



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

“The Fightin Floyd B”

May, 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION’S PRESIDENT

Greetings from the unfrozen North.

Spring is a success if my septic system doesn’t freeze and the lake is ice free by the fishing opener. Unlike Chaplain Lewis, it’s not safe to start enjoying the new growing season until Memorial Day.

Reunion time is getting nearer day by day. This newsletter has more details for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday schedule. The registration form is a bit more complicated this year because of security requirements on the Air National Guard installation we all will be visiting on Friday for lunch. Please note the deadlines for hotel rooms and the activity form in the event planners information section.

The Minnesota Twins will be in town for a home stand most of the week. The Vikings schedule has not been released yet. If the St. Paul Saints make the playoffs they may be around also. All stadiums are accessible from the street car line that is a block away from the hotel. Additionally, Wayne Priddy has expressed interest in organizing a fishing expedition somewhere in the local area.

Thanks to Janet Romero and crew for hosting another successful mini reunion, with 30 attendees. I intend to talk up the idea of having regional minis at the September reunion. If anyone is interested in hosting, drop me a note.

As the Chaplain noted, we have lost two more long time Association members. Please keep their families in your thoughts, as well as our members and families who may be going through tough times.

May you all have fair winds and following seas.

Jim Smith



2015 Minneapolis Raffle

Nancy Hall and Kate White have accepted the leadership for putting the Raffle together in Minneapolis. Fran has done an outstanding job but when Bill and Sue stepped down as coordinators for the reunion, Fran asked to also retire her position at this time. Thank you Fran for the many hours you shared making the raffle such a success.

With new leadership comes new ways for receiving donations for the raffle. Nancy and Kate ask the following:

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 will fit into a suitcase.
3. NEW...we will begin our Raffle Friday 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 the registration table to be included in Friday night’s drawings.
4. Lastly, Nancy and Kate are looking for volunteers (guys are welcome to assist) to help them with the final sale of raffle tickets and running the gifts both Friday and Sunday evening. Please contact them at Nancy Hall texasnana3@gmail.com or Kate White at larkawhite0612@att.net
5. REMINDER: Bring address labels for your raffle tickets!

Welcome to Minneapolis, MN Reunion
September 14 -21 2015

We 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 complimentary hi-speed wireless in all guestrooms, complimentary 24 hour airport shuttle service, complimentary onsite parking. This is a no smoking hotel.

We have blocked rooms under the name USS Floyd B Parks Reunion. Please book your reservations as early as you can. The cutoff date for reservations is **Monday, August 17, 2015. After this date we cannot guarantee the room rate. We have a two-double bed room \$99 a night or a Suite rate of \$129 a night. The Suites are going fast. Please call 1-877-810-5190 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 Monday August 17th 2015.****

AND IT BEGINS!!!!

Activities will start on Friday morning with 3 activities to choose from. All buses for all 3 activities will start boarding at 9:45am and depart at 10:00am. You can sign up for any one of the 3 activities. **Please be down in the lobby by 9:30am.**

Friday, September 18, 2015

- Minnesota Center for Glass Arts - www.mnglassart.org a wonderful Glass Art Demonstration/narration providing 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 hrs. Please wear comfortable clothing and **closed toe shoes.** Remember you will be in a glass art studio. There are stairs only and no elevators so please keep this in mind when choosing this activity.
- Mill City Museum/Tour – www.millcitycuseum.org an architecturally stunning National Historic Landmark. Mill City Museum is located on the historic Mississippi Riverfront. This is a guided bus tour where you will stay on the bus. The tour will cover the history of sawmills and flour mills in Minneapolis. Some of places you will see include the Grain Belt Brewery and Boom Island, the site of a former log sorting station. Anyone interested in the history of Minneapolis and the industries that built this city would have a great time 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 area! 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. This is a narrated tour which lasts about 1 ½ hours and has a considerable amount of walking in the hangar and out to see the parked aircraft.

All groups will meet at the Minnesota Air National Guard 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 number or State ID#.** When filling out your activities form please include this information as requested.

