground swell of support, we have and finally investigate the tragedy that occurred 52 years ago. By the way, the typo of 14 in the first paragraph of the resolution was corrected to 34 in the resolution that went forward.

Continued on following page.



New York State American Legion Sets the Mark High (contd.)

Continued from previous page.

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 18

Subject

USS Liberty Recognition

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1967 the U.S.S. Liberty and her crew of 294 (including 3 civilians) were operating in international waters and an unprovoked attack by Israeli war planes and torpedo boats resulted in the death of 14 Americans including five from New York State and the wounding of 174 others; and

WHEREAS, after sending out distress calls stating the ship was under attack and requires immediate assistance, the attack continued for approximately 22 minutes, involving 20 to 35 sorties and following the air attack, three Israeli motor torpedo boats fired five torpedoes, one of which strikes the U.S.S. Liberty on the starboard side resulting in the deaths of twenty – five (25) of the thirty – four (34) men killed; and

WHEREAS, the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty fought valiantly to overcome the battle damage that included severe structural damage and save their ship, often placing themselves in extremely hazardous situations, in total disregard for their personal safety, finally succeeding in reaching port; and

WHEREAS, due to the sensitive nature of the U.S.S Liberty's equipment and documents, crew members, still reeling from the attack, with some having suffered wounds during the attack, were tasked with entering the severely damaged area and recovering the bodies, and body parts of their fellow shipmates; and

WHEREAS, having suffered through the attack and subsequent recovery, the crew was informed that under penalty of arrest, fines, and imprisonment, they were forbidden to speak about the incident; and

WHEREAS, because of unsupported statements by some U.S. Government officials that the attack was accidental, the U.S.S. Liberty survivors have been vilified in some quarters for over 50 years because they refuse to be part of the government's cover – up; and

WHEREAS, at its National Convention in 2017, the American Legion adopted Resolution #40 calling upon the United States Congress “to publicly, impartially, and thoroughly investigate the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty, and its aftermath”; and

WHEREAS, no memorial befitting the heroic actions of the crew of the U.S.S. Liberty has been established due in part to the incident being shrouded in controversy, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion, Department of New York in convention assembled July 19th-21st, 2018 in Rochester, New York that the American Legion urge the New York State Legislature to formally recognize the date June 8th as U.S.S. Liberty Day now and forever and, dedicate a memorial befitting the courage and dedication of the U.S.S. Liberty's crew and the five New York sailors who lost their lives be placed in Albany, New York

Dave Lucas Celebration of Life

By Larry Bowen



On Saturday December 15, 2018, I had the honor of representing the USS Liberty crew at the Dave Lucas celebration of life which was held at the Whitehurst Clubhouse in Severna Park, Maryland. There was a previous celebration of life service for Dave in North Carolina where the Liberty Veterans Association sent a flower arrangement. However, since I live here in Maryland, I wanted to go and personally represent the crew.

As it turned out, relatives from LT Commander Armstrong's family were there as well as Jim O'Conner's daughter. I tried to speak to all the relatives of our crew members while I was there even though this was meant to be primarily for Dave Lucas. I presented Dave's two daughter's Tracy Lucas MacPherson and Jennifer Lucas with copies of Phil Nelson's book Remember the LIBERTY before speaking to the group about life on the Liberty. I tried to explain how "ships company" and the "Communications group" worked before the attack and then how we came together as "one" after the attack. I was able to relate to LT Commander Armstrong's family about the XO and I becoming "Shellbacks" on the same cruise.

The Lucas family was most appreciative of our support and Jennifer said she will keep us informed of the internment date once she has that information available.



Seattle Veteran Seeks Justice for Liberty...

Seattle Weekly - Wednesday, August 30, 2017 1:30am

A Seattle Veteran Seeks Justice for the USS Liberty, but Not Without Some Controversy - by Daniel Person

Seattle resident Michelle Kinnucan was just out of Coast Guard boot camp when she became interested in the USS Liberty. She was on her way to her first duty station, a cutter home ported in Guam, in 1983, and heard legendary investigative journalist James Bamford speaking to Larry King about his new book, a history of the National Security Agency. She bought the book at the Stars and Stripes bookstore in Guam upon arrival, and in it learned about the ship that was attacked by Israeli forces during the Six-Day War in 1967 while collecting communication for the NSA. The attack left 34 Americans dead and 171 crew members wounded.

