

DESTROYER USS ORLECK
San Diego, California
August 11-15, 2014

**THIS IS A DRAFT—THIS IS A DRAFT
IT IS SUBJECT TO AND WILL HAVE CHANGE.
DO NOT BRING THIS TO THE REUNION
YOU WILL BE PROVIDED THE MOST CURRENT COPY ON
ARRIVAL AT THE FRONT DESK. READ IT CAREFULLY FOR
THERE COULD BE CHANGES IN TIMES AND DATES FOR
PARTICULAR EVENTS. THE MOST CURRENT UPDATES WILL
BE ON THE WEBSITE AT <http://www.ussorleck.com>.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

We had a fine time in Northern Kentucky for our 2012 reunion and there you voted to have our next reunion once again in San Diego, California. This will be the first time since we began reunions in 1993 that we have repeated a city. If any city was to be repeated, San Diego would be the one most would choose. The city was the homeport for the USS ORLECK and when you think of San Diego you cannot help but think Navy. If you were one of the 255 who attended that reunion you can testify how great it was and I have every expectation that this one will be just as good except that some our good friends and shipmates who were there will not be with us this time.

Now we have our hotel and a fine one it is. The Town and Country Resort is beautiful 1000 room resort but don't let the size scare you. It is put together so it has a feel of a small cozy hotel. Most of the activities at the Town and Country Resort, our base of operations, will take place right in our hospitality room. The only problem with the hospitality room is that it is the finest we have ever had anywhere and I might have difficulty getting you out of there to do some special things elsewhere but I will have to work on that. Maybe if our events are fine enough it will turn out not to be a problem.

Our hospitality room will be used to finalize our registration to provide you with all the information you will need to make the reunion a fun success. There we will sell shirts and caps and display our auction, raffle and memorabilia items. We will stock the place with soda and snacks and the hotel will provide the ice and other necessities. As mentioned, some, especially those with a mobility problem, might be concerned about the overall size of the hotel. There will be little need for you to wander around this beautiful place with all its constantly blooming flowers and palm trees, unless you want to of course. The hotel also has motorized carts zooming around the complex and they can take you where you want to go at no charge to you.

So we are ready to begin registration. We usually have had reunions from Thursday to Sunday

but there were several good reasons for doing it from Monday to Friday in San Diego. First and foremost it was less expensive to do it then. In fact we are so fortunate to be able to have this reunion in the summer. If you check with your friends who served on other ships and attended or plan to attend reunions in San Diego, they had to, because of price, do their reunions in the spring or fall. But we got the summer and we got it for \$99 a night. I am told that is unheard of in San Diego. The details of the registration, price and early registration information is on the registration form itself. So please go to it now, fill it out and get it in. The sooner the better!

Since USS ORLECK was home ported in San Diego and San Diego area is very Navy, many of our shipmates have settled in the area. This is a great opportunity for those who live close to our events to really pitch in and raise the level of excitement for those who are coming to visit in August. Even if you live in the area, please consider staying at the hotel. The fellowship and camaraderie will be increased if you are there, stay up late talking if you are inclined, up early for the breakfast and fellowship we have provided for those staying at the hotel. If you have been on the MIDWAY or have done other things we are doing, come anyway and instead of just coming along for the ride, act as a “docent” and impart knowledge to your fellow shipmates, friends and family, things you know and unless you tell them they would not every know.

Once again the dates are August 11 (Monday) through August 15 (Friday). This is a 4 day reunion and the package is a wonderful bargain. We will begin Monday morning and end on Friday morning with our usual breakfast church service led by our Chaplain, Joe Correa. The cost is about what you would expect to pay for a 3 day reunion. When you consider that you get breakfast every morning in the hospitality room and if you arrive early, you are not only guaranteed the room rate of \$99 for each of those 3 days but you will be provided a coupon for a free breakfast in one of the Town and Country restaurants. The same thing applies if you decide to stay 3 days after the reunion ends. If you consider what you are saving on the cost of a hotel breakfast that makes it even more evident what a bargain this is. Most ship reunion groups have 1 or 2 banquets and possibly a lunch and a breakfast. At this reunion you will have your breakfast every morning, 4 lunches and 2 banquets as well as your transportation during the reunion, your admission to special events, entertainment and all that comes with a USS ORLECK quality reunion, all for that one price. The free breakfast is only intended for those staying at the Town and Country for the reunion.

