

YANCEY MEMORIES

Volume 20, Issue 2

October 2016



2016 REUNION RECAP

The USS Yancey and USS Rankin held their third joint reunion at the Double Tree Riverside Hotel on the St. John River in Jacksonville, Florida. Thursday afternoon the well stocked hospitality room opened and everyone began registering and receiving their name tags and tickets for the various events. Many arrived early and used the time before dinner to have a few drinks and snacks while getting reacquainted with old friends and making new ones. At 6:00 everyone was directed to the Amelia room for dinner and the official start of the 2016 Yancey/Rankin Reunion. Ray Casey from Military Reunion Planners greeted everyone and went over the itinerary and other good to know information. After dinner most returned to the hospitality room for a night cap.

Friday was a nice hot and sunny Florida day for our first tour of the reunion. The bus was loaded and we headed over to Blount Island a U.S. Marine facility dedicated to maintaining

equipment for use in confrontations worldwide. We received a briefing on how the operation works and then got to go aboard the USNS Sacagawea. The Sacagawea just returned from Her three years deployment and was mostly empty and rusty. She will be cleaned up, reloaded and redeployed sometime in the future for another three year tour. We had lunch on the base and returned to the hotel for an afternoon and evening on our own.

Saturday was once again a nice hot and sunny day and since our tour didn't begin until afternoon everyone had the morning to relax by the pool, explore the area or just hang around the hospitality room. At least until 10:00 when the Yancey and Rankin business meetings were to convene.

At 1:00 PM we again boarded the bus for the hour trip to St. Augustine, the oldest city in America. Upon arriving we picked up a guide for a

two hour tour of the city starting with a trip across the bridge to Anastasia Island and the St. Augustine Lighthouse. We returned to the city of St. Augustine to continue the narrated tour including sights such as the fort Castillo de San Marcos and the Fountain of Youth. After the riding tour we were on our own for the next four hours to explore St. Augustine on our own and have dinner before our return trip to the hotel.

Sundays tour began with a trip to the Budweiser brewery. The tour included a trip through the brewery with a guide explaining the history behind the Anheuser Busch company and their variety of beers. The tour concluded with a stop in the Tap Room for a sample of one of their many products. Our next stop was a short visit to the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens then returning to the hotel to relax and get ready for the reunion banquet.

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*"Our Reunions Work So
You Don't Have To"*

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At 5:30 people began lining up to have their pictures taken for the Memory book and then adjourning to the hospitality room for cocktails prior to the Banquet dinner. Both ships crews gathered for group pictures before being seated for dinner. Skip Sander acted as MC and requested all rise for the presentation of the

colors by the Marine Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance. Once everyone was seated Ed Gaskell from the Rankin presented a toast followed by Gene Hill from the Yancey singing "I'm Proud to be an American."

Once dinner was completed we held our Memorial Service. John Karlis acting as chaplain read the invocation and led in the prayer recitation. This was followed by the Bell Ceremony

to honor the departed shipmates. Ed Gaskell assisted in ringing the bell after each name was read. Skip Sander read the names of the Rankin shipmates deceased since the last reunion and George Clifton read the names of the Yancey deceased shipmates. The service was concluded with the playing of Taps and a moment of silence. This officially ended the 2016 Jacksonville reunion. Many retired to the hospitality room to say their goodbyes until next year.



From left: Tim Boyd, Norm Boyd, Gene Hill, Elton Fauber, Walt Gillespie, J. W. Young, Paul Dunn, Mike Norman, George Clifton, Paul Smith, Jr., Russ Gleason, John Karlis, Seated Duane Malme

COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

The Jacksonville reunion was a success and it appears our timing was good since hurricane Matthew hit two weeks later. Not sure where we will be going next year but it looks like we probably will not be going West until 2018. Some destinations being discussed are Annapolis MD, Valley Forge and Harrisburg PA. among others. Once the decision is made I will update the website and put it in the next newsletter around February. Hopefully we can boast our attendance next year. We had several new attendees, however we lost one regular with the untimely death of Bill Welfare the week prior to the reunion.

