

USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) NEWSLETTER *THE 21MC*

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

April 23, 2021



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

USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) ON JANUARY 13, 1973 AT APPROXIMATELY LATITUDE 18 Degrees 37.2 Minutes North; LONGITUDE 106 Degrees 04.5 Minutes East UNDER HEAVY ENEMY FIRE RETIRING EASTWARD AT 32-33 1/2 KNOTS IN A VIOLENT ZIGZAG, AFTER LINEBACKER II STRIKE MISSION 12-2 (1), (2) AND (3). TIME IS APPROXIMATELY 0013H, WHEN THE SHIP STARTED TO LOSE THE LOAD DUE TO ENGINEERING CASUALTIES/BATTLE DAMAGE.

PAINTING BY MR. DALE BYHRE FROM THE PERSONAL COLLECTION OF JIM CHESTER. THIS IS IN HONOR OF OUR LATE WARTIME COMMANDING OFFICER; COMMANDER ROBERT HUNTLEY PIDGEON USN(RET), WHO HEROICALLY AND SKILLFULLY GUIDED US THROUGH BATTLE; ISSUING A NOW FAMOUS BATTLE ORDER OF "NOT NOW" TO ENGINEERING AT A KEY PIVOTAL MOMENT AVOIDING SERIOUS BATTLE DAMAGE AND PREVENTING GREAT LOSS OF LIFE!



We sincerely thank those "brave engineers" carrying out this risky combat order & keeping TJ underway at high speed under heavy enemy fire!

SHIPMATE COMMENTS:

EM2 Richard Horst—One plus about serving was when we docked in Japan, I bought a Pachinko game and still have it. Please don't get it wrong that the main plus of serving aboard was service to my country. My duty station was standing watch at the switchboard in the engine room, so I wasn't able to see the ship pull into the dock.

LT Rich Alexander—As a Plank owner, I got to see the Turner Joy grow from nothing to "The best ship in the whole Pacific Fleet." That's a quote from Captain Wentworth. I stayed in touch with him after I left the Turner Joy. While inviting him to my wedding, I happened to mention that my girlfriend's Father had passed away. He offered to fly over from Pearl and stand in as her Father. And He Did! That's the kind of man he was!

MS3 Vincent Marquez—Looking for shipmates who served aboard 1978 to 1980. Contact: vmarquez9493@sbcglobal.net.

SN Jon (Half Ass) Littman—I should have bought a ROLEX when I was selling them in the ship's store!

EMFA Tracy Birch—Took final deployment 2-12-82 thru 8-15-82. Part of decommissioning crew. Last attended 2000 reunion!

MM3 R. Phil Sager—Activated Summer 68' & deployed 1st Westpac USS Brush (DD-745). Married Marge March 69' & transferred to TJ, served in Forward ER. Made 2nd Westpac on TJ (69-70). Have 2 married daughters and 3 Grandchildren. Raced Dirt cars, before and after Rooki8e of the Year @ 55 years old; NCRA Modifiers' & Finished 6th in-points my rookie year @ 71 years old in SLM Models! Still racing at 35 tracks so far! Deacon and Teacher at my Church!

RD3 Bela Kamencky—I ENJOYED my service on the TJ!

BT3 Don White—I was sorry to hear last year that LT Dudley had passed! Being a BTFN, he was my Engineering Officer. He was a great man with a lot of class! I remember Christmas night 1969 when he gave me and another BT an invitation to come to the Bridge, where he had the Deck that night. We were in the mouth of the Qua Viet River just below the DMZ when a call for fire mission came to us. When we fired our 5"s guns; an enemy shell exploded a couple of hundred yards and He told us to hit the deck! I never forgot it!

BT3 Don White—Thank You Jim and EXCOM for all you do for TJ and Crew!

CDR Edward S. Briggs—Nanette and I send our Very Best Wishes for the New Year to all Turner Joy Sailors and your Families. We Hope 2021 will bring us together again In Bremerton aboard our Historic Turner Joy!

