

# USS WAINWRIGHT ASSOCIATION

Official Newsletter of the USS Wainwright Association

May 2007

Wow, has it been more than six months since we last saw our shipmates? That just about equals a good deployment doesn't it? Actually, I got to know the feeling our wives must have felt when they stood on the pier and watched the USS Wainwright pull away from the pier and head down the Cooper River. I stayed around the Hilton Hotel until way after nearly everyone headed back home that Sunday morning after our wonderful reunion. All of a sudden I'd said good-bye to everyone and the hospitality room was void of people, displays, and conversations. Man did I ever feel alone and empty!

For some reason this reunion meant more to me than any of the others. It wasn't because my wife **Leanne** and I hosted it in our town of Memphis and it wasn't all the preparation that went into it. After think about it for several months I've come to the conclusion that it was special to me because I really got to know you better than I ever had before. I felt like we were all in the same crew at the same time. I really came to appreciate the loyalty and love of the Wainwright we all have developed over the years. Thank you shipmates we look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville, Florida in 2008. Hey that's next year!

For those of you that couldn't attend the reunion - we missed you! Except for a few minor glitches (the hotel A/C quitting) my feedback indicates a good time was had by just about everyone.

## The President's Chair

There was a great windshield tour of Naval Support Activity Mid-South at Millington, TN. For those of you that met **Adm. Ann Rondeau** at our Milwaukee reunion we got to see the fruits of her work while she was the Commanding Officer at the base. From there we had a very moving memorial service for our departed shipmates. From there we boarded the bus for a trip to the National Bird Dog Museum and Field Trial Hall of Fame. Captain Gary Lockee and his wonderful wife greeted us and ushered us into a great southern style BBQ. From there we toured the museum while some went to see pewter being made. I will never forget the picture of the dog that appears to change directions as you walk from one side to the other.

Saturday took us to Graceland, the Mecca for all Elvis Presley fans. Though it was a hot day, it was very interesting and informative. Our Saturday night banquet featured a guest appearance by the King himself. Many had the opportunity to have a photo op with our Elvis impersonator. Many of you told me that you were able to see many of the other sights and sounds Memphis has to offer. Y'all come back ya hear?

Jacksonville promises to be equally a wonderful reunion. I really don't think it is the place we have it, so much as it is the great bunch of guys and gals that attend and make it fun. My hat is off to **Dan** and **Cara Bowman**, our official reunion coordinators, for the hard work and time they both put into making a reunion great for you. They excelled in Norfolk and we expect no less in Jacksonville. I'm sure they would appreciate any suggestions you might have.

While at the last reunion we started an ongoing Good Shipmate Award to be given to the individual the board feels has been most supportive of the USS Wainwright Association. The award is named the *Captain Lockee Good Shipmate Award* in honor of our second skipper **Captain Gary Lockee**. It was felt that he was only too deserving to be the very first recipient of the award named in his honor. Congratulations Captain Lockee, we salute you. If you know of some one that has gone above and beyond the call of duty for the good of the association and its shipmates let a board member know.

Keep in mind that our founder, **J.C. Carlson**, is our historian and is constantly on the lookout for stories of your shipboard experiences along with the liberty calls that you care to have made public. Dig out your old photos, scan them or send a copy to JC for his archives.

Check out the website. There have been many, many changes and all user-friendly. A lot of hard work has gone into this effort. Spamming was killing us in the past but this looks great. BZ to all involved.

We have an Executive Board meeting in Washington, DC this summer. If you have anything you would like brought up at this meeting please let one of the board members or myself know. Until we come along side next time - wishing you fair winds and following seas.

# OUR REUNION SURVEY

A Reunion Survey sheet was distributed to 61 shipmates and spouses who attended the Saturday evening banquet in Memphis. Forty-nine responses were returned that evening to help us determine the strongest interests for our future biennial reunions.

Approximately 20 questions that covered several topics were offered with a scale of preference to each person who answered the survey. The survey would be considered 'unscientific' due to the method used by the respondents in answering none, some, most or all of the questions presented. Room for additional comments was provided on each of the survey forms to share thoughts, critiques and opinions.

