I can tell you that it has been a very busy summer for most of the Survivors. I have received so many emails telling me of the contacts and speeches and presentations you all have made. This is wonderful. Keep up the endeavor.

The question was asked a few weeks ago if the Liberty ever earned an "E." Has anybody been able to answer this question?

For those of you that were not able to make the Memorial on June 8 this year there were lots of pictures taken by Frank O’Classen. We also had a guest speaker Mr. Frank Tims. See pics to right.

Continue the effort. God continue to bless.

--
Wayne Kelley Sr, Editor
Letter from the President

This is a special document that is both a report but also a request. Firstly, the Washington, DC, memorial at the Navy Memorial was almost excellent. The color guard looked sharp and the Navy bugler did a fine job of bringing our ceremony to close. My only wish was that because of a fairly large crowd of over fifty people and the wind, our speakers podium did not include amplification which made hearing difficult. It was a beautiful day but too breezy as our impressive wreath kept blowing over. Billy Casper volunteered to keep it in place. Thanks Billy! At one point, Jim Smith read off the names of our 34 while I rang the Navy Memorial ship's bell. Afterwards, some of us went to an outstanding Italian Restaurant and relaxed. Thanks JP Fieldman for finding this great choice to dine. Doctor Frank Tims of the American Cold War Veterans spoke also. Our brother organization joined in our memorial as well as I did the same for them. If you are not a member of the American Cold War Veterans, you should think about joining. They have waived their fee for the LVA.

As I have cited in the previous newsletter, your board of directors are busy spreading the word. I am sure there will be an article about the affair in Marseilles, IL. Bryce Lockwood and Jack Beat- tie were your official representatives. Bryce, Jack, and I will be going to the VFW Convention in St. Louis, July 18-23. And Bryce and Donald Pageler will be attending the Purple Heart Convention in August.

Folks, these trips which enhances our viability are necessary for the LVA to get the word out. To ask your Board of Directors to pay their own expenses would be inappropriate and self defeating. Who would want to be on the board facing these costs? We would never find any one to submit their names to be future board members. Therefore, the LVA Treasury pays the expenses supported with receipts furnished for re-reimbursement.

The LVA Treasury under the watchful eyes of Bryce Lockwood (Treasurer) and Moe Shafer (Director of Finance) has expenses we must pay to include the above. One expense, a maintenance Web fee (www.usslibertydocumentcenter.org) of $150 per month will be required starting October 1, 2014. That fee was being paid by the Liberty Alliance and can longer do so. This fee will be a terrible drain on our treasury. We are looking for donations to help defray this cost. While this is a great facility, if our liabilities overcome our assets, it will be necessary to terminate the site and we hope we do not have to do so.

Overall, at this time, our Treasury is healthy and secure. However, these necessary trips to spread the word is costly. If you receive our newsletter (electronically or printed), yearly dues are required. If you have not paid your yearly dues, please do so. If you have paid your dues and see your way to send us another $20 would be deeply appreciated. As stated, if our liabilities overcome our assets, we reluctantly will have to stand down from making these trips. The LVA is making enormous strides which is very evident. Please help us continue!!!
Crew Ballot - ACTION REQUIRED!

USS Liberty Crew

Please vote and return this ballot!

There is an unusual situation developing and the LVA Board of Directors are proposing the following solution. In order to satisfy our by-laws, we must have your vote.

The situation is that folks have been requesting we have a reunion soon. At this time, the LVA Board of Directors are planning a reunion the later part of June 2015. The focus is simply to get together to have fun, that is, there will be no banquet and such. Of course, we will pause to remember our lost shipmates. Other than that, hugs and hand-shakes are the plan of the day.

The current Board of Director's term is presently set to retire on June 2016 and therefore we must hold elections for the next board. However, June 2017 will be our 50th and we must have another reunion to include all the festivities including a formal banquet. The location for this reunion has not been formally identified which brings me to the following problem. To ask the elected board of 2016 to plan this major reunion makes it very difficult as it takes more than a year to completely plan it out. It would be unfair for the next board for this board to plan a reunion beyond their term of office.

In order to identify the 2017 reunion city and to facilitate a great 50th and standing down on a 2016 reunion, this board of directors are asking for your permission to extend our term until 2017 at which time a new election will take place. Please circle your choice and sign your name below.

