

INFORMATION FOR

2012 REUNION ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

DESTROYER LEADER ASSOCIATION, INC. –16th ANNUAL REUNION
10 - 13 September 2012 – Galveston, Texas

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 Galveston, Texas from 10 to 13 September 2012. 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 three tours of many of the interesting attractions in the Galveston 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 Wednesday morning.

Anyone using the DLA Hospitality Room must be registered with the Reunion Committee.

DLA Reunion Advanced Registration

Advance Registration will run from January 1, 2012 until March 31, 2012. To register in advance, a DLA member is to call toll FREE the Hilton Galveston Island Resort Hotel and make a FREE reservation for a room. The member can cancel the room reservation up until 48-hours prior to arrival without penalty. The member then fills out an Advance Registration Form, including listing his room Confirmation Number, and sends the form with a check made payable to the DLA in the amount of \$15.00 per person Advance Registration Fee to the Registration Chairman (Mel Young) to be received no later than March 31. Mel will post the registration on the date it is received. This will assist the DLA in knowing how many rooms are being booked.

Any member that registers in advance will be entered into a raffle for a gift valued at \$26.95 donated by the Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau. Member must be present at the reunion to win.

Also, the first 50 members to Advance Register will receive a naval souvenir, valued at \$10.00, from the gift shop at the site of our Galveston Memorial Service. Member must be present at the reunion to receive the souvenir gift.

The \$15.00 Advance Registration Fee will be fully refundable up until September 1, 2012, if a person needs to cancel. So anyone contemplating attending the reunion should Advance Register at the lower rate, and then cancel the FREE hotel reservation and receive a full refund if they decide later not to attend, and thus early registration would cost them nothing. The hotel room reservation may be cancelled by you with no penalty up until 48 hours prior to your scheduled arrival.

After Advance Registration closes March 31, the normal Reunion Pre-registration Form listing tours, buffet dinner, banquet, etc. will be distributed by mail and posted online. The normal Registration Fee will NOT have to be paid if the member had Advance Registered.

Any member that Advance Registers and attends the reunion will save \$10.00 per person in Registration Fees, receive a \$10.00 gift, and be entered into a raffle for a \$26.95 gift from Galveston Island CVB.

Pre-Registration Fees after April 1st will be \$25 per person. Pre-registration closes August 8th.

Registration Fees for walk-ins at the reunion are \$30.00 per person, because they trigger a considerable train of events for the Reunion Committee, so register early. The Reunion is held at a Full Service Resort Hotel (large meeting rooms, bar service, catering department, etc.). Tours and meals may not be available for walk-ins.

Hilton Galveston Island Resort Hotel

The host hotel for the 2012 reunion is the Hilton Galveston Island Resort, 5400 Seawall Blvd, Galveston, TX 77551. This **resort hotel** is located across the street from the beach on the Gulf of Mexico. Hotel room reservations must be made by you directly with the hotel by calling the **Reservations Department** at 1-877-425-4753 (toll free). You must ask for the Destroyer Leader Association Group rate of \$84.00 plus taxes. (Pricing with current tax is \$96.60, single or double.) These DLA room rates will also apply three days before or after the reunion. You will be responsible for your room, tax and incidental charges. All charges must be paid to the hotel at check-out. Inform the hotel of any special needs (handicapped room, walk-in shower, refrigerator for medicines, etc.) Please be advised that all room cancellations must be received by the hotel's Reservations Department 48 hours prior to day of arrival for a full refund, after which time no refund will be granted. **A block of 60 rooms (see below) is being held until 5:00 pm EDT Tuesday August 9th, 2012, after which any unsold rooms will be released to the public and the group rate will no longer be available.** (You must make your hotel reservation by August 9th, 2012 to receive the heavily discounted DLA rate). If you make your room reservation outside of the DLA block, expect to pay \$300.00 or more per night! This is a popular gulf shore beachfront resort hotel, so make your reservation early! The Association is NOT handling any room reservations. If you need assistance, you may call the hotel at (409) 740-5302 and ask for Carly Rowland, or call Michelle Cunningham at (409) 741-4452. The Hotel will provide **complimentary parking**, including unoccupied RV's. There is Valet Parking for a fee (currently \$10.00 per night.) Room rate **does NOT** include a breakfast in the hotel's restaurant (Palm Court). The only food and beverage included in the room rate is morning coffee in the lobby. IHOP, McDonalds, and other restaurants are located nearby.

Our room block is for "Run of House" rooms. Requests for specific room types may be made at the time of reservation; however, requests such as bed type, view, and/or smoking preferences are based upon availability at time of check-in and are not guaranteed. (The CVB suggested asking for a pool view rather than on the Convention Center side.)

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 the scheduled length of stay.

ROOM BLOCK 2012 REUNION IN GALVESTON = 250 ROOM-NIGHTS							
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
4	14	50	60	60	60	2	0

Above is the number of rooms each night that the DLA has blocked at the \$84 reunion rate. If the DLA needs additional rooms, the room block will need to be raised by the hotel, and a new rate will need to be negotiated with the hotel.

Transportation to/from Houston's airports is NOT PROVIDED by the hotel. The nearest airport is William P. Hobby, and shuttle or limousine service is available at the airport for a fee, currently \$36.00 one way per person.

See www.galvestonhilton.com for additional information and views of the hotel.

REUNION PLANNING CALENDAR

January 1 to August 9, 2012 – Make your hotel reservation by calling the hotel.

January 1 to March 31, 2012 – Make your DLA Advance Registration by mailing Form and Registration Fee only to DLA.

March 31, 2012 – Advance Registration ends.

April 1 to August 8, 2012 – If you DID Advance Register, select your tours, meals, etc. and send the Pre-registration Form to the DLA with payments for these items.

