



USS Yosemite AD-19 Association
From Bill Krug w.krugiii@gmail.com
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July 2026 Newsletter

The 3th of July, 2026

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

I am very pleased to share with you the news of another successful USS Yosemite Reunion. Those who attended the Annapolis Reunion had a great time. I have had nothing but positive feedback.

At the Reunion, the tours were enjoyed by all, and the area was a lot of fun, with small, quaint bars and good food to support local shopping. The Hospitality Room was spacious, and, as usual, the Banquet Dinner, Auction and Raffle went over very well. We always have some really good finds and so much fun during the event.

At the Banquet Dinner, I shared a letter that the first Commanding Officer (George Towner) read to his crew at the One-Year Anniversary Dinner on the ship. He spelled out the efforts of his crew to produce a "*Fine Ships Spirit*" and "*Reputation that was the Best*" as they now called themselves the "*Mighty Y*". Our Banquet Dinner was special as it represented the Best of Yosemite from all prior years.



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With respect to the Hospitality Room, we did something new for those who did not have the opportunity to join us: each night (Wed-Fri), we had \$400.00 worth of food delivered from the Hotel to the Hospitality Room for the group's enjoyment. This approach meant that, in some cases, you could skip going out to get dinner. We will do this approach at our next Reunion as well. I can't speak beyond that, as I might not be your President.

This new approach to food delivery at the Hospitality Room is a major improvement that will help us keep a captive group of crew members there at all times. We had a very reasonable spread of drinks to support our festivities, and they had a hard time keeping up with our group. I spent a lot of time having them restock our bar.

The decision was made to hold our next Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida. It will hopefully encourage some of those who were unable to attend this past Reunion to plan to come. I find our Florida group to be the life of the party. I do have one request. Our Florida people need to stay at the Hotel, and they will definitely have fun at the Hospitality Room with our new approach. We can't have people drinking and then getting on the road to drive home. It's much safer to stay in excellent



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accommodations that you and your spouse will enjoy. I know some will be tempted to save the money, but our Reunion is a terrific value. Quality of life and sharing your experience with your shipmates are more important, because life is too short. We came to Florida to support having you with us. Please work with us here. We need everyone to encourage all prior crew members, and in some cases, your close friends, to join us.

At the Reunion, I had Dan Bereck, a Naval Academy Graduate who taught at Surface Warfare Officer School, and my prior Division Officer from the Joseph Hewes. He was our Guest of Honor. He spoke to our group at the Banquet Dinner and shared some of his past, recalling representing me at my Chief's Initiation as my Attorney. I remembered him having to drink a lot of truth serum. Lots of charges in my green charge book. He was also at my Commissioning Ceremony, no required drinks at that.

So I think if you have a special person from your past you want to share the USS Yosemite Reunion with, let's do it!

Yes, once again, Ron Warrington, the prior 6th Fleet Flagship Port Engineer, was with us. That's two years in a row, and, as usual, he was a wild card. Ron plans to join us again in



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Jacksonville and will be working on input for our tours while there. This time, his trip will be shorter as he lives in Florida.

Speaking of Florida, I had the pleasure of speaking with Capt. Chuck Tuck. He was my CO for the Yosemite's last deployments before Decommissioning. He, too, lives in Florida at least part of the year. When I caught up with him, he was in Texas, where he can be found for the rest of the year. He is still very much alive and kicking.

Capt. Chuck Tuck is a member of our group and sends his best to all of you. If he is not in Texas next April, he will try to join us. Those who served with him know that, before going out of Commission, Yosemite met and exceeded all expectations under his leadership. He inspired his crew to do the best they could 24-7.

Serving as the ARO was one of the highlights of my Naval Career. I had a great boss who micromanaged no one: the Repair Officer, Cdr. Phil Johnson was a standalone guy in my book. He had an accident just before our deployment. He cared so much about his Department that he was not staying behind. He came aboard to deploy in an ankle cast, promising our good Captain he would minimize movement. I consider it an honor to



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have been on the ship with Phil for its last time in the Med and the Persian Gulf during the war.

Our motto was "***If we can't fix it, It's not broken***". The "Battle Tender" lived up to its name. We fixed ships in a war zone, destroyed & recovered mines and then restored some. I also think it is ironic that the majority of the people who join me at the Reunions spent time on the ship before my arrival.

Consistently, I ask that you share our Reunion information with as many people as possible. Now, with Yosemite in our past, we have become one big crew. Our Reunions are a chance to come together once again, share our past and enjoy one another's company. It makes no difference when you were on the ship; we all lived the "busy lady" and did our duty—just different moments in time, but always the same ship.

Our next Reunion

Please look ahead and begin your advanced planning to be a part of our Reunion in 2027. April in Jacksonville (21-25 April 2027) is a great time of the year to be outside and go on tours. We will be staying at the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Airport for \$129.00 per night, which includes breakfast and our Hospitality Room with drinks & food. Our Reunions always



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start on a Wednesday and end on Sunday. Guests can arrive 3 days prior and stay 3 days longer at the same rate. Complementary pick up and return to the Airport from the Hotel. Additional details on tours and other special events will be published when plans are finalized.

Some of our Florida people have suggested we meet at the local American Legion Post for "**Steak Night**" Friday night. Sounds good to me. They do have a smoke-free room we could be in, and perhaps set up a small bar there. It is all in advanced planning.

I have a committee working on tours, and that, combined with input from our usual agency that supports us (Helms Brisko). We will determine what tours will be offered. With respect to the Hotel, we are getting special room pricing that includes free parking, and all of our meeting space for all events is covered by the Hotel, on the condition that we meet the projected room block and food and beverage projections.

Now, it is very important that, before the event (90 days), I reconfirm the meeting room space requirements and the Banquet Dinner headcount. So while in the past people have waited till the last minute to make a plan, please do it sooner this year. If



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you could please help us out with an early commitment, that would be excellent.

If we predict 60 people for the banquet dinner and fewer sign up, we pay for 60. Additionally, if the numbers are much higher, we pay an additional fee. So we need to be timely and accurate. I would love to know who is planning to come well in advance, and then, if an emergency happens, we will find a way to cover it. In the next newsletter, I will include the Banquet Dinner choices, a list of tours and details on additional offerings (**Steak Night**).

As we approach our 4th of July celebration. Please know that all of you have played an important role in defending our Country and its values and reputation. I send my special thanks to all of you for being a part of our Association. Please enjoy your Holiday and stay safe as we move into the summer.

In closing, I would like to mention a Yosemite Crew member that some may know. Ray Reker, who turns 101 in September. His pastor sent me a treasure trove of Yosemite information that he collected. He was at the Decommissioning Ceremony and an active Association Member for many years. He is currently in a Nursing Home (Good Samaritan) in Sioux Falls, SD. I will be



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sending him a letter wishing him well. Anyone who knows him can send me their comments, and I will pass them on.

Wishing you all the best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)

President USS Yosemite Association