YES  NO

Deadline: September 30th, 2014

Please sign your name

Please return this ballot sheet to: Moe Shafer, P.O. Box 680275, Marietta, GA 30068

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

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

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

Israeli forces tried to sink the ship with all men aboard, machine gunned stretcher bearers, and shot up life rafts. They killed 34 Americans and injured at least 174.

The captain of the Liberty received the Medal of Honor, and altogether the officers and crew were awarded two Navy Crosses, 13 Silver Stars, 20 Bronze Stars, nine Navy Commendations, 208 Purple Hearts, 294 Combat Action Ribbons, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Another crewman was also a candidate for the Medal of Honor, America’s highest award, but there were too few witnesses left alive to provide the necessary substantiation.

Yet, American Legion officials have prohibited the crew from having a booth at the national convention, would not publish a paid advertisement in the program by a supporter, and tried to convince the VFW also to prohibit a booth -- the VFW, however, supports the crew and will again have a Liberty booth at its upcoming national convention.

Although Israel partisans claim that the attack was a "mistake" and claim that there have supposedly been "11 US investigations" that concluded this, these claims have been thoroughly rebutted by numerous authors, the Library of Congress, and an official communication from the US Navy.

For thoroughly cited information on all this see http://honorlibertyvets.org/legion.html

The crew has the legal right to a thorough investigation of this attack. To sign a statement of support for such an investigation go to http://honorlibertyvets.org/help.html
Politics of Benghazi, USS Liberty

By TED ARENS
GUEST COLUMNIST

On Sept. 11, 2012, the United States consulate and a nearby CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, were attacked by Islamic extremists.

Four Americans were killed, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya — J. Christopher Stevens. The attackers launched a full-on assault against the annex, dropping mortars on the roof. They called for help but none came. Navy SEALs Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods were killed in the attack. Four Americans were killed totally that day.

On June 8, 1967, the USS Liberty (basically unarmored) was attacked by Israel in the Mediterranean in international waters. Out of a crew of 295, 34 were killed and 171 were wounded. The attack commenced in the afternoon with rocket fire by multiple “unmarked” Mirage jets, radio frequencies were jammed. Help was called for and sent on the way (two separate flights of jet aircraft were launched from separate aircraft carriers), but were recalled by Lyndon Johnson. Torpedo boats attacked and 25 more men died.

Political reaction to the Benghazi attack quickly formed along partisan lines that holds fast to this day. Republicans blamed Hillary Clinton and the State Department. Democrats tried to shift some blame to GOP lawmakers, complaining that they had cut the administration’s budget request for diplomatic security in 2012. And now Congressman Gowdy, a former prosecutor, has been chosen to head up a committee to look into the Benghazi attack. His first press conference was to shame the press into asking more questions about the Benghazi attack. Congressman Gowdy, I believe has another purpose and that is to score political points.

The families of the slain Americans do have a right to know the truth as to what happened in Benghazi. The American people do have a right to know that well-qualified people command our sons and daughters, when put in harm’s way.

Here are some of Congressman Gowdy’s questions and statements (see YouTube) to the press:

- Do you know why requests for additional security were denied?
- Do you know why no assets were deployed during the siege?
- Justice will be done; he paraphrased the president.
- No one has been arrested.
- No one has been prosecuted.
- We don’t even have access to the witnesses.
- No one has been brought to justice.

Well Congressman Gowdy, I have some questions for you:

- Will you find justice for the families of the men of the USS Liberty?
- Will you find out why the machine-gunning of the life rafts (an International War crime) was never investigated and prosecuted?
- You have access to the USS Liberty witnesses. Many of the veterans are still alive and are seeking justice. They have been pleading to give testimony of the attack for 47 years.
- Do you know why no support was given to the USS Liberty while under attack? Even worse why two sets of flights were re-called in midair — sent to aid the USS Liberty.
- Do you know why Admiral Kidd threatened the crew of the USS Liberty with imprisonment if they spoke of the attack?
- Do you know why the USS Liberty was sent to Malta for repairs (listing 15 degrees), a seven-day slow journey, while they should have been sent to Crete — just one day away? The ship had a 40-foot by 30-foot gash in its side and bodies floated away and were lost during this journey. Do you know why?
- Do you know why an Israeli pilot named Evan Tovni was jailed in Israel because he identified the ship as American and refused to attack it?

