



DDE



USS Basilone Association

KENWOOD



DD

New Orleans: The Big Easy - A City Like No Other

Experience the unmatched beauty of New Orleans—where history, music, food, and celebration come together like nowhere else in the United States. From the lively sounds of jazz in the French Quarter to stunning Spanish architecture, mouthwatering Creole and Cajun cuisine, and world-famous festivals, this city captivates at every turn. Whether you're strolling under the oak trees, savoring beignets, or dancing in a second line parade, there's no place quite like NOLA.



The physical address is:

**Homewood Suites New Orleans French Quarter
317 North Rampart Street
New Orleans, LA 70112**

Although the reunion is scheduled for arrival on September 28th, 2026 and departure on October 2, 2026, the hotel has blocked off from September 26 through October 4 to allow those individuals who wish to extend their stay to do so at the group rate.

We will have two planned dinners during the reunion, a greeting dinner on Monday September 28, 2026 and the farewell banquet on Thursday October 1, 2026. On Monday our meal will be catered in our meeting room by Panera Catering. On Thursday we will also have a catered meal by a local restaurant. We will also have 2 nights of games; One night will be Basilone Bingo and another night will be Jeopardy.

We have arranged some pretty nice tours in New Orleans. I've listed them below along with the pricing. The actual dates will be published in the P.O.D. in your "Welcome Package". After the excursions, everyone is welcome to gather in our Meeting Room to get caught up on what's been going on in our lives since the Jacksonville reunion as well as joining in on the usual fun and games. Due to scheduling issues, I have asked Fred Gehrish to be in charge of collecting the money for excursions. Please send your payments to him at the address below. We can allow you to split the payments, the first due no later than June 30th. and the final payment in full) by August 15th. This is our cut-off date!

**Fred Gehrish
c/o USS Basilone Association
5640 Whistling Cove Rd
Gainesville, GA 30504
(Make your check payable to: USS BASILONE ASSOCIATION)**

In order to keep costs down, we are doing something a little different. This year we are asking those who drink hard liquor to B.Y.O.B. We will still provide wine, soft drinks, chips and water. It is tough getting mature!

Where to make hotel reservations – Please call Patty Lee – 618--722-0768

Room Rates - \$159 a night and \$30 parking per day but to get this rate, you must go through **Patty Lee**

What can you expect at the reunion? - I have provided a detailed description of our events for the week. You will also find an itinerary in your welcome package.

How to sign up - You will find a registration form attached for your convenience.

Joe Fisher (jfisher@charter.net)
205 Cross Creek Dr., Bethalto, IL 62015
618 216 0465

We received a special discount package from New Orleans City Tours, Hop-On Hop-Off Bus. Many of the tours were included with the purchase of the 3 day Hop-On Hop-Off Bus pass. The pass includes a river cruise on the Creole Queen with buffet lunch, Chalmette Battlefield, The National WWII Museum with a 4-d movie, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. Tickets for a walking tour through the Garden District, and a walking tour through the French Quarter on your own can also be arranged.

The Tours



Historic lunch Cruise on the Creole Queen - With its maiden voyage held a mere 30 years ago, the *Paddlewheeler Creole Queen* seems to break the rules of time. From its outside, the vessel looks straight out of the 1800s. A giant, 24-foot paddle wheel propels the boat up and down the Mississippi River, and its soft lighting, wrought-iron trim, and Victorian-style draperies call to mind a bygone era. Look past those features, however, and you find modern equipment. Air conditioning and heating keep things comfortable, while a fuel-efficient, diesel-electric engine would make a steam-powered vessel scream like a tea kettle with envy.

Once that engine churns to life, the paddle wheeler can take more than 800 passengers at a time. A Creole buffet and live music take over the interior dining rooms during our Cruise. The Creole Queen will take us to the **Chalmette Battlefield** – Site of the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, Chalmette Battlefield contains a reconstructed American rampart, an 1830s house, 100-foot-high Chalmette Monument, and outdoor exhibits for self-guided tours. Visitor center films and exhibits share the battle and the site's later history. Chalmette National Cemetery was established during the Civil War and holds more than 14,000 graves of Americans from the War of 1812 to the Vietnam War;

Our memorial service will be conducted at this site.





The National WWII Museum with 4D movie in New Orleans tells the story of the American experience in the war that changed the world—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.

Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as America’s National WWII Museum, the institution celebrates the American spirit, teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifices of the men and women who fought on the battlefield and served on the Home Front.



