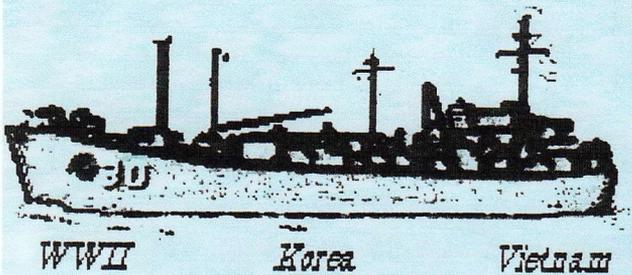


# U.S.S. Askari Association

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

May 2009



## Association Officers

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



## Message from President Max Hoover



A Word from the president:

It is past time for a winter newsletter but I think a spring letter will work.

It is time to get your reservations in for the Askari and MRFA reunion. The paper work can be found here in the newsletter or on line at the MRFA web site. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. I hope the economy doesn't have much of an adverse effect on the attendance.

There lots of things to do in Indianapolis. Last time we visited the Indy 500 track went on a walking tour of down town Indy with a great meal at a great Italian restaurant called Buca de Beppo. With all the activities at the reunion you can be as busy as you want. Also for you golfers Lee Daley can use help in the battle with the army guys again.

Marcia and I may be making our way to the reunion from the east instead of from Nebraska in the west. In January 2008 our son Seth moved to Watertown, NY so we may go out to see him and hen stop in Indy on our way home.

Enough for now see you in Indy.

*MaxHoover*

## The Baker's Corner (Lee Daley)

Hi everyone!

It's that time of year again for our 2009 reunion in Indianapolis, IN. Hope we'll have a good turnout this year. I have put reunion notices out in the VFW, The American Legion, and FRA magazines.

In Nov. 2008 I made the trip to Washington DC for the veteran's Day Ceremony. It was an honor for me to lay the wreath for the MRFA at The Wall. While I was in DC I met a lot of the Army vets from the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Hope to be able to return for future ceremonies.

I have been trying to contact association. We are going to have another successful with the tournament in 2007 Al quite a few golfers. So practice your tournament there will be free food and There will be round trip transportation contact me at [leethebaker@gmail.com](mailto:leethebaker@gmail.com).



Your shipmate friend,  
Lee Daley

former Askari shipmates and get them interested in joining our golf tournament this year. Since Dave McCann and I were Moore asked us to run it again this year. So far we are signing up swings, polish your clubs, and come out and join us! For the beverages. Cost of the game is \$40.00 for 18 holes and a cart. from the hotel to the golf course and back for a fee. Any questions

**CARROT CAKE**

2 c. sugar  
 2 cups all purpose flour  
 4 eggs  
 3 cups grated carrots  
 1 tsp. vanilla  
 1 ½ cups corn oil  
 2 tsps. Cinnamon  
 ½ tsp. salt  
 1 tsp. baking powder  
 2 tsps. Baking soda

**Frosting**

1 stick (1/2c.) butter  
 1 box powdered sugar  
 1 8oz package cream cheese  
 1 tsp. vanilla  
 Mix all ingredients together, add one cup chopped Pecans if desired and frost your cake

Heat over to 350 degrees. Mix all dry ingredients together. Add oil, eggs, and vanilla and blend well. Bake in three 9 inch cake pans at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until done. Be sure to spray the cake pans with Baker's Joy to avoid sticking.

**Treasurer note:**

Thanks to Tom Doucette for his extra donation with his dues.

Anyone having information on the ships barber Benefield (don't remember first name) One of the members is looking for him.

Reminder dues will be due in July 2009 and since we won't have another newsletter before then, Please take a moment to save the notice in this newsletter and mail it to Ken Kirkland. The cost of Printing newsletters is going up and we need the dues to help pay for this. We really don't want to Have to stop sending newsletters to those who don't send their dues but it may be coming. So why not Take a moment and send it off now.

