

# THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 17, Issue 1

June 2007

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



### Special Points of Interest

- **Read all about the 2007 reunion in the reunion report in the cover story.**
- **Larry DiPasquale has news from the Association in his column on page three.**
- **Find a list of reunion attendees on page three.**
- **Mail Call on page four has some letters concerning the incident with the Cassin Young.**
- **We want your reunion memories. See the details on page five.**
- **A review and survey of Branson, MO are on pages six and seven.**

## A GREAT REUNION IN NEW LONDON

The 2007 USS Purdy was held April 25-29, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel, New London, CT. Forty-six shipmates and forty-two spouses and other guests attended this five day-four night event. Everyone agreed that it was a great reunion and hated to see it end.

The reunion officially began mid-morning on Wednesday when the registration desk and hospitality room opened. Kenneth Petit was the first shipmate to register at the reunion. Throughout the day more members arrived, checked in, and made the hospitality area the focal point. The friendships developed on

the ship, and over the years at the reunions were evidenced by the warm and sincere greetings exchanged with each new arrival. Only those who have served in the armed forces understand the depth of those bonds.

At 5:00 PM the Welcome Reception allowed everyone to relax with a snack and beverage from the cash bar. Association President Larry DiPasquale welcomed everyone, introduced first time attendees, and gave an overview of the next couple of days. Shipmate Frank Ironsides had a beautiful plaque made and presented to Larry DiPasquale and an-

nounced that others who wanted a similar plaque could order one. Following the reception a group went to dinner in a local eatery, The Lighthouse Inn, and by all accounts thoroughly enjoyed the evening which included an impromptu guided tour of the inn. Many others had a leisurely dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Thursday began with a private breakfast buffet. Later in the morning twenty members (and spouses) made the trip to Foxwood Casino for a day at the gaming tables. Rumor has it that a few dollars were won, but so far as we know, no millionaires emerged. The

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hospitality room opened mid-morning as did the registration table. Since only about half of the attendees arrived on Wednesday, there was a steady flow of new arrivals, each anxious to find out who was there and who is coming. The group of “gamers” returned from the casino around 4:00 PM, just in time to get refreshed before the next activity. In a slightly different twist, a complimentary wine and cheese tasting was provided by the Radisson. It was evident by the number of bottles of wine consumed, it became more than a “tasting.” It was a wonderful gesture by the Radisson and it was appreciated by everyone. Once again, some folks went out for dinner – many to Tony’s Italian Restaurant – and others in the more leisure hotel restaurant.

Friday also began with a private breakfast. Following the buffet 52 people boarded two busses and headed out for a day of exploring. First stop was the Submarine Force Museum, featuring exhibits and displays from the world’s first nuclear powered submarine. Unfortunately, the USS Nautilus itself was closed for repairs. The Submarine Force Museum, located on the Thames River in Groton, CT, maintains the world’s finest collection of submarine artifacts. It is the only submarine museum operated by the United States Navy. It traces the development of the “Silent Service” from David Bushnell’s Turtle, used in the Revolutionary War, to the modern Los Angeles, Ohio, Seawolf and Virginia class submarines. After lunch it was off to the US Coast Guard Academy for a tour and briefing on the Academy’s mission and goals. One of the cadets (yes they are called cadets, unlike the Naval Academy’s “midshipmen”) met and escorted the group around the grounds and made a most favorable impression on everyone. The group returned to the Radisson around 3:00 pm.

Meanwhile back at the hotel, shipmates who did not go on the tour either lounged in the hospitality

room or explored on their own. The few members who arrived on Friday were warmly welcomed by the returning tourists. The hospitality room once again became the focal point of the reunion until 6:00 PM when the social hour began. During the cocktail hour many members brought gifts from their hometown or state to be exchanged at the end of dinner. Promptly at 7:00 PM the dinner buffet line opened to a delicious meal featuring a variety of food. Anyone who left hungry did so because they wanted to, not because of the lack of food. Following dinner, a modified version of the “Yankee Swap” was played. (What better place to do it than the heart of Yankeeland?) The system actually worked like it was supposed to in that every one that brought a gift went home with one. It was a fun evening and everyone enjoyed the fellowship of the occasion.

