



USS RADFORD

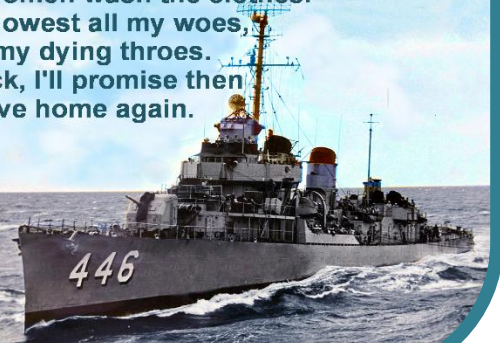
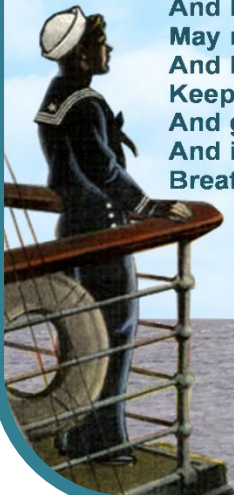
Newsletter

2026 Pre Reunion Edition

The Sailor's Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
Grant no other sailor take
My shoes and socks before I wake.
Lord, guard me in my slumber
And keep my hammock on its number.
May no clues nor lashings break
And let me down before I wake.
Keep me safely in thy sight
And grant no fire drill tonight.
And in the morning let me wake,
Breathing scents of sirloin steak.

God protect me in my dreams
And make this better than it seems.
Grant the time may swiftly fly
When myself shall rest on high.
In a snowy feather bed,
Where I long to rest my head,
Far away from all these scenes
From the smell of half-done beans.
Take me back into the land
Where they don't scrub down with sand,
Where no Demon Typhoon blows,
Where the women wash the clothes.
God thou knowest all my woes,
Feed me in my dying throes.
Take me back, I'll promise then
Never to leave home again.





USS RADFORD COORDINATING COUNCIL



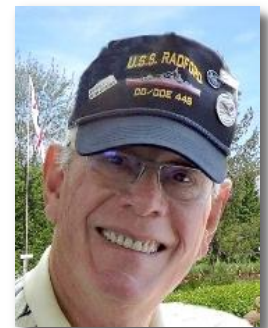
**Larry
Dean**
President



**Steve
Weigel**
Chaplain



**Gerry
Kibat**
Finance
Coordinator




**Dave
Baker**
Website and
Administrative
Coordinator



**Jim
Moffatt**
Fifties
Coordinator



**Mike
Nave**
Newsletter
Coordinator



A Note from the Editor

I'VE STARTED A NEW SERIES CALLED "A LOOK BACK IN TIME" WHERE I RECOUNT SOME OF MY MEMORIES WHILE SERVING ON RADFORD.

I HOPE YOU ENJOY THESE SHORT STORIES.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you have a message about the Radford or her crew, please forward that message to Dave Baker. If you are sending money, please send that to USS

RADFORD at: **USS RADFORD**
4041 Lakeshore Rd
Lexington, MI 48450

Larry Dean
Steve Weigel
Gerry Kibat
Dave Baker
Jim Moffatt
Mike Nave

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j.moffatt@sbcglobal.net	281-414-0684
manave@earthlink.net	760-521-1311



This year's reunion will be held September 29 to October 3 in San Antonio, TX and it will be at the Holiday Inn San Antonio River Walk, 217 N. St. Mary's St, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

Our rate is \$142.00 + taxes per night. Act quickly, since you must make hotel reservations by July 28, 2026. After that date, room reservations will not be eligible at our group rate. They will be offered at the published rate and subject to availability. To make your reservation, call the hotel at 210 224-2500, option 2 and mention our group

block code URR or inform them you are with the USS Radford Reunion Group. If you need an accessible room, after reserving a standard room, you will need to call Bonnie at 210-272-1525. Bonnie is the designated person at the hotel to switch a standard room reservation to a room that is accessible (if there is one available on the particular dates). Rooms can be reserved at our rate for the period 26 September through 6 October. Reservations may be cancelled without penalty through September 26.

