

Website:

www.ussstoddard.org

Date:

April 2024



USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

USS STODDARD DD566
WWII * Korea * Vietnam

34th Stoddard Alumni Reunion Cruise To Bermuda September 7-12, 2024

LIBERTY OF THE SEAS

Discover a history-filled paradise full of pink sand beaches with a cruise to Bermuda.

Set sail from the East Coast of the United States and travel through the Atlantic seas to an island oasis with a cruise to Bermuda. Explore British colonial landmarks like the Royal Navy Dockyard. Take a dip in the blue waves at Horseshoe Bay Beach and wander through the vibrantly painted streets of St. George's and Hamilton to see the Gothic-style towers of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity. Need to scratch your itch for outdoor adventure? Hike the Railway Trail and take in views of the clear-water coast, or snorkel among shipwrecks and coral reefs at Tobacco Bay. Discover the magic with a Bermuda cruise.



Hosts:

**Steve & Renee
Romack**

Email:

Chief3R@gmail.com

At many *USS Stoddard* reunions we always heard why doesn't The *USS Stoddard* Alumni do a cruise. Well this year we have one all set up for you. Royal Caribbean's *LIBERTY OF THE SEAS* will be our home base for our 34th Annual *USS Stoddard* Alumni Reunion. Step aboard for five days of fun filled happenings. Here's the itinerary:

- Sep 7th Depart Cape Liberty 4:00pm
- Sep 8th At Sea
- Sep 9th Arrive Bermuda 10:00am
- Sep 10th Depart Bermuda 5:00pm
- Sep 11th At Sea
- Sep 12th Arrive Cape Liberty, NJ 7:00am



Here's what we have arranged from the cruise line for our reunion:

- A gathering room each day for our group
- Our *USS Stoddard* Memorial Service scheduled for Sept. 11th, 2:30 PM
- A private group tour of Bermuda (Extra Cost)
- Reserved area in dining room each evening for dinner

Please if you haven't signed up for the cruise please so soon as the ship does fill up as the cruise date approaches.

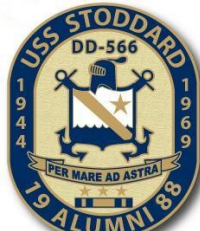
As of April we have a total of 24 rooms reserved for the *USS Stoddard* Alumni so talk to your friends and have them come with you to join our group. Don't forget to have your kids and grand kids come along for a trip of a lifetime for you and them. Nothing better than bonding with your family on a cruise.

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Call or Email **Renee Romack 317-750-4189** Chief3R@gmail.com or the
Travel Company **Sherry 317-885-9855** Sherry@caldwelltravel.com

USS STODDARD DD566
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Damage to *USS Stoddard*
 from shore battery
 March 17, 1967
 58 years ago



Bermuda Excursions

No Group excursion due to extreme cost.

Steve and I will be taking a cruise to Bermuda in late April. While we are there we will try and get all the information on excursions that are available on the island. When you book through the cruise company all the excursions are very high. We will try and find out about all the different cruises and prices that the local vendors have to offer. When we get back I will send out an email with what I have found out.



john laible, chaplain

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

May They Rest In Peace

Holian, Francis K.	LTJG	68-69	11-17-02023
Honberger, James	SN	51-53	1-21-2024
Landes, Larry	EN2	61-62	2-11-2024
Licese, Patrick	SH2	51-54	6-29-2012
Pommerening, Howard	YN3	58-59	7-25-2021

Blessings shipmates.

We all endured long, boring watches, sometimes very fearful moments, cold and miserable watches and some exciting and enjoyable watches. All bonded us as Stoddard Shipmates for life regardless when we served.

Let us all from the moment be thankful for the bond we share and the joy of our reunions each year. Let us all be thankful and joyful to the Stoddard Bond and enjoy the life we have had and will share in the future.

May we always share the Blessings of our being SHIPMATES ALWAYS.

John

LTJG 1966-1969

Origin of: "Fair Winds and Following Seas"

The origin of the quote "Fair Winds and Following Seas" is unknown. It is often said to have been lifted from a poem, phrase, or literary work, but to the best of this researcher's knowledge, it wasn't. Over the last century at least, the two quotes "Fair Winds" and "Following Seas" have evolved, by usage, into a single phrase which is often used as a nautical blessing.

