

“WELCOME TO THE MOST POPULOUS CITY IN FLORIDA!!” We are headed to Jacksonville, Florida for our 2021 USS WASP Reunion from Wednesday October 20, 2021 to Sunday October 24, 2021

Dear Shipmates: We hope you will join us in Jacksonville for our 2021 reunion, where we will be celebrating the 78th Anniversary of the Commissioning of the USS WASP CV-18.

The Reunion Committee wishes to welcome you to Jacksonville, Florida, home of the third largest Naval complex in the country.

This email is to help assist you in finding all that is wonderful in Jacksonville by giving you a website that list more than you probably want to know. Please review “www.visitjacksonville.com” to obtain maps, dinning information, free events, transportation, and other information you will need to have a fun time in this Navy friendly city.

*Our 2021 Reunion will be held in the **Double Tree Jacksonville Riverfront, 1201 RiverPlace Blvd, Jacksonville, Florida 32207** The Reservation Phone Number is **(800) 222-8733**. Use the code **WSP**, or mention you are with the **USS WASP Association** for our \$125.00 Room Rate.*

This year, we have changed the format to assure that no one spends more than he wishes. In the past, we have charged a set fee of \$150 that would include the Welcome Dinner, Final Banquet, Memorial Service, Hospitality Suite, and a tour or two. This year the Association has committed to giving back to the shipmates that have come to our reunions over the years. This year we have reduced the reunion fee to \$15 which will include, Free Breakfast, the Memorial Service at one of the Naval bases, Transportation and meal, the Hospitality Suite with a full bar and soft drinks, Registration with name tags, Reunion Pins, Maps, Schedules, Attendee List, !0% discount on meals in the hotel.\$1 off on drinks at the Banquet Bar, free internet, no fees for fitness center, early departure, sending/receiving Fax, or for the bellman or maid and local transportation within a few miles in a hotel 8 person Golf Cart.

We hope you like this format; the Registration Form may be a little more complicated, but it gives you the freedom to pick and choose. If you do not like it let us know at the reunion and we will address the issue at the general meeting

Travel: *If you are coming by air, the hotel is 16 miles or 25 Minutes from the airport. **The Hotel DOES NOT** offer a shuttle service, but Taxis abound. Uber is also available. If coming by car, the Hotel has free self-parking and paid valet parking.*

Weather: *Florida in October will be warm and there is always a chance of rain. Bring an umbrella.*

Clothes: *Casual, light summer attire is the uniform of the day. A light jacket is recommended for our tours and hospitality room. This year Gary Craddock again will be our photographer to take photos at our Farewell Banquet. We hope to offer individual set down photos that can be*

compiled and uploaded for your benefit. Bring comfortable walking shoes and Sunscreen, as most of our tours will be outside.

Name Tag: *The Name Tag will be in the reunion packet and should be worn always as it contains your individual number that will make you eligible for Door Prizes and Gifts. Your Number is located to the right of your state in parenthesis (0). On the back of the name tag is the **Schedule of Events** with dates and times of our events and contact information, should you need assistance. **Please leave your Name Tag and Yellow Clasp Envelopes in the Hospitality Room after the Banquet so they can be used next Year.***

Hospitality Room: *Depending on available volunteers our hospitality room should be open from 7am until 10pm each day and will be the center point for all activities and relaxation. Each day we will have complimentary Snacks, Coffee, Water, Beer, Wine, Mixed Drinks, and other types of drinks available throughout the day. **The hospitality room will be where we will meet 20 minutes before our Tours and make way to the Buses.** Reading material and WASP artifacts will be on the tables for your enjoyment. Due to the organized meetings such as the Memorial Service, and the optional tours, we will be away from the hotel for extended periods, so enjoy the hospitality room when it is open.*

Hotel Restaurant: *The restaurant is in the hotel and is offering a 10% discount for our shipmates.*

Hotel Bar: *The hotel has a lobby bar but remember, we will have several types of Beer and Liquor available along with mixers for your enjoyment in the Hospitality Room.*

Auction: *Please bring an item that we can place in our Silent Auction during our Final Banquet.*

Ships Store: *The Ships Store's location will be announced at registration and in the hospitality room. This year we will have fixed hours that the Ships Store will be open so that all our shipmates can enjoy the reunion. The Schedule that is on the back of your Name Tag provides the hours. Joe McKinnon, our Ships Store Chairman, has obtained additional items, so be sure and visit the ships store to look over all the WASP related merchandise. We will order a few more shirts than what you have already ordered and paid for in case someone changes their mind or needs another.*

Registration: Wednesday October 20, 2021. *Follow the signs to Our Registration Desk, which will be manned from 3:00pm to 7:00pm for you to pick up your **Reunion Packet and Pre-Paid Reunion Shirt.** It will contain your Badge, Pin, Schedule, Tour information, as well as odds and ends provided by the city of Jacksonville. Please Look over your packet information to assure that we have the correct tours, and name tags. If you are not able to pick up your packet at the desk, you can pick it up in the Hospitality Room.*

Optional Welcome Reception: Wednesday night, October 20, 2021, 6:00 pm *we gather for a Welcome Reception in the Ballroom that features a full Buffett. We will have time to meet and*

*greet our shipmates that most have not seen for at least a year. After the Reception, we can all move to the Hospitality Room for fellowship and renew acquaintances. **Please review the Schedule that will be enclosed in your name badge for the week's activities.***

Bus loading for Activities: All shipmates that are going on our tours or activities will meet in the Hospitality Room 20 minutes before the departure posted time. We will proceed in a group to board the buses. Please try to sit in the same seats so we can all look out for each other. Please assist us by noticing who is your neighbor on the bus and speaking up if they are not back on board when we depart.

Memorial Service: Friday, October 22, 2021 will be held at one of our Naval Bases either aboard ship or in the Chapel. Transportation as well as a meal will be provided by the USS WASP Association.

Optional Farewell Banquet: Saturday, October 23, 2021. Please come dressed in your long pants, casual shirt and enjoy a great meal and wonderful time. We will have our auction, 50/50, raffles, and other surprises.

We hope you have a wonderful time at this year's Reunion and if you have any questions please ask any of the folks listed below or on your schedule. See you soon.

Frank Christman Chairman (941) 497-2904

Walt Pinegar Committee (936) 291-0228