

USS Rankin

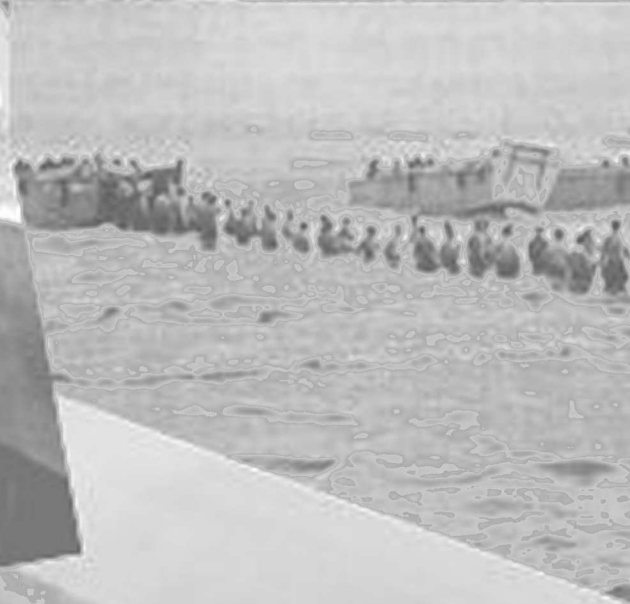
AKA/LKA-103

USS Yancey

AKA/LKA-93



2016 Reunion
Jacksonville, Florida



2016 Reunion

Jacksonville, Florida

The **USS Rankin** and **USS Yancey** held their third combined reunion from Thursday through Sunday, September 22-25, 2016, at the **Doubletree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel**. This was the 21st annual reunion for the Yancey and the 13th for the Rankin.

The hospitality room opened on Thursday afternoon, and attendees began registering and receiving name tags and event tickets. Ray Casey of Military Reunion Planners greeted everyone and went over the itinerary and other useful information. At 6:00 everyone was directed to the Amelia Room for the traditional welcoming buffet dinner and the official kickoff of the 2016 Reunion. After a delicious meal, the group returned to the hospitality room for an all-night Happy Hour.

Friday morning brought a sunny Florida day, perfect for the reunion's first tour. We boarded our bus and headed for the **Blount Island Command**, a U.S. Marine Corps facility dedicated to maintaining equipment for use in confrontations worldwide. The amphibious forces no longer load cargo and equipment onto AKAs at Morehead City for transportation to a landing site. Instead, all the gear is pre-loaded onto specialized ships and prepositioned at sites around the world. When the



material is needed for a landing, the pre-loaded ships proceed to the landing area. We had a base tour and a briefing on how the operation works, then took a tour of the **USNS Sacagawea (T-AKE-2)**, a typical ship used in prepositioning. The Sacagawea had just returned from a three-year deployment and was mostly empty and rusty. She will be cleaned up, reloaded and redeployed sometime in the future for another three year tour. We finished our tour with lunch at the command's no-nonsense chow hall and returned to the Doubletree for an afternoon and evening on our own.

Saturday was another warm North Florida day. Since our tour didn't begin until the afternoon, we had the morning to relax by the pool, stroll along the sunny St. John Riverwalk, or just enjoy the hospitality room. The Yancey and Rankin business meetings were held from 10:00-11:00.

At 1:00 we once again boarded our bus for the forty mile trip to **St. Augustine**. Founded in 1565, St. Augustine is America's oldest continuously occupied city. Upon arriving there, we met our guide and started a two-hour tour of the city, which began with a trip across the **Bridge of Lions** to Anastasia Island and the St. Augustine Lighthouse. We returned to the mainland to continue our tour, seeing sights such as the **Castillo de San Marcos** fortress and the **Fountain of Youth**. Then we had four hours to explore St. Augustine on our own, and to have dinner before our return to the hotel.

Sunday's tour began with an interesting trip to the **Budweiser brewery** in Jacksonville. Our visit included a trip through the brewery, with a guide explaining the history behind the Anheuser-Busch company and its amazing variety of beers. The tour concluded with a stop in the Tap Room for samples of Budweiser's many products. Our next stop was a visit to the impressive **Cummer Museum and Gardens**, after which we returned to the hotel to relax and get ready for the reunion banquet.

At 5:30 we started lining up to have individual photographs taken for this **Memory Book**, after which we adjourned to the hospitality room for pre-Banquet

cocktails. Both ships' crews gathered for group pictures before being seated. Master of Ceremonies Skip Sander requested all rise for the **Marine Corps Color Guard** to present the colors. Because of the low ceiling in the banquet room, they were forced to work outside, with glass doors open to the banquet room. That made it hot inside and *very* humid! When the room cooled off and everyone was seated, The Rankin's CDR Ed Gaskell led us in a series of toasts, followed by the Yancey's Gene Hill, singing his special version of **God Bless the U.S.A.**

After dinner we paused for the annual Memorial Service. John Karlis, acting as chaplain, gave the invocation and led the group in prayer. Then came the traditional **Bell Ceremony**, honoring our departed shipmates. Skip Sander read the names of the Rankin shipmates who died or whose deaths had been learned of since the last reunion. George Clifton read the names of those from the Yancey. Ed Gaskell rang a bell after each name was read. The service concluded with Taps and a moment of silence.

This officially ended the 2016 Jacksonville combined reunion. Many attendees returned to the hospitality room to say their goodbyes until next year.

