USS RANKIN NEWS

ISSUE #15 • THE NEWSLETTER OF THE USS RANKIN ASSOCIATION • MARCH 2010



AKA-103

1945-1947

1952-1968

LKA-103

1969-1971

GOLD E

1960-1961

USS RANKIN 2010 REUNION

September 23-26

BRANSON, MO

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS



The famous "Lone Sailor"



Another one

NORFOLK REUNION SCENES



Little Creek landing simulator



Neptune at Virginia Beach



Our brand-new bus



USS Ramage mess decks



Skip gets a Navy haircut



Colonial Williamsburg



Nautical colonists



Williamsburg charm



Friendship



Welcome Home!



Chiefs Club luncheon



Banquet guests from USS Ramage (DDG-61)



Banquet guests from USS Rankin (AKA-103)

2009 REUNION REPORT — NORFOLK!

The 2009 USS Rankin reunion was held at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, VA September 17-10. The four day-three night event was attended by 105 people: fifty-seven (57) shipmates and fortyeight (48) spouses and guests.



USS Wisconsin, just outside our hotel

The reunion kicked off Thursday morning when the Registration Desk and Rankin hospitality rooms opened. A number of local shipmates and USS Rankin friends were present at a day-long "open house" to tell sea stories and renew old acquaintances.

Friday morning dawned bright and clear, and after an early private breakfast buffet, 81 members and guests boarded a luxury double-decker motor coach for a tour of Little Creek Amphibious Base. Little Creek is the home of many commands including six LSD's, three PC's, and four SEAL Teams.

A riding tour of the base acquainted the group with its history and mission. A demonstration at the Amphibious Warfare Training Center was a fascinating display of combined air, sea, and ground forces landing on an enemy beach. Lunch was at the base's lavish CPO club.

Following lunch, a riding tour of Virginia Beach showed off its history from the early light houses to the recent development of Towne Center, which is home to,

believe it or not, the tallest building in the state of Virginia. Passengers disembarked at the boardwalk on the beach, exploring the souvenir and gift shops and marveling at the beachfront War Memorial and giant statue of King Neptune.

The happy group returned to the Sheraton around 1500, a.k.a. 3:00 PM. Between their arrival and dinner, folks spent time at the bar, at the hospitality room, or resting back at their rooms.

At 1800/6:00 PM, the evening activities kicked off with a social hour. Members and guests brought their hometown gifts to the banquet room where they were put on display, at 7:00, dinner was served. The Southern-style buffet was plentiful and delicious. After dinner, the Commodore Chorus, a large group of mostly former Sailors (one Air Force) entertained us with 45 minutes of old and new Barbershop harmonies.

Then it was time for the gift exchange. As each number was called the winner came forward to choose, unwrap and describe a gift. The next winner could "steal" that gift or choose a new one to unwrap. The game went on in this manner until all of the gifts were gone. Right or wrong, there were precious few "steals" this year.

Skip Sander, our Association's fearless leader, took this opportunity to relieve his conscience. This same game was played at the New London reunion in '07. Back then, Skip "stole" a beautiful rope knot board from former BM2 Frank Shaw, who silently fumed as former Ensign Sander, with a big grin on his face, walked off with his prize. After two years of remorse, Skip returned the knot board to Frank, and the evening ended on a happy

note for all concerned.

Saturday morning it was breakfast as usual—a hearty buffet in a private room. Two tours were on tap for the day: one to Williamsburg and one to the Navy Base, as guests of the Commanding Officer of the USS *Ramage* (DDG-61). The ship is named after former *Rankin* CO and Medal of Honor recipient Lawson P. Ramage.

