



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

“The Fightin Floyd B”

February, 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION’S PRESIDENT

Greetings from the frozen North! I hope many of you are enjoying some time in a warmer climate.

The Officers are moving forward with a couple items worth mentioning. Dennis Allion has put in some long hours using his spreadsheet talents and we now have an updated and combined roster that has active, inactive and deceased members all in one document. Dennis also created a new easily updated dues roster. On that same subject, I have given myself a severe verbal reprimand for letting January 1 slide by without sending in my own dues, and as they say, “the check is in the mail”. Please keep the Association in mind when you go to the mailbox. So far only about half of our active membership is current with dues.

My wife Pamela has identified several highly recommended group activities for the Twin Cities reunion and we have started a preliminary site search for September 2016. See her portion of the Newsletter for details.

As I write this, we have had some minor delays in getting the Buffalo Memory Book to you. Hopefully by the time this Newsletter arrives, you will have received the Book. In any case we apologize for the longer wait time this year.

In addition to notifying the Chaplain, when members and family members are ill, or when someone has passed, please notify me so that I can send get well /sympathy cards on behalf of the Association. I would prefer email notification if convenient when a need is identified, but feel free to leave a message on my phone with the information.

Jim Smith, Association President

SHIPMATES SAVE THE DATE!!

**MINI REUNION LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2015
Imperial Beach FRA Branch 289
659 Silver Strand Blvd
Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0097
Tel: 619 423-4289**

All Hands on Deck ~ news you have all been waiting for! *The San Diego Mini Reunion Luncheon* is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2015 at 12 noon at the FRA in Imperial Beach.

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this fun filled afternoon to catch up with friends, hear more “sea stories” and to see each other again at the start of the New Year. This will be the first reunion hosted by Janet Romero (daughter of Jake Romero – USS FB Parks 1948/1952), and we are hoping for a good turnout. The FRA will once again serve up their delicious beef pot roast with side dishes and salad along with dessert. The cost for the lunch will be \$14 per person which will be collected at the door.

Since the mini reunion luncheon will be here before you know it, please R.S.V.P. to Janet Romero as soon as possible so she can get a head count for the lunches to be served. You can **call Janet at (626) 483-1263 or (213) 891-8628** and leave word or email her directly at jlromero311@verizon.net. Please be sure to give your full name, guest name(s) and/or the amount of people that will be joining you at the luncheon. Come early to sign in and hook up with old friends. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you that can make it to the event, and will miss those who cannot. *See you soon!*

Janet Romero, Mini Reunion Coordinator

Welcome to Minneapolis, MN Reunion 2015
The dates of the reunion are September 14 -21 2015

This year we are pleased to announce our stay will be at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites, 3 Appletree Square, (I-494 & 34th Ave south) Bloomington, MN.** www.ihg.com/crowneplaza
The hotel has just completed a renovation which means upgraded rooms with HDTV's, indoor pool, whirlpool, sauna, fitness center, refrigerators and microwaves in every guestroom, *complimentary* hi-speed wireless in all guestrooms, *complimentary* 24 hour airport shuttle service, *complimentary* onsite parking, *complimentary* Mall of America shuttle service during mall hours, *complimentary* USA today newspaper delivered to guestrooms. This is a no smoking hotel.

We have blocked rooms under the name USS Floyd B Parks Reunion. Because this hotel is so close to the Mall of America it does fill up so please book your reservations as early as you can. The cutoff date for reservations is **Monday, August 17, 2015.** **Please do not wait.**

After this date we cannot guarantee the room rate.

We have 2 options for rooms: Two-double nonsmoking \$99 a night or a Suite rate of \$129 a night.

Please call directly at 1-877-227-6963 or call the group reservationist, Linda directly at [952-876-8707](tel:952-876-8707) or via e-mail at lkf@cpsuitesmsp.com Please use the reference **GROUP CODE: USS Floyd B. Parks Reunion or FBP . Reservations must be made by **August 17th 2015.****

Now for the FUN!!!!

Activities will start on Friday mid-morning offering three choices. Below will give you an idea of what each activity consists of to spark your interest. There will be more details in the May newsletter for cost and actual time agenda. You can sign up for any one of the 3 activities.

