

THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 16, Issue 3

December 2006

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



Special Points of Interest

- **News from the Association President is in the cover story.**
- **Welcome Mat on page two has only one new member. If you find an old shipmate, let us have his address to add to the roster.**
- **Sad news from Mrs. Pat Schena is in Mail Call on page three.**
- **Also in Mail Call is a letter from Donald Evancic who has fond memories of Mack Hewitt and Michael Popp.**
- **You'll enjoy the articles on pages three and four, submitted by some of your fellow shipmates.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hello again all Purdy shipmates, and all you Purdy ladies. Hope all of you had a real nice Thanksgiving. I know that none of you went back for seconds, and all of you (including me) left the table satisfied, but not stuffed. If you agree with that, I have a bridge in New York that I'd like to sell you !!!

By the time you receive this Purdy Report, our next reunion in **New London, CT on April 25 - 29, 2007** will be only about four months off. I hope that many of you are making plans to attend. Due to it's location in the northeast, I'm counting on this coming

reunion being our best attended ever. There should be more information on this reunion from ML&RS in this Report, and the reunion registration packages should be in the mail late Dec. or early Jan. As of mid Nov., ML&RS is working on a contract for our 08 reunion in Branson, MO, but dates are not yet confirmed.

I received news about two of our members on the recovery list. In late Oct, David McCalla had triple by-pass surgery. He is at home recuperating, and get-well cards can be sent to: 19 Claire St, Circleville, OH 43113. And, in early Nov, Ernest Reed

had hip replacement surgery, and is also at home recuperating. Get well cards for Ernie can be sent to: 347 N. Township Rd. 194, Tiffin, OH 44883. I'm hoping to see both you guys at our next reunion.

Now for some bad news. I received word from Mrs. Patricia Schena that her husband, a long time Purdy association member, Pasquale (Pat) Schena passed away at home following surgery on Sept.1, 06. They would have celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 22, 06. More bad news to report. Received word

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from Audrey Crawshaw that Ed passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 06. Ed was 79 years old, and, if I'm not mistaken, Ed has attended every one of our reunions. Ed was our association Secretary and Chaplain for many years, and was a great help to me as your Prez. These two men will be sorely missed by all who knew them.

I'm sure that by now many of you have paid your \$5.00 annual association dues which were due in Jan. Those of you who have not paid yet, and who 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.

VP Bill Dow told me that sales of Purdy items have been slow since the loss of our web-site. If you would like to purchase a top quality Purdy ball-cap, jacket, sweatshirt or T-shirt, give Bill a call at 860-426-1278 for prices and shipping information. You can also e-mail him at:

bdownusspurdy@wmconnect.com

Karen and I want to wish all of you a very merry Christmas, a happy and prosperous New Year, and a happy Holiday season. And, we are looking forward to seeing many of you at the reunion in New London.

Sincerely
Larry DiPasquale
President, Purdy Association

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



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.

Jerald Karstens
(1955-56) CSSN S Div
8424 N Nevada St Apt 376
Spokane, WA 99208
509-590-8863

2007 USS PURDY REUNION

APRIL 25-29

NEW LONDON, CT

NEW LONDON RADISSON

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

FROM THE STAFF OF ML&RS, INC

NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Cost of this issue is **\$218.24**.
This Purdy Report is being sent to dues paying members only.

Thank you to the following contributors: James Conway, Lou Kava and Richard LeMay.

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.

Pasquale Schena
Died September 1, 2006

Edward Crawshaw
(1946-47) Y3/c C Div
Died November 14, 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

Purdy Report,

I would like to inform your paper that my dear husband, Paquale (Pat) Schena, died on 9/1/06 at our home following surgery. I can't begin to tell you what the Purdy meant to Pat. He enjoyed flea markets and always had applications in his pocket to pass out when he was stopped by a tin can sailor. Thru the years he developed a huge collection of military medals, uniforms, patches, etc. He had started collecting them when he was 10 years old in Haverhill, MA. He gave lectures at the local libraries and schools related to war history. He took me on board a tin can (in Baton Rouge, LA) when we were on a Mississippi River cruise. He was an electrician

with 3 stripes on his sleeve. At his funeral we had an anchor of red, white and blue flowers. We took out his uniform and had his blue cap placed on the corner of the wreath. At the end of the service I had them play. "Anchors Aweigh." I'm sure he was very happy. After all, the Navy was his life. So I would like to see his passing in your paper. It would be another honor to Pat. My sincere thanks.

Mrs. Patricia (Pat) Schena (Yes, I'm a Pat too!!)

P.S. We would have celebrated our 50th anniversary Nov. 22.

Shipmate Families,

My condolences to the families of Mack D. Hewitt and Michael Popp. I had the privilege to serve with these men and have fond memories of both. Seeing Popp in sickbay and having served on the same watch with Mack in the after fire-room. Mack and I were among the few who served aboard the Purdy for both of her world cruises. Great memories that are unfortunately fading with age. I look in the cruise books and see faces that I try and put memories to. Upon our return from the first world cruise many pictures taken by the press found their way into our cruise book. I am proud to have had the opportunity to serve and know these two men and shall remember them in my prayers.

