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Contact us:
dguts@
usslawrence.com

814-322-4150

c/o
135 Zurenda Ln
Mineral Point, PA
15942-4505

Official Newsletter of the USS Lawrence Association

JACKSONVILLE, FL REUNION JUNE 21-26, 2011

This year's reunion will be held in Jacksonville, FL from June 21-26, 2011. We plan on having a great time in sunny Florida after all the cold weather and snow from this winter. Bring your swim suit as the hotel has a great riverfront pool and our Welcome Reception will be held pool side. We have several tours set up including the Mayport Naval Station, Budweiser Brewery, St. Augustine, and Amelia Island. Please register early with our planning company and the hotel.

We will be staying at the Crown Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront. The hotel is one of the major supporters of the Adam Class Museum. You have three room options: Standard City View @ \$115/night, Standard River View @ \$135/night, or a Jr Suite with river View @ \$165/night. These rates do not include tax. This is what our association receives for the above rates:

1. Rate is good 2 days before and after reunion.
2. Complimentary parking. (usually \$10/day)
3. Continental Breakfast served in Hospitality Room
4. Free hospitality room with BYOB.
5. One lucky attendee will have their room upgraded to a Jr Suite at the \$115/night rate with Club Level Privileges.

Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly at 1-904-398-8800 Ext. 500 and mention the USS Lawrence Reunion. You may visit their website at www.cpjacksonville.com.

Please see the inside of this newsletter for additional reunion information and the Reunion Reservation Form.

2011 Reunion Extra "Bahamas Cruise"

This is for those who have the extra time, funds, and would like to take a 4-day cruise to Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas. The cruise will leave the Port of Jacksonville on June 16 and arrive back on June 20 the day before the start of the reunion. Interior staterooms start out at \$529/person and it is all inclusive. The ship is the Carnival Fascination. You will need either a passport or a passport card. For more information or to book the cruise go to their website at www.carnival.com or call 1-800-764-7419. The rates above are not group rates. We need a minimum of 8 staterooms booked in order to qualify for any group discounts and perks. If you plan on going book the cruise and let us know by emailing us at dguts@usslawrence.com or call 814-322-4150. If we meet the minimum requirements for discounts I'll call Carnival and give them the info on all our shipmates so we can get the cheaper stateroom rates.

Please remember that you do not have to go on this cruise in order to attend the reunion. You also are not required to take all the tours or attend the events. Only book what you would like to do and what you can afford. If you live in the Jax Area we hope to see you at the reception, banquet or both.

USS LAWRENCE ~ 2011 REUNION

Jacksonville, FL ~ June 21st - 26th, 2011

Welcome to Jacksonville

Known as Florida's First Coast, Jacksonville is a city adorned in fountains, parks, plazas, and peaceful neighborhoods lined with hundred-year-old oaks draped in Spanish Moss – very reminiscent of Old Florida. America's largest city by landmass, Jacksonville consistently places on Fortune & Money Magazine's "best places to live" list. Reunion tours include *Mayport Naval Base*, and the opportunity to spend the day in historic *St. Augustine*. Jacksonville is the perfect location for the USS Lawrence Reunion, and will provide many opportunities to relax and enjoy your family and friends in this ideal setting.

