

# USS Muliphen AKA-61

Number 19 Vol. 2



November 2014



## Greetings from the Helm:

As 2014 winds down, our 2015 reunion preparations are getting started. Nashville 2015 is expected to be a very active and fun reunion. I've been getting a lot of inquires and I expect a crowd. Guys from every decade should be there, thanks to the Address Book.

Here is what I would like for you to do to help out with the reunion notifications. *Send the below information to your local papers:*

-----Clip-----  
**"USS Muliphen AKA-61 Reunion for shipmates and friends for the years 1944-1970.**

**Location: Holiday Inn Nashville Opryland/Airport located at 2200 Elm Hill Pike, Nashville, TN 37214 Date: April 30th thru May 3rd 2015, Contact: Reunion President, Jerry Wotherspoon at 813-685-9477 for details."**

-----Clip-----  
Speaking of the Address Book, thanks to it's publication and distribution I might have awakened a sleeping giant. I now have identified over 2700 shipmates and there is no end insight. Finding them (present day) is the hardest part. I have full names, dates of services on the Muliphen and Service numbers and even birthdates in some cases. Current addresses are the hardest part to get. (I've found it easier to find an obituary than an address). I'm looking for some

help. 99% of the research can be done online, but the 1% of phone calls for confirmation still needs to be done. If you'd like to help, Please call me, Jerry Wotherspoon 813-685-9477



## Funeral

**Deep Six or Davy Jones Locker**, terms we Sailors all know. Recently, I've had some inquires about placing "shipmate" ashes/urn on the Muliphen Reef. After some research, I found a Certified Diver working at the UDT/SEAL Museum. They are willing to take the Ashes/Urn of our Shipmates to their final resting spot in the Bridge area of the Muliphen. Lisa Fulton and her husband have graciously offered their services, for the small fee of renting the boat. Here is the scenario. The Ashes/Urn must be brought to the Fort Pierce, FL docks and handed to the Diver, (if family members wishes to escort the Ashes, that would be OK). Plan on a 5 hour day for this trip. The trip to the Muliphen Reef is about 2 hours (about 12-15 miles from Fort Pierce). The actual dive and photographs will take about an hour, The return trip back will take 2 hours. The dive/memorial service will only be conducted during the calm water season of July and August. Therefore, start your preparation in June for transporting the Urn to the area. Contact me for questions about Ashes placement.



### Ship's Store:

As I've mentioned in the past our ship's store may soon close. However; I am presently negotiating with one of the shipmates to take it over. If the ship's store reopens, the information will be published on the website and new Storekeeper's name revealed.



### Unknown addresses of Shipmates

I had considered attaching a separate list of Shipmates with their "UNKNOWN" status. Due to the cost of extra pages and higher postage, I found it more economical to refer you to the USS Muliphen website at [www.ussmuliphen.com](http://www.ussmuliphen.com) and crews list.

The website is updated on a regular basis with status reports of former shipmates. As I research the names, I check for a current address or obituary. Although I don't publish current addresses, you can tell if I have one in my records, because I will put the "**City and State**" on the website. Anything listed as "**Unknown**" means I have nothing on the shipmate (no current address or obituary).

I'm asking you to visit the website and scan through the crews list. The list is getting very long, it is listed by Year, then Alphabetical by last name. If you know any of the shipmates on the list, Deceased or Alive, please contact me with the information.

Gerald Wotherspoon 813-685-9477 or [President@ussmuliphen.com](mailto:President@ussmuliphen.com)

I appreciate all the researchers I can get and I'll publish a new address book in a few months.

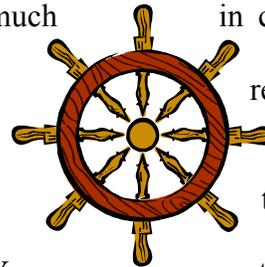
### Donations

Donations have been going very well. Remember Donation to the USS Muliphen Reunion Assoc. are tax deductible under Tax Status 501(c) 19.



