



Vol. XIV Issue 35 Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association January 2014

# Happy New Year

**President's Message:** Cal Dyk

It seems like yesterday Fran and I were wishing everyone a Happy New Year for 2013. Here we are now in 2014. Our holidays were blessed with family and the noise of the grandchildren. I am looking forward to the 2014 Reunion in Columbus, GA. Hope to see you there. I encourage each of you to assist the officers in always searching for shipmates. Each year the association grows stronger and that is due to the hard work of the past and current officers and members. Thank you for your continued support.

**Vice President:** Robert Dyk

Annette and I hope you and your family had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It was nice celebrating the holidays with our family. I continue to call; write; email members as well as search the internet for shipmates who are have not joined or renewed their membership. I am asking that each member contact a shipmate and encourage them to join.

**Treasurer's Report:** Gary Chesser

We already have several registrations for the 2014 reunion and it is shaping up to be great reunion. The hotel-imposed deadline for registration is March 10, so please register as early as possible and contact your shipmates to encourage them to attend. We can handle some stragglers and last minute changes, but the hotel has a 30-day pre-registration policy set for their booking and preparation needs. Be sure to call the hotel directly to receive the reunion rate and be counted in our block of rooms.

Printable forms for membership and reunion registration are posted on the Sperry website if needed. Also posted on the website is the reunion daily schedule and links to maps, attractions, dining, and an event calendar that may be helpful to plan for free time in Columbus. We are looking forward to seeing you all in Columbus.

**U.S.S CHARLES S. SPERRY DD697 ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT & BANK ACCOUNT ACTIVITY  
DECEMBER 31, 2013**

**ACTIVITY FROM OCTOBER 1, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013:**

	<b><u>OCTOBER 1, 2013 BEGINNING BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>\$16,278.74</u></b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b><u>NO ACTIVITY</u></b>	
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b><u>INCOME: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS</u></b>	\$200.00
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b><u>INCOME: MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS</u></b>	\$175.00
	<b><u>INCOME: SHIP'S STORE: PULA, BRUNO</u></b>	\$20.00
	<b><u>INCOME: REUNION REGISTRATIONS</u></b>	\$463.74
	<b><u>EXPENSES: SEARIGHT, MURLAND (REFUND 2013 REUNION FEE)</u></b>	<b>(\$80.00)</b>
	<b><u>DECEMBER 31, 2013 ENDING BALANCE</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,057.48</u></b>

## Crew's News:

**Lt. JG Lawrence W. Pettett, (June '50-July '50)** had an accident in late June 2012. He had been incapacitated on the floor of his bedroom for at least three days. He nor his family are sure what happened and the doctors ruled out a stroke. He is currently living in Huntington Beach. His son Bill, reports he is no longer on internet he does appreciate phone calls (714-847-3738) or email Bill at BPTTTT(AT)VERIZON.NET . He will be sure to get your emails to his dad. Cards can also be sent in c/o Bill Pettett, 15052 Anita Circle Westminister, CA 92683.

Allen N Cyndie Bevan reports that his father, **Robert E. Bevan, ('44-'46)** was on the original crew of the Sperry and served in the Pacific during WWII. Very proud of his service and he attended several reunions back in the 80s and early 90s before illness made that not possible for him any longer.



After Christmas **B. W. Jennings ('49-'51)** and Barbara traveled to Nashville to meet their fourth great grandchild, Lucy Elizabeth Jennings. Lucy was christened on December 28. While in Nashville, they visited four possible hotels for the 2015 reunion. After details are ironed out, the host hotel will be announced. Before leaving town, they had lunch with Barbara's friend, LuLu Roman from Hee Haw fame. LuLu is planning to attend the banquet at the 2015 reunion. LuLu said to tell the shipmates thank you for their service.



George Olson and friend

***Be sure to contact the secretary regarding what is going on with you.***

**Nominating Committee: B. W. Jennings, Chair,**

***Our hearts remember***



Shipmates **Leonard Earl Curtis ('53-'55), James Thomas Doucett ('56-'58), George Hambley ('49-'52), Robert Montgomery Irwin ('50-'53), Kenneth Wayne Ralston ('51-'54), Jim Schollin ('66-'68), and Edward Turner, Sr. ('46-'53)** 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 set their course by those beacons that were given to them have found their harbor safely. To those loved ones who our departed shipmate has 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.



***Be sure to bring your door prizes and Silent Auction items. Thank you.***

## Association Founder Passes Away



Robert Irwin passed October 28, 2013. Known to all as Bob, he was a US Navy veteran of both major theaters of conflict in World War II as well as the Korean conflict. He retired proudly after 20 years of service as Chief Gunners Mate. He then continued his service to his country and the Navy as a civilian employee at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, VA where he later retired as Superintendent. While still employed at the Weapons Station he became active as an adult leader in the Boys Scouts of America, Troop 353 of Norfolk, VA.

After his civilian retirement Bob was instrumental in the formation of both the USS Flint and USS Charles S. Sperry Associations. He was an active member of US Navy Reserve Branch 60 and the Naval Weapons Station Yorktown retirees' association.

### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. "BOB" IRWIN

Submitted by B. W. Jennings

The origin of every organization begins with a great idea. The USS CHARLES S. SPERRY (DD697) ASSOCIATION began with an idea that **Bob** Irwin developed in 1988-89 after he retired from his Navy career. He felt that there might be other former Sperry shipmates in the Norfolk area who might be interested in forming a reunion Association. He began searching for ex-shipmates in that area. After receiving favorable responses, **Bob** formed the ASSOCIATION, and served as the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. He began publishing a newsletter, appropriately called the SIX GUN, and arranged for the first Sperry reunion in 1989 in Norfolk. **Bob** continued his organizational efforts by publicizing information about the Association in Veterans magazines and other publications. As news about the Sperry Association spread, ex-shipmates around the country responded. This inspired **Bob** to arrange for a second reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1991. He continued handling the entire workload of the Association until 1994, when a slate of officers was elected.

During the years, Bob has attended many of the reunions. In 2005, the association honored **Bob** at the Norfolk reunion for his work in helping Association grow to its present status. We pay tribute to a great American, whose efforts in bringing former Sperry shipmates together will always be treasured.

*USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association  
Officers*

*Cal Dyk*

*2697 Hope St.  
Hudsonville, MI  
616-669-9785  
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

*Mike Wallace  
61 Radner Blvd.  
Marlton, NJ 08053  
856-985-3784  
Swallace347 (at) verizon.net*

Trustees:

*B. W. Jennings  
Charlie Quehl*