

in this special issue

DEPARTMENTS

FRONT WORDS – 4

ALUM & I – 6

Durham College — A History of Success *by Thelma D. Jones, et al*

Reunion Recommendations

from Scotch Plains Fanwood High School in Fanwood, New Jersey

Mascot performs at reunion

Sign of the reunion *from Lynn Thompson*

Pop culture displays *by Cyndi Clamp*

BRANCH OFFICE – 16

International African American Museum, Center for Family History

Finding family history anywhere *by LiAnn Pennington*

Family History – a passion that’s timely and timeless

SCRAPBOOK – 18

Reunion School

Hospitality Answerman *by Dean Miller*

Peace Corps Thailand Group II Reunion *by Bonnie McKenna*

President Lincoln’s Cottage

New photo gallery!

FEATURE – 26

A personal touch: the Memory Station for your family reunion

by Lisa A. Alzo

MASTERPLAN – 30

Breaking down family vacations: a PGAV Destinations travel report

Thayer Family Reunion *by Marilyn Thayer*

Nelson/Harvin Family Reunion *by Jimmie Stukes*

50th Malone Family Reunion celebration *by Francia D. Malone*

Gamble Family Reunion *by LaShawna M. Fitzpatrick-Hughes*

The Green/Ivey Family Reunion *by Robert Green Jr.*

65th Roark and Conner Family Reunion *by Johanna Roark*

MILITARY REUNION NEWS – 42

USS Anchorage (LSD 36) reunion *by Michael P. McGrath*

Road Scholar veterans visit Normandy

REUNION RESOURCES – 46

A directory of reunion-friendly places, services, vendors and products.

ON THE COVER

65th Roark and Conner Family Reunion, Durham College 2023 Alumni Reunion,
Peace Corps Reunion and Gamble Family Reunion.

VIVID-PIX® REUNIONS

Reunion Celebrations ♦ Spring 2024

Volume 33 ♦ Number 1

PUBLISHER

Rick Voight

EDITOR IN CHIEF

Edith Wagner

editor@reunionismag.com

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Mary Catherine Stern

ART DIRECTOR

Jennifer Rueth

SALES

Roberta McLoud, Account Manager

roberta@reunionismag.com

Cindy T. Petrucci, Account Manager

Cindy@reunionismagazine.com

WEB WIZARDS

Howard Ehrenberg • Chris Thompson

HOSPITALITY ANSWERMAN

Dean Miller

CONTRIBUTORS

Lisa A. Alzo, MFA • Cyndi Clamp

LaShawna M. Fitzpatrick-Hughes

Robert Green Jr. • Thelma D. Jones

Francia Malone • Michael P. McGrath

Bonnie McKenna • LiAnn Pennington

Johanna Roark • Jimmie Stukes

Marilyn Thayer • Lynn Thompson

REUNIONS MAGAZINE, INC. (ISSN #1046-55235), is published 4 times per year. Email correspondence, queries, requests, submissions to editor@reunionismag.com or send to **Reunions magazine**, PO Box 11727, Milwaukee WI 53211-0727.

Written permission from the publisher is required for reproduction of any part of this book except pages which encourage sharing. Please explain your intended use when requesting permission to reprint and guarantee tear sheets of reviews and reprints.

Reunions magazine, Inc., is not liable for information presented as facts in any of our advertising, byline stories or materials. We reserve the right to edit and/or refuse any material submitted for publication. We take responsibility for submitted materials but unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE), submissions and photos will not be returned. All materials sent for publication become property of **Reunions magazine, Inc.**

Advertising information contact **Reunions magazine, Inc.**, PO Box 11727, Milwaukee WI 53211-0727 | 414-467-8104 roberta@reunionismag.com | www.reunionismag.com.

© 2024 Reunions magazine, Inc.

2024 REUNION CELEBRATIONS! ♦ REUNIONS 3

USS Anchorage (LSD 36) reunion

The USS *Anchorage* (LSD 36) was in service from March 15, 1969 to October 1, 2003. It was used as a target during RIMPAC/SINKEX (Rim of the Pacific Sink Exercise) in 2010.

