

# THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 18, Issue 1

June 2008

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



### Special Points of Interest

- **Read all about the great time had by everyone at the 2008 reunion in Branson in our cover story.**
- **Larry DiPasquale has news in his President's Column on page two.**
- **Chaplain Fred's Report and a list of reunion attendees are on page three.**
- **See what your fellow shipmates have to say in "Mail Call" on page four.**
- **Pages five and six will tell you about some of the attractions that await you in Philadelphia at next year's reunion. Send in your survey soon.**

## GREAT TIME IN BRANSON IN 2008

The 2008 USS Purdy reunion was held April 23-17 at the Radisson Hotel in Branson, MO. The Radisson was a quality hotel with all of the amenities one would expect from a first class hotel. Thirty-one former crewmen and thirty spouses or other guests attended the five day-four night event. It may have been gas prices, it may have been the location, but whatever the reasons, attendance was down. Some of the old regulars missed this one and be assured we know who you are and you were missed. All members who did attend had a really great time and if you weren't there, you missed a goodn'. Make your plans to join your shipmates in 2009.

The reunion followed the pattern established many years ago with registration and the hospitality room opening mid-morning on Wednes-

day. Registration continued throughout the day. Association President Larry DiPasquale welcomed everyone at the 5:00 PM Welcome Reception. Following his remarks, a great hors d'oeuvre tray was served and the cash bar opened (for the few old sailors who even noticed there was a bar in the room.) It is worth noting that first time attendees were also welcomed at the reception.

Thursday morning breakfast was served in the hotel restaurant and most folks ate at their leisure. Today's off-site activity was a visit to the Historic Branson Depot then the 40 mile round trip excursion through the Ozark foothills. During the ride passengers were able to listen to the narrated stories about the history of the railroad and its communities. Comments ranged between "Boring" and

"What a cute little trip."

The train riders returned to the hotel in time for lunch and a great number of people went to one of the many afternoon shows that are part of Branson's signature.

Dinner was a SW BBQ style dinner. There was something for everyone. If anyone left hungry, it was your own fault. There were a lot of good comments about the "Yankee Swap" of last year, and the consensus was to do it again. It took the co-operation of a lot of people but it worked the way it should. Everyone who brought a gift should have gone home with one. Next time something different will be tried, ideas anyone??

Friday breakfast was a repeat of Thursday. The USS Purdy tourist brigade boarded a couple of small

*(Continued on page 2)*

busses for a visit to the Branson Veterans Memorial Museum. This museum, although not the largest in the country has more appeal and exhibits than many larger museums. Many called this visit the highlight of the reunion. From the museum it was off to the Branson Belle for a luncheon cruise and entertainment. A number of people remarked that the show on the Branson Belle was the best they saw while in Branson. The remainder of Friday was free to go to a show (or a couple of shows), relax in the hospitality room, or explore Branson (actually not many elected to explore).

Saturday's off-site trip was a ride on the DUCKS, a replica of an old US Army land/sea vehicle used to transport troops and supplies primarily from ship to shore. The Duck captain was a Korean War veteran (24<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt) so he was one of the good guys; although the Wacky Quacker he gave everyone make you wonder about his sanity. Just for the record, the Wacky Quacker makes a wonderful gift to a grandchild who does not live with you! The DUCK did give a riding tour of Branson and went for a dip in the lake. Much to everyone's dismay, the lake's water level was so low that the DUCK had to creep into the water instead of the traditional running start and splash that assured everyone would get wet. When the ride was over, all agreed it had been worth the effort.

In the afternoon the business meeting was held. Treasurer Jim Meechan gave his report. All current officers were asked to remain in place – and they did. Several cities were nominated as host cities for the 2009 reunion, but when the smoke had cleared, Philadelphia was the clear winner – so next year make your plans for "the city of brotherly love", Philadelphia, PA. The central location between the New Englanders and Southerners makes it a natural spot and a very large crowd is anticipated. Don't be one of the missing next year!

The banquet was Saturday night and it was a very fine affair; a cash bar with the trimmings, a delicious meal, introduction of first time attendees, and dancing afterward. To all first timers, please come back, now that we have you, you are part of the family, so come on back. The first timer who traveled the greatest distance, all the way from Hawaii, was Chester Kahapea. He promises to be back next year, so all of you other guys, old or new have no excuse for letting distance be an excuse.

