



USS KASKASKIA BLAST

Dedicated to the men who served aboard USS KASKASKIA (AO 27)

Volume 2 No. 1

May 2018

May 2018

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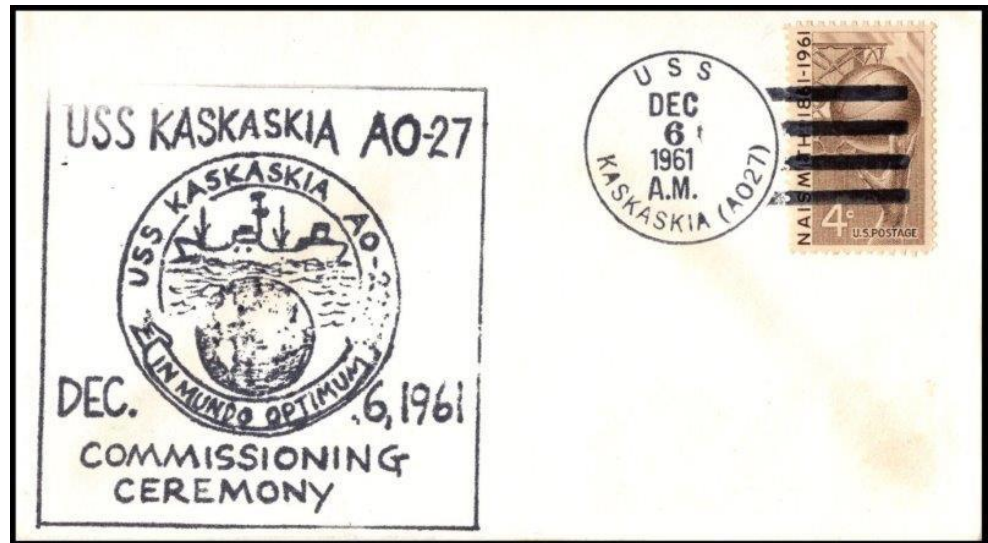
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Feature Cover



COLUMNS

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Nothing like a commissioning ceremony in the dead of winter in Hoboken, New Jersey with that great aroma of freshly roasted coffee coming from the Maxwell House Coffee Roaster Company down the street.

We can often trace the history of a ship and her operations by the mail that was sent by crew or from covers (envelopes) that were sent to the ship for events by collectors. The ship's postal clerks usually obliged the collectors by cancelling the covers with the ship's postmark on the date of the event.

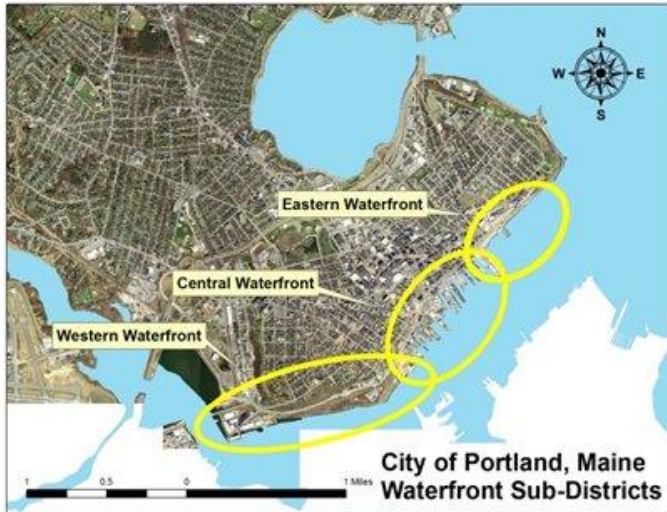
I found this cover a few months ago while cleaning out a box of Navy papers.

How about sharing a story of what you remember of the event?

**USS KASKASKIA's 28th REUNION IS SCHEDULED FOR
Portland, Maine
20-24 SEPTEMBER 2018
See Page 3**

**USS KASKASKIA Reunion Webpage
<http://www.kaskaskia27reunion.com/>**

**USS Kaskaskia 2018 Reunion
Portland, Maine
September 20 to 24 and hosted by
Richard Gagnon**



The 29th USS Kaskaskia AO27 reunion will be held in [Portland ME](#). Highlights will include a visit to the [Maine Maritime Museum](#), [Bath Iron Works](#) & [Freeport ME](#). There will be time for shopping at L.L. Bean and other outlets. There will also be ample time to visit the [Portland Waterfront](#) and of course, since it is Maine, there will be an Old Fashion Maine Lobster Bake. Not to be overlooked will be a boat Tour of Casco Bay and a guided Tour of Portland.

Hotel

We will be staying at the [Best Western Merry Manor Inn](#) 700 Main St. (US RTE1) South, Portland ME 04106

Events

- Thursday, the 20th meet and greet at the hotel hospitality room. The room will be open starting at 2:00 pm with complimentary beer, wine, cheese and crackers from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm.
- Friday the 21st there will be a full buffet breakfast in the hospitality room from 6:30 am to 8:30 am. From 8:45 to 3:30 there will be an excursion to the Maine Maritime Museum, Bath Iron Works, and Freeport ME for shopping at L.L. Bean and other outlets. "Free Movie Night" with popcorn will start in the hospitality room at 8:00 pm.
- On Saturday, the 22nd the full buffet breakfast in the hospitality room will be from 6:30 am to 9:00 am. The hotel van will run continuous shuttle service between the hotel and the Portland Waterfront. At 6:00 pm we will have an Old Fashion Maine Lobster Bake in the Evergreen Room.