The Ramage group was treated to a rare below-decks tour of an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer. Guided by Command Master Chief Mike Knowles, they had a close look at everything-the engineering and berthing spaces, the wardroom, CIC, and especially the modern-day mess deck, where the cooks, now known as Culinary Specialists, had baked a cake in honor of the visit. While on the mess deck, Skip Sander, yielding once again to his conscience, returned an ice cream scoop that he had liberated from the Rankin's wardroom back in 1962. In return, he was treated to a much-overdue Navy haircut, started by 1952 Rankin barber Don Liff and finished by the Ramage's current barber. All agreed it was a very good haircut.

Those going to Williamsburg were treated to a walking tour of this historic village. While strolling through the restored area of this colonial capital, the historic interpreter guided the group through the past and events that helped shape America's history. Anyone who cared to do so was able to shop and browse in Merchants Square. It was an awakening to walk in the footprints of great Americans like Washington, Jefferson, and Patrick Henry. Here is where Patriotism flourished and is still alive today.

(See Reunion on page 7)



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE



The envelope that brought you this newsletter also brought a colorful paper about our Annual Fund Drive. We hope you will read that paper carefully and make whatever contribution you think is suitable. You can see a list of 2009's contributors inside on Pages 4 & 5. Never-ending thanks to all of you!

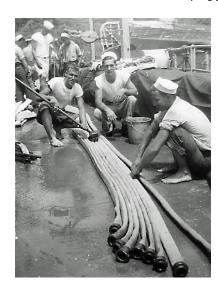
We have no annual dues or initiation fees, and our funding depends almost exclusively on voluntary contributions from shipmates. These contributions have been generous over the years, so we can run an operation that every Rankin sailor can be proud of.

Every year we are more and more convinced that we have one of the best, if not the best reunion and reconnection groups for a ship of the Rankin's size. Our web site is second to none, and our reunions have been nothing but spectacular. Any member can get a personalized directory of all his shipmates, including current contact information where we have it, not to mention a wide assortment of hats, shirts, ship's pictures, etc. And every year we mail newsletters like this one, with a copy to every shipmate, family member or friend in our database. We hope you like them.

Our policy is to provide full and honest disclosure of all financial information. Each month, Skip Sander sends a detailed financial report to the members of the Executive Board. Any other person can request a copy, as well. Once a year, we summarize this information in the newsletter. That summary appears on page 6. We now have about \$10,000 in a "rainy day" CD, and about \$5,700 in a savings account for capital expenditures and special projects. In the coming year, we plan to spend some of the latter upgrading the software packages we use to maintain our web site and to keep track of our members. The web site software is over ten years old and no longer supported by its manufacturer. The membership software is a custom package that is over five years old now, and needs to be brought up to date.

What we need from members this year is continued strong contributions to operating expenses. Our operating budget for 2010 is \$10,800, or \$900 a month. That money brings you these newsletters, our web site, and all the other things that it takes to keep the organization running. No money goes for wages and salaries, though many people put in tremendous effort to keep our operation running.

To fund our budget, we need to avoid a decline in contributions this year. There is always a decline due to death or disability of members, but it is usually offset by increases from those who haven't contributed before. If you didn't contribute in 2009, please consider contributing now. If you sent us something last year, please consider sending a little more this time. Our lifeblood is the checks from our members—if you can afford it, we could use a larger check this year. Thanks in advance for your help.







ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

These 271 shipmates made financial contributions to the Association during calendar 2009. Their generosity is our lifeblood—without it, we couldn't have these newsletters, our extensive web site, our reunions, or any of the other things that make the group worthwhile. All 1,368 of our living members and friends give them a Bravo Zulu and a Thank

