

USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) NEWSLETTER

THE 21MC

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

June 7, 2020



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



SHIPMATE COMMENTS

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

Shipmates! Considering the world virus news, our 2020 reunion plans are very much in wait and see department. We continue to hope a vaccine will appear sooner than later, but absent a vaccine, it seems we are stuck with the current reality of "Stuck at Home"! Having a masked reunion with no hugging or getting close enough to tell sea stories doesn't seem appealing. We still have a hotel

booking and a banquet room. All the area activity planning has been put on hold. The Naval Base in Newport is very activity restricted as are all the tourist attractions in Newport County and Southern Massachusetts. Alternative ideas for a reunion in Newport include the possibility of a Spring Event should everything open up including the needed transportations side of things. Jim Chester and The Executive Committee (EXCOM) will be watching closely as things develop! We on the reunion committee stand ready to go to General Quarters to get back on track should things improve. Jeff Richard.....Reunion Committee Chair.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER. Since the last 21MC was published on 12/23/2019, as of 5/19/2020, for all intents and purposes, we are complete with the State of Washington Charities Division mandatory filing as a 501 (c) 7 Non-Profit, Tax Exempt, Veterans Social Group, operating under IRS Rule 501 (a)! This is subject to review and will tackle and solve any issues that may arise in the review. Gentlemen, this concludes the Federal and State mandatory conversion Process and **FINALLY** we have reached the 'New Operating Norm'. The Gentlemen of the EXCOM and quite a few TJRG Gentlemen Members and their Ladies, have lent their support to this 'titanic tasking' [1 year, 6 months & 8 days] and **I thank you so much**. For those who dislike bureaucratic red tape [as do I], you can now throw away your Excedrin bottle for bureaucratic headaches, if you so desire!

Our New Web Site! www.ussturnerjoy.com. For those of you that have not seen our new web site; the EXCOM and myself encourage you to STOP by and visit. Right now, as far as the upcoming Reunion goes, we have posted the latest News/Note:

- After extensive discussion between the TJRG EXCOM and the TJRG Reunion Committee we have weighed all the variables for the current Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic and decided on a second suspension of reunion planning until July 20, 2020 for the October 2020 reunion in Newport, RI. Right now, there are still too many unknowns and the vendors we were negotiating and contracting with are still largely shut down. Slowly the Economy is now starting to return, but it is too early in this process to properly plan. Additionally, the Naval Base is still closed with major restrictions. We are unable to determine the safety of the reunion for our membership at this stage in the pandemic. **We estimate that two months are needed to plan the reunion at an accelerated pace, should the**

decision be made after extensive evaluation in late July 2020 to proceed with the reunion.

Stay Well and Be Safe and we are still looking forward to getting together in October, IF POSSIBLE. TBD!

- [Finalized] By Laws & Guidelines: Can be accessed when you open the web site at the top of the page.
- OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION: When you open the website at the top of the page is a tab to click on for OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION. **Per Federal and State Law, the public as well as the TJRG Members must have access to these documents.** As of the date of this 21MC Newsletter, we are up to date with required documents to be posted in this section of our new website. Included are the latest unaudited reconciled financial statements for CY 2019 and the latest Federal Tax return, CY 2019 FORM 990EZ with applicable schedules are posted in this section. Please take a few minutes and view/study these documents. The Gentlemen of the EXCOM and myself working with our webmaster, Mike Olarrea have worked hard to get this into compliance with Federal and State Laws. The unaudited financial statements for CY 2019, show the ongoing financial disclosure required for the USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP Members. As soon as we get the computerized reconciled accounting to Mike Stockreiter for the independent Financial review/informal audit for CY 2019, later this year, then these documents will be uploaded to this section. All this is part of the 'New Operating Norm'.
- Further thanks to our Honored Past President, Dick Asche and his two fellow Founding Fathers of the USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP; the late CAPT Perry Baunsgard, SC USN(Ret) and the late RADM Bob McClinton USN(Ret). Without these fine Gentlemen building this fine organization, we would not have a basis to build on during this conversion process.
- Mass Mailing Limitation. Currently, there is a restriction on Mass Mailings, so this 21MC Newsletter will go mostly electronically to the most TJRG Members. Meeting with Postal Officials, we were able to work out a compromise.

