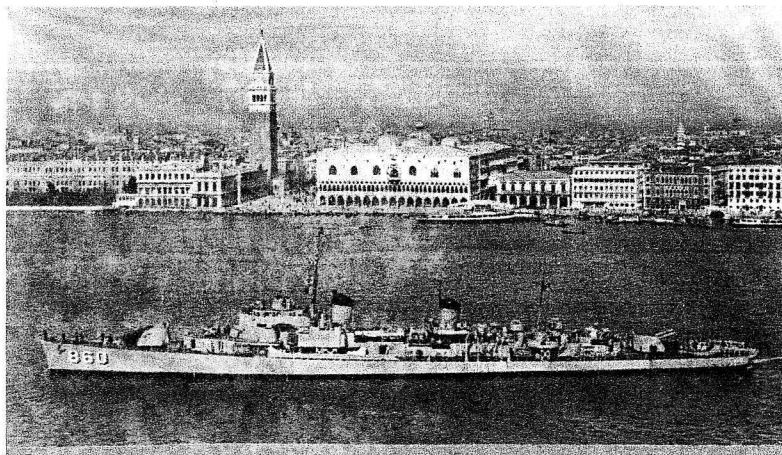


# McCaffery Newsletter

FALL - WINTER  
"2006"



USS McCaffery arriving in Venice Italy, 22 March 1954

Editor: Gordon Leiser - 417 Adirondack Ave., Spotswood, N.J. 08884 (732) 251-1457 email: GLeiser860@aol.com



## "Happy New Year"

### Shipmates!

Now that the warm and festive time of the holidays are fading, we face the challenges of a New Year. May the year "2006", be a happier time with brighter days ahead for everyone. As we go forward into the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity, to wish each and everyone, a very happy and healthy New Year, from the McCaffery Staff. "2006" will be a special year for the McCaffery crew.....why?...because many of us are looking forward to our next reunion, which will be held in Buffalo. Why not consider attending this year! We always welcome new faces, and are always ready to share some new "Sea Stories". Our reunions are held every two years, and for some reason, as we grow older, time seems to pass quickly, so why not consider making it a priority, to join us for a fantastic time.....

## "Shuffle off to Buffalo"

Get ready to head North this Sept. for another great reunion. You'll be happy to know, that this edition, contains all the information you'll need, for our next reunion in **Buffalo, N.Y. Sept. 13-17, 2006.**

### Please take note:

We have made arrangements with the **Holiday Inn-Buffalo/Amherst** to host our reunion. We chose this site, because we anticipate a large turnout, and they will be able to accommodate us. Please disregard the hotel mentioned in the last newsletter.

This will be the McCaffery's 11th Reunion, and it could be one of our largest to date. All the pertinent information, can be found on **pages 8 and 9.** From the letters and emails we've been receiving, it shows that many of you are interested and plan to attend.

**"Think Buffalo for 2006"**

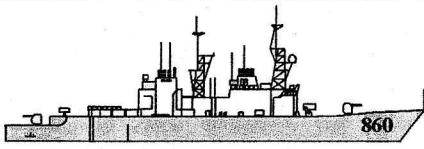


## Attention on Deck!!

This newsletter was delayed because we had some issues to deal with, regarding the Buffalo Reunion. Bill Maslak, has worked very diligently to get this reunion rolling. Along with the help of other Staff members, the kinks have been worked out and it's now "Full Steam Ahead"!! I apologize for the delay and we hope everyone understands.

### Locating a Shipmate

To locate a shipmate, please check the McCaffery Web Site at: [www.ussdd860.com](http://www.ussdd860.com) to see if his email address is listed. If not, contact B.Maslak by phone or mail and he will help you. You can also check the Web Site, to see who is planning on attending the reunion, in Buffalo.



