



USS JOHN W. WEEKS

2008 REUNION EVENTS

EARLY BIRD: EVENT A: FORT SUMTER CRUISE & TOUR

Wednesday, September 24th (12:30pm-4:30pm)

On April 12, 1861, Fort Sumter was occupied by Union troops who refused to vacate the fort as demanded by the Confederates. Confederate batteries commenced a massive bombardment of Fort Sumter, and America's "War between the States" began. The Fort is only accessible by boat and boasts an *excellent* museum containing priceless exhibits. In addition to a visit of Fort Sumter, you will enjoy a complete tour of the Charleston Harbor.

GROUP WELCOME DINNER

Wednesday, September 24th (6:00pm in the Hospitality Room)

Join everyone for a casual get together in the hospitality room. This is a great chance to catch up with your friends. A light buffet dinner will be served.

EVENT B: PATRIOTS POINT TOUR & LUNCH

Thursday, September 25th (9:00am-3:00pm)

You will spend the day at the world's largest naval and maritime museum. Tour the centerpiece of *Patriots Point*, the aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown*, a heavily decorated warship that was at the "tip of the spear" in America's victory in the Pacific during WWII. You will also have time to discover the only preserved Allen M. Sumner class destroyer (same class as the Weeks); the only surviving U.S. World War II destroyer that saw action in the Atlantic. Sent into the Pacific, *Laffey* was involved in one of the most famous destroyer-kamikaze duels in the war. Hit several times, racked by explosions and fires, *Laffey* remained afloat because of the valiant efforts of her crew to earn the sobriquet "the ship that would not die." *Laffey* earned five battle stars and a *Presidential Unit Citation* for her World War II service and two battle stars for her Korean War service. You will also have time to discover the submarine "CLAMAGORE", and the coast guard cutter 'INGRAM". After touring, enjoy the special lunch being prepared for you and served in the Chief Petty Officer's Galley on board the *USS Yorktown*. Don't forget your camera.

EVENT C: HISTORIC CHARLESTON CITY TOUR

Friday, September 26th (9:30am-2:30pm)

Enjoy a journey back in time as your guide relates interesting anecdotes while you experience the beauty and charm of one of America's most historic cities. Over 300 years of American history come alive with stories of the *American Revolution* and the "War between the States". Some of the sites you will see include *Rainbow Row*, cobblestone streets, quaint gardens, and hundreds of 18th and 19th century homes, buildings and churches. At the famous *Battery Sea Wall* your guide will tell you about the "Harbor of History" and the famous aircraft carrier *USS Yorktown*, at *Patriots Point*. You will then have time on your own for lunch and browsing through the *Market Square* area, well known for its unique shops, boutiques, and restaurants.

GROUP BREAKFAST & BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, September 27th (8:00am at the Hotel)

Enjoy an all-you-can-eat hot breakfast buffet with your shipmates. The Annual Association Business Meeting will take place after the breakfast. The meeting will adjourn in time for those who are interested in taking the *Magnolia Plantation* Tour.

EVENT D: MAGNOLIA PLANTATION & GARDENS

Saturday, September 27th (10:00am-3:00pm)

Step back 325 years as you visit Charleston, South Carolina's premier plantation, founded in 1676. Stately *Magnolia Plantation* has, for over three centuries, been the original ancestral home of the Drayton family, whose many sons have played important roles throughout American history. It is believed that no other plantation in South Carolina is still under original family ownership from that early date. Your visit begins with a guided tour of the Plantation House; you will then have plenty of time on your own to visit the grounds. Take some time to walk through the oldest major Garden in America, continually planted since the 1680s, and affording year-round color. Also, allow additional time to visit the *Swamp Garden*, *Barbados Tropical Greenhouse*, the *Antebellum Cabin*, and the *Horticultural Maze*. You may want to consider the narrated tram ride (this is an additional cost of \$7.00 and is not included in the price of the tour). The "Peacock Café" offers a variety of items for a snack or full lunch. Be sure to wear your walking shoes on this tour.

BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, September 27th (7:00pm at Hotel)

Join all of your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 6:00pm; dinner will be served at 7:00pm. Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of Tour & Banquet expenses up until three (3) days before the start of your reunion. If you need to cancel – please call our office immediately (817-251-3551) for a cancellation number. If you have not purchased cancellation insurance all tour and meal money is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

Important Reunion Notes:

- ~ Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 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.
- ~ Exact vessel for the cruise is subject to change based on availability and/or final tour count.

Reservations are due by August 8th, 2008. Late reservations accepted on a space available basis with a \$10 per person, late fee. You should make a copy of this form for your records. For information call weekdays: 817-251-3551 or Email: info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked before due date above. No refunds will be made after this date, unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. There is a \$5 per person refund 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. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion. Sorry, no refunds will be given starting 3 days before the reunion for any reason. Tours require a minimum of 30 people in order to operate. Full refunds given for any cancelled Event.