

USS FDR REUNION READER

SUMMER 2026



We've had a bit of a cool spring in Indiana, wet in spells, but overall quite pleasant. At the Pensacola Reunion we voted to "throw in" with Coral Sea for the Fall 2026 reunion in Nashville, Tennessee. **Check out their newsletter at**

<https://www.usscoralsea.org/SeaBreeze/CSBreezeV31I3.pdf>

I've been doing this for a while and it looks to me like they've planned a really good one! We are looking forward to this reunion and encourage you to make plans early to attend. All of the info is in the following pages.

Check out the **Commemorative Tee Shirt** – Order by **Aug 29!**

IF YOU PLAN ON ANY OF THE OUTINGS – REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEP 15

I'd love to hear from you with comments, critiques, compliments, complaints, etc.

Bob Siefker, President
317-289-8489 FDR@IndyBlue.com

Nashville Reunion At A Glance

Wednesday	10/14	Arrive & Check in General Jackson River Boat Ride & Lunch Pizza Party (Hospitality Suite – Evening – FREE!!!)
Thursday	10/15	Nashville Nite Dinner Theater
Friday	10/16	Grand Ole Opry
Saturday	10/17	Membership Annual Meeting (Morning) Banquet Dinner (Evening)
Sunday	10/18	Farewells & Check Out

2026 Reunion – Music City – Nashville, Tenn October 13-18, 2026

We're excited to announce that our first joint reunion with the USS Coral Sea Association will be in Nashville TN October 13-18, 2026!

Host Hotel – Radisson Airport

1112 Airport Center Drive, Nashville, TN 37214

Reunion room rate - \$126 per night, plus taxes.

This rate is offered for three days prior and after our reunion dates of Oct. 13-18.

Free Parking, Free Breakfast, Free Airport Shuttle Service, Indoor Heated Pool,

Make your reservation by calling (615) 889-9090.

Mention the Coral Sea Reunion - event #RY87M8 - when you call.

NOTE: If you mention FDR, they may not recognize the name!

TOURS and EVENTS

Wednesday 10/14 10:15 a.m. General Jackson Paddle Wheel Showboat Lunch Cruise

This classic Nashville river experience features scenic Cumberland River views, a freshly prepared Southern lunch, and lively country-themed entertainment aboard one of the largest showboats ever built. It blends sightseeing, music, and dining into a relaxed midday outing perfect for visitors and locals alike.

Enjoy a hearty buffet typically with barbecue favorites, mac & cheese, salads, and Southern desserts.

The General Jackson Showboat is a grand, Victorian-style paddle wheel showboat launched in 1985, inspired by 19th-century riverboats. She is one of the largest showboats in the U.S., with ornate décor, a central theater, multiple decks, and outdoor viewing areas.

Enjoy the upbeat, Nashville-style shows with talented musicians and dancers.

NOTE: Much of the entertainment takes place inside the theater depending on the show schedule. **Family-friendly** and ideal for daylight sightseeing and a casual vibe.

Cruise is approx 3 hours. The vessel is wheelchair accessible.

\$105 pp Includes Transportation to and From Hotel.



Wednesday 10/14 6 p.m. FREE PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA

Join your shipmates for a couple of slices of pizza in the Ready Room (Hospitality Suite for you lubbers!) **No charge! FREE! (We do need a head count!)**

Thursday 10/15 4:30 p.m. Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show

The Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show offers a blend of Southern cooking and live country music in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. You'll feel like you're in an old-school Nashville music hall—warm lighting, roomy seating, and a stage built for big voices and lively bands. The buffet-style dinner features favorites like fried chicken, pulled pork, vegetables, salads, and homemade desserts. Once your plate is full and everyone is settled in, the lights dim and the show kicks off with a rotating cast of talented local performers, tribute acts, and occasional guest appearances from Nashville recording artists. An upbeat and welcoming mix of classic country hits, gospel numbers, and contemporary favorites. Every seat feels close to the action. It's the kind of place where audience participation is encouraged, birthdays get a shout-out, and visitors often leave humming the last song of the night.



A nostalgic slice of Music City charm.

\$99 pp Includes Transportation to and From Hotel.

Friday 10/16 5:30 p.m. Grand Ole' Opry 100th Anniversary!

The Opry is Nashville's most iconic live music experience—an American institution that has shaped country music for a century. Held for years in the Ryman Auditorium, the “new” Opry House brings together a dynamic lineup of country legends, rising stars, bluegrass pickers, gospel groups, and comedic performers, all sharing the same storied stage that has helped launch countless careers.



