

Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year

During this Holy Season and wonderful time of the year let us take a moment to count our blessings and say a prayer for our military boys and those of us less fortunate. Lets also take a moment to reflect upon our friendships, charity and forgiveness.

4th USS PERRY REUNION – CHARLESTON, SC – SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 3, 2004

Our motto, “**long after they are gone their crews remember**” was truly evidenced with our 4th Charleston Reunion coming to a close. The display of sorrow and joy was reflected by the teary eyes and bear hugs of shipmates promising to see each other, god willing, at our next reunion in Washington DC during the Spring of 2006. This is what our reunions are all about; it's a 'cruise down memory lane', it's rekindling old friendships and fostering new ones. More importantly, it's the spirit of a bond between exceptional men that have survived the test of time. To all USS Perry shipmates and spouses, I salute you for making this reunion very special.
Steve silk, Reunion Chairman

Once again our reunion attendees were faced with another dilemma. In Jacksonville it was 911, and in Charleston it was hurricane Jeanne. True to form, a little ole hurricane could not keep the Perry tied up in port. We took to the seas to make this make this reunion our largest ever. It was almost miraculous as the inclement weather turned sunny for our

Hawaiian Luau get acquainted party.



After a most scrumptious Pig Roast, we mustered at poolside for a Luau dance show and an enjoyable evening of fun and games.

Our hospitality Chief's

Sid Brown and Lou Guariniello, did another splendid job of stocking the room with refreshments. Charlie Jenkins also came through in good ole Georgia tradition with his delicious peanut brittle. Now that he is living in Ole Miss I hope he will be able to keep up the tradition. We also were treated to continuous DVD viewing that depicted life aboard the Perry and the activities of our past reunions.

Dinner Cruise

I'm pleased to say, that beautiful weather and exquisite dining became the hallmark of our reunion. I thought our dinner cruise was the best ever. After a bit of table-hopping I found the sentiments of everyone to be exactly the same; 'dinner was simply exceptional'.



The USS Yorktown



Our Memorial Ceremony aboard the Carrier USS Yorktown

for our shipmates “Gone but not forgotten “ was given by Rev. Simons, a Yorktown plank owner.

Bob Norowski read the names of our Shipmates who have taken their final voyage since Branson during a two bell ceremony.

A memorial wreath was then thrown overboard in the burial at sea tradition. After the ceremony, it was like old home week when we boarded the Tin Can Laffey. Everyone reminisced a little and began discussing the difference between the Perry and Laffey. A major difference I saw was everyone used the steps rather than to slide down the handrails.

The Citadel

'Spectacular' is the only way to describe our trip to The Citadel Military Academy. We were again lucky to be blessed with a beautiful warm day to enjoy their Marching Band, Bag Pipers and Color Guard. The formation of their marching regiments was another very special sight to behold. My personal favorite was their English bulldog mascot the 'General', a 'spittin' image of Winston Churchill.



Farewell Banquet & Awards Program

The delicious Patriot Prime Rib and Seafood Buffet of our Farewell Banquet was only outdone by our exciting Awards and Recognition program. This was our time to 'surprise' everyone with a special thank you for their support of the Perry Association. The program began with the presentation of a plaque to Mike Stephens and his election as an honorary member of the Perry Association. Awards were also presented to our Hall of Fame Supporters, perfect reunion attendance, furthest traveler to the reunion, senior member of the Association, best recruiter and Board & Association Directors. Charlie Jenkins was awarded the Good Conduct Medal for his exemplary attitude. Bob Noroski, winner of the best recruiter was also the most decorated veteran of our reunion.

Perry ball caps were presented to our honorary members RADM David Pruett and Bryan Wood. Being old buddies in the Pentagon, David and Bryan found this reunion to be somewhat special because they were able to share this event with their proud and distinguished fathers, Will Pruett and Bedford 'Woddie' Wood.

For services above and beyond the call of duty, Bob Hales received the surprise award of the Lone Sailor desktop paperweight. Bob's efforts and contribution to our Association can only be described as a dedicated true friend of the Perry Association. Through his efforts, everyone received a beautifully framed print of the Perry painting that hung in the wardroom. I hope future reunions will continue the tradition of presenting the Perry print to all first time reunion attendees.

The biggest surprise of all was something that completely eluded me. I thought I had the pulse of the Association and knew everything that was going on. I never thought a group of sailors were capable of keeping a secret. How wrong I was. As we were concluding the award presentations I was asked to remain on deck for a second. I had absolutely no idea what was about to take place. I was



in total shock and without words when I was presented the beautiful pre-fram Perry model. A gift I will cherish forever and promise to share with my shipmates.

Raffle

Ron Conrad's idea to run a raffle at the reunion was a huge success. He presented these two 10X12 framed pictures of the Perry as prizes.



Ed Authier also contributed several Tin-Can-Sailor gift certificates as prizes. If you are not yet a member of TCS you are encourage doing so. It's a great organization.