St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 Official Walking Tour - One of New Orleans' most popular tourist attractions, St. Louis Cemetery No.1 is only able to be visited as part of a guided tour, with limited visitors allowed into the City of the Dead each day. This pre-bookable experience ensures you don't miss out on the chance to visit the impressive cemetery—or the opportunity to learn more about the final resting place of some of the city's best-known residents.

- Explore New Orleans' oldest and most famous cemetery, opened in 1789
- Enjoy an in-depth tour around the cemetery with an official guide
- Visit the final resting place of Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau
- Learn about one of New Orleans' most notorious residents, Delphine LaLaurie



New Orleans Hop-On Hop-Off Bus - Discover New Orleans on our open-top tourist bus. Hop on and hop off at any of our carefully located stops to see the best of the always fascinating Crescent City. Visit the French Market, Jackson Square, Bourbon Street, the Garden District and so much more in the beautiful and brilliant birthplace of jazz! It's the perfect way to discover New Orleans and with a live guide on the bus, you'll learn all about the city as you go.

Explore **New Orleans** from the comfort of our big red **open-top bus**. You'll be able to **see the sights** of the city as you pass by and hop on and hop off at whatever stops you choose

New Orleans is an American city like no other, largely due to its **French and Spanish heritage**. From its architecture to its music, it's always been **different**. Visit lively Canal Street for both **culture and shopping** and make sure you check out the **passing streetcars**.

Optional - Mardi Gras World Event and General Admission Tickets!

They currently have availability throughout the majority of the day, with openings from 9:30 AM- 4:30 PM. Each event is separate and each require tickets.

The Mardi Gras World tour is the definitive Mardi Gras tour experience. Come learn about the history and traditions of Mardi Gras and watch as artists and craftspeople work year-round to build floats and props. \$28.00 pp



Mask Making Workshop - Make an original Mardi Gras mask at our fun and rewarding Mask Making Workshop. Each workshop starts with a brief history of masking in New Orleans. From there, you'll make your own, one-of-a-kind creation. Let your creativity run wild or follow along with sample masks that we can help you recreate. The Mask Making takes roughly 1 hour and includes all materials you will need. \$45.00 pp

- **RSVP** -

In order to finalize the necessary contracts needed for this Reunion, it is important that we have your form as soon as possible. Any forms received after the **15th of August** may cause the member to miss some tours as some resources such as buses and other facilities may not be available after this date. Time is of the essence.

See you soon!

Joe Fisher

Welcome Dinner Menu

Assorted sandwiches - cut in half and individually wrapped
(Bacon Turkey Bravo, Chicken Salad, Tuna Salad, Turkey Cheddar, BLTs)
Large Premium Salads - dressing on the side
Large Fruit Bowl - fresh seasonal fruit
bags of chips
assorted cookies
French Baguette
Lemonade
Iced Tea - sweet and unsweet

Thursday banquet Menu:

**Shrimp etouffee with rice
**Red beans & rice with sausage
**Chicken parmesan with Penne pasta
Salad
Mini dessert assortment
Drinks - tea & Lemonade



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2026 New Orleans Reunion Reservation Form (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name _____ Guest _____

	# Attending	Price/Person	Total
Registration Fee (mtg rm, misc hotel expense)	_____	\$90	_____
Welcome Dinner	_____	\$24	_____
Hop On-Hop Off Package	_____	\$220	_____
Pass includes lunch on the Creole Queen, Chalmette Battlefield, The National WWII Museum, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1.			
Banquet Dinner	_____	\$60	_____
Total Enclosed without Mardi Gras Events		\$394	_____
Optional - Mardi Gras World Tour Event	_____	\$28	_____
Optional - Mask Making Workshop	_____	\$45	_____
Total Enclosed with Mardi Gras Events		\$467	_____

Payable to: USS Basilone Association.

Mail this form along with your check to:

Fred Gehrish
c/o USS Basilone Association
5640 Whistling Cove Rd
Gainesville, GA 30504

(Make your check payable to: USS BASILONE ASSOCIATION)

Dietary Restrictions _____

Name _____

Dietary Restrictions _____

Name _____

<https://www.neworleans.com/plan/transportation/new-orleans-maps/>
Free Coupons in case you want to do other things in your spare time.



\$10 Off Swamp Tour

\$10 off per adult. Exclusions apply and reservations required. Valid for direct online bookings only with code GATOR5.

5145 Fleming Park Rd., Lafitte
504-689-2005
AirboatAdventures.com



Free Glass of House Wine

Enjoy a complimentary glass of house wine with the purchase of an entrée.

701 South Peters St. | 504-302-7496
Briquette-NOLA.com

510 Toulouse St. | 504-524-9632
NewOrleansCreoleCookery.com



Buy One, Get One Café au Lait

Buy one, get one
free Café au Lait.