Friday, September 18, 2015

- Minnesota Center for Glass Arts - www.mnnglassart.org This is a wonderful Glass Art demonstration/narration providing entertaining up close look at glass art, how glass is manipulated to create beautiful works of art. This is one of the most popular tours and is highly recommended by the Convention Bureau. The demonstration is about 1 ½ hours
- Mill City Museum/Tour – www.millcitycuseum.org built into the ruins of what was once the world's largest flour mill (Gold Medal Flour), Mill City Museum is located on the historic Mississippi Riverfront. This is a guided bus tour where you will stay on the bus and tour Minneapolis historic neighborhoods, industries that made Minneapolis and the warehouse district. So if you want to sit back and enjoy the sights it's a great way to learn and see the historic Minneapolis riverfront. This tour is 1 -1/2 hours
- Minnesota Air National Guard Museum/Tour – www.mnangmuseum.org This Museum is home to more than 6,000 artifacts and objects, including books, photographs, slides and videos. It has one of the largest displays of military aircraft in the five state areas! With 21 aircraft displayed in the air park including fighters, cargo planes, helicopters, and utility aircraft used by the US military from pre-WWII to the present day. In the hangars are displays and artifacts that include ejection seats, flight simulators, jet and piston engines, plus weaponry from WWI to present day. There is also the Doolittle and Tuskegee Airmen exhibits. This is a narrated tour which lasts about 1 ½ hours.

All activities will depart mid-morning and all last about 1 ½ hours. **All groups** will then head over to the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum for lunch. **Please note** because we will be on an active air base for lunch, **it is required for everyone to provide their first, middle, last name, Date of birth and state Driver's License.** This will be requested on the activities form in May. Friday night we will have dinner together at the hotel with a very special Minnesota tradition for entertainment. So don't miss it!

Saturday, September 19, 2015

- We have a great day planned! Buses will be leaving mid-morning for a 2 hour Mississippi River Cruise serving lunch onboard. We will be boarding the Anson Northrup Padelford Riverboat for lunch and a wonderful narration of the Historic Mississippi River. Maybe even see some fall colors along the way. We will be back to the hotel by 3pm. www.riverrides.com

We have heard many of you request free time, so with that being said Saturday evening will be on your own. Below are suggestions for more things to see and do in the Minneapolis area.

Sunday, September 20, 2015

Sunday morning will be the normal routine. Men's meeting and worship service in the morning and then gather for pictures, banquet, and raffle in the evening. Times will be announced in May newsletter.

More things to do in the Minneapolis/ St Paul area! Suggestions for Dining will be in the May newsletter.

- **The Mall of America** is only a few minutes away. It is the largest shopping and entertainment complex in the U.S. With more than 520 shops and 50 restaurants. A must for the shopper. www.mallofamerica.com
- **Landmark Center**, Built in 1902 was formerly a federal court house, post office and the site of the famous 1920's gangster trails. www.landmarkcenter.org
- **America Swedish Institute**, A museum and cultural center housed in the 33 room 1908 Turnblad Mansion. With focus on modern Swedish and Nordic culture. www.asimn.org
- **Summit Brewing Company Tours** Established in 1986 the third largest brewery in Minnesota housing copper kettles from Germany. Free tours/ Reservations required. www.summitbrewing.com
- **Cathedral of St. Paul**, One of the largest church buildings in North America, seating for 3,000. 175 foot high copper dome and six chapels. www.cathedralsaintpaul.org
- **Mystic Lake Casino**, Vegas style entertainment with 100 blackjack tables, 4,000 slots plus top names in the entertainment industry. www.mysticlake.com
- **Minneapolis Institute of Arts**, Home to more than 80,000 works of art representing more than 5,000 years of world history. www.artsmia.org

Misc. notes: If you are interested in helping the committee with the Minneapolis reunion please give either Pamela Smith or Theresa Allion a call or send us an email.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Minneapolis in September.

