

The Pyro goes to Branson



USS PYRO AE-1 and AE-24 Association

**Branson, Missouri Reunion
April 6~10, 2005**

In memory of the departed

USS Pyro Association reunions are about many things. For many members, the annual reunions serve as a vacation at fun locales with good food, tours and the camaraderie of spending time with old shipmates.

But reunions serve another, larger purpose: To honor and give life to the memory of those who have departed.

This 2005 reunion was dedicated to shipmates gave their life on distant battlefields as well as those who passed away since the 2004 gathering.

With honor and reverence we salute all our fallen comrades.



Irvin H. Palm
1919-2004
AE-1



Paul C. McKinney
1920-2004
AE1



Richard O. MacDonald
1918-2004
AE1



Roland A. Stringham
1923-2004
AE-1



Kenneth C. Holm
1920-2004
AE-24

Sebastian Rognozinski
1925-2004
AE-1

Leo Vezzali, Sr.
1922-2004
AE-1

Branson 2005 schedule

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

The Pyro tribe gathers at Branson

Thursday, April 7, 2005

Checking out Branson, taking in shows and hanging out in the hospitality room

Friday, April 8, 2005

8:30 AM *Motor coach departs for the Veterans Memorial Museum*
9:00 AM *Tour of the Veterans Memorial Museum*
2:00 PM *Motor coach departs for the Shoji Tabuchi Show*
3:00 PM *Motor coach departs for the Showboat*
6:45 PM *Showboat Branson Belle Dinner Show Cruise*
8:00 PM *Shoji Tabuchi Show*

Saturday, April 9, 2005

8:00 AM *Breakfast at hotel's Club Vegas*
Military Honor Guard to honors deceased shipmates
9:00 AM *Membership meeting*
5:00 PM
6:00 PM *Cocktails*
7:00 PM *Banquet dinner at hotel*

Sunday, April 10, 2005

Hale and farewell



SALUTING TO THOSE WHO MADE IT HAPPEN

Great USS Pyro Association reunions don't just happen. They're the result thoughtful research, thorough arrangements and – above all else – hard work.



**Association
President Emeritus
Rick Tully**



**Association Treasurer
and Branson Reunion
Chairman Tom
Sanborn**



**Michele Thompson
Of
Branson
Hospitality**



A special word of thanks to Michele Thompson of Branson Hospitality, Inc., for great arrangements and superb service that added so much to our 2005 reunion and to the staff of the Lodge of the Ozarks.

Thanks to all of you from all of us!



Branson 2005 reunion

Participating members



LONNIE & EDDIE FAYE BICKFORD
MURRAY BROWN
JARED CAMERON
ROCKY & ANNETTE COMPTON
LOYD & MARY ELLIS
BILLY & MYRA ECKSTINE
HAROLD & MARGARET GILLIAT
GARY & HELEN GOLAY
JIM & MARILYN HALE AND SON MIKE
NORMAN & PAM HANCOCK
AL HANSEN
BILL & LINDA HOGAN
DON & LAVONNE HUNT
BOBBY HUNTER
DAVID & SHERRY INDA
HOWARD & CHARLENE IVERSON
GARY & RUBY JAEGER
LEONARD & JEANETTE KELLER
GEORGE & JEAN LEASURE
GARY & JANE LEFFLER
BARNEY & ELORA MARGASON
ROBERT & MARGE MAHAN
PATRICK & DENISE MARCUS
GARY & PAT MICHAEL
LUDWIG & ANN MILLER
JOSEPH & RUTH ANN NALLE
JOE & MAGGIE PEARSON
DAVE & ANDREA PICKARD
FRANK & PEARL RYAN,
TOM SANBORN
ED & KIT SCHMIDT
TONY & CARLENE SIEVERIN
JASPER & LAVONNE STRUNK
RICK & RITA TULLY
DEL & NANCY WELLS,
DOUG & LINDA WISHER
VANCE & BEVERLY WORRELL





Driving Miss Rita: The Tullys arrive at the Lodge of the Ozarks. (Will the new president be issued a Jaguar too?)

Now muster in the Hospitality Room

Doug Wisner, Joe Pearson and Rick Tully have a chat.



Linda Wisner and Myra Eckstine perhaps share the joys of life married to sailors as Jasper Strunk and Vance Worrell pretend not to listen.