Hotel Information

The reunion officially begins on Tuesday, June 21st and ends on Sunday, June 26th. You will be staying at the full service ***Crowne Plaza Hotel Jacksonville Riverfront***, located at 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207. The *Crowne Plaza Hotel* is ideally located on the south bank of the St. Johns River, in downtown Jacksonville. The hotel offers spectacular views of the city and the river, and is located close to many of the city's top attractions. The hotel boasts a large river front pool, Ruths Chris Steakhouse, and has access to the River Walk. While staying at the hotel you may consider taking the water taxi, from the hotel, across the river to *Jacksonville Landing*. Located along the north bank of the *St. Johns River*, *Jacksonville Landing* offers several restaurants, an extensive food court, unique shops, and the Adams Class Museum Visitor Center.. View the hotel on-line at www.cpjacksonville.com. The room rate is **\$115.00** plus tax per night, based on single or double occupancy (for city view room, river view rooms are available for \$135.00 plus tax per night and river view Jr Suites are available for only \$165 plus tax per night). For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available 2 days before and 2 days after the official reunion dates, based on availability. Please make your hotel reservations **NOW** by calling the hotel directly at **904-398-8800** *between 10 am-6 pm EST* and ask for in-house reservations. Mention that you are with the USS Lawrence Reunion to assure you are associated with your group. You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 4:00pm; please don't expect to get into your room before then. Make your reservations today; you can cancel up to 72 hours prior to arrival without penalty. They will ask you for a deposit or credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or **May 13th, 2011**, whichever comes first. Don't delay.

Transportation & Directions

The closest airport is Jacksonville International (JAX); the hotel is located about 15 miles from the airport. Shuttle service is available for approximately \$35 each way, ask the hotel for further information when you make your room reservation. You may also choose to rent a car if flying in. Car rentals are located in the parking garage attached to the airport. For those of you driving to the reunion, you will receive complimentary self

parking for the duration of the reunion. Valet parking is also available for a fee. Contact the hotel directly if you need specific driving directions.

Travel safely and we will "See you in Jax!"

2012 USS Lawrence Association San Diego, CA Reunion

Will be held from Tuesday June 19 to Sunday June 24, 2012 at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center

www.towncountry.com

USS LAWRENCE ~ 2011 REUNION EVENTS

WELCOME RECEPTION

Tuesday, June 21st (7:00pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for an informal Welcome Reception pool side at the Hotel. This is a wonderful setting and a great chance to see everyone. Be sure to bring your swim suit if you want to take a dip in the pool. Don't miss this first opportunity to reconnect with your friends.

EVENT A: MAYPORT TOUR, LUNCH & ANHUESER BUSCH BREWERY

Wednesday, June 22nd (9:00am-5:00pm)

Welcome aboard *U. S. Naval Station, Mayport*, this is the second largest naval base on the East Coast which serves over 20 ships and several helicopter squadrons. The Aegis class destroyers, stationed here were built at a cost of over \$1 billion each. A ships tour has been requested (security conditions permitting). Following the base tour, visit the Jacksonville *Anheuser-Busch* brewery, one of Anheuser-Busch's twelve U.S and two overseas breweries. This tour is a wonderful chance to learn about the companies' rich brewing heritage and discover how the *Busch* beers are carefully crafted. The tour includes a visit to the *Brew House, Beechwood Aging Cellars* and the state-of-the-art packaging facilities. At the end of the tour, there will be samples for all (you must be at least 21 years of age in order to sample the beers). Relax in the hospitality room and enjoy your favorite brew or browse the unique *Anheuser-Busch* gift shop.

Important tour notes: You must have a government issued picture ID (like a Drivers License) to get on base. There is considerable walking and/or climbing at Mayport, the Anheuser Busch tour is a walking tour. Lunch on base is included in the tour price.

EVENT B: HISTORIC ST. AUGUSTINE TOUR

Thursday, June 23rd (9:00am-4:00pm)

You will learn about the incredible history of St. Augustine and Florida; how they grew and prospered under Spanish, British, French and American rule. Your professional guide will show you the sites and regale you with captivating historical accounts of the Native Indians, Spanish Galleons, Pirates and the Revolutionary War. You will ride through the *Fountain of Youth* property and hear the fable of the Fountain, Ponce de Leon's discovery of *La Florida*, and his encounter with the native Indians. Regarded as the oldest city in the United States, you will find Florida's history a fascinating story. Following the guided tour, there will be time for exploring, shopping, and lunch on your own in this quaint little town. St George's Street, which is a reconstruction of Old World Florida, is lined with stone houses with overhanging balconies and walled garden patios. St George's and its neighboring side streets is where you will find many historical spots, boutiques, gift shops, restaurants and cafes. This will be a wonderful day in Old Florida.