### **McCaffery Staff**

#### **Ed Crowell - Registration for Reunion**

132 Royal Palm Dr.  
Leesburg, Fl. 34748  
(352) 728-6930  
JeanEdC@wmconnect.com

#### **Bill Maslak - Historian & Web Site Update - Mac Patches**

859 Hamill Road  
Verona, PA 15147  
(412) 704-0388  
ussdd860@earthlink.net

#### **Harold Faulkner - Membership Roster**

10211 Vinemont Street  
Dallas, TX 75318  
(214) 343-3111  
haroldef@sbcglobal.net

#### **Gordon Leiser - Newsletter, Hats, Shirts & Donations**

417 Adirondack Ave.  
Spotswood, N.J. 08884  
(732) 251-1457  
GLEiser860@aol.com

#### **Emmet Reed - Video**

4116 Galt St.  
San Diego, CA 92117  
(858) 273-7333  
EMMETREED@aol.com

### **Navy Gets New Secretary!**

Donald C. Winter, was sworn in as the 74th Secretary of the Navy, during a ceremony at the Pentagon on Jan 3rd. Former Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England (now Acting Secretary of Defense), administered the oath. Secretary Winter, outlined his priorities and stated; "that the American people have relied on a strong Navy and Marine Corps team, to defend them against their enemies. Nothing can play so decisive a roll, as well trained, highly motivated Sailors and Marines, who believe in their mission. The American people have turned to you, to keep our country safe. You have chosen a noble profession, and you've joined a long honored tradition, as guardians of our liberty, and defenders of a great nation. I am honored to serve you, as your Secretary".

### **Mystery Re-up in Hong Kong Harbor Solved!**

Mike Porter (NY) 72-73, is the swabbie shipping over in Hong Kong, Harbor, Feb 1973. Re; N/L **Spring /Summer "2005"** edition. Skipper Sam Coulbourn is shown administering the oath, and XO Bill Glover, is the witness. Mike says, "he has a duplicate picture".

### **Mac Patches**

McCaffery patches are still available. There are two to choose from: "**Drive them into the Sea**" (Bougainville), and the "**SeaHorse Riding a Hedgehog**" with a shamrock background. Both patches are brilliantly colored, and are of excellent quality. The cost is **\$5.50** each, or **\$10.00** for both which includes postage. To order: please send a check or money order to **Bill Maslak**

### **"Mac" Shirts & Hats**

Shirts & hats are available in navy blue (golf style), with the ships logo embroidered on the left side. Hats (one size fits all), are also navy blue with the same logo. Prices include shipping:

**Hats - \$12.00**

**Shirts - M-XL \$15.00**

**Shirts - 2X-3X \$17.00**

To order, please send check or money order to: **Gordon Leiser**



### **Videos From Past Reunions**

You can purchase VHS tapes or DVD's from previous reunions at a reduced price. If your interested, you can get more information by contacting:

**EMMET REED**

**4116 Galt St.**

**San Diego, Ca 92117**



# Welcome Aboard!



This column was launched recently, and its sole purpose is to list the names of recently found shipmates, who served on the "Mac"! Thanks to the efforts of our Historian, Bill Maslak, our roster keeps growing. The following, is a list of new shipmates, who have just joined us..... **Welcome Aboard Mates!**

Braman, Charles (FN)	55-59	Hendrickson, Lee (BM3)	71-73	Tibbets, Howard (SA)	71-72
Brown, James (ETR2)	66-68	Humphrey, Marion (MMFN)	72-73	Womble, Donald (EM3)	65-67
Burgess, George (BM3)	69-70	Morris, Richard (FT2)	69-71		
Crececius, Phil (GMG2)	72-73	Rhodes, Charles (SN)	64-65		



## Did It Happen?

Thanks to the dozen or so members for sending me stories of "Did It Happen", as they remembered it. Most, but not all, admittedly were hearsay "facts".....

On the night of 12 December, 1972, McCaffery was anchored in DaNang Harbor. "Skipper" Sam Coulbourn says; "I just remember some uneasiness". The ship was on high alert and well lighted, with lookouts and armed guards, fore and aft. Machine guns were mounted port and starboard near the quarterdeck. There was the possibility that Viet Cong swimmers or (sappers) would try to attach explosive devices to the McCaffery hull. It was heard earlier, that frogmen were active in the harbor and a couple were captured and/or killed. No doubt the situation was serious. The alert, the lights, the extra watch and armed guards, were enough to set imaginations in motion. Stories of sightings, abounded and were passed from one to another and by sound powered phones, "sometime" with embellishment. However, something did happen.. Actually, there were only a few people on the fantail directly involved, who knew, what happened, when a guard accidentally discharged his shot gun. This caused a commotion of people running and congregating topside to see the "intruder". Debris and foam on the water, became possible swimmers and frogmen. Some of the gunners fired at the "swimmers". With all the confusion, it was not actually known, if the ship was under attack. "Better to be safe than sorry". The armed guards, also, carrying percussion grenades, were ordered to lob them over the side, to force frogmen to surface, if indeed, any were there. None surfaced! Occasional shots and sightings continued throughout

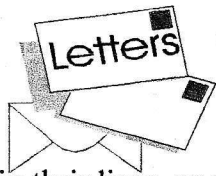
the night. The "womp" of percussion grenades, were heard periodically that night, interrupting those on watch below decks & the sleep of others, who felt safe enough to try and sleep. The fact is, nothing serious happened; there were no actual sightings of "sappers"; but all hands were happy to be underway and in deep water early on the 14th of December 1972

Thanks guys.....! Keep those stories coming!

