

GRIGGS-GRUNDY NEWS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4

December 2002

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS GRIGGS AND GRUNDY



Special Points of Interest

- *Read all about the Charleston reunion. A great time was had by all.*
- *A list of reunion attendees is on page two. See who you missed seeing if you weren't there.*
- *You can now order city tags for the past reunions if you have misplaced yours. See page two for details.*
- *See what Asheville has to offer for your next reunion. All the attractions are in the story on pages three and four.*
- *Please return the survey on Asheville as soon as possible so plans can be made.*

CHARLESTON REUNION BIG SUCCESS

The 2002 reunion of the USS Griggs and the USS Grundy was held on October 10-13 in Charleston, SC's Town & Country Inn Conference Center. Sixteen former sailors and sixteen of their guests were in attendance. After registering on Thursday afternoon, the first official event of the reunion was the 5:00 pm welcome reception. Coordinator Daniel Brown welcomed the group and made introductions. The evening was free to gather in the hospitality room or to go out to dinner with old or newly made friends.

Friday's weather left a lot to be desired! It was weather only a duck could love. Due to the pouring rain, the "Discover Charleston Day" had to be enjoyed

from the comforts of the tour bus only. Everyone was disappointed, but no complaints were heard. (For one thing, the rain was so badly needed that no one dared complain about it.) Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves despite the rain. After such a dreary day, the mood was brightened by the entertainment at Friday night's Low Country buffet dinner. Ms. Bonnie Earl entertained the group with her songs and legends of the area and Mr. & Mrs. Ellsworth Harlow also entertained the attendees with their dancing skills. Everybody enjoyed a great evening of food, music and laughter.

With better weather on Saturday, the tour to Patriot's Point was really a

high point of the reunion for most of the men. They enjoyed visiting the USS Yorktown and all the other ships and vessels on display there. Lunch in the CPO Mess was part of the tour and then the group was taken by boat to Fort Sumter, located in Charleston's harbor. On the 20 minute cruise to the fort, a spectacular view of Charleston's battery and the beautiful old homes that stand there was visible. After a tiring day of touring, everyone was glad to get back to the hotel and head for the hospitality room where coffee, soft drinks and snacks awaited them. The business meeting was held at 4:00 pm with the decision to go to the Pigeon Forge, TN/Asheville, NC area for the 2003 reunion.

USS Griggs coordinator will be Charles Forshee and USS Grundy coordinator will be Daniel Brown.

With a few hours to rest and get ready for the Saturday night finale, by 7:00 pm everyone was looking like a million bucks as they came for the cocktail hour and photo session for the Sentimental Journal. The more formal atmosphere of the banquet added to the special feeling of the evening. The memorial service was held during the banquet and remembered all the former sailors who had died or whose deaths had been learned of since the last reunion. Dinner table conversations became lively and it was evident that many had bonded over the few days together, even if they had never met before this weekend. For many, the night ended in the hospitality room, still sharing stories and reliving their days as young men away from home for the first time.

Sunday morning's breakfast was the last chance to see the one another before everyone headed home to their individual lives. Handshakes and hugs were common and all agreed that, despite the weather, Charleston is a wonderful place to visit. No one could deny that getting together with people who have had similar experiences and being able to share them, is one of the best things about a reunion. Hope you all will be able to be together again next year and convince an old buddy to attend also.

2002 REUNION ATTENDEES

USS GRIGGS

Charles & Tolvie Forshee
 R.B. & Phyllis Kahl
 Henry & Gertrude Kingsburg
 Joseph & Ruth Locke
 Allan & Jean Morton
 Arthur & Shirley Thom

USS GRUNDY

Daniel & Claire Brown
 Ted & Bernadette Cole
 Harry & Wanda Fairall
 Ellsworth & Barbara Harlow
 Cloyd, Jacqueline, & Butch Knepp
 Robert & Robert F. Palmer
 John & Eleanor Quarella
 Milton & Hilda Roecker
 Virgil & Betty Roecker
 Fenwick & Lillian Watts

Total Members: 16
Guests: 16

GRAND TOTAL: 32

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance after 09/02 issue
\$81.64
 Funds received since 09/02 issue
\$632.50
 Funds available for 12/02 issue
\$714.14
 Funds expended for 12/02 issue
\$175.90
Ending Balance \$538.24

Send contributions to ML&RS, Inc.