ASSOCIATION DUES

Dues are \$15 a year and **due each January 1st. Please make your check payable to:**

FLOYD B. PARKS ASSN

Mail your dues and donation payments to:

FLOYD B PARKS ASSN

c/o Dennis Allion

4 Los Encinos Drive

Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940

As before, if you send extra money over and above your \$15, please write on the memo line of your check what the extra is for...an extra years dues?...donation to the association?

If you have any questions about whether you owe dues or not, just call Dennis Allion at 831-915-0857 or email to fbparksdd884.treas@gmail.com

So far we have received dues from approximately half the active members. In many cases individuals have included donations in addition to dues. Thank you for your continued loyal support of the association.

Dennis Allion, Treasurer

If you do not have an email or have specifically asked for a mailed copy you will receive your newsletter by US mail. The Newsletter will also be posted on our website at www.ussfloydbparks.org.

From the Chaplains Corner
David Lewis,
PARKS Assoc. Chaplain

Greetings from the Chaplains Corner,

We are finally in the cold of winter for some of us. I keep getting reports from Harry in Florida about how miserable and hot it is there. I am sure glad some of you still have to keep cool.

Since our last newsletter I have had to add two more names to my "Taps" list and with great sadness we will all mourn the loss of shipmates Edson Whitaker 47-50 and Cecil Alexander "49". Our prayers are with the family of each.

Also news about Ron Woodring and trouble with cancer has us all looking to send our prayers up for him. As we get older we start to see more and more how fragile life on this earth is. We can with our faith and hope know that a better home awaits us and our passing friends and family are finding that today.

I have been traveling some and visited the Kotulski and Elmore families in the Chicago area and my wife's family in Indiana. Seeing old shipmates for a visit does make the time in winter more fun. As I close this news please keep all Parks crew in your thoughts and when you can, call someone and just say hi. Life is fun with friends, but only if we remember each other and the reason for our time together.

May God bless and keep us all.

Until next time,

David Lewis, MM '70-'73

(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)

HIS STORY

Floyd B. Parks Newsletter

February 2015

Readers were invited, in the last Newsletter, to tell about their Navy experiences aboard the Floyd B. Parks. Several of you have responded and we encourage others to join in by sending your stories. **Leland Boulet, SN**, of Puyallup, WA served from 1954 to 1956. This is his story.

“The day after high school graduation, in 1954, I headed for San Diego, CA and ‘boot camp’. Upon completion, I was assigned to the USS Floyd B. Parks. A shipmate told me, ‘You’re really lucky. We are heading overseas next week.’ Steaming toward the Orient, I watched airplanes taking off and landing on aircraft carriers and I just couldn’t believe my good fortune.

“Months later we took another trip and this time, on March 11, 1956, we encountered a serious problem in the China Sea while executing a practice maneuver with the Seventh Fleet.

“Asleep in my bunk, I was awakened by a BANG, BANG, BANG. I thought we must be at war! I hurried to my battle station, but when I got to Mt 51 there was a drop off. The bow had been cut completely off, and I saw it float off to sea.

“I then ran back to mid ship for muster. The decks were covered with debris. Lights were shining from the two ships, the cruiser Columbus and our destroyer, the Parks. The sterns were smashed together and the screws from both ships were churning like eggbeaters.

“A sailor in the water was being pulled in the direction of those churning screws. I couldn’t figure out why no one was in the water trying to help him. They may have thought they would be pulled under in the churning water, but I didn’t take time to think about that. I just went over the side and into the water. Someone threw me a life ring with a rope and I put it around the man in the water and we were both pulled aboard.

“What I can still hear and think about, all these years later, is that another sailor was yelling, “HELP! HELP!” from out in the black water where no one could see him. Afterwards I was so exhausted, but there was nothing else that I could have done. I was only 18 years old at the time. I later receive a nice letter and the Navy Marine Heroism Medal for my part that day.

“The collision at sea occurred because the heavy cruiser, Columbus, executed the signal too early before the rest of the fleet executed.”

Submitted by A. Wosick, '45-'46

Email your story to: wosick@comcast.net

Or, mail to: 3447 SE Shoreline Drive, Corvallis, OR 97333

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FEBRUARY 2015