



YANCEY MEMORIES

COORDINATORS MESSAGE

I hope everyone is well and enjoyed the Summer. The Annapolis reunion was held in late September with a small attendance of only two Yancey shipmates, John & Velma Birkel, Duane & Betty Malme & daughters, Sonya Malme & Kimberly Rowland and Widow Toby Gillespie; I was unable to attend but with the assistance of others a reunion summary is included in this newsletter. The 2022 reunion will be in September in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I'm sure we can have a larger attendance.



This issue includes a story of a shipmate's trip to the Yancey with his entire family that I think you will all find interesting. Having said that we really do need more stories to keep the newsletter going. Don't worry about being a perfect story teller because whatever you send can be edited by Ric. I hope you all enjoy this edition and have a safe Winter and enjoy all of the upcoming holidays.

George Clifton
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2021 REUNION RECAP

Although the Yancey only had a small attendance the reunion was fun as always. As part of the larger Amphibious Ships Reunion Group, the Yancey had only 7 in attendance this year. This was far less than the 16 who attended in 2019. It was obvious that lingering COVID concerns kept numbers down a bit. Hopefully, those concerns will be gone by next year.

The Annapolis area was nice, weather was iffy, but hotel facilities were great. Once again, everyone attending from Yancey unanimously agreed it was a good reunion. As usual, some ships were represented by many shipmates and guests, while others were represented only by a few...continued on page 2

From The Summer 2021 Issue

In our Summer 2021 issue, within Jerry Nichols Shorts article there was story about a BM3 who in 1962 needed a bit of help from Crane #2 when returning from liberty. Ed "Boomer" Weigel sent us this picture.



2021 REUNION RECAP continued

Regardless, all were "gator" ships, including the USS Bexar (APA-237), USS Cambria (APA-36), USS Capricornus (AKA-57), USS Casa Grande (LSD-13), USS Chilton (APA-38), USS Monrovia (APA-31), USS Muliphen (AKA-61), USS Pickaway (APA-222), USS Rankin (AKA-103), USS Telfair (APA-210), and USS Yancey (AKA-93).

As before, the reunion was managed and coordinated by Skip Sander of the USS Rankin Association, George Clifton of the USS Yancey and Ray Casey of Military Reunion Planners. They did another excellent job. Ray and his assistant Christine were there every day making sure everything ran smoothly. It's easy to feel spoiled when one can attend a reunion where we can simply enjoy it without having to do all the work. And like past reunions, we also had a terrific hospitality room with enough libation and snacks to satisfy everyone. The tours and other events were great. On Monday evening (Sep 20) there was a welcome buffet for the group that was well attended. A hot breakfast buffet for reunion attendees staying at the hotel also was available every morning that was included in the room rate..

On Tuesday (Sep 21) we toured the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. What a wonderful and inspiring place it is. We had excellent tour guides who led us throughout the campus grounds, seeing everything from Captain's Row (beautiful homes for commanding officers) to the tomb of John Paul Jones. A very special treat was to witness the noon meal formation of all Midshipmen who marched into Tecumseh Court and stood at perfect attention, while battalion attendance was taken. Once this is completed, the Academy band played "Anchors Aweigh," followed by the "The Halls of Montezuma" as the Midshipmen marched into Bancroft Hall (their huge dormitory) for their noon meal. There was also a pizza lunch for those attending the tour.

Wednesday (Sep 22) we were bused to Baltimore where we were able to tour the S.S. John W. Brown, one of only two remaining, fully operational Liberty ships that participated in World War II. The John W. Brown was built in Baltimore in 1942 and spent its war years in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Not quite as big as the Yancey at 440 feet long, it still was big and similar enough to bring back many memories of amphib ships like the Yancey. We were able to tour any part of the ship we wanted from berthing decks to engineering to the bridge and deck gun locations. It is "crewed" by a group of volunteer guides who are all certified for the positions and responsibilities each had. In addition to various local activities, the John W. Brown still steams out from Baltimore several times a year for display purposes. Later in the day we were given a bus tour of the City of Baltimore, plus a tour boat ride around Baltimore's harbor. Wednesday was pretty overcast, and we did experience some drizzle and light rain, but not enough to spoil the day's activities.

We weren't so lucky on Thursday (Sep 24) as a storm and heavy rains hit Annapolis. We were scheduled for an afternoon boat tour of Annapolis harbor that had to be cancelled due to the weather. We did attempt to do a bus tour of Annapolis earlier that morning, but heavy rains made it less than what was hoped for. Couldn't help the weather, but at least we were kept busy for a few hours even if only inside a bus riding around town in the rain!.....Continued on page 4

Joseph W. Frederickson & family visit the Yancey July 17-24 2021

After a horrific car accident my husband Joe and I had in September 2020, I decided we would do something special to celebrate our family who means so much to us! We had talked about going to Beaufort, NC years ago as we knew the Yancey was sunk off the coast. The family & I hatched the plan! We would take Joe and our entire family, from North Lake, Wisconsin, to the site where the Yancey was sunk! I was able to find a company--Outrageous Diving out of Beaufort, NC--that was willing to take our family of 14 out. We had special shirts made for the entire family that said "Frederickson Voyage to the USS Yancey" with a picture of the Yancey. Now, we needed to keep it a secret from Joe. That was the most difficult as we were all so excited to do this for him. Joe enlisted in the Navy when he was 17 he got in on a "kiddie cruise" on the Yancey and was honorably discharged as an E-4 Boiler Technician. Our house is full of nautical artifacts and an abundance of Yancey shirts, hats, sweatshirts and a jacket too.

As Joe and I had visited North Carolina in the past when our youngest son played hockey there, he did want to go back, so I just told him we were taking a trip back to North Carolina, and that our son Christopher would take us to the airport. The entire family met him at the terminal with their shirts on--Joe was in shock!

Monday morning we arrived at Beaufort to board the "Carolina Rig" and begin our 3-hour long voyage out to the Yancey. The crew invited Joe to view the Yancey on their sonar! I had ordered a biodegradable wreath and we also had carnations for each to leave as we hovered above the Yancey. Our son, Joe said a prayer. Then USN Joe placed a wreath over the site. It was a wonderful time for all of us to be together and celebrate the USS Yancey and Joe's time in the Navy.

by Karin Ordway Frederickson



USS Yancey Reunion Group



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A Newsletter Exclusively
for Former USS Yancey
(AKA-93) Sailors & their
Families

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THE WORLD IS OUR BEACHHEAD

Shipmates Who Have Passed

Robert Bergner
Capt. 68-69
Deceased 7/15/16

Joe Heimerman
QM2 46-47
Deceased 3/2021

Edward Hovatter
SF1 61-63
Deceased 6/23/21

John Mielke
LTJG 53-54
Deceased 7/30/20

2021 REUNION RECAP *continued*

The reunion closed that Thursday night with our sit-down dinner banquet held in the hotel's ballroom. Following the dinner, we were entertained by a great stand-up magician who entertained all with his "slights of hand" and comedic conversation. He was definitely a hit with many who were left scratching their heads saying "how did he do that?"

Thanks again to all that attended. Let's hope all of them and more make it to Colorado Springs next year!