

A photograph of the USS Charles S. Sperry (DD-697) at sea. The ship is a dark grey destroyer, viewed from a side-on perspective, moving through the water. The hull number '697' is clearly visible on the side. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# THE SIXGUN

**Vol. XX Issue 35 Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association October 2012**

## President's Message: B. W. Jennings

One theme that occurs in many organizations and which causes great concern is the decline in membership. This phenomenon occurs in most groups that provide a wide variety of services and activities, such as civic and social organizations, churches, businesses and industrial groups.

In our efforts to reverse this trend, your officers have implemented various recruiting campaigns, and asked for your ideas for increasing our membership. Several members have worked very diligently to enlist former shipmates, using all available resources, including information from the internet. We are grateful for their efforts.

We will not stop trying to enroll former Sperry shipmates in the Association. We will continue to search for the names of former crewmembers wherever they can be found. We expect that some will not be able to join us for various reasons, but we will not give up trying.

We believe this will honor their service to their country - and the U.S. Navy.

B. W. Jennings

## Vice President's Message: Robert Dykes

Hello Fellow Shipmates,

I have been searching websites for shipmates. I have located and spoken with Lt.J.G. Spencer French (1969-?) I hope that he will attend the 2013 reunion and join the association. In August, Gary and I took a "Road Trip" to Missouri to check on a sick shipmate. We went thru Hayti, Missouri and picked up Ed Portwood M.M. (1969 - 1971). The three of us visited with shipmate Terry (Tud) Helming (1969 - 1971). We spent two enjoyable days talking about old and new things. Hopefully, both Ed and Terry will attend the 2013 reunion. On our way home, we stopped in the St. Louis area and visited Jess Mayberry, (50-52.) We had a great time.

I encourage all shipmates to look up your old ship buddies and invite them to Philly for the 2013 Reunion. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year.

Robert Dykes

Gary Chesser, Robert Dykes, Ed Portwood and Jess Mayberry



Gary Chesser, Terry (Tud) Helming, Ed Portwood and Robert Dykes



Treasurer's Report - Gary Chesser

**U.S CHARLES S. SPERRY DD697 ASSOCIATION  
 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT & BANK ACCOUNT ACTIVITY  
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

**ACTIVITY FROM JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2012:**

	<b><u>JULY 1, 2012 BEGINNING BALANCE</u></b>	<b>\$10,598.77</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$25.00
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> NONE	(\$0.00)
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> NONE	\$0.00
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> NONE	(\$0.00)
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	\$25.00
	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> SHIP'S STORE: LOEWEN, JOHN	\$26.00
	<b><u>INCOME:</u></b> SHIP'S STORE: CHESSEY, GARY	\$19.50
	<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b> INSPIRATIONAL CRAFTS, REUNION EXPENSE, NAME TAGS.	(\$48.00)
	<b><u>SEPTEMBER 30, 2012 ENDING BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>\$10,646.27</u></b>

Gary Chesser  
 Treasurer,  
 U.S.S Charles S. Sperry DD697 Association



## *The Heart Remembers*

Shipmates **Donald Rau (44-45)** passed away June 25, 2012 and **Paul Hansen (49-52)** passed away October 14, 2012.

Their ship sailed through life's cruises meeting their share of calms, storms, adverse tides, and favoring winds. Their ship of life has now come to its final anchorage in a harbor unknown to mortal man.

We who remain do not know the course to steer and we believe our shipmates setting their course by those beacons that were given to them have found their harbor safely. To those loved ones whom our departed shipmate left behind, awaiting their own day of departure and voyage to that same harbor of eternal mercy, we offer our sincere condolences in this time of separation and loneliness.

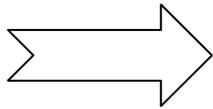
### **Crew's News:**

Condolences are extended to **Linda Chesser**, wife of shipmate **Gary Chesser (69-72)** who lost her father on August 12. Cards can be sent to Linda at 4044 Hwy. 12, Starkville, MS 39759.

### *A Sailor Returns to the Sea*

The final voyage of **Frank V. Padellaro '51-'55** occurred on June 30, 2012. Family and friends accompanied Frank's cremains to his favorite fishing area in the Atlantic, east of Salem, Massachusetts. The group was taken to the designated area in Frank's former boat. Seas were calm and the day was warm and sunny. Among the guests were Frank's longtime and best friend, Jim Callahan '48-'52 and his wife, Lorraine. At the specified spot, Frank's wife, Barbara, read a poem and then placed a spray of flowers on the ocean as some of the guests scattered flowers. Others dispersed small containers of his remains. At the end of the ceremony, all toasted Frank's life. It seemed fitting that a man who loved his years on the Sperry, enjoyed recounting his adventures in the Navy, and plucked the ocean's bounty of cod and lobster be remembered by a memorial at sea.

# Happy 237<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the US Navy - October 13<sup>th</sup> 1775 - 2012



## IMPORTANT CHANGE:

The Ramada Inn will change to the "CLARION Hotel & Convention Center" on November 1, 2012. The telephone number will remain the same, 610.512.9600.

### ***Be sure to call the hotel and make your reservations.***

Campers you can contact Timberlane Campground in Clarksboro, NJ, which is 16 1/2 miles away across the Delaware River. Contact information is 117 Timberlane Road, Clarksboro, NJ 08020, 856.423.6677.

{Be sure to check The Tin Can Sailor website for highlights of the 2012 Reunion.}

Navy commissioned ship named for a SEAL

The Navy has commissioned a ship named after Navy Seal Michael Murphy. The 510-foot destroyer was commissioned in New York in honor of Murphy. Murphy was a Long Island native and a Navy lieutenant who became the first American awarded the Medal of Honor in Afghanistan. Cmdr. Tom Shultz, the commander of the USS Michael Murphy said, "Here is someone who is just like us."

Murphy who was already wounded when he left his protected position in an exposed clearing in order that he could get a clear signal to contact Bagram Airfield for backup. He and 16 others were killed when a rocket-propelled grenade shot down their helicopter.

Sadly, the price of freedom came high.

## **THIS DAY IN NAVAL HISTORY - OCT. 11**

1942 - Battle of Cape Esperance begins. In the two-day battle, an American task force stops a Japanese attack on Guadalcanal and sinking two Japanese ships in the process, while losing USS Duncan (DD 485).

1945 - Typhoon hits Okinawa, Japan, damaging many Navy ships.

1950 - Task Force 77 aircraft destroy North Korean vessels off Songjin, Wonsan and north of Hungnam.

1963 - Navy medical team from Norfolk, Va., begins massive inoculation program to safeguard against outbreak of typhoid in the wake of Hurricane Flora.

1967 - Operation Coronado VI began in Rung Sat Zone.

1968 - Apollo 7, the first U.S. three-man space mission is launched, commanded by Cmdr. Walter Schirra Jr. The mission lasted 10 days, 20 hours. Recovery was by USS Essex (CVS 9).

*USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association  
Officers*

***B.W. Jennings***

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***Appointed Positions***

Web-Master - Gary Chesser WEBSITE ADDRESS: <http://usscharlessperrydd697.com>

Be sure to visit the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 on Facebook.

Chaplain

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