



## USS YosemiteAD-19 Association

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November 2024 Newsletter

November 19, 2024

### Fellow Association Members, Former Sailors, Friends, and Family,

I hope this finds all of you in good spirits as we proceed into the Holiday Season. I hope you all have a wonderful time with family and friends and safe travel wherever you venture. Thanksgiving will be upon us very soon, and I am thankful we are at peace in this great Country.

I ask that you take a moment to think of our Navy Sailors (Men & Women) onboard deployed units in harm's way, whether in the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf. These Sailors are on guard for us 24 hours a day. I was on the Yosemite during the war for her last deployment in the Med and Gulf. It turned out to be the last Deployment of the Ship. I recall all of us being very focused on our jobs and the reality that mines had been placed in the waters around us and that we were vital to neutralizing, removing and restoring them to provide physical evidence to our Country in many locations the dangers that were present during the Gulf War.

Our fellow Navy Sailors on deployed units are making it possible for our way of life to continue. I have enclosed a picture of the Yosemite Thanksgiving Day Dinner invitation aboard the United States Ship, the USS Yosemite, from November 23, 1944. As we celebrate our Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for their efforts when this ship began its service to the fleet.

I am always amazed that the USS Yosemite was in service for 50 years. Having been on the last crew deployed, I can attest that we did not win every competitive award by accident. The ship was in fine material condition with a crew that was inspired to do its very best under the leadership of Capt. Chuck Tuck. We in the Repair Department dedicated ourselves to fixing other ships and ensuring the Yosemite was kept in top Material Condition.

I am incredibly proud to be alongside Cdr. Phil Johnson (Repair Officer) and help us accomplish our overall mission. We were a team led by an experienced and competent professional who knew his people and allowed all of us at every level to do our job, as ARO Production was the name of the game. I attribute my success to the leadership



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team in place, from the Petty Officers to the Chiefs and Warrant Officers.

In the end, all of us could look back at our time during the Gulf War and know that, from our perspective, things went as well as they could. We were one group, the Crew of Yosemite! Leadership starts at the top. We not only had an excellent CO but two fine XOs as well. LCDR Deborah Salfer was the last XO and was a great sport, tolerating a great deal from the Repair Department. We were, to put it lightly, a very colorful group. It was fitting that she would become the final Commanding Officer.

Today, our fellow Sailors are in harm's way as Sailors during the 1944 Thanksgiving. Both the Sailors, now and of yesteryear, are in a very similar situation with a dangerous world around them and the possibility of aggression at any moment. As most of you know, areas like the Red Sea do not give you a lot of warning when a Missile or Drone is coming at your ship from shores that seem far too close to begin with. I can only empathize with those who must be constantly alert 24 hours daily for what might happen next.

All of us who have served on this incredible ship have reason to be proud of the time we served and our devotion to our Navy and Country. It was a time of hard work and long hours with a greater purpose beyond ourselves and the duty of commitment. We must come together as a group and share our past and our stories. So much happens during deployments that the general public does not catalog or know. We keep all that alive as we enlighten one another and relive our best time together. Please join us at our 2025 Reunion.

I hope that as we get closer to our upcoming 2025 Reunion at Charleston, S.C., you will note the dates (23-27 April 2025) and keep your calendar focused on our opportunity to spend time together. I know I am asking a lot, as time is precious for all of us, but we need this once-a-year event to reconnect. Bring our past back to life, and enjoy the camaraderie that only people of our naval background can share.

We have two great tours that will give you an incredible feeling of Charleston. I was homeported on three ships out of Charleston, and I can tell you upfront that it is a great city that welcomes tourists. It has always been a Navy-friendly town. While Charleston Naval Station is no longer in place, it once had many ships, including the USS Sierra, our Sister Ship AD-18. The Naval Weapons Station is still in place just outside of Charleston.



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We are now at the point where you can book your discounted Hotel rooms for our Reunion. We expect to see some movement toward booking for our group. I would ask that you review the enclosed Registration form, complete it, and send it in so we can begin our advanced planning based on numbers and learn if we need to change transportation arrangements for our tours. Additionally, I remind all of you that separate from the Registration form, you must book your Hotel independently.

As always, we will have snacks and drinks (wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee & tea) in our Hospitality Room that's only available to our group. Our Hospitality Room is the perfect backdrop for relaxing, talking, meeting old friends, and making new ones. So many good stories come to light when we get our group together.

Additionally, those who did not meet R/Admiral Deborah Leower at our previous Reunion may spend time with her. When we last talked, she was optimistic about attending our Charleston Reunion. Yosemite was her first ship. Our 2025 Reunion will be held in the South to support better those who could not make the trip to Rhode Island this year.

I hope you are as excited as I am to get together again at our next Reunion. The next Reunion will be the best Reunion ever. It's centrally located on the east-coast. Our 2025 Charleston Reunion is only a 4-hour car ride from Jacksonville, Florida. Please join us!

Our Raffle and Auction will be better than ever at our next Reunion. Just today, John Shanx sent me a USS Yosemite Lighter from the 50s for us to have as part of our auction or raffle. His uncle was in the Navy, and among his things when the family went through them was this Zippo Lighter from Yosemite with the ship on one side and the ship's logo on the other side (Yosemite Mountain and Mountain Lion).

I will ask all of you to start thinking about what extraordinary things you will bring to be in our Raffle or Auction. Items that came from the ship are always a big hit. Quite often, people have items for a long time, and then, one day, they decide they can part with them. Sometimes, they even have duplicates. But we will happily share it with the group no matter what you choose to bring.

Whoever thought we would have a complete set of Original Blueprints of the Ship to auction off (Alphonso, our Webmaster), or a very large (Larger than I have seen as the



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ARO) brass ships plaque donated by Rear Admiral Leower for the 2024 Reunion Auction. So, put your imagination to work and find something interesting to add to the festivities.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.

So, mark your calendar for April 23-27, 2025 and plan to join us at our 2025 Reunion in Charleston. I will keep you updated as we proceed, and when we have the link to book Hotel Rooms, you will have it. I hope this finds all of you in good health and spirits. It is my honor to work on your behalf to support our great traditions.

Wishing you all the best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)  
President USS Yosemite Association