## Navy Trivia

- What USN Tin Can currently on duty, has a Royal Navy Sailor permanently assigned to it's crew?
- If a Sailor tells you that he 'did the ditch", to what is he referring?
- A Sailor who has not yet attained pay grade E-4, is referred to by what term?
- What was the base pay for an Apprentice Seaman in 1941?
- What was the first US Destroyer named after a woman?
- In what year did pay grades E-8 & E-9 become effective?
- What 3 US Destroyers were sunk in a typhoon in the Pacific, on Dec 18, 1944?
- What does the term, "hot-racking" mean?
- If a Sailor is told to get rid of an "Irish Pennant" on his dungarees, what are they referring to?
- What purpose does "Med Lights" serve?

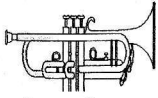
1. Winston Churchill (DDG-87)
2. He transited the Suez Canal
3. Striker
4. \$21.00
5. USS Higbee (DD-806)
6. 1958
7. Spence, Monaghan & Hull
8. Sharing a bunk with another sailor
9. A loose thread
10. None, they're purely decorative.



## "Mail Bag"

Many shipmates have written since the last newsletter. Thanks to all, who took the time to drop me a line. Most shipmates enjoy reading about their 'ol buddies, and what's going on in their lives, so please keep those letters coming. Now for some news.....

**Tom Heckert (PA)** wrote to say, how much he appreciates receiving the newsletter. He especially enjoys the trivia and is looking forward to the next reunion.....**Fred LaChance (VA)**...."Thanks for taking the time to send me the story about, "The Battle of Brandon Bay", which took place in Vietnam in 72-73. It was too lengthy to include in the n/l, but I will be sure to have it displayed at the reunion in Buffalo.....**William Wills(MI)**, served on the Mac from 68-72 as a QM2. He wrote to say, reading the n/l brought back some lost memories..... **Rich Ammon (FL)**, attended his High School reunion in Indiana, and also was planning to attend a TCS "Field Day" in Baton Rouge, this past October. Rich, said his wife Sheila went to Africa for six weeks to visit her daughter & son-in law who are missionaries in Zambia. The Ammon's lead a very interesting life. Keep it up you two!.....Heard from **Bill Botsford (NY)**, he said; "through the n/l, he was able to contact an 'ol buddy, he hadn't heard from in 30 years". His name is **Joe Lorino (NY)**, and they had plans to get together this past Labor Day. Hope you two had a great time catching up on things.....**Patrick Stoler (WV)**, thanks for writing and expressing your gratitude for the newsletter. The Staff wishes you and your wife better health for 2006.....Congratulations are in order for Jean & **Ed Crowell (FL)**, who became great-grandparents to three little girls, which included a set of twins, all born within 10 days of each other, in the great state of Texas. "God Bless" you all.....A nice letter was received from the widow of **Richard Rutkowski (MI)**, informing the McCaffery of his death from lung cancer. Rich served from 51-55, as an SK3. He was given a military funeral, and his priest, a former Navy man, sang the Navy hymn and also, recited the poem "The Watch". At the end of the service, he piped " Shipmate Going Ashore". It was a wonderful tribute, from one Navy man to another.....Received a nice note from the mother of a former shipmate **Dave Speakman (OH)**. It was written on stationary, he saved from his Navy days aboard ship. Mrs.Speakman, expressed her thanks and placed an order for a shirt and hat, as a Xmas present for her son. What a nice Mom!.....**Byron Buell (TN)**, really enjoyed the Savannah reunion and hopes to make the next one in Buffalo even though he lived in Rochester and just recently moved to TN.....**Dick Gleadall (OH)**, wrote that his health hasn't been the best, but is going to try and make it to Buffalo in '06 and meet up with **Bob Brown (FL)** who is also, planning to be there. Hope your health improves, so you can make it.....**David Putnam (OR)**, sent a letter titled; "Plank Owners Keep in Touch". It seems Dave and **Ralph Whitaker (CA)**, have kept in touch for the last 60 years by letters and emails. They have visited each others families throughout the years. Happy to hear that you two, are still going strong.....**Rich Coultres (ME)**, said that in '57, when his hitch was over, he tried to re-up, but the Mac said no, so his good buddy **Bob Lomas (NY)** contacted a friend at DesLant, and before long, he not only got to re-enlist, but was sent to school and went on to retire as a CPO.....**Steve Horton (TN)** and his wife Connie, took a cruise in October, to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. Steve said, this was the first time he was back on the sea, since leaving the Navy". He said; "it felt great"!.....**James O'Reilly (GA)**, served on the Mac from 50-51, straight from the Academy. "I was in OPS the entire time he said, and the Mac was a great ship, had a great crew and what I learned, lasted a lifetime". He appreciates hearing all the news and hopes some day to attend a reunion, with his wife Jane.



