



The Sumner Sentinel ©

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Sumner Loses an Atomic Bomb Tester

FORT WORTH -- A celebration of life was held at Shannon Rose Hill Funeral Chapel on Sept 6 for Charles Joe McManus who died Sept.3 at the well lived age of 92.

Charlie was born in Fort Worth on May 1, 1926 to Joe and Nell McManus. One of four siblings, he was raised in the Polytechnic area of Fort Worth and graduated from Poly High School as did both of his brothers and sisters.

Upon graduation, Charlie joined the Navy and was stationed on the USS Allen M. Sumner during 1945-46 and was present at the A-Bomb test at Bikini Atoll.



Charlie McManus

Operation Crossroads was a pair of nuclear weapon tests conducted by the United States at Bikini Atoll in mid-1946. They were the first nuclear weapon tests since Trinity in July 1945, and the first

detonations of nuclear devices since the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The purpose of the tests was to investigate the effect of nuclear weapons on warships.

The Crossroads tests were the first of many nuclear tests held in the Marshall Islands, and the first to be publicly announced beforehand and observed by an invited audience, including a large press corps.



They were conducted by Joint Army/Navy Task Force One, headed by Vice Admiral William H. P. Blandy rather than by the Manhattan Project, which had developed nuclear weapons during World War II.

A fleet of 95 target ships was assembled in Bikini Lagoon and hit with two detonations of Fat Man plutonium implosion-type nuclear weapons of the kind dropped on Nagasaki, each with a yield of 23 kilotons of TNT (96 TJ).

The first test was Able. The bomb was named Gilda after Rita Hayworth's character in the 1946 film Gilda, and was dropped from the B-29 Super-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Greetings Shipmates,

Hope everyone is doing fine. We have had a lot of unusual weather throughout the country this year. I hope none of you were severely affected by it.



Frank DiBello

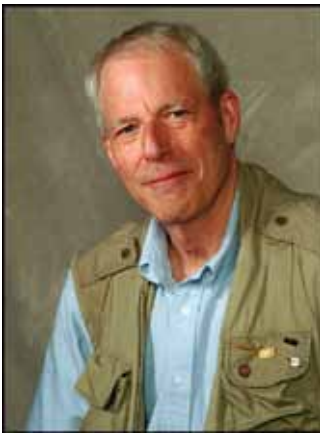
On Sunday, Sept. 9, I received an Email from Chaplain Bobby Moore that our shipmate Charles McManus YN2 had passed away. Charles and his brother Gene were part of the crew from 1946- 1947 and were involved in the Atomic Bomb testing at the Bikini Atoll Marshall Islands test site. At the Reunion in Charleston Charles was so interesting to listen to as he told us his memories and experiences and how they didn't know the dangers of being exposed to the radiation. From June 5, 1945 they were involved in Operation

Crossroads until it was completed. They arrived at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on August 15, 1946. Please remember Charles and his family in your prayers.

I hope everyone who plans to go to Branson will please make your reservations. We need to start planning and negotiations for the reunion. If we don't have a good head count, we can't get good prices for our banquet. Also if we want to plan any tours or shows, etc. We can get better group rates. We especially need to know a correct number so that we can acquire the correct size bus. If we have

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By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

Although I am no longer the editor of Southwest Image - the official publication of the Southwest Professional Photographers Association - I was so looking forward to attending its annual convention in New Orleans in 2018.

Reason being after being the editor for 40 issues from 2005 to 2017 and resigning the board of directors voted to give me an honorary life membership in the organization allowing me to attend conventions without paying a registration fee.

It was a lot of fun being the Southwest editor, with all the perks I got especially around convention time.

In addition to having a free room (usually over a hundred dollars a night) and mileage and per diem I would have been foolish not to attend.

I think I only managed to garner the ire of a handful of Texans over the wording about hosting the convention.

I got to meet and rub shoulders with a lot of incredible photographers along the way.

One that stands out is Robert Sturdevant who once scored 100 points on all of his four prints. He used to live in Garland, Texas but moved to Tennessee.

It was like getting to meet the Chief Naval Officer and other naval bigwigs.

And in my own state - Ted Lane (with whom I shared studio space for more than a dozen years) and probably at least half of those in our last pho-

tography directory.

