

# THE PURDY REPORT

Volume 17, Issue 3

December 2007

## OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF USS PURDY DD-734



### Special Points of Interest

- **Important information is in Larry Di-Pasquale's message on the cover.**
- **We welcome six new members to the Purdy Report under Welcome Mat on page two.**
- **One of your former shipmates needs your help. See his request under Mail Call on page two.**
- **See how shipmates responded to the question, "How did the Navy benefit your life?" Their answers are on pages three and four.**
- **You'll enjoy reading "Real Navy Chiefs," an article found on page five.**

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ

Hi again shipmates, Purdy ladies and Purdy friends. By the time you receive this Report, Thanksgiving will have come and gone, and the Army/Navy game will be history. I hope that all of you had a great Thanksgiving. As I'm writing this Message, turkey day is a few days off. I swore after last year that I would not go back for seconds ever again. Will let you know if I gave into temptation. The Army/ Navy game is about a week and a half away, but I know that Navy will kick Army's butt ( I hope ). They played a great game against Notre Dame, and won for the first time over them in 43 years, so should be able

to handle Army !!!

I sure hope a whole bunch of you are making plans to come to the next reunion in Branson, MO on April 23 - 27, 2008. Karen and I are looking forward to seeing all you regular attendees again, and sure hope to see some of you who have not been able to attend for the last few years. We also hope to be able to meet a bunch of first-timers at this reunion. If you have never been to a reunion, this will be the time to make it your first. Branson will be outstanding. Lots of shows, sightseeing and great restaurants. Plan on joining us, and meet some of your shipmates who you

probably haven't seen in many years. In my last Message, I mentioned that the Compton ( DD-705 ) reunion will be in Branson about the same time as us. They will be there April 25 - 28. I was going through the Tin Can Sailors reunion listing, and it looks like we will have more company. The Marshall (DD-676) will be in town April 24-28. Don't know where they will be staying, but it looks like Branson is going to be invaded by a bunch of "Old Salts".

I'm still looking for a Master At Arms badge for our MAA Steve Tuzikow. If you have a badge that you are willing to donate,

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please give me a call at 610-433-4787.

Those of you who have attended other reunions know that we will be deciding on the reunion for 09 at our business meeting. If we follow the normal rotation, we will be deciding on the east-coast for that year. Some suggestions for you to consider--Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Myrtle Beach, Williamsburg or Washington. The majority of members at that meeting will make the decision .

I know you don't want to hear this, but I need to bring up our annual \$5.00 dues. It will be due in January, and if you haven't paid for this year yet, and you want to continue receiving this Purdy Report, please send a check made out to "Purdy Association" to our Sec/Treas James Meehan, 145 Laura DR., Gahanna, OH 43230 as soon as possible. You can also pay dues in advance. If you want to pay for 2, 5 or 10 years you can do so. Just let Jim know that you want to pay ahead, and he will send you a membership card denoting a new expiration date. Jim will also gladly accept donations to our association, and will make sure all donations are recognized in a future Purdy Report. Your dues and donations are greatly appreciated, and pay for the publishing, printing and mailing of this Report.

VP Bill Dow still has some top-quality Purdy jackets, T-shirts, sweat shirts, polo shirts, ball caps and ship's patches for sale. If you are interested in any of these items, give Bill a call at 860-426-1278, or email him at [bdowusspurdy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdowusspurdy@sbcglobal.net) for prices and shipping information.

Karen and I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

Sincerely  
Larry DiPasquale  
President, Purdy Association



## 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.

**Jack Miller**  
(1946-47) FC3  
8351 Zenith Dr  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
315-652-7706  
[jmille71@twcny.rr.com](mailto:jmille71@twcny.rr.com)

**Roger Hohensee**  
(1962-64) SN  
5367 North Mishler Rd  
Huntington, IN 46750  
[rhsailor755@myway.com](mailto:rhsailor755@myway.com)

**Frank Hendricks**  
(1964-65) RM2/E-5  
4810 Jenkins Rd  
Vernon, NY 13476-3910  
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**Michael Chellini**  
(1968-71) IC3  
PO Box 241  
Woodstock, VA 22664  
540-459-2280  
[mchellin@shentel.net](mailto:mchellin@shentel.net)

**Reginald Young**  
(1950) QM2  
1130 Crown Dr  
Jacksonville, FL 32221  
904-783-0247

**Dan Katze**  
(1968-69) RM3  
2642 Glipin Ave  
Loveland, CO 80538  
970-669-3768  
[dankatze@hotmail.com](mailto:dankatze@hotmail.com)



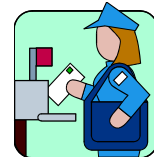
## TAPS

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.

