

# THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 16, Issue 4

March 2007

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



## Special Points of Interest

- **President DiPasquale has some information for you in the cover story.**
- **Welcome Mat on page two has four new names to add to the roster. Hope to see you at the reunion.**
- **Mail Call, beginning on page three, has a letter from the daughter of a former commander of DesDiv 22.**
- **Read a citation presented to former Commander Coleman. It appears on page three.**
- **Howard Bud Smith shares his memory of how he wound up in the Navy instead of the Army. See page four.**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again shipmates, and all you Purdy ladies too. Hope all of you got through the holidays okay, and I'm sure that none of you overindulged in food or spirits like I did. By the time you receive this Report, our New London reunion will only be a few weeks away, and I'm counting on a great attendance due to the location in the northeast. The reunion registration is due in to ML&RS by March 26, so if you haven't done so yet, get it in immediately. If for some reason you haven't received a registration package, call ML&RS at 828-256-6008 to request one. Karen and I are looking forward

to seeing our many friends again at the reunion, and sure hope to see many new faces this year (and perhaps some of you who have not been to a reunion in a few years). Those of you living in the northeast and mid-Atlantic states who have never been to a reunion, are within easy driving distance to New London. Think about taking advantage of that, and join us at the reunion. I promise you'll have a great time, and will never want to miss another.

At last year's reunion business meeting, our association's new constitution was accepted by the members present. A

copy of the constitution was included with the June 06 Purdy Report. If anyone wants to make any changes (amendments) to the constitution, please put those changes in writing, and give them to me before the business meeting. I will then present those proposed amendments to the voting members, and if accepted by a two-third majority, those amendments will become part of the constitution.

For those of you who like to plan ahead, you can start planning for our 08 reunion. Those of you at last year's reunion are aware that we voted to go

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to Branson, MO in 08. The dates for that reunion have been confirmed for April 23 - 27, 08, and the hotel will be the Radisson Branson Hotel. I've never been to Branson, but I hear there are great shows, plenty to see, and the city caters to the military. So, start planning now for Branson.

I'm sure that most of you have paid your \$5.00 annual dues by now, but, if you haven't, and want to continue receiving this Purdy Report, send your check made out to "Purdy Association" to Sec/Treas. James Meechan, 145 Laura Dr., Gahanna, OH 43230. Or, you can give your dues to Jim at the reunion.

VP Bill Dow, who handles sales of our top quality Purdy items, has a new email address. It is: [bdowusspurdy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdowusspurdy@sbcglobal.net). The items he has for sale are: jackets for \$55.00, ball caps for \$12.00, polo shirts for \$16.00, sweatshirts for \$22.00, T-shirts for \$12.00 and Purdy patches for \$3.00. All prices include shipping. If you don't have a computer, you can call Bill at **860-426-1278**. Send check to:

Bill Dow  
11 Riverside Dr  
Southington, CT 06489

Bill will have some of these items at the reunion, or will take orders while there for any of these items you may want.

Karen and I wish all of you a happy St. Patty's Day, a happy and blessed Easter, and hope to see many of you at the reunion.

Sincerely,  
Larry DiPasquale  
President, Purdy Association

**2007 USS PURDY  
REUNION**

**APRIL 25-29**

**NEW LONDON, CT**



## WELCOME MAT

The USS PURDY family proudly welcomes the following recently located shipmates. We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

**Jerry Crennan**  
(1969-72)

35 Ridgecrest St  
Huntington, NY 11743  
631-477-0807

**John Tarmann**  
(1970-72) HM2 (E-5)

1820 Sagamore Dr  
Euclid, OH 44117  
216-486-1496  
[bonjoni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bonjoni@sbcglobal.net)

**Lawrence McCluskey**

(1951-55) QM3  
2254 Essex St  
Orono, ME 04473  
207-942-6808

**Elfrid Johnson**  
(1970) SN

205 Randolphville Rd NE  
Bolivia, NC 28422  
910-253-5451

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**"Our Reunions Work So You Don't  
Have To"**

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The PURDY REPORT is the official publication of the USS PURDY DD-734 Association. It is published quarterly in June, September, December, and March *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by dues to the Purdy Association by its members. All members are encouraged to support the newsletter by sending their contributions to the Association Treasurer.