Virtually all airlines service the San Antonio airport. The hotel does not provide airport shuttle service and the charge for parking for us is \$24 per night.

WELCOME Join us in our Hospitality Suite which will be in the Fiesta Room.

Tuesday night, we will have a Welcome Reception in Tango Ballroom 1 starting at 5:30pm. This will be different than in the past since we will be enjoying a Grazing Station for the first time. The Grazing Station includes:

Antipasto - Provolone and Fresh Mozzarella Cheese, Salami, Capocollo, Prosciutto Ham, Grilled Asparagus, Artichoke Hearts, Mixed Olives, and Grilled Season Vegetables.

Buffalo Wings - Flash-Crisped and Sauce Slathered w/Carrot and Celery Sticks. Choice of Buffalo, and Coco-BBQ,

Quesadillas - Peppers, onions and a blend of cheeses grilled in a buttery tortilla. Served with salsa and sour cream.



TOURS

As for our tours, on Wednesday we visit the IMAX Theater to view "The Price of Freedom" followed by the "Line in the Sand" tour through the Alamo Center in San Antonio.



On Thursday, we are scheduled to take an open-air evening dinner cruise on the San Antonio River. The on-board dinner features a meal from the Casa Rio restaurant. The tour lasts about 2 hours and makes the full loop of the San Antonio River. Settle into the linen covered tables on the boat to experience a wonderful meal and excursion.



Reunion Banquet



KARAOKE TIME

This year our banquet will be held in Tango Ballroom 1. The plated dinner includes a Fire-grilled Sirloin Filet, Riverwalk Tossed Salad, Chef's Selected pasta, Vegetable, Dessert, and Warm Rolls with Sweet Butter.

Of course, we wrap up our reunion this year as usual with some great Karaoke songs following our banquet.

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

This year our reunion will be in San Antonio, Texas from
Tuesday, September 29 through Saturday, October 3

Attendees Name(s): _____

Phone: (h) _____ (c) _____

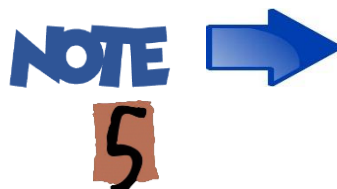
Current City/State: _____

email (for Reunion photos): _____

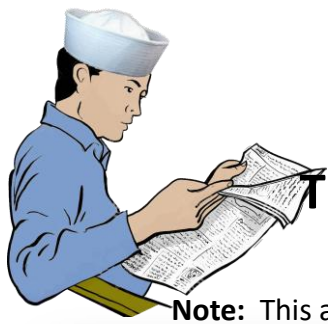
Day	Time	Tour/Event	# People
TUESDAY	1800	Grazing Station Reception in Tango Room	_____
WEDNESDAY	0845	IMAX – Alamo: The Price of Freedom	_____
	1000	The ALAMO Tour/Line in the Sand Experience (Group Photo following tour)	
	1200	Lunch on own at El Mercado	
	1300	Return to hotel – arriving at 1330	
THURSDAY	1600	GO RIO River Cruise and Dinner	_____
FRIDAY	1000	Business Meeting	
	1700	Cocktail Hour - open bar	
	1800	Banquet Dinner in Tango Room	_____
	1830	Music and Karaoke	

Note: We have contracted with GatheringsPlus to arrange our reunion this year. As a consequence, we have established a fixed registration fee, subsidized by the Radford account, rather than ala carte as in the past.

