

The 21MC

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

Sept. 28, 2018



Wow, What a Great Reunion!

By: Jack Barry

More than 175 shipmates, spouses and friends enjoyed what many felt was the best reunion ever. All in attendance thank Dick Asche, Tod Hale, Chad James and Jim Chester for planning and providing a fantastic 2018 Reunion. We also want to express our appreciation to the Bremerton Historical Ship's Association (BHSA), The Bremerton Symphony Orchestra, the Bremerton Convention Center and the Kitsap Airpoter. Each made a significant contribution to making this reunion special.

The Turner Joy spirit was evident as shipmates visited the Hospitality Suite to register, greet their shipmates and start retelling their sea stories. The Hospitality Suite was spacious, well equipped and full of Turner Joy history. The perfect place to meet and capture the reunion spirit. The tone of the reunion was set Thursday night with a special Ice Breaker held at the Bremerton Convention Center. The Icebreaker featured good food, great fellowship and wonderful entertainment, Buzz Whiteley and Band. Shipmates enjoyed listening to the music, dancing and visiting with shipmates. Anna Miller and Devon Steele of the Bremerton Symphony Association contributed to making the Icebreaker a success.

Friday shipmates had the option of two excellent tours, the LeMay Car Museum or a walking tour of quaint Poulsbo. We choose the Poulsbo tour and found the historical tour very interesting. It was unanimously agreed that the Poulsbo's famous bakery was the perfect ending to a good time. We all left on a sugar high. Friday evening, we had a Turner Joy Reunion first. BHSA hosted a Salmon Bake with beer and wine on the TJ fantail. The combination of excellent food and beautiful background music provided by the Bremerton Symphony's string quartet created the perfect environment for fellowship and reliving old stories. For example, a group of us from the 1963 – 1965 Wardrooms started telling stories from that era. We laughed so hard that a BHSA Board Member and a City Councilman asked if they could join us and listen to the memories of the past. We were having such a good time that we were surprised when we looked around and discovered we were the only ones left onboard and it was almost dark and getting cold.

Saturday morning brought cold weather with drizzling rain, but even bad weather couldn't put a damper on a moving and memorable Memorial Service. Just prior to the Memorial Service, however, the Ships Store's sales of jackets and sweatshirts soared as shipmates and their families scrambled to stay warm and dry. The Memorial Service was held on the fantail of the Turner Joy and was led by Mike Stockreiter. John Hart and Dan Ingram served as color guards and presented and retired the colors. Highlights of the service included Jim Turnbull blessing the service with prayer followed by a stirring rendition of the National Anthem delivered by Janese Coleman, a vocalist with the Bremerton Symphony. Alan Futterman, conductor of the Bremerton Symphony, introduced the symphony members participating in the service. Master Chief Wayne Moberg, Chad James, Tod Hale, Rich Aamodt, Ben Walraven and Jim Chester remembered our deceased shipmates by reading their names aloud. After each reading, the ship's bell was rung in their memory and honor by Dick Collins and Dennis Carmassi. The Memorial Wreath was then commended to the sea by Barbara Havens (widow of Larry Havens) and his two granddaughters and was piped over the side by David Nitsch. Commending the wreath was followed by a 21-gun salute. The tribute concluded with a beautiful and heart touching violin solo of Ashokan Farewell by violinist Christie Becker, also with the Bremerton Symphony. The Memorial Service closed with Rilee Scott, 2018 Bremerton High School graduate bugler, playing Taps. There was not a dry eye on the fantail and it wasn't from the rain.

The Business Meeting was moderated by Mike Stockreiter and covered three important areas.

1. Dick Asche announced his retirement as President of the TJ Reunion Group.
2. Jim Chester accepted the nomination to be the new President and was elected by a unanimous vote of the shipmates.
3. Jeffery Richards offered to be the 2020 Reunion Coordinator if it was held in Newport, Rhode Island. The shipmates enthusiastically voted to accept Jeffery's offer and are looking forward to getting together in Newport.

