



USS YOSEMITE AD-19 ASSOCIATION

From Bill Krug, w.krugii@gmail.com

Cell Phone (570) 878-2860

USS Yosemite Post Reunion Newsletter 19 November 2024



Fellow Association Members, Former Sailors, Friends and Family:

I hope this finds all of you in good spirits as we proceed into the Holiday Season and that you all have a wonderful time with family and friends and safe travel wherever you venture. Thanksgiving was wonderful and I am thankful we are at peace in this great Country.

I ask that you take a moment to think of our Navy Sailors (Men & Women) onboard deployed units in harm's way, whether in the Red Sea or the Persian Gulf. These Sailors are on guard for us 24 hours a day. I was on the Yosemite during the war for her last deployment in the Med and Gulf. It turned out to be the last deployment of the Ship. I recall all of us being very focused on our jobs and the reality that mines had been placed in the waters around us and that we were vital to neutralizing, removing, and restoring them to provide physical evidence to our Country in many locations the dangers that were present during the Gulf War.

Our fellow Navy Sailors on deployed units are making it possible for our way of life to continue. I have enclosed a picture of the Yosemite Thanksgiving Day Dinner invitation aboard the United States Ship, the USS Yosemite, from November 23, 1944. Let us be thankful for their efforts when this ship began its service to the fleet.

I am always amazed that the USS Yosemite was in service for 50 years. Having been on the last crew deployed, I can attest that we did not win every competitive award by accident. The ship was in fine material condition with a crew that was inspired to do its very best under the leadership of Capt. Chuck Tuck. We in the Repair Department dedicated ourselves to fixing other ships and ensuring the Yosemite was kept in top Material Condition.

I was incredibly proud to be alongside Cdr. Phil Johnson (Repair Officer) to help us accomplish our overall mission. We were a team led by an experienced and competent professional who knew his people and allowed all of us at every level to do our job, as ARO Production was the name of the game. I attribute my success to the leadership team in place, from the Petty Officers to the Chiefs and Warrant Officers.

In the end, all of us could look back at our time during the Gulf War and know that, from our perspective, things went as well as they could. We were one group, the Crew of Yosemite! Leadership starts at the top. We not only had an excellent CO but two fine XO's as well. LCDR Deborah Salfer was the last XO and was a great sport, tolerating a great deal from the Repair Department. We were, to put it lightly, a very colorful group. It was fitting that she would become the final Commanding Officer. Today, our fellow Sailors are in harm's way as Sailors during the 1944 Thanksgiving. Both the Sailors, now and of yesteryear, are in a very similar situation with a dangerous world around them and the possibility of aggression at any moment. As most of you know, areas like the Red Sea do not give you a lot of warning when a Missile or Drone is coming at your ship from shores that seem far too close to begin with. I can only empathize with those who must be constantly alert 24 hours daily for what might happen next.

All of us who have served on this incredible ship have reason to be proud of the time we served and our devotion to our Navy and Country. It was a time of hard work and long hours with a greater purpose beyond ourselves and the duty of commitment. We must come together as a group and share our past and our stories. So much happens during deployments that the general public does not catalog or know. We keep all that alive as we enlighten one another and relive our best time together. Please join us at our 2025 Reunion.

I hope that as we get closer to our upcoming 2025 Reunion at Charleston, S.C., you will note the dates (23-27 April 2025) and keep your calendar focused on our opportunity to spend time together. I know I



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am asking a lot, as time is precious for all of us, but we need this once-a-year event to reconnect. Bring our past back to life and enjoy the camaraderie that only people of our naval background can share. We have two great tours that will give you an incredible feeling of Charleston. I was homeported on three ships out of Charleston, and I can tell you upfront that it is a great city that welcomes tourists. It has always been a Navy-friendly town. While Charleston Naval Station is no longer in place, it once had many ships, including the USS Sierra, our Sister Ship AD-18. The Naval Weapons Station is still in place just outside of Charleston. We are now at the point where you can book your discounted hotel rooms for our Reunion. We expect to see some movement toward booking for our group. I would ask that you review the enclosed Registration form, complete it, and send it in so we can begin our advanced planning based on numbers and learn if we need to change transportation arrangements for our tours. Additionally, I remind all of you that separate from the Registration form, you must book your Hotel independently.

