

# USS Plymouth Rock (LSD29)

Newsletter September - December 2017, 48th Edition

Welcome to the USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter

The USS Plymouth Rock Newsletter is a publication issued every four months by the USS Plymouth Rock Ships Association. If you would like to contribute an article, a piece of Navy or Plymouth Rock history, photo, memory or anything that might be of interest to you or other shipmates, you can send it as an e-mail to:

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**Recent Address/E-Mail/Phone/Numbers/Address Changes to the Ships Muster**

Walter Hyatt, BT3, on bd.11/73-6/77. New Address: 19 Cinnamon Dr., Walpole, MA ; 508-921-3272; E-Mail: [wdhbh@verizon.net](mailto:wdhbh@verizon.net)



**Known Deceased Shipmates**

For a complete listing of deceased shipmates, visit our Memorial Page in the ships website

Tom Swinsick, Riverview, FL EM3, died October 30, 2017	



**Thank You's**

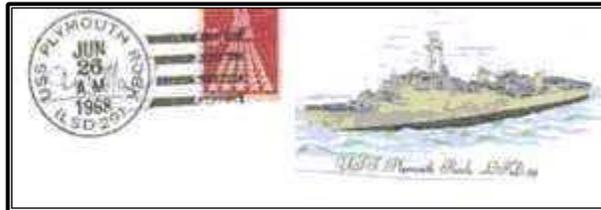
We would like to thank the following shipmates/friends/organizations for providing pictures, information and articles to the website, the Ships Association and newsletter.

Norene McGhee	Sam Dalfonzo, EM3	Tom Wagner, YN3
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## Ships Store Items

To view all of the items in the Ship Store go to the ships website at [ussplymouthrock.com](http://ussplymouthrock.com), select Ships Store Link



Received an e-mail from Andy Dussalt, DC2. “Once more, I enjoyed receiving the PROCK’s news letter. I especially appreciated the “MAJOR EVENTS” SHEET. But there is one item missing that was a major event during my time on the ship. It was in 1961 when we took a PT boat to the Med to protect Jackie Kennedy. Please see my “mailbag” paragraph about that trip. I believe it deserves a spot on the “MAJOR EVENTS” sheet.

Thank you for your continued work on the newsletter. My wife and I expect to see you in Newport, RI next year in Sept. The tentative visits are very interesting,”



**Mainstay Hotel & Conference Center**

## **2018 Ships Reunion**

**We will have reservations at the Mainstay Hotel on October 8, 9, 10 2018. The hotel is located at 151 Admiral Kalibus Rd., Newport, RI 1-855-213-0352**

**Situated in beautiful Newport Rhode Island The Mainstay Hotel & Conference Center has everything one might want in accommodations. The Mainstay Hotel & Conference Center is right across the street from the very popular Newport**

Grand Casino, and also boasts three meeting rooms and one banquet room to hold your functions. In dining we have a full service restaurant, The North End Steakhouse, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Group rate is \$70.00/ night plus state and local taxes



As additional information becomes available, it will be posted here as well as in the first page of the Ships Website. For additional information, contact:

Shorty Cyr, BM3, e-mail: [shortybm3@yahoo.com](mailto:shortybm3@yahoo.com), 203-753-6220  
Bill Haynie, e-mail: [whhaynie@charter.net](mailto:whhaynie@charter.net), 864-934-2900

## Things to see in the Newport Area

The 2018 Ships Reunion is scheduled for Newport, RI for September 26-30 . Tentative possibilities for things to do include:



Cliff Walk: The Cliff Walk along the eastern shore of Newport, RI is world famous as a public access walk that combines the natural beauty of the Newport shoreline with the architectural history of Newport's gilded age. Wildflowers, birds, geology ... all add to this delightful walk.



Naval War College Museum, in Newport. National Historic Landmark and home to the Naval War College Museum. Named Founders Hall in honor of the founding fathers of the College

**Newport Ocean**

Rhode the most day

famous.



**Mansions along Millionaires Mile and Drive.**

The seaside city of Newport, Island, has long been home to some of affluent families in America. Spend a exploring the gilded homes and extravagant lifestyles of these rich and



**Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA USS**

Massachusetts, BB59. USS Joseph Kennedy, DD850, PT Boats, Kinddensee A Soviet-built missile corvette. All within a short drive from Newport.

**USS Constitution in Boston.**

**USS Constitution** is a wooden-hulled, three master heavy frigate of the United States Navy, named by President George Washington after the Constitution of the United States of America. She is the oldest commissioned naval vessel afloat.



