



USS RADFORD

Newsletter

2024 Post Reunion Edition



USS Radford DD/DDE446 32nd National Reunion
September 17-20, 2024 ~ Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



USS RADFORD COORDINATING COUNCIL



**Larry
Dean**
President



**Steve
Weigel**
Chaplain



**Dave
Baker**
Website
Coordinator



**Kim
Parsons**
Finance,
Reunion, and
Administrative
Coordinator



**Jim
Moffatt**
Fifties
Coordinator



**Mike
Nave**
Newsletter
Coordinator



**Larry
Davis**
Sixties
Coordinator



Larry Dean
Steve Weigel
Kim Parsons
Mike Nave
Larry Davis
Dave Baker
Jim Moffatt

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HERE ARE
YOUR 2024
REUNION
MEMORIES

This reunion was truly a team effort. Larry and Mary Dean kicked it off with assistance from Steve and Pat Weigel. Kim Parsons added the finishing touches to produce a very memorable time. Not only were the tours educational, this visit gave us true insight into the history that makes our country so great. Thank you all for such a wonderful and informative event.

Hotel Indigo Harrisburg PA



AN ARTIFACT FROM OUR MUSEUM

TUESDAY

PIZZA
PARTY



*The Hospitality Suite was the perfect place
to sit and chat with old friends*



WEDNESDAY

TOUR

GETTYSBURG



*Our Bus Driver
for both days*



*Steve Slaughter
Our Tour Guide*



The Gettysburg Address

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.

We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting-place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us the living rather to be dedicated to that great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln, November 19, 1863

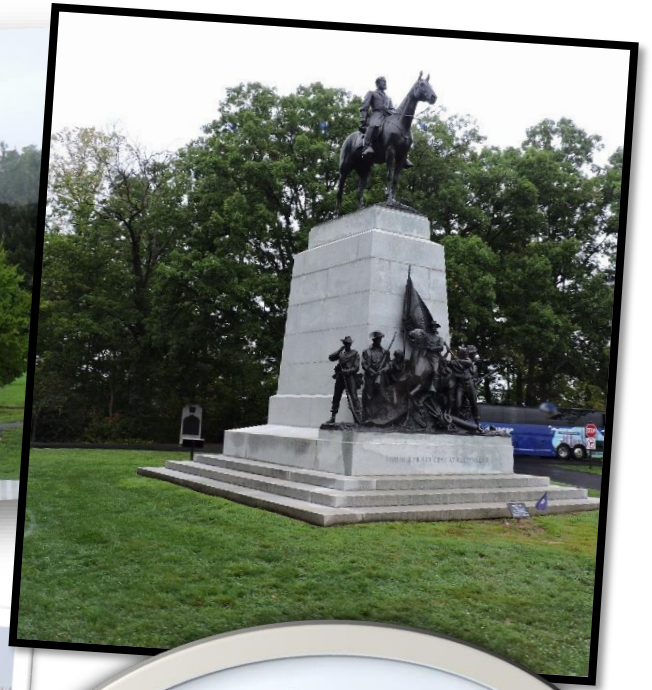


*Two Distinguished Men
On the tour*

The tour of the Battlefield was like a history lesson



General Lee's Headquarters



*Following the tour, we had Lunch
in the Gettysburg Museum Refreshment Saloon*



THURSDAY

Tour the Amish Country Lancaster PA



Mike Simmons took us on an amazing tour of the many small *Towns & Villages* of *Lancaster County, PA*: · Intercourse, PA · Bird-in-Hand, PA · Lititz, PA · Strasburg, PA · Lancaster *City*, PA · Paradise, PA · and Ephrata, PA.

We wrapped up our tour with an unforgettable lunch at the home of Aaron and Barbie Blank.



*Here we are, all settled in anxiously awaiting
our Amish luncheon at the Blank Household*





The food is served and what a fantastic meal we had!