## A review of the returned survey forms indicates the following:

### MEALS

Fewer organized dinners  
More "on your own" time  
Equal response for dinners at the hotel and/or off-site restaurants

**Ed. Note:** *Organized group meals away from the hotel require transportation coordination. Our probable on-site meal plans for Wednesday evening's early arrival party, Thursday's pre-meeting and ladies tour luncheon and Saturday evening banquet will remain for the 2008 reunion subject to registered attendee's interest.*

### TOURS

Most wish to continue separate tours for ladies  
Most prefer (a) historical tours, (b) river cruises, and (c) military tours

**Ed. Note:** *We will continue to offer these tours as each location allows  
Least favorite tours include casinos, shopping malls, breweries and sporting events.*

**Ed. Note:** *Attendees are encouraged to do whatever interests you. Arrive early/stay late to enjoy some of the features that you may not have time to do while being actively involved at the reunion. We negotiate a reduced hotel rate three days prior to the reunion and an additional three days after the reunion 'officially' concludes.*

### REUNION DATE

More respondents want to keep the reunion during the month of July at least into the year 2010.

**Ed. Note:** *The month chosen to hold future reunions after that year may be subject to change if the membership desires to conduct reunions at another time of the year. On-peak and off-peak seasons are variable depending on the location of the reunion site.*

**Ed. Note:** *The goal of the reunion committee has and will continue to seek the best accommodations and services at the most reasonable rate possible. Seasonal rates fluctuate in relation to hotel room availability.  
More wish to keep the customary Wed-Sun reunion dates versus the proposed Sunday-Wednesday reunion date.*

**Ed. Note:** *Sunday-Wednesday room rates are typically lower.*

### SITE SELECTION

The process used is a concern to some who took the time to share their preferences. **Association President Ed Cookenham** explained the method that is in use in an earlier newsletter prior to the reunion in Memphis. The subject of site selection was discussed further at the Reunion body meeting on Thursday.

For the benefit of those who may be new to the association, many reunion site recommendations have been received over the past several years. The committee has personally contacted the majority of the recommended cities as well as visiting additional sites upon invitation by the local Convention and Visitor's associations.

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## Words from your Vice President

At the business meeting in Memphis during our reunion, there was discussion on our newsletter practices. The Executive Board met after the business meeting and has approved the following using your suggestions:

There will be four newsletters per year approximately once a quarter. Two will be electronic only and two will be printed. The winter newsletter will be printed and mailed to all members of the association and will list all the reunion, executive meeting information in it for that year. It will also be posted on the website. The Spring and Summer newsletter will be electronic and will only be on the website. The Fall newsletter will be printed and be mailed to paid members in good standing. If you have any other suggestions please do not hesitate to contact one of us and let us know your concern and/or idea.

**Richard Molck**  
Vice President, USS Wainwright Veterans Association

# 2008 Reunion

July 15-20, 2008

The 10<sup>th</sup> biennial USS Wainwright Reunion will be held in Jacksonville, Florida at the Crowne Plaza Hotel which is located on the banks of the St. John's River.

With over a year prior to the beginning of the reunion, reservations are not yet necessary. A unique phone number will be reserved for making reservations at a later date. We are pleased that the Crowne Plaza has worked with us in keeping the rates reasonable well in advance of our next reunion. All rooms have sliding glass doors which lead to your personal balcony. Our standard room rate is \$90.00/night with the option of a room with a riverfront and downtown view for the rate of \$100.00/night.

Please visit the USS Wainwright web site, [www.usswainwright.org](http://www.usswainwright.org) or call me at 513-829-7280 for the latest updates. When the special phone number is set up for us, it will be posted on the web site in the various reunion locations as soon as it becomes available.

Web designer, Rich Emily has placed a video of scenes located near the Jacksonville Crowne Plaza. You can find the video by scrolling down the left side of the web site home page to Reunion Information>Reunion Central Page>Reunion 2008. Here you will have a choice of either High Speed or Dial Up connections.

*When an American says that he loves his country, he means not only that he loves the New England hills, the prairies glistening in the sun, the wide and rising plains, the great mountains, and the sea. He means that he loves an inner air, an inner light in which freedom lives and in which a man can draw the breath of self-respect.*

Adlai Stevenson

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## From the Master At Arms Shack

Greetings shipmates! I wanted to send along a few words about what's going on with your association. We are looking forward to a great trip to Jacksonville, Florida in July of 2008. Anyone who has missed a reunion should make every effort to come down to see some old friends in Jacksonville. It is a terrific experience. If you don't believe me, just ask a shipmate who's been to one.

In other Wainwright related news, some members of the association made a trip to our fine ship in 2001 and 2002. We removed many articles from the ship so that we could have some of the equipment that you and I used when we were serving our country.

As some of you may know, I was the chairman for the Wainwright ship naming committee over the last few years. Unfortunately we have hit a few roadblocks and it looks as though there will be no new Wainwright ships in the near to distant future

I am disappointed with that news, but we are always looking for a way to change this situation. Your executive board is keeping a watch for opportunities to get a new Wainwright named. If there is a way that it can be done we will be passing that information along to you as soon as we possibly can. Most of these items/artifacts are stored in a store room in Richard Molck's warehouse in South Carolina.

