

# USS RANKIN NEWS

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## GREETINGS, SHIPMATE!

It's been over a year since our last newsletter, and the year has been a hard one. A combination of advancing age and a debilitating but not-too-serious illness have kept me out of commission since last fall, and an extraordinary number of equipment failures have hampered our ability to access our member database and to do any but the simplest printing jobs.

Like the Rankin in 1952, I'm back in commission after a period in mothballs. Also like the recommissioned Rankin, new equipment has been installed and older gear has been refurbished. Only yesterday did our membership software become fully operational, so only yesterday did it become possible to do this newsletter. You can look forward to a full-sized colorful newsletter before the end of the year, and hopefully before our reunion in October.

The newsletter you're reading is mainly about two things: the upcoming reunion and our annual fundraising drive. Because of restrictions on time and money, it is only going to people who have either attended a reunion or have sent us a contribution in the past. Interestingly, that is almost exactly half of the people on our 1,250 member mailing list.

## RHODE ISLAND REUNION

As you can see from the enclosed materials, our reunion is "on" for October 2-5, 2014, in Providence/Warwick, Rhode Island. This should be a great and well attended reunion, since it's our first in the Northeast since 2007, and since Rhode Island is a center of national and Navy history. We will be joined by the men and women of the USS Yancey (AKA-93), as we were by those from the USS Muliphen (AKA-61) in Charleston and San Antonio. Please register soon for the reunion, and make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel. **The deadline is August 21.**

The best way to register is online at the website on the enclosed reservation form, and the best way to handle the hotel is by phone at 401-732-6000. Be sure to reference **Group Code USR**. If you have any questions, call Military Reunion Planners at 817-251-3551, or me, Skip Sander, at 412-367-1376.

Also, if you know any shipmates who haven't been to one of our reunions, please contact them and give them a personal invitation. This has a proven record of success, and it generates a lot of happiness in you, your shipmate, and the rest of us.

## ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Enclosed is a reply envelope for your contribution to our Annual Fund Drive. We couldn't include the usual information update form or list of last year's contributors, due to the previously mentioned difficulty in accessing our database. All is well now, and as long as your name is on your check, we'll be able to identify you and credit you properly for your contribution.

We can **REALLY** use your contribution this year, as the fund drive is starting very late, and since we need more money than usual at this time. As always, there is no requirement to send us any money. Most people who do send money send \$25, though a lot send \$50 or more. We could use an extra \$5-\$10 or more this year for the reasons mentioned below. Further information is available at [www.ussrankin.org/money.htm](http://www.ussrankin.org/money.htm)

Since 2004, we have had a first-class website and a very useful membership database. Several computers and printers have allowed us to do that, as well as to produce a colorful, large-format, multipage newsletter. After ten years, we need to update our equipment and software. The printers are starting to give us trouble, and much of the software only runs on Windows XP, for which Microsoft has recently discontinued all support. If we don't upgrade now, we will face some catastrophic situations in the future. Also, our web site is in danger of disappearing when I am no longer available to maintain it. If we open a new account at [www.forever.com](http://www.forever.com), all our photos and web content will remain accessible online long after all of us are gone.

I hope you agree that all this is worth an extra \$10 or so this year. Thanks in advance for your help.

That's it for now,



Skip Sander  
The USS Rankin Association



# USS RANKIN 2014 REUNION

## Warwick, RI ~ October 2-5, 2014

### Welcome to Providence/Warwick, RI

Southern New England is one of the most picturesque areas of the United States. The Providence The northeast area is abounding with culture, natural beauty and incredible history. Situated in the heart of Southern New England, you will find yourself close to some of the most popular and interesting sites in this part of the country. Your reunion tour program will provide many opportunities to enjoy this picturesque are while spending time with your friends and shipmates.



### Hotel Information

The reunion officially runs from Thursday, October 2 through check-out on Sunday, October 5. You will be staying at the full service **Crowne Plaza at the Crossings** located at 801 Greenwich Ave, Warwick, RI 02886. The hotel room rate is just **\$114.00**, plus tax per night. MRP has negotiated for hot breakfast buffet to be included in the room rate during peak reunion days. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available three days prior and three days after, based on availability. Contact MRP if you have any trouble getting the discounted room rate.



