

REUNION INFORMATION PACKET
21th Annual
Destroyer Leader Reunion Sept 10 – 16, 2017
Holiday Inn River walk Hotel, San Antonio TX

Call to Reunion 2017

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 Antonio TX. From Sept. 10—Sept.16, 2017 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 Antonio, TX.** 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.

HOLIDAY INN RIVER WALK

The host hotel for the 2017 reunion is the **Holiday Inn River Walk 217 N. St Mary's St San Antonio, TX**
Hotel room reservations must be made by you directly with the hotel by calling the

Reservations Department @ 1-210-224-2500. You must ask for the Destroyer Leader Association Group rate of \$103.00

These DL room rates will also apply **Three (3)** 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. Please be advised that all room cancellations must be received by the hotel's Reservations Department 72 hours prior to day of arrival for a full refund, after which time no refund will be granted.

A room block of 45 rooms is being held until 5:00 pm EDT Thurs. `JULY20, 2017, 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 JULY, 20th., 2017 to receive the discounted DLA rate.). The Association is **NOT** handling any room reservations. If you need assistance, you may call the hotel directly @ **210-224-2500 M- F 8 am – 4 pm. The Hotel garage Parking is \$12.00 /night. Room rate does NOT include Breakfast but Hot All American Breakfast coupons available for \$12.00 PP/Day at check in. 10% Off meals at the Hotel restaurant.**

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

Transportation shuttle to / from the Airport.is on your own. Recommends using a Transportation shuttle. You must make prior reservations & Payment for R/T service.

FAMILY REUNION

Why not invite your family & friends to meet you in Texas 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.

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 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.

2017 REUNION PLAN OF THE DAY

Monday, 11-September 2017

0900 – 5 pm Hospitality Room Setup

1100 – 2 pm Early Registration

2 pm 3:pm DLA / Hotel Pre Con Meeting

Back to Hotel to board Riverboats for 45 min narrated tour.

8 am – 10 pm Hospitality Room open If Volunteers to Man room available. Dinner on Own tonight

Tuesday, 12, September

09:30 -- 1000 pm Hospitality Room Open & Registration

3 pm- 4:15 pm **Board of Directors meeting**

6 PM **Welcome reception**

Dinner on your Own.

Wednesday, 13, September

0800 – 10 pm Hospitality Room open If Volunteers to Man room available.

9 am – 5 pm Tour 1- **Fredericksburg & Nimitz Museum, Memorial service**

6 PM- **Soup & sandwich Buffett dinner**

8 PM **DLA Annual auction in Hospitality room**

Friday, 15, September

8am – 5 pm Hospitality Room open.

9:30am – 11 pm **Men's Annual Meeting**

On Your Own for the day to visit local sites

3:30 – 6:00 pm Individual & couples Photos

5:00 pm Men in Uniform Photos

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Ship Group Photos

4:00 – 10 PM Cash Bar available

6 Pm Seating for Banquet Dinner & program

6:30 pm – 8:15 pm- **Dinner served**

8:30 -10pm - **Presidents remarks**, Banquet program, Raffle, Installation of Officer for 2017

Thursday, 14, September

0800 – 10 pm Hospitality Room open If Volunteers to Man room available

9:00 am—4:30 pm , **Tour # 2 Spanish Mission & Alamo Tour, Lunch on own at Mercado center,&**

Saturday 16, September

09:30 am Chapel Service & Good byes - Hospitality room

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

ACTIVITIES

GENERAL

Following are descriptions of the many activities throughout the 2017 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. Tour prices are based on a minimum of 45 paid passengers per tour as noted in the Tour description. 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 outside 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 54 passengers for Tours. If needed a Bus with one Wheel chair Spot will be reserved.** That Bus will have a Maximum of 48 Passengers. **Please Advise in 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 54 persons. **NO On SITE exceptions** will be made as I need to reserve this bus 60 days pre reunion date.

A **“Welcome Aboard” Team will be at the Reunion Registration table** in/ near the Hospitality Room with a package in your name. This package will contain your name tag, a program, meal tickets and tour tickets for your selected activities, welcome letters, and other information. **The “Ship’s Store” will be at the Reunion this year.** A **“2017 Reunion Memories Book”** may be ordered directly from the photographer on the night 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.

Bring your cap, scrapbook, photo albums, & Navy memorabilia for display in the Hospitality Room.

PLEASE Bring or ship to the hotel a Gift to be auctioned off at the annual Auction. This is one of the only ways the DLA has for money for the Web Site & Newsletters which you receive. *Each newsletter cost you \$350.00 + per edition.*

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 20th 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 20th. Anyone registering after JULY 20th is eligible to attend the reunion Hospitality Room, Board meeting, photo session, and business meeting only, as tickets for other events WILL NOT be available.**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Tuesday 3 PM

A brief meeting of the **Officers and Directors** will be held.. However, any DL Association member may attend **as an observer** and is invited to do so. If you do plan to attend, please indicate this on the Registration form.

