USS MacDonough

Reunion Association

Newsletter – January 2026

Presidents Message

Hello again Mighty Mac family:

Happy 2026! Who would have thought that nearly 50 years ago I reported aboard the Mac! I still remember going over the Ashley River bridge and being hit with the smell of the paper mill, River Avenue and Sprill Avenue to gate 2. The Mac had recently come back from a South America cruise. I missed that cruise but before you know it, we were haze gray and underway. Headed to the Med and the Caribbean and then the Med again! I met a few yard birds at a local bar who said the"39" is always out at sea, and even showed me a sticker that said, "working's fine on the 39". Well, I'm not sure about all that, but it sure was one very memorable experience! We were one of the streaming est ships in Charleston. But enough about that for now as it's time for another reunion so we can connect again with shipmates and families to talk about our memories and experiences on the might Mac. Every reunion a new (old) sea story comes out and I must question – did I do that? And that??

This year's reunion is slated for Gettysburg pa. The 1st week of May. I'm sure Helene and Ed Bayona have put together another great reunion! There is going to be more activities this year, and they are noted on the registration page. Once again this is the official registration form and this newsletter – DO NOT DISCARD!! Also, the hotel information is in this newsletter, and everyone must call them directly to make the reservations. Just make sure to tell them that you're with the USS MacDonough reunion to get our group rate. Rates have gone up slightly from the last reunion. I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and spirits. I also hope we have a great turnout and for those who can't make it due to medical issues you will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Best Regards, Vic Radeka

*Published by the U.S.S. Macdonough Reunion Association for its members.

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- Leonard Dalenberg, macdonough@dalenberg.org; Secretary
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Treasurers Report:

The Association is doing well financially at this point. The Association thanks all dues paying and donation giving members. Also, a big thank you to those reunion attendees participating in the silent auction. These funds ensure the continuity of our Association. We are hoping for a large turnout in Gettysburg. The more attendees the less chance of additional expenses incurred to our Association. Looking forward to seeing many shipmates in Gettysburg.

John Curtin

Secretaries Report

Important notice: We are now only using the pony express for members who don't have an email address who have paid dues 'recently'. So – send me your email address. If you by chance don't have an email address, contact me (email at macdonough@dalenberg.org or text to 269-338-7855) and I will get you one you should like.

<your name>@dlg8new.org.

This would be a ***free*** email account.

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You can also get free email accounts at these providers: just google them to get to their sign-up page. Comments are not mine, but were added by the AI that I used for the information

- Gmail - Best Overall Free Email Account
- Outlook.com - Great for a Focused Inbox
- Neo - Great AI Integrations
- Yahoo Mail - Great Email Storage
- Proton Mail - Best for Security
- iCloud Mail - Best for Apple Users
- Zoho Mail - Great for Business Users
- AOL Mail - Best for Long-Term Storage
- Mail.com - Largest Attachment Sizes
- Tuta - Best for No Ads
- Mailfence - Best to Ensure Communication Integrity

Leonard Dalenberg.



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Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Reunion May 3–7, 2026

Lodging Headquarters: Courtyard by Marriott – Gettysburg, PA

Welcome to Historic Gettysburg

The USS Macdonough Reunion Association is proud to gather in **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**, one of the most historically significant towns in the United States. Early May offers pleasant spring weather, blooming landscapes, and ideal conditions for exploring the battlefield, museums, and surrounding countryside while reconnecting with shipmates and families.

🏨 Reunion Lodging

Courtyard by Marriott – Gettysburg • Modern accommodations with easy access to historic sites • On-site restaurant and lounge • Indoor pool and fitness center • Convenient parking and meeting spaces • Located minutes from Gettysburg National Military Park and downtown

This hotel will serve as the central hub for reunion activities, meetings, and informal gatherings.

