

USS Rankin 2009 Reunion Information

The USS Rankin Association's sixth annual reunion will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel from September 17-20, 2009. The Sheraton Waterside is located at 777 Waterside Drive, directly on Norfolk's exciting waterfront. Norfolk International airport is only 15 minutes away. The hotel is connected by a covered walkway to Waterside Festival Marketplace Mall, which offers a wide variety of shops, kiosks, and an international food bazaar with six sit down restaurants. Within four blocks you will find the MacArthur Center five star shopping complex, and the MacArthur Memorial, honoring the late General. The Sheraton features 456 spacious and richly appointed guest rooms and top-notch meeting, banquet, and hospitality space. Each room is equipped with all of the amenities that you would expect from a first class hotel. Everything is first class, and you are sure to enjoy your stay here! This is the finest reunion hotel we've stayed in since the Crystal Gateway Marriott in 2006.

Your Choice: You may select one of the three options shown below, or create your own limited agenda. You may fax, phone or mail your registration. Reservations via fax or phone require the use of American Express, MasterCard or VISA.

Payment Schedule: Initial deposit is due on or before **August 17, 2009**. Final payment is due before **August 28, 2009**.

Cancellations: For cancellations received on or before September 11, 2009 there is a \$50.00 cancellation fee plus the cost of any activities that have already been paid for, or for which guaranteed numbers have been provided to the vendor. **There will be no refunds for any reason after September 11, 2009.** Trip cancellation insurance is available from many insurance agents, and it may be in your best interest to purchase it.

Minimum Room Requirements: We are committed to pay for a certain number of rooms and a certain amount of food and drink; please participate in all of the food and beverage functions, and stay in the host hotel.

Special Plan for Local Residents: To insure that everyone who really wants to visit old shipmates has the opportunity, Thursday has been declared an "Open Day." Beginning at noon on Thursday the hospitality room will be complimentary to all shipmates and guests. Complimentary coffee, soft drinks, and snacks will be available in the hospitality room. State law prohibits private alcoholic beverages in the hospitality room, but you may purchase food and beverages from the hotel and bring them back to the room. Beginning on Friday morning, access to the hospitality room and other reunion activities will be limited to guests who are registered for other reunion activities. Anyone wanting to participate in activities beginning on Friday will need to register and pay for those activities at the registration desk.

Option A

Arrive on Thursday, depart on Sunday

Includes the following activities and services for each person who selects this option.

Three nights Lodging (Thur, Fri, Sat); Three breakfasts (Fri, Sat, Sun); full use of Hospitality Room stocked with soft drinks, coffee, and snacks; Friday night dinner; Saturday night Banquet; 2009 City tag; 2009 Reunion Memory Book, Sunday Memorial Service Program; roster of attendees; all applicable taxes and gratuities (but we will "pass the hat" for tour guides & drivers); bartender and set-up fees; registration fee; the full time services of a ML&RS, Inc. manager.

Cost of this option is \$876.00 per couple; \$629.00 per single. A \$100.00 per person deposit must accompany your reservation.

Option B

Arrive on Friday, depart on Sunday

Includes the following activities and services for each person who selects this option.

Two Nights Lodging (Fri, Sat); Two breakfasts (Sat, Sun); full use of Hospitality Room stocked with soft drinks, coffee, and snacks; Friday night dinner; Saturday night Banquet; 2009 City Tag; 2009 Reunion Memory Book, Sunday Memorial Service Program; roster of attendees; All applicable taxes and gratuities (but we will "pass the hat" for tour guides & drivers); bartender and set-up fees; Registration fee; the full time services of a ML&RS, Inc. manager. **Cost of this option is \$689.00 per couple; \$450.00 per single. A \$100.00 per person deposit must accompany your reservation.**

Option C

Arrive on Saturday, depart on Sunday

Includes the following activities and services for each person who selects this option.

Saturday Night Lodging; Saturday Night Banquet; Sunday breakfast; full use of Hospitality Room stocked with soft drinks, coffee, and snacks); 2009 City tag; 2009 Reunion Memory Book, Sunday Memorial Service Program; roster of attendees; All applicable taxes, gratuities (but we will "pass the hat" for tour guides & drivers); bartender and set-up fees; Registration fee; the full time services of a ML&RS, Inc manager. **Cost of this option is \$329.00 per couple; \$264.00 per single. A \$100.00 per person deposit must accompany your reservation.**

Itinerary – USS Rankin 2009 Reunion

Thursday September 17, 2009

12:00 Noon: Registration Begins and the Hospitality Room Opens. Shipmates who live in the Norfolk area and those not able to attend our other functions are encouraged to visit with us this afternoon and evening. We have no other activities planned for today, so we'll have lots of time to talk, eat, drink, and explore the NEW Norfolk.