AFTER LUNCH, WE ALL WATCHED LITTLE MARVIN (4 YRS OLD) HITCH HIS PONY TO HIS BUGGY (WITH THE HELP OF MIKE SIMMONS AND CHUCK PARSONS)



**MARVIN PUTS
THE FINISHING
TOUCHES ON
HITCHING HIS
PONY**



**MARVIN'S ALL SET
TO GO!**



Business Meeting



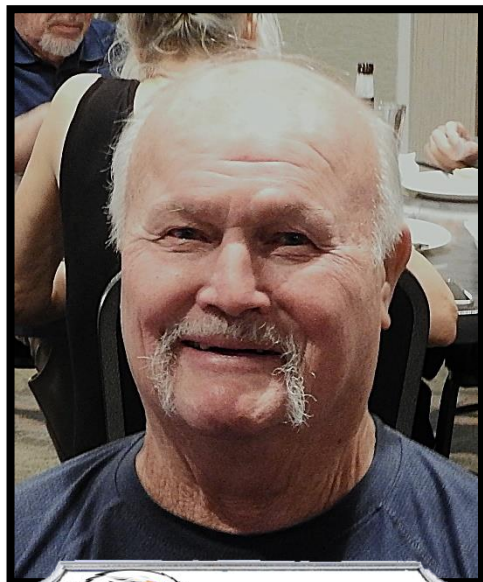
Karaoke Time with Will Reed



Our Dinner Banquet



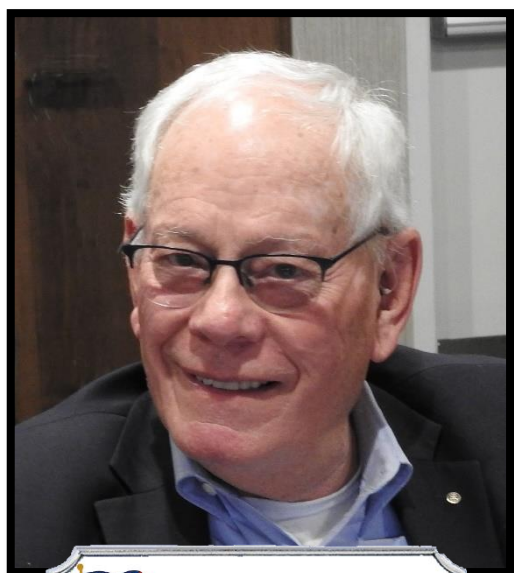
**Ken & Sharon
ARNOLD**



**Billy
AUSTIN**



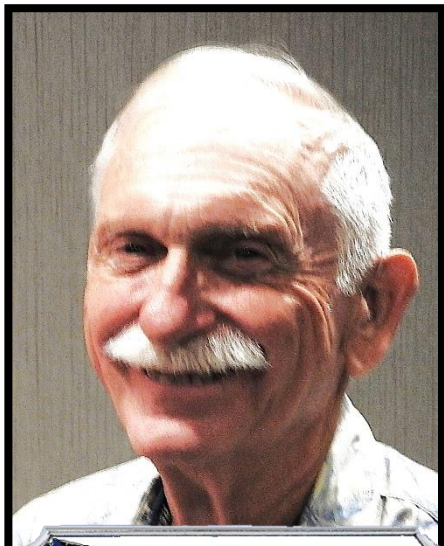
**Billy & Jeannie
BACHOR**



**Dave
BAKER**




**Pete & Anita
BERNIER**




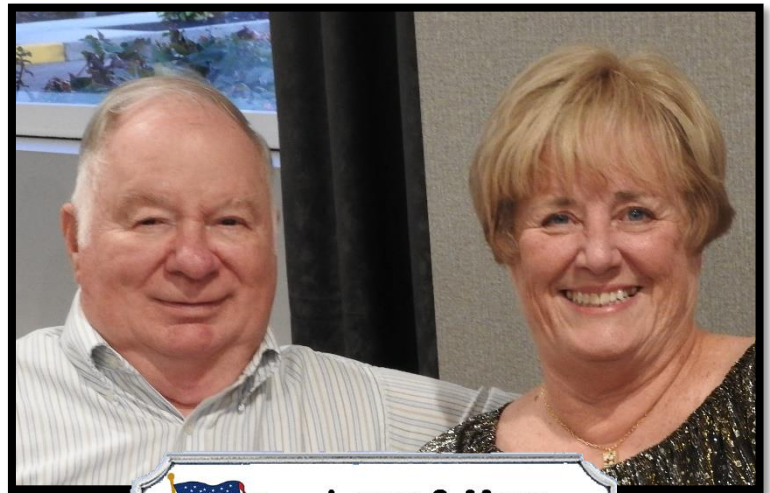
 **Jim
CLARK**



 **Larry & Marie
DAVIS**



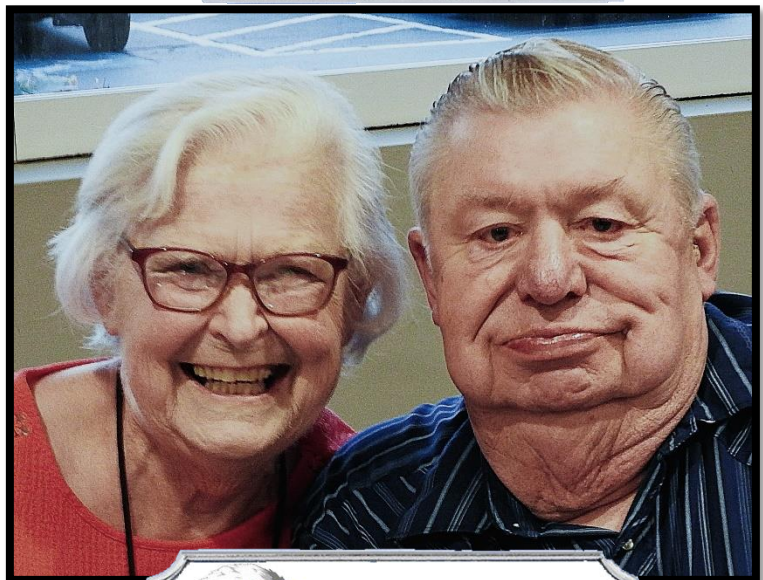
 **Todd & Carmen
BOYD**



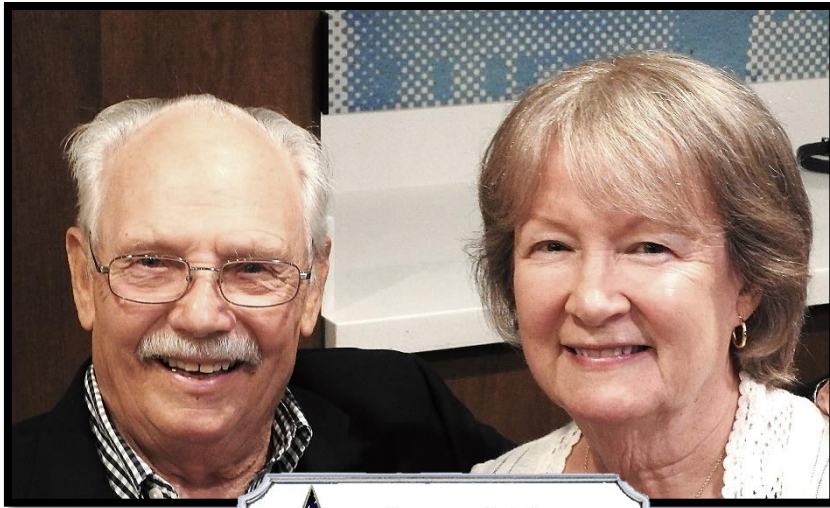
