



October 17, 2014

Dear Shipmates;

This is perhaps the hardest letter that I have ever been asked to write. It appears to be the end of an era. We have had many good times and comradery at the ships reunions that I have had the privilege to be a part of. We also have had some sad times as one by one we lost a shipmate.

Renshaw reunions began many years ago. The original organizer was the late Thomas F. McGowan. He was assisted by the late Harold Taylor, who succeeded him as reunion host after 11 or more reunions were held in New York City. The early reunions were for the WWII crew members to get together. It was eventually expanded to include all crew members covering the entire 28-year life span of the ship. There have been many people involved with organizing the reunions over the past dozen, or more, years, but one that stands out for all of us is the late R.C. Harrell. Ray and Sandy Smith were at the helm for several years. After that, Don McCurry was our leader for quite a few reunions. Today, Jan McCurry and I were fortunate enough to make the reunions run as smoothly as possible.

This year we just barely made it with only 17 shipmates attending and a total attendance of 37 people. We were only able to come up with 76 room nights. Fortunately the hotel and the tour company were kind enough to work with us and not increase our costs. We have a total now of Approximately 350 shipmates on our database. Many of these are getting to the age where they are not able to travel. The costs of the reunion, tours and travel expenses have continued to increase in spite of our best efforts. This year we only had one WWII shipmate attend. That was Dick Post. All of these things combine to make negotiating the necessary group rates almost impossible. After all of the bills were paid we ended with a bank balance of just under \$1800.00 in our account. The reunion cost this year was over \$3800.00 not counting rooms, transportation, tours, etc..

We cannot continue at this rate and thus Jan and I have made the decision that this will be our last reunion. A copy of this letter will be sent out to all remaining shipmates. It is intended that the remaining funds left over will be donated to the "Saint Jude's Children's Hospital". This was Don McCurry's favorite Charity.

Thank all of you for allowing Jan, Glenn and I to serve over these last few years.

May the good Lord bless you all, The United States Navy and the United States of America.

Respectfully

Jim Giddings

Treasurer

USS Renshaw DD/DDE 499 reunion Committee