

**REUNION INFORMATION PACKET**  
**20<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Destroyer Leader Reunion Sept 11 – 18, 2016**  
**PARK INN by Radisson , Kissimmee, FL**

# *Call to Reunion 2016*

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 Kissimmee FL. from Sept. 11—Sept.18, 2016 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 **Kissimmee FL**. 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.**

### **PARK INN by RADISSON**

The host hotel for the 2016 reunion is the **Park Inn by Radisson 3011 Maingate Lane, Kissimmee FL**  
Hotel room reservations must be made by you directly with the hotel by calling the

**Reservations Department @ 1-800-670-7275. You must ask for the Destroyer Leader Association Group rate of \$89.00**

These DL room rates will also apply **Five (5)** 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, 2016, 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., 2016 to receive the discounted DLA rate.). The Association is **NOT** handling any room reservations. If you need assistance, you may call the hotel directly @ **(407-396-1400 M- F 8 am – 4 pm.** The Hotel will provide complimentary parking, including unoccupied RV's. **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 the scheduled length

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

### **FAMILY REUNION**

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

# 2016 REUNION PLAN OF THE DAY

## Monday, 12-September 2016

0900 – 5 pm Hospitality Room Setup

1100 – 2 pm Early Registration

2 pm 3:pm DLA / Hotel Pre Con Meeting

## Tuesday, 13, September

09:30 -- 1000 pm Hospitality Room Open

& Registration

3 pm- 4:15 pm Board of Directors meeting

6 PM Welcome reception Poolside

Dinner on your Own.

## Wednesday, 14, September

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

9 am – 5 pm Tour 1- Kennedy Space center with lunch

With an Astronaut, Walking & riding Tour...

Dinner on your own

8 PM DLA Annual auction in Hospitality room

## Thursday, 15, September

0800 – 4 pm Hospitality Room open If Volunteers to Man room available

9:00 am—5 pm , Tour # 2 Wild Florida Park , Military Museum & Chocolate Factory Tour

## Thursday, 15, September

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

7pm – 10 pm Evening dinner show @ Al Capone's  
Speak easy

## Friday, 16, September

8am – 4 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 - DLA Memorial service & Missing shipmate Service , Banquet program, Raffle, Installation of Officer for 2016

## Saturday 17, 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 2016 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 "2016 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.*

**NOTE :** Please go their Web Site : **MEARS.com** or **Super Shuttle service .com** to make your Pre-reservations for Transportation from & to the Airport ( Mears 1-407 423-5566 - Super Shuttle – 407-513-0226)

### **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 JULY20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>h</sup>. Anyone registering after JULY 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Absolutely no exceptions!**

### **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 off the **Rear atrium** at the bottom level of the hotel in the rear. 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, 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.)

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 14 .... **This is the primary fund raiser for the DLA.**

### **Thursday 7:00 pm – 10 pm**

**AL Capone's Speakeasy Buffet Dinner & show for a night of fun & laughs Not to be missed. Please tip your Wait staff >>>> all you can eat Buffet with special drinks included & bus transportation.**

**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 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. **Please wait until after the Invocation before beginning to dine.** Installation of Officers will follow dinner. **Prior to dining, the DLA will offer the Memorial and "Missing Shipmates Memorial Table" ceremony.** The dinner menu includes the following:

Choice of one entrée': Beef Tips with Burgundy Sauce  
Southern Fried Chicken  
Grilled Salmon / Lemon Caper sauce  
Accompaniments- Roasted Potatoes,  
Vegetable Medley, Assorted deserts  
Coffee 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 20<sup>th</sup> 2016**. **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 52 persons./ bus

**No refunds for meals will be made after JULY 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016** 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 20<sup>th</sup>**) 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 PARK INN 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 fee does not apply to those staying in a room at the PARK INN Hotel nor member's guests. See Registration Form.**

**All Reunion Registrations with full payment must be received by JULY 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**Registrations will NOT be accepted by mail or phone after JULY 20<sup>th</sup>. Instead, they must be brought to the hotel for Late Registration from JULY 21<sup>th</sup> to September 11, 2016**

**All Tours, Capone's Speakeasy & Friday's Banquet are for Pre-Registered Only.**

**Tickets for these events will not be available after JULY 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FORM WITH FULL PAYMENT TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN  
THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE OF JULY 20, 2016.**

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  
% PARK INN  
3011 Maingate Lane  
Kissimmee ,FL. 34747**

Also include: **DL Association, c/o Mike Bugara, September 11 – 18, 2016**

## **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 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.**

### **Wednesday , Tour #1 – 9am -5:00pm (\$104.00) each**

Depart for **Kennedy Space Center** – Tour the Kennedy Space center with ride & walking tours. Have Lunch with a real Astronaut and finish your tour after lunch

### **Thursday, Tour #2, 9am – 5:00 pm (104.00) each**

Board the motor coach for **Wild Florida** – Take a 1 hour airboat ride , see the Wild Florida wildlife park & gator show, Have lunch at the Park ( included) Travel to the Kissimmee Military Museum & Then visit the Chocolate Kingdom before returning to the hotel .

**THURSDAY NIGHT – BUFFET DINNER & SHOW \$ 43.00 each  
AL Capone's Speakeasy . Bus transportation to / From the show . all you can eat buffet with special dinks included ( top shelf drinks are available at additional cost) . NOT to be missed.. 7- 10 PM - Bus leaves @ 6:40 pm Sharp for Dinner show. Please Tip your Wait staff...**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 2016 Walk-in Registrations will be accepted in KISSIMMEE , 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, 2016**

**Walk-in Registration is \$30.00 per person after JULY 20 2016**

### **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 [destroyerleader1@hotmail.com](mailto:destroyerleader1@hotmail.com) or [mjbugara@hotmail.com](mailto:mjbugara@hotmail.com)

I look forward to meeting you in Kissimmee.

**Mike Bugara DLA Planner**

