

# USS MULIPHEN AKA-61

## 16TH ANNUAL REUNION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #16

OCTOBER 2011

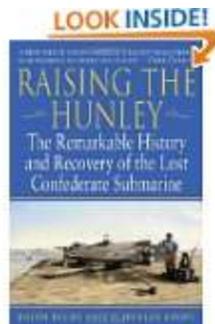
### Message from the Helm,

Welcome aboard ye ole salts. I think that should have been the theme at our Charleston, SC reunion. What a great Navy city, with it's historical bay and harbor plus perfect weather.



As everyone should know by now, we had a joint reunion with the USS Rankin AKA-103. In 1945, Charleston was the location of the Rankin's commissioning. Her ship's company was a lot of fun and their numbers alone allowed us to enjoy better tours. We hope to see them again.

There were two very good tours. The visit to the Hunley and the visit to the Yorktown at Patriot's Point. Our Saturday evening banquet was highlighted by our guest, Brian Hicks author of "Raising the Hunley". Big Thanks to Herman Autry for arranging Brian's visit.



The annual Board meeting was very constructive as we passed and adopted the new By-Laws. Everyone shared our future reunion concerns. We decided on next years reunion. Location and date, Chattanooga, TN from May 21st to the 24th. As you can see we are trying Monday thru Thursday in an attempt to get better rates. The down side, the USS Rankin has yet to decided on participating with us. We should find out soon.

**Scuttlebutt News:** Other AKA's are interested in our Joint Reunions. One idea is to have a "luncheon or dinner" in the Norfolk area on a special date (annually) at a specific location (annually), just for AKA's. Think about it.

### Dues vs. Donations

As everyone should know by now, we no longer collect the annual \$25.00 dues. We have changed to "donations" and will attempt to rely on the donations indefinitely. There is a by-law notation that allows us to return to dues, if deemed necessary.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find a self-addressed envelope. Please consider making a donation check, then stamp and mail the envelope. "How much should I donate?" you ask. That is up to you. Below will give you an idea of what donations cover.

Stamps, envelopes, stationary, plaques for crewmember recognition, newsletter printing for 400 + former shipmates, website hosting. Dinner and a gift for our banquet speakers (they speak for free) but, it would be nice to pay for a professional once in a while. Sometimes, "silent-auction" gifts are purchased to supplement the donated gifts. Research for former shipmates and fees for the documents and microfiches. I would like to upgrade some of our reunion items. (display signs, display racks, even an overhead projector), and many more items.

We are a 501(c)19 Not-for-profit veterans organization, allowing tax deductions.

The majority of the work maintaining the Muliphen reunion association is behind the scenes, by your Board members and that's volunteer work, we can't put a price on that. If you want to help, please contact us.



## 2011 Reunion Attendees

1. Carl & Carol Olson
2. David & Barbara Olcefski
3. David & Ruth Elder
4. Edward & Louise Martin
5. Edward & Theresa McCaffrey
6. Gary & Patti Ebert
7. George & Rachel Hollins
8. Herman & Nancy Autry
9. James & Billie Jo Finley
10. Jerry & Liz Wotherspoon
11. John & Neva Ellas
12. Louis & Connie Gross
13. Richard & Darren Baer
14. Richard & Faith Markley
15. Richard & Ginny Schroeder
16. Ron & Joan Wiant

### *Muliphen & Rankin*



### *Treasurer's Report*

As of October 2011 we have a new Treasurer (Linda Sharp wife of Shipmate James Sharp) and a new Bank (Fifth/Third Bank). Ron and Joan have served the Muliphen Association very well. They've stepped down for health reasons but will maintain their position as "Membership Officer" communicating with new members and members in distress.

Transfer from the Wilmington Trust. to the Fifth/Third Bank on 9/1/11 = \$2851.69.

Deposits = \$105.21

Withdrawals = \$85.27

Balance on deposit as of 9/30/11 = \$2871.63

#### Cash from Reunion:

Income: 50/50 & Silent Auction = \$173.00

Expense: Award Plaques & Speaker's Dinner = \$100.00

Cash on hand: = \$73.00

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER 2011 MEMORIAL



- Raymond H. Kennedy 1/8/10
- Donald McNeill 1/10/10
- Lee W. Foster 2/4/10
- Donald B. Feser 2/26/10
- Jerome Scheel 3/25/10
- Clyde Vance 3/29/10
- Phillip I Dinkelberg 5/4/10
- Walter S. Gillespie 5/5/10
- John Lind 5/25/10
- George E. Soper 6/19/10
- James D. Beatty 6/29/10
- Walter Ciechon 7/9/10
- John C. Hoelzer 8/5/10
- George I Wagenheim 8/17/10
- Alfonse M. Makosky 9/2/10
- William R. Gallinagh 10/15/10
- Arthur S. Harry 10/22/10
- John S. Tomasiewicz 12/15/10
- Richard J. Dubose 1/16/11
- James N. Rosenthal 8/28/11

