



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

February, 2018

Greetings from the frozen North,

I hope you and your families in the rest of the country have avoided serious disruption or damage from the recent round of storms, floods and fires. Pamela has good friends in three separate areas of Florida that were all lucky to escape without much harm to persons or property. By comparison, it makes our -35' degree nights and mornings a minor inconvenience.

Following two super West coast reunions, we are heading east. Although we have had several requests for a South coast reunion, in light of the recent weather events we focused on the Northern East coast for a reunion site. Reunion Twenty-Six will be held in Philadelphia, the birthplace of our Constitution. Your TDY Quarters will be the Doubletree by Hilton Airport. The Hotel is close to the newly renovated Navy Yard where some of you may have spent some time, and to the historically rich area around the site of the Constitutional Convention.

Because of one-time scheduling issues, we have had to adjust the dates of the reunion to the last weekend of the month, Thursday September 27th to Monday October 1st. With the continued improving national economy, there is a lot of demand for large blocks of hotel space, and it is a seller's, not a buyer's market.

Tentatively, we are trying to arrange an off-site group dinner for early Friday night. Saturday will be a group outing with Saturday night on your own. Sunday will be our regular schedule with the Men's meeting and church services in the morning, and photos followed by the formal banquet Sunday evening.

On a somber note, the Association has recently lost three more Plank Owners, and our Memorial Roster continues to grow. Please keep all of our shipmates and families in your thoughts and prayers.

May You Have Fair Winds and Following Seas. See You in Philly!
Jim Smith, Association President

SHIPMATES

Mini Reunion, SATURDAY, To Be Announced

Imperial Beach FRA Branch 289

659 Silver Strand Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91933-0097

Janet Romero is working on a Mini Reunion - date to be announced! Those that have attended in years past will be notified with an addendum to this newsletter! For those that would like to attend and have not been to a reunion in the past, please email Janet directly to receive the addendum at

jlromero311@verizon.net

Janet Romero, Mini Reunion Coordinator

**USS Floyd B Parks 2018 Reunion
Philadelphia, PA,
September 27 – October 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 Philadelphia International Airport. www.philadelphiaairport.doubletree.com You will feel welcomed at Doubletree with their warm chocolate chip cookie at check-in. Amenities include Wireless Internet, on site restaurant & lounge, heated indoor pool, safe, coffee maker, handicap accessible rooms. This is a no smoking hotel. Complimentary self-parking. Valet Parking is \$15.00 plus tax per night.

Blocked rooms are under the name USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Military Reunion. Please wait until February 5, 2018 to call to make your reservation. They are currently setting up the block of rooms. **Reservations can be made by calling 215 365-4150 ext.33 Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Hilton Worldwide 1-800-445-8667 after 5pm or weekends.**

The cutoff date for reservations is **Monday August 20, 2018. Please do not wait. September is a very popular month for conventions in this city and the 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. The group rate will be offered 3 days pre and post of the reunion based on hotel availability.

Double and Queen Room 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. 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.

Friday, September 28th – Dinner and Tours to be determined.

Saturday, September 29th – Day Tour to be determined /Dinner on your own.

Sunday, September 30th – Banquet Dinner

Things to do in the Philadelphia area.

- ❖ National Constitution Center
- ❖ Longwood gardens.
- ❖ Navy Yard
- ❖ Franklin Institute

More information on agenda and tours in the MAY newsletter.

See you in Philadelphia.!

Greetings,

I pray this finds everyone happy in the New Year and all is well. We started out with an old fashioned winter with most in the country. I know some of you only have white sand instead of snow. You have my prayers that will change.

Since our last reunion I have received word that more shipmates have passed.

- James Cahill, Plank Owner, passed away in December;
- Ron Woodring and Jim Gager passed away last November
- George Talbert and Duane Vedders passed away in October

Our love and thoughts need to keep them alive in our memories.

With plans coming together for our next reunion, our planning group needs to be in our prayers also as they work through the maze of plans.

Eight of us from the Parks crew along with our wives are going to have a mini reunion in Florida this February, so think of us as we travel to be safe.

Until next time, may the Lord bless and keep YOU safe.

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. You are helping 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.

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 please leave me a voice message.

We spent \$8,165 more than we had in receipts last year – this difference was attributed to reunion expense (almost all attributed to the Sunday Banquet which the Association paid for as approved by the membership). There was \$77,837 in the bank as of 12/31/2017. Membership numbers are shrinking and we want to take care of those who have been loyally helping to support the Association. If money is a problem please let me know – there are a number of members who have contributed a bit more to cover for those who cannot pay.

Sincerely, **Dennis Allion**, Your Association Treasurer

OFFICERS

| | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| President - Jim Smith, STG2 '72-'73 | jwsmith@paulbunyan.net | 218-224-3581 |
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| Event Planner – Pamela Smith | ppog3_52@yahoo.com | 612-290-4465 |
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**U.S.S. FLOYD B. PARKS
DD884 ASSOCIATION**

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February, 2018

