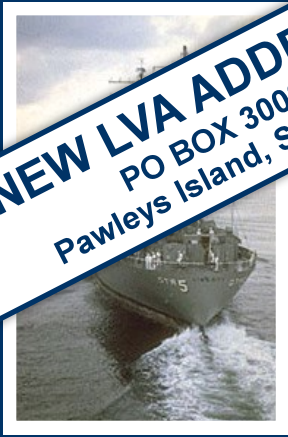


NEW LVA ADDRESS
PO BOX 3000
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Liberty News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LIBERTY

Volume 75 | December, 2021



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Letter from the Editor

William Graves, Editor

editor@lvaneews.org

Dear Veterans and LVA Members,

It is hard to believe another Holiday season is already upon us. As this time of year rolls around, it is always a poignant reminder of just how quickly time passes. For me it is a reminder to slow down and not take the small things for granted.

Quick bit of housekeeping: The mailing address for the LVA has changed. Please update your records! The new address is:

Liberty Veterans Association

ATTN: Moe Shafer

PO BOX 3000

Pawleys Island, SC 29585

From everyone here at the LVA, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We hope your year ends full of warmth and love.

Sincerely,
William Graves
Editor

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO:
William Graves, Editor
editor@lvaneews.org

Letter from the President

I hope this Newsletter finds you all in good health and fine spirits. This is a time for us to enjoy the holidays with friends and family. It is also a time for us to reflect back on the past 54 plus years and thank God for watching over us. Many of us have been struggling with illness and injuries but we are still here and still trying to get recognition for our fallen shipmates. We are still trying to get access to documents that our government has been holding for over 54 years. Ms. Michelle Kinnucan and her team of lawyers continue to pursue documents from the CIA and NSA which can shed light on the true reason behind the attack and our governments involvement in that attack. Having put a lid on the attack shortly after the incident has helped the government conceal their involvement up to this point. Our hope is that the court will side with our argument and force the government to release documents that have previously been withheld. We will continue to fight for those documents to be released so that we can prove what we have been saying all along about our government's involvement and compliancy regarding Israel's assertion that the attack was a mistaken identity.

With the holidays in full swing, I hope you will take time to be thankful for what you have. We are fortunate to live in a land where we still have many freedoms that others only wish they had. Our military defends those freedoms on a daily basis and do so away from their families at this time of year. We should give thanks to our men and women in uniform for helping to preserve those freedoms we hold so dearly.

We should also give thanks to all our first responders who put their lives on the line everyday to help keep us safe. With the recent pandemic many of those first responders were subjected to the virus while trying to get patients to the hospital. These folks deserve a heartfelt thank you from all of us especially this time of year.

Family is what this season is all about and our Liberty family is certainly feeling the love when we reach out to one another to check on them and wish them well. Try to check in on our shipmates to make sure they are okay and not in need of assistance. We are all getting up in years so those thoughtful phone calls to check up on loved ones are important.

I want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas. God Bless you and keep you safe.

Larry

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 James Marvin Anderson Jr.

James Marvin Anderson Jr. age 74 died unexpectedly on Friday, November 12, 2021.

Funeral services were 2 pm on Wednesday, November 17 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Nicollet. Pastor Micah Plocher officiated and burial followed in Green Lawn cemetery in rural Nicollet.

James, known to many as Jim, Andy, Jimmy, Jim Bob and Papa was born in Bridgewater, SD on September 26, 1947 to James Sr. and Lydia (Golder) Anderson. He graduated from Menno High School in 1965. After high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served until 1969. During this time, he served on the naval ship USS Liberty. On June 8, 1967 the ship was torpedoed in an unprovoked and deliberate attack. Jim was not injured and became part of the cleanup crew until the ship could make it back to dry dock. After his honorable discharge in October 1969, he worked construction which brought him to Nicollet. Jim was united in marriage to Connie Gleason on May 22, 1971 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Nicollet. Over the next years he worked for Judson Market, Nicollet Ag and retired from Crystal Valley Coop where he continued seasonal work until his death.



