USS LEYTE ~ 2014 REUNION EVENTS

GROUP HOSPITALITY ROOM
Thursday, October 9th through Saturday, October 11th (various times)

The Hospitality room is provided as a convenient location for Shipmates to get together and exchange sea stories and get up to date on the latest activities and rumors. Beverages are provided at a price to cover the cost of operation. Snacks, handouts and gifts are available there and we have also located the small store items that are available for purchase. Please make maximum use of this convenient location to get together.

GROUP RECEPTION DINNER
Thursday, October 9th (6:30pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for a casual Welcome Dinner at the Hotel featuring Tilapia, Ham or Beef. This is a wonderful opportunity to see who is here this year, and to re-connect with your friends.

EVENT A: TOUR FOR MOBILE'S OWN GHOST STORIES
Thursday, October 9th (8:00pm-10:00pm)

As you ride through Mobile's dark ghostly historic districts your guide will tell you stories of famous Mobilians and spirits that roam our streets after dark and hear strange and unusual tales of the past. Some of the spirits even board your coach and tell their stories,

EVENT B: ALABAMA MEMORIAL PARK, MEMORIAL SERVICE AND LUNCH
Friday, October 10th (10:00am-2:00pm)

Board the coach and depart for the USS Alabama Memorial Park. We will have a brief tour of Historic Mobile on the way to the park. You will see mansions with beautiful Iron Lace under a canopy of Live Oak Trees. Arrive at the Memorial Park which is dedicated to the Alabamians who served in the armed forces during World War II, the Korean War, The Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan. On-site are World War II heroes the USS Alabama, a 35,000 ton battleship with a crew of 2,500 that earned its nine battle stars while part of a strike force in the Pacific, and the submarine USS Drum, which earned 12 battle stars undertaking 13 missions in the Pacific theatre and credited with sinking the seventh largest amount of enemy tonnage. The Alabama's decks, turrets, mess, berthing compartments, bridge, wardroom and Captain's cabin are open for the tour as are the Drum's torpedo rooms and the crews quarters. There are also 28 historic aircraft on display at the park. The Alabama was towed 5,600 miles from Bremerton Washington to Mobile and established as a floating shrine in 1965.

The Memorial Service will be held on the Fan Tail of the ship at 10:45am. A wreath will be provided for the special Memorial Service to honor those Shipmates that have passed since reunion 2013. Hero's Welcome lunch will follow in the Wardroom. Following lunch you are invited to tour Alabama and Drum until departure for the hotel at 2:00pm. The Alabama is handicapped accessible so all Shipmates should be able to attend.

USS LEYTE MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, October 11th (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. It is important to attend as new officers for the years 2014 and 2015 will there and we will be selecting reunion locations for out years and a change to the ByLaws. Other important Association items will be discussed and input from the members will be requested. There is no need to pre-register for the meeting.

EVENT C: EASTERN SHORE OF MOBILE BAY
Saturday, October 11TH (9:00am-2:00pm)

This recommended tour of the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay is for the Ladies to see one of the country's most exclusive resort areas. Along the rural Alabama countryside stands a beautiful work of religious art, the Greek Orthodox Church at Malibis Plantation, there are over 100 hand painted icons and murals in the church. The church, a replica of a Byzantine church in Athens, is a magnificent structure containing marble from the same quarry that provided stone for the Parthenon. The next stop is the Storybook Castle which was built by an artist during WWII which he constructed with left over materials from building sites very interesting architecture and history. Another popular stop is Punta Clara Candy Kitchen, located in a rambling 1897 Victorian home; this candy kitchen has been operated by the decedents of the original owners for over 50 years. The all-natural candy is made from original recipes and sold all over the nation. Lunch will be on your own. After lunch we can browse and shop in Fairhope, Alabama, a quaint bayside village filled with artisan shops for unique crafts and gifts.

BANQUET DINNER
Saturday, October 11th (6:30pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends again for the Banquet Dinner at the Hotel; dinner will be served at 6:30pm. Entrées include a choice of Grilled Salmon, Chicken Breast, or Grilled Beef with all the trimmings and desert. Later cocktails' are available at the hotels E-Bar lounge. A group photo of Shipmates will be taken during the Banquet. Take as many Personal/group photos and send them to the Webmaster at ussleytecv32.com for posting on the website.

TOUR CANCELLATION

Important Reunion Notes:

~ Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 60/35 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 8th, 2014. 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 Angelo R. Masi: 239-348-0085 or email: kmclaurin3@cox.net. Requests for refunds less registration fee 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.