

UPDATE # 1 – March 12, 2024

Aloha Shipmates,

Are you getting ready for the time of your life? Our 2024 “Coming Home” reunion is certainly shaping up to be that. I am sensing that this reunion will be very well attended despite the distance and increased cost. Bravo, shipmates for stepping up and choosing to gather for this unique experience.

Registration forms will be emailed out following this Update, in a few days. For now, just read through this lengthy, but informative, update to get a sense of our plan.

Unlike past reunions I need to have your commitments sooner rather than later. In fact, I need all reservations and payment by May 10th at the *very latest*. Many of the activities presented in this reunion overview cannot be booked until I have an *exact* amount of attendees and money in hand. In order to ensure that our group can be accommodated, the cut-off date is earlier than usual. Hawaii is popular any time of the year and if we don't take advantage of early booking, we could be shut out of that activity.

Please look over this list of activities and dinners to see what is in store for our attendees. Although all tours and activities are optional I think you'll find them all great. So join the group and sign up for all of them. We are going to “rock” the island!

We have dinners planned for four of the six evenings. All lunches will be on your own. Available lunch spots range from grabbing an inexpensive sandwich next door at the ABC store, McDonalds, or from the many nearby take out spots. For seated restaurants there is Tiki's, our hotel restaurant, <https://www.tikisgrill.com/> and several more walkable spots.

The ABC stores (I think there is one on every corner!!!) sell just about everything: souvenirs, clothes, personal items, food, soft drinks, beer and wine should you want to “stock” your room.

The Association will provide a few snacks and soft drinks at The Coconut Club when we are not on tour.

There are coffee makers in your room, and towels are provided at no cost at the hotel (yes, they may be taken to the beach).

Each room will also receive six credits to “Beach Candy” in the hotel lobby. They “rent” beach chairs, umbrellas, boogie boards and various beach equipment. I am not sure how much that will get you, but at least it might make a day or two at the beach more comfortable.

Included in our package is a buffet breakfast at the hotel's stunning Coconut Club every morning. Coffee, tea, juice, fruit and pastries are available as well as your choice of one of three breakfast entrees (rotated daily). So breakfast will be an adventure every day.

When you receive the registration form you will notice that there is no line item for a Photo Book. YES!!! ...there will be one! Rosie and Sherman Mosley are planning on creating a “memory book” for us. It more than likely will be created with an on line photo book company. A few weeks after the reunion you will be sent a link, where you can preview the finished album. You will have the ability to purchase directly from the memory book publisher and it will be delivered to you should you desire a copy. We cannot post a price until the book is finished. We are thinking \$45.00 plus or minus a few bucks.

I am working with Monarch Merchandising for some custom items for purchase. Mostly, I think it would be great to have a shirt made for us to celebrate this reunion. I am looking into possibly offering a choice of a Hawaiian shirt, polo shirt or T-Shirt. The pricing is being determined, but there should be something for everyone's budget. More to follow on that in a couple of weeks.

Our hotel: The Twin Fin: <https://www.twinfinaikiki.com/> Check out this great spot.

The Coconut Club at the Twin Fin: <https://www.twinfinaikiki.com/venues/coconut-club/>

Click and scroll down for some lovely photos of our reunion space just for our group from 1:00pm until 10:00pm every night. However, the club will be unavailable during our tour times.

Twin Fin Booking Link: <https://www.twinfinaikiki.com/#/booking/step-1?group=USSJS>

Hopefully it will work easily for you as it the preferred way to register. ANY issues with registration, please email or call Vicki 707 282 9097.

You will receive a confirmation after you have booked, and your TWO night deposit has been recorded. On that confirmation it will say that the resort fee is \$48.00 per day, and the parking is \$50.00. PLEASE DISREGARD THIS. I have spoken to our hotel representative; it is our contract that matters. For us... our standard rate (not upgraded) is \$199.00 plus taxes. Upon **check out** you will be billed \$10.00 per room, per day for the resort fee; parking will be billed at \$30.00 a day.

If you would kindly send Chuck or me an email letting us know that you have booked, we will look for your name on the reservation list the hotel sends us periodically.

Below are the activities planned for our reunion. Plan of the day will be sent out in a separate email, after registration closes. If you have any questions please email me at vbroward@comcast.net or give a call at 707 282 9097.

Saturday has several attendees, about 2/3 thus far, arriving a day early. Although no activities are planned, I'm sure we will connect with each other and find plenty to do. Of course, simply relaxing is just fine too.

Sunday is the official start of our 2024 reunion. Some shipmates will be checking-in, others will be relaxing, beaching it, or doing their Waikiki thing. Around 6:00pm the action begins as we gather for our "Welcome Dinner" in the Coconut Club. The views are breathtaking, and I understand that the attendees are a pretty great group of folks too! How wonderful to start our six-day reunion with drinks, food and laughter in this coveted space. The buffet dinner will include House greens salad, Teriyaki chicken, Guava glazed BBQ back ribs, Macadamia nut crusted island fish, Garlic fried rice, Garlic basil mashed potatoes, Roasted herbed buttered vegetables, Taro island rolls, and Coconut brownies. No-host bar available.

Monday morning we will depart fairly early for an exquisite Circle Island Tour. Our chartered 25 person minibuses provided by E'Noa Tours - <https://enoa.com/> will take us on an unforgettable day long tour of the island. Sights to include Diamond Head, Kahula (homes of the rich and "famous" Hawaiians), Leonard's Bakery Truck (malasadas...what a treat), Moana Lui Bay, Hanauma Bay, Blow Hole, Sandy Beach, Waimanolo, Pali Lookout, Boyodo Temple, Tropical Farms (macadamia nuts), "Chinamen's Hat" at Koaloa Beach, Haleiwa (north shore) great shopping and several options for lunch (not included in price), Dole Plantation, and Iolani Palace. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Tuesday morning we will depart for our daylong tour of Pearl Harbor. Our chartered double decker bus, provided by E'Noa Tours will transport us to the base where we will get our passes for the day.