wille: 1m 1,000 of 6	our inving in	mbers and me	ido give them a brav	o Zara arra	a man
Akers, Jerry	.SN	1958-1959	Gilbert, George	EM2	1957-1960
Allen, Leslie	.SFP3	1963-1966	Ginn, Raymond		
Allen, Paul M	.ENS(SC)	1946-1947	Golfman, David		
Anderson, Ruth			Golingan, Fernando	E-4	1952-1957
Angelo, John P	.MMFA	1962	Gould, Elton	CSSN	1956-1960
Ashworth, James R. II			Grant, Gerald M	EM2	1958-1960
Ayasse, Ralph	.SMSN	1959-1962	Green, Carl S	RD2	1953-1954
Ayers, Judson	.LTJG	1954-1956	Griffith, Samuel R	BM2	1968-1970
Baire, Ronald E	.SK1	1968-1971	Grone, Stephen R	PN3	1961-1963
Baisden, Robert			Hack, John	SN	1961-1962
Ball, Montague	.LTJG	1962-1965	Hadley, Nelson		
Ballou, Joseph F	.LTJG	1957-1958	Hand, William J	LTJG	1959-1961
Barth, William A., Jr			Hanson, Gunnar	SFM3	1952-1953
Beaty, M. Paul, Jr			Hardegree, Howard L	ENS	1960-1961
Beck, Charles W	.LTJG	1954-1955	Haring, Jacob		1953-1955
Beck, John W	.LT	1963-1964	Harmon, Thomas		
Berninger, George			Harte, Leslie G		
Berry, Harry			Hatten, Frederick		
Biersteker, Bruce J			Head, Hillyer	S2C	1945
Biggin, Theodore			Healey, Dennis		
Bivens, Rodger	.ETR2	1967-1971	Heenan, R. Dennis		
Blankenship, Elmer H	.COX	1945-1946	Heffelfinger, Karl		
Brady, Robert E			Hickey, William		
Brown, Rod			Highsmith, Percy		
Brumitt, Lawrence	.BT2	1957-1961	Holbrook, Hilliard		
Buchanan, Carl			Hostetler, Glenn M		
Buckner, Paul H			Houle, Michael J	FN	1961-1962
Buddle, Henry			Houser, Dennis	BMSN	1963-1965
Burbey, Mark			Hoyt, Gerald L		
Burke, John J			Hughes, Richard B.		
Calomino, Dominick	.FN	1967-1969	Hungerford, James		
Capley, Bobby W.			Hurwitz, Alfred		
Cardarelli, Nicholas			Icardi, Ed	EN2	1965-1967
Carrick, Marshall	.QM3	1952	Izyk, James J		
Casto, Mark	.ENS	195/-1958	Jacobs, John H	LIJG	1963-1964
Cayo, Richard			Jannie, William	BM3	1956-1958
Christensen, W. V.	.LIJG	1945	Jenkins, Neil		
Cline, Guy	ENI	1964-1966	Johnson, Donald V	CS2	1952-1954
Coccaro, Richard			Johnson, Luther		
Couch, Ernest			Johnson, Verne D		
Cox, Marion D.			Jones, Vincent T	DM2	1946-194/
Cramer, Charles			Joyce, Harry H	C - N 2	1945-1946
Crane, Roger H.		1957-1959	Karper, Diane H Kasid, Al		1057 1050
Cregan, John D	LIJG	10/2	Keith, Robert L.		
Cromack, Dan Damiano, V. Jay			Kell, George C		
Decker, John			Kersh, John M.		
Deegan, Robert F	. Э1 Z Т Т	1963 1965	Kimble, Stearl I		
Deep, David	See Note 1	1703-1703	Kling, Arthur		
Desnoyer, David		1957-1961	Kortkamp, Gary		
Devault, Robert			Kraus, Joseph	IT(SC)	1963-1964
Devroe, William P.			Kristof, Gregory		
Doherty, Hugh J			Krygier, Joseph		
Domowski, Edward			Labbe, Charles		
Domurat, Ben			Laboda, Matthew		
Dousman, James M			Labonte, Roger S.		
Drayton, Thomas			Lafkas, James K.		
Dwyer, William			Lane, James Hartwell		
Ellett, Frank			Lane, Jerry L		
Engel, David M			Laskorski, Lawrence R		
Fields, Michael			Lathrop, Allen L		
Fleming, F. Donald			Lavilla, Sergio C.		
Flinn, Timothy J			Lechaton, Michael		
Forde, Hugh			Lents, Thomas J		
Frost, S. David			Len, William J		
Fulton, Mike			Levine, Abraham		
Fusi, Ernie			Lewis, Raymond		
Gagne, Donald P			Lewis, Vincent		
Gardner, George D	.MR2	1968	Linner, John		
Garner, Austin			Lint, Paul		

