

Web Site:
www.usstoddard.org

Date:
April 20th, 2004

USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



USS STODDARD DD566
WWII * Korea * Vietnam

16th Reunion - Chicago (September 15th–18th) - 2004 Doubletree Guest Suites—Downers Grove, Illinois

Welcome to Chicago—"The Windy City." The beautiful waterfront city is an undiscovered treasure. With world class shopping, dining, and culture, Chicago is among the world's cleanest, most accessible, and friendliest of big cities.

Activity Schedule

Wednesday morning (September 15th) registration begins in the Hospitality Room. The room will be posted in the lobby of the hotel. Cruise books, photographs, and other memorabilia will be displayed. A packet will be available containing, sightseeing brochures, and listings of fine restaurants that are close to the hotel. The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service on an availability basis to area restaurants (within a 5 mile radius) and the Metra Train Station.

Thursday (September 16th), from 9AM to 5:30PM, [Chicago Trolley Tour](#). Hop on and off Trolleys and Double Deckers along the 13 mile route to eat, shop, and see the sights. A MUST STOP "[NAVY PIER](#)." (Voted the best tour in Chicago.)

Thursday evening [ICEBREAKER](#) will be a Chicago Style Pizza Buffet with one hour open bar held at The Doubletree.

Friday (September 17th), Early Wake Up Call. We will leave the hotel at 6:30 AM for a tour of [Great Lakes Naval Training Center Recruit Graduation Ceremony](#), lunch at The Port O'Call, and a short memorial service. Return to hotel for Subs in The Hospitality Room.



The Doubletree

Friday evening, [Chicago After Dark](#). A three hour lectured tour via A/C Coach leaves the hotel at 6 PM.

Saturday (September 18th), from 9 AM to 4PM, Ship and Shore Tour. The tour includes a two hour luncheon cruise on Lake Michigan aboard [The Spirit of Chicago](#). Entertainment is provided by the talented crew singing songs in a Salute to Broadway. Chicago Skyline as seen from a boat has been voted—one of the top ten views in America.

Saturday evening at 4:30PM—The annual Stoddard Business Meeting. The Annual Awards Banquet will be held in the hotel. The banquet will be a semi-formal served dinner, with one hour open bar. Banquet photos taken before dinner. Please let us know those you wish to sit with at the banquet. We will prepare a seating schedule.



Chicago Sky Line

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Reunion Activities | 2 |
| Hotel Information | 2 |
| Chaplain's corner—Taps | 2 |
| Pledge of Allegiance | 3 |
| Secretary's Report - Ship's Store | 3 |
| Welcome Aboard | 4 |
| Reunion Registration | 5 |

[continued on page 2](#)

Reunion activities



Address: 2111 Butterfield Rd
Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone: (630) 971-2000

Reservations Due
August 31st
10 AM

Chaplain's corner...
Byron Goodwin

As most of us know, our WWII shipmates continue to dwindle in number as time passes.

My father-in-law served on Stoddard during WWII, and was on board the Lexington at Coral Sea. His time with us may be short as he has been in the hospital twice this year. He is just one of our shipmates who were part of what Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation."

Those of us who are baby boomers know them well as they were our parents and grandparents.

Let us all keep them in our prayers and in our thoughts. In addition let us remember those brave men and women who serve today in Iraq, Afghanistan, and many other places where their lives are in danger.

Our prayers also are needed for the families of those serving and those lost in action.

con't from page 1

STODDARD RAFFLE and a 50/50 SPLIT will be held at the banquet.

DON'T FORGET YOUR RAFFLE GIFT.

Please sign up early. We need to finalize all of the arrangements by the end of August.

Hope to see you in Chicago!

Paul Liske and Robert Butler

Reunion co-chairpersons

HOTEL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Doubletree Guest Suites

211 Butterfield Road

Downers Gove, Il 60515

www.DoubletreeDownersGrove.com

Phone (630) 971-2000

Fax (630) 971-1168

Toll Free Reservations 1 (800) 222-8733

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

The hotel does not provide a shuttle from the two airports. O'Hare International Airport is about 20 miles North of the Doubletree Guest Suites. Midway Airport is about 25 miles from the Doubletree.

Our recommended taxi service provider is, **American Taxi**, which provides transportation to the hotel from both major airports. Current average rates are: O'Hare \$21.00 and Midway \$30.00.

