

The Perry's 5th Reunion



So you want to know how the reunion went? Well I'll tell you... It went like clock work and if you weren't with us, you missed a hell of a good time. Sensational is the only way to describe our getting together to celebrate the DD-844 commissioning some 60 years ago on January 16, 1946. For most of us and especially our Plank Owners Dick Pittenger, Bill Beyhl, Jim Archer, Mike Cannon, Jack Carty and Bobbie Rau it seemed like yesterday. No I didn't forget the kids from the DMS-17. They were well represented by Barbara Kline and her son Darius, Charlie & Dorothy Lishman & daughter Janet, Art & Fran Paule and Frank Pogue. This scenario must tell you something, excluding children, the age span of our shipmates enjoying the reunion ranged from 55 to 86 years young. It just doesn't get any better!

Truly, it was fair winds all the way with Joe Malmendier charting the course for our skipper Martin Deeney and helmsmen Sid Brown and Bob Hales. As always, Chief Sid made sure our 'ward room' was well stocked with a variety of libations. More importantly, it was happy hour all the way with the vivacious and sexy Joan Guariniello keeping our glasses filled to the brim. I'm not sure if this was training for a new endeavor of Lou's or this was a job calling in a previous life. In any case we really appreciated the fine service. Thanks a bunch.



From our shipmates attending a reunion for the first time I was most pleased to hear they felt at home immediately upon their arrival.

I'm sure being warmly greeted by our beautiful pin-up-girls had a lot to do with it. Hopefully Aida Davidson, Linda Hales, Sandi Pittenger, Bev

Malmendier and my own sweetheart Cathy Silk are planning to ship over for the next reunion.

Yes we did stop partying long enough see the wonderful sights of D.C. and spent a lovely day at Naval Military Academy in Annapolis. Seeing these fine young cadets truly made us all feel good about the future of our country. Our reunion was further highlighted with our visit to the United States Navy Memorial in D.C. where we were warmly welcomed by Rear Admiral Buchanan and given a tour of the facility. He later presided over our memorial service as we paid tribute to all our shipmates who have taken their final voyage since our last reunion. Our own Master Chief Mike Vanderschaaf orchestrated and presided over our Flag folding ceremony that was then presented to Barbara Klein in recognition of the loss of her father aboard the DMS-17. The ceremony brought tears to everyone's eyes and especially to Barbara who was totally unaware of the role she would play in the ceremony.

We were so moved by our experience at the US Navy Memorial that the feeling carried forward to our biz meeting. Upon concluding our general business of finance, officer elections and approving our next reunion venue new business was opened for discussion. Immediately a motion was made to consider Perry representation at the USN Memorial. At this very moment you could feel the high level of energy in the room and without hesitation, Rick Flanagan pledged a very substantial amount to kick off the campaign fund. The scene was electrifying as other pledges followed. Within a short period of time we received pledges that brought us past our 50 % goal of \$2,500.



Quite frankly Rick Flanagan's pledge gave me some cause for concern. I immediately had to see if he if he was feeling well and more importantly, did he have permission from his Skipper Joy to execute the pledge. I soon learned the Flanagan's were quite well and of sound mind and Joy actually initiated the pledge. While most of us know the Flanagan's lost their hearts to each other in Scotland while Rick served aboard the Perry, we didn't know Joy received her US Citizenship at the Navy Memorial

site and it had a special place in her heart all these years.

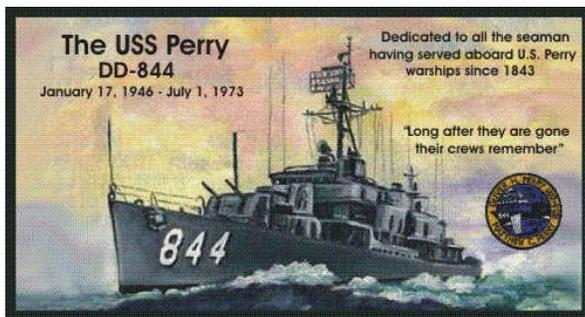
Have you ever thought about what a Church Pastor feels when for the umpteenth time he must talk to his parishioners about tiding? Well at the moment I kind of feel a little bit like that person. However, I do have a lot easier task because I think I'll only have to ask once. So here it goes....

Please, we need your help for a 100% goal achievement. I'm sure I don't have to tell you the USNM is a most worthy cause that is also TAX deductible. More importantly, when it's our time we will be warmly welcomed by a Perry crew of happy shipmates who have taken their 'final voyage before us. Donation details can be found in the enclosed letter of our Campaign Fund Chairman, Rick Flanagan. Contributions received above the required amount will be donated to similar Naval charities.

