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JULY 2017

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## USS JOHN W WEEKS DD-701 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER REUNION EDITION

This year's John W. Weeks reunion will be held in beautiful downtown Pittsburgh. The dates are Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday September 17<sup>th</sup>. Phil and Lynn Varner have put together a package that will entertain and keep us busy for our 4 day reunion. In addition to the planned events which consist of the Heinz History and Sports Museum and the river boat cruise, there are many other things to do and see in Pittsburgh. Information will be provided in the hospitality room and at the hotel lobby for the many restaurants and other venues that you can experience between the scheduled events. Please make your hotel reservations by August 21 and return the registration form enclosed in this newsletter to Jerry Wester before the cutoff date of **August 18, 2017**.

### HOTEL INFORMATION

The reunion is being held at the Sheraton Hotel at Station Square, downtown Pittsburgh. Check in time is 3:00 PM

**Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square**  
**300 W Station Square Drive**  
**Pittsburg, PA 15219**

The Sheraton is located on the waterfront in the heart of a 52 acre riverfront complex that includes Station Square restaurants and entertainment venues. The hotel is adjacent to 20 restaurants within the Shops at Station Square, Bessemer Court and the Gateway Clipper Riverboat fleet. The location offers easy access to downtown Pittsburg and attractions such as Heinz Field, The Rivers Casino, David L. Lawrence Center and more. For



### Now Hear This!

**IMPORTANT: PITTSBURGH  
REUNION  
REGISTRATION/INFORMATION  
EDITION**

Look inside for your Registration Form. If attending, complete form and send to our Treasurer, Jerry Wester with your check **BEFORE** August 18. Make your hotel reservation as soon as possible but no later than August 21 to ensure availability.

### Shipmates!

Information on our association founder Hal Gross and the history of the USS John W Weeks Association can be found on our website.  
**[www.ussjwws701.org](http://www.ussjwws701.org)**

reservations, call the hotel direct at **1-412-261-2000** or Corporate at **1-800-325-3535**. Be sure to mention that you are part of the John W. Weeks reunion group to receive the discounted \$119 room rate. This rate is available for 3 days before and after the reunion dates for those wishing to extend their stay. Parking at the hotel is \$20 per day. The Hotel provides complementary shuttle service within a 3 mile radius which covers most of the downtown area. Website:

***<http://www.sheratonpittsburghstationsquare.com>***.

Any questions may be direct to Phil Varner, our reunion coordinator. He can be reached on (H) 856-464-1727 or (C) 826-229-2920.

**JOHN W. WEEKS (DD-701) REUNION • PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA  
REGISTRATION FORM AND PAYMENT**

Payments must be received by mail on or before August 18, 2017. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

USS John W Weeks Association

Mail check to: Jerry Wester, Treasurer 2590 Sylvan Street, Little Canada, MN 55117

DATE	EVENT	COST	QTY	SUBTOTAL
	REUNION REGISTRATION FEE	\$35 PP		
THURS SEPT 14	HEINZ HISTORY MUSEUM	\$25 PP		
FRI SEPT 15	RIVER BOAT CRUISE ABOARD THE GATEWAY CLIPPER W/ LUNCH AND ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED	\$45 PP		
SAT SEPT 16	BANQUET DINNER			
	Flank Steak	\$45 PP		
	Baked Chicken Breast	\$45 PP		
	Beef Medallions	\$45 PP		
	2017 ASSOCIATION DUES	\$25		
	2018 ASSOCIATION DUES	\$25		
	VOLUNTARY DONATION TO THE JOHN W. WEEKS MUSEUM MEMORIAL ROOM			
	TOTAL			

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING: NAME/

RATE (On Name Tag) \_\_\_\_\_

Years Served \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you staying at the hotel Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Method of transportation: Car \_\_\_ Plane \_\_\_ Train \_\_\_ RV \_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_ Notice: You should make a copy of this form for your records.

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## TOUR BACKGROUND

### HEINZ HISTORY AND SPORTS MUSEUM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

**The Senator John Heinz History Center**, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution is the largest history museum in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Named after U.S. Senator H. John Heinz III (1938–1991) who is from Pennsylvania. It is located in the Strip District of Pittsburgh.

The Heinz History Center is a 275,000-square-foot educational institution "that engages and inspires a diverse audience with links to the past, understanding in the present, and guidance for the future by preserving regional history and presenting the American experience with a Western Pennsylvania connection."

