

Web Site:
www.ussstoddard.org

Date:
January 15, 2004

USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



USS STODDARD DD566
WWII * Korea * Vietnam

16th Reunion - Chicago (September 15th–18th) - 2004



Chicago's Navy Pier

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Chicago is hosting the 16th annual Stoddard Reunion. Come to the "windy city" and enjoy the sights. Visit historic Buckingham Fountain, the Navy Pier, Sears Towers Skydeck, the Robie House (Frank Lloyd Wright), shopping on Michigan Avenue, the Museums (art, history, and science), the Lincoln Park Zoo, and much more.

The Doubletree Guest Suites at Downers Grove will be our host for September 15th thru the 18th, 2004. Room rate will be \$109 single/double and \$119 for triple/quad. This rate included a full breakfast daily for all hotel guests.

The hotel is located in the western suburbs of Chicago about 25 minutes from the downtown area. There are two-room suites with living room and private bedroom. Visit the hotel web site at

www.doubletreedownersgrove.com.

Mark your calendar for September 15th thru the 18th. See you in Chicago!!

Co-Presidents,

Bob Butler (BT3 '67-69), and
Paul Liske (MM2 '64-68)



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Robert Abolton, SN 61-62 (2/17/03)

Arthur Garra, MM2 58-62 (6/9/03)

Jim McGonigal, WW II (12/2/02)

F. Benjamin MacKinnon, WW II (4/20/03)

Theodore L. Morgan, CDR 64-65 (10/27/02)

Claude L. Reeves, CO 57-58 (10/30/02)

Joseph & Jerilyn Robinson, SN 51-54
(11/12/02)

Walter F. Roemke, GM1 51-52 (5/19/02)

Edson L. Stewart, EM1 60-61 (2/24/03)

At the annual meeting in Philadelphia, Byron Goodwin was elected Chaplin pro tem for the coming year.

Since our reunion we have been notified of the death of the following shipmates: Dale Tuel, BT3 56-59 (9/19/03); Robert Rex WWII (8/13/03); Sydney Bokovoy SN '57 (1986); R. I. Borchert LTjg 66-67; Joyce Miehoboy HM2 66-67 (7/08/01); Jess L. Spencer (1996); James E. Whitaker LTjg 66-

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Joe Harpster

TAPS: Chaplain, Byron Goodwin

The Reunion Memorial Service was conducted by Chaplain, Joe Harpster on the USS New Jersey. The following shipmates were remembered:

2003 Reunion Highlights



The Hannas

Special thanks to Paul and Rita for a great 15th Reunion!!

Dear Shipmates:

The reunion has come and gone. Rita and I have received many notes and e-mail from attendees who say they had a wonderful time in Philadelphia. The pleasant comments we received made the planning and worrying well worth the effort.

There were one hundred and thirty-eight (138) shipmates, spouses and guests in attendance. Several of them were first timers. Those shipmates who arrived early even beat Rita and I to the hotel. When we entered the hotel with all of our materials we were greeted by several old and new friends.

Within a short period of time we were off and running with registrations and the hospitality suite opened. The next day the ship's store began operation.

During the next several days the attendees took tours around Philadelphia enjoying the history of the city. They explored the shopping districts and found restaurants that offered reasonably varied food choices. The highlight of the Reunion was our visit to the USS New Jersey. The wreath laying ceremony brought tears to the eyes of the most stalwart sailors and their ladies. Joe Harpster performed the duties of Chaplin. He read the names and gave a short synopsis of the lives of shipmates who died since our last Reunion. The tour of the New Jersey that followed the ceremony was very impressive.

The Thursday evening buffet was an informal event that permitted everyone to meet and greet each other. Our special guest was Ben Franklin. He shared words of wisdom with everyone. The food served celebrated all of the ethnic backgrounds of Philadelphia. Background music provided a delightful backdrop for everyone. We also played the USS Stoddard trivia game. We had several winners. Everyone enjoyed participating in the game. It was fun!

The closing event, the Saturday night semi-formal dinner, was wonderful. We enjoyed the

music of Take2. They played songs we could all dance to and they entertained us with their excellent singing. The food and service was superb at the sit-down dinner. I was assisted in my duties as Master of Ceremony by several shipmates. They helped me hand out the many gifts brought to the Reunion for the yearly auction.

