

2018 Amphibious Ships Reunion

Background

The Amphibious Ships Reunion is a joint reunion of AKAs and APAs. This year it includes reunion groups from four ships: USS Bexar, USS Pickaway, USS Rankin, and USS Yancey. We have also invited sailors and officers from ships that are no longer holding reunions, or that have never held one. A list of those ships is attached.

For the future, we seek to include ships whose reunions may be in jeopardy due to declining attendance or the departure of leaders. Each of those ships has been invited to send a representative to our 2018 reunion.

The reunion is organized by Skip Sander of the USS Rankin (AKA-103) and George Clifton of the USS Yancey (AKA-93), assisted by many others. Our objective is to provide ongoing reunion opportunities for everyone who ever served on an AKA or APA.

History

The Yancey has held reunions every year since 1995. The Rankin has held them every year since 2004. That's a total of 37 reunions. Skip and George have been among the leaders in every one of them.

The Rankin has held six joint reunions with other ships, and the Yancey has held four. Rankin and the USS Muliphen (AKA-61) held joint reunions in 2011 and 2013. Rankin and Yancey held joint reunions in 2014, 2015, and 2016.

In 2017, Rankin and Yancey were joined by three other ships, for the first Amphibious Ships Reunion. These ships were USS Bexar (APA-237), USS Cambria (APA-36), and USS Pickaway (APA-222). There were 129 people in attendance at the reunion.

You can see this history [HERE](#). Click the years on the line at the top of the page.

Operating Principles

- **We only invite AKAs and APAs**, since we know there is great compatibility among sailors from those types. It doesn't matter if you don't know anybody else at the reunion... you will have a lot in common with everybody who is there (boats, landings, cargo handling, One ALFAs, engines and engine rooms, etc.)

- **We use a professional planning company.** Responsible to us and under our guidance, they find and negotiate with hotels, arrange tours, keep registration lists, make badges, collect money, etc. Those things relieve our leadership team of an incredible amount of work.
- **We go to great reunion cities.** We aren't limited to places near the homes of shipmate volunteers.
- **We go to great hotels.** While room rates are important to us, we prefer hotels that have heavy experience with military reunions, and where there's plenty to see and do within walking distance.
- **We have outstanding hospitality rooms,** with top-shelf brands of beer and liquor, plus plenty of wine, soft drinks, and snacks.
- **All meals and tours are optional.** You only pay for what you want. You don't even have to stay in the reunion hotel.
- **A professional photographer takes portrait-style pictures** of shipmates and their guests at our banquets, plus group pictures as appropriate. After the reunion, all attendees are mailed prints of their individual photos. The group pictures are available at reasonable prices.
- **We offer professionally-printed Memory Books.** These books include a reunion summary and hundreds of photos, with all the professional ones and many great ones taken by attendees. They also include ship and reunion histories, detailed attendee lists, interesting gator facts, etc. You can see the book from 2017 [HERE](#).

If you have any questions about the Amphibious Ships reunion, please contact me in Pittsburgh at 412-367-1376 or at ussrankin@aol.com



Regards,
Louis "Skip" Sander
The USS Rankin Association
www.ussrankin.org

Invitees from Ships without Active Reunion Groups

Invited from shipmate lists of past reunions:

- USS Cambria
- USS Lenawee
- USS Uvalde
- USS Washburn
- USS Winston

Invited through hullnumber.com

- USS Arneb
- USS Charleston
- USS Henrico
- USS Mathews
- USS Mobile
- USS Montague
- USS Noble
- USS Oglethorpe
- USS Paul Revere
- USS Renville
- USS Rockbridge
- USS Rolette
- USS St. Louis
- USS Union
- USS Vermilion
- USS Warrick
- USS Wyandot