



# USS KASKASKIA BLAST

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

Volume 25 No. 1

April 2017

April 2017

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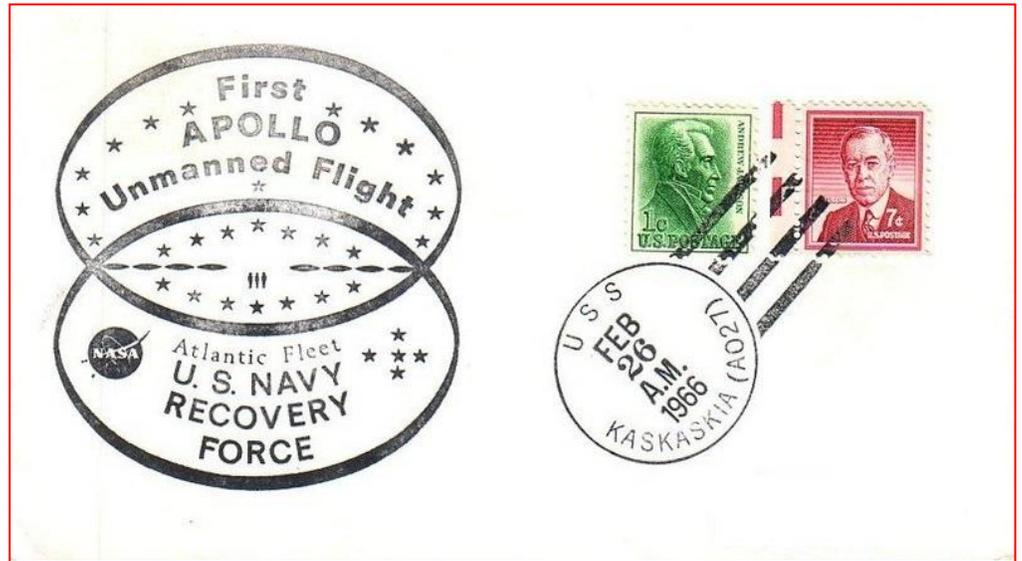
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Chaplain....Marvin Bryant

## Feature Cover



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. Such is the case with this cover marking the First APOLLO Unmanned Flight (AS 201). KASKASKIA was part of the Atlantic Recovery Force for the event on 26 FEB 1966. Where you aboard KAS for this event? How about sharing a story of what you remember of the event?

Other ships in the operation were BEALE (DD 471), BORDELON (DD 881), Prime Recovery ship BOXER (LPH 4), FIDELITY (MSO 443), JONAS INGRAM (DD 938), KANKAKEE (AO 39), ROBERT L. WILSON (DD 847), SALINAN (ATF 161), TURNER (DD 834), WALDRON (DD 699) WALLER (DD 466 and tracking ship ROSE KNOT (T-AGM 14).

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**USS KASKASKIA's 27th REUNION IS SCHEDULED FOR  
THREE RIVERS, MICHIGAN  
27 SEPTEMBER - 1 OCTOBER 2017  
See Page 2**

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

## USS KASKASKIA 2017 Reunion

### Three Rivers, Michigan

### 27 September to 1 October



**Bob and Hazel Crosbie  
your 2017 Reunion Hosts**

The 28th USS KASKASKIA AO 27 reunion will be held in [Three Rivers, MI](#). Three Rivers is located in the southwestern corner of the state; about halfway between Detroit and Chicago. This will be a very casual reunion with the 'uniform of the day' being jeans and sweatshirts. Group transportation is fairly expensive; therefore, I would like everyone to be prepared to car pool to several of the local events.

#### Transportation

The closest airport is the [Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport](#) located about 20 miles from Three Rivers. There are numerous daily connecting flights from Detroit and Chicago. There is no shuttle service to [Three Rivers](#), so those not wanting to rent a vehicle will be picked up by Bob or Hazel Crosbie at the terminal. Please call (269)244-5474 with flight number and arrival time and we will arrange for you to be met.

For those driving, interstate 80/90 runs east and west across the northern section of Indiana. Exit at the Middlebury, IN. exit #107, and turn left (north) onto IN route 13 which in ½ mile crosses the Michigan/Indiana line and turns to US 131. Follow this to Three Rivers. Those using interstate 94, turn south at the US 131 intersection, exit 74, follow this to Three Rivers.

