

YANCEY MEMORIES

Volume 17, Issue 3



October 2013

Report on 2013 Reunion in Washington, DC

Washington, DC was the location for the 2013 USS Yancey reunion. Fourteen former shipmates from the Yancey and 6 of their guests were in attendance, as well as the widow and grandson of Richard Cheaney who served aboard in the early 60's. Everyone enjoyed the four day/three night event on October 3-6 at the Crown Plaza Reagan National Airport. Everyone began arriving on Thursday, October 3, and the first thing most of them did after registration was go into the hospitality room to see who else had arrived. At 5:00 PM everyone gathered in the hospitality room for an informal start of the reunion. Kathy Cheaney and her grandson Kris Russell, USMC, were quickly welcomed into the group. Dick Balt was in attendance for the first time since the 2001 reunion. It was great to see Dick again since he was the person responsible for starting the Yancey reunion back in 1995. Some time was spent discussing our Friday tour

options since the Government was shutdown and many of our planned destinations other than the Navy Memorial were closed. We agreed that we would leave it up to the tour guide to take us where he could. The remainder of the evening was spent reminiscing and catching up on what happened since the last reunion.

Friday morning provided perfect weather for our tour of DC and the USS Yancey Plaque Dedication Ceremony at the Navy Memorial. At 9:00 the group departed the hotel, and our first stop was the Air Force Memorial located next to Arlington Cemetery, which provided a spectacular view of the Pentagon and the city. After departing the Air Force Memorial we drove by the Marine Memorial. We were able to view the Iwo Jima statue but unable to enter the park. We then headed over to the World

War II Memorial which had been on the news daily since the Government shutdown. There was a lot of activity and we did get off the bus and were able to walk around the outside. I understand that some were able to enter when the Park Rangers basically looked the other way. Next stop was the US Navy Memorial for the Plaque Dedication. After leaving the bus we were joined by a man wearing a Yancey baseball cap who said he served aboard the Yancey in the late 40's. His name is Lindy Leo and he lives in nearby Silver Springs Maryland. Learning of the reunion on the internet he decided to attend the dedication. (See separate article by Ed McLaughlin). There was a professional photographer outside to take a group picture by the statue of the Lone Sailor before proceeding inside to the Areligh Burke Theater where we viewed the IMAX movie followed by

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"Our Reunions Work So You don't Have To"

(Continued from page 1)

the Plaque Dedication Ceremony. After the ceremony we exited the theater and viewed the USS Yancey plaque on the Commemorative Plaque Wall. (See photo on page 3) Everyone then had the opportunity to view other exhibits at the Memorial and visit the Ships Store. After stopping at Union Station, for lunch and shopping, we headed up North Capital Street to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This church is the largest Roman Catholic church in the United States and North America. After spending some time in the church we headed back through Washington DC, passing the Capital Building and many other monuments, on our way back to the hotel for our business meeting and some relaxation.

Business Meeting

George Clifton opened the meeting by stating that based on the continuing declining attendance at our reunions the reality is we need to plan on joint reunions in the future. This being the case it would be a waste of time to vote on the location for next year or determine cities for 2015. Clifton has been in contact with the USS Rankin and USS Muliphen, both AKAs, who are having a joint reunion in San Antonio October 10th. They do have separate hospitality rooms, however go on tours together. A major advantage to a joint reunion is lower costs because of numbers and tours don't get canceled as ours did this year. These ships have joined together in the past and both say it is a good experience. The down side is obviously not having complete control as to location or reunion services. Although both have used MLRS/Premier in the past, this year they used Military Reunion Planers based in Grapevine, Texas. The Rankin has always had a large attendance and Fall reunions so time of year will not change. By joining the Rankin and Muliphen we will be certain of having a reunion each year. Next year's location or reunion service is not known at this time, however we need to be in a

position to commit to joining them. For this reason we discussed what is necessary to achieve this.

