

Liberty News

# Volume 61 | April, 2017

**REMEMBERING 50 YEARS - JUNE 8, 2017** 

# **Board of Directors**

Ernie Gallo President ernie7900@aol.com

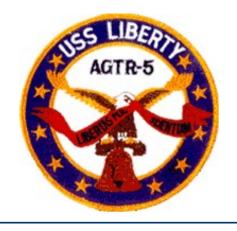
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### Moe Shafer Director of Finance moe.shafer@harbingernational.com



# Letter from the Editor

It is almost time for our Reunion shipmates. I know we all look forward to this event. It will be a time of remembrance, a time of sadness for all the Survivors but also a time of fellowship.

We plan to take many pictures of all the events along with more formal portraits of all the Survivors that will attend and all of these will be put into book form and have ready for purchase as soon as possible.

Moe along with others has done a wonderful job in putting this Reunion together so we owe them a big 4.0. And as we will find out soon, there is much planned for this Reunion.

I hope to be able to attend the Graveside Ceremony at Arlington on June 8. This should also be well attended by the press and dignitaries.

In closing let me say that it has been my distinct honor and pleasure to be a part of this Newsletter and to just see all the times that so many of you are continuing to tell the true story of the attack on the Liberty.

God bless, drive careful, safe travel. And see you at the Reunion! -Wayne Kelley, Sr. *Editor* 

SUBMIT INFORMATION TO: Wayne Kelley, Sr., Editor 9400 Reams Road North Chesterfield, VA 23236 waynekelleysr@yahoo.com

Liberty News

### Letter from the President

In the December newsletter I identified a Washington, DC, press conference with a further explanation in an email from Alison Wier. The press conference was planned for Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 for any Liberty crew or families who wished to give a presentation. **This June press conference has been canceled** and rescheduled for possibly September or October.

I regret to write that this is my last "Letter from the President" as you will have a new USS Liberty Veterans Association President for the next newsletter circa September, 2017. I do not intend to run for President again. I can't tell you how proud I have enjoyed being your President. The Liberty crew, families, and supporters are the greatest. While I would not have wanted to experience the attack, I feel very lucky and special that I was a member of the USS Liberty crew and survived. I hope and pray now that all Liberty crew and family members who have participated in the past and left the association will return. Our camaraderie and fraternity are everything and our fight for the truth is far from being over. Everyone counts!! As I have said many times, our country absolutely needs our story, past and present, if the United States of America is to return to its post WWII values. Please keep up the good fight!

Our success could not have been attained if it were not for the LVA board of Directors. To wit: Glenn Oliphant, Bryce Lockwood, Chief Jack Beattie, USN, retired, Moe Shafer, and Master Chief Stan White, USN, retired. In addition, I must also include our wives who have spend many hours at affairs and assisting our organization. I also want to thank, Lt. CMDR James Smith (aka Smitty), USN, retired, and our editor, Wayne Kelley. Moe Shafer, Smitty, and Wayne Kelley have been working on the reunion plans. Thank you all so much from the bottom of my heart.

Plans for the June 8, 2017, Arlington Cemetery Memorial Service and the June 8 to 11 Norfolk reunion are coming together. You will be seeing more details in this newsletter. For those attending the Arlington Service, please plan on being present at the Arlington Cemetery welcome center about 11:00 AM as I have been informed that everyone entering the cemetery must go through a security check. For those who do not have car passes, I will hire a bus to take us from the Welcome Center to section 34 at 11:30 AM. Our service will begin promptly at noon and the bus will return you to the welcome center afterwards.

Your proud President, Ernie Gallo, former CTM-2.

We must never forget the Holocaust, however, in concert, it is equally important for the future of the United States to never forget the USS Liberty.

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God bless you all.

