

**USS ORLECK DD 886**  
**FIELD DAYS March 12-15,2015**  
**Attendee Information**

**If you have not seen the previous two messages [click here for the first message](#) and [click here for the second message](#).**

**Message #3**

**We are just 7 days from the beginning of the Field Days aboard USS ORLECK**

This is the first Field Days that USS ORLECK has conducted since her coming to Lake Charles. So it is a learning experience for all involved. The USS ORLECK is manned primarily by dedicated volunteers who have worked hard to prepare the ship for the Field Days in spite of being short staffed. Understaffed and always struggling for funds, they do fine service to keep her afloat looking forward to the day when she will have a permanent mooring and funding to do her restoration in proper manner.

**A question was ask by a sailor** who wanted to come before and stay a day after the end of the Field Days and wondered if he could stay on the ship. Ron Williams answered: "Absolutely, the ship's bunks are available for volunteers arriving early and separating late. Just let us know your arrival & departure dates & times. Thanks for asking."

**Reminder:** For those flying in who need a ride from the airport you need to make contact with Ron Williams who has arranged for someone to pick up anyone who needs a ride from the airport to the ship. [Click to See the discussion in Message 2](#) that was sent out earlier.

For these Field Days we are so fortunate to have some very dedicated and experienced people who came a long way at their own expense, as all of us do, to help the USS ORLECK. Many of us though have personal attachments to our ship but some of these folks are coming to help us just because she needs help.

There will be a mystery guest that will be revealed in due time. This person has national recognition and I have been in touch with her over a long period of time. She has a sincere desire to help save the USS ORLECK and has been so supportive. She is coming and bringing relatives as well to do what is necessary. I know you will love meeting her.

Rich Angelini is another special attendee who heads up the restoration of the USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY DD 850 that is a beautiful Gearing Class museum ship in Fall River Massachusetts. The knowledge, understanding and dedication to Gearing destroyers that Rich will be bringing to Lake Charles is unmatched.

Coming with him is his father, Michael and Ted Hayes who work alongside Rich on the KENNEDY. Another very special attendee who is coming is Tim Nessmith, Superintendent of the USS KIDD, the fabulous destroyer museum in Baton Rouge.

We are very honored to have sailors and their families and friends from the USS ORLECK. Many of you have gone to large expense to drive or fly here at your own expense to work on your ship. We are equally honored by shipmates from other destroyers and other military disciplines who have as well come at their own expense. There are some folks here who have come because their father or other relative served aboard USS ORLECK. What a tribute to their loved one!

There are old sailors who wanted to be here but due to health or finances could not make it. Some have contributed money to help make it happen.

And certainly we do not want to forget the staff and volunteers from Lake Charles and surrounding areas who give of their time and money to support the preservation of the USS ORLECK. Their time and sacrifice keep alive the hope that USS ORLECK will be brought back to a condition that will make us all proud. There will be some of these folks who will be cooking for us, picking us up at the airport or doing some other kindness. Thank you for that.

A special thanks to Ed Martin who has been so faithful in pursuing the goal of saving the USS ORLECK in Lake Charles. Ed has given of his time and money to support her and continues to be such an important person in her future survival.

And we all need to thank Ron Williams who is there to make it all work and to guide the ship hopefully to her new permanent mooring that still remains a possibility. Ron works hard to keep the Museum together in spite of all the obstacles. Our wish for him is that someday he will see big dividends for all the work he does. And thanks goes to the support staff he has that I should not mention by name because I will forget someone. Thank you all.

To Mayor Randy Roach and other officials of Lake Charles we appreciate the support you have given the ship and the work you did to bring about the declaration by the Louisiana State Legislature making USS ORLECK DD 886 the official Vietnam War Museum for the State of Louisiana.

Thanks goes as well to businesses and to the local media for supporting the concept of this Museum Ship in Lake Charles.

I hope I have forgotten no one for that would not be good. If I have, let me know and I will acknowledge them. I look forward to posting the names of all who have given of their time, money and energy to make USS ORLECK look better on September 15th than she did on September 11th. All are absolutely necessary to make it happen.

