



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

July, 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Land of 10,000 Lakes and many, many, more biting, stinging, and blood sucking bugs. Throw two new puppies into the equation and so far it has been an interesting start to the summer.

The highlight so far was to be able to recognize and honor my community's last D Day landing veteran at our Memorial Day ceremony. We have managed to keep an important small town tradition alive with ceremonies at three cemeteries, laying a wreath at the lake landing for our sailors, and a remembrance program at the local school.

Your Event Planner has been processing registration forms, and I am pleased to report that we have several new members signed up already. Also, we will be seeing some familiar faces that haven't been able to attend in a while. Welcome back.

The Colorado event schedule has come together without a hitch. The **early July 11 deadline** is necessary because two of the events, (Gorge Train and Garden of the Gods) are in very high demand and large groups have to be scheduled early on. Additionally, as another example of the need for early scheduling, when Pamela checked on comfortable buses in early April, we got the last ones available. Please pay close attention to her specific information elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We have been receiving some good feedback from those already registered on the train - lunch menu choices and the fact that Pike's Peak is literally right behind the hotel. While they say you can't please everyone every time, I am confident that your Association is going to provide you a quality experience both in terms of the activities, and our time at the Marriot from your registration to your last complimentary made to order breakfast buffet.

You're Event Planner and I will be on site by Tuesday evening, and the Officers and Helpers will have the hospitality room open starting Wednesday evening. For those who were at Minneapolis, please remember to bring your Floyd B. Parks lanyard for your nametags. For first time attendees, bring your spare address labels for use on the tickets for our super raffle prizes.

The men's meeting is scheduled for 0930 Sunday. There is a lot to cover, and Dennis and I intend to present several items of new business that will require some discussion time. Thanks to all who took the time to complete the survey forms at Minneapolis. The results will be used going forward in planning future reunions.

Fair winds and following seas to All! Jim Smith

Welcome to Colorado Springs, Colorado Reunion September 14-19, 2016

Our hotel this year will be the Marriott Colorado Springs. Located at 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO. www.marriott.com/cosmc the hotel has beautiful views of Pikes Peak and I encourage you to make your reservations early. Hotel services and amenities include free parking, complimentary wireless internet, on site restaurant, Starbucks, safe, coffee maker refrigerators and handicap accessible rooms. This is a no smoking hotel.

Rooms are blocked under the name **USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Military Reunion**. Call the 24 hour reservations line at 1-800-932-2151 or call the group coordinator at 719 268-4218.

Ask for the USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Military Reunion. **Please be aware the cutoff date for hotel reservations is Friday, August 12, 2016**. Reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a credit card. Cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival.

Room Options: The standard room rate is \$122.00 and the Junior Suite is \$152.00. The Junior Suites are limited and are going fast. The rooms can be viewed on the hotel's website.

www.marriott.com/cosmc we have negotiated **both rates to include hotel shuttle service to/from Colorado Springs airport and a wonderful hot breakfast buffet each day for 2 per room. If you are planning on taking the hotel shuttle mark yes on your activity form along with your airline, date and arrival/departure.**

We have secured a discount with United and Delta Airlines through Travel One Travel agency. The discount applies for both Colorado Springs and Denver airports. Both airlines are offering a 2-10% discount, depending upon class of service purchased.

Please call 844-704-8264 or email grouptravel@traveloneinc.com call between 8:00am and 6:00pm CT M-F. Tell them that you are attending the Floyd B Parks Navy Meeting. You will be asked to provide your full legal name as it appears on the ID used at airport security, date of birth, and credit card information. There is a \$25.00 per ticket booking/processing fee in addition to the cost of the airfare. This is the same amount the airlines would charge if you were to call them for your reservation.

Working with Travel One offers the benefit that if you had a problem during your travel you can call the agency who will be more efficient at fixing things than the airlines.

This service is being provided to help make your travel easier. You are not required to use it.

Colorado Springs... We have a fun reunion planned at a fantastic location, please join your shipmates and Parks family. We are dead center on having a good time

ARE YOU READY!!!!!!

Friday, September 16, 2016

- ❖ **Royal Gorge Route Railroad Train.** Our journey begins at the historic Santa Fe Depot, riding along the winding Arkansas River, with high desert vistas and dramatic views of the 1,000 foot granite cliffs. This is an unforgettable trip through Colorado's grandest canyon. We have a delicious Oktoberfest lunch onboard with cash bar. Pamela will be calling you for your lunch choices. If wheelchair assistance is needed please advise Pamela on your activity form. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:30am and be back to the hotel by 4pm. **Space is limited on this tour return your activity form early.** www.royalgorgeroute.com

Friday evening will be on your own for dinner. There will be dining & shopping guides for suggestions in the hospitality room.

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **National Museum of WWII Aviation.** There is no other museum in the U.S. focused solely on the important story about WWII aviation and its heroes. A national story for every American. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:45am and be back to the hotel by 3pm. www.worldwarIIaviation.org we have a great lunch scheduled at the Airplane Restaurant whose centerpiece is a fully intact Boeing KC-97 tanker. It is rich in aviation history, displaying 100's of pictures and memorabilia. www.theairplanerestaurant.com

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **Garden of the Gods & Chapel Tour.** Voted the #1 park in the country. Do you like grand views and incredible photos? There is no shortage of scenic spots in this picturesque park. Beautiful and Majestic! This is a bus tour with a couple of stops. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:15am and be back to the hotel by 3pm. www.gardenofgods.com we will have lunch at Mother Muff's Kitchen & Spirits in Old Colorado City. www.mothersmuffs.com

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **U.S. Olympic Training Center** Where America's Olympic Athletes Train. Experience what it takes to turn Olympic dreams into reality. This tour starts with an inspirational 12 minute film and 45 minute outdoor walking tour of the training complex, including Weight lifting, Aquatic center and the Sport Gymnasiums center. Buses will load from the hotel at 9:00am and be back to the hotel by 3pm www.teamusa.org we will have a wonderful lunch at BJ's Restaurant Brewhouse www.bjsrestaurants.com

Saturday, September 17, 2016

- ❖ **Saturday Night Dinner.** Saddle up for some fun and Ya'll come join us. It's a country western BBQ hoedown. Get your cowboy hat and western duds out of the closet. We are going to have a Stompin' good time with some Two Steppin' Grillin' and Drinking Cold Beer. Again this year we will begin the raffle on Saturday night with some of the items and complete the raffle on Banquet night.