Registration Fee:
\$200.00/person



Registration fee should be made
to USS RADFORD and mailed to:
USS RADFORD
4041 Lakeshore Rd
Lexington, MI 48450



An Interesting Article from a Prior Radford Newsletter

Tug Puts Line Aboard Unmanned Destroyer

Source: The Oregonian – Sat. Oct. 24, 1970

Note: This article was published in the Jan/Feb/Mar 1998 edition of the Radford Newsletter

Tug Puts Line Aboard Unmanned Destroyer

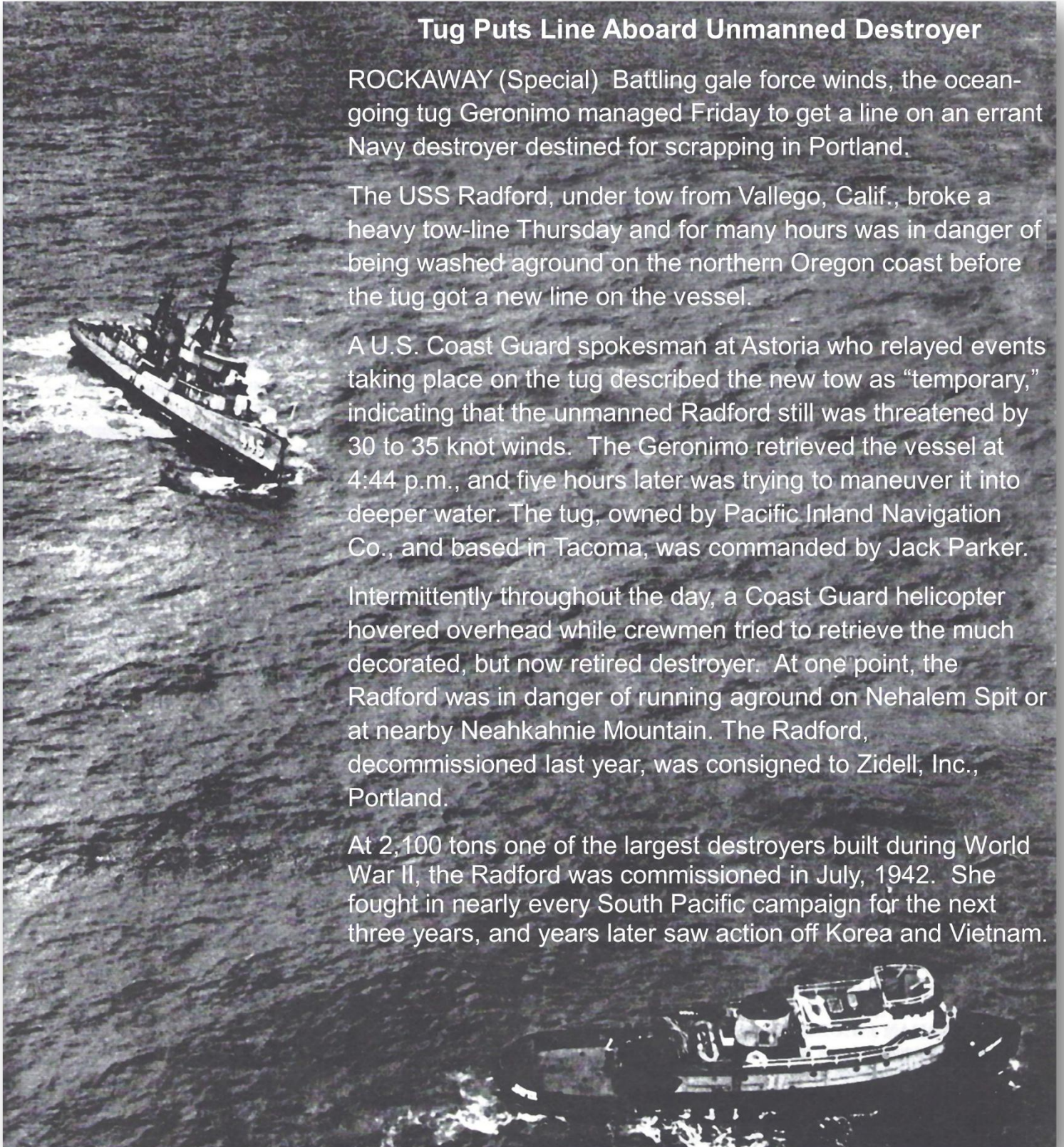
ROCKAWAY (Special) Battling gale force winds, the ocean-going tug Geronimo managed Friday to get a line on an errant Navy destroyer destined for scrapping in Portland.

