



# USS Montrose (APA 212) Finds A New Home Port

By Bill Forbes

**A**t the outset, let me whole heartily agree with Bob Hahn as he stated in his Letter from the President that the new home port, Montrose, Colorado, surely is the most patriotic city in the United States of America. City Council member and former Mayor of Montrose, Judy Ann Files, is an excellent example of the hospitality we received by everyone. At the risk of repeating Bob's letter, she and her husband Ralph invited all of us into their home for a BBQ.



Here is a picture of what Bob said about the first thing we saw as we checked into our motel. Most of you are familiar with the Montrose visual call sign, NPPP. I had a chance to take Bob's picture while I got into the shot as well (check out the reflection in the window of the selfie in reverse).

There were more than 150 citizens of Montrose who turned out at the Warrior Resource Center for the program where Bob presented the scale model of USS Montrose (APA 212) to the city and county of Montrose. The Adjutant General of the Colorado National Guard even flew in from Denver for the occasion. He's the guy up front in his flight suit. The Montrose High School Junior NROTC provided the color guard.

Two days later the ship's model was in City Council Chambers where the Council declared June 17, 2014 as USS Montrose (APA 212) day. It was on June 17, 1944 when the keel for Montrose was laid in Richmond, California. You can view that city council proclamation video on line at:

<http://cityofmontrose.org/MediaCenter.aspx?City-Council-Meeting-June-16-Part-1->. In the search box, type June 16. Then click on the video of City Council Meeting June 16 part 1.



### Bob Makes The Presentation

**T**he USS Montrose part is the very first item following the Pledge of Allegiance led by Tony Batten's Grandson.

As stated earlier, Judy Ann Files and her husband Ralph were the gracious host and hostess for the cookout. This was the first time I tasted BBQ Elk, or was it Moose, or was it beef. It tasted like chicken...no, just kidding. It was Elk and it was great.

And it was in the Files' home where a grateful Arnie and Pat received the books from a grateful South Korea.



Montrose High School Jr. NROTC



Montrose Warrior Resource Center



**Ralph and Judy Ann Files,  
our gracious Montrose, Colorado  
Hosts**



**Arnie Wegher and Pat Durval  
receiving "Thank You" books  
via the South Korean government**



**Montrose mini-reunion shipmates in Montrose, Colorado June 2014**

**I** wish all of you could have been with us to enjoy the warm welcome and wonderful hospitality of Montrose, Colorado, the most patriotic city in the U.S.A.!



# President's Letter

**G**reetings. I am not one who likes to do a lot of writing, but this time I am excited to tell my side of the story on our recent Mini-Reunion in Montrose, Colorado. I only hope I can do it justice.

Upon arrival in Montrose, CO on Friday the 13th, we pulled into the Red Arrow Motel to check in. This was the first sign that this was going to be an awesome visit. The front door of the lobby had the Navy signal flags November, Papa, Papa, Papa (NPPP) displayed. For those unfamiliar with NPPP, that was the USS Montrose (APA-212) visual call sign. After checking in I made a trip to the Visitors Center to meet with Judy Ann Files, City Council Member, and Stacey Ryan from the Visitors Center. Stacey had prepared visitor bags for all our visiting crewmembers and Judy provided the plans for the next four days.

On Saturday the 14th the Warrior Resource Center was gathering point for the crew. Directors Emily Smith and Melanie Kline had prepared the evening festivities for the presentation of the Replica of the USS Montrose. Veterans from the area, City Officials, County Officials as well as General Edwards and his Chief of Staff CSGM Lawrence were on hand for the ceremony. I was asked to speak, and thanked the city, county and citizens for its support to veterans, introduced our crewmembers, and presented the USS Montrose Replica to the city and county. There was also a special presentation of an eagle cane to Jim McDermott, a Montrose crewmember from the 60's who lives near Montrose and whose brother lives in Montrose and makes the eagle cane. Jim was very surprised. Following the ceremony the County of Montrose provided a buffet for all to enjoy. We were able to visit with the veterans and guests and share many military memories.

On Sunday the 15th the crew of the Montrose and their families were invited to a reception at the home of Judy Ann Files. This gesture really describes the City of Montrose. Judy Ann, her family and friend's provided an awesome reception with delicious food, drink and hospitality.

It was also at this event that Emily Smith from Warrior Resource Center presented two of our Korean Veterans with a very special gift. The South Korean government has prepared a book containing pictures and articles from the Korean War and present South Korea to be given to Korean Veterans as a way of saying Thank You. Our two Korean Veterans present were Pat Duval and Arnold Wegher were overwhelmed and presentation did bring a tear to one's eye.

On Monday the 16th, with the help of Ralph, Judy Ann's husband, the replica of the USS Montrose got underway from the Warrior Resource Center and sailed to Montrose City Council Chambers. It was here at the City Council Meeting that the City of Montrose, CO proclaimed June 17th USS Montrose Day. Most of our reunion crewmembers and family were present for the proclamation. To view this proclamation you can visit this website;

<http://cityofmontrose.org/MediaCenter.aspx?VID=City-Council-Meeting-June-16-Part-1-190#player>

To say I enjoyed seeing my fellow shipmates, wives, grandkids, and their friends would be an understatement. We shared the same old sea stories, some new ones, great food and drink. We also had the opportunity to visit and tour sites in the area. Before I close, I have to say at this time, I think we were hosted by the most Patriotic City in the United States. Their support to the military, veterans and this country should be a standard for all.

