

USS Turner Joy (DD-951) Newsletter  
*The 21MC*

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October 15, 2014



## REUNION 2014 IN BREMERTON

There are times in one's life when things happen so unexpectedly, yet may become some of the most precious. Never dreamed that a trip to a Navy ship reunion would make such an impact on so many levels. You wonderful people are treasures!

What Adm. Briggs calls "esprit" permeates the TJ reunions and captures hearts. Meeting a new attendee leaving SeaTac, Airporter drivers getting lost travelers on the correct path, Tod Hale making sure you get to the delicious food at the icebreaker, Dick Asche adding a lady to an excursion, seeing the USS Constellation being towed and our boat captain slowing down, turning so we could see that majestic ship as it makes its final trip at sea, eating fresh fire-roasted salmon while being entertained by Native Americans, always heart and soul moving Memorial Service aboard the Turner Joy, and the banquet! No better finale to this reunion, than to see and hear Adm. McClinton introduce Captain Richard A. Stratton who opened our eyes to the realities of sacrifice in service to America.

Please, wherever you are, consider being with the next Turner Joy Reunion! It's especially memorable at Bremerton, but it's not the place, it's so much more.

And the Norfolk, VA reunion in 2016 will be here soon enough!

The attendance for this reunion was the largest ever at almost 200!

Bremerton, WA is one of the finest sites for ship reunions as the Turner Joy is there, two hotels at the foot of the pier, fine restaurants, Kitsap Convention Center out the back door of the hotel, and all within walking distance to the Washington State Ferry Terminal for direct trips to Seattle.

Wm. Michael Morgan (Dianne), 61-63 PC3, Hughes Springs, Texas

## Memorial Service

There are memories living on the deck of the Turner Joy, and every time a Reunion is held there, or a sailor returns, we bring them. When the flag flies, the Star-Spangled Banner sung, the 21 gun salute fired, invocation prayer voiced, and the names of the deceased called out, the thoughts of shipmates and loved ones touch our hearts.

Chad James was asked by Chief Robert Johnson's grand-daughter to stand in for her and he honored her request and struck the bell of remembrance at the calling out of Chief Johnson's name.

Barbara Havens was also present to honor her husband, Larry T. Havens along with their sons, Roger and Marc.....a quote from his obituary, "We bid you fair winds and following seas" is appropriate.

And, to have the family of the third commanding officer of the TJ, Captain Robert C. Barnhart, Jr. for the Memorial Service and at the banquet was very special. Annette & Mike Colver, their daughter, Michelle and son Robert, along with Captain Barnhart's sons, Gary and Randy Barnhart sent a note of appreciation for being included and spoke of the pride they shared in being a part of the day. Annette wrote of being sure their Dad was there with them and she is thankful for all the efforts surrounding the reunion as well as the telling of the Gulf of Tonkin Incident. Honoring loved ones means so much to the families, always.

Benediction for the service was given by Father Hoang, Paster of St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Port Orchard. Father Hoang escaped Viet Nam on a boat when the Communists took control of his country. He and his family ended up in the Seattle area where he has remained since his arrival. He celebrated the silver anniversary of his ordination as a Priest in August 2014.

### Turner Joy Reunion Business Meeting 2014

The 2014 Turner Joy Reunion Group Business Meeting was opened and moderated by Jack Barry, Chairman of the Turner Joy Reunion Group Advisory Committee.

On behalf of the shipmates Mr. Barry recognized and thanked Dick Asche, Tod Hale, Mike Stockreiter, Bob Waterhouse and Chad James for their contributions to a very successful reunion.

The second order of business was to introduce the new Advisory Committee effective immediately following the closing of the 2014 Reunion. The new committee is as follows:

#### TJ Advisory Committee

Effective date: 10 August 2014

##### Position

Chairman

President/Treasurer, Reunion Group

2016 Reunion Coordinator

2014 Reunion Co-Coordinator

Member-at-large

Member-at-large

Member-at-large

Member-at-large

Member-at-large

##### Shipmate

Mike Stockreiter

Dick Asche (also 2014 Reunion Coordinator)

Richard Haight

Tod Hale

Dale Sheveland

Mike/Dianne Morgan

Richard Aamodt

Tony Rosenbaum

Charley Shultheis

Shipmates Jack Barry, Dave Leverenz, Chad James and Jim Turnbull leave the committee effective 10 August 2014. They were thanked for their service and contributions.

