

# USS ROCHESTER (CA-124)



Association



Vol. II, No. 18

# News Letter

May 2009

## Reunion 2010

### Milwaukee, Wisconsin

September 23- 27, 2010

The dates are set, and the Wyndham Milwaukee Airport Hotel has been chosen for our 2010 reunion.

I'm quite excited that this promises to be a fun reunion, not only can we get together and share the company of our shipmates, but we can also share stories and events that took place on our ship, The Rochester.

I went aboard the Rochester in January, 1955 at the tender age of 18 as a kiddy cruiser. I was assigned to the 5th division where I learned that religion had nothing to do with the "Holy Stone". Soon after I was transferred to the Fox Division, as part of the Armory group where I spent the rest of my navy stint. While on board I forged a lifelong friendship with plank owner Gene Bieber that has lasted to this day.

At our last reunion in Washington, I was assigned as the point of contact person for our visit to Milwaukee in 2010. At that time, Gene Bieber told me that while I was on board, our Gunner, Gene Anderson, said to Gene, "if you want something done and done right, give it to Rigoni". I'm hoping to live up to those expectations.

Thus far the tentative activities, while in Milwaukee, are as follow:

A visit to the US Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Illinois.

A dinner cruise on the Milwaukee River/Lake Michigan.

A tour of the Miller/Coors Brewery.

A visit to the Potawatomi Casino.

Your ladies will gladly take your Casino winnings to the Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa.

A visit to the Harley-Davidson Museum.

A tour of Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory- The Domes.

One of the big yearly events in Milwaukee is "OKTOBERFEST" and the reunion was purposely scheduled to coincide with that event and it should be fun for all.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Milwaukee.

*John Rigoni*



## From The Secondary Con

Garry Phillips, President

Having just completed what I expect will be my last tour of duty with the U.S. Government, it is good to report that it was also one of my three favorite postings – the ROCHESTER being one of them. Twenty years in the Navy and twenty-three years as a civilian is ... a long time. My last two years in Iraq at the U.S. Embassy afforded the opportunity to be around a lot of military personnel, and I naturally gravitated toward the Navy. It's a different world today.

Most striking in Baghdad was the absence of the Navy uniform. All the military wore the same thing. Oh, there were some slight differences in the design of camouflage among the services, but basically, the uniforms were all the same. The sailors joked about being in "the Sandbox Navy."

The Chief Petty Officers formed the International Zone (IZ) CPO mess, and I was invited to participate in most of its activities, including a limited role in the induction of new CPO selectees. The new process (since I was initiated in 1968) includes a protracted training period involving PE, seminars, and instruction periods where the new inductees are required to both teach and be taught. Although hazing is forbidden, the induction is very much like a boot camp for CPOs! It's a great improvement over the process when I put on the hat.

The induction is a morale, training, and pride building exercise. It emphasizes the importance of responsibility in leadership. It made me proud of our young men and women and our cherished Navy connection.

I look forward to seeing you all in Milwaukee in 2010.

Best regards, Garry



## Recipe For Happiness

Author: Unknown

### INGREDIENTS:

2 heaping cups of patients.  
2 hands full of generosity  
A dash of laughter  
Plenty of faith  
1 heart full of love  
1 handful of understanding  
A generous sprinkly of kindness  
Combine patience, love and generosity with understanding. Add a dash of laughter and sprinkle generosity with kindness. Add plenty of faith and mix well. Spread over a period of a lifetime and serve everybody you meet.

## When I'm an Old Lady and Live with my Kids

Author: Unknown

When I'm an old lady, I'll live with each kid.  
And bring so much happiness....just as they did.  
I want to pay back all the joy they've provided.  
Returning each deed. Oh, they'll be so excited!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)  
I'll write on the wall with reds, whites and blues,  
And bounce on the furniture wearing my shoes.  
I'll drink from the carton and then leave it out.  
I'll stuff all the toilets and oh, how they'll shout!  
(When I'm, an old lady and live with my kids)  
When they're on the phone and just out of reach.  
I'll get into things like sugar and bleach.  
Oh, they'll snap their fingers and then shake their head,  
And when that is done I'll Hide under the bed!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)  
When they cook dinner and call me to eat,  
I'll not eat my green beans or salad or meat.  
I'll gag on my okra, spill milk on the table.  
And when they get angry I'll run...if I'm able!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)  
I'll cross both my eyes just to see if they stick.  
I'll take off my socks and throw one away.  
And play in the mud 'til the end of the day!  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)  
And later in bed, I'll lay back and sign.  
I'll thank God in prayer and then close my eyes.  
My kids will look down with a smile slowly creeping  
And say with a groan  
"She's so sweet - when she's sleeping!"  
(When I'm an old lady and live with my kids)

