

2018 USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS-36) Association Reunion

Join us in Nashville!



For our 2018 reunion, we are going to Nashville! Among our scheduled activities is a riverboat lunch cruise on the Cumberland River, a tour of Ryman Auditorium (original home of the Grand Ole Opry), historic RCA Studio B, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and dinner and a show at the Grand Ole Opry!

Join us for what promises to be another GREAT reunion!

When:	August 29 - September 2, 2018
Where:	<u>The Inn at Opryland Hotel</u> 2401 Music Valley Drive Nashville, TN 37214
Room Rate*:	\$99/Night for Standard (1 king or 2 queens) Room, and either interior (Atrium View) or exterior room. Rate is subject to all current state & local taxes. Breakfast is not included in the room rate, but you may purchase light breakfast items in the hotel's Atrium Café or go to a local restaurant (there is a Shoney's Restaurant next door).
Reservations:	Phone: 855-584-3466 Press "1" for Room Reservations. Then, press "1" if you are a Marriott Rewards Program member or press "2" if you are not.

- * When making your hotel reservation, be sure to mention that you are with the **USS L. Y. SPEAR AS-36 Reunion** to receive the special negotiated rate. This rate is also good for 3 days prior to the reunion and 3 days immediately following the reunion **BASED ON AVAILABILITY**. It is highly recommended that you make your hotel reservations early, even if you aren't sure that you can attend, in order to get a discounted room. You will have 72 hours prior to check-in to cancel your reservations. Please note that if you do not make your reservations through the group block, you will not be eligible for the "free night" drawing.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

If you will be flying to the reunion, you will want to fly into [Nashville International Airport](#) (airport code BNA). The airport is about 13 miles from the hotel.

Gaylord Opryland offers daily roundtrip shuttle service from the airport to the hotel for \$19/pp, one way. Estimated taxi fare is \$25 one way. For more information on shuttle service at the hotel, click [here](#).

2018 Reunion Registration Packet



*** IMPORTANT HOTEL INFORMATION ***

The hotel reservation cut-off date is **Friday, July 27th** to get the negotiated room rate. After that date, the rooms will be released back into the hotel's inventory and you may not get the discounted rate. PLEASE NOTE: There are only a limited number of rooms reserved at this special price, so please make your reservations **as soon as possible**. You may change or cancel your hotel reservation up to 72 hours prior to your check-in date. Cancellations within 72 hours of arrival will forfeit 1 night Room & Tax.

***** HOTEL BONUS *****

If you make your hotel reservations by **Friday, June 29th**, your name will be entered into a drawing to have one night's stay during the reunion for **FREE!** The drawing will be held at the final evening banquet, and you must be present to win.

Please note: This hotel does have a Debit Card Policy. Please contact the hotel directly if you need more information or further clarification on their Debit Card Policy.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DAY	TIME	TOUR/EVENT
Wednesday, Aug. 29	Noon 6:30 p.m.	Hospitality Room Opens Dinner-on-your-own, Mission BBQ
Thursday, Aug. 30	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	EVENT A: Ryman Auditorium, RCA Studio B, CMHOF Tour
Friday, Aug. 31	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.	EVENT B: General Jackson Showboat Lunch Cruise Tour EVENT C: Grand Ole Opry Dinner Tour
Saturday, Sept. 1	8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Business Meeting FREE TIME / Optional Golf Outing Group Photos Final Banquet
Sunday, Sept. 2	11:00 a.m.	Hospitality Room Closes

(A detailed Reunion Itinerary will be included with your Confirmation Letter)

Reunion Starts - Wednesday, August 29th (noon)

The 2018 Reunion begins with the opening of the Hospitality Room. After checking into the hotel, come enjoy some light snacks while visiting with your shipmates. Dinner will be on your own, but we like to go out to eat as a group. This year, we are going to **Mission BBQ**, a restaurant that honors Military, Police, Fire and First Responders! Our reservation is for 6:30 p.m., so please join us!



REUNION TOUR - Thursday, August 30th

EVENT A: Ryman Auditorium, RCA Studio B, and Country Music Hall of Fame Venues
(See Reunion Registration Form for Pricing)

(9:00 am – 5:00 pm)

Our day starts with boarding a luxury motor coach at the hotel. Uniform of the Day is comfortable casual clothing and walking shoes. You may want to bring a light jacket or sweater in case the weather turns cool. Of course, wear your USS L. Y. SPEAR ball cap that you purchased in the Ship's Store! Also, be sure to wear the name tag that you got upon arrival, as you won't be allowed on the tours without it.