On Saturday morning, the day began with private breakfast buffet. After breakfast, once again two bus loads of members and guests left the Radisson to tour the area, this time to Olde Mystic Village and Mystic Seaport. Mystic is one of the true New England’s treasures with its shops and demonstrations; and of course the famous aquarium. The day was self guided so not everyone saw or did the same things. But, everyone agreed it was a delightful day.

Some of you may be familiar with the Food Channel’s Rachel Ray who has a couple of cooking shows and occasionally will do a another type show, “How to eat in City XY or Z on \$40.00 a day.” At least one couple knew of a local place recommended by her and paid a visit to the “Sea Swirl,” an outdoor, walk-up to order, and sit in the cold on a picnic bench to eat. After starting 71<sup>st</sup> in line and spending \$60.00 bucks (four people) the thought, “Was it worth it?” crossed their minds. Yes it was, because it was something they wanted to do.

After returning to the hotel it was time for the annual business meeting. All current officers were retained in their respective positions for the following year. **Branson, MO** was reaffirmed as the 2008 reunion site. No selection was made for 2009, but everyone was

asked to consider where they would like to go in the future.

Later in the evening the social hour and photo session began. Remarkable how well a bunch of old sailors clean up and look respectable! The ladies, they always look nice, but tonight they were beautiful. The formal part of the evening began with the playing of the Army song – there was one former USS Purdy sailor who retired from the Army. Even though there were no Marines present, the Marine Hymn was played in tribute to the Corps. Then of course the evening really got underway with the playing of Anchors Aweigh, immediately followed by the National Anthem, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Invocation delivered by Association Chaplain Fred Harrington. Then dinner was served. After the meal and a few remarks by Association President Larry DiPasquale the music began for those wanting to dance. Those who didn’t care to dance just enjoyed the music and the company of friends.

Then it was Sunday morning. As happens every year the air and tone was a little more somber. Following breakfast Chaplain Fred Harrington and his assistants conducted a most memorable memorial service honoring all deceased shipmates, emphasizing those who were killed in action and those who died or whose death was learned of since the last reunion. President Larry DiPasquale closed the reunion with a few farewell remarks, thanking everyone for coming, wishing them a safe trip home, and reminding everyone to bring a friend to Branson. After what seemed to be an extra ordinary long time, the good-byes were over and the reunion was too.

### USEFUL TIPS!

- Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.
- If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something, just place it in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again shipmates and all you "Purdy" ladies and friends too. It was really nice seeing so many of you at the New London reunion, and especially nice to see about six first-timers at this reunion. I'm sure that those of you who attended the reunion will agree with me that Larry, Brenda and ML&RS did a great job for us in arranging another great reunion. The hotel, dinners and tours were outstanding. Many of us found a quaint Irish pub about a block away from the hotel. Good food and drinks at reasonable prices, and there is now a Purdy ship's patch hanging on the back bar of that pub. The Foxwood Casino trip was fun. Some of us won, and some lost, but I won't be the one to say who those folks were. The trips to Groton and the CG base were nice, as the trip to Mystic Seaport. My only disappointment was that many of our shipmates from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states didn't attend. I can only say that you missed out on a great time and the opportunity to see shipmates you probably haven't seen for many years. I sure hope that all of you who were at this reunion and many more of you who live in the central part of our USA are making plans to attend the next reunion in **Branson, MO**. The dates are **April 23-27, 2008**, and we will be staying at the **Radisson Branson Hotel**. Those of you who are planning to fly to that reunion will find that the fare from the airport to the hotel will be a little pricey. Larry and I discussed this, and he will try to arrange for those flying in to join together to form pools. There will be more on this in future "Purdy Reports."

At the reunion business meeting, Jim Meechan, Bill Dow and I were re-elected as your Sec/Treas, VP and Prez for another year. I wish to thank all of you for your confidence in us, and want to thank Jim and Bill for their assistance during the past year, and I'm looking forward to working with them for another year.

