

USS Liberty 53rd Reunion  
Mark your calendars!  
Pensacola, Florida June 5-7, 2020

# Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 68 | September, 2019



## Boa

**Ernie Gallo**

*President*  
[ernie7900@aol.com](mailto:ernie7900@aol.com)  
386-446-6855

**Larry Bowen**

*Vice President*  
[larryb1946@verizon.net](mailto:larryb1946@verizon.net)  
410-551-3647

**Ron Kukal**

*Secretary and Chaplin*  
[lvasec39@gmail.com](mailto:lvasec39@gmail.com)  
307-752-6693

**Bob Scarborough**

*Treasurer*  
[bobascarborough@gmail.com](mailto:bobascarborough@gmail.com)  
706-593-1898

**Gene Six**

*Member at Large*  
[sixeugene@yahoo.com](mailto:sixeugene@yahoo.com)  
951-663-0810



## Letter from the Editor

**William Graves, Editor**  
[editor@lvnews.org](mailto:editor@lvnews.org)

Dear Veterans and LVA Members,

It is genuinely hard for me to believe that we've already reached September. It's so easy to get caught up in the "day to day" routine of life in America. As a father of two, the days, weeks, and months are a blur of school events, ballet recitals, and soccer games.

But then every few months, I have the pleasure of reviewing the information submitted for this publication. Every few months I am reminded that the mere freedom to even get caught up in the whirlwind of American life is something that doesn't, and hasn't, come free.

The Liberty story is one example of the cost of this great nation and the life it affords so many. So with that, thank you for all of you who have personally paid toward the cost of the life I enjoy. Thank you for contributing to this publication. Thank you for reading. And on behalf of the board, thank you for sharing the Liberty story.

Have a wonderful fall season!

Sincerely,  
William Graves  
*Editor*

### SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:

William Graves, Editor  
[editor@lvnews.org](mailto:editor@lvnews.org)

## Letter from the President

I have probably written about the following before but I feel I must make this point again. The USS Liberty crew is the eye witness to crimes committed against us and the American people. That is, we have a signed affidavit from Captain Ward Boston that the Navy Court of Inquiry was directed by LBJ to obstruct justice and produce a false report that the attack was accidental. Additionally, not only was the crew given a gag order, the Navy sent many intel officers throughout the Mediterranean to seek any document copies of the Liberty attack to ensure there was no hard evidence to dispute whatever LBJ wanted to convey. In concert, congress did not investigate the attack as they should as directed by law. During the attack, Defense Security McNamara and then LBJ refused to send attack aircraft to our aide in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (to never leave a wounded soldier on the battlefield). Even as late as 2004, the State Department tried in vain to convince the American public that despite what they may have heard from the Liberty crew, the attack was really an accident. Why go through all this deception? Because torpedoes were used, the attack was the attempted murder of 294 Americans. Why is it so important that the American people know Israel would **never** deliberately kill 34 Americans and wound 174? Why not present Captain McGonagle the Medal of Honor at the White House by LBJ? Why was it so harmful to LBJ to present the MOH publicly by him? Why did it have to be done in a quiet ceremony? Why didn't the US demand the Israeli Government punish those responsible for the attack even if it were an error of judgment because 34 Americans were killed and 174 wounded? Why?

The point is that the USS Liberty Veterans Association can prove in a court of law that the above did happen and the reason for the deception is for one reason only: to protect the US/Israeli relationship from the American people. Prior to LBJ, Presidents Eisenhower and Kennedy both had a balanced Middle East Policy to include not selling offense weapons to Israel and the Arabs. LBJ changed that arrangement in favor of the Israelis, however, to do that Israel could not and would not do anything to harm fellow Americans. Therefore, the basic foundation of this relationship, beginning in 1967, we know was founded on **lies, falsehoods, and deceit** perpetrated on the American people. Once again the LVA can prove it. This lie must be protected at all costs because if America discovered that they have been duped all these years especially to include Israeli's narcissistic mischief regarding the intelligence provided by Jonathon Pollard would possibly cease offering American sons and daughters to protect Israel if it were attacked. Am I correct? What have we experienced the last 52 years? Because we refuse to lie that the attack was deliberate, we are chastised as anti-Semitic making it difficult for the LVA to distance ourselves from anti-Semitic groups. Instead of being honored as the most decorated Navy ship of all time for a single engagement, the media labels the attack as accidental or controversial at the least. To include the 1967 prominent officials, who knew the attack was deliberate, we also agree.