Shipmate,
Donald F Evancic BT3
USS Purdy 1951/1954

MAYDAY

"Mayday" is the internationally recognized voice radio signal for ships and people in serious trouble at sea. Made official in 1948, it is an anglicizing of the French "m'aidez," "help me."

AHHHHH THE MEMORIES

The article below was submitted by Chester Kahapea who says the author is unknown. He received it from a Navy Chief, who got it from a Navy First Class PO. Yep, both are Old Navy.

THE OLD OUTFIT

Come gather round me lads and I'll tell you a thing or two; About the way we ran the Navy in nineteen fifty-two.

When wooden ships and iron men were barely out of sight; I am going to give you some facts just to set the record right.

We wore the old bell bottoms, with a flat hat on our head; Always hit the sack at night and never "went to bed."

Our uniforms were worn ashore and we were mighty proud; Never thought of wearing civvies, in fact they were never allowed.

Now when the ship puts out to sea I'll tell you son it hurts; When suddenly you notice that half the crew is wearing skirts.

And it's hard for me to imagine a female boatswains mate: Stopping on the Quarter deck to make sure her stockings are straight.

What happened to the KiYi brush, the old salt-water bath; Holy stoning decks at night cause you stirred old Bosn's wrath!

We always had our gedunk stand and lots of pogeys bail; And it always took a hitch or two just to make a rate.

In your seabag all your skivvies were neatly stopped and rolled; And the blankets on your sack had better have a three-inch fold.

Your little ditty bag, it is hard to believe just how much it held; You wouldn't go ashore with pants that hadn't been spiked and bellied.

We had scullery maids and succotash and good old SOS; And when you felt like topping off, you headed for the mess.

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Oh we had our belly robbers but
there weren't too many gripes; For
the deck apes were never hungry
and there were no starving snipes.

Now you never hear of Davy
Jones, Shellbacks or Pollywogs;
And you never splice the main-
brace to receive your daily grog.

Now you never have to dog a
watch or stand the main vent; You
even tie your lines today, back in
my time they were bent.

We were all two-fisted drinkers
and no one thought you sinned; If
you staggered back aboard your
ship, three sheets to the wind.

And with just a couple hours of
sleep you regained your usual lus-
ter; Bright eyed and bushy tailed—
you still made morning muster.

Rocks and shoals have long
since gone, and now it's UCMJ;
Then the old man handled every-
thing if you should go astray.

Now they steer the ships with
dials, and I wouldn't be surprised;
If some day they sailed the
damned things from beach com-
puterized.

So when my earthly hitch is over,
and the good Lord picks the best;
I'll walk right up to HIM and say,
"Sir, I have but one request."

Let me sail the seas of Heaven in
a coat of Navy blue; Like I did so
long ago on earth way back in
nineteen fifty-two.

THE FLAG & THE VETERAN

Submitted by Richard LeMay

A protest raged on a courthouse
lawn,
Around a makeshift stage they
charged on.
Fifteen hundred or more they say
Had come to burn the flag that day.

A boy held up the folded Flag,
Cursed it and called it a dirty rag.
A man pushed through the angry

crowd,
With an old gun shouldered proud.
His uniform jacket was old and tight.
He polished each button shiny and
bright.

He crossed the stage with military
grace,
Until he and the boy stood face to
face.
Then the old man broke his silence.

Freedom of speech is worth dying for.
Good men are gone, they live no
more.
All so you can stand on this court-
house lawn
And ramble on from dusk to dawn.

But before that Flag gets burned to-
day,
This old veteran is going to have his
say.

My father died on a foreign shore,
in a war they say would end all wars.
Tommy and I weren't even full grown,
Before we fought in a war of our own.

Tommy died on Iwo Jima's Beach,
In a shadow of a hill he couldn't reach.
Where five good men raised this Flag,
So high the whole world could see it
fly.

I got this bum leg I still drag,
fighting for this same old Flag.
There's but one shot in this old guy,
So now's the time to decide which
one.
Which one of you will follow our lead,
To stand and die for what you believe?

The boy who called it a dirty old flag,
Handed the veteran the folded Flag.
The crowd got quiet as they walked
away,
To talk about what they heard that
day.

So the battle for the Flag this day was
won,
By a loyal veteran with a single gun.
Who for one last time had to show to
some,
These colors will never run.

It is the veteran, not the preacher

Who has given us freedom of relig-
ion.

It is the veteran, not the reporter
Who has given us freedom of the
press.

It is the veteran, not the poet
Who has given us freedom of
speech.

It is the veteran, not the campus
organizer
Who has given us freedom of as-
sembly.

It is the veteran, not the politician
Who has given us the right to vote.

It is the veteran who salutes the
Flag
Who serves under the Flag
Whose coffin is draped by the
Flag,

HUMOR CORNER

The elderly American gentle-
man arrived in Paris by plane.

At French Customs, he fumbled
for his passport.

"You have been to France be-
fore, Monsieur?" the customs offi-
cer asked sarcastically.

The old gent admitted he had
been to France previously.

"Zen you should know enough
to have your passport ready for
inspection."

The American said, "The last
time I was in France, I didn't have
to show a passport."

"Impossible. You Americans
always have to show your pass-
ports on arrival in France."

The American senior gave the
Frenchman a long hard look. Then
he quietly explained. "Well, when I
came ashore at Omaha Beach on
D-day in '44, I couldn't find any
Frenchmen to show it to."