The reunions grand finale was the Banquet held at the Bremerton Convention Center. Tod Hale served as Master of Ceremonies, Jim Turnbull delivered the Invocation and Janese Coleman sang a heartfelt "God Bless America". Shipmates and guests enjoyed food from an excellent buffet that included Prime Rib. Following dinner shipmates and guests were treated to an insightful and informative talk by guest speaker Admiral Bruce Clingan, USN Retired. Admiral Clingan previously commanded the USS Carl Vinson while she was homeported in Bremerton and retired from the Navy as CinCUSNAVEUR. The banquet program was concluded by the presentation of two paintings to the Turner Joy. The first painting featured the Turner Joy moored to the pier and was a gift from Betsy Toups in memory of her late husband, Jim Toups (LTjg, 1963). Jim commissioned the painting and it hung in his law firm in Baton Rouge for over 20 years. The second painting was of the Turner Joy firing the last shot of the Vietnam War. It was commissioned by Jim Chester and painted by naval historian Dale Byhre, both Jim and Dale presented it to the ship. All present were grateful for these two valuable contributions to the Turner Joy legacy. The reunion concluded with a video of Dick Asche conducting the Bremerton Symphony and Chorale in "Anchors Aweigh". It was obvious that Dick could have a third career on stage.

On Sunday as the shipmates departed they were grateful for a few days to relive an important part of their lives and the opportunity to develop relationships with shipmates that served onboard in different eras. A first-time attendee summed it up this way, "This is my first reunion, but I guarantee you it won't be my last".

SHIPMATE COMMENTS

Ed Briggs , CDR, 66-68, Escondido, CA

TO ALL: Please accept Nan's and my grateful appreciation for a very special Turner Joy Reunion 2018. We recognized the effort that DICK, TOD, JIM, and CHAD put into this Bremerton meeting and the support that all gave to their planning and execution for the benefit of the crew members. Please pass to Charlie Birdsell and all the volunteers, and the Board of BHSA that their continuing care for Turner Joy and preparations and support for the Reunion a heartfelt WELL DONE.

There is a special aura about Turner Joy that began with Strat Wentworth and continues to this day. It is the allegiance of the crew and their devotion to that heritage that places Turner Joy at the pinnacle of service to country. It is a camaraderie built from the trials of peacetime challenge and wartime engagement that endures and strengthens as time passes. You who have devoted so much to the ship over the years deserve our undying gratitude for your dedication and perseverance. The partnership of the crew and BHSA has never been stronger.

Tod Hale, STG3, 66-69, Central Point, OR

Dick, Et Al. Thank you for a successful "coordinated" effort to carry this through. No one person is responsible for such a great Reunion. Not only the 'Amigos' and our Group President, but all members who added their suggestions and comments. We cannot continue without a concerted effort from all of 'those' involved; and 'those' are our Shipmates. I, for one, made my way home today with a feeling of total satisfaction. We all heard from attendees as to their thanks and their concerns about the unknowns. . My thanks goes out to all for how this Reunion turned out.

I am home now, and I wish you all the best. My friends and "Shipmates".

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

During the course of our 2018 reunion many shipmates commented that this was the best reunion that we have ever had! One gentleman stated that this was his first reunion but he won't miss any more! This is what reunions are designed to accomplish and it appears that we were successful in that endeavor.

My special thanks to our three sponsors (Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, Bremerton Symphony Association and the volunteers and staff of the USS Turner Joy and of course the "three amigos" for making that all happen. There are also the staff members of the Hampton Inn, Fairfield Inn and Kitsap Conference Center who made it all possible. Everyone also recognized that there is a tremendous amount of effort and planning involved in an activity of this size and that some glitches will occur. Fortunately we had very few of those and they were all easily overcome.

I am very pleased with this reunion and with my special thanks going to Tod Hale, Chad James and Jim Chester for their diligent efforts in carrying it all off and of course, all the volunteers, too many to mention, including our guest speaker Admiral Bruce Clinger whose very inspirational comments sent a great message to us all.

I believe that we have succeeded in our mission of bringing the "youngsters" back! Many more thanks to all of you attendees for reuniting with your shipmates, once again, in Bremerton. Maybe next time the weather will cooperate!

God bless and may you have had safe travels on your return home.

Tod Hale, STG3, 66-69, Central Point, OR

Shipmates, we are trying to obtain any information regarding BMSN Jerry McDaniel from Wichita KS. Jerry was aboard during the 1968 WESPAC Deployment. Those of us at the reunion who served with him have no contact information or knowledge of his whereabouts. He has never been registered as a member of the Reunion Group. Any help is appreciated. Thanks.