As always, we will have snacks and drinks (wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee & tea) in our Hospitality Room that's only available to our group. Our Hospitality Room is the perfect backdrop for relaxing, talking, meeting old friends, and making new ones. So many good stories come to light when we get our group together.

Additionally, those who did not meet R/Admiral Deborah Leower at our previous Reunion may spend time with her. When we last talked, she was optimistic about attending our Charleston Reunion. Yosemite was her first ship. Our 2025 Reunion will be held in the South to better support those who could not make the trip to Rhode Island this year.

I hope you are as excited as I am to get together again at our next Reunion. The next Reunion will be the best Reunion ever. It's centrally located on the east coast. Our 2025 Charleston Reunion is only a 4-hour car ride from Jacksonville, Florida. Please join us!

Our Raffle and Auction will be better than ever at our next Reunion. Just today, John Shanx sent me a USS Yosemite Lighter from the 50s for us to have as part of our auction or raffle. His uncle was in the Navy, and among his things when the family went through them was this Zippo Lighter from Yosemite with the ship on one side and the ship's logo on the other side (Yosemite Mountain and Mountain Lion). I will ask all of you to start thinking about what extraordinary things you will bring to be in our Raffle or Auction. Items that came from the ship are always a big hit. Quite often, people have items for a long time, and then, one day, they decide they can part with them. Sometimes, they even have duplicates. But we will happily share it with the group no matter what you choose to bring.

Whoever thought we would have a complete set of Original Blueprints of the Ship to auction off (Alphonso, our Webmaster), or a very large (Larger than I have seen as the ARO) brass ships plaque donated by Rear Admiral Leower for the 2024 Reunion Auction. So, put your imagination to work and find something interesting to add to the festivities.

Merry Christmas to all of you.

So, mark your calendar for April 23-27, 2025 and plan to join us at our 2025 Reunion in Charleston. I will keep you updated as we proceed, and when we have the link to book Hotel Rooms, you will have it. I hope this finds all of you in good health and spirits. It is my honor to work on your behalf to support our great traditions.

Wishing you all the best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)
LCDR USN Ret. Mustang



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From Bill Krug, w.krugiii@gmail.com