METRA

Metra Commuter Rail Service is available as the nearby Hinsdale Train Station. The shuttle is available to transport guests between the hotel and train station. Metra links Doubletree guests to downtown Chicago 7 days a week. The Metra Line transports passenger into centrally located Union Station.

The current one-way adult fare is \$3.70 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the station or on the train if a ticket agent is not present.

Group Room Rates

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Single/Double Occupancy | \$109.00 |
| Triple/Quad Occupancy | \$119.00 |

Room rates include a full "cooked to order" breakfast daily in the Atrium.

Request: USS STODDARD REUNION RATES

Pre/Post Rates: The above rates will apply three (3) days prior to and three (3) days after the official convention dates, based on availability.

Reservation Method: All reservations must be made individually through the hotel's reservation department by calling: Phone: 1 (630) 971-2000; or

Toll free: 1 (800) 222-8733

Cut Off Date: The cut off date is Tuesday, **August 31, 2004, by 10 AM.** Reservation requests received after the cut off date will be based on availability at the hotel's prevailing rates.

Check In: 3:00 PM

Check Out: 12:00 Noon

PAYMENT: Each guest is responsible for individual charges, payable at checkout.

TAPS

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Chief Fred North—August 2003

Leon J. Blouin—November 30, 2003

Ira S. Billings, Jr. BM1—May, 1986

Robert M. Birgenheier SFMC—1981

William Noggle—WWII Plank Owner

Marvin "Vern" Love— September 27, 1998

William Allen—GM 60-62 May 20, 2003

Fred Mason FN 55-57 January 20, 2004

Steve Brackins— 67-69

* Bobby Thomas BM1-October 7, 2003

*See page 4

"The Pledge of Allegiance"

Senator John McCain

"As you may know, I spent 5 1/2 years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room.

This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing.

Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before he had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in the stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it.

continued page 4

Ship's Store:

There are lots of Stoddard items in the store; these make great gifts! Clothing and ball caps have embroidered ship's silhouette and USS Stoddard DD-566 emblem. Our navy blue jacket, with windproof & water resistant urethane coated nylon shell, super soft 6 oz. light weight fleece lining, elastic cuff and waistband, two front and one inner chest pockets with zippers are \$50 each (L & XL). Golf shirts (navy blue or white) are high quality cotton, with pocket on left breast. Long sleeve sweat-shirts (navy blue or white) are super soft. Shirts and sweatshirts are \$25.00 each (M, L & XL). On clothing items, other sizes can be ordered for delivery in September-Reunion time. The hats, new low profile style, are \$15.00 each. There are license plate frames, yellow with *USS STODDARD (DD566) LAST FLETCHER CLASS DESTROYER* in blue letters, really sharp; \$4.00 each. The Stoddard patch, with design voted on at the Pittsburgh Reunion are \$4.00 each, get one to stitch on the shoulder of your Stoddard windbreaker jacket! Thermally insulated mugs with this embroidered patch embedded in the clear insulating layers are \$17.50 each, or \$32.50 for two. We have a VCR tape of the sinking of the Stoddard off of Kauai filmed by the Navy, this tape also includes footage of her at Mare Island filmed by shipmate John Bowman, \$7.00. A new item to the store is the History Channel program "Destroyer - Heavy Metal" — your "566" prominently rides the waves in several scenes of this video. This tape is available at \$22.00, much less expensive than when you order direct from the History Channel due to a special group price we obtained. Those who have seen the program say it is wonderful. All prices include shipping charges. Send orders to Marilyn Harpster 751 Intek Way, Westerville, OH 43082; make checks payable to USS Stoddard Alumni Association.

Shipmate Del Koke PN3 '60-62, has a beautiful reproduction of the USS Stoddard 1960-1961 Far East Cruise Book, 20 pages plus cover 11x17 full color digital offset

printed on gloss stock. If you wish to purchase a copy, contact Del at www.ipkoke.com, del@ipkoke.com, 2895 Chad Drive, Eugene OR 97408.