There is an effort underway to get a trailer for these artifacts so that part of our ship can be with us at reunions. There is a 28 for 28 fund drive underway with details listed in the newsletter. Would you please consider making a tax deductible donation to our association to help preserve our ship's artifacts and purchase the trailer that we need for transporting and storing our naval history?

I look forward to seeing you all in Jacksonville!



*Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose.*

From the television show  
*The Wonder Years*

# 28 For The 28

The USS Wainwright lies in the depths of the Atlantic but a part of her exists in every sailor that ever went aboard. Her spirit, service and dedication to this country are exemplified in every life she touched and must be preserved. To quote **Captain Gary Lockee**, "Although our ship will forever remain in the Atlantic Ocean depths, her splendid memories will remain deep in the hearts, minds and souls of all that sailed in her and made her accomplishments a lasting part of our wonderful Nation's first line of defense."



Before the ship was decommissioned, several shipmates were able to collect a multitude of items from her. These artifacts are museum quality and deserve a permanent home. This memorabilia serves as a reminder of our ship and the worthwhile time we spent aboard her.



Currently, the artifacts are housed in a warehouse belonging to **Richard Molck**. Every time they are displayed a truck must be rented, 8000 pounds of memorabilia loaded and transported and then unloaded when the event is over. To solve this problem and prevent damage to the items, we need an enclosed trailer to permanently house the artifacts. Transportation and display are simplified! The Wainwright can now be shared with everyone.

Recently, at an "old soldier's" parade, I watched some children as the tanks, trailers and other military vehicles came down the route. Their eyes were wide and they waved their flags proudly. We, as the Wainwright veterans, owe the children of our homeland the chance to see a proud crew paying honor to a worthy vessel that guarded and protected our loved ones. Our prayer is that generations to come will learn about military history through visual museums and not first-hand experience from war.

**Ed "Cookie" Cookenham**, President of the USS Wainwright Veterans Association, stated that perhaps this visual museum could "spark some young men and women to become a part of the greatest navy in the world, taking the baton we pass to them, and write their own legacy on the pages of history."

Our part is simple. We finance the plan. . . "28 for the 28"! This fundraiser will purchase, outfit and decal an enclosed trailer to protect the memories that we hold so dear.

Now here's the plan - a letter will be on the way to you outlining this project giving you all the facts and figures. This is an industrious undertaking. We need \$28,000. When everyone gets this information, our shipmates will rally and support this worthy mission. We will make this very easy.

You can donate in increments of \$28 . . . \$56 . . . \$84 . . . \$112 . . . all the way to \$28,000. You may write a personal check or you may submit your donation by credit card. All of these details will be in the letter you will be receiving shortly. Your donations are tax deductible.

Our challenge to you is to take this project to heart so that we may carry on the legacy of the USS Wainwright. **Captain Lockee** hopes you will approach this venture with the same "gung-ho sincerity, loyalty and dedication that you did as the viscous Tiger Crewmen of the World Class Cruiser."

Watch for information about "28 for the 28" and respond as quickly as you can so we will have the trailer ready for the next reunion. Remember the "can do" attitude of the Wainwright sailors!

***America is so vast that almost everything said about it is likely to be true, and the opposite is probably equally true.*** James T. Farrell

***If you want a symbolic gesture, don't burn the flag; wash it.*** -Norman Thomas

***How often we fail to realize our good fortune in living in a country where happiness is more than a lack of tragedy.*** -Paul Sweeney

# July 2006 Executive Board Meeting

Memphis, Tennessee

The USS Wainwright board meeting was called to order at approximately 0918 by **President Ed "Cookie" Cookenham**. The meeting began with those in attendance at the national body meeting reciting our Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the 2005 Executive Board Meeting were formally approved.

A vote on the subject of a change to the by-laws was introduced for the final time before final discussion to be held later in the meeting.

The Executive Board was presented with a proposal by the Reunion Committee, **Dan and Cara Bowman**. Upon approval by the board, the committee will return to the host city to locate a host hotel from multiple choices and ultimately negotiate the best terms possible for those attending as well as the association. This item of business was announced at the body meeting as the executive board had previously met one day prior to the national meeting to allow an 'official announcement' concerning the host city and a primary hotel be made to the reunion attendees.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., June 27, 2007. Watch the web site for up to date information.

## **Treasurer's Report: Manny Seligmann**

Discussion was held on the need for more dues paying members. At the time of the Reunion in Memphis, July 2006, approximately 200 of the 900 'known' shipmates financially support the association with annual dues or lifetime memberships. As a reminder to all, the body suggested that renewal invoices be sent to our shipmates.