A few years later, she was sent to a navy damage control school in Pearl Harbor, and encountered the vessel again. "I remember walking down the hall and noticing black-and-white photos of a damaged ship, and it turned out it was the USS Liberty. There wasn't much explanation. I figured it was a Navy chief trying to make a point," she remembers now.

The point, she says, is one that's been floated around naval circles and veterans' groups ever since the attack: Despite the official line, of both the U.S. and Israeli governments, that the attack on the USS Liberty was because the Israeli military mistook it for an Egyptian vessel, a proper investigation has never been conducted into what led to the deadly confrontation, which included both air and torpedo strikes from Israeli forces in international waters. Many U.S. government officials secretly rejected the idea that the attack was a mistake, including President Lyndon B. Johnson, according to investigative journalist James Scott.

As Pat O'Malley, a Pierce County judge and USS Liberty survivor, told The Seattle Times in 2009, "If you listen to all the explanations of what happened, any rational person is going to say that can't be—there is something missing here. We need the truth. Until governments tell the truth, how do you get trust?"

After an honorable discharge from the Coast Guard, Kinnucan moved to Seattle, where she'd spent time as a child. Here she learned that the ship had been commissioned as the USS Liberty at the navy base in Bremerton. For years, on Memorial Day and on the anniversary of the attack (June 8), Kinnucan, along with members of Veterans for Peace, would stand on the pier that moors the USS Turner Joy in Bremerton and hand out fliers about the attack. Then, earlier this year, Kinnucan decided to try to make a bigger impact by submitting a resolution with her American Legion Post, Post 40 in Ballard, to direct the national organization of 2.4 million veterans to lobby Congress for an investigation into what happened that day in the Mediterranean Sea.

This effort was more controversial than it may seem. The general outline of the USS Liberty attack has made it a ripe target for anti-Semitic groups to co-opt for their anti-Jewish messaging. The Anti-Defamation League has argued that some efforts to raise awareness about the USS Liberty are meant to "demonstrate the supposed treachery and power of the Jewish State and its American supporters. The story, told from this perspective, has become a propaganda tool to undermine the legitimacy of Israel." Veterans' groups advocating for survivors of the Liberty attack take pains to distance themselves from far-right groups that claim common cause with them.

Still, it's a stigma that Liberty advocates have to compete against. "When I first raised the resolution at my Legion post, the accusation of anti-Semitism came up right away," says Kinnucan. "There's really nothing to say about it except that there's nothing anti-Semitic about wanting this incident investigated when it hasn't been investigated yet. It's a red herring."

The Ballard post ultimately approved the resolution, which began its journey up the flagpole of the American Legion. It was approved at the state convention, which qualified it for the docket at the national convention in Reno.

When he found out that a resolution about the USS Liberty had made the national docket, Bryce Lockwood booked a last-minute flight to Reno to lobby for the Seattle post's resolution. At the time of the attack, he was serving on the Liberty as a voice intercept section supervisor. His section included three sailors, two Marines, and a civilian. "All of them were killed, but one, by the torpedo explosion," Lockwood says by phone from his home in Strafford, Missouri.

There had been resolutions to make it to the national convention in the past, Lockwood says, but they usually got squashed by leadership. This was the first time, he says, that the Legion actually allowed a hearing on the matter. Again, the resolution faced strong opposition for fear of anti-Semitism. "When the resolution came before the subcommittee, the leadership recommended rejection, saying the fringe groups would use the resolution to shape Mideast policy," Lockwood says. "We're not an anti-Semitic group; we're not a fringe group. We were a group of servicemen that were wronged on the high seas." Despite the continued opposition from some members of leadership, the resolution made it through to a vote and was approved. "This is a huge weight lifted off our shoulders," says Lockwood.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the attack; four years ago, the Veterans of Foreign Wars passed their own resolution calling for an investigation. Lockwood says he hopes the Legion's support creates a critical mass of support. "Here's two major veterans' organizations that have passed this, to tell Congress to investigate the attack on the USS Liberty."

Kinnucan says that while she believes the preponderance of evidence points to a deliberate attack by Israel, if Congress determines that the Israeli attack was truly a mistake, she says she's OK with that. "Time is running out for the survivors," she says. "These guys are in their 70s or older now, feeling that their country sort of betrayed them. They saw their shipmates die, and most of them were wounded. More than half the ship's company was killed or wounded. They feel like the American Legion, their brother and sister veterans, are standing on their side again."

