

**Destroyer Leader Association 23rd Annual Reunion
Boston/Warwick ... September 10 – 14, 2019**

CALL TO REUNION 2019

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 these ships at any time to attend our reunion to be held September 10th through the 14th. NOTE that **all former shipmates are invited to reunion activities**. You do not have to be a dues-paying member DLA member; note, though, that you must be current with your dues to attend the DL Association's annual business meeting.

Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center

The host hotel for the 2019 Reunion is the Crown Plaza Hotel, at 801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, RI 02886. Hotel room reservations **must be made by you directly** with the hotel by calling the hotel's Reservations Department at 401-732-8000. To obtain the discounted room rate, you must ask for the Destroyer Leader Association group rate of \$109.00. These DLA room rates will also apply **Three (3) days** before and/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. Note also that any room cancellations **must be received** by the hotel's Reservations Department **72 hours** prior to the day of arrival for a full refund.

A room block of 45 rooms is being held until 5:00 PM, EDT, August 7, 2019, 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 7, 2019 to receive the discounted DLA rate. The DLA is NOT handling any room reservations.** If you need assistance, you may call the hotel directly @401-732-8000, Monday through Friday, 8 AM – 4 PM EDT. The hotel room rate does not include Breakfast.

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 by the hotel. Guests wishing to avoid this fee must advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in the scheduled length-of-stay.

A free shuttle from and to the airport is provided by the Crown Plaza Hotel & Conference Center.

FAMILY REUNION

How about this idea... Why not invite your family and/or friends to meet you in Warwick and have a mini-family reunion combined with the DLA reunion? They can take advantage of the special reduced hotel rates, enjoy the area and go sight-seeing with you. In addition to joining you on our tours, they can visit the Hospitality Room and learn of the history of the DLs/DDGs and your military service. Seeing photos, scrapbooks and cruise books and hearing "sea stories" will 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 and give them a deeper appreciation of what you have done for them and our Country.

REGISTRATION

"Welcome Aboard!" The welcome and registration table will be located in the Hospitality Room. You will pick up your reunion envelope, containing general reunion info, meal tickets, photo shoot form, tour tickets, brochures, and your name tag / city tag. The Ship's Store will be at the Reunion this year, with its wares displayed in the Hospitality Room.

NOTE: Walk-ins may register here, but meal, event and tour tickets will not be available to anyone after August 7, including walk-ins. This is due to contractual agreements with the hotel and the tour company.

Registration by mail will not be accepted after **AUGUST 7th**. Anyone registering after August 7 is eligible to attend the reunion hospitality Room, the photo session and the Board of Directors' and business meetings (with a current due card) only, as tickets for other events **will not be available**.

Remember to bring your cap, scrapbook, cruise book, photo albums and Navy memorabilia for display in the Hospitality Room. In addition, the **2019 Reunion Memories Book** may be ordered directly from the photographer on "photo day," Friday the 13th (!) 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 photo shoot and bring it with you to speed up the process. If you want a Memory Book, but are not attending the reunion, please contact your Ship Coordinator prior to the reunion.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Anyone attending the Reunion but NOT staying at the host Crown Plaza Hotel and Conference Center is required to pay an additional Hotel User Fee/Assessment of \$45.00 to cover meeting and banquet room rental, setup and cleaning, bartender fees, etc. The fee does not apply to those staying in a room at the host hotel nor the member's guest(s).

The Hospitality Room will be located on the MAIN 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, to meet shipmates you didn't know and meet people who served at a different time but share your ship's heritage. Bring any memorabilia for display there. As noted above, it will remain open so long as there are volunteers to stand watch during the tours. Call or email the reunion planner (Mike Bugara, 401-635-8860 or mjbugara@hotmail.com) to volunteer. The room will be closed during the Welcome reception, and Friday's banquet.

NOTE: 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.