**Vice-President's Report:** At the time of the reunion/national body meeting, no person was 'officially' serving in this capacity with the exception of an interim V-P.

Note: A vote to change the by-laws at this meeting would make allowances for the previous restrictions set forth in the Association's Constitution.

**President's Report:** Ed Cookenham: No report

**History Committee:** 'JC' Carlson commented on the format that he plans to place all ship's history in. He feels that the best method to store such information needs to be kept in separate years when the events actually took place. The ship's history will be made available on our website: [www.usswainwright.org](http://www.usswainwright.org). This will be an ongoing process that will take some time to complete.

**Ship Naming Committee:** Rob Bennett reported to all that it appears the office of the Secretary of the Navy is not interested in naming a new combatant ship after the Wainwright family of men who dedicated their lives to the service of our country at this time. Rob stated that all replies have been in a form letter format, and each reply was a negative to the requests made.

**Membership Committee:** Headed by Bill Mellema as well as the roster maintenance. Any and all newfound shipmates can be directed to Bill for inclusion to the master roster.

**Election Committee:** Frank Yost, past president, made himself available prior to the Reunion in Memphis to compile a list of names of possible candidates to each of the offices that make up the Executive Board.

Each of the current executive board members submitted their names for re-election consideration to Frank prior to the meeting. No other shipmates contacted Frank either prior to or at the meeting itself.

Each of the current officers were re-elected unanimously to another two year term.

Note: As a consequence of the favorable vote for a by-law change, **Richard Molck** was formally elected to the position of Vice-President.

***There is nothing wrong with  
America that cannot be  
cured by what is right with  
America.*** -William J. Clinton

***Only Americans  
can hurt America.***

-Dwight D Eisenhower

***We on this continent should  
never forget that men first  
crossed the Atlantic not to find  
soil for their ploughs  
but to secure liberty  
for their souls.***

-Robert J. McCracken

***The metaphor of the melting  
pot is unfortunate and  
misleading. A more accurate  
analogy would be a salad  
bowl, for, though the salad  
is an entity, the lettuce can  
still be distinguished from  
the chicory, the tomatoes  
from the cabbage.***

-Carl N. Degler



# Update On USS Wainwright Ship's Store

Thanks to all who purchased merchandise at the ship's store this past July. We sold \$ 868.00 worth of items while at the Memphis reunion.

Visit us online ([www.usswainwright.org](http://www.usswainwright.org)) and check out the new items on the ship's store page.

We have added the resin model that you first saw at the Memphis reunion, as well as the ceramic coffee cups, and new style of ball caps. All items come in either CG or DLG versions.

This year we are looking forward to adding new items for you to purchase.

If you do not have access to the Internet please contact me so I can send you an order form. My phone number is 803-324-8225 to call me with any questions you might have. You can also e-mail me through the website or directly at [rmolck@comporium.net](mailto:rmolck@comporium.net).

Go online today and order your USS Wainwright memorabilia.

***This nation will remain the land of the free only  
so long as it is the home of the brave.***

*-Elmer Davis*

## Treasurer's Report

For the period 1 January 2006 through 10 March 2007, the following income and expenses are reported:

Total cash on deposit at Bank of America: \$11,137.30

**Total Income: \$13,393.06**

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Membership dues: | \$880.00    |
| Memphis Reunion: | \$10,859.06 |
| Ship's Store:    | \$1,654.00  |

**Total Expenses: \$12,761.34**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Memphis Reunion:      | \$9,403.91 |
| Ships Store:          | \$1,146.28 |
| Jacksonville Reunion: | \$1,065.63 |
| Scholarship Donation: | \$300.00   |
| Newsletter, postage:  | \$845.52   |

## Artifact News

We need your help in raising funds for our trailer for all of our artifacts.

I want to thank **Harry Chaffin** and his wife **Carol** for taking over the trailer campaign and working with us to make it a success.

I also want to thank **Walter Rice** for sending us the latest artifacts to add to our collection. He sent us the silver serving items pictured from the wardroom. They were "salvaged" over New Years during the third Nam cruise.

We appreciate all the items that people have sent us. If you have any that you would like to donate please let me know. You can contact me at [rmolck@comporium.net](mailto:rmolck@comporium.net) or 803-324-8225.