The convention used to meet every year in Texas - usually in Arlington - with the host duties alternating each year between Texas and SWPPA.

That was until Texas decided it wanted to have a convention of its own every year and the SWPPA board decided to hold conventions in one each of its eight state region each year.

Oklahoma was first with Louisi-

ana being next.

So my first free convention not being editor was going to be to the Big Easy.

Oops.

On Jan. 1, 2018 SWPPA officially went out of business, two years short of 100.

President

Continued from Page 1

to lease a bus that isn't large enough, because we don't have a good

head count, some people won't have a seat. We don't want to reserve two buses if we only need one. Pete does a great job of trying to keep our expenses down, but if you don't help him by registering early, then don't complain when it costs more to have a Reunion. Anybody that reserves a room can always cancel 24 to 48 in advance with no charges. Any registration to the Association will be refunded fully if you can't attend! WHY CAN'T YOU REGISTER IN ADVANCE?

If anybody wants to try to get a group together for one of the many shows or other entertainment while we are in Branson, please let me know.

Connie and I are looking forward to seeing everybody in Branson. Four days isn't enough time to see everything we want to. Make sure to allow one day to go to Springfield and visit Johnny Morris' "Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium." Seniors get a 10% discount.

A-Bomb

Continued from Page 1

fortress Dave's Dream of the 509th Bombardment Group on July 1,

1946. It detonated 520 feet (158 m) above the target fleet and caused less than the expected amount of ship damage because it missed its aim point by 2,130 feet (649 m).

The second test was Baker. The bomb was known as Helen of Bikini and was detonated 90 feet (27 m) underwater on July 25, 1946. Radioactive sea spray caused extensive contamination.

A third deep-water test named Charlie was planned for 1947 but was canceled primarily because of the United States Navy's inability to decontaminate the target ships after the Baker test.

Ultimately, only nine target ships were able to be scrapped rather than scuttled. Charlie was rescheduled as Operation Wigwam, a deep-water shot conducted in 1955 off the California coast.

Bikini's native residents agreed to evacuate the island, and were evacuated on board the LST-861, with most moving to the Rongerik Atoll. In the 1950s, a series of large thermonuclear tests rendered Bikini unfit for subsistence farming and fishing because of radioactive contamination.

Bikini remains uninhabited as of 2018, though it is occasionally visited by sport divers. Planners attempted to protect participants in the Operation Crossroads tests against radiation sickness, but one study showed that the life expectancy of participants was reduced by an average of three months.

The Baker test's radioactive contamination of all the target ships was the first case of immediate, concentrated radioactive fallout from a nuclear explosion.

Chemist Glenn T. Seaborg, the longest-serving chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, called Baker "the world's first nuclear disaster

McManus also attended many of the Summer's annual reunions and was honored in 2008 with a birthday cake in Charleston, S.C.

After returning to Fort Worth, Charlie attended Texas Wesleyan University (college at that time) earning a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree. Charlie met his wife at Texas Wesleyan and they married in 1953.

Charlie began his teaching career in the late 50s' at WC Stripling Junior High. Later he owned Acme Air Conditioning Co. He returned to teaching at Forest Oak Middle School in the late 70's.

He was a member of the Hills Church of Christ in North Richland Hills. He was also active in Handley Masonic Lodge, Moslah Shriners Drum and Bugle Corps, and later in the Bedouin Unit.

Charlie was a member of the Lions Club and served on the Board of Adjustments for the city of Fort Worth. His summers were spent at their cabin at Vallecito Lake near Durango, Colo. Charlie has donated his body for research to the North Texas Health Science Center Medical School.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years Dicksie McManus, daughter Melissa McManus Carter and Tom, granddaughters Kylie Jillson and Katelin Carter, grandson Mitchell Carter and Myra, great granddaughter Nataleigh Hughes, sister Marjorie Davis, brothers Ron McManus, Gene McManus and Vickie.

In lieu of flowers, the family request gifts to be made to the Shrine Hospital in care of Moslah Shriners at P.O. Box 1870 Fort Worth, TX 76101 or to Christ's Haven for Children at 4200 Keller-Haslet Rd Keller, Texas 76244.



