



U.S. 6th Fleet in Villefranche sur Mer Association

Honoring all U.S. 6th Fleet Flagships and those that served aboard them!



A Note From Our U.S. Branch President

Hello Shipmates, Members and Family:

Welcome to the first of hopefully many Newsletters to come. As most of you are aware, the U.S. 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Association is a newly established non-profit corporation here in the United States.

The association's mission here in the U.S. is the same as in France:

"To convey the history of the American Naval presence in Villefranche-sur-Mer to all people and especially to the younger and future generations."

The upcoming installation in September of our permanent Historic exhibit aboard the USS Little Rock CLG-4 (during our Reunion) is just the start of many projects here in the U.S. designed to fulfill our mission. To that end, we are pleased to announce our next event:

Once Upon A Time...

The US Navy & Villefranche-sur-Mer Reunion

September 12 - 15, 2024 - Buffalo, NY

We are planning a long weekend of remembrances and fun tours, along with the unveiling of our permanent exhibit. We are expecting some exciting speakers, and a tour of the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park, where you can tour the USS Little Rock CLG-4, the USS The Sullivans, the USS Croaker, and other exhibits.

I have sent emails to those affiliated with all **nine Flagships** (for whom I have email addresses) that served in Villefranche-sur-Mer up until January 20, 1967, when the 6th Fleet's home port became Gaeta, Italy.

We are expecting a larger turnout in Buffalo. The USS Springfield Bluejackets' reunion coincides with this reunion, so we expect a great response with many attendees.

We are also hoping that many of the Shipmates from the Little Rock, Des Moines, Salem, Newport News, and Albany (to name a few) will come to this reunion.

We might even see some of my USS Boston Shipmates there, as well as the USS Boston was also a flagship in Villefranche in 1962.

We would love to see YOU there! Also, please consider becoming a Plankowner of this permanent historic exhibit on the USS Little Rock CLG-4. Get your name (or the name of someone you'd like to honor) on the plaque on the the ship!

Looking forward to seeing you in September,

Barry

Become a Plankowner and Help Fund our Exhibit

For your donation of **\$100.00** or more, you will have your name (or that of a loved one), ship name, and years aboard placed on the **Plankowner's** plaque aboard the USS Little Rock CLG-4.

See attached form for more information

Please join us:

Once Upon A Time...

***The US Navy & Villefranche-sur-Mer
Reunion***

September 12 - 15, 2024 - Buffalo, NY

The M. Hotel

2040 Walden Avenue

Buffalo, New York

Offering us the U.S. 6th Fleet in VSM Rate

\$139.00 per night

includes buffet breakfast each day for 2

***This rate is in effect 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates -
so arrive early, stay later!***

**To receive this rate you must make your
reservation by August 10, 2024**

CALL TODAY

Reservation Phone 888-216-8447

**Use Code 0799AFC770 or identify yourself as
6th Fleet in VSM**

The M. Hotel offers free shuttle service from Buffalo Airport. If you are flying in, please indicate the date and time of your arrival on your registration form so we may keep the hotel informed.

If you should have any questions or need assistance with booking your room please contact us immediately.



Fleet Landing Villefranche-sur-Mer, France

Thursday, September 12, 2024

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Welcome Aboard

"Welcome Aboard" will be held in the **McKinley Room**. It will be open for you to check in to the reunion. Here you will receive a Welcome packet that contains your name badge, tickets for meals and tours you purchased, and a program of all events.

7:00 PM

Welcome Reception

We will meet in the **Cleveland Room** for our Welcome Reception. We will be entertained by the Red Blazer Men's Chorus.

Come and meet your fellow **Shipmates and Members**. It will be an opportunity to share "Sea" Stories or your memories and experiences of your time in Villefranche and being part of the 6th Fleet.

Friday, September 13, 2024

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Niagara State Park

Buses will depart hotel for **Niagara State Park**, the oldest state park in the United States. At the park we will board the park trolley. The trolley will take you on a narrated tour of the park. Or if you prefer, you can get off and on the trolley at any of the stops within the park.

On your own you can visit the Maid of Mist, Cave of the Winds, Observation Bridge, or take the **Free Hop On Hop Off Shuttle** that will take you to 17 stops in the area outside of the park -- *From the Falls to Fort Niagara* ."

Lunch is on your own. There are several restaurants just across from visitors center on Niagara Street. Just be sure to be where the bus dropped you off to catch the bus back to the hotel by 3:00 PM.

6:00 PM

Dinner

We will meet in the **Cleveland/Filmore Room** where we will enjoy a lovely supper with our fellow Members, Shipmates and guests. Entertainment by Buffalo Swing and Jazz.

Saturday, September 14, 2024

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Shuttle Bus service to Buffalo and Erie County Naval Park. Shuttles will leave the hotel at **9:00 AM, 9:45 AM and 10:15 AM**. Those on the earlier buses will have the opportunity to tour the park prior to the celebration and others will tour it after the reception.

