

USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) NEWSLETTER

THE 21MC

Editor: email: jimc951@hotmail.com
Jim Chester, Editor

December 23, 2019



OUR SHIPS MOTTO: TO BE RATHER THAN SEEM TO BE!



SHIPMATE COMMENTS

Jeffrey Richard, LT, 70-72, Portsmouth, RI

Plans for the 2020 Reunion in Newport, RI are nearing completion and awaiting confirmation in some areas. We will be staying at the Mainstay Hotel and Conference Center located at 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road in Newport, RI. It is 5 minutes from the Main Gate at Newport Naval Station. The Hotel is undergoing some contractual changes and may be renamed! The Hotel has space for us to do all of the routine things our reunions involve. We have chosen OCT 6-9, 2020 for the reunion dates. [Tues-Fri] This is mid-week so the cost of a room is much less. Also means we will have the Naval Base Staff available to assist with base activities. We will be visiting the Naval War College (NWC), the NWC museum and the Surface Warfare training facilities with lunch at the Officer's Club overlooking Narragansett Bay. Our memorial will be aboard the USS Massachusetts which is moored at Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA. The USS Joseph P Kennedy and the submarine USS Lionfish are also in the Cove! Go to www.battleshipcove.org to get the full picture. The hotel is next to Newport, so we can shuttle you to many things and places Newport has to offer. We will have the local tour company

(most likely Viking) available to take you on tours of Newport and/or visiting the mansions. Side excursions might include the Whaling Museum in New Bedford; vineyard tours on and off Aquidneck Island; a 3 ½ mile stroll on Newport's Cliff Walk; Fort Adams State Park; Green Animals Topiary Garden; the Tennis Hall of Fame; the White Horse Tavern (oldest operating restaurant in the USA); the Newport Car Museum in Portsmouth, RI; and you can eat out in any of the hundreds of local eateries in Newport County. Google Newport to get a sense of what's available. You might consider Boston as an extension to your Newport visit. If you haven't been to the Boston area, it is loaded with historical attractions; USS Constitution; the Mayflower; Plimoth Plantation; and the list goes on! If there is something you would like the Reunion Committee to consider making available in the Newport area, please let us know.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER Since the last 21MC was published on 8/25/2019, we continue to make substantial progress in the mandatory Federal & State regulatory conversion process. We have also undertaken a campaign for donations and dues and cost reduction wherever possible to increase our TJRG funds! That financial fund-raising campaign was completed in mid-November 2019 and was very successful, exceeding our goal of \$15,000 by \$4,108! As you know, we were notified on 7/27/2019 by the IRS that we are now officially a 501 (c) 7 non-profit, tax exempt Veteran's Social Group. After that notification, the Calendar Year (CY) 2018 informal audit package was prepared & finished & sent off to our Independent Financial Reviewer/Informal Auditor, Mike Stockreiter, who took this for action per IRS RR&G's! As of December 9, 2019, the CY 2018 Independent Financial Review/Informal Audit has been completed satisfactorily, which was another major milestone in the conversion process! A copy of his CY 2018 Independent Financial Review/Informal Audit results are provided for your perusal per IRS RR&G's via e-mail and by regular mail! The last 21 MC reported \$10,347 (rounded) in USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP (TJRG) funds as of 7/27/18. The CY 2019 TJRG funds from 7/28/2019 to 12/23/2019 are as follows:

	Total/Sub Totals
7/28/19 Beginning Balance	\$10,346.49
Add:	
Membership Donations [YTD-\$8,822]	\$ 5,312.00
Membership Dues [YTD-\$5,450]	\$ 3,710.00
Outside Donations [CY2019-\$365.40]	\$ 125.40
Interest Income [YTD 11/27/19-\$17.65]	\$ 7.33
 Sub Total	 \$ 9,154.73
Subtract: Costs/Expenses	
Hotel Contract Deposit	\$ 250.00
Newsletter (8/25/19)-Postage	\$ 220.00
Newsletter (8/25/19)-Paper/Ink	\$ 122.60
Travel Expenses TJRG Business	\$ 45.01