USS ALLEN M. SUMNER SHIP STORE ORDER INVOICE

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	Sumner Ball Cap (Blue w/gold embroidery) - Specify All Cloth or 1/2 Mesh)	\$15.00
	Scrambled Egg patches <u>for Officers only Commanger & Above</u> /with hat purchase	Free
	White Golf Shirt Embroidered w/Ship Patch (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL) Add \$10 for 2XL/3XL	\$25.00
	White T-Shirt w/Ship on Front (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL)	\$20.00
	All Sweatshirts (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL)	\$25.00
	Sumner Ship's Patch (Specify Sui Generis or Woody Woodpecker)	\$ 5.00
	Sumner Hat/Lapel/Tie Tac Pin	\$ 6.00
	Sumner License Plate bracket/holder	\$ 5.00
	Homemade Reunion 2000 Video (CNO Visit) DVD or VHS Specify which	\$ 8.00
	Zippo Ziplite battery pack (Flashlight Replacement for Unused Lighter	\$ 2.50
	Sumner Commemorative Challenge Coin (Approximately 1½ inches in diameter)	\$10.00
	US Navy Tabletop Drink Coasters (6 for \$20.00)	\$ 5.00
	Handkerchief (US Navy or 692)	\$ 5.00
	Navy Pin for wives	\$ 5.00
	Sumner shaving/toilet kit bag	\$10.00
	US Navy rear window stickers (or Retired) Specify which	\$ 5.00
	MIA/POW money clip	\$ 6.00
	Petty Officer window sticker	\$ 1.00
	USS Cooper (Dive to)/Return to Ormoc Bay (Battle of) DVD (Runtime: 80 minutes)	\$ 8.00
	For additional items go to www.dd-692.com Click the "reunion" tab then the "Ship Store" line	
Total Enclosed		

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 (A/C) _____ PH # _____ E-Mail _____

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 301 Park Lane
 North Syracuse, NY 13212

See Next Page for New Shipping Charges for Ship's Store Items

Receiving Hard Copies of the Sumner Sentinel

Note to shipmates, wives and widows, especially those with an “L” designation on their address label:

Hard copies of the Sumner Sentinel are only mailed to those with an “L” designation on their address label (unless they have an E-Mail address) or to those members whose dues are current and who have no E-Mail address.

All other members will receive issues electronically.

Alternatively, anyone may view/print issues by going online to www.dd-692.com and clicking on the “Reunion” tab.

This helps save the association’s printing costs.

Each year (in the November-December and January-February issues), hard copies will be mailed to everyone reminding them that dues are due (except those who have renewal dates for several future years).

If you don’t want to keep receiving it, let the editor, whose address is on the back page, know.

Thanks, The Editor

REUNION ASSISTANCE FUND

Are YOU a former Sumner shipmate ?

Have YOU ever wanted to go to one of our Annual Reunions ?

For those shipmates who are in need of financial assistance, the Association has created a Special Committee to help YOU out. The funds available come from donations of the Sumner crew in the hope YOU will join us.

The Fund is managed in strict confidentiality and no one other than the Committee will ever know of these transactions.

If interested and to find out more about the Fund, please contact one of the following Committee Members:

Dave Robson DAVE@DD-692.com
(904) 287-7854

Jose Garcia JOSE@DD-692.com
(305) 431-3027

Dale Surber DALE@DD-692.com
(727) 480-3646

To donate to the Fund and assist your shipmates, make your contributions (any amount is greatly appreciated) by check and send to:

USS AM Sumner Reunion Association
301 Park Ln.

North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Mark the check and/or envelope “for the Reunion Assistance Fund”

New shipping charges associated with ship’s store purchases

Up to \$10.....	\$ 4.00
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\$25.01 to \$50.00.....	\$ 8.00
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\$100.01 to \$200.00.....	\$14.00
\$200.01 to \$300.00.....	\$16.00
\$300.00 and over	\$20.00

Checks made payable to Sumner Reunion Association.

Did You Know?

Louis Braille, inventor of a system of reading and writing

used by blind and visually impaired people, lost his sight at age three as a result of an accident.

At age 15 he simplified a method of battlefield communication used by the French military to create his own system.

PHOTO GALLERY REUNION MEMORIES VOL III SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

*By
Pete
Dromms*





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