I also want to thank Chaplain Fred Harrington and Master-At-Arms Steve Tuzikow for the great jobs they did at the reunion, and for accepting reappointment to those offices for another year. We are still looking for a Master-At-Arms badge for Steve. I think that I may be able to "acquire" one, but if any of you have access to one, let me know.

Sec/Treas James Meechan collected dues from many shipmates at the reunion, but many of you have not yet paid this year's dues. Our annual \$5.00 dues is due in January and pays for printing and mailing of this newsletter. If you have not yet paid, and you want to continue receiving this "Purdy Report," send your check ASAP, made out to "Purdy Association" to Jim Meechan. His address is: 145 Laura Dr, Gahanna, OH 43230

VP Bill Dow is still selling top-quality Purdy merchandise. He has jackets, ball caps, T-shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts and Purdy patches. Give him a call at 860-426-1278 for prices and shipping information, or e-mail him at [bdowusspurdy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdowusspurdy@sbcglobal.net). Bill told me that we might be losing our supplier of these items, so if you want any of them, order them as soon as possible while he still has stock left.

I hope that many of you are planning to come to the reunion in Branson next year. I know we will have another outstanding reunion and a great time. Until then, Karen and I hope that all of you have a real nice summer.

Sincerely  
Larry DiPasquale  
President, Purdy Association

**PURDY REUNION**

**APRIL 23-27, 2008**

**BRANSON, MO**

**RADISSON BRANSON HOTEL**

## 2007 REUNION ATTENDEES

Donal & Doris Anderson  
William & Jonathon Arnold  
Howard & Elizabeth Bruce  
Thomas & Daniel Clark  
Raymond & Ginette Condry  
Maurice & Phyllis Constant  
David Davis  
Richard Dingler  
Larry & Karen DiPasquale  
William & Janet Dow  
Thomas & Carol Doyle  
Austin & Barbara Enos  
Bob Fuller & Gerry Le Brun  
Vincent & Joan Gallagher  
Charles & Eileen Gerardi  
Robert & Ann Grose  
Fred & Judy Harrington  
Richard & Nancy Hausner  
George & Shirley Houk  
Frank Ironside & Carol Erhardt  
Kenneth & Turibia Joyce  
Andrew & Marie Lamora  
James & Mary Meechan  
Tony & Judi Meyer  
John & Anna Mikulak  
William & Theresa Morgan  
Bruce Mosley  
Russell & Barbara Mountjoy  
John & Rita Mustakos  
Harold & Jean Nunamacher  
Edmund & Ann O'Shea  
Philip Payer & John Coiro  
Kenneth & Eileen Petit  
Carl & Lee Pumo  
Armando & Annette Rebeiro  
John Rice & Helen Rockett  
Elwyn & Sharon Sather  
Larry & Laurette Sharp  
William & Judy Stewart  
Stephen & Trudy Stout  
Barney & Lou Strutton  
Steve & Betty Tuzikow  
Vernon & Geraldine Van Grevenhof  
Dominic & Johanna Vella  
Robert & Javoen Wertz  
Daniel Zavisza

**Total Members: 46**  
**Guests: 42**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 88**

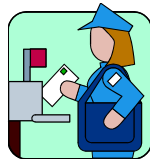
## CHAPLAIN'S LETTER

Ahoy all Anchor Plankers,

Great Reunion! Thanks Larry and Brenda. First I want to tell Bob Mountjoy I am sorry I scared you with a bug. I promised Russ I wouldn't tell her it was his idea. See Russ, I didn't tell her. Andy Lamora and I would like to thank Tom Clark for coming to the reunion. It gave us something to do on Friday night. Tom, we want to see you at the next reunion. So start chewing your vegetables better. Vern and Geraldine Van Grevenhof sent us a New York State tag. And on the back of the letter they wrote, "New York Yankees Suck." It breaks my heart, but I have to agree. It has been brought to my attention that Ken Petit's wife, Ilene, works on 8 to 10 million chicken farms where she has a sign that reads "Parking for Chicken Pluckers Only." Kind of weird. It was funny to call Mr. Zavisa, Dan. I didn't know officers had names. Hi, Sweetie, Go Mets! Gerardis, Harringtons, Houcks, Mustakos, Meyers, Petits and Vellas went to Newport Island Sunday to Tuesday. It has changed a lot. Pier 2 where we were stationed is now home to the "Shallow Waters Sailor AKA, Coast Guards." Can you believe that? Good to see so many first timers. It was nice of the guys to help me with the Memorial. Barney reads so well he gets the job next year. Some favorite memories. Dick Hauser says remember skinny dipping. Donal Anderson said we are also fat. We should call it chunky dunking. John M. says his favorite memories was him and Tony going to church. I am not sure about that! Ken Petit's favorite is going to the Med. Charlie Gerardi loved Gulf WanFrance. Dom's favorite memory is getting back to port. He was sea sick all the time. All you '58 to '62 shipmates, I got in touch with Cletus Hatfield. He has been sick but will try to make the 2008 reunion. Aloha, Chet! We are counting on you being there. I think Bill Arnold had more fun than anyone else there. How is the

