



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

May 2019

Spring greetings from your USS Floyd B. Parks Association,

It's time to start the countdown to our next great reunion. The planning for New Orleans 2019 is complete except for minor details, and you are in for another super time. The hotel is only a few years old with nice rooms at a good price. The casino is on the water about 50 yards from the hotel. The parking is free, including motorhomes and 5th wheelers. There are 3 options for eating at the casino, and they are opening their breakfast buffet exclusively for the Parks reunion each morning (free).

The hospitality room and banquet room are across the 2nd floor foyer from each other, next to the elevator. The gambling area is at the far other end of the building, so if you aren't interested in gambling, you really won't notice that it is there. On the other hand, if you do gamble, drinks are free while you're playing. There is a small no smoking gambling area. The casino is on the South end of the suburb of Gretna, so there are shopping malls and lots of dining options within 5 miles of the hotel.

Pamela has all the details in this Newsletter. The short version is a day at the WWII museum complex, currently rated the 2nd most popular museum nationally. Day two will be the French Quarter and waterfront with tour, time to explore on your own, and lunch at a great restaurant that Pamela and I found during our site visit. There will be live entertainment at the casino both Friday and Saturday nights with reserved seating for our members. If you don't drive but want to explore on your own, there all kinds of small tour operators who will pick up at the hotel.

As a reminder to all Shipmates, come prepared for some serious talk at the Men's Meeting regarding options going forward for the future of the Association. Everything is open for discussion, and your officers will present some suggestions we have been exploring for your consideration. Come to the reunion and make your vote count.

LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULEZ

Jim Smith

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 |
| 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 |

**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. Located in Harvey, LA and is 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.

Please note it is very important reservations must be made by Monday August 5, 2019.

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.

You will need to set up your own transportation from the airport. We are trying to put together some options for you and when this is available, we will post in an email.

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: |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|

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 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|

| 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

Chaplains Corner

Greetings Shipmates,

Spring is here in my country at last! Diana and I have planted some of our garden and tomorrow, Good Friday we plant potatoes. Easter is here and hope as you read this you had a meaningful celebration. We all know the reason for Easter and besides remembering the good times as children we can all take a look at the past year and reflect on our position with our beliefs.

As always, I have the sad news of shipmates gone on to history.

| | | |
|----------------|-----|---------|
| Arlis Morgan | GM | '46-'51 |
| William Rucker | DC2 | '51-'53 |
| Kevin McCarthy | BM3 | '60-'63 |
| Lee Shilts | GM2 | '70-'73 |

I hope each of you put the lost in this letter in your hearts and minds. Gone but never forgotten. If any of you have information about any member or family, please let me know. Sounds like the reunion planning is picking up steam and we all need to start our own plans to attend. I am sure this one will sail into history as a great time for us to renew our friendships and tell more sea stories. Keep all the planners in your prayers and let's do our part.

May God bless and keep you till we meet in September.

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 2019!

Mail dues check 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

2019 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.

The RAFFLE will take place on Sunday Evening Only!

Nancy Hall is **looking for volunteers (guys are welcome to assist)** to help with the final sale of raffle tickets and running the gifts Sunday evening. Please contact-
Nancy Hall texasnana3@gmail.com or 469-556-6607.

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

Memory Book Coordinator

Marie Sigmund has been our Memory book coordinator for the past 5 years but must resign from her position. We need a volunteer to step forward to take on her position. This includes taking and acquiring photos from other shipmates at the reunion, writing up short stories on the places visited and the memories of our times together.

This person will also be responsible for working with the company that does the Memory Book.

If no one is willing to take this task on, we will cancel the Memory Book.

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

May, 2019

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