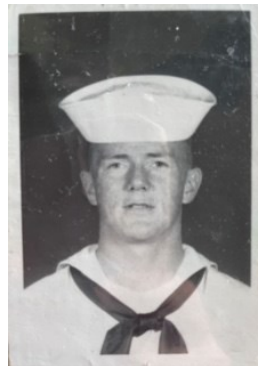
Jim spent many years playing fast pitch softball where he made many lifelong friends. He was very passionate about his community and served on the Trinity Lutheran School board, was a member of the American Legion, Nicollet Conservation Club and served as Mayor and currently a city council member. Jim served on the Nicollet Fire Department for 30 years and continued to serve as Secretary Treasurer of the Rural Relief Fire Association Joint Powers Board. He also enjoyed spending many summers with friends and family at Rager's Acres Campground in Pequot Lakes, MN.

Jim was loved by everyone that met him. He had a smile for everyone and had the gift to gab. He was selfless and was willing to help out where ever he was needed. He would give the shirt off of his back to anyone who needed it. He never held a grudge and would encourage everyone to do the same. He was always level headed and kind. He loved his family deeply and his grandchildren were everything to him and he was everything to them! We will miss him dearly!

James is survived by his wife of 50 years, Connie (Gleason) of Nicollet. Daughter, Melissa (Rick) Theuninck of North Mankato, Josh (Quinci) Anderson of North Mankato, grandchildren Jordyn and Lindsey Theuninck and Weston Anderson. Sister, Gloria Cramer of Ripon, WI, Brother-in-laws, Fran (Kathy) Gleason of Nicollet, Dave Kleinsasser of Rapid City, SD, many nieces, nephews and many special friends including Craig and Bev Stevensen and their family.

He was proceeded in death by his parents, In-laws Willard and Florence Gleason, sister Donna Kleinsasser and an infant daughter.

Blessed be his memory!



The Events of the USS Liberty - As Told by Stephen Tracy

My family was not a typical military family: No one in my immediate family had served any serious time with the armed services for several generations. That would soon change in the 1960s.

I was the fourth child of five in a classic 50s-style life in Ithaca, New York, a college town in the Finger Lakes. My father and mother raised five kids on a meager income, public schools, lots of extra activities. We had an awesome summer cottage on Cayuga Lake and I spent summers swimming, fishing, water skiing and loafing (out of site from my father).

In the middle 60s, the Viet Nam build-up and the draft had my father very concerned, as four of his children were draft-eligible young men. He had not served in active duty in the armed services, but not from not trying. My father won an appointment to Annapolis in the 1920s to the great pride and admiration from his friends and family, particularly his mother. In his first semester at the Naval Academy, it was discovered that he was color-blind. In those days, that was a total disqualification. He was sent home. My grandmother cried for days.

My father, however, coped very well. He enrolled in prestigious Cornell University, earned his Bachelor's degree, and a Masters in mechanical engineering. He was an accomplished operatic baritone and became the director of the Cornell University Glee Club, had his own voice studio, directed the large Presbyterian Church Choir in Ithaca, and taught junior high school mathematics.

His grandfather (my great grandfather) was Benjamin Franklin Tracy, a farmer, land owner, lawyer, politician, and military man of great distinction.

My great grandfather was the quintessential American statesman and gentleman. He ran a 2,000-acre+ farm in the southern tier of upstate New York, raising crops like wheat, tobacco and soy beans and raising standard bred horses. He was a loyal American and devoted to duty.

During the Civil War, he served directly under General Grant in the field and eventually became the Commandant of the Elmira prison camp, the "Andersonville of the North". He was decorated and recognized for his heroism and dedication to prison reform. He rose to the rank of General in the Army and received the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864.

He entered politics after the war and eventually became the Secretary of the Navy under President Benjamin Harrison, a cabinet position at the time. He was the President's closest advisor.

As Secretary of the Navy, he oversaw the creation of the first steel ships in the Navy, including the infamous USS Maine. He was later dubbed the "Father of the Modern American Fighting Navy."