Nevertheless, I still feel the truth will be told someday and that Americans will someday realize what Voltaire once said was true, "To learn who controls you, find out who you are not allowed to criticize". Is the USA controlled? Think about it. Our truth is long overdue.

*The vote is now completed, the LVA will plan on a **June 8, 2020 reunion** in Pensacola, Florida. So, pencil in a group of dates around June 8th and we will see you on the beach!!!*

## 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.**



USS LVA June 8, 2019 Washington, DC Memorial Service



Lieutenant Richard Sturman, Jr.



## Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention, 2019, Orlando, Florida

From July 19 - 23rd, the USS Liberty Veterans Association was represented at the VFW convention. It is just amazing how many folks have never heard or know about the Israeli attack as we did our best to inform passers if they stopped to ask questions based on our signs. We provided free pamphlets and Liberty campaign buttons as well as sold books, screen plays, shirts, challenge coins, key chains, and Zippo lighters. It was especially touching to observe the Marine Corps camaraderie with Bryce and his fellow Marines. However, not to be outdone, Bob received some hugs from the ladies. All kidding aside, I was very proud of our staff including our wives who all did a fantastic job communicating our plight and noble intentions.

Our endeavor is worthwhile as we continue to satisfy our mission statement to educate the American public as to the truth of the attack. Folks are still very moved by our story and others that stopped by hoping we had positive news that something was happening. The VFW convention is very worth while. To some at the VFW, we are special people. We also collected \$51 dollars in donations!!!

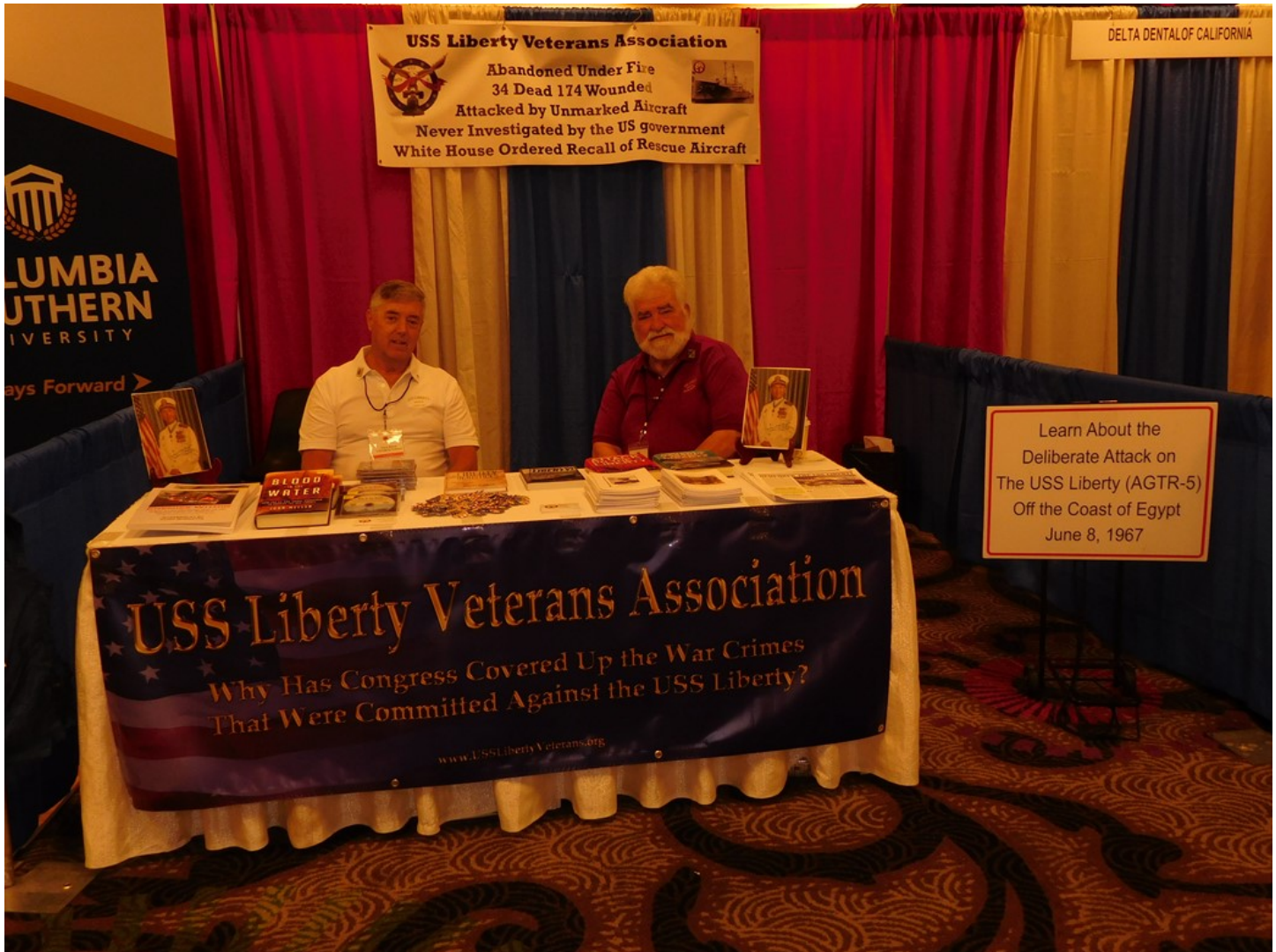
As I write I need to tell you that I am re-invigorated after attending the VFW convention. Even though the USS Liberty attack occurred 52 years ago, your fellow Americans have not forgotten and are still waiting for justice as well as the crew and our families. Lots of folks stopped at our booth to inquire if we had new or positive information. It is so inspiring to interact with these wonderful fellow Americans. I will never give up hope.