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

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. This reunion city tag (with metal rings for attaching to the name tag) is included in the Registration Fee. Bring your previously issued name tag ... the city tag can be attached at the Ship's Store.

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 name tag price in your payment. **All name tags (NOT city tags) are \$15.00 each.** Also, if you need a city tag for a previous reunion, that may also be purchased at the ship's store @\$3.00. **NOTE: If you have a pacemaker,** please indicate on the Registration Form that you need a clutch pin attachment rather than the usual magnetic fastener.

PLAN OF THE DAY

****Note – the Hospitality Room will be open daily, if there are volunteers to staff it.**

Please be sure to check the POD/announcements board in the Hospitality Room daily for changes to the schedule shown below:

Monday, September 9, 2019

- 9:00 am** Hospitality Room set-up
- 11:00 am – 2:00 pm** Early registration
- 2:00 pm** DLA / Hotel pre-con meeting

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

- 9:30 am – 10:00 pm** **Hospitality Room open
Welcome, Registration
- 3:00 – 4:15 pm** Board of Directors' meeting
- 6:00 pm** Hotel's welcome reception
- Dinner on your own

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

- 8:00am – 10:00 pm** **Hospitality Room open
- 9:00 am – 4:00 pm** Tour I – Newport Naval Base War College Museum; lunch included @ "O" Club ... Newport city and Breakers mansion tour and return to hotel.
- Dinner on your own

Thursday, September 12, 2019

- 8:00 am – 10:00 pm** **Hospitality Room open
- 8:15 am – 5:00 pm** Tour II – Boston
- 9:30 am** DLA Memorial Service @ USS Constitution ("Old Ironsides:")

Thursday, September 12, 2019 cont'd

- 10:30 am – 1:30 pm** Visit Faneuil Hall and Quincy Marketplace - shopping and Lunch on your own
- 1:30 pm** Boston city bus tour & return to hotel (approx. 4:00 to 5:00 pm)
- 6:00 pm** Dinner on your own
- 8:00 pm** Annual DLA Auction, Close of Silent Auction

Friday, September 13, 2019

- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm** **Hospitality Room open
- 9:30 – 11:00 am** Members' Annual Meeting
Ladies' Bunco
- 11:00 am – 3:00 pm** On your own to visit local sights
- 3:30 – 5:00 pm** Individual & Couples photos
(4:00 – 10:00 Cash Bar available)
- 5:00 pm** Men in uniform photos
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm** Group by Ship photos
- 6:00 pm** Seating for Banquet & Program
- 6:30 – 8:15 pm** Dinner served
- 8:30 – 10:30 pm** Banquet program, President's remarks, Installation of 2019-20 Officers, Raffle

Saturday, September 14, 2019

- 9:00 am** **Hospitality Room open
- 9:30 am** Chapel Service and Goodbyes

The Auction Please bring or ship to the hotel a Gift to be auctioned off at the annual Auction. This year we will have a silent auction in addition to our regularly scheduled voice auction. Items in the Silent Auction will be on display and up for bids in the Hospitality Room beginning on the 11th. The Auction will be held on Thursday, the 12th (see POD.) This is one of the only ways the DLA has of raising money for Newsletters and web-site maintenance. (*Newsletters cost us \$300+ per edition!*)

If you plan to ship any items to the hotel prior to your arrival, it must not arrive more than three (3) days before the reunion. It must be addressed as follows:

Guest name or Destroyer Leader Reunion
c/o CROWN PLAZA Hotel and Conference Center
801 Greenwich Avenue
Warrick, RI 02886

also include: DL Association, c/o Mike Bugara Sept 9 – 16, 2019

Tours are dependent upon minimums being met. Tour prices are based upon a minimum of 40 paid passengers per tour (maximum is 52 passengers per bus) as noted in the tour *description*. Each tour package price includes a deluxe Motor Coach, admissions as noted, meals as listed and taxes. **Coach boarding times will be 15 minutes prior to the listed departure times listed in the Plan of the Day.** Coaches will board outside the hotel front door. Drivers' gratuities are included but also are left to each participant's discretion. **The first two rows of seats are reserved for our Handicapped and the bus monitor. If needed, a bus with one wheelchair spot will be reserved.** **Please advise on your registration form if you will need this option.** On-site reservations are not possible – the coach company requires 60-day prior notice. Motor coaches have a luggage compartment for carrying wheelchairs, but a lift is not available unless requested prior to the reunion.