from your secretary, marilyn harpster

Dean Qually (QM2, 51-54) sent a note to say "I was saddened (to read) the passing of Daniel S. Smart, QMSN, who was an excellent, and very personable "striker" of mine. I have many warm thoughts concerning Danny and our time together on the Stoddard's bridge. In the "Picture Story of the USS Stoddard (DD-566), Mediterranean Cruise - Summer 1953" there are two photos of Danny - "The Lucky Bag": Danny (on the left) is using our 12" signal light to receive a flashing light message, recorded by Clarence Cole QMSN; and two pages later (on the right), Danny is recording an incoming message for Richard J. Frank, QMSN. We truly had a wonderful crew at all levels...I'll never forget the dark moonless night I reported for midnight signal watch to relieve Clay Porter (QM2), and hear him tell me to '..scratch the Hobson off my Ships Present List!' The DMS Hobson had been cut in two by USS Wasp, and went down with over 100 sailors, including her Captain!! That night the ocean became very black and forbidding." Dean also sent information on a poem, called Burial at Sea, by Henry Howard Brownell (from p. 208 of the book "In Praise of Sailors" compiled and edited by Herbert W. Warden, III, in response to Bob Yon's request. The first and last quatrains of this poem read:

Blue gulf all around us,
Blue sky overhead -
Muster all on the quarter,
We must bury the dead!

Blue sea all around us,
Blue sky bright o'erhead -
Every man to his duty,
We have buried our dead!

continued on page 4

USS STODDARD DD566 WWII * Korea * Vietnam

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Marilyn Harpster, Secretary
Intek, Inc.
751 Intek Way
Westerville, OH 43082

Fax: 614 895-0319

WELCOME ABOARD

Since our last newsletter, we welcome the following new alumni members:

Joe Badding BT/2 67-69
8711 West 92nd Place
Westminster, CO 80021
Richard Lee Boude BMSN 66-67
220 SW 34th Street—Apt. 8
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73109
Dan Buntjer SM2 66-69
877 Laguna Drive NE
Keizer, OR 97303
Doyal Kent SM2 65-69
1116 Stallsworth Road
McDonough, GA 30252

Dennis D. Mell BT2
30780 Forest Blvd.
Stacy, MN 55079

William F. Pizii ETR3 66-67
24 Oak Tree Hollow Road
West Chester, PA 19382
Thomas P. Rotsaert SO3 '60
1696 Sorensen Street
River Falls, WI 54022
Edwin C. Stanton SN 59-60
303 W. Blackburn Road
P. O. Box 361
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
Edward F. Stebens MM2 58-60
315 N. 11th Street
Garden City, Kansas 67846

from your treasurer, jay romack...

Alumni dues are now due. Dues are \$10 per year. Please send to: Jay Romack, Treasurer, USS Stoddard Alumni Association, 335 Louise Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46217-4107.

continued from page 3
from your secretary...

Shipmate Leslie Andrus (MM2, 53-56) sent in the ship's roster of those on the roster for the '53 Med cruise, as well as a detailed log, copied from the original DD566 records, of the all of the ports of call for the Stoddard from her recommissioning in Charleston SC March 1951 til her return to San Diego in June, 1955. This log will be added to the scrapbook memorabilia which we bring to every reunion.

Speaking of scrapbook items, are you taking advantage of Jeanna Matthew's kind offer to make a scrapbook for us? She needs your materials to make this book! Please send photos, notes, and memorabilia to her at 50 Farm Brook Road, Sidney, ME 04330; contact her at 207-547-3658 or matthews@wtvl.net.

continued from page 3
"The Pledge of Allegiance"

That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room.

After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to Pledge our allegiance to our flag and country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world.

You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Bobby Thomas BM1
October 7, 2003
Stoddard '68—69

Note from Mrs. Lorraine Thomas:

Bobby died of esophageal cancer on October 7, 2003. He battled cancer twice in last 10 years. He was 72 years of age.

16TH USS STODDARD ALUMNI REGISTRATION

September 15-18, 2004

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____ Stoddard Years and Rating _____

GUESTS ATTENDING _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE () _____ WORK () _____

EMAIL _____ FAX () _____

Registration includes: **Thursday ICEBRAKER** and **Saturday Banquet** X \$110 = _____

Thurs. Day 9-16-04 Chicago Trolley Tour X \$36 = _____

Fri. Day 9-17-04 Great Lakes Naval Training Center X \$28 = _____

Fri. Eve. 9-17-04 Chicago After Dark X \$20 = _____

Sat. Day 9-18-04 Ship and Shore X \$47 = _____

Reunion Banquet Only

Sat. Eve. 9-18-04 Banquet & Registration Packet X \$55 = _____

2004 USS STODDARD DUES X \$10 = _____

TOTAL = _____

Make checks payable to: USS STODDARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Paul Liske P.O. Box 2991 Joliet, IL 60434-2991

Phone: (815) 741-3262

Fax: (815) 741-1307

Email DLiske@AOL.com