



USS Tolovana AO-64
Reunion 9/20/2022
Albuquerque New Mexico

Some of us arrived on Monday at the Ramada Midtown and prepared for the reunion. We joined Fernando at Papadeux's Cajun restaurant for dinner that evening and got to know each other.

Most of the crew arrived on Tuesday and we had a meet and greet in our conference room with drinks and snacks. It was agreed to have dinner at Sadie's Mexican restaurant to finish the evening.



After a nice breakfast the next morning we had our formal meeting where we introduced ourselves. We got to know our 4 new crew mates listed here.

Fernando Gonzalez
Alan and Jane Hibbert
Bill Johnson and Glenna Murphy
JD and Mary Shatswell

I took their info and sent it to Mardelle Ludwig to get on our roster for any updates. Bob Sanders did a memorial for Joe Moore and handed out a card to sign for the family and some memorial cards. Joe will be missed. We decided that there were enough drivers that we did not need a van which saved us lots of money. I want to personally thank those who drove us around during the reunion. Our next reunion location was discussed and it was decided to go to Branson Missouri. I will start working on that soon.

After the meeting we carpooled to the Sandia Tram and took a beautiful ride to the top of the peak. It was cool and breezy there but the view was fantastic. We were supposed to have lunch there but we found out too late that the cafe was closed on Wednesday. You may see some of the photos others took on Facebook. We went back to the hotel and got ready of our banquet at the bar. You have to be there to understand this. The food was not what we expected but was acceptable with plastic utensils.



The Banquet

After dinner we went back to the conference room for our raffle. There were lots of nice things with Bob Sanders donating several wooden pieces. They went very early! We made \$490 and \$100 on hats which covered our expenses for the reunion.

The next morning after breakfast we carpooled to the Pueblo Cultural center for a guided tour. Our guide was great and we learned so much from him. I recommend this museum to anyone. We had lunch there after a mix up. Captain Claudia Risner of the local veterans association joined us and explained how the New Mexico government and veterans worked. It was very interesting and she joined us for lunch.

Our next tour was at the national Nuclear Museum that afternoon. We found out that was associated with the Smithsonian Institute and was a large museum. We again had a great knowledgeable guide that explained the museum was just the development, testing and dropping of the atom bombs. There were mock ups of both bombs dropped on Japan. The only weather issue we had was some rain while we were in the museum which did not affect our tour. My contact there suggested the Owl Cafe for dinner and I made reservations for us. We entered a very 50 style classic cafe that had the best and least expensive food of the event. After dinner we met back at the hotel for photographs and snacks.



This is the 16 crew with JD missing for 17 total crew. Doug Skoberg, a tin can officer said that our crew had a great sense of humor who worked our fantails off supplying them with all sorts of cargo. He called us Magnificent Bastards in a letter I read to everyone.

Front left: Bob Sanders, Wally Bensen, Bill Johnson, Charlie Potts, Vernon McCarty, Bob Kemp, Tony Mann.

Back left: Okie Baughman, Alan Hibbert, Richard Turcott, Don Morris, Fernando Gonzalez, Gene Johnston, Jon Rumble, Bill Watson, Lester Wood.



Here are our support and reunion helpers that are always making sure things go right.
Front left: Pat Johnson, Nancy Potts, Linda Bensen, Peggy Sanders, Glenna Murphy, Victoria McKune.
Back left: Liz Rumble, LeAnne Wood, Karyn Fahey, Jane Hibbert, Ann Ladwig.



Glenna Murphy and Bill Johnson



Alan and Jane Hibbert



Gene and Pat Johnston



Wally and Linda Bensen



Lester and LeAnne Wood



Peggy and Bob Sanders



Liz and Jon Rumple



Charlie and Nancy Potts



Okie Baughman ad Victoria McKune



Ken Amos and Karyn (Don) Fahey



Ann (Larry), and Jake Ladwig



Bill Watson, Bob Kemp, Tony Mann, Fernando Gonzalez, Richard Turcott
These are the single crew with Don Morris, JD Shatswell and Vernon McCarty are missing. Don and Vernon are in the group photo. JD and Mary's photo can be found in the banquet photo.
Everyone seemed to have a good time and went smoothly despite the glitches along the way. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again next year in Branson.
Okie Baughman