



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

August 2018

Summer greetings,

This is just a short note for the last newsletter before the 26th annual reunion. As of this date, it looks like our preliminary numbers are down. If you are attending and haven't finalized your arrangements, please take the time to do so.

Philadelphia is shaping up to be another great time together. We are trying to balance some excellent group events with plenty of time to relax and do things you are interested in at your own pace, to include our traditional hospitality room and banquet night. Just like San Diego and Colorado Springs, Philly has a lot to offer and it has been hard to settle on just a couple of group events from so many possibilities. Pamela and I both wish we could spend some extra time in the cradle of liberty.

May you have fair winds and following seas.

Jim Smith

2018 Raffle Guidelines for Philadelphia

1. Please place a small note card describing your donation and your name. These will be attached to each of the items. If it is money or a gift card, please place them in an envelope with the above information. This will expedite the receiving process.
2. Due to many folks traveling by air, we **ENCOURAGE SMALLER ITEMS**...items that fit into a suitcase.

The RAFFLE will take place on Sunday Evening Only!

Nancy Hall is **looking for volunteers** (guys are welcome to assist) to help with the final sale of raffle tickets and running the gifts Sunday evening. Please contact-

Nancy Hall texasnana3@gmail.com or 469-556-6607.

USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Navy Reunion in Philadelphia, PA
September 27 – Oct 1, 2018

We are pleased to announce our stay will be at the Double Tree by Hilton Philadelphia Airport. 4509 Island Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19153. It is located just minutes from the Philadelphia International Airport www.philadelphiaairport.doubletree.com Amenities include Wireless Internet, on site restaurant & lounge, heated indoor pool, safe, coffee maker, handicap accessible rooms. This is a no smoking hotel with complimentary self-parking. Valet Parking is \$15 plus tax per night.

Blocked rooms are under the name **Floyd B. Parks DD884 Navy Reunion.** Reservations can be made directly by calling (215) 365-4150 ext. 33. Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Or call Hilton Worldwide Reservations 1-800-445-8667 after 5pm or weekends. Check in time 3pm and check out is 12noon.

Please note the cutoff date for reservations is Monday August 20, 2018. Do not wait. This hotel fills up fast. Reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. **The cancellation policy is 72 hours prior to arrival.** Failing to call or show before 2:00am after the first night of a reservation will result in cancellation of the remainder of your reservation. Contact the hotel directly.

The group rate will be offered 3 days pre and post of the reunion based on hotel availability.

Double and Queen rooms rates are \$139.00 plus tax. Discounted breakfast coupons @ \$14.00 per person inclusive of tax and service charges will be provided at check in. If you decide not to use the breakfast coupons, there will be no charge to you. Breakfast is served daily from 6am – 11am. There is a \$10 charge for each additional adult over 2 adults per room.

Transportation: Doubletree provides complimentary transportation to and from the Philadelphia Airport.

Philadelphia has a lot to offer, it will be another fantastic time.

Friday, September 28th: Philadelphia's History in the Military on the Battleship New Jersey

AMERICA'S MOST DECORATED BATTLESHIP: At the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial not only do you see exhibits of artifacts from the ship's past, but you are put into the exhibit as you go through the tour route. Sit in the chair from which Admiral Halsey commanded the fleet. Stretch out on the bunks where the sailors slept. Climb into the 16" gun turret and learn how the projectiles were loaded. Friday Night will be on your own for dinner. We will return to the hotel by 3:30pm.

Saturday, September 29th: Guided City of Philadelphia Tour

This tour includes historic district, Society Hill, Penn's Landing, Center City, Museum District and Park Service Tour of Independence Hall interior.

We will return to the hotel by 3:30pm

Saturday Night will be on your own for dinner

Sunday, September 30th: The men's meeting will start at 10:00am. Please attend for your Association updates. Following the men's meeting will be our worship service at 11:00am.

Sunday, September 30th: Our Banquet Dinner. A very special time to enjoy with friends, family and shipmates. *Memories to be made and shared.*

ACTIVITY FORM – Philadelphia, PA

Name (s): First		Last		Phone #		Email:	
1.							
2.							
3.							
Arrival Date:		Departure Date:		Home Town:			
The DoubleTree by Hilton Philadelphia provides complimentary transportation to and from the Philadelphia International Airport							
Rank/Rating on PARKS:		Dates served on ship:			New Attendee? Yes or No		
Day	Date	Activity	(A) Cost	(B) # of Peopl e	Total (A) x (B)		
Friday	September 28th	Philadelphia's History in the Military including Battleship New Jersey. Lunch on board	\$90				
Saturday	September 29th	Guided City of Philadelphia Tour Historic District, Society Hill, Penn's Landing, Center City, Museum District, Independence Hall Lunch at Maggianos	\$90				
Sunday	September 30th	Banquet Dinner	\$45		Sirloin with Demi Glaze		
					Chicken		
					Vegetarian		
		Total Cost					

Attach the activity form and your check made to **Floyd B. Parks Assn.** for the total activities you would like. **Mail activity form and check by August 15th to: Dennis Allion, 4 Los Encinos Dr. Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940**

Suggestions of things to do while in Philadelphia

Reading Terminal Market

Historic hub for eclectic foods & goods

Famous indoor farmer's market offering diverse fare, housewares & area specialties since 1892.

