

Website:

www.ussstoddard.org

Date:

February 2024



USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

USS STODDARD DD566
WWII * Korea * Vietnam

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



Royal Caribbean
LIBERTY OF THE SEAS

Average Cost
of a Stateroom
For 2 People

Estimated Cost
Interior: \$1564
Oceanview: \$2148
Balcony: Call
Jr. Suite: \$3266
Grand Suite: \$5308

Call Sherry For
Correct Price
317-885-9855



Hosts:

**Steve & Renee
Romack**

Email:

Chief3R@gmail.com

Come sail with us on an exciting fun filled 5 day cruise to Bermuda. Discover a history-filled paradise full of pink sand beaches. 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. In between exploring exotic tropical shores, taste your way around the world with dining that transports you beyond the Caribbean. At Sabor Modern Mexican, you can indulge in a fiesta of fresh flavor, while Sorrento's Pizza serves up a taste of New York by the slice. And at Chops Grille, savor sizzling prime meats and American steakhouse classics in a sophisticated setting. Just because the day's over doesn't mean the adventure is. Grab an expertly crafted martini with a side of mid-century modern vibes at R Bar or uncork a good time with wine from around the world at Vintages. And don't miss out on the scene-stealing performances that await on-stage and in the rink — like dazzling ice skating shows and disco beats during Saturday Night Fever, the musical.



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Liberty of the Seas is a Royal Caribbean International *Freedom*-class cruise ship which entered regular service in May 2007. The 15-deck ship accommodates 3,634 passengers served by 1,360 crew. She was built in 18 months at the Aker Finnyards Turku Shipyard, Finland. Built at 154,407 gross tonnage (GT), she joined her sister ship, *Freedom of the Seas* as the largest cruise ships and passenger vessels then ever built. She is 1,111.9 ft long, 184 ft wide, and cruises at 21.6 knots. *Liberty of the Seas* has extensive sports facilities including the FlowRider onboard wave generator for surfing, an interactive water play area for children, a full-sized volleyball / basketball court, an ice skating rink, and a large fitness center. There are also two whirlpools that are cantilevered and project out from the sides of the ship to provide unimpeded views of the sea below and a modular conference center for business meetings. Among other dining facilities there is a three level formal dining room. A refurbishment in 2016 added a water slide complex, featuring two racing slides and a boomerang-style slide, and a children only water play area, featuring smaller water slides. Many of the ship's interiors were extensively decorated by muralist Clarissa Parish.

If you are interested in attending the 34th USS Stoddard Reunion, please contact either Renee or Sherry and we can run through the details with you.

The average cost of a Stateroom (For 2 Persons-**not per person**) is as follows:

Interior: \$1564- Oceanview: \$2148-Balcony: Call for Price- Jr. Suite: \$3266.48- Grand Suite: \$5308.

All Staterooms are based on availability so it would be advisable to reserve your stateroom at your earliest convenience.

Please send me your intent to attend as soon as possible.

A \$500.00 refundable deposit is due Not Later Than April 6, 2024

Final payment must be made Not Later Than June 1, 2024.

Reservations must be made by April 5, 2024, after that date rooms will be released and costs will increase.

If you decide before June 1st, 2024 that you are not going your money will be refunded.

If you want to acquire Travel Insurance the payment can be made anytime up to or with the final payment.

To reserve your room for the cruise

Call Sherry 317-885-9855 or email her at Sherry@caldwelltravel.com

Call Renee Romack 317-750-4189 or email: Chief3R@gmail.com

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

I have requested the following for the group:

A gathering room each day

Memorial Service scheduled for Sept.11th, 2:30 PM

the location for service to be determined.

A private group tour of Bermuda (Extra Cost)

Reserved area in dining room each evening for dinner.

Renee found a hotel in Newark the night before our cruise. Most hotels were not that willing to work out a special rate since it is only one evening.

The Crown Plaza in Newark has airport service and is only about 5 miles from the ship. They also offer breakfast for an additional fee. If you want breakfast, please ask them to include it with your reservation.

The room rates are: *Senior rate – King Room \$168 plus tax- Two queen beds \$180 plus tax.

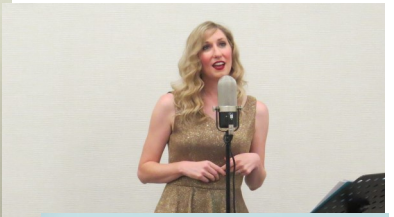
The hotel does offer transportation from the airport. Renee will check on transportation for the group from the hotel to the ship. You will need to make your reservations.

Crowne Plaza Newark Airport
901 Spring Street
Elizabeth, NY 07201

Phone: 908-527-1600

You can of course can find a room on your own and find a way to cruise terminal.