# LIBERTY VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION 50th Anniversary Reunion

WHEN: WHERE: June 8th - 11th, 2017 Norfolk, Virginia Sheraton Waterside



ITINERARY

June 8, 2017

Arlington Cemetery Memorial Service 12:00 noon at Arlington Cemetery

Arrivals at Norfolk Sheraton Waterside

OT I

June 9, 2017 June 10, 2017 June 11, 2017

Norfolk

Norfolk

Norfolk, Breakfast and Departure

Register online at www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/LIBERTY or call the hotel at (757) 622-6664

Liberty News

# 50th Anniversary — Tentative Itenerary

USS Liberty Veterans Association 50th Anniversary June 8,2017 – June 11,, 2017 Sheraton Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, VA

### 06/08, Thursday

Two options:Go directly to Norfolk Sheraton WatersideArlington National Cemetery – Alexandria, VA11:30amArrive at Arlington Cemetery Reception Center – Catch bus to Graveside service12:00pmMemorial service for our fallen shipmates01:00pmDeparture from Reception Center01:00pmDepart for Norfolk for those driving05:00pmHospitality Suite will open06:00pmOpen Evening – Enjoy the Festival of Ships on Riverwalk

### 06/09 Friday

Open day, except for Crews Meeting Breakfast 09:00am Hospitality Suite will open - Ships store will be open 10:00am - 12:00pm Crew and Family photos - Location TBD - Wayne Kelley & Frank O'Classen, Photographers 12:00pm Lunch on your own 02:00pm - 04:00 Board of Directors & Crew meeting Departure for NOB Carillon Concert and USS Liberty Memorial Service for our fallen shipmates! 05:30pm 6:00pm - 7:30pm Depart on bus for NOB Carillon Concert 08:00pm Hospitality Suite Open

### 06/10 Saturday

Breakfast on your own	
09:00am	Hospitality Suite Open
12:00pm	Opening Remarks – Moe Shafer
12:10pm	Luncheon Buffet
01:15pm	Phil Tourney Remarks
01:35pm	Ernie Gallo, President's message – Passing of the Gavel to the new Board
02:00pm	Crew and family Photos by Wayne Kelley & Frank O'classen - Location TBD
02:00pm	Hospitality Suite Open
06:00pm	Dinner on your own – Enjoy the Festival of Ship on the Riverwalk

### Notes:

Ships Store will be open in Hospitality Suite – Times TBD. Check with hotel and find restaurants where you can gather with family and friends. Hospitality Suite hours will be determined as we get closer.

**06/11 Sunday** Open day for visiting and departures

THIS IS TENATIVE

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Liberty News

# **USS LIBERTY 50th REUNION REGISTRATION**

# \$60 fee per-person / \$120 per couple

Includes

- . Hospitality Suite
- Drinks
- Booze
- Snacks
- . Carillon Bus Ride
- . Luncheon Banquet

Note: Photo Gallery & Ship's History Book will be made and optional: by Wayne Kelley & Frank O'Classen - Estimated cost will be \$30.00

		_
Attendee Name(s):_		
Mailing Address:		
Phone #:		
E-mail:		
L-111G11		
Please complete the	e above form, one per person, couple or family, and mail with payment to: USS Liberty Veterans Association PO Box 680275 Marietta, GA 30068	
www.usslibertyve	You can also signup online: terans.org Click the 50th reunion tab to register and pay with a credit card.	
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# **Arlington Memorial Service - Arlington Cemetery**

Our group is meeting at the Arlington Cemetery Welcome Center at 1100 hours on June 8, 2017 because everyone must go through a security check. I will be hiring a bus to transport our group at 1130 to Section 34. Grave Site 1817.

Our Service will begin at noon. I have requested an Honor Guard to present the colors at which time a requested Navy corral group and the participants will sing the Star Spangled Banner. Then post the colors. I will open the service and make note of any VIPs in the audience. I will then introduce our requested Navy Chaplin for opening prayers. Following that, I will ask anyone in the audience who would like to say a few words or prayers to do so. I will then ask the requested Naval corral group to sing America the Beautiful. We will then read the names of the 34 KIA and ask the corral group to sing Amazing Grace. The requested two buglers will play taps answering each other. I will ask the Chaplin to give us the Benediction.

I expect the service to last about 45 minutes. Afterwards, we will retire the colors. The chartered bus will then transport everyone back to the Welcome center about 1300 hours.

# NEW LVA Board of Directors 2017 - 2020

The following crew members have agreed to serve on the LVA Board of Directors for the next 3 years, with their terms beginning on June 1, 2017.

