

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. The hull number '697' is clearly visible on the side. The ship is moving through the water, with a white wake behind it. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The text 'The SixGun' is overlaid in a white, serif font in the upper right corner of the image.

The SixGun

**Vol. XIV Issue 34 Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697
Association July 2013**

President's Message:

Hello Shipmates,

Huge **CONGRATULATIONS** to Joe and Joyce Waegele for their hard work on the 2013 Reunion. It was one of the best. We had 14 "first timers" and it was great seeing plank owners, Sal Termine and Gordon Hosterman.

Fran and I were happy to reconnect with friends from the past and to have the opportunity to make new ones.

On behalf of the association, I would personally like to express my appreciation to B. W. Jennings for working diligently to hold the association together during a very difficult time. B. W. served the association at its highs and lows and he did it with integrity.

It is an honor to serve the association this coming year as president. I look forward to the 2014 Reunion in Columbus, GA and hope to see you there.

Have a blessed year and see you in 2014.

Cal Dyk
President

Vice President:

Hi Shipmates,

WOW! What a reunion! If you were not able to attend, you sure missed a great time. We had 14 first timers .So someone has been working hard on recruiting. Keep it up! I am still searching the

web for shipmates. In addition, I have looked at some of my OLD military papers and found two XO's that were not on our roster. So check yours and see who signed them. If you find any new names please let Gary Chesser or I know.

Annette and I along with Gary and Linda Chesser have taken a road trip to Columbus, Ga. to check out the sites in the area....it is looking good.

Robert Dykes
Vice President

Treasurer:

We had a beginning balance **April 1st, before** reunion expenses, of **\$17,446.60** and an ending balance, after reunion expenses, on June 30th of **\$16,222.75.**

Gary Chesser
Treasurer

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

I became a member of the Sperry Association in 1991, and have been privileged to attend 23 reunions since then, from New Orleans, Louisiana to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Besides being able to participate in the reunions, I have worked to improve the SixGun newsletter by encouraging members to submit interesting stories, photos, and other information.

I am especially grateful for the support that I received by being elected as President and Vice President. After serving a number of years in these offices, I made a decision in 2013 that I would not be a candidate for any office of the association in the future. I am looking forward to many more reunions in the future.

I am taking this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the members for giving me the opportunity to serve the association.

Bob Jennings

USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Reunion 2013

Where the "Old Meets the Young"



Jess Mayberry wants to learn to fly and hopes she will be his co-pilot!



Back: Gloria Hosterman, Dieter & Eric Englehardt, Ted Agresta, William & Mary Ann Diggory. Front: Charles Buccino, Bob, Pat and Anthony Buccino.



Bob Meyer, Mike Wallace, Fred Hilberer, Chief Bob Logan, Theresa Hilberer, Natalie Logan.



Joe Friend, Frank Esposito, Jack Chapman & Walt Beattie



Plank owners, Sal Termine and Gordon Hosterman



Robert Disipio, Roy Welch, and Walt Beattie enjoy a good laugh.



Plank owners Nick Kroeper and Gordon Hosterman enjoy catching up with each other.



Linda Chesser, Joe Waegele, Gary Chesser, Richard Weisbrot.



Bruno Pula & Gene McCarthy



Cal Dyk, Lee Barnes, Sal Termine, Robert Dykes, Richard Weisbrot.

Shipmates visit the USS New Jersey



Korean vets share memories with Viet Nam Vets.



Mike Short, B.W. Jennings, Lee Barnes, and Jess Mayberry remember the fun times



Fred Hilberer, Bob Meyer, Gary Chesser, Jess Mayberry, B. W. Jennings, Walter Beattie, and Cal Dyk.



Robert Dykes found a soft chair in George Newton's lap.



Gary Chesser and B. W. Jennings met Sperry shipmate, Chief John Stickney, volunteering aboard the USS New Jersey.



Barbara Jennings, Linda Chesser, Loretta Mayberry and Theresa Hilberer found sailors, but they are "cardboard!!"



From 68' to 73'. Back: Gary Chesser, Fred Hilberer, Bob Meyer, George Newton. Front: Walter Beattie, Robert Dykes, Joe Friend and Richard Weisbrot.

The Banquet



Jim and Lorraine Callahan and Barbara Padelaro



Colors presented by plank owners: Gordon Hosterman & Sal Termine



Sharon & Ted Agresta



Linda Poling is amused at what Fran Dyk is sharing with Dale Poling.



Eugene McCarthy, Bruno Pula, Frank Fletcher



President Jennings recognizes Joe & Joyce Waegele for hosting a great reunion.



Peter LaPlaca, Anna Marie Marano, Ron LaPlaca

The Auction



Doug Seabold was the winner of the plaque made and donated by George Christenson. Plaque reads, "I survived my first reunion - Philadelphia 2013"



Joe Friend was the big winner. Joe donated winnings back to the association.



Charles Buccino won the large bottle of wine with the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 label.



Annette Dykes was a great "auctioneer" and the winner, Beverly Rayfield (Lee Barnes' daughter) was the lucky winner of the Mystery Bag donated in honor of Charlie, Rose, & Vera Quehl & Linda Friedrich. Robert Dykes was energetic in getting shipmates and guests to bid on the Mystery Bag.



Barbara Jennings, Sal Termine, & B. W Jennings enjoy the festivities after the banquet.



