

USS ATKA Association

WELCOME TO MOBILE, ALABAMA

11th ANNUAL REUNION

Reunion Dates: April 26, 27, 28, 2012

**Hotel: Ashbury Suites
600 West I-65, Service Road
Mobile, AL 36608
(800) 752-0398
www.ashburyhotel.com**

Room rates are per night \$94.62 for deluxe and \$83.22 for standard, including all taxes. The hotel is near Mobile International Airport but does not have airport shuttle service. Cab fare is approximately \$20.00. You will need to make room reservations directly with the hotel and will not be charged until check-out. All rooms include microwave, refrigerator, complimentary coffee service, free wireless internet connection, free Showtime and a complimentary breakfast buffet.

The lobby is an open-air atrium with plenty of space to socialize. There is a heated in-door pool, laundry and if you want to exercise, the hotel will shuttle you to a complementary fitness center. We will also have our usual hospitality suite with beverages, snacks, the ship's store & memorabilia. Shuttle service is provided by the hotel for shopping at nearby malls.

Meal cost will be \$35.00 per person per day, including taxes & gratuities. Thursday night will feature a "Tour of Italy" dinner buffet which includes antipasto tray, shrimp fettuccini, lasagna & rosemary chicken. Friday is a "Backyard Barbeque" buffet with barbeque beef brisket & chicken, pick-n-peel shrimp & salads. Saturday's dinner a "Hawaiian Luau" with sweet & sour pork ribs, coconut fried shrimp, pan-seared mahi-mahi and other good things. Meal payments must be sent directly to Mike Kovacs as soon as possible, but no later than April 9, 2012.

The planned tour is a bus trip to the Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum on Friday with possible stops along the way. The Museum has so much to offer, including I-Max Theatres, a flight-line tour, and a wonderful café. Lunch cost averages \$7.00. The tour price is \$30 per person, lunch on your own. The tour money must be sent to Mike Kovacs no later than April 9th. The meal and tour cost are based on a minimum of 40 people per day.

For Saturday, if there is enough interest, we will rent a van for transportation to the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park where we will have a brief ceremony on the fantail honoring past shipmates. The submarine USS Drum and an aircraft pavilion are also on site. Cost is \$10.00 per person.

If you wish to order ATKA apparel, contact Joe Galicic at (412) 788-4177. No need to wait until April to make a purchase. If there are questions or special needs call Mike at (251) 962-2050 or (609) 506-7981.

2012 DUES ARE DUE! If you have not already done so, send your \$10.00 to:

**Mike Kovacs, Treasurer
USS ATKA Association
9274 County Road 99
Lillian, AL 36549**

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN MOBILE!

A Message from the Reunion Committee

Thanks to all Crewmembers, Mates, & Associate Members who helped make the 2011 USS ATKA reunion in Philadelphia a great success. And a special thanks to everyone who donated items for the auction.

Philadelphia was special, besides it being our 10th anniversary, the tour of the USS New Jersey brought back wonderful memories to some shipmates who help build or served on her. And of course, visits to the historic sites depicting the birth of our great nation were a major part of our Philadelphia visit. The hotel was great for relaxing and socializing with shipmates, especially during the happy hour. Thanks again folks for adding more marvelous memories to our reunion experiences.

Shipmates Updates

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers the families of our Shipmates who have crossed the bar or have health issues, including those we do not know about. Harry Desmond passed away in October. He will be missed. Joe Galicic is recovering from heart surgery. Get well quickly Joe.

About Mobile

The correct pronunciation of the city's name is "Mo-beel". It came from the Maubilla Indians and eventually became Mobile as spelled today.

Mobile is the azalea capital of the world, displaying more than 50 varieties and colors, thanks to Fifise Langlois who first brought the bright pink blossoms here from his father's garden in France in 1754.

Mobile is the true birthplace of the Mardi Gras in this country, instituted in 1704 – 62 years before New Orleans adopted the celebration. There is a Carnival Museum that highlights its colorful history.

Mobile is the home of Jimmy Buffet (entertainer), Hank Aaron (baseball hall of fame) and Winston Groom (author of *Forest Gump*)

Forte Conde is the official welcome center which includes a museum that depicts the sights and sounds of colonial life. There are a number of historic sites, museums & colonial mansions in Mobile. Hope you can visit some.

USS ATKA Timeline

- 1942 – Laid down: July 20th
- 1943 – Launched March 8th
- 1944 – Commissioned "USCGC Southwind"
- 1945 – After seeing service on the Greenland Patrol, Southwind was transferred to the Soviet Union on March 23rd, after assisting the Eastwind in capturing the German trawler Externsteine.
- 1946 – Our Soviet allies renamed her Admiral Makarov ("The father of the modern icebreaker").
- 1947-1949 – Russian service as Admiral Makarov, then returned to the US Navy.
- 1950 – The Navy renamed her ATKA.
- 1951-1965 – US Navy service.
- 1966 – All Navy icebreakers were transferred to the Coast Guard. On October 31st, ATKA was transferred and rechristened as USCGC Southwind. Leaving Boston, she was moved to her new homeport of Baltimore (Curtis Bay), MD. After a shakedown cruise to Bermuda, she embarked on her first operational cruise north to Thule, Greenland.
- 1967-1969 – Service as USCGC Southwind – Operation Deep Freeze, Antarctica.
- 1970-1975 – Service as USCGC Southwind.
- 1976 – Decommissioned and sold.

Why Do We Pay Dues?

Membership dues for the USS ATKA Association are \$10 per year. We are proud to be members, but with the rising costs of everything around us, it's hard not to wonder whether dues are really necessary.

So what are my dues used for?

1. Your dues card.
2. The Newsletter – our main source of communication among members;
3. Sympathy & Get Well cards to any known shipmates who have suffered illness or loss.
4. Printing & postage;
5. Maintenance of our website www.ussatka.org;
6. To keep down the cost of reunion expenses.

Hope to see you in Mobile, April 26- 28, 2012

Call us with questions

Carl Brown (616) 308-4846

Mike Kovacs (609) 506-7981

