USS TELFAIR -- AAFA 2026 REUNION REPORT

A small group of Telfair vets joined fellow sailors from additional amphibious ships for the annual American Amphibious Navy reunion recently.

The reunion, held this past September 13-16 at the Thousand Hills Resort in Branson, MO, was a success. Nice hotel facility with a spacious hospitality room reserved just for our group!

Monday, a nearly full bus load of former sailors with spouses and guests enjoy a terrific tour of the Branson area. The tour began with a tour of the College of the Ozarks, a liberal arts school with a strong integration in both Chrisian faith and strong patriotism. Nearly all of the students attend here tuition and lodging free in exchange for approximately 20 hours of labor each week as well as grants and scholarships. Interestingly, a vast percentage of Ozark students graduate virtually debt free!

The tour continued with a walking tour of old downtown Branson with its many quaint shops and a true 5 & 10 cent variety store which is a must see for every first time Branson visitor. Lunch was at the Full Throttle Distillery & Grill, a great place to eat plus an opportunity to “sample” up to 14 varieties of liquor (sorry – max of 3 choices per guest!) produced locally at their distillery. The tour concluded in the afternoon with a lively performance entitled “Hot Rods & High Heels” at the Clay Cooper Theatre. 90 minutes of high energy 50’s & 60’s rock-n -roll and were they ever good!

With Branson being a popular entertainment location, the committee wisely allowed for plenty of individual exploration time. A wide variety of shows, plus trips to an aquarium, a well detailed military museum and boat rides on Table Rock Lake were found to be highly entertaining.

Wednesday evening, September 16 saw us gather for the reunion ending banquet and auction fund raiser. Monies raised at the auction will be used to offset hospitality room expenses for next year’s reunion tentatively scheduled for Mobile, AL.

Telfair sailors present:

- -John Haeflinger & guest
- -Bill & Barbara Bunger
- -Lee & Betty Sue Vincent
- -Frank Hilberer
- -Mike & Flossie Schultz
- -Brian Miller & guest
- - a “seaman” from down in the boiler room (Lee remembers him; contact him)

Bill Bunger