



## USS Yosemite AD-19 Association

From Bill Krug [w.krugiii@gmail.com](mailto:w.krugiii@gmail.com)  
Cell Phone (570) 878-2860



September 2025 Newsletter

September 27, 2025

Fellow Association Members, Former Sailors, Yosemite Families, Supporters of Yosemite, and Friends,

I am pleased to inform all of you that detailed planning is underway to support our next Reunion in Annapolis, Maryland, from April 22 to 26, **2026**. Those of you who were able to attend the previous Charleston Reunion know how much fun it was. To date, I have heard nothing but positive feedback from those who were able to participate.

Our previous Reunion tours went off without a hitch; people spent lots of time in our Hospitality Room, which was big enough for all events. We had a great Raffle/Auction. We came out ahead in the end, which means we covered all our costs. I must say that I had a blast with the Auction and Raffle; participation could not have been better. The only thing missing was some of you who were unable to attend.

The 2026 Reunion can include you. We want and need you to be a part of it. Our numbers were good, and between you and me, that is what makes it all worthwhile for everyone, including me as your President and event planner.

Getting together once a year and having lots of fun with all those special people who once occupied our great Ship is a priority. It's a chance to reconnect with old friends and an opportunity to make new ones. Our 2026 Reunion is the perfect venue to exchange old sea stories and reminisce about the day on board the "Bust Lady". I don't have to tell you our numbers are getting smaller every year. Therefore, there is a pressing need to meet our fellow sailors and share our experiences of the past.

For me, it seems like yesterday when I reflect on our time deployed. I always remind people of the great advantage we have as an organization,



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with a crew of 1,200 or more, in service for 50 years. Compared to crews on Destroyers that may be in service for 8-10 years, we really have the numbers.

Our Website receives a lot of attention, and our Ship's store is consistently sending items to many people who are not part of our Association. I am now writing notes with the orders inviting those who need a Hat or Challenge Coin to come to our Reunion.

I ask all of you to contact anyone you know and stay in touch with from the past to join us. Additionally, if you have a close friend or Navy acquaintance with whom you know, please invite them to join us at the 2026 Reunion.

Our priority is to have fun at our reunions. It's all about gathering together with food, drink, and conversation to have a great time. If you have older children, feel free to bring them along! This is a Family Event.

I have invited one of my friends to join us, who was once my Division Officer when I was a First Class on the Joseph Hewes. He is significant to me, as when I made Chief, he was my Attorney. He drank more Truth Serum than I had to. He worked hard to defend me. Additionally, when I was commissioned as an Officer, he was a guest, and that meant a great deal to me.

So what I am saying is, this is an "All Hands Evolution" we need to surround ourselves with people we are happy to be with and make our Annapolis 2026 Reunion one of the best. Please reach out to those you know from the Ship, whether they are association members or not, to encourage them to join our Reunion. We find that people who come to our Reunions often become members.

For the 2026 Reunion, I worked on the menu today with our information from Helms Brisco and the Hotel Sales Manager, and the choices will be



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great. While I have the current pricing for each menu choice, I have requested that they consider offering a discount on their standard advertised price. Sometimes we get a special Military Group Rate. However, rest assured, the food will be delicious. We charge you what it costs us with no extra fee, and sometimes even absorb costs that are invisible to you.

## Dinner Menu

All plated dinners include: warm rolls and butter, freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee, hot water, herbal tea selection and iced tea.

### Starters

Fresh field salad – Mixed green lettuce, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, onions, and cheddar cheese served with the chef's choice dressing.

### Select From Entrées

#### Sirloin Steak

Pan-seared 10oz sirloin steak with sautéed onions, mushrooms & garlic butter. Served with garlic mashed potatoes and the chef's seasonal vegetables

#### Four Cheese Encrusted Salmon

Salmon topped with a 4-Cheese Blend and then baked with a lemon caper blanc sauce, served with vegetables and potatoes.

#### Vegetable Tortellini

With rose sauce or vegan red pepper coulis.

#### Chicken Piccata

Dusted in seasoned flour, then pan-seared with lemon caper beurre blanc. Served with rice pilaf and the chef's choice seasonal vegetables.



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## Desserts

\*\*\* Chef's Dessert Trio (mini cheesecake, eclair/cream puff, and chocolate)

Once we have fully negotiated the tours and finalized the prices for the food I have selected, we will attach a registration form to a brief follow-up newsletter, focusing on the tours and menu.

## Hotel - Crowne Plaza Annapolis

However, please be aware that the Room Rate is \$139.00 per night, which includes breakfast. I will remind everyone that we will be sending out a separate registration form with detailed food items for your selection and Tour information.

