



U.S.S. Radford DD/DDE 446

Summer 2021

WWII – KOREA – VIETNAM – COLD WAR

“AS LONG AS ONE OF US LIVES, SHE WILL LIVE”

ussradford446.org



Time’s almost up for you to submit your
sign-up sheet for the
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
reunion



Sign-up sheet inside



*A huge thanks to all of you who donated in 2021
A full list of names will be in the next newsletter*

SCUTTLEBUTT.....

07/01/2021 My name is Josie Emmons Turner. I am Lt. William Turner's wife. He served on the USS Radford 1965 - 1968. His last command was the Gunnery Officer. The reason I am writing is that I am working on a series of poems based upon his experiences in Vietnam and later, his personal journey across northern Africa ending in the Serengeti by foot. Bill has Agent Orange induced Parkinson's and his memory is not the best. I have been researching quite a bit about the Radford, her operations in Ganh Rai Bay by reading Naval historical records. I have a request for you to please send out to the other Radford crew members. If anyone who served on the Radford from October 1967 through February 1968 has any anecdotes, memories, or can fill in what operations she took place in, I would so appreciate it. Bill can only tell me that at one time they were on 24 hour duty for several days doing shore bombardment. He also went up the Saigon River - I think on a smaller boat, and he went ashore to spot targets. Does anyone have any recall of those missions? Any information would be most helpful. Currently I have about 25 pieces written, some close to final draft. My editor and I hope to complete a body of about 30 to 40 works. Please have people respond to my own email - Bill cannot check his anymore - josieturner@me.com. If someone would rather speak by phone - I know not everyone does email - my number is 253.678.6117. Because of Bill's illness, we will not be attending the Radford reunion. We live in Gig Harbor, Washington. After Bill's service, he traveled for about a year, mostly in Africa. When he came home, he entered graduated school at the University of Washington in Seattle and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Painting. Bill spent his professional career as an artist (yes, he made a living at it). His website is williamturnerart.com. I truly appreciate your help and any assistance from his former crew mates.

05/19/2021 I just finished a short video dealing with the history of RADFORD. Just click on the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v09CLWVlxcA> Please take a moment to check it out and let me know if you feel it would be something of interest to show at the JAX reunion. From Mike Nave



05/19/2021 Here's a good one of me (the skinny guy wearing the flat hat) and a radioman named Bill Mims. He was a genius, had a photographic memory and was reading all the time. I show this to people I know now and they say "Ye gods, didn't they feed you?" They put those flat hats in our sea bags, but they never let us wear them. I guess they wore them on the east coast. I thought they were cool, so I just put it on in the crew's quarters to admire my reflection in my locker. Mike Casey

03/21/2021 Hi Mike (Nave), I saw in the recent newsletter you'd like to show some old Radford movies in the hospitality room during the 2021 reunion in Jacksonville. Several years ago (15 maybe) Doug Bronnenberg, ATN2, 1965-66 (wife Ruth) showed films he took of many of the crew and the DASH helicopter. You may remember him. In fact you were probably his division officer. Doug's address- 501 North Pinetta Drive, Richmond, Va 23235. Phone 804-320-1718. The problem is I got this information off a 2005 ships roster. I can't find anything more recent. Thought you'd like to know if you would like to pursue it. It was a good film. Darryl Loughrey, PC3, 1962-66. E-mail patti.loughrey@gmail.com Phone (315)343-1659 Oswego , New York

03/21/2021 Darryl, Thanks for sending me the information about Doug's video. I remember talking with Doug at one of our reunions but didn't realize he had videos that included DASH ops. Yes, I was the DASH Division Officer when Doug was on board. Sad to say, I tried to get up-to-date contact information and was saddened to see an obituary for Douglas Lee Bronnenberg who passed away March 30 2019. I believe it to be the same Douglas Bronnenberg of the RADFORD since he was associated to the city of Richmond and he was born on February 18 1942, which pretty much matches up age and location. Again, thanks for touching base Darryl and I hope we see you again at this year's reunion in Jacksonville. Mike Nave



03/11/2021 Hello Mike, My father was LCDR William Ferguson, XO of Radford from 1965-67. He passed away 21 years ago after a battle with Alzheimer's. I was just a youngster of 5-6 years old during those days in Hawaii (I'm 60 now). I saw your post in the newsletter about having some videos onboard Radford. I would love to see those, especially if my dad is in any of them. It would be nice if you could get those converted to digital and maybe posted on the Radford website.. I'll send a few other photos I have as well. Jim Ferguson, Bainbridge Island, WA