EVENT C: AMELIA ISLAND AND FERNANDINA BEACH TOUR

Friday, June 24th (10:00am-3:00pm)

Amelia Island is known as Florida's Golden Isle. One of a chain of barrier islands stretching from South Carolina, Amelia Island is a charming place - 13 miles long and two miles wide. Settled by the French, developed by the Spanish, named by the English and tamed by the Americans, Amelia is the only location in the United States to have been under eight different flags. Today, Amelia Island is a quaint, unique and upscale destination of many visitors. Your day begins with a guided tour which will highlight some of the Island's most historical attractions including the "Silk Stocking District" which boasts some of Florida's most elegant Victorian homes, Fort Cinch, built in 1847 to protect Fernandina's deep water port, and American Beach, the

only beach open to African Americans until the 1960's. The afternoon will be spent at Fernandina Beach which is the birthplace of the modern shrimping industry, the shrimp boats depart the docks on most days. The 50 block historic district with classic Victorian architecture makes a stroll through the city a delight. You will have time to explore the boutiques, shop, watch the boats, and have lunch on your own by the water. This is a nice relaxing day in Old Florida.

FREE DAY

Saturday, June 25th

There is so much to do and see in the Jacksonville area, we are leaving Saturday & Sunday open for you to visit the attractions that interest you the most.

BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, June 25th (7:00pm at the Hotel)

Join all of your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 6:00pm; dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Entrée choices for the banquet are Chicken Marsala or Roast Sirloin of Beef. Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of Tour & Banquet expenses up until three (3) days before the start of your reunion. If you need to cancel – please call our office immediately (817-251-3551) for a cancellation number. If you have not purchased cancellation insurance all tour and meal money is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion. **Important Reunion Notes:** ~ Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 30 people per bus is not met. In this case, full refunds will be given. ~ Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary from the bus to attractions and in some instances, to also see the attractions. Please consider your abilities before purchasing tours. ~ Be sure to bring photo identification (like a driver's license) on all events. ~ All tour times are subject to change. A final itinerary is available at registration. **Reservations are due by May 13th, 2011.** Late reservations accepted on a space available basis with a nonrefundable \$10 per person, late fee. You should make a copy of this form for your records. For information call weekdays: 817-251-3551 or Email: info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked before due date above. No refunds will be made after this date, unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. There is a non-refundable \$10 per person refund processing fee. Sorry, no refunds will be given starting 3 days before the reunion for any reason. Your cancelled check is your receipt and proof of purchase. There is a \$25 return check fee for NSF. For a written confirmation please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion. Tours require a minimum of 30 people in order to operate. Full refunds given for any cancelled Event.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Beginning this year and continuing for the following years, the newsletter will only be printed and mailed out in February. We are at the point where we are mailing out about 1000 copies to our shipmates and add more each mailing. Although the cost to print the newsletter is very low the price for postage is rather high with that many copies. We will add a "CURRENT NEWS" link to the website www.uslawrence.com in order to keep everyone updated on important Association news and Adams Class Museum news. For those that have provided us with email addresses, we will continue to send out occasional updates that way as well. Please ensure that you set your email spam filter to allow email from us. We also ask that if you are moving to keep us informed of your current address, phone, and email so we don't lose track of you.

USS LAWRENCE

2011 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

DATE	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
	REUNION REGISTRATION FEE - Per person Everyone please pay - Non-refundable	\$15 pp		
Tues 6/21	Welcome Reception (7:00pm at the hotel)	\$29 pp		
Wed 6/22	EVENT A: Mayport Tour, Lunch & Anheuser Busch Brewery (9:00am-5:00pm)	\$65 pp		
Thurs 6/23	EVENT B: Historic St. Augustine Tour (9:00am-4:00pm)	\$49 pp		
Fri 6/24	EVENT C: Amelia Island & Fernandina Beach Tour (10:00am-3:00pm)	\$39 pp		
Sat 6/25	Banquet Dinner (7:00pm at the hotel)			
	Beef	\$49 pp		
	Chicken	\$45 pp		
	Late Reservation Fee (If mailed after May 13th, 2011)	\$10 pp		
	Tour Cancellation Insurance (non-refundable)	\$10 pp		
	TOTAL:			

