



Call to Reunion 2015

19th Annual

Destroyer Leader Association Reunion, August 30 – September 5, 2015
Crowne Plaza Hotel – Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA

REUNION INFORMATION PACKET

Greetings shipmates of **USS NORFOLK DL-1; USS MITSCHER DL-2 / DDG-35;**
USS JOHN S. MCCAIN DL-3 / DDG-36; USS WILLIS A. LEE DL-4; & USS WILKINSON DL-5.

The Destroyer Leader Association invites all shipmates who served on any of the above ships at any time to attend the next reunion to be held in San Diego, CA from August 30 - September 5, 2015. A Hospitality Room will be provided for you to socialize with your shipmates and peruse photos, cruise books, or other memorabilia from your ship. This is the place to meet your old shipmates, make new friends, and retell all those sea stories! Your Reunion Planner has arranged two tours of many of the interesting attractions in the San Diego area.

Note that you do NOT have to be a dues-paying member of the Destroyer Leader Association, Inc., to attend the reunion. ALL former shipmates are invited to the reunion activities. However, you MUST be a dues-paying member in order to attend the Annual Business Meeting of the DL Association to be held in the hotel on Friday morning.

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

The host hotel for the 2015 reunion is the **Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, California.** Hotel room reservations must be made by you directly with the hotel by calling the **Reservations Department at 1-888-233-9527.** You must make your hotel reservation by **JULY 8, 2015** and ask for the Destroyer Leader Association **Group rate of \$105.00** to receive the discounted DLA rate. The Association is **NOT** handling any room reservations. A block of 50 rooms is being held until 5:00PM EDT, Wednesday July 8th, after which any unsold rooms will be released to the public and the group rate will no longer be available. If you need assistance, you may call the hotel directly @ 1-619-293-7302 M – F, 8 am – 4 pm. The Hotel will provide complimentary parking, including unoccupied RV's. The discounted room rate does include a breakfast Buffet in the hotel's restaurant for up to 2 persons per room.

Early Departure Fee: In the event that a guest who has a room reservation checks out prior to the guest's reserved checkout date, an early departure fee of one night's room and tax may be charged to that guest's individual account. Guests wishing to avoid this fee must advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in their scheduled length of stay.

Transportation Shuttle to & from the Crowne Plaza Hotel is by **Cloud 9 Super Shuttle.** You must make prior reservations & payment for R/T service. Call 1-800-253-3826 or visit their website www.cloud9shuttleservice.com. Be sure to ask for the Crowne Plaza discount of \$12.00 / PP each way from & to the airport.

FAMILY REUNION

Why not invite your family & friends to meet you in San Diego and have a mini-family reunion during the DL Association reunion. They can take advantage of the special reduced hotel rates, enjoy the area and go sightseeing with you. Especially they could visit in the Hospitality Room and learn of the history of the DL's/DDG's and your military service. Photos, scrapbooks, and verbal telling of sea stories would let them know what your Navy life was like. This is an excellent opportunity to pass on your military/patriotic service to our great country. Your family will develop a deeper appreciation of what you have done for them and your country.

2015 REUNION PLAN OF THE DAY

Monday, 31 August

0800 - 5 pm Hospitality Room Setup
1000 - 2 pm Early Registration
2:00 - 3:30 pm Pre Con Meeting
6:00 pm DLA Welcome reception

Tuesday, 1 September

0830 - 4:00 pm Hospitality Room Open
& Registration
3:00 pm Board of Directors meeting
5:00 pm **Optional - Baseball Game
or Spaghetti Factory**

Wednesday, 2 September

0800 - 4:00 pm Hospitality Room open If Volunteers
to man room available
0930 - 3:30 pm **Tour # 1 MIRAMAR Museum**
(Top Gun School) Lunch included.
DLA Memorial Service @ La Jolla Memorial site
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm DLA Hawaiian Buffet – Outside

Thursday, 3 September

0800 - 4:00 pm Hospitality Room open If Volunteers
to man room available
0900 - 3:30 pm, **Tour # 2 USS Midway** AM
Harbor cruise w/ Box Lunch PM
DINNER on your own: *Thursday evening*
7:30 Pm - 10:00 pm **DLA Annual Auction**

Friday, 4 September

0800 - 4:00 pm Hospitality Room open If Volunteers
to man room available
0930 - 1100 Members' Annual Meeting
On Your Own for the day to visit local sites
3:30 - 5:30 pm Individual & Couples Photos
5:45 pm Men in Uniform Photos
5:50 pm - 6:55 pm Ship Group Photos
7 :00 pm Seating for Banquet Dinner & program

Saturday, 5 September

0900 Chapel Service & Goodbyes - Hospitality room

PLEASE CHECK in the HOSPITALITY ROOM DAILY FOR CHANGES TO ABOVE...