Clifton recommended forming an association to make decisions and possibly acquire funding for that association in the form of dues or donations. Any money received would be used to continue the Yancey Newsletters, as we do now with donations to Premier, and in the event funds are needed to successfully have joint reunions next year and in the future. We have been using MLRS/Premier Reunion Services since our first reunion in 1995 and have no reason to discontinue using their services. However we need to be in a position to use another service if necessary to continue our reunions, which may necessitate funding. After some discussion a motion was made that an association be formed headed by George Clifton and include Paul Dunn, John Karlis and Ed McLaughlin as board members. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. This groups goal will be to form an association and determine a source of funding, either through the newsletter or the USS Yancey website. Additionally the association will be responsible for any input and/or decisions regarding future reunions. The meeting was then adjourned.

At 6:00 PM the social hour began followed by dinner. After dinner George Clifton officially greeted everyone and started the round of introductions. Although most of the group knows one another we did have several new attendees. Robert Redlow and his wife Barbara came in from Pennsylvania for the Plaque Dedication and Friday functions. Robert served aboard from 1967-1970. This was also the first year for Kathy Cheaney from Virginia Beach. Group photos were taken at this time since several attendees would not be at the Saturday banquet. It was an early evening for most due to the early start for our Saturday tour so after the group photos everyone headed back to their rooms.

Again the weather was great on Saturday for our trip to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. We all gathered in the lobby for our short trip to Pier 4 in Washington where we

boarded the Spirit of Mount Vernon for a 1 1/2 hour narrated trip up the Potomac River to Mount Vernon. After docking everyone was on their own to visit as many exhibits as possible in the three hours before our return trip back to Washington DC. Of course the mansion itself is a must see and admission tickets were provided to all upon arrival. Besides the mansion, Mount Vernon had plenty to see including gardens, Washington's tomb, slave quarters, museum and education center. I'm not sure anyone saw everything in the time we were there but most had seen enough and were ready to get back aboard and relax on the return trip.

At 6:00 it was time to have individuals and couples pictures taken for the memory book and enjoy some cocktails followed by a Filet Mignon dinner. Following dinner the Memorial Service was held to remember all veterans who served in the Armed Forces, along with the Bell Ceremony to honor and remember Yancey sailors that are deceased, especially those who died or whose deaths we learned of since the last reunion. As the names from the Honor Roll were read, a bell was tolled in their memory followed by Taps and a hand salute concluding the Memorial Service. Time was left for some anyone who wished to share stories with the rest of the group. Since there was no scheduled breakfast on Sunday, and some would be leaving early, many said their goodbyes after the banquet.

Sunday morning brought the official end to the reunion with more goodbyes, handshakes and hugs among those having breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Everyone agreed a good time was had as usual and all plan on attending next year whatever the location.

Submitted by **George Clifton**

2013 REUNION ATTENDEES



Richard Balt
 Norman & Connie Boyd
 Kathy Cheaney & Kris Russell
 George Clifton
 Paul Dunn
 Eugene Foss
 Walter & Tony Gillespie
 John Karlis
 Duane & Betty Malme
 Edmund McLaughlin
 Rufus & Lydia Meadows
 Phillip & Charlotte Messer
 Robert & Barbara Redlow
 Paul Smith, Jr.
 William Welfare

Total Members: 15
 Guests: 7
 GRAND TOTAL: 22



TAPS

The Yancey Memories was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the deceased. Anyone who knows of a deceased shipmate, or learns of one, please notify PRS so their names can be included in TAPS and be added to the Honor Roll.

