

February 2020

Greetings on behalf of your ship's association. For those of you who didn't attend the New Orleans Reunion, there have been some significant changes to the way things have been done in the past, particularly regarding reunions. I will attempt to coherently explain them in the following paragraphs.

First, the USS Floyd B Parks Association is still fully functional. I am honored to continue to serve as President and point of contact for issues and questions. John Hall, Dennis Allion, David Lewis, Linda Kotulski, and Janet Romero have graciously agreed to serve as Vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain, News Letter Editor, and Mini-Reunion Coordinator, respectively. Sam Villa has agreed to continue to maintain our website.

Second, due to the hard work and stewardship of Robby Robbins and Bill and Sue Birdsong, the Association is financially stable. In recognition of this, annual dues are no longer due, and we will no longer hold reunion raffles to raise funds. Additionally, going forward, the Association has voted to subsidize some reunion costs for members, as appropriate.

Third, due mostly to our shrinking numbers, it was becoming difficult to plan stand-alone reunions. At the New Orleans Men's Meeting, after much discussion (and some cussing), we voted to fold our reunion under the umbrella of the Tin Can Sailor's Association (TCSA) National Reunion. It is held at about the same time each year as our reunions were held, and they do the same things that we were traditionally doing (hospitality rooms, tours, banquets).

We benefit from their ability to negotiate good rates with hotels and tour groups, and they put on great reunions. We will be in a larger group of sailors who have shared our same experiences, and may well meet former shipmates from the other Destroyers some of us served on. Additionally, we will still have our own separate hospitality room, and they will seat us as a group on tours and at all banquets. You do not need to join the TCSA to attend reunions, but they put out an interesting newsletter and have regional meetings (Bull Sessions) during the year.

In summary, the USS Floyd B Parks DD 884 Association is alive and well, and prepared to move forward with some needed changes. Our next reunion is in San Antonio, Texas, 27 September -1 October 2020. The hotel information is included in this News Letter, and if you are familiar with San Antonio, we have a great hotel right on the famous Riverwalk. Pamela and I will be hosting the DD 884 hospitality room for the duration, and if someone has suggestions for some DD884 only activities, please let me know your thoughts.

Monica from the TCSA has requested that hotel reservations be made as soon as possible. The Wyndham Hotel has blocked most of their rooms for the TCSA, and it is first come, first served. When the complete registration packets are available in April, I strongly encourage you to send your choices in sooner than later, because in the past, they have run out of tour seats and banquet seating. Speaking from experience, I still remember when I attended my first DD 884 reunion on short notice, had to stay in a different hotel, and was only able to access the hospitality room with no tours or banquet.

If you are planning to attend the reunion:

1. Make hotel reservations ASAP
2. Get on TCSA mailing list for reunion registration packet
3. Send in registration packet ASAP
4. See you in San Antonio