Rick Campbell - Naval Author Request for Support

NEED YOUR HELP!

Each year, I donate 3,000 books to Navy and Marine Corps veteran and youth organizations (reunions, Navy League, Naval Submarine League, USSVI, US-NAAA, Sea Cadets, Young Marines, and JROTC units). It costs me \$20,000 a year to do this - I pay for it on my own nickel, although my publisher helps out by selling me the books at cost.

I've been able to donate because my contracts pay me well. However, publishing is very much a "what have you done for me lately" business, and my publisher will evaluate Treason sales results before offering the next 2-book contract. If you enjoy my books and want to help me continue donating them each year, please get the word out (see below) to those in your organization who might enjoy reading my books.

P.S. I've begun reaching out to donate books to reunions this year, contacting POCs with reunions through April 30th. I'll be in touch with May+ reunion POCs within the next few weeks.

TREASON INFO

My 5th novel, Treason hits the bookstore shelves today. They're available at the front of Barnes & Noble, select BJ's Wholesale Clubs, Amazon, or wherever you buy your books. The early reviews have been fantastic!

- "While Larry Bond and David Poyer are still churning out top-notch stuff, nobody's doing it better than Rick Campbell. Treason is the must-read book of the year for military and techno-thriller enthusiasts." — The Real Book Spy
- "Campbell has crafted a marvelous series that realistically portrays life in the military. The fifth installment, Treason, is a riveting military thriller!" — Booklist
- "Treason is a gripping thriller! Military action fans will be well satisfied." — Publishers Weekly

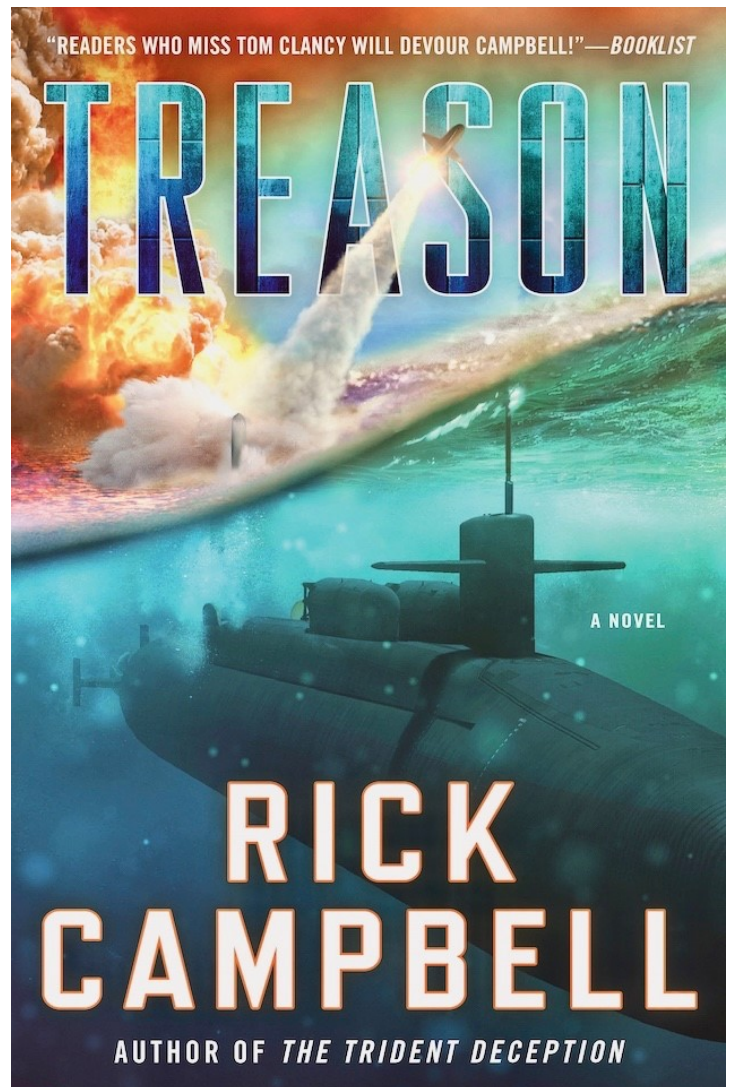
That's it's for now. I hope you enjoy Treason and that you can help get the word out to those who might enjoy it as well.

Best regards,

Rick

Author of military thrillers published by Macmillan / St. Martin's Press.