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Lipp, Michael J	ETR2 1961-1964	4
Lobello, Thomas	RDM 2/c 1945-1946	6
Lowery, Marvin	<u>SN</u> 1966-1968	8
Malik, Noble M	DK11952	
Maloney, William A	S1C1946-1947	7
Manders, Karl L	LT(MC) 1953-1954	4
Mangen, Kenneth J	MM2 1959-1962	2
Matthews Marion	RM1 1957-1959	9
Mayes, Elmer S	HMC 1962-1965	5
May, George S	LTJG 1968-1969	9
Mazzarini, John	RM21960-1962	2
McAllister, Bennie	BT3 1964-1966	6
McCourt, James	RD3 1963-1966	6
McDade, Thomas C., Ir	SN1961-196	3
McGavin, Joseph J	ENS 1957-195	Ŕ
McKoy, Gaylord	BTC 1961-1964	4
Meinig, George	I TIG 1958-1960	'n
Melia, Raymond	CSSN 1966	,
Milan Melinn	W/T3 1945 1944	_
Mildenhall, James	TC2 1057 1057	7
Milidennali, james	IC2	/
Miles, V. Harley	M1/c1945-1946	3
Miller, James D.	SIN 1960-196	1
Modesto, Paul A.	CPL, USMC 1957-1958	8
Mohun, R. A	LTJG1959-196	1
Montalbine, Gary	LT 1961-1963	3
Montgomery, S.P	LTJG1954-1957	7
Moore, Johnnie E	OM3 1955-1958	8
Moretz, Charles	SKCS 1968-1969	9
Moyer, Glen I	SK2 1957-196	1
Muehleib, Edward	S1C 1945-1946	6
Munch, Melvin	S1C1946	
Munger, Dwayne	EN3 1957-1958	8
Newell, Allen G	RM3 1959-1960	n
Nixon, Carl	SN 1952-195	5
Northern, Jack L	Unknown Unknow	'n
Oroz, Dan	ENS 1966 196	7
Ortolon, James C	S1C 1052 1052	1
Overbeck, Ken		+
D-1- T-1	LCDR 1764-176	<u>/</u>
Peck, Ted	MIM2 1968-1970	J
Pena, Manuel J.	KW15 1963-1964	7
Peveto, John	LIJG19/0-19/	1
Pillsbury, David	FN	1
Pisano, John	SHBRE3 1969-19/	1
Plumb, Edward	BT31966-1968	8
Pontious, Harold	RM2C1945	
Prentice, Colm N	BT2 1965-1969	9
Quinlan, Frank	EM2 1966-1968	8
Ranes, Wayne	RM21960-1963	3
Rapp, Catherine A	See Note 4	
Raso, Jack	LTJG 1963-1964	4
Ratté, Arthur J	SH21960-196	1
Reding, Patrick G	RMSN1952-1954	4
Reed, Donald A	.ENS 1952-195	3
Reichert, Paul L.	EM3 1952-1954	4
Reid, Allen		
Reilly, Vincent	RM3 1957-1950	9
Reynolds, Marty M	FNFN 1960-196	ź
Rhodes, Fred R.	VN3 1945 1944	6
Richard, Larry J Richard, Norman E	VN12 1054 105	э 7
Rider, Carson		
Rider, Morris	KD3 1956-195	_
Riley, Robert E	DK2 1962-196.	3
Riley, Woody	BM2 1952-195	5
Robsahm, Leon	CS2 1952-1954	4
Roe, George E	YN2 1957-1959)
Rohrbaugh, Neal L	EMC 1961-1963	3
Romanosky, Albert	HM1 1957-1959	9
Rose, M. H	CDR 1967-1968	8
Rotruck, Quinton H	MR21968-197	1
Rowland, (Orville) Jack	S1C 1945-1946	6
Roy, Alfred	RM21962-1966	6
Rupp, Jean K	See Note 5	
Sander, Louis "Skip"	LTIG 1961-196	3
Sanders, Lee	FM1 1957-1959	Ŕ
Savio, Leo	I TIC 1959 104	1
Savoca, Eugene T		
Schmieder, Raymond P.	RM2 1953 195	4
Seifert, Donald J	FNS 1977	Т
ochere, Donaid J		