334 Royal St.
504-500-4370
CafeBelnet.com



\$2 Off Cemetery Tour

Step beyond the iron gates and experience the city's most famous cemetery and historical figures. Save with code SINCE1789.

501 Basin St.
504-777-3027 | 800-368-1789
CemeteryTourNewOrleans.com



\$3 Off City Tour NOLA EXPERIENCE

2 Days + 2 Tours = \$51
Double-decker, open-top fun bus!
Live guided city tour and walking tours.
Save with code VISITNOLA.

700 Decatur St.
504-207-6200 • 800-362-1811
CitySightseeingNewOrleans.com



NEW ORLEANS \$10 Off \$50 in Rock Shop

Valid at Hard Rock Cafe New Orleans Rock Shop. Must be present at time of purchase. Restrictions may apply. Expires 12/30/2026

125 Bourbon St. | 504-529-5617
Cafe.HardRock.com/New-Orleans



3-for-1 Drinks until 6 pm

Buy one drink, get three.
Offer valid until 6 pm daily.
Physical coupon not necessary.

511 Bourbon St.
504-522-5100
Razzoo.com



\$25 Off Fishing Charter

Come experience the finest shallow water fishing just 30 minutes south of New Orleans!
\$25 off discount is per boat.

2453 Privateer Blvd.,
Barataria, LA 70036
504-233-1005 | RojasCharters.com



\$5 Off Cruises and Tours

Use code OVG05 for \$5 off a Riverboat Cruise and \$5 off a Gray Line Tour. Food, beverages, and gratuity not included.

400 Toulouse St.
504-569-1401
SteamboatNATCHEZ.com

Restaurants near Hotel

Restaurant	Price Range	Distance from Hotel	Other
August	\$100+	1 mile	Upscale Louisiana Restaurant Dine in only
Bar Tonique	\$10-20	2,000'	Cocktail bar
Besame	\$20-30	1,000'	Latin American Dine in, pick-up, and delivery
Brennans	\$50-100	1,200'	Upscale Cajun Dine in only 417 Royal St
Cajun Seafood	\$10-20	1.3 miles	Cajun Seafood Dine in, pick-up, and delivery 504 636 6400 1008 N Peters
Daisy Dukes Creole Kitchen (2) 5.5 Stars	\$10-20	2,000' & 2,500'	Breakfast, lunch & dinner Cajun, sandwiches, burgers & baskets Dine in, pick-up, and delivery 504 525 4577 123 Carondelet Catering 504 417 9394
Fahy's Irish Pub	\$30	1,400'	540 Burgundy St, New Orleans, LA 70112 (504) 586-9806 True crime pub
Fritai	\$20-30		Haitian Dine in, pick-up, and delivery
GW Fins	\$50-100	1,000'	Seafood Updated warehouse Dine in, pick-up, No delivery
Jewel of the South	\$100pp	1,000'	1026 St Louis St, New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: (504) 265-8816 Menu: jewelnola.com Lunch Fri-Sat Dinner Wed-Monday
Luke	\$30-50	1mile	Upscale Cajun
Lux Café Southern Cuisine	\$10-20		Soups & salads, sandwiches, breakfast Dine in, pick-up, and delivery
Mr Bubbles	\$10-20	1,500'	Sandwiches & fruit Pickup
Mumbos	\$20-30	1,100'	Cajun & Creole Po'boys, seafood and oysters Laid back Rooftop dining Dine in, pick-up, No delivery
Oceana Grill	\$20-30 Cajun seafood & hamburger		739 Conti St, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 525-6002

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Old Nola Cookery	\$20-30	1,400'	Gumbo, steaks, Po Boys, Seafood Dine in, pick-up, No delivery 504 525 4577
Ruby Slipper	\$10-20	1,100'	Brunch
Snappers Seafood & Cajun Restaurant	\$20-30	1,300'	Seafood & Cajun Dine in, pick-up, No delivery 504 571 5205 841 Canal St
Trenasse	\$30-40	1 mile	Contemporary Louisiana Cuisine Dine in, pick-up, No delivery 504 680 7000 Intercontinental Hotel 444 St Charles St
The Upper Quarter	\$10-20 Haunted pud		Drinks and fast seafood 1000 Bienville St, New Orleans, LA 70112
VooDoo Lounge	\$10-20		Pick-up, and delivery
Zesty Creole	\$20-30	1,400'	Seafood & Creole Dine in, pick-up, No delivery 504 766 6368 827 Canal St