Find out more at rickcampbellauthor.com



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, Mr. James Ennes, Jr. SEND ORDER TO: Jim Ennes, PO Box 789, Woodinville, WA 98072 \$30.00
- 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 member Lt. John Scott . . . \$25.00
- REMEMBER THE LIBERTY Almost Sunk by Treason on the High Seas** \$20.00
By Phillip F. Nelson with Ernie A. Gallo, Ronald G. KuKal and Phillip F. Tournay
- Liberty Injustices: A Survivor's Account of American Bigotry** - By USS Liberty Survivor Ernest Gallo \$20.00

VIDEOS

- 25th Anniversary Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery** (DVD Video) \$15.00
- USS Liberty Survivors: Our Story** - Patrick King Documentary (DVD Video) \$15.00
- Loss of Liberty** - New Detailed Film of Attack and Cover-Up (DVD Video) \$20.00
- 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 \$20.00
- A USS LIBERTY REMEMBRANCE of 50 Years of US Government Cover-Up of the Attack** \$15.00
- History Channel DVD** \$15.00

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 Baseball Cap - Solid Fabric, Not Mesh with Plain Bill** \$20.00
- USS Liberty Unstructured Golf Hat - Navy or Tan** \$16.00
- LAST CHANCE!!! 50th Anniversary Tee Shirts - White (L & XXL)** \$20.00
- LAST CHANCE!!! Liberty Jackets - (XL ONLY)** \$50.00

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 OR 50th Anniversary Lapel Pins** \$ 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
- USS Liberty Coin** - Without the Names of Fallen Shipmates \$10.00

NAME: _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

ITEM DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
SHIPPING CHARGE (See below) **			GRAND TOTAL:	

**** \$5.00 SHIPPING CHARGE FOR DOMESTIC ORDERS OVER \$10. \$15.00 SHIPPING CHARGE FOR INTERNATIONAL ORDERS.**
PLEASE MAIL LVA STORE REQUESTS TO: Moe Shafer, PO Box 680275, Marietta, GA 30068
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USS LIBERTY VETERANS ASSOCIATION
*For a one year membership in the USS LIBERTY Veterans Association and Newsletter Subscription, send \$20 to Moe Shafer.
 Contributions are tax deductible! So please give and give generously!*

2019 Dues Reminder - A Note from the Director of Finance

Dear LVA Members & Supporters

It is that time of year again that we have to ask you to pay your annual membership dues of \$20.00. This is very much needed and critical to the continued success of our organization. The dues are used for all operational cost, newsletters, trade shows, memorials for our fallen shipmates, etc. etc.

Also we ask that you consider, throughout the year, digging in and sending us Tax Deductible donations to help us continue our objectives for the truth. Our costs continue to escalate with travel for VFW Show, American Legion show, plus other events we attend. This is usually two or more shipmates, to include Air/Hotel/Food/Parking/etc. Many of you have been very generous with your donations and we are deeply grateful. We hope to hear from all of you in the very near future. The Survivors of the USS Liberty truly appreciate your support.

Please send dues and donations to:

Liberty Veterans Association
PO Box 680275
Marietta, GA 30068
Moe Shafer, Director of Finance
LVA Board of Directors

Liberty News is the official journal of the USS LIBERTY Veterans Association - a California nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation representing the *USS LIBERTY* Survivors and former Crew Members, their families, and other patriotic Americans.

The yearly subscription rate is \$20.00 for an associate member (former and non-crew member). Due to our small size, however, we cannot survive solely on subscriptions. We are grateful to, and rely heavily upon our many members who voluntarily donate more generously with each passing year.

Make your tax-deductible check payable to:
LVA, C/O Moe Shafer, PO Box 680275, Marietta, GA 30068

BOARD MEMBERS

Ernie Gallo Run Kukal
Larry Bowen Bob Scarborough
Moe Shafer Gene Six

www.USSLibertyVeterans.org | www.USSLiberty.com

LIBERTY NEWS
PO BOX 680275
Marietta, GA 30068

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Moe Shafer
Director of Finance
moe.shafer@harbingernational.com

Joe Meadors
Director of Operations
joe@ussliberty.com

William Graves
Editor
editor@lvnews.org

Terry McFarland
Member at Large
t1mjumbo92@yahoo.com

Donna Shafer
Ship's Store Manager
donnashafer@bellsouth.net