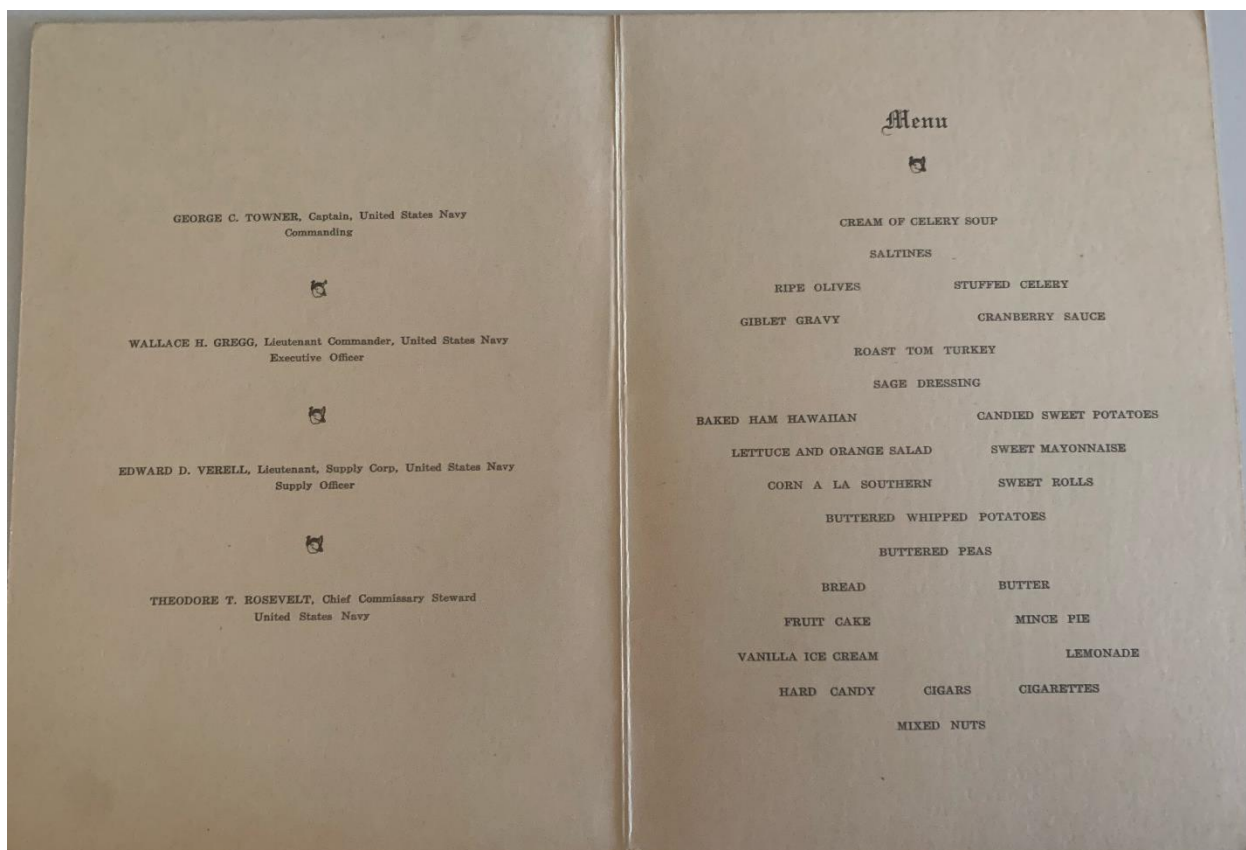
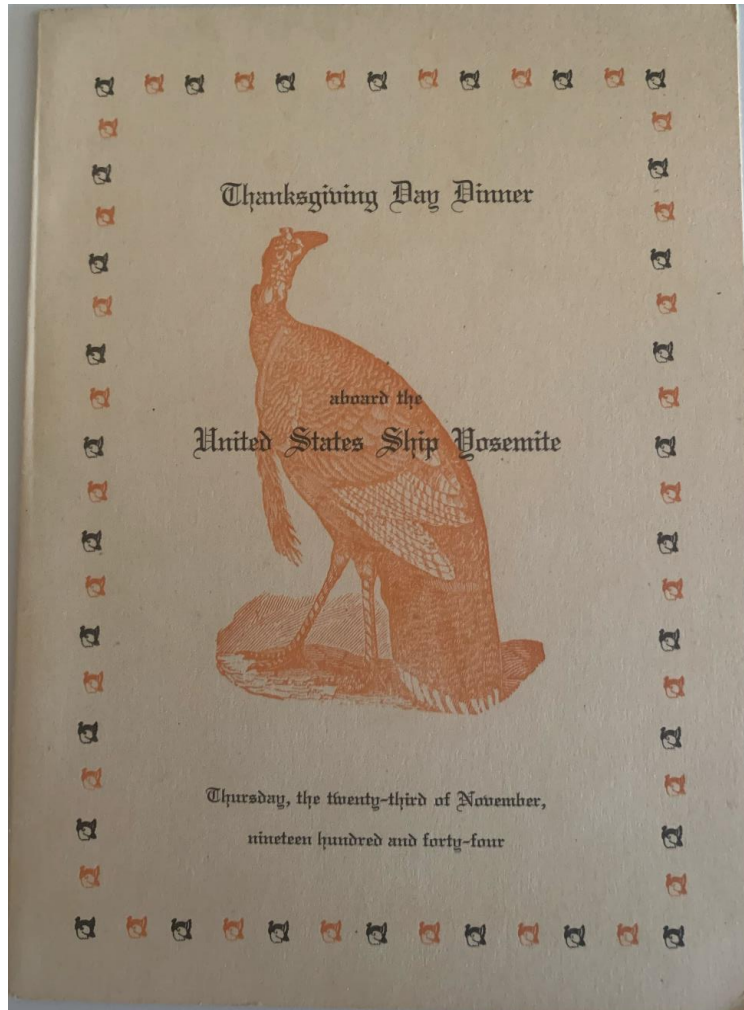
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ARO USS Yosemite
President USS Yosemite Association
Bill Krug, w.krugiii@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Day Dinner Menu for November 23, 1944



USS YOSEMITE ASSOCIATION 2025 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

When: Thursday 24 April 2024 – Sunday 27 April 2024 (Leave Sunday morning)

Where: Charleston, South Carolina

Address: 4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard, North Charleston, South Carolina 29418

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL (866)-358-6255 or (843)-744-4422 for the Crowne Plaza Charleston Airport – Conv Ctrr. State you are with the “USS Yosemite Group” and use code “UYA” * **Rooms prices are:** Wed. through Sat. is \$159.