Finally it was Sunday morning and no one believed it was already time to go.

The farewell breakfast was a little quieter than usual with everyone reflecting on the good time the last several days had brought. The memorial service delivered by Chaplain Fred Harrington was a moving ceremony honoring deceased shipmates. When the candles were extinguished symbolizing the life of the deceased and taps was played, everyone knew the end was near. Chairman Larry DiPasquale closed the reunion with a few farewell remarks and wished everyone a safe journey home.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi once again shipmates, Purdy ladies and Purdy friends too.

I'm sure that all who attended will agree that our Branson reunion was one of the best, and will join me in thanking Larry and Brenda and all the folks at ML&RS for the outstanding job they did for us once again. The hotel, banquets and service were great, and the tours were a lot of fun. We had a nice meal and a great show on the Branson Belle Showboat.

I'll leave comments about our "Scenic" railroad tour to others, but riding the "DUCKS" and quacking at the other "DUCKS" while riding around Branson and on Table Rock Lake was a blast. I was glad to see five first-timers at the reunion, and quite a few attendees at this reunion who have not attended for a few years. Welcome back to all of you, and welcome aboard to the first-timers. I hope to see all plus many more at our next reunion. I was a little disappointed in our total attendance this year. I know some had to cancel due to health problems and job conflicts. I also know that some didn't attend due to the high cost of travel, but those who did attend got their money's worth of all the shows in Branson. Karen and I only took in two shows, but I know that many of you took in quite a few more than that. I swear that if you took in two or three shows a day for a week, you still wouldn't see all the shows in Branson.

Now, back to the low attendance at this past reunion. At our business meeting, we decided that the only way to increase attendance was to move back to the east coast. Four centrally located cities were brought up, and a majority voted on Philadelphia for the next reunion.

I received a phone-call from Brenda at ML&RS shortly after returning home from Branson, and she has already confirmed the hotel and dates for the next reunion. The dates are **April 15 -19, 2009**, and the hotel is the **Ramada Inn in Essington, PA**. The hotel is off I-95 next to the Philadelphia airport, so there will be no problems getting there whether flying or driving. Philly has a lot to offer in the way of tours, dining and shopping, so lock those dates in, and plan on attending the 09 reunion.

Our Sec/Treas James Meechan will start purging our mailing list of those who have not yet paid their 08 dues. If you want to continue receiving this "Purdy Report", please send Jim the annual \$5.00 dues as soon as possible. Make your check out to "Purdy Association" and mail it to Jim at: 145 Laura DR., Gahanna, OH 43230. If you wish to do so, you can pay your dues in advance for as many years as you want. Jim will send you a membership card indicating how many years you paid. Those dues, and donations to our association are our only means of supporting this "Purdy Report", other than the Purdy clothing being sold by our VP Bill Dow. We have lost our current supplier of these items, but Bill is trying to locate another. He does have limited supplies and sizes left, so if you would like a Purdy ball-cap, t-shirt, sweatshirt or jacket, give him a call at 860-426-1278 for prices and shipping information.

Karen and I are getting our motorcycle out of winter mothballs, and are planning some short tours this summer. I sure hope the old girl doesn't let me down (the motorcycle that is, not Karen). I hope that all of you have a real nice summer, and looking forward to seeing many of you in Philly in 09.

Sincerely,  
Larry DiPasquale  
President, Purdy Association

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

## CHAPLAIN FRED'S REPORT

Ahoy Shipmates!!!

This is the place: Branson, MO  
The setting: Purdy Reunion  
We are here.  
We are the Purdy Crew  
Dum de dum dum.....

22 hours from home to Branson, and 22 hours back; but it was worth it. We stayed the first night in Juliette, Ill with Dom and June Bella. It was like old times. We went to bed, Dom came in and tucked me in and sang me an Irish lullaby. He brought us breakfast in bed the next morning. It's an Italian thing. Many new faces. From my tour there were two guys. Chet, the big Hawaiian and Ray Long with his old saying, "Can you hear me now?"