Do you know why Airmen Ronald Gotcher, Steve Forslund and Rick Block were never questioned although they observed real time U.S. Air Force Security Group EC-121 intercepts?

Congressman Gowdy says that in conclusion that Congress is supposed to provide oversight.

The men and the families of the USS Liberty have the same rights as the men and families of Benghazi. They made the same sacrifices; in fact the crew of the USS Liberty made a much greater quantitative sacrifice. No one has been arrested, no one has been prosecuted, the witnesses want to testify, but are not allowed to and no one has been brought to justice. But Congress does not want to provide oversight when it may harm their political contributions.

Congress does not want to do their duty to protect the men and women who serve this country, to protect the Constitution and to provide “Justice and Freedom for all”. They scatter and clam up at the very mention of the USS Liberty.

They refuse to answer the many letters that have been written, or they make up excuses that “It happened so long ago” says Rep. Huizenga. And sometimes they even lie about it. “I don’t remember the USS Liberty incident,” Sen. Levin told me.

Sens. Levin (D) and Stabenow (D), Congressmen Benishek (R) and Huizenga (R) will not fight for the men and families of the USS Liberty. It is all about them getting re-elected and the campaign contributions. It is all about them first. June 8 marked 47 years; it is time to investigate the attack on the USS Liberty and allow the men to testify. They have certainly earned it.

Ted Arens is an Onokama resident and a Marine Corp veteran, serving in Vietnam in 1968. You can contact him at tedgarens@gmail.com.
A Juridical Examination of the Israeli Attack on the USS Liberty

Walter Jacobsen was a friend of mine and we worked closely together on that report, which was Walter's doctoral thesis at George Washington University. Sadly, Walter died of spinal cancer not long after that was published. He came to one of our DC reunions shortly before he died. His wife was also a JAGC LCDR.

The full report can be viewed at: http://www.usslibertyinquiry.com/law/jacobsen.pdf

- Jim Ennes

Liberty Injustices – A Survivor's Account of American Bigotry

As reported in the March 2014 newsletter, I have authored a book of the above title. I have since sold out of my copies. If you would like a copy please order the book from Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, or booksamillion.com. If you would like me to sign a copy for you, please order the book from amazon.com and have them send the book directly to me and send me an email or letter with your return address. I will sign it and forward the book to you personalized at my expense.

Cheers,
Ernie

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The Ol’ Sarge at the Navy Cryptologic Veterans Ass'n. Reunion

The Ol' Sarge and his wife Lois took the USS Liberty Traveling Small Stores to the Navy Cryptologic Veterans Ass'n. reunion in Mobile the second week of May. Our new banner "Abandoned Under Fire" with the picture of the heavily damaged ship was the subject of many a camera flash. The display table was set up just inside the reception area for the convention, so everyone checking in had to pass us. We had one of our most successful sales of merchandise since we started doing this some years ago. It did our hearts good to see well over a dozen USS Liberty Tee shirts being worn the last day of tours. We also had a large number of requests for the new video "Justice for the Liberty." Unfortunately that was something we couldn't fulfill.

--

Bryce Lockwood
“The Ol’ Sarge”

VFW Convention Trip Report

Jack Beattie, my wife, Patricia and I obtained a booth at the VFW Convention in St. Louis, from July 18th to the 26th passing out USS Liberty literature and memorabilia. I am pleased to tell you that we were a success spreading the word and convincing the Israeli supporters it really did happen and the attack was deliberate. In addition, the VFW passed a resolution to request Congress to investigate the attack for their next fiscal year.

We had a great time interfacing with the crowds especially with Jack. The chemistry behind the table worked very well supporting each other. I had luggage tags and pins made indicating, “Remember the USS Liberty” which were available. We also had plenty of hand outs for people to take with them. I placed a container on the table and collect donations of $104.00. There were two common expressions from the folks. “I never heard of this” and “I remember something about this and did not know the attack was deliberate”. I especially liked encountering people who were determined to convince me the attack was accidental and we turned them around. Some folks actually looked for our booth either to say hello or obtain more information.

I know I am biased, however, I believe it was worth the trip especially since the VFW originally told us we were not welcomed there (American Legion told them we were trouble makers) and then they changed their minds after talking to us. Jack and I were proud to represent you.