#### Hotel

We will be staying at the [Holiday Inn Express and Suites](#) 1207 W. Broadway St., Three Rivers, MI. The hotel is located 100 yards from the intersection of US 131 and Broadway St. Room rates are \$126.00 per night with either two queen beds or one king bed. There are three handicap rooms at the same price. Use the local number **(269)278-7766** when making reservations and mention you are with the **USS KASKASKIA reunion group**. Check-in time is 3pm. We will have the hospitality room opened earlier for those arriving before 3pm. The hotel provides a daily hot breakfast and there will be snacks and drinks in the hospitality room.

#### Events

- Wednesday, the 27th meet and greet at the hotel hospitality room. Area attractions and restaurants info will be available.

- Thursday, the 28th we will visit the [Gilmore Care Museum](#) in Hickory Corners, MI. This is North America's largest auto museum. There are numerous buildings spread over a 90 acre campus. This will be a self-guided tour with maps available and lunch on your own at the [Blue Moon Diner](#). There is both indoor and outdoor seating.
- Friday, the 29th we will visit the [Kalamazoo Air Museum](#). This is another self-guided tour with docents available to answer questions. Be sure to check out the [4D Theater](#). Lunch is on your own at the [Kitty Hawk Cafe](#) on the second floor, accessible by the elevator and stairs. After lunch, we'll board the bus to the east campus where we will have a guided tour of the restoration projects, currently a WWII trainer recovered from Lake Michigan. After returning to the hotel and freshening up, those desiring can car pool 8 miles to the Crosbie's for a burger and brat cookout and campfire.
- Saturday, the 30th after the morning reunion meeting, hopeful, around 10am we will car pool the 9 miles to Happy Landing Cafe on [Corey Lake](#). Once there, we will board pontoon boats for an hour on Corey Lake. Bag lunches will be provided and drinks from the hospitality room will be on each pontoon boat.  
The banquet will be held at the Marcellus VFW Post 4054. This will be another carpooling event and I would like everyone to arrive around 5pm and tour the war museum and the spacious grounds. Relax on the two benches provided by the reunion association in memory of Donna Gacioch. Dinner is at 6pm and will be buffet style with bbq ribs tips, roast chicken, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, dinner rolls, dessert and coffee. The VFW bar will be open for the purchase of drinks and *Ole Time Country Band* will provide music.
- Sunday October 1 depart.

**Note:** Anyone interested in a visit to Amish Country in [Shipshewana, IN](#) for shopping or the Lake Michigan beaches should plan on coming a day or two early. Hazel will be able to help with your arrangements. Contact her at (269)244-5474.

**See page 5 for the Reunion Registration form.**



**IN MUNDO OPTIMUM--Late 1960s with new king posts aft**

## President's Message

J.D. "Jimmy" Tabb  
[tabbjd@msn.com](mailto:tabbjd@msn.com)

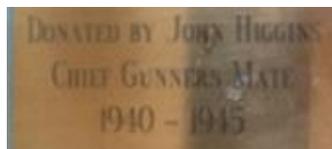
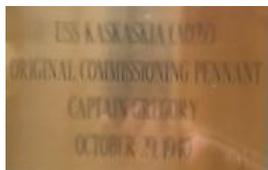
**Shipmates:** It's time to start making plans to attend this year's reunion in Jones, Michigan. Shipmate **Bob Crosbie** has done his homework and it looks like a great time for our 28th reunion. I'm hoping for a good turnout this year so try to make plans to attend. I'm certain you won't be disappointed.

Thanks to **Don Seymour** the last reunion in Washington, D.C. was a great success. The attendance was disappointing, but all who attended had a great time. I hope that each of you will try to attend this year. We are an aging group and I understand that it is difficult for many to travel; however, if you can possible make it I'm sure you won't regret the effort. It is always fun to visit with old shipmates and share old memories of our service aboard KAS. I plan on driving to the reunion this year and I will bring the original commissioning pennant for your viewing. I would like for us to decide where we can keep the pennant on display so that more can enjoy it.

*Jimmy*



USS KASKASKIA  
 Commissioning Pennant



*Brass plates within the frame identify the original pennant which was preserved and donated by GMC John Higgins.*



## From the Editor's Desk

**Background:** I joined the Pre-Com detail of USS KASKASKIA at Norfolk in 1961 and eventually we were sent to Brooklyn prior to joining the ship in Hoboken NJ for commissioning on 6 December. Assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Division as a SN, I was coxswain in charge of the starboard Utility Boat and when I made BM3, I had the starboard 03 gear locker and was rig captain for rig 8. I departed KASKASKIA in August 1963 back to civilian life. However, I rejoined the Naval Reserve and retired after 31 years as BMCM.

