

USS JOHN W WEEKS DD-701 ASSOCIATION

2024 SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER



President's Letter

Greetings to all my John W Weeks family and friends! I pray that this newsletter finds you all well and having a prosperous and happy year. We are planning a fantastic reunion this year in Dayton, Ohio.

As you may know, the Association planned to have a reunion in Dayton twice before, but we had to cancel because of the pandemic. Our reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn, 2800 Presidential Dr. Fairborn, OH. Check-in will be Wednesday October 16 at 3:00 PM and check out Sunday October 20 by 1200 noon. The group room rate is \$159.00 plus tax per day. This includes free breakfast and free parking.

If available, rooms can be obtained for stays three days before and three days after the reunion for the same rate. Hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn Fairborn can be made by calling 1-800-465-4329 or 1-(937) 426-7800 and asking for Gina Moore or Dianna Cordle.

Tell them you are with the USS John W Weeks Reunion. **ONLY** Gina or Dianna can make the reservations at the hotel for you to be with our group and get our group rates. If you have any difficulties, please call me at 417-781-4752. Hotel reservations can be cancelled up to 24 hours before the reunion for a full refund. All rooms that were blocked for the reunion have already been taken. Our contract with the hotel, however, allows anyone coming to the reunion to obtain hotel rooms at the contracted rate up until the start of the reunion if there are rooms available. Once the hotel sells out of rooms, we will not be able to obtain more rooms. When we scheduled our first reunion in Dayton, the hotel we were staying at was sold out of rooms four months before the reunion. If you think you may come to the reunion, make reservations for



Now Hear This!

**A REMINDER TO ALL
SHIPMATES RECEIVING
THIS NEWSLETTER...THE
DEADLINE FOR 2024
ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT
WAS MARCH 31**

**Change of address, email or
membership status? Please
notify Dave Parent at
d.parent@sbcglobal.net**

(708) 703-1087

your room now. You can always cancel and get a full refund. You are competing with everyone who wants a room in Dayton and once sold out, there are no more rooms.

The John W Weeks DD-701 was launched and the first crew came aboard in May 1944. Except for a few months in 1950, the John W Weeks was in service until August 1970, when she was decommissioned. During these 26 years, the ship played a critical role in world and naval events. She served in World War II, Korea, the Cuban missile crisis, Vietnam and in other areas of conflict. The John W Weeks family was born as the first members came aboard the ship. This family consists of more than just those who served aboard the ship. The Weeks family also consists of wives, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. It is amazing that 55 to 80 years after serving on the ship, the bonds of love are strong and members regularly communicate and do things with each other. They are there to help each other and support each other in many ways. It is a blessing to have the family we have. Everyone is important no matter when they served or what rank or job they had.

Reunion is about the family of the USS John W Weeks coming together to visit, go on tours, and see people they may not have seen in years, meet new people, and to tell their stories. This reunion is going to be special. The people planning to attend include a plank owner who served in World War II 80 years ago, the last person to stand watch on the ship, the person who was there when the Weeks was buried at sea, people who were there for the last war time deployment to Vietnam, and people who were on the ship at different periods of time. Some have attended several reunions, and several others will be attending their first reunion. I also want to stress the importance of having wives and family at the reunion. Wives have as much fun as we crew members of the ship do.

There is a lot to see and do in and around Dayton. Many of the attractions are low cost or free. Some of the attractions include the Oregon District where you can shop, dine and relax in the open air. The Packard Museum, our two-hour guided tour for Thursday, has the largest collection of Packard automobiles and memorabilia anywhere in the world, with cars from 1908 to 1958. Carillon Historical Park is our second tour for Thursday. This is a 65-acre park and museum which contains historical buildings and exhibits concerning the history and technology and the history of Dayton and its residents from 1796 to the present. It also includes the Wright Brothers National Museum. The National Museum of the U.S. Air Force galleries, our tour for Friday, presents military aviation history, including Navy, boasting more than 360 aerospace vehicles, and missiles on display.

I want to thank all the officers of the Association and members of the USS John W Weeks family that have done so much to prepare for this reunion and have done so much to support the Association. A big "well done" to everyone. I am very much looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion.