ACTIVITIES

GENERAL

Following are descriptions of the many activities throughout the 2015 Reunion, depending upon minimums being met. All reunion activities are optional - you select which ones in which you want to join. We will try to keep the Hospitality Room will be open throughout most of the reunion.

The Hospitality Room will be located outside of the restaurant door up the stairs Paradise Cove Room. This is your "home away from home" during the reunion. It is the perfect place to greet old friends you haven't seen in years, meet shipmates you didn't know, and meet people who served at a different time but share your ship's heritage. Bring your cap, scrapbook, photo albums, & Navy memorabilia for display in the Hospitality Room. The Hospitality Room will be open most of the day for those not going on tours *if there are volunteers to stand watch during the tours*, otherwise it will close. **Call the reunion planner (Mike Bugara ,@1-401-635-8860 or Email @ mjbugara@hotmail.com) to volunteer.** The Hospitality Room will be closed during the Welcome Reception, and Banquet. **Food and beverage items provided in the Hospitality Room may not be taken from the room due to hotel contractual agreements. Private alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the Hospitality Room at any time for both legal and liability reasons.** (Adult beverages may be purchased from the hotel's bar near the Lobby.)

DISCLAIMER: The Destroyer Leader Association, Inc. does not serve alcoholic beverages at any reunion. Hospitality Suites that may be established in the reunion's hotel by any shipmate(s) are not endorsed by this organization nor are they affiliated in any way with the Destroyer Leader Association, Inc. nor will the Destroyer Leader Association, Inc. nor its Officers, Directors or Reunion Committee accept any liability for incidents stemming from the abuse of alcohol by any individual.

A "Welcome Aboard" Team will be at the Reunion Registration table in/near the Hospitality Room with an envelope in your name. This package will contain welcome letters, your name tag, a program, meal tickets and tour tickets for your selected activities, and other information.

The Ship's Store will take order only this year due to high cost of shipping ship's store material to the reunion. A "2015 Reunion Memories Book" may be ordered directly from the photographer on the night the couples/portraits are taken. If you want a Memory Book but are not attending the reunion, please contact your Ship Coordinator prior to the reunion. The photographer will be from Picture Day Photography of Mansfield, Ohio. A form will be in your Welcome package for the photo shoot. Please fill it out prior to the photos and bring it with you to speed up the process.

Tours Tour prices are based on a minimum of 35 paid passengers per tour as noted in the Tour descriptions. Each tour package price includes a deluxe Motor Coach, admissions as noted, meals as listed, and taxes. Boarding times of the coaches will be 15 minutes prior to listed departure times at the **Left** of the Hospitality room. Gratuities for drivers are included but also are left to each participant's discretion. ***First 2 rows are reserved Handicap & Bus monitor. A maximum of 55 passengers for Tours.*** If needed, a bus with one Wheelchair Spot will be reserved. That bus will have a maximum of 48 passengers. Please advise on your Registration Form if you WILL NEED this option. If no one requests the bus with a Wheelchair option, the bus capacity will be increased to 55 persons. **No on-site exceptions** will be made as the reunion planner must reserve this bus 60 days pre reunion date.

PLEASE bring or ship to the hotel a Gift to be auctioned off at the annual Auction It will be held Thursday night. This is the primary fund raiser for the DLA. It is funding from the Auction that allows us to maintain our website & and prepare and disseminate the Newsletters which you receive. Each newsletter's publication and printing (for members who do not have internet access) cost the Association (you) 350.00 per edition. Anyone bringing an item to donate for the auction is requested to place it in the Hospitality Room upon arrival at the reunion. If you plan to ship any items to the hotel prior to your arrival, it must not arrive more than 3 days before the reunion. It must be addressed as follows:

**Guest Name or Destroyer Leader Reunion
c/o Crowne Plaza Hotel
2270 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA. 92108**

Also include: **DL Association, att'n: Mike Bugara, August 30 – September 5, 2015**

REGISTRATION

The Welcome Aboard and Registration Table, located in the Hospitality Room, is where you pick up your reunion envelope, information, meal tickets, brochures, name tags, etc. Walk-ins may register here but meal, event and tour tickets will not be available after JULY 8th or for walk-ins. This is due to contractual agreements with the hotel and tour company. **Registration by mail will not be accepted after JULY 8th.** Anyone registering after JULY 8th is eligible to attend the reunion Hospitality Room, Board of Directors meeting, photo session, and business meeting only, as tickets for other events WILL NOT be available. **Absolutely no exceptions!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

Tuesday 3:00 pm

A brief meeting of the Officers and Directors will be held. However, any Destroyer Leader Association member may attend **as an observer** and all members are invited to do so. If you do plan to attend, please indicate this on the Registration Form.

