

## USS FRANKLIN (CV-13) Reunion – 18-21 March, 2010

### Description



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The crew of the [USS FRANKLIN \(CV-13\)](#) will hold their 2010 reunion from the 18th to the 21st of March, in [Branson, MO](#).

Specific location:Â [Lodge of the Ozarks](#).

Special event:Â Memorial service morning of 19 March.Â This will be held on the 65th anniversary of the attack off the coast of [Japan](#).

**Registration closes 1 March, 2010.**

Contact for Questions:

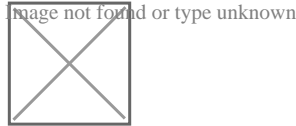
Sam RhodesÂ 772-334-0366 or

Beth Conard Rowland (daughter of crewman) 740-524-0024Â (please leave message)

These men who went to war, preformed well, suffered a horrible blow, yet sailed their ship home may not be around much longer to share their stories.Â If you're close by, I'm sure they wouldn't mind a visitor or two who would thank them and listen to a story of two for history's sake.Â Take your camera and notepad and post the things you learn!

More information on the [USS FRANKLIN \(CV-13\)](#):

The story of the day the ship was struck by a [kamikaze](#) off Japan is "[Inferno](#)."



As a warm up to getting your hands on “Inferno,” [SteelJaw Scribe](#) provided an excellent synopsis of that horrible day in his 2008 post:Â [“The Crucible.”](#)

[LCDR Joseph T. O’Callahan, USN, ChC](#) was awarded the [Medal of Honor](#) for his action on 19 March, 1945.Â [LTJG Donald Gary, USN](#), of the Engineering Department served heroically below decks to save his ship and shipmates.Â He also was awarded the MOH.

[Seaman 1/c Omer Dee Simms, USN](#) died that day, after saving 12 of his shipmates, by relentlessly working to free them from the internal compartment they had been trapped in by damage and fire.Â After he led them to safety, he re-entered the skin of the ship to save more people.Â He did not survive.Â His son graciously shared with me family photos and letters to enable me to post some personal history of the battle not otherwise published.

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