

# USS Turner Joy (DD-951) Newsletter

## *The 21MC*

*Editor: email: [diannemorgan7@gmail.com](mailto:diannemorgan7@gmail.com)*

**Dianne Morgan, Editor**

January 15, 2016



## Shipmate Comments

### Birch Tracy, 81-82, EMFN, Oak Lawn, IL

Attention former crew members from 1981 to decommissioning, please look me up on Facebook.

### Douglas M. Short, 72-75, MM3, Saline, MI

Attended the reunion last year in Bremerton and had a great time! Met up with a few shipmates from my era on-board but not too many Snipes! The ship looks great, and is in good hands with the people of Bremerton. I look forward to attending more events in the future. (I was top-watch in Main Control).

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

During my long Naval career, only one ship stood out as extremely positive and the overwhelming spirit of the love of the deep sense of duty, honor, country, fun and dedication rest only in the USS Turner Joy! Why I do not know, but the ship is special to me and others!

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

I took the liberty of reprinting the following letter from a shipmate on the USS Lloyd Thomas (DD-764) written to the Editor of the Tin Can Sailors and followed by the TCS editor's comments. I believe that Mr. P.J. Miller says what most TJ Shipmates feel in their hearts about our Lady and the many memories of our time spent on board our home.

“Dear Editor:

I have read the TCS paper for years about other tin cans and their crews, so I thought it is about time I wrote about the best one. All sea stories are alike, but this is about the crew of the USS Lloyd Thomas (DD-764). We just had our 21<sup>st</sup> Reunion on October 20-24 in Phoenix, Arizona. We have had one every year since 1990. Our turnout average is 65-150 people per year

since 1990. Our whole crew keeps in touch with one another all year long via phone or Twitter. I can't write about the feelings I have. I wish the editor could put on paper for me what I am trying to say about the "LT", the love we had for her and still do.

There is one thing the crew did at one reunion in Philadelphia in 1994 that still stands out in my mind. My wife and I hosted the event. There were three boys killed in VietNam in in September 1970 during a forward 5"-38-cal. Mount explosion. At the Philadelphia reunion we invited the the families of our lost shipmates to participate in a memorial service along with Admiral Dewey's flagship, a captain, the chaplain and an honor guard from the USS Kennedy did the honors. Three wreaths were thrown into the Delaware River. The Olympia played Taps, fired three volleys and a Philadelphia fireboat shot honors in the harbor. There were 165 people on the bow and not a dry eye in sight. The togetherness over the years by that crew is beautiful. We also took their names off the wall, put this scroll into a picture of the LT, and gave it to the parents of the lost sailors. It was beautiful.

I am now 81 and need your help putting this article into the right words. P.S. I gave you the idea last year for a sign "A Tin Can Sailor Lives Here." I have one in front of my house. Thank You, P.J. Miller"

*Editors Note: I am sad to report that P.J. did not live to see his letter in print. He passed in June 2015. His wife sent the letter she found in his desk, knowing that he intended to mail it. He alludes to the feeling that most of us develop about the ships in which we serve. They are so much to us; our home, our refuge, and our place of comfort for companionship close quarters engender. We work and sometimes fight there, which adds two additional dimensions to the experience. I do know what P.J. meant but I doubt I can adequately describe it. And he was indeed the person who first suggested that "A Tin Can Sailor Lives Here."*

### **R. H. Hoagenson, 72-73, TM3, Holmen, WI**

Those many years ago aboard the Turner Joy were really the adventure of a lifetime. In all the years since, it is often hard to believe it was not just some sort of dream, but that I was actually part of those events. That's why I have to go and visit the TJ every few years. I will always cherish the memories of that great crew I was privileged to serve with.

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

It was with great regret that I resigned from the Bremerton Historic Ships Association (BHSA) Board of Directors on September 1, 2015 having served on the Board since 1990. As I have become more active in my business and other recent personal activities and events, my plate was simply too full. I remain hopeful that the current board membership will continue to present the ship in the fine manner as before during her presence on the Bremerton waterfront and that TJ and other ships' reunions will be held on our great ship in the future.