Please make your hotel reservations **NOW** by calling **401-732-6000**, Monday-Friday and reference **group code: USR**. Note that MRP has negotiated numerous amenities for you but only those booking under the reunion group code USR are eligible for amenities that may include free breakfast, parking, internet, etc. Booking through another channel like *reunionhotels.com* disqualifies you and your party from group amenities). Please mention that you're with the USS Rankin to assure you are associated with your group. Make your reservations **NOW**; you can cancel up to 48 hours prior to arrival without penalty. The hotel is holding a limited number of rooms until the group block is full **or September 4, 2014**, whichever comes first

### Airport Transportation & Parking

Please note the hotel is located in Warwick, RI. Providence Airport (PVD) is the closest to the hotel and the hotel offers a complimentary airport shuttle to/from the airport. For those of you driving, the hotel offers plenty of free parking. The hotel is conveniently located at exit 12 off of Interstate 95. If you need specific direction refer to the Rankin reunion website or call the hotel's front desk.

**Travel safely and we will.....**

**See you in New England!**





# USS RANKIN 2014 REUNION EVENTS

## EVENT A: FOXWOODS RESORT & CASINO Thursday, October 2 (0900-1600)

Board your coach for a beautiful ride through Rhode Island and Southeastern Connecticut to the *Foxwoods Resort & Casino*. You will find lots to keep you busy. Don't miss the 12 foot figure of the "Rainmaker" as he kneels with the bow and arrow aimed to the heavens to bring down the rain. There are many unique shops and over 30 different places to eat. The resort also offers six casinos that collectively offer more than 7,000 slot machines and over 400 table games. With over 340,000 square feet of gaming space in a complex that covers 4.7 million square feet, this is the "largest" resort casino in North America. Even if you don't gamble, *Foxwoods* is a must see! (NOTE: Your \$35 includes a \$25 dinner buffet and \$15 in Keno play.)



## EVENT B: PROVIDENCE TOUR & CULINARY ARCHIVES & MUSEUM Thursday, October 2 (1100-1600)

The capital city of *Providence* is known and loved for its abundance of historic and cultural attractions. Three-and-a-half centuries of history are alive and well on the streets of Providence, as evident in the scores of immaculately preserved Colonial, Federal, Greek revival and Victorian houses located throughout the city. You will travel down Benefit Street's "Mile of History" and view the impressive concentration of colonial homes, past the historic Arcade, and the First Baptist Church in America.



The tour will end with a stop at the Culinary Archives & Museum. Was there really a Fanny Farmer or a Betty Crocker? What did Abraham Lincoln serve for dinner? You will find the answers to these questions and many more at the *Culinary Archives & Museum* located at *Johnson & Wales University*. This is the premier museum devoted to the preservation of the history of the culinary and hospitality industries. Often referred to as "The Smithsonian Institution of the Food Service Industry", the museum has everything, including the kitchen sink! After a guided tour you will have time to browse on your own, or you may choose to

relax in one of the original full-scale stainless steel diners inside the museum. If you love food or if you like to cook, come satisfy your hunger. This is a great opportunity to see how far we have come in the culinary industry.

## WELCOME BUFFET DINNER: Thursday, October 2 (1800 in the hotel)

Enjoy a delicious buffet and the company of friends.

## EVENT C: NAVAL BASE, NEWPORT & BREAKERS MANSION Friday, October 3 (0800-1600)

Spend the day in Newport, Rhode Island, known as the "playground of the wealthy". We will start the day out with a short visit to the important *Newport Naval Base*. The *Naval Museum*, which is opening early exclusively for USS Rankin, will be the first stop at the Naval Base and then a visit to the SWOS. Then we will head downtown for browsing and lunch on your own along the beautiful Newport waterfront. After lunch our excursion will continue with a riding tour of this famed "City by the Sea". Hear about *Hammersmith Farms*, JFK's "summer White House" retreat, and all of the fabulous homes along famous *Millionaires' Mile* and scenic *Ocean Drive*. Enjoy the water views while hearing about the considerable history and influential families that make Newport famous. The Breakers is one of the most popular and famous of the Newport Mansions. You will have a self-guided audio tour of the Mansion, a first hand look at the lifestyles of the wealthy. The Breakers is the grandest of the Newport summer "cottages" and a symbol of the Vanderbilt family's social and financial pre-eminence in turn of the century America. There is something for everyone today!



## EVENT D: TRADITIONAL NEW ENGLAND CLAMBAKE DINNER

**Friday, October 3 (1700-2100)**

You will take the short drive to *Rehoboth, Massachusetts*, for a traditional New England Clambake. *Francis Farm*, a unique rustic setting began serving clamcakes in 1890. Upon arrival enjoy clam-cakes and chowder, as the Clambake is built and cooking. Work up an appetite on the bocce court, try your hand at horseshoes, or just enjoy the gorgeous countryside. Then sit down and enjoy a wonderful dinner. Your meal will include traditional clambake menu items including, clams, sausage, fish, corn, and potatoes.