**Charles White**  
(1951-53) RD  
Died July 17, 2007

**Cecil Hall**  
Died October 8, 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.



## MAIL CALL

Shipmates,

I need help in proving that I was hurt on September 22, 1953, on board the Purdy while participating in "Pollywog" Day. The day before crossing the equator, I got hit with a bucket of water thrown from a 40 mm gun tub (accidentally). Anyone remembering this, please, I need it for a V.A. claim. Anyone from the old torpedo gang. Please write to me, Guys.

Thank you,  
Ronnie Serafini  
461 Fulton St  
Farmingdale, NY 11735



## HOW DID THE NAVY BENEFIT YOUR LIFE?

*An e-mail was sent out asking shipmates to answer the question above. Here are the responses:*

### **T. J. Ryan STG3:**

The United States Navy had a profound effect on my life. They took me as a kid with no goals and no direction and, for the first time in my life, they made me stand on my own two feet. When I was discharged I was determined to be a success and a good citizen. The process probably would have taken years longer without the Navy.

### **Bob MacDonald:**

The U. S. Navy exposed me to great people from all walks of life, all nationalities, religions, and up-bringsings. I enjoyed world travel, getting together for good times, good laughter, and found that the world is a pretty great place, filled with fine people; as long as you keep the politicians out of it!

### **Bob Campbell:**

The Navy taught me a trade that I used the rest of my life. I worked in the ship yard as a Pipe Fitter for 13 years and have used other knowledge that I learned to help me through the rest of my working career. I would not trade my time in the Navy for any other part of my life.

If a man does not go to college, then the best thing he can do for himself would be to join the Military.

### **V.M. Van Grevenhof FT, Fox Div June 1956 to June 1959:**

As a very naïve 17-year old Minnesota farm boy, I wanted to see the world. After spending boot camp plus 45 weeks of Fire Control School at Great Lakes, I was given my choice of Billets. Not interested in Asia or a capital ship, I chose the Purdy out of Newport. Because of this choice, I had the opportunity to

see 17 foreign countries and 25 foreign cities. Given the responsibilities and opportunities afforded me, I can sincerely say the USN changed my life. I served with terrific crewmates and officers, and met the woman I married 48 years ago. We settled in NH and have had a wonderful life. The USN also provided me with the GI Bill with which I earned my Bachelors Degree in Business and was able to retire at age 60 to enjoy the last ten years traveling and doing what we want. We tend to forget the tough times aboard ship, but will always remember our shipmates and the good times we had. To me, I feel that once a tin can sailor, ALWAYS a tin can sailor.

### **Larry DiPasquale:**

Probably many ways the Navy influenced me, but I guess the most important was that it got me away from Mom and Dad and taught me to be my own person. Also, after steaming around the oceans of this world for weeks and months on end, a person starts to realize the vastness of those bodies of water and how much we are at their mercy. And, most important, after visiting many foreign ports, realizing how lucky I was to be a U.S citizen.

### **Bob Wertz, ET2 1951/1952:**

I enlisted in the Navy after H.S. graduation (May 1948). It benefited my life by giving me a career direction, which was unknown at graduation time.

My first assignment was in the engine room. As an unhappy "snipe" I was on the lookout for a change. A call came out for volunteers to attend Electronics School at the Great Lakes facility. I almost injured myself "flying" out of the engine room to be the first to sign up.

I made it...It was a very comprehensive school. Tough. I liked my choice, though, and enjoyed attending classes, which lasted almost a year.

I felt very good about my ET rate and keeping things "humming" on the Purdy.

The true benefits surfaced at discharge time (1952) when I discovered the Corporate value that was placed on my Navy schooling and experience in electronics. I was offered several jobs. I chose a defense contractor (Martin Co). It was the only job I ever had in the commercial world. Retired from the company after 36 years of service. Enjoyed going to work to the very last day.

### **Michael Wallen:**

I thank the US Navy for my education at Electronics School at Great Lakes, IL 1949 to 1950. It has served me in many ways. It helped me get several jobs: Electronic Technician at AC Spark Plug; General Motors in Milwaukee, WI; Service manager for Taylor Electric Co (RCA wholesale distributor for Wisconsin); my own TV sales and service company in Milwaukee. I now live in Aurora, Colorado working for Wal-Mart selling electronics. I help run a computer club for El Jebel Shrine in Denver, CO and make [www.eljebelshrine.org](http://www.eljebelshrine.org). This is my hobby!

