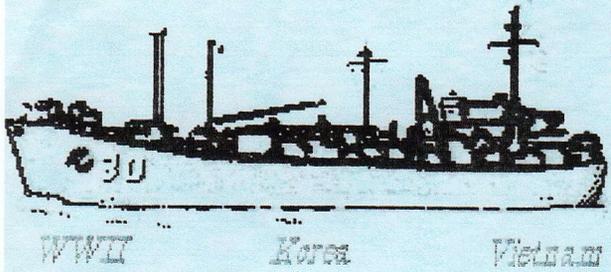


# U.S.S. Askari Association

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

September 2008



## Association Officers

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## Message from President Max Hoover



I'm going to start off with an apology for the length of time since the last news letter. It shouldn't happen again. There are always a million excuses but not many good reasons for no news letter.

I was going through some old e-mail the other day and came across one from Al Moore that Capt. Festag passed away a year and a half ago. Al Festag was the captain 68-69. I found an address and phone number for his widow Joan and gave her a call recently and had quite a visit. She shared with me they were married 59yrs when he passed away. It was interesting that we had our reunion for 2006 in Branson which is not all that far from their address in Licking, MO. She told me when he retired from the Navy one of the reasons was the changes that were happening like personal being allowed to wear longer hair and such. Knowing him I wasn't surprised. When I mentioned the help he provided after the bombing of the Westchester County her comment was he was that kind of guy. She would love to visit with anyone from the Askari so if you would like to give her a call or send her a note Joan Festag, 14488 Arnott Rd, Licking, MO (573-674-3396).

It is not too soon to start making plans for the reunion next year in Indianapolis, IN. It will be over Labor Day weekend Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. See the enclosed registration form. If you know of things to do and see in Indy let us know. We will

adventuresome to see and do. If you haven't been to a reunion for a while or never been please come you'll be glad you did and so will every one there.

Ken Kirkland tells me we need to have everyone, who isn't current to send in their dues. It is just \$15.00 a year. Also if you know of another Askari sailor who isn't a member please encourage them to become a member. I can't stress enough, without sounding like a whiner the importance of keeping up with the dues.

To go along with money thing let Paul know if you can get your news letter on line. If we can do the on line news letter it will be such a savings on postage.

This is just a reminder to send any little remembrances or stories to Paul so they can be included in the news letter.

I'm going to close for now so till next time smooth sailing.

*Max Hoover*

President of the USS Askari Association.

## The Baker's Corner (Lee Daley)

Hi to all of you. Hope this finds you all in good health. It has been a hot summer so far in the Sunshine State. We are in our '08' hurricane season. I know out west they have also had some bad weather. Hope we have a good turn out at the next reunion in '09' and maybe the gasoline prices will be down. I will try and get some new members from our



the next reunion. Just to let you know Joan and I had an addition to our family this year. He is 8 months old and his name is Danny Boy. He is a 42 lb. black Standard Poodle. I guess I will close for now so I can get this recipe in the newsletter. You need to try it. Very good! Hope to see you at our next reunion in Indiana over Labor Day '09'.

### Blueberry Coffee Cake

½ c. margarine  
1 ¼ c. sugar (reserve ¼ c. for topping)  
2 eggs  
2 c. flour  
¼ tsp. salt  
2 tsp. baking powder  
½ c. milk  
2 c. fresh or frozen Maine berries  
½ c. chopped pecans

Cream margarine and sugar. Add eggs and beat. Add dry ingredients. Fold in 2 cups of blueberries. Pour into greased oblong baking dish, spread batter evenly. Sprinkle with pecans, then top with the ¼ c. reserved sugar. Bake at 375 degrees, 30 minutes if fresh berries are used, 40 minutes if frozen fruit is used. Serve hot.

### Treasurer's Introduction and Update

Good morning, good evening, and all points in between to all.

My name is Ken Kirkland and I have become the treasurer for the USS Askari Association. At first, the job presented some frustrating moments. Due to terrorism and the Patriot Act, it was not the simple process of opening a bank account. Information had to be found regarding the old account, forms had to be mailed back and forth and signatures and photo IDs had to be recorded in order to obtain an EIN for the Association. However, being "adjustable" we were able to overcome the red tape and I successfully opened a checking account. The following is my report up to March 4, 2008

Treasurer Ken Kirkland opened a bank account in Madras, Oregon.

