

REUNIONS

2024 Reunion Celebrations!



Travis Family Reunion



Eli and Anna McCree Family Reunion



Neal Family Reunion



USS Anchorage (LSD 36) Reunion



Shalom Korai united with the family he never knew



Happy
Holidays

Vol 33 No 4
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Winter 2024

in this special issue

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Shalom Korai united with the family he never knew

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ANCHORAGE SAILS ON! Crew Celebrates Legacy in San Diego

USS *Anchorage* (LSD 36) was in service from March 15, 1969, to October 1, 2003. While the ship is no longer around, the crew continues to meet regularly to commemorate this 'most decorated' ship. See ribbons!

Our 2024 reunion was a huge success, and we had beautiful weather the entire time. The reunion kicked off with a bang! Thirty-four attendees, including nineteen crew members, gathered for a warm Welcome Reception on the first night. For the first time, we used video conferencing services, and we had several crew members join us virtually.

This year, thanks to successful fundraising (which surpassed 2022!), attendees enjoyed free food, cash prizes, and a chance to win awesome swag donated by generous supporters. Nearly half walked away with a prize! A special highlight was the unveiling of a stunning custom poster designed by a licensed Navy artist, David Hart. Printed on archival materials, this is a unique piece of art.

The reunion was not just about reliving memories; it was about making new ones! Fundraising also covered transportation for smaller groups to/from the hotel and our events. On Day 2, some attended the MCAS Miramar Air Show. On Day 3, some embarked on a thrilling whale watching cruise. We did not see any spouts or tails, but we did see hundreds of whales/dolphins. We did learn a fun fact from the naturalist: "All dolphins are whales, but not all whales are dolphins!" On Day 4, a group went for a tour at the USS *Midway* Museum, followed by lunch next door at Mike Hess Brewing, a Navy Veteran-owned business in Seaport Village. They treated us very well. On Day 5, our reunion wrapped up with a



farewell meal at Waterfront Bar & Grill, boasting the oldest liquor license in San Diego! The reunion was a bittersweet experience. It was incredible to reconnect with old friends and make new memories, but it was difficult saying

goodbye. I am grateful for the time we had together, and I cannot wait until the next reunion.

Next Reunion

San Diego, the ship's homeport, has been a favorite reunion place for its familiarity and popularity among crew members. However, we are exploring



other locations for 2026. At the 2024 Military Reunion Network Summit, our planner met with twenty-two representatives from various CVBs, hotels, cities, and counties, each vying to host the 2026 reunion. We are currently focusing on Wichita, Kansas, Annapolis, Maryland, or Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island.

Will it be a familiar San Diego return, or a new adventure for the Anchorage crew? Stay tuned to LSD36.COM for updates! ❖

GO NAVY!

Reported by BM Michael P. McGrath
8/75-8/78, San Diego, California



“Can’t really make the letters big enough: BRAVO ZULU to properly reflect the herculean efforts you put forth to make 2024 a fun and memorable reunion.”

- LTJG Chuck Johnson (7/72-5/75)



Whale watching cruise group.