Sunday, September 18, 2016

- ❖ **The Men's Association meeting** will start at 9:30am. Please attend. There will be updates by your officers. Following the men's meeting our worship service with Chaplin David Lewis at 11am. Times for pictures will be changing to make it more comfortable and easier for you. More details regarding the Banquet dinner will be in the agenda at the reunion.

Things to do in beautiful Colorado Springs!

- ❖ **Historic Old Colorado City.** Locally owned specialty shops, art galleries. Outdoor cafes along the tree lined streets of Colorado Ave. www.shopoldcoloradocity.com
- ❖ **Mollie Kathleen Gold Mine.** Travel underground via elevator for America's only 1,000 foot vertical shaft gold mine tour. www.goldminetours.com
- ❖ **Miramont Castle Museum.** 1890's incredible Victorian style castle. It has 9 styles of architecture and 30 rooms on this magnificent property. www.miramontcastle.org
- ❖ **Pikes Peak – America's Mountain.** Take a 19 mile scenic journey encountering breathtaking scenery as you wind your way through an alpine wonderland. Consider any personal health issues because of altitude. www.pikespeakcolorado.com
- ❖ **Cripple Creek Colorado.** Historic town with museums, casinos. www.cripplecreek.com
- ❖ **Manitou & Pikes Peak Cog Railway.** Highest cog railway in the world ascends to summit of 14,110 feet Pikes Peak. Consider any health issues when thinking of doing this. www.cograilway.com

We have some tour deadlines which require the **activity form deadline to be July 11th 2016.** If you have a concern regarding this deadline **please give Pamela Smith a call (612 290-4465)**

ACTIVITY FORM – COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Name (s): First		Last		Phone #	Email:
1.					
2.					
3.					
Arrival Date:		Departure Date:		Circle one: Driving or Flying	
Request Hotel Shuttle from Colorado Springs Airport? Yes or No			Airline	Arrival Time:	
Rank/Rating:		Dates served on ship:		New Attendee? Yes or No	
Day	Date	Activity	Cost	# of People	Total
Friday	September 16 th Colorado's #1 Scenic Train	Royal Gorge Route Railroad Train ride Bus/Oktoberfest Lunch	\$75		
Saturday	September 17 th Lunch @ The Airplane restaurant www.TheAirplaneResturant.com	TOUR #1 National Museum of WWII Aviation Bus, Lunch	\$50		
Saturday	September 17 th Lunch @ Mother Muff's Kitchen www.mothermuffs.com	TOUR #2 Garden of the Gods & Academy Chapel Bus Tour Lunch	\$60		
Saturday	September 17 th Lunch @ BJ's Restaurant www.bjsrestaurants.com	TOUR #3 U.S. Olympic Training Center Bus, Lunch	\$50		
Saturday	September 17 th	Hotel Dinner Western BBQ Country Western Dance Band	\$35		
Sunday	September 18th	Banquet Dinner	\$35		Chicken Breast
					Broiled Top Sirloin
					Vegetarian Wellington
Total Submitted for ALL Events and Meals			\$		

Attach the activity form and your check made to **USS Floyd B. Parks Assn.** for the total activities and mail your activity form/check by **July 11th** to: **Dennis Allion, 4 Los Encinos Dr. Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940**

From the Chaplains Corner
David Lewis

Greetings to the Parks Crew,

I do hope this newsletter finds each of you well. Great news about Maggie Highton and her recent surgery. The last report I heard sounded great. Jim we have all kept both of you in our prayers and this proves the power of our efforts.

I received news of the loss of two more shipmates. Elaine Ezell, a relative of Arthur Miller shared Arthur died December 15, 2015. He was on the PARKS crew from 1949 to 52. Eleanor Minnock shared that Francis (Frank) died in May 2015. She thought she had written to all the ship's associations, but missed ours. Frank was on PARKS from 48-52 and served nearly 30 years in the Navy. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Diana and I just returned from a mini reunion with the Halls, Elmore's, and Kotulskis. We had a great time in down town Chicago among other fun places. I hope to visit a few other shipmates before September.

We are all looking forward to Colorado and some relief from our heat and dry weather in Missouri. Please keep me informed of any needs that I can help with. May our lord keep us safe and well to be together soon.

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)

2016 Raffle Guidelines

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.
3. We will begin our Raffle Saturday night with some of the received items and complete the raffle on Sunday evening. Be sure to get your raffle tickets when you check in at registration.

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

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

From the Treasurer

Dues of \$10 per year are still needed from over half the members. Sincere thanks to those who have made their dues payments.

Please note the July 11th deadline for getting your Activity Form and checks to me for the Reunion in September.

I will give a full accounting of the Association's sources and uses of funds at the reunion.

Dennis Allion, Your Association Treasurer

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

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

JULY, 2016



Welcome to the Royal Gorge Region of Colorado!

**Colorado Springs Reunion
September 14-19, 2016**