The 2016 Jacksonville reunion was planned and organized by Military Reunion Planners of Grapevine, Texas, under the leadership and guidance of:



Skip Sander
USS Rankin

George Clifton
USS Yancey

The Memory Book was designed and produced by Skip Sander, and printed by blurb.com. Shipmate Photos were taken by Ed Wright of the Jacksonville Camera Club. Other photos were provided by George Clifton, Leigh Dubie, Gene Hill, Jim McCourt, and Skip Sander.

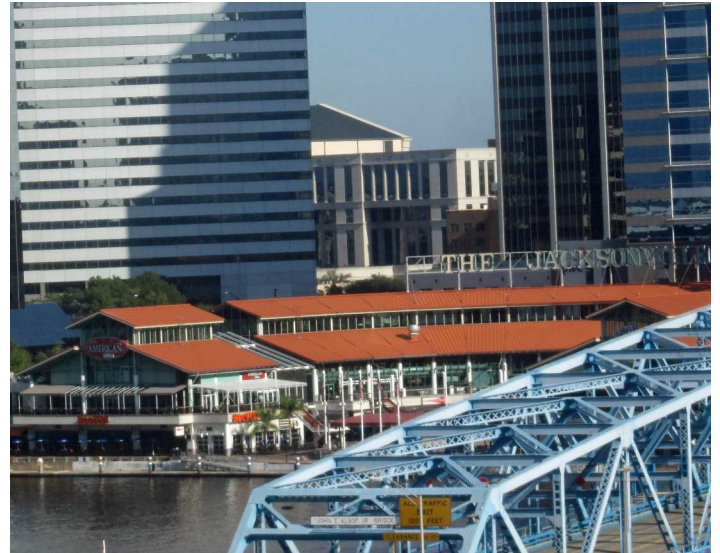
Old-time shipmate photos were taken from USS Yancey and USS Rankin cruise books.

The Famous Grouse, Jim Beam, Old Forester, Bacardi, and other spirits in the Hospitality Room were provided by Willie Dunning, PFC, USMC, embarked in USS Rankin, 1962.