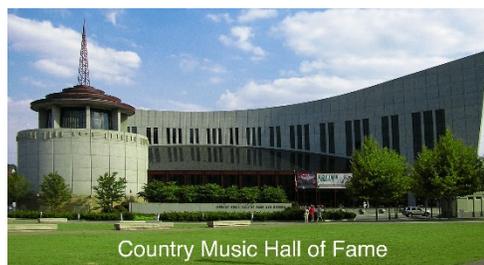
After the motor coach picks us up at the hotel, we will head for downtown Nashville. Our tour guide will provide information and colorful history as we drive past Tootsie's Orchid Lounge on Honky Tonk Row, the original Ernest Tubbs Record Shop, the State Capitol and more. Our first stop will be at the [Ryman Auditorium](#) Museum for a self-guided tour of the "Mother Church of Country Music". This is always a special treat for all visitors to Nashville.

We will then drive through Music Row and learn about the recording industry from songwriting to record producers to famous recording studios and the performance rights organizations ASCAP & BMI who monitor airplay of songs all over the world. We will stop & experience a guided tour of historic [RCA Studio B](#) which was Elvis Presley's favorite recording studio, but other legends such as Dolly Parton, Jim Reeves, The Everly Brothers, Roy Orbison and numerous others recorded their hits here.



We will learn about Tennessee's rich history with a drive through Bi-Centennial Mall Park and view the World War II Memorial. Other military monuments such as the Vietnam Memorial, Alvin York & Andrew Jackson statues will also be showcased on this Nashville city tour.

We will have LUNCH-ON-YOUR-OWN while visiting the [Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum](#) and enjoy its exhibits on the history of country music from the early beginnings to today's superstars.



Then, it's back on the bus. We should arrive at the hotel around 5:00 p.m.

Dinner is on your own. The Hospitality Room will be open.

REUNION TOUR - Friday, August 31st

EVENT B: General Jackson Showboat Lunch Cruise Tour
(See Reunion Registration Form for Pricing)

(11:00 am – 3:00 pm)

For our first Friday tour, we will board a luxury motor coach at the hotel. Uniform of the Day is comfortable casual clothing and walking shoes. You may want to bring a light jacket or sweater in case the weather turns cool. Again, do wear your USS L. Y. SPEAR ball cap, and be sure to wear your name tag, as you won't be allowed on the tours without it.

We will arrive at the [General Jackson Showboat](#) for a buffet lunch and Taste of Tennessee live musical. The Showboat cruise lets you experience Nashville as it can best be seen from the beautiful Cumberland River. While "rollin' down the river," you'll enjoy stunning views, especially of downtown Nashville. Our lunch selection will include two salad selections (Romaine and Iceberg with garlic croutons, diced cheeses, red & yellow grape tomatoes, heirloom carrots served with buttermilk Ranch, and Old fashioned potato salad), two entrees (Hickory pit-smoked and dry rubbed pork shoulder with Tennessee Whiskey BBQ sauce and Buttermilk brined Southern fried chicken that has been shallow fried), three sides (Baked mac-n-cheese, Slow simmered baked beans with brown sugar, and Chef's seasonally inspired vegetables), dessert (Seasonal fruit cobbler topped with cinnamon streusel, caramel and vanilla creme sauce), and hot and iced teas, regular and decaffeinated coffee.



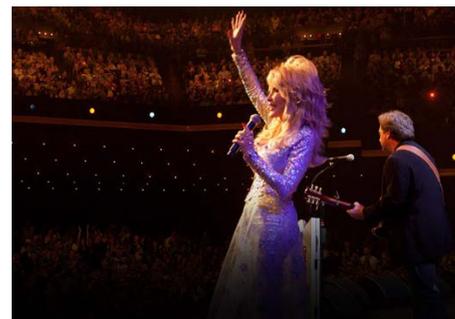
Following our Riverboat cruise, it's back on the bus. We should arrive back at the hotel by 3:00 p.m. The Hospitality Room will be open briefly.

EVENT C: Grand Ole Opry Dinner Tour
(See Reunion Registration Form for Pricing)

(4:45 pm – 9:45 pm)

For our second Friday tour, we will once again board a luxury motor coach at the hotel. We will depart for dinner at the Santa Fe Cattle Co. before attending the [Grand Ole Opry](#).

Our dinner selection will include Fresh House Salad, Yeast Rolls with butter, Baked Potato and your choice of one of the following entries: Catfish, 6 oz. sirloin, half rack BBQ Ribs, or Grilled or BBQ Chicken. Ice Cream in a flaky pastry tortilla with chocolate drizzle for dessert, and iced tea, coffee or soda.