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

I need to get this out. Two days ago, I got two more e-mails about our reunion and one was from Rodney Hale who attended the reunion with his wife and still flying high some 24 days after the reunion was over. Unbelievable, but ??????????.....True! The other e-mail came from Johnny Muckleroy who did not attend the reunion but had heard so many great and positive things about the reunion, he had to comment. Other crewmembers who did not attend also heard many great positive comments and also commented.

Bill Donges, LTJG, 71-74, Atlanta, GA

I arrived on the TJ in July 1971 right after graduating from the Naval Academy...this was my first duty station. I met the ship on the pier at the Long Beach Naval Station.

During my tour onboard I served as the Main Propulsion Assistant (MPA). It was a great honor to serve on the TJ through two deployments and a stint in the shipyard. The engineering department was a fantastic team! I really have great memories of my tour.

After my three year tour I went to the USS Canon (PG-90) as the Executive Officer for two years and then went back to the Academy to teach leadership and navigation. After 8 years of active duty I served another 16 years in the Naval Reserve. I had tours with the Anti-Submarine Warfare Center in Iceland and then 5 years at the Special Operations Command Center in Tampa, FL.

Today, I live in Atlanta with my three adult children and my seven grandchildren. One day I hope to bring them to Bremerton to see our great ship.

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

While perusing our mailing list, I discovered a number of shipmates who are delinquent with their annual dues. You will notice if you are delinquent if you will examine the mailing label with this newsletter. The numbers following your name is the year that your dues are paid up to. Regardless of the number of years you are past due, any amount received will credit your account from 2018 forward. Since our last reunion cost more than was collected from participants, it is important that dues are paid when due.

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

From the very beginning, 1989, when some of us were asked to attend the USS Maddux's reunion in Baton Rouge, LA did us who attend get to feel the appreciation of mingling again with Navy personnel from our era.

Our era was just prior to the escalation of the Vietnam War. We were assigned to ships who went "steaming" all over the Pacific, but mainly to Yokosuka, Japan, Hong Kong, China and Subic Bay, Philippines. When we were asked to attend their reunion, we learned that it was all of us sailors who were onboard the TJ during a thing called "the Tonkin Gulf Incident", wherein both the Maddux and the TJ were involved. The crew of the Maddux, at that time, wanted to tell us TJ sailors, "Thanks for saving our butts that night".

Yes, 25 years after the fact, they knew they could talk to us and not be reprimanded for doing so. That was our culture back then. So, we accepted their solemn kindness and “Low and Behold”, the TJ became available in Bremerton, WA. She had been docked and ready for the deframers to come aboard and begin tearing her down - when the Bremerton city council and other Navy folks agreed to bring the TJ to their harbor and moor the TJ as a Museum Ship.

So, in 1990, we had our first reunion. Most of us were overwhelmed by the camaraderie still among us sailors. Most of our families had never met these guys and when some “stories” began to fly, we were all laughing out loud.

It was this camaraderie that was seen then, and at our 2018 reunion, we saw the same Human experience. The TJ continues to be the ship that did and do it with pride – we know as we all had the luxury of tending to her, keeping her fit and available for the next crewmates.

See you all at the next reunion- have fun.

Jack Barry, LTJG, 63-65, Houston, TX

For the past 28 years hundreds of Turner Joy shipmates, their families and friends have enjoyed what is arguably the best military reunion in the country. Shipmates have reconnected with the shipmates they served with and made lasting friendships with shipmates that served before and after they did. The reunion experience has been greatly enhanced and made even more meaningful by the fact we have the Turner Joy on which to hold every other reunion.

While many shipmates have contributed to making the reunions successful over the years one shipmate, Dick Asche, is the main person responsible for having a reunion and our ship. Through Dick’s tireless efforts, persistence and time the Reunion Group prospered and grew. His dedication and efforts as a Director on the Board of Directors of BHSA was a leading force in having Turner Joy become a Vietnam War Memorial and Museum in Bremerton.

Dick has unselfishly served as President of the Turner Joy Group since he founded it. To make the Turner Joy Reunion a reality with continued success he undertook not only the reunions but locating shipmates, publishing the 21MC and too many other tasks to mention.

Dick served on the Turner Joy as the Supply Officer in 1963 and 1964. When you add Dick’s 28 years of service to the Reunion Group and to the Turner Joy after she was retired he has served the Turner Joy for 30+ years. At the 2018 Reunion Dick announced he was retiring from being President of the Turner Joy Reunion Group. I am asking all my fellow shipmates to join me thanking Dick and letting him know how much we appreciate what he has done for the ship and us. We have been the beneficiaries of all his hard work.