**Ken Kirkland wrote:**

My wife Carol and I were supposed to drive from our home in Madras, Oregon to meet Max and Marcia

Hoover at their home in York, Nebraska and travel together to the MRFA reunion in Indianapolis (over A year ago now). It seemed like a good plan and would have worked out well if Carol and I could drive 1,000 mph. I screwed up the dates to take vacation and we were supposed to be in York two days before Vacation started. We (I) was embarrassed, had to call Max and admit my errors and we then flew to Indianapolis. I never was able to drive 1,000 mph- even when I was young and less intelligent than now. We did make it to the reunion and had a great time. Max wrote all about it and I can't really add Anything to it. Max did suggest I write about our travel experiences right after the reunion. You can Blame Max for this story, in part, but also Paul for printing it.

Carol and I flew back home and that very night we packed our gear for a bike (Harley) trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Our original plan was to stop in Cheyenne on our return trip from Indy and visit a couple of Cousins of mine that I have never met. It is kind of a good thing that I screwed up the travel plans as Carol had just brought a new Harley Low Rider and had just put on the break-in miles. We had to go on a bike trip. The day after we got home we were on the road. We started out late so we made it as far as Boise, Idaho late in the dark time of day. The next day we took off in the nice summer weather, rode about fifty miles and stopped for breakfast. I learned on another trip to the Canadian Rockies to never Deprive my wife of at least one meal a day. I have a habit of going and going on a bike and forget about food. The weather was typical Idaho summer, hot and dry till we got near American Falls. We pulled into a rest area at the first drops of rain and donned the rain gear. Good thing, as a quarter mile further the sky opened up and dumped on us. It rained so hard we could not see where we were going. I don't have wipers on my glasses and they fogged up-we limped about forty miles at 30-35 mph to Pocatello.

Rain doesn't slow cars down at all. It is scary on a freeway with cars passing us at seventy-five. We limped into Pocatello, were not thrown out of the Denny's restaurant for dripping all over, had the best hot chocolate ever, and spent two days in a motel waiting out the storm. It was a fair sized storm with tornado warnings along our way and since we don't often experience tornados where we live, we decided to wait. Two days was way more than we could stand in a motel room, so even though it was still cloudy, windy, and potential for rain, we took off again. We rode hard and made it half way across Wyoming that day. Exhaustion and dark-time caught up and made us spend another night in a motel, which brings up a question: why is there never a campground handy at days end when you are on a bike? We had camping gear-we never used it. We kept saying we were not staying in motels this trip. Maybe we should say we are not staying in campgrounds. The last time we actually used the camp gear was four years ago on our trip to the Canadian Rockies. Great trip it was too. Would love to write about it too which leaves you all open for another story.

We took some side trips before going on into Cheyenne but we got there on day five. Three days riding and two in a motel. We learned some things on this trip as I tend to do on all trips. Riding in Wyoming can be iffy proposition in Sept. We became quite concerned at one point that we might encounter snow. I envisioned shipping our scooters home on a truck-not a pleasant vision. All in all, it was a great trip. The rain, bugs etc. are just part of the sport. I could also talk about bugs (later). We spent several days in Cheyenne and then rode home. Somewhere in there we got back into summer weather and had to stop and peel off several layers of clothes.

You have now been subjected to one of my stories, I like bike stories but I also want to hear stories from all of you. All stories are welcome. I want to hear of your adventures. They allow us to vicariously live others experiences. Unusual stories are great too. Let's hear from you!

Marge Kramer wrote:

I received B.P Kramer's "USS Askari Association Newsletter". B.P. enjoyed this very much, very proud of the "USS Askari".

B.P passed away on December 23, 2007. B.P died from Lymphoma after fighting this battle since 2002.

Thank you.  
Marge Kramer  
108 S Wilson St  
Ulysses, KS 67780

Roger wrote:

Got my membership card. Thank you. I don't have any info on our barber Benefield, got a few pictures of him.

I came on board Askari 7-67. We were still down at the Vung Taw finishing up putting the last of the LCM-6's together and Cup's and taking on diesel, food and ammo. I headed up river past Dong Tam.