Bill Hogan and Linda Fox share a laugh with Lud and Ann Miller



Rick Tully proves it's only Coke to Elora and Barney Margason



Boatswains and mates Dee and Pat Marcus; Jean and George Leasure; and Rocky Compton smile for the camera



Lonnie Bickford check out the scrapbooks as Gary and Pat Michael chat



Tony and Carlene Sieverin catch up with Vance Worrell



AE-1 vets Murray Brown, Joseph Nalle and Howard Iversen share sea stories.



Frank and Pearl Ryan make their grand entrance to the hospitality room



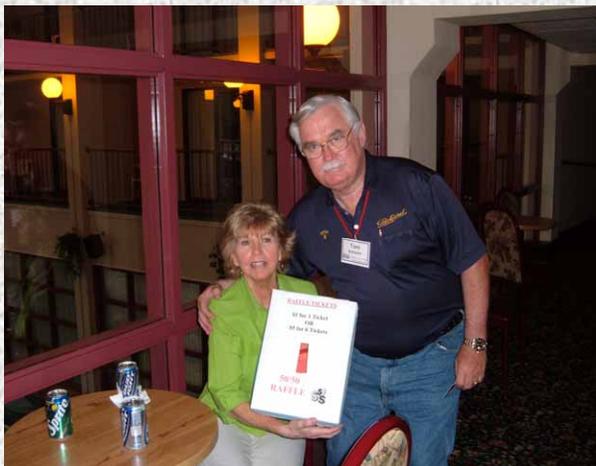
Doug Wisner, Billy Eckstine and Vance Worrell share a moment



Bev Worrell listens to sea stories with a grain of salt



Dave Inda gets his point across.



Helen Golay and Tom Sanborn sell raffle tickets



Gary Leffler and Doug Wisner recall Pyro days

Around Branson

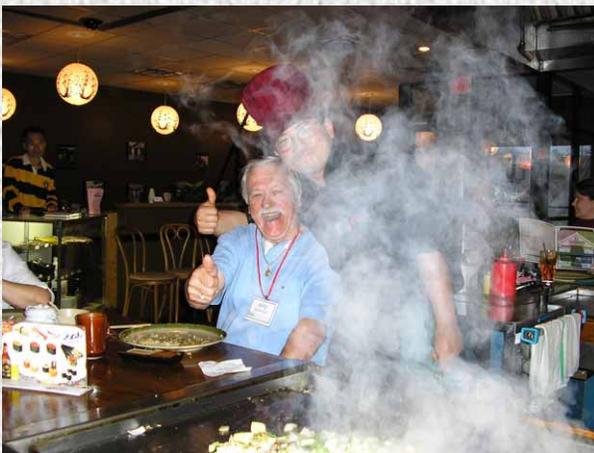


The long arm of the law: Former Federal Police Officer Rick Tully, Illinois Prison Counselor Andrea Pickard and former State Trooper Tony Sieverin

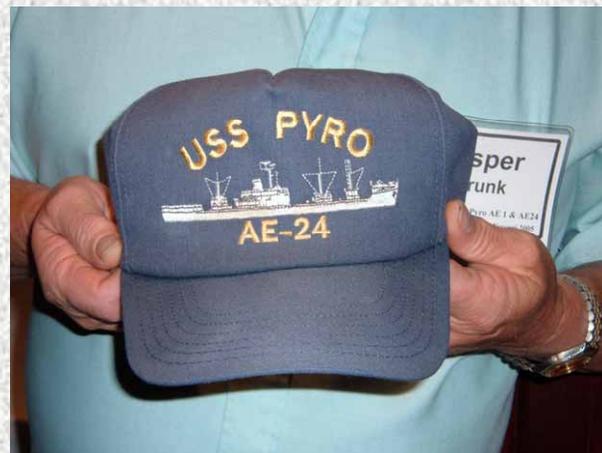


Ruth Ann and Joe Nalle sample fried rice as Myra Eckstine looks on.

Group activities were only part of the Branson fun as old shipmates and new friends shared land and sea stories, tried out Branson's Teppanyaki restaurants, shared ideas for new USS Pyro logo items and checked out the shows.



Smoke gets in your eyes: Billy Eckstine makes friends with the chef



Jasper Strunk models his Pyro cap

Tour and Show Day



The crew musters in the hotel lobby



First tour stop: The Branson Veterans Memorial



This privately funded museum is looking for records and memorabilia.