The History Center features the Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum and the Library and Archives, and includes six floors of permanent and changing exhibitions that tell the story of Western Pennsylvania. Though it was originally established in 1879 the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania opened its current location in the historic Strip District along the Allegheny River in 1996. It is named for H. John Heinz III, the late US Senator from Pennsylvania who died in a 1991 plane crash.

The century-old Chautauqua Lake Ice Company building was renovated and adapted for use as the museum. The interior was designed to show off the building's features, as well as create spaces for exhibits and support space. The museum building is an exhibit in its own right. The tour will bring to light facts you may not be aware of about the 250 years of Pittsburgh's Connection with American History starting with the French and Indian War and the importance of the steel industry and of course Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. This is just a few of the things housed In the Heinz History Center. The Center is at one end of "The Strip", an area known for Shopping and eating authentic Pittsburgh food. An exciting place for Lunch or dinner. Restaurants range from inexpensive to upscale fine Dinning. Street vendors are also scattered among the regular stores. Don't fret about staying to long as the hotel shuttle will come to your aid or try free transportation... hop on the bus or subway and ride back to the hotel for free using your Medicare Card.

Following the tour you may choose to return the hotel on the shuttle or continue to experience "THE STRIP" for shopping and a meal. Remember the last shuttle to the hotel leaves The Strip at 12:45 PM.

## **GATEWAY CLIPPER RIVERBOAT CRUISE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**

The **Gateway Clipper Fleet**, founded by John E. Connelly, is a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania based fleet of riverboats. The fleet cruises the three rivers of Pittsburgh, the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio. The fleet is named after the city of Pittsburgh, which in earlier times was known as the "Gateway to the West". The original riverboat was *Gateway Clipper*, which set sail in 1958. By the mid-1960s, the fleet was composed of three craft, *Gateway Clipper*, *Party Liner*, and *Good Ship Lollipop*. In 1999 it added its fifth ship. In 2008 the Gateway Clipper Fleet celebrated its 50th year of sailing on the Three Rivers. In 2013, the fleet added its sixth ship, the all-steel classic paddle wheel *Three Rivers Queen*. Friday at 11:00 AM we will board the Gateway Clipper (Big Paddle Wheel River Boat). The Gateway fleet is docked just steps away from our hotel. Lunch will be served on board the Clipper and the sightseeing cruise of Pittsburgh will begin. There will be entertainment during the cruise, a "Tribute to Neil Diamond" by Chris Denim, featuring Diamond's early songs. Also drinks and specialty cocktails will be available for purchase. Before the boat returns to Station Square it will dock at the Rivers Casino. Anyone wishing to try their luck at the casino may depart and do so. From there it will return to Station Square and hotel at approximately 2:30 PM. People who depart at the casino will need to provide their own transportation back to the hotel. Cab fare is about \$15.00 the hotel shuttle is free and transports folks to/from the casino.

## REUNION AGENDA

### Wednesday, September 13

3:00 – 6:00 PM	Reunion Registration	
3:00 – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Room Open	Haselton Room

### LOCATION

### Thursday, September 14

#### Heinz Museum

9:00 AM	Board Molly's Trolley * For transport to Museum	Lobby
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Museum Tour and strip District. Strip District is on your own or Return to Hotel.	

2:30 PM	Hospitality Room Open	Haselton Room
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\*Note that the Trolley will run a continuous 4 hour loop between the Museum, Strip District and Hotel until 12.45 PM. If you elect to remain in the Strip District after the last trolley run transportation back to the hotel will be on your own.

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Board Meeting Dinner on your own	To Be Determined
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### Friday, September 15

#### River Boat Cruise

9:00 AM– 10:00 AM	Hospitality Room Open	Haselton Room
10:45 AM	Meet for River Boat Cruise (Short walk from Hotel)	Lobby
11:00 AM	Board boat for river tour and lunch and entertainment	

2:30 PM

Arrive back to Hotel

Hospitality room open

Haselton Room

Optional touring and dinner  
on your own

**Saturday, September 16**

9:00 am – 11:00 AM

Business Meeting

Stoop Fery Room

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Hospitality room open

Haselton Room

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Cocktail Hour

Fountainview Room

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Dinner

Fountainview Room

10:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Hospitality room clean-up

Haselton Room





**SEE YOU IN PITTSBURGH!**

USS John W Weeks  
Association  
1118 Lincoln Ave.  
Port Huron, MI 48060

We are on the  
WEB!  
[www.ussjweeks  
701.org](http://www.ussjweeks701.org)

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