I would like to again request that stories be submitted for the newsletter. I know everyone is not a author and you don't have to be, just write it down and send it to either Karen Hoyle at Premier or to me and I will get it to her. I hear so many stories in the hospitality room at the reunions that would be perfect for the newsletter. So put it in writing and send it in.

As always if anyone has any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

I wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving, Christmas New Year and Holiday Season.

George Clifton

CLARENCE'S LAMENT

This true story is about my experience after Navy service. It is about a close friend of mine

After I was discharged, I was at loose ends as what to do with myself. I first got a night job, then a co-worker suggested I go to the VA for advice and enroll in a local university. I started in summer school and as I was in the line to enroll, I met a former Air Force G.I., Clarence Johnson, that was also signing up after his service. We both were taking the same classes which included Freshman English. One of our assignments was to write a theme about our most embarrassing experience. Clarence had the best story, that I will repeat here.

Clarence was trained, in the Air Force, to be a telephone lineman and had served in Korea in a remote outpost. After his duty in Korea he was sent to Louisiana for his last duty station. He had an accident and fell from a telephone pole and broke his back. He described having to have a cast from his armpits to his crotch. They gave him 30 days medical leave. The cast required him to wear oversize pants and shirt. As we know, he was in a state with high temperatures and high humidity. Clarence saw the bright

side of this experience. The bright side was that Clarence loved to hunt and fish. He couldn't bend over, so his wife got to dig worms for him while he fished.

One evening, Clarence and his wife went to a drive in movie. During the movie, his wife (Pearl) asked him to go to the concession stand for some popcorn. Clarence put his hand on the door lever ready to make the dash. At the same time, he began to itch under his cast. The obvious thing to do was to unzip his pants and attend to the scratch. The movie was captivating and Clarence remembered his duty to his wife.

When the lights were turned on, Clarence opened the door and was ready to make the dash. His first step was followed by his pants dropping to his ankles and he pitched forward falling to the pavement. The other people began to honk their horns while Clarence struggled from side to side to pull his pants up. His next move didn't take much thought. He climbed in the car, with no popcorn, and headed for the exit.

Ken Groom

DD-214s NOW ONLINE

It's official; DD-214s are NOW Online. Please pass on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individu-

als with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time.

[Source: Vet Council - St Johns Cnty FL | Michael Rothfeld | March 15, 2016

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The YANCEY MEMORIES is the official publication of the USS YANCEY AKA-93 Reunion Group. It will be published at least twice a year or more subject to receiving sufficient funding. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the YANCEY by contributing to the Annual Fund Drive.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

Premier Reunion Services is not responsible for the accuracy of article submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space and grammar limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family by submitting your stories and suggestions to Premier Reunion Services.



WELCOME MAT

The following shipmate has been located since the last newsletter. Welcome Aboard! We hope to see you at the next reunion. You are invited to become an active member of the association.

