

January, 2024  
Rapid City, SD  
Reunion



# Lake Charles Times

**Recap of 2023 USS Savage Reunion Baton Rouge, LA  
and our 2024 Reunion in Rapid City, SD!**



**September 24-28, 2023**

Once again, the USS Savage Reunion Association had the opportunity to gather with several of our members and enjoy each other's company at our 2023 USS Savage Reunion in Baton Rouge, LA. Amazing experiences were shared by all such as a tour of the USS Kidd, a Swamp Tour of an alligator farm, quality meals and a lot of storytelling and laughter. We also conducted our annual Business Meeting and Auction where over \$1,000.00 was raised to further the generous donations that the Association is well known for.

During the Business Meeting, new officers were elected for the upcoming year. Your 2024 USS Savage Reunion Officers are Tom Witts, President, Pat Rego, Treasurer, Tom Henricks, Historian and Webmaster, Mike Burkhart, Secretary and Dan Dykstra, Chaplain. We are grateful to each of these people who have stepped up to serve the mission of the Association. We are always open to anyone who would like to participate in the work being done and the planning for future events. If you are interested in contributing, in any manner, please reach out to Tom Witts and let him know how you would like to assist. We are also looking for ideas and leaders for our 2025 USS Savage Reunion Association Reunion. Let us know your reunion site suggestions and if you would be willing to coordinate, or assist in coordinating the 2025 gathering of friends.

**Now, let's get ready for our 2024 Reunion in Rapid City, SD!**

Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD



It is time to reserve your room at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, Rapid City, SD for our 2024 reunion. This hotel offers 2 indoor swimming pools or enjoy other recreational amenities including a complimentary water park and a fitness center. They also feature complimentary wireless internet access, tour/ticket assistance and transportation to nearby attractions is a breeze with the complimentary area shuttle that operates within 10 mi and complimentary shuttle from the airport to the hotel. Satisfy your appetite for lunch or dinner at Minervas, a restaurant which specializes in American cuisine, or stay in and take advantage of the room service (during limited hours). Relax with a refreshing drink at one of the 2 bars/lounges. Full breakfasts are available daily from 6:30 AM to 10 AM for a fee. Nearby attractions include the Journey Museum and Learning Center, Berlin Wall Exhibit, Main Street Square, Museum of Geology, Art Alley, Museum of the American Bison, Watiki Water Park, Sioux Pottery and a Dinosaur Park.

A block of 20 rooms has been reserved for the USS Savage Reunion Association. If calling the hotel directly to make your reservation, please reference “**USS Savage Reunion**” to assure you get the appropriate rates. The room rate is \$119.00 per night for either a room with one king bed, or two queen beds for your stay between 9/23/24 and 9/28/24. **If you want days before or after our stay you will need to call the front desk 605-343-8550.** Rooms for dates prior to, or post reunion will be offered at 20% off the current daily rate. Rooms must be reserved **no later than September 1, 2024.** Any special accommodations needed for your room must be made at the time of reservation. Hotel parking is complementary throughout the duration of your stay. Please visit the USS Savage Reunion Association website for more information [2024-Reunion-Plans \(ussavage.org\)](https://ussavage.org) **We ask that you indicate your intention to attend the 2024 reunion as soon as possible via an email to Tom Hendricks.** If you have any questions about reserving the hotel, or details of the agenda for the week you can email Tom Hendricks at [tjhendricks33@gmail.com](mailto:tjhendricks33@gmail.com)

The Best Western Ramkota Hotel is located at 2111 N. Lacrosse Street, Rapid City, SD, 57701. Contact the Best Western for reservations at (605) 343-8550 and reference group **USS Savage Reunion** to make your reservations and assure all your hotel rate and benefits. Or log on to this website to make reservations:

[Best Western Ramkota Hotel | Hotel Rooms](#)

**The last day to cancel a hotel reservation for no charge is before 04:00 PM, local hotel time on Monday, September 23, 2024.**

## **Reunion Agenda**

### **A. Monday Sept. 23 - ARRIVAL DAY-Registration starting at 4:00 PM**

1. Attendees can pay USS Savage Reunion Association dues and any unpaid fees that are part of the 2024 USS Savage Reunion’s planned activities.
2. Receive local Rapid City information packet as you arrive.
3. ‘Open House’ gathering for all in the Hospitality Room
4. Dinner is on your own!

**B. Tuesday Sept. 24 -Driving Tour Via Charter Bus(\$105.00 pp)**

1. Depart Hotel @ **8:30 am** – A narrated tour to Mt. Rushmore and enjoy a scenic drive on Iron Mountain Road. Transportation via Charter Bus.
2. Lunch on your own at State Game Lodge
3. After lunch, relish in a drive along Needles Highway while stopping for some unforgettable pictures of Cathedral Spires. The drive will then proceed to Crazy Horse with a comfort stop at Sylvan Lake prior to returning to Rapid City.
4. Dinner is on your own.
5. ‘Open House’ – Hospitality Room.

