

“WELCOME TO THE MOST POPULOUS CITY IN FLORIDA!!” *We are headed to Jacksonville, Florida for our 2022 USS WASP Reunion from Wednesday October 12, 2022, to Sunday October 16, 2022.*

Dear Shipmates: We hope you will join us in Jacksonville for our 2022 reunion, where we will be celebrating the 79th Anniversary of the Commissioning of the USS WASP CV-18.

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

Please review “www.visitjacksonville.com” to obtain maps, dining information, free events, transportation, and other information you will need to have a fun time in this Navy friendly city.

*Our 2022 Reunion will be held in the **Double Tree Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel - 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, which includes breakfast for two** in the hotels restaurant.*

This year, we have changed the format to give you more flexibility regarding the overall reunion expenses. In past years, we had charged a set fee of \$150 that would include the Welcome Dinner, Final Banquet, Memorial Service and Hospitality Suite. This year the Association has committed to absorbing some of these expenses. The WASP Association will cover, Memorial Service, the Hospitality Room with a full bar, soft drinks and snacks, Reunion Pins, Maps, Schedules, Attendee List, one dollar off on drinks at the Banquet Bar and local transportation within a few miles in the hotel’s 8 person Golf Cart.

Travel: *If you are coming by air, the hotel is sixteen 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.*

Smart casual dress, (long pants, collard shirt) is requested for attendance at the Banquet.

Name tags will be in your arrival package, it will have the daily agenda on the back. Please wear this at all times.

Hospitality Room: **The hospitality room should be open from 7am until 10pm, (exact times will be posted at the entrance) 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. Also the hospitality room is where we will meet 20 minutes prior to our Tours departure times to make way to the Buses. Please be on time!!**

Hotel Restaurant: *The restaurant, Ruth Chris’s Steak House, is offering a 10% discount for our shipmates displaying a WASP name tag.*

Ships Store: *The Ships Store's location will be announced at registration and in the hospitality room. 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.*

Registration: Wednesday October 12, 2022. *Follow the signs to Our Registration Desk, which will be manned from 3:00pm to 6:00pm for you to pick up your **Reunion Packet and Pre-Paid Reunion Shirt**. 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 12, 2022, 6:00 pm *we gather for a Welcome Reception in the Ballroom that features a full Buffett... 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. *Please assist us by noticing who your neighbor is on the bus and speaking up if they are not back on board when we return to the hotel.*

Memorial Service: Friday, October 14, 2022, *will be held at our hotel. Lunch is on your own.*

Optional Farewell Banquet: Saturday, October 15, 2022. *Please come dressed in your long pants, collard shirt and enjoy a great meal and wonderful time. We will have our 50/50, raffles, and other surprises.*

We look forward to seeing you at the Reunion and if you have any questions please contact the Reunion -Chairmen below or on your schedule while at the reunion:

Frank Christman Chairman (941) 497-2904 or Cell (941) 416-5457

Walt Pinegar Committeeman (936) 291-0228 or Cell (936) 661-6246