- On Sunday, 23rd the full buffet breakfast in the hospitality room will be from 6:30 am to 9:00 am. We will board a bus at the hotel at 9:45 to take us to a boat tour of Casco Bay starting at 10:15. The afternoon will include a Tour of Portland to be back at the hotel by 4:15. Banquet cocktail hour will start at 6:00 with our Farewell Buffet Banquet between 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm.
- Monday September 24th we will enjoy our last buffet breakfast from 7:00 to 10:00 am before leaving for a safe trip home. See you next year.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Please send your annual dues (\$10) checks payable to:

Terry Gacioc

3518- 16th Street

Wyandotte, MI 48192

New Phone # 734-771-4349

KASKASKIA Web Site Updates

If you have any updates for the KASKASKIA web site should be sent to:

Larry Kish

**150 Scottsbury Court
Gahanna, OH,44646**

If you haven't visited the KASKASKIA web site recently, there is much added material including many photos from the early 1960s Med cruises. Thanks to Bob Crosbie and Larry Kish for posting the photos – Great memories. Check out the pictures and see if you can find your younger self.

USS KASKASKIA Reunion Webpage

<http://www.kaskaskia27reunion.com/>



From the Editor's Desk

I am sorry for the delay in the ***KASKASKIA Blast***. I have been busy with doctors' appointments, heart testing and hospital visits and finally have clearance to start working out at the hospital cardiac care facility. Getting old!

Richard Gagnon is hosting the 29th Reunion in Portland ME this year. It looks like a great program and I hope there is a great turnout. Many of the KAS crew live in the northeast and should be able to make this reunion. My wife and I plan to fly into Boston and do the New England states as part of the trip to the reunion. I would love to see Bath Iron Works and the new ships they are building. My wife saw the Lobster Bake on the reunion menu and that convinced her. We hope you make every effort to go to the 29th Reunion!

USS Kaskaskia (A0 27) 29th reunion
@ Best Western Merry Manor Inn, (207)774-6157
700 Main St. (US Rte 1) South, Portland ME 04106
September 20 - 24, 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

This registration form and a \$50.00 PER PERSON deposit is due on or before June 1st 2018
And final payment is due no later than August 19, 2018

Please make copy of this reunion registration form for your records

Please make all checks out to Richard Gagnon

Mail to: Richard Gagnon, 3 Pinedale St., Hudson, NH 03051-4534

For questions call [H] (603)883-1738 [C] (603)966-7048 - gagnonpop@yahoo.com

Make hotel reservations directly with the Merry Manor and mention you are with the USS Kaskaskia Reunion Group to get our room rate. They require a guarantee to hold your reservation, by credit card, which won't be charged until you check out. **Guaranteed rate is \$97.00 plus 9%tax**, this includes a complimentary buffet breakfast. Check in time: 3:00 pm\Check out time: 11:00 am. Transportation from Portland Jetport is by cab. The hotel will reimburse your cab fare at checkin and on return trip to airport the hotel will pre-pay for your cab.

Please complete form as to the functions & tours you will be attending
All tours are a minimum of 25 people

Start of Reunion 2:00 pm September 20th Register in Hospitality Room
Attending Welcome Reception Yes _____ No _____

Thursday Sept 20th 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Welcome All - beer & wine w/cheese & crackers complimentary from hotel for one hour = 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Registration Fee:\$20.00**Not Optional** Cost \$20.00 pp \$ _____

Friday Sept 21st 6:30 am – 8:30 am full buffet breakfast in hospitality room
 8:45 am – 3:30 pm = trip to Maine Maritime Museum, Bath Iron Works & Freeport ME
 (lunch on your own) and shopping at L.L.Bean and other outlets
 [driver & guide gratuity not included] Cost \$59.00 pp \$ _____
 (dinner on your own)
 8:00 pm “Free Movie Night” w/popcorn in the hospitality room

Saturday Sept 22nd 6:30 am – 9:00 am full buffet breakfast in hospitality room
 10:00 am – 5:00 pm The hotel van will run continuous shuttle service between the
 hotel and the Portland Waterfront. **The last pick-up will be at 5:00pm** [Driver gratuity not included]
 6:00 pm Old Fashion Maine Lobster Bake in the Evergreen Room
 Menu: **Select One = Lobster** ___(his)___(hers) **Prime Rib** ___(his)___(hers)
Veggie Alfredo ___(his)___(hers)
 Cost \$40.00 pp \$ _____

Sunday Sept 23rd 6:30 am – 8:30 am full buffet breakfast in hospitality room
 9:45 am – (board at hotel) & at 10:15 - board boat for Tour of Casco Bay
 Return at 12:15 pm at waterfront for lunch on your own
 2:30 pm – Tour of Portland back at hotel at 4:15 pm
 [driver & guide gratuity not included] Cost \$54.00pp \$ _____
 6:00 pm - cocktails
 7:00 pm – 10:00pm Farewell Buffet Banquet
 Cost \$40.00pp \$ _____

YOUR TOTAL COST \$ _____

This amount due - **minus your deposit** -no later than **August 19, 2018**

Monday Sept 24th 7:00 am – 10:00 am buffet breakfast

End of a great reunion and looking forward another one next year.
Have a Safe Trip Home!