### Other Reunion information:

Based on the continued request to have the reunions in the Spring, we will no longer co-reunion with the USS Rankin in the Fall. However, the USS Yancey AKA-93 may be interested in joining our Spring reunion. (They've tried the Fall with the Rankin, but I think they like the Spring best.) Again, the Yancey is an AKA and often traveled in the same circles with the Muliphen. We have much in common. I would



love to have the reunion by ourselves, but attendance rules these reunions. Traditionally, the Yancey uses the same reunion organizer as we have been using. They know the ropes and may be a good addition for us.

### Treasurers Report.

AS of October 25, 2014 we have **\$5,215.03** in our 5/3 Bank Account.

### Where are they now?

Does everyone remember this photo?



**Hint:** Friday, February 23, 1945 at around 1:00 PM. the small island of Iwo Jima. \_ \_ \_

Some of us will remember it from the history books, movies and TV History videos, but only a few of our living shipmates were there and saw it first hand..

USS Muliphen Seaman 1st class **Cyril H. Feldman**, was there, He met (had an encounter) with the famous photographer. Joseph Rosenthal. He is the Russian born Jew (later turned Catholic) Pulitzer prize winning photographer. As fate would have it, the now famous Associated Press (AP) photographer would soon meet up with Seaman 1st class Feldman. They had a brief encounter, while on a landing craft headed to Iwo Jima. Shipmate Feldman, observed a name tag on the Army type uniform worn by Mr. Rosenthal. Cyril commended Mr. Rosenthal for being a fellow Jew in the mist of this great battle. Mr. Rosenthal thanked him but made it clear that he was no longer Jewish, but now a Catholic. Later during the battle for Iwo Jima, Mr. Rosenthal would snap the sequence of pictures that would go down in history. Today, Seaman 1st Class, Cyril Feldman is alive and well, living in West Bloomfield, MI (outside of Detroit). He sends his best regards to all the shipmates of the USS Muliphen.

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If you or a family member have an interesting story about yourself or another shipmate, (keep it clean we have censors and loose lips sink ships). Please share it with us. I'll be happy to add your story to the next newsletter. Sometime the funniest things happened off ship (on liberty) and they can be added too.

It begins like this, "I remember one time when....." That should help you get started.



**Effective July 7, 2014: VA is changing its monetary burial benefits regulations to simplify the program and pay eligible survivors more quickly and efficiently. These regulations will authorize VA to pay, without a written application, most eligible surviving spouses basic monetary burial benefits at the maximum amount authorized in law through automated systems rather than reimbursing them for actual costs incurred.**

- **Under the current regulations, VA pays for burial and funeral expenses on a reimbursement basis. This requires survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally pays at the maximum amount permitted by law.**
- **The new burial regulations will permit VA to pay, at a flat rate, for burial and plot or interment allowances. This new laws enables the VA to make an automate payment of burial benefits to most eligible surviving spouses and more efficiently process other burial benefit claims.**

- The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service.



Just a reminder for the next reunion

**Silent Auction**

Bring a small gift to donate to the Muliphen for our "Silent Auction.



Here is how it works.

During the reunion, Silent Auction tickets will be sold for a \$1. You can place one ticket or as many as you like in a container representing the items. One ticket will be drawn and the winner will receive the item. All money will go to the association.

**50/50**



During the reunion banquet, a 50/50 drawing will be held. Tickets will be sold before/during the banquet. After the dinner the 50/50 ticket will be drawn and the winner splits the 50/50 pot with the association.

*(the income from these two events will cover misc. expenses, at the reunion. ie. guest speaker/entertainers dinner, etc.)*

**USS Muliphen News**

The USS Muliphen news is published by:

**The USS Muliphen Reunion Assoc.**  
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Back issues may be viewed online at:  
[www.ussmuliphen.com](http://www.ussmuliphen.com)

The USS Muliphen Reunion Assoc. is a non-profit 501(c)19 veterans' organization. Incorporated in Delaware. Donations to the Association qualify as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purpose.

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