Shaw, Frank	BM2 1959-1961
Sherer, C.W	LTJG 1963-1965
Siciliano, Carl	CS3 1963-1964
Sirois, Ronald	SM2 1965-1966
Smith, Charles T	PN3 1964-1965
Smith, John Thomas	ENS(SC) 1960-196
Smits, Jan W	FN2 1957-1959
Spicer, Shirley	RT3 1960-1963
Spicer, Tex	RT3 1960 1967
Stanko, George E	CWO2 10/0 107
Stanko, George E	CWO2 1968-197.
Stika, John J	BN13 1952-1953
Stith, Edward E.	ILI USMC 1959-196.
Stockwell, Glenn A	OS1 1969-19/0
Stone, David L	LTJG 1960-1963
Stuart, Albert J	EM1 1965-1967
Stubbs, James	BM3 1960-1963
Suarez, Emilio	SN 1967
Sutton, James E	SM3 1966-1969
Swing, John P	SK2 1958-1960
Taylor, Don	LTIG 1961-1961
Thomas, Mark A	IC3 1967-1969
Thomsen, Kenneth	FN2 1956-1959
Tommer, Albert	EN 1956 195
Torgan, Al	I TIC 10/2 10/2
Toupin, Ernie	L1JG 1965-196-
Toupin, Ernie	L1JG 1955-1957
Trigiano, Lucien	ENS 1945-1946
Urband, Howard	L1JG 1955-1956
Litten, Robert D	See Note 1
Wiant, Ronald L	See Note 1
Vander Well, Lester	YN3 1954-1957
Van Gorder, Albert	HTC 1969-197
Veasey, William	GM2 1956
Vick. Jerrauld O	SH3 1957
Vinson, John T	LTIG 1958-1960
Waddington, Herbert	SN 1953-1954
Wade, Lewis	LTIG 1955-1956
Wakelee, David	LTIG 1952-1954
Wallis, Clyde	MR2 1952-195
Weaver, Jack	BT1 1957
Weckwerth, B.M.	MM3 1946 194
Weltner, Howard	I CDP 1044 104
White, Lyle J.	LCDK 1904-1907
wille, Lyle J	L1JG 1707-177
Whyno, Peter	BM3 1952-1953
Wilburn, Don	LCDR 1965-196
Williamson, Rod	QMQ3 1952-1954
Wilson, James G	LTJG 1953-1955
Wilson, Leslie	LT 1952
Wirt. Neal	OM2 1960-1963
Wisnewski, Paul	LTJG 1961-1962
Wood, Warren H	GM1 1955-1958
Yergeau, Richard	BM2 1965-1967
Zimmer, Harry	LTJG 1958-1960
	,

NOTES:

- Distinguished friend of the USS Rankin (AKA-103)
 Wife of Elliott "George" Anderson, FC3, 1945
 Wife of Stephen J. Karper, ENS, 1966-1967
 Wife of William T. Rapp, CAPT, 1964-1965
 Wife of Harold P. Rupp, LT, 1952



We thank you for your support!

2009 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

Thanks to generous contributors and good financial management, the USS Rankin Association is in excellent financial condition.