The last order of business was to select the 2016 Reunion location and a reunion coordinator. After discussion the location was put to a vote. The winner is the Norfolk, VA area. Richard Haight volunteered to be the coordinator and was immediately accepted. Jim Chester volunteered to assist Richard Haight if any assistance is required.

Mr. Barry closed the meeting.

To: USS Turner Joy (DD 951) Shipmates  
From: Turner Joy Reunion Group Advisory Committee

Subject: 2014 Turner Joy Shipmates Reunion, August 7-9, 2014, Bremerton, WA

Shipmates, you have done it again! The 2014 Reunion was a huge success because you were there. Your pride in your service to your country and in your ship was evident by the magnificent turnout. Over 190 shipmates, family and friends were in attendance. The reunion featured our proud ship. We are more fortunate than most reunion groups as our ship still exists and every 4 to 6 years we have the reunion in Bremerton, the permanent home of the Turner Joy. Some shipmates arrived on the 5th and 6th but the real reuniting of shipmates started in the Hospitality Suite on Thursday, August 7, where shipmates registered, looked at pictures and chatted with old friends. One shipmate was overheard saying, "No matter how long it has been since we have seen each other after a few minutes it's like no time had passed at all"! This statement summed it up for all shipmates as they encountered the friends with whom they shared the Turner Joy experience. The Icebreaker Thursday evening officially kicked off the reunion with delicious food and tremendous fellowship. Memories were rekindled and tall stories retold.

Friday was a day of fellowship and fun. In the morning attendees enjoyed one of two tours; the Trident submarine tour or the Keyport Naval Museum and Poulsbo tour. The afternoon and evening featured a boat tour that ended at the Tillicum Village on Blake Island for a salmon bake and show. After feasting on delicious salmon the attendees returned to Bremerton. The trip to Tillicum Village produced an unplanned thrill. They encountered the USS Constellation starting her last voyage as she was being towed to Brownsville, Texas. Many Turner Joy shipmates had spent countless hours operating with the Constellation.

Saturday started with self-guided tours of the Turner Joy. Shipmates, family and friends relived an important part of the shipmates' lives. Although several shipmates were heard to say, "When did these ladders get so steep"? After the self-guided tours lunch was served on the mess decks and many shipmates marveled at how nimbly they had once gotten in and out of those seats. After lunch a very meaningful Memorial Service was held on the fantail. It included beautiful vocal, brass quintet and bugle music as well as a Marine Honor Guard who provided a gun salute to honor the shipmates who have passed. All were touched during the calling of names and the committing of the wreath to sea. Following the Memorial Service shipmates attended a business meeting and Norfolk, VA was selected as the site for the 2016 Reunion. The reunion concluded with a magnificent banquet. The view of Bremerton Harbor was spectacular, the food exceptional and the speaker, Captain Richard Stratton, US Navy (Ret.) held the attendees spellbound as he described his 6 years as a prisoner of the North Vietnamese in the Hanoi area.

A great reunion was had by all. A special thanks to Dick Asche & Tod Hale, the reunion coordinators, who made it all possible and to Mike Stockreiter for a special Memorial Service.

A special note: Thanks to Chad James, a professional production company was onboard the ship recording the Turner Joy's proud history by filming all shipmates who wanted to tell their story.

## **Memory Book 2014 Reunion    Tod Hale STG3**

Shipmates, as of September 18, your memory book is now in the hands of the publisher. Chad and I want to thank all of you who shared photos and other informative items to be included. I am pretty sure we had space for most of your contributions. It will be 3/5 weeks before I will see the proof, and be able to OK for distribution.