Cletus has been trying to get us to come South for years. We came South and he didn't show up. I talked to him on the phone and he said to say "Hi to all Y'all." We had a small group but had big fun. We saw 3 shows and the show we saw on the cruise. Thanks, Steve Tuzikow. You stole the show. We went on a good bus ride, nice duck ride and a bad train ride. Thursday night Ray Long roasted Big Chet or the Big Kahuna. It brought back a lot of fine memories. Maybe not for Chet, but for the rest of us. After Saturday's formal dinner, the Petits, Kahapis, Longs, Bellas, and Judy and I danced the night away. None of the guys liked to dance, but we tried to outdo each other. The girls loved it. Congrats to Larry, Jim and Bill. Next year, reunion is in Philly. Thanks Barney, Mendo and Kenny for helping me with the memorial service. Larry and Brenda, you did a great job again. Larry retired from the Army, but I think he loves the Navy though. All of you who weren't there, we really missed you. We missed Uncle Art Harrington, we missed your bear hugs, Sweeties smile and John's Cowboy Up and Barb Mountjoy hum-

ming "There Ain't No Bugs on Me." Judy and I spent a weekend in Naples, FL. We spent a day with Carl Sansome, 59-62, and he was a EMSN. It was a great time. Carl and I called Romeo Cifelli, 58-60. He was a Seaman. Called Pat Fonso, First Div., and the Golden Greek. That's it. Fish are biting. Can't talk any longer. I saw a sign. It said, "Directions to Heaven, Turn Right and Go Straight."

God bless,  
Chaplin Fred and Judy the Cutie

P.S. See you in Philly!!!

## 2008 REUNION ATTENDEES

Albert Albright & Mary Thompson  
William & Jonathon Arnold  
Lawrence & Linda Beverly  
Maurice & Phyllis Constant  
Larry & Karen DiPasquale  
Austin & Barbara Enos  
Robert & Mary Ann Espeseth  
Bob Fuller & Gerry Le Brun  
Carlo & Dan Geluso  
James & Pat Godsey  
Fred & Judy Harrington  
Donald Hazen  
George & Shirley Houk  
Kenneth & Turibia Joyce  
Chester & Sybil Kahapea  
Richard & Nancy Kain  
Vernon & Audrinne Kompelien  
Ray & Carol Long  
Harry & Alma Martz  
James & Mary Meechan  
Philip Payer & John Coiro  
Ken & Eileen Petit  
John & Joy Powers  
Armando & Annette Rebeiro  
John & Helen Rice & Dorothy Pin  
Larry & Laurette Sharp  
Barney & Lou Strutton  
Steve & Betty Tuzikow  
Vernon & Gerry Van Grevenhof  
Dominic & June Vella  
Robert & Javoen Wertz

**Total Members:** 31  
**Guests:** 30  
**GRAND TOTAL:** 61



## 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.

**Marshall Downey (1949-53) SO3**  
1116 N Benedict St  
Chillicothe, IL 61523  
309-274-9814

**Jack Prindible (1949) SN**  
5034 Newforest Apt 3101  
San Antonio, TX 78229  
210-523-6221  
jacksail@satxr.com

**Harold DePauls (1951-53) GM2**  
23 Puritan Rd  
Marblehead, MA 01945  
781-631-4759

**Carlo Geluso (1955-59) RM3**  
6269 Eaton Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49548  
616-635-2090  
dan@manakey.com



## 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.

**Richard Rockwell**  
(1951-53) Ens Lt(jg)  
Died February 5, 2008

**Patrick McMullen**  
(Mid 1950s) EM2  
Died January 21, 2008

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 Editor:

I am sending notification of the death of a shipmate. The deceased shipmate is Patrick "Pat" LeRoy McMullen, who died on 21 January 2008, a resident of Bowdoinhman, Maine. He was an EM2 while aboard the Purdy during the mid 1950s.

And an interesting coincidence is that I am a retired Commander (O-5) and live across the street from Pat (his widow and son still live there), and I was Chief Engineer in Purdy, as a lieutenant junior grade-lieutenant, from 1964 to 1966. We became very good friends, spending a lot of time telling sea stories, over and over again. I would take great delight in pulling his chain by saying it was his fault that the #1 SSTG generator was in such bad shape when I came aboard. His favorite story was how he became the squadron lightweight boxing champ.