His political ambitions were for real, as he considered a run for the White House. However, in 1889 his Washington house caught fire, destroying it and killing his beloved wife and daughter. His home was right down the street from the White House and the first person to his aid was none other than the President himself! Life was different then.

(CONTINUED AT LINK BELOW)

Download Stephen's complete writeup at: <https://bit.ly/3IGvXya>

Liberty Lost - By Benjamin Neale Bayly

I sit today
To tell a story
About a friend of mine
And all of his glory
When back in the day
He laughed and played
When it came to fun
He was second to none
"I'm going away",
He said one day
All dressed in blue
He was a proud one too
The ship set sail
On the ocean blue
His mission, he said
Was to find the truth
I can hear him say
"Please don't forget me"
As they sailed
Right into the winds of treachery

But there were some
We should not ignore
They wanted the truth
On the ocean floor
He stayed at his post
When attacked that day
When the torpedoes were sent
He steered away
He saved his ship
I'm happy to say
But then his life
It slipped away
No bleachers for him
When he got upstairs
Only box seats
I'm sure he would share

The Promotion of Chief Kukal

The making of a CHIEF.

As the majority of the crew knows, it is not an easy task to become a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy. In fact, if you want to become an "Honorary Chief" in the USN the Master Chief of the Navy has to approve your request. Our very own Petty Officer First Class Ronald Kukal had hoped to make the Navy a career and someday become a Chief, but Israel put an end to that back on June 8th 1967 when Ron's military career was cut short due to his medical injuries. Years and years of trying to get the justice he deserved by asking for an "Honorary Chief's" title came and went with no answers from Washington.

Then CDR Lewis and CWO3 Bowen filed the paperwork and tried their luck. As of this writing we have had no luck from Washington either. However, this 54th reunion gave the Liberty Veterans Association a chance to do something that our Washington lackies have failed to do. The crew decided to make Petty Officer Kukal "Honorary CHIEF Petty Officer" of the Liberty Veterans Association. As part of that "Honor" his first name now becomes Chief.

Chief Kukal will have his anchors officially pinned on his collar in November when Mr. Bowen and Mr. Tourney travel to Wyoming. When notified of his "promotion" Chief Kukal was speechless. When was the last time that has happened?

On November 14th Chief Kukal was "officially" presented with his collar devices making him the Honorary Chief of the Liberty Veterans Association. Mr, Mickey Lemay and Mr, Phil Tourney pinned the devices on his collar after Mr. Bowen administered the oath of office. The ceremony was held in the Liberty Fellowship church which was a packed house for this event. The entire congregation came up afterwards to congratulate the Chief and have us survivors sign copies of their REMEMBER The LIBERTY books. Pastor Baldwin did an excellent job of recapping the June 8th 1967 attack and the lack of government support both then and now.

55th Anniversary Reunion

The LVA is planning on a 55th Anniversary Reunion in 2022, even though we did one in 2021.

Former US Congressman Pete McCloskey, a very close friend of the USS Liberty crew and major supporter, has asked that we consider doing this in Washington DC. Pete McCloskey is now 93 and still fighting for us. He has completed a new book about the Liberty, more to follow, and he would like to reach out to his friends running Washington today to see if some of them would be willing to meet with us this coming summer.

For Pete to do this for us is quite an honor and your board has decided this is the thing to do. Right now the tentative dates will be June 7-9 which is during the week. I will be working on hotel accommodations in the Arlington, VA area which, hopefully, will be affordable. We will do all we can to have a memorial service at Arlington National, do another ceremony at the Navy Memorial and hopefully visit capitol hill. Much more to follow. Make your plans not if you can attend.

You can text Moe Shafer at 770-363-3986 or email him at moe.shafer@harbingernational.com and let him know your plans. More information to follow. -Moe

Remembering David Edwin Lewis

COLEBROOK – David Edwin “Eddie” Lewis, 90, of Colebrook, passed away at his home on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021, after a long period of declining health.