Here we are at our booth: Bob Scarborough, Ernie Gallo, Bryce Lockwood, Louis Lockwood and the person taking the picture was Patricia Gallo.

## The AMVETS Convention, Louisville, KY

Your shipmates, Larry Bowen and Ernie Gallo attended the AMVETS Convention from August 21 to the 23rd. A USS Liberty supporter, Mike Church, from Tennessee, had been doing his best to ensure the LVA attended this convention and it paid off as we met many new friends and told our story to many who had never heard of the Liberty attack. In addition, Mr. Church and Mr. Bowen brought the attack to the Convention floor and passed a resolution. To wit: From Larry, "This morning at the AMVETS NATIONAL CONVENTION I got to address the entire group concerning our inability to get a resolution in front of Congress to investigate the attack. The AMVETS unanimously approved their resolution to have Congress investigate the attack and their resolution didn't specify a closing date".





Plaque Presented to USS Liberty Supporter Mr. John Paul Jones

at: Mon July 15, 2015

Dear Mr. Gallo,

Last week, on Friday, when I got my mail, I was surprised to get the plaque you sent, for which I am tremendously grateful. Thank you! That was incredibly kind, gracious, and magnanimous of you, and it means more to me than you will likely ever know.

Over the years, I've come to admire the USS Liberty survivors more and more, and under your wise leadership, I've seen the LVA produce many newsletters, books, radio interviews, websites, etcetera, to educate the American public about what really happened that day and why it is so important. Without exception, I've always found those Liberty survivors I talked to to be the salt of the earth and altogether honorable and exceptional people -- not to mention great Americans.

So, as I came to appreciate the importance of the Liberty battle more and more, I grew to admire the courage and caliber of the Liberty crew, e.g., yourself, Commander Lewis, Mr. Tourney, Bryce Lockwood, Ron Kulko, etc., and as dark and disappointing as things have become what with the mass censorship of the Internet and other grave, dire and deeply disturbing developments in our nation, I have never been able to give up completely the fight to search for the truth and tell what I know, because I think of how the crew of the USS Liberty kept going, and even when under fire and defenseless, with any communication almost impossible, ~~but~~ you nevertheless managed to get word out to the the world and the Sixth Fleet.

Your story reminds me of Task Force Faith, which was led by medal of honor winner, Don Carlos Faith during the hopeless battle at the Frozen Chosin, Korea. Maybe you have not read about that, so I'm sending you a zerox copy of a section of the book In Mortal Combat that describes what happened.

