



Firedrake Reunion 2019

Norfolk, VA

Here's the Registration Form and Agenda
It's time now to Register

Hi Firedrake Shipmate!

Norfolk, Virginia is the site for your Firedrake Reunion 2019! We will be meeting at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in downtown Norfolk. Arrival date is Wednesday October 16th and depart on Sunday October 20th.

Whether you are one of the many Shipmates who regularly attend the Firedrake Reunions to renew old acquaintances, or have never attended before, NOW is the time for you to make the 2019 Reunion a part of your schedule and plan now to join in the fun and fellowship with your shipmates and their spouses and/or children. Just fill in and mail in the enclosed Registration Form with your deposit.

We will be staying at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk. (www.norfolksheraton.com) We have obtained at special group room rate of \$124.00 for a traditional double queen or one king (1-4 Adults) plus tax, per night. Breakfast **is not** included however it may be purchased in their Waterside Seafood Company restaurant. They offer items off the menu or a breakfast buffet.

You need to make your own room reservations by calling the hotel directly, at **(757) 622-6664**, and asking to reserve under the "USS Firedrake" to obtain our reduced group rate. ***It is very important that you identify yourself as part of our group.*** Normal check in should be for arrival on Wednesday October 16th and departure on Sunday morning October 20th for a total of 4 nights. A credit card must be used to guarantee reservations. **You may also book online thru the following link: [Book your group rate for USS Firedrake](#) Please make your reservations now.**

Should you want to do more sightseeing you may have the room for our rate per night (1-4 Adults) for up to three days prior and/or three days after our reunion.

The deadline for making your room reservation at our special reduced rate is midnight September 18th, 2019. That is when any uncommitted rooms in our reserved block will be released. After that date rooms will be available at our rate only subject to availability. Please call the hotel and make your reservations as soon as possible.

Guest check-in time 4:00 pm and check-out time is 11:00 am. If you arrive earlier in the day, or need to check out later, the hotel will provide safe luggage storage **at the valet stand**. At the time you make your reservations the hotel will require a valid credit card but you will not be billed until you settle up your account upon departure. Cancellations must be made by September 29th or you will be charged one night's room and tax.

Smoke Free Policy: Hotel is a smoke free hotel. To protect the smoke free environment, Hotel will post a \$200 cleaning fee to the account of any guests who smoke in their guest room.

Automobile Parking: Convenient, covered and secured automobile self-parking is located at the Dominion Tower Parking Garage, adjacent to the hotel and other nearby facilities. The current charge for self-parking for overnight guests at Dominion Tower Parking Garage is \$13.00 per car per day. Overnight valet parking is provided at \$26.00 per night. **We have arranged for discounted \$8.00 per day self-parking vouchers for the parking garage. These vouchers should be purchased at guest check in at the hotel before taking your car to the garage.**

Norfolk International Airport (ORF) is currently serviced by the following airlines: American, Delta, United, Southwest, and Frontier. Ground transport to the hotel may be had by going to James River Transportation's counter called Airport Connection. It is located in the Arrivals Terminal (baggage claim area) near baggage carousel 3. Costs for up to 3 people in a sedan is \$35.40 or for up to 9 people in a van for \$65. Reservations are not necessary for arrival. However, **for departure from the hotel you must call 866-823-4626 and arrange for hotel pickup to take you to the airport.**

If you are reading this on our website and you have not previously received an email on this reunion, we DO NOT have an email address for you. IF YOU DO HAVE ACCESS TO EMAIL PLEASE take a moment right now AND SEND AN EMAIL TO USSFiredrake@gmail.com giving us your name and email address. Doing so will allow us to get info to you faster and without expense of postage.

AGENDA for 2019 USS Firedrake Reunion in Norfolk, VA

Wednesday October 16th

Arrival at Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel – If you are **arriving by plane** in Norfolk, you can arrange for transportation to the hotel at the **Airport Connection** kiosk by baggage claim carousel #3 – but when departing you must make a reservation by calling 866-823-4626 to arrange pick up at the hotel.

Our Hospitality Room with cold beverages and snacks will be open starting at Noon Wednesday October 16th for Reunion check in and socialization. Bring your memorabilia to the Hospitality Room to share and enjoy!

6:00 – 8:00 PM - **Hosted Welcome Reception** for everyone to enjoy and get together. Reception will include hors-de oeuvres with a **beer, wine or soda bar**, followed by more time in the hospitality room or dinner on your own if you are still hungry. After reception our Hospitality Room will be open until???