Rita and I want to thank everyone for the assistance during the Reunion. With your help we were able to provide everyone an enjoyable time.

Paul and Rita Hanna

e-mail: drhanna@pics.com

Chaplain's report con't from page 1

67; Daniel S. Smart, QMSN '55 (11/27/82); and Robert L. Yon (4/17/87).

Yon's son wrote: "At Dad's funeral one of his old Navy friends read a poem that was read when men were buried at sea. It was quite touching and I've hoped to find a copy of it..." If anyone can help, please let me know.

"TAPS" - THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

We have all heard the haunting melody of "Taps." Reportedly it all began in 1862 during the Civil War. Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing, VA. The Confederate Army was on the other side. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain risk his life to bring the soldier back to camp for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, he reached the wounded soldier and began pulling him back to camp. When he reached his camp, he discovered the man was a Confederate soldier, but he was dead.

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2003 Reunion—Philadelphia

Our special guest was Ben Franklin.



Report of Annual Business Meeting, Reunion 2003

from your secretary, marilyn harpster...

The President's baton was passed from Paul Hanna to new co-Presidents, Bob Butler and Paul Liske, who announced plans are in the work for the 2004 Reunion in Chicago. Byron Goodwin accepted the Chaplain's duties. Re-elected were Jay Romack, Treasurer, and Marilyn Harpster, Secretary. Jay and Marilyn have requested that other members consider accepting their offices next year. (The Association's Constitution provides for the following officers: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain.) Prior to the current group from 51-54 Korea, the officers were members from the WWII area: Don Whitworth, Jack Peters, Pat Duncan, Danny Rizzolo.

David Pietz offered, and was elected, as President for year 2005, to host the Reunion in Sacramento, CA.

(After the meeting, Carlene Rauh (John Rauh 67-68) graciously offered to help with the Secretary's duties and this newsletter, with its beautiful new format, is to her credit! Thank you Carlene, for a terrific job! Now, we need someone to give Jay Romack a hand! Who will volunteer?)

Dan and Roxane Withers graciously shared their time and expertise in creating and maintaining the website as webmaster and agreed to continue in that capacity. Bob Hoag has been coordinating e-communications, and will continue to do so.

The Membership had decided that each year the Association would make a \$200 contribution to a Navy related program. Bob Hoag recommended that the contribution for 2003 be sent to the Historical Ship's Foundation. He provided a brief synopsis of their work and the rationale for the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

The Alumni roster continues to grow, there are over 830 listings in the Directory. It is not practical for us to include a listing of all the changes and newly "found" shipmates in our newsletter. Please check our website for updates.

Those on our e-list will receive their newsletter by email notice. Please keep Bob Hoag, your e-communicator, rwh@donobi.net updated as to changes in your e-mail address. A hard copy of the newsletter will be mailed to those without email addresses.

Jerome Findley's daughter, Jeanna Matthews, (50 Farm Brook Road, Sidney, ME 04330, matthews@wtvl.net, 207 547-3658) joined her father in Philadelphia and offered to work on a scrapbook for the organization. She will incorporate your photos, stories, memories, etc. into a craft book which can be shared at the Reunions and passed on. What a great way for the group to compile the memories of this very special ship! Please contribute stories, pictures, etc. so we can begin this project.

Byron Goodwin reported that Danny Rizzolo, former Alumni Chaplain, moved from NJ to Kansas so he would be closer to his sister and family. In the move, he lost his Stoddard cap and was most distressed. The group arranged to have a cap sent to Danny, and let him know the group was thinking of him. Please send notes of cheer to: Danny Rizzolo, c/o The Forum, 3509 W. 95th Street, Overland, KS 66206.

The meeting adjourned to begin the banquet festivities.