Our financial story started in early 2003, when George Berninger, John Feeley, Jack Raso, Bob Reynolds, and Skip Sander chipped in \$25 each to buy stamps and whatever else the newly-formed organization might need. As other shipmates were found, they were invited to chip in their own \$25.

One thing led to another, and over the next seven years, our USS Rankin shipmates contributed more than \$80,000 to the Association.

A full year-by-year summary of these contributions, plus other revenues and all our expenditures, appears below.

Over the years, about 75% of our expenditures have gone to keeping in touch with our members: the web site, merchandise, postage, office supplies, telephone, printing, mailing services, etc. The rest is spread over a wide range of categories. We try to spend money frugally, and usually we succeed.

Here's what we had in the bank as of December 31, 2009:

\$3,669.98 in checking accounts \$5,717.26 in savings accounts \$10,860.76 in a CD

\$200.00 in a memorial account \$20,448.00 Total

The checking account has declined substantially since December 31—we spend about \$900 a month just staying in business and doing things like producing these newsletters. We rely on prompt responses to this fund drive to keep us from dipping into savings in April.

The savings accounts and the CD have been built up by contributions from Shareholders—shipmates who have sent \$100 specifically for savings—and are large enough now to tide us over any hard times we're likely to encounter. The CD is our rainy day fund—we won't cash it in unless we are in major financial trouble. We don't anticipate any such trouble, but if it comes, we're ready for it.

We use the Memorial Account in ways that will memorialize the USS Rankin and our shipmates.

The USS Rankin Association – Seven Year Financial Summary

Account Description	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	7 Year 1	Γotal
Receipts									
40100 Member Contributions	\$2,025.00	\$15,257.50	\$11,858.77	\$11,679.00	\$14,837.50	\$14,718.00	\$11,070.00	\$81,445.77	81.1%
40110 Shareholder Contributions (new acct in 2009)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	0.4%
40120 Contributions for Reunion	0.00	1,100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	0.00	1,500.00	1.5%
40200 Contributions to Memorial Fund	0.00	225.00	150.00	839.79	170.00	0.00	100.00	1,484.79	1.5%
Total Contributions	\$2,025.00	\$16,582.50	\$12,008.77	\$12,518.79	\$15,007.50	\$15,118.00	\$11,570.00	\$84,830.56	84.5%