Ed was born in Colebrook on April 28, 1931, a son to the late Charles J. and Sophia R. (Slowick) Lewis, Sr. He was raised and educated in Colebrook, was a graduate of the Class of 1949 from Colebrook Academy, and later attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1954. He later attended the post-graduate studies at the Naval College in Monterey, Calif., obtaining a degree in communications engineering.

Eddie’s naval career spanned more than 25 years, and he retired in 1979 at the rank of Commander. His career took him all over the world, and he was wounded aboard the U.S.S. Liberty in the Mediterranean Sea when the nation of Israel attacked the ship, claiming a mistaken identification of the ship. For the rest of his life, Eddie bore the scars of that day, and he was deeply involved with the group of survivors, proving that the state of Israel and the Johnson administration deliberately staged the attack to try and draw the U.S. into the Israeli-Egyptian Six-Day War in 1967. In 2018, he was a central figure and collaborator in the book “Blood In the Water” which chronicles this dark episode of American military history.



Eddie also was a proud member of the Free & Accepted Masons and was a 50+-year member and Past Master of Evening Star Lodge #37 in Colebrook. He also held many other positions and memberships in many other appendant Masonic bodies, both locally and nationally. Eddie was also a life-long and faithful member of the Monadnock Congregational Church.

He leaves behind his wife, Dolores (LaCasse) Lewis of Colebrook; two sons, Michael C. Lewis and wife Paula of Chesapeake, Va., and Christopher J. Lewis and wife Wanda of Minneapolis, Minn.; a brother, Palmer Lewis and wife Ruth of Colebrook; a sister, Lynda Biron and husband James of Colebrook; six grandchildren, Keith, Benjamin, Johnny, Seth, Peter and Abby; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.



Eddie is predeceased by three brothers, Harold S. Lewis, Darwin “Buddy” Lewis and Charles J. Lewis, Jr., and a sister, Patricia Ann Lewis.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home in Colebrook. A Masonic Lodge of Sorrow will immediately precede the visitation at the funeral home at 5:45. A funeral service will be held the next morning, Friday, Oct. 22, at 11 a.m. at the Monadnock Congregational Church in Colebrook. Interment will be private in the Colebrook Village Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy in memory of Cdr. Lewis may be made to MasoniCare, Evergreen Place, 813 Beech St., Manchester, NH 03104.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

June 8, 2021, USS Liberty Memorial Service in Rochester, NY



David Edwin Lewis - by Joan Mellen

David Edwin Lewis

He was a genuine, kindly man and a humble man, his humility so graceful that you might mistake it for simplicity. Dave himself would not set you straight. It was my great good fortune to number him among my closest friends so that we would, until his death, speak several times a week, and when I was completing "Blood in the Water," my book about the USS Liberty, every day. Occasionally I would repeat a question we had already covered. He pretended not to notice. He was ninety years old when the end came, but God blessed this good man: his intellect and his memory remained razor sharp.

He had long wanted someone to write the story of the USS Liberty for a particular personal reason: two Navy men of his acquaintance, having signed on for the mission, had asked Dave to allow them to retire. Dave urged them to serve this one last time. Both perished in the attack, a consequence that plagued him for the rest of his life. Someone telling the true story would assuage some of his guilt. But it had to be the truth.

I asked him, "why me?" I had never served in the US Navy, or in any military post. I didn't know the difference between an Admiral and a Commander. I had never been on a Navy vessel. I couldn't define what "all hands on deck" meant. I didn't know who among the survivors was to be trusted. He had never voted for a Democrat and I had never voted for a Republican.

None of our political differences mattered. Dave remained open and frank. He read my manuscript and soon discovered that there was some confusion between John McCain, pere et fils. (Dave loved to throw some French into our conversations, a language he learned during his military service. One of his favorite sign offs was "don't let the bastards get you down!") The long-time CIA officer who read the manuscript, someone trusted by both of us, provided the necessary McCain corrections. But Dave himself also read it at least three times.

Later, Dave would tell people that he had taught me to "speak NAVY."

