

**USS MULLINNIX DD944 ASSOCIATION
PRESIDENT'S**

“STATE OF THE REUNION REPORT”

REUNION 2011

ALBANY, NY

Reunion 2011 in Albany, New York from April 27th through May 1st was a success from every point of view as 37 shipmates attended including 11 who enjoyed their first reunion along with 9 family members. The Hospitality Room opened at noon on Wednesday and in addition to our normal memorabilia display also featured a rolling slide show put together by Dale Shultz and displayed on two huge 8' by 10' screens. Dale continues to expand his collection that began with some shots of his days on the Mighty MUX and past reunions.

We even saw some shots of the Blue Angels this year! The Albany CVB furnished a static *Welcome to Albany* display in the hotel lobby and also provided welcome bags, coupons, maps and lapel pins. The registration desk opened at 3 PM and each shipmate received a commemorative T-shirt at check in. Wednesday evening our host hotel hosted a Welcome Reception for us all with hors d'oeuvres and a Wine Tasting presented by *Brookview Station* winery. Thank you *Hilton Garden Inn Albany Medical Center!*

Thursday 37 of us enjoyed the day trip on Albany Trolleys to the Watervliet Arsenal where the guys got a tour of the Arsenal Museum and saw how they made the first “Bunker Busters” out of used 8” gun barrels that led quickly to the end of the first Gulf War, while the girls got a tour of the second largest government home in America with the base commander’s wife. We all enjoyed lunch at the Cannon Community Club, and an afternoon tour of Albany’s Military Monuments with an ice cream stop on the way back to the hotel. Thursday evening featured another reception with food and a beer tasting presented by the brew master from a local brewery.

Friday started off with a trolley ride for 47 of us to the USS Slater DE766 and our annual Memorial Service at 0930 as we paid tribute to the 2 shipmates we lost this year, MM3 Kenny Saunders and BT3 Chuck Spearing. The ceremony concluded with a two gun salute from the Slater’s 3” gun, one round for each of them. The ship opened for general visiting at 1000, and then we headed to lunch at the *Albany Pump Station* and free time in Quackenbush Square to enjoy the Albany Heritage Museum at the visitor’s center. Heavy rain and record snow melt further north had the Hudson River running bank full and much too swiftly for safe operation of the Albany Aqua Ducks so we opted for our afternoon Historic Tour of Albany by Trolley and made the most of a bad situation!

Friday evening got off to an exciting start with a “Taste of the Little Apple in the Capitol” reception style meal with numerous stations featuring items from around New York and ended with the always popular Friday Night Auction that raised \$878 this year. Hats off to our own *Dynamic Duo* (our auctioneers) Mike Tomes and Deb Kik!

Saturday began with our Annual Business Meeting. Free time followed and many folks got out for a walk in Washington Park and enjoyed the good weather and thousands (25,000) of tulips starting to bloom as Albany was preparing for their annual tulip festival the following weekend.

Late in the afternoon folks gathered for our annual photo shoot and cocktail hour with butlered hors d' oeuvres before our Saturday Night Banquet. Following the banquet, winning names were drawn for our Early Bird Raffle and 3 of the 16 shipmates that submitted their Reunion Registrations before February 1st won a free night's accommodations during the reunion! Winners were Bill Boettcher, Jimmy Carter and Tony Sozio. Each shipmate took home a door prize and Tim Moll got two! Tim bought the winning ticket in our 50/50 raffle and took home an extra \$250! Or rather, he took home what was left after a shopping spree in the ship's store! Congratulations to all of the *WINNERS!* And a *SPECIAL THANKS* to Jim Wonch for pushing raffle tickets to such a handsome purse! *BRAVO ZULU, JC!*

Your President
Bob Houghton