

Commissioned 2 May 1944
WWII Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
(5 Battle Stars)
Philippine Liberation (2 Stars)
Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
WWII Victory
Occupation Service
China Service



Korean Service
(6 Battle Stars)
Navy Unit Commendation
United Nations Service
Korean Presidential Unit Citation
Vietnam Service (10 Stars)
Decommissioned 12 Feb 1971

USS LYMAN K. SWENSON (DD-729) SAILORS ASSOCIATION REUNION 2011

A note about Mobile.....

We needed our sea legs in Newark last year; the cruise out San Francisco Bay was really good. We don't try to top the last reunion, we just try to make each one "good", I mean "great." That's what we have done for 22 years and we will continue that tradition this year in Mobile, Alabama. History abounds in this Gulf Coast city. In 1703, Mobile, not New Orleans hosted the first Mardi Gras in America, while Mobile was the French capital of Louisiana.

Climate data for October indicates a high temperature around 80 degrees and a low around 56 degrees. On average, there is rainfall just 5 days in the month; hopefully, that will not take place during our get together.

The Mobile airport is served by Delta, Continental, US Air, and American Eagle with connections from Dallas, Atlanta, Memphis, and Charlotte. **The airport shuttle, 251-633-4510 or 800-357-5373**, will deliver you to the hotel for about \$18. You should call at least 24 hours in advance and they will meet you. Mention that you are part of the LKS reunion group and they may discount the price. A taxi will cost about \$35.

Our hotel is the historic Admiral Semmes, (admiralsemmeshotel.com). It is conveniently located at the heart of Mobile's historic, business, and cultural district. The price is \$92 per night and parking is \$7 a day. There is limited parking for RV's, check with the hotel. **For reservations call the local number 251-432-8000 or toll free 877-919-0099.**

Although, Oliver's, the hotel restaurant, is located within the property, you may want to walk a couple of blocks to other restaurants. You will also want to find time to walk up the street and visit the Carnival (Mardi Gras) museum.

Our hospitality suite is located adjacent to the lobby. It is next to Oliver's and across the lobby from the Admiral's Corner Lounge.

Welcome to Margaritaville all you Parrotheads!! The Admiral's Corner is where Jimmy Buffet started his rise to stardom.

Let's party!!! Arrive early Thursday!!! 13 October is the 236th birthday of the US Navy, we have arranged for a birthday reception around the pool. Hey, nobody wants to miss a party. A light supper will also be served.

On Friday, our coach will pick us up at the Admiral Semmes for an exciting tour of Historic Mobile. We will see the 19th century Garden District with its unique architecture of ante-bellum homes. We will stop at the Richards-DAR Home for a tour. Then our coach will transport us to the Battleship Memorial Park. Here we'll be able to tour a WWII submarine, combat aircraft, tanks and even a Viet Nam River Patrol Boat. We will tour and then have lunch on board the USS Alabama (BB-60). How long has it been since you ate on a metal tray?? The food will be good, but the best comes during the last 30 minutes. We will gather on the USS Alabama fantail for a very special memorial service. It will not only be moving, but it will touch your heart.

Saturday, we will board our motor coach for a short trip to the Pensacola Naval Air Station for a visit to the National Navy Aviation Museum (navalaviationmuseum.org). There are more than 150 historic and one of a kind aircraft including the Enola Gay which carried the atomic bomb to Hiroshima. You will also see the Blue Angels' A4's hanging in the atrium. Some of you will want to visit the Cubi Bar and Café, which duplicates the Cubi Point Officers Club of the Philippines. We will have lunch before returning to Mobile.

Saturday afternoon, we will return to Mobile and rest up for the banquet. This will be a Mardi Gras theme. Uniform of the day for the banquet will be coat tie, (in the South, we call them Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes).

We stepped out of our normal routine Friday with the memorial service; therefore, Sunday we will have a leisurely farewell breakfast. This will provide ample time for hugs and "I'll see you in Charleston next year."

Some of you expressed interest in Bellingrath Gardens and Home (bellingrath.org). We have put together an optional Sunday tour to this Beautiful 65 acre garden estate. The cost of the tour is \$59 and includes the gardens, home, and lunch. We **must** have a minimum of 10 persons in order to get this price.

Attention all ladies!! A short drive down the road (45 minutes) will satisfy all of your shopping desires. Foley, Alabama is home to a large outlets mall. (says Jean) For all non shoppers (men) there is also a Lamberts Restaurant, home of 'throwed' rolls.

If you want to stay over for a couple of days, the Blue Angels' schedule is to practice on Wednesday, 19 October. You can see this "free" show at the National Navy Aviation Museum (navalaviationmuseum.org). That's right, the best pilots that ever sat in a cockpit practice and it's free.

See ya'll in Mobile (Mo-beel)...

Lee & Jean Aldridge

PLEASE REMEMBER - - REGISTRATIONS & FEES ARE
DUE 13 AUGUST 2011