Be safe, God Bless,  
Bob



# TAPS

It is always sad to inform our family of the passing of a shipmate.

We have been informed of the passing of Arlo Sanchez, 1st Div. 63-66. Please keep his wife Susan and family in your prayers.

For more information please visit [www.wrcfuneral.com](http://www.wrcfuneral.com)

## Requests and Other News

On May 7, 2014 a letter was received from John Keller about his father, John E Keller who served on the Montrose during the Korean Conflict, 1951 – 1954.

A copy of the letter follows

Good evening,

My name is John Keller, the son of John E. Keller who served aboard the Montrose during Korea. I ask that you pass along to the Montrose family that my father is in rapidly declining health. He has stage 5 Parkinson's and Dementia.

Recently, prior to the dementia worsening, he mentioned how much he enjoyed and missed going to the reunions. It was his most favorite activity.

We ask that the Montrose family include my father in their thoughts and prayers.

We will keep you informed.

Sincerely, John H. Keller

“Can Do – Will Do”

John E Keller served in the 4th Division, 1951-1954

*Please keep Mr. Keller in your thoughts and prayers*

# From The Editor



**B**ased on the article written by Bill Forbes and the President's Letter the Montrose Mini-reunion was a resounding success. The crew were treated like Royalty by the City Council, Warriors Resource Center, Veterans and local citizens alike. I was unable to attend due to previous commitments but truly wish I could have been there. I will certainly call on the WRC and visit the Ship's Bell the next time I travel through Montrose.

**Fair warning Montrose Family.** My wife and I travel a fair amount in our motorhome, you never know when you will receive a telephone call saying we are in the area and would like to stop in for a visit!! Since taking over this newsletter and talking to more and more of you I'm finding myself looking forward to longer RV trips and visiting old shipmates!

A short while ago I received an email from a Mr. Tom Caulkins. Mr. Caulkins provided a photo of a sailor, with a Montrose rocker on his shoulder. He said the photo came from his mothers effects and he would really like to identify the sailor. I have included the photo and note in this section. If anyone knows who this man is please let me know so I can pass the information on. I have spoken to Mr. Caulkins on the telephone and he did say the man had a Vietnam Service Medal on his chest. This would identify a general time period for when he may have served on the Montrose.

Your Editor, Harry Thy



**Who Am I?**

Mr. Harry Thy,

**T**his picture was among my father's and mother's effects.

The writing on the back says, "*I like this one best*", in what appears to be my mother's hand. If anyone knows this gentleman please contact me,  
Tom Caulkins (425) 488-4804, or  
tomsamoyed@hotmail.com.

I sure would appreciate putting this mystery to rest.

Thanks.

In other announcements, our erstwhile President Bob Hahn forwarded the following email to me regarding an upcoming reunion in Hannibal Missouri;

"Ramblin Rose/Mighty Monty" Shipmates,

A mini reunion is set for Sept. 7 thru 10 (3 nites), 2014 @  
\$79.99/nite @

Best Western on the River  
401 North Third St.  
Hannibal, Mo. 63401

573-248-1150 ask for Candace or Grace

mention USS Montrose Reunion

We currently have 10 rooms blocke, more should be available if needed.

The Hotel is Downtown, walking distance to many attractions.

The Mark Twain Riverboat has daily 1 hour sightseeing cruises, snackbar with sandwiches and beverages available, also a 2 hour dinner cruise daily with good food, live music, dancing and beverages. If we have enough interested we can reserve our own cruise.

Please let us know if you are attending and are interested in the dinner cruise

Paul/Barb Hultberg  
14762 St. Rt. 21  
Desoto, Mo. 63020  
636-586-4431  
e mail bnpberg@yahoo.com

Alternate contact Ed Cahill 319-234-5162

Barb and I will be gone 7-12 thru 7-19

cell fone 636-208-4231 Barb, 636-208-4851 me

Hope to see y'all there, we have a limited number of addresses so please help spread the word.

I hope the reunion will be a resounding success and can't wait to hear about it. Stories and photos will be gratefully accepted and may even be accurately reported!! Again I will not be able to attend due to health issues. I sure hope I heal soon, I seem to be missing all the fun!!

In the mean time I'm still looking for sea stories to print and any information that should be passed on. My name, telephone numbers and email are on the back of the newsletter. I answer my phone, return messages and answer emails!! Please help, I know there are many sea stories needing to be shared!!

I am still looking for some of those unsung hero stories folks. I really think they should be shared even if they are exaggerated a little! I'm having a tough time remembering what I had for breakfast so I'm really depending on you!

Harry Thy, USS Montrose, 1964-1966

U.S.S. Montrose Association

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