Friday September 18, 2009

7:30 – 8:30 AM: Breakfast will be in the hotel restaurant buffet with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure during this hour, keeping in mind that the buses load for Little Creek Amphibious Base at 8:45 AM. *The cost of breakfast is included in Option A only*

8:45 AM: Load buses for 9:00 departure of the Optional trip to Little Creek Amphibious Base. You were part of the Navy's Amphibious Force; Little Creek is the Navy's Amphibious Warfare Training Center, so it is only natural that you should visit there. It'll be like old homecoming week, don't miss it! The base is home to at least six LSD's, 3 PC's, and 4 SEAL Teams. At this printing, we are not sure about getting on board an active duty ship, but we're working on it. The riding tour of the base will acquaint you with the history and mission of the base. You will be able to see an electronic amphibious assault demonstration which is a fascinating display of combined air, sea, and ground forces. Lunch (included in the tour price) will be in one of the clubs on the base. Following lunch you'll do a riding tour of Virginia Beach, learning the history of its light houses, etc. Also, you'll have time to browse the boardwalk where you can explore the souvenir and gift shops. You'll return to the Sheraton around 3:00 PM. The tour price is based on a minimum of 30 persons. If less than 30 sign up, it may be necessary to adjust the cost to cover the difference. *The cost of this tour is not included in either of the options—you must register for it separately. See the Adjustment Opportunities box on Page 4 and "Add Friday's tour."*

10:00 AM: Hospitality Room opens and Registration resumes.

6:00 PM: Social Hour. Enjoy your favorite beverage from the cash bar while you prepare for your talent show. **7:00 PM** is chow call for a delicious Southern-style dinner buffet. After eating, get ready for some self entertainment. A couple of years ago each couple or single was asked to bring a gift (valued around \$25.00) representative of your hometown or state. At that reunion you did one version of the "Yankee Swap" which seemed to go over pretty well. This year we'll do something similar, so **please everyone (couple or single) bring a gift.** Before the gift swap would be a good time for an open mike to share any stories that you have hidden away in your memory banks. Also, if you can pick & grin, sing and/or dance (or even think you can), tell a joke, do magic tricks, juggle, operate a yo-yo, this would be a good time to display your talent. If we have no performers, we'll have to be content with the gift exchange. *Cost of dinner is included in Options A and B only.*

Saturday September 19, 2009

7:30 – 8:30 AM: Breakfast will be in the hotel restaurant buffet with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure during this hour, keeping in mind the buses for Williamsburg will load at 8:45 AM. *The cost of breakfast is included in Options A and B.*

8:45 AM: Load buses for 9:00 departure of the Optional trip to Colonial Williamsburg. Once you arrive in Williamsburg, you will step back in time to the 18th century. While strolling through the restored area of this colonial capital, your historic interpreter will guide you through the past and events that helped shape America's history. Shop and browse in Merchants Square. Historic Colonial Williamsburg covers 301 acres and includes 88 original 18th century structures. Hundreds of houses, shops, and public outbuildings are reconstructed on their original foundations. Many are open to the public. Walk in the footprints of great Americans like Washington, Jefferson, and Patrick Henry. This is where patriotism flourished and is still alive today. Have lunch on your own at one of the Colonial Taverns along Merchants Square. From there you're off to Jamestown Settlement – truly an historic place. Established in 1607, Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in the New World. The introductory film, "1607: A Nation Takes Root" you will discover the factors that led to the colonization of the New World; get acquainted with the Powhatan Indians, and watch history come alive in the recreated Powhatan Village. For those so inclined, there is a gift shop. There is a minimum of 35 persons per bus for the tour to go. If we have fewer than 35 per bus, the cost will be adjusted to cover the difference. You'll return to the hotel around 3:00 PM. *The cost of the Williamsburg trip is not included in either of the Options. If you wish to go, you must register separately. See the Adjustment Opportunities box on Page 4 and "Add Saturday's Tour."*

10:00 AM: Hospitality room opens with fresh coffee and cold drinks. Snacks will be served in the afternoon.

3:30 – 4:30 PM: Business Meeting in the hospitality room.

6:30 PM: Pre-dinner Cocktail hour and photo session. Individual and couples photos will be taken for inclusion in the 2009 Reunion Memory Book. Six to eight weeks after the reunion, the Memory Book will be sent to everyone who registers for Option A, B, or C; and to anyone ordering the Memory Book in the "Individualized Option." Be sure to have your photo taken!