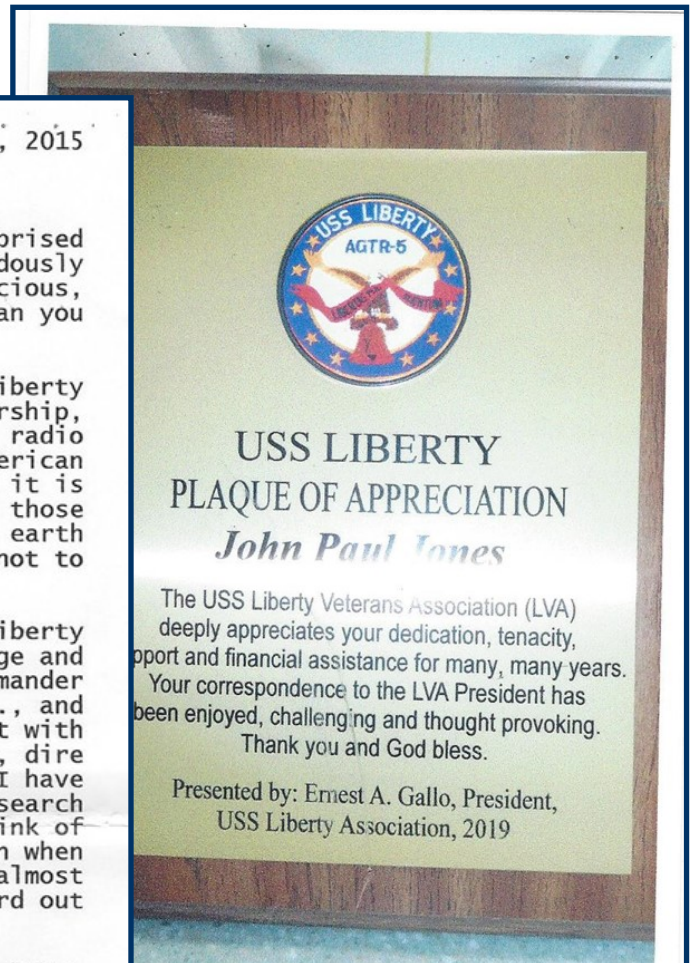
Yet all in all, I have to say that your story is of all the war stories I have read the most important, and that is why of coarse the enemy wants it to sink to the bottom of the ocean and be forgotten, but that will not happen, because your story is a parable, a prophecy, and a potent reminder that Liberty is a hard ship to sink, and what is more, much more, the truth is tougher than nails, because history may for a time be on the side of our enemies, but Jesus wonderful God Almighty has eternity in his hand.

Thanks again for the plaque of appreciation. As Sam Wise said in Lord of the Rings:

"The praise of the praiseworthy is above all reward."

Very sincerely, respectfully, and gratefully,

John Paul Jones



**ABOVE:** Plaque presented to Mr. John Paul Jones

**LEFT:** Letter from Mr. Jones

## Calhoun Middle School - USS Liberty Play

### 2019 WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL HISTORY DAY STATE CHAMPIONS!

The performance of “Almost sunk by treason; remembered by the Mountain State” helped to share the true history of one of the Navy’s most tragic losses of life and sophisticated technology available at that time. These young students from Calhoun Middle School should be commended for their bravery and steadfast desire to complete this challenging task to honor our fallen shipmates.

They competed at the National level on June 10th at the University of Maryland and then gave an encore performance for the local American Legion Post 276 and Disabled American Veterans Chapter 13 members on June 11th. I was very impressed by the level of detail these young people were able to gather despite knowing all the obstacles they faced whenever they mentioned they were researching the USS Liberty.

After their performance at the American Legion Post 276, I presented the group with a plaque, Challenge Coins, and Liberty Ball Caps from the Liberty Veterans Association in appreciation for their efforts in helping to keep our story alive. We can be proud knowing that we have young people like Elijah Dickey – Colby Lamb – Levi Morris – Mason Siwicki and Aislin Summers; caring enough to help get the truth out about what happened to our ship back on June 8th, 1967. Thank you Mr. Dan Cosgrove (Teacher) for allowing them to experience this worthwhile endeavor.





## Congressman Paul Findley

We have lost a super supporter and friend, Congressman Paul Findley. May he now rest in the arms of our Lord. Not only did he care for the crew of the USS Liberty but also the plight of the Palestinian people. He was a champion for everyone's justice and because he was outspoken, he paid the price as he crossed the Anti-Defamation League, They poured money into Paul's adversary to ensure Paul was never re-elected again causing him to write his book, "They Dared to Speak Out". This book directly influenced me to write mine, "Liberty Injustices – A Survivor's Account of American Bigotry".



Congressman Findley, you will be missed and by example you influenced us to continue to do the right thing no matter who or what tries to stop you. The last time I saw Congressman Findley was at an C-Span affair in Washington, DC and I publicly told him that the LVA loves him. Rest in Peace!