CITY TAGS AVAILABLE

Due to the many requests for city tags from previous years, we are going to offer you the opportunity to order them now. These are the small blue tags that hang below your nametag and list the city and year of each reunion you've attended. If you are missing any city tags, you can order them now:

Fill in the city, the year and the quantity you wish to order. Cost is \$3.50 each.

City	Year	Qty
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Your name and address:

Make Check Payable to
 ML&RS, Inc. Send order to:

ML&RS, Inc
 PO Drawer 11399
 Hickory NC 28603

Published By:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc
 PO Drawer 11399
 Hickory, NC 28603
 828-256-6008 (voice)
 828-256-6559 (fax)
 Dinamlrs@aol.com (e-mail)
 mlrsnewsletters@aol.com (newsletter e-mail)
 www.mlrsinc.com

"Our Reunions Work, So You Don't Have To."

USS GRUNDY COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

I want to say thank you to all you shipmates and guests for attending our reunion in Charleston, SC. We had a total of 32 in attendance. Our hotel stay was one of the finest. Our food was great.

We missed a number of our long time friends who were not able to make it. Hope all is well with you all.

Our next reunion will be held in Asheville, NC. I hope we will have a good showing.

Claire and I wish you good health and God's Blessings.

Sincerely,
 Daniel Brown



WELCOME MAT

The USS GRIGGS-GRUNDY family welcomes the most recently located shipmate. We hope to see you at the next reunion and ask you to take an active part in our Association.

*Warren Marsden
518 Vista Del Mar Dr
Aptos, CA 95003*

USS GRIGGS COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

Shipmates,

The Griggs and Grundy had their reunion on 10-13 Oct. and the ones that attended are believed to have a

good time with the fellowship together. The ones that for whatever reason did not attend were missed and missed a great time together with the tours. Must say that on Friday we had a day for ducks with the storm coming ashore in Charleston proper and there was some flooding of the highways and discomfort with the going to view the Mansion. The facilities were very nice and comfortable, the food was great each day. The entertainment was good also. We had one new recruit on the Grundy this year and the Grundy had the most attendees this year.

I had an e-mail from one of the people that we picked up in Port Hueneme, construction battalion, or better known as Seabees, telling me that he remembered sailing on board the Griggs to Okinawa and the way they were treated. Of course as you well know our troops were fed 3 meals a day and sat down at the table to eat their meals. Some other ships did not treat the passengers this well, which made the ship's cook have to prepare almost 6000 meals per day and not "C" rations either. This man

wondered what happened to the Griggs after the war, and I filled him in the best I could.

Had some more interesting calls as a result of having my name listed as co-chairman in the various magazines and papers. One was from a man saying his last name was Forshee from Enid, OK, and talked thirty minutes on the phone and invited us to a Forshee reunion being held in Arkansas. Another one was from a man from Georgia saying his name was Griggs and wanted to know if the ship was named after someone named Griggs. This fellow talked about thirty minutes also. I told him the ship was named after a county in ND or SD, but couldn't remember which. One thing this proves is getting in the magazines and papers does get noticed by someone. Hope this will be of interest to someone.

Charles E. Forshee
SM1/c USS GRIGGS

P.S. Member dues still \$15.00 per year.

2003 REUNION SCHEDULED FOR ASHEVILLE, NC

We are pleased to announce that the 2003 USS GRIGGS/USS GRUNDY reunion will be held in the beautiful city of Asheville, NC. The exact dates and host hotel will be announced in the next issue of the Griggs/Grundy News. Asheville is a beautiful city with lots to see and do. We hope you will plan to attend.

Asheville is located on a high plateau of the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains, giving you the beauty of the mountains in all directions. The mountain resort town is filled with many attractions you won't want to miss.