NOTE that all tours require some walking.

Please board promptly so that an on-time departures may be made

Tour I – Wednesday, 9/11/2019 9:00 am – Boarding at 8:45 am

\$85.00 per person

Depart for the US NAVAL BASE, Newport – War College Museum; lunch at the Officers' Club.

After lunch, a tour of Newport, including the Ten-mile Drive along the coast line and a tour of Vanderbilt's mansion, the Breakers

Return to hotel 4 approx.. 1700

Tour II – Thursday, 9/12/2019 8:15 am – Boarding at 8:00 am

\$60.00 per person

Depart for Boston; DLA Memorial Service at the USS Constitution;

Shopping and lunch on your own at Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Quincy Market

Bus tour of Boston

Return to hotel approx. 5 PM

NON-TOUR ACTIVITIES

Board of Directors Meeting: Tuesday, 3:00 – 4:00 pm

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

Members' business meeting: Friday, 9:30 – 11:00 am

Ladies' Bunco: simultaneous with the business meeting

While the annual membership business meeting of the DLA is in session, the ladies are invited to join a bunco game; locations of each will be announced (check the board in the Hospitality room for location.)

Only DLA dues-paying members in good standing will be admitted to the meeting. Please have your current membership card with you 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 two years and will include 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: Friday, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Couples and Individuals: Every reunion attendee is asked and encouraged to have a portrait photo taken as an individual or as a couple for the Reunion Memories book. The location within the hotel will be posted on the info board in the Hospitality Room. A professional photographer from Picture Day Photography of Mansfield, Ohio will be on hand to take the photos and take orders for the Reunion Memories book. You will find a photo information card 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're not obligated. Purchasing a Memories Book is also optional, but your photo in the book would provide a memory to those who do purchase the yearbook.

Group photos: 5:00 – 6:00 pm: Be sure to check the time for your ship's group photo. These sessions go very quickly and if you're even "a little bit" late you're going to be out of the picture.

NOTE: All individual, couple, members by ship, women by ship, men in uniform photos will appear in the Reunion Memories book. It will be another high-quality book printed in color by a professional printing company on glossy paper.

NOTE also: You may obtain a reunion book even if you do not attend the reunion; contact your Ship Coordinator for assistance.

Banquet : Friday, 6:00 pm

Enjoy your last night in a more formal setting. Coat and tie are 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. After membership meeting, contact your Ship Coordinator for table sign-up sheets to reserve a banquet table so you may sit with your shipmates or your friends.

NOTE: The doors will open for seating; salads may already be on the tables. PLEASE WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE INVOCATION BEFORE BEGINNING TO DINE.

The dinner menu includes the following:

- Choice of one entrée: Grilled sirloin w/Roasted Shallot demi glaze
- Chicken Francaise with lemon butter
- Baked New England Scrod w/Lemon-herb butter
- And, with each: Chef's Potatoes and Vegetables
- Warm rolls and butter
- Ice Cream Parfait
- Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea
- Vegetarian Option is available

A program, installation of Officers and a fifty / twenty-five / twenty-five raffle will follow dinner.

NOTE: There will be a cash bar available.

Chapel Service: Saturday, 9:30 am

We'll hold a brief service in the Hospitality Room – Goodbyes after the Service.

**ALL REUNION REGISTRATIONS WITH FULL PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY
AUGUST 7, 2019
REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY PHONE OR MAIL AFTER AUGUST 7**