**Naval Station, Newport.** The Naval Station Newport is a United States Navy base located in the city of Newport and the town of Middletown, Rhode Island. Naval Station Newport is home to the Naval War College and the Naval Justice School.

**Fort Adams State Park.**

**These are just some of the possibilities.**



"One day I had lunch with some old friends. Jim, a short, balding golfer type, about 85-years old, came along with them; all in all, it was a pleasant bunch.

When the menus were presented, my friends and I ordered salads, sandwiches, and soups, except for Jim who said, "A large piece of home-made apple pie, heated please. I wasn't sure my ears heard him right, and the others were aghast, when Jim continued, completely unabashed...."along with two large scoops of vanilla ice cream."

We tried to act quite nonchalant, as if people did this all the time, but when our orders were brought out, I didn't enjoy eating mine. I couldn't take my eyes off of Jim as I watched him savoring each bite of his pie a-la-mode. The other guys just grinned in disbelief as they silently ate their lunches.

The next time I went out to eat, I called Jim and invited him to join me. I lunched on a white meat tuna sandwich, while he ordered a chocolate parfait. Since I was chuckling, he wanted to know if he amused me. I answered, "Yes, you certainly do, but you also confuse me. How come you always order such rich desserts, while I feel like I must be sensible in my food choices?"

He laughed and said "I'm tasting all that is possible for me to taste. I try to eat the food I need and do the things I should in order to stay healthy, but life's too short, my friend. I hate missing out on something good. This year I realized how old I was. He grinned. I've never been this old before, so, while I'm still here, I've decided it's time to try all those things that, for years, I've been ignoring." He continued, "I haven't smelled all the flowers yet. There are too many trout streams I haven't fished. There's more fudge sundaes to wolf down and kites to be flown overhead. There are too many golf courses I haven't played. I've not laughed at all the jokes. I've missed a lot of sporting events and potato chips and cokes."

"I want to wade again in water and feel ocean spray on my face. I want to sit in a country church once more and thank God for His grace. I want peanut butter every day spread on my morning toast. I want un-timed long distance calls to the one I love the most.

"I haven't cried at all the movies yet, or walked in the morning rain. I need to feel wind on my face. So, if I choose to have dessert, instead of having dinner, then should I die before night

fall, I'd say I died a winner, because I missed out on nothing. I filled my heart's desire. I had that final piece of pie before my life expired."

With that, I called the waitress over.. "I've changed my mind, " I said. "I want what he's having, only add some more whipped cream!"

Contributed by Norene McGhee



## The newest edition of Navy Shift Colors is now available.

Navy Shift Colors is the Navy's official newsletter for Retired Sailors and surviving spouses. It updates the retired Navy community about changes to laws, policies, programs, and benefits that affect them.

Web Site: [www.shiftcolors.navy.mil](http://www.shiftcolors.navy.mil)



A starboard quarter view of the amphibious transport dock USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD 29) underway - The U.S. National Archives (1974-09-10 & 1974-09-10)



Underway on 8 April 1963, shortly before she deployed to the Mediterranean for a tour with the Sixth Fleet. She has an experimental retractable sonar fitted to her bow.