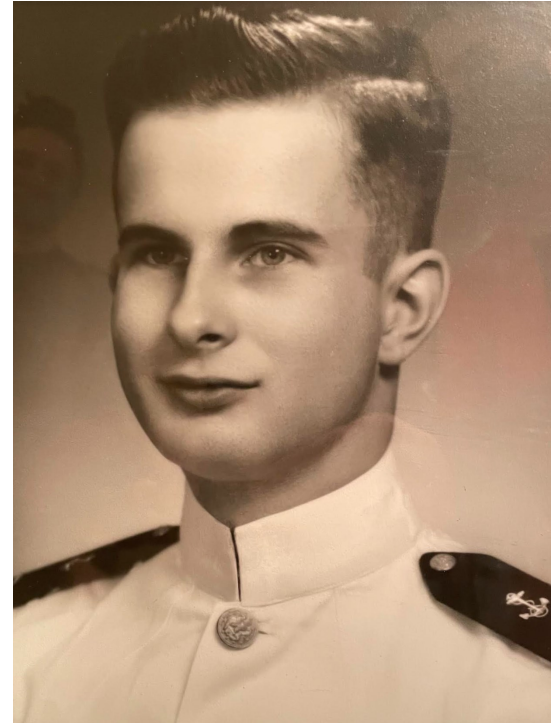
To our first meeting I had brought a copy of my book about the Kennedy assassination, "A Farewell to Justice," so that he might assess my ability as a researcher. There were unanswered questions about the killing of JFK as there were about who sponsored the murderous attack on the Liberty, who sent the ship up there to be massacred, for one. I found the answer in a summary of the attack published by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As the years passed, I discovered that Dave was a great patriot who loved his country, but that did not prevent him from doubting the official version of the Kennedy assassination, which had Kennedy being murdered by one Lee Harvey Oswald. During his Navy service, Dave had several run-ins with CIA, which he described to me. I told him about my own encounters with the Agency I while I was researching the Garrison case. It was among the areas we had in common. Dave suggested CIA was at least one cause of why he did not emerge from the Navy as an Admiral.

Only after years did I discover how beloved Dave was by his shipmates, as well as by the citizens of the whole town of Colebrook, New Hampshire where he was born. Many attended the party Dave and his wife Dolores organized for the book when it finally appeared. On that icy February afternoon Dave sat beside me at the local country club, as if to confer his approval. If he was tired, he never let that show. He had spent many hours at the bakery organizing the cake from a photograph of the Liberty at sea. He purchased copies of the book because people began to treat him as the co-author. (He gave them all away – all you had to do was ask). In part my book is, indeed, a biography of Dave Lewis. Dave forgave most people for their hesitancy in facing the truth, although many of his shipmates did not forgive him for revealing Lyndon Johnson's role – it amounted to nothing short of treason – in the saga of the Liberty. He had no problem with my conclusion about US government complicity in the attack. He was open-minded and a true liberal as revealed, if not by anything else, by his enthusiastic collaboration with me, a former anti-Vietnam war protester.

Almost from the start we began to tape our interviews: at the Masonic Lodge in Colebrook, wherever there was space, quiet and privacy. Three years after my book was published, we were still talking.

Joan Mellen
Pennington, New Jersey
October 24, 2021



Remembering Thomas William Lemond Jr.

Thomas William Lemond, Jr.
November 23, 1944 - January 29, 2021

Columbia, South Carolina - Thomas William Lemond, Jr., 76, of Columbia, died Friday, January 29, 2021. Tom was born on November 23, 1944, in Columbia, S.C., to the late Mrs. Mildred Waites Lemond and Thomas William Lemond, Sr. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Vivian (Vicky) Carol Lemond of Columbia, SC; son, W. Casey Lemond (Mallory) of Pinehurst, NC; brother, G. Franklin Lemond (Martha) of Johns Creek, GA; brother-in-law, R. Marion Brice of Ocean Springs MS, and grandson, William Bear Lemond.

