

**USS WILHOITE DE/DER 397**  
**Association Newsletter**



USS WILHOITE DE 397

**October, November & December**  
**2020**

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Fellow shipmates

I hope this finds all of you well and coping with the pandemic we are in. There seems to be no end in sight. We do know that it will not last forever. I know many of you were coming to the Wilhoite Reunion in Buffalo, New York and I'm sorry that it was prudent to postpone until more favorable conditions in 2021.

Donations are due October 1, and you do get the newsletter. The checks should be made out to the USS Wilhoite Reunion Fund.

The California wild fires are terrible, especially for those who live there. I recently went to The Sacramento Area and the smoke and ash get quite annoying as well as making it difficult to breath. Good luck to all those Californians and may god bless the firefighters and police who protect us.

Also don't forget to vote!!

Tom Morrissey



## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**That our association donates \$100 in memory of a shipmate, when they pass away, to the USS Slater DE 766?**

**During World War II, 563 Destroyer Escorts battled Nazi U-boats on the Atlantic protecting convoys of men and material. In the Pacific they stood in line to defend naval task forces from Japanese submarines and Kamikaze air attacks. Today, only one of these ships remains afloat in the United States, the USS Slater & is a historical museum.**

**Moored on the Hudson River in Albany, New York, the USS Slater has undergone an extensive restoration that has returned the ship to her former glory. The museum offers hour-long guided tours, youth group overnight camping, and a historic location hold naval reunions.**

**There have always been some comments about use of "taxpayer funding." The fact is that, except for a few local grants, 95% of the funding needed to operate the museum comes from admissions and donations. The USS Wilhoite Association is proud to be a donor to the USS Slater DE766.**

September 2020

Dear Shipmates & Families,

Summer is almost over and cooler weather is on the way. I can't help but be a little saddened when I look at my calendar and see that I wrote in ink our flight info for Buffalo for Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Well that is not to be this year but we are postponing until next year. Again, I urge you now to give thought to attending, you won't regret it.

October is the month we pay our Wilhoite Assoc dues. Please send your check to our Treasurer, Dana Alcorn 12863 W. Vernon Ave., Avondale, AZ 85392. Our dues are \$25/yr. and you may pay forward if you would like. Last year, in Boise, ID it was voted & approved to include wives as paying members. This is voluntary only; it is not mandatory. Our President, Tom Morrissey recommended this and by doing so it opened up nominations for officers to include the wives.

Sadly, we have lost another shipmate, Charles McFadden. He & his sweet wife were at our reunion in Albuquerque in 2018. I'm enclosing in this newsletter the Tribute & Message from his family that was on the website of the funeral home. If you knew Charles or just want to send a card or note to Lezette their address is 3307 Willow Creek Ct., Sachse, TX 75048.

I got a phone call from Jo West, wife of Bill (Doc) West. Doc was on the Wilhoite 1968-1969. Doc is now in a rehab facility and Jo has moved into an independent living center close by. Jo said if you wanted to send Doc a card, she would make sure he got it. Please send it c/o Jo West, Colonial Hills, 3207 Bristol Hwy, Apt 318, Johnson City, TN 37601.

The US Navy's Birthday is Oct. 13 and will be 245 years old. Because of that, I have chosen to include some Navy information in this newsletter.

To ALL of you, I wish you well and pray you are staying safe. Until next time  
Fair Winds & Following Seas.

Connie Mauldin, Secretary

## DUES PAID FOR 2020

(Numbers beside name indicate the year the dues are paid through.)

Aittala, Gene (21)	Rott, Ray & Donna
Alcorn, Mike & Dana	Ruel, Donald
Candor, Raymond	Shanahan, John
Caldwell, John & Brenda	Tencer, Charles
Cusato, Paul	Thompson, Ross
Dyson, Al	Torriglia, Paul
Ereck, Ron (21)	West, Thom & Helen
Gieda, Mary	Yonkofski, Ben
Gergens, Steve & Ruby	
Hawes, Eugene (22)	
Hayes, Will	
Huml, Vincent (21)	
Hydro, John	
Kimball, Elisabeth (21)	
Knight, James	
Mauldin, John & Connie	
McFadden, Charles	
Morrissey, Tom	
Owens, William	
Parker, David	
Payne, Gary	
Payson, Dave	
Pohl, Art	

## Charles McFadden

Born: July 15, 1940

Died: July 25, 2020

Location: Sachse, Texas



Charles W. Smith & Sons Funeral Home

2925 5th St

Sachse, TX 75048

Tel. (972) 414-5050

## Tribute & Message From The Family



Charles Ray McFadden, husband, father, Boppa, and friend, was born July 15, 1940 in Cooper, Texas to Troy and Trudie McFadden. He had three brothers, Vanoy, R.W., and Jerry.