Highlights of St. Louis Reunion



Thank You to John Gerten for the great pictures!

A Big Thanks to **Bill Willert** for the Stoddard Sweatshirts, Jackets and Stoddard Memorabilia!



Attendees - St. Louis Reunion 2023

NAME	FIRST	GUEST	RATE	STODDARD YEARS OR FAMILY
Anaya	Herby		MM2	1964-1967
Balzer	Glen		ET3/LTJG	1964-1966
Baumer	Kelly	Craig - Son-in-law		John & Carlene Rauh Daughter
Baumer	Matt, Jamie	Grandson & Wife		John & Carlene Rauh
Baumer	Meghan	Granddaughter		John & Carlene Rauh
Brandt	Marlene	Chris - Daughter		Tommy Brant - Widow
Butler	Robert	Pat	BT3	1966-1969
Coneway	Clint	Greta	LTJG/CAPT	1966-1969
Halicks	John	Son-in-law		Tom Davis
Davis	Tom		MM3/C	1943-1946
Davis	Lawson			Tom Davis - Grandson
Fix	Sharon	Mary Fix - Sarah Alvin		Bob Fix -Widow & Daughters
Futch	Ron	Donna	MM3	1965-1967
Geisler	Susan			Dan & Roxane Withers -Friend
Gerten	John		TM3/TMC	1966-1967
Giesecke	Zeke		STG3	1966-1969
* Gleason	Ken		BT2	1968-1968
Goss	Nancy	Jim - Son-in-law		Bill & Chris Hurst-Daughter
Goss	Jen & Dana			Bill & Chris Hurst-Granddaughters
Green	Mike	Daisy	BMSN	1969-1970
Hansmann	Jane			Al & Kathy Plapp - Friends
Hawkins	Loid	Sandy	SN	1954-1956
Hawkins	Brad			Loid & Sandy Hawkins - Son
Gray	Matthew			Brad Hawkins
Heath	Victor		RD3	1961-1962
Jones	Carl	Arvilla	MRFN	1967-1968
LaGoe	Bill	Cathy - Daughter		Loid & Sandy Hawkins -Son-in-law
Laible	John	Cricket	LTJG/CAPT	1966-1969
* Landes	Larry	Faith	EN2	1961-1962
Mercier	Ed		BM3	1965-1968
Merrill	Ray	Jacqueline	MM2/LCDR	1963-1966
Ortiz	Michelle			Ray Merrill - Daughter
Owens	Dane	Gail	MM3/CW-2	1967-1968
Ping	Delbert	Sharon		
Plapp	Kathy	Wife		Al Plapp
Rauh	John	Carlene	SK3	1967-1968
Romack	Steve	Renee-Daughter-in-law		Jay & Mary Lou Romack - Son
Sandborn	Jack		GMG3	1965-1968
Tristen	Diego	Vicky	SF2	1965-1969
Trotter	David	Son		Bill & Jewel Trotter
Willert	William	Linda	GMG2	1967-1968
Withers	Dan	Roxane	ETN3	1965-1966

66 Attendees

* **First Time Shipmate Attendee**

Spotlight on a USS Stoddard Sailor— Cecil A. Berlin BMSN 1952-1954 Korean War Veteran Surprised With Honorary High School Diploma