Sub Total	(\$ 637.61)
11/27/2019 Ending balance per Checkbook, Savings Reconciliation and NFCU TJRG Bank Statement	\$18,863.61
Plus Deposits in Transit through 12/23/19	305.00
Less: Secretarial Costs TJRG BL&G's	<u>(60.00)</u>
Balance of TJRG funds as of 12/23/2019	<u>\$19,108.61</u>

We have FINALIZED and smoothed up the USS TJRG Bylaws & Guidelines (TJRG BL&G's). These TJRG BL&G's will be largely mailed to the membership over the next few days! Please keep them and file with your other USS Turner Joy Administration! As of December 10, 2019, we have reached another major milestone and now successfully registered with the State of Washington Secretary of State for State for a Charitable IRS 501 (c) 7 Organization; [Tax Exempt Non-profit status], required by State law. With our famous ship as a destroyer museum in Bremerton, WA run by the 501 (c) 3 nonprofit, tax exempt Bremerton Historic Ship's Association (BHSA), we were locked into a certain course of State LEGAL & Administrative action. My staff and I have strived to complete this mandatory Federal and State conversion process by the end of this calendar year, and have accomplished these numerous voluminous tasks, with the exception of the Public Reporting requirements, which will be solved in Calendar Year (CY) 2020. Thus, we are virtually done in the Federal and State conversion process and far ahead of schedule per Federal and State time guidelines.

DONATIONS:

- \$ My staff and I wish to thank all those TJRG members & outside individuals that have made donations NOT only to cover IRS Conversion costs, but to grow our TJRG funds. To date \$8,822.00 in donations have been received to cover IRS conversion costs and to increase reunion funds. Well Done! We shall strive to keep our TJRG funds back to the normal balance of approximately \$15,000.
- \$ Donations to the USS Turner Joy Historic Ship Preservation Project should be mailed to USS TURNER JOY, 300 Washington Beach Blvd. Bremerton, WA 98337, made payable to BHSA and shown in the NOTE line for the intended purpose such as drydocking fund.

VETERANS REGULATORY INFORMATION UPDATE-Blue Water Navy Veterans are NOW entitled to a presumption of service connection for conditions related to Agent Orange. The extension of the presumption is a result of Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law By President Donald J. Trump on June 25, 2019. **The law takes effect on January 1, 2020.** Veterans with questions about benefits or filing a claim can visit the VA Agent Orange website www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agentorange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/. They can also call the disability benefits call center at 1-800-827-1000.

CATEGORIES OF MEMBER DONATIONS AND OUTSIDE DONATIONS MADE TO TJRG FOR CY 2019 THU 12/23/2019 FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PER IRS RR&G's:

The following members donated between \$1,000 to \$5,100:

Roger Tetrault

The following members donated between \$500 to \$999:

Richard Alexander

The following members donated between \$250 to \$499:

Jim Chester

The following members donated between \$100 to \$249:

Din Griser	Jim Vanderheiden
Donald Proffitt	Dave Millen
Noel Lane	Richard Horst
Mike Stockreiter	Dave Ginsburg
Richard Asche	Mike Austin
Bill Keuhn	Bert Mackaman
Ray Mason	
Doug Marlitt (in Honor of the late RADM Robert McClinton USN (Ret))	

The following members donated between \$5 to \$99:

Jonathan Littman	Dave Leverenz
Robert Durkee	Carroll Screws
Steven Kirkpatrick	Kenny Smith
Charles Nagle	Kenny Roice
Richard Horst	Tom Sabo
John Hart	Joseph Schoennauer
Ronald Henneberg	Robert Johnston

The following Ladies and Gentlemen made outside donations of \$365.40 to the TJRG during CY 2019-YTD 12/12/2019:

COL John L. Werner U.S. Army (Ret) (in honor of the combat record of the USS Turner Joy)
LCDR Thomas Phillips USN (Ret) (in honor of the combat record of the USS Turner Joy)
Daniel L. Price (in honor of the late Maurice "Whitey" Price who served on USS Turner Joy)
Joanne Stephens (in honor of the late Ronald Stephens who served on USS Turner Joy)
Brenda Baunsgard (in honor of the late CAPT Perry Baunsgard USN (Ret) who served onboard.