The Purdy Report is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be an impossible task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.



## TAPS

We regret to announce the PURDY REPORT was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. The entire crew extends the hand of sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

**William Harris (1951-53)**  
Date of death not reported

**Emilio Pollera**  
Died 2006

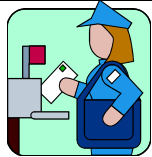
**Donald Mynes**  
Date of death not reported

**Norman Swatzell**  
Died October 2003

**Eugene Miller**  
(1951-55) EM2  
Died December 27, 2006

**Arlen Williamson**  
Died December 10, 2006

Anyone who knows of, or becomes aware of, the death of a shipmate, please notify the editor so that shipmate can be recognized in the newsletter and his name added to the Honor Roll.



## MAIL CALL

Dear Mr. Pasquale,

I saw the notice of the USS Purdy reunion in the Tampa Tribune a few days ago, and it brought back memories from my childhood. In 1945 my dad, Albert O. Momm, was in command of DesDiv 22 (I think; it might have been DesDiv 21) which in-

cluded the USS Hyman, his flagship; USS Purdy, USS Beatty, and USS Bristol. In this capacity he signed the surrender with the Japanese in the Eastern Caroline Islands—Kusaie and Ponape. When the ships returned to the US, they were in drydock at Charleston Navy Yard, Boston, near where the rest of our family was living while Dad was in the South Pacific.

I wonder if anyone who will attend the reunion was attached to the Purdy in those days. Dad died in 1998 at the age of 93, having spent 30 years in the navy. To the end, he loved the navy with all his heart; it defined his life. May you all have a wonderful reunion!

Sincerely,  
Sister Rose Christina Momm

Karen,

Many of us were on Purdy during the period that Commander James Coleman was our Captain. But, how many knew that he received the Legion of Merit?

Also, many do not know that Commander Coleman was on Nicholas when she sailed into Tokyo Harbor next to the Missouri for the signing of the Japanese Surrender.

At the time we were on Purdy (during Korea) how many would have even the slightest interest or nerve to ask Commander Coleman about his previous duties? I sure wish I had the nerve to ask. But, too many of us were young 18 or 19 year olds and were scared of all officers. When I had a chance to go up on the bridge as a Quartermaster striker, I did get to see more of him and found he was very a stern but fair captain. He always treated the Quartermaster gang well except when someone fouled up.

Following is the Citation for Commander James P. Coleman from the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox.

Submitted by:  
Morris Plummer  
usspurdydd734@sbcglobal.net

### The Secretary of the Navy Washington

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the **LEGION OF MERIT** to Lieutenant James P. Coleman, United States Navy for service as set forth in the following

Citation:

“For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States while serving as Engineering Officer aboard the USS Nicholas prior to and during the engagement with enemy Japanese forces off Kolombangara Island, British Solomon Islands, on the morning of July 6, 1943. Successfully controlling the engines at maximum efficiency throughout the night and most of the next day, Lieutenant Coleman was able to maintain the machinery at full power for over six hours, despite the fact that only one scheduled and one unscheduled overhaul period had been allowed his ship for a twelve month operation assignment. In addition to these duties, he aided the Commanding Officer by keeping a careful and accurate log of events which became of great value in estimating final damage to the enemy and aided immeasurably the success of our operations at that time.

For the President,  
Frank Knox  
Secretary of the Navy

Dear Karen,

So good to know the Purdy is still active with its former crewmembers. My husband did love that ship. However, he passed away 11 years ago and his stories went with him. This was told previously shortly after his passing, that we were down to the “Cove” in Massachusetts seeing the different ships, when all of a sudden my husband said, “Oh, my

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God!!! There's the Purdy coming in!" He was so excited and thrilled to see it. It was a training ship I believe at that time. I believe he was on the Purdy in the early 1950s.

Good luck and hope you get some wonderful stories and pictures to share in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Renken (Mrs. Clifford T.)

