



USS PERRY

Reunion Association

DMS-17 - DD-844

Welcome Aboard

Newsletter #29



To: All Hands
From: Steve Silk

August 10, 2008

Ahoy Mates,

Just a note to let you know our 7th Reunion in Newport, RI was a huge success and work has already begun on our next reunion venue. As plans progress, we'll be keeping you informed. We also would like to hear about the exciting happenings in your life. So please keep us abreast and we'll be sure to pass it along in our next newsletter.

Please forgive the newsletter type-O's, spelling errors and bad grammar. My editor has taken a holiday so I'm on my own for now. Cathy is attending an annual Twins Festival in Twinsburg, OH. Yes, she and her carbon copy sister Carole attend every so often. This time they are also taking along our dear friends 21 year old twin grand daughters. I'll bet the 21's will be keeping Cathy on her toes. I'm not quite the expert on twins my wife is, but after 48 years I can certainly discuss the subject with some authority and most definitely shed some light from a totally different perspective. Are there any other TWINS out there?

If you now have an E-Mail address please let me have it so we can save our Perry Association the expense of hard copy mailings. In so doing, you will also benefit by hearing from us more frequently via FREE Internet e-mail. (My email address – steve@ussperry.com)

Fair winds & following seas to you all,
Steve Silk

OUR 7th USS PERRY REUNION

It was truly fitting for us to hold our 7th Reunion in the city of Newport that was home to Oliver Hazard & Matthew C. Perry and our ship, the USS Perry DD-844. Both Oliver & Matthew were born in Newport and are now resting in Newport's Island cemetery near Trinity Church.

Each and every reunion has always been considered the best and our 7th reunion in Newport was no exception. The weather truly cooperated with the wonderful events we all enjoyed.

Our Tours

First there were the visits to Mansions owned by the Vanderbilt's, Astors etc. It was interesting to see how these poor people struggled throughout life.

That night we had a dinner cruise aboard the Majestic. Food was great and the rough seas had no effect on Andy Marchese's dancing crew. Can anyone tell me if Cindy allows Andy to smoke a cigar while dancing?

The following day we visited Battleship Cove. Aboard the battleship Massachusetts we paid tribute to our shipmates "gone but not forgotten". Martin opened the ceremony and I was honored to welcome everyone aboard. Rick Flanagan gave the invocation followed by Bob Hales & Sid Brown's Bell Ceremony where we had a roll call of all shipmates that have taken their 'final voyage' since our last reunion. Then Master Chief Mike Vanderschaaf and his assistants Bob Noroski and Tom Mores performed a beautiful Navy flag folding ceremony. Mrs. Bennett wife of the late Wesley Bennett was then presented the flag. Both she and her son were overwhelmed by the ceremony. Dick Pittenger & Lou Guariniello then concluded the memorial service with our wreath ceremony.

We then lunched aboard the battleship and were given liberty to explore on our own, the Kennedy and Lionfish anchored in the harbor. Boy was it lot different going up & down the ladders. I didn't see anyone just sliding down the handrails like in the old days. Going aboard the Kennedy DD-850 was especially exciting since she brought back memories of sailing with her in DESRON 8 back in the late 50's. The museum was also interesting.

The next day we toured the Naval Base or whatever has remained of the base. No more ships, just training schools for a variety of disciplines. Our excellent buffet lunch at the officers club was only out done by the million dollar view of the bay.

Biz Meeting

As usual, our meeting was going along fine and just when almost completed, Warren McCarty QM1 46-51 gave us scare. We called 911 and within minutes he was transported to a hospital about two miles from the hotel. I'm pleased to say his only concern was missing the banquet. After 2 days in the hospital he is now back home in Elizabethtown, PA and doing fine. He and his wife Joyce are real troopers and just the kind of guys you want at your side when you need help.

A very positive financial report was presented by Bob Hales and was unanimously accepted by our membership. Lou and his bride Joan sold a bushel of raffle tickets to be drawn at our banquet. Reunion venues were then discussed and Gatlinburg, TN, Pensacola FL and taking a Ship Cruise were presented as possible venues for our next reunion. A vote was taken with Pensacola receiving the majority vote. It sure would be nice to see the Blue Angels. However, keep in mind, this site is not cast in stone and is



contingent upon some research like hotel rates, transportation and things to see and do. As for myself I feel a "Blue Angel Show" is important. Ken Annino offered to help do further research and Lou said he would call Tom Naile who once offered to host a reunion if held in Pensacola. I'm confident we'll be able to get feed back from other ships that have held reunion in Pensacola and other venues of our interest as well.

The election of Association Officers was no easy task. Since there were no volunteers we instituted a draft. First time the Navy did this in many, many years. I nominated the hard working Lou Guariniello for President that was seconded and unanimously accepted by all present. Lou 'hesitantly' accepted and then immediately began giving directives. Only joking Lou. Also accepting positions were Art Garafolo as VP, Rick Flanagan as Treasurer and the lovely Sandi Pittenger as Secretary. Do you think she now out ranks Dick? She probably always did but now its official. We definitely are an association progressing with the times. The outgoing Officers with the inclusion of Martin were elected to our Board of Directors. This now gives us five members in the event a vote may not be unanimous and need a tiebreaker.

