



Now Hear This!

Artifacts for the Artifact

The current crew of Turner Joy - the volunteers and employees who have taken the responsibility of maintaining her - frequently refer to her, respectfully, as our Artifact. We tell folks as they're coming aboard for their tours that they're taking a step back in time to a significant era in American history.

A major part of that step back in time is the collection of smaller artifacts that bring that "step back in time" to life. Many of those artifacts are donated by former crew members who spent a short, but important period of their lives onboard.

A couple of years ago, Jeff Probst donated a flag that flew over Turner Joy in 1967 that he had saved for over 40 years. That flag is now proudly displayed in the chiefs' mess.



This year, just in time to miss the October issue of *Now Hear This!* more artifacts were donated to the ship. Jesse Saffran, grandson of shipmate MCPO Harold Irving Tibbitts, donated a TJ Master at Arms badge and a shrapnel fragment on behalf of his grandfather who served onboard in the late 60s and was part of the crew when the ship was attacked by North Vietnamese shore batteries on April 7th, 1967. Thank you Jessie and MCPO Tibbitts.

BHSA has recently established a Curatorial Committee to do a major "refresh" of the signs and displays onboard. We would like to include as many artifacts from the ship as possible. So if you're hanging on to interesting "stuff" from your time onboard, shoot us an email and tell us what you've got. If we've got room for it, we'll put it on display.

THANK YOU!

Board
Alan Hunter

Friends
James Ryan
Ralph Flick

West Sound Human Resource
Management Association

**FOR YOUR GENEROUS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE HISTORIC SHIP
PRESERVATION
PROJECT**

The USS Turner Joy (DD 951) is a museum ship that pays tribute to the men and women who served, fought, and died during the Vietnam War and beyond. The Officers and Enlisted personnel, who served this ship from 1959 to 1982, left a legacy of honorable service, which is our humble duty to uphold. The ship is a



memorial that preserves the US Navy and maritime heritage in the Pacific Northwest as a place for education, reflection, and fun. A place for local area residents and tourists to enjoy the beautiful downtown Bremerton waterfront.



HOLIDAY PARTY

The BHSA holiday party is in danger of becoming a popular tradition. For the fourth year in a row, record numbers of Turner Joy volunteers, staff, family and friends turned out to celebrate another very successful year. The Convention Center staff put on an excellent spread and our fearless leader, John Hanson, briefed us on the February drydocking and handed out awards. Or he would have if he had remembered to bring the plaques. Lack of plaques didn't deter him though - John can tap dance with the best of them.

Katie Shipley (left photo) was honored as Employee of the Year, not only for her work in the gift shop, but for all the hours she puts in helping out with STEM classes onboard. Well done, Katie!

The Maintenance Volunteer of the year was Panos Petris (right photo). He's kind of quiet, but he's there every week working on electrical stuff. If you want to meet him, come on aboard and look for the really, really tall guy with a Greek accent walking around with an armful of light bulbs.



Hector Esparza repeated as Tour Guide Volunteer of the Year for his enthusiastic support of, well, tours. But he also takes the lead on more than his share of overnight live aboards. His

experience as a corrections officer and Marine Gunny Sergeant probably comes in handy there. Turn about being fair play, Hector took the opportunity to present an award to BHSA for its support of Marine Corp League Chapter 531 Blackberry festival security detail efforts, as well as for the Toys

for Tots campaign last year. Sadly, the BHSA photographer ran out of film during the presentation and wasn't able to record it for posterity.

One of the highlights of this year's party was the lighting on Turner Joy. Our Maintenance manager, Daniel Zerbe, finagled a way to buy some LED bulbs to use with the ship's Friendship Light cables (east coast sailors would know them as Med Lights) and now, at night, she looks just like she would in a foreign liberty port.





STATE OF THE SHIP

A couple of years ago, *Now Hear This!* reported on the State of the Ship. Well, it's time for an update. We have made the final payment to the Lake Union Drydock Company, so the February drydocking is paid in full.

One of the biggest problems for most museums, but especially for museum ships - which have to be ripped out of their mooring every 15 or so years - is having enough money to pay for operations and maintenance. Ripping a ship that's been sitting in the bathtub for 15 years out of its mooring and towing it to drydock is disruptive, costly and stinky. Can't do anything about the disruptive or the stinky. But we decided to chip away at the costly.

We really had to scramble to pay for the drydocking this year. We depended a lot on the governments of the State of Washington, the City of Bremerton and the Bremerton Port District. And while we are extremely grateful to all of them, we simply don't know if they will have the same commitment to us next time. So, the board resolved to not to scramble again 15 years down the road and took some steps to make sure that we didn't have to.

First, they established a reserve fund of \$50,000 with small annual contributions in the neighborhood of a couple of thousand bucks. The reserve fund is just that. A fund to be held in reserve to meet unexpected expenses.

Next, building on the theme for this year's drydocking, they established the Historic Ship Preservation Fund. Initially set at \$75,000 this year, with periodic increases of \$5,000, this fund will build to about 1.3 million dollars by the time we have to drydock again in 2032. We're not sure it will cover everything, but we figure it will be pretty close.

Finally, the board established the Gift Shop Preservation Fund to pay for things like roof and HVAC replacements and other upgrades to the gift shop. This fund will wind up with about \$10,000, again by 2032, after one roof replacement and one HVAC replacement. All of these initiatives have been fully funded for 2017.

Of course, keeping them funded in future years presupposes that Turner Joy continues to be the premier tourist attraction in Bremerton and one of the premier attractions in the Puget Sound area. That means continuing our aggressive marketing campaigns and stepping up our fundraising. It's an all hands effort. Board, volunteers, staff, shipmates and friends all have a part to play. We hope you are all onboard!



Maintenance Manager Daniel Zerbe recommends that we drydock in the summer next time.

STILL LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Just a reminder, The Hampton Roads Naval Museum is looking for Navy Vietnam veterans who served in USS Turner Joy during the Gulf of Tonkin incident. The museum is creating a Navy in Vietnam exhibit, told through the experiences of those veterans who served and is recording oral histories as part of this exhibit.



They are especially looking for veterans who live in the Norfolk, Virginia, area, since this is a locally-based exhibit; however, they are interested in speaking with anyone who served aboard the ship during that time. If you're interested in participating, please contact Laura Orr, Director of

Education at the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, at laura.l.orr@navy.mil or phone her at 757-322-3108.



CRUISE BOOK ART



Anybody who's ever served on the bridge (especially former naviguessers) will recognize the humor in the cruise book art on the left.

The one on the right was next to the CPO crew list. Wonder how they got away with that. The cruise book staff wasn't identified, but dollars to donuts there wasn't a Chief on it.

The artist is Dable - no further info - and both are from the 1973 cruise book.



NEW SPONSOR!

On December 13th at their membership meeting, Kim Huyber, the President of West Sound Human Resource Management Association presented John Hanson with a check for \$1,000 for a STEM sponsorship.

The mission of the West Sound Human Resource Management Association is to engage the human resource community by providing professional development, relationship building opportunities, and other resources, in order to enhance professional growth and optimize strategic workplace contributions in the greater West Sound area.

Turner Joy's hands-on STEM program attracts hundreds of kids from Kitsap County public and private schools from the third grade up to middle school. They get an hour in the mess decks (lab) and another hour touring the ship to see how what they learned applies to a U.S. Navy ship.

Thank you Kim and WSHRMA!





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