The following professional persons contributed “pro bono” services to the TJRG for the IRS conversion to 501 (c) 7 status and State of Washington, Secretary of State Charitable Organization status for our 501 (C) 7 Veteran’s Social Group operating under IRS Rule 501(a).

Peggy Cole, CPA-(in Honor of our famous destroyer and the men who served in her!)
John S. Bartlett, Attorney at Law-(in Honor of his 94-year-old Father who is still alive and served in the US Navy in combat in WWII in a destroyer and two other ships)

NEED LOCATING DATA (Mail returned NO forwarding address):
Crewmembers if anyone knows: Please provide date of information, up to date contact information and phone number to: jimc951@hotmail.com!!!

John Peterson formerly of Johnstown, CO

Frances Rowan formerly of Grants Pass, OR

Don Frazier formerly of Snohomish, WA

Cecil Elliott formerly of Jonesboro, GA

**ROUSING TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN SAILORS DEPLOYED OVERSEAS AT
CHRISTMAS TIME AND THEIR AMAZING CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!
GENTLEMEN, DOES THIS LOOK FAMILAR?**



Picture was taken on December 25, 1972 in the After Fireroom as we were speeding at 25 knots (later 27 knots) going from Guam to Subic Bay for final combat loadout for upcoming Offensive Combat Operations in North and South Vietnam. Headed into great adventure! Morale Builder!

Bottom row: BTFN Randy Southern; BT3 John Barbosa; BTFN Ray Berube

Middle: BTFA John Dodson; BTFA Randy Houser; BT3 Don Felix; BT1 Willie John Johnson

Back: BT3 Mike Smith; BTFN Jim Shane; BTCS Billy Jo Sanders; BT3 Raymond (Chip) Fichtner

Celebrating Christmas Day, 1972 with what they call their "Scrapped Together Christmas Tree"!



Christmas Party in CIC on December 25, 1972 with the OS Gang and a comical version of the Dickens {Scrooge} Christmas Story, complete with the ghost of Christmas Past! Pictured: OS2 Jim Chester; OSSN Jim Welch: OS3 Bruce Campbell in black hood as Ghost of Christmas Past. We were heading West at 25 knots and just left Guam. Notice the handmade Christmas decorations!



Our XO; (now deceased) LCDR (later CAPT "Wild Bill" Hill USN and ENS. Chuck Hall are attending our Christmas party in CIC, all the while getting ready for upcoming combat operations in North and South Vietnam, reading 7th Fleet Operation Orders for the Southeast Asia (Vietnam) Theater of Combat Operations. WE further prepared FOR COMBAT while crossing the Pacific at SOA of 23 to 27 knots. This was a Morale Builder!

OTHER NOTES:

“ATTENTION ALL REUNION ATTENDEES”

DO NOT FORGET TO SEND YOUR PICTURES TO BRIAN SONCRANT

For a little FUN, we will be having a photo wall of all attendees coming to the OCT 6-9, 2020 USS Turner Joy (DD-951) Reunion. We are asking everyone who plans on attending the reunion to mail a 4" X 6" photo of themselves; one photo of yourself when aboard the USS Turner Joy and a present photo. We will also need your Name, Rank/Rating, your TJ Division and dates when you were aboard USS Turner Joy. Please include the state you're currently residing in! Any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (586) 322-0328. Please Mail all photos and information to: Brian Soncrant, 8152 E Kilarea Ave., Mesa, AZ 85209-5118

SPECIAL THANKS: Chad James continues to do a "spectacular job in correcting the history" to actual events in the famed Tonkin Gulf Incident of August 2-4, 1964. We are tentative planning the Naval War College symposium for the reunion. Chad was a RD2 at the time and his efforts along with other eye witness of the time have done much to correct the "political misconceptions" created long ago. We intend to correct the records at the Naval War College with hard incontrovertible data from official records. Chad and other eye witnesses have made a lasting inroad to correct the historical record. Good Job Gentlemen! BZ!