# About the ship's name:

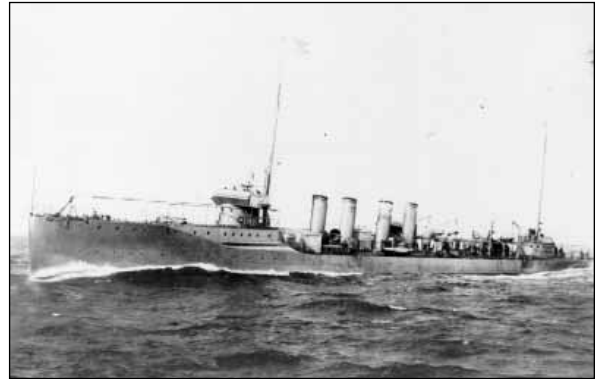
**The USS Wainwright honored a total of five people. They were...**

## **...Commander Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright:**

Born in New York city 27 July 1821, Comdr. Wainwright was initially commissioned in the US Navy on 30 June 1837 and served with distinction in the Civil War. Wainwright commanded HARRIET LANE, Admiral David Dixon Porter's flagship, in an engagement at Forts Jackson and St. Philip and took part in operations below Vicksburg. He was killed in an attack upon Confederate forts in Galveston Harbor on 1 January 1863.

## **...Master Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright, Jr.:**

Born in New York City 29 January 1849, Master Wainwright, the son of Comdr. Wainwright, graduated the Naval Academy in 1867. He was promoted to master on 21 March 1870, while attached to MOHICAN in the Pacific Squadron. Shortly thereafter, Wainwright was wounded during a boat expedition under his command against the piratical steamer, FORWARD, lying-to in a lagoon at San Blas, Mexico. Succumbing to the effects of his wounds, he died on board MOHICAN on 19 June 1870.



DD62: Keel Laid 1 Sept. 1914. Served in W.W.1

## **...Commander Richard Wainwright:**

Born in Charlestown, Mass in 1817, Comdr Richard Wainwright, a cousin of Comdr. Jonathan Mayhew Wainwright, was commissioned in the US Navy on 11 May 1831. Between 1841 and 1857, Wainwright served in the Coast Survey and on the Navy's Home Station. He cruised in MERRIMACK on special service from 1857 to 1860. Following the outbreak of the Civil War, Wainwright commanded HARTFORD, flagship of Admiral David G. Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron. During the passage of forts below New Orleans on the night of 24 and 25 April 1861, he performed gallant service in extinguishing a fire on HARTFORD while continuing the bombardment of the forts. Commended by Admiral Farragut for his actions, Wainwright later participated in the squadrons operations below Vicksburg until taken ill with fever. He died in New Orleans on 10 August 1862.

## **...Rear Admiral Richard Wainwright:**

Born in Washington D.C. on 17 December 1849, Rear Admiral Richard Wainwright, the son of Comdr Richard Wainwright, was commissioned in the US Navy on 28 September 1864, Wainwright was Executive Officer of the battleship MAINE when she blew up in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, on 15 February 1898. Surviving the explosion he was assigned to command of the tender FERN and was in charge of the recovery of the bodies of the victims. He also assisted in the collection of information for the subsequent court inquiry. Wainwright later commanded the wooden gunboat GLOUCESTER at the battle of Santiago on 3 July 1898. In this engagement, GLOUCESTER sank one Spanish torpedo boat and drove another on the beach. Wainwright was commended for his valor in this engagement. Later, promoted to Rear Admiral, he commanded the Second Division of the United States Atlantic Fleet during the fleet's historic voyage around the world from 1907 to 1909. Retired from active duty on 7 December 1911, Admiral Wainwright died in Washington D.C., on 6 March 1926.



DD419: Keel Laid 7 June 1938. Served in W.W.2

## **...Commander Richard Wainwright:**

Born in Washington D.C. 15 September 1881, Comdr. Wainwright, the son of Admiral Wainwright, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1903, he served on board battleship LOUISIANA during the ships participation in the voyage of the Great White Fleet around the world from 1907 to 1909. Wainwright was awarded the Medal of Honor for his outstanding conduct in battle while commanding a landing force from battleship FLORIDA at Vera Cruz, Mexico, on 21 and 22 April 1914. He retired from the Navy on physical disability on 3 March 1921 and died at Annapolis, MD., on 28 March 1944.

**...with the current War on Terrorism, I'm rather surprised another  
Wainwright is not being built at this very moment.**  
*Chaplain John Anderson*  
*Wainwright Memorial Ceremony*  
*Norfolk, Virginia*

DLG28: Keel Laid 2 July 1962. CG28 Reclassified 30 June 1975.  
Served in Persian Gulf War.



**U.S.S. Wainwright**

**USS Wainwright Veterans Association**  
114 S. Oakland Avenue  
Rock Hill, SC 29730-4522

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**