LT Jeffrey Richard—If we plan an [OCT] reunion in Bremerton, we may be able to pull it off with some restrictions. Thanks for all your hard work at the helm!

ENS Bob Beaton—I was a Plank Owner! Signal Officer-First six (6) months; 1st LT last year (Westpac Deployment). NOW Missionary w/CCC at USNA!

RD3 Rich Aamodt—You and the EXCOM and doing a heck of a job for us. Thank You Very Much!

MM3 Darrell Crabill—I heard from MM3 Bill Lefurgey a while back and it was so nice to hear from an old shipmate. I would really like to talk & maybe visit with Richard Blobaum. He was from Afton, Iowa. [NOTE-they all connected and had a joyous mini-reunion]

FTG1 John W. Hart—Happy New Year! A shout out to you and your associates (EXCOM)! Knowing there is a lot of work behind the scenes of any successful organization! It is appreciated!

MS2 Joseph M. Schoennauer—Larry Upton: Served onboard FEB 79-FEB 81 & made “Good Samaritan” cruise. Australia, New Zealand were beautiful. Larry, call me at 209-853-0356!

CS2 David Arndt—I like Allen M. Sumner and Gearing class destroyers the best!

E-3 Daniel Pick—1968 Cruise Book; attached photo, “Things go better with Coke!”

IC2 Robert Meyers—The first weekend in June (4-6) is Museum Ship’s weekend; an amateur Radio Event! Over 100 Museum ships will be on the air. Contact me; ka7umr@dd951.us for info!!!!

PRESIDENT’S CORNER. Since the last 21MC was published on 12/23/2020, as of 3/30/2021, we in the EXCOM have finished all the Calendar Year (CY) 2020 TJRG Financial Statements; completed and submitted the Federal Tax Return 990EZ for CY 2020 on 1/18/21; completed and submitted the State of Washington Charities Division mandatory yearly update report for CY 2020 on 1/19/21; prepared the audit papers for CY 2020 and completed the Legal and Administrative Compliance internal audit on 3/29/2021 and completed the financial internal audit for CY 2020 on 3/30/21. **We have already heard from the State of Washington on 1/26/21 that our filing was “successful” iaw State Law.** The EXCOM and Myself wanted to get this out of the way for CY 2020 early in 2021 so we can focus on more FUN and Honorable events, such as Reunion Planning and the memorial service for CDR Pidgeon at the Naval Academy. **The CY2020 Compliance and Financial Internal audit reports are attached to this newsletter.** The updated documents have been sent to the web coordinator for posting in the **OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION** tab on our web site! www.ussturnerjoy.com.

- **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 & State Law; the Public & TJRG Members must have access to these documents.
- **REQUIRED WASHINGTON STATE VOLUNTARY DONATION DISCLOSURE.**
Per the 6/19/20 & 1/26/21 feedback letters from the Washington Secretary of State, we must make sure all solicitations for voluntary donations have required disclosure information as described: Charities Solicitations Act; RCW 19.09.100. This disclosure is on our web site at the top of the page in the red bar, just click on that tab for State of Washington required RCW 19.09.100 disclosure before voluntary donations are made.
- **REUNION FOR 2021 IS ON!!!!** The EXCOM & myself have waited until the 1st quarter [2021] CDC statistics & projections for the COVID-19 pandemic were out before looking at the data to make an intuitive approach as to the safety for a reunion. We also have had to look at whether businesses would be open in Bremerton, WA and also had to look at Washington State restrictions and projections. That work was completed by April 22nd and we decided to go forward with planning our next reunion. After much TJRG membership feedback for location and best possible dates for the reunion, we have settled upon September 9th through 12th for our 2021 USS Turner Joy Reunion in Bremerton, WA. We then had to ensure, the hotels, the ship, the Conference Center could all be secured for those dates. There will be a few changes outside of what we are accustomed to:
- **Tentative Schedule:**
9/9/21; Thursday Evening, Ice breaker party-Check In!
9/10/21; Friday--AM/PM hours, Tours-TBD-Check in!
9/10/21; Evening—Friday Night Banquet with live Music and Guest Speaker [to be arranged]
9/11/21; Saturday-tour of the ship, Free time, Shopping, Business Meeting [Time TBD]
9/11/21; Evening—Saturday Evening Salmon Bake with drinks and music [TBD] for the TJRG. Location—TBD, but we are hoping evening restrictions for the TJ are lifted by then. Our Primary hotel will be the Fairfield Inn this time with 50 rooms reserved and the Hampton Inn will have 35 rooms reserved! More information to follow:
9/12/21; Sunday Morning--Farewells and Checkout