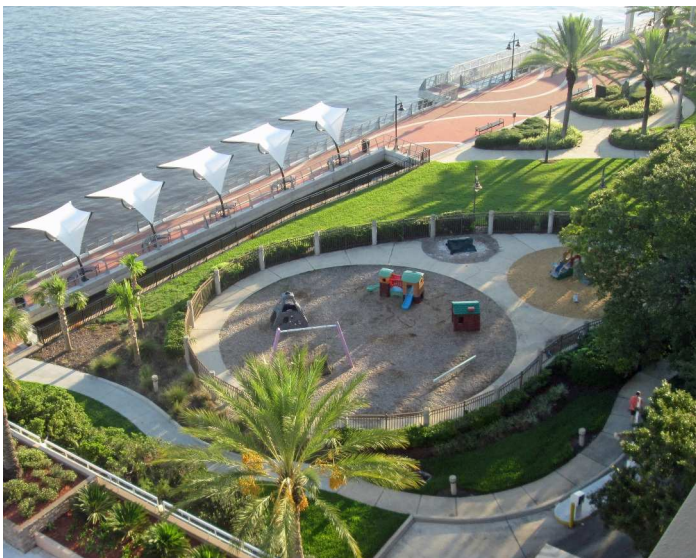
Jacksonville, Florida



The view from our hotel



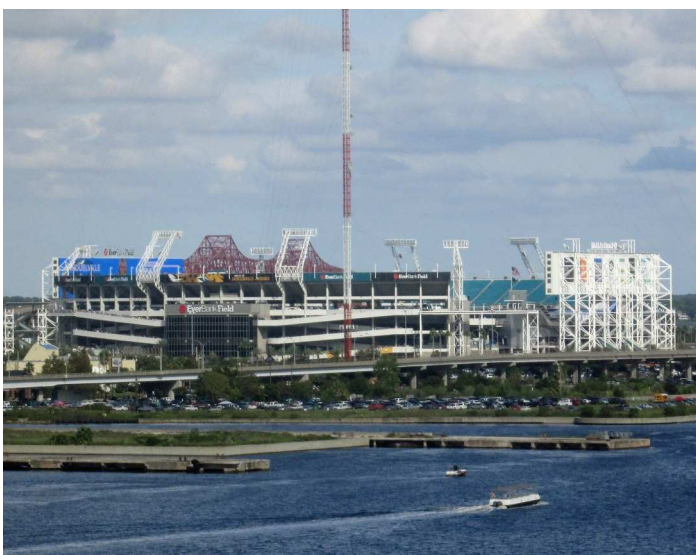
The Jacksonville Landing



Along the Southbank Riverwalk



River City Marina



EverBank Field, home of the Jacksonville Jaguars



The Lone Sailor, on the Southbank Riverwalk

Hospitality Room



Toby Gillespie



Dave Beeler, Jim Grant, Chuck Liesegang



John Karlis, George Clifton, Paul Dunn, Paul Smith



Tom Lobello



Hugh Doherty



Norman Boyd

Hospitality Room



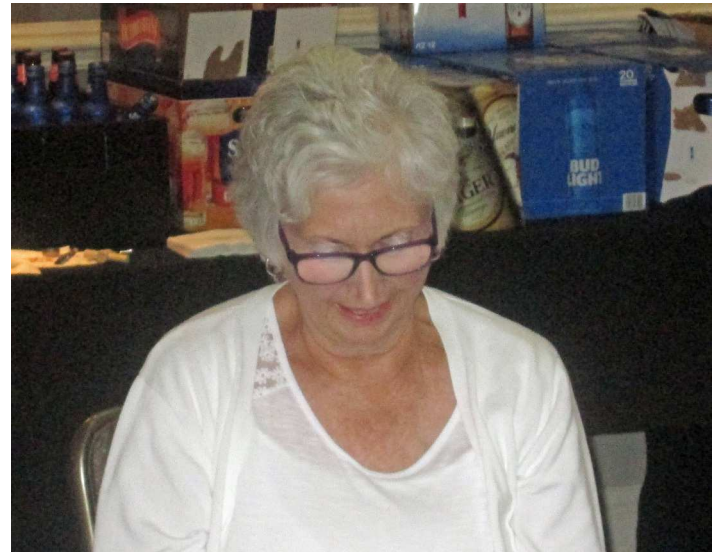
Walter Gillespie



Paul Smith



Joyce Marshall, Mike Norman, Ed Gaskell, Nancy Norman



Andrea Beeler



Lola Gersbacher, Pete Gersbacher



Lola Gersbacher, Lorraine Burke

Hospitality Room



Margaret Doherty, Bob DeVault, Joyce Marshall, Hugh Doherty



Russ Gleason



Ada Fauber, Connie Boyd, Betty Malme



Shipmates and Ladies



Fine wines



Medicinal spirits

U.S. Marine Corps Blount Island Command



The Main Gate



LCM-8, still an amphibious workhorse



We were briefed in the Port Operations building...



... which incorporates 21st century comforts!



USNS SACAGAWEA (T-AKE-2)



Welcome Aboard!

U.S. Marine Corps Blount Island Command



Descending into the hold



SGT Newman demonstrating movable bulkheads



Main Deck Elevator Storage Area



She holds quite a few vehicles



Non-armored HMMWV, M998 variant



MRTT – Mid-Range Tow Tractor

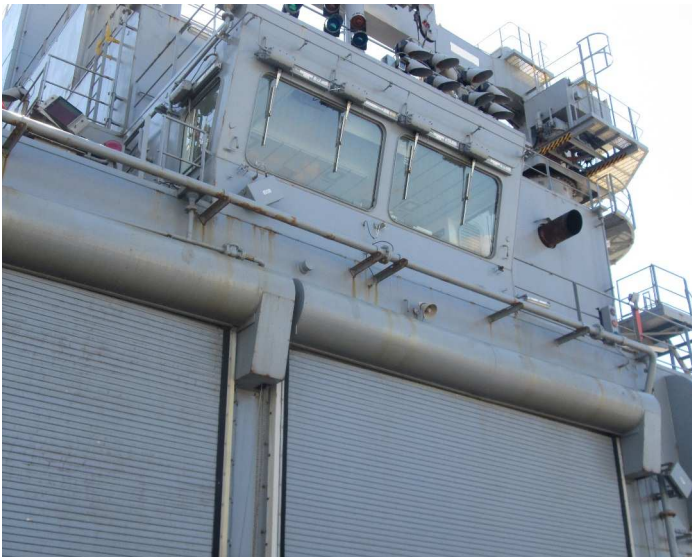
U.S. Marine Corps Blount Island Command



10-foot Refrigeration Storage Container



SGT Erwin-Stubbs and friend



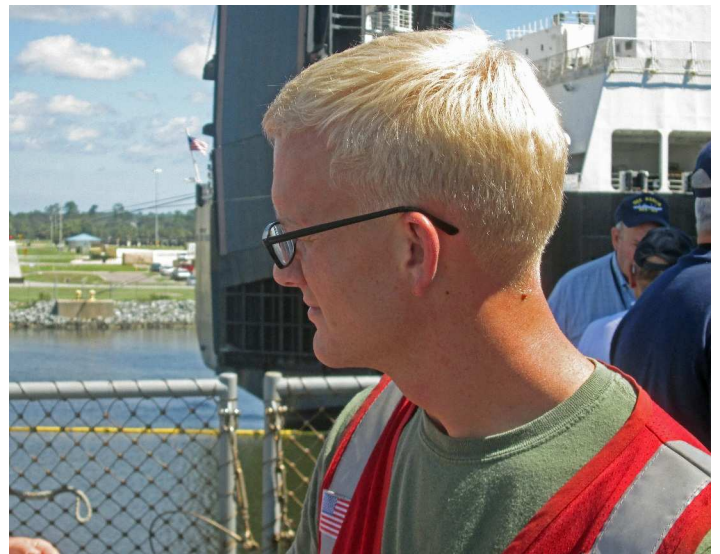
On the weather deck, looking up at the "tower"



Pondering the modern technology



Chief Boyd tells a sea story



SGT Newman listens in

U.S. Marine Corps Blount Island Command



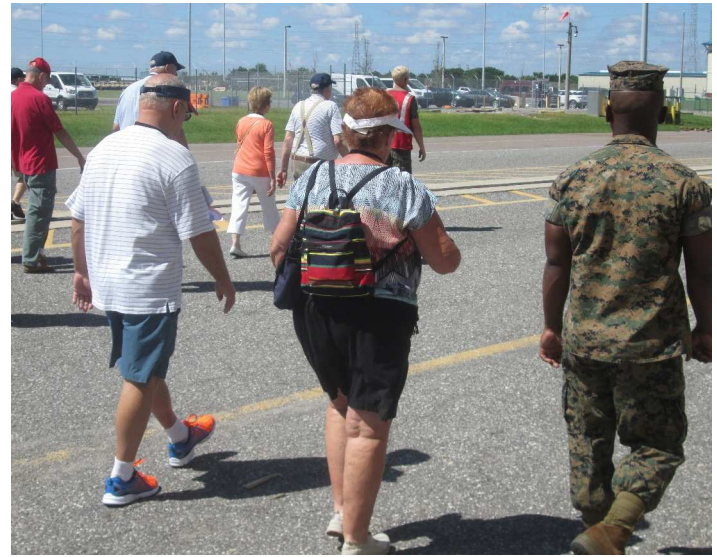
Our bus and the Dames Point Bridge



Modern gear for giving "gator hashmarks"



Debarking



Marching to lunch



Our chow hall – The Bunker



Saying goodbye to MAJ Leigh Dubie, USMC (Ret)

St. Augustine



Castillo de San Marcos (Built 1672-1695)



Matanzas River from the Bridge of Lions



St. Augustine Light Station



Magnolia Avenue Live Oak Canopy



St. George Street – pedestrians only



Pirates! Aaaargh!

