



USS Rankin 2016 REUNION

Jacksonville, FL ~ September 22-26, 2016

Welcome to the Reunion

Come to [Jacksonville](#), known as Florida's "First Coast", for the 2016 USS Rankin Reunion. Plans include visits to [Blount Island Amphibious Support Facility](#), [Anheuser-Busch brewery](#), the [Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens](#) and historic [St. Augustine](#). Don't miss this opportunity to catch up with your friends and share some old stories. Click to make [reunion reservations online](#).



Hotel Information

The reunion officially begins on Thursday, September 22 and ends on Monday, September 26. You will be staying at the full service [DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville – Riverfront](#), located at 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207. The Doubletree is centrally located on the downtown riverfront and set amidst the historic San Marco district, near [EverBank Field](#) and [The Jacksonville Landing](#). While staying at the hotel you may consider taking the [water taxi](#) from the hotel, across the river to Jacksonville Landing. Located along the north bank of the St. John's River, Jacksonville Landing offers several restaurants, an extensive food court, and unique shops.



The room rate is **\$115.00** plus tax per night, based on room type occupancy. All guest rooms are non-smoking. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available three days before and three days after the official reunion dates, based on availability. Please make your hotel reservations **NOW** by calling the hotel at **904-398-8800** *between 9 am-5 pm Eastern* and ask for in-house reservations. Mention that you are with the **USS Rankin Reunion** to assure you are associated with your group. MRP has negotiated numerous amenities for you and the call centers may not be aware of them (Note: only those booking under the reunion group code are eligible for amenities. Booking through another channel like [reunionhotels.com](#) disqualifies you and your party from group amenities). You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 4:00pm; please don't expect to get into your room before then. Make your reservations today; you can cancel up to 72 hours prior to arrival without penalty. They will ask you for a deposit or credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or **August 30, 2016**, whichever comes first. Don't delay.

Transportation & Directions

The closest airport is [Jacksonville International](#) (JAX); the hotel is located about 15 miles from the airport. Transportation to and from the airport is available via [Go Shuttle](#). The one-way cost is \$20 for the first passenger and \$8 for each additional passenger. No reservations are necessary for transportation from the airport to the hotel. Go Shuttle is located outside between Baggage Claim A&B. Reservations are required for your return trip from the hotel back to the airport. Go Shuttle can be reached at 904-353-8880. For those of you driving to the reunion, you will receive a discounted rate of \$4 per day for self-parking for the duration of the reunion. Valet parking is also available for a fee. [Click here for driving directions](#).

Travel safely and we will See you in Jax!





USS RANKIN 2016 REUNION EVENTS

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GROUP WELCOME BUFFET DINNER

Thursday, September 22 (6:00pm)

A buffet will be ready for you, beginning at 6:00. Meet with friends you haven't seen, make plans and catch up, all without having to leave the hotel. This is sure to be a fun evening, nice and relaxing.

AMPHIBIOUS SUPPORT FACILITY BLOUNT ISLAND

Friday, September 23 (9:00am-4:00pm)

The AKA/LKA mission is accomplished today by prepositioning pre-loaded ships in various locations around the world. As the hub of the Marine Corps' prepositioning programs, [Amphibious Support Facility Blount Island](#) serves as the home of Blount Island Command and its worldwide mission of supporting Marine expeditionary forces. You will have a command brief of approximately 20 minutes and a tour of the island culminating with a ship's tour. (Note: The ship tour will entail a lot of stair climbing.) We expect the ship will be in the process of off-loading her current load.

Blount Island has a few dress code requirements: No open toed shoes - safety hazard. Shorts are fine, not preferred while onboard the ship. Women, no dresses, as there are ladder wells to climb. If loud noises bother anyone, there will be ear plugs available.

Important Tour Notes:

- There is extensive walking on this tour.
- You must be a U.S. Citizen to take this tour, and have government issued photo ID such as a drivers license

We are working on confirming an additional visit to [Naval Station Mayport](#), [NAS Jacksonville](#) or [Naval Submarine Base King's Bay](#). We will keep you posted on developments.

HISTORIC ST. AUGUSTINE EXCURSION

Saturday, September 24 (1:00pm-9:00pm)

[St. Augustine](#) is the oldest continually occupied settlement in America. On this easy paced excursion you'll learn of the incredible history of St. Augustine and Florida; how they grew and prospered under Spanish, British, French and American rule. We'll pick up our guide and head to the [St. Augustine Lighthouse](#) which is the tenth tallest in the US and the "sister" of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. Built 1871-74, it has 1.2 million bricks and 219 steps to the top. The Lighthouse Keepers home is fully restored and is a museum on lighthouse history and much of the WWII Coast Guard history as well as local shrimping.