**“AUDITED” FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR TJRG MEMBERSHIP FOR
CALENDAR YEAR 2020 FROM 12/18/20 TO 12/31/20**

Date(s)	Transaction/Event	Checking	Savings	Total
12/18/20	Bal TJRG Funds per last 21MC	\$ 3,679.22	\$17,065.91	\$20,745.13
	ADD REVENUES:			
11/30/20	Interest Earned per DEC 20 BS	\$.15	3.39	3.54
12/19/20	Membership Dues	\$ 60.00	-	\$ 60.00
12/31/20	Calendar Year 2020 Year End Bal	\$ 3,739.37	\$17,069.30	\$20,808.67

**“UN-AUDITED” ONGOING FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FOR TJRG MEMBERSHIP
FROM 1/1/21 TO 4/23/21
[JAN 1, 2021 TO MAR 27, 2021]**

1/1/21	CY 20201 Beginning Balances	\$ 3,739.37	\$17,069.30	\$20,808.67
	ADD REVENUES:			
1/4/21-3/8/21	Membership Dues	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 560.00	\$ 2,100.00
1/4/21-3/8/21	Membership Donations	-	\$ 1,430.00	\$ 1,430.00
1/1/21-3/27/21	Interest Income	\$.12	\$ 10.83	\$ 10.95
1/13/21	Outside Donation	-	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
	SUBTRACT EXPENSES:			
1/12/21-2/8/21	Postage	(\$ 68.95)	-	(\$ 68.95)
1/12/21-2/8/21	EXCOM Mailings	(\$ 55.85)	-	(\$ 55.85)
1/12/21-2/8/21	GEN Mailings	(\$ 27.90)	-	(\$ 27.90)
1/12/21-2/8/21	Office Supplies	(\$ 385.59)	-	(\$ 385.59)
1/12/21-1/19/21	Printing Costs	(\$ 532.62)	-	(\$ 532.62)
1/19/21	WA State Filing Fee Yrly Rpt	(\$ 60.00)	-	(\$ 60.00)
1/19/21	Audit Costs-Printing	(\$ 27.89)	-	(\$ 27.89)
3/27/21	Balances per TJRG NFCU B.S.	\$ 4,120.69	\$19,090.13	\$23,210.82

[MAR 27, 2021 TO APR 23, 2021]

	ADD REVENUES:			
4/22/21	Membership Dues	\$ 20.00	-	\$ 20.00
4/22/21	Membership Donation	-	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
	SUBTRACT EXPENSES:			
4/14/21	Postage	(\$ 280.00)	-	(\$ 280.00)
4/14/21	EXCOM Mailings	(\$ 4.20)	-	(\$ 4.20)
4/14/21	GEN Mailings	(\$ 9.65)	-	(\$ 9.65)
4/23/21	Balances TJRG Ck & Sav Reg	\$ 3,846.84	\$19,110.13	\$22,956.97

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 took 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.