Beginning; balance on October 9, 2007: \$2,029.60  
Deposits \$20.00-dues received  
Deductions from account include:  
\$478.00-Reunion hospitality room

\$323.38-newsletter  
\$15.75-One box of checks

Ending balance: \$1,232.47

Now that I have that out of the way, here is a little about me. I lived in Boise, Idaho until I enlisted into the Navy at the age of seventeen. By my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday I had made a Wes Pac cruise aboard a destroyer, with a great deal of our time off the coast of Viet Nam. I spent about 15 months on the destroyer, and requested a transfer to Viet Nam. The Department of the Navy liked that idea and sent me to the Askari where I served from November 1967 to January 1969. I worked in the Boiler Flats providing steam for various auxillary equipment and distilling that brown river water into the wonderful water we all drank.

The end of January 1969 I was transferred, much to my dismay, to a very large ship where I finished my enlistment. I really did not want to leave the Askari, but the Dept. of the Navy insisted that I leave. I spent the last eight months on a communication ship, saw the Apollo 10 splash down, and was not removed from the ship as a dangerous or undesirable person just before Nixon came on board before his summit conference on Midway. Speaking of Midway, I pulled my first shore patrol there. It was my task to see that no one molested the Gooney Birds.

Needless to say, I left the Navy, became a bum for awhile, met my wife and settled down. My wife, Carol, and I have been married for thirty one years, have two grown kids and three grandkids now. We like quiet relaxation at home and during the warm weather we ride our Harleys as much as we can. President Max suggested I write a story about one of our rides but I think I have been pretty wordy already. I will write about our ride to Cheyenne, Wyoming the day after the reunion. Till then-Be Happy!!

### Membership Renewal Time!!

Treasurer Kenneth Kirkland is ready and waiting to record your due payments for the 2008-2009 membership year. Please prepare your check or money order now while you have the newsletter in hand. The form has been enclosed within the newsletter for your convenience.

## Remembering the Askari

I was looking at a picture of the Askari from the Viet Nam era and noticed the very prominent canvas covered area on top of the tank deck. It sure brought back a lot of memories of getting there early to get a choice seat or if you were just getting off a 4-8 watch if you could even get a seat or you might have to stand for an entire movie. Then wonder if the LST or the Benewah would movies to trade for next week. Hopefully they would be new ones or at least ones you hadn't seen in a while.

Also under the "tent" was the ships store, which also served as the snack stand for movies. I always felt lucky to get photo mailers that were larger than 2"x 3". I still have a lot of those 2x3 pictures. It makes things kind of hard to see what you were taking a picture of in the first place.

It is interesting how your eyes can see one thing and mind can ad detail that's not even there. In the picture you can't make out any people but your mind puts you there in the midst of all your friends and coworkers.

*Max Hoover RD2 68-69*

## Askari Association Helping the Earth

The Askari Association is trying to help the earth and eliminate the number of copies which we are distributing. Therefore, if you have an email address and would like to have the newsletter emailed to you instead of sent to you in the regular U.S. mail, please email Paul Erasmus at [pfraz41649@aol.com](mailto:pfraz41649@aol.com) or indicate that you would like to receive the newsletter by email on your membership application.

### 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.

# 2009 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Adams Mark by the airport - Indianapolis, In.

September 2nd - September 6th

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates in Unit or Units \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse & Family/Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to enclose your check or money order with this form. Send to below address.

Registration Fee: (Member only, cost includes spouse or girlfriend) x \$35.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Family Members, Children, Friends: Total \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: (Non-Members)\* - Total \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total Enclosed: = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* Non-Member is defined as a person who is eligible to be a member of the MRFA by having served in the MRF TF-117 or TFs'115-116. the 9th Infantry Division or any Army / Navy supporting unit who has not joined the MRFA. A Membership application form can be found here:

<http://www.mrfa.org/Membership.htm>

The Registration Fee covers the member and/or guest, girlfriend, etc. All other fees apply to friends and or children.

Send your check or money order (payable to MRFA) with this form before August 22, 2009 to:

MRFA Reunion  
106 Belleview Dr. NE.  
Conover, NC. 28613

*There will be a \$25.00 charge for all returned checks. Cancellations prior to the reunion will be charged a \$10.00 processing fee.*

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