Out of the Past Life Aboard KASKASKIA



My name is George Hays.

I have joined the KAS Reunion Association Inc., and received the News Letter etc., from Terry Gacioch.

I was assigned duty and served on USS Kaskaskia AO 27 as part of Pre-Commissioning crew. I worked for and with Robert Crosbie EM2. I am a Plank Owner.

I had completed EM "A" school and was an EMFA. I left the ship in Cannes, France in January 1965 as an EM2.

In the package I received, I read where you were looking for events that were remembered. Here's two I'll talk about. My age this date is 75 years old so my memory is failing somewhat.

We were refueling an aircraft carrier and I believe was the Enterprise CVN 65. The AVGAS pump was starting to pump and it locked up. The motor would not run.

The Captain came out of his cabin, on the bridge, and told the E-Division gang who were working on the problem that if we could get the pump working so that the refueling mission could be completed that day that he would put a bottle of Brandy in the CPO mess and all who worked to accomplish the task would be rewarded.

The problem was a slot motor winding stick fell out of the stator and lodged between the armature and motor stator. The motor was a vertical mounted motor and after a short period of time it was fixed and mission accomplished that day. We were rewarded. The Captain, as promised, rewarded those who worked.

Another time we were refueling an aircraft carrier and I believe it was the Enterprise CVN 65 we had a pipe flange gasket leaking a small amount of AVGAS. Ship personnel had placed a fire hose nozzle spraying under the leak and washing the leaking gas over the side.

At the end of the refueling mission, with all pumps shutdown, Donald R. Shackle who was either a FN or PO3 Pipe Fitter (PF) or Damage Controlman (DC) took a fire axe and cut the lashing that was used to secure the fire hose under the leak without shutting off (closing) the fire hose nozzle and the nozzle became air borne hitting him in the temple and killed him.

I believe Donald R. Shackle should be remembered as a shipmate. He was a photography nut as was I and had just bought a new Canon camera from ship's store a week or two earlier. His rack (bunk) was just a couple of feet from mine. HMC Tidmore was Chief Corpsman on board when this happened.

You may contact me via E-mail at "kaselectrician196165@gmail.com."

I am,

George Hays, Ret. EMC

SEE YOU ALL IN PORTLAND ME!

Points of Contact

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Ormond Beach FL 32174-5331

WEB PAGES----<http://www.kaskaskia27reunion.com/>

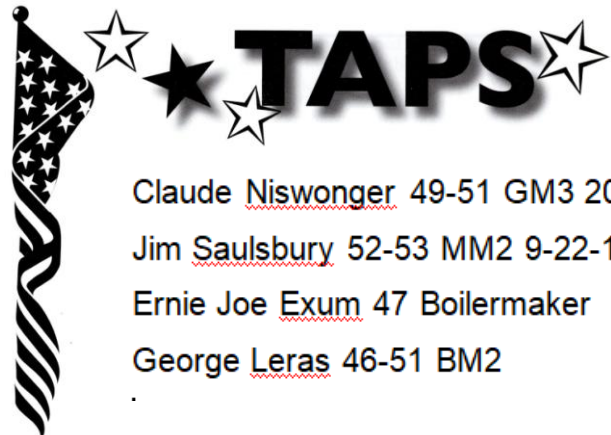
President's Message

J.D."Jimmy" Tabb
tabbjd@msn.com

Alright Mates it's time to make plans to attend the 29th USS KASKASKIA reunion in Portland, Maine. **Dick Cagnon** is hosting this year's reunion and it looks like he has done his homework and has planned a really great reunion. I hope to see you all there and let's make this year a really memorable year of honoring our great ship and her crews. A big thanks to **Bob Crosbie** and crew for a really good time in Jones, Michigan last reunion. Attendance was disappointing but all who attended had a great time.

Also I wish everyone would check out the Kaskaskia website. **Larry Kish** has done an excellent job with the website and its worth looking at. Thanks Larry! Would also like to thank Richard Jones for doing the "BLAST". Excellent job Richard! Looking forward to seeing everyone in Portland.

Jimmy



Claude Niswonger 49-51 GM3 2016

Jim Saulsbury 52-53 MM2 9-22-17

Ernie Joe Exum 47 Boilermaker

George Leras 46-51 BM2



**Richard D. Jones
137 Putnam Ave
Ormond Beach FL 32174**

To:

Reunion Registration Information Enclosed – This Year--Join in--Be There!

MAX OP TEMPO



**USS KASKASKIA heading to sea April 1068
view from beach at Mayport Naval Station**