In civilian life, I graduated from University of Central Florida and became a teacher of English and Reading at middle school and college level. The last ten years, I wrote and managed Federal Education grants. I retired from the school system after 39 years.

For the last 18 years, I have edited a monthly 32-page naval history magazine for collectors of naval history

material such as mail from Sailors and Marines who served aboard ships during various wars.

If you want to share your stories and tales of memorable events while you served in KASKASKIA, send them to me for future issues of the BLAST.

*Richard Jones BM3 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 1961-1963*

## Out of the Past Life Aboard KASKASKIA



*This is KASKASKIA as we found her (dents and all) as she was brought out of mothballs at Bethlehem Steel Shipyard in Hoboken NJ prior to her recommissioning 6 December 1961.*

## TREASURER'S NOTES

TERRY GACIOCH

As most of you know we have not had an editor for the blast for the past few years. Shipmate **Richard D. Jones**, 61-63 BM3, 137 Putnam Ave., Ormond Beach, FL, 32174, Phone: [386-672-2112](tel:386-672-2112), e-mail [ao27kaskaskia@gmail.com](mailto:ao27kaskaskia@gmail.com). We would like to thank him for taking on the job. Any and all help is needed to keep the **Blast** going. Stories, tales, and articles, about the Kas should be send to the Editor. These items help make the **Blast** entertaining and informative.

Have you had a change of address or know a shipmate who has moved notify **Terry Gacioch** and he tries to keep an updated list of shipmates.

Dues are now being collected. They are needed to keep the **Blast** and reunions going. Dues are \$10.00 per year, and we have not raised the price for the past 28 years. Please send dues to the treasurer: **Terry Gacioch**, 3518-16th. St., Wyandotte, MI, 48192.

**Note from The treasurer--** Thank all of you who have helped me keep things in order. I would like to see more shipmates attending this reunion. **Bob Crosbie** is putting it on and, knowing him since I was aboard KASKASKIA, I know that he will, like always, being doing his very Best. The reunion is in Michigan and it is a very nice time of the year. I have my clothes packed and can't wait to leave for the reunion.

**USS KASKASKIA (AO 27) Ship's Store**

We still have USS KASKASKIA ballcaps \$10.00 + \$2.00 postage, ship's patch and pins, \$3.00 each plus \$2.00 postage. There are a limited number of charms/pins from past reunions for sale. See the KASKASKIA webpage for a list of pins with pictures.



Please send orders with the correct cost and postage to:

**Treasurer....Terry Gacioch**  
[dontergacioch@wyan.org](mailto:dontergacioch@wyan.org)  
 3518 16<sup>TH</sup> ST  
 WYANDOTTE, MI 48162-6422  
 (734)771-4349 or email [dontergacioch@wyan.org](mailto:dontergacioch@wyan.org)

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 Ormond Beach FL 32174-5331

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

**MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER**

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

**Terry Gacioch**  
**3518- 16th Street**  
**Wyandotte, MI 48192**  
**New Phone # 734-771-4349**

**THE FUTURE FLEET**

I certainly remember UNREPs with carrier groups hour upon hour across the Med. Those wonderful steam winches sure got a workout on the refueling rigs. I remember 'riding' the brake on the winch when we had a heavy highline load going over to a carrier just to keep the load out of the rushing water between the ships. KASKASKIA really depended on the 'snipes' to keep the steam flowing. We were 'old school' from commissioning until decommissioning.

As KAS was brought out of mothballs, the Navy already had commissioned USS NEOSHO (AO 143). She was the first of a class of U.S. Navy fleet oilers designed to combine speed and large cargo capacity for underway replenishment. I remember going aboard MISSISSINAWA (AO 144) in Norfolk and being amazed at her size compared to KAS.

USS CIMARRON (AO 177) was the lead ship of the CIMARRON-class and was commissioned in 1981 for service in the Pacific Fleet. Between 1989 and 1991 CIMARRON was "jumboized", meaning that, after cutting the ship into two sections after about a third from the bow, a 35.7 m long section was added to increase the fuel load. Five ships of this class were lengthened.