## Taps.....

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families of our departed shipmates. If you know of a shipmate, who is ill, hospitalized, or recently deceased, please notify us, so that we can respond in an appropriate manner. The following, is a list of shipmates who have passed away some time ago, we learned of their passing just recently. Included, in this list are also, a few who have died this past year.....

Bergmann, Dean	47-53	Fitzwater, Ceril	46-47
Coffin, Charles	46-47	Groce, Leland	51-53
Crayne, Oscar C	46	Hill, Leroy	46-50
Davis, Russell	63-64	Rutkowski, Rich	51-54
Deanaux, Wm.	47-48	Tannoia, Onesime	57-60
Driscoll, Ronald	53-55	Waffa, Ted	50-51
Easley, John	47-52	Warbington, Herb	46-47
Estes, Fred	47	Wilson, William	47

## Cuban Blockade

The following story was sent to me by one of our Staff members, Ed Crowell (FL).....

"I was walking down the street, when a new neighbor stopped me and said; "I know that ship, whose cap you are wearing". I asked if he was ever on board. His reply was "No, but it taught me how much politics are in the Military. I was a young Officer on the Commodores Staff, when he received the word that the USS McCaffery, had stopped a freighter with missiles on board. We transferred to the USS Kennedy; relieved you and took all the credit of stopping the first missile bearing ship". I told him we have never been able to prove that, as we couldn't find it in the deck logs or anywhere else. He laughed and said, "of course not, but feel free to use my name in telling this story, as I retired a Navy Captain, and there's nothing they can do to me now. His name: **Capt. Stanley Beach, USN (ret).**

## Quotes from Senior Citizens.....

I wish the buck stopped here! I could use a few...  
When did my wild oats turn to "Prunes and All Bran".....  
It's easier to get older, than it is to get wiser.  
If at first you do succeed, try not to look astonished  
It's hard to make a comeback, when you haven't been anywhere.

## Sailor Identified from "1941"

One week after the 64th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the Pentagon announced that the remains of a Navy sailor, missing in action since the historic attack, has been identified by forensic experts and will be returned to his family for burial. He is Seaman 2nd class, Warren P. Hickok, of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Hickok was assigned to the USS Sicard, a mine laying ship, when the Japanese attack occurred. He and other crewmen, were sent to help the crew of the USS Cummings, a Navy destroyer. The Cummings managed to get underway and clear the harbor, with no casualties reported. During an investigation to determine who was still unaccounted for after the attack, it was surmised that Hickok may have been killed aboard the Battleship USS Pennsylvania; it was known that some of the "Sicard crew" had been dispatched to the Pennsylvania, during the attack. In the days following, many of the dead who could not be identified, were buried in a cemetery, on the Island of Oahu. Among them, was an unknown sailor, identified only as "X-2". The grave was exhumed in "2005", and forensic anthropologists from the POW/MIA Accounting Command, were able to match those remains, with info from "Hickok's" World War II, medical and dental records.

## EPA Gives Navy "OK" To Sink Retired Ship

The Navy received approval recently to sink a retired aircraft carrier off the Florida coast and create the first of many planned artificial reefs from former warships.

The USS Oriskany, a famed Korean and Vietnam War ship, is the first of more than 20 ships the Navy hopes to dispose of through reefing, and it went through a lengthy permitting process with the Environmental Protection Agency.

The permit issued by the agency, allows the carrier to be sunk with toxic PCBs in its paint, insulation and other ship parts. The EPA said, the chemicals would slowly leach, as the carrier rusts, and would pose no danger to marine life or humans.