I served on USS Purdy DD734 from 1950 to 1951, then on USS Yosemite AD19 1951 to 1953.

### **Dan Katze:**

My time in the Navy helped me in many ways. Going in as an 18-year old recruit I grew up physically and mentally in Boot Camp and through my duty. Because of the times and the importance of the work we did, I found a real self-discipline and feeling of purpose. I rose quickly in rank to become a leader of young men during the Vietnam War. That sense of leadership has carried me all these years

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in many of the paths I have taken. My employer recognized my growth while I was serving my country and gave me a promotion when I came home. In addition, my benefits helped me afford my college time upon returning. I didn't get to see much of the world while in the Navy, but because of the experiences, confidence and education I received as a direct result of my service, I have been able to see much of it later in life.

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**Frank Hendricks, RM2/E-5 1964-1965, Leading Radioman:**

I guess, deep down inside of myself, I can think about that question for 10's of years, the "pro's and con's" of my life after I left the Navy and continually ask myself, "Who was to blame?" The U.S. Navy opened my eyes to adversity and yes, that did benefit me in life. Within adversity I found new meaning for "trials and tribulations."

I believe, within myself, I am a better person today, reflecting upon my marriage and the raising of our son. A shipmate, a brother, who I've kept in constant contact with over the past couple of years, attest to that through his own comments.

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**Morris Plummer, QM2 1951-1955:**

I was raised during the depression years and was an only child. I wasn't necessarily spoiled because we didn't have enough money to spoil a child, but in some ways I was somewhat spoiled. When I joined the Navy in September 1951, I had two choices: either get drafted and go into the Army and go to Korea, or join the Navy and see the world. I choose the later. Then I went to Korea.

The Navy taught me to be self-reliant and to take orders and also to take care of myself. It taught me to be a "self-starter" because if you didn't get yourself up on time for watch, you were in big trouble. It taught me to take care of my clothes. I also had to learn how to

get along with men and boys like myself from many different parts of the country.

I went into the Navy at age 18, a boy, and left 4 years later pretty much ready to become a man. I shall never forget those times and people I met and the places I went. For a boy from Indiana, it was a great adjustment to travel all the places the Purdy went.

The USS Purdy is burned into my memory and soul for the rest of my life. I really do not believe I could have been assigned to any better ship than the Purdy. What a great experience and such a great group of men to be associated with.

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**Editor's Note: Thank you to all who contributed with an answer to the question. If you do not have e-mail and did not have a chance to respond to the question, "How did the Navy benefit your life?", please mail in your answer for the next issue. ML&RS address is below.**

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

#### NEWSLETTER FINANCIAL REPORT

**This Purdy Report is being sent to 173 dues paying members only. Please send your annual \$5.00 contribution to:**

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

**No contributions were received for this issue.**

The cost of this issue is **\$270.73**.

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

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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 re-search 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.

## REAL NAVY CHIEFS

Submitted by Larry DiPasquale

REAL CHIEFS Think Ensigns should be seen and not heard, and never, ever, be allowed to read books on leadership.

REAL CHIEFS Don't have any civilian clothes.

REAL CHIEFS Have CPO Association Cards from their last 5 commands.

REAL CHIEFS Don't remember any time they weren't Chief's.

REAL CHIEFS Propose like this "There will be a wedding at 1000 hours on 29 October, be there in whites with your gear packed because you will be a prime participant."

REAL CHIEFS Favorite national holiday is CPO Initiation.

REAL CHIEFS Keeps four sets of dress khaki uniforms in the closet in hopes they will come back.

REAL CHIEFS Favorite food is shipboard SOS for breakfast.

REAL CHIEFS Don't know how to tell civilian time.

REAL CHIEFS Call each other "Chief."

REAL CHIEFS Greatest fear is signing for property book items.

REAL CHIEFS Dream in Navy Blue, White, Haze Gray and occasionally khaki.

REAL CHIEFS Have served on ships that are now war memorials or tourist attractions.

REAL CHIEFS Get tears in their eyes when the "Chief" dies in the movie "Operation Pacific."

REAL CHIEFS Don't like Certified Navy Twill. "Wash Khaki" is the ONLY thing to make a uniform out of.

REAL CHIEFS Can find their way to the CPO Club blind-folded, on 15 different Navy Bases.

REAL CHIEFS Have pictures of ships in their wallets.

REAL CHIEFS Don't own any pens that do not have "Property U.S. Govt" on them.

REAL CHIEFS Don't voluntarily get the mandatory flu shots.