Ernie Gallo Larry Bowen Bob Scarborough Ron Kukal Phil Tourney Moe Shafer

If anyone else would like to serve, please e-mail your nomination to Frank O'Classen (oclassen@vermontel.net) in order to be included on the ballot.

Only Five crew members can serve on the board at any given time. We need more volunteers.

A ballot will be sent out for your Vote in early May which you will return for the vote prior to the reunion. The 5 with the most votes will serve on the new board.

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Ballots will be counted and brought to the reunion for confirmation by any of the crew members.

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### **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 na-



palm, and was finally turned over to lethal torpedo boats, which blasted a forty-foot hole in the ship's side. The attack lasted more than two hours, deliberately killing 34 Americans and wounding at least 171 others. Over 821 rocket, cannon and machine gun holes were inflicted. When the Liberty stubbornly remained afloat despite her damage, Israeli forces machine-gunned her life rafts, firefighters, stretcher bearers, and sent troops carrying helicopters to finish the job,

no survivors were to be taken.

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

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

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

Liberty News

## Gary Brummett says U.S. covered up attack on ship he survived

### GRAND CANE, La -

A local sailor and his shipmates who were sent into harm's way were betrayed by their government, he says.

Do you know the story of the USS Liberty? Fifty years ago it came under brutal attack from our friend in the Middle East -- Israel. Gary Brummett lived to tell the story that he says our government has covered up.

"The story, it's -- it's unreal," Brummett says, still in disbelief.

He was a 20-year-old sailor aboard the spy ship USS Liberty, which flew an American flag and had clear U.S. markings on its hull. It posed no threat, steaming slowly through international waters on a clear day off the coasts of Israel and Egypt.



The Liberty was sent to listen in on The Six Day War between Israel and some Arab neighbors, though the U.S. was neutral. Israeli surveillance planes flew over the Liberty several times, and should have clearly identified the American ship. But soon, Israeli fighter jets opened up on the Liberty with cannon fire. Israeli bombers followed with conventional weapons and napalm. Then came Israeli torpedo boats.

Brummett braced himself at his work station in the fire room.

"I'm 12 or 15 feet below the water level," he says, eyes widening. "I don't figure I'm going to get back to Louisiana at this point."

A torpedo blew a gaping hole on both sides of the burning Liberty, where 34 men died -- including a communication tech from Shreveport named James Lupton, who the ship picked up in Spain. More than 170 others were injured.

"Our ship looked like a slaughterhouse," Brummett recalls. "Bodies and blood and stuff everywhere. People crying. Begging for mama."

Israel claimed it was a mistake -- that it thought our ship was one from Egypt. And -- officially -- President Lyndon Johnson accepted it.

But Brummett and other survivors never have.

"Wasn't an accident. It was a planned coordinated attack," Brummett insists. (Israel) didn't want us listening in on The Six Day War."

Brummett believes LBJ did not want to embarass our ally, Israel.

While proud that he served our country, Brummett says, "If we're going to put men and women out there in harm's way, let's give them the backing of our government."

Israel apologized, and paid more than six million dollars' restitution to families of the dead and wounded. And Israel later paid another six million dollars in damages in an agreement with the U.S. not to reopen the case for any reason.

Brummett believes the real story is locked away in Washington.

"Our NSA knows the truth," he says. "And I'm certain beyond any doubt that what really happened they still have all that information in one of their safes locked away in one of their rooms that nobody sees."

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### The Efforts of Don Pageler and Dr. Robert Kamansky

Dr. Robert Kamansky and I have been working on finding and declassification of documents about the Liberty for more than 6 years. We have more than 20 FOIA requests in with the various agencies. The declassifications we have gotten that directly relate to the attack that are most notable are the CIA and NSA.

We have spent many days/hours at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda. We have many thousands of pages from the library.

