

FLAG HOIST



USS ROBERT H. McCARD DD822

MAY-JUNE 2025

SEPTEMBER
10—14
2025



McCARD
ANNUAL
REUNION

!!August 10th is the deadline to register at Hotel and Tours!!

(Activity change, information on Page 10)

<https://www.ussroberthmccardd822.com>

Grand Rapids – The Gateway to Michigan?

Yes, if you attend this year's reunion in Grand Rapids it could be your gateway to all that Michigan has to offer. If you've never been here and really didn't think you were interested, let this opportunity open new doors for you!

So, what else is there to see in Michigan besides Grand Rapids, you might ask ... let us give you a few examples:

We have to start off with Lake Michigan! Michigan has the most fresh-water coast of any U.S. state. A popular acronym for remembering the names of the Great Lakes is HOMES, where each letter stands for one of the lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.

Here's a link to check out some smaller towns that you might want to visit:

<https://familydestinationsguide.com/fascinating-small-towns-michigan/>

As those in West Michigan say, the west side is the best side! There are so many Lake Michigan cities to visit from South Haven to Holland and Grand Haven, to Pentwater to Traverse City to Petoskey on to the Big Mac and Mackinac Island. Any and all of these cities will give you a special adventure. And don't forget about all of the lighthouses ... another adventure opportunity!

As you get closer to the Mackinaw Bridge you will have an opportunity visit a Dark Sky area if you're interested in seeing the sky without any city lights. It's an amazing sight!

On the east side of the state there is Detroit with all of its amazing sports teams. In addition, there is a little town called Frankenmuth or Little Bavaria. This was an important stop for many families to enjoy a fabulous chicken dinner either family style or ala carte. It's not to be missed! Also, Frankenmuth is the home of Bronner's, the world's largest Christmas store. If you love Christmas, you do not want to miss an opportunity to visit! (<https://www.bronners.com/>).

As you can see, there's much to do in Michigan - make sure you don't miss out on anything! (Mary Crans)



BINNACLE LIST

O God, the strength of the weak and injured, give aid to those who watch and wait, and comfort to all: mercifully accept our prayer on behalf of those injured or ill. Grant to them the help of your power, that their illness may be turned to health and our cares for them to joy, By the strength of Your Holy Name. Amen

Remember – a card, letter, email or phone call would do wonders to cheer up your friends and shipmates.

Bobby Hargrove (MMC 68-70), 562 County Road 4020B, Dayton, TX 843-870-3862, or bgh224@aol.com

Health issues and recently hospitalized.



**REUNION REGISTRATION FOR HOTLEL AND TOURS IS RAPIDLY APPROACHING
THE DATE FOR FINAL REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 10TH**

**AUGUST 10 WILL SOON BE HERE-SEND YOUR FORMS IN NOW AND GET YOUR HOTLE
ROOM**

**COME JOIN ALL OF US AT THE 2025 USS ROBERT H. McCARD DD822 REUNION ASSOCIA-
TION 'S**

35th ANNUAL REUNION

**GOOD TIME SPENT WITH FELLOW McCARD SHIPMATES, RELIVING SOME OF THOSE
SHIPBOARD MOMENTS WITH YOUR FAVORITE SEA STORIES WHILE SAILING THE 7
SEAS**

DON'T FORGET THOSE CRUISE BOOKS AND MEMORABILIA FOR OTHERS TO ENJOY

LET US KNOW OF YOUR CHOICE OF REUNION SITES FOR 2026

HOTEL RESERVATIONS 2025 McCARD REUNION

DATES: Check in September 10, 2025; Check out September 14, 2025**

**** Pre and Post Days** - group room rates available September 8th to September 16 for those coming in early, or staying later.

HOTEL: Sheraton Grand Rapids Airport Hotel

ADDRESS: 5700 28TH St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI

HOTEL BOOKING LINK: [Book your group rate for USS Robert H. McCard 2025 Reunion](#)

PHONE DIRECT: 866-994-6616

ROOM RATE: 1 King with Sofa Bed and Fridge

2 Double Beds with Fridge and 49 inch TV

1 King Mobility Accessible W/roll-in Shower -

\$139.00 per night plus taxes

SPECIAL NOTES: 1) Room rate includes a hot breakfast

2) Complimentary Wi-Fi

3) Complimentary 24 hour Airport Shuttle

*******LAST DAY TO BOOK HOTEL: August 10, 2025 to receive special room rate*******



TOUR INFORMATION



[Museum | Gerald R. Ford](#)

The permanent exhibition galleries at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, allow visitors to explore key moments in President Gerald R. Ford and First Lady Betty Ford's lives and careers. Visitors learn about the impact of democratic citizenship through visually captivating displays and models, archival photography, sculptures, clothing, and other exhibits. Visitors can also visit a temporary exhibit gallery, which features a changing array of temporary and traveling exhibits on a wide range of subjects.

Immerse yourself in one of the world's finest horticultural display gardens and sculpture parks in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Proudly ranked among the most-visited art museums worldwide and named the Best Sculpture Park in the United States by readers of USA Today in 2023 & 2024, our collection showcases over 200 captivating sculptures, inviting you to experience the perfect blend of art and nature



[Welcome To Meijer Gardens » Meijer Gardens | Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park](#)

Shipmates and Friends of the USS Robert H. McCard

We hope this message finds you well! As we prepare to release the third edition of our 2025 newsletter, we are shifting our focus toward the upcoming 35th Annual Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan, scheduled for September 10–14, 2025, at the Marriott (Sheraton) Grand Rapids Airport Hotel.

