



# USS BLUE DD 744 NEWSLETTER

March 10, 2016

Dear Shipmates and Friends,

We had a very successful reunion in San Antonio, Texas last September. In our men's meeting, I opened a letter from Chuck Kelley. He is one of our few remaining World War II veterans (1945-47). Chuck made a very generous (and I mean VERY GENEROUS) gift to our reunion group. We are putting half of it towards a plaque in honor of the Blue at the World War II Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. The other half was donated to the "Quilts of Honor", a volunteer non-profit group led by Gail Belmont. These volunteers, including Rita Padilla, many of her friends and several from our Ladies group, made a quilt for every crewmember who attended the reunion. Each one was individualized with our names on them. There were many tears that night. If you would like to make a donation to this great group, I will add their address at the end. We had several new people attend this year. They assure me that they are hooked and will be back this year. If you have never attended our reunion, please give us a try. You will meet some great people and feel more than welcome. Bring your wife or girlfriend (or both, if you can get away with that) and she will fit right in with our ladies group.

A few years back at our San Diego reunion in 2011, Chuck Kelley donated a large bronze plaque with the information of the ship on it. It was like the one that was on the Blue while she was in commission. I am trying to find a person who won it. If you can remember who it was, please let me know.

This year's reunion will be in Charleston, South Carolina. The dates are September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The hotel that will be hosting us is the Radisson Hotel Charleston Airport. Our rate this year is \$99.00 per night. This will include a free airport shuttle, free parking and a hot breakfast. Our rate is good for (3) days before and (3) days after the reunion. To make a reservation, please call the hotel at (843) 744-2501. If you have a problem, ask for Chris Walz in the Sales Department. Please make your reservation at the hotel by August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. This includes sending me the reunion registration form by the same date.

Our tour Friday will be to Patriot's Point. There are several Navy ships there, including the USS Laffey DD 724. This is the last remaining Sumner Class Destroyer. Lunch will be on the Carrier Yorktown in the CPO Mess. Afterwards we will leave for Fort Moultrie.

Our tour Saturday will be of historic Charlestown, South Carolina. There we will have some free time in the Old City Market for some shopping and lunch (on your own). We will then leave for the Magnolia Gardens where we will have a film and nature train tour. Then we will head back to the hotel to get ready for dinner.

As you all know, we have a great website thanks to Glenn Harvey and our volunteer webmaster Gary Albaugh. Our website is <http://www.ussbluedd744.com>. We also have a Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/ussbluedd744>) and a Twitter page (<http://twitter.com/ussbluedd744>) that uses @USSBlueDD744 (if you know what that means). Please take some time to check them out.

## *Dennis J Kearns*

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For donations to the Quilts of Honor, please send a check or money order to:  
Quilts of Honor, 6516 Stabulis Road, Valley Springs, California 95252

# ***2016 USS Blue DD 744 Reunion Schedule of Events***

## **Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016:**

12:00pm	Registration Begins; Location posted in the lobby. Hospitality Suite opens.
6:30pm	Cash Bar
7:00pm	Seating in Dining Room for introductions, etc.
7:15pm	Dinner served

## **Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016:**

6:00am - 8:45am	Breakfast in hotel restaurant
9:00am	Tour leaves for Patriot's Point and Four Moultrie
3:30pm	Tour bus returns to hotel; no dinner is planned
4:30pm - 6:00pm	Men's Meeting and Ladies Tea

## **Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016:**

6:00am - 8:30am	Breakfast in hotel restaurant
8:45am	Bus leaves for Historic Charleston tour and Magnolia Gardens
3:45pm	Tour bus returns to hotel
6:00pm	Cash Bar and Group Photos
7:15pm	Dinner is served

## **Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016:**

6:00am - 9:00am	Breakfast in hotel restaurant
Mission Complete!	Have a safe trip home! See you next year!