



# YANCEY MEMORIES

Coordinator Message : **George Clifton** - [clifs@ameritech.net](mailto:clifs@ameritech.net)



The Harrisburg reunion is over and we are starting to plan the 2018 reunion for Dallas, Texas. None of the 5 ships attending the reunion this year have ever been to Dallas so it seemed like a good location for next year. The reunion was a big success with over 100 in attendance. The Yancey had 22 attendees even though there were several cancellations due to the hurricanes. Ruth Kroc, the widow of Bob Kroc, drove in Sunday with her son Brian to attend the Banquet Dinner and Memorial Service. Also the Board of Commissioners of Yancey County, North Carolina proclaimed the weekend of the reunion in Harrisburg be declared as

“Yancey Days” in Yancey County to honor the sailors who served aboard the USS Yancey AKA-93. Please read the reunion recap and go to [www.ussyancey.com](http://www.ussyancey.com) for more information and pictures.

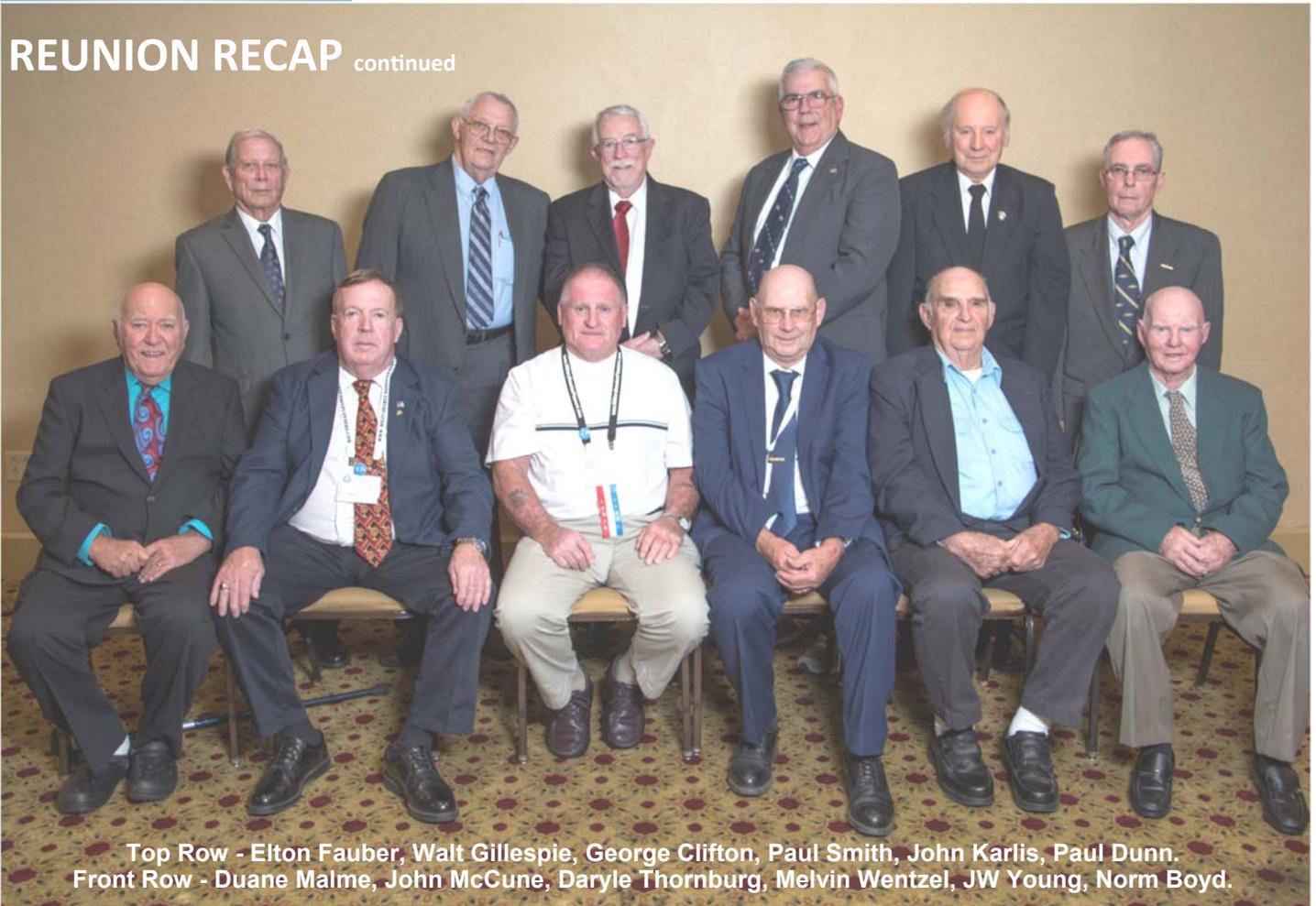
I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. And remember we always need stories of your time aboard the Yancey or any time spent in the Navy. Just send them to Ric Nicastro ([ric@iawards.com](mailto:ric@iawards.com)) or myself.

## 2017 REUNION RECAP: Harrisburg, PA

The reunion began as in past years with registration starting on Thursday afternoon and everyone gathering in the hospitality room to renew old acquaintances or meet new people. At 1700 a local historian, Sheldon Munn, spoke to us about the history of the Harrisburg area. This was followed by our reception dinner.

Friday began with a buffet breakfast before the buses loaded up for a trip to Amish Country. The first stop was the Kitchen Kettle Village home of various shops where you could purchase anything from quilts and baked goods to specialty coffee. We continued our bus tour of the countryside with a stop at an Amish farm where we walked around the grounds followed by stopping at an Amish home for an afternoon snack and to learn more about the Amish way of life. We later returned to the same home for an Amish meal consisting of Chicken pot pie, roast beef and apple pie for desert. (continued on page 2)

## REUNION RECAP continued



As the sun was setting we left Lancaster County for our return to the hotel and the hospitality room.