Special thanks to Joe Jurewicz for accepting the position of memorabilia custodian along with our banner and ships bell. Joe has never missed a reunion

and this will ensure he and his lovely wife Carol will be at the next one as well. Did you know, while driving to the reunion from Chicago Carol fell and fractured her foot and still forged on to the reunion. What a girl !!!

The Banquet

With everyone at their tables, our Honorary Reunion Skipper Capt. Spencer Johnson and his lovely wife Andrea entered the dining room. As they passed through our honor guard they were piped aboard by Master Chief Vanderschaaf and received a standing salute from all in attendance. It was my honor to present the Captains lovely wife Andrea an exquisite bouquet of roses in appreciation for joining us for this very special event. It was easy to see how moved the Captain and his wife were by this experience. After a wonderful dinner we then got on to more exciting things like the raffle drawing and 50/50. We had many prizes but the Navy Jacket contributed by the Flanagan's and the GPS purchased by your association were the outstanding prizes. Would you believe the first number called was 844 and the winner was Aida Davidson. When asked why she selected the jacket, she quickly replied I can always purchase a GPS. Next Priscilla Cummings won and selected the GPS. Grant can no longer use 'I got lost honey' as an excuse. The next top prize was a Perry throw blanket donated by the Noroski's and would you believe Sandy Noroski had the winning ticket. Sandy then selected another prize and Gerry, our next winner, immediately began modeling the throw blanket for us in grand Vegas fashion show style. The 50/50 (\$175.00) couldn't have been won by a nicer guy, John Blaine's son Brad. John has long been Hall of Fame supporter of our Perry Association.

We then began our awards presentation. It was so good to see Dave & Jean Klinger again from San Jose CA who easily won the travel award. I don't recall if my old shipmate Mike Rogers received an award for living just around the corner. If not, I think he should have. Best recruiters were Bob Noroski & Arnie Myotte. They really worked hard and brought a lot of new faces to the reunion. Plank owner Dick Pittenger, Jurewicz, Noroski, Denny and Guariniello have never missed a reunion. Wish I could have been included with that group as well

As everyone knows, sailors have a reputation for going astray while on shore duty. With this in mind we are obligated to keep a sharp eye on all our shipmates during the reunion. I'm pleased to report that Chief Sid Brown's impeccable conduct this reunion has won him

the 'good conduct medal'. There was a 3 way tie for our oldest shipmate between Pittenger, Metcalf & Belliveau who all logged in at a mere 81. With exception to our 1st reunion, we had more 1st time attendees than past reunions and also had more children attending. It was great, keep them coming.

President Sid Brown then presented our Reunion Chairman Martin with a wall clock that plays Anchors Aweigh every hour on the hour. Good thing Martin can turn off his hearing aid when he retires for the evening.

Knowing that Linda Hales is really the worker bee behind the scene, it was my pleasure to present a spectacular bouquet of roses to her. Thanks Linda.

We would be remiss if I didn't mention Hob Hales, Mike Stephens and Mike Goldman who contributed their precious time and worked feverously to make the beautiful Perry plaques that were given to the entire ships crew at the banquet. The plaque was a simulated bronze replica of the Oliver & Matthew Lake Erie clothe patch. Production required about 5 weekends to make the mould and then create all the individual plaques that were then bronze coated. We can only say thanks for a memento that will be treasured for many years to come. All our first time attendees also received beautiful Perry crystals and an 8X10 Perry picture that is a copy of the painting that once hung in the Officers dining room.

We then came to a very special part of our banquet when Capt. Johnson accepted our invitation to say a few words to our reunion group. Having sat with the Capt in our hospitality room I knew the Capt had some interesting tales to tell and I was anxious to hear a bit more. He told wonderful stories about his experiences during his two years aboard the Perry. He also talked about his command of the USS Bigelow DD942 and his command of Destroyer Squadron 15 home ported in Yokosuka, Japan and his deployment to Shimoda. I can only say his talk was so outstanding, that any attempt on my part to reiterate the talk would be an injustice. The talk covered the gambit of fun and serious incidences. During the talk you could hear a pin drop and when it was over the applause told the Captain that he was truly adopted into our Perry family and will always remain special to us all.

When we finally regrouped, Martin put on another one of his spectacular video show presentations. Part of it was a guess who game. Early photos of our shipmates were displayed and you had 2 seconds to name the shipmate. It was a lot of fun.

Newport's Favorite Son's

At age 14, Oliver Perry was appointed a midshipman on April 7, 1799 and at age 27 given command of U.S. Naval forces on Lake Erie. His famous battle report after his victory is: "We have met the enemy and they are ours". At the young age of 34, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry died of yellow fever during a Naval expedition to Venezuela. August 23, 1785 – August 23, 1819.