"Fair Winds": The Dictionary of American Regional English defines "Fair Wind" as "safe journey; good fortune." An early example of the phrase's use is in Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, published in 1851, where it says near the end "Let me square the yards, while we may, old man, and make a fair wind of it homeward." In other words, let me square the yards (add on all sail) and make a safe journey home.

"Following Seas": Defined by *Bowditch's American Practical Navigator* as "A sea in which the waves move in the general direction of the heading." It further defines "Tide" as "the periodic rise and fall of the water resulting from gravitational interactions between the sun, moon, and earth. . . . the accompanying horizontal movement of the water is part of the same phenomenon." In simple terms: the movement of the water, the waves, and the surface, correspond with the movement of the tide.

"Fair Winds and Following Seas" is really two quotes originating from different sources. The two quotes are a nautical phrase of good luck--a blessing as it were--as the person, group, or thing it is said to departs on a voyage in life. It is often used at a "beginning" ceremony such as a commissioning ceremony of a ship or people, as well as in retirement, change of command, or farewell ceremonies.

Source: Researched by Samuel Loring Morison.



"USS Stoddard Tidbits"

If I'm doing the math correctly, its 57 years since our memorable experience off the coast of North Vietnam. Here's an existential question:

"If it's St. Patrick's day (March 17), for a vessel at sea conducting shore bombardment and a rescue operation in or about the South China Sea.... what day/date is it in San Diego??"
Have we been celebrating the wrong day? **Who cares if my Martini has plenty of ice, and plenty of vegetables!**

Time once again for shipmates, brothers in arms, to remember and never forget, those who served with us in all wars, or peacetime, who are no longer with us.

I had the privilege of visiting the American Cemetery at Normandy on a Viking River voyage from Paris. On board were about 30-40 members of a VFW post from Long Island, who sponsored one of their members who had been there at D-Day. Everyone on board recognized the respect that he had earned during that landing. and the support from the younger Veterans was touching. I am drawn to the film "Saving Private Ryan", and as harsh and realistic were the landing and other firefight scenes, the most moving part was the very beginning of the film where Ryan visits the pristine cemetery there, years later as a senior citizen, to honor those laid to rest there, who saved his life. On my visit, there was little amphitheater where a band that played the Stars and Stripes, not a dry eye amongst us.

I wish the Navy had a motto as perfect as Semper Fi, but we'll just have to make do with Anchors Aweigh and "Hail and Farewell". On the flip side, "The Navy Hymn" cannot be touched for its eternal moving beauty, (and celebration of the other services)



Tom Balogh
LT 1965-1967

Tom,

The time when we got hit off Vietnam was 10 hours behind CA time but a day ahead (or 14 hours ahead as another way to calculate). As I recall it was about 1600 in the afternoon when we were hit off the Siong Gang River and that would have made it still the 17th of March in California at about 0600. Like you said who cares if their glass is full!

Clint Coneway
LTJG 1966-1969

Spotlight on USS Stoddard Captain—John Baumeister, Jr.



John Baumeister, Jr., was born in Quintette, Florida, on June 4, 1912, son of John and Florence (Johnson) Baumeister. He attended Tate Agricultural School at Gonzales, Florida, and Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama, before his appointment to the US Naval Academy in 1932. Entering the Academy as Midshipman from Florida on June 13, 1932, he was graduated and commissioned Ensign on June 4, 1936. Through subsequent promotions he attained the rank of Commander, to date from March 15, 1944.

He reported to the *USS Lexington* soon after graduation in June 1936, and after six months' duty in that aircraft carrier was ordered in February 1937 to the Office of the Inspector of Machinery, USN, at Newport News, Virginia, to assist in fitting out the *USS Yorktown*. He served aboard that carrier from her commissioning, in September 1937, until March 1938, and in May of that year joined the *USS Enterprise*, in which he remained until June 1941.

After brief duty at the Naval Training School, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, and the Naval Research Laboratory, Anacostia, DC, he rejoined the *Enterprise* in October 1941, and was aboard that carrier when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7 that year. In her he participated in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands Raid; Wake and Marcus Islands Raids; Battle of Midway; Occupation of Guadalcanal; and the Battle of Steward Islands.