On August 14, 2019, Bryce Lockwood attended the Congressman's funeral. To wit: Steven Jones, Paul's Cong. Aide, described the role Paul played in the Vietnam War Memorial. In 1968, Paul had casually asked Mr. Jones if a listing existed of the KIA's from the war. Mr. Jones made a request of the Army. A few days later on entering his office, Mr. Jones found an 18" sq. UPS box on his desk. It contained a huge computer scroll of 33,000+ names. Congress was in session, and Paul requested an entry into the Congressional Record. Granted. The scroll made quite an impression on the clerk when it was plopped on his desk. Most everything in the country turns on the Congressional Record, financial markets, trade, commodities, infrastructure planning, defense spending etc. The Record had never been late before. The next morning, NO Congressional Record. Usually the record is only a few pages in length. It was more than 24 hours late, and when printed, contained 115 pages, three columns of single spaced names of those killed. It was a political bomb! That led to the planning stage of the Vietnam Memorial and probably to Lyndon Johnson's withdrawal from consideration for a second full term. Paul also had a strong hand in the opening of China to trade in the 1970's. At a Rotary Club Convention in Springfield, IL, the Chinese Ambassador, his first public appearance in the United States, stated in flawless English "Paul Findley is a friend to China. China is a friend to Paul Findley." His efforts led to the opening of the Chinese market to U.S. farm commodities and billions in trade.

Both the visitation and funeral were packed with dignitaries, including Sen. Richard Durban, who had defeated Paul in the 1982 election. In spite of their political differences, they became close friends.

## Obituary, Carlyle Francis Lamkin

Jesus took Carlyle Francis Lamkin home on July 25, 2019, he was 79. With his passing from this world, heaven gained a veteran, a patriot, and a hero. Carlyle was a decorated Navy NCO who earned the Bronze Star for his heroic actions to save others while wounded himself and under hostile fire; he earned the Purple Heart for those wounds sustained during the attack on the U.S.S. Liberty. Carlyle went on to become a decorated police officer for the city of Hialeah, FL; ultimately earning Officer of the Year honors in a career that he loved and was deeply devoted to. A widower, Carlyle was preceded in death by his wife, Claudia Michelle Lamkin, and his legacy is a close and loving family. He is survived by his children, Johnny, Ronnie, Trisha Rowe, Billy, and Cody; his grandchildren Brent, Chris, Karabeth, Ryan, Jaden, and Abigail; and his great-grandchildren, Maggie, Tessa, Carson, Judah, Murphee, and Archer. He is firmly and eternally now in God's embrace.

## Obituary, Ronald N Fischer

Ronald "Ron" N. Fischer, age 74, of Columbus, Ohio, passed away on Saturday, June 8, 2019. He was born in Wheeling, West Virginia on October 12, 1944 to the late William and Regina Fischer. He attended Mingo Junction High School. Ron was a veteran of the United States Navy and worked for many years as a superintendent for several home builders. He was a member of the Martins Ferry Masonic Lodge #486 and Amvets Post 2000. In addition to his parents Ron was preceded in death by his brother, William Fischer. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Darlene Fischer; children, Lance (Lisa) Fischer, Krista Fischer, Mary Hazelwood, Darla Thomas, and John (Carmin) Letusick; grandchildren, Nate, Alexa, Sasha, Jordin, Hunter, Ricky, Leah, Josh, Marcelo, Marissa, and Allyssa; and one great grandson, Nash. No services will be held at this time, family may have services at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Schoedinger East Chapel.



## The Passing of Mrs. Jean Thompson

This photo is the flower arrangement the USS Liberty Veterans Association provided in memorial to Mrs. Jean Thompson, the wife of Honorary Crewman Dick Thompson. We were very close to this wonderful family, especially after Dick was killed in an auto accident returning from our 40th reunion. Mrs. Jean was the personification of a Southern lady. She will be missed.





## The John Fisher Story

### VIRGINIA BEACH

John Fisher remembers thinking two things on June 8, 1967. "The only thing I was worried about was No. 1, keep the ship running, and No. 2, trying to stay alive." Fisher was a 3rd class petty officer aboard the Navy's technical research ship the USS Liberty that day when it was attacked by air and sea by Israel off the Egyptian coast during the Six-Day War. Virginian-Pilot archives suggest the Liberty had been intercepting battlefield messages of the warring nations. Fisher was down in the engine room. He heard machine gun shells coming up the side of the ship, big explosions and shrapnel pouring through the ceiling. Thirty-four men died. More than 170 others were wounded.



Back in the Liberty's home port of Norfolk, sailors were told to keep the incident under wraps. Fisher rarely mentioned it again. More than five decades later, 73-year-old Fisher was recently buying 34 American flags at a Dollar Tree on Virginia Beach Boulevard when the man behind him in line noticed.

