

# *The 2008 USS Pavlic Press*

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## **GOOD ATTENDANCE AT 2007 REUNION**

The 2007 USS Pavlic Reunion was marked by a large increase in participation by widows, sons and daughters and their spouses, and by shipmates' friends, which really enhanced the meeting. The total number of people at our reunion dinner was an astounding 42 people, whereas the total number of shipmates that were able to come totaled 12. It is a tribute to the excellent organizing abilities of Joe and Louise Ayer Tommie that we had such a good turn-out plus, hopefully, some additional incentive inspired by the existence of our new Pavlic website ([www.usspavlic.org](http://www.usspavlic.org)), which we urge all Pavlic shipmates and relatives to see.



#A6. Pavlic at Yokosuka Naval Base, 1945

The shipmates and wives who were able to attend in 2007 were:

Jim Bancroft  
Jack Damrell  
Claude and Jane Gentry  
Bob and Mary Gibson  
Ralph Harris  
Victor and Ginny Perman  
Rodney and Dee Peterson  
Andrew and Vi Quinn

Warren and Mary Smith  
Clinton and Monie Ruth Tew  
Hallam and Cathy Walker  
Ray and Barbara Wildes

The Tommies supplied me with these comments about the attendees: "We were delighted to have with us this year, three Pavlic widows. They were Trudy Weaver, Doris Koppenhaver, and the ever present Kitten Burton. It is our hope that they will continue to attend. Doris was escorted by her daughter, Joan Leedom. Kitten had her three daughters as her guests. They were Joan Wood, Judi Brown, and daughter Jean Adams, who we all know well and depend on to be with us.

Joyce and Bruce Smith of Illinois were guests of his parents, Mary and Warren Smith. Patricia and Donny Hall were there with her parents, Monie Ruth and Clinton Tew, all of Alabama. Mary and Bob Gibson's daughter Sharon and husband, Leonard Bouknight

drove in from South Carolina for the banquet on Saturday night. Elise Connin was a guest of Jim Bancroft. Dee and Rodney Peterson had their long time friends from South Carolina, Elaine and Ron Krome as their guests. Louis Ayer and Joe Tommie had guests from Atlanta, Betty and Walt Massey, and Don and Carol Andrews of Savannah joined us at the banquet.

It is always nice to have family and friends of the Pavlic shipmates and hopefully many more will come to our reunion next year.”

We encourage you all to contact other Pavlic shipmates that generally choose not to come, or have been unable to come to the reunions, to look at the website and tell us if there are things that should be added or perhaps corrected.

## **2007 USS PAVLIC REUNION EVENTS**

I arrived in Savannah late in the evening Wednesday and was met at the airport by the Tommies, who were kind enough get me to our motel in the suburb of Pooler. I should remark that the motel had an excellent complementary buffet breakfast bar and nice dining area, which over the four days we were there, was perhaps the best place to converse with everyone.

Thursday started off with an interesting bus tour of the older downtown portion of Savannah, which is pretty much intact, since the city was surrendered without fighting during the Civil War when General Sherman arrived with an overwhelming force. The town was laid out with a north-south east-west grid but with squares at a large number of the major intersections. These large squares are generally parks with lots of beautiful live oak trees with Spanish moss hanging from their branches. Some of the trees are as much as 500 years old. The squares lend a lot of character to the city and also a lot of greenery.

Stately old mansions and town houses are all there, some just as they appeared when Sherman was there. We toured the Juliette Gordon Low mansion which retains the look and original furnishings that were there in 1886 when she was preparing to be married. They were a wealthy family—her grandfather founded the Central of Georgia Railroad—and the home is beautifully furnished. Juliette “Daisy” Gordon Low however is best known for founding the Girl Scouts of America in 1912.

We had a nice lunch at Belford’s Savannah, a well-known restaurant in an historic section of the city near the city market. That evening was memorable for a dinner cruise on the Savannah River on the Georgia Queen paddle-wheel steamer. The food was great, the music combo very entertaining, and several of our Pavlic dancers amazingly good.

