



USS YosemiteAD-19 Association

From Bill Krug
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USS Yosemite Reunion 2023



February 7, 2023

Fellow Association Members, Former Sailors, Friends, & Family

I hope this finds all of you in good health and spirits. Please take the time to look at our Website and notice some of its stories. Alphonso, our webmaster, has worked hard to keep it up to date, and it serves as a resource for the prior Yosemite crew members and their families to be reminded of a great ship the USS Yosemite was for 50 years and its service to our country.

I know some of you belong to other Associations, especially those that have been on Destroyers (Tin Cans), and like us, they often struggle to keep track of members and their current status. We have a distinct advantage with a crew of over a thousand at a time; wow, many people have served aboard the Yosemite since world war two.

Many of our crew in the Newport area migrated there after leaving the Ship. They serviced other ships in other regions of the North East with different homeports that they settled there after their discharge or retirement. Later in Yosemite's life, Mayport, Florida, became the dominant homeport. Jacksonville and the surrounding areas still have many of our Yosemite people.

I was an old fellow aboard the "Busy Lady" with over 22 years of service (91-93), but there were a lot of much younger sailors, some just beginning their Naval Service. Our strategy is to focus on the Jacksonville area to gain some of the later crews and, in many cases, younger people to keep our group going.

Our Reunions allow us to return to our past lives, relationships, and history. You will find the cycle is very much the same, no matter what timeframe you were on the Ship. You start doing a job that's part of the overall scope in the chain of command to protect our nation and its interests. Through the years, you continue the work at your job that may even change as new conflicts evolve around the world. We are all different people at different times in history, doing our part and doing our best to serve our country. Our naval duty is the glue that binds us together as sailors.

The USS Yosemite had a newspaper that was published monthly. It was called "**THE Y'S WORD**"



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I was reminded of that by a brief communication I got from Andrew Lorentz, that filled out a form on our Website asking some questions. I see many things like this as a result of our Website. It's not just about the Ship's history but about the crew's experiences, day-to-day work, teaming to achieve objectives, free time & leisure moments, friendships, camaraderie, discipline to keep going, exciting events, YO-YO as the temporary home of a fellowship and being part of a large military operation with a legacy. There was pride in what we accomplished, and being part of it will always be remembered.

At any rate, Andrew had the good fortune of inheriting all the Yosemite memorabilia that his grandfather had. His grandfather was a Plank Owner, and he had in his possession Vol.1 NO. 1 issue of the "**THE Y'S WORD**," and while it was old and tattered, it was noted to be the first issue.

Additionally, he had a Ship's Photo that had the Ship's special paint job making it difficult to identify on the high seas. I also have a very old picture of the Ship nested with a whole group of Tin Cans (Destroyers) with a unique paint job. I sent him a copy of my picture and went into my Yosemite Archives to find Vol.1 NO.5 and Vol.1 NO.6 of "**The Y'S WORD**". I shared those with him and several pictures of the Ship from different time-periods.

Also, I invited him to join us at the Jacksonville Reunion this year. I need all of you to seriously get moving in the direction of the Reunion and send Mike your registration forms. But we will get back to that. Also, any friends you have connected with the Yosemite, don't hesitate to get them to sign-up and enjoy our Reunion.

So while I feel like we could connect in writing about the Ship's past, there is something much more personal when you can chat with a drink, share some food, and are surrounded by Yosemite people in the Hospitality Room. I am speaking about the 2023 Reunion. So please join us and bring a special gift for us to Raffle off on Saturday evening. It does not have to be an item from the Ship, just a special gift.

I make it a habit to go through some of my treasure trove of Yosemite items and try to find some duplicates or items I feel I have enjoyed long enough and bring them to put with raffle items. Some of my best things were made on the Ship in the foundry, machine shop, or carpenter shop. Some lucky person will surely get something from the Ship that can't be bought in any store.



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I also know that some things just can't be put off. I told a lot of folks that had prior commitments last year to pencil in the date of our 2023 Reunion. Turnout is vital as we estimate the number of attendees to get our room, meal, and tour rates. We will wind up paying for what we estimated with or without that number. Perhaps we could get a projected yes or no about a month before our Reunion to try to be more accurate.

I am open to any suggestions. Please encourage anyone you know that is associated with the Yosemite to come and join us. Family members are all welcome. People always ask me if we will have people at our Reunion who would have known a father or grandfather. Fact is it all depends on who comes. When you come this year, please think about the following:

- Where would you like to have the 2024 Reunion / let's consider places on the East Coast as most of our membership is or has been on the East Coast? We could even do Jacksonville again if we succeed with the numbers this year and continue to draw in new people. Those that just came, do you know people in the area? Let's get the word out. Invite them!
- How can we make our Reunions better?
- Last year we had a Raffle and an Auction it was a first, but with some of the unique items that were donated, especially from the Williams Family, it was important to do that. This gave people a chance to possibly get an item they really liked. What do you think?
- Consider bringing a family member(s) with you so they can see what our group is all about.
- Last year we made some very significant changes; family members can hold office and positions. In some cases, the family members are doing the work behind the scenes anyway.
- Consider taking a position on the Board of Directors, VP, or President. We will need someone to continue this important task. Because of his efforts, our financial state has been and is stable.
- My wife, Wendy, has stepped up and relieved Cooper of his duties running the Ship's store. We have been doing business, too and it is so good to have some new people wanting to get items to remind them or family members of the Yosemite. One gentleman that was once on the Ship (Major Coleman) purchased 28 Ships Patches and some Pins for a kindergarten class in Barlett, IL. They sent him a veteran's day letter and colored pictures, and he felt it would make a massive difference in their lives getting a letter from him and gifts from the Yosemite Ship's store.



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- If you know of a crew member that has recently passed or surviving spouse that has passed of that crew member, please share this information with me by email so we can mention them at the Reunion.
- If you know of someone that has been involved with the association for a long time that has passed, we would like to send the family a Certificate of Appreciation. Please let me know.
- Bring your sea stories to the Reunion and we will capture them and, with your blessing, and put some on our Website.
- We will be creating a ballot for voting at the Reunion. If any members wish to be listed for a position, please let me know by April 1, 2023.
- Items you may want by at the Reunion from the Ships Store should be communicated to Wendy Krug; please look at the inventory on our Website

In closing, I think we are near enough now to the Reunion that people should be deciding whether it works for them or not.

So in the spirit of pushing for more members and getting those who already belong to join us at our Reunion, please read about the 2023 Reunion then complete the Registration Form after making hotel reservations.

We can begin the process today to sign-up for the Reunion. You will find the Registration Form, hotel information, agenda, and tour information as a supplement on our Website

Also, I want to remind you that Sunday – Thursday is cheaper regarding room costs, but the Hotel has averaged out the price if Wednesday through Saturday is booked. Some people had some difficulty booking at the Hotel. I shared my point of contact, Sales Coordinator's direct line: **Mary at 904-899-9502**. Mary is here most days between 9:30 and 5:00 Monday-Friday. Tell her you are with the "USS Yosemite Group "code "USY. She can take care of all of their needs, especially if they want an Accessible room.

Or anyone can use the link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=JAXJAE&groupCode=CESUYA&arrivaldate=2023-04-26&departuredate=2023-04-30&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>



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You are right, this link shows the "blended rate" of \$144, which is the averaged out rate.

As your President, I am honored to serve you. But I feel sure new blood brings new ideas and often needed change. I also think we have some excellent leadership potential out in this group. I feel sure someone can do a better job, and I want to vote for you! Let me know.

All the Best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)

President USS Yosemite Association