

attended tell me that they enjoyed it very much.

We met in the Hyatt Orlando and after our Early Bird Dance, on Monday evening, we went to Cape Canaveral on Tuesday, more or less as a group. The day turned out to be a good getting reacquainted pleasure. Wednesday, of course was our banquet, in the evening. I stayed close to the Hotel, to make sure arrangements for ~~the~~ banquet went smoothly. We had 53 in attendance at the banquet. They were; (Ronald & Eileen Adams, Ken Bacon, Larry & Irene Barcellos, Frank & Gloria Benischeck, Joseph Camp & wife, Donald & Dorothy Crotteau, Tony Cumbo & wife, Ronald & Shelia Day, Cyrus & Loleta Dayton, Robert & Marion Heindryckx, Robert & Betty Horton, Eugene J. Herman & wife, Robert & Mary Ellen Kane, Pat & Mildred Kelly, Harry & Peg Killen, Albert & Wanda Kilpatrick, William Lyons, John Madison, Donald Mietz & wife, John Pease, James & Bea Purcell, Richard & Nancy Smith, J.B. Spence & wife. & son, George & Justine Taylor, Kurt & Margaret Tonjes & brother in law, Leonard & Micky Webster, Edward West, and Jack Williams and wife.)

J.B. Spence, his wife and son left early and are not in the group picture, neither is Tonje's brother in law. Our former Engineering and Executive Officer and Skipper gave a very interesting talk about the important happenings during our time of duty on the Gary, (such as just now they got the large Ice Cream machine below deck, etc.). Frank Benischeck spoke on the Decommissioning of the Gary and of it being Commissioned into the Tunisian Navy. He and his wife Gloria handed out a very nice pamphlet on the Commissioning of the President Bourguiba E7 into the Tunisian Navy. Bob and Mary Ellen Kane passed folders out to each of our shipmates with a lot of information about the ship. Mr. Lyons our former Recognition Officer and Cyrus Dayton our former Shipfitter, both gave very informative talks on the happenings aboard the Gary and all talks were well received.

I read letters wishing well, from our former Captain Ayer and Orville Bell our former Torpedo man. Also from Wittens wife telling of his serious cancer condition. To which I have received very good news, that Jim Witten has successfully had part of his lung removed and is now back on his feet again. Good luck Jim and hang in there, we are pulling for you. After picture taking a fellowdhip seccession followed until late into the evening.

Thursday was a day for individual groups to go to Disney Land, Epcot Center, Circus World etc.. Friday morning was the Business meeting for for D.E.S.A.. At which time Jack Collins, who has been D.E.S.A. Chairman for 10 years stepped down, and Don Glasser was elected to take his place as D.E.S.A. Chairman. Don has promised changes in the future, that he feels will benefit the D.E.S.A. We wish him lots of luck.

Friday evening we all went to a seperate section of Disney Land, for our D.E.S.A. Banquet and entertainment. Late Friday night and early Saturday morning was time to bid each other farewell until next year.

Next year our own Bob Kane, is an active member of the Philadelphia Chapter of the D.E.S.A. that is sponcering the 1986 Convention. He tells me the plans for the 1986 Convention are well underway. Monday Aug. 4, 1986 Early Bird Party, and dance. Tuesday Aug. 5, Atlantic City Casinos, or trip to Lancaster or Valley Forge. (Peg & I will be going to Valley Forge and invite all of you to join us as a get reacquainted day). Wednesday Aug. 6, will be our own Ships Banquet at the Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, at 6:30 P.M. EDST. If I cannot get the banquet arranged for that time I'll let you all know when final arrangements are made. Thursday Aug. 7, a trip to historical sights around Philadelphia and Friday Aug. 8, D.E.S.A. business meeting and Banquet.

Around the first of March 1986, those of you who belong to the D.E.S.A. will receive your application for the 1986 DESA. Convention. I cannot urge you too strongly to get your application sent in to DESA as early as possible. They are expecting over 2,000 to attend and if you are not among the first to register, you may have to be roomed in another Hotel. (The convention in Norfolk, Peg and I had to stay in Portamouth, Va.

Because of the expence of contacting each of you, the next letter will be after I have made arrangements for our Ships banquet, also the price. to attend our banquet.

Alan, Here are attendees of first reunion 1985.