



USS Frank E. Evans Association, Inc. DD 754



6 March 1997

Ken Adams

Dear Shipmates,

It's time to start planning our 6th Annual Reunion in San Diego. My wife and I took time to visit San Diego last year when we were in California for a daughter's wedding and checked out several hotels in the area to make a selection of a hotel that would best meet the needs of our Association members. The criteria we considered? Cost, hotel service, food quality and price, room quality-service-price, (a price that could be negotiated for the group), and how accommodating would the hotel be to our group. We had some good experiences, some fair, and some not so good. The hotel we selected was the Downtown Marriott Suites. We found the hotel very accommodating. All the personnel were friendly, eager to help, and they all were extremely anxious for our group to stay with them, and all the rooms are mini-suites.

San Diego is not an inexpensive trip compared to other locations we have had our reunions. The normal room cost at the downtown Marriott is \$169.00 per night. We initially negotiated a price of \$89.00 per night, but by the time we signed the contract we settled on \$79.00 per night. Parking in the hotel is \$10.00 (self-parking) or \$15.00 for Valet parking. We negotiated \$7.00 per day if you park your own car. Meals are expensive, but reasonable at the Marriott compared to other places we checked. Knowing this, we asked for a committee at last year's reunion to review the menu selection and make selections they thought would be most reasonable for our group. The only way we deviated from their selection was on Thursday. They had suggested a BYOB plus snack crackers, goldfish, etc. However, the hotel's liquor license does not allow for a BYOB situation so I selected Hot Hors D'oeuvres for that evening. We will not have our own bar, again due to the cost, however, our meeting room is right across the hall from the hotel bar and they will provide for our group. I would like to thank the ladies on our menu committee for their hard work. It was not an easy task and they did well considering the prices and broad selections they had to work with. Those "Super Ladies" doing such a "Super Job" were; Joyce Butcher-Hall, Kate Bucher, Karen Baldwin, Grace Van Pelt, Peggy Sheehan, and Sylvia Campbell. Thanks again for a "Super Job"

I have enclosed menus and a cost breakdown so you can see what you are getting and what it will cost you. Please note we have to pay 18% gratuity and 7.75% tax. That is 25.75% added to an already high price. Some hotels asked for a 20-23% for gratuity alone, then tax on that! You should also note that the association has also added a small amount to take care of other expenses we always incur at these events. This keeps us from having to add a \$5-10 registration fee. I initially figured our costs on the 150 attendees as we contracted for. Then I created an assumption sheet using our average attendance at past events. As you can see, based on our past average, the association will collect \$274.24 over our cost of meals. This will probably not cover all the additional expenses the association will incur but we will do our best to keep the costs down. Again, I apologize for this years high cost but it is San Diego and that's what our members voted for.

This year we are looking forward to having Ley Malilay with us again. Many of you will remember Ley and her talent on the piano from our Las Vegas reunion in 1994. I've arranged for a piano and am depending on her again for some good entertaining dinner music. We are also looking forward to representation from our Australian friends of the HMAS Melbourne Association. So far we believe Bobby Winston will be coming to represent our Aussie friends. We hope for more but we know how expensive the trip is for them and we are thankful they send who they can.

I have set up four options for tours. To accommodate these tours I need your registration forms with your personal check covering your selected meals and tours, mailed to reach me by 1 August 1997. The cut-off date for rooms at our negotiated price is 10 September 1997. A word of caution, however, we have a lot of members with California addresses and I expect a big turnout from those members. We have blocked 75 rooms at the negotiated price of \$79.00 per night. Make your reservations early—Now! If you can! If we fill all the contracted rooms and you can't get in at the negotiated price let me know and I will try and help. If we fill all the available rooms early, I will try and negotiate additional rooms or another location for those who can't get into the Marriott. However, the only way I can be effective is to know we have a problem early. So make your reservations early!

If we have more than 150 people attending our meetings/meals, I will have to let the hotel know to move us to a larger room, so help me by mailing me your registrations early. We will do our best to accommodate everyone no matter how late you register—we'll even take walk-ins but our job is much easier if we don't have surprises.

I've enclosed an information sheet about the area to help you in your planning. Average temperature, places to go, things to see etc. By the way ladies, Horton Plaza is real close and is suppose to have some wonderful shopping! Bring money!

Make your own room reservations at:

The Downtown San Diego Marriott Suites
701 "A" Street
San Diego, California, 92101
(619) 696-9800

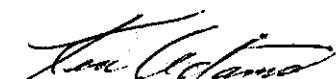
Toll Free Reservations 1(800) 962-1367

You must tell the registration clerk you are part of the USS Frank E. Evans Group to get the negotiated price of \$79.00 per night. Don't forget! It beats paying \$169.00 per night!

Mail your Reunion registration form to:

Ken Adams

Judy and I send our love and best wishes. Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in September.



Ken Adams
Vice President
USS Frank E. Evans Association