Pictures from the Library attached. [excerpted]

Don

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he said, "This guy keeps calling and says, 'When are you

		he said, this guy keeps cannig and says, when are you
Oral History Interview		going to buy me a new tee shirt?'" (chuckles)
NSA OH-15-88	CARTER:	That's pretty good.
with	FARLEY:	Yeah, but a real tragedy. Some of these kids.
LGEN Marshall S. CARTER	CARTER:	Yeah, it really was. But had they gotten the word they
		might well have gotten out in time. Had they not gone in
3 October 1988		there in the first place. Now that was tactical ELINT and
Colorado Springs, Colorado		SIGINT they were working on. I say they were under the
by		operational control of, I suppose CINCMED or whoever it
Robert D. Farley		was. But they never got the word until it much too late.
		That was where I first parted company with Vance.
Today is 3 October 1988. Our interviewee, Lieutenant	FARLEY:	Oh?
General Marshall S. Carter, United States Army, Retired.	CARTER:	Because we were at a Congressional hearing and I think
General Carter, a former Director of the National Security		this was in open session, but somehow I can't believe it
Agency from 1965 to 1969, joined the Agency after		was in open session. But I'm told it was an open session, in
serving as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence		which I was asked, as DIRNSA, whether or not I thought
Agency. His 42 year military career included special		the attack was deliberate. And I said, "It couldn't be
assignments to high level positions in the diplomatic and		anything else but deliberate. There's just no way you
intelligence services. He spent three tours as special		could have a series of circumstances that would justify it
assistant for the Director of the Executive Office under		being an accident." Now this was within a day or so after
General Marshall in the late 1940s, when General		the event. And Vance came on shortly after and said, "I
Marshall was in China, was Secretary of State and was		think it's premature to make a judgment like that." Now
Secretary of Defense. As DIRNSA, General Carter, among		that's somewhere in the records, because the <i>Liberty</i>
his many achievements, General Carter established the		picked it up. There was a Sykes Committee, Sykes of
National Cryptologic School and the Cryptologic Career		Florida, who was appointed to look into this from the
Professionalization program. General Carter discusses his		Congressional side to view. And it may well have been
military career in these tapes with special emphasis on his		Congressional side to view. And it may were have been
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1 for Release by NSA on Appeal on 10-30-2015. MDR Case # 75990:4109		***

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### A Rose Garden Snub from the White House

# The great snub at White House Rose Garden

TED ARENS ONEKAMA

Saturday June 8, 1991 — the surviving crew members of the USS Liberty were extended an invitation at the White House to attend a reception at the Rose Garden in their honor.

About 50 crew members and their families came from all over America to attend the ceremony. George Herbert Walker Bush was to give a speech honoring them. William Loren McGonagle, the captain of the USS Liberty, was there in his dress white uniform, proudly displaying his Medal of Honor. He was the son of a share cropper, a man who earned everything he got.

A man who had performed acts of quiet heroism — having watched many of his men blown to bits and others die slowly and horribly while help did not arrive, and almost all of the rest of his men wounded, including himself. After all this, he sat down in Malta and wrote to the families of each and every man on board his ship who was killed on June 8, 1967.

He was a leader who cared about his men. He stood out then, but after 49 years of treason and lies — and of useless, stupid and evil wars - he stands out even more. McGonagle did not cozy up to terrorists, he fought them. And he won. Of course, the U.S. government then, as now, was ashamed of Captain McGonagle. The government didn't want anything to do with a hero who guided his broken, battered and bloodied ship to safety using the North Star. The ship was listing 15 degrees, because of one of six torpedoes, which created a 40foot hole. It was sent on a sevenday journey to Malta, instead of

Crete, only a day-and-a-half away for repairs. The government hoped that the ship would sink. Spirits were a mile high. We were on cloud nine and in seventh heaven. This was it, we were sure

It had no problem with dishonoring the dead trapped in the bowels of the ship and allowing the oil-coated remains to rot and float away.

When he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism, in the face of an implacable enemy, the U.S. government was afraid to have him come in the front door to accept the award. Instead he was smuggled in through the back door, as if his open presence would shame the sterling reputations of those who had actually contemplated letting his ship sink forever into the deepest part of the Mediterranean. The back door of the White House? Nope, Normally the medal is presented at the White House, but this the only time it was presented in the dump known as the Naval Yard — quite the insult.

The President usually is the one who gives the award — not this time. Lyndon Baines Johnson was too busy — really, he was just too beholden to his political operatives and money people.