“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 next scheduled USS Turner Joy (DD-951) Reunion! We are asking everyone who plans on attending the next reunion to mail an approx. 4” X 6” photo of themselves; one photo of yourself when aboard the USS Turner Joy & present photo. We need your Name, Rank/Rating, your TJ Division & 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 Brian at (586) 322-0328. Please Mail all photos and information to: Brian Soncrant, 8152 E Kilarea Ave., Mesa, AZ 85209-5118. These trips down memory lane are so great! I urge all TJRG crewmembers to send their pictures to Brian Soncrant, because at in September 9th to 12th, 2021 we will have great FUN at our upcoming reunion and Brian will have this ready to go for our past/present viewing pleasure!

NEW NOTE: All Veterans, their spouses, and caregivers can get COVID-19 vaccinations from the VA under the SAVE LIVES Act signed into Law on March 24, 2021. Check with your regional VA Medical Center for information, screening, scheduling and hopefully ultimate vaccination. The main phone number for the VA is 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is ALWAYS the right number! Be prepared to wait once you call! Subsequent information from the VA is they are using the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccination as the main shot(s), but you can verify that when you call. The EXCOM and myself strongly recommend you contact your health care professional if there is doubt on receiving the vaccination(s).

NEW NOTE: COVID-19 Precautions for the Reunion would include having masks available for crowded settings & social distancing as allowable. Since the CDC now says; FULLY vaccinated Americans can go without masks outdoors, except in crowded settings, we in the EXCOM ask that all Reunion attendees voluntary follow this policy. Occasional flareups of the COVID-19 pandemic apparently occur in isolated regions, so please come prepared with masks.

MORE INFORMATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER 9TH THROUGH 12TH REUNION FOR THE USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP:

- Free In-Kind Transportation Services will be provided by the Bremerton-Kitsap Airpoter (BKA) Bus Company located in Port Orchard, WA as authorized by the owner. There will be shuttles back and forth between SEATAC and Bremerton, Washington Hotels for the reunion.
- The location of the hospitality suite is yet TBD!
- Small Bottles of Hand Sanitizer will probably be provided by the TJRG. Yet to be voted upon by the EXCOM.
- The signup and reunion cost forms will come out in the next 21MC Newsletter. The Reunion Committee will be making a trip to Bremerton to negotiate and sign contacts for the reunion in late May 2021!
- Currently, due to considerable TJRG funds available, cost reduction incentives [paid to contractors] should considerably reduce Reunion costs!

USS TURNER JOY MUSEUM GRAND REOPENING!!!

The USS TURNER JOY museum closed on March 13, 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. In October 2020, changes started to occur & businesses started to reopen! The BHSA staff returned to the TJ on November 3rd, 2020 & the ship was shut down again. Finally, entire State of Washington went to Phase 3 reopening, the museum set the reopening date for March 27th, 2021. The local newspaper, the Kitsap Sun, featured the reopening & the first day, the ship had 36 visitors. This information & the picture below comes from the March-April 2021 Issue 040 BHSA Newsletter. Low on funds, the ship needs donations! I will send a donation to the BHSA, a 501 (c) 3 Non-Profit so to help them get back financially. **Who will follow my lead???**



*The First COVID-Era Docent Team
(l to r) Hector Esparza, John Kieft, Eric Nelson, and Turner Joy
Director, Charlie Birdsell*

USS TURNER JOY HISTORICAL TIDBITS!!!!