Rick Flanagan contributed several autographed copies of his first published novel 'The Abiline Trail'.

Business Meeting Overview

Please refer to the official Minutes posted on our website for the details of the meeting.

Martin Deeney is our new President. As a past Secretary of our Association, Martin has the experience and enthusiasm needed to steer a straight course. The other post of VP, Secretary and Treasurer remain the same.

Joe Malmendier is our next Reunion Chairman with Washington DC being the host city. The event will be held sometime during the Spring or early Summer of 2006.

Rick Flanagan fills the new position of Historian. If you have any stories or memorabilia you wish to share with the Perry Association please contact Rick.

Communication Information Officer is another new official post of the Association. Bill Janulin, Sal LaCorte and myself have that responsibility. The primary function is database maintenance.

Financial – With the raffle and most attendees paying their dues I am pleased to report our Association will start the next reunion cycle in a strong position. Statements will be posted to our website shortly.

Association Membership Dues

Our dues request of \$10 is based on an 18 month reunion to reunion cycle. Joining our Hall of Fame supporters club with a contribution of \$25 - \$100 will get you permanently listed in our Perry Website Hall of Fame Club. Please make your dues check payable to the USS Perry R A and

Mail check to: Steve Silk, 47 Alpine Drive, Wayne NJ 07470

A picture is worth a 1000 words, so check out the 300 or so photos on our website, they tell the story. I recommend the purchase of our Memory Book, it's terrific.

“gone but not forgotten”

Ernie Matseas, QM3 52-56 was with us in Branson but unable to attend Charleston because he passed away on Monday 9-27-04. 978-453-5769 .. Lowell, MA

Tom Shuda MM1 60-62 called to say he would be unable to attend Charleston because of his illness. At age 72 on Dec 1 2004, he was called to take his final voyage after a lengthy battle with colon cancer. Tom was retired from the United States Navy and was an active member of The Fleet Reserve and American Legion. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, of 47 years.

904-246-2841 N. Atlantic Beach, FL

Scuttlebutt

WOW !!! Johnnie R. DeBoe, signed aboard the Perry in 1931. His daughter finally received her Dad's service records and found out he was on the USS Perry for several years. He passed away in 2001 at the age of 93.

Contact: jdeboe@bellsouth.net
Letters & Sea Stories

Always something new and interesting on our website like Don Fowlers, letter to the President George Bush

Man Overboard

Who remembers the incident during a refueling mission when a sailor from an oil tanker fell overboard and two Perryites saved his life by diving into cold choppy seas to fish him out of the drink?

This lucky sailor is looking to say thanks again for his long lease on life. Sorry, I lost the email I received in Charleston during our reunion.

Army Navy Game

Three cheers for N A V Y!!!!
NAVY finished the season with a **42-13 Win Over Army** at their



105th meeting between the service academies. Navy has won five of the last six meetings to tie the overall series at 49-49-7.

The Midshipmen have outscored Army 134-31 in the last three games.

President Bush attended the game at Veterans Stadium for the first time since 2001 and took part in the coin toss by flipping a commemorative coin sent from the Iraqi city of Fallujah.

Lets warmly welcome these recently found Perry shipmates

Sam Wagner 64-64 SN3
Johnson City, TN

Tom Skipper 59-60 FT2
oskipper@telecom.com.co
Colombia, South America

Richard Roder 64-67 RD3
Pearl River, LA

Doug Huegle 69-71 DC3
Swansea, IL

Roger Kleinhans 62-65 RD3
Albuquerque, NM

Dennis Gilpatrick 67-71 RD3
Edinburg, TX

Tom Moritz 67-70 RD2
Oaklawn, IL

Tom Lo Bue 59-62 GM3
Brick, NJ

Gerald Schnoblen 62 – 64 SN

Gerry missed our reunion but for good cause, the wedding of his daughter.



Gerald is also very proud of his twin brother George who just made "CHIEF. George is a Seabee stationed in MISSISSIPPI and working as a Navy instructor. His rate is "Steel Worker".
Congratulation Gerald on all the wonderful happenings in your life.

Good Reading

By Rick Flanagan 55-58 RD3:
<http://www.rickflanagan.com/>

The Abilene Trail Spanish Gold The Triple K Ranch

I truly enjoyed Abaline Trail, it kept me in suspense to the end. It was very interesting to see some book characters named after shipmates that served with Rick aboard the Perry. Who knows, you may find yourself immortalized in one Rick's books. Best wishes for a successful writing career.

Capt. David Meadows, a Tin Can Sailor has authored several exciting Naval thrillers focused around the Sixth Fleet. His books, **The Sixth Fleet, Seawolf, Tomcat, Cobra and Joint Task Force Liberia** can be reviewed on his website at www.sixthfleet.com.