BUSINESS MEETING & BANQUET - Saturday, September 1st

Business Meeting (8:30 am - 9:00 am)

For those interested, our Annual Business Meeting will be held in the Hospitality Room.

*** * * FREE TIME * * ***
(9:00 am – 5:30 pm)

Optional Golf Outing

If you would like to participate in a golf outing at [Hermitage Golf Course](#) on Saturday, please note that on the Reunion Registration Form. Club rental is available.

Group Photos (5:30 pm)

Be sure to get back in time to clean up for our group photographs. Muster in the designated area for our group shots (we'll post the location in the Hospitality Room).

Cocktail Hour & Banquet Dinner

After our photo shoot, join us in the designated Banquet Room to unwind with a drink or two. Cocktails will be available from the cash bar starting at 6:00 p.m. and the evening activities will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Our final evening's Banquet meal will be a plated dinner choice of **Rosemary-Baked Chicken - or - Herb-Roasted Pork Tenderloin**. Dinner includes Fresh Garden Salad (with Ranch & Italian Vinaigrette dressings), Roasted Fingerling Potatoes, Market Fresh Vegetables, Freshly baked Rolls with Butter, Iced Tea & Coffee, and Apple Pie with Ice Cream Sauce for dessert. For children 12 & under, a child's meal of Chicken Fingers & French Fries is also available. Meals for those with special dietary needs are available upon request. **Please make your selections on the Registration Form.**

Once again, we will be having our Raffle Prize and 50/50 Cash Drawings to be held after dinner (must be present to win). Tickets are \$1 each or 12 tickets for \$10, and will be sold whenever the Hospitality Room is open. If you can help by donating a raffle prize, please contact Patty Kelso via email at pattykelso@usslysphear.org or by calling 913-677-1837.

REUNION ENDS - Sunday, September 2nd

After a fun few days, it's time for goodbyes. The Hospitality Room will be open until about 11:00 a.m. on Sunday to gather and say "goodbye", and to pick up your memorabilia items.

*** * * TOUR BONUS * * ***

Once again, we are able to offer a **FREE TOUR** for each tour! If you signed up for a tour, the names of each paid tour attendee will be entered into the daily drawing to receive that tour for FREE!

The drawings will be held during the Thursday and Friday tours, and you must be present to win.

To qualify for the FREE TOUR drawings, your Reunion Registration Form **along with payment** must be **received** by **Friday, June 29th**.

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VERY IMPORTANT - The tour company will impose an **additional \$10** per person, per tour, for any additions to the head count received **AFTER July 25th**. Because of this, the Association must collect an additional \$10, as applicable, if your Reunion Registration Form is received after July 25th.

2018 Reunion Registration Packet

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

Registration Forms are due by July 25, 2018

Important Notes Regarding Your Registration: Please Read!

- **CANCELLATION POLICY:** For attendees cancelling reunion activities **prior to the cut-off date of July 25, 2017**, the Association shall process a full refund. Attendees cancelling reunion activities **after the July 25th deadline** will be refunded to the fullest extent that the Association's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow (see below), less the Reunion Registration Fee (\$10 per person).

NO REFUNDS FOR TOURS can be given if cancellation is received after **July 25, 2018**, as we must make final payment to the tour company by this date.

NO REFUNDS FOR HOTEL-PROVIDED MEALS can be given if cancellation is received after **August 24, 2018**, as we must make final payment to the hotel by this date.

Because all meals and activities will have been paid for (and the Association will not be able to get any reimbursement on monies paid), there will be **NO REFUNDS – for any reason** – for cancellation requests received after **August 24, 2018**.

Refund requests must be made by email or in writing (contact information is located at the top of the Reunion Registration Form), and received **before the above listed deadlines**.

To ensure that you do not lose your investment in case of unforeseen circumstances caused by illness, injury, or other emergencies, Trip Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended. Contact your local insurance agent for assistance.

Keep in mind that cancelling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities, or vice versa. Refunds will be processed 4-6 weeks after the reunion.

- Keep a copy of the completed Registration Form for your records. Once your Registration Form is received, you will be sent a confirmation letter.
- **RETURNED CHECK FEE:** Any check submitted that is **returned for insufficient funds** will result in a **\$20 fee** to cover the charge-back fee imposed by the Association's bank. In order to attend the reunion, a money order will need to be sent for the cost of the reunion **plus the \$20 fee**. Failure to pay the fee will result in a cancelled registration. Attendance at future reunions will not be permitted until the Association has been reimbursed for its loss.