The USS Radford, under tow from Vallego, Calif., broke a heavy tow-line Thursday and for many hours was in danger of being washed aground on the northern Oregon coast before the tug got a new line on the vessel.

A U.S. Coast Guard spokesman at Astoria who relayed events taking place on the tug described the new tow as “temporary,” indicating that the unmanned Radford still was threatened by 30 to 35 knot winds. The Geronimo retrieved the vessel at 4:44 p.m., and five hours later was trying to maneuver it into deeper water. The tug, owned by Pacific Inland Navigation Co., and based in Tacoma, was commanded by Jack Parker.

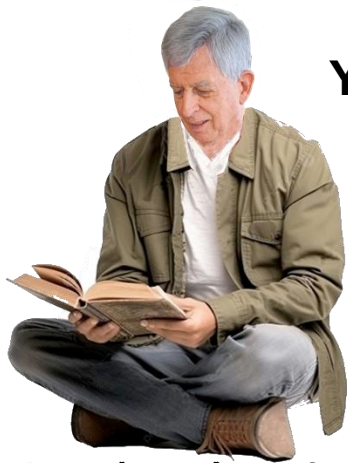
Intermittently throughout the day, a Coast Guard helicopter hovered overhead while crewmen tried to retrieve the much decorated, but now retired destroyer. At one point, the Radford was in danger of running aground on Nehalem Spit or at nearby Neahkahnie Mountain. The Radford, decommissioned last year, was consigned to Zidell, Inc., Portland.

At 2,100 tons one of the largest destroyers built during World War II, the Radford was commissioned in July, 1942. She fought in nearly every South Pacific campaign for the next three years, and years later saw action off Korea and Vietnam.



Yep – Another UNREP

By Michael Nave 64-66 LT



I'll never forget the anticipation felt as we waited in line to make our approach to the Oiler or Supply ship. We were all nervous as we were about to perform one of the most dangerous and precise tasks in the Navy, an Underway Replenishment, or UNREP.

A Look Back In Time



Waiting our turn to go alongside

The UNREP enabled our ship to get critically needed repair parts, fuel to keep us going, food, munitions, mail, and many other things needed to keep RADFORD at sea and running smoothly.

When we finally started our approach to the supply ship, the atmosphere on the ship was often quiet and focused due to the adrenaline rush brought on by the inherent danger in making that final approach to the supply vessel. Precision was required, not only in maneuvering our ship into the correct position, but also to coordinate the many deck tasks necessary to prepare for a successful “hookup”.



Alongside the Oiler receiving NSFO

Once we were alongside the supply ship, a “Shot Line” was sent over to us followed by the “Messenger” lines. At that point we would bring across the thick steel cables, or “Span wires”, and fuel hoses. We might also get a highline tension cable for supplies and ammunition.

Underway Replenishments are inherently risky. While it looks chaotic with dozens of sailors on deck performing specialized tasks, it is a highly orchestrated team effort where everyone depends on one another for safety. Even

with that, all of us were acutely aware that lines could snap, ships could be sucked together by the Venturi effect, or that any one of us could be tossed overboard due to the enormous wave action between the two ships. This awareness brought out a heightened sense of caution.

Only until the last pallet was brought aboard, the final gallon of fuel had been delivered, hoses were drained, and probes released could the lines spanning Radford and the supply ship be hauled in. It was then, and only then, that we could all be relieved and feel a sense of accomplishment.



DONATIONS



March 2026

Louise Farel

(in memory of Jack Brereton 43-45 LT)

Frances Robak

(in memory of Henry Robak 54-58 EM3)

Horst and Linda Jeddelloh 63-65 LTjg

★ **Tom G. Puorro 50-51, SN(GM)**
Passed away on February 6, 2026

Kim Parsons has a copy of the 1969 Radford Cruise Book that she will make available to anyone who is interested. Be the first to contact Kim at:
(304) 927-0094 or
kimparsons63@gmail.com



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USS Radford
1906 Fremont Street
Chicago, IL 60614