Thank you,  
Errol N. Melander

Purdy Newsletter,

We always hear about the U.S. Marines but let me tell you folks, Destroyermen are a breed apart from U.S. Marine, and I mean that sincerely. Like with that movie *Star Trek*, "we go where no man has ever gone before." Well, let me be the first to tell you (if I am), the same applies to U. S. Destroyermen.

The sad part....it isn't written in the halls of the U. S. Congress! (just another 'normal' day) and I mean that.

In our writings back and forth, Mr. Gerald W. Kirkpatrick and I, we often used the word "disrespect." I think, personally, that "disrespect" and "demoralization" go hand-in-hand. Some folks aren't touched by adversity but to those who are, they sometimes are drawn to those two words

as the meaning derived from the experience.

Never, ever, in all my life and all the ships that I was on personally, did I ever meet such a courageous group of men like those I served with aboard the USS Purdy (DD-734). Let me tell you all something very personal and very close to my heart indeed. "You don't have to look down the barrel of a gun to realize that your life is in the hands of Jesus Christ!"

The men of the USS Purdy (dd-734) speak as one and represent the USS Purdy and maintain its history. It shows me that pieces of a puzzle conclude with a web site such as the Purdy web site where history is spelled out by those who know it, experienced it and lived it.

It is a great thing to have such a web site where men can speak as men. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Frank Hendricks RM2/E-5

Purdy Report:

The March 2007 Purdy Report lists former US Navy serviceman Norman Swatzell as having died October 2003. He is alive and well in Melbourne, FL. I am his 45 year old daughter. My father served in the Navy in the 1950s. He meets with several of his former Navy friends every five years or so. I have googled my dad and checked for other Norman Swatzells, unsuccessfully. He is the only one I can find.

He is listed on Classmates.com, a federal website and this report when you google his name.

Thanks,  
Beth Winter (formerly Beth Swatzell)

You will find lots of interesting Navy history and a photo of the PURDY on this web site recommended by Larry DiPasquale:

[http://bluejacket.com/index\\_navy.html](http://bluejacket.com/index_navy.html)

## 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.

## PHILADELPHIA, PA WILL BE THE SITE OF THE 2009 REUNION

Historic Philadelphia will be the site of the 2009 reunion of the USS PURDY. The city is full of historic landmarks so we need your help in choosing what to include on your reunion agenda. We will briefly describe some of the most famous sites and attractions in the Philadelphia area and then ask you to choose those that you would like to have offered in your reunion package. Please take time to read over the descriptions and fill out the survey on page three. Return the survey to ML&RS, Inc. and we will custom design your reunion according to your wishes.

### GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC PHILADELPHIA includes:

**Independence Hall**— This State House was first begun in 1732 and finished in 1756. It served as the meeting place of the provincial and state governments. The Second Continental Congress met here and drafted and ratified the Articles of Confederation. George Washington also presided over the Constitutional Convention here.

**Congress Hall**—Constructed in 1789 and 1790 as the Philadelphia County Court House, it served as the meeting place of the Federal Congress from 1790 until 1800, when Philadelphia was the capital of the U.S. George Washington's second inauguration as president and John Adam's inauguration were both held here.

**Liberty Bell**—A symbol for freedom worldwide, the first "Liberty Bell" arrived from England in 1752. It was cast to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Penn's Charter of Privileges. The original bell cracked while being tested and was recast and hung in April 1753. Its most famous ring may have been on July 8, 1776, when it summoned the citizens of Philadelphia to the State House Yard to hear the Declaration of In-

dependence read. The bell cracked again in 1835 when tolling for the funeral of Chief Justice John Marshall.

**Christ Church**—Organized in 1695 and built between 1727 and 1754, it is one of America's most historic shrines. Washington, Jefferson, Franklin and Betsy Ross worshipped here. Its most important feature is the font at which William Penn was baptized. It was sent to Christ Church in 1697 from London by All Hallows's Church, Barking-by-the-Tower. Small brass plates mark the pews of Washington and Betsy Ross. Several signers of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution are buried here.

**Franklin Court**—This is the site of Benjamin Franklin's last home. A "ghost house" stands now on the site, as no one knows exactly how the original house looked. A museum has audiovisual devices to tell of Franklin's life.