He is entitled to the Ribbon for, and a facsimile of, the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the *Enterprise* as follows: "For consistently outstanding performance and distinguished achievement during repeated action against enemy Japanese forces in the Pacific War area, December 7, 1941, to November 15, 1942. Participating in nearly every major engagement in the first year of the war, the *Enterprise* and her Air Group...did sink or damage, on her own, a total of 35 Japanese vessels and shoot down a total of 185 Japanese aircraft. Her aggressive spirit and superb combat efficiency are fitting tribute to the officers and men who so gallantly established her as a solid bulwark in defense of the American Nation."

Returning to Annapolis in October 1942, he attended the Naval Postgraduate School for two years, and from July to November 1944 had duty at the Naval Training School, Newport, Rhode Island. He then joined the newly commissioned *USS Bon Homme Richard* in which he served until June 1945. During that period, after her shakedown cruise to Trinidad, B.W.I. the *Bon Homme Richard* transited the Panama Canal and joined the Fast Carrier Force in the Pacific. She departed Pearl Harbor for Ulithi, Caroline Islands, arriving on June 3.

Upon his detachment he reported for duty on the staff of Commander US Naval Forces, Navy No. 3256, and in September 1945, after the Japanese surrender, he transferred to the staff of the Commander, Naval Operating Base, Okinawa, for two months' service. From April 1946 until July 1948 he had successive duty as a member of the staffs of Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet and Commander FIRST Task Fleet. In September 1948 he reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Navy Department, Washington, DC, where he served until November 1951. He again had orders to sea duty, and in February 1952 joined the staff of Commander Destroyer Force, Atlantic Fleet. In April 1952 he assumed command of the *USS Stoddard* (DD 566).

Retiring from active duty in 1957, Cmdr. Baumeister worked for ITT in New Jersey and Washington before rejoining the Navy in a civilian capacity in 1966. A logistics systems analyst with the Electronics Systems Command, he worked on the Trident submarine program before retiring a second time in 1979. Captain Baumeister, 74 passed away from cancer on August 21, 1986 at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He lived in Arlington, Virginia and was a native of Pensacola, Florida.

Captain John Baumeister, Jr. Time Line



Graduated from US Naval Academy 1936

Prior to WWII he served aboard *USS Lexington CV2* and *USS Yorktown CV5*

During WWII he served aboard *USS Enterprise CV6*

During WWII he served aboard *USS Bon Homme Richard CV31*

Served as Force Comm. Officer Naval Forces Reyukus Okinawa Campaign

Captain USS Stoddard April 14, 1952 - 1954

Commander Baumeister awards: American Defense Service Medal

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with stars - American Campaign Medal

World War II Victory Medal - Philippine Defense Ribbon

Remembrances of the *USS Stoddard*



When I first saw the USS Stoddard in 1967, she was in the Naval Shipyard in Long Beach, California, being refitted for another West Pac Cruise. What a disappointment. She had no gun mounts, no numbers on her hull, most of her paint was red lead and her deck was a mass of boxes, tools and assorted debris. This was my first ship assignment and I was expecting something more grand. I was pleasantly surprised to find a friend of mine and fellow Michigander Jim Hatmaker who had been assigned to the Stoddard two weeks before I came aboard. I was assigned to the forward fire room but spent my first three weeks aboard chipping paint and repainting the Area "B" berthing compartment. When I finally got to work in the forward hole my first impression was of how I was going to remember what all the valve wheels and gauges were for. I had a lot to learn. Not only mechanical stuff but things like making coffee. It was the responsibility of the person who had the 0800 to 1200 messenger watch to make coffee in the 30-cup coffee pot, for the rest of the guys coming on duty. Well never being a coffee drinker I was not sure of how much coffee to put in the coffee holder (I still don't know what you call that thing) anyway I figured that you must fill it to the top. Well, it wasn't long before the guys wanted to know who the idiot was that made the coffee syrup. BT1 Hayden was in charge of the forward fire room and he made sure I would never forget how to make proper coffee. I made all the coffee for the next week. Most people do not want anything to do with working in the boiler rooms, but it did have its advantages at times. I remember when it was time to take on ship's stores (groceries) I was shown by the other guys in forward fire room how to shop. The whole ship's crew had to participate when we took on stores. Guys would pick up a box of food midship's carry it up the starboard side of ship to the reefers below deck, then return on the port side of the ship for another load until finished. I was taught how to wait until a good box such as crackers, peanut butter, soup, ice cream or whatever was on the shopping list, came along. Then you would continue up the starboard side of ship. On way to the reefers, you would have to pass the open hatch that took you down to the forward boiler room. As a forward room BT carrying food would pass the forward hatch another BT would be waiting inside the hatch on the ladder to receive the box you were carrying; you would then return up the port side to get the next load. This would continue until the shopping list was complete. We always ate good in the forward fire rooms. I was told it was a tradition and I believe it. I distinctly remember cooking a turkey in the stream strainer one time. The guys in B Division were the best. We were a close-knit group mainly because our jobs were considered the worst jobs on the ship. I have fond memories of the guys in B Division. M. Mosco, J. Hatmaker, L. Downey, M. Parigi, J. Surley, C. Galloway, G. Lee, R. Butler, O. Hayden, J. Maholm, T. Gast, Badding, Haupt, G. Karl, W. Schne-
weis, K. Folkersma, Buckholtz and many others, all had a brief but important part in my life. I remember them all with much fondness and thank them for sharing the Stoddard experience with me.