For any of you, whether you attended the reunion or not, the deadline for ordering a book is 11/30/14. Please contact Classic Imaging directly to order [classic@classic-ip.com](mailto:classic@classic-ip.com) 800 334 6388

One of our shipmates bought four! Christmas is around the corner, so share your time with your family and friends. You can contact me if you have any questions.

Tod Hale [hiwaysailor951@yahoo.com](mailto:hiwaysailor951@yahoo.com) [541 840 0492](tel:5418400492)

See you in Norfolk in 2016!

### **Shipmate Comments**

#### **William (Bill) and Charlotte (Shot) Miller, ET1, 69-70, Hilltop Lakes, TX**

This was my first TJ reunion and the first time onboard the ship in 44 years. Since the reunion I have been running like the proverbial chicken with its head cut off, but now that things have calmed down a little I wanted to take the opportunity to thank both of you and anyone else involved in bringing to fruition a great 2014 reunion. I know that it took a huge effort and a lot of dedication to bring it off and you guys did a stellar job and you have my sincere thanks and admiration. Tod, you especially have my thanks for making sure we had the transportation to get back to Sea/Tac. I know that that was something that you didn't have to do, but wanted to do and we appreciated it so much. I just hope that Shot and I are able to make it back in 2020. We had a great time. Thanks again.

#### **Jerry Bruce, LT (CHC), 74-76, Alexandria, VA**

I am sorry to miss the Bremerton Reunion. I was looking forward to it and once again conduct a service aboard my old ship, the TJ. My wife and I are moving from our 450 year old house in northeast England to Alexandria, VA. We are making a farewell tour of Scotland during the TJ reunion so will miss this special time of renewal of friendships and the relationship with "the old girl." May it all go well.

We are moving to Alexandria to be near grandchildren opening a guest house for Washington, DC visitors. Margaret will continue with her cooking school but will scale it down to have 5 to 6 students as opposed to 26. We plan to be snowbirds and fly to Okinawa, Japan after Christmas to winter there spending 2 months with our daughter and youngest granddaughter. Keep me connected to the TJ family.

#### **Chad James, 62-65, RD2, Redmond, OR**

I just returned from a week with my family on the Outer Banks, NC and then to Annapolis, MD, and, then back home to Redmond, OR. This all occurred from Sunday afternoon of our wonderful weekend at the 2014 Turner Joy Reunion until yesterday.

It is without question one of the best turnouts that we have ever had - even to the point of many first-timers.

On a personal note - My tenure on the Reunion committee was a very important position for which I will continue to be thankful for having the opportunity to work with the members on

the committee in assisting our Reunion organization into the future. I am thankful to hear that we are acquiring “new younger blood” to carry us further and welcome those who have stepped up to offer their time, for encouraging and adding their strength to our organization.

On a side note - I visited our shipmate, Jeff Niss' interment at the Naval Academy this week while visiting my son's home in Annapolis. I told Jeff that we appreciated his forward thinking in one of his last comments to me, “Chad, the TJ carries on because we carry on. Please make sure that this message continues to get out to everyone.” With that, I commented back to Jeff, stating “That I would make sure”. Well I got to tell Jeff that, in fact, we were getting the message out and that we would continue to build upon the legacy of a great ship because of her great crew. Thank you all again for your leadership.

**Theron Noth, 63-65, LTJG, Heyworth, IL**

Just a note to say THANK YOU for a job WELL DONE on this 2014 Turner Joy Reunion! Everything went very, very well and we know how much work it takes to pull one of these events off!! We thoroughly enjoyed every minute and we know others did also... Thank you again for all you do!!

A special THANK YOU for providing transportation to the shuttle at the 76 on Sunday morning... Dawn was our driver and did an OUTSTANDING job getting us to the airport!! Great planning!