Friday night we will have dinner together at the hotel. Our entertainment will be a Minnesota tradition. We have Rod Cerar and his band playing music from polkas to big band to country. Rod and his band currently star on the nationally broadcast cable TV show "Polka Spotlight" and on the national TV show "The Mollie B Polka Party." So bring your dancing shoes **It's Polka Time.**

Saturday, September 19, 2015

- Mississippi River here we come! Buses will be leaving promptly at 11:00am. We have a 2 hour Mississippi River Cruise with lunch on board the Anson Northrup. You will take in the beautiful sights along this historical narrated cruise. There will be a cash bar. Decks are enclosed heated and AC. We will be back to the hotel by 3pm. www.riverrides.com
- **Saturday evening** is free time to explore and enjoy what Minneapolis and St. Paul have to offer. Suggestions for things to see and do in the area will be in the August Newsletter. For those of you who prefer to stay at the hotel... Get ready we have **Bingo Night!**

Sunday, September 20, 2015

The Men's Association meeting will start at 10:00am. Please attend...this is *your* association and updates will be provided by your officers. Following the men's meeting our worship service with our Chaplin; David Lewis is at 11:00am. At 4:00pm pictures will start and dinner to follow along with the raffle.

We look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!

From the Chaplains Corner

Greetings from the Chaplains Corner,

Spring is finally here and our garden is half planted. I just love the growing season and all the new green. We all need to take a moment and notice Gods handy work and the fresh start we have each year.

As time marches on, the number of the crew grows less and less. We have lost two more members since our last newsletter. They are Edwin E. Breidenbach "45-46", Richard R. Williams, Sr. "45-46" and Ray Crabtree "61-68". Keep in mind that I count on all of you to pass on information about members and their families and the loss of one of them.

Each of us in the Parks Family has a chance to renew our friendship and the love we have for our organization. As we near our next reunion, let us pray that there are no more losses for us and that all can be in Minneapolis to enjoy the "grand renewing of old friends." I have been in touch with Pam and we discussed a few things she may try out, so look forward to a great gathering and the hope for new growth in this association.

May God bless and keep all safe for our next meeting.

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)

ACTIVITY FORM - MINNEAPOLIS

Name (s):			Date of Birth	Driver License# /State	Or State I.D. #
First	Middle	Last			
1.					
2.					
3.					
Arrival Date:			Departure Date:		
Rank/Rating:		Years on Board Ship:		Phone #:	

Day	Date	Activity	Cost	# of People	Total	
Friday	September 18th	TOUR #1 Minnesota Center for Glass Arts Bus, Lunch, Dinner Entertainment	\$60			
Friday	September 18th	TOUR #2 Mill City Museum Bus, Lunch, Dinner Entertainment	\$60			
Friday	September 18th	TOUR #3 Minnesota Air National Guard Museum Bus, Lunch, Dinner Entertainment	\$55			
Saturday	September 19th	Mississippi River Cruise Bus, Lunch	\$50			
Sunday	September 20th	Banquet Dinner	\$25		Turkey	
					Pork	
					Vegetarian-Ravioli	
			\$13.95 under 12		Children's Dinner	

Please use a separate piece of paper to include more attendee's names. Be sure to include name, date of birth, Driver's license/state or state ID#. Attach the activity form and your check made to **Floyd B. Parks Assn.** for the total activities you would like to attend. Please mail activity form and check to:

Dennis Allion 4 Los Encinos Drive, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940
(Because ALL tours will be having lunch on an active military base,
COMPLETED information at the top is necessary)

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

If I have not received \$15 from you for 2015 you will see a little reminder sticker in this section of the newsletter. No sticker means your dues have been received. Thank you!

Dennis Allion, Treasurer

March 21, 2015 ~

Mini Shipmate Reunion

Thanks to all who came to the luncheon on March 21. It was great seeing you all and I hope you all had a great time.

Special thanks to my crew who assisted me, Eleanor Romero, Vanessa Romero and Debbie St. Denis. I couldn't have done it without their help and support. The centerpiece arrangements were made by Janet Romero, Debbie St. Denis and Carole McGinnis (who could not attend).

I think all in all everyone had a wonderful time catching up with one another and hearing old war stories once again. I know I couldn't get enough of them myself.

I look forward to hosting the event again next year, so see you all then and hopefully more of you will be able to make it out!!

Thanks, Janet Romero



**Shipmates in attendance from the
USS Floyd B. Parks**

1st Row....Hue Blankenship, Joe Keeley, Larry Larson

2nd Row...Bob Bahler, Bob Wilson, Solomon Honeycutt, Bill Birdsong, Len Nielsen, Sam Wilcot, Gary Bingham, & Mel Wright

3rd Row...John Harville, Walter Soboleff, & Randy Scuria

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, MM '70-'73	idawdle@nemr.net	660-216-0055
Historian – Marie Sigmon, HON. MEM.	Marie.sigmon@yahoo.com	330-461-2534
Event Planner – Pamela Smith	ppog3_52@yahoo.com	612-290-4465
Newsletter – Theresa Allion	tjallion@sbcglobal.net	831-402-2764

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MAY 2015