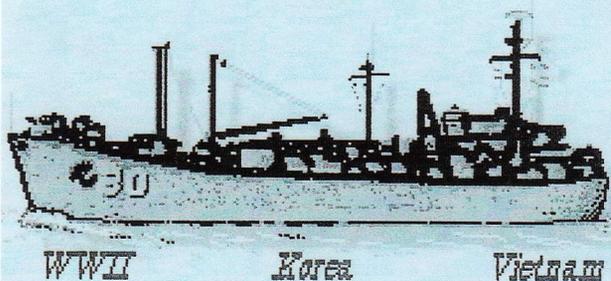


# U.S.S. Askari Association

U.S.S. Askari Web Site  
<http://arl30.vze.com>

July 2005 Issue



## Association Officers

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## A Message from President Ed Toth

AHOY RETIRED SEAMAN- - - -

Here we are, only a few months before our ASKARI ARL-30 reunion with the Mobile Riverine Force Association (MRFA). Our reunion is at Fort Mitchell, Kentucky, at the Drawbridge Estates, dates Wednesday August 31 – Sunday September 4 (check out). Our hospitality room will be located in Room 281 in the main building. If you haven't made your reservations yet, CALL --- Drawbridge [1-800-354-9793](tel:1-800-354-9793) (for regular rooms) and [1-800-426-3841](tel:1-800-426-3841) (Sales) and ask for Jennifer Hesse or Teresa.

Be sure to mention you are making room reservations with the MRFA to get your discount. Reunion rates are good for (3) days before and (3) days after. To get all the other perks and discounts given out at the reunion, you need to join the parent group - - MRFA - - for \$15.00. The perks are many and you also get a quarterly newsletter. It is well worth the \$15.00 to join.

They are trying to set up free transportation for the ladies to go shopping, tours, etc. There will be plenty of literature available, discount tickets to use in deciding how to spend some of your free time.

I've heard from a former ASKARI shipmate from WWII - - Marvin Marks from Dallas, Texas who is planning to attend the reunion. He says he thinks there are only about (3) WWII veterans from the ASKARI left. One of these is Hans Fredricks from

Port Charlotte, Florida. Marvin is constantly in touch with Hans and we hope maybe he can get Hans to attend his first reunion this years.

In case you have forgotten, we started out as just our own ASKARI reunion. MRFA started out at the same time, but by themselves. We were asked to join their group (as there were a lot of other ASKARI shipmates from other conflicts who belonged to MRFA). This way we could have our own individual reunion within a reunion and get all the perks and discounts accorded MRFA.

We have continued this route because it seems there are not enough of you ASKARI seamen who want to arrange the time to join the rest of the "OLD GIRL" crew. Of course some of our fellow sailors have good excuses - - bad health, family problems, etc. But out of (77) retired ASKARI sailors (as of the active membership list of 11/03), we only have between 10 - 20 of the same members who come. So you see, we haven't the money or the membership attending to go out on our own and get all these discounts.

So step up to the gang plank between 8-31-05 and 9-4-05 and board our reunion ASKARI ship for the STATESIDE CRUISE OF YOUR LIFE!! Join your former sailor friends and renew your friendships, talk over old times, and make new friends and friendships. Find out the history of the "OLD GIRL" that was your former home for many years and what has happened to her since you left Her in your war time.

Come on fellows, bring your wives, families, or just yourselves and see what will make this year in your lives really a memorable moment to remember. Do it before it is too late for everyone. Bring your memories (consisting of mementos, memoirs, memorabilia) and share with the rest of us.

See you then, and in the meantime, have some happy holidays.

## ***2005 Askari Reunion Reservations***

### Dates

August 31 (Weds.) thru September 4 (Sun.), 2005

### Place

Drawbridge Inn

I-75 at Buttermilk Pike

Fort Mitchell, Kentucky 41017

1-800-354-9793 or 1-606-341-2800

### Room Rates and Check in/Check out Times

\$77 for main building ; \$67 for Garrison building

Check in - 3:00 p.m ; Check out - 12:00 p.m. (noon)

### Handicapped Facilities

The Drawbridge Inn is handicap accessible. If you have special needs, call 800-354-9795.

### Parking

Parking is available at no extra charge. Call 800-354-9793 for RV hook-up pricing.

### Room Reservations

Make a reservation by calling 800-354-9793 and asking for Jennifer Hesse, Teresa Gorman Seifert, or Ann Wilson in the Sales Department or by email ([www.drawbridgeinn.com/reservations/htm](http://www.drawbridgeinn.com/reservations/htm)). When making reservations, be sure to mention the MRFA and give the reunion dates.

### Registration Form and Fee

The MRFA reunion registration form and fee information are attached.

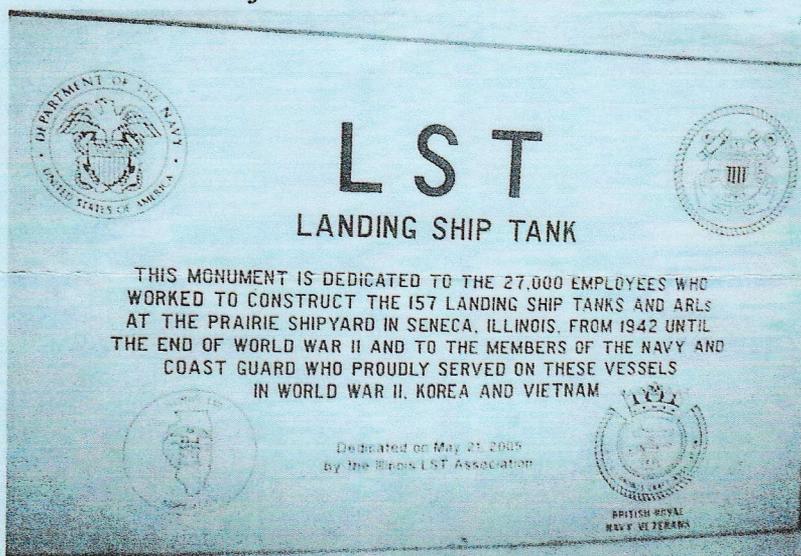
## ***LST Monument – Seneca, Illinois***

Al Wolfe, Askari treasurer, attended the May 21, 2005 dedication ceremony for the LST Monument in Seneca, Illinois. The Askari ARL-30 was built in Seneca in 1945 and is listed on the monument as LST 1131 - ARL-30. Of the 157 LSTs built in Seneca, ours was one of 8 that were converted to

ARLs. People from all over the United States and England were at the dedication ceremony.



***Al Wolfe at LST Monument Dedication***



***Close-up of monument inscription***

## ***B.J. (Joe) Hayes remembers***

I was the J.O.D. on the quarter deck one night about midnight. We had other ships tied up alongside and using our gang plank. The crew boat coming from the 5<sup>th</sup> landing had pulled alongside and our crew members were coming on board along with personnel from the other ships including two men, obviously drunk and in civilian clothes. When I asked for their ID, I did not say, "Sir." This made them mad. I told them they were on my ship now and were not going anywhere until I saw some ID. They demanded to see the O.D. which I knew was a mistake, but I sent the messenger to wake him up. I can't remember his name, but he was one saltie dog chief warrant from WW2. He came out obviously