Frederick Dalton

2024 Weeks Reunion Hotel Contact

Hotel reservations can be made directly by calling the numbers listed below. Ask for Gina Moore or Dianna Cordle and let them know you are with the USS John W Weeks Reunion group.

Holiday Inn Fairborn

**2800 Presidential Dr.
Fairborn, OH 45324
Toll-Free 1-800-465-4329
Direct: 1-937-426-7800**

Questions???

Frederick Dalton
1816 Ohio Avenue
Joplin, MO 64804
Home Phone: 1-417-781-4752
Cell: 1-417-437-5835
frederickdalton@hotmail.com

USS JOHN W. WEEKS REUNION AGENDA DAYTON OHIO 2024

Hospitality Room is the **Kitty Hawk Room** (Maximum 50 people)

Banquet Room is the **Challenger Room** (Maximum 100 people)

USS John W Weeks Banner to be provided to the hotel and will be hung by hotel staff 48 hours before installation date.

The hotel does not charge for receiving and storing boxes shipped to the hotel.

DATE	LOCATION	ACTIVITY
Tuesday, October 15, 2024	Holiday Inn Fairborn	Officers meeting. Time to be determined. Everyone welcome
12:30 PM	Hospitality Room (Kitty Hawk Room)	Pickup supplies and start prepping Hospitality room if room is available.
Wednesday, October 16, 2024		
10:00 AM	Kitty Hawk Room	Finish Setting up Hospitality room
2:00 PM		Reunion Registration Desk Opens
2:00 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Tickets for Silent Auction go on sale
Time TBD	Kitty Hawk Room	Welcome Back
7:00 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Welcoming Meeting
Thursday October 17, 2024		
6:00 -9:00 AM		Breakfast Served
8:45 AM	Hotel Lobby	MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY for 2-hour tour of Packard Museum
9:00 AM		Board Tour Bus for Packard Museum. Bus returns to hotel after tour.
Time TBD	Packard Museum	Board bus for return to hotel
12:00 PM		Board bus at hotel for tour of Carillon Park and lunch.
3:30 PM		Tour bus returns to hotel. Dinner on your own
4:30 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Hospitality Room opens
5:00 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Silent Auction tickets on sale
11:30 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Hospitality room closes
Friday, October 18, 2024		
6-9 AM		Breakfast Served
8:45 AM	Hotel Lobby	MEET IN HOTEL LOBBY
9:00 AM		Carpool to the Museum of the Air Force for tour.
9:30 AM	National Museum of the US Air Force	Tour National Museum of the US Air Force. Lunch is available at the museum restaurants.
3:30 PM		Free Time and Dinner on your own
5:00 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Hospitality Room opens
11:30 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Hospitality Room closes

Saturday, October 19, 2024		
7-10 AM		Breakfast Served
9:00 AM	Location To be announced	Business Meeting Begins
9:30 AM		Free time on your own
11:30 AM	Kitty Hawk Room	Hospitality room reopens
4:30 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Hospitality room closed until after dinner is finished
5:00 PM	Challenger Room	Cocktails (Cash Bar)
5:45 PM	Challenger Room	Dinner Seating Begins
6:00 PM	Challenger Room	Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
	Challenger Room	Memorial Service for Our Shipmates
Memorial Service to be completed before dinner is served		
6:30 PM	Challenger Room	Dinner Served (After Banquet Hospitality Room Reopens)
Time TBD	Kitty Hawk Room	After Banquet, Hospitality Room Reopens
11:00 PM	Kitty Hawk Room	Hospitality Room Clean-up
Sunday, October 20, 2024		
7-10 AM		Breakfast Served
12:00 PM		Hotel Check Out by 12:00 Noon

DAYTON TOURS

Thursday, October 17, 2024

9:00 AM departure. Please meet in the lobby at 8:45. Board the bus for transport to the Packard Museum for a guided 2- hour tour of the museum and history. Admission is \$10 per person, paid at the door.

12:00 PM Bus pick-up at the hotel for trip to the Carillon Park. Admission is \$11.00 per person, paid at the door with \$4 for the park train and / or \$4 for the carousel. Carillon Park has two cafes for lunch. Return by bus to the hotel about 3:30 or 4:00

Friday, October 18, 2024

9:00 AM departure. Please meet in the lobby and car pool to the Museum of the Air Force for either a guided tour or tour on your own (recommended). Admission is free. 40 mobility scooters are available on a first come first serve basis. The museum has two light lunch facilities. Return transportation to the hotel is on your own.