>>Complete and mail this entire form with a check payable to:

Military Reunion Planners, P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING:

Name (As you want it to appear on badge): _____

Spouse: _____

Guest(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ Phone:(Other): _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency contact during the reunion: _____ Ph: _____

Years Served 19 _____ to 19 _____

Reservations are due by May 13th, 2011.

Late reservations accepted on a space available basis with a non refundable \$10 per person late fee.

You should make a copy of this form for your records. For information call weekdays: 817-251-3551 or

Email: info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Rec'd: _____ Check # _____ Amount\$ _____ XCL # _____

WIN IN THE 2012 SAN DEIGO REUNION RAFFLE

Here is your chance to win a free room for the 2012 San Diego Reunion. The first place winner will receive free a room from June 19-24, 2012, reunion registration for 2, two admissions to the "Welcome Reception", and two Farwell Banquet Dinners. The second place winner will receive a side view unframed print of DDG-4 or DD-250 which can be seen on the Tin Can Sailors website. Third place prize will be determined at a later date.

Here is how to enter. USS Lawrence DDG-4 or DD-250 crewmembers are entitled to one(1) free entry. No purchase is necessary, but you must register your free entry by completing the entry form on page 7 and mailing it in or you will not be entered in the drawing. You may get one(1) extra entry in the drawing for each one of the following: Pay your 2011 or 2012 dues or purchase from the ship's store. You can get additional entries by making a donation to the Association. For every \$5 you donate, you will receive one(1) free entry. The official rules are located on the website. If you don't have a computer and want a copy please call 814-322-4150. We are no longer giving away free tours in the raffle since they are no longer given to us for free.

The tours are your own expense. Congratulations to the 2011 Jacksonville Reunion Raffle winners! Neil Mengel won the 1st place prize of a free room at this year's reunion. Frank Eastlack won the 2nd place prize of a unframed DDG-4 print. The 3rd place prize of a framed limited edition Bring Home the Adams print autographed by the artist Duffy Soto was Mark Eller.

Assistance requested for a deceased shipmates family

This is to request your help for the family of one of your fellow shipmates; Lee Wiersma. Mr. Wiersma was a Radioman 2nd class and an E-5 on discharge. He served aboard the USS Lawrence from April 16, 1968 to October 3, 1969. Unfortunately, Mr. Wiersma was diagnosed with mesothelioma and is now deceased. Mesothelioma is a form of cancer that can only be obtained through asbestos exposure. As you probably know, the Naval ships were loaded with asbestos and exposure was impossible to escape. Many sailors have died from this illness and many more will die in the future. With your assistance, we will be able to help Mr. Wiersma and his family. Specifically, we are asking for a few minutes of each of his shipmates' time to discuss the names of the products aboard the ship that may have contained asbestos. Please contact Mr. Wiersma's attorneys Aaron Heckaman, Sean Jez, or Will Allen directly at 713-621-7944 if you have any information that will help in this matter. The Wiersma family appreciates any assistance that you may have to offer in this matter.

ADAMS CLASS MUSEUM

There will be a Golf Fundraising Tournament at Queens Harbour Golf Club on Thursday April 7th, 2011. If you live in the Jax Area and would like to participate please call the Adams Class Museum Visitor Center at 1-904-647-5177 to enter yourself or a team. The yearly fall Gala Fundraiser will be held from October 19-23, 2011.

This will be a Adams Class Reunion type event. Please visit the ACVA (www.adamsclassddgvets.org) or JHNSA (www.adamsclassmuseum.org) websites for more information.

LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION HULL PLATE DONATION FORM

NAME: _____ RANK _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ @ _____ DONATION AMOUNT \$ _____

Please make check payable to ACVA ad mail to: ACVA c/o
135 Zurenda Lane
Mineral Point, PA 15942-4505

**USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP, SHIPS STORE, & 2011 RAFFLE ENTRY FORM**

ASSOCIATION DUES

2011 CREMEMBER (non-voting) Free Free
 2011 CREWMEMBER (voting) \$10 _____

<u>BALL CAPS</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>QNTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Ships Ball Cap	\$15 x	_____ =	_____
5641 Khaki US Navy Emblem	\$15 x	_____ =	_____
5743 Chief Test Select	\$15 x	_____ =	_____
5667 USN Own the Seas	\$15 x	_____ =	_____
5748 Bone 2B Navy	\$15 x	_____ =	_____
5951 Own Seas w/Eagle	\$15 x	_____ =	_____
5485 Khaki Navy Vintage	\$15 x	_____ =	_____

<u>T-SHIRTS</u>	<u>SIZE/QTY</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
White Flag/Ship	M___L___XL___	\$10 =	_____
GrayBluePirate	M___L___XL___3XL___	\$12 =	_____
CactusGRNMermaid	M___L___XL___	\$11 =	_____
DeathDoUsPart BLK	M___L___XL___2XL___	\$15 =	_____
WeOwnTheSeas BLK	M___L___XL___2XL___	\$15 =	_____
AskTheChief BLK	LG___XL___2XL___	\$15 =	_____

<u>SHIPS POLO NAVY BLUE SHIRT</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Sizes M___L___XL___	\$25 =	_____
Sizes 2XL___3XL___	\$29 =	_____

DUES & SHIP STORE ORDER TOTAL = \$ _____

PRIORITY SHIPPING COST

1 Item please add \$5 = _____
 2 to 4 items please add \$10 = _____
 5 or more items please add \$14 = _____

DONATION TO USS LAWRENCE ASSOC = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF ENCLOSE CHECK = \$ _____

REUNION RAFFLE ENTRIES

You will receive entries for a chance to win in our yearly reunion raffle by doing one or more of the following:

1. Circle FREE in the box to the left and complete your contact information and mail in.
2. Pay the yearly memberships dues of \$10.
3. Place a order from our ship's store.
4. Make a donation to the Association. For every \$5 donated you will receive one entry.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ST _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ @ _____

RANK/RATE _____ YEARS ON SHIP _____ TO _____

MAIL CHECK AND THIS FORM TO :

USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION c/o
 135 ZURENDA LANE
 MINERAL POINT, PA 15942-4505

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO THE USS LAWRENCE
 ASSOCIATION

Questions please call 814-322-4150 or e-mail us at
 dguts@usslawrence.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!!

Association use only

Check Rec on ___/___/___ Dated ___/___/___

Check Number _____ Amount \$ _____

Total Raffle Entries This Order _____

USS Lawrence Association DDG-4 & DD-250
c/o 135 Zurenda Lane
Mineral Point PA 15942-4505

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you are not the addressee or the addressee is deceased, please indicate and return to your letter carrier.

In this issue:

2011 Jacksonville, FL Reunion
Information and Reunion
Registration Forms

Adams Class Naval Ship Museum Events

New ship store items!

Fair winds and following seas to our departed shipmates.....

DD-250

Paul Norris

DDG-4

Thomas J. Kekelk SMSN, Richard Martin RM1, Lee Wiersma RM2

Website

This is always a work in progress. Slowly we are getting things posted that have been emailed to us. We are working to make maintaining the site easier and may eliminate a few pages to do so. Check back on occasion for the latest site updates.

www.uslawrence.com

Lawrence Association Hull Plates

To date our members have paid off 1 1/2 of the three hull plates to repair the hull of the Adams. We still owe \$3675. With Jacksonville passing the ordinance to accept the ship, the next thing the Navy looks at is money in the bank. If you have yet to donate or have donated in the past, please consider a donation of at least \$10. Please use the Hull Plate Donation Form on page 6 to make your donation. Your donation is 100% tax deductible.