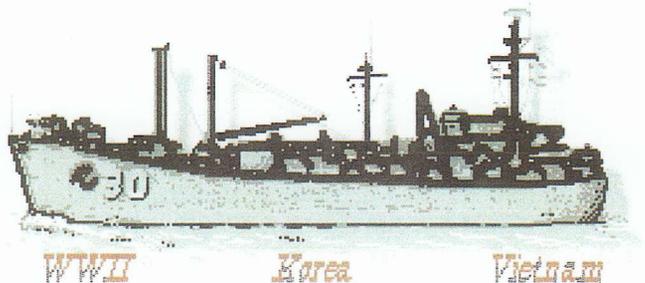


# U.S.S. Askari Association

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

December 2007



## Association Officers

President: Max Hoover  
(402-362-6725)  
[mmhoover@inebraska.com](mailto:mmhoover@inebraska.com)

Vice President: Lee Daley  
(407-275-0314)  
[lecowboy@aol.com](mailto:lecowboy@aol.com)

Secretary: Paul Erasmus  
(860-678-9573)  
[Pfraz41649@aol.com](mailto:Pfraz41649@aol.com)

Treasurer: Kenneth Kirkland  
(541-475-3454)

Webmaster: Tom Willoughby  
(734)429-5470  
[wllghbytom@comcast.net](mailto:wllghbytom@comcast.net)



## Message from President Max Hoover



The 2007 Askari reunion is over and *Wow* what a time we had! If you were not able to attend you were greatly missed and I encourage all of you to come to a future Askari reunion.

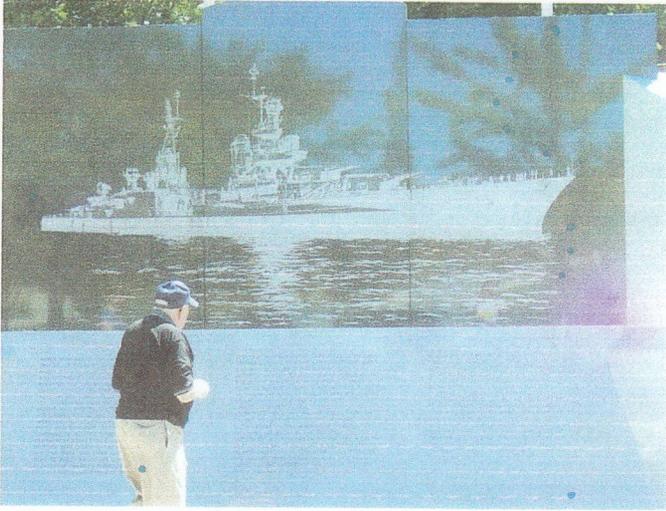
Now for a report on the happenings at the reunion.

As we arrived on Thursday familiar faces started to appear as we were finding our room and our way around the hotel. By the time we got The Hospitality Room set up we had a good group present. By a vote of the group we picked a local restaurant, "Indy's" near the hotel. Actually it was recommended by the shuttle driver and he even took us there. The food was really good but the fellowship was much better. Ken and Carol Kirkland's plane was delayed so they arrived after supper and were hungry so several of us escorted them to the local Pancake House so they could have a late night snack.



Friday morning the group gathered in The Hospitality Room after breakfast to make plans for side trips for the ones who weren't playing golf with Lee Daley. Lee was one of the planners of the golf outing and it turned out to be a huge success. The MRFA reunion planners left sight seeing up to the individuals to find things to do. It was OK because our travel planners travel with us, Marcia Hoover, Carol Kirkland, and Donna Erasmus. They came up with a way to tour down town Indianapolis. We went on a walking tour and learned a lot of history from Union Station, now a hotel, to the place where Dr. John Stough Bobbs performed the first successful removal of a Gall stone in a man. We even took a short cut through the Indiana State Capital building. It was a lot like going to an airport to fly somewhere, metal detectors and all. Marvin Marks caused a little excitement when the badge in his wallet set it off. All the State Troopers had to come take a look at it. Also while on our tour we visited the USS Indianapolis memorial. It was a very moving

experience.



For lunch we stopped in at a Buca de Beppo, an Italian restaurant. Everyone was stuffed when we left.