Stayed up river the rest of my tour. I was the leading commissary-man. Spent Christmas 67 in Nam.

I stayed watch over my cooks during dinner. We had good food took me three months to get things cleaned and bad food dry and frozen dumping in the river.

I stepped out on the fantail one day after chow to smoke a cig. I saw a VC come out on the riverbank. Didn't think much of it until he put on his shoulder what looked like a rocket launcher. I think he got off 4-5 rockets two hit the ammo LST and she was loaded with 105's 40mm 3 in 50. Any way she got out of there fast as an LST could go. No second arm explosions. Thank God.

I know we leveled the beach head and called the in air power, dropped their ammo but Charlie Was gone in some hole by then.

Good thing none of the flotilla was hurt bad...

I am 73 years now had three strokes and 4 discs in my neck and back fused kind of getting forgetful too. The tour in name changed me a lot. I will never forget it. I call my baker Lee Daley. He was

My life saver. We had a mess to get done and start feeding the best we could.

John H. Spencer wrote:

I was happy to get the recent USS Askari Association newsletter-bulletin.

I was a medical officer on Askari about 1-3-51 until 2-15-52. My daughter was born about 3 days after reporting aboard ship. My wife and I had not finally decided on name and it took three months to get name settled. I went to most of my medical school education under NAVY V-12 program. I got my MD degree and interned and started life, but I volunteered when the Korean War out and I felt that I owed it to my country.

I was about 28 years old at that time, well within range of most officers. I was a "greenhorn" but did my duty. You will note that I was 8-10 years older than most of the sailors on ship. I got "Poppenburger's" (sp) telephone number who was a barber and apparently he had a twin brother on ship. He said that there was two other set of twins on ship. I wasn't aware of all of this. He apparently was in poor health or some other reason was not interested in Askari Organization when I called him about 20 years ago.

I had been in close contact with (Lt) Chester Fark of Indiana, who died about seven years ago. The only other ship-mate (alive) was Al Woods of Illinois, who actually reported to Askari about 4 months after I was transferred. He was a member of the Illinois LST association, and I received word that he died about 5 years or ago. He was former treasurer and I am sure that you knew him. Apparently there not many or any Askari sailors alive of my vintage.

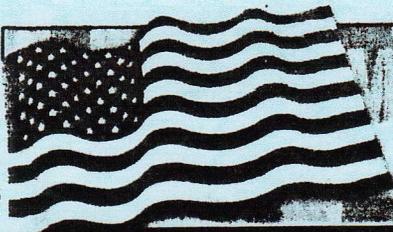
My skipper was LT. Rueber and I believe that he died in the 50's.

My wife had a brain clot from fall about 5 ½ years ago and she had clot removed and had marvelous recover. Our daughter who lives in Eugene, OR visited several time when she was real bad, suggested that we sell house, etc and moved out here, which we did five years ago this day. That is why we are out here in Oregon.

I am 85 years old and have some health problems, etc, as does my wife, and although we would love to attend the reunion, it is very doubtful that we can attend. We attended a reunion about 20 years ago in Louisville, KY where we met many great people

If my memory serves me correctly, Askari means "Turkish Warrior".

Please give our best regards to the old Askari Sailors.



# OHIO AMPHIBS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XV, No. 73 March 2009

Email: walkmary1@sbcglobal.net

## THE STORY OF "TAPS"

We, in the United States have all heard the haunting song, "Taps," it's the song that gives us the lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes, but do you know the story behind the song? I think you'll be interested to find out about its humble beginnings. Reportedly, it all happened in 1862, during the /civil War, when the union Army's Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of a narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moaning of a severely wounded soldier on the field, not knowing if it was a Union or a Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back to his lines for medical care. Crawling, on his stomach, through gunfire, the Captain reached the man and pulled him back to the union lines. When the Captain finally reached his lines, he discovered the man was a Confederate soldier, but the man was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier, it was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South and when the war broke out, without telling his father the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy stature, His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Union Army Band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down, since the soldier



was a Confederate, but out of the respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The Captain chose a Bugler, he asked the Bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found, on a piece of paper, in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps," used at military funerals, was born. The words are:

