



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

July 2019

Greetings from the land of 10,000 lakes and 10 billion mosquitoes.

Whether it is global warming or a bad luck year, many of our members have had a rough go from weather related issues and disasters. From the Russo's losing everything but their lives to the California fires, to anyone involved in agriculture along the Mississippi and Ohio River corridors, it has been a tough year. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

The New Orleans reunion is on track, with everything in place except the final numbers. The hospitality room will open Thursday. Friday is the WWII Museum, with lunch and live 1940s music. Saturday is the French Quarter, the waterfront, and lunch. There are bands at the casino both Friday and Saturday nights with seating for our reunion members. We will have a Color Guard for the banquet Sunday night from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Young Marines Program.

As usual, we are asking that anyone planning on attending the reunion to please get your reservations and activity forms in as soon as possible. July 31st is our last opportunity to adjust the number of rooms the hotel is holding for the Parks Reunion. After that, the Association will be responsible financially for rooms that are not filled and that the hotel doesn't sell to someone else. *Worst case, it's easier to cancel your hotel reservation at the last minute than to try and get a room on short notice.*

For Association members, the Men's meeting on Sunday morning will be the most important reunion event. We have decisions to make for the Parks Association and future reunions. There are several options to consider. Briefly, they are to continue our yearly reunions with help from professional planners; go to a regional mini-reunion - structure similar to the spring San Diego reunion; try to associate with some of our sister ships; or as recently suggested by Chuck Bussell, to join the yearly reunions planned and hosted by the Tin Can Sailor's Association.

As most of you are aware, our founding father Robby Robbins has passed. Without his dedication and hard work there would not be 26 years' worth of memories from wonderful reunions. He has positively touched hundreds of lives connected to his and our service on the USS Floyd B. Parks DD884. God Bless.

May You Have Fair Winds and Following Seas,
Jim Smith

USS Floyd B Parks DD884 Navy Reunion in New Orleans, LA
September 12 – 16, 2019

We are pleased to announce our stay will be at the Boomtown Casino & Hotel

4132 Peters Road, Harvey, LA 70058, approximately 15 minutes or 12 miles from downtown New Orleans on the Harvey Canal. www.boomtownneworleans.com

Amenities include Guest room Wi-Fi, Coffee maker & bottled water, mini fridge, hot coffee in lobby 24 hours a day, free hotel parking for cars & motorhomes, handicap accessible rooms.

Blocked rooms are under the name **RFLOYDB Navy Reunion**. Reservations can be made by calling 855-805-5596. Check in time 4pm and Check out is 11am. All reservations for arrival after 6pm must be guaranteed with a major credit card. They will not hold any reservations after 6pm unless secured by credit card.

We have tried to obtain transportation from the airport and have had no luck. You will need to set up your own transportation from the airport. It has been suggested to use taxi service or Uber.

Please note: we need to move up the date for final reservations which will now be Wednesday, July 31st in order to reduce the number of rooms we have blocked.

Reservations must be accompanied by a first night room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card. **The cancellation policy is 24 hours prior to arrival.** A limited amount of rooms will be available at group rate 3 days prior and 3 days following.

King/Queen room rate weekday \$99. (Sunday is considered a weekday)

King/Queen room rate Friday/Saturday \$129.00

Rate + tax per night + Amenity fee per night \$9.99 (Triple & Quad rates are \$20 more per guest per night)

Complimentary breakfast vouchers per guest (one each morning) based only on single & double occupied rooms. Must pay the triple & quad rate to receive additional breakfast vouchers.

Food credit of \$5.00 is applied to the reservation to deduct from charges of food or beverage to the guest room. Credit is applicable to the restaurants Bayou Market, BMX and Asia restaurant on property.

New Orleans has so much to see and is an amazing city to visit...

Friday, September 13th: New Orleans Super City Bus Tour (This is a full day tour)

Tour includes historic neighborhoods & cemeteries. Visit City Park one of the ten largest urban parks in America. See homes of the Kings & Queens of Mardi Gras and the world-famous Garden District. www.graylineneworleans.com we will be stopping for lunch in the French Quarter. After lunch you will have time to walk around the French Quarter to explore on your own before heading back to the hotel. ***We will return to the hotel by 4:30pm. Friday night will be on your own for dinner.***

Saturday, September 14th: The National WWII Museum Tour (This is a full day tour)

Founded in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum, this is an unforgettable way to experience WWII. This museum is the #1 New Orleans attraction and #8 museum in the world. This museum celebrates the American spirit, the teamwork and courage of the men & women who won world war II. There is so much this museum has to offer check it out. www.Nationalww2museum.org

Tour includes museum, *Beyond All Boundaries* narrated by Tom Hanks in the Solomon Victory Theater, Lunch and a performance by the Victory Belles singing musical hits Boogie Woogie, Bugle Boy, Chattanooga Choo Choo & more.