- The United States Naval Academy (USNA) Class of 1971 embarked upon a literary project over 5 years ago, where the entire class contributed their War & Sea Stories. On the [Combat] Westpac deployment of 1972-1973 to North & South Vietnam, we had 3 USNA Class of 1971 Naval Officers; LTJG Steve Penner (Gunnery Officer), LTJG Mike McNallen (ASW Officer) & LTJG Bill Donges (Main Propulsion Assistant). Off & On, over the years, I worked with Steve Penner & many others refining this larger-than-life Naval Battle story of; "Last Pitched Surface Gun Battle in Navy History" where 3 destroyers attacked key strategic targets in & around Vinh, NVN, against overwhelming odds. The entire 92-minute mission was executed at speeds of 32 knots or greater. The Strike Mission [MSN 12-2 (1), (2) and (3)] as part of Operation Linebacker II—Surface Strike Operations; was coordinated between Navy Destroyers & Air Assets of the Navy & Air Force. After all the War Stories and Sea stories were submitted, the USNA Class of 1971 voted on what were the best War Stories & the best Sea Stories. Steve Penner submitted the War Story of "The Battle of Brandon Bay" that occurred on 12/13 JANUARY 1973. It was voted the Number One War Story for the book & is very near the front of the book! [In all fairness, USS TURNER JOY had been in Brandon Bay near Vinh, NVN in 1967 with another destroyer & had to fight their way-out during Operation Sea Dragon—Surface Strike Operations]. The book is published by PARADIGM PRESS in 2019/2020. Steve sent me a copy!
- A video made by HT2 Kenny Roice was purchased by the TJRG after copies were made on DVD & sent to the BHSA/USS TURNER JOY museum along with documentation for firing the "Last Naval Round of the Vietnam War". Kenny Roice was standing Next to the CO; CDR Rob Pidgeon when the "Last Naval Round of the Vietnam War" was fired at 0759 & 15 secs H & the Video also shows the round hitting the target at 0800 H, 28 JANUARY 1973, in the thick Industrial/War haze, about 20,000 yards away, some 45 seconds later!
- In an effort to find the 5" 54 caliber shell casing fired & expended from the "Last Naval Round Fired in the Vietnam War", the TJRG located & purchased a Navy shell casing with documentation during 2020. This shell casing with documentation turned out to be a 5" 38 Caliber shell casing & was apparently fired by the USS Rogers (DD-876) on the Gunline just below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) at 0757H, on the morning of 28 January 1973, just 3 minutes before the ceasefire, arranged by the Paris Peace Talks! Fortunately, we have the declassified Naval Message that shows the 15 DD's/DDG's/DE's of TG 75.9/TF 75 firing at enemy targets South of the DMZ just before the cease fire. Since the Naval Artifact was not from the USS TURNER JOY, I refunded the TJRG and then donated the 5" 38 Caliber shell casing to the destroyer museum that the BHSA operates in Bremerton, WA.
- In 2020, LTJG Rick Grosscup, onboard during 1972-1973, sent me an e-mail that he had the shredded & torn Battle Flag from the 12/13 January 1973 Battle of Brandon Bay. He told me that SMI Borja, gave it to him the next morning & has had it all these years. We discussed getting this into a museum, so we contacted the USNA museum at Preble Hall. We have not yet heard their decision! I can hear Indiana Jones saying; "that Battle Flag belongs in a museum"! I agree! Since Rick is a CPA & tax season has been extended to May 17, 2021, we will continue to work the donation issues, until after tax season is OVER. Shredded Battle Flags are among the most treasured Naval Historic Artifacts!

**SPECIAL COMMITTAL SERVICE AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
(USNA) FOR THE LATE COMMANDER ROBERT HUNTLEY PIDGEON USN (RET)
AND HIS LATE LOVING WIFE OF 44 YEARS, SANDY PIDGEON ON 12 JULY 2021
AT 10:00AM**

