

# USS MULIPHEN AKA/LKA 61

No. 18

November 2012

**G**reetings USS Muliphen Shipmates,  
This is not political, but I do approve this message. As a matter of fact you might get this after the election. If not! Please go to the poles on November 6th & cast your Vote. This is probably the most important Presidential election for our Country in our life time. The future for our Children and Grandchildren is at stake. Let's come together as the Muliphen crew and vote our conscious. God Bless America!



**Donors.** First I would like to say "**Thank You**" to all those generous shipmates that donated to our non-profit military organization. Without your help we could not keep things going. The generous donors for 2012 are:

James Dominesey, David & Brenda Baines, Edward & Louise Martin, John Spencer, Alan & Laura Bieler, Courtland & Francine Byrd, Cornelius & Mary McGrory, David & Ruth Elder, Ward & Catherine Dean, Stephen & Lois Masterson, Charles & Juanita Cammack, Stewart & Mary Lindsay, Edward & Theresa McCaffrey, Victor & Donna Paradise, David & Lois Shingleton, Paul & Margaret Chiasson, Richard & Virginia Schroeder, Joan Wiant, Masao & Ikuko Aochi, Franklin & Barbara Wyker, John & Barbara Fahey, Ronald Johnson, Ronald Desorcy, Homer Ratliff, Michael Keesling, Carl Huth, Caleb Blanton, William Boyd, Paul Basitka, Jay Lose, Bobby Cook, Wayne Quinn.

Along with financial Donors we have had gracious giving of physical items, a Captain's commemorative ship's wheel, a Muliphen

baseball uniform, a custom made USS Muliphen ashtray (made by the USS Pocono), 4 Microfiche reels covering the late 40's early 50's, books, photos and letters. (The photo's and letters, I've scanned and returned to the owner). Many of the items are going to be sent to the Museum in Fort Pierce, FL for display. Take time to check your attic and garage, you may have an item or two that brings back wonderful memories for yourself and your shipmates. Remember we are a non-profit 501(c)19 Military Organization and if the item(s) are of substantial value, get them appraised and then you can use the appraised value as a tax write off. "Just saying!"



**2013 Reunion.** On my update agenda is the 2013 4 day Cruise on 5 May thru 9



May 2013. Here are a couple of reminders. The rates will go up, when and how much is still an unknown, but they will go up. I know this because Carnival wanted me to remind those not yet booked. We have 38 people booked as of this message. If you have already booked (independently) and not listed as one of my "38" because you went through a independent "travel agent or friend", that's OK. Please ask them to attach your information to our group booking number 27LDR1 "USS Muliphen Reunion". 1-886-721-3225. If the travel agent say they can't do that, please send me your booking information, I'll talk with the Carnival side and at least I have a record of you and your friends booking. I'm planning on making a "reunion book" and I don't want anyone left out. On that note, one of the special things all cruises do, is take formal and random photos of

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all cruisers. Please purchase your formal picture and share it with me after the reunion for the "reunion book". I'm sure most of you will be taking your own digital photo's and I hope you will share some of them with me too.

I want to share with you that I'm working on a pass-over the charted location of the "Muliphen Reef" where a short memorial may be held. The more people we have attached to the booking number **27LDR1**, the more benefits for the entire group 1-866-721-3225. I've been advised by Carnival, the power of numbers may get us a meeting room, and some other in-room benefits etc. Book now and book early. Also, don't forget you trip cancellation insurance. Check with AAA, Carnival or another agency. If you are a returning cruiser with Carnival, don't forget to login and check your "cruise points" at [www.carnival.com](http://www.carnival.com).

## **Muliphen Ship's Store NOTICE:**

If you are planning on purchasing a Muliphen Tee Shirt or Ball Cap from the Ship's Store to take with you on the cruise, the purchase and shipping deadline is April 1st, 2013. For purchases please contact, Ship's Storekeeper: George Hollins at (540) 872-2870. Our Storekeeper will NOT bring items to sell on the cruise.



**Pre and Post** 2013 reunion. I'm also working on "Free" admission for the week before and the week after the reunion, to the St. Lucie County Regional History Center aka The "Muliphen Museum". 1-772-462-1795 Admission will require you make reservations by advising me of your intentions to visit the museum and to wear your "Mule's" hat or tee shirt. The museum is located at: 414 Seaway Drive. Fort Pierce,

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Florida 34949 and is approx. 93 miles south, about 1 hour 40 min. drive. from Port Canaveral, FL or 120 miles, about 2 hours from Orlando's airport.

**2014 Reunion.** My wife, Liz, and I have visited several places and plan to continue the visits in preparation of the 2014 reunion. We have made site visits to: The Tradewinds Resort of St. Petersburg, FL, The Woodlands Resort of Williamsburg, VA, and the Naval Station Norfolk at Norfolk, VA. These visits are in anticipation of a "self-organized reunion" much like those held in the past.



