

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

Editor: email: diannemorgan7@gmail.com
Dianne Morgan, Editor

May 1, 2015



Shipmate Comments

Anthony Sweat, SH3, 65-68, Asheville, NC, sweat-charlsie@yahoo.com

I am trying to purchase Cruise books for the period 1965-66-67 but have been unable to locate any. If someone knows where I might purchase them, kindly advise. I appreciate it.

Charles L. Nagle, BT3, 72, Silvis, IL

I was only on the ship for one year. The two years that I was in the active Navy when I was in the yards both years. I was a reservist who was in the 2 X 4 Program so I was 2 years active and 4 years reserves. I retired from the Reserves after 20 years.

Manuel S. Padilla, RMC, 59-61, San Diego, CA

I was saddened to learn of Woody Lovill's passing. I always looked forward to seeing him at the TJ's reunions. We always traded Christmas greetings and wrote brief messages bringing us up to date and comments of the ships reunion. I wondered why this year (2014) I didn't hear from him. Now I know why. I will greatly miss Woody. I too will keep Woody in my prayers.

Thomas Collier, SOG3, 60-62, Whitefish, MT

Woody Lovill was the only other person that I met at the reunion that was on the TJ when I was aboard. Sorry to hear about Woody. We had a lot of fun on the ship when we were together!

J.W. (Dub) Mabry, TM3, 63-64, Benton, AR

I would like to make a reunion in Bremerton to see TJ but due to medical problems from Agent Orange and asbestos have me limited. Dick Bartel, Sonorman 3rd, still where are you?? C'mon Man!!

Larry Upton, SK2, 80-82, Clifton Park, NY

I am looking to getting in touch with previous shipmates on board TJ. Best CO/Captain on TJ- John Bianco. Best of times and deployments.

Kenneth B. Smith, MM2, 69-71, San Bernadino, CA

Those of you who served with Captain John Bianco may enjoy the following video:

<https://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=513690>

Carroll (Skip) Screws, SRG1, 75-80, Sun Valley, NV

A big HI to all I knew and served with, WSO9 ad ERO9. TJ was great and I'd sail with her again. Thanks for the memories.

Scott Savery, IC3, 66-67, Shelton, CT

I have applied for a VA pension due to Agent Orange exposure during my two cruises to VietNam. It now appears I need some additional help in moving my case forward. The VA has listed the TJ as a brown water ship but does not believe it was close enough to the shore to have been exposed to Agent Orange during the 1967-68 cruise. The DAV officer that is representing me has suggested that I ask the sailors that were on the cruise with me to send me or email me any pictures of the TJ close ashore during that cruise. During that cruise I didn't even own a camera. Also, if anyone has any memories of those kinds of incidents if you could write them down or email them to me that would also be helpful. As an aside, my illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure are not life threatening but I am hopeful that a successful prosecution of this case will make it easier for any other of our shipmates to also apply for assistance. Lastly, has anyone gone to DC and made copies of the Turner Joy log books? scotthsavary@hotmail.com.

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

In the end of the pew hung a handwritten, copy paper sign saying: *Wofford Street Gang*. In the 40's and 50's, Wofford Street in Dallas was full of families with lots of boys near the same age, interests, schools and churches. They grew up together doing the kinds of things all boys do; making up names for their bikes, each other, and the games they played. After graduating high school, they went out into the world seeking a purpose or goal for their lives and as young men are wont to do, thinking of adventure perhaps, some joined the military. Most military men now know what those young men could not....Vietnam. One of those boys was gravely injured by mortar rounds that didn't take his life, only the way he knew life at the time. The surgeries, therapy, and struggles changed his body, his abilities, but never his character. That young man was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and earned a B.A. in Accounting, married his sweetheart with whom he fathered two daughters and one son. All the ordinary ways a man lives life...except this man also put in thousands of hours visiting veterans in hospitals, reciting poetry, playing the piano, or just bringing goodness and care where needed. Most of the *Wofford Street Gang* attended the funeral, as did hundreds of friends, when Mike (Red) Ghormley died a few months ago. He left a legacy that so many other military personnel still do in reaching out to fellow veterans.....never forget.

