



**Coming
Soon!**

The 2017 James K Polk Reunion

Myrtle Beach, SC • 28SEP - 01OCT

Sands Ocean Club [Click to Register](#)

The Polk President Presents

Greetings and salutations my fellow shipmates,

We are less than 90 days away from getting underway for our 2017 Jimmy K. Reunion in beautiful Myrtle Beach, SC. If you have never attended a reunion, you are missing out big time on some serious comradery! If you have attended before, but not in Myrtle Beach, what a year this will be, because the experience at the Ocean Sands Club is fantastic! The beauty of the James K. Polk Veterans Association is that once a year we gather together to see our old shipmates, meet shipmates from other crews, and relive the days of our youth. No one can tell a better story, three times in one weekend, than a submarine sailor. Big thanks to Irv and Diane Barlin for hosting yet again.

I joined the JKP crew in May 1992, fresh out of the Submarine Officer Basic Course and excited to hit the deck plates running. I knew walking across the brow for the very first time in Charleston that this was going to be a tough run. But never in my mind did I imagine the lifelong friendships that I was going to make. The thing about these friendships is that you may have served three months with a shipmate or three years like I did, it doesn't matter. One underway together and the bond is there forever. No thrill matches hearing the diving alarm and feeling her slip beneath the waves, and then feeling her settle down into the tranquil undersea world that we once called "home".

I am honored to serve as your President for these two years, and I look forward to serving the Association in other capacities over the coming years. Mind your rudder, shipmates, and remember: the SS after all of our names means Submarine Strong. I hope to see many of you in September.

Matt Baumgarten, LT/USN/SS

SSBN/SSN 645, 1992 - 1995

Plankowner's Perspective

Hello Shipmates,

I reported aboard the Polk on June 25, 1965, as a young "wet behind the ears" FN, while she was under construction at Electric Boat in Groton, CT. I was assigned to the seamen gang along with about 25 other "Non-designated Nubs" such as Michael Patrick Keane, Ernie Greenwood, Red Johnson, and Dean Altman, to name a few. What an honor to be part of the commissioning crew and eventually the Gold crew where I spent the next 8 ½ years, leaving in January 1974 as a IC1(SS).

The USS James K. Polk continued to serve the United States for 25 more years, being decommissioned in 1999 after 33 years of distinguished service. At the decommissioning ceremony, the crew that were present had a "mini" reunion, and after two days of gut-splitting laughter, we decided to do this on a yearly basis. So now each year in different cities, the reunion provides a place for all Polk crewmembers to see their old shipmates again, meeting shipmates from different years, different crews - Blue, Gold, and SSN - and even spouses and children; one HUGE happy family.

If you have never attended a Polk reunion, now is the time to get it penciled in. You will not regret it. Get the word out to anyone you may know that served aboard James K. Polk. I will see you there.

Mike Lame, ICC(SS) USN Retired
Plankowner
SSBN 645 (Gold), 1965 - 1974

2017 Reunion Tickets Sold

29 Crew

52 Total

As of 7/25/17

Reunion Coordinators' Corner

The reunion is fast upon us, so please book your rooms ASAP! Myrtle Beach is a veteran-loving town, so be sure to bring your Veterans cards to take advantage of the many discounts available. In addition to the standard discounts, we have arranged for better pricing at various attractions such as the water park, The Pavilion (amusement park), and Sky Wheel. Register soon so we can better communicate specifics.

We would like to thank everyone for their donations for the gift baskets, but we still have room for more! Please contact me (Diane) for more information.

Be sure to come prepared for game night (you will need your strength!), and get ready to learn to Shag Dance at the banquet.

Our banquet menu includes:

Tossed Green Salad w/Assorted Dressings, Baby Back Ribs, Meat Lasagna, Baked Half-Chicken, Creamed Corn, Green Beans Almandine, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Rolls, Assorted Desserts, Iced Tea, Coffee, and Water

Oh, and please purchase your reunion tickets and pay for your annual dues ahead of time. This will help check-in and registration go much smoother and allow us to get to the fun faster.

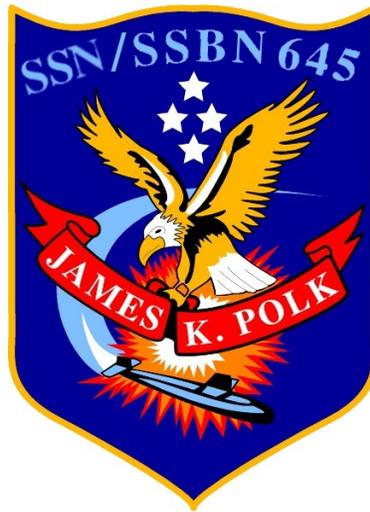
We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

Irv & Diane

Text (preferred): 845-222-5032

Email: w31345@aol.com (Irv)

Email: moonday720@gmail.com (Diane)



General JKPVA Info

The James K Polk Veterans Association, INC (JKPVA) is a 501c19 not-for-profit organization registered in the state of Florida.

Membership is voluntary and has minimal requirements that include 1) The member must have been stationed onboard the USS James K Polk anytime between 1964 and 1999 and 2) be in good standing. Good standing means either a being a lifetime member, or an annual member who has paid dues in the current calendar year.

What does membership do for me?

First, you show commitment to your shipmates by supporting the JKPVA financially. Secondly, you are eligible to have your voice heard at the business meetings, vote on any measures, host a reunion, or hold a position on the board. There are currently 124 lifetime members and five annual members. A member is considered in good standing and can participate in the business meeting if annual dues are paid prior to the start of the meeting. Become an annual member by clicking [here](#).

Sign Up Now

For the 2017 reunion, each registrant will receive a "dog tag" as their reunion ticket and to commemorate this year's gathering in Myrtle Beach.

Anyone who registers before September 1st, 2017 will receive a customized tag with the crew members name on the reverse side.



For questions related to signing up for the reunion, paying for annual dues, or anything financial in nature, please contact Treasurer@USSJamesKPolk.org.

Other contact information

Matthew Baumgarten
President@USSJamesKPolk.org

Scott Gerjets
VicePresident@USSJamesKPolk.org

Ray Agnello
Secretary@USSJamesKPolk.org