03/09/2021 Good Morning Jim., Thanks for your email and the photos of your dad. I served on board RADFORD with your dad and I can tell you he was a fine gentleman. As you may be aware, the XO of a ship is the single person who heads up the wardroom (all the officers), so your dad was the go-to person for any issues we officers might be experiencing while on board the ship. He always welcomed any comments, good or bad, and offered very professional advice. I truly enjoyed the picture that showed your mom and dad with CDR Wettlaufer and his wife Rita. The RADFORD was my favorite ship because of the makeup of our wardroom. The RADFORD Association has reunions (almost every year except last year due to Covid), and at the reunions we often hear stories that were never told before. We also view photos that people bring to share. You certainly are invited to join us at our reunions, and I am certain many people would like to hear stories about your dad. I have attached two photos that I took from two of our cruise books, one from the 65 Westpac cruise and one from the 66 Westpac cruise. The photos show the ship's executive officers during those cruises. Sorry to say, those are the only photos I could find of your dad, but there are plenty of photos to see in the cruise books that you might enjoy viewing. As for the videos, most of which were from the internet, they mostly deal with underway evolutions, like alongside refueling, highlineing, and other documentary events. I did observe one video that took place in the summer of 63 showing the events that occurred when the ship crosses the equator. Those on board who have never crossed the equator are known as 'pollywogs' until they undergo King Neptune's initiation at which time they become a 'shellback'. No one is really sure when or how the Line Crossing Ceremony, "Order of Neptune", came about. The ritual dates back at least 400 years in Western seafaring. The ceremony observes a mariner's transformation from slimy Pollywog, a seaman who hasn't crossed the equator, to trusty Shellback, also called a Son or Daughter of Neptune. It was a way for sailors to be tested for their seaworthiness. When a ship crosses the equator, King Neptune comes aboard to exercise authority over his domain and to judge charges brought against Pollywogs that they are only posing as sailors and haven't paid proper homage to the god of the sea. High ranking members of the crew and those who have been Shellbacks the longest dress up in elaborate costume and each play the part of King Neptune's court. For instance, the ship's captain might play the part of King Neptune himself. What proceeds is a day of festivities, which builds camaraderie among the seafaring crew. I do know your dad participated in the ceremony during the 1966 Westpac cruise when we went down to Kuala Lumpur in support of a visit to Malaysia by President Johnson. It was during that cruise that I became a trusty shellback but I can't recall your dad's status. You can watch the 'ceremony' at the following website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQn5qSgu8x4>. Anyway, thanks again for the emails and especially the photos which I really enjoyed. Mike Nave



Mike Nave and Bill Turner

Photos
courtesy
of
Mike Nave

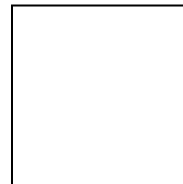


Chuck Vasaly, Jim Perry & Bill Turner



Last cruise – 1969
Photo courtesy of Mike Casey

USS Radford Association
482 Windyville Road
Spencer, WV 25276



USS RADFORD DD/DDE 446 REUNION SIGN-UP SHEET

29TH National Reunion
September 22 – September 26, 2021
800-222-8733

DoubleTree by Hilton/Jacksonville Riverfront
1201 Riverplace Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207

\$119 per night – includes complimentary breakfast for 2

Tell them you are with the **USS RADFORD 2021 REUNION**

Name(s) for Badges: _____

Served on Radford: _____ Rate/Rank: _____
Year(s) from / to

Phone: _____ Current City/State: _____

Wed. Sept 22 – Pizza Party & Auction	NO CHARGE	how many? _____
Thurs. Sept 23 – St. Augustine Driving Tour/Shopping/Lunch-On-Own	NO CHARGE	how many? _____
Fri. Sept 24 – Mayport Naval Base/Memorial Tour – Lunch Included	NO CHARGE	how many? _____
Fri. Sept 24 – Evening Aboard the USS Orleck	NO CHARGE	how many? _____
Sat. Sept 25 – Dinner Banquet & DJ w/Karaoke	NO CHARGE	how many? _____
Sun. Sept 26 – Farewell Breakfast		

***** No charge for Shipmate Plus 1 – donations are appreciated for your guests*****

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KEEP THIS LOWER SECTION FOR YOUR INFORMATION

RETURN UPPER SECTION WITH CHECKS ENCLOSED TO:
****YOUR FORM IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 11, 2021****
Make checks payable to USS Radford Association

CHUCK PARSONS, PRESIDENT
482 WINDYVILLE ROAD
SPENCER, WV 25276

DoubleTree by Hilton/Jacksonville Riverfront – 1201 Riverplace Blvd – Jacksonville, FL 32207
800-222-8733 - \$119 per night – Sept 22 – 26, 2021

Wed. Sept 22: **6:00 pm** Pizza party & auction in hospitality room
Thurs. Sept 23: **10:00 am** Depart hotel for St. Augustine driving tour w/guide. Fountain of Youth, Cathedral-Basilica, Ponce de Leon Hotel & More. Shopping & lunch on your own.
Fri. Sept 24: **10:00 am** Depart hotel for Mayport Naval Base & Memorial Wall w/tour guide. Lunch at conference center along the ocean.
***5:30 pm** Depart hotel for evening aboard the USS Orleck
Sat. Sept 25: **9:00 am** Business meeting
5:00 pm Group photo
6:00 pm Cocktail hour
7:00 pm TAPS, following by dinner & DJ
Sun. Sept 26: **7:00 am** Farewell Breakfast

***Friday visit to the USS Orleck is contingent upon ship being in place & available for guests**