

BY THE  
numbers

\$5

The cost of a hot dog, popcorn, peanuts, cookie and 20-ounce soda at Petco Park

1,450

Calories consumed with the "5 for \$5 special"

76

Grams of fat in those five bucks

6.5

Hours you'd need to walk to burn off a "5 for \$5" meal

**SOURCE:**  
Katie Clark, registered dietitian, katieclarkrd.com

five  
questions

We sat down with retired Rear Admiral **John "Mac" McLaughlin**, president and CEO of the *USS Midway* Museum—the most visited ship in the world and most visited museum in San Diego—as it celebrated its fifth anniversary.

**What's it like to have your own aircraft carrier?**

Those of us who have been a part of building this have always hoped San Diego would adopt it as *her* aircraft carrier. We just happen to be fortunate enough to work here. But I think a lot of people in San Diego don't understand the history of the carrier, and the fact that the aircraft carrier was invented right here in San Diego.

**What's the strangest request from a visitor?**

Last year we had 275 special events here. One of those was an 83-year-old man getting married to a 49-year-old lady, and the ring bearer was her toy French poodle. The Porsche Club of America wanted to come on board and do a demonstration on the flight deck. We said yes to that. The BMW Motorcycle people wanted to give a presentation. We've had hot-rod associations, black-tie dinners and everything in between.

**Do any portions of the Midway remain state secrets or off limits?**

None at all. When [the government] decommissions a ship, it takes off anything that has any security value. People can take pictures of anything they want to, wherever they go.

**What are your plans for the Midway's next five years and beyond?**

A couple of our board members went on trips to



the East Coast. Wherever they went, they found a monument to the birth of our nation, the Constitution, the values of freedom for all people, and the need to sacrifice and ensure those freedoms are maintained. Yet on the West Coast, you can drive from San Diego to Seattle and there are no real American symbols. We're trying to turn this into an American symbol.

**Can I take it for a spin around the bay?**

The only time this boat can leave its berth is if we ever decide to tow it back to Bremerton [to the Navy Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility], and we're doing everything we can to ensure that day never comes.

—ADAM ELDER