Arrive 1 day prior & stay 1 day longer at our special rate. (Breakfast is included at Hospitality Room)

Should you need an exception (arriving earlier than 1 day or staying longer), contact Bill Krug. w.krugiii@gmail.com

**Remember your Hotel Reservations are separate from this form; you must make them yourself.*

Please print this page, fill-out form and mail it with a check to:
Tina Briones Smith 5107 Reagan Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Please make your check payable to “USS Yosemite Association”.

Type of Registration: **USS Yosemite Association Member** **President’s Special Guest**
Please note: you must have served on the USS Yosemite to register for this 2025 Reunion

Name: _____ **Years on the USS Yosemite:** _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____ (Please use back to record more guest names.)

Email address _____ **Phone Number** _____

Postal Mail Address _____

Calculate the amount to enclose with this completed Registration Form

Registration Fee is \$25.00

_____ **\$25**

Banquet Dinner comes with: Pre-Sweet or Un-Sweet tea, Water, Freshly Brewed Regular or Decaf Coffee, Hot Tea
Fresh Bread Baskets, Crowne House Salad (Artisan Mix, English Cucumbers, Grape Tomatoes, and Shredded Carrots), Fingerling Potatoes W/
Peppers & Onions, Haricot Verts (Green Beans) & Baby Carrots, and Cheese Cake for Dessert

Choice of Saturday Banquet Dinner Entrée:

Roasted Herb Marinated Chicken Breast Number selecting this Dinner _____ **multiply \$47 =** _____

Grilled Sirloin w/ Green Peppercorn Demi-Glaze Number selecting this Dinner _____ **multiply \$55 =** _____

Penne Pasta Tossed Oil & Garlic & Garlic Bread Number selecting this Dinner _____ **multiply \$41 =** _____

Subtotal _____

Tour Selection includes gratuities

Historic Charleston Tour (Thursday 24 April) \$75 per person:

Historic City District Covers 300 Years of Charleston’s History, You will see the Battery, Rainbow Row, St. Michaels Church, College of Charleston, The Citadel, Mazck-Wraggborough and Harleston Village. The Old Exchange, Provost Dungeon, with Shopping in the Old City Market, this is just an overview not nearly the full picture of the tour

Persons selecting this Tour _____ **multiply \$75 =** _____

Patriots Point Tour (Friday 25 April) \$80.00 per person:

Tour Patriots Point one of the largest Naval and Maritime Museums. Visit the USS Yorktown, the famous fighting lady of World War II; the Destroyer Laffey, a participant in World War II D-Day landings at Normandy; the Vietnam Era Naval Support Base with its Sea Cobra and Huey Helicopters; and the newly renovated Congressional Medal of Honor Museum.

Persons selecting this Tour _____ **multiply \$80 =** _____

The exact price to be determined & refund may apply -enter number of people that will go.

Check made out for the Total of \$ _____

Please mail your check payable to “USS Yosemite Association” with this Reunion Registration Form to **Tina Briones Smith (USS Yosemite Association Secretary) 5107 Reagan Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37129**

You may contact Tina by cell: (734) 308-0402 or by email: tinabriones@hotmail.com

2025 USS Yosemite Association Reunion Agenda

23 April 2025 – 27 April 2025

The 2025 Reunion is held at the Crowne Plaza Charleston Airport – Conv Ctr, 4831 Tanger Outlet Boulevard, North Charleston, South Carolina 29418

Please Note: Our Hospitality Room for Yosemite guests only provides Light Snacks, Beer, Wine, Mixed Drinks, and Soda from 5-9 pm daily at no charge.

