



THE MAGOFFIN MESSENGER

The Newsletter of USS Magoffin (APA-199)

Veteran's Association

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*The Magoffin Messenger is a quarterly publication for and by the members of the USS Magoffin Veteran's Association. This newsletter as well as a wealth of other USS Magoffin information and history may be found at:
www.ussmagoffin.org*

President's Message

It looks like the great weather we have enjoyed this summer is getting close to coming to an end. Winter is fast approaching, and I would like to remind everyone to try to be prepared for whatever mother nature might send your way. Keep an eye on friends and relatives, and check on them if bad weather hits.

Kay and I have enjoyed a good summer, and are looking forward to the changing of the seasons. We are looking to maybe down-sizing a little, we will wait to see what might happen in that respect.

I want to thank everyone that sent us a note or called, concerning the reunion in Norfolk. It was our privilege and pleasure to host. By all accounts everyone had a good time. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville, Tennessee.

We are working on putting a USS Magoffin plaque in the ship's store, and hope it will be well received. Ray Furlow has been working diligently on keeping the store up and running, and he tells me that sales are down a little, so I encourage everyone to shop and support the store.

I want to thank Joe Beninato for his continued work as the Association's Treasurer. Thank you Mike for everything. A huge thank you goes out to Emmon Rogers for taking on the duties as Newsletter editor. Thanks again Terry for maintaining an excellent Website. And to Tom Haglage: I appreciate your work as Secretary and for accepting the task of hosting the next reunion in Nashville.

A reminder, that the annual dues for the association are now \$20.00, and checks should be made payable to "The USS Magoffin Association".

I received a letter from Canada's Korea Veterans Association back in September, asking our Association if we would join other Associations and groups in petitioning the Canadian Postal Service to commission a Canadian Korean War commemorative stamp for the 60th Anniversary.

(continued in next column)

President's Message (continued)

Mr. Back sent me a list of letters already received and it is a very impressive list to say the least. Before I compose the letter joining their effort, I wanted to give anyone a chance to make their opposition, or endorsement known. I will wait until December to compose the letter, either supported the effort or telling them we choose not to make an endorsement.

Rick Rakar wanted to attend the reunion this year, but was scheduled to undergo Chemo-Therapy at the same time we were in Norfolk. He called me several times before, with excitement in his voice, and numerous times after, telling me he wished he could have made it. Rick found several of his shipmates through our association, and talked to them on the phone or via E-Mail. He assisted Tommy Lopez in getting in touch with us, and asked me if I could write a letter for Tommy to help with his VA benefits. Rick called me to thank me for writing the letter and we talked for about 45 minutes, reliving old times in Boat Group. Rick's fight ended just a few days later, and Tom Lopez called me to inform me that he had passed. That was Rick, up to the end, he was worried about someone else, and trying to help. I personally want his family to know, that our thoughts are with them, and that they can call on me anytime.

If anyone has news or issues, please contact me. If I don't know the answer, I will make sure I find someone that does.

Jim "Bucky" Earven, President
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