“Live from WSM Nashville, Tennessee!” Each performance is structured like a live radio broadcast, complete with multiple hosts, short sets from each artist, and the unmistakable Opry energy that blends tradition with fresh talent. You'll likely hear classic country hits as well as contemporary chart-toppers. The Opry Building itself is part of the magic—comfortable seating, excellent sightlines, and a stage framed by the famous barn backdrop. It's a place where music lovers from around the world gather to celebrate the roots and future of country music. **Where did the Opry get its name?** In late 1927, following a broadcast of the “Music Appreciation Hour,” WSM announcer George Hay proclaimed, “For the past hour, we have been listening to the music from Grand Opera, but now we present the Grand Ole Opry.”

\$110 pp Includes Transportation to and From Hotel.

Saturday 10/17 9:30 a.m.

FDR Reunion Association Annual Business Meeting – Guests are welcome as observers

Saturday 10/17 6 p.m. Farewell Banquet Dinner In Hotel Ballroom – Chose Entree'

Flank Steak \$69 pp - Chicken Piccata \$55 pp - Vegetarian Stacker \$50 pp

USS Coral Sea / USS Franklin D Roosevelt Reunion Reservation Form.

**USS Coral Sea CVA-43 Association
48th Annual Reunion, Oct. 13—Oct. 18, 2026**

Please make your reservation online at: www.usscoralsea.org
Or complete form with payment to USS CORAL SEA ASSOC., and mail to:

**John Ranson, 52 Woodland Place
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075-1605**

Name _____

Spouse/Guest _____

City _____ **State** _____

Zip Code _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

Emerg. Contact _____ **Phone** _____

Served On: USS Coral Sea ____ **USS Franklin D Roosevelt** ____

Name Badge Identification

Name _____ **Rate/Rank/Div** _____

Dates Aboard (month/year) _____ **to** _____

Special Needs (Wheelchair Lift, Dietary, Etc.): _____

- Required Registration Fee; (____) @ \$25 per person
- Wednesday, Oct.14; General Jackson Paddlewheel Showboat Lunch Cruise; (____) @ \$105 per person
- Pizza Night at 1800, paid by Association; (____) @ NO CHARGE
- Thursday, Oct. 15; Nashville Nightlife Dinner Show; (____) @ \$99 per person
- Friday, Oct. 16; The Famous Grand Ole Opry Show; (____) @ \$110 per person

Farewell Banquet Dinner; choice of:

- Flank Steak; (____) @ \$69 per person
- Chicken Piccata; (____) @ \$55 per person
- Vegetarian Stacker; (____) @ \$50 per person

Please Note:

Reservation Cancellation Insurance (non-refundable); \$20 per person
Late Reservation Fee (after 8/26/26, non-refundable; \$20 per person

Amount Encls. \$ _____

Please Note: Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.

Please Note: Insurance holders are eligible for refund (less processing fee) until Midnight 3 days prior to start of the reunion.

Please Note: Watch for an email confirmation of your order and online roster update as your proof of payment.

1. YOUR REGISTRATION FEES ARE NON REFUNDABLE – PERIOD.
 2. THE REST OF YOUR FEES CAN BE COVERED FOR REFUND BY SELECTING CANCELLATION INSURANCE (\$20 NON REFUNDABLE FEE)
 3. NON REFUNDABLE \$20 LATE FEE AFTER AUG 26
 4. DO NOT MAIL FORM TO FDR REUNION – IT WILL JUST DELAY THINGS!
- NOTE - REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR ALL OUTINGS IS SEP 15**



Nashville Reunion Commemorative Tee Shirt

Avail Sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
\$15 per shirt

**PRE ORDER
ONLY!
WILL NOT BE
AVAILABLE
FOR
PURCHASE
ON-SITE**

**PRE ORDER
ONLY!
WILL NOT BE
AVAILABLE
FOR
PURCHASE
ON-SITE**



**ORDERS MUST
BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN
AUGUST 29**

➡ ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 29 ⬅

Name _____
Please Print Carefully

Size _____ Qty _____

Size _____ Qty _____

Size _____ Qty _____

Total # Shirts _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Shirts are \$15 ea Avail Sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

EITHER Include w Registration
OR mail a check payable to FDR Reunion to:
USS FDR Reunion
4418 W. Hunters Ridge Ln
Greenwood, IN 46143

IN MEMORIAM

It is our goal to honor and remember all shipmates who have gone before us. The latest we are aware of are:

P. Terrence (Terry) Burke
Cumberland, MD
V-1 Div 1951-54
Died November 21, 2024

Calvin Bunnell
Meriden, CT
OI Div 1967-70
Died Jan 18, 2026,
Survived by wife Christine

John Sammartino
Yorktown Heights, NY
S-2 Div 1962-64
Died March 2025
Survived by Wife Elaine

Charles H. Swenson
Shoreline WA
Engineering 1946
Died Dec 21, 2025

Howard Salsitz
Fullerton, CA
Fox Div 1965-67
Died Sept. 26, 2024

Robert Selfridge
Zephyrhills, FL
V-1 Div 1951-52
Died Dec 30, 2024
Survived by wife Carol