Lining up to get in...



Mom, there's a fighter in the parking lot!



Bob Mahan relives "A Day That Will Live in Infamy."

At the Veteran's Memorial Museum



Joe Pearson at the D-Day monument.



Japer Strunk and Vance Worrell check out the battleship



Remembering fallen comrades ..



David Pickard, Tony Sieverin and Barney Margason examine the dispatch rider's cycle



The weapons of war



Gary Michael, Myra Eckstine and Pat Michael go to shopping battle stations

Boarding the Branson Belle



The Worrells and Strunks prepare to board



Billy (Eckstine) and the Belle



The Branson Belle's bow



Tony Sieverin and Joe Pearson compare notes



All ashore who are going ashore



Maggie and Joe Pearson on the promenade deck

Boarding the Branson Belle



The Nalles on the Branson Belle



Much like the Pyro's mess hall..



It's show time!



Talking dog Irving and ventriloquist Todd Oliver stole the show

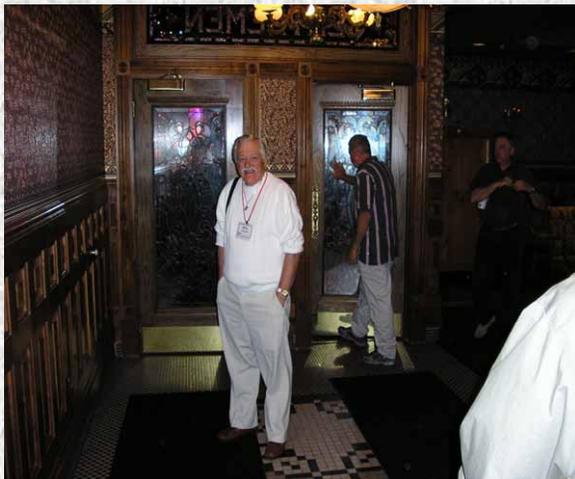
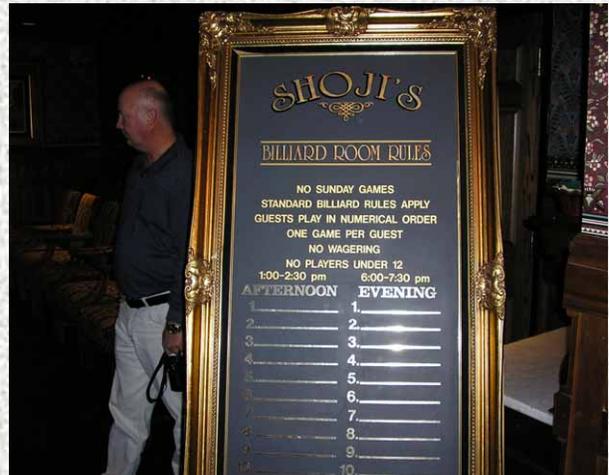


Out of the engine room: The Eckstines and Worrells check the weather decks



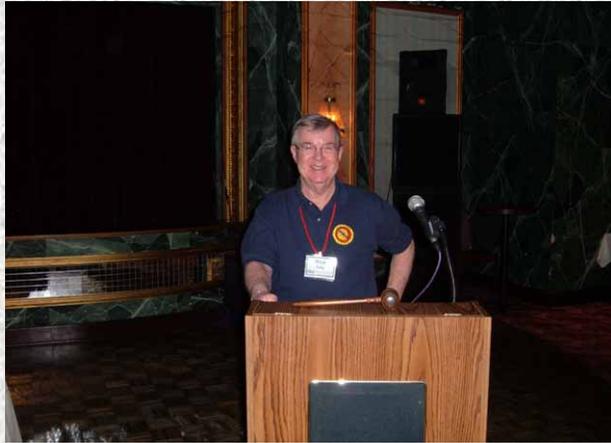
Is this Olongapo I see before me?

The Shoji Tabuchi Show



Indoor plumbing and everything!