We have the entire 9th floor of the hotel complex building that also houses our rooms. Renovations on this building started in 2013 and will be complete when we arrive. In one of the 3 rooms up there we will have constant showing of USS ORLECK videos on a large screen. It will be a wonderful place to live those memories when you were aboard her. Another of the rooms is ideal for our registration and the final settling area is a large beautiful room with a great view of the city. There we will sell shirts and caps and display our auction and memorabilia items. We will have soft drinks and snacks there and during registration day on Monday you will be served pizza for lunch because we know you will not want to be going out for lunch especially if you just arrived. You will want to start having fun in the hospitality room, right?

The following is an important thing for our success. The raffle and auction are integral parts of our being able to provide the quality reunions we do so please continue to bring your raffle and auction items to be sold. Please advise us when you know what you are bringing so we can

make plans for how we are going to go about raising money through them. Remember the money is used for the additional expenses of the reunion. It would also be of great assistance if everyone attending would pay their voluntary \$15 per year dues.

We have not hired a professional photographer for good reason but will be relying on Ben Loder and on your photographic skills. Send in copies provide a CD to Bob at the Association address.

Below is the Plan of the day for each of the days of the reunion. Notices there are Action Items and Information Items and they are numbered. This will make it easy when throughout the reunion we might in a group setting be referring to a particular item and in this way we can all identify what is being talked about more easily.

For those not familiar with "Military Time", the military operates off a 24 hour clock, beginning at midnight (which is 0000 hours). So 1:00 AM is 0100 hours, 2:00 AM is 0200 hours, and so forth up until 11:00 PM which is 2300 hours. We will be reporting time in Military Time.

August 10, 2014 (Sunday) Plan of the day

- **Action Items:**
 1. Hospitality room will be open.
 2. Breakfast

- **Information Items:**
 1. The reunion has not begun officially but you might like to gather in our beautiful hospitality room so it will be open for your use. There may or may not be refreshments there that day so plan to bring your own.
 2. There is an elevator that takes us to the hospitality room and when it is not being used or when we cannot find someone to take responsibility for the security of the room it will be locked. We will be able to control access to the room during these times by locking the elevator which will prevent anyone from coming to that floor. So your memorabilia items left there should be very secure.
 3. If you are registered at the hotel a coupon should have been provided to you for your breakfast. Applies for 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates.

August 11, 2013 (Monday) Plan of the day

- **Action Items:**
 3. Breakfast (by coupon in restaurant)
 4. The hospitality room will be open as early in the morning as we have someone who will take responsibility for that room. The reason we can open the room early on the opening day is because the registration will take place in another room close by.
 5. 1100 hours-Registration officially begins.
 6. 1200 hours-Pizza, soda and snacks will be served in hospitality room.
 7. 1600 hours-Registration ends.

8. 1800-1900-Beer, wine and hors' devoures reception
9. 1800-end of banquet-Cash bar open.
10. 1900-end of banquet-Dinner and speakers.
11. End of banquet-2400 the hospitality room will be open.

- **Information Items**

4. During Hospitality Room opening you will receive your name badge, a packet of information that will have up-to-the-minute information on the reunion and how you can best negotiate through the event and take advantage of what is offered to you
5. The pizza lunch is provided to you as part of your registration packet so please feel free to enjoy it as well as any snacks and drinks provided.
6. At 1600 the hospitality room will be locked so everyone can have the opportunity to finalize check-in at the hotel, rest and get ready for our evening dinner event.
7. The hotel has graciously provided us with a no charge beer, wine and hors' devoures' reception for one hour prior to our dinner. For those wishing other drinks a cash bar will be provided so you can purchase them.
8. There will be dinner choices of Steak, Salmon, Chicken or Vegetarian. After dinner is complete, there will be a speaking program.
9. The hospitality room will be open after the dinner program if there is someone willing to take responsibility for the security of the room.