BUFFET NIGHT

Wednesday 6:30 pm – 10:00 pm The Buffet will be held outside, weather permitting (and the weather is ALWAYS permitting in San Diego) **Bring your Hawaiian shirts for a wonderful Buffet with entertainment following the meal.**

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING:

Friday 0900 - 1100

The annual DLA membership Business Meeting will be held in the BAY Theater meeting room. Only DLA dues-paying members-in-good standing will be admitted. Please have your current membership card and/or have your name checked against the roster by a Master-At-Arms at the door. This important meeting will elect Board members/Officers for the coming years and conduct other matters of Association business, such as the location of future reunions. There will be an opportunity to meet with your Ship Coordinator at the conclusion of DLA business. Your Ship Coordinator is your ship's representative on the Board of Directors.

PHOTO SHOOT – COUPLES & INDIVIDUALS:

Friday 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Every reunion attendee is requested and encouraged to have a portrait photo taken as a couple or an individual for the Reunion Memories Book. The photo room will be located in the **Pre-Function area of Lahaina Bay Ballroom**. A professional photographer from Picture Day Photography of Mansfield, Ohio will be on hand to take the photos and later provide the Reunion Memories Book. Please fill out the Photo Information Card found in your Welcome Aboard Packet prior to coming for your portrait. Proofs will be mailed to you by Picture Day. You are given an opportunity to purchase a portrait, but you are not obligated to make any purchase. Purchasing a Memories Book is also optional, but your photo in the book would provide a memory to those attending and who do purchase the yearbook. So we ask all reunion attendees to have their portrait taken for the Memories Book. You are requested to begin the photo process early ... don't wait 'til 5:29! ... to allow time for everyone to be photographed. The Reunion Memories Book this year will be another high-quality book printed in color by a professional printing company on glossy paper. A book may be ordered even if you are not attending the reunion by contacting your Ship Coordinator.

PHOTO SHOOT – GROUPS:

Friday 5:45 – 6:55pm PLEASE BE ON TIME.....

Everyone is requested to quickly assemble near the Banquet room Behind the Pool area for group photos by ship. It is planned that the photos will be taken as follows:

5:45 all men in uniform	6:35 (McCain Ladies)
5:50 USS Norfolk	6:40 USS Willis A. Lee
6:00 (Norfolk Ladies)	6:45 (Lee Ladies)
6:10 USS Mitscher	6:50 USS Wilkinson
6:20 (Mitscher Ladies)	6:55 (Wilkinson Ladies)
6:30 USS John S. McCain	

Please assemble at the time shown for your ship. The group photos will be included in the Reunion Memories Book. **Photos times are very close to each other. If you miss your time SORRY!**

BANQUET:

Friday 7:00 pm w/Cash Bar

Enjoy your last night in a more formal setting. Coat and tie recommended for the gentlemen and corresponding dress for the ladies. Gentlemen are encouraged to wear their ribbons, medals, or mini-medals on their suit jacket. If you can still wear your uniform, please do so. Upon arrival at the reunion, see your Ship Coordinator in the Hospitality Room for Table Sign-up sheets to reserve a banquet table so you may sit with your shipmates or your friends. The doors will open for seating. Prior to dining, the DLA will present the **"Missing Shipmates Memorial Table"** ceremony, followed by the Invocation **Please wait until after the Invocation before beginning to dine**. Installation of Officers will follow dinner.. The dinner menu includes the following:

Choice of one entrée: Sliced and grilled Tri-Tip Steak
Grilled Chicken
Hanalei Baked Salmon

There will be a cash bar available. A 50/25/25 raffle will also be held.

CHECK OUT:

Saturday 0900 Chapel Service in the Hospitality Room – Goodbyes after the Service.

Please send in your Registration Form quickly so you won't miss ship's movement and be AWOL!

NAME TAGS

Members attending the reunion use permanent blue plastic laminated name tags. The name tag includes the attendee (or guest) name, rate, years aboard, ship name and hull number. Each year, a new reunion city tag (with year date) is added to the name tag. The reunion city tag (and metal rings for attaching to name tag) is included in the Registration Fee. Bring your previously issued name tag, and the city tag can be added at the Ship's Store when you pick up your Registration envelope. **ALL NAME TAGS are \$12.00 each.**

If you are a first-time attendee or have misplaced your name tag, a new permanent name tag as described above can be provided. Please fill out the information on the Registration Form for yourself and guest and include the price of the name tag with your Registration Payment. (If you do not need or desire a permanent name tag, do not include the price of the name tag in your payment.) Also, if you need a city tag for a previous reunion attended, that may also be ordered.