# Newsletter Donations

A sincere "thank you" to the following shipmates have sent donations, so that we can continue to send you the "Mighty Mac" Newsletter. Thanks guys, it really helps. At present, our mailing list is over 1,200, and that adds up to a lot of postage. I'm sure all of you, are aware that Postal rates went up on Jan 8th, so if you haven't made a donation, please consider doing so. As I have mentioned previously, we have no annual dues or membership fees, so all donations are truly appreciated and are used only for the publication of the McCaffery Newsletter.

Alcott, Rollin	63-64	Campbell, Ed	59-62	Germany, William	68-70	Moyer, Leland	51-56
Ammon, Rich	72-73	Cernava, John	65-67	Gleadall, Richard	49-52	O'Brien, Robt M.	60-62
Ashforth, Don	54-56	Cherry, Al	64-66	Gossett, Mel	70-72	Olszewski, John	53-55
Bailey, Gerald	72-73	Cobb, Luther *	45	Parker, William	61-65	O'Reilly, James	50-52
Bennett, Harold	54-56	Collette, Larry	69-72	Heckert, Tom	57-58	Overman, Rich	49-50
Berube, Fred	55	Coultres, Richard	49-57	Hodge, Alan Capt. (deceased)	65-67	Parsons, Robt.	51-55
Betz, Heinz	53-55	Crowell, Ed	62-67	Hoolapa, Duayne	72-73	Piper, Ray	49-50
Boniberger, Gene	49-52	Danberg, (Muse),C.daughter		Horn, Richard	62-63	Putnam, David*	45
Breckenridge, R.	47-50	Deacon, Kenneth*	45-46	Kaczynski, Ron	66-69	Raish, Hal	49-53
Briggs, Bill	60	Despathy, Ralph	58-61	Kerns, Jack	51-55	Stoler, Patrick	55-59
Brosnan, Joe	57-58	Ewen, Joseph	58-62	Keup, Richard	53-56	Twilley, James	52-56
Brown, Robert F.	49-52	Fisher, (Capt)	60-61	LaChance, Fred	72-73	VanHolt, Jay	50-51
Buechler, (Capt)	48-51	Force, H. Jay	55-56	Lang, Carl *	45-46	Webster, Ed	62-63
Buell, Byron	61-62	Frech, John	51-54	McGlaun, Norm *	45-46	Wills, William	68-72
Calvert, Carrol	48-52	Fulks, Tex	50-54	Moore, James*	45-46	Young, Merle*	45-46

\* - denotes plankowner



C. Weed and C. Davenport  
"Two Charlie's"

This past summer, Charlie Davenport (OH), and Charlie Weed (AL), finally got together after 49 years. They reminisced about the good ol days, aboard the McCaffery. Davenport, is retired from General Motors, and Charlie Weed, retired as head helicopter mechanic, from Fort Rucker. Maybe, their next meeting, will be at our reunion in Buffalo! Hey guys,.....noticed your wearing your McCaffery shirts,.....Way to go! Some of you may remember, "Weed" was in charge of the Ship's Store.....(and he did a great job)!



## You Know Your a Sailor When:

- Your blood test shows, you have salt water in your veins.
- You continue to fold your skivvies as you did in Boot Camp
- You have a Bluejacket's Manual in your personal library.
- You go to Denny's and order S.O.S.
- The ships you served on are now memorials, tourist attractions, or scrapped.
- You know the names of several bars in Hong Kong, Kowloon and Olongopo
- You create your own Plan of the Day, at home.
- You still go to the "head".
- At a pool party, when no one believes you can float with dungarees, you take off your jeans and show them
- You tell people to "make a hole" as you walk down the hall.
- You don't clean, you hold a " field day".

submitted by: Doug Hackett

## Children of Deceased Shipmates

Periodically, we receive mail from children of former shipmates. They write to inform us of their father's passing. In their letters, they also say, they would like to hear from anyone, who may have known their father or have recollections of their service together. They would love to hear from you. Here are a few who have written.

### **Theodore H. Waffa - 1950-51 Contact: Son**

Theodore K. Waffa., 401 Laurel Hill Rd, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

phone # 919-960-0303

Email; TKWaffa@compuserve.com

### **Russell Caul Davis - 1963 -64 Contact: Daughter**

Diana Schneider., P.O. 784 Asheville, N.C. 28802

phone # 828-251-9907

Email: ncladeedi\_1965@yahoo.com

### **William O. Wilson 1945-46 Contact: Son**

Scott Wilson - Email; swilson23@cox.net

I know they would appreciate hearing from you, so if you have any information to share, please take the time and contact them.