Cecil Berlin served his country in the Korean War, completed a career of hard work and held leadership positions in area veterans organizations, but one important item was always missing from his resumé. The Osseo-Fairchild school district filled that gap on Sunday when Superintendent Lori Whelan presented Berlin, 88, with an honorary high school diploma at a surprise ceremony at Modicum Brewery in Altoona. For Berlin, who lives in the town of Washington, it resolved a lingering regret that he never went back and got his degree after his three-year tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. "It was something he mentioned over the years as wishing he could have done," said Berlin's daughter, Rita Pecha. "It's a dream come true for him." School, however, wasn't a priority for Berlin after graduating from eighth grade in 1949. He chose to work on his family farm in Foster, sometimes plowing fields with a team of horses, rather than go on to what was then Lincoln Hill High School in Osseo. Besides, Berlin had his heart set on joining the Navy after being inspired by seeing his uncle Donald Nimsger in his Navy uniform. "He came home on leave and I thought he was the greatest guy in the world," Berlin said. "That's why I joined the Navy." Berlin enlisted in 1951 at age 17, serving on the USS Stoddard, a destroyer that patrolled the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea during the Korean War. "I never regretted going into the service and doing what I did at 17 years old," Berlin said. "If they asked me to go back in — and my family would let me — I'd probably go." Despite going around the world and back as a young man, Berlin never got around to pursuing a high school diploma upon returning to the Chippewa Valley just before his 21st birthday. "Back in my time you didn't have to go to high school," he said. "I probably could have taken some programs and gotten a diploma, but I just never did that." Instead, Berlin sailed straight into adult life. He took machinist programs at the local vocational school and worked for many years for the Eau Claire County Highway Department and as a semi driver for PDM Bridge. "Maybe I'd have gone further in life if I'd had a high school education. Who knows?" Berlin said. "But I think my life has gone good for a guy with an eighth-grade education. I have no complaints." Nonetheless, he was thrilled when Whelan presented him with the diploma at Sunday's event. "It was really an honor. I just couldn't believe it could take place," said Berlin, whose big weekend also included being recognized as honorary chairman of the 10th District American Legion Conference in Eau Claire. Pecha pulled off the surprise graduation party by convincing Berlin he was attending a family get-together. Pecha started the wheels in motion last fall by contacting Ron "Duff" Martin, a family friend and longtime chairman of the Eau Claire Patriotic Council. He helped arrange the bipartisan event attended by U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, D-La Crosse, state Sen. Jeff Smith, D-town of Brunswick; state Rep. Warren Petryk, R-town of Washington; Osseo-Fairchild school officials; and several members of local veterans groups. "It all went perfectly," Pecha said. "It was just an awesome day." Whelan said the proposal to present Berlin an honorary high school diploma — something specifically allowed for veterans by state statutes — was approved unanimously by the Osseo-Fairchild school board. "He is very deserving of this diploma and this recognition, and it was an honor for our school board members and me to present Mr. Cecil Berlin to be an honorary graduate," Whelan said. District officials even invited Berlin to walk across the stage with the other spring graduates at the school's May 28 commencement ceremony, and early indications are that he will take them up on the offer. "He's excited about it," Pecha said. She noted that her dad would bring a degree of knowledge to the stage that is unheard of at a typical high school graduation ceremony.

"Even though he didn't go on to school, he's still the smartest man our family knows," Pecha said. "We still seek out his advice and wisdom from the life experience that got him to this point."

Article by: Eric Lindquist, The Leader-Telegram, Eau Claire, Wisconsin- April 5, 2022

Unfortunately Cecil passed away November 20, 2023 before he could see this in the USS Stoddard Newsletter. His daughter said he was very proud of the honorary diploma.



carlene rauh,
secretary...

**USS Stoddard Alumni Association
33rd Annual Meeting
St. Louis, MO
September 28th – October 1st, 2023**

President, John Rauh, opened the meeting.

Secretary Report: Carlene Rauh read the minutes of the 32nd Annual Meeting at Jacksonville, FL 2022. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: The financial report as of September 20, 2023 was presented. The annual financial statement will be published in the February Newsletter. Upon motion made, seconded treasurer’s report was approved as presented.

Ship’s Store: Steve and Renee Romack discussed the increased postage. Steve’s name will be added to the order form.

Webmasters: Dan Withers and Roxanne will continue as webmasters. Dan asked if anyone had any photos or videos to share, please send for the website.

2023 Memorial Service: The Stoddard Memorial Service was held at Soldier’s Memorial with the 10th District Guard of Honor of the American Legion of Missouri.

Email Coordinator: John Rauh asked that when home addresses or emails changed to please let him know.

New Business: Steve and Renee Romack volunteered to host the 2024 Reunion on a 4-day cruise to Bermuda. The date will be September 7th to the 12th, 2024.

Bill Willert, alumni member, provided Stoddard jackets and sweet shirts for the Stoddard members, as well as, his company products and posters of Stoddard members.

Diego Tristan reported on Veterans Benefits.

(Continued top of page)

Election of Officers: The following slate of officers was unanimously elected for 2024 year:

- President, Steve Romack
- Secretary, Carlene Rauh
- Treasurer, Bill Melyan
- Chaplin, John Liabe
- Storekeepers, Steve and Renee Romack
- Email coordinator, John Rauh
- Webmasters, Dan and Roxane Withers

Upon motion made and seconded the meeting adjourned to the annual meeting in Bermuda 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlene Rauh



bill melyan,
treasurer...