Terry Borton BT3 1967-1968



Side Notes:

After emailing Terry asking if it was OK to print his letter in the newsletter, he sent me another note.

"One time we did kind of get into trouble as we accidently got hold of the Captains special ice cream. He was not happy about it! Nothing was proven that it was us that took it, but we never procured any ice cream after that.

My Remembrances:

On the ship I was the Storekeeper in charge of ordering the food and the records associated with their use. One of my biggest jobs was trying to keep the food items from being pilfered by the snipes and taken down in the hole. I have to admit I failed miserably at the job of keeping the snipes from taking the food to their little city below decks. To my defense, however I was outnumbered.

John Rauh SK3 1967-1968



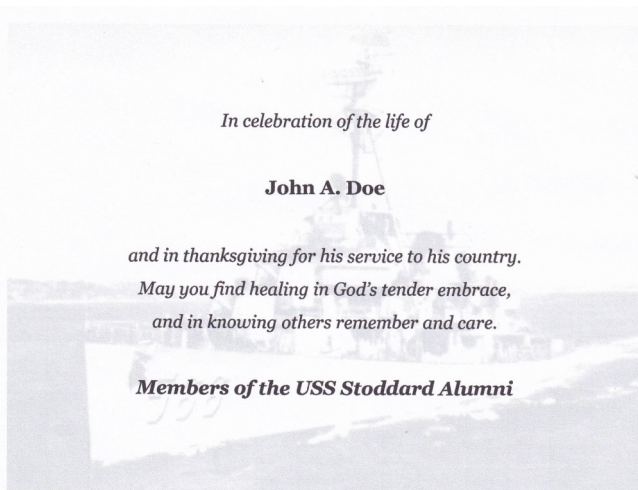


carlene rauh,
secretary...



bill melyan,
treasurer...

I thought I would inform you of what we do when a *USS Stoddard* Alumni Member passes away. If the member has passed within the last six months we send a sympathy card from the *USS Stoddard* Alumni Association.



Bill & Ulla then send a Memorial Coin from the *USS Stoddard* Alumni Association.



The letters at the top of the next page were letters we received from the families of deceased *USS Stoddard* shipmates.

Carlene



Letters Received From *USS Stoddard* Families

USS Stoddard Alumni Association

Our family received the memorial coin you sent in honor of our father's service. The coin was unexpected and much appreciated.

It will serve as a beautiful addition to Dad's Navy Shadow box and help to show the deep connection he had with the Stoddard where he spent much of his Naval service.

*Thank you again,
Sincerely,
The Berlin Family*

USS Stoddard Alumni

Please accept this memorial donation in honor of our father, Cecil Berlin. He regularly attended the annual ship reunions in the past and enjoyed staying connected through the newsletters.

*Respectfully,
The Family of Cecil Berlin BMSN
USS Stoddard 1952-1954*

Received From Stella Wooden

Thank you for your condolences and for the Memorial Coin honoring Bob. Bob loved telling stories from days aboard the Stoddard and we both enjoyed the annual reunions at different ports around the country.

I'm sure he would have been humbled, yet phased at all the remembrances.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness at this difficult time.