Charles went to Heaven to join his mother and father and brothers on July 25, 2020. Also waiting for him was grandson, Jarrett Allan Robertson.

He leaves on earth Lezette, his wife of 57 years; daughters Julie (and husband Bruce); Amy (and husband Danny); granddaughter Cassie (and husband Brian); granddaughter Sadie; and great grandsons, Kyle and Logan.

Charles graduated Cooper High School and went to join the Navy. Well, actually, he went to join the Air Force but the recruiting office was closed so he went next door and joined the Navy! He said anything to get out of the cotton fields! He served his country from 1959 to 1963 stationed in Pearl Harbor. He proudly served aboard the USS Wilhoite, (DER 397) as radarman.

When his four years were over, he came home, married and started working in the corrugated box business. He retired from Hager Containers in 2003 after working there for 34 years as production manager.

He was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Sachse, Texas where he had many beloved friends. He had a special fondness for the work of the Youth Dept., especially in supporting their mission trips.

Charles loved his family. Nothing made him happier than everyone getting together, which we had done just days before he left us, celebrating his 80th birthday. The advice he gave us was "find what you like doing, and do what you love and makes you happy".

Charles was a gentleman (emphasizing gentle), a quiet man of character, a kind man of strength who would give his last penny to someone he thought needed it. You didn't always know what he was thinking but you can be sure he was either thinking about his family, helping someone out, or his old tractor!

He loved getting on that old tractor and mowing or just riding. He would leave home on Saturday morning and come home in the evening all sweaty and dirty but a happy man

Because he had been out riding his tractor! He had to give that up a few years back and he missed it so much.

Although he was a man of few words, his presence was felt in the room. His presence will now be felt by his love, the lessons he taught us, and his quiet strength.

Godspeed Charles. We love you.

### **CROSSING THE BAR**

**By Alfred, Lord Tennyson**

**Sunset and evening star,**

**And one clear call for me!**

**And may there be no moaning of the bar,**

**When I put out to sea,**

**But Such a tide as moving seems asleep,**

**Too full for sound and foam,**

**When that which drew from out the boundless deep**

**Turns again home.**

**Twilight and evening bell,**

**And after that the dark!**

**And may there be no sadness of farewell,**

**When I embark;**

**For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place**

**The flood may bear me far,**

**I hope to see my Pilot face to face**

**When I have crost the bar.**



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY US NAVY!

The Navy Birthday is one of the two Navy-wide dates celebrated annually – Navy Birthday and Navy Day.

The United States Navy was originally established as the Continental navy on 13 October 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized the procurement, fitting out, manning, and dispatch of two armed vessels to cruise in search of munitions ships supplying the British Army in America. The legislation also established a Naval Committee to supervise the work. All together, the Continental Navy numbered some fifty ships over the course of the war, with approximately twenty warships active at its maximum strength.

Navy Day was originally sponsored by the Navy League 1922. Navy Day is deigned to give recognition to the naval service. The Navy League of New York proposed that the official observance be on 27 October in honor of President Theodore Roosevelt, who had been born that day.

In 1972 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized recognition of 13 October as the Navy's birthday. In contrast to Navy Day, the Navy Birthday is intended as an internal activity for members of the active forces and reserves, as well as retirees, and dependents. Since 1972 each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

## • GUN SALUTES •

Were first fired as an act of good faith. In the days when it took so long to reload a gun, it was a proof of friendly intention when ships' cannons were thus discharged upon entering a port.



## • HALF - MAST •

Flags flown at half-mast for mourning, are a survival of the old custom which decreed that slovenliness was a mark of respect for the dead. Sails and rigging were slacked off, yards cock-billed, flags part lowered etc.; in fact, anything to give the ship a dejected appearance.

## • BOXING the COMPASS •

Today meaning to tell off the points of the compass-card, it originally referred to the placing of the compass in a bittacle (small box). From this word "bittacle" we get our modern "binnacle."



## • CAPTAIN •

This naval officer receives his title from the old word CAPUT (meaning Chief), a name of great honor among the ancient Thanes.