As you know, your time together is limited, so let's make the most of it at the places that interest you. Read over the popular tourist attractions in the Asheville area and mark your choices on the survey form

found on page four so we can know what you would like to see. Be sure to return it just as soon as you can so we can finalize your reunion activities.

Number one on the list of attractions in Asheville is the **Biltmore Estate**. This 8,000 acre estate features America's largest residence, Biltmore House, a 255-room French Renaissance chateau built in 1895 by George Vanderbilt. A visit to Biltmore House with its original collection of 50,000 artworks, furnishings and antiques includes living areas, bedrooms, recreation areas, kitchens, and servant's quarters. Enjoy Biltmore's gardens and award-winning wines at the Winery or the estate's three restaurants.

Adjacent to the Biltmore Estate entrance is **Biltmore Village**. The

village consists of restored English style houses that now contain intriguing shops and galleries. George W. Vanderbilt intended this turn-of-the-century construction as a model village.

Chimney Rock Park, located southeast of Asheville, high above Hickory Nut Gorge, has a 26-story elevator ride through solid granite that takes you to the Sky Lounge, just minutes from Chimney Rock. From atop Chimney Rock you have a breath-taking 75 mile view of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Downtown Asheville Historic District features outstanding collections of early twentieth century architecture, including structures of national significance.

Thomas Wolfe Memorial is located downtown. The famous novel-

ist's boyhood home is the Dixie-land boarding house depicted in the novel Look Homeward Angel.

The scenic **Blue Ridge Parkway** winds 470 miles along the highest ridges from the Shenandoah to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It offers spectacular views heading north or south from Asheville.

On the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 382 is the **Folk Art Center**. Southern Appalachian craft is the theme of the center and is the home of the Southern Highland Craft Guild. The 30,000-sq. ft. facility hosts exhibitions, craft demonstrations, and special events and serves as the National Park Service information center. The nation's oldest craft shop, Allanstand, makes its home at the center, offering crafts made exclusively by Guild members. This is not just your ordinary craft center. You will find some truly first-class workmanship in these items.

Enjoy a down-home country meal at the **Pisgah View Ranch**. Served family style, you can fill up on fried chicken, country ham, and all the trimmings and then move on to the auditorium for after dinner entertainment. Several gift shops feature handmade quilts, dulcimers, zithers, and other mountain crafts. Stroll around the grounds of the ranch and take advantage of the beautiful autumn foliage and weather that graces this part of the country. This is a real crowd pleaser—something different than the usual hotel or restaurant dinner.

Start making your plans to join fellow members in Asheville for a most pleasurable meeting. Look in the next issue of this newsletter for details on dates and hotel location.

Now that you have read about the attractions in Asheville, please fill out the survey to the right and return it to ML&RS promptly. We will use your surveys to plan your reunion to your wishes.

2003 SURVEY OF ASHEVILLE, NC USS GRIGGS/USS GRUDY

In order to provide the kind of reunion you want, not what we "think" you'd like, please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to ML&RS, Inc. right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the chairman's input. Let your voice be heard. Mail surveys to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.
P O Drawer 11399
Hickory, NC 28603-6402

Fax: 828-256-6559

Reunion format:

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening? yes no
If yes, would you prefer only an hors d'oeuvre platter?
or a hamburger/hot dog or soup & sandwich type dinner?

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings as a group?
or just a farewell breakfast on Sunday?

Do you prefer Friday night dinner at the hotel?
or dinner at the Pisgah View Ranch?

Do you want a band or DJ after the Saturday night banquet (keeping in mind this will increase the banquet cost to pay for the music) yes no?

Activities: *Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda.*

- Biltmore Estate
- Chimney Rock Park
- Asheville City Tour
- Thomas Wolfe Memorial
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- Folk Art Center

Your suggestions and comments are welcome: _____

If you have questions, call 828-256-6008 or e-mail dinamlrs@aol.com

REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL BE MAILED OUT APPROXIMATELY 90
DAYS PRIOR TO THE REUNION.