Stella

The Family of Robert Wooden BM3
USS Stoddard 1950-1954



**USS Stoddard DD-566
34rd Reunion-Cruise to Bermuda
September 7th -September 12th, 2024**

Shuttle Fee Due By: June 15, 2024

Please return Form By: May 15, 2024

Name: _____ Lady’s Name: _____

Stoddard Service Years: _____ Navy Rate or Rank: _____

Guest Attending with me: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell _____ Email: _____

Room # _____

_____ # Staying a Crowne Plaza Newark Airport: September 6, 2024

_____ # Taking Shuttle from Crowne Plaza to Cruise Port 40.00 per person.

Please send Check Not Later Than June 15, 2024:

Steve & Renee Romack, 3215 Kestrel Ct., Martinsville, Indiana 46151

Dinner will start at 5:15 each evening in the Main Dining Room. There are several Main Dining Rooms and I will let you know which Dining Room is reserved for us closer to September.

We will have no Group excursion due to extreme cost. Book excursions on your own or Call Sherry and she will assist you, if you wish to wait Steve and I are going on this cruise in April and will find out more info on excursions and email you what we find out.

September 7, 2024 – Embarkation Camp Liberty New Jersey
- Hospitality Room: 1:00 – 5:00 Barbados Conference Room

September 8, 2024 – At Sea
- Hospitality Room: 2:00 – 5:00 Barbados Conference Room

September 9, 2024 – Arrive Bermuda / Group Excursion

September 10, 2024 – Free Day on Bermuda
- Hospitality Room: 10:00 – 5:00 Barbados Conference Room

September 11, 2024 – At Sea
- Hospitality Room: 12:00 – 5:00
- Business Meeting: 1:00pm
- Memorial Service: 2:00 pm
- Formal Night (Will send information on Main Dining Rm closer to Cruise)

September 12, 2024 – Disembarkation Cape Liberty NJ

Taxi’s are available at port for Transportation back to the Airport

NOTE: Final Cruise Payments are Due: June 3, 2024.

Please contact Sherry with your Credit Card Information.

Sherry Cell: 317-885-9855

Sherry with Caldwell Travel is providing a \$50.00 On-Board-Credit to each Stateroom.

Any Question Call Renee Romack Cell: 317-750-4189 Email: Chief3R@gmail.com

USS STODDARD SHIP'S STORE-ORDER FORM

TO: Steve & Renee Romack
 3215 Kestrel Court
 Martinsville, IN 46151

Phone: 317-750-4189

Email: chief3r@gmail.com



USS Stoddard Alumni Association
4337 S Hwy 51
Perryville, MO 63775

Item	Size	Price	Qty.	Sub Total	Ship	TOTAL
Golf Shirt - navy	L	\$28			\$9.85	
Golf Shirt - navy	XL	\$29			\$9.85	
Golf Shirt - navy	XXL	\$30			\$9.85	
Golf Shirt - navy	XXXL	\$30			\$9.85	
Golf Shirt - white	L	\$28			\$9.85	
Golf Shirt - white	XL	\$29			\$9.85	
Golf Shirt - white	XXL	\$30			\$9.85	
Golf Shirt - white	XXXL	\$30			\$9.85	
Sweatshirt - navy	L	\$27			\$18.20	
Sweatshirt - navy	XL	\$28			\$18.20	
Sweatshirt - navy	XXL	\$29			\$18.20	
Sweatshirt - navy	XXXL	\$29			\$18.20	
Sweatshirt-cream	L	\$27			\$18.20	
Sweatshirt-cream	XL	\$28			\$18.20	
Sweatshirt-cream	XXL	\$29			\$18.20	
Sweatshirt-cream	XXXL	\$29			\$18.20	
Jacket-navy (LT.)	L	\$43			\$18.20	
Jacket-navy (LT.)	XL	\$43			\$18.20	
Jacket-navy (LT.)	XXL	\$45			\$18.20	
Stoddard Ball Hat -navy		\$13			\$7.00	
Stoddard Ball Hat (mesh)		\$13			\$7.00	
Call Steve with order before mailing and he will get back with						
you on total cost with shipping. (Below Items Shipping Included)						
Stoddard Pic8X10 Side View		\$6				
Stoddard Pic8X10 Rear View		\$6				
Stoddard Pic11X17 (Color)		\$8				
Stoddard License Plate		\$20				
Stoddard Sinking DVD		\$8				
4" Stoddard Patch		\$6				
3 1/2x4-SteaminDemon Patch		\$11				
Stoddard Alumni Pin		\$5				
*TOTAL ORDER \$						

SORRY NO CREDIT CARDS

***Checks only payable to: USS Stoddard Alumni Association**

Ship to: NAME _____
 STREET _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
Your Home or Cell Phone Number _____