We will remember

Ira L. "Ike" Cox ('44-'46) passed away on March 11, 2013. **Vito F. Maurillo ('44-'46)** passed away on December 21, 2011. **Michael A. Iacovangelo, ('44-'46)** passed away February 20, 2006. **William Clyde Young, ('44-'46)** passed away, Friday, February 26, 2010. **Richard O. (Dick) Pierce**, passed away on February 11, 2012. **Sumner Kittelle Moore ('59-'60)** passed away September 2, 2007. **Don Barrows ('53-'54)** passed away on March 27, 2013. **Earl (Doug) Armstrong (44-45)** passed away on May 9, 2006. **Norman H. Slimmer Jr.**, passed away on September 11, 2004. They 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.

Badge Order Form CHANGE

At the reunion in Essington one of the shipmate became extremely ill. Fortunately, it turned out to be a 24-hour bug. However, after three attendees spent almost three hours making sure the shipmate would be okay it was decided that emergency contact information was needed for attendees at future reunions. When you receive the registration form for the 2014 Reunion, please fill out the requested information.

Crew's News:



Frank Esposito ('70-'73) found this old picture from the Sperry forty years and thirty pounds ago.

Capt. Murland Searight ('71-'72) called to express his gratitude for the thoughtful card sent to him from the Sperry Association. He reported that they are doing well and he plans to see everyone in Columbus, GA.

Capt. Searight made a trip to Texas to visit with B. W. & Barbara Jennings. While there he had an opportunity to visit the San Jacinto Monument and the Battleship Texas. He also spent time at NASA and Space Center Houston.



Battleship Texas

Capsule that Felix Baumgartner of Austria successfully jumped from that was lifted 24 miles in space.



Walter Beattie ('72-'73) states "My favorite memory of the reunion was getting to talk to the plank holders Nick & Gordon. We owe these WWII veterans so much, be they sailors, soldiers, marines or airmen."



Robert Meyer ('70-'72) Here is a picture of personnel that served on "Charlie One Screw" while it was home ported in Philly. That term of endearment comes from having to steam dragging one shaft in order for engineering personnel to be able to stand four on eight off while underway. To steam BOTH shafts with just the skeleton crew required standing "six and six" watch schedule. That was tough on the men. This was taken at the USS New Jersey museum on 4/19/2013



Don Biancone ('60-'62) OI Division 1962 - entire 22-year career, this was overall my best.



Submitted by Frank Smith? Can anyone identify the shipmates?

Reunion 2013 Summary

"Turn out the lights...the party's over!" We have all heard this song by Willie Nelson. This could have been the theme song for Joe and Joyce Waegele, Jess and Loretta Mayberry and Bob and Barbara Jennings on Wednesday night. After a nice dinner, upon their return to the hotel they found out that the power was being turned off 7:30 PM. Reason, a bad driver knocked out a power pole. It was nice and cool so everyone was able to climb the stairs to their rooms, unpacked and has a wonderful nights rest. It was not long until the power was back on. The hotel and staff were very gracious and always ready to do whatever we needed to make our time with them the best ever.

Thursday shipmates and guest began to arrive and the festivities started. Joe and Joyce were up early getting the Hospitality Room ready while Bob and Barbara Jennings got the registration table ready of attendees. Each "first timer's" badge was labeled so that everyone would know that it was their first reunion. There were 14 first timers in attendance. WOW! There were 77 signatures in the sign in book. It was a great turn out and hopefully we will have more in Columbus in 2014.

As the day progressed and the number of attendees increased, you could feel the excitement and energy in the room. At times, the laughter was so contagious the entire room was laughing. Everyone pitched in and did whatever needed to be done to keep the snacks flowing, drinks cold, memorabilia out on the tables, auction items, and door prizes in the proper place.

Friday found everyone up early and ready for the tour of the USS New Jersey. After a nice shuttle ride over to the ship, it was a nice surprise to be welcomed by a former Sperry shipmate who was a volunteer.

The **USS NEW JERSEY (BB62)** was actually the second ship to be called “**NEW JERSEY**”, the first being BB16, a turn of the century (19th century) battleship. The first Battleship New Jersey (BB-16) was a Virginia class pre-dreadnought that served from 1906 until she was sunk as a bombing target in 1922. She sailed with the Great White Fleet and served her country in World War I as a training vessel.

NEW JERSEY was decommissioned on February 8, 1991 in Long Beach, California and later towed to Bremerton, Washington where she resided until heading home to New Jersey. She was officially stricken from the Navy list on February 12, 1995 but was then ordered reinstated by an order of congress as a mobilization asset under Bill 1024 section 1011. On January 4, 1999, **NEW JERSEY** was again stricken from the Navy list and IOWA replaced her as a mobilization asset. On September 12, 1999, **NEW JERSEY** began her Final Voyage home from Bremerton, where she had rested in mothballs for the last 8 years. On November 11, she arrived at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Since that time, she has been restored, opened, and established as an educational museum

and a tribute to the brave sailors who served on her during her long and distinguished career. The Battleship New Jersey opened as a Museum and Memorial in October 2001.

While on board the shipmates went back in time as they had an opportunity to go thru the "Chow Line." Everyone enjoyed lunch aboard the New Jersey and continued with the tour.

Once back at the hotel the chatter was full of laughter and memories. Everyone settled in and enjoyed the afternoon.

Like all good things, the reunion would end on Saturday night. The banquet room was beautifully decorated in red, white, and blue. It was so heartwarming to have plank owners, Gordon Hosterman and Sal Termine bring in the American flag.

After a wonderful meal and the installation of officers, everyone gathered back in the Hospitality Room for the revealing of the silent auction and the auctioning off a mystery bag in honor of the Quehls and Linda Friedrich. Annette Dykes served as our first female auctioneer and Robert Dykes was the encourager for spending money as he worked the room.

Everyone is planning to reconnect at the 2014 Reunion in Columbus, GA, April 10-13 at the Holiday Inn. We hope to see you there.

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Appointed Positions

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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>

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