**A texted romantic message**

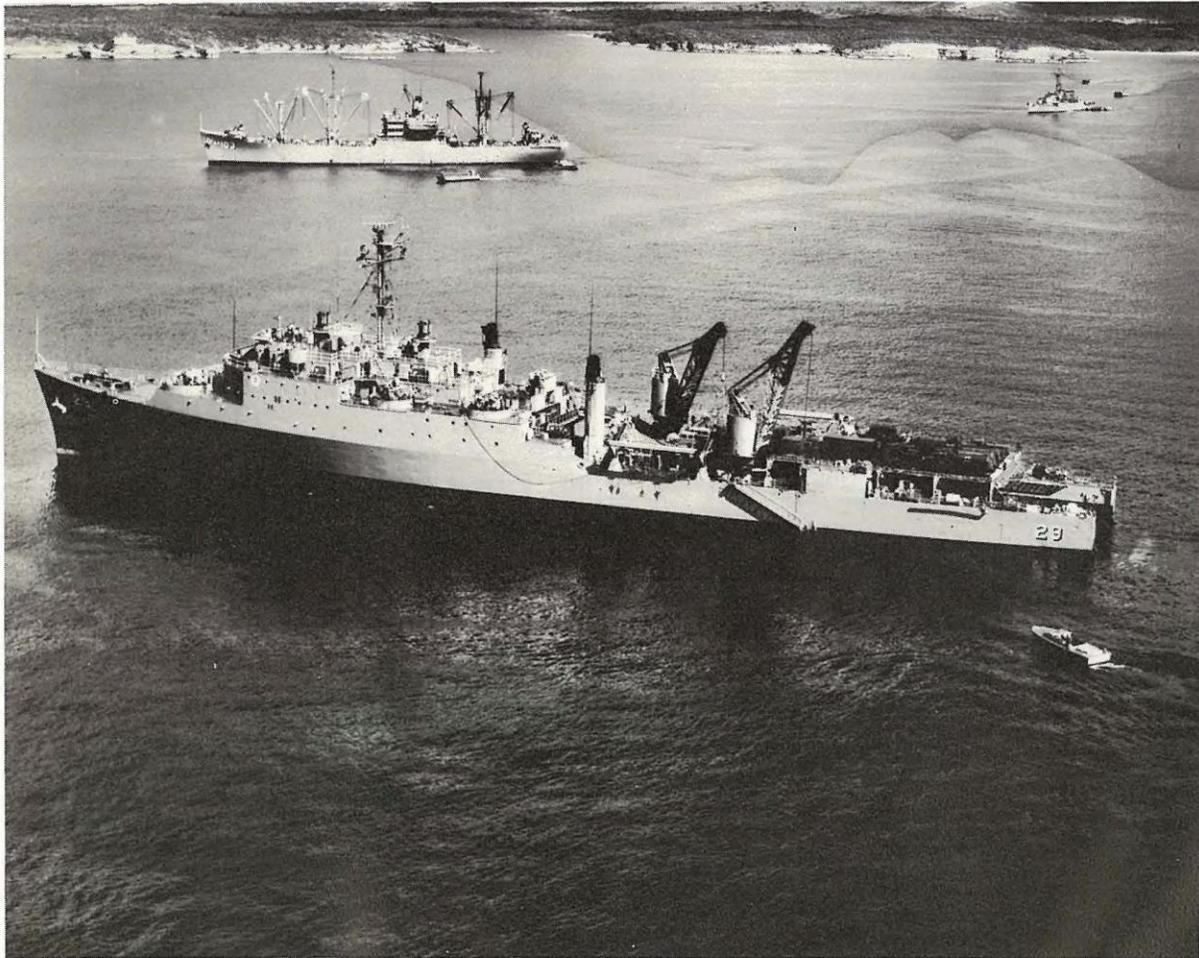
**An elderly couple very cleverly learned to send text messages on their mobile phones. The wife, a retired college English tutor with emphasis on the Classics, was an unapologetic romantic; her husband, a retired salty Navy chief petty officer of thirty years' service, was a no-nonsense guy.**

**One afternoon the wife went to the local Starbuck's to meet a friend for coffee. While awaiting her friend's arrival, she exercised her new skill by sending her husband a romantic text message:**

**"If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears. I love you."**

**The husband responded: "I'm takin' a shit. Please advise. Over."**

**\*\*\*\*\*Almost brings a tear to my eye..... Contributed by Tom Wagner**



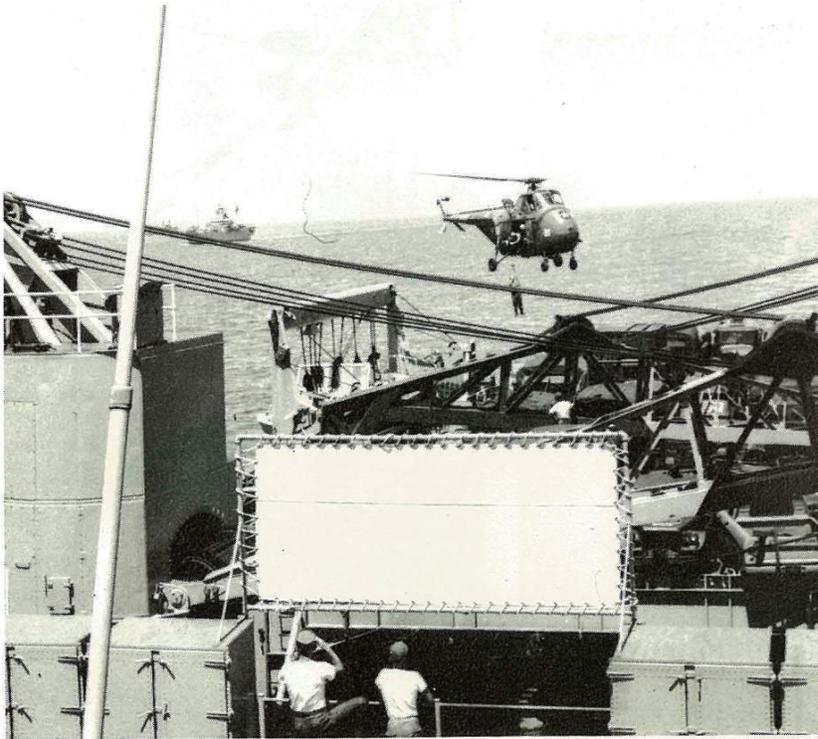
USS PLYMOUTH ROCK (LSD-29)