You will be asked to fill out form 5512 as per the secretary of the Navy. The form will be attached to the on line reservation packet. Retirees do not need to fill out the form. Make sure you have your military ID with you!

On a side note. If you have a Veteran's Health ID card, with a service connected disability rating you might wish to bring it. Drinks *may* be available at a reduced rate at the Hale Koa Hotel. Also, you can purchase some of your "extra" activities through MWR at the NEX on the base.

After we are cleared to be on the base we have a busy plan. We will be touring the Arizona Memorial and Visitor's Center, Choice of Battleship Missouri or the Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, and grabbing lunch at one of the take-out places on the base.

Of course the *main* reason for our visit is to pay tribute to our fallen shipmates. We will have a memorial and wreath service along with chaplain and bugler. Hopefully this will take place as close to Bravo Pier as possible (this depends on where ships are docked at the time). The order of our visit is not determined yet, it depends on the logistics presented by Public Affairs at Pearl.

However, at the day's end we will be transported to the Tradewinds Club at Hickham for a private dinner. This is an indoor/outdoor venue perfect for mingling and cocktails on the lanai and dinner inside. The meal provided by the catering department is impressive. We have opted for an Italian Buffet of Caesar salad, Mixed greens with tarragon and balsamic vinaigrette, Vegetable pasta salad, Fruit salad, Grilled vegetables, Rice pilaf, Pasta carbonara, Italian sausage, Peppers and potatoes with marinara sauce, Chicken marsala, Grilled salmon, Rolls, Dessert, Coffee and Tea. No-Host bar available.

Our itinerary at Pearl is ambitious, but I have built in a few free moments. While on Pearl we will be transported from one place to the next by bus (it is not feasible nor are we allowed to walk from place to place on Pearl...and...you wouldn't want to). Therefore, we need the bus all day – about 11 or 12 hours. Double decker busses for that long aren't cheap...so due to transportation costs, our day at Pearl is a bit more expensive than I would like it to be.

Wednesday is *almost* a "free" day. I will provide a list of vendors with contact information and pricing if you'd like to do an activity on your own. Chuck and I plan to parasail (we love it!). I'll get that information out sometime during the summer. Dinner will be on your own tonight.

Wednesday is also the day for the Ladies Silent Auction (Men Invited this Year!) sponsored by the Ladies Group and headed up by our one and only, Phyllis Brown. Phyllis envisions us previewing and bidding on all the lovely offerings in the Coconut Club from 1:00pm until approximately 8:00pm. After which the auction tables will close and winners announced.

Thursday we are in for the time of our lives! We are off to the Polynesian Cultural Center. <https://polynesia.com/> You'll be able to catch a bit of extra sleep as the bus departs closer to 10:30am.

This 42 acre park is voted the #1 attraction on the island. Even if you've visited before, there are many new adventures waiting; you'll want to do this in 2024.

After arriving close to noontime we will guide ourselves through 6 authentic villages representing the island cultures of Hawai'i, Fiji, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Samoa, Tahiti, and Tonga. We'll mingle with Pacific Islanders as they share the majesty of their culture through music, dance and traditional hands-on activities. Snacks will be available for purchase throughout the afternoon.

Around 5:00pm we will be called to dine at the new Gateway Buffet to enjoy a flavorful selection of Polynesian-inspired Asian and American cuisine. Feast like royalty in the expansive dining hall that features a larger than life 360° mural.

At 7:30pm we will be entertained with the amazing “HĀ: Breath of Life,” an action-packed evening show. Ignited by fire, song and dance featuring over 100 Polynesian performers – Silver level seating. The show ends at 8:45.

Lastly, we'll board our bus, and more than likely nap on the way back to the hotel.

Friday will be the Men's Business Meeting from 9:00 to 11am in the Lakahi room. Although the women have the morning “off,” I'm sure they will want to join the men for the last few minutes of this important meeting.

The remainder of the morning and afternoon are yours to enjoy in lovely Waikiki.

We are gathering for our Farewell Dinner at the Prime Rib and Seafood Buffet Dinner at Hale Koa Hotel, an Army owned magnificent property on Waikiki Beach, (where Fort De Russy used to be) from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. <https://www.halekoa.com/dining-drinks/aloha-prime-rib>

Although this buffet is hugely popular and well attended, we will have our own section set off to the side a bit away from the crowd.

You won't leave hungry. Dinner includes: Six salad selections. Assorted sushi. Seafood on Ice (crab shrimp and more). Carving station with slow roasted prime rib. Other entrees include: Salmon, Sautéed shrimp and scallops in truffle cream sauce, Steamed clams with Portuguese sausage, Macadamia nut crusted chicken breast, Marsala mushroom ravioli. Accompaniments of Seasonal vegetables, Lobster fried rice, Garlic herb mashed potatoes, Dinner rolls. Desserts of Bread pudding, Macadamia nut pie, Chocolate cake, Pineapple cake. No-Host bar available.

Saturday we'll hug, kiss or shake hands as our reunion comes to a close. I know a few of you are staying on an extra day or so. For those of you leaving the hotel has offered us the Lakahi room for gathering and luggage storing until your flight time.

That is about it for now. I hope you have a general sense of how our 2024 Reunion is unfolding. I really do think our “Coming Home” reunion will be a spectacular one.

Look for more updates in the weeks to come.

Sincerely,

Vicki and Chuck Broward