REAL CHIEFS Don't order supplies, they swap for them.

REAL CHIEFS Favorite quote is from the movie Ben Hur, "We keep you alive to serve this ship."

REAL CHIEFS Think excessive modesty is their only fault.

REAL CHIEFS Hate to write evaluations, except for their own.

REAL CHIEFS Turn in a 4 page brag sheet for their evaluation.

REAL CHIEFS Last ship was always better.

REAL CHIEFS Know that the black tar in their coffee cup makes the coffee taste better.

REAL CHIEFS Idea of heaven-Three good PO1's and a Division Officer who does what he is told.

REAL CHIEFS Think John Wayne would have made a good Coast Guard Chief, if he had not gone soft and made Marine movies.

REAL CHIEFS Use the term "Good Training" to describe any unpleasant task...Scraping the sides of the ship is "Good Training." Having to sleep on your seabag in the parking lot because there was no room in the barracks is "Good Training."

## USS PURDY (DD-734) REUNION

APRIL 23-27, 2008

BRANSON, MO

RADISSON BRANSON HOTEL



## OLD SAILORS

Submitted by Larry DiPasquale

Old Sailors sit and chew the fat  
About things that used to be,  
Of things they've seen,  
The places they've been,  
When they ventured out to sea.

They remembered friends from long ago,  
The times they had back then.  
The money they spent,  
The beer they drank,  
In their days as sailing men.

Their lives are lived in days gone by,  
With thoughts that forever last.  
Of bell bottom blues,  
Winged white hats,  
And good times in their past.

They recall long nights with a moon so bright  
Far out on a lonely sea.  
The thoughts they had  
As youthful lads,

When their lives were wild and free.

They knew so well how their hearts would swell  
When Old Glory fluttered proud and free.

The underway pennant  
Such a beautiful sight  
As they plowed through an angry sea.

They talked of the chow ol' cookie would make  
And the shrill of the Bosun's pipe.  
How salt spray would fall  
Like sparks from hell  
When a storm struck in the night.

They remember old shipmates already gone  
Who forever hold a spot in their heart,  
When sailors were bold,  
And friendships would hold,  
Until death ripped them apart.

Their sailing days are gone away,

Never again will they cross the brow.

They have no regrets,  
They know they are blessed,  
For honoring a scared vow.

Their numbers grow less with each passing day  
As final muster begins.  
There's nothing to lose,  
All have paid dues,  
And they'll sail with shipmates again.

I've heard them say before getting underway  
That there's still some sailing to do.  
They'll say with a grin,  
That their ship has come in  
And the Lord is commanding the crew.

Author unknown

## TIME FOR SOME HUMOR

### EX-WIFE, EX-HUSBAND

Dear Husband:

I'm writing you this letter to tell you that I'm leaving you for good. I've been a good woman to you for seven years and I have nothing to show for it. These last two weeks have been hell. Your boss called to tell me that you quit your job today and that was the last straw. Last week you came home and didn't notice that I had gotten my hair and nails done, cooked your favorite meal and even wore a brand new negligee. You came home and ate in two minutes and went straight to sleep after watching the game. You don't tell me you love me anymore, you don't touch me or anything. Either you're cheating, or you don't love me anymore, whatever the case is, I'm gone.

P.S. If you're trying to find me, don't. Your BROTHER and I are moving away to West Virginia together! Have a great life!

Signed,  
Your EX - wife

Dear Ex-wife:

Nothing has made my day more than receiving your letter. It's true that you and I have been married for seven years, although a good woman is a far cry from what you've been. I watch sports so much to try to drown out your constant nagging. Too bad that doesn't work. I did notice when you cut off all your hair last week. The first thing that came to mind was, "You look just like a man!" My mother raised me not to say anything if you can't say something nice. When you cooked my favorite meal, you must have gotten me confused with MY BROTHER, because I stopped eating pork seven years

ago. I went to sleep on you when you had on that new negligee because the price tag was still on it. I prayed that it was a coincidence that my brother had just borrowed fifty dollars from me that morning and your negligee was \$49.99. After all of this, I still loved you and felt that we could work it out. So when I discovered that I had hit the lotto for ten million dollars, I quit my job and bought us two tickets to Jamaica. But when I got home, you were gone. Everything happens for a reason, I guess. I hope you have the fulfilling life you always wanted. My lawyer says with your letter that you wrote, you won't get a dime from me. So take care.

P.S. I don't know if I ever told you this, but Carl, my brother, was born Carla. I hope that's not a problem.

Signed, Rich as Hell and Free!