Ahoy Shipmates: the USS CHIKASKIA/USS MISPILLION 2017 Annual Reunion will be held in Branson, Missouri from April 26 – 30, 2017. Anyone who’s ever been to Branson can tell you that the variety and sheer quantity of things to do here is astounding including shopping, dining and the Silver Dollar City theme park and a variety of other attractions. But nothing in Branson compares to the sensational selection of more than 100 live shows! Music has always been a way of life in the Branson area, but eventually visitors who came for the scenery, the water recreation, and Jim Owens’ famous float-fishing trips, started sticking around to listen to the wonderful music which entertains thousands every year in state-of-the-art theaters on Branson’s famous Strip – Highway 76.

Hotel Information

Our host hotel is the Radisson Hotel Branson, 120 South Wildwood Drive, Branson, Missouri, 65616. For hotel reservations call 417-335-5767 and mention you are with the USS Mispillion and USS Chikaskia Reunion Group to get the special rate of $90.00 plus tax. This rate is good 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion, based on hotel availability, and includes a hot buffet breakfast during each of the reunion days. The group block will be released on March 26, 2017 and reservations requested at the group rate after that date will be based on hotel availability. Radisson Hotel Branson offers free parking and access to the best of Branson’s countryside and the most popular parts of the city. Located in the heart of the Theater District, close to an array of artistic entertainment, you’ll find plenty of shopping nearby and exciting attractions like the Silver Dollar City Theme Park, the Titanic Museum, Stone Hill Winery, Ripley’s Believe It Or Not Museum and others within one to seven miles of the hotel.

Transportation

The primary airport serving the Branson area is the Springfield-Branson National Airport (SGF), located in Springfield, Missouri, approximately 55 miles north of the hotel, with scheduled flights from American, United, Delta and Allegiant airlines providing service. Car rentals and shuttle service to Branson are available. Shuttle services the hotel recommends are Ryde With Us (phone 417-336-2525 or www.rydewithus.com) and Branson Coach/Tri-Lakes Shuttle (phone 417-339-4888). Branson Airport (BKG) is located about 12 miles from the hotel. No scheduled flight information is currently available. You can contact the Branson Airport for 2017 flight information by phone at 888-359-2541 or at www.flybranson.com. Car rentals and taxi and shuttle service from the Branson Airport to the hotel are available.

USS CHIKASKIA/USS MISPILLION 2017 REUNION EVENTS

Wednesday April 26th

Captain L.J. Hasse Golf Tournament (depart hotel 9:00AM) - Golfers should plan to arrive and check-in on Tuesday April 25th. Call Bob Grant at 352-753-7552 or email at bobgrant1942@gmail.com for golf tournament information and registration. He is arranging for the tournament at one of the Branson area golf courses. Open to all shipmates, spouses and guests. Pay greens fees upon arrival at the golf course.

Other Early arrivals have the day to explore Branson and the surrounding area on their own. The Hospitality Room will be open at 3:00PM Wednesday April 26th or earlier if available, and all day Thursday April 27th through Noon Sunday April 30th.

Welcome Reception (6:00PM) – Be sure to register for the Welcome Reception which will kick-off Reunion proceedings in the Hospitality Room. Meet and greet, exchange sea stories, and catch up on the latest from everyone. We will have turkey, ham and cheese trays with rolls, plus meatballs, wings, little smokies, chips and salsa, veggie trays and dip, cake, coffee, tea, water, soft drinks, beer and wine. $18 per person.
Thursday April 27th

Branson Area Tour and Top of the Rock (10:00AM – 2:00PM) – A sightseeing tour of the Branson area will culminate at Top of the Rock, located on a spectacular bluff overlooking Table Rock Lake and the surrounding Ozark Mountains. We will explore the Top of the Rock Lost Canyon Cave & Nature Trail in 2 or 4-person golf carts (each group choosing a designated driver) for an exhilarating 2.5 mile nature trail journey overlooking Table Rock Lake, passing through covered bridges, and viewing dramatic natural rock formations and waterfalls. You begin by driving into the jaw-dropping, four-story, Lost Canyon Cave. Stop along the way for a specialty drink like the signature John L’s Lemonade (except for the designated driver, of course) at the Cave Bar tucked among the cascading waterfalls, and enjoy the rest of your journey through the nature park and cave. **$47.00 per person**

Dinner at Charlie’s and “it” Show (6:00PM – 10:30PM) – Enjoy dinner at Charlie’s Steak, Ribs & Ale, a local favorite on the Branson Strip, followed by the “it” show at the Hughes Brothers Celebrity Theater starring the five Hughes Brothers and their families. SEE “it” - where over 50 amazing singer, dancers, and musicians combine their astonishing scope of talents to create “Branson's Ultimate Entertainment Experience.” HEAR “it" - everything from Broadway to country to comedy to patriotic to gospel to rock-n-roll. FEEL "it" - the energy & emotion of over-the-top production numbers. **$55.00 per person**

Friday April 28th

Showboat Branson Belle (11:30PM – 3:00PM) – Experience the tranquil environment and the exquisite scenery of Table Rock Lake on a two-hour cruise aboard a historical paddle wheel boat. Enjoy a three-course gourmet meal and a spectacular show in the 700-seat dining theater - a stellar salute to the Stars and Stripes with The ShowBelles quartet, pianist Julie McClary, fiddler Dean Church, The Castaways Band, and hosted by magician and comedian Aaron Radatz. **$69.00 per person**

Grand Country Buffet Dinner and Grand Jubilee (5:30PM - 10:00PM) - Following a buffet dinner at the Grand Country Inn, you'll adjourn to the Grand Country Music Hall for the Grand Jubilee, featuring performances of the New South Quartet as they showcase their talents with hot country hits, gospel music, oldies, and more. Other performers include the power vocals of Jackie Brown and Todd Bradshaw, and the comedy team of Jamie Haage as 'Jim Dandy,' and emcee Mike Patrick. **$55.00 per person**

Saturday April 29th

Reunion Organization Business Meeting (10:00AM): In the Hospitality Room.

#1 Hits of the 50s & 60s (1:30PM – 4:30PM) - This fun and exciting show takes you through the 60's with hits from genre's like the British Invasion, Motown, California Surfin', and the Age of Aquarius. The cast reminisces with audience members as they sing and dance to tracks from The Beatles, Beach Boys, The Temptations, and more. Dancers bring back the grooves of classic crazes like The Pony, Mashed Potato, and The Batman. The show takes you back in time with over 100 costume changes, groovy songs, dance numbers, and video segments highlighting historic moments of the 60's with an included tribute to our veterans. Test your knowledge in the trivia segment, and enjoy the upbeat, uplifting, and one of a kind fun for all ages. **$35.00 per person**

Reunion Banquet Dinner at hotel – Festivities will start at 6:00 PM with the traditional Early Times Toast in the Hospitality Room and group photo opportunities followed by the Reunion Banquet Dinner at approximately 7:00 PM. Entrée choices are listed on the Registration Form. **$45.00 per person**
**Sunday April**
Fair winds and following seas until we meet again in 2018.

**Important Reunion Notes**

- Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary from the bus to attractions and, in some instances, to also see the attractions. Please consider your abilities before purchasing tours.

- Be sure to bring photo identification (driver’s license, state ID card, etc.) with you at all events.

- All tour times are subject to change. A final itinerary will be available at the reunion.

- Shows listed in the itinerary are based on currently available date and time information. If the listed show schedule changes before the reunion dates, a different show will be substituted for that time slot.

- **Registration Deadline is March 26, 2017.** Late registrations will be accepted on a space available basis.

- **Refunds:** No refunds will be made after April 19, 2017.