First and foremost, please remember that the Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel Room booking is entirely separate, and the sooner you make the booking, the better. Numbers always have an impact on our ability to negotiate on your behalf. **This hotel requires our booking to start now.**

We have plenty of time to lay out our food requirements consistent with their time frames. While I understand that the rule has been waiting until we get closer to booking the room, I am asking you to make an exception. Please book your room now.

At the 2025 Reunion, I ended up losing projected numbers for room bookings and slots reserved for the Yosemite Group\* (see code below) because the initial numbers were low. Then I had to jump through hoops to get more rooms added on in the end. I was fortunate to be able to get the additional people at our rate. I want to mark your calendars with our reunion dates and book your Crowne Plaza Annapolis room now. Please



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note that you can cancel your reservation and get a refund up to 24 hours before the Reunion. So, please do us a favor and book the Crowne Plaza Annapolis hotel room today.

When you make your reservation, you can receive our special negotiated rate up to 3 days before our Reunion if you want to arrive early, or 3 days after our event if you plan to spend more time in Annapolis.

\* **Make sure you use Group Code *YRR* , tell them you are part of the USS Yosemite Reunion**

\* **Crowne Plaza Annapolis:** Use the Hotels Direct Number 410-571-1501. If you have a problem, please call the Hotel Reservations Specialist at 1-855-223-1441. If you are having an issue, please call me directly at 570-878-2860.

A credit card is needed at the time of booking. Our rate is \$139.00, which includes breakfast for the room's occupants. This rate does not include tax. Which we all know every state has. Crowne Plaza Annapolis Reservations can be cancelled 24 hours before the intended arrival date.

So please, even if things could change for you, book in advance, and it will help us as a group get the best deals as we negotiate food to support our Hospitality Room. We will have a great Hospitality Room with drinks and snacks.

Mark your calendar, make a plan, and very soon, we will begin collecting numbers for the Banquet Dinner and Tours. Making plane reservations in advance can save you money. Many people at the last Reunion were able to get copies of the book written by Cdr. Jim Jewell, a prior XO of Yosemite. I will have signed and unsigned copies with me at the next Reunion. Trust me, it is a good read.

Start thinking about what special gift you will bring to the event. Talk to





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friends about our Reunion.

Those who have visited the Annapolis area know that the entire area is very quaint and features great little shops and restaurants. I am confident that when it is all said and done, this will be marked as one of our best Reunions, but that starts with those who make it memorable.

I will say I was extremely pleased to have a large Florida / Southern State group at our Charleston Reunion. The numbers were impressive, and they are an extremely active group, closing down the Hospitality Room each night. I would be remiss not to mention some of the special help I received. I received some special help from two of our prior shipmates who lived in Goose Creek, South Carolina (Jenifer and Christian Beilstein), who did a lot of footwork on my behalf, saving me from having to travel to the area to see things in person. I was happy to get to spend time with them at the Reunion.

They were critical to us finalizing the Hotel Choice. Tina Smith was instrumental in our getting the books from Cdr. Jewell. I also appreciate her ongoing efforts to get out the Newsletter.

Last but not least, we have Cooper, our Treasurer, who works closely with me to ensure that people are paid for our events in advance and after the fact.

I am always pleased with our Leadership team as we proceed year to year. We have a great Board of Directors. We also had a Great Guest of Honor with some great entertainment, while Ron Warrington, the Port Engineer for the 6th Fleet Flagship, reflected on my past while I was the OIC of CTF-63's Ship Repair Unit in Naples / Bahrain. He put on a full show that included him playing music with pictures to boot. I wasn't expecting such a quality "Roast".



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The previous year, we had Rear Admiral Deborah Loewer as our special guest and our Webmaster, Alphonso Montibello. The man behind the scenes who makes our Website the best it can be. Most people never get to see him in person. We can only hope Alphonso will make another appearance so more people can meet him and perhaps his wife as well.

You can be sure we will have a fun-filled Reunion with lots of interesting people. I will be extending special invitations to key figures from our past, and I hope that those of you who joined us last year and in Jacksonville will make a special effort to be with us again.

Remember, this is all about a great ship with great crews that only get the opportunity to be together once a year, for the most part. Some of our Florida members do it more often locally, and I frequently wish I could join them. However, this is our Association's once-a-year event, featuring tours, great food and drink, and an excellent hotel, and we are happy for the time we have.

Please join our effort to keep this Ship Memorable. It was such a great experience for all of us. Mark your calendar for April 22-26, 2026, and plan to join us at our 2026 Reunion in Annapolis, Maryland.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion.

Wishing you all the best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)

President USS Yosemite Association