Your professional guide will show you the sites and regale you with captivating historical accounts of the Native Indians, Spanish Galleons, Pirates and the Revolutionary War. You will ride through the *Fountain of Youth* property and hear the fable of the *Fountain*, Ponce de Leon's discovery of *La Florida*, and his encounter with the native Indians. Regarded as the oldest city in the United States, you will find Florida's history a fascinating story. Following the guided tour, there will be time for exploring and shopping on your own in this quaint little town. [St. George Street](#), which is a reconstruction of Old World Florida, is lined with stone houses with overhanging balconies and walled garden patios. St George and its neighboring side streets is where you will find many historical spots, boutiques, gift shops, restaurants and cafes for dinner on your own.



CUMMER MUSEUM & BUDWEISER BREWERY TOUR

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

Today we venture into Jacksonville, the “River City”, to visit the [Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens](#). The Cummer Museum holds one of the finest art collections in the Southeast, with nearly 5,000 objects in the Permanent Collection. The Museum offers world-class art spanning from 2100 B.C. through the 21st century, features diverse special exhibits, and is home to the Wark Collection of Early Meissen Porcelain. Also, the Museum’s 2.5 acres of historic gardens are unique examples of early 20th century garden design, featuring reflecting pools, fountains, arbors, antique ornaments, and sculptures. The majestic Cummer Oak has a canopy of more than 150 feet and is one of the oldest trees in Jacksonville. A suitable location will be found for lunch on your own.



Next, how about a cold fresh beer from the [Anheuser-Busch brewery](#)? Discover how *Bud* beer is crafted by following it through the steps of the brewing process. Observe the art of brewing and state-of-the-art technology as you discover how some of the world’s greatest beers are carefully brewed and packaged. Enjoy samples and a great gift shop after the tour.

BANQUET DINNER

Sunday, September 25 (6:00pm at the Hotel)

Join your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 1800; dinner will be served at 1900. Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by illness, injury or other causes that may impact your travel plans. Tour Cancellation Insurance allows you to receive a refund of tour and banquet expenses. Please note there is a \$10 per person processing fee. Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59pm the day **before** the reunion begins. No refunds are given the day of the reunion (beginning at midnight), **even** if you purchased cancellation insurance. Should you need to cancel your reservations please contact our office immediately by calling 817-251-3551 Monday through Friday 9:00am-4:00pm CST and by sending mail to us at cancel@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. If you did not purchase cancellation insurance please note all tour and banquet monies are refundable up until 4 weeks prior to the reunion, at that point all monies paid are non-refundable.

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2016.

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. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday at 817-251-3551 or email us at info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com. Requests for cancellations and refunds must be made by email or in writing to MRP, P.O. Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034, and postmarked before the due date. No refunds will be made after this 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 to our office. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as your proof of purchase. A \$25 return fee will be charged for NSF checks. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.



USS RANKIN 2016 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

>>> [Click here to make Reunion Reservations online](#), or print this page and mail the completed form with a check payable to MRP, Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
		Reunion Registration Fee (per person ~ non-refundable)	\$40 pp		
Thu 9/22	1800	Welcome Buffet Dinner at the Hotel	\$46 pp		
Fri 9/23	0900-1600	Event A: Blount Island	\$40 pp		
Sat 9/24	1300-2100	Event B: St. Augustine Excursion	\$49 pp		
Sun 9/25	0900-1500	Event C: Cummer Gardens & Budweiser Brewery	\$40 pp		
Sun 9/25	1800	Farewell Banquet Dinner – make selection below			
		Roast Sirloin of Beef	\$47 pp		
		Grilled Salmon	\$42 pp		
		Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee (If registering after September 1, 2016)	\$15 pp		
		Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect your \$\$ (Fee is non-refundable)	\$15 pp		
TOTAL					

>>> 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: _____
YEARS on RANKIN 19____ to 19____	
SPECIAL NEEDS: (Dietary, Wheelchair lift bus, etc): _____	

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

- 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 1st 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.
- Watch for an email confirmation of your order and online roster update as your proof of payment.
- Changes not possible online including cancellations. Email/Mail notice for cancellations required.

Call or email MRP if you need to add, cancel or modify your reservation at 817-251-3551 or email 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