But this wasn't to be the only time that the President of the United States would, in-person, snub the USS Liberty. It turns out that George Herbert Walker Bush was also too busy, in spite of his invite. Phil Tourney was there and recounts what happened after close to 50 members of the Liberty crew had waited at the White House for more than two hours. Finally, we saw the presidential limousine pull up to the White House. Bush had been at a parade of veterans returning from the First Gulf War, which was why he had been late. As the limousine drove by, he waved at us through an open window. Our spirits were a mile high. We were on cloud nine and in seventh heaven. This was it, we were sure — or at least our stomachs were, because they were a flurry of butterflies.

Shortly afterwards, the door from the White House leading out to the Rose Garden opened. and we waited with bated breath for the president to come walking out. Instead, it was Brent Scowcroft, his national security advisor, and Chief of Staff John Sununu. Both of them were smiling like two cats that had just ate a bowl of mouse soup. Scowcroft and Sununu, like a duet doing a vaudeville number, informed us the president was "too busy" to meet with us. Then, they started "making nice, shaking our hands, apologizing for the fact that we had been left waiting for two hours — the exact amount of time we were left out at sea when we were attacked by Israel. Twice aircrafts were sent to help us, only to be recalled in midair by LBJ. The disappointment on McGonagle's face was as unmistakable, as if he had been kicked in the groin. He was dying inside — cancer — we all knew it, although he tried his best to hide it from us. I was sure he would break down in tears, but he did not.

George Herbert Walker Bush had no problem meeting with sports teams in the White House, but no time for a group of heroes led by a man who earned the Congressional Medal of Honor. His political operatives got to him and said he could not meet with the USS Liberty crew — it would cause people to ask questions. It's not honorable to meet a man who stood up to Israel. It's a source of shame.

SEE USS LIBERTY, A5

# **USS LIBERTY**

#### FROM PAGE A4

Captain McGonagle was able to hold back the tears on that day, more than 20 years after the terrible events of June 8, 1967.

Maybe James Scott, the son of one of those heroes, has told us why. Over twenty years earlier:

"The Secretary of the Navy Ignatius, against a backdrop of whirring cameras, placed the Medal of Honor around the skipper's neck. The five-pointed gold star, suspended from a blue ribbon, rested just beneath McGonagle's chin. The son of a sharecropper-turned-janitor, the man who had guided his ship to safety by the North Star, lowered his head and wept."

Glen Oliphant, a crew member, said "I never understood until that day, what power the Israeli Lobby has over our government."

May God bless Captain McGonagle, his men, and all of those who will not forget what liberty is all about.

Submitted to Liberty News by Ted Arens

# Meeting with the National Cryptologic Museum

I stopped by the National Cryptologic Museum (NCM) this morning. I spoke with the Curator, Patrick D. Weadon. Several changes are ongoing at NCM.

### NCM RENOVATION (ongoing):

- NCM is being renovated.
- These temporary changes/improvements estimated completion April 2017
- Existing USS LIBERTY display has been removed into temporary storage. The rectangular bronze plaque with listed names is also in storage. This is the plaque that was displayed to the left of the USS LIBERTY hanging flag.

### New NCM planned:

- Starting in two years, the present NCM facility will be demolished and a NEW NCM constructed directly behind the existing NCM.
- A new parking lot will be built in the footprint of the old NCM building.
- When the new NCM is built the USS LIBERTY display will be part of a larger plan to recognize the cryptologic achievements of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard with special emphasis on Air Recon. He stressed that USS LIBERTY will certainly be a major part of the new display.

### **Point of Contact:**

Patrick D. Weadon 301-688-5848 (w) 443-883-6152 (c) pdweado@nsa.gov

These represent the major points of our discussion.