📅 Reunion Dates

Sunday, May 3 – Thursday, May 7, 2026

⭐ Nearby Activities & Historical Sites

Gettysburg National Military Park

• Guided battlefield tours with licensed historians • Iconic locations including Little Round Top, Cemetery Ridge, Devil's Den, and Pickett's Charge • Self-guided auto tour route • Visitor Center Museum and Bookstore • The Gettysburg Cyclorama – a 360-degree painting depicting Pickett's Charge

Eisenhower National Historic Site

• Former home and farm of President Dwight D. Eisenhower • Exhibits highlighting Cold War leadership and military history • Shuttle access from the Gettysburg Visitor Center

Downtown Gettysburg

• Historic Lincoln Square • Civil War bookstores and antique shops • Local cafés, taverns, and breweries • Art galleries and specialty shops

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Jennie Wade House

• Home of the only civilian killed during the Battle of Gettysburg • Guided tours featuring period furnishings and personal stories

Gettysburg Heritage Center

• Interactive exhibits focusing on civilian life during the Civil War • Gift shop and educational displays

Seminary Ridge Museum

• Located on the site where the first shots of the battle were fired • Exhibits covering the opening day of the battle and medical care

Shriver House Museum

• Restored 19th-century home showing civilian life during the battle • Guided tours with authentic artifacts

Sachs Covered Bridge

• Historic red covered bridge • Popular photo location and peaceful walking area

Evening Ghost Tours

• Lantern-lit walking tours • Local folklore, legends, and battlefield stories • Optional evening activity for interested attendees

Local Dining Favorites

• Dobbin House Tavern • Blue & Gray Bar & Grill • Appalachian Brewing Company • Hunt's Battlefield Fries • Mason Dixon Distillery • The Pub & Restaurant

Travel Notes

• Gettysburg is accessible from Harrisburg, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. airports • A personal vehicle is recommended for exploring the area • Early May is a popular season—advance lodging reservations are encouraged

This reunion offers a meaningful blend of **history, remembrance, and camaraderie** in a setting that honors service and sacrifice. Gettysburg provides the perfect backdrop for reconnecting with shipmates and celebrating the proud legacy of the USS Macdonough.

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USS Macdonough 2026 Reunion Registration:

Please fill out, copy and mail this form along with your check made payable to:
USS Macdonough Reunion Association,
John Curtin, 6938 Maynard Rd., Portland, MI 48875-9687.

Name _____ Guest Name _____
Address _____ City_____
State_____ Zip_____ Phone _____
Email_____
Emergency contact name _____ Phone _____

Date & Location MAY 3-7, 2026, Courtyard by Marriott, 115 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg PA 17325. Reservations can be made by calling **717-334-5600** or at the following website: https://tinyurl.com/USSMacDonough2026 Ask for the USS MacDonough rate, which is $164.37+ tax per night, available May 1-9. Our rate includes a private buffet breakfast for the days of the reunion and a voucher for the hotel café for the additional days. It is critical that you book directly with the hotel because our hospitality room and banquet fees are contingent on room bookings.

Merchandise Available **(delivered to you at the reunion)**

- Commemorative T-shirts (enter quantities): Small $15___, Medium $15__, Large $15____, XL $15____, XXL $17___, XXXL $17_____. **Tee-shirt total $ _____**

- Zipper Hoodies: Navy blue, gold lettering "USS Macdonough" and an anchor on left side (enter quantities): Small $26___, Medium $26____, Large $26____, XL $26____, XXL $28____, XXXL $28___. **Hoodie total $ _____**

- Challenge coins are in limited supply; they will be at the reunion for sale.

- Polo shirts and hats will also be available for purchase at the reunion.

Merchandise Total : $ _____

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Activity/Item Cost

Event		Cost	Qty	Total
Annual Dues		$20 per year		
Registration		$20 per person/couple		
Sunday	Burger Buffet @ 4 pm	$25 per person		
Monday	*WW11 American Experience including transportation, Museum, Video, box lunch, Motor Pool Tour	$70 per person		
	WW11 American Experience **without** transportation, Museum, Video, box lunch, Motor Pool Tour	$40 per person		
Tuesday	Gettysburg National Military Park including transportation, Film, Cyclorama, Museum Experience, 2-hour Guided Battlefield Tour, Lunch at Farmhouse Barn Resort	$85 per person.		
Wednesday	Banquet @ 6 pm	$75 per person		
Thursday	*Optional excursion to Hershey includes transportation, Chocolate World, lunch vouchers & Hershey Story Museum. Dependent on filling a 26-passenger bus.	$75 per person		
Merchandise				
Total				

All monies are due **March 15, 2026**

*If you paid for the charter bus, and we cannot meet the required number of seats, you would receive a refund. And you will need to provide your own transportation to that destination.

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