Kenneth Lessard (1955-56)
 Died November 13, 2012

Willard Becker (1946-48) F 2/c
 Died October 2012

Delbert Brown
 (1953-55) BT3 R Div
 Died May 30, 2013

A Word from Your Coordinator

Having just returned from our 2013 reunion in Washington DC I want to say it was a great reunion. Although the attendance was small and the Government was shut down we still had a good time. I learned years ago that it is not the location or tours but the attendees that make the reunions what they are. And we always seem to have great attendees no matter the numbers. There is much in this newsletter including an interesting article by Ed McLaughlin. Be sure to read the recap section about the business meeting as there is important information in it. For those with Internet access the reunion pictures will be posted on the Yancey website www.ussyancey.com. I will continue to add to the site so check it on occasion for anything new. I am also open to suggestions for what to add. Finally I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Thanks,
 George Clifton



WELCOME MAT

The following shipmates have been located since the last newsletter. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

Dick Reese (1952-54) MM
 1018 Northland Dr
 Madison, WI 53704
 608-244-0293
 rhr21324@charter.net

Larry Haughee (1963-67)
 1319 Pershing Ct
 Virginia Beach, VA 23453
 757-633-1501
 daddyboats1970@aol.com

Larry Cohen (1951) SN
 1568 Fayette Dr
 Spring Hill, FL 34609
 352-686-5632

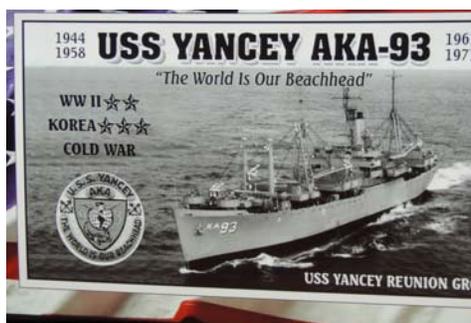
John Stafano (1970-71) Postal Clerk
 51 Rowling Hill Dr
 Millington, NJ 07946
 908-246-0570
 yankees07946@yahoo.com

Randy Dietrich (1970-71) FN
 2837 State Rd 557
 Sugarcreek, OH 44681
 330-897-4027

Bill MacTaggart (1966-68) RD3
 4303 Tudor Dr
 Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

Doyle Clark
 SW Kissler Glen
 Lake City, FL 32024
 386-754-0959

Jerry Nicholas
 (1961-62) RM3 OR Div
 9209 Apple Dr
 Midwest City, OK 73130
 405-733-1074
 jerry@swantrans.com



USS YANCEY PLAQUE DEDICATED AT THE NAVY MEMORIAL

A HUGE STEP BACK IN TIME

A YANCEY MEMORY A STORY BROUGHT TO LIFE

These were just a few of the thoughts that went racing through my mind when I had the great pleasure to meet a USS Yancey shipmate at this year's reunion in Washington DC. To me he was famous, special, and even historic! Now you are saying to yourself: "Isn't he piling it on a little much?" Yes, well, maybe I am; but I was excited to meet this shipmate who, for me, walked out of the pages of the USS Yancey history book and the pages of the October 1947 *National Geographic Magazine*. This shipmate had the distinct honor to cross the equator, the 180th meridian and explore the Antarctic Circle all during one cruise.

"At the bottom of this planet lies an enchanted continent....." With these opening words the October 1947 *National Geographic Magazine* began a 94 page article about the US Navy exploring Antarctica. I have a copy of the issue and have read it several times because it features the USS Yancey taking part in "Operation Highjump" with Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN and Paul Siple.

If you look at a map of the continent of Antarctica you will see many of the areas named for famous explorers like Byrd, Siple, Amundsen, Scott, Shackleton and many others. Into this group we can now place the crew of the USS Yancey because the US Navy decided to challenge this hostile land, as part of its training and research activities. Operation "Highjump" was the fifth, and by far the largest, polar expedition led by Admiral Byrd, with thirteen ships manned by 4,000 men.

One of these men walked into our reunion and brought history with him. I had the wonderful opportunity to talk with **Lindy R. Leo** and found a soft spoken gentleman who shared his time and story with me. I wish I had more time to spend with Lindy; I have about a thousand more questions to ask. I did find out that we were both Radiomen and that started the bond.