- Ernie
A Letter to the LVA President

Dear Ernie,

It was an honor to be at the USS Liberty Memorial on June 8, 2014.

I regret that I did not ask you for time to address the group after the ceremony so I am doing the next best thing: writing to you and ask if you would please pass my note so that the other Survivors can read this.

I am an ordinary American who first heard about the USS Liberty about 1985 from Joe Meadors, a Liberty Survivor. Joe and his story about the Liberty touched me and I have never forgotten it. Later, when I heard there was a USS Liberty Veterans Association and that they hold annual Memorials, attending a USS Liberty Memorial was put on my Bucket List. Thanks to my husband, Vijay, I achieved this on June 8, 2014.

I would like the Survivors and their spouses and families to know that my husband and I came all the way from Texas – to show our respect to the Liberty crew who perished and those who are no longer with us and to tell the Survivors who are still living that we admire their courage and perseverance and that we thank them for their service. What they have gone through is incredible. All I can say is May God be with You. It was an honor to have been among those present at the Navy Memorial on June 8, 2014.

The goals of the Association make sense. One must never lose hope that someday there will be a real investigation into the attack. Your other goal – To bring the true story of the attack on the USS Liberty and her heroic crew to the awareness of the American People - is something we all can work on. Please know that Vijay and I have been spreading the word about the USS Liberty and will continue to do so. And your book, “Liberty Injustices”, should be read by all. By informing ordinary Americans, we will make the American People aware and keep the true story of the Liberty alive.

Know that you have supporters in Texas.

Respectfully, (Mrs) Tonie Maheshwari

Death of James Victor Brong

Kathryn Brong called me on July 25, 2014 to indicate that her husband died after a long bout of being ill. He was a former CT (I do not know which branch) and received a purple heart from the attack. He was 71 and died with his loving family nearby. The Brong’s live in Coopersburg, PA. Let’s remember him and Kathryn in our prayers.
A Letter from Gene Paul to Ernie

Ernie:

Thank you very much for rekindling this important event in American history in my memory. When the Liberty was attacked I was all of 24 years of age completing my first years as a teacher in Glades County Florida. I actively followed the news at the time and was a big fan of the Huntley - Brinkley newscast on NBC. I was well aware of the story at the time. Then as Ennes mentions in his book other stories take its place and within 3 weeks the attack disappeared from the front pages. I am indeed guilty of forgetting an important event in American history but thanks to you and the Navy League this oversight has been corrected.

When I received Chas E-Mail in June relative to the anniversary of the attack I immediately ordered your book on Amazon. I also remembered that you had provided complimentary copies of Assault on the Liberty at a prior board meeting. I read this book initially while awaiting receipt of your work in the mail. Lieutenant Ennes does an excellent job on providing background information on your brave ship mates who provided exemplary service while under the worst form of duress. You indeed get to know the personalities of the individuals he is describing. I also think this author goes to great pains in refraining from outwardly criticizing Captain McGonagle and Admiral Kidd while at the same time pointing out major errors in recollections and submission to external pressures from the government.

Your book reads with a passion, in my opinion. You experienced the trauma of a life and death situation. The portion where you describe accompanying the ship home and identifying the remains would scar any individual with a life long trauma. Then you throw in the government cover up and the apparent violation of your first amendment rights and it is not hard to see how a deep seething anger can fester.

You and Lieutenant Ennes have convinced me that there are too many holes in the IDF defense position to support an accidental attack. It does not appear plausible that aircraft would not identify the markings on the Liberty as well as the large ceremonial flag that was hoisted. Again, I do not have military experience but the frail argument that the Liberty was mistaken for a smaller Egyptian cargo ship appears to be ludicrous. And you as well as Jim Ennes appear to have analyzed the motive for the attack, to eliminate the Liberty from picking up communications documenting Israels’ subsequent advance into the Golan Heights.

You also make an excellent point by stating we are dealing with a disingenuous news media in this country. Ever since I can remember Israel has been depicted as our ally, the only ally we have in the middle east. This perception has certainly been emboldened since the events of 09-11-2001. Today on the news I heard that our government is considering supplying their government with additional weaponry. I would not be surprised to see the Israeli government send ground troops into the region in an attempt to silence Hamas for a long time. The fragile state of middle east governments has not helped the situation brought about by the Arab Spring.