Working with the crew that Ron Williams, Executive Director of the Museum directs, Rich has prepared and will help us who have come to work, execute a plan that when accomplished will find our ship looking much better than before we arrived. Just so you will know the general direction below is an outline of the planned projects. Keep in mind that these are all subject to change and in fact the project leaders will be meeting a day or two before to go over the ship completely to identify things that need to be done now and in the future. Below the next couple of paragraphs are some of the items for work on the present list and again a reminder that this is just to give you a

little idea of the analysis and planning that has been going into these Field Days. There will be more detail and complete information provided at the ship.

**This is for those of you who are driving.** As you can imagine there are a lot of materials needed to carry out the work. Paint, brushes, thinner, drop cloths, rollers and pans, extensions for rollers, rubber gloves, scraping and chipping tools, trash bags, brooms and a lot more. Those things will be provided by the Museum. But those of you who are driving you can help. We need coffee and tin cans to dole out paint to the painters and rags can always come in handy. That's a simple thing you can bring a few of and they will turn out to be very helpful to the cause. If you have an extra old broom, dust pan, foxtail, drop cloths, and trash bags and you want to donate them to the cause, those kind of things can always come in handy, either on these Field Days or on other work days. It would be a good idea as well to bring a flashlight, and for those driving select hand tools (screw drivers, etc), any personal protection equipment they like, electrical metering equipment, etc. For those who do not plan to lock their tools in the trunk of their car, bring a padlock so you can lock them up in a locker aboard ship.

For everyone they should think about bringing a hat (unless you want haze gray hair), old clothes (unless you want folks at church the next time you go to know you painted an old destroyer) as well as decent foot ware. (for it is a ship you know)

Here are the examples of work being considered as mentioned above:

### **Major painting projects**

*(most require prep, prime and painting.)*

*-01 level ASROC deck, deckhouses, loader crane, lockers bulkhead.*

*-Fantail-rusted deck areas, boat winch, fanfare, externals, bulkhead of deck house and gunnels-top of Mount and 886 painted on mount top.*

*-Starboard side Main Deck-gunnels, bulwark, false deck stanchions, and boat davits.*

*-Port side main deck, gunnels, bulwark and false deck stanchions and overhead.*

*-DASH deck-deck house, DASH stanchion deck grey, and flight deck.*

*-Foc'sle-MT51 externals, top of mount, anchor chain, gun mount barrel area, capstan wheel, hawser pipes, bits verticals, deck and bulkhead of deckhouse.*

### **Minor Painting Projects**

*-Port Bridge Wing-deck, paint ladder and Pelorus.*

*-STBD Bridge Wing-deck, ladder, bulkhead and Pelorus.*

*-Signal Deck-deck and paint rails.*

### **Maintenance**

- A. Metal Cutting/Repair
- B. Deck Repair
- C. Electrical-close up all electrical outlets throughout ship

## **Foul Weather jobs**

*(Some fair weather jobs above can still get done)*

*This list will be populated based on discussion regarding interior compartment projects that can be done. Exterior work under the superstructure on the port and stbd side main deck can be done in any weather condition.*

*-General cleanup & trash removal throughout interior compartments*

*-Spot Prep, spot priming, and finish coat painting of key interior compartments overhead and bulkheads only; decks need special attention and review.*

*-Mount missing equipment that was acquired via strip trips to areas where needed.*

*-Remove and remount Sickbay operating table to correct US Navy position.*

I am personally am looking forward to seeing old friends and painting with them. Rich Angelini said something once that got me to thinking that I should ask each of you the same question. Why are you coming to the Field Days and working on this old ship?. It could be about the ship, about your desire to see her again, to meet new friends and connect with old ones or for other reasons. Rich said "My own personal goal is to help bring back some of the character that makes ORLECK....ORLECK." I have several reasons that have caused me to join this effort and I stated some of them on our website in a document that gives a lot of historical information on the ship and what her future may hold. You can [click and read](#) when you have time. My main reasons for coming this next week is because the ship is important to many of our sailors and it is the sailors that are important to me. Without them USS ORLECK was just a hunk of steel. With them she a living, breathing creature worthy to be saved for posterity. .

What would be really cool would be to hear from you and to at some point publish why you came to do what you did. Think about it and send me an email at this address expressing your thoughts and feelings. Label the subject line. Why I came and worked on USS ORLECK. . [news@ussorleck.com](mailto:news@ussorleck.com)

If anyone has any further questions or need clarification on things we still have a few days to publish another message so let us know what they are.

See you in a week!

Regards

Bob Orleck

Destroyer USS ORLECK DD 886 ASSN.

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