St. Augustine



Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, founder of St. Augustine



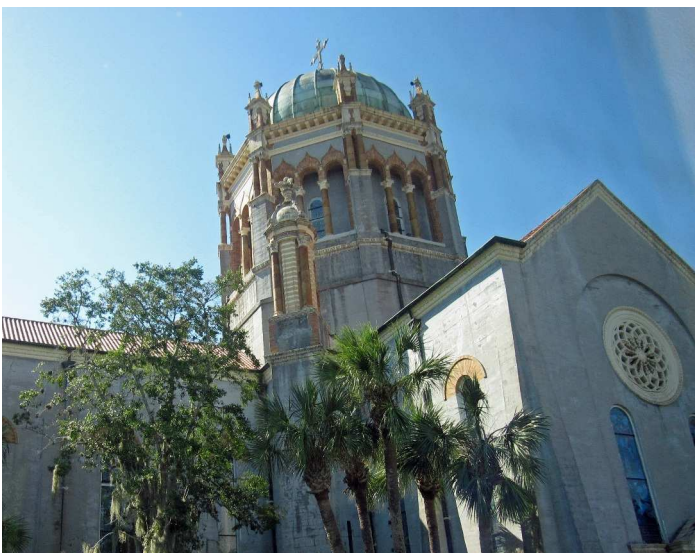
The Lightner Museum... it doubles as City Hall!



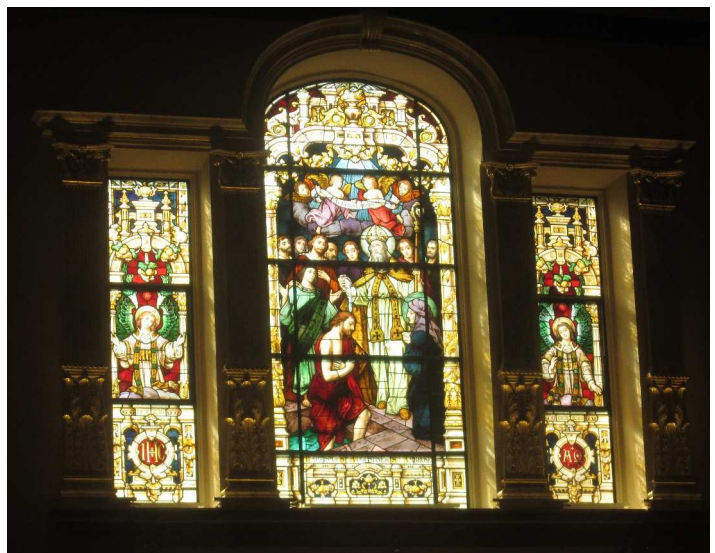
The gazebo on La Plaza de la Constitución



Pre-1700s water well



Memorial Presbyterian Church



Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine

Budweiser Brewery & Cummer Gardens



Paul Dunn and friend



Something good is brewing...



...free beer, courtesy of...



...The King of Beers



The Italian Garden



The wisteria arbor



Welcome Shipmates
 USS Rankin AKA-103
 "Ready Now"
 Annual Reunion



Standing: Mark Thomas, Jim Grant, Bob DeVault, Dick Lacy, John Burke, Dave Beeler, Walter Stringer, J. Harvey McCubbin, Ray Falker, Skip Sander, Willie Dunning, Ed Gaskell, Bill Devroe, Hugh Dougherty, Huey Hughes, Jim McCourt, Ray Spicer, Tex Spicer, Paul Allen, Dale Koepp. *Seated:* Hillyer "Billy" Head, Tom Lobello. *Not Present:* Charles Liesegang, Larry Rogan, Ray Zellers



Welcome Shipmates
 USS Yancey AKA-93
 "The World Is Our Beachhead"
 Annual Reunion



Standing: Tim Boyd, Norman Boyd, Gene Hill, Elton Fauber, Walt Gillespie, J. W. Young, Paul Dunn, Mike Norman, George Clifton, Paul Smith, Russ Gleason, John Karlis. *Seated:* Duane Malme, *Not present:* Doyle Clark