Gettysburg was our destination for Saturday so two buses departed the hotel at 0930 with Sheldon Munn as our guide. I mention Sheldon because his vast knowledge of Gettysburg and the 1863 three day battle made the tour exceptional. Our first stop in Gettysburg was at the National Park Service Visitors Center. We watched a short movie "The Birth of a New Nation" narrated by Morgan Freeman followed by visiting the Gettysburg Cyclorama. The Cyclorama a 360 painting depicting the final battle of Gettysburg, Pickett's Charge. The Cyclorama is 377 feet long and 42 feet high. After viewing other exhibits in the Center we boarded the buses and after a quick driving tour of the town of Gettysburg we stopped at General Pickett's Buffet for lunch before beginning our tour of the battlefield. After viewing many battle areas and monuments from the bus we disembarked at the "high water mark" on Cemetery Ridge where you can view the entire battlefield. This is where the Union Army fought the final charge from the Confederate Army. Sheldon described the final day to us with enthusiasm. It was surely one of the best guided tours I have been on. After a long day we were all happy to head on back to our hotel and hang in the hospitality room.

Sunday we stayed a little closer to the hotel as we first traveled to Hershey PA, home to the Hershey Chocolate Company. After a tour by bus of the city of Hershey we arrived for a tour of the Hershey factory. This consisted of a Disney like ride through the chocolate making and packaging process. We had time for a quick lunch & shopping in the gift shop before heading back to Harrisburg for a tour of that city. Our last stop was the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg which had 2 floors of exhibits portray-

ing the entire story of the Civil War. Many artifacts were also on display from guns and uniforms to shaving and sewing kits. By now everyone was ready to get back to the hotel and get ready for the Annual Banquet.

The Banquet and Memorial Service was preceded by individual and group pictures in the hospitality room followed by a toast by CDR Ed Gaskell. After dinner we conducted our Memorial Service with John Karlis acting as Chaplain and Ed Gaskell as Bell Ringer. The names of the deceased were read by Skip Sander for the Rankin and George Clifton for the Baxer, Cambria, Pickaway and Yancey. The Memorial Service was followed guest speaker Rick Campbell author of several thrillers with a submarine theme. Rick is a retired US Navy Commander with years in submarine service and a vast knowledge of their operations. This concluded the 2017 Harrisburg reunion.

**Board of Commissioners**  
Johnny Riddle, Chair  
Jill Austin, Vice-chair  
Mark Ledford  
John Stallings  
Jeff Whitson



Nathan R. Bennett  
County Manager  
  
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County Attorney  
  
J. Jason Robinson  
Clerk to the Board

## PROCLAMATION

To Honor the crew members of the

*USS YANCEY AKA-93*

WHEREAS, the USS Yancey was commissioned in honor of Yancey County, North Carolina in October of 1944; and,

WHEREAS, the USS Yancey served as an attack cargo ship during World War II, including the battles of Okinawa and Iwo Jima, and the Korean War and later used during the Cuban blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis; and

WHEREAS, the USS Yancey was honored with five (5) battle stars during World War II and the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, many brave sailors have served admirably and honorably aboard the USS Yancey; and

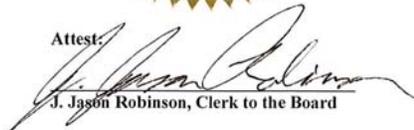
WHEREAS, the reunion of the USS Yancey will be held on September 28, 2017 through October 2, 2017.

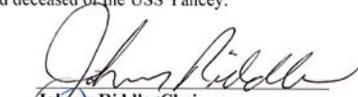
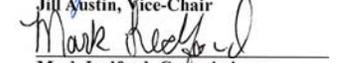
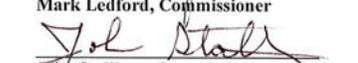
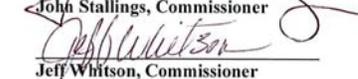
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Yancey County Board of Commissioners, that September 28, 2017 through October 2, 2017 be recognized as USS Yancey days in Yancey County, North Carolina in honor of the crew members both living and deceased of the USS Yancey.

THIS 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF September, 2017.



Attest:

  
J. Jason Robinson, Clerk to the Board

  
Johnny Riddle, Chair  
  
Jill Austin, Vice-Chair  
  
Mark Ledford, Commissioner  
  
John Stallings, Commissioner  
  
Jeff Whitson, Commissioner



## What's Going On in This Picture?

Early 1960's Rockland, Maine were you there, let us know. The story in the next issue.



A Newsletter Exclusively for  
Former USS Yancey (AKA-  
93) Sailors & their Families

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[www.USSYANCEY.com](http://www.USSYANCEY.com)

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## THE WORLD IS OUR BEACHHEAD

### We are Sad to Report the Passing of Bill Suchy:

On returning from the reunion we learned of the passing of Bill Suchy. Bill was on the Yancey 62-66 and retired from the Navy as an MS1 (Mess Management Specialist). Bill and his wife Nancy were regular attendees from the first reunion in Norfolk in 1995 until the 2012 reunion in San Diego. He will be remembered in our prayers.



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## NAVY TERMS & TRIVA

**Bamboozle** In the days of sail Bamboozle meant to deceive a passing vessel as to your ship's origin or nationality by flying an ensign other than your own -- a common practice of pirates.

**Between the Devil and the Deep** In wooden ships, the devil was the longest seam of the ship. It ran from the bow to the stern. When at sea and the devil; had to be caulked, the sailor sat in a bosuns chair to do so. He was suspended between the devil and the sea -- the deep -- a very precarious position, especially when the ship was underway.

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