Our last wartime Commanding Officer, CDR Robert (Rob) Huntley Pidgeon USN(Ret) passed away on December 30, 2020. Rob was a graduate of USNA, Class of 1958 and was friends with the late Senator (Retired Captain) John S. McCain, also Class of 1958 at the USNA. Rob left instructions to be buried near his friend at the Naval Academy. During the development and publication of this 21MC Newsletter, his late loving wife Sandy passed away on May 1, 2021 and friends and family are working to have both committed at the same Special Committal Service on 12 July 2021 at 10:00PM. During Rob's tenure in command of the USS Turner Joy (DD-951), he oversaw a huge combat capability upgrade of the ship in terms of new guns and advanced sensor systems, adding new Electronic Warfare systems, all of which we later used to maximum advantage in heavy combat in North Vietnam and South Vietnam, just below the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). In the month of January 1973, the ship fired 10,136 rounds of 5" 54 Caliber projectiles and 187 rounds of 3" 50 Caliber and tens of thousands of rounds of .50 and .30 caliber from Machine Guns. Rob guided us through Four Major Battles, Ten Medium Intensity Battles, Thirteen Minor Intensity Battles and Three Daylight Strikes in North Vietnam in just Eight Days during Operation Linebacker II. Just below the DMZ, Rob guided us through another major Battle; a surface engagement against enemy PTG's armed with Styx Missiles and guns; and many more medium and minor combat engagements until the cease fire. He found ways to motivate his crew and did not sleep hardly at all for an entire month, under the worst stress imaginable. On Operation End Sweep in North Vietnam, we had more very tense peacekeeping duty and even acted as the Covering Force ship, when the POW's were being flown out of North Vietnam. The historical events under his Command include: participated in the Last Pitched Surface Battle fought with two other destroyers and Strategic and Tactical Airpower at speeds of greater than 32 knots using destroyer divisional tactics against overwhelming odds [5:1]; conducted the Last Offensive Operation in North Vietnam at the Do Son Peninsula, not far from Haiphong, NVN (15 JAN 73); Fired the most rounds in a single day of combat during the Vietnam Conflict—3,003 5" 54 Caliber Rounds and 187 3" 50 Caliber rounds fired on 27/28 JAN 1973; fired the Last Naval Round of the Vietnam War at 0759 and 15 secs [Hotel-H Time Zone] on 28 JAN 1973 with a 45 second Time of Flight to impact precisely at 0800 H, the ceasefire time arranged by the Paris Peace Talks. Through subordinates, he developed Tactical Combat Doctrine for the Forward-Looking Infrared Television (FLIR) and Laser Beam (for direct fire instantaneous fire control solutions) Greatly Reducing the Detect To Engage (DTE) Time from minutes to tens of seconds, thus achieving much greater combat effectiveness and we successfully used this doctrine in heavy fighting in North Vietnam and also in South Vietnam. Due to the "Adverse Politics of the Vietnam Conflict", Rob Pidgeon did not get the appropriate combat awards he richly deserved!!! Starting in early 2018, some members of the TJRG with the talented Naval Artist help of Mr. Dale Byhre; finally proper recognition as a proven combat leader was finally obtained from the USNA Superintendent and History Department for this very fine Gentleman.

The Special Committal Service at 10:000 AM on 12 JUL 2021 will take place at the USNA Columbarium. The USNA Columbarium has seats for 70 People, but currently ONLY 50 people are allowed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We expect this 50 person restriction to be lifted in the near future! Mr. Frank Kurek, who has been taking care of the Pidgeon's for over 35 years will be there and the Flag will be presented to Rob's Sister; Mrs. Linda Kelton from Middlebury, Vermont. Attire for this Special Committal Service will be coat and tie for the Gentlemen and appropriate dress attire for the Ladies. If the Gentlemen who are retired Naval Officer's wish to wear their "Full Dress Whites (without swords)", that is permissible! Visitors, 16 years old and older must show a valid photo Identification. The Naval Academy is accessible through Gate 1 Pedestrian entrances on Randall Street and Prince George Street.

For all those that wish to attend this Special Committal Service, please e-mail me at jimc951@hotmail.com and also e-mail Frank Kurek at frankkurek@gmail.com so we can plan accordingly. We have not yet scheduled a after Committal social gathering, but we are working on that event. We will also send documentation and a map of the USNA to you.