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### **New Address**

If your newsletter is forwarded to you, this is a clue, that you should contact us with your new address. The Post Office, does not always notify us of your new address, it depends on when the forwarding order has expired.

The last newsletter, produced about 20 returned letters. An email message sent to our members, who have computers, produced 65 returns, for unknown addresses. Please inform us if you change your **Postal or Email** address.

Contact: **Bill Maslak**

### **Richard Keup**

"Still going strong  
and having fun".



**Dick Keup (CA)**, at 72, in-line skates, bikes and windsurfs to stay fit. He believes that if you stop exercising, you doom yourself. That philosophy, has kept him active and fit for seven decades.

During his Navy days, Dick was a QM1 aboard the McCaffery from 1953-56. In civiliam life, he retired as an electronics and telecommunications technician.

He skis in the winter and loves to windsurf during the summer. Keup knows, that his body may someday fail him, but he's working hard to keep in shape and stave off the day.

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### **Tips For a Successful Life**

Take time to smell the roses

Never deprive someone of hope, it might be all they have.

Don't take your health for granted.

Don't be afraid to say I'm sorry.

Improve your performance by improving your attitude.

Take good care of those you love.

Make it a habit to do nice things.

Don't expect money to bring you happiness.

Be forgiving of yourself and others.

Never give up on anyone. Miracles happen every day.

Take care of your reputation. It's your most valuable asset.

Be there when others need you.

Don't blame others.

Never be ashamed honest tears.

Count your blessing.....



## U.S.S. McCaffery's 11th Reunion Buffalo, N.Y.



**September 13 - 17 2006**

Our 11th reunion will be held in **Buffalo, NY**. Arrangements have been made with the **Holiday Inn -Buffalo/Amherst** to host our banquet and also, for a special room rate for our group. A block of rooms has been set aside for us. Please call **(716) 691-8181** to make your reservations, and specify the **USS McCaffery Reunion** to get the discounted rate of **\$79.00 plus tax, per night**. Please make your reservations early, this will guarantee you a room. Non smoking, smoking &, handicapped accessible rooms are available. No charges will be made to your credit card, until check out. All reservations **must** be made by **August 6th, 2006**. It is suggested, that you call the motel from the Airport, then go for your luggage. This will give the motel time to get the van to the airport. Most importantly, if you plan to attend the reunion, please send your **reservation fee of \$15.00 per person to Ed Crowell, as soon as possible**. Registration covers the Hospitality Room, (snacks, refreshments, etc). If for any reason you have to cancel, your money will be refunded. We have scheduled a few tours for Thursday and Friday. No one is obligated to go on these tours, if they so choose. However, I feel it's a great way to see the area and keep the group together. Below is a description of the tours we have planned. **Please note that on Friday, you must choose only one of the tours listed.**

### **Thursday 9/14 Roundabout Niagara - A tour of Niagara Falls, NY and Ontario**

You will head to the US side of the Falls to visit Goat Island and Terrapin Point for a view of the Upper Niagara River Rapids and the American Falls from the brink. Then you are off to Niagara Reservation State Park and the Prospect point Observation Tower, where you will descend into the Niagara Gorge & board the Maid of the Mist, for a n unforgettable cruise to the base of the Horseshoe Falls. Then the group will cross over to the Canadian side (proof of U.S. Citizenship require), and then on to the Penthouse Room (atop the Sheraton at the Falls) for a luncheon buffet with a spectacular view of the Falls.

### **Choose one of the following:**

#### **Friday 9/15 - Buffalo & Erie Country Naval and Military Park Tour**

Visit the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park. Experience Military history as you tour the destroyer USS The Sullivans, Guided Missile Cruiser USS Little Rock, and submarine USS Croaker. Also on display a PT Boat, Army tank, Air Force & Navy jets & Museum exhibits, representing all branches of the Armed Forces. After the tour, you'll enjoy a delicious luncheon buffet at Salvatore's Italian Garden, one of Buffalo's famous restaurants.

#### **Friday 9/15 - Erie Canal and Locks Tour**

Journey to Lockport, NY, for a two hour narrated cruise on the Erie Canal. This relaxing, enjoyable experience will educate your group about the Canals history and lore, while locking up and down the 50ft Niagara Escarpment. Following the cruise, you will enjoy a luncheon buffet at the Canalside Emporium, an 1840 warehouse renovated to provide a casual, yet elegant Canal Town atmosphere.