If **you** have any recommendations for a New reunion site, please let me know. I have to admire our past Presidents and their committees who did a lot of leg work, phone calls and communications to put together the great reunions. I hope I'm up to the task. I've spoken with Lou "Skip" Sanders of the USS Rankin. We are discussing having a co-reunion again. (The Rankin has not decided on their 2014 reunion location or date) They would love a co-reunion. We all discovered at the last co-reunion, not only did we have a great time with many new friends, we also had much in common. We also found there is both a financial and activity benefit in large numbers.

**F.Y.I.** the USS Rankin has been invited to our 2013 Cruise reunion, but as you all may remember they prefer Fall reunions. A Fall reunion is the only issue that stands in the way of the co-reunion with the USS Rankin. Only time and numbers of participants will tell. The Rankin continues to have over 100 attendees at their reunions, while the Muliphen numbers are dwindling to the 40's. I was asked by Shipmate

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John Spencer, "why don't we have more than one reunion a year?" That's something to think about. We could easily join a "Fall" reunion with the Rankin. It's all in the numbers. There are several other AKA's out there interested in a Co-Reunion because of the same problem, dwindling numbers. I'll keep you up dated on this issue.



**Finding Shipmates.** It's harder than finding Elmo. I have been able to identify over 1800 former Officers and Enlisted men from various Muliphen documents, spanning the time from 1944 to 1970. That number is only the tip of the iceberg because I haven't even looked at the donated Microfiche reels from 1949 thru 1956. Each Microfiche covers details of ship's log information for more than one AKA, therefore I'm hoping when I have them converted to digital, we will be able to sell copies to the other AKA's and recoup some of the digital conversion cost. Side note: if you are in Washington DC, going through the archives of Microfiche, please get one or more copies of the Muliphen years. I'm looking for 1944 thru 1948 and any from the 1960's and decommission in 1970.

When the discovery of shipmates begins, as I comb through the digital conversions, the true digging begins. The Microfiche will not tell us where they are now. Only that they were once shipmates. Thanks to the computer and internet age, searching is easier, but the old fashion calling and mailing, must be used as a follow up. It's a big job and I hope that it pays off in the long run. *(Not long ago, I was contacted by a care-giver, who has found a way*

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*to communicate with an old shipmate with dementia. The care-giver dropped names, dates and events that had been posted on the Muliphen website and was pleasantly surprised when the old gent perked up and started talking.)* It isn't a cure, but the care-giver enjoyed communicating with the old gent.

## Memorial for 2012

- ✚ Schreck Walter D. 1/22/12
- ✚ Wiant Ronald Lee 2/24/12
- ✚ Trees Jack Pine 3/19/12
- ✚ Crimmin Carroll 3/28/12
- ✚ Stanlake Edward 5/11/12
- ✚ Zilla LaVern C. 6/12/12
- ✚ Johnston Robert G. 7/23/12
- ✚ Keesee Thomas Griffith 10/5/12
- ✚ McClellan Roger L. 10/9/12



## USS MULIPHEN NEWSLETTER

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The USS Muliphen Reunion Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(19) veterans' organization. Donations qualify as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

Members of the Executive Board are: Gerald Wotherspoon, President, Richard Markley, Vice President, Louise Martin, Secretary, Linda Sharp, Treasurer, George Hollins, Storekeeper, John Ellas, Galley Officer, Herman Autry, Chaplain, Fred Rodriguez, Historian, Joan Wiant, Membership Officer.

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The following is a questionnaire to be filled out and mailed with your donation envelope. If you have already donated for 2012, you may disregard the donation. If you choose **not** to donate, that's OK. But, please send me the updated "shipmate profile". We have 1800 members, I have 440 mail address and 150 email. Email makes for faster communications. Thank you.

**Please Print**



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

First - Middle - Last

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

Number - Street - (Apt. #) or P.O. Box - City - State - Zip.

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Your email: \_\_\_\_\_

**(If you don't have an email address, please share one with a family member or friend, who will relay msg.)**

Your website address (if you have one) \_\_\_\_\_

Rank and Years you were on the USS Muliphen: \_\_\_\_\_

Nick-Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Significant others name: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments? \_\_\_\_\_



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Please complete this form, cut it and mail it with the Donation Envelope (Donation NOT required). All information is kept confidential. The list is not given or sold to anyone. If a shipmate calls and wants to know about another shipmate, I'll share the information only after discussion on who is making the request.

*Gerald Wotherspoon*

**See you all in 2013.**

Gerald "Jerry" Wotherspoon (64-65) President, USS Muliphen Reunion Assoc. We are a 501(c)19 military organization.