

May 2018 Issue  
Reunion Signup



# LAKE CHARLES TIMES

**San Diego Reunion 11/5 - 11/9, 2018**

It's time to set aside the above dates and get registered to attend the 2018 USS Savage reunion in warm and sunny San Diego. Reunion and hotel registration instructions are on pages 5 and 6. Please act now to reserve your place at another memorable reunion. Friends and family members are always welcome!



Our 2018 reunion committee, Elaine and Alan Pizzola, Dan Farley, Jr., and Paul Doster have lined up a fine reunion in the San Diego area. We're expecting all the west coasters and the northerners who want a break from the cold to join us in San Diego, where we'll dedicate the USS Savage plaque at Mt. Soledad, and explore some of the spectacular sites and activities nearby.

*Newsletter of the U.S.S. Savage (DE/DER-386) Reunion Association*

## **President's Letter**

Dear USS Savage Reunion Association members and families,

I wish to thank all of you who were at the Pensacola Reunion for voting me in as your new president. I am humbled by the confidence you place in me, and look forward to keeping the Savage Association strong. I have some pretty big shoes to fill. Dan Dykstra did a great job and is now moving on to being the mayor of his town. Is he going to follow that with the Governor's Office? I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say we wish you the very best.

The new executive committee includes myself as president, Mike Burkhart, son of John Burkhart PO3, 66-68, as our new vice-president. Guys we can't do this without those who continue in their posts including Ed Stone as secretary, Tom Hendricks as treasurer, and Ray Ewing as historian. In every organization, remembrance of the past is very important, because we honor not only those who have left us, but also those who remember them. As time moves on our whole organization should be remembered for posterity's sake. Ray Ewing and those who follow him and those who preceded him help make that move into the future so that the things we accomplish in the present are not forgotten. Thank all of you for your hard work.

Finally, we are fortunateto keep Dan Dykstra close by as our chaplain. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year.

I know that our secretary, Ed Stone, and his wife Ginny have been on planning committees for many reunions and I hope that their experience will serve our association as they have in the past. Sometimes these reunions seem to come together all by themselves, but the members that put them together work really hard. Don't forget to thank them when the opportunity presents itself.

I would also like to mention that we have to pay for some things in advance and require us to have enough money in our account to make those payments. Tom Hendricks, our Treasurer would appreciate you keeping your membership paid up and if possible, send in your events, excursion, and meals payments when you sign up, if at all possible. You can still pay at the event of course.

Since I mentioned the Pensacola Reunion I would be remiss if I didn't mention the great work that Dick and Linda Geiermann (mostly Linda I'm told) did in setting up and executing what turned out to be a great reunion. Thank you Dick and Linda. Ed and Ginny Stone were also involved in putting that reunion together so we have a lot of experience, and should be able to

continue having great reunions.  
Thank you all.

As you all who were at the Pensacola Reunion know, our selection for the 2018 Reunion is San Diego, CA and the people who are organizing the reunion are Elaine and Alan Pizzola (You will recall she is Dan and Marge Farley's daughter.) They, along with Paul Doster, who organized our reunion in San Diego in 2007, will be working to put that together for us. As Editor of the Lake Charles Times, Ed Stone is providing some information for all of you to begin planning and scheduling your trip.

I am hoping that we all will make an effort to contact anyone that we know who served on USS Savage, or who supports our events, to contact us and sign up to attend. We would like to see some new faces and reconnect with old shipmates. I wish everyone "Fair Winds and Following Seas" and look forward to enjoying a great reunion in November with all of you.

Ernie Velez, Jr, TM3, 66-68  
President  
USS Savage Reunion Association

## **Agent Orange**

In recent months we have received information very important to Vietnam Era Veterans and specifically for USS Savage (DER-386) crewmembers. If you haven't signed up for VA Benefits that you have already earned you should do so now.

If you are already receiving benefits,

see your benefits advisor to make sure you are on the list for Agent Orange Benefits, because they are not automatically given out.

A publication entitled "Navy and Coast Guard Ships Associated with Service in Vietnam and Exposure to Herbicide Agents" dated January 2, 2018, provided by Jim Murphy, Sonarman, lists the USS SAVAGE (DER-386) on page 31. Also mentioned are coverage periods from January 1 to 15, and from June 12 to September 15, 1966. While this doesn't guarantee your eligibility for benefits under Agent Orange, it could strengthen whatever case you may have. Many of us know we were there more than these periods and may have records that document those dates.

A recent Agent Orange news clip, provided by Phil Beckett, Sonarman, said that more money for research has to be provided, because many veterans are concerned that the effects of Agent Orange are affecting their children and maybe even their grandchildren. These problems with Agent Orange will not disappear with the loss of Veterans who are leaving us in greater numbers as time goes by.