**C. Wednesday Sept. 25– Business Meeting, Auction and Memorial Service at Mt. Rushmore**

1. Business Meeting will start @ 12:00 pm followed by our Annual Auction in the Hospitality Room.
2. Depart for Mt. Rushmore @ **4:00 pm**, – Transportation via carpooling.
3. Memorial Service will start promptly @ **5:30 pm**.
4. The Park Service presentation and light of the faces will follow the Memorial Service
5. There are several venues to choose from for a meal while at Mt. Rushmore.
6. ‘Open House’ – Hospitality Room.

**D. Thursday Sept. 26– Deadwood Tour and Banquet Dinner (\$50.00 pp for the banquet)**

1. Departure time from the hotel for a self-guided tour of Deadwood will be approximately @ **10:00 am**.
2. Transportation via carpooling.
3. The Banquet Dinner starts @ **5:00 pm**, featuring buffet-style dining featuring turkey or roast beef. Vegan and Vegetarian meal options are available (Please indicate your preference on the Registration form).
4. ‘Open House’ – Hospitality Room.

**E. Friday Sept. 27– Buffalo Roundup (\$95.00 pp)**

1. Depart Hotel @ **6:00 am** – Feel the earth shake and enjoy the infamous Buffalo Roundup by real life Cowboys and Cowgirls.
2. Transportation via Charter Bus.
3. Breakfast provided and chairs for viewing distributed.
4. Lunch is on your own. The lunch that is available is normally a buffalo brisket sandwich, chips and a drink but there may be other options. Return to the hotel will be approximately at 3:00 pm.
5. Dinner on your own.
6. ‘Open House’ – Hospitality Room.

**F. Saturday Sept. 28– FAREWELLS & CHECK OUT of HOTEL**

## **Mt. Rushmore**



## **Buffalo Roundup**



## **Business Meeting, Auction and the Banquet Dinner**

The Business Meeting and Auction (Please bring something to auction that is easy to transport home) will start at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 9/25 in the Hospitality Room prior to our departure to Mt. Rushmore for the Memorial Service. Then, on Thursday morning, 9/26 we will all enjoy a memorable time as we tour the Wild West town of Deadwood, South Dakota, followed by our USS Savage Reunion Association Banquet Dinner starting at 5:00 pm in the Banquet Room.

## **Reunion Event Transportation**

The hotel is about 15-miles from Rapid City Regional Airport, should you choose to fly in and rent a car. Or, the hotel offers a free shuttle service directly from the airport to the hotel. If you are planning to fly directly into the Rapid City Airport, the primary airlines are American, Delta, United Airlines or Allegiant.

## **Reunion Event and Cost Details**

Enclosed on the registration form in this newsletter is a list of events with the accompanying costs. Instructions for calculating the total expense and submitting payment is noted on the document. **Please be sure to indicate your intention of attending each event or not, and the number of attendees when completing the form.**

## **Dues Payment**

The annual dues for the USS Savage Reunion Association, in the amount of \$20.00 should be submitted to Pat Rego when submitting your reservation form. This can be calculated into the payment amount as you complete the reservation form below and by including the amount in the check you send to: **Pat Rego, Treasurer, 4497 West Pueblo Dr., Eloy, AZ 85131** . If you have already paid your 2024 dues, thank you!

## **Rapid City Weather in September**

Daily temperatures range from a high of 77°F to a low of 49°F.

## **Attending, Possibly Attending or Not This Year?**

If you are you not planning to attend the reunion this year, please know that we will be thinking of you and honoring your service. We hope you will take a moment and share a photo of yourself and your family so we can share with those in attendance what you are up to these days. We hope to see you at a future reunion! Photos can be sent to [mburkhart@watermarkcommunities.com](mailto:mburkhart@watermarkcommunities.com). Let's tell those stories one more time!

# ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

USS Savage (DE/DER-386) Rapid City, SD Reunion – September 23-28, 2024

Listed below are all the registration and tour costs for the Rapid City, SD reunion. Please enter how many people in your group will be participating in each event, and then the total amount due for each item; which would equal the event cost **X** the number of attendees in your party. Sum each item for your total due and then submit that amount in the form of a check or money order, payable to USS Savage Reunion Association, along with a copy of this completed form to: **Pat Rego, Treasurer, 4497 West Pueblo Dr., Eloy, AZ 85131**. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Note that the all-in cost per person is \$250.00 (not including Annual Dues), including the tours and meal expenses.

**All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 15, 2024.**

	<b>Attending?</b>	<b>Price Per</b>	<b># of People</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bus Tour	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	\$105.00		\$
Mt. Rushmore Memorial Service	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	\$0.00		\$0.00
Buffalo Roundup	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	\$95.00		\$
Deadwood Tour	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	\$0.00		\$0.00
Banquet: <b>Turkey or Roast Beef Dinner</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegan</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Vegetarian</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	\$50.00		\$
Annual Dues ( <b>Please include if not already paid for 2024</b> )	<b>N/A</b>	\$20.00		\$
<b>Total Personal Check Amount Payable to USS Savage Reunion Association</b>				<b>\$</b>

Name of Reunion Association Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

For any questions, contact Mike Burkhart at (C) 520-248-6337 or via email at [mburkhart@watermarkcommunities.com](mailto:mburkhart@watermarkcommunities.com).

Please let us know if you have any dietary requests or restrictions, or any other special requests for your attendance at the reunion. Use additional paper as needed.

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We look forward to seeing you in Rapid City!