Benjamin Weber
Joppa MD
M-Div 1952-54
Died February 15, 2025
Surv. by wife Mary Theresa

Robert Slater
Bakersfield, CA
OI Div 1969-71
Died Jan 3, 2026
Survived by wife Trudy

Daniel Reed
Rockville, MD
VF-41 1972-75
Died Oct 17, 2022

Caesar Sanservero
Monroe Twnshp, NJ
1st Div 1945-47
Died Sept 23, 2021

Raymond Nichols
New Hartford, NY
OI Div 1960-63
Died Nov 21, 2025

Hubert Steve Pulaski, Sr.
Hampton, SC
V-2 Div 1970-72
Died Feb 20, 2026

Larry Szewczyk
Erie, PA
X- Div 1965-69
Died August 6, 2025
Survived by wife Maryanne

Walter Swiston
LaGrange Park, IL
OE Div 1958-61
Died Jan 20, 2026
Survived by Wife Sue

Marvin Douglas
Kings Mountain, KY
M-Div 1956-59
Died June 21, 2025

Jack Reed
Stoughton, MA
8th Div 1945-46
Died Nov 7, 2021
Survived by wife Bianka

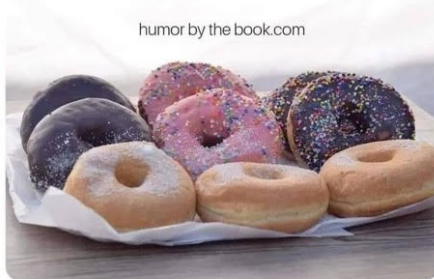
Robert Heinze
Lawrence, MA
Fox Div, 1952-53
Died Dec 10, 2024

Wayne Edmunds
Benson, AZ
V-2 Div 1964-67
Survived by wife Marion

A complete list of departed shipmates is on our website
if you are aware of a shipmate who has passed away (includes
air groups, etc.), please email me at FDR@indyblue.com.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

THESE BIG CHEERIOS ARE WAY BETTER THAN THE SMALL ONES. AND YOU DON'T EVEN NEED MILK.



Know Your Tools!

SKILLSAW: A portable cutting tool used to make boards too short.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool often used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh shit'. Will easily wind a tee shirt off your back.

Navy Wife's Prayer

Dear Lord: Give me Wisdom to understand my sailor; Love to forgive him; and Patience during his moods. Because, Lord, if you give me Strength, I'll probably beat him to death. AMEN

Navy Wife's Primer

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?

A: Rename the email folder 'Instruction Manuals'

When All Else Fails

Q: What does it mean when your man is in your bed gasping for breath and calling your name?

A: You did not keep the pillow down long enough.



"I want you to take a half-hour walk, every day, 10 minutes before lunch."



'It's just too hot to wear clothes today,' Jack says as he stepped out of the shower... 'What do you think the neighbors would think if I mowed the lawn like this?' 'Probably that I married you for your money,' she replied.

Welcome Shipmate!

Since 1988, your shipmates at the USS FDR CV 42 Reunion, have welcomed and reconnected those who served aboard the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt.

You are eligible for membership if you served aboard the FDR in any capacity i.e. ship's company, air group/squadrons, embarked flag, or special detachments.

In short, If you walked the decks of the FDR, we invite you to join us.

We are bound together by the one thing that touched all of our lives and joins us together - our service aboard "Rosie."

Our Annual Reunion is a great way to renew old friendships and to make new ones!

You must be a member to attend.

Dues are \$10.00 per year payable by December 31st each year.

Applications received after July 1 will expire Dec 31 the following year.

Please fill all blanks on the Application Form below so that we have accurate information for our newsletter mailing list. (Feel free to use a return address mailing label but make sure email and phone are included.)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL

(Please print legibly or use a return address label)

RENEWAL ____ NEW MEMBER ____ (CHECK ONE)

NAME: _____

LAST FIRST MI _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: ____ ZIP: ____ - _____

EMAIL _____ @ _____

PHONE: _____ SPOUSE: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ ON BOARD FROM _____ TO _____

Div/Squadron/Unit/etc. While Aboard: _____

PLANKOWNER: YES ____ NO ____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SEND \$10 Payable to USS FDR Reunion To:

**USS FDR CV42 Reunion
c/o Steve Dukes
2170 Americus Blvd. N Apt 40
Clearwater, FL 33763**

The Sunshine Fund
CONSIDER Adding a small
donation to help keep the Reunion
affordable to all shipmates and
guests.

Add A Sunshine Fund Donation? \$ _____

(Help a shipmate afford to attend a reunion)

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