Many thanks

Rick will be happy to answer any questions you may have 978-531-5968

What do you think of this proposed plaque design for the US Navy Memorial Commemorative Wall?



Raffle & 50/50

Joan and Lou took charge of this event. They eagerly encouraged everyone to purchase tickets by promising not to win the 50/50. Trust me, this was a significant promise because Lou has a perfect record in the 50/50 winners circle. Lou was true to his word and let Art Fuller sneak in for the win. I guess the \$480 pot was too small a pot to bother.

Thanks Lou and special thanks to Art for kicking back a \$100 bucks to the Perry Treasury.

The raffle had a number of contributed gifts ranging from a beautiful Navy leather jacket to books, paintings etc. We lucked out and so did the winner because an XL size Jacket rather than medium was received in error when purchased. I think we have Rick Flanagan to thank for deciding to donate the jacket to the raffle rather than returning it to the vendor for the proper size. Wait, the story gets better. No Rick didn't win his own jacket. And now for the winner...Prizes were taken from the raffle table in order of the winning number being called. There was a moment of silence when the number was called and Darius Klein, yes Barbara's son stepped up to the table to examine and select his prize. Being a modest man he was hesitant about selecting the premier prize until he heard the encouragement of us all telling him to go for it. He did and the jacket fit like it was tailor made for him. And no, the fix wasn't in.

Our Banquet



The Banquet commenced with Captain Peter Watson and his lovely bride Marian being piped aboard the Perry by Master Chief Vanderschaaf in full Naval Dress uniform and saluted by our Honor Guard. Peter and Marian were truly good sports for letting us play out our memories of yester-year. Now let's hear it for the Chief and his bride Mary. They were surely looking very dapper in their Naval attire. Most definitely winning the best-dressed award at the banquet.



As usual we had ample time to pat each other's back by presenting recognition awards for jobs well



done. Martin received our Top Management Award with Joe receiving our 'Happy Strongman' award. Lou Guariniello and Roger Rae shared best recruiters. Mike Van under strict scrutiny and approval of Mary was awarded the Good Conduct medal. I understand it's a first for him since leaving

the Navy. Awards were also presented to our youngest and oldest shipmates. We also recognized our perennial group of perfect Reunion attendees and those shipmates who traveled the greatest distance to and from our reunion. Our perennial winner Ernie Peterson from Bow Washington could not make it this year and finally conceded the award to our California based shipmates Don & Doris Turner, Charlie & Dorothy Lishman and Bob & Betty Weyeneth.

More importantly, we recognized the entire fine crew of attendees that made this reunion a barrel of fun and have us looking forward to our next reunion in San Antonio Texas. The exact date has not yet been set but is planned for the latter part of March 2007.

The Banquet was concluded with Martin Deeney putting on an excellent video presentation of our modern Navy that saluted the Men & Women of our armed forces for their extraordinary effort. Thanks Martin for putting this original production together.

Reunion Memento

We all received a crystal memento with the Perry image etched in the center. The crystal sits on a base that can illuminate for special effects. If you would like to have one of these really neat mementos please phone Mike Stephens for details. 813-289-4119



San Antonio Our Next Reunion Site

Briefly, our association officers selected 3 locations from approximately 12 recommendations. Then everyone at the biz meeting voted on the 3 locations. The two locations getting the most votes then had a run off election. The overwhelming majority selected San Antonio over Fall River.

Bob Noroski accepted the responsibility of next reunion Chairman. John Ellis and Roger Ray signed on as committee members. Rick Stephens having been to San Antonio on several occasions will help as well.

Raffle and Dues

Contribution made at our business meeting added a bit more than \$1,000 to our treasury. We truly appreciate this expression of confidence.

Just A Few Reunion Commentaries

Laurie and I had an outstanding time. Laurie had more fun at this function than she had at any other Navy function. She felt included in everything. We are both very excited about attending the next reunion at San Antonio. It's a great choice ... Ted Curtis

My son Darius said, "I knew it would be interesting, but I'm having Fun!!" He has talked so about it, Canon and Jodie, my other son and his wife, are planning on going to San Antonio with us at the next reunion. Everyone is already looking forward to it! ... Barbara Klein

Just a short note to say Marian and I had a great time. I was really impressed with the organization of the Perry Association and execution of the activities. I'm sure a lot of people did a hell of a lot of work pulling this all together. Thank you for everything. Peter Watson

The reunion was terrific and I appreciate your making me feel welcomed at my 1st reunion. I look forward to San Antonio. Thanks again, Dick Linden

Stay well and see you in San Antonio

Steve Silk
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Please let us have your new email address.