11:00 AM

**Unveiling Ceremony of
Permanent Exhibit**

A historical timeline depicting the partnership of the U.S. and French Navies from 1777 to present will be unveiled aboard the U.S.S. Little Rock CLG-4.

Following this unveiling we will be shuttled to Chef's Restaurant for a Cocktail and Hors d'Oeuvres reception.

The shuttle bus will then take you back to the park and waterfront to tour on your own. If you have not been to Buffalo in the past 3 years you will be amazed at its transformation. If you prefer, you may ride the shuttle bus back to the hotel. The last bus will leave the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park at 3:30 PM.

6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Gala Dinner

Meet in the **Cleveland/Filmore Room** to begin our evening in true Naval fashion as we pipe aboard our senior officers and parade the colors. We will again break bread with our old and new friends. Our entertainment for the evening will be The Buffalo Jazz and Swing Band.

Sunday, September 15, 2024

Farewells & Goodbyes!

Be sure to check our website for updates and any changes and/or additions to this weekend program.

www.ussixthfleet-villefranche.com

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Join us in thanking our Sponsors:



Villefranche
sur Mer



WHAT HAPPENS AT A REUNION? We want you to enjoy yourself from the first day of the reunion. We do not separate wives and hubbies. Our activities are chosen to appeal to everyone, and serve to promote conversation and maximize reminiscing. We have activities for the early arrivals on Thursday night; and organized tours on Friday and Saturday. The highlight of this Reunion will be the Unveiling of a Permanent display aboard the U.S.S. Little Rock CLG-4. We have group meals where a lot of "catching up" takes place as you break bread with your Shipmates.

What to wear? Most events, other than the banquet, are fun, casual affairs, and we dress accordingly. Our Saturday night banquet is a full-fledged program with a head table, guest speaker(s), color guard, a dance floor and band. Some of us dress up for the banquet. Military officers can wear dress uniforms. Attendees can wear casual dress, sport coats or suits, ladies can wear dresses or slacks.

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW...

First, you must register with us for meals and tours. You can participate in as many or as few activities as you wish. Pick out those functions you wish to attend, and add in those fees as shown. We must commit—with hard numbers—to the hotel and tour operators long before the events, then we're obligated to pay for the number we provided. To know that number, we must have your Registration information well in advance of the event. Please fill out the Registration worksheet now.

Note that the Registration Fee covers the costs of holding a reunion in somewhere other than a phone booth or on a park bench with a *Hello My Name Is...* thingy stuck on your shirt. Each attendee receives a memento of the reunion. So, add in the Registration Fee for the Shipmate/Member, plus the Guest Registration fee for each person over the age of 5 accompanying the Shipmate/Member. (*Don't count the Shipmate/Member as a guest.*) Registration fees for walk-ins at the reunion are increased as shown because they trigger a considerable chain of events. The registration fee is nonrefundable. If your 2024 U.S. 6th Fleet in VSM Membership dues are unpaid, please pay it now. ***If you want to join the U.S. 6th Fleet in VSM organization here in the United States you can do that also by adding your Membership dues to this Registration form now! Please write new next to it.***

(All Ship membership dues should be paid to their respective organizations, do not pay them here!).

"Early Birds" who register with us (***meaning, Registration form and payment in full***) by **August 1, 2024** will become eligible for an entry into a drawing at the reunion, where they can win one of their nights at the host hotel **free** (if they're staying at the hotel). Be the first to sign up. Send this form and your check to the address shown on the other side of this form.

Next, you register with the host hotel for your room accommodations. We always negotiate our hotel rates to run three days before the reunion to three days after the reunion. Naturally, you can stay elsewhere, but attendees who do this *once* invariably tell us that they missed out on much of the camaraderie and socializing. In most cases you won't find a comparable hotel at a cheaper rate.

The reunion hotel is the **M Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14225**. The phone number **1-888-216-8447** and you must identify your affiliation with the **U.S. 6th Fleet**. use the group code **0799AFC770**

The room rate for this reunion is **\$139.00 (plus tax)** per room per night (if you reserve by **August 10, 2024**). This includes a Buffet Breakfast for 2 for every night you stay in the hotel including Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The entire hotel (*like most in the country*) is **NON-SMOKING**. Check in time is 3:00 PM, checkout time is 11:00 AM. Hotel parking is free. Dead parking for RVs is allowed (*no power and no occupancy*) but you should get prior approval. **Be advised that cancellation of room in less than 72 hours of check in or early checkout penalty is one night's rental fee (\$139.00 + tax).**

We have a Welcome Aboard team that will have a package in your name at the hotel. This package will contain your name tags, a program and complete itinerary, meal and tour tickets for the activities that you selected, gift checks to redeem, and other information. **Welcome Aboard** will be set up for this reunion starting at **1:00pm to 4:30pm** on Thursday in the **McKinley Room**. The program that you receive at the reunion will give you the times for the various events. ***Please make your plans so that you arrive at least 15 minutes before any scheduled event.***

The hotel desk people will know where our 6th Fleet folks are. Much of our socializing will be in the **Cleveland Room**. This is where you'll run into your old Shipmates. It's also here that you'll be able to buy many Ship Store items such as coffee cups, hats, challenge coins tee shirts, etc. from the various ships attending as well as 6th Fleet identity items like Challenge Coins, key chains, Hats, etc. all with their logo's on them.