NOTE: The laminated nametags are fastened to your clothing with a magnetic device. If you have a Pacemaker, you should not use the magnet fastener. Please indicate on the Registration Form that you need a clutch pin attachment rather than magnets.

CANCELLATIONS / REFUNDS

The DL Association must pay the motor coach company and tour venues by JULY 8, 2015.

THE CANCELLATION POLICY IS THAT NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER JULY 8TH EXCEPT IN EXTREME EMERGENCY (SEVERE WEATHER, SERIOUS ILLNESS, DEATH, ETC. SUCH REFUNDS WILL BE HANDLED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AS REVIEWED BY THE DLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS.) ANY PARTICIPANT WHO DOES NOT SHOW FOR THEIR TOUR(S) BECAUSE THEY FORGOT, OVERSLEPT, CHANGED THEIR MIND, ETC. WILL NOT RECEIVE A REFUND.

The minimum for any tour to run is 35 paid passengers as noted with the tour description. If less than 35 sign up for a tour, then your money will be refunded after the reunion. The maximum for Tours is 55 persons.

No refunds for meals will be made after JULY 8, 2015, as final guaranteed numbers must be given to the hotel and paid as of that date. **Same cancellation policy applies for meals as for tours above.**

If you must cancel your trip to the reunion, remember YOU must:

- (1) **Call the hotel to cancel your room, and YOU must:**
- (2) **Call 401-635-8860** as soon as you know **but before JULY 8th** so that we may modify our hotel/activities count. We will gladly send you a refund for any activity that has not already been paid to the hotel or tour company.

All Reunion Registrations with full payment must be received by JULY 8th...
Registrations will NOT be accepted by mail or phone after JULY 8th.

Instead, they must be brought to the hotel for Late Registration from July 9th to September 1

All Tours and Friday's Banquet are for Pre-Registered Attendees Only.

Tickets for these events will not be available after JULY 8th.

Anyone attending the reunion but NOT staying at the host Crowne Plaza Hotel is required to pay an additional Hotel User Fee/Assessment of \$30.00 to cover meeting & banquet room rental, setup & cleaning, bartender fees, etc. This user fee does not apply to those staying in a room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel nor members' guests.

See registration form.

**MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FORM WITH FULL PAYMENT TO ARRIVE
NO LATER THAN
THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE OF JULY 8, 2015**

TOURS

All tours begin loading near the hospitality room. Fifteen (15) minutes before departure time listed in the Plan of the Day. Please board promptly so that an on-time departure may be made. Gratuities for driver and step-on guide ARE INCLUDED. Participating on any tour is optional. **Note that ALL tours require some walking. Motor coaches have a luggage compartment for carrying wheel chairs, but a lift is not available.**

TUESDAY NIGHT – OPTIONAL - Baseball Game - Transportation & ticket \$50.00 pp
Spaghetti Factory - Dinner \$50.00 pp

Wednesday, Tour #1 9am - 3:30pm \$69.00 each

Depart for MIRAMAR Museum (Top Gun School) and tour the site. Lunch at the Officers' Club. After lunch, travel to the Memorial site in La Jolla, CA for our DLA Memorial Service. Bring your camera for the View

Thursday, Tour #2, 9am - 3:30 pm \$ 69.00 each

Board the motor coach for USS Midway for a 10 am arrival – Leave at 11:30 am for the San Diego Bay & Harbor tour with a Box Lunch on Board Past the US Navy Base & Coronado Island

Mail your reservation form with full payment today to be sure it is RECEIVED by MIKE BUGARA, the DLA Reunion Planner, by the Registration Cut-off date. **Walk-in Registrations will be accepted in San Diego , but only to use the Hospitality Room, attend the Business Meeting and the photo shoots for the Memory Book. Walk-in registrants WILL NOT be able to purchase tickets for the Welcome Reception, Tours, Buffet, nor Banquet.**

Pre-registration fee is \$25.00 per person by JULY 8, 2015

Walk-in Registration is \$30.00 per person after JULY 8, 2015

Mail Registration Form with full payment to:

**Destroyer Leader Association,
c/o Mike Bugara, Reunion Planner
36 Wild Cherry Drive.
Little Compton, RI 02837**

If you have any questions or need more reunion information, contact the Reunion Planner, Mike Bugara at 401-635-8860, or Email him at destroyerleader1@hotmail.com or mjbugara@hotmail.com

I look forward to meeting you in San Diego.

Mike Bugara

Destroyer Leader Association Reunion Planner