**USS Stoddard Alumni Association Financial
January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023**

Beginning Balance 1-1-2023	\$24,942.03
INCOME - 2023	
Membership Dues	\$ 1,460.00
Ship's Store	\$ 988.00
Donations	\$ 925.00
Reunion Registrations	\$20,618.00
Fraud (Bank Refund)	\$ 4,168.72 (Account hacked)
Bar Bank	\$ 200.00
Total Income	+ \$28,359.72
	\$53,301.75
EXPENSES - 2023	
Newsletter Costs	\$ 1,348.66
Store Inventory	\$ 425.50
Ship's Store Postage	\$ 210.93
Office Supplies	\$ 656.91
Bank Fees	\$ 34.00
Thank a Vet/Coins	\$ 78.10
Reunion Fees	\$ 20,259.06
Reunion Refund	\$ 693.00
Fraud (Hacked)	\$ 4,168.72
2024 Cruise Deposit	\$ 1,500.00
Total Expenses	-\$ 29,374.88
Balance December 31, 2023	\$ 23,926.87

Respectfully Submitted,

William Melyan, Treasurer

USS STODDARD DD566
 WWII * Korea * Vietnam



john laible, chaplain

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Blessings to all of our Stoddard Shipmates. Praying that you all had a Blessed Christmas and will have a Great 2024. Many of our shipmates have crossed the heavenly brow to our heavenly ship this past year. It is a sad but honorable task to honor them at our annual ships reunion. We are so honored to enjoy the presence of our earth bound shipmate during our annual ships reunion. May we celebrate Christmas and share the happiness of the New Year each day of the New Year.

Blessings to all,

John

President: Steve Romack
 email: chief3r@gmail.com

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Carlene Rauh
 email: cjrauh@LDD.net

Treasurer: Bill Melyan
 email: keystonewillie@verizon.net

Storekeepers: Steve & Renee Romack
 email: chief3r@gmail.com

Chaplain: John Laible
 email: captjohn42@gmail.com

Webmasters: Dan & Roxane Withers
 email: dwithers@rodaxwireless.com

Email/Database Coordinator: John Rauh
 email: cjrauh@LDD.net

May They Rest In Peace

Alves, Edward	SF3	58-60	8-8-2023
Andrus, Leslie Lee	MM2	54-56	10-19-2010
Berlin, Cecil A.	BMSN	51-54	11-21-2023
Kasmarski, Frank	MM3	64-68	3-17-2023
Lieberenz, Raymond	FTG3	68-69	2-24-2021
Mell, Dennis D."Aber"	BT2	62-65	11-8-2023
Proffitt, Norman A.	LTJG	61-63	7-70-2018
Stebens, Edward F.	MM2	58-60	2-16-2009
Wooden, Robert A.	BM3	50-54	10-4-2023
Zboch, Jerry A. Sr.	MR2	65-67	9-6-2023

**Recollection
 of a Departed Shipmate**

I was standing OOD watch on the quarter-deck, in port, believe it was Hong Kong. The hatch to the after engine room, immediately adjacent, was open and I hear Vivaldi's Four Seasons concerto playing from down below. Frank Kasmarski came up the ladder, and I congratulated him on his fine musical choice. He says to me, "Yeah Mr. Balogh, I don't know what happened, I thought I got The Four Seasons (American rock and doo-wop vocal group), and this is what played instead."

RIP Frank Kasmarski, and may perpetual light shine upon you. We served together on Stoddard at a time of seeming endless youth.

LT Tom Balogh
 USS Stoddard 1965-67



1st USS Stoddard Reunion—1989—North Platte, NE





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

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

Item	Size	Price	Qty.	TOTAL
Golf Shirt - navy	L	\$28		
Golf Shirt - navy	XL	\$29		
Golf Shirt - navy	XXL	\$30		
Golf Shirt - navy	XXXL	\$30		
Golf Shirt - white	L	\$28		
Golf Shirt - white	XL	\$29		
Golf Shirt - white	XXL	\$30		
Golf Shirt - white	XXXL	\$30		
Sweatshirt - navy	L	\$27		
Sweatshirt - navy	XL	\$28		
Sweatshirt - navy	XXL	\$29		
Sweatshirt - navy	XXXL	\$29		
Sweatshirt - cream	L	\$27		
Sweatshirt - cream	XL	\$28		
Sweatshirt - cream	XXL	\$29		
Sweatshirt - cream	XXXL	\$29		
Jacket - navy (LT.WT.)	L	\$43		
Jacket - navy (LT.WT.)	XL	\$43		
Jacket - navy (LT.WT.)	XXL	\$45		
Stoddard Ball Hat -navy		\$13		
Stoddard Ball Hat (mesh)-navy		\$13		
Stoddard Coffee Mug		\$ 6		
Subtotal				\$ 10.00
Shipping				\$ 6
(Below Items Shipping Included)				\$ 6
Stoddard Pic. 8 X 10 (Side View)		\$6		
Stoddard Pic. 8 X 10 (Rear View)		\$6		
Stoddard Pic. 11X17 (Color)		\$8		
Stoddard License Plate		\$20		
Stoddard Sinking DVD		\$8		
4" Stoddard Patch		\$5		
3 1/2 x 4 Steam Demon Patch		\$10		
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 _____