While the ship is no longer around, the crew continues to meet regularly to commemorate this ‘most decorated’ ship. See ribbons!

Our October 2022 reunion in San Diego, California, was attended by 26 members of the crew. We had a welcome reception, main reunion event, and several group events. Some of the reunion highlights were a tour of the new USS *Anchorage* (LPD 23), a San Diego Harbor cruise, and a San Diego Padre baseball game. A good time was had by all!

A fundraising campaign helps defray some crew expenses. In 2022, we raised \$2,300 of our \$5,000 goal. Thanks to generous donations from the crew and items donated by our supporters, we were able to provide cash giveaways, unique door prizes, and provide free transportation for attendees. Our 2024 fundraiser will be launched soon.

Our next reunion is scheduled for September 28 to October 2, 2024 in San Diego. See details. GO NAVY!

Reported by Michael P. McGrath, San Diego, California



Comments from 2022 reunion attendees.

“My wife and I had a great time at the USS Anchorage 2022 reunion. Seeing shipmates that I have not seen in almost 50 years was definitely worth the trip. The venue and activities were excellently planned – what fun! I hope more of my friends will attend the 2024 reunion – they won’t regret it.”

– QM3 A. Bescan (5/73-12/76)

“Thoroughly enjoyed my first LSD-36 reunion. The Bay Club was an excellent choice for a host hotel for the reunion. Accommodations and location were perfect for such an event. Even ran into the reunion coordinator the night before the first official event and shared a couple at the hotel bar! The ‘Welcome’ social hour, ‘Main Event’ dinner and ‘Group Breakfast’ were great times to rekindle old relationships. A highlight for me was the tour of the same-named US Navy replacement ship. All-in-all, a great time!”

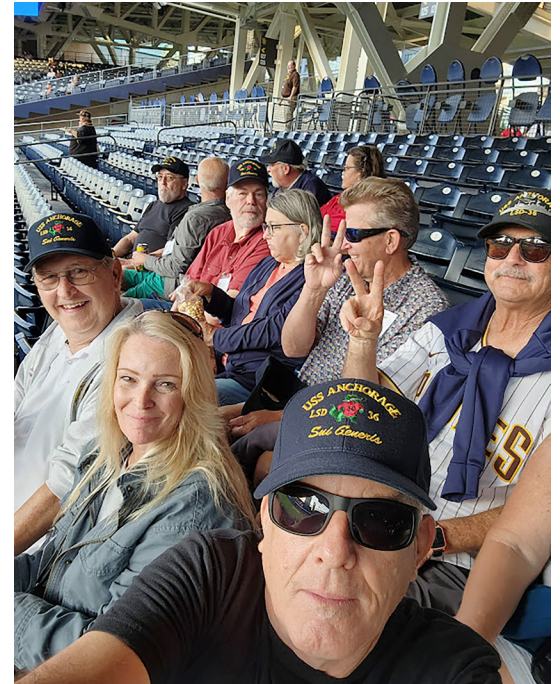
– Plank Owner LTJG G. Mellen (8/68-6/71)



USS *Anchorage* (LSD 23) ship tour



Naval Base San Diego Color Guard



At San Diego Padre baseball game



- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| U.S. Navy Unit Commendation (2) | Combat Action Ribbon | Joint Meritorious Unit Award | Battle Effectiveness Ribbon (6) |
| Navy Expeditionary Medal | National Defense Service Medal (3) | Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (5) | |
| Vietnam Service Medal (24, 4 Campaigns) | Southwest Asia Service Medal (3 Campaigns) | Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal | |
| Humanitarian Service Medal (2) | Navy and Marine Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (14 Deployments) | Philippine Presidential Unit Citation | |
| Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal | Kuwait Liberation Medal - Saudi Arabia | Kuwait Liberation Medal - Kuwait | |

NOTE: It has been extremely difficult verifying the medals awarded to USS Anchorage (LSD 36). The information above is from NHHC, NDAWS, COMNAVSURFPAC, COMPACFLT, NAVSEA, and numerous others. I do believe this information to be the most accurate found anywhere.

USS Anchorage was the most decorated ship on the West Coast when decommissioned and might be the most decorated of its type.