Wednesday, April 23: Arrival

- **3 pm: Welcome Desk Open:** – Pick up Welcome Bags / Name Tags
- **5 to 9 pm: Hospitality Room** – available for Light Snacks / Beer / Wine / Mixed Drinks / Soda
- Dinner on your own at the Hotel or an off-site restaurant

Thursday, April 24: Day 1

- **8 to 9 am: Breakfast Buffet in Hotel Tickets provided with Room**
- **9 am to 2 pm: Historic Charleston Tour****
- **5 to 9 pm: Hospitality Room** – available for Light Snacks / Beer / Wine / Mixed Drinks / Soda
- Dinner on your own at the Hotel or an off-site restaurant

Friday, April 25: Day 2

- **8 to 9 am: Breakfast Buffet in Hotel Tickets provided with Room**
- **9 to 1 pm: Patriots Point Tour****
- **4 to 5 pm: Board of Directors Meeting**
- **5 to 9 pm: Hospitality Room** – available for Light Snacks / Beer / Wine / Mixed Drinks / Soda
- Dinner on your own at the Hotel or off-site restaurant

Saturday, April 26: Day 3

- **8 to 9 am: Breakfast Buffet in Hotel Tickets provided with Room**
- **11 am: Hospitality Room** “Old Salts Tales “/ Sharing of Ships Events / Social Time, Food and Drinks available.
- **2 to 4 pm: General Association Meeting**
- **5 to 6 pm: Hospitality Room** – available for Light Snacks / Beer / Wine / Mixed Drinks / Soda
- **6 pm: Banquet Dinner followed by Raffle** till 10:00 pm or later

Sunday, April 27: Departure

- **8 to 9 am: Breakfast at the Hospitality Room**
- Our 2025 Reunion ends & guests depart

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BUS DRIVER’S GRATUITY IS INCLUDED WITH THE COST OF THE TOUR TICKET!

2025 Reunion Tours Information

For questions, don't hesitate to call Tina at (734) 308-0402 or contact her by email tinabriones@hotmail.com .

Two Tours in Charleston for the 2025 USS Yosemite Reunion

This is the current tour information. Pricing will depend on the numbers. We will list the price for the Registration Form as if 25 people were going on the Tours.

USS Yosemite Reunion to Charleston. The following two tours are in our itinerary.

Thursday, April 24, 2025

A Day in Historical Charleston:

8:45 AM CCGS Guide & Motor Coach to meet guests at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

9 AM HISTORIC CHARLESTON TOUR

Tour Charleston, SC, one of the south's most beautiful and historic cities. Your tour will begin at your hotel, where you will board your motor coach for a privately guided drive through the city's historic district. Throughout the tour, your licensed guide will recount over 300 years of Charleston's long and colorful history from 1670 to the present day with a blend of knowledge, wit, and humor. Topics discussed will include Charleston's role in Colonial America, the American Revolution, the Southern Antebellum Era, the Civil War, and its current day status as one of the top travel destinations in the World.

Some landmarks include the Battery, Rainbow Row, St. Michael Church, the College of Charleston, and South Carolina's famed military academy, the Citadel. Your guide will also point out early-day houses in Mazyck-Wraggborough and Harleston Village, magnificent public buildings like The Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon and the famous "Four Corners of Law" at the intersection of Meeting and Broad Street. We will also stop at the Battery for a brief walk through the park and some photo opportunities of Charleston's scenic harbor. Your tour will end at the Old City Market, where you will have time for shopping, browsing, and lunch at one of Charleston's many fine restaurants.

11:00 AM Free time in the City Market for lunch on your own, shopping & browsing

1:30 PM Depart for Crowne Plaza Hotel

2:00 PM End day at Crowne Plaza Hotel

Price: Minimum 25 Per Coach \$75.00 Per Person Net

The preceding prices are inclusive, without gratuities for the guide and driver, which are left to the group's discretion.

2025 Reunion Tours Information

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Friday, April 25, 2025

Patriots Point Tour:

8:45 AM CCGS Guide & Motor Coach to meet guests at the Crowne Plaza Hotel

9:00 AM PATRIOTS POINT TOUR

Tour Patriots Point, one of the world's largest naval and maritime museums. Visit the USS Yorktown, the famous fighting lady of World War II; the Destroyer Laffey, a participant in the World War II D-Day landings at Normandy; the Vietnam Era Naval Support Base with its Sea Cobra and Huey helicopters; and the newly renovated Congressional Medal of Honor museum.

9:30 AM Tour Patriots Point

12:30 PM Depart for Crowne Plaza Hotel

1:00 PM End day at Crowne Plaza Hotel

Price: Minimum 25 Per Coach \$90.00 Per Person Net

The preceding prices are inclusive, without gratuities for the guide and driver, which are left to the group's discretion.