flag?? Thank you, Robert Gross, for the great testimony. And also, thank you Bill for your service. Maurice, did you spend all that money or give it to Phyllis? To all the officers, Larry, Bill, Jim and Steve, Great Job! Oh yeah, Barb Mountjoy's favorite song is "There Ain't No Bugs on Me." Rebeiro Armindo, thanks for sharing my birthday with me. Doug Harvey, Bobby, Joe and Norm, we wish you guys keep getting better and we will see you next year. Hi, Uncle Art Harrington. Earth to Veto S. I learned some new Italian. "Keepa yo' dogs off my lawn!" I learned something about some of my old shipmates who were in Newport. Years ago you could hit us side the head with a doggie wrench and not get a tear. Now as we gather in a circle to say, Goodbye, we prayed for travel mercies, our troops, our President, and all our shipmates that are hurting. As we shook hands and hugged each other, the tears flowed freely. And we were not a bit ashamed of it. We don't know how much time we have on this earth, but we know how much fun we have at the reunions. So if each one of us could get one person to come, what a time we would have. Let's not wait for the hearse to take us to the reunion in Heaven. Well, I am done for now. If I hurt some feelings, I am sorry. I just hope we brought back some fine memories. Eileen Gerardi, don't forget my Irish Soda Bread on March 17th. I just pray that God will keep us all in the palm of His hand until next April. God Bless.

Chaplain Fred and Judy the Cutie



## MAIL CALL

Editor,

This is a reply to a letter by Barbara Renken (Mrs. Clifford T.) in The Purdy Report, Volume 16, Issue 4.

To Barbara Renken:

I was aboard the USS Purdy from 1948 to early 1950. I first met Cliff aboard the Purdy in 1948 as an 18 year old just out of electrician school in Newport, RI, I believe. Cliff was electrician petty officer at the time. I remember him as a very helpful, pleasant, knowledgeable and humorous person. I believe he was from New England, maybe Quincy, Mass.

Thomas G. Nastos, EM3/C

Dear Larry & Brenda Eckard,

My wife Ann and I wish to thank you for all the thoughtful preparations and assistance for our USS Purdy Reunion!

We greatly enjoyed Mystic Seaport, the submarine museum, the good hotel room, food and the opportunity to visit some new friends. (President DiPasquale and officers did well too.)

It was great to meet our other "plank owner" William Arnold. Also our President's reading of Stuart Hartman's letter was also moving. (I am sending to Arnold and Hartman my brief history of my life on the USS Purdy 734.)

Although next year will probably not be possible in the 2008 reunion, perhaps another year?

Peace, and thank you.

Ann & Bob Grose

Larry,

This is the address of the National WWII Memorial web page. Here anyone can search for a WWII Veteran, or register the name of a veteran that served, but whose name does not appear. The registry is far from complete, rumor has it only 30%. I would encourage anyone who knows of a WWII vet to check the registry and enter the information of any person not honored. Once on the web site, click

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on "WWII Registry," upper left of screen.

[www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com)

Sincerely,  
Phil Payer

Friends,

Please check out [www.thecombatreport.com](http://www.thecombatreport.com) for a great story of the USS Purdy and LT(jg) Carl Kole.