Tom was a U.S. Navy veteran whose proudest moment was serving aboard the USS Liberty, a United States intelligence ship. On June 8, 1967, the ship was attacked during the Six-Day War between Israel and Egypt. The combined air and sea attack killed 34 crew members, wounded another 171 men, and severely damaged the ship. He was wounded during the attack and received a Purple Heart medal for his sacrifice.

As a proud Gamecock fan, Tom loved rooting for the football team during their ups and downs. He did not hesitate to beat you in Jeopardy unless a category about technology came up at which he would quickly concede to his son, Casey. Over the last year, his favorite activity was to video chat with his grandson, Bear, all the while gushing to everyone at the Veterans' Victory House about how perfect he was. Tom thoroughly enjoyed his extended family and will be missed by the many cousins, nieces, and nephews that loved him.



A graveside service was held at 1 o'clock, Thursday, February 4th, at Fort Jackson National Cemetery. Memories and condolences may be shared at ShivesFuneralHome.com.

A Crew Member's Request - From Nathan Benedict CTM2

Dear Mr. Graves,

I just finished reading an article I found in the September issue of the VFW magazine. The article reported on a study by the Army which showed a link between non-concussive blast effects and Alzheimer's disease. I was a crew member on the USS Liberty (CTM2) when it was attacked and nearly sunk in June of 1967. I was nearly killed by the blast of the torpedo. I did not suffer a concussion but I certainly was beat up by the blast. Later in life, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. I am trying to establish the cause of my Parkinson's as being the result of the torpedo explosion.

I would like to ask that any USS Liberty crew member that has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or other neurological disease contact me or the LVA so I can tally up the results and see if there is a correlation between the torpedo blast and neurological damage sustained by the crew. In addition if you are receiving VA compensation for neurological problems I would like to know that as well.

The article from the VFW magazine can be downloaded at:

<https://bit.ly/3dnkZZB>

Remembering David William Hawkins

DEER ISLE

David William Hawkins died unexpectedly on July 27, 2021, at his home in Deer Isle, Maine, while working on a sailing dinghy for his granddaughter. David was born December 7, 1945, in Greenwich, Connecticut, to the Rev. John J. Hawkins and Jane Dudley Hawkins. He grew up in Riverside, Connecticut, and Harborside, Maine.

He arrived in Maine by schooner at six months of age. His love of Maine grew from summers spent with family messing around in boats and in his father's woodworking shop. He attended South Kent School (class of 1963) and later Columbia University. In 1964 he took time off from Columbia. He joined the Merchant Marine for the summer as crew aboard the cruise ship SS Argentina. He then joined the Navy, where he trained at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey, California. He was a member of the Blue Jacket Choir during initial training and sang for his supper.

In 1967 David was stationed in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of North Africa as a Cryptologic Technician (CT3) on the USS Liberty, a lightly armed Navy technical research ship, during the onset of the Six-Day War. The Liberty was unexpectedly attacked and severely damaged by Israeli planes and torpedo boats, killing 34 and wounding 171 crew members, of which he was one. He was awarded the Purple Heart. In September 1968, David married Sarah "Sal" McCloskey in Maine. They returned to New York City and he graduated from Columbia University in 1971. They then moved to Boston, accompanied by a pet fox, skunk, and monkey. David graduated from the New England School of Law in 1974, where he was a member of the Law Review. For three summers, he clerked for William S. Greene, Esq. in Deer Isle, Maine. David took over the legal practice in 1974 when he moved permanently to Deer Isle. In 1975, he started work on a modern wooden house in an open field, building much of it himself. In 1980 and 1982, David and Sal had two children, Samantha J. Hawkins and Seth D. Hawkins. David was a founder of Shepard's Select Properties, Inc., a real estate brokerage in Deer Isle. From 1976 to 1986, David and his former wife, Sal, were partners in "Hawkins & McCloskey, Attorneys at Law" in Deer Isle. David married Emily Fuller Hawkins on May 27, 1989. They spent more than 30 years enjoying each other's company, whether on the water or touring in the MGB - V8. David was a quiet, shy, and patient gentleman of dry humor who perfected the art of life's simple pleasures. He sailed and raced a Leuters 16, "Claret," and in later years cruised Penobscot Bay, on the "Emily Anne." He puttered in his woodworking shop and tinkered with the performance of various sports cars. David was an audiophile, a history buff, an avid reader, and a lover of classic British cars, stinky cheese, terrible whiskey, and his wife, Emily.