TAPS: It is with Great Regret we report the following shipmates who have passed on:

Robert Sharpe from Central City, Iowa passed away approximately five years ago as reported by his wife. She stated that her husband loved his service in the USS Turner Joy. He was onboard 65-68.

CAPT Robert B Hoffman USN (Ret) passed away in San Diego, CA on August 6, 2018 as reported by RD2 Chad James. Bob was the XO during the Tonkin Gulf incident of AUG 1964. He is interred at Goodbody Mortuary in San Diego, CA.

Duane Tapani from Brule, WI passed away two years ago as reported by his relatives. He was on board from 59-62.

HT3 Gilbert Harris passed away, date unknown, in Northern Idaho as reported by HTFN George "Kodiak Jack" Helmstadter who also lives in Northern Idaho. Gilbert Harris was on board during 72-75.

RD3 Ronald L. Stephens of Goodyear, AZ passed away July 30, 2018 as reported by his wife, Joanne! He was onboard from October 1960 to September 1964 and very proud of his service on the USS Turner Joy!

BT3 Larry Hughes passed away March 23rd, 2019. He was onboard from 65-69 and an avid motorcycle enthusiast. He was reported passed on by his friends and it was not reported where he was interred.

J. W. Mabry passed away November 18, 2018 in Little Rock, AK. He loved the USS Turner Joy and his biggest regret was he never made a reunion. He was onboard 63-64.

Frank Edward Rabinowirz passed away on December 5, 2014 as reported by his wife, Jeanne. He was from Ventura, CA and he made the 2014 reunion and was very proud to be there!

MMC Maurice "Whitey" Price passed away April, 28, 2018. He was from Central, FL. His passing was reported by his entire family! I personally knew Whitey and he was one of the most popular crewmembers on the USS Turner Joy and served onboard during the 71-75 time frame. As it stands right now, his family desires to attend the next reunion. He was buried at Cedars of Lebanon Cemetery with Full Military Honors.

Joseph Ries, reportedly passed away in September 2019 as reported by his Son; Ramon. He was onboard from June 1974 to April, 1977. He lived in Everett, WA.

BT3 David E. Johnson passed away on February 19, 2006 as reported by his Son, Mark. He was onboard from 1971 to 1974.

OCT 6-9, 2020 REUNION HOTEL INFO:

1. Check In time is 4PM; Check Out time is 11AM.
2. All reservations must be accompanied by first night's deposit or guaranteed by major credit card.
3. Reservations by TJ attendees must be received on or before July 14, 2020.
4. If for some reason you need to cancel, you must cancel 72 hours prior to arrival.
5. All rooms are smoke free! \$150 cleaning fee for violators!
6. Mainstay provides all food and beverage and all alcohol!

2020 – 2021 USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Spouse/Partner: _____ E-mail: _____
Street: _____
City, State & Zip: _____
Home/Cell Phone: _____
Member E-mail: _____
Dates Served Onboard: _____ Rank/Rating on TJ: _____
Years of Active Duty: _____ Retired: _____ Retired Rank/Rating: _____
Present Occupation/Employer: _____

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Comments for possible inclusion for the 21 MC
newsletter: _____

Donations: They are always welcome! Currently the funds for the TJRG are “fully replenished” and the Federal IRS and State Conversion costs are paid for! Thank You So Much! Now, as a regulated 501 (c) 7 tax exempt, non-profit, Veteran’s Social Group and State of Washington Charitable Organization operating under IRS Rule 501 (a), we are a healthy Veteran’s Organization. We are always seeking donation funds for follow on reunions: Donations in fiscal categories have been reported by name per IRS RR&G’s!

Annual Dues: They are \$ 20.00 per year (NOV/DEC). **Membership Dues** may be paid in advance for the year and more out years. Your Dues and donations subsidize all reunion activities!

Please send this application with your check payable to:
USS Turner Joy Reunion Group
c/o Jim Chester-President
1330 Thompson Street
Carson City, NV 89703-0605