Eastern State Penitentiary

Historic prison with tours & exhibits

Gothic-style prison-turned-attraction with tours of Al Capone's cell, exhibits & a haunted house.

Longwood Gardens

Garden in the Chester County, Pennsylvania

Vast collection of vibrant flower gardens, a greenhouse & fountain shows

Chaplains Corner

Greetings Shipmates,

I hope this note finds everyone doing well. We have been hot and dry here for several weeks and conditions are getting bad for crops in our part of the world. Not much news to pass on from our last newsletter except to share three more names for the taps list.

† Tony Allou	'58 -'60
† Raymond Fenno	'60 -'61
† Stephen Novotney	'70 - '72
† John Sindy	'45 - '46

Our numbers grow shorter rather fast it seems. Please get your plans made and be in Philly for the reunion. If anyone has any concerns or knows of someone I missed please let me know. The Lord has blessed the Parks crew with a lot of years together and many happy reunions so keep those in your thoughts who have gone to a better place. Those unable to attend due to age and illness, you are in our prayers and will be missed. I am sorry to miss this year but will return. Have a great Philly reunion and safe travel.

May God bless and keep you safe as always.

David Lewis, MM3 '70-'73, Association Chaplain

(If you know of someone that is ill or has passed away, please email or call me so I can share with the Parks Family idawdle@nemr.net 660-216-0055)

Our sincere thank you to those who have paid their \$10 dues for 2018!

Dues pay for the administrative cost of keeping the USS FLOYD B. PARKS website up and running, for the mailing of newsletters, insurance, IRS filing fee, and other minor administrative cost. **If you owe dues** please make \$10/year payable to USS FLOYD B PARKS ASSN and mail to 4 Los Encinos Drive, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940-5610

Please help us keep track of shipmates who have either passed away or moved – hard to keep up when we don't hear from folks. My phone number is 831-915-0857; always happy to hear from you. If I can't answer your call, please leave me a voice message.

Sincerely,

Dennis Allion, Your Association Treasurer

BIRTH OF THE NAVY

Floyd B Parks Newsletter

August, 2018

On Friday, October 13, 1775, meeting in **Philadelphia**, the Continental Congress voted to fit out two sailing vessels, armed with ten carriage guns, as well as swivel guns, and manned by crews of eighty, and send them out on a cruise of three months to intercept transports carrying munitions and stores to the British army in America. This was the original legislation out of which the Continental Navy grew and as such constitutes the birth certificate of the navy. In later years, it became known as the United States Navy. On Saturday, October 13, 2018, the U.S. Navy celebrates its 243rd birthday.

From that humble beginning in 1775, based on public reports, our great navy has grown to approximately 430 ships in active service, on reserve, or under construction. The U.S. Navy is the largest in the world; its battle fleet tonnage is greater than that of the next 13 largest navies combined, and includes Aircraft Carriers, Amphibious Assault Ships, Cruisers, Littoral Combat Ships, Destroyers, Frigates, and Submarines.

The F.B. Parks, being a destroyer, was a fast warship, which provided multi-mission offensive and defensive capability, independently or in fleet support. The evolution of destroyer escorts' design dates back to 1939, when the United States and its allies faced a threat from German submarines, whose numbers threatened to close Atlantic sea lanes, jeopardizing the war effort in Europe. At first, destroyers were not available in sufficient numbers or organized to counter this menace. The Battle of the Atlantic was decisively won, due in no small measure to the arrival of specialized "destroyer escorts" (DEs).

In 1940, as part of a crash program, the Navy awarded a Maritime Commission contract to Consolidated Steel Corporation, in Orange, Texas, to build twelve Fletcher-class destroyers, twenty-seven Gearing-class destroyers, and eventually 102 destroyer escorts. At its peak, the Orange yard employed 20,000 people.

Over a 19-month period beginning in November 1941, the U.S. Navy placed orders for 1,005 destroyer escorts in six classes with a variety of shipyards around the United States. By September 1943, as conditions improved in the Atlantic arena, some orders were cancelled.

The USS Floyd B. Parks (DD-884) was launched on March 31, 1945, and commissioned exactly four months later. Since the beginning of the Navy in 1775, she was just one of many ships that carried America's best men into and out of battle. She did her job and they did theirs. Both returned home with great pride, having given their very best.

This story was written and shared by Marilyn Wosick (Adam Wosick's wife)

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**U.S.S. FLOYD B. PARKS
DD884 ASSOCIATION**

Dennis Allion
4 Los Encinos Drive
Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940

August, 2018