Support the VA's efforts for more funds by contacting your state senators and representatives or through your local VFW chapter.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/docs/shiplist.docx>

**USS SAVAGE DE/DER-386 REUNION 2018**  
**SAN DIEGO**  
**11/5 – 11/9/2018**

**A. MON – ARRIVAL DAY - Registration starting at 12:00 PM**

1. Collect Assn. dues and any prepaid fees that are part of the package
2. Handout information packet as members arrive
3. Hand out banquet dinner tickets as fees are paid
4. Get a final count for banquet and report to caterer
5. 'Open House' type gathering to all in Hospitality Room (light refreshments)
6. Group/Dinner (*pay your own*) at JOE's Crab Shack
7. 'OPEN HOUSE' - in Hospitality Room

**B. TUE - USS SAVAGE DE/DER 386 PLAQUE DEDICATION & MEMORIAL SERVICE**

1. BREAKFAST- HOTEL Breakfast Buffet
2. Depart Hotel – Arrive at MT SOLEDAD for USS SAVAGE DE/DER Plaque Dedication
3. Depart MT Soledad & Drive along coast - Stop at LaJolla Shores
4. Arrive at Southwestern Yacht Club for Memorial Service  
(Military Vocalist/National Anthem, Bugles Across America)
5. LUNCH at Southwestern Yacht Club
6. Return to Hotel
7. Afternoon – 'OPEN TIME' (IDEAS: SD Trolley Ride, Balboa Park, Liberty Station or Historic Gaslamp Area)
8. DINNER- 'OPEN' (*on your own*)
9. 'OPEN HOUSE' -Hospitality Room

**C. WED –MIDWAY/MILITARY HARBOR WALK**

1. Breakfast- HOTEL Breakfast Buffet
2. Depart for USS MIDWAY & San Diego HARBOR Area  
*OPTION for those who don't want MIDWAY;* located next to Midway is 'Maritime Museum' Ships (includes the Swift Boat PCF 816, 555 USS Dolphin submarine & others).  
*Other ALTERNATES while shipmates are onboard* - Museum on nearby moored 1898 steam ferry Berkeley, or stroll along the Military Harbor Walk War Memorials/enjoy harbor-walk artwork. It is also a short walk to Historic Gaslamp District shops (*including Ghirardelli Chocolate/Ice Cream Parlor*)
3. LUNCH – (*All Together in Little Italy at Filippi's Pizza Grotto* 1747 India St, San Diego, CA 92101-25170
4. Afternoon - 'OPEN TIME' – (IDEAS: Browse the Historic Gaslamp Area or Little Italy shops, Little Italy's SD Firehouse Museum, Convivo Center/Little Italy Heritage Museum & Maybe some *Gelato-Gelato Vero Caffè* 3753 India St, SD, 92103
5. DINNER – 'OPEN' (on your own)
6. 'OPEN HOUSE' -Hospitality Room

**D. THUR – HARBOR CRUISE, BUSINESS/AUCTION & BANQUET**

1. Breakfast- HOTEL Breakfast Buffet
2. Depart for HARBOR CRUISE
3. HARBOR CRUISE
4. 'OPEN TIME' (LUNCH *on your own*)
5. Depart for HOTEL
6. MEETING - Hospitality Room
7. AUCTION - Hospitality Room
8. Depart for Southwestern Yacht Club
9. BANQUET - Southwestern Yacht Club

**E. FRI – FAREWELLS & CHECK OUT of HOTEL**

1. Farewells , See You Later!

*Volunteers for 2018 Reunion Committee: Elaine and Alan Pizzola, Dan Farley, Jr. and Paul Doster*



## How to Register for the San Diego Reunion

Tell us your intentions, **YES**, **NO**, or **MAYBE**, by return email to:

[edstone1960@alumni.purdue.edu](mailto:edstone1960@alumni.purdue.edu).

Send a check to Tom Hendricks, treasurer for \$20 per vet for dues, and \$158 per person for activities, lunches, banquet and event transportation. Tom Hendricks, 5217 35<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Great Falls, MT 59404-4712.

Please make your check payable to **USS Savage Reunion Association**.

Reunion fees are refundable if you cannot attend.

Make your hotel reservations, per instructions on page 6.



# **Wyndham Garden San Diego Near SeaWorld**

3737 Sports Arena Blvd. | San Diego, CA | 92110

## **Hotel Description**

Located just minutes from both SeaWorld San Diego and San Diego International Airport (SAN), our five-building complex is surrounded by hundreds of palm trees, and is the ideal place for the whole family to unwind. All guest rooms offer easy access to relaxation in our outdoor heated pool and hot tub.

## **Airport Shuttle**

The hotel has Airport Shuttle (nominal fee approx. \$10).

## **Breakfast**

Guest breakfast discounts (Full Breakfast approx. \$7.45) are offered at the nearby (walkable) restaurant 'Broken Yolk'.

Other restaurants very close by: Red Lobster and Phil's BBQ.

## **Reservations**

Our rooms are now reserved under the block USS SAVAGE REUNION. Jr. Suites are available with either King or double beds. Both have living room with pullout couch, mini-fridge and microwave.

The Rate is \$98.00 per night + 12.8% tax per room per day. Parking and Wi-Fi are complimentary.

Call Reservations, at **866-269-8927**, or the Front Desk, at **619-881-6100** to make your reservations.

Please contact Richard Lopez, Director of Sales, at 619-881-6167 with any questions or concerns.