**Elfreth's Alley**—No visit to Philadelphia would be complete without a stop at Elfreth's Alley. Referred to as the oldest continuously inhabited street in America, it was opened shortly before 1702. It is named for Jeremiah Elfreth and was the home of carpenters, printers, and craftsmen of all sorts. Benjamin Franklin once lived here and Betsy Ross visited the alley. Here among contemporary storehouses, wholesalers and jobbers of commerce is a single street that provides a glimpse into the 18th century.

**Philadelphia Mint**—The Philadelphia Mint was the first in the country to coin money. The metal used to strike the first coins came from the silver in George Washington's household goods. During this self-guided tour, which is supported by audiovisual materials, you will be able to see coins of all eras.

**Reading Terminal Market**—Philadelphia's downtown farmer's

market features 75,000 square feet of indoor market halls with 80 vendors. This is a terrific place to have lunch.

### **DRIVING TOUR**

**Avenue of the Arts**—Every type of cultural art is represented along North and South Broad Street from ballet to arts and crafts.

**Benjamin Franklin Parkway**—This has been called Philadelphia's Champs Elysees— or its Pennsylvania Avenue. Fine buildings such as the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Rodin Museum and the Cathedral of SS Peter and Paul line the parkway. Small parks, fountains, statues and monuments gives the Parkway its own special aura.

**Society Hill**—Neither an elevation nor the sign of social position, it was the Free Society of Traders to whom William Penn made the gift of land and privileges that gave it its name. The charm of Society Hill is that its homes are not museums, but are lived in by Philadelphians who delight in 18th and 19th century houses.

### BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY

The ship was officially opened as a museum 15 October 2001. It is located on the Camden waterfront and has spaces aboard the ship to display artifacts and ship's history. We may be able to hold the Memorial Service here.

### BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD

The Battle of Brandywine was fought on September 11, 1777 between the Continental Army led by George Washington and the British forces headed by General William Howe. The park has a Visitor Center with a museum and a gift shop. On the grounds are both Washington's headquarters and Lafayette's headquarters.

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(Continued from page 5)

**VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL PARK**

Valley Forge is the story of the six month encampment of the Continental Army of the newly founded United States under the command of George Washington. Though no battle was fought here, it is remembered as a time of great suffering by the men who remained loyal to Washington and emerged as an army ready to fight. Read about the struggles and visit the sites of this famous part of history.

**2009 USS PURDY REUNION SURVEY**

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 by July 21, 2008 to:

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

or fax: 828-256-6559

**NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT**

This Purdy Report is being sent to 172 dues paying members only. Please send your annual \$5.00 contribution to:

Jim Meechan  
 145 Laura Dr  
 Gahanna, OH 43230

Contributors since the last newsletter:  
 Victor Flansburg, Stuart Hartman, Philip Payer, Larry Sharp, Robert Smith, Steve Tuzikow and Dominic Vella.

The cost of this issue is \$292.64

**Reunion format:**

Do you want a welcome reception the first evening?  yes  no

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

Do you want entertainment after the banquet?  yes  no?

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

**Guided Tour of Philadelphia Including:**

Independence Hall	Liberty Bell	Congress Hall
Christ Church	Elfreth's Alley	Franklin Court
US Mint	Lunch at Reading Terminal Market	

**Battleship New Jersey**

**Brandywine Battlefield**

**Driving Tour (including):**

Avenue of the Arts  
 Benjamin Franklin Parkway  
 Society Hill

**Valley Forge National Park**

**2009 USS PURDY REUNION**

**APRIL 15-19**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**RAMADA INN, ESSINGTON, PA**

**NORTHEASTERN PURDY SUMMER PICNIC**

The 3rd annual Northeastern Purdy summer picnic will be hosted by Van and Gerry Van Grevenhof, 117 Old Derry Road, Londonderry, NH. The date will be Saturday, July 12th from 11 am till???. For those planning on staying overnight, we have space for RVs (Elec only). A Sleep Inn is only 2 miles away plus Manchester has many hotels within 10 miles of us. Due to the number expected, please BYOB. Soft drinks and teas will be supplied. Feel free to call or email if you have questions. Phone 603-432-5235 Cell 603-759-5159. Our email is mrbakagi@aol.com.

Vernon & Gerry Van Grevenhof