



March 25, 2014

Ahoy Shipmate!

Our 23rd Annual Reunion is only a couple of weeks away and I am looking forward to seeing you and our other shipmates again. I wanted to take an opportunity to thank you for your active support of the Association, and for your attendance at our reunion. I am really enjoying the role of VP- reunion planner, and look forward to continuing in this role for another two years.

Enclosed is a roster of the others who will be in attendance. There are a couple of other items that may be of interest to you, included in the bullets below.

- 15% discount in American Grill Restaurant and Lounge for reunion members (Not valid on alcoholic beverages). Complimentary self-parking at Crowne Plaza Hotel Garage.
- First time at the Reunion? It is all casual dress. The only exception would be the Saturday night banquet. Most wear jackets and ties or suits, but you can wear whatever you want. Ladies usually wear a dress or a fancy pant suit. The important thing is that you are there.
- Don't forget to visit the Purvis Hospitality Room to pick up your Registration Packet upon arrival. If you have any problems, please contact any of the officers or me to get it straightened out. Registration begins at 3:00 PM on Thursday. Registration will be closed from 6:00 until 8:00 PM, and will reopen from 8:00 until 10:00PM.
- Your registration packet contains the following items: banquet ticket indicating your entrée preference, a dangler for the shipmate, your name badges, and a raffle ticket for a free hotel night giveaway at the banquet. There are also two small gifts that I hope you will find meaningful and a reminder of the reunions. The banquet is open seating so once you decide where you intend to sit, place your entrée choice ticket at your place so the serving staff will be aware of your entrée choice. I have also included a small card with the weekend itinerary so you know where and when to be at the right place.
- If you ordered shirts or hats they will be available after 3 PM on Thursday at the registration desk.
- This year we have hired the Active Escapes tour company and they will be on the buses to assist you. It still requires that you be on time in the hotel lobby so we can shove off on time.
- We have not engaged a photographer this year. I will do my best to capture as much as possible. The costs for them were over \$1200, and I thought we could do without that expense.
- 50/50 Raffle Tickets will be available for sale at the Banquet. Give a little, get a lot! Who knows it may finally be your turn to get lucky and win some money to offset the cost of attending. We also have many nice gifts that will also be raffled.
- If you bring any memorabilia, you can display it in the Purvis Hospitality Room, but make sure you retrieve it before the banquet on Saturday night as Sunday gets hectic and we have to relinquish the hospitality room by 11:00 AM on Sunday.
- A breakfast buffet is included each morning in the restaurant. The restaurant will not hold all of us at the same time, so plan to stagger your time in the morning to allow enough time prior to our tour departures.

- Here is a list of restaurants in the area near the hotel:
 - Chart House \$\$\$ - \$\$\$\$ (904)398-3353
 - River City Brewing \$\$ - \$\$\$ (904) 398-2299 – I ate here & enjoyed it. Great beer selection.
 - The Wine Cellar \$\$\$\$ (904) 398-8989
 - BB's \$\$ - \$\$\$ (904) 306-0100
 - Indochine \$ - \$\$ (904) 598-2922
 - Ruth's Chris Steak House \$\$\$\$ In hotel
 - **Across The Bridge at Jacksonville Landing (.47 mile walk)**
 - Benny's Steak House \$\$ - \$\$\$ (904) 301-1014
 - Chicago Pizza & Sports Grille \$\$ (904) 354-7747
 - Cinco de Mayo \$ - \$\$ (904) 329-2892
 - Hooters \$ - \$\$ (904)356-5400
 - Fionn Maccools \$ - \$\$\$ (904) 374-1547
- There are a ton of activities in the area besides what we will be seeing during our tours. Here a few ideas:
 - Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens (12 miles away)
 - Amelia Island – Great little town, shops, boutiques, café's, and much more
 - Alhambra Dinner Theater- The Color Purple is playing 10 miles away
 - The Avenues Shopping Center 12 miles away
 - Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens (2 miles away) - over 4000 items & formal gardens
 - World Golf Hall of Fame (28 miles away), plus many golf courses
 - Jacksonville Landing – across the river by bridge next to hotel - restaurants
 - River City Brewing - .1 mile from hotel on waterfront –great beers and fantastic food
 - Jacksonville Suns Baseball Club – Home games every night that week
 - Fishing Charters
 - Jacksonville Maritime Museum – Across the bridge
 - Naval Air Station Jacksonville
 - Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base and Kings Bay Trident Training facilities
- Reunions are our purpose, but dues and donations are the reason they can occur. Thanks for being a member. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at (803) 396-5605 or GBaker1@comporium.net.

See you there,

George E. Baker

George E. Baker, Vice - President
Hugh Purvis Reunion Assoc.