Regards,

Terry McFarland

Liberty News

# The Passing of David Miller

David B. Miller, 70, of Bethlehem, died January 8, 2017 in St. Luke's Hospital. He was the husband of Judith Y. (Young) Miller. Born in Allentown, he was the son of the late Gerald W.W. and Dorothy R.E. (Sell) Miller. He was a graduate of Moravian College. He worked for Bethlehem Steel for 33 years, retiring in 1997 as Supervisor of Soaking Pits. He later worked as an independent contractor for Books are Fun. He was an active member of Emmaus Moravian Church. serving as a Sunday School teacher, member of the Sacristans Corp, and was an Elder and Trustee. He honorably served his country in the Navy aboard the USS Liberty, earning a Purple Heart. He was active in the bicycle racing community since 1987 and was known affectionate-



ly as "The Big Guy". He was a National Commissaire on the road, track and as a bike race motor ref for USA Cycling. He was an Anti-Doping Inspector for the Union Cycliste International. He also operated "The Big Buy Group" bicycle race photo finish and timing company. He formerly served as a Scout Master. Survivors: Wife of 49 ½ years, Judy; Sons, Jeffrey David Miller and wife Trell of Allentown, Jonathan David Miller and wife Caren of Macungie, and Jeremy David Miller and wife Jessica of Bethlehem; Brother, Gerald L. Miller of Houston, TX; Grandchildren, Alicia, Alexandra, Kelsey, Connor, Jaelyn, Jonah, Elijah, and Liam. He was predeceased by sons, Derick Warren and David Warren Miller. Services: Funeral Service Friday, Jan. 13, 2017 at 11:00 AM in Emmaus Moravian Church, Main St. and Keystone Ave., Emmaus. Viewing 10:00 to 11:00 AM in the church. Private interment with military honors will be in Grandview Cemetery. Schantz Funeral Home, P.C. Emmaus is handling arrangements. Contributions: In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Emmaus Moravian Church, 146 Main St., Emmaus, PA 18049.

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### A Letter to the American Legion

To the American Legion Membership

The USS Liberty Veterans Association (LVA) deeply appreciates your concern for truth and justice as expressed in the Post 40, American Legion, Department of Washington, resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of the 1967 attack on the USS Liberty. In addition, we would like to share the following information relative to our plight and American history and policy.

On June 8, 1967, Israeli forces deliberately and brutally attacked this intelligence ship with aircraft, motor torpedo boats, and armed marines (which were called back), resulting in 34 Americans killed and 174 wounded. Their hellish firepower caused 821 holes throughout the ship. For almost fifty years now the crew of the USS Liberty has been subjected to bigotry, stemming from the fact that the attacking country was Israel.

On the basis of the available evidence, the LVA believes President Johnson and other government officials covered up key details of the event to protect our relationship with Israel. They even went so far as to falsify the Naval Court of Inquiry Report to reflect no wrongdoing by Israel. We have evidence the Report was bogus, including a sworn affidavit provided by the Navy lawyer who was the legal counsel for the Inquiry.

Our ship's mission (consistent with Cold War tactics) was not to spy on Israel but to determine if Soviet personnel were involved in supporting Egypt and Syria in the Arab Israeli War. With that said, organizations, including the American Legion hierarchy, have treated the Liberty's surviving crew with contempt and disdain. Israel's supporters do not appreciate any negativity about Israel such as the Liberty crew telling the truth about the attack. We must be silenced at all costs.

In 2012, though we violated no convention rules, Liberty representatives were ejected from the American Legion national convention and told by Legion officials that we are not welcome at future conventions. Conversely, we have always been welcome at VFW national conventions. Details of the event are covered in my book, Liberty Injustices -- A Survivor's Account of American Bigotry (Michael King Publishing, 2013).

Since our government continues to support the falsehood that the attack was accidental, crewmembers are made out to be liars. Given that 34 of our shipmates were killed and the Israel attempted to murder another 294, we would be remiss as Americans in not demanding justice for our country and our shipmates. As a result Israel's supporters routinely disrupt our presentations and make abusive comments.

We harbor no ill feelings toward Jewish people. Is it our fault Israel deliberately attacked our ship and we are honest about it? This deplorable situation must stop and Americans must be made aware of the truth of the attack. Please help and stand up for the crew of the USS Liberty – the most decorated Navy ship for a single engagement.

Please support the national adoption of Post 40's resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of the attack and subsequent events.