Roger Garrett, a fellow Virginia Beach resident, said he was curious why the man was buying such a specific number of flags. So Fisher told him. Every Memorial Day, he puts up 34 flags in a corner of his front yard to honor his comrades who died during the Liberty attack. He headed to the dollar store this year to upgrade to larger flags and the store had had "just the right number — 34, that's all they had." Garrett was the first stranger who ever asked about it, Fisher said. He started the tradition about five years ago when he moved into his home in the Aragona Village neighborhood. "My kids got to talking to me about this. It just brought back a lot of memories and I thought, 'Well, I need to do something,'" Fisher said. "It was an idea that hit me and I thought, 'Someone needs to remember these guys.' Their life meant something. Their life meant a lot to me, 'cause they were my shipmates."



In the garage of his house last week, Fisher flipped to the back of a book and pointed to a list of Liberty crew members. Those who died were marked by crosses, those wounded with an asterisk. "I'm lucky my name doesn't have anything next to it," he said. He perused other parts of the book, "Assault on the Liberty" by James Ennes Jr., showing black and white photos of the ship before and after the attack. Fisher was just out of high school in New Jersey when he joined the Navy. The Vietnam War and the draft were both raging, and it just seemed the thing to do. The Liberty was operating mainly off the west coast of Africa in 1967, Fisher said. When the Six-Day War broke out amid tensions between Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria, the ship was called north.

## The John Fisher Story (contd.)

Fisher recalls June 8 being "a nice, sunny day. Seas were calm, like being on a lake. "That's when they opened fire on us." Down in the engine room, "what we got to see was a lot of smoke. That's pretty much it. You could hear all the explosions." At one point the crew was told to expect a torpedo attack, and a big explosion rocked the vessel. Machine gun and rocket hits kept coming. Planes dropped napalm. Fisher pointed to a photo in "Assault on the Liberty" of the ship's exterior. It showed the top of the engine room punctured.



These were rocket hits," he said. "All that shrapnel was just like rain pouring down." It wasn't until later he learned how many men had died, including some he knew. "It was months later before you really had the chance to sit down and really think about what happened and what you lost out there," he said.

The U.S. and Israeli governments concluded the attack was a mistake after Israel said it thought the Liberty was an Egyptian ship, though that account has failed to convince many sailors, including Fisher. Israel later paid \$6.8 million as compensation for those killed and injured. On the 20th anniversary of the attack, a column in the Pilot said federal defense officials "have swept evidence concerning the attack under the rug of secrecy. ... The government's refusal to make the truth known is apparent to anyone who has talked with survivors or examined the facts." The Navy told survivors of the Liberty to keep quiet, Fisher said. "We weren't allowed to talk to anybody about what we saw or what we did," he said.

After the attack, the Liberty sailed to Malta to recover. They were there only about a month but "long enough for me to want to get married," he said. He met a woman there; they had six children back in Virginia and divorced years later. The Liberty came home to Norfolk in July 1967. The ship was decommissioned the following year and later sold for scrap.

Fisher's been based in Hampton Roads most of the time since that homecoming. He finished his four-year service and left the military to work at a paper mill for a year. Then he returned to the Navy for 20 more years, serving aboard nine different ships including the Valdez and Independence, mostly in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Middle East. He lived in Scotland and Rhode Island — but kept coming back here. Fisher left the service as a master chief and briefly worked in local shipyards before retiring in 1990. He didn't talk much about the Liberty over the years. "You've got to move on. You can't dwell on what's happened in the past all the time." But once the idea for the flags came, he knew he had to honor the fallen sailors. Usually he puts them up the day before Memorial Day, but this year he did it Friday. Sometimes his 13-year-old great-granddaughter assists. "She likes to help me put them out," he said. "She thinks that's pretty neat."



## Letter from Robert Michael

Mr. Ernie Gallo  
6 Clearview Court South  
Palm Coast, FL 32137  
22 June 2019

Dear Ernie,

Mellen and Nelson have made persuasive arguments about their uncovering of events regarding the Liberty. It probably explains why the smaller nation has such a firm grip on the larger nation's throat. The mystery of the Liberty has finally seen daylight.

First, congratulations to you and the crew for foiling the plot by keeping the ship afloat! Second, I am honored to know you because you and the crew are truly miracle men and American heroes.

On June 8, 1967, you emerged as the unwitting victors from the nefarious plot to put you on the bottom. The question is will history record it properly? You and your shipmates knew only that you were deliberately attacked. You did not know the reason for the attack. You could not have known the importance of what you had done that day by preserving the ship.

Unfortunately, not many Americans know what happened 52 years ago because the event was never fully publicized, never fully understood and almost totally covered up. Both government cover ups continue. Thanks to the Liberty Survivors and a few curious historians, the truth has finally evolved.

