

Firedrake Newsletter – May 2015

May 8, 2015

Hi Shipmate,

It's now time to register for this year's USS Firedrake Reunion in San Diego, California with arrival on Sunday October 18th and regular departure on Thursday October 22nd. It's going to be another great reunion and you don't want to miss out. Although payment after your deposit does not have to be made until the Friday September 18th deadline, we really need to know, as soon as possible, who is going to attend to allow us to finalize transportation and arrangements with the Crowne Plaza Mission Valley Hotel for the reception and banquet. **If as of today, we have not heard from you or received your reservation form, please reply by email to let me know whether or not you're going to come and join your shipmates in Baton Rouge.** If you plan on attending, please fill out and mail your Reunion Registration form to our registrar Bob Laubach whose address is on the form. Please fill it in and mail it in **very soon** with your check for your deposit. We have kept cost to a minimum while ensuring you and your shipmates and families can **have a great time in San Diego.** You can still hold off mailing in your balance payment until the registration deadline of September 18th.

You should have already received the December Newsletter and our February 14th email that contained the agenda and registration form. If you don't have them, the **San Diego reunion Information letter with the agenda is now available on our web site, WWW.USSFiredrake.org** . To find that info just open the site and on the main page that opens, click on the block for Reunion Information located below the photo of the ship. That will open two more choices; one for the letter with the agenda and one for the registration form.

New Topic : I have recently received information on current efforts to try and garner support for **"The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015"** which is an Agent Orange Equity Act that has been introduced in the House and Senate. Go to this [link](#), then select the article (**Support Agent Orange/Blue Water Navy Legislation (H.R. 969/S. 681)**). There is

a file that will show you how to contact your Representatives asking them to please co-sponsor this issue. It will only take a few minutes of your time and could impact the lives of many Veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam.

Web Site: If you have not visited our Firedrake Web Site in a while please take time to view it at www.USSFiredrake.com . We are always open to suggestions on how to improve it or to receive info or items to add to it.

On the main page, if you put your cursor on the label for ‘**Ship Personnel**’ you will see two items. They are **Shipmates** which will bring up the listing of all known Firedrake shipmates. **You are listed there. We are frequently adding new names as folks find us thru the web site.** If you see any errors or incomplete information, there is a link above the listing where you can click and send in any corrections. If you put your cursor on the label ‘**MEMORIAL**’ you will find an updated listing of known shipmates that have passed on to their reward. Should you know of others who are living or deceased, please let us know.

As always, we don’t share shipmate contact data on this public web site, however as a shipmate, if you want contact info such as the phone number, address and email for any shipmates, just send me an email with their names and I will send that information back to you.

Check out the **Links** Tab to find a listing of very interesting and helpful Navy related on line sites. If you have other links that should be listed here please send them to us to have them included.

We are waiting to hear back from you soon! And, of course, seeing you in San Diego in October.

As always **you may contact me at USSFiredrake@gmail.com** or by phone at **610-207-2016**

Dick Tracy - Firedrake Reunion Coordinator