Day is done-Gone the sun..From the lake..From the hills..From the sky..All is well..Safely rest..God is nigh..Fading light..Dims the sight..And a star..Gems the sky..Gleaming bright..From afar..Drawing nigh..Falls the night..Thanks and praise..For our days..Neath the sun..Neath the stars  
Neath the sky..As we go..This we know..God is nigh.

Welcome Aboard:

The Askari Association would like to welcome a new member Donald Fillion and his wife Dottie.

Reunion is coming fast. Get you hotel information and details on the MRFA website.  
Dates are September 2-6 2009 in Indianapolis, Indiana

New this year is A Free Trip to Indiana Live! Casino

MRFA Sept. 4, 2009

10am-2pm

Pre Registration:

Register by 8/24/09 by and receive \$10.00 free slot play and \$5.00 dinner.

Guest who register after 5/24/09 5pm will still receive \$5.00 free slot play.

To register call Erin Smith @ 317-421-8974 or email your first name, last name, phone number,  
Address and date of birth to:

ERIN. Smith @ INDY\_LIVE.com

Reunion Reservation Form

To register for the reunion, you need to fill out the information on the reservation form and mail it to the MRFA. A blank form is enclosed in the newsletter.

Hotel Reservations

Dates September 2-6, 2009.

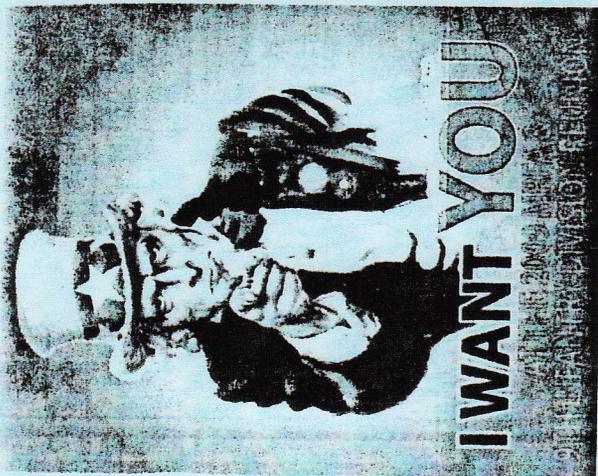
Adam's Mark Hotel

2544 Executive Dr.

Indianapolis, IN 46241

Room rates are \$79.00 a night. To make your reservations call the hotel at (317)248-2481. Be sure to mention you're making your reservations under the Mobile Riverine Force Association along with the dates you are staying.

The Story of Taps was submitted by Ed & Virgene Toth.



**MRFA**

**REUNION REGISTRATION**

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: AUG. 22, 2009**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
UNIT \_\_\_\_\_  
NAMES OF WIFE, FAMILY AND/OR GUEST(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to enclose your check or money order payable to MRFA with this form. Send to:  
MRFA Reunion, 106 Bellevue Dr., Conover, NC 28613

| REGISTRATION INFO  | QTY | COST    | TOTAL                    |
|--|-----|---------|--------------------------|
| MRFA MEMBER Registration Fee: Included with your registration, you will also receive a complimentary registration for one (1) guest (spouse, significant other, etc.)  | 1   | \$35.00 | \$35.00                  |
| Additional Guest(s): Additional guests include children and/or friends, etc. Note: this fee is applicable to each additional guest.  |     | \$10.00 |                          |
| Non-Member Registration Fee: If you serve as part of the MRFA (i.e. 1st or 11th Air Military Division or any other Army or Navy supporting unit), but are not a member of the MRFA, this fee applies to you. |     | \$50.00 |                          |
| GRAND TOTAL ENCLOSED   |     |         | <input type="checkbox"/> |

NOTE

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