The books are in paperback and reasonably priced so you might consider reading one to see if the Sixth Fleet stories you recall have any resemblance to the Captains stories.

“UNFIT FOR COMMAND”

[Book Review](#)

A series of events in Vietnam as told by the Swift Boat men who served with John Kerry. They bring to light the side of Kerry that was to remain silent. We can thank John O’Neill, RDML Roy Hoffmann and all the others who had the courage to speak out and publish this book.

CHARLESTON 2004 REFLECTIONS

Don’t these comments say it all?

John Blaine, 63-67, IL

The reunion was my first trip anywhere since my illness and proved to be more than I had imagined. It was the best! To meet so many new shipmates and to be transported back in time to the steel decks of the old Perry was just what the doctor ordered. My thanks to you and to all the others who made this possible. And a special thanks to my shipmates from O.I. Division, Joe Miller, Jeff Hesser, Joe Blasko and Les Kavanaugh. It was an honor to have served with all of you and a much greater honor to still have you as friends.

Ronald Conrad, 62-64, NC

Congratulations to all on a reunion with lots of class. It was a most enjoyable occasion. My wife also says that she really enjoyed the reunion. Being our second of the four, we truly enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships of our shipmates once again. We most certainly look forward to being at the next one, God willing. It would be my pleasure to help in any way I can.

Joe Miller, 62–66, AL

My wife and I had a great time at the reunion. We are already looking forward to the next one. There were nine good friends in the Perry radar gang during the 1960's. Most of us hadn't seen each other in over thirty-five years. Five of the nine showed-up. We renewed friendships and relationships that will last for life. Hopefully, all nine will show up for the next reunion. We thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts. We will see you at the next reunion.

Thanks again, and God Bless.

Don Fowler & Aileen 70-73, FL

Aileen and I both enjoyed the reunion a lot. All of the evolutions we were privileged to participate in were well done and extremely interesting. We met many wonderful and friendly people and I think made more than a few friends. We really had fun. Everyone was wonderful and very kind. We are saving money for next year even though I dislike DC. Thank you very much for laying out a very memorable event.

Sincerely,

John & Gayle Ellis, 69-71, TX

Let me tell you, going to the reunion was one of the best things I have ever done. I can't tell you what it meant to me to see my old shipmates after thirty some years and meeting the other men that severed aboard the Perry. Everything, the entire event was great. You and all the others that worked so hard to put this event together did one supper job. Gayle and I loved every minute of it. You can bet, God willing we'll be at the next one

Guy W. Cline Jr., 45-49, NC

The reunion in Charleston was everything you all said it would be, it was truly a small part of our youth recaptured for a while. I am so glad that we were able to attend this year, maybe our health will hold out so we can again experience the joy of another reunion. Thank you very much.

Walt Procanyn, 55-57, NY

Thanks to everyone for providing the Shipmates of the USS PERRY with a outstanding reunion in Charleston ... job "WELL DONE". My wife Terry and I certainly appreciated the superior food, entertainment & spirit of the reunion. Since this was my 1st

reunion, it was a special treat for me to see and meet my old shipmates and revisit the "Good OLE DAYS" The tour and ceremonies on the USS YORKTOWN were breathtaking as well. We are looking forward to our next reunion in DC. YO, HO, HO and a bottle of RUM. Appreciate your sincere dedication mate.

Leslie K. Kavanaugh, 63-65, IN

It was a joy & pleasure for Theresa and me to meet everyone. We know that you guys put a year of hard work & planning into this reunion. I was pleased to meet everyone, especially the guy's that survived the sinking of the DMS-17. It felt especially good to see my shipmates, Joe Blasko, Jeffery Hesser, Joe Miller & John Blaine, once again...We're a little heavier and a hell of a lot older, but still the same Perry guys, every one of us. Looking forward to 2006 in D.C., and pray that we can all be there.

Art & Mimi Fuller, 64-66, ME

We had a WONDERFUL time. I will attempt to be first payee again for the next reunion. Looking forward to Washington DC.

Rick Flanagan, 55-58, MA

It was great seeing everyone again. The twenty new attendees was a big surprise. I eagerly look forward to each reunion and the great fun we have. Arriving the first day of the event is just too late. I intend to arrive a day early at the next reunion.

Big Mike Murray, 61-62, PA

Just got in from our drive back home. I want to say thanks again and you know we had a super time. Take care and let us be the first to sign up for the next Washington D.C. reunion. Cheers,

Bryan Wood, USMC, DC

Can't tell you how much my entire family enjoyed the reunion. Anything my brother Gary and I can do to make my Dad happy is a plus and getting to spend some time with my old buddy Dave Pruett was an added bonus. Already looking forward to the next reunion. You'll be happy to know that I have the ship picture and USS PERRY ballcap prominently displayed on my office windowsill here at the Pentagon, and it has received numerous compliments! I hope you have found a suitable location for the ship model. Wow, what a gift!