WEEKS CLOTHING by Dave Parent

Weeks clothing can be purchased via the USS JOHN W WEEKS SHIPS STORE by *Military Gifts*.

Click on the link below:

[USS JOHN W. WEEKS \(DD-701\) SHIP'S STORE by military gifts | Redbubble](#)

You can also order Weeks clothing from *Flying Tigers Army Navy Surplus*.

Contact them at 708-535-9921 or <https://www.flyingtigerssurplus.com/>

TAPS

Dennis Paul Smith died on April 7, 2023. His wife Sandie notified Fred in March of 2024. Dennis served in the Westpac group.

BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACT INFO

President:

Fred Dalton - (417) 781-4752 frederickdalton@hotmail.com

Vice President:

Phil Varner - (856) 464-1727 tobosopv@yahoo.com

Secretary:

Dave Connelly - (860) 582-4169 djconnellysr47@gmail.com

Treasurer:

John Lion - (610) 223-3277 jandglion@yahoo.com
129 Crescent Road Landenberg PA 19350

Chaplain:

Kathy Michaels - (757) 898-1650 kfmichaels@cox.net

Directors:

Mike Vagianos- (908)-707-1771 MV1313@yahoo.com

Dave Parent - (708) 703-1087 d.parent701@sbcglobal.net

Tom Tallackson - (612) 296-3707 thomas_tallackson@hotmail.com

Ray Goodmuth- (410) 758-6596 raygoo@live.com

Donna Coughlin- (973)-738-3381 donnacoughlin2@gmail.com

John W. Weeks Museum Coordinator:

Alan Cutcher - (810) 984-4670 wc1996@aol.com

John W. Weeks Park Museum Contact:

Rachel Bruce - 1-603-788-4004 Rachel.bruce@dred.nh.gov

Newsletter Editors: Donna Coughlin & Ray Goodmuth

USS JOHN W WEEKS REUNION – OCTOBER16-20, 2024

Listed below are registration, tour and meal costs for the reunion. Send the total amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of a check or money order; your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$35 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.events.afr-reg.com/e/JohnWeeks2024 (3.5% will be added for credit card charges). All forms and payments must be received by **September 16, 2024**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: JOHN W WEEKS ASSOCIATION

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Check# _____	Date Received _____
Inputted _____	Name tag Completed _____

REGISTRATION CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/16/24	Price Per Person	# of People	Total
TOURS			
Thursday, 10/17: Packard Museum and Carillon Park (Bus Fee)	\$25		\$
Friday, 10/18: Air Force Museum (Car Pool)			
MEALS			
Wednesday, 10/16: Welcome Back Event (Pizza, Salads, Drinks, Desserts)			
Saturday, 10/19: Banquet Dinner (Buffet)	\$45		\$
<u>MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEES</u>			
Registration Fee includes registration fee and <i>access to hospitality room</i>			
GROUP REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON, REQUIRED	\$40		\$
ARMED FORCES REUNION REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON, REQUIRED	\$15		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST _____ LAST _____

YEARS ON BOARD _____ RATE / RANK _____

SPOUSE (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST(S) NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PH. NUMBER (____) _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ @ _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

TRANSPORTATION METHOD DRIVING ___ FLYING ___

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

Registrations received after the cut-off date will still be accepted on a space available basis, we will contact you immediately with any restrictions. CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays). Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Cancellations prior to September 16, 2024 will receive a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$15 per person).

After October 6, please contact the Association directly for refunds.

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.events.afr-reg.com/e/johnweeks2024

INTENTIONALLY BLANK

2024 DUES REQUEST FORM

AMOUNT DUE: \$25.00

DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2024

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

REMIT CHECK MADE OUT TO *JOHN W. WEEKS ASSOCIATION* TO:

JOHN LION

129 CRESCENT ROAD

LANDENBERG, PA 19350

**USS John W Weeks Association
Fred Dalton
1816 Ohio Ave.
Joplin, MO 64804
We are on the WEB!
www.ussjweeks701.org**