The HENRY J. KAISER-class of fleet oilers for which construction began in August 1984. This class is composed of eighteen underway replenishment oilers which are operated by the Military Sealift Command to provide underway replenishment of fuel to Navy combat ships and jet fuel for aircraft and helicopters. The KAISERS also have a limited capacity to supply ammunition, dry stores and refrigerated stores.

The 2012 30-Year Shipbuilding Plan calls for the KAISERS to be replaced by 17 double-hulled vessels under the JOHN LEWIS-class. The lead ship will be the USNS John Lewis (T-AO 205).



*Artist's conception of the T-AO 205-class fleet oiler  
 Makes you wish to be young and fit to join the crew!*

John Lewis Class Fleet Oilers

AO	205	John Lewis	NASSCO
AO	206	Harvey Milk	NASSCO
AO	207	Earl Warren	NASSCO
AO	208	Robert F. Kennedy	NASSCO
AO	209	Lucy Stone	NASSCO
AO	210	Sojourner Truth	NASSCO
AO	211-	13 more ships	NASSCO

USS KASKASKIA REUNION RESERVATION FORM					
DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
WED. 9/27	1500	Hospitality Room	15.00 pp		
THU. 9/28	0900-1500	Gilmore Car Museum	30.00 pp		
FRI. 9/29	0900-1430	Kalamazoo Air Museum	30.00 pp		
Sat. 9/30	1000-1300	Boat Ride w/Lunch	10.00 pp		
	1700-2100	Banquet	30.00 pp		
Amount Enclosed:					

Make checks payable to:

USS KASKASKIA AO-27 REUNION

Mail to:

**Robert Crosbie**

**60964 M-40**

**Jones MI 49061**

Phone:

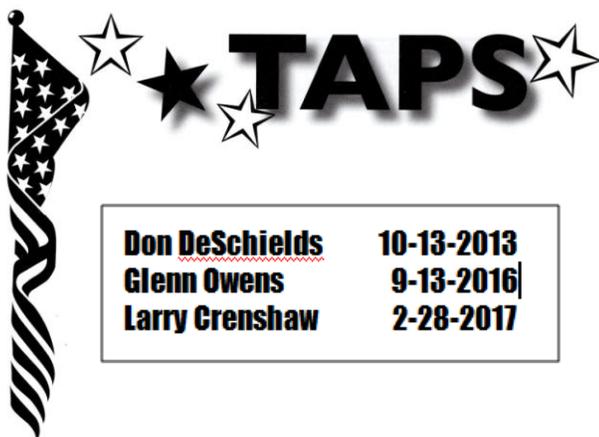
269-244-5474

269-501-6086-cell

Name:

Years Aboard KAS:

Wife/Guest(s) Name(s):



<b>Don DeSchiolds</b>	<b>10-13-2013</b>
<b>Glenn Owens</b>	<b>9-13-2016</b>
<b>Larry Crenshaw</b>	<b>2-28-2017</b>

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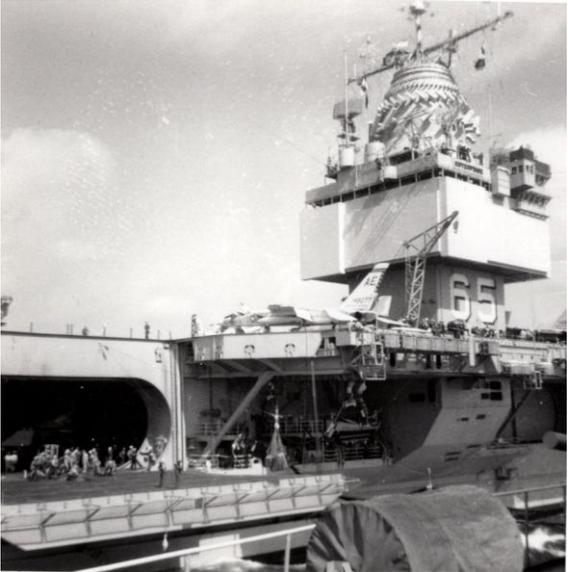


Richard D. Jones  
137 Putnam Ave  
Ormond Beach FL 32174

To:

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

**MAX OP TEMPO**



**USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65) UNREP from KASKASKIA Spring 1963 during KAS's Maiden Deployment to the Med. Photo 1-receiving fuel at aft starboard elevator. Photo 2-supplies being high-lined.**