Respectfully Yours,

Ernest A. Gallo, President, USS Liberty Veterans Association

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### **Dedication of the Liberty Bench**

Southern City on the Tennessee River by the Name of Savannah, TN is in the process of Dedicating a Memorial Bench for the 50th year USS Liberty since attacked by a foreign country of the Middle East. The conflict turned into a War known as the Six Day War June 5th through June 10th 1967 between Israel and The Arab League of Nations. The American Naval Ship USS Liberty AGTR-5 was attacked in the afternoon on June 8th 1967 and the attack was approximately the same time that Pearl Harbor was attacked by Japan in 1945...

The casualties of the attack killed in action was thirty four and one hundred seventy four was wounded in action by the attacking Israeli military forces of the Air and sea. To this day some fifty years later the United States Government has yet to conduct a formal investigation into this attack so the survivors could testify to the actions that took place on June 8th 1967 conducted by the Israeli forces that caused horrific destruction to the Ship approximately 13 miles off of the Sinai Peninsula in international waters..

Savannah resident, Larry Broyles, Sr. a crew member of the USS Davis DD937 Destroyer during this time in the Middle East, and also a Davis Team Member of the Rescue, Damage Control and Rescue Team that boarded the USS Liberty in the early morning hours on June 9th 1967 has been working on this Liberty Memorial Bench for several months. The Liberty Bench was set March 8th and the Dedication of the Liberty Memorial Bench will be dedicated April 21, 2017 at 1300 hours in The Savannah, TN Veterans Memorial Park. This is one of the most decorated and beautiful Vetetrans Memorial Parks your eyes will ever see in any state of this country...Larry

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Broyles, Sr. has great admiration and gratitude to the Local Mayor Bob Shutt, and members of the City Council in supporting this great Honor and Dedication for the Crew of the Liberty that lost their lifes on June 8th 1967.. "Never Forget The USS LIBERTY AGTR-5"

Shipmate, Larry Broyles, Sr. USS Davis DD937



Liberty News

### A Note from a Supporter

Good evening Mr. Gallo,

I recently read an article in FRAToday about the USS Liberty in 1967. I am extremely disappointed in how our government treated this crew. I know that there is little I can do to assist in your cause, but will share the story to all of my contacts. I want you to know that you have my utmost respect and are a hero. I would like to offer my thanks to you for your honorable service to our country. If there is ever anything I can do for you, just ask and I will do what I can.

Regards,

Gerard Muegerl

A Proud American that is disappointed in the way our country treated you and the crew of USS Liberty

### A Note from Ron Kukal

Today was a red letter day for me. Went to a Veterans Ceremony at Tongue River High School in Dayton, Wy. I was invited by this little gal who didn't know me, but knew I was a veteran. She saw me after the ceremony, and just melted into my arms a you can see. What might take me two years to heal, was compressed into 2 minutes in this embrace. She just looked up at me saying with her eyes, this is why I can do what want, college and all that stuff, because you veterans stand, and never back down. What a day. Talk about spontaneous healing.





Liberty News

# LVA Memorabilia Store - Order Form

### **READING MATERIALS**

Assault on the Liberty: The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship - By Survivor and LVS Historian, \$30.00 Mr. James Ennes. Jr.,

SEND ORDER TO: Jim Ennes, PO Box 789, Woodinville, WA 98072

The Attack on the Liberty - The Untold Story of Israel's Deadly 1967 Assault on a U.S. Spy Ship, By James Scott, son of crew ... \$25.00 member Lt. John Scott,

What I Saw That Day: Israel's June 8th, 1967 Holocaust of US Servicemen Aboard the USS Liberty and its Aftermath ..... \$25.00 By USS Liberty Survivor Phil Tourney and Mark Glenn

### VIDEOS

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

### LIBERTY WEAR

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

### **MEMORABILIA**

USS Liberty Key Chain\$	4.00
USS Liberty Cigarette Lighter - Zippo, Brushed Chrome, Ship Insignia on One Side and Silhouette on the Other	
USS Liberty Lapel Pin \$	5.00
USS Liberty Ship Patch - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 3 Inch \$	6.00
USS Liberty Ship Patch - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 5 Inch	
USS Liberty Ship Patch - Multicolored, 100% Embroidered, 10 Inch \$1	12.00
Challenger Coin - With the Names of 34 Fallen Shipmates \$1	10.00

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*Liberty News* is the official journal of the USS LIBERTY Veterans Association - a California nonprofit, taxexempt 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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