Commander (Ret.) Robert Huntley Pidgeon, 84, Of Middlebury

MIDDLEBURY — Commander (Ret.) Robert Huntley Pidgeon, 84, left us peacefully on Dec. 30, 2020, at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing, Middlebury, Vt., after months of declining health. His wife of 40 years, Sandra, was with him.

Robert was born May 15, 1936, son of Helen (Huntley) and Theodore Pidgeon in New Haven, Vt. He grew up on the family farm with brother, David, and sister Linda. He graduated as valedictorian of the 1954 class at Beeman Academy. Soon after he entered the U.S. Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Md., graduated in 1958 with high honors and was awarded his diploma by President Eisenhower. He began his Naval career achieving the rank of Commander. He was a graduate of the Naval War College, Newport, R.I., and received his master's degree from the Naval Nuclear School, Monterey, Calif.

His tours of duty took him to many parts in the Pacific. During the Vietnam War, he was honored to be assigned to Admiral Zumwalt in Saigon, crafting plans for with-



**COMMANDER (RET.)
ROBERT HUNTLEY
PIDGEON**

drawal of Naval Forces from the war. He also served as Captain of the U.S.S. *Turner Joy* in the Gulf of Tonkin. The *Turner Joy* is credited with firing the last naval round of the War in January 1973.

Following his retirement, he married his high school sweetheart, Sandra Tucker, who survives him, as well as four stepchildren: Jill,

Brian, Kevin and Matthew and their families; his brother, David of New Haven, Vt., his sister Linda and husband, Howard Kelton, of East Middlebury, Vt., his nephew, Karl Kelton, of Middlebury, Vt.; niece Tricia Kelton and husband Alan Parent, and their son Marcel of Sneads Ferry, N.C.; wonderful friend Frank Kurek of Westford, Vt.; and numerous cousins. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his sister Jean in 1938.

His family will remember his strength of character, quick wit, ability to find humor in daily life and challenging times, his kind heart, and dedication and service to his country.

We thank the staff at Helen Porter Rehabilitation and Nursing for the wonderful care and compassion they gave him.

Per his wishes, Robert will return to the U.S. Naval Academy for his military funeral service and inurnment in the Naval Academy Columbarium near his classmate, Senator John McCain. ♦

TAPS:

**It is with "GREAT REGRET" WE REPORT THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES WHO
HAVE PASSED ON: "FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS"**

John August Bianco, CDR (later CAPT) USN (Ret). John was one of the USS Turner Joy's Commanding Officers. He passed away on December 4, 2020 and he was 82 years old! He is survived by his wife, Christine of Jupiter, FL and his son and his wife; John and Helen Bianco of Virginia Beach, VA and 3 Grandchildren. John served in the U.S. Navy for 28 years and later worked for the Navy as a Chemical Engineer subcontractor. John will be buried in Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, NY.

Robert Huntley Pidgeon, CDR, USN (Ret) and his wife, the former Sandra "Sandy" Tucker who was his High School Sweetheart! Rob passed away on December 30, 2020 at age 84 years old. Sandy passed away on May 1, 2021, age 85 years old. Rob command the ship from 13 DEC 1971 to 25 April, 1973. They leave behind 4 children (his step-children), his Sister Linda Kelton of Middlebury, VT and nephews and nieces and numerous cousins. They also leave behind their close friend and confidant; Frank Kurek of Westford, VT who served in the Navy as an MS2 on the USS Dupont (DD-941). See: **Special Committal Ceremony!** Both were close friends of mine!

Max Ruff, FTG2, USN passed away in the Beaverton, OR area as reported by his wife, Sandy! Max was onboard the USS Turner Joy from 1959 to 1962. His wife reported Max loved the TJ!

Brian O'Neill, SMSN, USN. Brian passed away on February 1, 2016 in New York City, dying prematurely of throat cancer. Brian was onboard from 1976 to 1978. Reported by his friend, Gregg Richards!