8:00 PM: The USS Rankin Association Banquet. Enjoy your last night in a more formal setting. Coat and tie are recommended for the gentlemen and corresponding dress for the ladies. If you can still wear a complete and correct uniform, please do so. There will be open seating, so you can sit where you like, with whom you like. *The cost of the banquet is included in all Options. If you cannot participate in the banquet, you may opt-out. See the Adjustment Opportunities box on Page 4 and "Deduct Saturday's Banquet".*

Sunday September 20, 2009

8:00 AM: Breakfast will be a private buffet. The memorial service honoring deceased shipmates will be held after breakfast. *The cost of breakfast is included in Options A, B, and C.*

REGISTRATION FORM**USS Rankin 2009 Reunion—Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel**

Please return this two-page form with your deposit before August 17, 2009

Mail or fax to: Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc. - PO Drawer 11399 - Hickory, NC 28603

Phone: 828-256-6008 Fax: 828-256-6559 Web: www.mlrsinc.com/rankin

Attendee Information

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Spouse or Guest Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact

If there should be an emergency during the reunion and we need to contact a member of your family, who should that be?

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Your cell phone or travel number in case there are any last minute changes: _____

Name Tag

This year a large print, "hang-it-around-your-neck" name tag will be provided to all who pre-register. This is a great conversation starter and personal identifier. Please provide the following name tag information:

Your Nametag Name: _____ Guest's Nametag Name: _____

Your Nickname, if any: _____ Guest's Nickname, if any: _____

Years you served on board: _____ Your highest rank or rate while on board: _____

Options A, B, and C will include a city tag (Norfolk, VA 2009) to hang below your permanent nametag. If you sign up for only selected activities, we encourage you to order a city tag here. Indicate below the number of city tags you wish to order. Also available are plank owner tags to hang directly below your tag, and tags from previous reunions. Please order tags below. Their cost is \$3.75 each.

Number of tags wanted: @ \$3.75: Norfolk, VA 2009 _____ Stuart, FL 2008 _____ New London, CT 2007 _____
Washington, DC 2006 _____ San Diego, CA 2005 _____ Norfolk, VA 2004 _____ Plankowner _____**Payments and Cancellations**Make Checks Payable to: **ML & RS, Inc**

Personal Check # _____ Money Order _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ VISA _____

ML&RS Inc is authorized to bill the below listed credit card in the amount of \$ _____

Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____

Zip Code where you receive your credit card statement: _____

Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____

I understand and agree that if I register for this reunion and do not attend without canceling my reservation as described in paragraph 2 of these guidelines, I am not entitled to any refund.

Signature (Required before registration is accepted) _____

Special Needs

If you have any special dietary, handicapped, or other special requirements, please provide the details below. Be VERY specific.

Handicapped Requirements: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Lodging Preferences

of People: _____ Smoking _____ Non Smoking _____ (not guaranteed – based on availability at check-in)

Room Preference: Single _____ Double _____ King/Queen _____ (not guaranteed – based on availability at check-in)

Special Room Requirements: _____

Activity Selection

You may wish to choose one of the following pre-packaged options. You may add to or deduct from these options using the Individualized Option and/or Adjustment Opportunities selections below.

Option A: Requires \$100.00 per person deposit. Includes all activities **except tours** from Thursday noon thru Sunday morning departure. See Page 1 for complete details.

Single (one person in room): \$629.00 per person _____ Double (2 people in room): \$876.00 per couple _____

Option B: Requires \$75.00 per person deposit. Includes all activities **except tours** from Friday noon thru Sunday morning departure. See Page 1 for complete details.

Single (one person in room): \$450.00 per person _____ Double (2 people in room): \$689.00 per couple _____

Option C: Requires \$50.00 per person deposit. Includes all activities from Saturday noon thru Sunday morning departure. See Page 1 for complete details.

Single (one person in room): \$264.00 per person _____ Double (2 people in room): \$329.00 per couple _____

Adjustment Opportunities

You may make the following adjustments to the options presented above:

Deduct Friday's Breakfast @ \$15.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Add Friday's Tour @ \$50.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Deduct Friday's dinner @ \$52.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Deduct Saturday's Breakfast @ \$15.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Add Saturday's tour @ \$40.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Deduct Saturday's Banquet @ \$50.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Deduct Sunday's Breakfast @ \$25.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Add nights lodging @ \$113.00 per night × _____ (# nights) = \$ _____ Which nights? _____

Deduct nights lodging @ \$113.00 per night × _____ (# nights) = \$ _____ Which nights? _____

Individualized Option

FULL PAYMENT FOR THIS OPTION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR RESERVATION

If none of the options above fit your needs, you may select one or all of the activities below. **PLEASE NOTE:** These prices do not include the cost of the reunion memory book, city tag, or name tag. If you wish to order a name tag or city tag, see the other side of this form, "Nametag Info Block." To order a memory book, see below.

2009 Reunion Memory book: @ \$30.00 per book × _____ (# books) = \$ _____

Thursday: No Charge (see Page 1)

Friday: Hospitality room, registration fee, reception (cash bar), dinner @ \$84.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Saturday: Hospitality room, reg. fee, cocktail hour (cash bar), banquet @ \$82.00 per person × _____ (# people) = \$ _____

For "Meals Only" prices, call 828-256-6008 = \$ _____

Total Cost of Individualized Options Selected: = \$ _____