40300 Merchandise Sales	0.00	4,198.00	1,970.37	524.55	479.98	250.00	279.99	7,702.89	7.7%
40400 Income from Reunion Activities	0.00	186.00	200.00	126.00	0.00	157.80	800.00	1,469.80	1.5%
40500 Income from Outside Activities	0.00	210.00	60.00	375.00	200.00	500.00	3,434.64	4,779.64	4.8%
40600 Interest and Dividend Income	0.70	4.69	48.44	154.84	564.54	572.91	286.07	1,632.19	1.6%
Total Receipts	\$2,025.70	<u>\$21,181.19</u>	<u>\$14,287.58</u>	<u>\$13,699.18</u>	<u>\$16,252.02</u>	<u>\$16,598.71</u>	<u>\$16,370.70</u>	<u>\$100,415.08</u>	100.0%
Expenditures									
40900 Accounting Adjustments	\$0.00	\$228.00	\$3.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$731.14	\$962.31	1.3%
50300 Cost of Sales - Merchandise	\$0.00	\$2,543.53	\$2,056.34	\$172.16	\$323.70	\$8.06	\$906.20	\$6,009.99	7.9%
50320 Cost of Sales - Packing & Shipping	0.00	234.91	140.11	24.75	80.90	53.39	50.64	584.70	0.8%
Total Cost of Merchandise Sales	\$0.00	\$2,778.44	\$2,196.45	\$196.91	\$404.60	\$61.45	\$1,687.98	\$7,325.83	8.6%
60110 Web Site & Computer	264.83	2,566.75	3,656.56	3,090.66	3,309.34	3,498.69	1,291.21	17,678.04	23.2%
60120 Searching for Shipmates	10.00	1,581.19	92.50	498.85	238.30	60.00	27.95	2,508.79	3.3%
60130 Memorabilia	0.00	0.00	0.00	282.25	231.98	675.35	250.55	1,440.13	1.9%
60210 Postage	423.45	4,270.48	2,347.23	2,285.27	1,615.93	1,319.60	740.93	13,002.89	17.0%
60220 Telephone	0.00	971.68	118.51	234.12	513.83	734.65	734.24	3,307.03	4.3%
60230 Copying & Printing	190.98	527.98	131.40	478.86	272.17	139.05	66.44	1,806.88	2.4%
60310 Office Supplies	153.61	1,470.87	2,438.23	1,420.44	2,303.94	3,370.09	1,467.54	12,624.72	16.5%
60320 Office Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.00	1,270.59	1,002.17	1,028.00	3,385.76	4.4%
60400 Reunion Expenses	0.00	1,397.40	200.00	650.91	284.93	2,744.27	3,144.60	8,422.11	11.0%
60500 Outside Activities Expense	0.00	155.05	0.00	0.00	300.00	575.00	2,696.16	3,726.21	4.9%
60600 Bank Fees	2.00	10.74	1.00	12.00	1.00	11.00	2.07	39.81	0.1%
60900 Miscellaneous	34.94	384.60	324.35	411.86	235.37	850.12	2,229.05	4,470.29	5.9%
Total Expenditures	\$1,079.81	<u>\$16,343.18</u>	<u>\$11,509.40</u>	<u>\$9,647.13</u>	<u>\$11,386.58</u>	\$10,981.98	\$15,366.72	<u>\$76,314.80</u>	100.0%
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures	<u>\$945.89</u>	<u>\$4,838.01</u>	<u>\$2,778.18</u>	<u>\$4,052.05</u>	<u>\$4,865.44</u>	<u>\$5,616.73</u>	<u>\$1,003.98</u>	<u>\$24,100.28</u>	24.0%