Randall Drexler, OS3, USN. Randall hailed from Texas! Reporting his passing by his friend Mark C. Wiesner. Randall made the last Westpac during 1980-1981.

Alec Chalfant, OS3, USN. Alec hailed from Washington State! Reporting his passing by his friend Mark C. Wiesner. Alec made the last Westpac in 1980-1981.

Joseph M. Gibbons, LT, (later CAPT) USN(Ret). Joe passed away on July 2, 2019 and he was 79 years old! He served aboard the ship during the mid-1960's. He later became an Intelligence Officer and retired from the U.S. Navy after about 30 years. He leaves behind his loving Wife, a Daughter and many Grandchildren. He was from Simi Valley, CA!

William "Bill" Dimond, FA, USN (Ret). Served on board 1966-1967. Bill lost a leg and was permanently retired in 1967. Date of Bill's recent passing is Unknown, but was on the TJ website! Bill was from Council, ID!

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: _____

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

Captain F. Michael Stockreiter, USNR(Ret)
USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP
Internal Financial Reviewer/Auditor
3031 Applegate Lane
Glenview, IL 60025

 **COPY**

March 30, 2021

Subj: INFORMAL FINANCIAL REVIEW /AUDIT REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR (CY) 2020 REPORT TO THE USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP ON FEDERAL 501(c) 7, NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT STATUS AND WASHINGTON STATE, OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE CHARITABLE DIVISION STATUS FOR OUR VETERAN'S SOCIAL GROUP PER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RULES, REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES (IRS RR&G'S)

Dear USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP AND CREW MEMBERS,

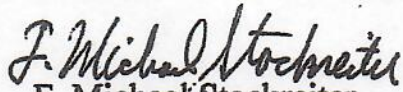
I have independently examined the cash basis accounting per Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for Calendar Year 2020 for the USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP, applying informal internal financial review/audit procedures with fully intact audit trail documentation provided by the current President and current Treasurer of the USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP and found the following Financial Condition:

Properly reconciled and appears satisfactory in all respects for Calendar Year 2020. All CY2020 financial statements and non-profit tax returns submitted within allowable Federal and State due date guidelines. This independent Financial review/ Informal Audit Report will be published in the next USS TURNER JOY (DD-951) NEWSLETTER, THE 21MC.

Proper disclosure of CY2020 un-audited financial statements was made and has been posted on the USS Turner Joy Reunion Group website:

www.ussturnerjoy.com under the OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS for PUBLIC INSPECTION tab. Since the audit has now been completed, the CY2020 unaudited financial statements will be replaced on the web site with CY2020 audited financial statements

I am not a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or a licensed Public Accountant and therefore cannot render an unqualified or qualified opinion as to the fairness of the financial statements reported to the IRS and the USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP. I do hold an undergraduate degree in Business Administration majoring in Finance and an MBA in Marketing and worked in the business community in the Chicagoland area for 36 years. I do meet the IRS criteria for an independent Informal Financial Reviewer/Internal Auditor for our 501(c) 7 tax exempt, non-profit, Veteran's Social Group.


F. Michael Stockreiter
Captain, USNR(Ret.)

LCDR Jim Chester USN (Retired)

President, USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP

1330 Thompson Street

Carson City, Nevada 89703-0605

March 29, 2021



**Subj: INFORMAL ONGOING LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE REVIEW
PER IRS GUIDELINES AND STATE OF WASHINGTON GUIDELINES ICO USS TURNER
JOY REUNION GROUP (TJRG) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020, ENDING DECEMBER 31,
2020**

Dear USS TJRG Members,

Per IRS and State of Washington informal audit guidelines for 501 (c) 7 EXCOM's ongoing legal and administrative compliance as it pertains to full disclosures to membership; the majority of the TJRG EXCOM has conducted the informal legal and administrative compliance audit and found there were NO major discrepancies for Calendar Year 2020, ending December 31, 2020.


Jim Chester