



# Radar Picket Ships

## YAGRGRAM #44

Spring 2007

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This YAGRGRAM is going out a little earlier than normal as I want to pass along some information. There is a very good chance that as we get closer to pre-reunion tour cutoff dates, we will not be able to get any more buses. This means that if you wait too long, there could be a problem with any tours you want to go on even if you get your reservation in by the cutoff dates. Also, if you sign up for these tours, I am asking that you send a separate check for each tour: \$20.00 per person for the plaque dedication and \$10 per person for the Annapolis tour.

Secondly, we have added numerous rooms to the reserved block of rooms we had set aside for YAGR'S. If you plan to go to the reunion, sign up as early as possible so you won't be disappointed.

Your reunion registration fee covers the hospitality room (light snacks and beverages), group tour on Friday (June 1), the spouses/guests Saturday breakfast and penny social, coffee at the mens meeting, the Saturday night banquet and all tips.

As a final note, men usually wear a sport jacket or suit (some men wear their uniforms), and the women a dress or suit to the Saturday night banquet.

### YAGRS 12<sup>TH</sup> Reunion

Washington, DC

May 31, June 1 and June 2, 2007

The Westfields Marriott

14750 Conference Center Drive Chantilly, VA 20151

You may view the hotel on line at: [marriotthotels.com/iadwf](http://marriotthotels.com/iadwf)

To make your room reservations call  
(800) 228-9290 or (703) 818-0300.

The official reunion dates are May 31, June 1 and June 2, 2007. Also to afford everyone an opportunity to see more of the area, we have set up optional pre-reunion tours on Tuesday, May 29 and Wednesday, May 30.

The room rate we negotiated is \$95.00 for a single or double room. This rate is good for May 28, 2007 to June 2, 2007, **and for the 3 days after June 2 on a very limited availability.** Tell them you are with the YAGR'S group when making your room reservations to receive the special rate.

The hotel has a free shuttle that runs from the Dulles International Airport (this is the closest airport to the hotel). Washington, DC has two airports, Dulles and Reagan. Reagan is a distance from the Westfields Marriott. If at all possible get your flight into Dulles so that you will not have to pay for transportation from Reagan Airport to the hotel.

The reunion registration cost this year will be \$119.00 per person for those who have paid their dues and \$134.00 per person for those who have not paid their dues.

Hotel number for Shuttle Reservations:  
(800) 635-5666 or (703) 818-0300

Transportation from Dulles International Airport (IAD) to the Westfields Marriott is complimentary. Hotel shuttles pick-up only on demand so **you need to call the hotel in advance to arrange for a pick-up time.** When making your pick up reservation, please supply the following information: name, date, airline, flight number and time of arrival. Once the reservation is made, the shuttle will be available on the hour and the half-hour (i.e. 10:30, 11:00) closest to your arrival time. The pick-up area is curbside 2H outside of baggage claim. There are multiple Marriott Hotels that utilize 2H so you should ensure that you wait for the Westfields Marriott shuttle.



The hotel has had some problems with the reservations. If you call and have a problem making your room reservations, give me a call right away (401) 724-7278. If you do have a problem, ask for the person's full name that you are talking to and also make a note of the time and day/date you called.

World War Two I



**June 1, 2007**

**Group Tour 8:45 AM TO 4:45 PM**

**The cost of this tour is included with your reunion registration fee.**

## **Proposed Reunion Schedule**

**Thursday May 31, 2007**

12:00 Open Hospitality Room

**Friday June 1, 2007**

8:45 AM Group Tour Departs hotel

4:45 PM Return from group tour

5:00 PM Hospitality room open

**Saturday June 2, 2007**

9:00 AM Spouses/Guests Breakfast

9:15 AM Mens Meeting

12:00 Hospitality Room open

3:00 PM Hospitality Room closed

6:00 PM Cocktails (cash bar)

7:00 PM Banquet

Our morning begins with a visit to the newly dedicated National World War II memorial honoring all military veterans of the war.