I believe you have made excellent points in Liberty Injustices. I firmly believe that you and the liberty veterans will never quit in your pursuit of the truth. And when you are gone perhaps the family members of your group will continue until justice is achieved. I also believe you are well cognizant of the task at hand. You are fighting a news media that glorifies our supposed ally and refuses to believe that Israel acts only in her best interests. This is the very same news media that refused to investigate Bengasi in detail during the fall of 2012, when a full investigation may have altered the results of the election. The very same news media who refuses to launch a full scale investigation into the abuses of the IRS.

I apologize for being so long winded. As you can see you have piqued my interest in the Liberty and I wish you and the members of your group the very best.

Warm personal regards,

Gene Paul
The Inadvertent Striking of the American Ship ‘Liberty’
In the afternoon of June 8th, the third day of the Six Day War, American spy ship ‘Liberty’ was inadvertently hit. By the time the error was discovered, 34 crewman were killed and 171 were wounded.

The task of the Liberty was to follow the events of the war between Israel and the Arab countries.

The ship was identified by an [Israeli] Air Force patrol plane and marked as an American ship on the marking boards at Navy Headquarters. At 1100 hours, when no further updates came in about its location – the target was erased from the boards.

At noon the land forces operating in the Northern Sinai sector reported explosions near them. They associated them with the ship they could see on the horizon.

Upon receiving the report, a torpedo ship force that was in Ashdod, ready to head toward El Arish, was commanded to identify the sources of fire. Three torpedo ships, under command of a sailing commander, sailed in that direction and discovered the target on the radar. Initial measurement showed that the target was moving at the speed of 28 knots!!! The commander was afraid he could not catch up with the ship and asked for aerial assistance.

Two plans that were passing by the area were directed toward the ship. The ship was attacked and suffered damage. After the attack, one of the pilots identified Latin characters and the planes ceased their attack.

Throughout that entire time the torpedo ship force was closing in on the ship. The company commander made an effort to obtain identification and instructed that “What Ship?” be signaled. The answer received: AA (a dim memory from the Ibrahim Al Awal event in 1956…)

The force incorrectly identified the ship as the Al Kuzir (an Egyptian supply ship), several torpedoes were shot at the ship. On hit the ship wall and inflicted heavy damage. When preparing for a repeat attack the error became clear…

**Attached:**
- http://www.amutayam.org.il/_Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/LIBRRTY.pps
- http://www.gtr5.com/
- http://www.amutayam.org.il/_Uploads/dbsAttachedFiles/PUMLIBERTY.rtf
On August 11th, 2014, Terry Halbardier died of a heart attack at his home in Visalia, California. At the time of the attack on the USS LIBERTY he was an ET3. Please join us in wishing peace for Terry’s family and friends and for smooth sailing into the light for Terry.

We do not yet have the obituary on hand, but please see below for pictures of the hero we have lost.
**LVA Memorabilia Store - Order Form**

**READING MATERIALS**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Assault on the Liberty: The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship</td>
<td>By Survivor and LVS Historian, 30th anniversary of 1967 attack.</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<td>The Attack on the Liberty</td>
<td>The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship, By James Scott, son of crew</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<td>What I Saw That Day: Israel's June 8th, 1967 Holocaust of US Servicemen Aboard the USS Liberty and its Aftermath</td>
<td>By USS Liberty Survivor Phil Tourney and Mark Glenn</td>
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**VIDEOS**

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<td>25th Anniversary Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery</td>
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<td>Patrick King Documentary (DVD Video)</td>
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<td>Loss of Liberty - New Detailed Film of Attack and Cover-Up</td>
<td>(DVD Video)</td>
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<td>Dead in the Water - Documentary</td>
<td>Find out how a nuclear war in the Middle East was averted at the last minute (DVD)</td>
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**LIBERTY WEAR**

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<td>White with Black Ship &amp; 34 Lost Shipmates Tee Shirt</td>
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<td>USS Liberty Color Jackets: Lined navy blue nylon fabric</td>
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<td>USS Liberty Unstructured Golf Hat - Navy or Tan</td>
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**MEMORABILIA**

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<td>USS Liberty Key Chain</td>
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<td>USS Liberty Cigarette Lighter - Zippo, Brushed Chrome, Ship Insignia on One Side and Silhouette on the Other</td>
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<td>USS Liberty Coffee Cup</td>
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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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