Keith L Yates  
USS Purdy (1946-48)

Purdy Report,

Every now and then I see something about the Purdy and it reminds me of a desperate battle she fought in company of my ship. Some years ago I saw the reunion notice, and sent an e-mail as I am now. I don't remember who I sent it to, maybe Larry DiPasquale.

On the 12th of April 1945, I was a Firecontrolman 3rd, a 40mm gun director operator aboard the USS Cassin Young DD-793. We were with the Purdy on Radar Picket Station 1, north of Okinawa. There was an LCI with us—for rescue should it be needed—not fire support. We had a Fighter Director crew aboard, and they were successful in directing fighters to intercept several incoming raids. Early afternoon we came under attack by a flight of Val dive bombers. Both the Purdy and my ship shot down several aircraft, but one hit us on the mast, knocking out our radar, the main battery gun director, and most of our communications. It effectively put us out of action. We had one killed and thirty some wounded. We were forced to retire to Karama Retto, leaving the Purdy and the little boy on station. Shortly after we left, we were told the Purdy took a hit on the starboard side that caused severe damage and many casualties. My ship was repaired at Guam, and we returned to action. On 28 July we took a hit that nearly cut us into. We had

many killed and wounded. That ended the war for us. The Cassin Young was repaired at Long Beach and put out of commission in San Diego. She was re-commissioned and served several more years in the Med. After being de-commissioned the second time, she was saved as a WWII war memorial, and is now part of the National Park Service, tied up in Charleston Navy Yard, Boston, right across the slip from Old Ironsides. I went aboard some year ago with my sons and grandson. I saw one of the Firecontrol gang I hadn't seen since the war. It was a real thrill to show my family all the spaces where I slept (my bunk was still there) the mess deck, main firecontrol, and the gun I manned. My grandson sat on the gun and cranked it around. He will remember that forever.

After the war I went to flight training and got my wings and commission. I flew Skyraiders off the Essex during Korea—got shot down once.

I have very fond memories of my "tin can" days, as I'm sure you all do too. I have no doubt but what you'll have a great reunion. If there is anyone there who was aboard that day, tell them I said Hi, and hoist one for me in memory of our shipmates and those dangerous days. My very best to you all.

Tom Tompkins, LCdr, USN, Ret.

## Origin of Navy Terms

### SCUTTLEBUTT

The origin of the word "scuttlebutt," which is nautical parlance for a rumor, comes from a combination of "scuttle," to make a hole in the ship's hull and thereby causing her to sink, and "butt," a cask or hogshead used in the days of wooden ships to hold drinking water. The cask from which the ship's crew took their drinking water like a fountain was the "scuttlebutt." Even in today's Navy a drinking fountain is referred to as such. But since the crew used to congregate around the "scuttlebutt," that is where the rumors about the ship or voyage would begin. Thus, then and now, rumors are talk from the "scuttlebutt" or just "scuttlebutt."



## 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.

**John Sheehan**  
(1964-66) ETR2 OI Div  
1724 Temi Dr  
Waldorf, MD 20601  
301-843-6659  
[sheehj@comcast.net](mailto:sheehj@comcast.net)

**Richard Dingler**  
(1964-66) MM(R)4  
517 Chews Landing Rd  
Sicklerville, NJ 08081  
856-740-0504  
[richieding@comcast.net](mailto:richieding@comcast.net)



## 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.

**Theron Jackman**  
(1951-55) QM2  
Died May 11, 2007

**Arthur Hallman**  
(1947-50) BT1 E Div  
Died 2007

**James Beates**  
(1951-54) ENS/LTjg  
Died February 28, 2007

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.

## BRANSON, MO IN 2008

Branson, MO, site of the 2008 USS PURDY reunion, has a lot to offer. The top attractions continue to be the 60 plus shows to choose from. You can find any type show you're looking for—from The Bald Knobbers "pure country" to the more sophisticated Shoji Tabuchi. Most of the "major" artists who once had their own showplaces are gone from Branson, but quality entertainment is still available. There is more than just the shows in Branson, and this is where we need your help. Below is a short description of some of the major attractions in Branson.