John McCune
 USMC 1963
 443 North Road
 Bedford, MA 01730



TAPS

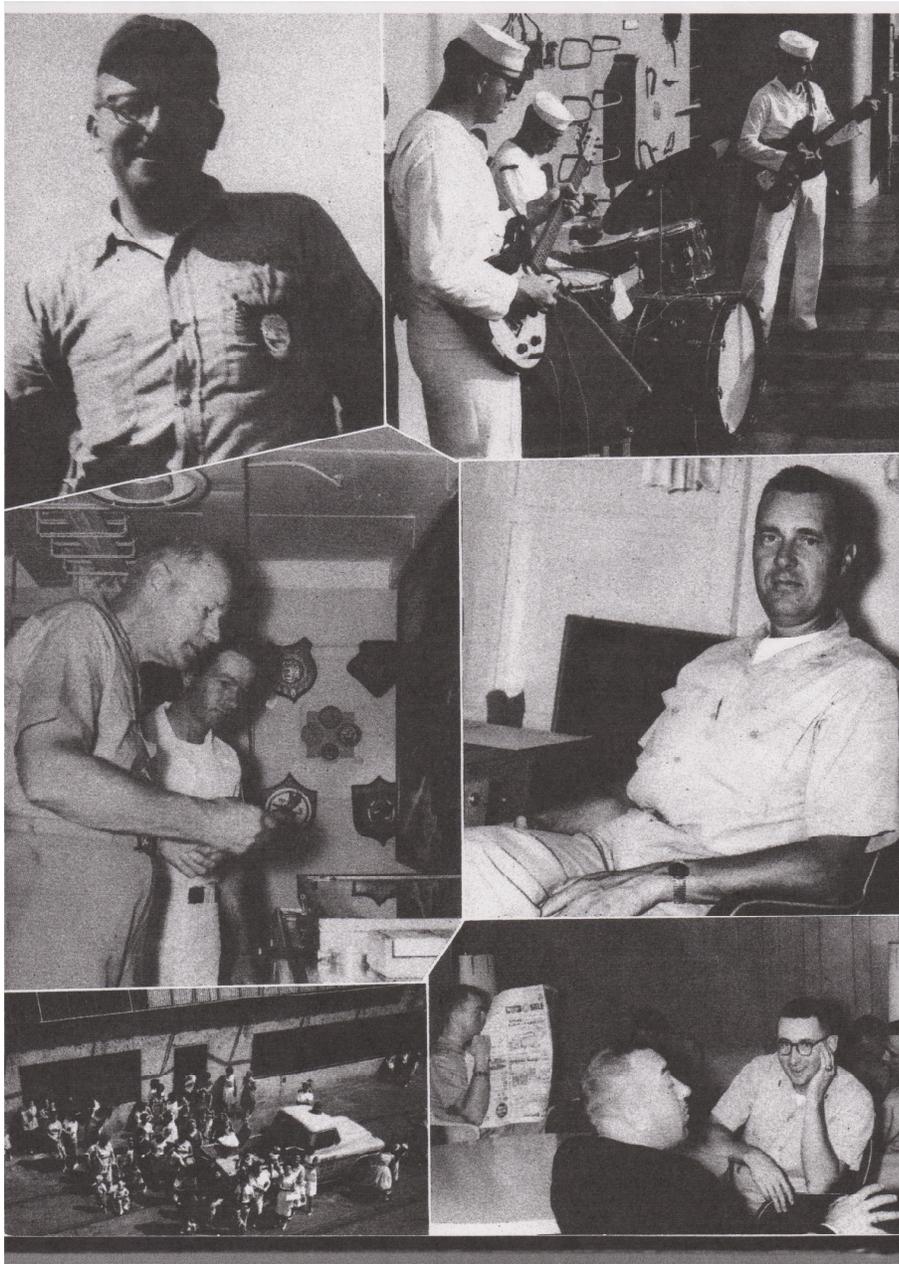
The Yancey Memories was notified of the following shipmates' deaths. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the deceased. Anyone who knows of a deceased shipmate, or learns of one, please notify Premier Reunion Services so their names can be included in TAPS and be added to the Honor Roll.

James Clarke
 (1967-1971) PO3
 Deceased April 2016

William Fosler Jr.
 Deceased 11/29/14

William Welfare
 (1964-1967) EM3
 Deceased 9/17/2016

FROM THE 1962 MED CRUISE BOOK OS 3 DIVISION



Personal Note

We learned this year of the death of **Rick Chester** after accidentally falling from his roof at home in June 2015. Rick never served aboard the Yancey but was a familiar face at the reunions until the death of his father **Ken Chester** in March 2010. Rick learned of our 3rd reunion and

brought his parents to their first reunion in Pensacola, Florida in 1998. Rick, his wife Jackie, his father Ken and mother Connie were regular attendees for the next 12 years. Many that attended during that time may remember Rick and his family. May he rest in peace.

George Clifton