Matthew Perry got his midshipman's commission in the Navy in 1809, and was initially assigned to the USS Revenge, under the command of his elder brother. His



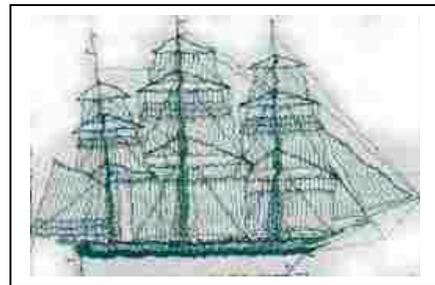
many accomplishments during his Naval career are far too numerous to mention. However, he is best known for his roll in the treaty of Kanagawa in 1854 that opened trade between the USA and Japan. Matthew C Perry, younger brother of Oliver

(April 10, 1794 – March 4, 1858)

A Tall Ship is Coming to Newport, RI

The steel hull of the Oliver Hazard Perry is to be towed from Canada to Newport via the Great Lakes and Hudson River. It will look somewhat like HMS Surprise.

With a 207 main feet would likely tallest



length of feet and mast 130 high, it most be the ship on the

water almost anywhere she goes. Fittingly, the ship will be named after Newport born, Commodore, Oliver Hazard Perry "Hero of Lake Erie", who played a key role in defeating Britain in the War of 1812. Completion is expected for the bicentennial celebrations in 2012. The cost of \$319,000 is overshadowed by the estimated \$1 million a year operating expense.

Support 'your' USS PERRY Association

Black Ship Festival – July 17 – 20

The Newport Black Ships Festival will celebrated its 25th anniversary this year, a century and a half after Commodore Matthew Perry's Black Ships opened the doors of the Land of the Rising Sun to establish trade relations between the United States and Japan in 1854. It is also the 50th anniversary of Newport's sister city Shimoda, Japan. I'm sorry to say our reunion just missed this exciting event.

Trinity Church Founded 1701

If I may, I'd like to take a moment and share a coincidental experience that happened in Newport just before leaving for home in Wayne, NJ. My wife Cathy and I decided to have lunch and then explore the final resting places of Oliver and Mathew Perry and then visit Trinity Church. When we finally got to the church a lovely lady greeted us and offered to give us a tour of the Church and share a bit of its history. Before long we came to the Perry wall plaque. Now it was my turn to share some of my info. I looked at her name tag and said "Wilma, I'd like you to know the info on the Perry family was special because I served aboard the Perry and came to Newport because of the USS Perry ship's reunion." She in turn said how wonderful that was because her husband also served aboard the Perry. Upon further exploration I discover he was a Perry's XO. She then excitedly phoned her husband Frank and we chatted until her cell phone ran out of juice. Her husband was Frank Simpson and he served with Captain Peter Watson and Capt Spencer Johnson. Small world. They did promise to attend our next reunion.

Another coincidence

It was truly a pleasure to see Bill McCarthy again in Newport as a 1st time reunion attendee. Our first meeting was in a shopping center parking lot. As I approached my car, a fellow standing near the car asked if I was the owner. A bit puzzled, I reluctantly replied yes. He then smiled and said he also served aboard the Perry.

I guess it pays to advertise. You see, I had a USS Perry reunion sign pasted on my rear window. Incidentally, Bill is from Long Island NY and our meeting was in Wayne NJ.

Remember, it's your continued enthusiasm and generosity that keeps our Association afloat. It helps support the wonderful events of our Reunions and more importantly, enables us to say hello to you via our Newsletters. So come aboard, we need your support. If you feel the need to support your Association and want to make a contribution of any amount, please do it now and mail your check to Bob Hales at.

USS Perry RA, PO Box 26613, Tampa FL 33623

Our support at the reunion was outstanding. Bob was inundated with everyone trying to make contributions at the same time. I'm pleased to say many of our shipmates opted to join our "Hall of Fame" club. You to can become a member with a contribution of \$25 - \$100 and get yourself prominently listed as a Bronze, Silver or Gold member in our Perry Website Hall of Fame Club.

As special thanks to all our contributors. It would have been my pleasure to recognize you all in this newsletter but there just wasn't enough room. However, you will always have a special place on our website.

Photos - Anyone interested in purchasing additional photos can do so by contacting the photographer. DVD's can also be purchased for \$30 shipping included. The DVD contains all the pictures EXCEPT the group picture at Battleship Cove and plays to music like a slideshow. The 8 X 10 group photo is also available for \$18 + \$2 shipping. The photographer Jody did one superb job. Great group photo.

Jody Gagnon 508-833-2388



Until our next reunion

As many of you understand, 2007 was a most difficult year for Cathy and myself and we truly welcomed your support and expressions of sympathy. We regret not being able to see you in San Antonio and for not being able get out more newsletters than intended. We are slowly getting back on track and look forward to future events with you all.

We love you all,
Cathy & Steve Silk