 **Larry & Mary
DEAN**



 **Weldon
FREEZE**



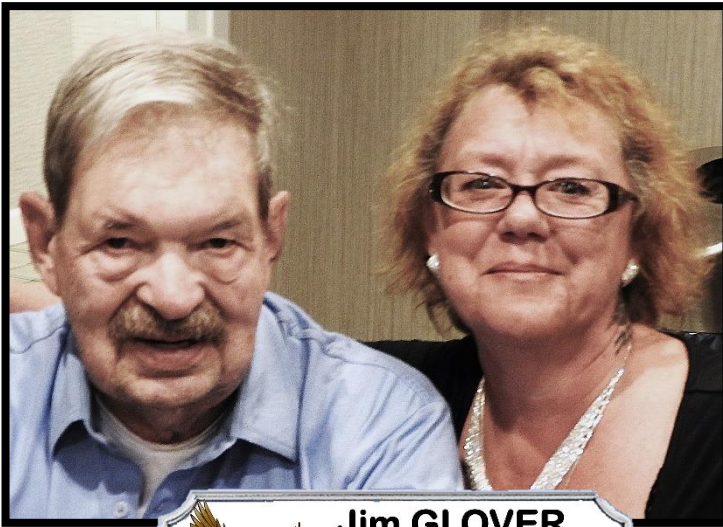
 **Jerry & Virginia
FREEZE**



 **Larry & Sharon
FOLEY**



 **Susan
LITTLE**



 **Jim GLOVER
&
Tori ROBERTS**



 **Doretta
MORGAN**



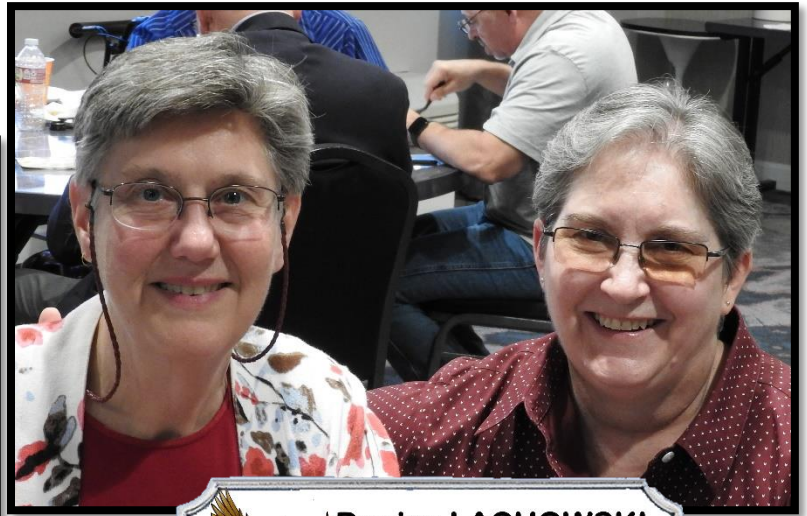
 **Marvin
MUNN**



 **Gerry & Wendy
KIBAT**



 **John
LACHOWSKI**



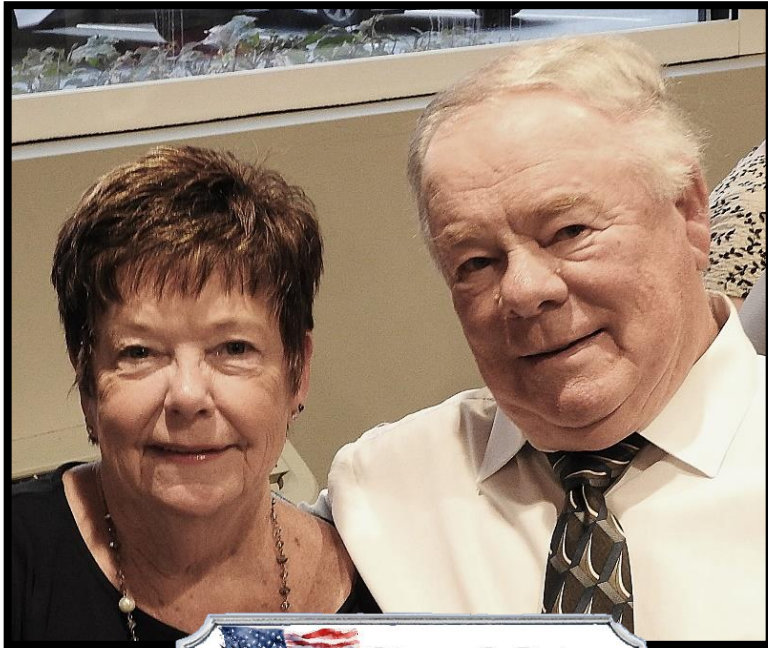
 **Denise LACHOWSKI
&
Cindy KLEMENTS**




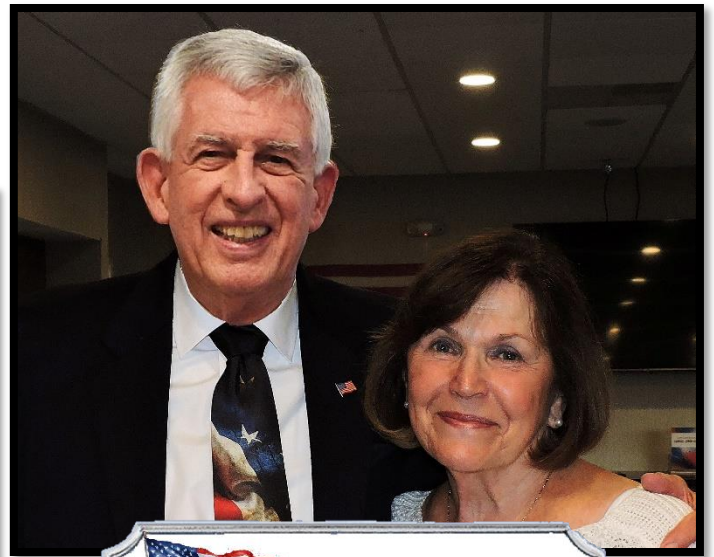
 **Jim and Dorothy
MOFFATT**



 **Jerry & Joanie
MALÝ**




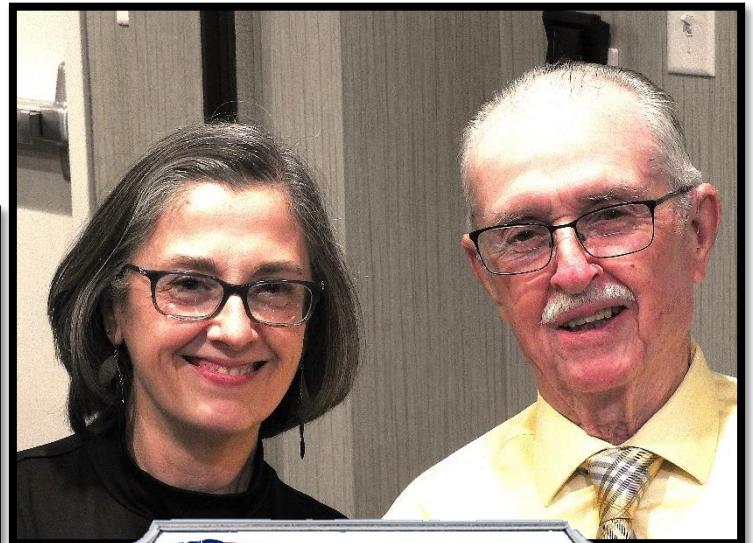
 **Steve & Pat
WEIGEL**



 **Mike & Helen
NAVE**



 **Ralph & Carol
YOUNG**



 **Chuck & Kim
PARSONS**

the
**EDITOR'S
NOTE**

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO
DENISE LACHOWSKI
FOR SENDING MANY
PHOTOS YOU SEE IN
THIS NEWSLETTER**

FRIDAY



Until Our Next Reunion

WE HOPE TO SEE
ALL OF YOU NEXT
YEAR IN
NASHVILLE, TN

DONATIONS

June 2024

Fran Robak

(in memory of **Henry Robak** 54-58 EM3)

Louise Farel

(in memory of my father **Jack Brereton** 43-45 LT)

July 2024

RADM George Wagner 62-65 Ltjg

Ben Brown 62-66 BM3

Fran Robak

(in memory of **Henry Robak** 54-58 EM3)

August 2024

Allan Evans 67-68 YN3

Larry Foley 60-64 BT2

Bob Cannon 66-68 BT3

September 2024

John Lachowski 54-55 EM2

Jerry Freeze 63-65 BT3

Barb Walker

(in memory of **Donald Walker** 55-57 SKSA)

November 2024

Fran Robak

(in memory of **Henry Robak** 54-58 EM3)

THANK YOU



Marge Armao

(wife of **Sam Armao** 44-45 SK2)

Please use this information:

c/o **Richard E. Armao**

7290 Holly Park Drive

Concord Township, OH 44060

Thomas Moore 64-66 MM3

Revised phone contact information:
210-430-5232

Robert Armao

(son of **Sam Armao** 44-45 SK2)

Revised email listing:

rarmao@lhsi.org

Barbara Walker

(widow of **Donald Walker** 55-57 SKSA)

Revised apartment #:

4101 West Iles Avenue

Apt 132

Springfield, IL 62711

USS RADFORD

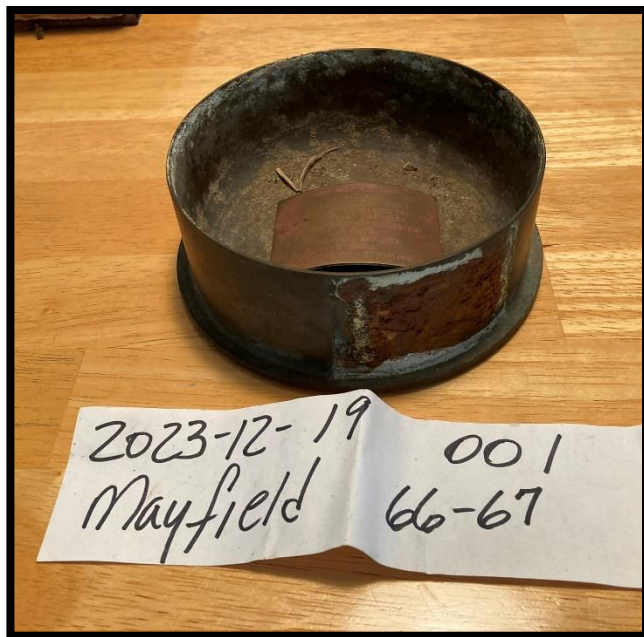


Larry Davis still has a few items remaining from our treasure trove of USS ORLECK museum artifacts. He will hold them for a while to see if any of you would like to lay claim to one or more of the items shown below and on the next page.

