

USS YosemiteAD-19 Association

From Bill Krug
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USS Yosemite Reunion 2023

March 17, 2023

Fellow Association Members, Former Sailors, Friends, & Family

We are down to the short strokes for our upcoming 2023 Reunion from April 26 through April 30. Our Hotel contract has a deadline of March 25 to have all our guests signed up to receive our special rate. Please sign up today so that we can keep our reduced pricing.

If you plan to join us at the Reunion, call **Mary at 904-899-9502** for Hotel reservations and use our reunion code "USY". Mary is available from 9:30 to 5:00 Monday-Friday. After you make your Hotel reservations, complete our *Reunion Registration Form* and send it with your check to **Mike Polyniak, PO Box 20863, Bakersfield, CA. 93390-863**.

The Registration Form lets us know you are coming and allows us to order drinks and food correctly and mark you down for tours. Hotel Reservations are made by you directly to the Hotel. We do our best to estimate the number of guests that will attend, and then it is up to the guests to show up. The tricky part is that we pay for what is estimated. We need another half dozen people to sign up to break even. So, please sign up ASAP.

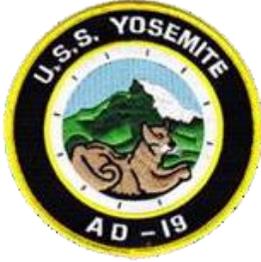
If you have neighbors or Navy vets that are good friends, ask them if they would like to attend the Reunion with you. They must make their own Hotel Reservations using the "USY" code. You must put their names as guests and include the count for food and tours in your *Reunion Registration Form*. We recommend you collect from your guests \$40 for each meal and the total cost for their tours so that you can write a check for your party's total.

Tours are also all about numbers. We estimate as best we can to keep your price as low as possible. We will have to pay for the empty spaces on the Bus.

I once lived in Jacksonville and never really took the time to see all the attractions. While it is understandable that people from the Jacksonville area may not be staying at the Hotel, I have asked the locals to be more involved with the out-of-towners by signing up for the tours.

The time spent with our group helps establish bonds that will remain in place. The tours are often as much of a social interaction as the Dinner and Raffle. We have room for additional people for the Thursday and Friday tours. If you are in contact with our Yosemite members, friends, or family, please urge them to come and join our group.

Our Reunions take a lot of planning, and the work continues until our guests depart from the Hotel. Our Treasurer, Mike Polyniak, receives the Registration Forms and keeps track of what food we have to order for the Reunion. Getting the proper dinner to the right person is a task that has the potential to be painful.



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Having the correct number of attendees means we can shop for the Hospitality Room on Wednesday, stock it, and man it to ensure all our guests have the proper amount of drinks and food to snack on. Quite often, the Board Of Directors serves our guests. I could go on about all the essential things. But it all comes down to one thing; we have this Reunion once a year. It's often the glue that holds our Association together and being with shipmates, family, and friends to share our stories and meet new friends.

This year, I asked Alan to look at items we are holding from the ship and make some available to those that come to the Reunion. You will find them with the things we are going to raffle off. Remember to bring a special gift for the Raffle. Perhaps you have had something for a long time that is one of a kind, and now it is time to share it and let go of it. Last year, we were fortunate to have the items Mike Williams treasured. Thank you, Ann, for sharing these things.

Those who have been with the Association over the years know Smokey Honermann. He has served in many positions in this Association. He has not been present at a reunion in a few years for health reasons, but he always has been with us in spirit. His daughter reads the Newsletter to him faithfully, and I am told he is delighted to be updated on what we are doing. She has also sent several boxes of items from him to Jacksonville to be at our Reunion. Smokey's family has some great articles and some from the Ships Store that has been sent to us. He was also the Ships Historian. Thanks to his daughter, Jane Honermann – Sonnabend, we will have Cruise Books available at no charge, compliments of Smokey. Probably at least 5 Cruises that happened in the '80s. I also have some Cruise Books for members I have already communicated with.

Elections will be important this year. Our Treasurer has agreed to stay until next year. I have consistently told Mike that if he departs, so will I. If it is deemed appropriate, I could remain in place until then, or as previously stated, I will vote for you if you're ready to take the job. Lots of positions will be up for membership to act on. New leadership means new directions, and I like to think - Great Expectations!

We also need to make plans for our next Reunion. Please share your thoughts. Consistently we have had larger turnouts with East Coast Reunions. So please bring your ideas, and we will work on next year's planning.

All the Best,

William C. Krug III (Bill)

President USS Yosemite Association