**UNAUDITED ONGOING FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR THE TJRG MEMBERSHIP
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020 FROM THE LAST 21MC DATED 12/23/2019 TO 6/7/20**

TJRG funds from to 12/23/2019 to 06/07/2020 are as follows:

Date	Transaction/Event	Checking	Savings	Total
12/23/19	Balance TJRG per last 21MC	\$ 3,764.69	\$15,343.92	\$19,108.61
12/27/19	Interest Earned per Bank Stmt.	.16	3.09	3.25
12/31/19	Ending Balances CY 2019	\$ 3,764.85	\$15,347.01	\$19,111.86
	Add: Revenues			
1/1-6/7/20	Membership Dues	\$ 1,540.00	-0-	\$ 1,540.00
1/1-6/7/20	Membership Donations	1,900.00	40.00	1,940.00
1/1-5/27/20	Interest Earned	.78	15.93	16.71
	Sub Total	\$ 7,205.63	\$15,402.94	\$22,608.57
	Subtract: Expenses			
1/1-6/7/20	Postage	\$ 658.17	-0-	\$ 658.17
1/1-6/7/20	Office Supplies	541.74	-0-	541.74
1/1-6/7/20	Newsletter Printing Costs	580.57	-0-	580.57
2/4/20	Final TJRG BL&G's Print Costs	420.97	-0-	420.97
2/10-4/14/20	Web Site Developments Costs	1,200.00	-0-	1,200.00
4/14/20	Web Site 1 Year Maint. Costs	550.00	-0-	550.00
3/2/20	Accounting Software	215.00	-0-	215.00
5/16/20	State of WA Char. Div. Reg. Fee	60.00	-0-	60.00
5/27/20	NFCU Bank Stmt.-TJRG funds	\$ 2,979.18	\$15,402.94	\$18,382.12
	Add: Revenues [Deposit(s) in Transit]			
5/28-6/7/20	Membership Dues	\$ 190.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 400.00
5/28-6/7/20	Membership Donations	-0-	80.00	80.00
6/7/20	Balances TJRG Funds	\$ 3,169.18	\$15,692.94	\$18,862.12

- **OTHER GREAT NEWS!** I have posted the now famous painting of The Battle of Brandon Bay, by Mr. Dale Byhre, because we (the TJRG) have corrected history that was suppressed and distorted for political reasons during the 1972-1973 time frame. Both the Naval Heritage and Historical Command Main Museum in Washington D.C. and the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD have stood up presentations in their museums to

display the Naval Operations of the era accurately. Thanks to Tom and Catherine Warner that view this and informed me. Mr. Chad James and the distinguished gentlemen of his era are in the process of correcting the historical record for the Tonkin Gulf Incident of early August 1964 as to what actually happened by those who fought that running action for about three days. A detailed timeline narrative from official records interwoven from Eye Witness Statements and available photos and video footage will be submitted later this year to key Naval Commands. In the future this will be submitted to the appropriate Naval Commands with Mr. Dale Byhre's now famous painting of 'Fateful Encounter'; 'USS Turner Joy (DD-951) engaging hostiles, 4 August 1964'. Thanks Again Dale. Great Job!

Ongoing Note. 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.

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 and known e-mail address to: [jimc951@hotmail.com!!!](mailto: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

Andrew Loyal formerly of Aiken, SC

Billy Joe Sanders formerly of Pensacola, FL

Ray Thompson formerly of Spencer, Iowa

John Peterson formerly of Johnston, CO

Robert Wroblewski formerly of Dexter, MI

Larry Nader formerly of Surprise, AZ

Wesley C. Cox, Jr. formerly of Plummer, ID

“ATTENTION ALL FUTURE 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.

Even though we are on a second suspension for the reunion planning, until July 20th, 2020, I urge all TJRG crewmembers to send their pictures to Brian Soncrant, because at some point in the future we will have a reunion.

ROUSING TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN SAILORS WHO FINALLY GET SOME REAL REST AND RELAXTION AFTER MONTHS OF PREPARING FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT, HIGH SPEED TRANSIT ACROSS THE PACIFIC, A SOLID MONTH OF COMBAT OPERATIONS IN NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM, REPAIRING BATTLE DAMAGE IN TAIWAN AND PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION ENDSWEEP.

This Picture was taken at the Grande Island Rest and Recreation area near Subic Bay, area in the late April, 1973 or early May, 1973 time frame. The entire crew had been under an ‘enormous strain for 8 consecutive months in multiple facets of Naval Operations, carrying out Foreign Policy in the Fighting to Leave policy of the Vietnam War. This picture is a clear representative of how much R & R was needed by the 1972-1973 combat crew of the USS Turner Joy (DD-951).