April 1 to August 8, 2012 – IF you did NOT Advance Register make your Pre-registration by sending all Fees and payments for meals, tours, etc.

July 9, 2012 – Last day the DLA can adjust the room block without penalty.

August 8, 2012 – Last day for Pre-registration and payment for meals, tours, etc.

August 8, 2012 – Last day to request refunds for meals, tours, etc.

August 9, 2012 – Last day hotel will accept reservations at DLA Group Rate; room block released into inventory.

September 1, 2012 – Last day to request refund of Advance Registration Fee.

September 10 to 13, 2012 – Enjoy your reunion with shipmates!

Family Reunion

Why not invite your family & friends to meet you in Galveston and have a mini-family reunion during the DL Association reunion at the beachfront resort hotel? They can take advantage of the special reduced hotel rates, enjoy the beach/surf, 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.

2012 Reunion Event Highlights:

Sunday, 9 September

Early bird Registration
Optional Tour #1 – NASA Space Center Houston
(Dinner on your own this day)

Monday, 10 September

Hospitality Room open
Registration
Optional Tour #2: Island City Tour
Hilton's Welcome Reception
Pizza Party
Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, 11 September

Hospitality Room open
Registration
Optional Tour #3: Mariner's Day & Memorial Service
Buffet Dinner, Auction, Cash Bar

Wednesday, 12 September

Hospitality Room open
Ladies meeting: Hat & Fashion Show
Men's Business meeting
Slide show*: by guest speaker about Capt. Charles Stewart for whom DE-238 is named
Photo shoot: Couples/Individuals
Banquet (Cash Bar), Missing Shipmate Ceremony

Thursday, 13 September

Checkout

Please check in the Hospitality Room each day for any change of the above functions.

* Tentative

Tours

Detailed tour itineraries are still being worked out, but are expected to include:

- NASA Space Center Houston – tram tour, walking tour (<http://www.spacecenter.org/>)
- Island City Tour - narrated "windshield" tour (Seawall, Sculptured Tress, and the Historic Downtown Strand). In addition, get off the bus to tour Moody Gardens Rainforest, Moody Mansion, and the Lone Star Air Museum.
- Mariner's Day Tour - Seawolf Park for Memorial service at American Undersea Warfare Center between USS *Stewart* DE-238 & USS *Cavalla* SS-244 (<http://www.cavalla244.org/>); Harborside for Texas Seaport Museum (http://www.galvestonhistory.org/Texas_Seaport_Museum.asp), 1877 Tall Ship *Elisa*, and Ocean Star Off Shore Drilling Rig Museum (<http://www.oceanstaroec.com/>).

A tour will be cancelled if there are less than 35 passengers per motor coach.

Guest Speaker

A guest speaker has been invited to give a slide presentation on Wednesday afternoon following the Business Meeting. The subject is the evolution of the destroyer leader as a sub category of the destroyer type. The speaker, Captain John Rodgaard (USN, Ret.), has 41 years of naval service, mostly in intelligence gathering. After serving as an enlisted man for 12 years, Rodgaard was a Radarman Second Class when he received his commission. He has written several books and was honored in 2000 by *Naval History* as "Author of the Year". After the presentation, Rodgaard will be available for book signing.

Recently the hotel has created the following DLA web page for you to make room reservations:
http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/G/GLSGIHF-DLA-20120908/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG.

Questions

If you need more information or have any questions regarding the Advance Registration, please contact reunion planner Walter Alexander, 2311 Idavere Rd SW, Roanoke, VA 24015-3903; (540) 345 – 5826.

DESTROYER LEADER ASSOCIATION, INC. –16th ANNUAL REUNION
10 - 13 September 2012 – Galveston, Texas

2012 REUNION ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

This registration form may be used until March 31, 2012.

(After April 1st, you must use the Pre-Registration Form which includes choices of tours & meals.)

Please Print Legibly – Print Names As You Want Them on your Name Badges

Name _____ Hull Number _____ Rate _____ Div _____ Aboard From/To _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ (Phone) (____) _____

Name of Guest(s) Attending _____

Is this your **First Time** attending a DL Reunion? Please (Circle One) ... Yes / No

Advance Registration Fee = \$15 per person (Shipmate plus each guest)Qty ____ @ \$15.00 each = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED = \$ _____

Make your check or money order payable to Destroyer Leader Association. Payment in full required with registration.

Ask for the DLA room rate when making your hotel reservation & get a confirmation number. Inform the hotel of any special needs (handicapped room, walk-in shower, refrigerator for medicines, etc.) Call the Hilton Reservations Department at (877) 425-4753 (toll free) and ask for reservations. Ask for Destroyer Leader Association or DLA room rate of \$84.00. I have made my room reservation, and my Confirmation No. is _____. I will arrive on September _____ and depart on September _____, 2012.

Save money and Advance Register at \$15 per person:

Pre-Registration Fees after April 1st will be \$25 per person. Pre-registration closes August 8th.

Registration Fees for walk-ins at the reunion are \$30.00 per person, because they trigger a considerable train of events for the Reunion Committee, so register early. The Reunion is held at a Full Service Resort Hotel (large meeting rooms, bar service, catering department, etc.).

Attached is my check or money order (number) _____ dated _____ in the amount of \$ _____.

Your Signature (required): _____ Date: _____

The \$15.00 Advance Registration Fee will be fully refundable up until September 1, 2012 if you need to cancel. The hotel room reservation may be cancelled with no penalty up until 48 hours prior to arrival.

Mail this Advance Registration Form to:

Destroyer Leader Association, Inc.
% Melvin Young, Registration Coordinator
461 West Broadway St.
Alliance, OH 44601