About Cancellations... If something comes up and you're forced to cancel your reunion attendance, call us as soon as possible at **508-580-3808**. We can send you a refund **IF** you advise us early enough for us to modify our counts to the hotel and tours, which means **in our hands at least thirty days prior to the reunion**. *If you cancel after that, we are still obligated to pay for the contracted functions, so there can be no refund.* Another reason why it's important to notify us ASAP is that if you call too late, we might be on the road and may not get that message until it is too late.



USS ALBANY



USS NORTHAMPTON



USS COLUMBUS



USS NEWPORT NEWS



USS SALEM



USS SPRINGFIELD (CLG-7)



REGISTRATION FORM

U.S. 6TH FLEET IN VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER REUNION SEPTEMBER 12 - 15, 2024

(USS. Springfield, Boston, Newport News, Des Moines, Albany, Salem, Columbus, Little Rock & Northampton)



NOTE: Do not cut this page; please return this entire form!

Name: _____ Aboard 19__ - 19__ Div _____ Flew or Drove _____

Guest's Name(s) _____ Your Rank / Rate _____ Ship: _____

Are you: Staying at the Reunion hotel? ____ Y/N On active duty? ____ Y/N Over 80? ____ Y/N

Home Telephone (____)-____-____ Email address _____

Emergency Contact _____ Telephone (____)-____-____

MEMBERSHIP FOR U.S. 6th FLEET IN VSM Membership year is from January 1 thru December 31	Annual Membership New Life Membership	\$20 \$150	= \$
Shipmate/Member Registration Fee (<i>Required if Attending</i>)	Shipmate/Member Reg. fee now: After Aug. 10	\$35 \$50	= \$
Additional Guest(s) Registration Fee (<i>Required for each additional guest attending</i>)	Number of Guests _____ After Aug. 10	Times \$35 \$50	= \$
Thursday: Fun Night @Hotel Dessert Reception Sept. 12 7:00 PM Entertainment - Mens Red Blazer Chorus	Number of People _____	Times \$25	= \$
Friday: Group Breakfast at Hotel Sept 13 7:00 AM (Price included In the Hotel Rate)	Number of People _____	Times N/A	= \$
Friday: Niagara Falls State Park Lunch on your own today, Trolley included Sept. 13 Buses depart the hotel at 9:00 AM	Number of People _____	Times \$45	= \$
Friday Night: Group Supper at the Hotel Sept. 13 6:00 PM Entertainment -	Number of People _____	Times \$50	= \$
Saturday: Group Breakfast at Hotel Sept. 14 7:00 AM (Price included In the Hotel Rate)	Number of People _____	Times N/A	= \$
Saturday: Buffalo Naval and Military Park Unveiling Ceremony, USS Little Rock. Sept. 14 Buses to shuttle at 8:30, 9:00 and 9:30 AM	Number of People _____	Times \$70	= \$
Saturday Night: Banquet Program Sept. 14 6:00 PM Entertainment - Buffalo Swing & Jazz	Number of People _____	Times \$70	= \$
Sunday: Group Breakfast at Hotel Sept. 15 7:00 AM (Price included In the Hotel Rate)	Number of People _____	Times N/A	= \$
Sunday: FINAL GOOD BYES TO ALL... If checking out, make sure to check out by Sept. 15 11:00 AM. Have a Safe Journey Home.	Number of People XXXXX	Times \$0	XXXXXXX
"These Meal and Tour times are subject to change"	Add up total amount here	TOTAL	= \$

Example: One Shipmate/Member alone taking everything:= **\$295.00** (plus Membership if applicable)
One Shipmate/Member plus one adult guest taking everything:= **\$590.00** (plus Membership if applicable)

Please make checks payable to U.S. 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer and mail to: U.S. 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer
PO BOX 7445
Brockton, MA 02303-7445

NOTES: *Final deadline for registering with us and to get the Hotel Rate of \$139.00 +tax is August 10, 2024

*If you wish you can use this form to pay your Membership Dues whether you're going to this reunion or not.

*Any Questions: Call 508-580-3808. PLEASE SEND THE ORIGINAL REGISTRATION FORM BACK TO US!!!!



If you or your guests have any disability or dietary needs briefly list that here: _____

*****KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM*****

*****SEE OTHER SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION*****