Farewell Banquet



Marine Corps Color Guard



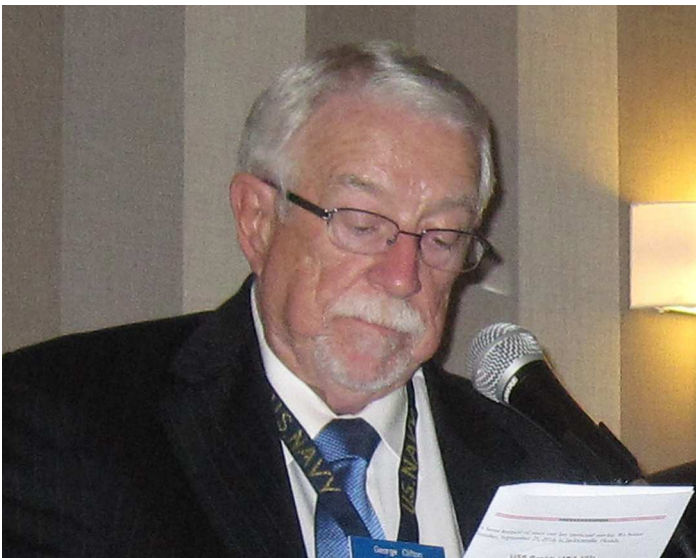
John Karlis delivers the invocation



Ed Gaskell proposes a toast



Skip Sander addresses the group



George Clifton adds his wisdom



Gentlemen of the USS Yancey

Reunion Attendees – USS Rankin



Paul & Faye Allen
USS Rankin
ENS (SC), 1946-1947



Dave & Andrea Beeler
USS Rankin
ETN3, 1963-1966



John & Lorraine Burke
USS Rankin
EN2, 1966-1970



Bob & Ann DeVault
USS Rankin
SM2, 1959-1962



Bill & Bette Devroe
USS Rankin
SK3, 1963-1965



Hugh & Margaret Doherty
USS Rankin
SN, 1959-1961

Reunion Attendees – USS Rankin



Willie Dunning
USS Rankin
PFC, USMC, 1962



Ray & Jackie Falker
USS Rankin
MMFN, 1964-1967



Ed Gaskell
USS Rankin
LT, 1954-1956



Pete & Lola Gersbacher
USS Rankin
ENS/LTJG, 1959-1960



Jim & Joanne Grant
USS Rankin
RD2, 1962-1963



Stew & Ellie Gully
USS Rankin
ENS/LTJG, 1957-1958

Reunion Attendees – USS Rankin



Hillyer "Billy" Head

USS Rankin
S2c, 1946



Huey Hughes & Marie Waldman

USS Rankin
BT3, 1959-1962



Dale Koepp & Kim Rygelski

USS Rankin
FN, 1962-1964



Dick & Martha Lacy

USS Rankin
ENS, 1959-1960



Charles Liesegang

USS Rankin
RM3, 1964-1966



Tom & Lee Lobello

USS Rankin
RDM 2/C, 1945-1946

Reunion Attendees – USS Rankin



Jim & Mae McCourt

USS Rankin
RD3, 1963-1966



J. Harvey McCubbin

USS Rankin
RD2, 1962-1965



Larry & Linda Rogan

USS Rankin
SN, 1961-1964



Louis "Skip" Sander

USS Rankin
ENS/LTJG, 1961-1963



Ray & Alice Spicer

USS Rankin
BT3, 1960-1963



Tex Spicer

USS Rankin
BT3, 1960-1962

Reunion Attendees – USS Rankin



Bud & Arleen Stringer
USS Rankin
MM3, 1965-1969



Mark & Linda Thomas
USS Rankin
IC3, 1967-1970



Ray Zellers
USS Rankin
FTG3, 1959-1960

Rankin Shipmates on Parade



Reunion Attendees – USS Yancey



Norman, Connie & Tim Boyd

USS Yancey
EMC, 1961-1963



Doyle Clark & Sonya Tice

USS Yancey
CS3, 1954



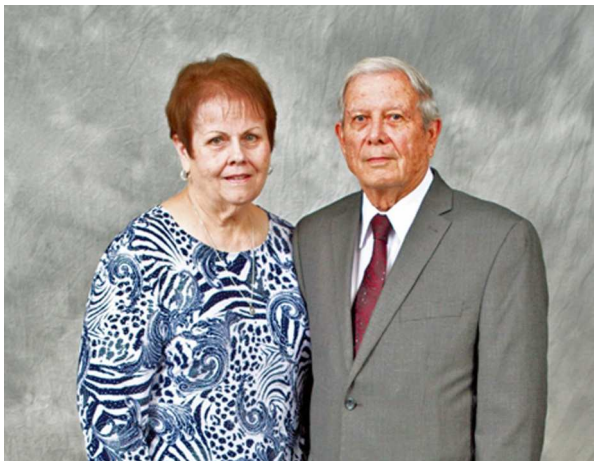
George Clifton

USS Yancey
QM2, 1963-1967



Paul Dunn

USS Yancey
LTJG, 1966-1969



Elton & Ada Fauber

USS Yancey
QM2, 1952-1956



Walter & Toby Gillespie

USS Yancey
FN, 1961-1963

Reunion Attendees – USS Yancey



Russ Gleason

USS Yancey
LT, 1962-1964



Gene & Shereen Hill

USS Yancey
PC3, 1966-1968



John Karlis

USS Yancey
EM3, 1966-1968



Duane & Betty Malme

USS Yancey
MM3, 1955-1957



Mike & Nancy Norman

USS Yancey
SM2, 1964-1966



Paul Smith

USS Yancey
EM3, 1966-1968

Reunion Attendees – USS Yancey



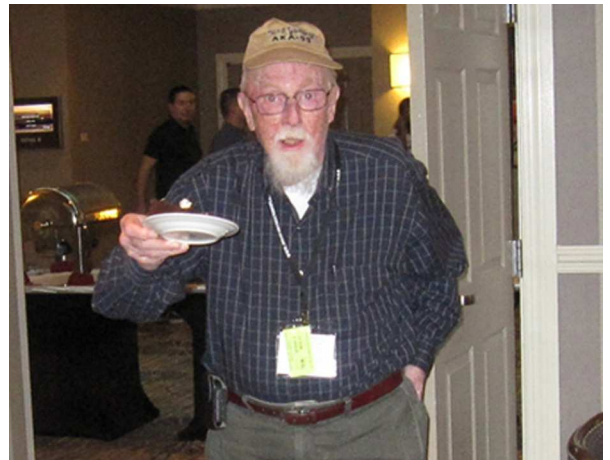
J. W. Young & Virginia Greer-Young

USS Yancey
SH2, 1951-1954

Yancey Shipmates on Parade



Ladies' Auxiliary



Surprise!



