



CDR J.R. Perry, USN

The following biography of Joe Perry was submitted by his friend and editor of the USS Begor (APD-127) Association newsletter, Gene Combs, LT, USN (Ret) . It is quoted from an article in the February 2003 edition of the newsletter.

## Background

**JOB TITLE, COMPANY NAME; CITY, STATE — 1989-1990**

I served with Joe Perry back in 1950-51 when he was XO of USS Begor (APD-127). He has been an active member of our ship association for some years. Recently we lost track of him, but we do know that he had moved into a nursing home in Chula Vista. He lost his wife El Mina back in 2001. They had been married for over 61 years.

## Profile

Joe Roderick Perry was born in 1916 in York, Nebraska. Enlisted in the Navy in 1933 and attended boot camp at NTC San Diego during Sept - Dec. Upon completion of boot camp he was assigned to USS ARIZONA (BB-39). His next sea assignment was on the staff of COMDESRON 36 and 30. During this assignment he served on the USS DALLAS (DD-199; USS LEA (DD-118); USS BORIE (DD-215); USS ERICSSON (DD-440) and USS GLEAVES (DD-423).

He was promoted to Chief Signalman in 1942, while serving on the staff of COMDESRON 36 and at nearly the same time received promotion to Warrant Boatswain. The following year he received a spot promotion to LTJG and took command of LST-45. In 1943-45 he was commanding officer of LST-283. In 1948 he participated in the atomic bomb tests at Eniwetok.

In February 1950 he became XO of USS BEGOR (APD-127). He served two skippers, LCDR Archie C. Kuntze and LCDR William A. Walker, III. He received his third bronze star while serving in BEGOR.. He was promoted to LCDR in 1954 while attending the Navy 5-term college program at UCLA.

He served as XO of USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754) in 1955, and was promoted to CDR while serving on the staff of Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado in 1958. He served as XO on USS HENRICO (APA-45) in 1959, and took command of USS COLONIAL (LSD-18) from October 1960 thru August 1962.

Commander Perry retired in 1967, after serving 34 years active duty. He obtained his degree in 1969 from San Diego State University, and completed one year of graduate work. He was married to his wife, El Mina, for over 61 years. She passed away on Sept 4, 2001. They had two children, five grand children and four great grand children. He resides in San Diego.