### **1990 and 1992 USS Turner Joy Reunion DVDs .**

DVD's have been reproduced of the activities at each of the 1990 and 1992 reunions. They were both full described in your last Newsletter dated September 15, 2015. If you haven't kept your copy in your important papers, it can be reviewed at [www.ussturnerjoy.com](http://www.ussturnerjoy.com). If anyone would like one or both of these DVD's, please send \$20.00 for each one (the cost of reproduction from VCR's) to Turner Joy Reunion Group, 2599 E. Alaska Ave., Port Orchard, WA 98366. They are historic!

## AND THEN IT IS WINTER

**You know. . . Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... The winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?**

**I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change....Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.**

**Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit! And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's NOT over. A new adventure will begin!**

**Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime. So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember.. and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!**

**"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one. LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY! AND REMEMBER:.... "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."**

**LIVE HAPPY IN THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR! LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.**

## How DO Court Recorders Keep a Straight Face???

These are from a book called Disorder in the American Courts and are things people actually said in court,... word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

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ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

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ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

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ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

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ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

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ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget..

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

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ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

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ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

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ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Are you shitting me?

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ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Getting laid

ATTORNEY: She had three children , right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

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ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death..

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

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ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

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ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

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ATTORNEY: Doctor , how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

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ATTORNEY: ALL your responses MUST be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral...

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ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8:30 PM

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

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ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?

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ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing? WITNESS: No..

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

## **BREMERTON HISTORIC SHIP PRESERVATION PROJECT**

Three years ago, Historic Ship Preservation Project (dry dock) funding was way behind the eight ball with less than \$40,000 in the pot. We've made substantial progress since then. In just three years, the dry dock fund has climbed to \$250,000 with more in the pipeline. Most of that comes from admissions and gift shop sales, but fundraising is an important factor in keeping Turner Joy on a solid fiscal footing. It's an indicator of community commitment and support that philanthropic and political organizations look at when deciding on grants for not-for-profits like Turner Joy. We may be getting some help on that front. John Hanson and Board Members have been exploring the possibility of funding help from the city and state and met with several local and state representatives recently. Click on the Kitsap Sun link below for a run down on what is happening with that: <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/local/officials-make-pledge-to-turner-joyhull-work-27868d74-aa1c-33d0-e053-0100007f8c82-363535901.html>.

The December 2015 issue of the BHSA newsletter can be found at:

<http://www.ussturnerjoy.org/content/uploads/2015/07/2015-12-No.-8.pdf>

It can also be found as a link to our own website at: [www.ussturnerjoy.com](http://www.ussturnerjoy.com), as well as previous issues of this Newsletter.

The results of the meeting with local and state representatives is included in this newsletter.

## **USS TURNER JOY FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**

We attempt to publish and send our Newsletters (21MC) each quarter to each of you on our mailing list. Soon the cost of mailing the newsletters to all 584 shipmates on our mailing list will be prohibitive since 267 names of shipmates on our mailing list are not current member and who never have been members. Newsletters cost approximately \$.75 each for printing and postage each time they are mailed. The original intent was to hopefully send the newsletter to every shipmate that we knew about in the hopes that they would become members. Unfortunately this didn't work. I propose that after this mailing the non-members no longer receive this newsletter but I leave that up to you. Please let me know. I believe the money saved could very well be used in further financial support for future reunions and thereby save our active members who attend our reunions a few bucks.

Richard E. Asche, President, USS Turner Joy Reunion Group, 2599 E. Alaska Ave., Port Orchard, WA 98366 or email [reasche@aol.com](mailto:reasche@aol.com).