Important Dates

- Hotel Reservation Deadline: August 10, 2025
- Reunion Registration Deadline: August 10, 2025 (please reach out if you need more time)
Make your reservations soon, and be sure to visit our McCard website and Facebook page for all registration links and updates.

Reunion Events Update

We are finalizing our schedule and may release one more newsletter before the reunion with confirmed event details. Here's what we can share now:

☒ Added: Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park – We've enhanced this event with a personalized tram ride to help everyone fully enjoy the large park in comfort.

☒ Removed: Robinette's Apple Haus & Winery – Unfortunately, we've been informed that they do not offer tours during the busy September harvest season.

In its place, we are exploring other options—either an alternate group activity or giving everyone some free time to explore local breweries, visit Lake Michigan, or relax as you please. More details will be shared soon.

What We Need From You

- Complete Your Registration: Please aim to register by August 10, and let us know if you need a bit more time.
- Auction Items: Bring something for the auction if you're able.

Name Tags: Don't forget to bring yours! If you need a new one, let us know in advance.

Let's make this reunion a strong showing as we continue to honor and carry forward the McCard legacy. We recognize that time moves on and life can bring new challenges, but your participation makes a lasting impact. We appreciate and respect each of you and hope to enjoy many more reunions together.

If there's anything we can do to help you attend, please reach out. Your presence matters!

With appreciation,

Monny Hanna, CO

USS Robert H. McCard Alumni Association

This year is a big year for military history. The year 2025 marks the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, and our Space Force's 5th birthday.

A 13 October 1775 resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with "a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months...." After the American War of Independence, the U.S. Constitution empowered the new Congress "to provide and maintain a navy." Acting on this authority, Congress established the Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798.

In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of 13 October as the birthday of the U.S. Navy. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

13 October 2025 will mark the Navy's 250th birthday.



USS Robert H McCard 2025 Reunion Registration Form

Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Guest _____

Arrival/Check-in Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

First Reunion? YES _____ NO _____ FLYING _____ DRIVING _____

• *****

Banquet Saturday, September 13, 2025

Dinner choices

*Chicken Marsala, Seasoned Marinated Chicken Breast, Marsala Wine and Mushroom Sauce Potato, and Vegetables ##

*Seasoned NY Strip Steak, Potatoes, and Vegetables ##

* Spiced Salmon (gf)-Blackened Salmon, Honey Glazed with Orange Zest, Potatoes and Vegetables ##

Dinners Include: fresh garden salad, warm rolls with butter, coffee, decaffeinated coffee, and hot tea, iced tea. ##

Attendee/Guest Dinner Choices:

Yourself: Fish _____ Chicken _____ Steak _____

Spouse/Guest: Fish _____ Chicken _____ Steak _____

Meal Choice-\$45 (Per Person)

Dessert will be served in the Hospitality Room after Dinner

Thurs, Sept. 11, 2025: Tour—Fredrik Meijer Sculpture Park \$48.00 ea. x _____=\$_____

Friday, Sept. 12, 2025 Tour: President Gerald R. Ford Museum \$43.00 ea. x _____ = \$_____

Dinner Total \$_____

Total Payment for Banquet & Tours: \$ _____

Send full payment for tours with this completed form made out to

USS Robert H. McCard Association and mail to: Ron Perceful, 27534 Airstrip Rd. Washington, OK 73093

(Note: in memo add "2025 McCard Reunion")

Registration may also be completed at website: www.ussroberthmccard822.com

Need Name Tags for Shipmate/Guest? Yes _____

Name/s _____

Don't forget your item for the auction after the business meeting

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Since our last newsletter announcing the 2025 reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan all arrangements have been concluded for tours, hotel, banquet and hospitality room. Now it is up to all those who want to attend to complete your registration and submit no later than August 10th.

Per our by-laws the association needs to vote on officers for the next 2 years. If you are interested in running for office please contact Monny, Bernard, Ron or Dennis via email, phone or text.

Monny Hanna, mhanna58@gmail.com

904-228-1028 (FL)

Bernard Norman, cesbernie@yahoo.com

509-499-2649 (WA)

Ron Perceful, revperceful@gmail.com

405-326-2337 (OK)

Dennis Replogle, McCardFlagHoist@yahoo.com

574-397-3079 (IN)

We are hearing of several changes happening to the military and Department of Veterans Affairs as of late, and that can be pretty stressful. It's important to get the correct information so you can adapt appropriately. Make sure you know how those changes will affect your lives. Don't trust what you hear on social media, it's too important. Check in with a Veteran Service Organization like the VFW, DAV or American Legion to see what changes might really be coming for you. Remember: Complacency kills.

If you are happy with the changes, great. If not, then use the rights you fought for and voice your opinion to your representatives. But, above all, many of us have friends and family directly affected by these changes. So be sure to check on them- because as we all know, we can only really rely on each other.

McCard Trivia

July 14, 1973 07/14/73: The USS Robert H. McCard (DD-822) damages its sonar dome when it runs aground on an uncharted sand bar while exiting Tampa Bay, Florida.