



# The SixGun

Vol. XVIII Issue 33 Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association January 2013

A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

## *President's Message:*

During the past twenty-plus years the Sperry Association has been operating, members have been called on to volunteer as candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

At the annual meeting in April, members will be electing officers to guide our association. The Nominating Committee, consisting of the following members will be seeking candidates for these offices:

**Bob Henk, Chairman, 651.429.0347, Fred Hilberer, 734.475.9349, and Joe Waegle, 302.325.2720.**

We are asking members who wish to be considered as a candidate for an office to contact the committee members and let them know. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor during the meeting.

Bob Jennings

## *Vice President:*

Dear Shipmates,

I hope all had a great Christmas! Annette and I had a wonderful Christmas. We made many memories with our children and grandchildren. I am still searching websites for shipmates without much luck. You, our members are our best recruiters. Therefore, I encourage you to keep searching for old shipmates. See you in Philly. Wishing all a Prosperous New Year.....

Robert Dykes



## Secretary

Continued to work with officers to recruit shipmates. Worked with Reunion Host, Joe Waegele in planning and finalizing the 2013 reunion. Contacted shipmates for information to add to the Crew's News section of the SixGun.

### *Forever in our hearts*



Shipmates **Paul Hansen (49-52)**, **Jimmy Kennington, (59-61)**, **Tyson Bordelon (47-51)**, and **William James Priff (44-46)** 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 are setting their course by those beacons that were given to them and have found their harbor safely.

To those loved ones who our departed shipmates left behind, awaiting their own day of departure and voyage to that same harbor of eternal mercy, we can offer our sincere condolences in this time of separation and loneliness.

### *Crew's News:*

Condolences are sent to Treasurer, **Gary Chesser (68-72)** in the loss of his brother Archie on November 8, 2012 and his brother Johnny on January 4, 2013. Cards can be sent to Gary at 4044 Old Hwy. 12, Starkville, MS 39759.

**Jerry Smith (52-53)** and Sara are hoping to be at the reunion. They send their best to everyone.

**Dale Poling (56-58)** and Linda are doing well and planning to see everyone in Philly.

**Roy Welch (52-53)** and Cathy are getting along. They will not be able to attend the reunion and send their best. Their son Gary who also had a stroke is getting around better. For now, Roy's health issues are under control. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Kenny Edwards (53-55)**, as reported by daughter, Cindy Wolf, is suffering the effects of pulmonary fibrosis and her mom, Margie, has to wear a back brace, as there seems to be no other solution for her back condition.

**Adaria Smith (Widow of Galen (44-46))** is recovering from total replacement of the left knee and is advised to have the right knee replaced early this year.

**Walter Beattie (72-73):** December 15, 1973, a clear, cold day in Philadelphia, the Sperry was decommissioned after 29 years, 8 months, & 2 days of service to our nation. My last day in the Navy. So many memories, some not so good, but for the most part good ones.

**Joe Friend (69-71):** Sperry Shipmates - I want to thank everyone for the cards, thoughts and prayers that I received from you regarding my son Mike's passing. It is comforting to have friends when you need them. See you in Philly at the reunion. – Joe

**Andrew Campbell (61-63):** When I served with Reserve Underway Training unit (RUTU) out of Whitestone, N.Y., the Powers was one of the ships that we serviced. We were part of the shipboard training unit in Gitmo. We were the observers that evaluated ship's performance. I even sailed a fleet tug and the Guppy class submarine. When we went to Gitmo for our annual training, we'd take over the fleet training group and some of them would go home. We had observers on the Powers one weekend. They headed towards Long Island Sound. The lower level man let the lube oil strainers get away from him and the lid came off and broke the light that was directly above the strainer. An oil fire started and took about two and a half hours to put out. Our chief engine room observer got to grade the evolution for real.



Calling all shipmates

The officers want to encourage each shipmate to contact any one of the officers with news regarding what is happening with them that can be published in the SixGun. We want to share war stories and stories of how friendships started and lasted so many years. Let us hear from you.

If you like to read, shipmate **George Olson, (51-54)** recommends "The Battle of the Komandorski Islands." The author is John A. Lorelli. March 1943; Naval Institute Press, 1984

Reunion time is near..

Important Information

The Ramada Inn changed 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. Hotel will provide "free continental morning breakfast" to registered guests.*



Do not forget to go to the **Tin Can Sailor** website and print your membership form. The tour of the USS New Jersey is F R E E to members of the Tin Can Sailor Association and one guest.

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 bring door prizes and silent auction items



**Please bring** souvenirs, photos, and ship logs if you kept any, to share with the association. In addition, if you have a cruise book we can use to scan and post on the web site, please bring it, or contact our Webmaster, Gary Chesser.

USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association  
Officers

**B.W. Jennings**  
2018 Concord  
Deer Park, TX 77536  
281.479.4844  
sperrydd697-president@yahoo.com

**Robert Dykes**  
61045 Hwy. 278 East  
Amory, MS 38821  
662-256-9592  
sperrydd697-vice-president@yahoo.com

**Gary Chesser**  
4044 Old Hwy. 12  
Starkville, MS 39759  
Home 662.323.5059, Cell 662-418-8115  
sperrydd697-treasurer@yahoo.com

**Barbara Jennings**  
Secretary  
2018 Concord  
Deer Park, TX 77536  
281.479.4844  
sperrydd697-secretary@yahoo.com



*Appointed Positions*

Web-Master - Gary Chesser WEBSITE ADDRESS:  
[HTTP//USSCHARLESSPERRYDD697.COM](http://USSCHARLESSPERRYDD697.COM)

Be sure to visit the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 on FACEBOOK:  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Charles-S-Sperry-DD697-Association/111096595592832>

Chaplain                      *Cal Dyk*  
2697 Hope St.  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
616-669-9785  
dykfracald@aol.com