

Updated Reunion Information, October 12, 2024

We have searched for possible host hotels in Pensacola, Pensacola Beach, Orange Beach, AL, and Mobile, AL. Once again, we have found acceptable hotels interested in hosting our group in Pensacola extremely challenging. Acceptability is described as offering the minimum of:

- 1) Clean, comfortable rooms, as we have become accustomed to at our past reunions, at an affordable nightly rate for most members, allowing more of our Shipmates to attend.
- 2) A meeting/hospitality room of sufficient size to accommodate the anticipated attendees. The daily cost of the hospitality room is an important consideration.
- 3) No or flexible attrition—Because we must book so far into the future, we utilize past reunion attendance records and your timely response, as requested, for our projections. These numbers are used to negotiate room rates and fees for the hospitality room and other amenities. Should we fall short of the number of room nights we have contracted for, we could be required to pay for them under an attrition clause.

We have not received any proposals from the Pensacola hotels that we contacted. However, the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola remains a popular group venue and is within reach of any Alabama hotels being considered. Orange Beach and Mobile, AL, offer more attractive rates and acceptability minimums.

Initial searches in Mobile, AL, and Pascagoula, MS, offer a wide variety of “things to do” that we consider of interest to our group. Pascagoula, MS is about a 45-minute drive, and Pensacola 1hr—06 min from Mobile.

The next step is to make site visits to the hotels from which we have received proposals. Currently, there are two in the Orange Beach area, one in Daphne and two in Mobile. Once we make the site visits, the final selection will be made and announced.

I expect the hotel site visits to occur during November's first or second week. Members of the Board of Directors who can do so are encouraged to join Linda and me for the site visit and participate in the selection process. Members Todd and Marie King have volunteered to join us. They have been involved with several Navy reunions and bring planning and negotiating expertise to the table.

As you can understand, your intention to attend the 2025 reunion is essential to the negotiations and a successful reunion. I look forward to hearing from each of you as soon as possible.