Fireworks over Jacksonville



"God Bless the U.S.A."

Attendance and History

USS Rankin / USS Yancey Reunion Jacksonville, Florida – September 22-26, 2016

USS Rankin

Allen, Paul ENS(SC), 1946-1947

Faye Allen
Mission, TX
757-377-8800
pma0674@yahoo.com

Beeler, David L. ETN3, 1963-1966

Andrea Beeler
Fort Walton Beach, FL
724-552-3157
dlbeeler1943@gmail.com

Burke, John J. EN2, 1966-1970

Lorraine Burke
Pompton Plains, NJ
201-803-5123
jburke1225@aol.com

DeVault, Bob SM2, 1959-1962

Ann DeVault
Fredericksburg, VA
540-710-9484
robertdevault@verizon.net

Devroe, Bill SK3, 1963-1965

Bette Devroe
Wayne, NJ
973-617-7895
wdevroe@optonline.net

Doherty, Hugh SN, 1959-1961

Margaret Doherty
Smithtown, NY
631-724-6450
flashue@yahoo.com

Dunning, Willie PFC, USMC, 1962

Mobile, AL
251-661-4226
williedi@comcast.net

Falker, Ray MMFN, 1964-1967

Jackie Falker
Ellicott City, MD
410-461-8034
rayjac22@msn.com

Gaskell, Ed LT, 1954-1956

Baton Rouge, LA
225-400-8946
epgaskell@cox.net

Gersbacher, Pete ENS/LTJG,

1959-1960
Lola Gersbacher
Anaheim, CA
714-998-8844
petegers@pacbell.net

Grant, Jim RD2, 1962-1963

Joanne Grant
Rochester Hills, MI
248-877-5069
jimgrant01@gmail.com

Gully, Stew ENS/LTJG, 1957-1958

Ellie Gully
Raleigh, NC
919-367-8652
gull8000@bellsouth.net

Head, Hillyer "Billy" S/2C, 1946

Justin Mitchell
Oxford, GA
770-786-4219
nene4421@hotmail.com

Hughes, Richard "Huey" BT3,

1959-1962
Marie Waldman
Mansfield, OH
419-589-4123
mwaldman@neo.rr.com

Koepp, Dale FN, 1962-1964

Kim Rygelski
Amherst, OH
740-984-1073
No email

Lacy, Dick ENS, 1959-1960

Martha Lacy
Jamesville, NY
315-492-4534
lacy.mardick@gmail.com

Liesegang, Charles RM3,

1964-1966
Englewood, FL
941-999-4010
dl7160@comcast.net

Lobello, Tom RDM 2/C, 1945-1946

Lee Lobello
Jacksonville, FL
904-786-9205
tomlobello@att.net

McCourt, James P. RD3, 1963-1966

Mae McCourt
Tierra Verde, FL
727-643-9029
jimmccourt6@gmail.com

McCubbin, J. Harvey RD2,

1962-1965
Bridgeton, NJ
856-455-5343
harveymccubbin@comcast.net

Rogan, Larry SN, 1961-1964

Linda Rogan
Brooksville, FL
352-592-2641
lrogan@tampabay.rr.com

Sander, Skip ENS/LTJG, 1961-1963

Pittsburgh, PA
412-367-1376
ussrankin@aol.com

Spicer, S.Ray BT3, 1960-1963

Alice Spicer
Brooklyn, NY
718-339-0984
alispicer@yahoo.com

Spicer, Tex BT3, 1960-1962

Loraine Hamby
Fermin, NC
336-874-2928
lorainehamby@yahoo.com

Stringer, Walter "Bud" MM3,
1965-1969
Arleen Stringer
Islip Terrace, NY
631-277-4695
walter_s@mac.com

Thomas, Mark IC3, 1967-1970
Linda Thomas
Stillwater, OK
405-762-6906
markt4600@gmail.com

Zellers, Ray FTG3, 1959-1960
Eustis, FL
352-357-6715
rayzellers@embarqmail.com

USS Yancey

Boyd, Norman EMC, 1961-1963
Connie Boyd & Tim Boyd
Gulfport, MS
228-832-1816
No email

Clark, Doyle CS3, 1954
Sonya Tice
Lake City, FL
386-754-0959
No email

Clifton, George QM2, 1963-1967
Oak Lawn, IL
708-425-8531
clifs@ameritech.net

Dunn, Paul LTJG, 1966-1969
Painesville, OH
440-350-0585
paul@dunn.org

Fauber, Elton QM2, 1952-1956
Ada Fauber
Williamsburg, VA
757-869-2474
elf2rbf12@cox.net

Gillespie, Walter L. FN, 1961-1963
Toby Gillespie
Madison, AL
256-461-8218
tjgill5@aol.com

Gleason, Russ LT, 1962-1964
Lakewood, CO
303-988-8053
russell.gleason@comcast.net

Hill, Gene PC3, 1966-1968
Alamo, TX
218-349-3549
hermantowncars@msn.com

Karlis, John EM3, 1966-1968
Derby, NY
716-549-6939
jjkarlis@verizon.net

Malme, Duane C. MM3, 1955-1957
Betty Malme
Sacramento, CA
916-455-8509
kirstenwyatt@rocketmail.com