**Robert S. Wroblewski, YN3, 63-66, Dexter, MI**

Many memories aboard the TJ, including the Tonkin Gulf Incident, along with the USS Maddox, and the guys who were hurt that unfortunate night. Memories of friends that I haven't been able to locate: Fritz Winter (Boilerman/Machinist), Gary Palmer (Ships Laundry), Ken Garrison, BM3. Memories of George McCormick, Yeoman and AKA Mac, now deceased. Many others that I have forgotten over the years.

**John Peterson, FTG3, 59-61, Johnstown, CO**

In early June of this year, I had the great experience of touring the Turner Joy with my three adult children and one grandson. We had about a six hour tour with our tour director, Steve Boerner. It was a wonderful experience to go through the entire ship again. I was a plank owner on the ship. I was an FT third class when I was on the first crew and in 1962 when I left the Navy I was an FTG1. Due to the extensive tour in June, I will not be attending the reunion in August. There are other issues, health, financial etc. that prevent me from coming.

**Edw. Briggs, CDR, 72-73, Escondido, CA**

Nanette and I wish to extend our grateful thanks to all who made this reunion so special. From the hotels, to the ship's volunteers, to Joanna Groat in the ship's store, to the Memorial service and Mike Stockreiter, to the Banquet and all the activities so well planned and executed, we say well done. The opportunity to spend time with shipmates and families of every year of Turner Joy's active duty service is the most rewarding part of the time, especially aboard our ship. We are indebted to all of you for making our attendance so rewarding. We are mindful of the passing of time and the importance of remembrance of those very special days when the Turner Joy answered the call to duty for our nation.

We were privileged to serve, to maintain the spirit set by Strat Wentworth, and to build a family that does not forget. With very best wishes, Nan and Ed.

**Dale Sheveland, SFP2, 66-69, Eden Prairie, MN**

Dick & Tod,

A BIG THANK YOU to both of you for hosting this very historic reunion. We arrived home earlier this evening and I have had some time to just sit back and reflect on all of the events and activities, the reuniting with my fellow TJ sailors and also meeting several of the new first time attendees.

It was indeed an enjoyable time! My extended family knows how much I enjoy these reunions. I spent some time this evening calling folks to tell them about all of the various events and the many TJ Navy friends I connected with again.

The Memorial Service was impressive and I thoroughly enjoyed the Trident sub tour. Our current Navy is in good hands if we continue to have sailors like those we met there. The capstone of the reunion, in my opinion, was the wonderful banquet on Saturday night. Great food and an awe inspiring guest speaker!

A special thanks to my good friend, Chad James, for arranging photos and video interviews to capture the unique details of the history of our ship. Thank you all who were involved.

**Rich Alexander, LT, 59-62, Costa Mesa, CA**

Thanks for putting together the multiple moving parts into a memorable event. There was something about this reunion where everything clicked. The events complemented, and the turnout was large and appreciative. My son, Ethan and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The tour of the nuclear submarine was a rare opportunity. The trip to, dinner, and native entertainment on Blake Island was another wonderful memory. As I mentioned to you, I have a feeling this is the last reunion I'll be going to. Thanks for making it the best.

**Robert McClinton, CDR, 65-66, Sequim, WA**

Well done, Dick and Tod! We enjoyed the absolutely delightful Icebreaker, which was done in such excellent taste. A great privilege to be with so many friends once again.

What a JOY to have had time with all of you!

We thank you, Bob and Gunvor

**Richard E. Asche, LT(SC), 63-64, Port Orchard, WA**

I have read a book loaned to me by Admiral Bob titled "Prisoner at War" by Scott Blakey. It is about our banquet speaker's (then LCDR Richard Stratton) six years of captivity in the Hanoi area. If you were fascinated by his comments at the banquet then I guarantee you will be fascinated with this book. It is a must read.

**Jim Chester, OS2, 71-73, Carson City, NV**

Out of more than 13 ships I served on, TJ was above all others. The 1972-1973 combat cruise optempo was the highest I ever witnessed and TJ participated in so much rich history. I am proud to have served in TJ!

### **A SPECIAL THANKS**

It is with a sincere feeling of gratitude that we thank each shipmate who contributed and shared their personal “TJ” story.