Friday’s tour of the low country downriver from Savannah included views of numerous summer homes in the low lands between Savannah and the Atlantic. During the Civil War a string of three forts down the river had protected Savannah from the Union navy. However, when General Sherman arrived with overwhelming forces and

rolled up the forts, they decided to surrender the city to prevent it from being demolished, and Confederate forces withdrew. At Fort Jackson our tour guides had arranged a special demonstration for us of the firing of a Civil War light artillery cannon. A young fellow in a Confederate uniform performed all the actions that a six man crew would have done in battle, explaining the how and why of each operation, and then actually firing the cannon. He did this in a pouring rain as we watched from a sheltered area, and it went off just as planned. I was impressed.

After a nice lunch at the 17 Hundred 90 restaurant we returned to the motel where we visited and later had dinner on our own. We then went out to the Savannah Theatre where we enjoyed a lively musical called “Broadway on Bull Street”.

On Saturday it was just a short morning walk across our parking lot to The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum (90,000 square feet of museum space) where we had an excellent guided tour. One of our guides was a former 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force side gunner on a B-17 bomber. You sort of forget the conditions— at 20,000 feet, open to the wind and air at 30 degrees below zero, wearing an oxygen mask, and trying to shoot down attacking fighters with a manually operated fifty caliber machinegun! There were excellent displays. It was the best coverage of the air war in Europe that I’ve ever seen.

That afternoon we had time for some pictures and our Pavlic Association meeting before going out for our annual Pavlic banquet at a restaurant in an old brick cotton warehouse overlooking the Savannah River, Vic’s On the River. We had an excellent time, and as I mentioned before, there were 42 of us.

The farewell breakfast on Sunday morning was again at the motel’s breakfast bar and dining area, which was one of the best places for visiting with each other while we were in Savannah. A convenient lift to the airport from the motel shuttle and I was on my way home. I’m sure the Tommies were relieved when it was over. They managed it beautifully.

## Elizabeth Evans

We are saddened to learn of the death of Elizabeth Evans. Henry and Elizabeth were always regulars at our reunions. Our thoughts are with Henry. Elizabeth will be greatly missed.

## Elizabeth Evans

Elizabeth Evans, 82, of Carlisle, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, passed away Monday, Nov. 5, 2007, at Hershey Medical Center.

Born Wednesday, July 29, 1925, in Wilkes-Barre, she was a daughter of the late Robert and Lucy Elizabeth (Reddick) Smith.

Elizabeth was a 1942 graduate of G.A.R. High School in Wilkes-Barre, and retired after 12 years of service with the Commonwealth Telephone Co. in Dallas, Pa. She had also worked for Sears Roebuck Co. in Wilkes-Barre and the George Giles Insurance Co. in Kingston.

Elizabeth was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Dallas. She enjoyed reading, cooking and traveling.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Henry Arthur Evans; her daughter, Sharon (and her husband, George) Zupko of Carlisle; her son, Wayne (and his wife, Cathy) Evans of Mansfield;



four grandchildren, Brian (and his wife, Angela) Zupko, Shannon (and her husband, Jeffrey) Puher, Douglas Evans and Megan Evans; a great-grandson, Cameron Puher; a great-granddaughter,

Lily Puher; and several nieces and nephews.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles and Albert Smith, and a sister, Hazel Berti.

Funeral services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday in Ewing Brothers Funeral Home, 630 S. Hanover St., Carlisle, with the Rev. Keith A. Searfoss officiating. Burial will be at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville. Visitation will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions can be made to the American Cancer Society, 3211 N. Front St., Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110-1342.

Visit [www.since1853.com](http://www.since1853.com) to sign the guestbook.

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## Dues

I would like to remind all association members not to procrastinate as I do and send their \$15.00 immediately to Ray Wildes to keep this operation solvent.

## Address updates needed

I have dropped some names from the rosters because their newsletters were returned to me with no forwarding addresses. If any of you know where any of the following may be contacted, I will put them back on the lists. They include: Mrs. Rocco Rossi, Mrs. Gloria Clugston, Mrs. Paul D. Thomas, Mrs. Francis Schroff, Mrs. Verna Pirochta, Mrs. Samuel Agee, Mrs. Joseph Sissis, Mrs. Katie Knolton, Mr. Stanley Ney and Mr. Richard Gibbs.