We continue on with a memorable visit to the nation's outstanding monuments to America's history: the Lincoln Memorial, honoring the man who saved the Union; the Vietnam War Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

Next we visit Union Station. Following a two-year restoration project, this site has indeed been recognized as one of the grandest train stations in the country. The location of specialty shops, restaurants and boutiques has been incorporated into the total ambience of this magnificent edifice. Time will be allowed for "**lunch on your own**" among the myriad of eateries located at this site.

A highlight of this day will be a stop at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Located directly across from the world famous Tidal Basin, the memorial features a park of granite walls, waterfalls and bronze sculptures that depict Roosevelt's presidency from 1933-1945.



## **Optional Pre-Reunion Tours**

**Tuesday, May 29, 2007**

**Plaque Dedication, 9:45 AM - 3:45 PM**

**\$20.00 per person**

We will be dedicating a plaque honoring our ships at the US Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. Lee Doyel (AGR-15) has donated the funds for this plaque.

Buses will pick us up at the hotel for transportation to the ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington. We expect to have some free time in DC after the dedication before the bus trip back to our hotel.

We will be limited to those who wish to attend by the number of bus seats. I have reserved three buses and these could be filled well before the cut off date; so if you want to attend the dedication, make sure you sign up early.

**The cut off date for signing up for both of the Pre-Reunion tours is April 1, 2007.**

**Wednesday, May 30, 2007**

**Annapolis and the Naval Academy, 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM**

**\$65.00 per person**

Annapolis has been called "the most perfect example of a colonial town existing today in America." Surprisingly little has changed since Maryland's capital was laid out in 1695. In fact, Annapolis has the greatest concentration of 18th century architecture to be found anywhere in the United States.

Upon arrival in Annapolis, we will be greeted by a local costumed docent who will guide us through the cobblestone streets of this historic area, including the interior and exterior of the Maryland State House, the oldest state house in continuous legislative use and the exterior of the many 17th and 18th century buildings and mansions in the area. We continue on to the United States Naval Academy, established in 1845 and covering more than 300 acres on the Severn River.

You will have time on your own for lunch and browsing throughout the waterfront area of the town where the elite of Annapolis dock their yachts and the many shops and boutiques located here.

**You will need a picture ID for this tour.**

**Remember to bring the tickets that were sent to you for the pre-reunion tours.**

**If you do not, you will have to wait and board the last bus to leave the hotel.**



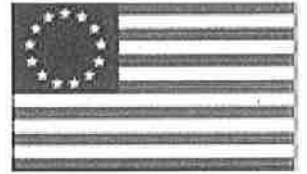
Pine Tree



Gulpepper



Continental



Betsy Ross (13 Stars)

# Saturday Breakfast and Penny Social/Raffle

For All Spouses and Guests

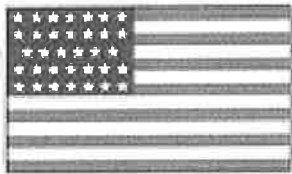
## This Is My Country

As always we will have a Saturday morning breakfast for all the spouses/guests who are attending the reunion. We hold this function while the men are at their meeting on Saturday. Along with breakfast we will have a hat contest. Decorate a hat based on this year's theme "This Is My Country."

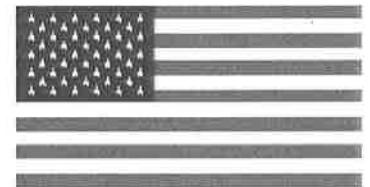
We also hold a raffle. We ask you to bring a small gift (hint, bring something you would like to win). We do have some people who are artistic or work in arts and crafts and they bring something that they have made.

The main idea is just to have fun so don't worry whether your hat or gift is the greatest in the world. And as a reminder, there is no cost as it is part of the reunion package.

