



Official Newsletter of the USS Charles S. Sperry DD 697 Association

January 2022

President – Frank Smith

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We made it through 2021. It most certainly was a stressful year for many. I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas and I am wishing each of you a safe and healthy New Year. Reflecting back on the reunion in September I have to smile. What a great time and making new friends was a blessing.

I am looking forward to the 2022 reunion in September with great expectations. There is no doubt it will be an exciting time as we once again blend with the USS Conway.

Be safe and please stay healthy. See you in Buffalo in September 2022.

Treasurer – Ron LaPlaca

4th Quarter Report – 2021

		3rd QTR ENDING BALANCE							\$24,435.90
		OCTOBER 2021							
10/5/2021	1010	USS CONWAY REUNION REFUND				\$545.00	\$545.00		
	DEPOSIT			\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$545.00	\$545.00	\$24,980.90
10/1/2021	1098	MARILYN PREDMORE - PRIZE ONE REUNION NIGHT							
	EXPENSES			\$0.00	\$0.00				
		NOVEMBER 2021							
11/1/2021	8035	PULIZOTTO - DUES	2022	\$25.00				\$25.00	
11/1/2021	3870	BELZ - DUES	2022	\$25.00				\$25.00	
11/5/2021		DELAMARTER - DUES	2021	\$25.00				\$25.00	
	DEPOSIT			\$75.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00	\$24,943.90
	EXPENSES	NO ACTIVITY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,943.90
		DECEMBER 2021							
12/27/2021	3791	BOONE - DUES	2022	\$25.00				\$25.00	\$24,968.90
	EXPENSES	NO ACTIVITY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,968.90
		4th QTR ENDING BALANCE							\$24,968.90

Vice President – Robert Dykes

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Hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. I hope everyone has a safe and happy 2022. Still searching for shipmates. Check out the Sperry Facebook page. See you in Buffalo.

Secretary – Barbara Jennings

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We had a very Merry Christmas. Our daughter and her family came to feast and share gifts. Papaw Bob with Connor who just graduated from Texas A & M University and Tami's son, Wiley. Wiley will be a senior next year and is hoping to get a football scholarship to Oregon to play football.

It has been busy since the exciting reunion in September. We make many trips to the doctors for this and that. We are blessed that we always get positive results. I have contacted several of the children whose dad served aboard the Sperry but passed to invite them to become Associate Members. Some of the ones I have contacted are Vic Torres (Victor – '50-'52), Doreene Stocke (Gerald (Jerry) – '48-'51), Dan Wilhite (Roy), Jeff Dyk (Cal Dyk – '59-'60) Jeff lives with Fran so he reads her Six Gun.

As always, articles are needed for the newsletter. If you do not know what to share here are a few suggestions. Your vacations with shipmates and or family, let us know how your children and grandchildren are excelling in life. If you attended the N. Myrtle Beach Reunion, share your thoughts. For the more seasoned shipmate please share the more recent reunions compared to the past reunions of the 80s and 90s.

Chaplain – Joe Friend

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The Sperry Chaplain wishes his shipmates and families a safe and happy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing you in Buffalo in September. Take care.

Web Master – Gary Chesser

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It was a rough 3 months since the reunion for many of us, the Chessers included, but we look forward to the new year and meeting in Buffalo. Happy New Year to all!

Save the Date 2022, Reunion will be September 11-15, 2022 in Buffalo, NY

Hotel: Buffalo Grand Hotel

Dates: Sunday September 11 through September 15, 2022

Events: TBA

Sunday: Pizza Party (this time the ships will split the cost)

Monday: Charter Bus to Niagara Falls. Trip on the Maid of the Mist, Tour of the Horseshoe Falls, Goat Island, Plated Lunch, Tour of the Power Vista. Period: 9:00 a.m. -3 p.m., **Buffet Dinner at the hotel**

Tuesday: Tour of the Buffalo Military Park. Sites: USS Little Rock, USS Sullivan's, Submarine USS Croaker, Lunch on the Little Rock. **Buffet Dinner at the hotel**

Wednesday: Free day for all shipmates. Many places to tour. **Plated dinner at the hotel in the Hotel Ball Room** Hospitality Room at the hotel on the second floor. Prices for all will be determined at the beginning of the year as well as the Buffet Dinners/Seated Dinner selections.

Forever in our hearts: James E. Hines (54-56), Tracy McLemore (71-73), Jimmie Duane Sanner, (68-69)



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 from those who have found their harbor safely.

To those loved ones who our departed shipmates left behind, await 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.

LOOKING BACK

The year was 1950 during the Korean conflict; US forces entered the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

1944: THE World War II Battle of Leyte Gulf ended in a major allied victory over Japanese force, whose naval capabilities were badly crippled.

1950: During the Korean War, the first jet plane battle took place as U. S. Air Force Lt. Russell J. Brown shot down a North Korean MIG-15.



Levie Davis, S1C, Plank Owner DD697
Sent in by son in-law, Frank Eubanks



Crew's News

I have exciting news from Skip Belz who is spending winter in San Benito, Texas. Skip has found happiness after the passing of Kathy on November 19, 2020. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 2, 2020. Skip remarried on November 6, 2021. The lucky woman is Barbara. Barbara and Kathy had been friend for many many years. We wish them many years of happiness. If you would like to send a card of congratulations, their address is 1400 Zillock Rd., R-127, San Benito, TX 78586.

Spoke with Sara Smith, Jerry Smith's widow ('52-'53) in Moody, Alabama. She was enjoying the snow covered front yard while sitting by a warm fire. Sara said to give her best to everyone and that she misses the reunions.

Deter Englhardt ('62-'65) sends best wishes to everyone. His son Eric was unable to take time off to bring him the the N. Myrtle Beach reunion but he is hoping they can make Buffalo in September.

Bob Lamb ('48-'52) and Joan celebrated 67 years of marriage this past November. In February, Bob will be 93. He is probably the oldest Sperry member. WOW! Congratulations Bob.

Ted Agresta ('64-'67) is recovering nicely from heart surgery. He and Sharon are hoping that they both will be healthy so they can join the shipmates in Buffalo.

Omaha Beach Landing



YOU COULD HAVE HEARD A PIN DROP

Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by plane. At French customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry on. "You have been to France before, monsieur? The customs officer asked sarcastically. Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." "Impossible. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!" The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained, "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchmen to show a passport to." **You could have heard a pin drop.**



("The famous Olympic skier Picabo Street (pronounced "Peek-A-Boo) is not just an athlete. She is now a nurse currently working in the Intensive Care Unit of a large metropolitan hospital. She is not permitted to answer the hospital telephones. It causes too much confusion when she would answer the phone and say, "Picabo, ICU."