

## **2023 Amphibious Ships Reunion** (October 18-22, 2023 in Dayton, Ohio)

The USS Telfair joined in with seven other ships to make up the 2023 version of the Amphibious Ships Reunion held in Dayton, Ohio this year.

In addition to the USS Telfair, sailors representing the USS Monrovia (APA 31), USS Bexar (APA 237), USS Pickaway (APA 222), USS Yancey (AKA 93), USS Chilton (APA 38) and the USS Muliphen (AKA 61). A total of 39 sailors were present, and with guests, the group numbered 66. Jerry Wotherspoon of the USS Muliphen served as the group host/coordinator.

Plenty of time was reserved for visiting with shipmates as well as gaining new acquaintances. Friday saw virtually everyone head over to the Air Force National Museum. Even as sailors, it's easy to appreciate this massive exhibit! Extensive detail is given to everything from early flight to space exhibits. One of the more popular highlights was taking in John F Kennedy's Presidential plane! To catch it all, one should plan on an all day visit. On the plus side the museum has PLENTY of motorized mobility carts, and did I mention the museum is FREE ALL YEAR ROUND!

Saturday evening saw a well thought out farewell banquet. Mr. Wotherspoon had an Air Force 5-piece combo in for entertainment. The group was strong on interaction with our group throughout the performance and spent a great deal of time visiting with us afterwards.

Saturday morning saw our group getting together for a business meeting. Topics covered were:

- Suggested each ship coordinator have a back up individual in possession of necessary documents and other information in the event of the coordinator becoming incapacitated or passes on. Evidently this happened to one of the groups and havoc must have ensued.
- A "zoom" website was suggested for greater interaction. Frank Hilberer agreed to explore setting up this option for the Telfair group.
- Next year's reunion location. A cruise was brought up as an option. Clearly a few had researched this, and according to them, this could actually be a lower cost option than a land-based reunion. Cruise length would be 5 days and would be between mid-September and end of October. To narrow things down, if a cruise was determined the way to go, it would leave from an east coast port out of Florida. Additionally, the thought was seeking out a smaller vessel would be more enjoyable than a super vessel (holding 6000 guests and untold number of youngsters!). Those who had explored this option noted some smaller cruise ships were limited to 2000 guests.
- "Back up" to the cruise idea. If it was determined to go with a land-based reunion instead the group narrowed down options to either Savannah or Charleston.

Further information on next year's reunion will be emailed to active roster members and posted on the Telfair website -- STAY TUNED!

Reunion report provided by Bill Bunger -- thanks Bill!