USS LEYTE ~ 2012 REUNION EVENTS

EVENT A: VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL PARK

Thursday, October 4th (9:00am-12:30pm)

No other place associated with the American Revolution symbolizes the suffering, sacrifice and ultimate triumph of the soldier than Valley forge. No battle was fought here, but there was survival against other enemies – low morale due to the losses at Brandywine & Germantown and the British capture and occupation of capital city, Philadelphia, hunger, disease and the forces of nature. It was here that the American Army was born through the training established by Baron Friedrich von Steuben, it was here that the news of the French Alliance was first received and it was here that the Oath of Allegiance, the first official induction into the American Army took place.

The tour begins with the orientation film, **Valley Forge – A Winter Encampment**, followed by a drive through the 3,500 acres occupied by the soldiers during the winter 1777-78. You will see authentically **reconstructed huts**, referred to by Lafayette as 'being scarcely gayer than the dungeons of Europe', earthen fortifications known as **redoubts** and a working example of a field 'bake-oven' along the Outer Line of Defense. Imagine what it was like to 'winter' here as did some 12,000 soldiers and hundreds of women and children!

Passing **The National Memorial Arch**, houses that were occupied by the officers, and the Valley Creek from which the Forge took its name, we continue to the home of Isaac Potts, the 18th century structure which served as **Washington's Headquarters**. Tour this original structure for realistic insight into the lifestyle of His Excellency and Mrs. Washington during their stay at the Forge.

A short distance away is the **Grand Parade** where this 'rag-tag' band of soldiers were trained and transformed into the American Army. Hear how Baron von Steuben was able to accomplish this 'miracle' as well as the details of the celebration on May 6, 1778 when the French Alliance was announced to the Army. No tour is complete without a visit to the **Washington Memorial C**hapel, built in the early 1900's to honor Washington and his men.

Throughout the tour, your guide will relate interesting facts and fascinating stories about daily life in the encampment, the famous & not so famous people who wintered here, the importance of Valley Forge, and the movement of the armies prior to December 1777 and after their departure in June 1778.

GROUP RECEPTION DINNER

Thursday, October 4 th (7:00pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for a casual Welcome Dinner at the Hotel featuring the Chesterbrook dinner. This is a wonderful opportunity to see who is here this year, and your first chance to re-connect with your friends.

EVENT B: HISTORICAL & CULTURAL PHILADELPHIA

Friday, October 5 th (9:00am-3:00pm)

This is not your typical, routine city tour, but history comes alive as we walk in the footsteps of our Founding Fathers along brick walkways and cobblestone streets in Penn's 'Green Countrie Towne', Philadelphia. This city, which served as the capital of the colony of Pennsylvania, the capital of Colonial America, and the Federal capital from 1790-1800, has a history that is unrivaled in America. In an area known as **'America's Most Historic Square Mile'**, we **visit or pass** such sites as **Independence Hall**, where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were signed: **The Liberty Bell**, America's most cherished artifact now housed in a new Pavilion with interesting displays regarding the bell's history; **Elfreth's Alley**, the oldest continuously occupied residential street in America; **Betsy Ross House**, Quaker seamstress who legend maintains made our first flag & whose home is an excellent example of an 18th c. working class residence; **Christ Church**, Anglican church founded in 1695 where many of the founding fathers worshiped and Christ Church Burial Ground.

Lunch on your own at the **Reading Terminal Market**, Philadelphia's indoor farmers market where you can feast on a variety of foods from Philly cheese steaks to Amish Pot Pie, and everything in-between. **Other food court or luncheon options are available.**

Your tour will also include a driving overview of downtown Philladelphia including the **Penn's Landing** area along the Delaware waterfront, the charming 18th century neighborhood of **Society Hill** to see the many mansions, churches cemeteries and gardens, and passing or possible stop at the **Philadelphia Korean War Memorial; City Hall**, which is the largest municipal building in the U.S.; and **the Benjamin Franklin Parkway**, referred to as the 'Champs Elysees of America'.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Friday, October 5th (TBA 4:45pm at the Hotel Terrace)

Gather at the hotel for a special Memorial Service. Please check your itinerary at registration for the exact location of the Memorial Service. There is no need to pre-register for the Memorial Service.

USS LEYTE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, October 6th (9:00am-12:00pm at the Hotel)

The USS Leyte Association Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Hotel. Upon arrival at the reunion, please check your itinerary for the specific location. There is no need to pre-register for the meeting.

EVENT C: QVC STUDIO & FRAZER OUTLET

Saturday, October 6th (9:30am-1:30pm)

This innovative shopping Network is now offering very entertaining and informative tours of their studio. The statistics you hear will baffle your mind! You follow the path every product makes from sourcing testing being brought to 'life' on the air and finally delivered to millions of customers all across America. The highlight of the tour is the Observation Deck which overlooks the 20,000 square foot broadcast area. Guests can watch the 'live' show in progress and perhaps, catch a glimpse of their favorite host. And yes, there is a Gift Shop and we will allow a short time to visit historic buildings on site including a massive 1800's carriage house and stable; you can almost hear the horses clopping on the brick floor of the stable house. Be sure to allow time to visit the winery on site and the extensive gift shop.

GROUP PHOTOS

Saturday, October 6th (5:00pm-7:00pm)

Don't miss the chance to have individual portraits and group photos taken prior to the Banquet Dinner. **Cocktails will be available from the Managers Reception starting at 5:00pm** during the photo session; dinner will be served at 7:00pm. There is no need to pre-register for the photos.

BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, October 6th (7:00pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for the Valley Forge Banquet Dinner at the Hotel; dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Entrées include Top Round of Beef and Grilled Chicken. Later cocktails' are available at the hotels E-Bar lounge.

TOUR CANCELLATION

Important Reunion Notes:

~ Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 60/30 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.

Registration is due by September 3rd, 2012. Late registration accepted on a space available basis. You should make a copy of the registration form for your records. For information call weekdays to William McQueary: 303-857-2167 or Email: kmclaurin3@cox.net. Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked before due date above. No refunds should be expected after this date, unless for extenuating circumstances approved by the Board of Directors. Sorry, no refunds will be given starting 3 days before the reunion for any reason. The registration fee per person will be used as a processing fee. 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. The Association 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 number of people in order to operate. Full refunds given for any cancelled Event.