Payment Methods

We are offering **two** ways to pay your reunion fees:

- **Mail** your form along with either a **check or money order**, or
- **Email or complete the "online" form**, and be sent an invoice to pay by either **credit/debit card or PayPal account**.

The Reunion Registration Form will require you to indicate which payment and form submission you intend to use.

PLEASE NOTE:

You must submit a Reunion Registration Form in order to attend ANY part of the reunion.

How to Submit Your Completed Form

Option 1: Pay by Check or Money Order - Submit Form by Mail

Your check or money order must be accompanied by your completed Registration Form.

1. Click [here](#) to print the form and fill in by hand.
2. In the "**Select a Payment Option**" at the bottom of the form, check the option to pay by check or money order.
3. Make check or money order payable to the "USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS-36) Association".
4. Mail your form along with payment to: USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS-36) Association
6916 Lamar Avenue
Overland Park, KS 66204

Option 2: Pay by Credit/Debit Card or PayPal - Submit Form by E-Mail

To pay using this option, you **must** complete the "EMAIL" field on the Reunion Registration Form.

1. Click [here](#) to print the form and fill in by hand.
2. In the "**Select a Payment Option**" at the bottom of the form, check the option to have an invoice sent to you.

Email the Form: Scan your completed form or take a digital photo of both pages, and save to your computer. Open your email, attach the form, and send to reunions@usslyspear.org.

Once your emailed form has been received, a PayPal invoice will be sent to the email address that you provided on the form. (You will have the option to pay through your PayPal account or if you don't have an account you can pay using a credit/debit card through PayPal.)

Option 3: Pay by Credit/Debit Card or PayPal – Complete Form Online

Click [here](#) to fill out your Reunion Registration form online. Once you "Submit" your form, you will receive a preliminary email confirming your choices. Once your registration form is received by the Association, a PayPal invoice will be sent to the email address that you provided on the form. You will have the option to pay through your PayPal account or if you don't have an account you can pay using a credit/debit card through PayPal. **The date of your payment notification from PayPal will serve as the "Received by" date for contest eligibility, etc.**

Regardless of how you submit your Reunion Registration Form, you will be mailed a confirmation letter (along with other informational documents) once payment has been received. If you have any questions regarding submitting your registration form, feel free to email or call the number on the form.

2018 Reunion Registration Packet

Reunion Checklist:

So, you think you're ready for an L. Y. SPEAR reunion?? Read through this checklist to see if there's anything you forgot.

- Punch a hole in your 2018 calendar now to make sure your reunion dates are available.
- However you decide to travel, make arrangements well in advance (tickets, stop mail, house sitter, dog walker, etc.).
- Complete your Reunion Registration Form and submit it as directed on the form ASAP. Your form and payment must be *received* no later than **July 25, 2018**.
- To guarantee a hotel room at our negotiated rate, make your hotel reservations no later than **July 27, 2018** (**June 29th** if you want to be entered into the drawing for one night's stay during the reunion for FREE), and remember to jot down your reservation number.
- To qualify for a free tour, your Reunion Registration Form **and payment** must be received by **June 29th**.
- Arrange for personal transportation to/from hotel (shuttle, taxi, rental car, etc.).
- If you are able to donate one or more items to the Raffle table, give some thought now to your selection. Contact **Patty Kelso** (PH: 913-677-1837, EMAIL: pattykelso@usslyspear.org) if you have any questions on what items may be donated.
- Remember to pack photos, keepsakes, memorabilia, and all your stories (true or fabricated) from your days on the SPEAR to share with your friends and comrades, old and new.
- A week or two before you hit the road, call the hotel (with that confirmation number you wrote down) and confirm your reservations to avoid any unpleasant surprises.
- Come prepared for a great time, and we'll do our best to make sure you're not disappointed!

First time going to a USS L. Y. SPEAR Reunion? Check out "[What to Expect at a USS L. Y. SPEAR Reunion](#)".

* * * SPONSOR-A-SHIPMATE PROGRAM * * *

We are implementing a new program this year to help shipmates who may not be able to attend the reunion because of cost. If you would like to donate to help a shipmate, please complete the 2018 Sponsor-a-Shipmate Donation Form. If you need assistance to attend the reunion, please complete the 2018 Sponsor-a-Shipmate Application Form.

To print a **hard copy** form to fill out by hand, click here:

[Donation Form](#)

[Application Form](#)

To complete an **online** form on the web, click here:

[Donation Form](#)

[Application Form](#)

If you still have questions or need assistance in submitting your Registration Form, please contact **Patty Kelso** by phone at 913-677-1837 or via email at pattykelso@usslyspear.org.

See you in Nashville!