



USS Yosemite AD-19 Association
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September 2026 Newsletter

September 1, 2026

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

I hope you're all looking forward to the next time we get together. If you've visited our website, you already have the inside scoop on what's to come at Reunion 2027. Please take a moment and mark your calendar for 21-25 April 2027.

We will be in Jacksonville once again to celebrate with you all who have been on the Yosemite during its 50 years in service. It doesn't matter if you were on the Yosemite when it was referred to as the YO-YO, Busy Lady, Battle Tender, Ship with Helping Hands, Mighty "Y", or whatever name you know this great ship by. We come together as a group with friends and family to recall our experiences in the spirit of camaraderie.

When I turn on the news daily to see what is going on in the world, I am reminded of the significant role our Navy plays. Often I wonder if anyone misses the services of a Tender. My last time on board was during the Gulf War, and we traveled with the Battle Group fixing ships. Ships that weren't close had the benefit of our Fly Away Teams. Many of you were part of



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these service activities, either during my time on board or before it.

The Tender kept ships at sea and made it possible to avoid pulling into port for repairs of any kind. With the current situation in the Gulf, it is clear ships are staying on station and liberty is all but non-existent. Supplies that once came from Bahrain now, in most cases, come from Diego Garcia and other faraway places. What I found interesting is that no matter when you were on the ship, many events were the same. Listening to the Sea Stories ties it all together at our Reunion. Memories while aboard the Yosemite come rushing back, while talking to a fellow sailor with a common bond.

When people first come to our Reunion, they want to know who will be there from their time on the ship. Then, after attending our Reunion, it becomes clear: we are one big crew, no matter when you were on board. As the years pass, you begin to know those who attend, create new relationships, sustain old ones and meet new & old friends. Each Reunion you attend keeps us together and reinforces our friendships.

With a crew of 1200 or more, you often didn't even know everyone on board. During our Reunions, we share time in the



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Hospitality Room and go on tours as a group, so we have time to talk and get to know Yosemite People in a whole different way. I hope all of you reach out to those you stay in touch with and encourage them to be a part of what we do throughout the year.

We have made some changes in the last two years regarding the Hospitality Room. In the past, the Hospitality Room had snacks and drinks. At the last two Reunions, we ordered real food Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights for our members and guests to eat. Additionally, we have kept our bar stocked with Beer, Wine and a whole spread of Hard Liquor. Of course, we will still have normal snacks too.

The plan is to use the Hospitality Room as a social gathering place to keep people at the Hotel and avoid going out for food. This year we are expanding the amount of delicious food that we will have. I am working closely with the Hotel staff so we can offer a nice spread of fresh meals at no cost to you. In the past, we have had pizzas, wraps of different kinds, sliders, pulled pork, etc.

Please keep in mind we try to make our Reunions as affordable as possible. Notice our Banquet Dinner Selection this year is \$40.00 no matter what you select. We cover the true cost per



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meal, including taxes and service charges. Additionally, we are offsetting tour costs, so we get as much participation as possible.

In a perfect world, everyone attending the Reunion would stay at the Hotel so they can safely enjoy all the drinking they want without having to head home. The discounted room price is \$129.00 per night, with Breakfast included, which is a good deal. My greatest fear is that someone will drink too much and get into an accident after being in the Hospitality Room all evening. Thus, no matter whose fault it is, if it becomes apparent that alcohol is a part of the mix, the consequences will be significant. So the bottom line is that I am asking you to stay with our group at the Hotel and enjoy yourself.

It has been suggested that we do *Steak Night* with the Jacksonville Group at a *Local American Legion Post* that they frequent. We could also consider the Fleet Reserve nearby. My only request is a smoke-free area for our group. I am told this is possible. We may even be able to set up a small bar in our room to avoid going to the main bar, which is in the smoking area. This event is still in the planning stage. I will keep you posted as we move forward.

As an Association, we once planned to have a Yosemite Plaque



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made and installed in Texas at the Admiral Nimitz Museum. Howard Fields led this project, and for reasons I cannot fully understand, it never happened. Howard has done all he could to keep this effort moving forward. I have discussed it with key players in our Association, and it is now a go. Howard once again took charge, and the Plaque has been created and will be officially installed at the Nimitz Museum. The Plaque dedication is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2027, in Fredericksburg, Texas. All association members and their guests are invited to attend. Howard has done a great job. I will keep you updated as we get closer to this date. We will also post a picture of the Plaque on our website so everyone can see the details of Howard's efforts.

In closing, please review our Registration Form, fill it out and send it to Cooper, our Treasurer. Please contact the DoubleTree Hotel directly at **(855)-689-8135 or (904)-256-4586** to make your reservations for the Reunion using our code "*CDT90T*". You cannot wait until the last month or so, as we will lose our room block reserved for the group. To keep our room block at the \$129 per-night discount rate, we have only 3 months. If you plan to attend the Reunion, please make your Hotel Reservation immediately. If things change and you need to cancel, you will receive a 100% refund. We only do this once a year. So please



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help out by making your Hotel Reservations as quickly as possible.

We chose Florida so that as many people as possible can attend the Reunion. Please help make our Reunion a success by attending. I look forward to spending time with all of you.

All the Best,

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