## EVENT E: BATTLESHIP COVE-MEMORIAL SERVICE, TOUR & LUNCH

**Saturday, October 4 (0900-1400)**



Board your bus bound for fabulous *Battleship Cove* in Fall River. Here you will find the country's most complete collection of World War II navy fighting ships, including the *Battleship Massachusetts*, the *Submarine Lionfish*, the *Destroyer Joseph P. Kennedy*, a landing craft, and 2 PT boats, among other attractions. There is also a great video and many exhibits to experience. The day will begin with the Memorial Service to honor your shipmates. While on board the *Battleship Massachusetts*, you will enjoy a tasty buffet lunch. Price includes transportation, admission, lunch with beverage, taxes & gratuities. Ahoy!

## BUSINESS MEETING

**Saturday, October 4 (1600)**

Upon return from the tour, a Business Meeting will take place at the Hotel. Check your itinerary at registration for the location of the meeting. There is no need to pre-register for the meeting. The remainder of the afternoon is on your own

## BANQUET DINNER

**Saturday, October 4 (1800 at the Hotel)**

Join 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 selection on the reservation form.

## EVENT F: POST REUNION TOUR - BEST OF BOSTON

**Sunday, October 5 (0830-1630)**

Extend your stay and enjoy a day in Boston. The Boston tour will include a visit to the USS Constitution, the USS Cassin Young and the Constitution Museum. Following that will be a stop in Quincy Market for you to enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many vendor stalls and browsing in the shops. After lunch board the bus for a riding tour of Boston along the Freedom Trail. **NOTE:** Airfare is generally cheaper on Monday – it may be worth staying on.



## 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 (less processing fee) up midnight before the start of your reunion. Without cancellation insurance all money received is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

**ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 21, 2014.** Late reservations will be accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee. Please make a copy of this information for your records. Requests for cancellations and refunds must be made in writing to MRP via email or USPS. Should you need to cancel your reservations please contact our office immediately by calling 817-251-3551 Monday through Friday 9:00am-4:00pm (leave a message if necessary) AND email us at [cancel@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:cancel@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com) or write P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034. No refunds will be made after due date unless you have purchase *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. Sorry, no refunds will be given for any reason beginning at midnight the day of your reunion. Please note there is a refund processing fee of \$10 per person. For written confirmation of your cancellation please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request for cancellation to our office. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as your proof of purchase. There is a \$25 return check fee for NSF. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday at 817-251-3551 or email [info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com)

# USS RANKIN REUNION RESERVATION FORM

DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
		Registration Fee (per person ~ non-refundable)	\$40 pp		
Thu 10/2	0900-1600	Event A: Foxwoods Resort & Casino	\$35 pp		
Thu 10/2	1100-1600	Event B: Providence & Culinary Museum	\$43 pp		
Thu 10/2	1800	Welcome Buffet Dinner	\$40 pp		
Fri 10/3	0800-1600	Event C: Newport, Naval Base, & The Breakers	\$55 pp		
Fri 10/3	1700-2100	Event D: N.E. Clam Bake at Francis Farm	\$64 pp		
Sat 10/4	0900-1400	Event E: Memorial Service at Battleship Cove	\$62 pp		
Sat 10/4	1800	Farewell Banquet Dinner – make selection below			
		Prime Rib	\$50 pp		
		Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$42 pp		
		Grilled Salmon	\$45 pp		
Sun 10/5	0830-1630	Event F: Post Reunion ~ Best of Boston	\$65 pp		
		Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee (If registering after August 21, 2014)	\$15 pp		
		Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect your \$\$ (Fee is non-refundable)	\$15 pp		
<b>TOTAL</b>					

**>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

NAME (As you want it to appear on badge): _____	
SPOUSE: _____	GUEST: _____
ADDRESS: _____	CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
PRIMARY PHONE: _____	EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____	PHONE NUMBER: _____
IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? _____ LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____	

**>>> Mail this completed form with a check payable to: MRP, Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034  
OR You may register online at: [www.MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](http://www.MilitaryReunionPlanners.com) Use Pass Code: mrp&rankin**

### RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 21, 2014

- Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.
- Insurance holders are eligible for a refund less processing fee until Midnight before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the reunion.
- Insurance ends once the reunion begins – notification in writing/email must be received prior to start of reunion.
- Late reservations are accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee.

Call or email MRP if you need to add, cancel or modify your reservation at 817-251-3551 or email [info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com). MRP agents are available weekdays from 9-4 CST. Voice Mail is 24/7  
You must leave a voice message to receive a call back. Thank you for using Military Reunion Planners, LLC

Date Rec'd:	Check#:	Amount:	XCL#:
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