CARIBBEAN CRUISE

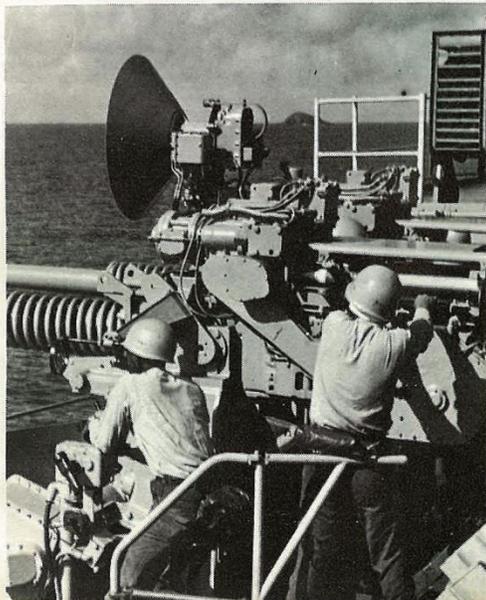
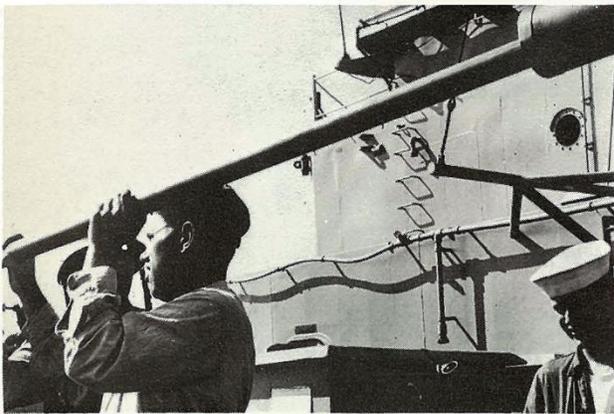
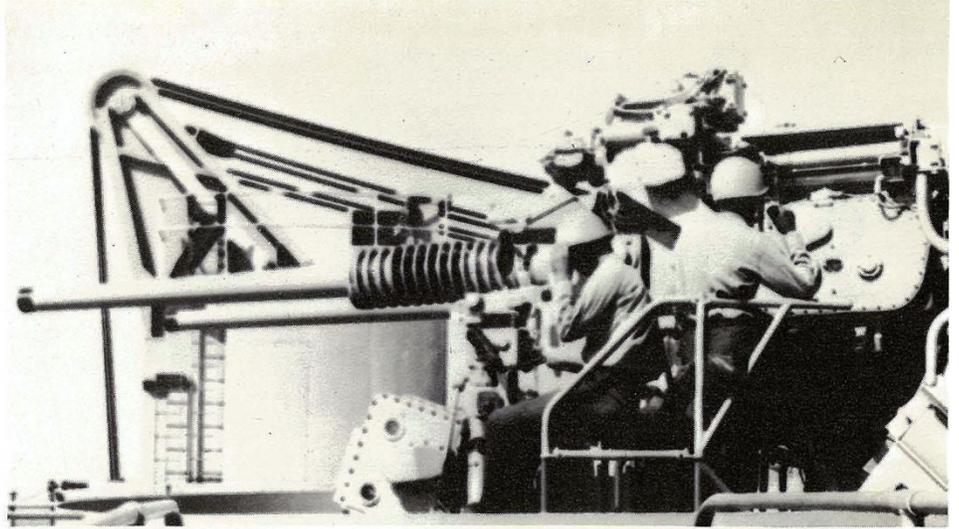
SEPT. - DEC. 1966



# FLIGHT QUARTERS



# GUNNERY SHOOT



# UNDERWAY

# REPLENISHMENT



Cruise Book pictures contributed by Sam Dalfonzo, EM3