He is survived by his daughter, Samantha J. Hawkins and her daughter, Sawyer Marion Hawkins, of Mount Airy, PA, and Little Deer Isle, Maine; his son, Seth D. Hawkins and daughter-in-law, Claire K. Eaton of Cape Elizabeth and Little Deer Isle, Maine; his beloved wife, Emily Fuller Hawkins of Deer Isle, Maine; his brother, John Hawkins and sister-in-law, Barbara Hawkins, of Tuckahoe, NY; his niece, Jill Eisner and husband, Steve Eisner, of Metuchen, New Jersey; his niece, Susan Hawkins and her husband, Thomas Moore, of Bronxville, NY; grandnephews, Jack Moore and Benjamin A. Eisner; grandniece, Lily Moore; and former wife, Sal McCloskey of Ellsworth and Scott Island, Maine; along with maternal and paternal cousins along the East Coast from New York to Florida.

A memorial gathering will be held Saturday, September 25, 2021, at 3 p.m. at Edgewood Farm, 40 Dunham Point Road, Deer Isle, Maine. Tribute gifts may be made to the memorial fund (gofundme.com/f/9aeh7-david-hawkins-memorial-fund) or to an organization of your choosing.

Remembering Robert L. Wilson

Robert Lee Wilson, 78, a resident of Edgewater for over 20 years and previously of Severna Park, MD, passed away on August 2, 2021 at the South River Health and Rehabilitation Center from complications of pneumonia and ongoing health and back-related maladies that ultimately took his life.

Born in Big Stone Gap, VA on March 8, 1943, Robert had a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, and a Master's of Science of Strategic Intelligence degree from the Defense Intelligence College. One of his most profound moments in life was his time spent on the USS Liberty especially June 8th 1967. Robert served his country in the U.S. Air Force. Prior to retiring in the early 2000s, he was a long-tenured employee of the National Security Agency.

In addition to being a sports and physical fitness enthusiast, his greatest hobby and joy was archeology and history. He'd also served many years with the American Research Center in Egypt as its Vice President, and developed a tremendous group of friends he always cherished.

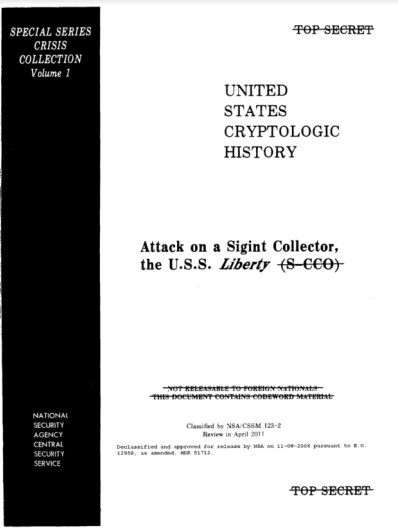
Robert was a loving, caring father and husband. His level of empathy, good common sense, humor and humility knew no bounds. We all were fortunate to have him in our lives.

He is survived by his spouse of over 39 years, My Kieu Wilson; two children, Kevin Wilson and Kelly Gaestel and their respective families.

Relatives and friends were invited to celebrate Robert's life at the Kalas Funeral Home & Crematory, 2973 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD on Saturday August 7 from 2 to 4 pm.



Declassified NSA Report



Submitted by Brian Wilson:

There is a PDF of a declassified NSA report of the U.S.S. Liberty attack. It was originally Top Secret and some of it is still redacted.

The report is too large to include in print, so we have included a link to the PDF below.