August 12, 2014 (Tuesday) Plan of the day

- **Action Items:**

12. Breakfast in Hospitality Room
13. 0915 Board Buses
14. 0930 Buses depart for 32nd Street Naval Base.
15. 1000-Tour of active duty Naval vessels.
16. 1215-Board buses
17. 1230-1330- Lunch at Bali Hai Restaurant
18. 1330-1430-Board buses and tour of Cabrillo National Monument and Rosecrans National Cemetery.
19. Return to Town and Country
20. Dinner on your own.
21. Hospitality room after dinner.

- **Information Items:**

10. This will be the first morning that breakfast will be served in the hospitality room and that will continue for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
11. We will be visiting active duty Navy war vessels and you will need a valid government issued photo ID. You will have previously filled out an information form in anticipation of this event as part of your registration.

12. When touring Cabrillo National Monument you will have time to view Navy ships coming and going into San Diego Bay. When we visit the beautiful Rosecrans Memorial Cemetery you may ask your bus driver to let you leave the coach to spend a moment or two to take pictures or to pay your respects in your way.
13. Dinner is on your own and there are so many wonderful restaurants in San Diego but the traffic is heavy so be prepared for that. I would recommend you consider the great food provided at the Hotel and they offer our sailors a 20% off the menu price.
14. The hospitality room will be open until 2400 if we have someone willing to take the responsibility for security until then.

August 13, 2014 (Wednesday) Plan of the day

- **Action Items:**

22. Breakfast in hospitality room.
23. Board buses at 0915
24. 0930 Buses depart for USS MIDWAY
25. 1100-1200 Memorial Service
26. 1200-1315 “Picnic at Sea” aboard USS MIDWAY
27. 1315-1530-Self-guided tour of USS MIDWAY (audio device provided)
28. 1545-Board buses for Town and Country
29. Dinner on your own.
30. Hospitality Room will be open.

- **Information Items:**

15. This day the entire event will be aboard the USS MIDWAY. Upon arrival we will go immediately to the bow of the ship where our tables and chairs will be set for our luncheon. Before lunch we will have our Memorial Service led by our Chaplain Joe Correia.
16. Immediately after the Memorial Service we will have our “picnic at sea” as the lunch crew of the USS MIDWAY call it and following that your admission has been provided as a part of your registration for a self-guided tour of the ship.
17. We have paid for an extra treat for you when touring the USS MIDWAY and that is for you to experience a “flight simulator”. Make sure to take advantage of that.
18. For those wondering how there will get to the flight deck, there is an elevator that will take you right to the top. For those needing wheel chairs, we will work to arrange that if you let us know.

August 14, 2014 (Thursday) Plan of the day

- **Action Items:**

31. Breakfast in the hospitality room.

32. 0600-1445 free time
33. 1445-Board buses for city tour including Balboa Park, Seaport Village, Old Towne and a special stop at Orleck Street.
34. 1830 Board the Hornblower "Inspiration" for San Diego Bay dinner cruise.
35. 1900-2200-Dinner on the Inspiration.
36. 2230-Back at Town and Country and hospitality room open.

- **Information Items:**

19. During your free time you can walk to the upscale Shopping Center just minutes' walk from the hotel. Or you can ride the MTS for only \$2.00 a day for seniors that will take you about anywhere you want to go in the city. But if you do that you have to be back and ready to go for we are on a tight time schedule and the buses will be departing shortly after boarding.
20. The dinner cruise will be a highlight from those who have come and gone from San Diego Bay on USS ORLECK or other ships. I understand we will probably witness "evening colors" when 5 minutes before the sun sets the bugle "First Call" is sounded, the word "Execute" (aboard ship) and the bugle call "Retreat" is played. The ensign is started down slowly. All within earshot face the ensign and salute during the playing of "Retreat" or the National Anthem then 3 blasts is sounded on the ship's whistle. That's more exciting than hooking into a big rainbow trout up here in the cold waters of Vermont.

August 15, 2014 (Friday) Plan of the day

- **Action Items:**

37. 0830-Breakfast in the hospitality room.
38. 0900-0930 Church Service
39. 0930-Good byes until we meet again.

- **Information Items:**

21. While breakfasts were from 0600-0900 other days due to the church program the breakfast will begin at 0800.