



SIXGUN Summer 2025

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

President's Message – Tom Brinkman: What a wonderful reunion we had at the Radisson! (By the way the other elevator is now working!) Our family and friends enjoyed all the activities! Many thanks to Ann for the effort and hard work putting it all together! Thanks to Gary for assisting her and being the emcee. Thanks to Barb for all the notes and keeping all the paperwork! And thanks to Ron for the outstanding financial report! Thanks also to Robert for selling an “arm’s - length” of split the pot chances & for being our auctioneer! We are looking forward to next year in Wilmington, NC. Hope everyone has a safe fun filled summer! Nancy and I will be going to the Outer Banks again with our family (all 17 of us). Take care! Be safe! Wishing all fair winds and following seas.

Vice President's Message – Robert Dykes: Another Great Reunion. Great people, great food. We had a wonderful time. If you missed this one don't worry another one is coming 2026.

Secretary's Message – Barbara Auty: “Reunion, the act of being brought together again as a unified whole.” Branching out and including the Conway ship in our reunion, certainly strengthens our group and increases the memories we share. Looking forward to next year and hoping more shipmates can participate in our wonderful event.

Chaplin's Message - Joe Friend: The Sperry Chaplain hopes that everyone returned from Covington, KY safely. A special thanks to our reunion coordinator, Ann Marano and her assistant, Gary Chesser. Also, a very special thanks to the entire Brinkman family for making everyone feel quite at home in their neighborhood. I came down with a nasty cold and felt bad that I had to miss the banquet and ceremonies. It was a good thing that I had plenty of native Kentucky medicine that came home with me. We are looking forward to seeing everyone next year in North Carolina. In the meantime, I pray that you and your family will remain happy and healthy until then.



Gone but not forgotten. We pay tribute to these deceased shipmates: Francis Patrick Brady (52-55); David Arthur Forrest (64-68); William H. ‘Bill’ Murphy (58-60). Longtime member Roy Kenneth Pruitt (48-50), and longtime member Elliot Ray Clayton (60-62). Fair Winds and Following Seas to our shipmates.

Reunion Coordinator - Ann Marano: Thanks to so many shipmates and family members for making this year's reunion in Covington, KY so much fun. We had 36 attendees from the Sperry. We were very happy to have one 1st timer join us for the welcome party BBQ, Ron Opel, along with so many guests.

This was the 1st time that we had a planned event for early arrivals. On Saturday, we went to New Riff Distillery and many enjoyed tasting the different bourbons and other liquors offered. The Sunday evening Welcome Party BBQ hosted by the Brinkman/Matz Family was amazing. Everyone had plenty to eat and everything was delicious. A special THANKS to the BRINKMAN/MATZ family for all of the effort and expense put into this. It was very much appreciated by all.

Monday's trip to the National Air Force Museum at Wright-Pat Air Force base was an experience enjoyed by all. It is massive and is a must see if you have never been. Monday night's Cincinnati Reds baseball game was exciting and it was a perfect night for baseball. Tuesday's riverboat cruise was fun and the lunch onboard was delicious. We did not let the weather deter us from having a fun trip. Tuesday Night Fun and Games was so much fun with Get-To-Know You Bingo, the Silent Auction, and the Musical Chairs Scavenger Hunt (so much fun), the 50-50 drawing and also our luggage auctions. What a great night!

Wednesday brought us all together for lunch at Kellie's Homestead Restaurant in Dry Ridge, KY for a delicious Southern style meal and then off to Patriot's Landing in Williamstown, KY with a police and firemen escort. Flashing lights and sirens included. How cool was that!!! We definitely arrived in style. Visiting Patriot's Landing was so inspiring. Check out their website at PatriotsLanding.org to show your support to this rural, faith-based Veteran woodshop. The items on display were all beautiful and so well crafted (signed by the Veteran that made it). Purchases can be made online and use code SAVE10 for a 10% discount. Everyone who attended was touched by the experience and was glad that they went.

Our reunion ended with a great meal and enjoying entertainment by OTR Saxophone Quartet made up of students from the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. Thanks again to all that attended and especially to all that helped make our Covington reunion a great success.

The USS Conway's Reunion Coordinator is planning next year's reunion, it will be at the Courtyard by Marriott oceanfront resort on Carolina Beach (15 mins south of Wilmington), NC. The dates of the reunion will be April 12-16, 2026. A visit to the USS North Carolina with lunch onboard the ship and a river cruise is in the planning stages. More info will be in the next Six Gun. I hope more shipmates will plan now to join us at the 2026 reunion in North Carolina. Take care until we meet again.

Webmaster – Gary Chesser: Another great reunion! Ann Marano is a natural at planning our reunion. I'm grateful for her energy and resourcefulness. I haven't laughed so much in a long time. I was not sidelined with health issues this year like I was at the Asheville reunion and was able to go see the National Air Force Museum and the other outings, except the ball game. Linda and I took a day to meet up with two of my nieces that we seldom get to see that live just an hour away from Cincinnati and we got to meet their kids and grands.