LONG MAY IT WAVE

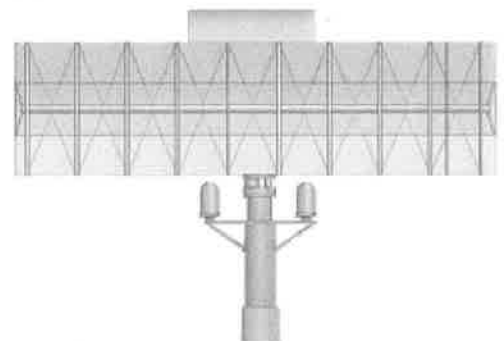


U.S. Civil War (34 stars)  
1861-1863



I received a request from Cheryl Petro who would like to hear from anyone who served with her father Gerald E. Hedge MMCM. Master Chief Hedge served on the USS Skywatcher (AGR-3), USS Searcher (AGR-4) and the YR-65.

You can reach her at:  
Cheryl Petro  
7010 Victoria Place  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772



# Special Projects

## Battleship Massachusetts

We have been working on the new exhibit "Women Protecting US" onboard the Battleship Massachusetts. While this is a single exhibit, we are treating it as two projects. One is fabricating two ladders and a booby hatch. The ladders are needed for a second means of egress out of the space. One ladder will go from the exhibit area to a half deck above it, where then the second ladder will lead up to the main deck. On the main deck the booby hatch will be fabricated. We are actually creating a new entrance/exit to the forward area of the ship. It should be noted that this work will benefit our exhibit by creating a new visitors route that will take them directly through our exhibit.

The second project is the actual building of the exhibit display structures. This work encompasses building frame work between existing stanchions (columns) and then adding trim pieces that will act as a frame for the plexiglass viewing panels (windows).

We had a work weekend January 19 - 20, 2007 where Jack Floyd (AGR-11) (YR-65), Tom Giardina (AGR-3), John Hemminger (AGR-2), Henry MacKay (AGR-12) and Harry Miller (AGR-11) (YR-65) worked on the display structures.

Roland Cote (AGR-10), John and Harry have been going on the ship on Wednesdays and have been working on the ladders.



Harry welding stringers



Roland and Harry working on a ladder tread

John and Roland checking angle of ladder



Roland and John inspecting ladder

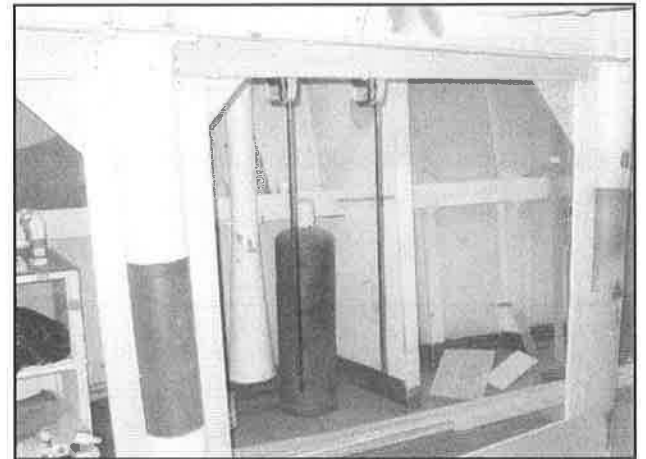
Henry and Tom working on display framing



Tom and Jack installing a section of framing



Jack, Tom and Henry cutting trim panel



Framing and trim panel installed between stanchions

John installing side trim



New bulkhead framing





## YAGR'S Web Page.

[www.yagrs.org](http://www.yagrs.org)

YAGR'S webmaster, Frank Pulaski (AGR-4) has been hard at work updating our web page. He has revised a few things in it to make it easier to move about the web site. He has also been adding pictures of the ships, pictures of our members building the YAGR'S exhibit on the Battleship Massachusettes, items of general interest about YAGR'S volunteering our services at Battleship Cove, and the guest book sign in seems to be a great hit with the former crewmen from all the ships.