The Hospitality Room will be located at the POOL level Floor of the hotel. 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 any memorabilia from your Navy days for display here. 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.,@401-635-8860 or Email mjbugara@hotmail.com) to volunteer. Room will be closed during the Welcome Reception, Buffet, 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 Atrium / Restaurant floor

Anyone bringing an item to donate for the auction is requested to place it in the Hospitality Room upon arrival at the reunion. The auction will be held Wednesday night Sept 13 **This is the primary fund raiser for the DLA.**

A Make your own Soup & Sandwich Buffett dinner will be held on Wednesday prior to the Annual DLA auction Room TBA at the reunion . . Cost is \$ 35.00 /PP

PLEASE CHECK THE BOARD IN the Hospitality room Daily for any changes to events or times.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING: FRIDAY 9:30 – 11 am

The annual membership Business Meeting of the DLA will be held, Check the Board in Hospitality room for location.. Only DLA dues paying members-in-good standing will be admitted. Please have your current membership card 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 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 – 6:00 pm

Every reunion attendee is encouraged and requested to have a portrait photo taken as a couple or an individual for the Reunion Memories Book. The photo location will be on the info board in Hospitality room 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 Book. You are requested to begin the photo process early to allow time for everyone to be photographed. 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 GROUP: Friday 5:00 – 6:pm

PLEASE BE ON TIME.....

Everyone is requested to **quickly** assemble near the PHOTO area for group photos by ship. Everyone attending is requested to have their photo taken by our DLA Photographer.

Please assemble at the time announced.. The group photos will be included in the Reunion Memories Book. BE ON TIME . **Photos Times are close to each Other if you miss your time SORRY**

BANQUET: Friday Night 6:00 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 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. **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': Grilled Sirloin w Brandy Peppercorn Sauce
Sautéed Boneless Breast of
Chicken
Citrus Grilled Salmon in Wine butter
sauce
Accompaniments-Potatoes,
Vegetable Medley, Assorted deserts
Coffee Tea., Iced tea

There will be a cash bar available. A 50/ 25-25 raffle will also be held. Please send in your Registration Form quickly so you won't miss ship's movement and be AWOL!

CHECK OUT: Saturday

There will be a Chapel Service in the Hospitality Room @ **09:30 am** Good byes after the Service.

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 Purchased at the Ships Store.

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 20th 2017. **THE CANCELLATION POLICY IS THAT NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER THIS TIME EXCEPT IN EXTREME EMERGENCY (WEATHER, 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 BECAUSE THEY FORGOT, OVERSLEPT, CHANGED THEIR MIND, ETC. WILL NOT RECEIVE A REFUND.** The minimum for any tour to run is 45 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 53 persons./ bus

No refunds for meals will be made after JULY 20th, 2017 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 me at 401-635-8860** as soon as you know but (**before JULY 20th**) 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.

Anyone attending the Reunion but NOT staying at the host Holiday Inn River walk 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 fee does not apply to those staying in a room at the Hotel nor member's guests. See Registration Form.

All Reunion Registrations with full payment must be received by JULY 20th.

Registrations will NOT be accepted by mail or phone after JULY 20th. Instead, they must be brought to the hotel for Late Registration from JULY 21th to September 10, 2017

All Tours, Soup & Sandwich Buffet & Friday's Banquet are for Pre-Registered Only.

Tickets for these events will not be available after JULY 20th.

MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FORM WITH FULL PAYMENT TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE OF JULY 20, 2017.

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
% Holiday Inn River Walk
217 N. St Mary's St.
San Antonio, TX. 78205**

Also include: **DL Association, c/o Mike Bugara, September 10 – 18, 2017**

TOURS

All tours begin loading at Hotel Front door. 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 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 Unless Requested prior.**

Wednesday , Tour #1 – 9am -5:00pm (\$55.00) each

Depart for **Fredericksburg TX** & The Nimitz museum . Memorial Service at the Nimitz Museum. Lunch on Own during downtown Fredericksburg shops & restaurants & return to hotel.

Thursday, Tour #2, 9am – 5:00 pm (55.00) each

Board the motor coach for Spanish Mission & Alamo Tour, Stop for lunch on own at Mercado center. Back to Hotel & board Riverboat barge at rear of Hotel for a 45 min Narrated tour of the river walk area

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 of JULY 20th 2017 Walk-in Registrations will be accepted in San Antonio, but only to attend the Business Meeting, use the Hospitality Room, and photo shoots for Memory Book. They 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 20, 2017

Walk-in Registration is \$30.00 per person after JULY 20 2017

Mail Registration Form with full payment to:

**Destroyer Leader Association,
% 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 me at : mjbugara@hotmail.com

I look forward to meeting you in Texas

Mike Bugara DLA Planner