Your place in history is unchallenged as the spoiler of an ignominious plot against you and your ship. The enormity of your achievement of keeping the ship above water was a stupendous feat because it led to the ultimate revelation of the attack, cover up, and reason for the American and Israeli plot to sink the Liberty.

May God Bless The Liberty, the Liberty Crew, all the Survivors, all the Deceased Members, and you and your Shipmates who continue to bring the Truth about the Liberty to the World.

For Justice,



Robert J. Michael  
25818 S. Brentwood Drive  
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248  
480-200-1870  
[rjm390@gmail.com](mailto:rjm390@gmail.com)

## Why did Israel attack the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967?

### Why did Israel attack the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967?

June 8, 2019

A number of years ago I first learned of Israel's deliberate and horrific attack that took place on June 8, 1967 against the crew and ship of the **USS Liberty** that killed 34 innocent American Navy men and wounding most if not all of the survivors! Since then, I have wanted to learn and know the truth answering this very important question: **Why did the government of Israel knowingly attack the crew and ship of the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967?** (source: [www.USSLiberty.org](http://www.USSLiberty.org))

The answer was provided to me very unexpectedly on March 25, 2007 when I happen to mention this question to retired Army Colonel and chaplain, Ryder Stevens at the Hilton Long Beach (California) when several of us had dinner with him following his church lecture, titled "Peace and Reconciliation Through Prayer!" I had helped organize sponsorship of his lecture by three local churches.

Ryder Stevens served 23 years of active duty. Mr. Stevens said to me that while serving as a US Army officer at the Pentagon, he had access to read classified/top secret documents, communications and reports, etc., including those regarding Israel's attack on the USS Liberty. He indicated to me that based on evidence and classified documents he had read, that the Israel government/military deliberately and knowingly attacked the USS Liberty (intelligence ship) on June 8, 1967 because at that time the Israelis did not want the Americans to know they (the Israelis) were preparing to possibly use nuclear weapons, if necessary, during the Six Day War when Israel was losing one or more battles when there was a possibility that Israel could/might lose the war; that if Israel were to possibly be losing the war with its use of only conventional weapons, they (the Israeli government/military) were preparing for the clandestine possibility of using nuclear weapons and did not want the USS Liberty crew to find out and alert Washington because the Israelis knew that US government leaders would likely object and possibly prevent Israel's potential first-use of nuclear weapons.

When I asked Col. Stevens if I could mention his name when sharing this important information, he objected. As such and in the interest of sharing the truth to help and hopefully prevent future wars, I waited to share this for publication until after learning of his passing. USS Liberty veterans, their families and the American people deserve to finally know the truth! Instead of covering up the truth by failing to carry out its long overdue duty to conduct a Congressional investigation, Congress must do so ASAP!

/s/

ND



## Letter from Dan Egn

Hello Gentlemen,

I see Gen. Mattis will be speaking in Chicago at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs on Sep 11 (interesting date for a speech at a Zionist's organization). Would anyone be interested in attending this event? I think it would be a great opportunity to remind our leaders that the Liberty crew is still fighting and will not be silenced!

As much as I have immense respect for Gen. Mattis, I think that he, too, should be put on notice that his silence on the Liberty is unacceptable. He should be reminded that Gen\Raymond Davis and other great Marine, Navy, and intelligence leaders have gone on record supporting the USS Liberty. Does anyone recall Adm Moorer's advice about "grabbing the guy's lapel" and speaking to him about the Liberty....and reminding them that the government is 'OF the people, BY the people and FOR the people' of the U.S.A.?

Back in '07, Ernie, Bryce and Stan (God Bless his soul!) were able to get in to hear Gen Michael Hayden speak at this same organization...and we were fortunate enough to get to direct a question to him about when the Liberty issue would be fully disclosed and addressed by CIA and the USG.. I think if we have 4, 5, or 6 people there to have prepared questions for Gen Mattis, we have a good chance to respectfully demand a definitive statement from him and to demand action.

If anyone can attend this event, please let me know and I'll see what I can do for helping with hotel arrangements, logistical support, etc...

Semper Fi!!

Dan Egn

## A Letter from Dick Carlson

I am forwarding this, having received it from a responsible and respected shipmate. Kate Smith was an inspiration to the nation in WW II with her booming perfect pitch voice presenting Irving Berlin's masterpiece God Bless America to the nation. That song has been sung trillions of times over and is and always will be a beacon of light for those who live here, serve American in civilian and military life, and in 'my' day (40s and 50s) we sang that song in school. Imagine that! Singing a patriotic song IN SCHOOL at assembly. What DO the liberals think of THAT!!! Anyway - I am horrified at the desecration of her memory and statue. "Kate" will live on no matter what lo-level human beings do to her. Here is the forward.

