

DATE: September 1, 2021

TO: All USS Beale Shipmates

FROM: USS Beale Association – Board of Directors

SUBJECT: USS Beale DD/DDE-471 Annual Reunion 2021

This year's reunion scheduled for October 3rd – 7th, 2021 to be held in New Orleans at the Higgins Hotel has been postponed.

This morning, September 1st, your Board of Directors and Diane Sorola, your Reunion Coordinator held a ZOOM Video Teleconference to discuss the feasibility of holding the reunion as scheduled. We considered the effects of the COVID variant and Hurricane IDA and how they could impact us while New Orleans.

COVID continues to be a major issue. Air travelers are required to wear masks and observe social distancing in airport terminals; and, the TSA requires masks while aboard airplanes. New Orleans requires people to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours old for many indoor activities, including eating at restaurants, drinking at bars and attending entertainment venues. Masks are required for virtually all indoor activities. This includes the Higgins Hotel and the National WW2 Museum. So, we wear masks and observe the safety protocols that we are way too familiar with. I would think we have been vaccinated. So, the New Orleans proof requirements wouldn't be a problem. However, New Orleans' increasing positive test rates and associated deaths are definitely a problem.

Last weekend, Hurricane IDA blew through the Greater New Orleans area leaving significant commercial and residential damage, widespread flooding and power distribution problems. Folks are doing what they can to get through this catastrophe. How does this affect our reunion? The Higgins Hotel, the WW2 Museum and surrounding area is without power. Other issues include water, food and fuel availability. Hospitals and medical facilities already bursting at the seams with COVID are now having to deal with hurricane related problems such as overheating due to lack of air conditioning, dehydration and nutrition.

So, Diane and Board Members, Jim Svejck, John Davis, Bill Brings and Paul Barry decided we should not jeopardize our shipmates collective health and lives at the reunion. And, it would be best to postpone the reunion to a later date when COVID and IDA issues have been resolved. We agreed to meet in the not to distant future to make this

determination.

So, this leaves us with a number of things to do. Diane is notifying the hotel, museum and the bus tour we have canceled the reunion. Since we are giving the hotel sufficient notice, they will refund our \$500.00 deposit. The Association will not be financially impacted.

Individually, we must cancel our Higgins Hotel reservations ASAP to avoid any charges. Also, airline and other travel reservations need to be canceled ASAP. The airlines will either hold your deposits/payments for later use or refund your payments. Southwest will issue a full refund if you act immediately. I don't know what others may do.

Diane has deposited all your earlier deposits in our Northview Bank Account. Some are leaving their deposits "on account" with the Association to be applied to registration deposits at the next reunion. If you want the amount remitted to you now, please contact Diane via email at Sorolasorola@yahoo.com. Your recent deposits for the Museum Piano Bar and the luncheon in BB's Stage Door Canteen have not been deposited and will be returned to you.

We regret having to postpone the reunion. We're sure you will agree we've made the right decision for all of us

Should you have any comments or questions, please contact us via email at Ussbealeinc@gmail.com

For the Board of Directors,
Paul Barry