Our ship is a true Memorial Museum – the proud history of the USS C. Turner Joy is defined by the experience of her crew. Your personal story is now recorded and contributes to keeping the Turner Joy legacy alive for the current and future generations – a celebration of proud Americans proudly serving their ship, Navy and country.

We again give our special thanks to Peakway Productions, LLC and their crew for the video filming, Steve Boehner and crew of the Turner Joy Memorial Museum for making the ship available for filming, and to the city of Bremerton for hosting the 2014 USS Turner Joy Reunion.

Once again, we thank all shipmates for being a part of and contributing your story to this legacy.

### **TAPS**

#### **Joseph Dilman Longbrake, E-7, 80-81, Phoenix, AZ**

Today’s mail brought the USS Turner Joy newsletter containing the information for the 2014 reunion in Bremerton. It is with a very heavy heart that I tell you of my husband’s (SCPO Joseph Dilman Longbrake) death. Dilman passed away September 1, 2013 after fighting cancer for nine years.

Dilman loved his experience on the Turner Joy and spoke of it often. Many times he talked about his time on board and considered the TJ the best ship he’d served on. He told me that one day he’d show me the ship and plotting where he spent so many hours at his job. He was really proud of having served on the TJ and the men he served with. In June of last year we made plans for a vacation to Alaska with a stop on the way home in Bremerton to visit the TJ. Unfortunately, Dilman’s health started to decline during our last week, and when we got to Seattle he was too ill to make the trip to Bremerton. He was admitted to the VA Hospital here in Phoenix the day after we got home, and we were told that there was nothing more the doctors could do to help him.

Dilman loved serving his country during the twenty years he was in the Navy, and I am so very proud of him for serving and sacrificing, along with his shipmates.

Thank you all for your service and best wishes for a very enjoyable and safe reunion.  
Best Regards, Kathy Longbrake

#### **Tommy Hern, IC3, 72-73, Garden Ridge, TX**

I am Tommy Hern’s wife, Traci. I have very sad news. Tommy passed away last December after battling brain cancer bravely for 17 months. If you could, please make the announcement in your next newsletter. So sorry to give this news, and I meant to write sooner.

He remained in contact with many of his shipmates and was looking forward to seeing them at the reunion this year, but I know he will be there in spirit, so please raise a beer and a smile for him! For Tommy, Traci Meadows-Hern

#### **Michael Grube, EM2, 72-73, Bend, OR**

Word was recently received from Cheryl Grube that her husband, Michael Grube passed away on April 25, 2014. Michael had his heart set on attending our Bremerton Reunion but it was not to be. He had a wish to locate his old shipmate, who the crew had nicknamed, “Buddha,” but is uncertain whether contact was ever made.

# 2014 - 200\_\_ TURNER JOY MEMBERSHIP

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ TELE. (WORK) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ # OF CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DATES SERVED ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ RANK/RATING ON TJ \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS OF ACTIVE DUTY \_\_\_\_\_ RETIRED? \_\_\_\_\_ RETIRED RANK/RATING \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN NEWSLETTER? (YES/NO) \_\_\_\_\_

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- Donations to Turner Joy maintenance fund should be mailed directly to Richard E. Asche, President, Turner Joy Reunion Group, 2599 E. Alaska Ave., Port Orchard, WA 98366
- Annual dues are \$20.00 per year (Jan-Dec.'14). Membership dues (Jan-Dec.) may be paid in advance at the rate of \$20.00 per year. Your dues subsidize all reunion activities. Additional amounts paid (in \$20.00 increments) will be credited to future year membership dues. Thus, a \$100.00 payment for instance, will pay your annual dues to 2018. The year that your dues are paid to is indicated next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter. No date next to your name indicates that your dues have not been paid since 1998. If your dues are paid up and if you so desire, please return this form for change of address or for your comments for future newsletters.

Please send this application with your check payable to:  
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2599 EAST ALASKA AVE.  
PORT ORCHARD, WA 98366