2009 REUNION ATTENDEES

Brainard Belmore & daughter Suzanne – Fredericksburg, Virginia

George & Rita Berninger - Camarillo, CA

Paul Buckner & Sylvia Tomlinson - Peachtree City, GA

John & Lorraine Burke - Pompton Plains, NJ

Casimiro & Janice Cabacungan - Portsmouth, VA

Roger & Dolly Crane - Bluffton, SC

Dan & Terri Declet - Mint Hill, NC

Bob Devault - Fredericksburg, VA

Bill & Bette Devroe - Wayne, NJ

Hugh & Margaret Doherty - Smithtown, NY

Frank & Rose Marie Draper - Forest, OH

Ray & Jackie Falker - Ellicott City, MD

Mike & Susan Fields - Richmond, MI

Mike & Mary Fulton - Wooster, OH

Ed Gaskell - Saint James, NY

Frank & Lola Gersbacher - Anaheim, CA

Elton & Margaret Gould - Fall River, MA

Gerald Grant - Norfolk, VA

Stew & Ellie Gully - Raleigh, NC

Jacob & Pat Haring, Beatrice St. Clair, and Yvonne

Roehm - Kalamazoo, MI

Hillyer Head & Gary Smith - Oxford, GA

Richard Hughes & Marie Waldman - Mansfield, OH

William & Doris Jannie - Claymont, DE

Tom & Ruth Jones - Pittsburgh, PA

Dale Koepp - Amherst, OH

Dick & Martha Lacy - Jamesville, NY

Charles & Debbie Liesegang - The Dalles, OR

Don & Barbara Liff - Annapolis, MD

Paul & Rebecca Lint - Pine Level, NC

Tom & Lee Lobello - Jacksonville, FL

John, Ginny & Tim Mazzarini and Patty Carney - Pittsburgh, PA

Jim & Mae McCourt - Tierra Verde, FL

Tom McDade Jr. & son Tom III - North Wales, PA

Harley & Niki Miles - Wichita, KS

Ed Miller & Henrietta Croom - Nashville, TN

Ed & Linda Plumb - Hampden, MA

Catherine Rapp - Virginia Beach, VA

Jack & Barbara Raso - Ellicott City, MD

Pat & Janice Reding - Roseville, CA

Al & Marie Reid - Hyannis, MA

Dan & Susan Rogers - Gettysburg, PA

Dail & Susail Rogers - Gettysburg, 171

Louis "Skip" Sander – Pittsburgh, PA

Frank & Alberta Shaw - Sauquoit, NY

Carl & Florence Siciliano - Lindenhurst, NY

Charley & Mary Smith - Fort Wayne, IN

RADM Vernon C. Smith - Virginia Beach, VA

Ray & Alice Spicer - Brooklyn, NY

Tex Spicer - Thurmond, NC

Ed Stith - Springdale, AR

Walter "Buddy" & Arleen Stringer - Islip Terrace, NY

Mark & Linda Thomas - Stillwater, OK

John & Mickie Vinson - Pebble Beach, CA

Dave Wakelee & son Jeff - Southbury, CT

Rev John S. West - Mass City, MI

Irving & Michelle Wetmore - Taftville, CT

Harry & Norma Zimmer - Pittsburgh, PA

(Reunion - Continued from page 2)

Lunch was on your own at one of the Colonial Taverns in Merchants Square. The group returned to the hotel around 3:00 PM.

At the 3:30 business meeting, Branson, Missouri was reaffirmed as the 2010 reunion site, with Charleston penciled in for 2011. The current board members remained in place for the coming year.

The final evening's activities began with a photo session and social hour. The banquet was called to order with the playing of the Marine Hymn and Anchors Aweigh. Immediately following was the National Anthem and Invocation. Dinner, consisting of a petite filet and crab caked was served. The meal was absolutely delicious. Following dinner Skip made a few remarks, but the bulk of the evening was spent enjoying the company of good friends.

Sunday morning came way too soon. After breakfast Rev John West conducted the memorial service paying tribute to deceased shipmates. The service concluded with the playing of Taps and a moment of silence. Suddenly, it was time to go; although no one wanted to be the first, the hugs and handshakes began and more than one tear was seen.

This will be the year that is remembered as the year the Rankin became a reunion family instead of a group of former sailors. The entire atmosphere was different from the very beginning. There was much more laughter and everyone seemed more congenial. It is hard to put a finger on the reason or when the transition took place, but it did. Congratulations to all concerned for molding into a reunion family. The family is ready to add a *lot* of new members now. It will gather again in September, in exciting Branson, Missouri!



Branson Reunion, Sept 23-26, 2010

This year's reunion will be held at the World's Best Military Reunion Location—Branson, Missouri.

Branson's people and attractions cannot be matched in their enthusiasm for veterans and veterans reunions. You'll see it when you first arrive, and you'll keep seeing it until you leave. The people are friendly, and the attractions are perfectly matched to the interests of most Old Salts and their families.

SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE

Believe it or not, more military reunions are held in Branson than anywhere else in the country!

This tiny city in Southern Missouri has over a hundred theaters, featuring entertainment for every taste—music from country to classical and all types in between, hilarious comedy, circus-style acts, and just about anything else you can think of. And all of it is oriented toward families, including grandpa and grandma.

It's one of the most popular driving destinations in the country, and with its newly-opened airport, it's easy to reach from just about everywhere.

The town has hundreds of amazing restaurants, with food that's the envy of many bigger cities.

Located dead center in the country, Branson is surrounded by the beautiful Ozark mountains and



"It's not just flashy shows!"

three picturesque lakes, with outdoor attractions from golfing to fishing to superb mountain sightseeing tours.

If you've never been to Branson, you owe it to yourself to come to this reunion. If you've been there before, you surely understand what we're talking about.

We know you'll love visiting Branson. Make your travel plans today.

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