We will return to the hotel by 4:30pm. Saturday night will be on your own for dinner.

ACTIVITY FORM – New Orleans

Name (s): First	Last	Phone #	Email:
1.			
2.			
3.			

Arrival Date:	Departure Date:	Home Town:
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Boomtown Hotel does not have airport shuttle service, we are trying to secure some options details to follow.

Rank/Rating on PARKS:	Dates served on ship:	New Attendee? Yes or No
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Day	Date	Activity	(A) Cost	(B) # of People	New Attendee? Yes or No Total Cost (A) x (B) = (C) \$	
Friday	September 13th	New Orleans Super City Tour Lunch Explore French Quarter (all day tour)	\$85			
Saturday	September 14th	The National WWII Museum Tour Lunch/Entertainment	\$98			
					\$	
Sunday	September 15th	Banquet Dinner Member/Spouse/Honorary Member or Members Significant Other (No Cost)	\$0		Roasted Chicken Breast stuffed w/Tasso ham & Fontina cheese. Au Gratin Potatoes & Veg	
		----- Banquet Dinner All Other Guests please pay \$45/meal	----- \$45*		Blackened Gulf Fish, Garlic mashed Potatoes & Asparagus	
					Vegetarian Napoleon w/lemon & mushroom cream sauce	
					Total	

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 10th to: Dennis Allion, 4 Los Encinos Dr. Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940**

***Note: If you have guests for Sunday dinner, they cost \$45 per person, you cost \$0. Example – you and your spouse/significant other have two (2) guests for dinner on Sunday and you all want Chicken. Indicate 2 x 0 and 2 x \$45 in the B column for Roasted Chicken and \$90.00 in the C column. If no guests, then your cost is \$0.**

Please note we will not be able to have Bingo this year due to gambling restrictions at the hotel.

Sunday, September 15th: The men's meeting will start at 9:30am. Please attend for your Association updates. Following the men's meeting will be our worship service at 11:00am.

Sunday, September 15th: Our Banquet Dinner. Another special time to enjoy with friends, family and Shipmates. Make this year a part of your memories.

Some things to do in New Orleans (google top things to do in New Orleans)

- Bayou Boat Tours
- Steamboat Natchez Harbor Cruise
- Chalmette Battlefield – the site of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans
- Magazine Street
- Street cars
- St Louis Cathedral
- Frenchmen Street
- Royal Street

Our sincere thank you to those who have paid their \$10 dues for 2019!

Please mail activity forms and checks to *USS FLOYD B PARKS ASSN*, c/o Dennis Allion, 4 Los Encinos Drive, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940.

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

OFFICERS

President - Jim Smith, STG2 '72-'73	jwsmith@paulbunyan.net	218-224-3581
Vice President - John Hall, MM '70-'72	jmilanhall@gmail.com	469-556-6607
Sec. /Treasurer - Dennis Allion, ENS '72-'73	fbparksdd884.treas@gmail.com	831-915-0857
Master at Arms – Michael Shoen, MMFN '70-'72	mikelschoen@gmail.com	608-788-1589
Chaplain/Ships Store - David Lewis, MM3 '70-'73	idawdle@nemr.net	660-216-0055
Event Planner – Pamela Smith	ppog3_52@yahoo.com	612-290-4465
Newsletter – Theresa Allion	tjallion@sbcglobal.net	831-402-2764

AHOY!

I might have lost track of time as I just laid my mother to rest the first week of July at eighty-nine years of age. I want to thank each of you for your thoughts for my family and I for the loss of my mother.

I have a name for the taps list I did not want to see. Any ship mate we lose will forever be missed but Robby had a very special place in our lives. Two names is all I have for the taps list.

James P. Robbins "49-52"

Beverly Merle Brown "45"

If a name was missed, please let know. I like short lists if we have to have them. Any needs of prayers from any shipmate please let all know.

I plan to attend the USS INDIANAPOLIS Survivors reunion in a few days. They have less than ten sailors left. That makes our meeting again in New Orleans a must as we are all left to carry on as long as someone survives. That is what Robby would expect. Next port, New Orleans and a great liberty it will be.

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)



**IN MEMORY OF
James (Robby) Robbins**

On behalf of the Association we presented Robbie with a letter from the Tin Can Sailors that recognized his tireless quest to form the USS FLOYD B PARKS Association and conduct annual reunions. He told us that he truly loved the task and was grateful for all the shipmates that responded to his calls and letters.

Just a side note...Robby sent out thousands of postcards to prior Floyd B. Parks sailors - before the dawn of computers. He was proud to mention that over 200 showed up for the first reunion, August 13-15 in St. Louis Missouri.

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

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

July, 2019

