



USS FLOYD B. PARKS DD-884 ASSOCIATION

December, 2016

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT

To all of you who were with us in Colorado Springs, a huge thanks from the Association. When you combine a great location with a tremendous amount of research and planning, great things happen. For those of you unable to attend, we missed you.

From the super hotel, to the first class tours, the great local band, the world famous train ride and lunch, the side boys and color guard provided by the Navy JROTC detachment, and the fine banquet meal, it was a top-notch affair. Pamela Smith, Theresa Allion, and Nancy Hall deserve our thanks and gratitude for putting together a superb reunion.

Looking forward to San Diego, your reunion planner is currently talking with hotels to try and get the best bang for your bucks. As was discussed at the Men's Meeting, our vote to return to our homeport means a likely increase in prices. A relatively small group like ours simply doesn't have much negotiating power in a destination city like San Diego.

For those not at Colorado Springs, based on survey results from Minneapolis and discussion at the Men's Meeting, it was voted to limit the official reunion dates to Thursday- concluding Sunday night. As in the past, reunion room rates will be available for early arrivals and later departures. Additionally, because we are returning to our homeport, there will be one group tour day to give you more personal time to re-explore San Diego. We will have details locked in by the next newsletter.

On a personal note, it's always good to have good advisors. Last Sunday it was unseasonably warm in Northern Minnesota, and your reunion planner suggested it was time to get the boat lifts out of the lake. The lake was calm and the temperature was a balmy 65'. The lifts came out. As I sit here a short 5 days later, I'm looking at 2 foot white caps with about 10" of new snow being driven by a 35 mph North wind at 28 degrees. "Thank You Pamela".

On a more serious note, we have lost several members since the reunion, including 2 plank owners.

If you voted in the election, however you voted thank you and God Bless America!

Wishing you and yours fair winds and following seas.

Jim Smith

Association President

San Diego Reunion, September 2017

Our next reunion will be the 25th anniversary for the Floyd B Parks reunions. It will be in ***San Diego and dates are September 14-18 2017***. Please put it on your calendars as you won't want to miss this special time with your friends and Parks family.

We are currently talking with several hotels and trying very hard to get the best value for your money. Please keep in mind San Diego will be more expensive than our past reunions because of the location. We have some wonderful surprises that will make the 25th anniversary reunion a memorable event.

The February newsletter will have the details of the hotel selected. We sincerely look forward to seeing you in San Diego where the memories and fun begin once again.

Pamela Pogue-Smith, Event Planner

Greetings Shipmates from your Chaplain,

What a wonderful fall this year brings. And wasn't Colorado in September the best ever? I think our planning group hit a home run this year. The bar is set high so let's all start planning for San Diego. I came home to start fall harvest with a lot of prep work for two weeks then in the combine since. We are almost done. Hope to have a real Thanksgiving with lots of family. I have a new granddaughter. My blessings are abundant.

Sad news! We lost more shipmates since our last meeting. David Gordon Young '46, Henry "Buck" Winstead '50-'52 and *Lawrence Del Gaudio, Plank owner*. Let us never forget the ones gone. Their lives are tied to each one of us through the USS Floyd B. Parks as we have all had a hand in the life of a great ship.

Tom Kotulski, Jim Elmore, John Denk and I made a trip to St Louis to see Vernon J. Marion. John flew in from Pennsylvania and Tom and Jim drove from Chicago. I drove from north Missouri. I feel this is Vernon's last year with us. He is now in the hospital, but was at his brothers home when we visited. We had a great time and he has not given up hope. It really hurts to write such sad news. Men like VJ and Steve Brown helped us grow into men on the Parks. *(Vernon (VJ) passed away two weeks ago)*

I once read that hope is the mother of all men. It is something we must never give up. Keep all in your prayers and have a very Merry Christmas.

David Lewis, MM3 '70-'73
Association Chaplain

(If you know of someone that is ill or has passed away, please email or call me so I can share with the Parks Family idawdle@nemr.net, 660-216-0055)

Greetings and Happy Holidays,

I am pleased to advise the general membership that the Association has a healthy bank account balance. As was reported at the annual reunion and member meeting we have adequate funds to keep the Association active for years to come. Annual dues are intended to pay for the administrative costs of the Association.

The Association had the following income and expense so far this calendar year:

Income: Reunion \$24,940 + Dues \$2,883 + Ship's Store \$1,508 + Misc \$34 =
\$29,368 Total Year-to-date Income

Expense: Reunion \$33,633 + Admin and Legal \$1,954 + Newsletters \$1,236 + Ships Store \$1,208
= **\$38,031** Total Year-to-date Expense

Calendar year net loss from Association Activities: <\$8,663>

A correction to our previously reported non-profit status: we have applied for non-profit 501(c) 7 status with the IRS and the State of California but have not yet received notification from them regarding their approval of our status. I anticipate a favorable determination within the next 6 months.

The membership voted to continue dues at the \$10 per year level. This applies to all active members and "Associate" Members (honorary members other than surviving widows of deceased members - who do not pay dues). Please remit your dues by check payable to USS FLOYD B PARKS ASSN, INC and mail to USS FLOYD B PARKS ASSN c/o Dennis Allion, 4 Los Encinos Drive, Del Rey Oaks, CA 93940. DENNIS ALLION, Sec/Treasure



Which U.S. Navy ship was the only vessel to be referred to as "he"? And why?

Answer: USS Piedmont (AD-17) was given the nickname "Doc" by Walt Disney along with a logo featuring Doc of the Seven Dwarfs as a sailor with his tool bag, repairing a destroyer. For that reason the ship was referred to as "he".

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**U.S.S. FLOYD B. PARKS
DD884 ASSOCIATION**

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