Norman, Michael SM2, 1964-1966
Nancy Norman
Danville, IL
618-513-7970
mikestorman23@gmail.com

Smith, Jr., Paul H. EM3, 1966-1968
York, ME
802-734-8777
phsmithjr@gmail.com

Young, J. W. SH2, 1951-1954
Virginia Greer-Young
Uvalde, TX
830-232-5003
ew32@hctc.net

2016 Reunion Statistics

USS Rankin

27 Shipmates
22 Spouses & Guests
49 Total Attendees

USS Yancey

13 Shipmates
6 Spouses & Guests
19 Total Attendees

Both Ships

40 Shipmates
28 Spouses & Guests
68 Total Attendees



USS Rankin Reunion History

2016 - Jacksonville, FL
2015 - Nashville, TN
2014 - Newport, RI
2013 - San Antonio, TX
2012 - New Orleans, LA
2011 - Charleston, SC
2010 - Branson, MO
2009 - Norfolk, VA
2008 - Stuart, FL
2007 - New London, CT
2006 - Washington, DC
2005 - San Diego, CA
2004 - Norfolk, VA

There were some informal reunions in the 1990s, all held in Norfolk/Virginia Beach.



USS Yancey Reunion History

2016 - Jacksonville, FL
2015 - Nashville, TN
2014 - Newport, RI
2013 - Washington, DC
2012 - San Diego, CA
2011 - New Orleans, LA
2010 - Boston, MA
2009 - Mobile, AL
2008 - Seattle, WA
2007 - Washington, DC
2006 - Chicago, IL
2005 - Norfolk, VA
2004 - San Francisco, CA
2003 - Corpus Christi, TX
2002 - Charleston, SC
2001 - San Diego, CA
2000 - Baton Rouge, LA
1999 - Washington, DC
1998 - Pensacola, FL
1997 - San Francisco, CA
1996 - No reunion
1995 - Norfolk, VA

As We Were When We Served



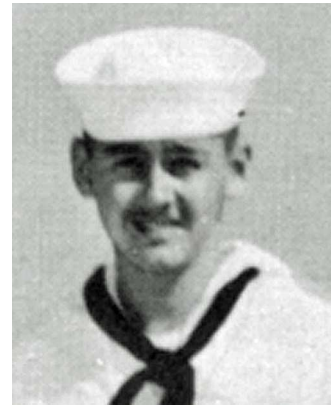
Burke, J. J., EN2



DeVault, R. L., SN



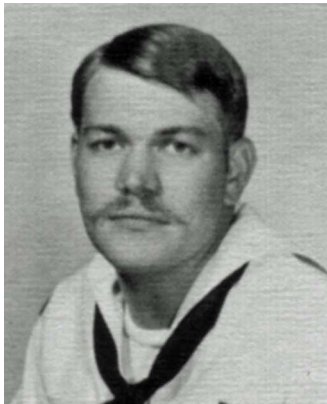
ENS F. P. Gersbacher



Hughes, R. B., BT3



ENS L. F. Sander



Thomas, M. A., IC3



Rankin in New York, Early 1950s



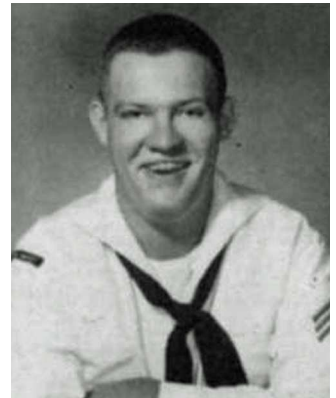
Boyd, N., EMC



Clifton, G. R., QM2



ENS P. H. Dunn



Gillespie, W. L., FN



LT R. D. Gleason



Karlis, J. J., EMFN



Yancey Tour Bus in the Med, 1960s

The Ships We Served On



USS Rankin (AKA-103/LKA-103) was a *Tolland*-class attack cargo ship built by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company of Wilmington, North Carolina. She was named after Rankin County, Mississippi.

Rankin's keel was laid on October 31, 1944. She was launched 52 days later and commissioned in Charleston, South Carolina on February 25, 1945. She joined the Pacific Fleet in April, participating for 17 days in the Battle of Okinawa. During her time there, she faced more than 100 *kamikaze* air raids. On June 28, she sailed for San Francisco. She was in Seattle when hostilities ended, and sailed for the Philippines.

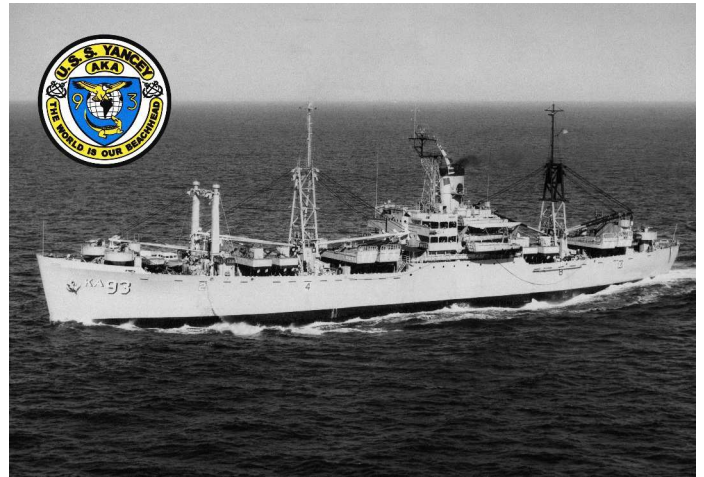
Rankin took part in *Operation Magic Carpet*, repatriating U.S. soldiers who had been stationed in the Far East. She visited China and Japan during 1946 and early 1947. The ship was decommissioned in San Francisco in May 1947, and placed "in mothballs" at Suisun Bay, California.