LINK: <https://bit.ly/3dFxtw9>

(83 pages)

A Letter from Phil Tourney

Many positive events have taken place over many years in recognition for the crew past and present. When TRUNews came into the Liberty lives things really started to pop. Pastor Chuck Baldwin, Ron got his well-deserved honorary Liberty Chief. Upcoming show with Joko Navy Seal. Event set up by Ron Kukal in the near future will take place. I'm sure we will have a show streaming live with survivors in attendance. This is cheap to get started cheap to maintain. Giving notables invitations to join us. So many great things with technology have happened in a short time. I don't know much about all of it, but I know people that do. We talked about this in Montana Ron, Larry, Micky myself. Going to get this done sooner than later any thoughts about this share them. Looking forward to the reunion in June hoping all that can please attend.

Merry Christmas to an extended family with the Liberty Veterans. I'm very blessed.

Phil

Ron Kukal Spreading the Word

This was my first real chance at spreading the word, and it went around the world. I told of the miracles that took place, and told of my own experience being around sixty foot or so from the torpedo when it exploded. I do believe very much in the spiritual side of the attack, and I don't care what they had, they would not sink the Liberty. Our ally was God himself, and I am sure of that one.

Watch Video on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/n3Bjeqt9zvl>



TruHistory Films
Presents

SACRIFICING LIBERTY

A FOUR PART DOCUSERIES

TruHistory Films Releases Sacrificing Liberty movie

"The USS Liberty coverup is over!" That is how Matthew Skow announced the official release of Sacrificing Liberty.

Skow is the film director for the groundbreaking four-part docuseries produced and distributed by TruHistory Films, a Florida film company.

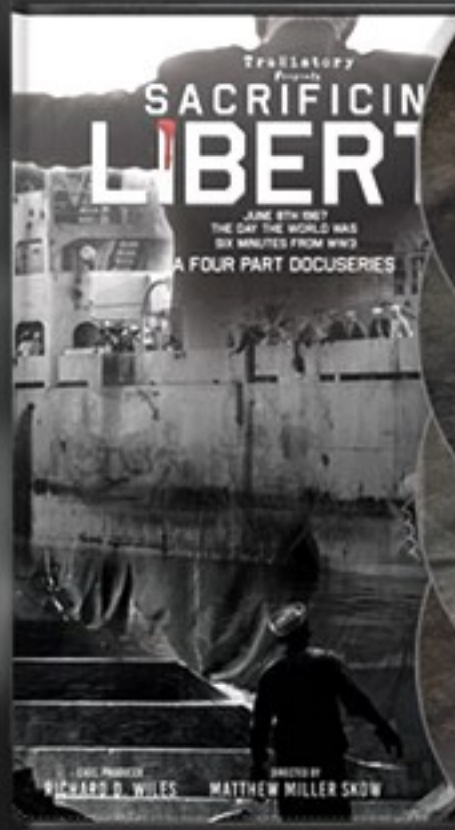
The project began in 2019 when Skow participated in an episode of Trunews, an independent digital news commentary program that originates from Vero Beach, FL. Trunews host, Rick Wiles, interviewed four USS Liberty veterans who told their story about what happened on June 8, 1967. Wiles and Skow were so shocked by the men's gut-wrenching testimonies that they decided the true story of the USS Liberty demanded a highly professional movie.

"The USS Liberty story ranks near the top of the biggest coverups in modern history," exclaimed Rick Wiles, the docuseries' producer. "We determined that somebody had to record the truth for the whole world to see and hear," he added.

Although other films have been made about the USS Liberty, Skow said his film is the first and only documentary that allows the veterans to narrate the film. Skow spent nearly a year recording hundreds of hours of video from numerous survivors.

The four-part film series is available at www.SacrificingLiberty.com for rental, digital purchase, and DVDs.

"We hope that Americans who love our veterans will hold USS Liberty parties in their homes and watch all four episodes," said Skow. "Let's tell the whole world what happened on June 8, 1967."



Watch Online or Purchase DVDs

www.SacrificingLiberty.com

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.

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