Larry indicates they will be distributed on a first come first served basis and postage remittance would be appreciated.

Note, the 5-inch shell ashtrays weigh 6 pounds each so postage would be required for those 2 items.





In addition to the above items, Larry has a storage bin of old scrapbooks and miscellaneous paper documents.

If you are interested in any of the above items or wish to inquire about the items contained in the storage bin, please contact Larry Davis at:

email: imdavis9@gmail.com

cell: (321) 501-5260

Please act soon since Larry intends on donating the items early next year.



Do You Know Why Sailor's Bell-bottom Pants Were Called Cracker Jacks?

Back in 1918, Cracker Jacks introduced a brand new, patriotic mascot. He, along with his dog Bingo, appeared on their box of Cracker Jacks, and his name was Sailor Jack. His flared pants gave rise to the start of the name given to the bell-bottomed pants worn by U.S. Sailors.



However, the story behind the Navy's bell-bottomed pants goes way back before Sailor Jack appeared on the Cracker Jack box. Although no one has been officially accredited with inventing the bell-bottom trouser, the flared outlook was introduced for US Navy sailors to wear in 1817. The new design was made to allow the young men who washed down the ship's deck to roll their pant legs up to protect the material. This design also improved the time it took to take the pants off when the sailors needed to abandon ship in a moment's notice. Also rumored, the trousers doubled as a life preserver by knotting the pant legs and used as a flotation device due to the thick weave of the fabric.



In 1901, the Navy authorized the wearing of denim dungarees as an alternative to heavier wool pants. With a few rare exceptions, bell-bottoms remained the official working uniform of enlisted sailors from 1913 through the 1990s. In the 1950s and 1960s, the concept of bell-bottomed pants became the fashion of the day. Some changes were made to the uniform over the years, and in the late 20th century, pants with wide, straight legs replaced the flared bottoms, but they were still referred to as "bell-bottoms", and the classic image of the bell-bottom-wearing sailor lives on today.

The Fletcher Class Destroyer

Our ship, USS Radford (DD 446), was a **Fletcher Class** destroyer built by the United States during World War II. Radford is just one of 175 *Fletcher*-class destroyers commissioned by The United States Navy between 1942 and 1944, more than any other destroyer class. The *Fletchers* have been credited with tipping the scales during WWII, giving the Allies the necessary firepower to offset the power of the Japanese fleet.

In a massive effort, the *Fletchers* were built by eleven shipyards across the United States. Radford was built next to the USS Fletcher in Kearney, NJ, and was the fifth *Fletcher* Class ship to be commissioned. The *Fletchers* had a design speed of 38 knots (70 km/h; 44 mph) and a principal armament of five 5-inch (130 mm) guns in single mounts with ten 21-inch (530 mm) torpedo tubes in two quintuple centerline mounts.



The long-range *Fletcher*-class ships performed every task asked of a destroyer, from anti-submarine warfare and anti-aircraft warfare to surface action. They could cover the vast distances required by fleet actions and endure the unrelenting pounding of the Pacific Ocean. They served almost exclusively in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II, during which they accounted for 29 Imperial Japanese Navy submarines sunk and numerous other Japanese surface ships damaged or sunk. Nineteen of the *Fletchers* were lost and six were damaged so badly that they were not

repaired. 44 of the ships were awarded 10 battle stars or more while 19 were awarded Naval Unit Commendations and 16 Presidential Unit Citations. Following the war all were decommissioned and placed in reserve. Some *Fletchers*, including Radford, were re-commissioned and went on to serve during the Korean War and into the Vietnam War.



- ★ **Robert Sworden** 63-66 BM3
Passed away on September 25, 2024
- ★ **Donald Walker** 55-57 SKSA
Passed away on June 30 2024
- ★ **Sam Armao** 44-45 SK2
Passed away on January 5 2024
- ★ **Lefty Karkazis** 56-57 SN
Passed away on September 18 2024

- ★ **Don Hidy** 63-64 ENS
Passed away on March 8 2024



Our next newsletter will be coming out in February or March, 2025. We hope to have sufficient details available about our September reunion in Nashville, so that you will be able to decide and let us know as early as possible if you plan on attending.

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USS Radford Association
482 Windyville Road
Spencer, WV 25276