## YAGR'S Dues

It is not too late to pay your dues for June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007. When writing your check, make it out to YAGR'S and send it to me (address on page #1). **As a reminder, if this is the first time you are paying your dues, they are \$17.00. Otherwise, dues are \$15.00.**

If you have paid your dues and did not receive your membership card and latest crewmen list that is sent with it, let me know.



We are still trying to locate information, pictures, etc. for possible inclusion in the YAGR'S book we are putting together.

If you have any information you think will be of use, please get it to me.

**At this time we are in the process of proof-reading the book. Once this is done, it will be ready to be published.**



## For Your Information

If you received an information request form along with this YAGRGRAM, **PLEASE RETURN IT!!!**

We are in the process of cutting our mailing list to help keep cost down. If it is not returned, I will assume you no longer wish to receive the YAGRGRAM.



## Returned Mail

After each mailing of the YAGRGRAM a number of them are returned by the post office as undeliverable.

If you will be moving or have just recently moved, make sure you get your new address and phone number to me





## 1957 Ship Commissionings

In 1957 four radar picket ships were commissioned. The ships listed by date of commissioning were:

January 16, 1957	USS Investigator AGR-9
February 6, 1957	USS Outpost AGR-10
February 20, 1957	USS Protector AGR-11
March 5, 1957	USS Vigil AGR-12



### U.S.S. VIGIL (AGR-12)

#### *LIBERTY SHIP: SS RAYMOND VAN BROGAN*

BUILT BY:	J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL
KEEL LAID:	14 DECEMBER 1944 (HULL #2339)
LAUNCHED:	27 JANUARY 1945
SPONSORED BY:	MRS. MARY ANNE DURHAM
PLACED IN SERVICE:	10 FEBRUARY 1945
PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET:	15 OCTOBER 1945

### *U.S.S. VIGIL (AGR-12)*

CONVERTED:	11 JUNE 1956 AT PHILADELPHIA, PA
COMMISSIONED:	05 MARCH 1957 AS YAGR-12 AT PHILADELPHIA, PA
HOMEPORT:	22 JUNE 1957 AT NEWPORT, RI 01 OCTOBER 1957 AT DAVISVILLE, RI
RECLASSIFIED:	28 SEPTEMBER 1958 AS AGR-12
DECOMMISSIONED	03 MARCH 1965
DISPOSITION:	23 NOVEMBER 1970 SOLD AS SCRAP

1 while attached to RADRON TWO operated in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean as part of the early warning system to alert our air defenses of approaching enemy aircraft.

# YAGR'S 12th Annual Reunion

**Please return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 20, 2007.**

**Exceptions are pre-reunion tours which are due by April 1, 2007.**

This information will be used for your name tag. Use the name you want printed on your name tag

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP SERVED ON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ RATE \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP SERVED ON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ RATE \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Reunion Registration</b>	<i>Please Print</i>
<b>Washington, DC</b>	<b>May 31 - June 2, 2007</b>

	Cost per person	X	Number of People	=	Sub Total
<i>EXAMPLE</i>	\$119.00	X	2	=	\$238.00
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$119.00	X		=	\$
Non dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$134.00	X		=	\$

<b>Optional Tours</b>	<i>Please Print</i>
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<b>Dedication YAGR'S Plaque</b>					
Tuesday May 29, 2007					
9:45 to 3:45					
Names of People going on tour					
	\$20.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$20.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$20.00	X	1	=	\$

<b>Pre Reunion Tour</b>					
Annapolis, MD					
Wednesday May 30, 2007					
8:30 AM to 4:15 PM					
Names of people going on tour					
	\$65.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$65.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$65.00	X	1	=	\$

<b>Reunion Shirts</b>					
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	Small	Medium	Large	X LARGE	
\$18.00 each					
Number of each, times \$18.00					= \$
\$20.00 each				XX- Large	
Number of each, times \$20.00					= \$
				<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>