In the evening everyone indulged in the Pig Out put on by Dean Ayres. As always, roast pig with all the trimmings. After the Pig Out we had guest speakers, Vice Admiral Emmett Tidd, Lt. General George Crocker, and Rear Admiral Donald Bullard. Tidd and Crocker were in Viet Nam. Bullard was in Viet Nam and is currently in Iraq. Bullard reported on the new unit they call Riverine. Then the entertainment, Donut Dollies, Emily Strange and she brought another Dolly with her. I can't remember her name. She has some awesome stories and they played a game of trivia. Navy vs. Army, with a giant pair of dice. What a bunch of laughs! After the entertainment The Hospitality Room again became a popular place. Some of us had some room for snacks and a drink or two with a lot more sharing of sea stores and land lubber tales. A few of us couldn't give up until the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday morning we attended the memorial

flags to the Gold Star families and the service with the empty chair is always so very moving.

After the service we regrouped in The Hospitality Room for the semiannual meeting of the USS Askari Association. In the meeting Paul Erasmus was elected secretary and Ken Kirkland was elected treasurer. Check out the rest of the proceedings in the minutes else where in this newsletter. When the meeting was over a group of us loaded up and headed for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway for a tour of the race track. As we approached the interstate exit we got a phone call, it was Paul and Donna Erasmus letting us know we forgot them. After a quick trip to the motel and back, we toured the Speedway museum, had lunch and road around the track in a small bus with a sound track giving history and the workings of the racetrack.



Back from the track found us in The Hospitality Room for more reminiscing about the Askari's past, present, and future. Supper time found us at Indy's Restaurant for another fine meal with lots of fun and fellowship. Back to the reunion for the drawings and then the dance "from the Delta to the DMZ." After listening to the music and not being able to visit over it, everyone gravitated back to the familiar surroundings of The Hospitality Room. Everyone was having such a good time visiting, time slipped away and we had to start saying goodbyes because Sunday morning would find all the Askari crew again going to all corners of the good old USA.

Until next time we gather as the Askari Family, I wish you all smooth sailing.

*Max Hoover*

President of the USS Askari Association.

## The Baker's Corner (Lee Daley)

The 2007 reunion has come and gone. It was good to see all of you and I think we all had a good time. I would like to thank Merrill for all of his time getting our newsletter out to all of us. He did a good job as secretary. Now we have a new secretary, Paul Erasmus. I know Paul will do a good job for our association. We also have a new treasurer, Kenneth Kirkland. He is taking over from past treasurer, Al Wolfe. We will miss Al and our prayers go out to his family. We have to new member, Tom Doucette and Brain Mahoney. Tom goes way back on the Askari time. I would like to thank Ed Toth for playing golf with me in our MRFA Golf Tournament. We had a good time. We missed all members that could not be at the reunion and hope they can make the next one. God Bless all of you!



### **Chocolate Cake**

- 2 c. sugar
- 1 ¾ c. all purpose flour
- ¾ c. Hershey's cocoa
- 1 ½ tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. milk
- ½ c. vegetable oil
- 2 tsps. vanilla extract
- 1 c. boiling water
- 1 ½ tsp. baking soda

Heat over to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 9 inch round baking pans. Combine dry ingredients in large bowl. Add eggs, milk and vanilla. Beat on medium speed for two minutes. Stir boiling water (batter will be thin). Pour into pans. Bake 30-35 minutes or until wood pick inserted into center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Remove from pans to wire rack. Cool completely.

### **Chocolate Frosting**

- 1 stick (1/2 c.) butter or margarine
- 2/3 c. Hershey cocoa
- 3 c. powdered sugar
- 1/3 c. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Melt butter. Stir in coca. Alternately add powdered sugar and milk, beating on medium speed to

spreading consistency. Add more milk, if needed. Stir in vanilla. Makes about 2 c. frosting.

## Max's Surprise Coming Home From Indy

When we headed home from the reunion, Marcia and I thought the trip home would be uneventful except for a stop in Illinois for her brother-in-law's birthday party. While at the party I was visiting with another guest who had been in the Army at Camron Bay. His job there was unloading LSTs. In the conversation about ships and Viet Nam, he told me he had just visited an LST that was tied up in Peoria, IL. Well, Peoria just happened to be on our route home. As we crossed the bridge over the Illinois River there she was. It was an LST-325 all set up and ready for tours.



What a sight she was tied to a small pier with the bow doors wide open. What an inviting view. Walking down the gang way to board was different than boarding the Askari but once inside the tank deck the memories flooded back. Looking down hatches to the engine room, climbing the ladder to the mess deck and walking pass the galley I could hear the muffled voices of young men discussing their last mission or their jobs and the most popular subject, HOME. Walking passed the galley you could almost taste the mid-rats and smell Lee Daley's baked goods and hear the clank of those wonderful metal trays.

While walking around up by the gun tubs,(40mm, 20mm, & 50cal) the feelings changed to the tempo of general quarters, the whine of the control motors and the rat-tat-tat of the 50s &20s and thud of the 40s. Walking around the boat davits with LCVPs in place I could see and hear them in the water pulling in with the mail from Dong Tam.