Berton Vicars, 63-65, QM2, Ruidoso, NM

Received the TJ newsletter today and after reading it, thought I would send this note to you.

I have only attended one reunion, 2014 in Bremerton. Enjoyed it very much, was never interested in attending reunions in other cities. Just wouldn't be the same without being able to go aboard the Turner Joy. I never quite understood why reunions were held elsewhere when the Turner Joy

is the main reason for having the reunions. As I grow older, am often thinking of the Turner Joy and the time I served on it, 1963-1965 and the men that I served with. I will plan on attending the next reunion that is held in Bremerton and I also believe all the TJ reunions should be held in Bremerton because it has more meaning to be able to visit the TJ.

Don Proffit, RD2, 69-71, Roanoke, VA

I missed the reunion in Bremerton and understand the reunion in 2016 will be in Norfolk, VA. I should be able to make it there.

Bob Waterhouse, LT, 64-65, Guttenberg, IA

A special thanks to all who worked to make the 2014 reunion a grand success. Hats off to all our TJ family and to those who have passed on before us.

TAPS

This is a really fine 2 minute video filmed in Tacoma by CBS, if you haven't seen it, I'm sure you'll appreciate it. It starts with a commercial, but hang in there, I think you will like it as it is appropriate for our fallen shipmates below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83zvu1-b8jo>

This, too is also an awesome website...<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.html>

This is really sobering. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture or at least their bio and medals. This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it. I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

Roger M. Suddeth, CDR, 68-70, San Diego, CA

Word was recently received from Captain Suddeth's daughter that Captain Suddeth had passed away in August 2014 from complications of advanced dementia. We are all saddened to hear of his passing. He was respected and loved by his crewmembers.

Robert F. Sharpe, ET2, 65-68, Central City, IA

Word was received from Bob's widow, Nancy, that Bob Sharpe had passed on July 6, 2014. Nancy indicates that he was very proud of being part of the Turner Joy group. He often told Nancy of his escapades on board the ship and how he managed to stay in good graces was beyond her! He was recently employed by Collins Radio in Iowa.

USS TURNER JOY WEBSITE

Welcome to the new website for the USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP. Right now this is a work in progress and I am trying to bring everything from the old site to this one. I am hoping that it will be more organized and easier to navigate. The site is using WordPress with several plug-ins and the option for more. Of particular note is the ability to view the website on a tablet or a mobile device with the same quality as a desktop web browser. I hope you enjoy and keep coming back. Thank you! **Jack Haskell** jhaskell@73rdavenue.com

Dianne Morgan, Editor

The Website is great! Many entries from Shipmates and family members, and a good place to locate someone you may have served with aboard the TJ. The History section is a good read for those interested in learning about where their father or son served, and may bring back memories for all shipmates. The last paragraph tells of your ship as she lives on proudly serving our country still. Be sure to check out the Reunion News, as it has the 2014 TJ Reunion Book with photos both past and present. We salute you, Jack Haskell on a superb piece of work!

Richard E. Asche, President, USS Turner Joy Reunion Group

Many of the shipmates do not realize that Jack has spent many hours building and improving our web site of his own time –“free of charge”. He is a long time friend of mine and a former airline cargo pilot having flown 747 Cargo planes. He confessed long ago that our web site was built on his laptop while flying to or from Bangladesh or some such place. Again, congratulations Jack for a job “Well Done”. Speaking for all of our shipmates, your efforts are greatly appreciated and you are hereby designated an Honorary Shipmate- a lifetime title. I hope to see you at our reunion in Norfolk, VA in 2016.

A young man learns what's most important in life from the guy next door. Contributed by: Dianne Morgan

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days. "Jack, did you hear me?" "Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said...

"Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him.

"I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said. "You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said. "He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said. As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away. The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture. Jack stopped suddenly... "What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked. "The box is gone," he said. "What box?" Mom asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it. "Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom." It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died.

Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox: "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read,

but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside. "Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! -Harold Belser." "The thing he valued most was... my time."

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked. "I need some time to spend with a friend," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!" Think about the people who have given value to you over the years and let them know.....

FUNNY PAGES

Scene: Me using the Siri app on my iphone.

Me: Siri, call my wife.

Siri: Samantha McLaughlin is not in your contacts.

Me: Samantha Gibbs is my wife.

Siri: I've added Samantha Gibbs as your wife.

Me: Call my wife.

Siri: Which wife?

Ah, Marriage. I was standing in front of the bathroom mirror one evening admiring my reflection, when I passed this question to my wife of 30 years: "Will you still love me when I'm old, fat and balding?" She answered, "I do".

A Long Line heading to the ladies' room greeted my friend's wife. Since desperate times call for desperate measures, my friend took her into the empty men's room, then stood guard. When she exited a few minutes later, a man waiting his turn called out, "I hope you remembered to put up the toilet seat."

Colonoscopy. I recently had a colonoscopy procedure by the "King of the Underworld" and to my amazement it was all finished before I knew it was even begun! I knew it was finished when I imagined the nurses in the room were all standing around laughing and giggling and pointing at me! But it was worth it-get one if you need one!

NOMINATED FOR --- BEST EMAIL OF THE YEAR

After being interviewed by the school administration, the prospective teacher said: Let me see if I've got this right. You want me to go into that room with all those kids, correct their disruptive behavior, observe them for signs of abuse, monitor their dress habits, censor their T-shirt messages, and instill in them a love for learning. You want me to check their backpacks for weapons, wage war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, and raise their sense of self-esteem and personal pride. You want me to teach them patriotism and good citizenship,

sportsmanship and fair play, and how to register to vote, balance a checkbook, and apply for a job. You want me to check their heads for lice, recognize signs of antisocial behavior, and make sure that they all pass the final exams. You also want me to provide them with an equal education regardless of their handicaps, and communicate regularly with their parents in English, Spanish or any other language, by letter, telephone, newsletter, and report card. You want me to do all this with a piece of chalk, a blackboard, a bulletin board, a few books, a big smile, and a starting salary that qualifies me for food stamps. You want me to do all this, and then you tell me.....

I CAN'T PRAY?

THOUGHTS

1. Life isn't fair but it is still good.
2. When in doubt, just take the next step.
3. Life is too short-enjoy it.
4. Your job won't take care of you when you're sick-your friends and family will.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Stay true to yourself.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. It's OK to get angry with God, he can take it.
9. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
10. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
11. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
12. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
13. If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
14. Take a deep breath, it calms the mind.
15. It's never too late to be happy. But it's all up to you and no one else.
16. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
17. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
18. The most important sex organ is the brain.
19. No one is in charge of your happiness but you.
20. Frame every so called disaster with these words 'In five years will it matter?'
21. Always choose life.
22. Forgive.
23. What other people think of you is none of your business.
24. Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.
25. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
26. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
27. Believe in miracles.
28. God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.
29. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
30. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
31. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
32. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab our back.
33. Envy is a waste of time. Accept what you already have, not what you need.
34. The best is yet to come.
35. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.

36..Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift

2015-2016 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) _____

- **Donations to the Turner Joy Maintenance/Dry Dock Fund should be mailed to the address below, made payable to BHSA and shown in the "For" line: TJ Sailors. During these economic times, your donation to this fund is highly encouraged.**
- Annual dues are \$20.00 per year (Jan-Dec.'15). 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 through 2019. 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:

USS TURNER JOY REUNION GROUP
2599 EAST ALASKA AVE., PORT ORCHARD, WA 98366