It was SO good to have so many surviving family members of our departed shipmates coming to enjoy being with our Sperry family and honoring their loved ones! Another highlight for me was to be surprised by a fellow BT, Ron Opel, a first-timer who lives an hour away and was able to stop by for a visit, but sadly couldn't make it back for the banquet. We LOVE to welcome first-timers and encourage all shipmates and family that haven't been with us to come and enjoy our hospitality and camaraderie. Dust off your sea stories and share them with us in Carolina Beach, NC next year!

Treasurer's Report- Ron LaPlaca

| DATE | CHECK TYPE | MEMBER OR PAYEE | DUES YEAR | DUES PAID | REU. FEES | INCOME EXPENSE | TRANS. |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | | BEGINNING BAL | | | | | \$14,683.28 |
| | | JANUARY 2025 | | | | | |
| 1/15/2025 | DEPOSIT | JORDAN & WOJCIK - DUES | 2024/5 | \$20.00 | | \$20.00 | \$14,703.28 |
| 1/10/2025 | DEBIT | REUNION DEPOSIT EXP | | | (\$600.00) | (\$600.00) | \$14,103.28 |
| | | FEBRUARY 2025 | | | | | |
| 2/12/2025 | LIST | DUES INCOME (LIST) | 2025 | \$70.00 | | \$70.00 | |
| 2/12/2025 | LIST | REUNION REG INC (LIST) | 2025 | | \$504.00 | \$504.00 | |
| | DEPOSIT | | | \$70.00 | \$504.00 | \$574.00 | \$14,677.28 |
| | | MARCH 2025 | | | | | |
| 3/31/2025 | LIST | DUES INCOME (LIST) | 2025 | \$350.00 | | \$350.00 | |
| 3/31/2025 | LIST | REUNION REG INC (LIST) | 2025 | | \$2,916.00 | \$2,916.00 | |
| | DEPOSIT | | | \$350.00 | \$2,916.00 | \$3,266.00 | \$17,943.28 |
| 3/13/2025 | 1131 | PRINTER - SIX GUN | | (\$553.98) | | (\$553.98) | |
| 3/17/2025 | 1132 | REUNION EXPENSES | | | (\$2,695.85) | (\$2,695.85) | |
| | EXP | | | (\$553.98) | (\$2,695.85) | (\$3,249.83) | \$14,693.45 |
| | | 1ST QTR ENDING BAL | | | | | \$14,693.45 |
| | | APRIL 2025 | | | | | |
| 4/3/2025 | 3118 | SCHULTZ - REU/DUES | 2025 | \$20.00 | \$128.00 | \$148.00 | |
| 4/11/2025 | 2942 | ESPOSITO - DUES | 2025 | \$20.00 | | \$20.00 | |
| 4/12/2025 | 6797 | GEORGE - REUNION | | | \$194.00 | \$194.00 | |
| 4/12/2025 | 6798 | GEORGE-VRQ | | | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | |
| 4/18/2025 | 2319 | DELMARTER - DUES | 2025 | \$10.00 | | \$10.00 | |
| | DEPOSIT | | | \$50.00 | \$422.00 | \$472.00 | \$15,165.45 |
| 4/6/2025 | LIST | REUNION EXP (LIST) | | | (\$6,486.95) | (\$6,486.95) | |
| | EXP | | | \$0.00 | (\$6,486.95) | (\$6,486.95) | \$8,678.50 |
| | | MAY 2025 | | | | | |
| 5/2/2025 | LIST | REUNION INCOME (LIST) | | | \$3,101.00 | \$3,101.00 | |
| 5/2/2025 | 98 | CONWAY/COST SHARE | | | \$3,430.88 | \$3,430.88 | |
| | DEPOSIT | | | \$0.00 | \$6,531.88 | \$6,531.88 | \$15,210.38 |
| 5/2/2025 | LIST | REUNION EXP (LIST) | | | (\$948.62) | (\$948.62) | |
| 5/12/2025 | 1138 | VRQ - (GEORGE) | | | (\$100.00) | (\$100.00) | |
| | EXP | | | \$0.00 | (\$1,048.62) | (\$1,048.62) | \$14,161.76 |
| | | MAY 2025 ENDING BAL | | | | | \$14,161.76 |

Memories, USS Charles S. Sperry / Conway Reunion, April 2025



Air Force Museum



Luncheon Cruise





Revolving Rooftop Dinner



Fun and Games





Patriot's Landing



Two Bell Ceremony



Banquet





Our reunion hosted by the Brinkman and Matz family.



Sperry / Conway 2026 Reunion
April 12th – 16th
Wilmington, NC
Carolina Beach
Mark Your Calendar