---

## Chaplain's Corner

Frank West

### PERSPECTIVE

While attending a funeral service for a saintly elderly lady this week, I was reminded of the perspective of life that was a real encouragement. I reviewed comments made in a modern translation called "The Message". From John 14:1-4 the translation states, "You trust God, don't you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father's home. If that weren't so, would I have told you that I'm on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I'm on my way to get your room ready, I'll come back and get you so you can live where I live."

We live in a rapidly changing world and it is difficult to keep up with things that are new and demanding. But, things were new to me on the Rochester. I still use and appreciate some of the things I learned. I was proud of the accomplishments the "Roc" made in Korea. Now, I am proud of what the Navy Seals were able to do this week.

In this changing world, I find it helpful to remember this life is a journey and there are scripture promises to give perspective as we look to the future.

Frank West  
Chaplain  
[fawest@jps.net](mailto:fawest@jps.net)

---

### New Members

We wish to welcome aboard (again) the new USS Rochester Association members:

Charles E. McFarland, BT6, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & B Divisions  
DOB 51-54

John "Jack" Albert Morley, SN, S-1 Division  
DOB 48-49

Dana G. Ordway, SK2, S-1 Division  
DOB 57-59

Richard E. Schultz, IC1, OE & E Division  
DOB 56-58

Robert E. Siler, SN, 4<sup>th</sup> Division  
DOB 51-54

---

## Association Officers

Garry L. Phillips, President	Richard Becker, Executive VP
Gordon W. Cargill, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Donald Schnirel, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP
Joseph S. Hill, Sec./Treasurer	Frank West, Chaplain
Jimmy Young, MAA	Larry Stone, Storekeeper
Louis DiRusso, Director	Merlin A. Scheller, Director

This newsletter is published quarterly by the USS ROCHESTER Association. The Association's officers encourage questions and comments. You may contact the Editor by writing Gordon Cargill  
11485 Luz Place, San Diego, CA 92127  
(858) 592-9366

[scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scotsmann31@sbcglobal.net)

Association website:  
[www.USSRochester.org](http://www.USSRochester.org)

Rochester Museum and Science Center  
[www.rmsc.org](http://www.rmsc.org)

---

## TAPS

**The following shipmates were reported to have passed away recently. If anyone has additional or different information, please let us know.**

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>Yr</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>OnBd</u>
Richard Cortez	WV	2009	4 <sup>th</sup>	49-53
William R. Denny, Jr.	PA	2008	4 <sup>th</sup>	51-54
Richard L. Derry	NV	2008	K/OI	50-53
Charles E. Gentry	RI	2008	3 <sup>rd</sup>	48-56
Robert A. Litts	MO	2009	X	48-52
A.W. Robertson	TX	2009	Chaplain	60-62
Alfred R. Stanbridge	CA	2009	R	55-59

---

## Crew News

USS ROCHESTER CA-124  
Division U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corp.

No input received

---

## How Small Is Our Big World?

*LarryStone*

Mary and I took a short trip to Springfield, IL for a consultation a physician March 15<sup>th</sup>. As we entered the waiting room Mary went to the check-in desk and I started looking around for a magazine to thumb through and a seat for both of us. The waiting room had perhaps a dozen people scattered around the room.

As usual, when we leave the house, I wore my Rochester ball cap. As I approached a couple of seats I noticed a couple already seated next to the seats I had chosen. The gentleman was looking at me with a rather quizzical expression on his face.

We struck up a conversation and my history lesson started right then and there. (Lord, please forgive me if I don't have their names right.)

We had the honor and privilege to be speaking with Lyndell and Nellie Rochester. Lyndell stated that his brother Lionel D. Rochester, Avionics Chief Petty Officer USN (Ret.) visited Rochester Castle just outside London, England, before he retired. The caretaker at the Castle had never met a real Rochester before and Lionel got a bit more out of the Castle visit than he might have anticipated. It must have been real heart-warming for the Chief.