Left to Right Standing: Steve ???; Harry Hemsworth ???; Maurice “Whitey” Price; Jim “Guns” Blaney; and Billy Whitt

Left to Right Sitting: Doug Church; George “Kodiak Jack” Helmstadter; Wesley “Walley” Cox; and Steve Brown

GENTLEMEN DOES THIS PICTURE LOOK FAMILAR



ONGOING 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 future, if possible. 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 stay on this path and correct the records at the Naval War College and other Naval Commands with hard incontrovertible data from official records. Chad and other eye witnesses have made a lasting inroad to correct the historical record. Worth mentioning Again! Good Job Gentlemen! BZ!

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

BT2 Jim Shane passed away on 1/28/2020 as reported by his wife, Becky! Jim was onboard during the 1971 to 1974 time frame. Jim and his wife lived in Florida!

MM2 (later MMCS USN RET) Walter Parrish passed away in February, 2020 as reported by MM2 Raymond Frakes. Walter was onboard from 1959 to 1964.

MM3 Richard “Dick” Kissinger passed away in late December 2019. Dick was onboard from 1968 to 1970. He was Interred in Skyview Memorial Park in Tamaqua, PA. He was a huge Penn State COLLEGE football fan!

RD2 Iverson Smith passed away in 2014 at age 77. He was onboard during the 1963-1966 time frame. We had trouble confirming his death, but finally was able to confirm it. Iverson was one of the key eye witnesses during the Tonkin Gulf Incident on early August 1964. He was well respected by The Officers and Men of the USS Turner Joy.

GMG2 Robert J. Murray USN was killed in a motorcycle accident on May 22nd, 1965. He was onboard during the 1962-1965 time fame. Reported by his widow on the Internet after 55 years.

LT Roger E. Tetrault (later CAPT USNR Ret) passed away suddenly on January 27th, 2020. Roger had graduated from the Naval Academy in June 1963 and later served on the USS Turner Joy as CIC Officer. Later, Roger became a pilot in 1965, earning his wings and not only saw combat from the deck of the USS Turner Joy, BUT FROM THE AIR and DID TWO COMBAT TOURS IN Vietnam. Later leaving the Navy, he earned advanced degrees and worked in the Defense Industry and served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 2005, Roger was awarded the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal. In 2013, Roger was selected from over 40,000 alumni of the Naval Academy among living alumni as the 55th most distinguished Graduate of that institution. Roger is survived by his wife of 30 years, Linda and two sons and one daughter and their families and grandchildren. A celebration of life was made Roger at the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens in Punta Gorda, FL on February 17, 2020. His fellow Officers and the Men he led considered him a “Fine Officer”!

TAPS FOR A NON-USS TURNER JOY CREWMEMBER:

ADMIRAL James L. Holloway III passed away on November 26, 2019 at age 97 years old. ADM Holloway graduated from the Naval Academy, class of 1943. He served in destroyers in WWII In the North Atlantic and in the North African Waters on convoy duty and later in the Pacific where he participated in the Battle of Saipan, the Battle of Tinian, and the Battle of Leyte Gulf [specifically in the Battle of Surigao Strait]. He was one of the two torpedo director officers credited with sinking the Japanese Battleship IJN Yamashiro at the Battle of Surigao Strait on October 25, 1944. He was serving in the USS Bennion (DD-662) at the time. After WWII, he became a Naval Aviator and flew two combat tours in F9F Panther's in the Korean War. He commanded two fighter squadrons. He also commanded an Attack squadron and covered the Landings in Lebanon in 1958. Later he commanded the USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) from 1965 to 1967, and was one of the first nuclear engineering qualified Naval Aviators in the US Navy. ADM Holloway later established the Navy's Nuclear-Powered Carrier Program from 1968 to 1970. In 1970, then RADM Holloway commanded the Carrier Striking Force in 6th Fleet. In 1972, then VADM Holloway took command of the 7th Fleet in combat Operations in North and South Vietnam. Our own Ed Briggs served under then VADM Jim Holloway as ACOS and later COS! Ed, Please Correct me if I am in error about those assignments!. During his tenure of 7th Fleet Commander, he participated in and eventually led a Cruiser-Destroyer Gunfire and Missile strike force during the Battle of Haiphong Harbor. As 7th Fleet Commander, he personally recognized the USS Turner Joy in a 13 JUN 73 Naval message for our historic contributions to the Vietnam War, which is published in the 1972-1973 USS Turner Joy cruise book. He then became Vice CNO from late 1973 to mid 1974. He was CNO from 1974-1978. He received over 40 Military decorations and medals! He was buried at the United States Naval Academy cemetery with full Military honors in December 2019. He was one of the most distinguished Naval Officers this country has ever produced.

NOW TENTATIVE HOTEL INFORMATION, DEPENDING UPON JULY 20, 2020 EXCOM AND REUNION COMMITTEE DECISION ABOUT THE OCT 20 REUNION

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 – 202_ 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