### SHOWS:

**Shoji Tabuchi:** A family show with a touch of class; the bathrooms are a major attraction.

**Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede:** Dinner and show featuring a rivalry between the North and South with spectacular horsemanship.

**Andy Williams:** Andy sings "Moon River" and other great hits from the past. Sometimes Ann-Margaret is on the show.

**Acrobats of China featuring the New Shanghai Circus:** Elegant Eastern dance and acrobatics along with magic and beautiful music make this show a must-see in Branson!

**Jim Stafford:** A show filled with songs, laughter, and guitar picking. Voted 2004's entertainer of the year in Branson.

**Broadway—The Star-Spangled Celebration :** This musical performance takes you into New York and onto Broadway to see the highlights of your favorite performances.

**Yakov Smirnoff:** If you like laughter, this is the show. Voted comedian of the year for two straight years.

**Legends in Concert:** You won't believe your eyes when you see spitting images of famous legends performing on stage.

### Some Options to consider:

- Non- discounted shows range in price from around \$25.00 to \$47.50
- Going as a group will get discounted tickets, not more than 10%
- There may not be enough tickets available for a single group show, so tickets would be on a first come basis.
- There may not be any tickets available for individual shows.
- When you buy a group ticket, you do just that. Tickets must be paid for well in advance, and there are no refunds, period. If you have to cancel, we will try to resell your seats internally, but if we can't, you're stuck with a show ticket.
- You can choose your own show and the time you want to attend. There are shows from breakfast throughout the day.
- You have to get to the shows on your own, either by car or walking. Parking is limited, and everything in Branson is up hill or down hill.

### OTHER ATTRACTIONS:

#### Branson's Veterans Museum:

The Veterans Memorial Museum is composed of ten great halls covering the wars and conflicts fought during the 20th Century. A real tribute to veterans.

#### Ride the Ducks:

World War II Amphibious vehicles that run on land or sea. 80 minutes of entertainment as you tour Branson. See famous Country Music Boulevard, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery, Table Rock Lake and Powerhouse and a spectacular scenic view from the top of Baird Mountain. Then splash into Table Rock Lake for a relaxing cruise.

#### Branson Belle Showboat:

Take a luncheon or dinner cruise on the Belle, Branson's grandest lake attraction, and enjoy the scenery, food

and entertainment.

#### Branson Scenic Railway:

Take a 40-mile round trip through the Ozark foothills and tunnels. Learn the history of the area and enjoy the scenery, all with the luxury of rail travel from yesteryear.

#### Silver Dollar City:

At this amusement park you'll see the Ozarks at the turn of the century with traditional food, costumes, music, crafts and hair-raising rides.

#### Shopping at Tanger Outlet Center:

Do some shopping while in Branson at the Tanger Outlet Center. There is something for everyone in the 66 stores in the complex.

A few other items to consider when coming to Branson. The nearest airport is Springfield, MO. There is no complimentary shuttle service to or from the airport. Commercial shuttle service is available at the terminal. If there are enough people who fly – and you are willing to wait in the terminal, perhaps for a couple of hours, we will consider hiring a van or bus to pick you up as a group and returning you to the terminal on Sunday. No promises here, it depends on how many would be interested. Please check on the survey whether or not you would be interested in this option. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return the survey on the following page so that we can begin to plan your reunion.

#### Published by:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc  
PO Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

828-256-6008 (voice)

828-256-6559 (fax)

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[www.mlrsinc.com/purdy](http://www.mlrsinc.com/purdy)

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

## USS PURDY 2008 REUNION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey so we can custom design your reunion to your wishes.

### THE REUNION

Would you like a Welcome Reception the first evening of the reunion?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Do you prefer breakfast all three mornings? \_\_\_\_\_  
Or only a farewell breakfast on Sunday morning? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want entertainment after the banquet? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### SHOWS:

If you would like to see one of the shows as a group, please check here

\_\_\_\_\_

If you'd like to go as a group, please check which one you'd prefer, or write in your favorite.

