



# YANCEY MEMORIES

## COORDINATORS MESSAGE

I hope this finds you all well during this strange weather spell around the country. We have had only 3 or 4 days of freezing weather in the Chicago area and spring like temperatures in February and March. It has been a while since the last newsletter simply because we are not receiving any stories to include. I did write up a brief history of our reunions and fortunately there is more reunion information to share.

Since the last newsletter I learn that those planning on attending the cruise reunion need to register and pay by July. I also learned there is another amphibious ships reunion planned for September. I didn't know the other organization existed and learned of it recently. So, for those of you, including myself, who do not want to go on a cruise there is another option. Or for that matter you can do both. On the Zoom call with Jerry Wotherspoon and other ship representatives we discussed joining the other group for future reunions. This seems like a good idea to me, but let's wait and see how the September reunion is before making that decision.

I hope we can get more stories sent in to keep the newsletter going. They don't necessarily have to be of time aboard but can be about your experiences after leaving the Yancey.

George Clifton— [clifs@ameritech.net](mailto:clifs@ameritech.net)

## HISTORY of the YANCEY REUNION

Back in 1995 I was reading the American Legion Magazine when I ran across a blurb about a possible reunion for Yancey sailors. I called Dick Balt and learned he was working with the Military Locator and Reunion Service attempting to organize a Yancey reunion. I soon learned that the inaugural reunion was planned for Norfolk, Virginia in November. I was unsure about attending until I received a call from Skip O'Leary. Skip and I hung out together while aboard the Yancey and he convinced me I should attend. I still remember sitting in the Hilton Hotel bar with Skip and Jim Kaleta the first night and the memories just kept coming back. It was like we were on liberty in the 60's. It was a great reunion and very well attended since many attendees were a group from Operation High Jump, an excursion to the North Pole, and had past reunions for that group. However, most did not continue to attend the Yancey reunion after the first one.

It was decided we would meet every other year so we skipped 1996 and met in San Francisco in 1997. There the reunion was changed to yearly and the 1998 reunion was in Pensacola, Florida. Since we have had 27 reunions, I will not list each reunion location as that information is readily available on the Yancey website.

We worked with Military Locator and Reunion Service for our reunions from 1995 through 2013. We had yearly reunions all over the country during that period. However, since attendance decreased yearly it became necessary to merge with another ship. I had been talking with Skip Sander, USS Rankin AKA-103, about having a joint reunion and now seemed like the time. So, starting with the 2014 reunion in Rhode Island we joined the USS Rankin AKA-103 and Military Reunion Planners became our reunion partner.

In 2017 other Amphibious ships were invited to attend and we were joined by 3 APAs, the USS Bexar, USS Cambria, and the USS Pickaway. We continued inviting other amphibious ships and had 18 represented at our 2019 reunion in Buffalo, New York. Unfortunately, due to Covid the 2020 reunion was canceled. We did have a reunion in Annapolis in 2021 and a 2022 reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado. After this reunion Military Reunion Planners informed us, they no longer wanted to partner with us any longer due to low attendance.

It looked like the reunions were coming to an end when Jerry Wotherspoon from the USS Muliphen AKA-61, stepped in and said he would organize our 2023 reunion. Jerry was not part of the Amphibious Ships Reunion Group but had experience in organizing reunions for his ship, the USS Muliphen AKA-61. We had the reunion in Dayton, Ohio with 11 Yancey people attending. The next reunion is a cruise in October 2024 and an alternate reunion in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in September.

## 2024 AN ALTERNATIVE REUNION

We learned that there is another amphibious ships organization that is having a reunion in Gettysburg, PA September 4th through 7th. This organization started as a group for LST's but like our original AKA group they are now including all amphibious ships. I was not planning on going on the reunion cruise, so am very excited about this opportunity. I spoke with them and they are very welcoming. They also said you do not need to be a member to attend the reunion.

The organization is AAFA, American Amphibious Force Association.. This is their website <http://www.gatornavy.com/home.html> On the bottom of the Home page, click on “Now Hear This” under reunions for the reunion information and to book a room. At the top of the Home page click on Reunions and Gettysburg reunion to register for the reunion. You must mail a check to register. I hope to see some of you there.

### Activities:

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 Registration

Hospitality Room Open

Thursday, September 5, 2024 Hospitality Room Open

Gettysburg Battlefield Bus Tour Lunch @ Historic Dobbin House (1776)

Friday, September 6, 2024 Hospitality Room Open

Open Day – explore Gettysburg on your own

Friday Night Hospitality Room Open Pizza Party, Meeting, Auction

Saturday, September 7, 2024 Hospitality Room Open

Open Day – explore Gettysburg on your own

Saturday Night Open Hospitality Room - Buffet Banquet



## 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

### A Shipmate Who Has Passed

Timothy Bryan, LTCMD  
deceased 9/4/2023

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Your Yancey Newsletter needs your stories,  
share your Yancey memories  
and your post Naval career with  
your shipmates  
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