Thursday October 17th – Brief tour of downtown Norfolk, visit Norfolk Naval Base, visit Nauticus campus including Hampton Roads Naval Museum, and the Battleship Wisconsin; Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise

6:00 – 9:00 AM Breakfast on your own in the hotel restaurant.

9:30 AM - Depart for a narrated guided tour of Norfolk explaining the Union Army's occupation during the Civil War. Minimal walking required. We will board motor coach to visit the Norfolk Naval Base which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 59 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 18 aircraft squadrons and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 70,000 military personnel. A Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.

Lunch, included in your reunion fee, will be enjoyed at the Vista Point Club while on base. Next, we will visit Nauticus, a unique and thriving campus of visitor attractions that explores the economic, naval, and natural powers of the sea. Features here include a series of interactive exhibits, 3D, high-def films in the 250-person theater, and aquariums of marine life. Also housed here is the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, one of ten museums officially operated by the U.S. Navy. A true highlight of any visit to Nauticus is a self-guided tour of the Battleship Wisconsin, one of the famous Iowa-class ships. This great ship saw action in WWII, the Korean War and most recently in the Persian Gulf War. The Wisconsin is permanently berthed beside Nauticus where it is accessed by a connecting walkway.

We will then return to the hotel around 4:30 pm for a bit of down time and hospitality room time. **6:15 pm – 9:45 pm** Walk from our hotel to the nearby pier for a two-hour dinner cruise on the magnificent **Spirit of Norfolk**. The ship leaves the Waterside pier area and travels north on the Elizabeth River, passing Nauticus, The National Maritime Center, Portsmouth Naval Hospital, Portsmouth Marine Terminals, the Lamberts Point Coal Piers, and Norfolk Naval Base, the World's largest operational naval base and home of the Atlantic fleet. The Spirit features a top-of-the-line buffet with several hot entrees. The selection includes beef, poultry, and seafood, fresh vegetables, potato, salad, rolls and butter, and dessert. • During the cruise, we will be entertained by talented staff who perform popular hits that you are sure to recognize! The interactive DJ will kick off the cruise with an energetic send off and performance. The ship has two fully enclosed, climate-controlled lower decks and an open-air upper deck.

Return to hotel. Hospitality Room open until???

Friday October 18th - Military Aviation Museum tour, Lunch at Rockafeller's Virginia Beach Restaurant, tour Virginia Beach area, Visit Cape Henry, Dinner at Freemason Abbey Restaurant

6:00 – 8:45 Breakfast on your own in the hotel restaurant.

9:00 AM – 4 PM Travel with your tour guide to one of Virginia Beach's most popular and unique attractions, the Military Aviation Museum. Explore the rich aviation history of our country through an in-depth guided tour. Learn about the meticulously restored vintage aircraft and numerous other veteran vehicles housed in a variety of hangers and within the main museum. Many aircraft have been fully restored to their World War II condition and are used for flight demonstration, movie production or commercials. • Enjoy a guided tour of the galleries and shopping in the gift shop which is stocked with all things flight related.

Enjoy your included lunch at Rockafeller's, a local's favorite restaurant with a casual beach vibe. Enjoy a classic Virginia Beach setting overlooking the picturesque Rudee's Inlet which sits at the mouth of the Atlantic Ocean on Lake Rudee. A delicious three course meal will be served and a cash bar will be available.

Next, enjoy beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay as you learn about the history of Virginia's largest city and get the pulse on current day in Virginia Beach. • See the First Landing Cross at Cape Henry where the English colonists first came ashore in 1607 prior to settling at nearby Jamestown. Walk out on the overlook to see where the bay and the ocean meet, and where the famous Battle of the Capes took place during the Revolutionary War. • Enjoy a stop at the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse, built in 1792, this lighthouse was active until the late 1800's and is currently a Virginia Historic Landmark. Guests may choose to climb to the top of the Lighthouse (small admission fee, pay on own) or shop in the gift shop for all things Lighthouse related. • Ride down the resort strip, see the historic Cavalier Hotel as well as the Tidewater Veterans Memorial, a unique structure which pays homage to veterans everywhere.

5:15 PM – 7:30 PM We depart for a delicious dinner that evening at the charming **Freemason Abbey Restaurant**, housed in a 135-year-old renovated church. For nearly thirty years it has been a local's favorite restaurant, featuring a varied menu with something for everyone. The décor is reminiscent of English style pub houses and has a warm, casual yet elegant tavern atmosphere.