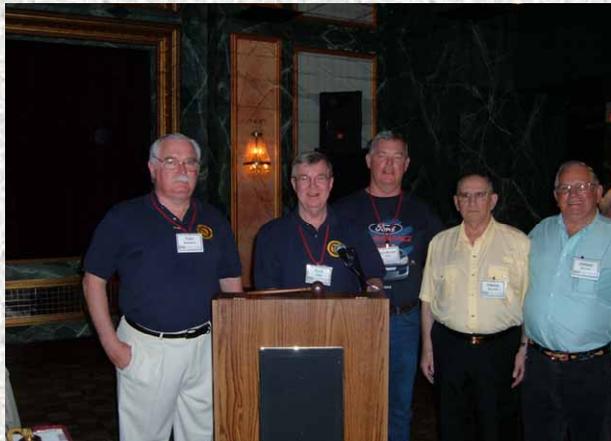
Membership meeting



Now hear this: Outgoing President Rick Tully gavel the meeting to order



Rick Tully more or less willingly hands the gavel to President-elect Cameron



Warlords of Pyro 2004-2005: Treasurer Sanborn, President Tully, Secretary Michael, Chaplain Worrell and MAA Strunk



Warlords of Pyro 2005-2006: MAA Strunk, Chaplain Worrell, Historian Sieverin, VP Eckstine, Sec. Wisher, Pres. Cameron and Treasurer Sanborn



David and Sherry Indra with Myra Eckstine



The Strunks and Worrells



Gary and Pat Michael with Rita Tully



Norm and Pam Hancock with Helen and Gary Golay



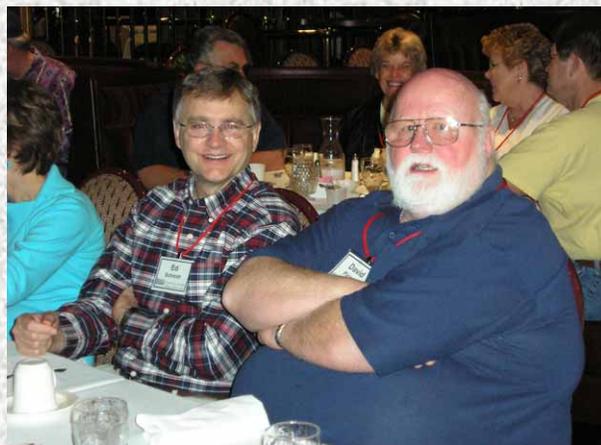
The Mahans and Bickfords



The Jaegers and the Hansens



The Sieverin and Ellis clans



Ed Schmidt and David Pickard

Photo session



Photo courtesy of Flash Photos



Ladies in waiting: Linda Fox,
Lavonne Strunk, Bev Worrell
and Pearl Jaeger



XXXX talks with Jane Leffler



YYYY with Gary Leffler

Banquet



The Jaegers, Millers and Schmidts dine



The Pearsons and Hancocks at dinner



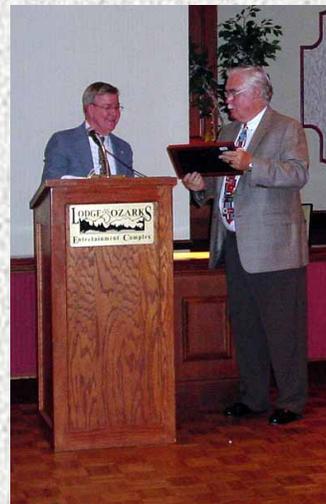
Marilyn Hale and son Mike



Bobby Hunter chats with the Indas and Pickards



The Mahans (left) dine as Tom Sanborn (right) is honored for service to the association.





Murray Brown with Howard and Charlene Iversen



Linda Fox, Bill Hogan, Lavonne Strunk, Bev and Vance Worrell



Cutting in? The Sieverins and Mahans on the dance floor



Mary Ellis, Loyd Ellis, Pat Michael and Gary Michael



This USS Pyro (AE-1 & AE-24) Association Branson Reunion Memory Book was edited by Jared Cameron who is solely, if reluctantly responsible for all miscaptioned photos, incorrectly spelled names and mismatched spouses. Scenic photos of Branson are courtesy of Branson Hospitality. The association group photo is reproduced by permission of Flash Photos. All other photos were taken by volunteers Billy Eckstine, Douglas Wisher and Jared Cameron who 'shot 'em like they saw 'em' and are not responsible for odd expressions or pounds added since your salad days of Naval service. We believe we included at least one photo of every participant, but if we missed you (or your best angle), we apologize abjectly.

The editor