Lindy proudly showed me his cards proclaiming his membership in "*The Domain of the Penguin*", "*The Domain of Neptunus Rex*" and "*The*

Domain of the Golden Dragon". He also had his US Navy ID Card showing that he is a *World War II Veteran*.

Lindy, I want to say "Thank You" for coming to the reunion and for sharing your time and memories with us. On a personal note, you brought back some Ham Radio memories for me. As a "Ham Operator" I have talked to many of the folks that have studied and worked at the various bases on the Antarctic continent. I have even connected them with friends and family back home through my ham radio. Now I can say that I meet and shook the hand of fellow shipmate and Radioman who has been there!

Lindy, I know we all were glad to meet you and look forward to seeing you again at another USS Yancey reunion.

Ed McLaughlin

RM3

USS Yancey 1965-1967



**MR. LINDY LEO, USS YANCEY 1946-47,
PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION HIGHJUMP IN
ANTARCTICA**



**USS YANCEY DURING OPERATION HIGH-
JUMP IN ANTARCTICA**

Editor's Note: If you were part of Operation Highjump, we would love to hear from you about your experiences. **Please** send your story to us at Premier Reunion Services, PO Box 11438, Hickory, NC 28603



MAIL CALL

Hi,
 My name is David Barbknecht. My grandfather (**Ned Evans Cowan**) served on the Yancey during WWII. I am looking for any documents, photographs or mentions in the newsletter or any other information I can find on his time on the USS Yancey. I would also appreciate it if you can point me to other resources for this information. Thanks so much for your time!

David Barbknecht
 32 N Ave C
 Canton, IL 61520
 ExBlue@netwurx.net

FINANCIAL STATEMENT



Balance after 07/13	\$65.65
Funds received since 07/13	\$150.00
Funds collected at reunion	\$177.00
Funds available for 10/13	\$392.65
Funds expended for 10/13	\$173.09
Balance for 01/14	\$219.56

The newsletter is mailed only to those who returned the coupon for USPS service. All others can access the newsletter on line at www.mlrsinc.com/yancey. Thanks to all who contributed since the last newsletter to keep it going. Contributions may be sent to Premier Reunion Services at our address on the cover. Make checks to Premier Reunion Services and be sure to note that is for Yancey Memories.

YANCEY PATCH AVAILABLE



The USS Yancey Ships Patch is available for purchase for \$6.00 each postage paid. Please mail a check or money order to:

JOHN KARLIS
 PO BOX 459
 DERBY, NY 14047-0459

When ordering by mail, please include your email address so John can let you know once your patch is mailed.

If you have any questions regarding ordering please contact John Karlis by email jjkarlis@verizon.net or phone 716-549-6939.

Please Subscribe!

If you have not already subscribed to Premier Reunion Services e-mails, please do so by going to www.mlrsinc.com/yancey. Click on "Subscribe to Updates," then on "Subscribe" and follow the directions. For more info on this, please refer to the last issue of the Yancey Memories where this was described in detail. You will no longer receive the newsletter or newsletter notification by e-mail if you are not subscribed and have an e-mail address listed with PRS. From now on, we can only send bulk emails to those who have subscribed.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The YANCEY MEMORIES is the official publication of the USS YANCEY AKA-93 Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in January, April, July, and October, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the YANCEY. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

Premier Reunion Services is not responsible for the accuracy of article submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space and grammar limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

FROM THE USS YANCEY AKA 93 MED CRUISE 1962

Submitted by Phil Messer EN2 Then, Retired 1979 as ENCM

OR DIVISION



LTJG T. BRYAN
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



LTJG R. MASON
CIC OFFICER



R. Craig, RM1



H. Watson, RM1



L. Dixon, RM3



J. Harris, RM3



J. Nicholas, RM3



G. Palmer, RM3



L. Stowe, RM3



L. Shanks, RMSN



P. Stephan, RMSN



T. Sullivan, RMSN



M. Brak, SN



M. Guidry, SN



E. Weigel, SN



W. Coon, RMSA

