

**USS Tolovana AO-64 Reunion  
October 21-24, 2024  
Newport, Rhode Island**



This year's reunion was hosted by Alan and Jane Hibbert who did a great job of organizing this event. They had snacks and drinks ready for us in the conference room. Some of us arrived Monday at the Sonesta Select hotel in Middletown, Rhode Island. The hotel was great and had a fireplace in the lobby celebrating all the fall colors. They also provided us with a very comfortable conference room for our gatherings. There were not too many crewmates at this reunion, but the accommodations were great and the tours were very good. That night we ordered pizza and got to know each of the early arrivals.

People were still arriving Tuesday so we had another meet and greet that evening. At a suggestion from Lester Wood, we all went to dinner at the Coddington Restaurant near the hotel. It was very good seafood and great service.

We all met after breakfast Wednesday and we had introductions for everyone. We got to know a new member, Joe Cartier and his wife Wendy. The agenda was discussed and what we should do with the small attendance. Do we continue to have reunions with us getting older and fewer? The outcome was that we will have another reunion next year and see how that one is attended and make a decision then. A few ideas where we would have next year's reunion were discussed: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Wichita, Kansas; Mobile, Alabama. Mobile was selected and I will look into setting it up.

We broke for lunch and then boarded our openair bus for a very nice tour of Newport.

Our guide was very good and gave us a more than the normal tour. Our first stop was Fort Adams State Park. We saw the SSV Oliver Hazard Perry, a Sailing School Vessel. The ship is named after Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, a native Rhode Island hero in the War of 1812.



That evening we had dinner at a local establishment, Tickets Bar and Grille. Still more seafood which is typical for New England.



After breakfast in the conference room Thursday morning, we carpoled to Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts. The trip alone was challenging as a few wrong turns were made, but that just made the drive fun. Our tickets were ready and were passed out to the group. We thank Alan and Charlie for being drivers!

The first tour was of the destroyer U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr, DD-850 and then to the battleship U.S.S. Massachusetts, BB-59. We had all morning to tour the ships. We had lunch in the galley of the battleship.





Lunch in the ship galley

We got back that afternoon and prepared for our banquet in the conference room. Jane had it catered and made it very convenient for us.



The banquet

The raffle of the donated items was fun. We had a special raffle for a skin from a beaver that Richard trapped. Mardelle was the big winner.



The raffle made us enough money to pay all the expenses of this reunion, so there is plenty of money for next year's reunion.

#### Reunion attendees



Front row: Jerry Ludwig, Richard Turcott, Wally Bensen, Charlie Potts  
Back row: Okie Baughman, Bob Sanders, Joe Cartier, Alan Hibbert, Bob Caudill, Lester Wood



Front row: Linda Bensen, Peggy Sanders, Mardelle Ludwig, Nancy Potts  
Back row: Wendy Cartier, Jane Hibbert, LeAnne Wood, Cheryl Caudill, Victoria McKune



Bob and Peggy Sanders



Bob and Cheryl Caudill



Charlie and Nancy Potts



Joe and Wendy Cartier



Okie Baughman and Victoria McKune



Lester and LeAnne Wood



Wally and Linda Bensen



Jerry and Mardelle Ludwig



Alan and Jane Hibbert



Richard Turcott

I just want to say I regret those who could not make this reunion because it was a great one, I hope you can make to Mobile!

With warm regards,  
Okie Baughman