## 2011 USS Muliphen Reunion Association Board.



President: Gerald Wotherspoon (Liz)  
Vice President: Richard Markley (Faith)  
Secretary: Louise Martin (Edward)  
Treasurer: Linda Sharp (James)  
Store Keeper: George Hollins (Rachel)  
Galley Officer: John Ellas (Neva)  
Chaplain: Herman Autry (Nancy)  
Historian: Dr. Fred Rodriguez  
Membership Officer: Ron Wiant (Joan)  
Webmaster: Gerald Wotherspoon (Liz)  
Master at Arms: TBA

## Muliphen Museum Report

The St. Lucie County's Regional Historical Center, home of a USS Muliphen Higgins Boat and Muliphen artifacts is located at:



414 Seaway Dr. Fort Pierce, FL 34949. Phone: 772-462-1795. The *new* director is: Ms. Nancy Bennett. Please Note: (this is **not** the UDT Seal museum located just up the road.)

### Open Letter to all Shipmates:

An Apology is in order. For what? You ask. As President or Lead Helmsman, I feel it's my responsibility to help heal all shipmates verbal wounds.

Two of Our shipmates had strong words at the Gettysburg Reunion, causing feelings to be seriously hurt. The incident is long over and still causing "hurt" to the ship's company. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely apologize to all those offended. This is like a family torn apart and failing to communicate their pain.

For those parties involved, if you would like to talk to me about it. I'll listen. If you want to forget about it. I won't discuss it. The bottom line is, the reunion misses you, I miss you and want you to come back to the reunions. You all have much to share with your shipmates, both history and future. Please accept my apology and come back.

Sincerely,



Gerald Wotherspoon (64-65 USS Muliphen  
AKA-61)  
President USS Muliphen Reunion Assoc.

### Computer Updates:



Please E-mail me at [President@ussmuliphen.com](mailto:President@ussmuliphen.com) for updating your records:

Your Name - email address - home address - phone number and birth date. Remember this information is only shared with your shipmates on request.

Ship's website: [www.ussmuliphen.com](http://www.ussmuliphen.com)

FaceBook: [ussmuliphen.com](https://www.facebook.com/ussmuliphen.com)



THE OLD SALTS (l-r, above) David Ireland, Gilbert Purdy, John Griffith, and John King, from the steam sloop USS Mohican, back in 1888, have nothing, when it comes to beards, on a bushy foursome from attack cargo ship Muliphen. Below (l-r) Ralph Butler, BM3, Gary Pontious, BT3, Harold Conley, GMG1, and Kenneth McQuinn, GMG2, cultivated their whiskers while Muliphen spent 71 consecutive days at sea during its current deployment with the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.



1964

## Our Ladies History at a glance

**USS *Muliphen* (AKA-61/LKA-61)** was an *Andromeda* class attack cargo ship named after *Muliphen*, a star in the constellation *Canis Major*.

*Muliphen* (AKA-61) was laid down under Maritime Commission contract 13 May 1944 by Federal Shipbuilding and Dry-dock Co., Kearny, N.J.; launched 26 August 1944; sponsored by Mrs. John Hascock; acquired by the Navy 21 October 1944; and commissioned 23 October 1944, Lt. Comdr. Walter W. Williamson in command.

Following shakedown in Chesapeake Bay, *Muliphen* sailed 1 December 1944 to operate with the Key West, Fla., Sound School. On 14 December, she steamed for the Pacific where she joined Transport Division 43 off Pearl Harbor, and sailed to prepare for the invasion of Iwo Jima at Eniwetok, arriving 5 February 1945. *Muliphen* arrived off Iwo Jima 19 February, unloaded until 4 March, then retired to Saipan.

She departed 27 March for the invasion of Okinawa, took part in a feint landing 1 April, and repeated the feint the following day. Held in reserve off Okinawa until 10 April, she sailed then for Saipan and cargo duty between the Marianas and Solomons. She arrived Manila 18 September with a cargo of underwater demolition gear, and spent the next 3 months carrying occupation troops to Japan from the Philippines, until sailing for Seattle 24 November.

Serving with the Naval Transportation Service, for the next 4 years she carried men and supplies to Asiatic and Pacific ports, and supplied Point Barrow, Alaska in 1946 and 1947.

In 1950 *Muliphen* transferred to the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force, based at Norfolk. The following decade she rotated in a steady schedule of Caribbean and Mediterranean deployments. She participated in the amphibious landings at Beirut, Lebanon, when a prompt response by the 6th Fleet prevented Communist subversion of Lebanon's government. Continuing similar duty in the 1960's, she also took part in NATO exercises and the training of Naval Academy midshipmen.

On 1 January 1969, *Muliphen* was re-designated LKA-61.

*Muliphen* was struck from the Naval Register on January 1, 1977. On January 20, 1989 she was sunk off the coast of Stuart, Florida as an artificial reef.

*Muliphen* received two battle stars for World War II service.

### **Next Reunion**

Chattanooga, Tennessee May 21st thru 24th. at the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel.

Registration will begin after January 2012.

Keep this for your TAX records when you send your Tax Deductable Donation:

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Check: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

The USS *Muliphen* Reunion Association is an IRS 501(c)19 qualified Non-Profit Military Organization and all donations qualify as Tax Deductable.