_____ Shoji Tabuchi	_____ Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede
_____ Andy Williams	_____ Acrobats of China
_____ Jim Stafford	_____ Broadway-The Star-Spangled Celebration
_____ Yakov Smirnoff	_____ Legends in Concert
_____ None of the above, my write-in is: _____	

If you would prefer not to attend any of the shows as a group, please check here. \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER ATTRACTIONS:

Please tell us which ones you would like to participate in.

_____ Branson's Veteran's Memorial	_____ Ride the Ducks
_____ Branson Belle Showboat	_____ Branson Scenic Railway
_____ Silver Dollar City	_____ Tanger Outlet Center

If you would be interested in waiting at the airport for a van to transport you to the hotel, please check here.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Return survey by July 16, 2007 to:

Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.  
P.O. Drawer 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603  
Or Fax:  
828-256-6559

## 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.

\_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR REUNION MEMORIES WANTED

Your annual reunions have been going on now for many years, and just like your shipboard days each reunion has created its own memories. Those memories need to be shared with everyone. Think back, what are some of your favorite reunion memories?

Before the 2008 reunion, we would like to publish a book of USS PURDY reunion history and memories. We'll take care of the history part, but we need your help with the memories. Please take the time to think a little while and write down some of your favorite memories and send them to us. They don't have to be humorous, they can be nostalgic, sentimental, or whatever you remember best. If you can remember which reunion the memory occurred in, that would be great. To get you started, here are a couple memories (not necessarily from your ship) that we feel someone (if they are still living) will remember.

A Crewmember had borrowed \$20.00 from a shipmate, and one or the other left the ship before the money was repaid. When they saw each other at the reunion, the debt was paid (in public at the banquet no less).

Two former WW II POW's escaped from a POW Camp in Germany, became separated in the night and never knew what happened to the other – until the first reunion. Both survived and attended the first reunion – what a greeting when they first recognized each other.

A reservation got messed up and when a couple arrived at the reunion they had no room. The hotel was sold out so the hotel manager put up a bed in the "board room" to get them thru the night. (Hint, think Omaha)

A lady married to a shipmate discovered she and another shipmate had dated years ago. Then it gets complicated.

Two former Officers nearly got into a fight because they remembered

the same incident so differently.

These kinds of memories are treasures – don't let them die. For this book we're not interested in what happened while you were in the military – just things you remember from the reunions. Each one of you that has ever attended a reunion has a memory. Please share it with us. Sending us the memory will also give your permission for us to use it in the book.

Again, please take a little time and think about the good times (or if you were unhappy about something) write them down and if you have e-mail send it to:

[elainemlrs@charterinternet.com](mailto:elainemlrs@charterinternet.com)

If no e-mail you can either fax it to **828-256-6559** or mail it to:

ML & RS, Inc  
ATTN: Elaine  
PO Box 11399  
Hickory, NC 28603

## 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 Meehan  
145 Laura Dr  
Gahanna, OH 43230**

Thank you to the following contributors: Austin Enos, Donald Evancic, Fred Harrington, Frank Ironside, Andrew Lamora, Vernon Van Grevenhof and Robert Wertz.

The cost of this issue is **\$394.80**.

## NAVY RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Submitted by Larry DiPasquale

The Navy found they had too many officers and decided to offer an early retirement bonus.

They promised any officer who volunteered for retirement a bonus of \$1,000 for every inch measured in a straight line between any two points on his body. The officer got to choose what those two points would be.

The first officer who accepted asked that he be measured from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He was measured at six feet and walked out with a bonus of \$72,000.

The second officer who accepted was a little smarter and asked to be measured from the tip of his up-stretched hands to his toes. He walked out with \$96,000.

The third was a non-officer, a grizzly old Master Chief who, when asked where he would like to be measured, replied, "From the tip of my weenie to my testicles."

It was suggested by the pension man that he might want to reconsider, explaining about the nice big checks the previous two officers had received. But the old Master Chief insisted and they decided to go along with him, providing the measurement was taken by a medical officer.

The medical officer arrived and instructed the Master Chief to drop'em, which he did. The medical officer placed the tape measure on the tip of the Chief's weenie and began to work back.

"My God!" he suddenly exclaimed, "Where are your testicles?"

The old Master Chief calmly replied, "In Vietnam."