

U.S.S. FRANK KNOX  
DDR-742

**50<sup>TH</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
REUNION**

OCTOBER 27-30, 1994  
CHARLESTON, S.C.



**THE SHIP . . . The U.S.S. FRANK KNOX DD-742 was a 2250 ton, long hull, FRAM MK II Destroyer whose primary mission was anti-submarine warfare and employment as a surface action & gunfire support unit.**

The ship was built at Bath Iron Works, Bath, Maine in 1944 and received the name of World War II Secretary of the Navy and well-known publisher William Franklin Knox. She was 390 feet long, 41 feet wide and carried a varying crew of 16 officers and 260 enlisted men. The ship was commissioned on December 11th, 1944 with CDR. Joel C. Ford USN as its first skipper and LCDR E.A. Hoggard, Executive Officer.

The ship proceeded to the Pacific War Zone and joined Admiral "Bull" Halsey's Third Fleet in operations against the Japanese home islands. In November, 1946 the FRANK KNOX sailed to Tsingtao, China where she operated from until 1948; shortly before the communist revolution in that country. The ship returned to Western Pacific waters during the Korean Conflict to serve as an original unit of "Task Force 77" in actions at Inchon, Hung Nam and Wonsan Harbor. In February, 1955 she took part in the Nationalist Chinese evacuation of the Tachen Islands. From late 1961 until September, 1964 the FRANK KNOX was homeported in Yokosuka, Japan as part of the Seventh Fleet. During this period she served in a variety of supporting roles throughout the Western Pacific from the North Philippine Sea to the Gulf of Tonkin. In early spring 1964 the FRANK KNOX participated in the First Concord Squadron's Indian Ocean cruise to Madagascar, Kenya & Aden, and, later in the same year, visited Eastern Australia prior to proceeding to her new homeport, San Diego, California.

The U.S.S. FRANK KNOX deployed for her new homeport June 4th, 1965. While in transit from the South China Sea to Keelung, Taiwan; on July 18th, 1965 she ran aground on Pratas Reef. As a result of extensive salvage operations, the ship was pulled clear of the reef on August 24th, 1965 and towed to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. She then departed for Yokosuka, Japan and on arrival she was drydocked and an extensive restoration was begun at the U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility.

386 days later she put to sea for the first time and sea trials on October 18th, 1966. On departure from Yokosuka she took place in Destroyer Division 172 and resumed her duties as an operational unit of the Pacific Fleet. Her third deployment was operations off the coast of North Vietnam in support of friendly forces ashore in South Vietnam.

She returned from deployment to San Diego November 13th, 1970 and was decommissioned on January 30th, 1971. She was sold to Greece and formally recommissioned as the Hellenic Ship THEMISTOCLES (D-210) on February 3rd, 1971.

**SHE SERVED HER COUNTRY WELL IN THREE WARS.**



## **THE REUNION ASSOCIATION:**

Bob O'Kon, Association President spent the greater part of 1990 and 1991 obtaining a list of ex-shipmates from various persons and organizations and through ads run in the American Legion, VFW, "Tin Can Sailor" and other publications such as U.S. Naval Institute, The Retired Officers Association, etc. A Master Roster data base was prepared and a mailing and questionnaire sent out. The original response was outstanding, with over 100 ex-shipmates replying.

The FIRST REUNION was held at the U.S. Naval Aviation Supply Office, N.E. Philadelphia, PA, November 9-11th, 1991 - hosted by CAPT. Dan Robinson, SC, USN, Executive Officer of the Base (and former Supply Officer on the U.S.S. Frank Knox). Nearly 60 persons attended and this was the birth of our FIRST REUNION.

The SECOND REUNION was held at the beautiful TREMONT PLAZA HOTEL, Baltimore, MD, October 9-11th, 1992. Over 60 guests enjoyed the Cocktail Hour and wonderful Banquet at the hotel; as well as the famous Baltimore Inner Harbor with it's National Aquarium, U.S.F. Constellation and Baltimore's Maritime Museum.

The THIRD REUNION was held at the PARK INN INTERNATIONAL, Virginia Beach, VA, October 15-17th, 1993. Nearly 85 guests enjoyed the beautiful hotel, the Cocktail Hour and Banquet; and the two tours of Colonial Williamsburg, VA and the Naval Base Tour & MacArthur Memorial. A good time was had by all and the weather was beautiful.

The FOURTH - 50th ANNIVERSARY REUNION was held at the QUALITY INN in the heart of Charleston, S.C., October 27th-30th, 1994. Over 100 guests enjoyed this big 50th ANNIVERSARY celebration. In addition to a wonderful Banquet and Cocktail Hour, there were tours of PATRIOTS POINT with the world's largest Naval Museum, a visit to U.S.S. YORKTOWN with it's CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL of HONOR MUSEUM and visits to four ships. The tour then cruised the harbor and U.S. Naval Base and Fort Sumter (where the Civil War began). A Tour of HISTORIC CHARLESTON was also held with it's Rainbow Row and cobblestone streets, hundreds of 18th & 19th century homes and Charleston's famous Battery overlooking the Harbor.

We will be having our FIFTH REUNION in our old homeport SAN DIEGO October 13-15th, 1995 at the RAMADA HOTEL in OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO. We certainly hope everyone will indulge in a little nostalgia and make the next reunion the biggest and best we have ever had.

Bob O'Kon, President





U.S.S. FRANK KNOX DDR-742 REUNION ASSOCIATION

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