



USS YosemiteAD-19 Association

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March 2025 Newsletter

March 13, 2025

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

We are just weeks away from our Charleston event. Our Reunion is all about you; with your attendance, our once-a-year trip back to Yosemite time will not be the same. I know Charleston, as I was once on four ships and an MSB out of Charleston. The city is, by all means, a Navy Town. It has the charm of the South and much to see and do in this beautiful city.

I planned to shift the Reunion from the North to the South to round up as many people as possible. We are down to the short strokes now. Our reserved room block is only good till April 1, and I have already been asked to predict how many additional guests we will expect in the next few days. I know issues come up for all of us, and many people had scheduling problems last year. Please talk to those you know and encourage them to come and support our get-together Reunion.

Lots of planning has gone into offering you the most for your dollars. Those who missed seeing Rear Admiral Deborah Loewer in Providence may have the chance to see her this year. She, too, expressed strong interest in trying to clear her calendar so that she can see many of you in Charleston.

Additionally, our Secretary, Tina, has contacted the CDR, *Jim Jewell*, who was a prior XO on Yosemite. He wrote a book called *Steel Decks and Glass Ceilings*. The book is exclusively about his time on the USS Yosemite. We will have several signed copies of this book at the Reunion and some unsigned versions. Thanks to Tina, many of you will have the opportunity to have one. I think we are talking about 10+ in total. Both Deborah and Jim



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were on the Yosemite at the same time. Hearing stories about their time on the "Busy Lady" will be exciting listening about history.

Remember the great things you can get with just one Raffle Ticket. Our Auction will also have some great Yosemite items you will find nowhere else. Remember to bring something special to share with the group. I have received feedback from families that lost loved ones who were once on the ship and want things to return to the crew via the Raffle or Auction. I am excited about what we will have to share with the group and I know you should be too.

For many years, the USS Belknap was the 6th Fleet Flagship. Needless to say, while deployed in the Med and Gulf, we (Yosemite) always had the opportunity to address the needs of our Flagship. Many of you also know that the USS Lasalle was the 5th Fleet Flagship for a long time. That Great White Ship. The Great White Ghost of the Persian Coast, as it was called. In the early 90's, the USS Lasalle was moved from the 5th fleet to the Med and replaced the USS Belknap as the 6th Fleet Flagship.

During that time and for the last 4 years of my career, I served at CTF-63 as the AOIC and then the OIC of Ship Repair Unit Naples and Bahrain (5th and 6th Fleet). I will have the 6th Fleet Flagship Port Engineer (Ronald "Ron" Warrington) as my special guest at this coming Reunion. He was responsible for all Maintenance needs of the 6th Fleet Flagship. While most of their needs were met by Ship Repair Unit Naples, our deployed Tender often did significant work that civilian contractors could not do for a whole host of reasons. Yosemite always answered the call when the Flagship required work, be it Belknap or Lasalle. So we are honored to have this prestigious guest, Ron Warrington, at our Reunion.

At this year's Reunion, we will have a Hospitality Room full of fun people, a great Raffle and an Auction. We need you all to help us make this Reunion



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successful and the best. We only meet once a year. Please do your part, make the effort, and join this memorable get-together.

I would also encourage you to figure out who should fill some key USS Yosemite Association positions. While I am honored to have served you for many years as VP and President, it is time for new leadership. I will be happy to hear the names of those you feel can lead you into the future.

Additionally, Cooper has taken on the treasurer position and is looking for a replacement. Please give me input before the BOD meeting on Friday.

If you haven't yet sent in your Reunion Registration form, please do so now. Remember to make your hotel reservations and advise the hotel that you are part of the USS Yosemite Reunion Group, as we have a special rate and breakfast is included with the room. Give them our code "UYA" as listed on the Reunion Registration Forms and the information enclosed. Please act on this now.

So, mark your calendar for April 23-27, 2025 and plan to join us at our 2025 Reunion in Charleston. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion.

Wishing you all the best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)

President USS Yosemite Association