When I stood on the bridge wing and looked down at the dirty water of the Illinois River it didn't look all that much different than the Mekong or the Vam Co rivers in Viet Nam. Looking through the port holes into the wheel house and on into CIC with the radio chatter and mid-watches. Wow! What a feeling as that was where I spent most of my time. It was a little bit hard to leave but life goes on.



LST-325 was launched in Oct. 1942 and participated in several beachhead landings including Omaha Beach on D-Day. In 1963 she went to the Greek Navy until she was decommissioned in 1999. A group of former crew members were able to acquire her for a living memorial. She was sailed back to the states by a crew of 29 guys with an average age of 72 years old and it took almost 2 months to do it. It must have been some trip.



LST 325 is on display at Evansville, IN so maybe before the reunion in Indy in 2009 a visit can be arranged. That's enough for now. *Max Hoover*

## *Brief Notes from the 2007 Meeting*

Dues have been raised from \$10 to \$15 per year starting in July 2008.

There has been a lot of interest shown in having a mini reunion in 2008, which would possibly be held in Washington DC. More information will follow, so please keep an eye out for more details/information.

Max Hoover is checking on getting Askari Association shirts made. More information will follow as it becomes available.

### Members in attendance at the 2007 Reunion:

Lee Daley-Orlando, FL  
Merrill & Barbara Davis, Bloomington, IN  
Tom Doucette-Brookfield, WI  
Paul & Donna Erasmus-Farmington, CT  
Larry & Edith Ethridge-Louisville, KY  
Max & Marcia Hoover-York, NE  
Ken & Carol Kirkland-Madras, OR  
Brian & Audrey Mahoney-Baltimore, MD  
Marvin Marks-Dallas, TX  
Norm Neuleib-Geneseo, IL  
Ed & Virgene Toth-Toledo, OH

## *Special Thanks*

On behalf of the association, we would like to thank Merrill and Barbara Davis for all of their hard work as secretary for the past five years.

Additionally we would like to thank Lee Daley for the reunion pins which were distributed to the members and their wives who were in attendance in Indianapolis at the reunion.

## *In Loving Memory of our Askari Family Members*

### *WOLFE, Albert*

Al passed away peacefully in August 2007. Al began his adventure within the Askari Association as Vice President and was most recently the Treasurer for our association. He spent many countless hours assisting our association. He will be greatly missed by all.

## ***FREDERICKS, Hans Henry***

born Aug. 25, 1926, passed away peacefully on Saturday evening, Oct. 13, 2007 after a sudden illness in Palm Harbor. He was a 28-year resident of Port Charlotte, before moving to Palm Harbor in 2004. Hans was a bolson's mate in the Navy during WWII, on the naval LST USS Askari. After his term in the Navy, Hans became a delivery driver for Instant Whip in New York City. In the early 1950's, Hans worked as an ambulance driver, and after a few years, applied for a position with the New York City Police Department. During his 20 years of service, Hans rose through the ranks and became a homicide detective serving in Brooklyn, NY. Hans was known as a bona-fide do-it-yourselfer; a man of many interests; and loved to travel. Hans will be remembered most for his friendly and warm smile, his spontaneous sense of humor, and for being a most generous person volunteering alot of his spare time to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, the 10-13 Club, and the Elks Lodge. Hans is survived by his 3 children, Carol Ann Morgani (Tony), of Port Charlotte, Elaine Benigno (Lou), of Palm Harbor, Robert Fredericks (Amiee), of Babylon, NY. He also leaves 7 grandsons, Matthew J. Morgani, of Port Charlotte, Christopher E. Morgani, of Lehigh Acres, Mark S. Benigno, of New York City, NY, Daniel J. Benigno, of Pensacola, Robert A. Fredericks, Michael J. Fredericks, and Vincent P. Fredericks, of Babylon, NY, along with 1 granddaughter, Rachael E. Morgani, of Port Charlotte, and 2 great-grandchildren, Dylan and Josephine Morgani, of North Port. A Memorial Service will be held at the Highlands Lake Lodge, 127 Lakeside Drive, Palm Harbor, on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2007, between noon and 3 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to your favorite church or charity.

## ***Photo Corner***

We welcome everyone to submit pictures that they would like to share to Paul Erasmus by either email at [pfraz41649@aol.com](mailto:pfraz41649@aol.com) or by mail at Paul Erasmus, 33 Oakland Avenue, Farmington, CT 06032.

The following pictures have been submitted by Tom Doucette. Thank you for sharing your photos Tom.