Rankin was Recommissioned in March, 1952 at the Todd Shipyard in Alameda, California. She transited the Panama Canal to join the Amphibious Force, Atlantic Fleet, and began a second career supporting amphibious training operations in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Caribbean.

In July 1958, she helped land 5,000 U.S. troops in Lebanon, helping to avoid a civil war. In November 1962, she was one of hundreds of ships responding to the Cuban Missile Crisis. In February 1963, she visited the Dominican Republic for the inauguration of President Juan Bosch, and in April, she patrolled for 31 days off the coast of Haiti until tensions eased in that country.

From 1956-1960, *Rankin* won an unprecedented five straight Battle Efficiency Awards, enabling her crew to wear a Gold E on their uniforms. In 1958, she simultaneously held every award available to an AKA.

USS *Rankin* was decommissioned in 1971, and in 1988 was sunk as a fishing and diving reef off the coast of Stuart, Florida. She rests on her starboard side at 130 feet.



USS Yancey (AKA-93/LKA-93) was an *Andromeda*-class attack cargo ship built by the Moore Dry Dock Company of Oakland, California. The ship was named after Yancey County, North Carolina.

Yancey's keel was laid on May 22, 1944. She was launched on July 8, and commissioned on October 11, 1944. She operated in the Pacific during the war and participated in the amphibious landings at Iwo Jima in February 1945 and Okinawa in April 1945. After Japan's surrender in August, *Yancey* was in Tokyo Bay for the signing of the Japanese Instrument of Surrender on September 2, 1945.

She made voyages delivering troops for the occupation of Japan before returning to the United States in January 1946. After spending most of the next year on the East Coast, *Yancey* was ordered back into the Pacific in November, and took part in *Operation Highjump*, a Navy expedition to Antarctica, in January 1947; *Yancey Glacier* was named in the ship's honor.

After spending most of the next decade in duties in the Western Pacific, *Yancey* was decommissioned in March 1958 and placed in reserve at Olympia, Washington. She was reactivated in the aftermath of the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and recommissioned in November.

During the October 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis she sailed in support of the U.S. blockade of Cuba, and during the April 1965 U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic she carried almost a quarter of all of the evacuees from Santo Domingo. In January 1970, *Yancey* was blown by a storm into the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, closing it for several weeks.

USS *Yancey* was decommissioned for the final time in January 1971. After being stripped of salvageable materials, she was sunk in 1990 as an artificial reef off Morehead City, North Carolina, a place she had visited often in the past. She rests on her starboard side at a depth of 160 feet.

What Were the AKA/LKAs?

AKAs were U.S. Navy ships designed specifically to carry troops, equipment and supplies in support of amphibious assaults, and to provide naval gunfire support during those assaults. They were originally called Attack Cargo Ships and designated AKA. In 1969, all AKAs were renamed as Amphibious Cargo Ships and redesignated LKA.

As amphibious operations became more important in World War II, planners saw the need for a special kind of cargo ship, one that could carry both cargo and the LCM and LCVP boats with which to attack the beach, and that carried guns to assist in anti-air defense and shore bombardment. Specifications were drawn up, and construction of the AKAs began. A total of 108 were built between 1943 and 1945—an average of one new ship every eight days! Six more AKA/LKAs, featuring new and improved designs, were built in later years.

Compared to other cargo ship types, AKAs could carry landing craft, were faster, had more armament, and had larger hatches and booms. Their holds were optimized for combat loading, a method of cargo storage where the items first needed ashore were at the top of the hold, and those needed later were lower down. Because these ships went into forward

combat areas, they had Combat Information Centers and significant amounts of equipment for radio communication, neither of which were present in other cargo ships.

Attack cargo ships played a vital role in the Pacific War, where many were attacked by kamikazes and other aircraft, and several were torpedoed, but none were sunk or otherwise destroyed. Nine AKAs were present at the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay on 2 September 1945.

After the war, many AKAs were put into the National Defense Reserve Fleet. Others were converted for other uses, such as oceanographic surveying, under-sea cable laying, and repairing other ships. Some of the reserve ships were recommissioned for the Korean War, and some stayed in service during the Vietnam War.

In the 1960s, both the United States Navy and the British Royal Navy developed amphibious transport docks (LPDs), with well decks and flight decks, which gradually took on this unique amphibious role and today have assumed it completely. The last amphibious cargo ship in the American Navy, USS El Paso (LKA-117), was decommissioned in 1994.

In Memoriam

These are the shipmates who died or whose deaths were learned of since our last reunion. We honored their lives and memories by reading their names at our Memorial Service in Jacksonville.

USS Rankin (AKA-103)

Harry Vernon Anderson
August David Collier
Herbert W. Ezell
Joseph N. Freitas, Jr.
Louis William Hennings, III
Leroy Harry Keihn
James George King
Everett Lee McVicker
Henry Marvin Mickey
Paul Bartholomew O'Neil
Donald Eugene Reinen
Frank N. Sipes
Robert Howard West
Lawrence Eugene Willis

USS Yancey (AKA-93)

David Chestnut
James Clarke
William Fosler Jr.
Richard Greenwalt
Johann Hermann
Leo McCluskey
Rex McCurdy
Richard Nierescher
Gerald Sudbrock
Fredrick Templin
Bill Welfare
Lenvil West
Bobby Gene Young