This is really getting out of hand with the recent smearing of Kate Smith. We've allowed the "sensitive" nature of mongrels to dramatically alter the face of United States. We've witnessed this process as it has escalated over the past 25 years where the bulk of Americans are made to believe they are not "politically correct" and therefore un-American in their thinking and behavior.

"Political Correctness", a term that surfaced several years ago to describe liberal efforts to discourage the use of language or actions that might offend or discriminated against a particular sex or race. However, the intent to reach the goal of totally eliminating supposed offensive words or gestures has, according to most Americans, gone to extreme and is now seen as grossly counterproductive; and, in some cases placing otherwise innocent citizens in danger of legal consequences. In the minds of "easily offended" individuals, anyone questioning their motive for removing signs, statues, movies, books, etc from existence is surely to be labeled a racist or an insensitive monster.

Now there is an attempt to have Kate Smith buried deeper than she already is in St Agnes Cemetery up in Lake Placid, New York. Back in the 1930's she supposedly sang a song containing words or phrases that now might be seen as somewhat racist lyrics if it was written today. Keep in mind, the song receiving complaints was written in 1931 by two of the most popular song writers of the time. The question is, are we asked to agree that the weight of one song vocalized years ago by Kate Smith is sufficient to change her image and immense accomplishments to that of an undesirable racial bigot? Only a peon feces disturber would put forth such a suggestion. The problem, as it appears, we have permitted a small number of feces disturbers to dictate these idiotic and nonsensical marrings of our history, not only do they denigrate important people of the past; but, have already triggered the complete disposal of massive amounts of priceless objects, statues and written records.

Let's see how Kate Smith might stack up against those questioning her allegiance to America and it's people. Here is a summary of Kate's long career put together by historian Tod Beniot: After achieving success on Broadway and vaudeville, Kate, known as "Songbird of the South" made her radio debut in 1931; and, within two years had two shows of her own. "The Kate Smith Hour" was a weekly variety show featuring her perfectly pitched singing and new talent acts. Her daytime radio show, "Kate Smith Speaks", offered news and homespun commentary that eased an emotionally fraught America through some of its most trying historical times. During WWII Kate's on air appeals for war bonds yielded contributions topping \$600 million.

Kate was enormously popular; she made more than 15,000 radio broadcasts, received more than 20 million fan letters; and, sold countless millions of records - and her trademark song, "When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain" sold some 6 million copies. She starred in her own movie "Hello Everybody" and in 1950 moved her radio show to TV where it stayed in various incarnations until 1962.

But, despite her long list of accomplishments, Kate will forever be best remembered as the vibrantly brave and passionate singer who made "God Bless America" an unofficial national anthem. She introduced the Irving Berlin song to the country in 1938 and, when it became apparent that it had achieved significance beyond that of just another pop tune, she refused to profit from the song, instead donating the royalties from it's performances to the Boy Scouts of America, an arrangement that remains in place today.

Once, President Roosevelt quite aptly introduced Kate to England's King George VI by stating simply "This is Kate Smith. Miss Smith is America". While Kate recorded over 2000 songs, fittingly, the last song she sang publicly was "God Bless America" on a bicentennial special for the 4th of July, 1976, only a year prior to her passing in 1977.

(unknown author)

--

Dick Carlson  
USN Retired



**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. Tourney
- 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** - (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL) . . . \$20.00
- White w/ Black Ship & 34 Lost Shipmates Tee Shirt** - (S, M, L, XL, XXL, 3XL) . . . \$20.00
- Grey w/ Black Ship & 2 Lost Marines Tee Shirt** - (S, 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

**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
<b>SHIPPING CHARGE (See below) **</b>			<b>GRAND TOTAL:</b>	

**\*\* \$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!*

**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](http://www.USSLibertyVeterans.org) | [www.USSLiberty.com](http://www.USSLiberty.com)

**LIBERTY NEWS**  
PO BOX 680275  
Marietta, GA 30068

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Joe Meadors**  
*Director of Operations*  
[joe@ussliberty.com](mailto:joe@ussliberty.com)

**William Graves**  
*Editor*  
[editor@lvanews.org](mailto:editor@lvanews.org)

**Terry McFarland**  
*Member at Large*  
[tlmjumbo92@yahoo.com](mailto:tlmjumbo92@yahoo.com)

**Donna Shafer**  
*Ship's Store Manager*  
[donnashafer@bellsouth.net](mailto:donnashafer@bellsouth.net)