## **NEWSLETTER INPUT**

We attempt to publish no more than four pages of newsletter (double sided) in each envelope since one extra piece of paper costs an additional \$.21 postage. This is so the Postal Service can continue to send you and I junk mail at \$.05 per piece regardless of weight. Therefore, anyone receiving this Newsletter, please feel free to send Editor Dianne Morgan your Shipmate Comments for publishing in future newsletters. I'm certain that she would welcome your comments as will your fellow shipmates. Richard E. Asche

## **TONKIN GULF INCIDENT REVISITED**

The first USS Turner Joy Reunion was held August 25, 1990 at Bremerton, Washington. Our guest speaker for the reunion banquet was Captain Andy Kerr, who was at the time the Seventh Fleet Investigator sent to Turner Joy and Maddox to investigate the events surrounding the Tonkin Gulf Incident on August 4, 1964. For a transcript of Captain Kerr's investigation report presentation, please email me at: [reasche@aol.com](mailto:reasche@aol.com). It disputes the conclusions of the many conspiracy theorists at the time and thereafter, and continuing to this day!

## **USS TURNER JOY HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUNDING**

Since the news ‘leaked’ of some details of our meeting with our area legislative, city, and port reps, thought you’d like to see the article (see link below).

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/local/officials-make-pledge-to-turner-joy-hull-work-27868d74-aa1c-33d0-e053-0100007f8c82-363535901.html>

We had not intended to release an official press release related to that meeting as it was requested to allow the reps to decide how they wanted the information to come together since they didn’t have an official plan of attack just yet (think they wanted to verify what options they’d have available to seek funding prior to having it hit the press).

Mayor Lent hosted us and nearly all of our state reps (Bremerton is covered by 3 legislative districts, so three state Senators and six House members represent us as a city), two Port Commissioners and one of our City Council members attended. Overall, the tone was very positive and hopeful of obtaining state level resources to aid with the preservation/dry dock costs within the next 12-18 months via one source or another.

We requested support for a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to help fund the coming preservation/dry dock. The grants generally act as a match to our internal funding. There have been some developments since, but generally, the state reps were pretty supportive and felt there would be one way or another to find funds for us, though not necessarily on our timeline (ie. due to legislative cycle, we may need to defer the dry dock event until as far out as the end of 2017).

Because there are no guarantees in the state funding, we still need to keep pushing to raise/save every dollar we can between now and then. We plan to continue to work towards setting aside all additional funds we can raise, with fund raising/donations helping us to keep making progress towards our long-term capital funding needs.

We currently have just over \$250,000 set aside for the preservation period, and will likely end the fiscal year with another \$50-70,000 in funds to allocate towards that project or a set aside for general long-term capital funding and emergency reserve needs (something we’ve never had the luxury to save for!).

Clearly, we can’t rest with the level we’re at, as economic hardships in future years will likely lead to some declines in revenue that we need to make up for in our better years. So we need to be socking away every penny we can to make progress towards the next dry dock.

Feel free to share this update. I encourage folks to send positive/supportive emails to our legislators, etc. Bremerton is represented in 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 35<sup>th</sup> legislative districts. A link to these is here:

<http://leg.wa.gov/House/Pages/MembersByDistrict.aspx> and

<http://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Senators/Pages/default.aspx>

Please similarly express any support to the Port of Bremerton Commissioners, and thank them for their ongoing annual maintenance funds they provide the ship:

<http://www.portofbremerton.org/about/commission/meet-commissioners>.

Finally, the Bremerton City Council can be reached as follows:

<http://www.ci.bremerton.wa.us/155/City-Council>.

Any positive support is greatly appreciated. Again- all in attendance have expressed support, but any correspondence they receive from our supporters to back up their case does help.

Thanks for your help! BHSB Board of Directors

## 2 0 16--2 0 1\_\_ T U R N E R J O Y M E M B E R S H I P

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

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

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

YOUR STREET 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 the Turner Joy Historic Ship Preservation Project should be mailed to USS Turner Joy, 300 Washington Beach Blvd, Bremerton, WA 98337, made payable to BHSA and shown in the "For" line: TJ Sailors. As our Lady is about to enter dry dock, your donation to this fund is highly encouraged.

Annual dues are \$20.00 per year (Jan-Dec.'16). 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 2020. 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. 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**