Karen,

This story relates how a "white lie" led to my becoming a sailor instead of an army foot soldier. The outcome of military service greatly helped me as a civilian.

I grew up a farm boy in eastern Iowa and was old enough to be drafted into military service after graduation from high school in 1944. My father tried to have me deferred for essential farm labor. To my immense satisfaction, the draft board denied my deferment. (I could not admit this to my parents, but I did not want a career as a farmer.)

Since I would soon be called up, my mother wanted to find a way that I would be assigned to the Navy where, as she put it, I "would always have a dry bed to sleep in." A recruiting officer who was a friend of the family, suggested a way. The Navy was in need of technicians to service Radar, a new technology. On his advice I took the test just before being called up for induction. "No matter how well you feel you did on the test," he told me, "say that you know you aced it." That I did, although I was not all that confident I had done well. So when I was asked the branch of service I preferred, I responded, "Navy." Told that they were not taking any Navy draftees that day, I responded as prompted. "But I took the RT test and it was a breeze." It worked! I was sent to Great Lakes for boot training. Later I learned that I had

flunked the test because of math skill. But I was in the Navy.

When I was discharged 19 months later, I was able to enter college and follow my career choice: journalism. At age 80 I am still an active author.

Howard Bud Smith  
QM3/c Assigned to USS Purdy  
September 1945 at Pearl Harbor

*The letter below was sent to  
ML&RS, Inc. by Ernie Perkins*

Ahoy, swap jockeys! Attention on deck!

R. E. Smith and his beautiful wife, Judy, are coming to our next reunion. Smitty was a TMSN. Also James Gebhart, BT2 was one of the guys that the wall fell on in Greece. Ken Pettit talked to Smitty and he said, "Hi," to all that served with him. Thanks to Bill Dow for the picnic. I talked to Andy. He said he loved the Navy, then why did he retire from the Army? Just 4 more months to the next reunion. Judy, the Cutie, is Christmas shopping. That's worse than being sea sick. Right, Dom? If you need information about the Navy or a good joke, call Bob Johnson. Cletis is flipping a coin to see which wife he is going to bring to the reunion. Cletis, just don't bring any white lightning with you. Bob S. and Norm B. are doing better. They say they will be at the reunion. Big Chet, the Hawaiian, says he will be there for the 2008 reunion. Hi, Uncle Art, see you in April. Vito says he is not eating anything but green Irish food. I think he means green pasta. Doug Harvey and John M, Sweetie's husband, are in the Guinness Book of Records. Ask and they will tell you about it. Russ, you will get your green shirt soon. Phil and John, how was your cruise? Cowboy Up, John. Roger, I need one more cup. Someone broke mine. She says hers is OK. My friend Jerry is a Marine. I told him it was a department of the Navy. He said, "Yeah, the men's department." So is told him a Marine is like a banana. Born green, turn yellow and die rotten. My friend was in the Army. He asked me if I joined the Navy because I

couldn't pass the test to get in the Army. But, we still hang out together. Who is having the picnic this summer? We need to reach out to more shipmates. We are not getting any younger; I am but you guys aren't. If you can't find someone, call Bob Johnson. He can find anybody. Thanks to Chuck G. and Tony M for the tapes. They were very emotional. Does anybody remember Leonard Burnett, seaman, 1961-64? Judy and I are having dinner with him and his wife tonight. I talked to Ray Condray. He took over the paint locker from me. Judy said I have already talked too much, so, Aloha, and may God hold you in the palm of His hand until we are together again.

God Bless,  
Chaplain Fred and Judy the Cutie

## NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

**This Purdy Report is being sent to dues paying members only. If you have not made a dues payment so far this year, this will be the last issue of the Purdy Report that you will receive. Please send your \$5.00 contribution to:**

**Jim Meechan  
145 Laura Dr  
Gahanna, OH 43230**

Thank you to the following contributors: Jim Ruziska, Charles Gerardi and Meryl Nelson

The cost of this issue is **\$218.56**.

Just before the funeral service, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied. "Two years older than me." "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "Hardly worth going home is it?"