Thank you, Dick! Well done! God Bless! Enjoy the next reunion as a guest like the rest of us.

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

Many complimentary comments were received from attendees regarding our reunion. It was obvious to many folks that adding to the festivities were the contributions made by the Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, The Bremerton Symphony Association, The Bremerton Historic Ships Association and the Kitsap Conference Center. Without their contributions (many without pay) the reunion would not have been so memorable! So please thank those organizations at your earliest opportunity. I’m certain they would all appreciate a word of thanks.

Jeffrey Richard, LT, 70-72, Portsmouth, RI

I would like to commend the crew that made the 2018 the best ever. Great job. I was so impressed I have volunteered to try to make the 2020 reunion in Newport RI equally as successful. The Newport RI area is a destination for thousands every year. I have been collecting information from the local news that highlights the events within a short distance from the Naval Base in Newport. It is a long and impressive list. The largest Boat Show on the East Coast just concluded. The Newport International Boat Show is held in Mid Sep. I have been thinking that a Sep event might be a nice option although the local leaves will not have turned. If you want to get a sense of how Navy Newport is go to the websites for the Naval War College and the War College museum. I have arranged for tours of both places with lunch at the Officer's Club. We are early in the planning stage and would love to hear your thoughts. Look up Battleship Cove in Fall River Mass. The Battleship USS Massachusetts is there as well as other ships to visit. We should be able to have a Memorial service on her fantail. I could go on and on about the many things we can plan for but would love to hear from you with thoughts on what you would like to do when you visit the Newport area.

Tod Hale, STG3, 66-69, Central Point, OR

Shipmates, the Turner Joy gift shop has been restocked with all the items that you were interested in and perhaps unable to purchase due to shortages. I have been asked to pass along to you, by the ship's store, that they are ready to take your orders either on line through the Gift Shop website or by contacting them at 1 360 792 2457. Some items, such as the heavy blue/red windbreakers, are still on order but will be available soon. JoAnn Groat, gift shop manager, says thank you for all your support for the ship and the gift shop.

For those of you that took pictures at the reunion and would like to have a select few of your own published in our memory book, please send them to me at hiwaysailor951@yahoo.com. There is limited space, so please send only a few. Your memories are our memories, so share what you wish. You may also submit pictures from your time aboard, but again, only a few. Thank you for your help in filling the pages.

TAPS

Gary Baldwin

Word was received from John Rohrer that his shipmate, Gary Baldwin, a fellow Plankowner, passed away on June 24, 2018. Gary was an FT, a great sailor, husband and father who was well liked and admired by his shipmates.

Duane Tapani, MM2, 59-62, Brule, WI

I am sorry to inform you that Duane passed away 9/11/17. We miss him terribly. We always enjoyed the reunions we attended. Such a fun and caring group! Thank you very much, Amy T.

2 0 18--2 0 1 __ USS TURNER JOY MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____ DATE _____

TELE (HOME) _____ TELE (WORK/CELL) _____

E-MAIL _____ FIRST NAME OF SPOUSE _____

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 _____

DO YOU HAVE COMMENTS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN NEWSLETTER?

- **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.**
- **Annual Dues are \$20.00 per year (Jan-Dec.’18. 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 2022. 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 ALASKA AVE. EAST,
PORT ORCHARD, WA 98366**

SEA STORIES and OTHER LIES:

Sign in a Shoe Repair Shop

"We will heel you, We will save your sole, We will even dye for you."

A Sign on a Blinds and Curtain Truck:

"Blind man driving."

Sign over a Gynecologist's Office:

"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels."

At an Optometrist's Office:

"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On another Plumber's truck:

"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee:

"Invite us to your next blow out."

On an Electrician's truck:

"Let us remove your shorts."

At a Car Dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet -- miss a car payment."

Outside a Muffler Shop:

"No appointment necessary. We'll hear you coming."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

In a restaurant window:

"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home:

"Drive carefully. We'll wait..."

On a Septic Tank Truck:

"Yesterday's Meals on Wheels!"

Sign on the back of another Septic Tank Truck:

"We haul milk on weekends"

Sign on yet another Septic Tank Truck

"Your sh-- is my bread and butter"