Lyndell's Great Grandfather James S. Rochester settled in the Rochester, New York, area. Although Lyndell made no claim that his relatives actually caused the city to be named after, or for his family name, there is a good chance that his Great Grandpappy had something to do with it. I do not recall where Lyndell said his father, John Rochester settled. The Rochester Family has a website online if you care to look them up.

Lyndell has a form of muscular dystrophy that I can neither pronounce nor spell. All I know is it is difficult for him to walk and without the leg braces he wears it would be about impossible. I can tell you one thing for sure though ... his illness hasn't taken the gleam and twinkle from his eyes.

Lyndell and his lovely wife Nellie live in Waverly, IL. We conversed quite a bit while we were in that waiting room. And, would you believe it: I never saw a single article in that magazine.

Oh, if only all doctor visits could be so pleasant and rewarding.

---

## Membership & Mailing Information

### DUES FOR 2009 ARE DUE NOW

*Cookeville, TN* – Dues for 2009 should have been mailed soon after January 1st. Hopefully those who are behind will mail their dues in soon. If you are unsure of your status, check the address mailing label of your News Letter. An example: Pete Smith 09 would indicate your dues have been paid up for the year 2009. Joe Hill will be glad to verify your membership status. Joe can be reached at 4011 Ditty Road, Cookeville, TN 38506-7663. Phone Number 931-432-4848. E-Mail: [NiteCrawl@twlakes.net](mailto:NiteCrawl@twlakes.net)

Please send in your dues now so that you will continue receiving the News Letter. These are difficult times we are living in and the Officers of the Association realize that there may be those who are not able to pay their dues. If there is a financial problem in paying your dues, the Association will grant and waive the dues requirements. The Association WILL NOT ATTEMPT INVESTIGATION, AND WILL ACCEPT YOUR WORD. If this situation exists, contact Joe Hill.

### SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS SNOW BIRDS

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES ESPECIALLY YOU SNOW BIRDS WHO MOVE WITH THE WEATHER SHOULD SEND THESE CHANGES TO JOE HILL.

Notification of changes will keep the mail following on a steady course.

---

## Ship's Planks

A few years ago, the Navy was in a cleaning mode and came across planking that was salvaged from the deck of the USS Rochester. These planks were given to the Association and have been distributed to members of the ship's company that requested a piece of the Roch. These planks have been cut into twelve to eighteen inch pieces. Each piece will require some cleaning up but they do clean up and make a nice memento. New members to the Association or members who have not attended a reunion may not know of the availability of the ship's deck planks in the Ship's Store. The only cost is for the shipping. If interested, complete the Ship's Store Order Form under non clothing items and forward to Larry Stone, Storekeeper. A sample of what can be done with the plank is what I have done with my piece of the Roch.



Also available in the Ship's Store is a ball point pen made from small pieces of the planking. The name of the ship is inscribed on the pen. The box is NOT made from the ship's plank but from a very fine grade of wood. On the cover is a laser printed picture of the ship and they make a very nice combination. This also can be purchased from the Ship's Store.



## Navy Pay Day

Deck sailors scrape and paint and swab  
And enjoy the salt air and sun  
But disbursing clerks toil a deck below  
At a job that is never done

A DK can be seen most any hour  
In his office where he calculates  
With meticulous skill and accuracy  
The pay for all ranks and rates

The most popular officer on any ship  
Is not the Captain they say  
It is the favorite office of all the crew  
The Disbursing Officer who hands out the pay

Sailors would die for their country  
But they live for dates on the Plan Of The Day  
They live for liberty and shoreleave  
And the day they get their pay

When the Disbursing Clerks post the pay list  
There is excitement in the air galore  
There will be money for necessities  
And money to spend ashore

The Boatswain pipes for pay call  
Like he does for emergency drills  
The sailors fall in line alphabetically  
To receive their pay in crisp new dollar bills

Then the sailors wait for liberty call  
And all the excitement that lies in store  
Happy is the day when a sailor gets his pay  
And at 1600 hours he goes ashore

*Jess Johnson*  
07-20-07

