

The USS Yosemite (AD-19)

“The Busy Lady”



Dixie-Class Destroyer Tender

Laid down: 19 January 1942 — Tampa Shipbuilding Company, Tampa, Florida

Launched: 16 May 1943

Commissioned: 25 March 1944

Decommissioned: 27 January 1994

USS Yosemite, the fourth Navy vessel to bear the name, honored Yosemite National Park and served nearly fifty years as a floating repair facility, keeping America's destroyers battle-ready wherever the fleet sailed.

Fitted with machine shops, foundries, and specialized repair equipment, Yosemite deployed to the Pacific during World War II, servicing warships at forward bases including Eniwetok, Ulithi, and Leyte Gulf as Allied forces pushed toward Japan. In the postwar decades she made Newport, Rhode Island until 1969 and then Mayport, Florida 1969-1994 her home port, standing ready during the Cuban Missile Crisis and serving tours in the Mediterranean as flagship for the Commander, Service Force, Sixth Fleet.

Through the Korean and Vietnam Wars and beyond, Yosemite's crew kept the fleet at sea — and in 1992 turned that same readiness toward home, delivering disaster relief to South Florida in the wake of Hurricane Andrew.

During 1983 and 1984, the Yosemite served as the first regular Navy ship with female sailors and officers permanently assigned aboard for operations at sea. Future Rear Admiral Deborah A. Loewer was among the pioneering group of female officers assigned during this historic integration phase

At her decommissioning, Yosemite stood as the last active destroyer tender in the United States Navy — a fitting close to five decades of quiet, essential service.

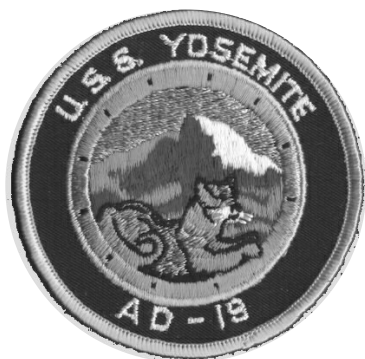
"Not by the battles she fought, but by the fleet she kept fighting."

Unit Commendations and Citations

- Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation: 2 awards
- Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation: 2 awards
- Navy Battle "E" Ribbon: 5 to 6 awards

Campaign and Service Medals

- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal (with Asia clasp)
- National Defense Service Medal (3 awards)
- Navy Expeditionary Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Southwest Asia Service Medal
- Sea Service Deployment Ribbon
- Philippines Liberation Medal
- Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)



Presented with Pride by the USS Yosemite Association