Estimated return to the hotel 7:30. – Hospitality Room open until???

Saturday October 19th - Colonial Williamsburg Overview Tour

7:30 – 8:15 Breakfast on your own in the hotel restaurant.

8:30 AM – Depart via motor coach for the charming town of Williamsburg. A dedicated, licensed tour guide will provide interesting and informative narration during the ride about the historic Virginia Peninsula and the Coastal Virginia area. Upon arrival, step back into the 18th century as a historical interpreter guides guests through the past and the events that helped shape America's history on a one and one half hour leisurely walking tour through the restored district. (Actual distance is approximately 4-5 blocks, and is appropriate for those in wheelchairs). Following your overview tour, enjoy free time to shop and browse in the many unique specialty shops in Merchants Square. High quality apparel, gifts, jewelry, beautiful furniture and holiday decorations are but a few of the offerings found in this quaint, picturesque shopping area. • Enjoy lunch on your own in Merchants Square. Your guide will point out all of the dining options as you pass through town.

About 2:30 PM Return to our hotel. Hospitality room open until shortly before we gather for our Business Meeting and Reunion Banquet.

5:00 PM All hands, including spouses, Firedrake Reunion Business Meeting to discuss and plan your 2021 reunion.

6:00 PM Cocktails - **cash bar, followed by** our Reunion Banquet.

7:00 PM –**FIREDRAKE REUNION BANQUET** in our hotel.

Sunday October 20th

6:30 – 8:30 Breakfast on your own in the hotel restaurant

Departure – Hospitality room open 8-11 AM for time to say our good-byes to shipmates and friends until we meet once again in 2021. **Outbound hotel guests departing by air can arrange for their airport transportation with Airport Connection by calling 866-823-4626.** Or, continue to stay at the hotel for up to three days at daily room rate of \$124.00 and enjoy more of the Norfolk and Tidewater area and hospitality. Room and rate for additional nights is subject to availability. **Check out time is 11:00 am.**

If you have questions or want help to find a shipmate please contact me!

NOTE: If you are reading this on our website and you have not previously received an email on this reunion, again, we DO NOT have an email address for you. You would have received it much earlier IF we had a way to email you. IF YOU HAVE EMAIL, PLEASE CONTACT ME NOW BY EMAIL at USSFiredrake@gmail.com REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT YOU WILL BE ATTENDING THIS REUNION SO I CAN UPDATE YOUR RECORDS.

Dick Tracy

Reunion Coordinator USS Firedrake AE-14

Cell phone 610-207-2016 , email USSFiredrake@gmail.com

6 Cambridge Court Fleetwood, PA 19522

USS Firedrake AE-14 Reunion 2019

Registration Form

Reunion will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterfront Hotel in downtown Norfolk. Arrival date is Wednesday October 16th and depart on Sunday October 20th. Make your hotel reservations by calling the hotel directly at **(757) 622-6664**, and **asking to reserve under the "USS Firedrake" or book online at [Book your group rate for USS Firedrake](#)**.

Our special room rate is only \$124.00 per night plus taxes.

YES!!! I (we) plan to attend USS Firedrake Reunion 2019 in Norfolk, Virginia

SHIPMATE'S NAME: _____

GUEST NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

Dates on AE-14 (which years): _____ **Highest Rank/Rate while on AE-14** _____

Acknowledgement of receipt of your registration will be made by email to your email address.

Registration fee for the reunion is \$460 per person Fee includes all items on the Reunion Agenda. (Reception, 3 days of tours, 2 Lunches, 2 Dinners plus our Banquet). Payment may be made in full when you mail this in, or you may send a deposit in the amount of \$100 per attendee now and pay the balance not later than Friday September 1st.

Amount enclosed \$ _____ **(Make check payable to [USS Firedrake Reunion](#))**

Print and Complete and mail this form along with your check to:

Dick Tracy 6 Cambridge Court, Fleetwood, PA 19522

If you are not making payment in full be sure to retain this address to mail your balance payment

The balance of the amount is due no later than Friday,
September 1st

You will be contacted later after you have registered to select your Banquet entrée choices.

For questions phone (610) 207-2016 or email to Dick Tracy at USSFiredrake@gmail.com

Ship Web Site – WWW.USSFiredrake.org

Registration Form #1- April 2019