Alumni attending Philadelphia Reunion:

Baetz, Jay LtJg. 58-60
 Bailey, Frank 58-60
 Balzer, Glen ET3/Ltjg 64-66
 Bennage, Henry YWSN 51-54
 Berlin, Cecil 52-54
 Brannigan, Bill Lt 60-61
 Brooks, Ken MMCS 57-59
 Buck, Frank SKC 59-63
 Butler, Robert BT3 67-69
 Byassee, Gerald GMB3 58-63
 Carr, Samuel LCDR 68-69
 Clay, Joseph IC3 56-58
 Coleman, William LT 64-68
 Conners, James RD2 51-55
 Davis, Thomas MM3 43-46
 Elkins, Royce HMSN 58-61
 Findley, MRFN Jerome 60-61
 Frye, Ralph SK2 52-53
 Goodwin, Byron RD2 59-62
 Graham, Jim Ltjg 59-62
 Grindell, Clyde ET2 52-54
 Hamby, Knox QMSN 59-60



[See the Ship's Store on line.](#)

Please sent a note to Danny Rizzolo, and other shipmates you know who could use some good cheer.

Hanna, Paul RD2 59-62
 Harpster, Joseph MM1 50-54
 Henry, Allan MM2 51-54
 Hoag, Robert Ltjg 61-63
 Hummel, Donald EMFN 51-52
 Hurst, William LCDR 45-46
 Jones, Charles SM3 58-61
 Karz, Robert RD3 50-52
 LeBlanc, Martin Jr. SN 51-55
 Lee, Gary BT3 67-69
 Liske, Paul MM2 64-68
 Magill, Robert DC1 51-54
 Maholm, Joe BT2 66-69
 Markey, John CS2 54-55
 Moore, Ralph GMG3 59-62
 Macaulay, Jim SN 67-69
 Nemec, Leroy QMSN 56-57
 Petren, Stephen Ltjg 57-59
 Pietz, David ET3 60-62
 Plapp, Allan MME3 65-66

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USS STODDARD DD566 WWII * Korea * Vietnam

Co-Presidents: **Bob Butler**
and **Paul Liske**
email: Rlbmustangae@aol.com
email: dlsiske@aol.com
Secretary: **Marilyn Harpster**
email: jharpster@intekflow.com
Treasurer: **Jay Romack**
Chaplain: **Byron Goodwin**
email: gbugsya@aol.com
Webmasters: **Dan and Roxane**
Withers
email: witthers@direcway.com
Email coordinator: **Bob Hoag**
email: rwh@donobi.net
Newsletter Editor: **Carlene Rauh**
email: cjrauh@ltd.net

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

Fax: 614 895-0319

15th Reunion attendees con't. from page 3

Prager, Stan RM3 44-55
Puckett, Troy DK2 52-54
Rauh, John SK3 67-68
Reynolds, Wm ET1 51-52
Roemke, (Walt GM1 51-52) Dee
Romack, Jay YNSN 51-52
Scram, Andrew LT 60-63
Shea, Irving BRCM 52-56
Schiffer, Victor BT2 51-54
Smith, Alfred ET2 52-54
Smith, Kenneth MM3 51-54
St. Clair, David BMSN 65-69
Stoyle, John LT 59-62
Strub, Henry PN3 66-68
Swann, Robert BTC 66-69
Trotter, (Chas. MM2 43-47) Jewel

Uber, Wm BT2 51-54
Vonderheid, Geo. SK2 43-46
Wagner, Rich. FP1 555-56
Warnes, Wm ETC 51
Watz, Anthony MM2 51-54
Weeks, Glen RD3 58-61
Willey, David LTJg 53-54
Withers, Dan ET3 65-66
Wooden Robt. BM3 51-54

First time attendees' names
are highlighted.

from your editor, carlene rauh...

You have no doubt noticed that the newsletter format has changed. In an attempt to give Marilyn Harpster (our dedicated Secretary) a much need reprieve, I have volunteered (please note volunteer) to help with the newsletter.

We are trying to limit the time and expenses of producing the quarterly newsletter. Almost half of our administrative expenses during the past year have been dedicated to the alumni newsletter.

We would like to put the newsletter on the website for all those with email access. Dan and Roxanne Withers, our webmasters, will put it on the website and archive the newsletters for future access.

Bob Hoag, our email coordinator, will send you a message when the newsletter is on the web page. You will simply double click on the website address in his email and it will take you to the website to view the newsletter. Once you are on our website simply click the button for the newsletter and it will open. You will be able to read it in Abode. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, Dan & Roxanne will have another button to click to download the Adobe reader. It's free!!

For those without email access, we will continue to mail the newsletter.

The alumni membership has grown to more than 800 members, about
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from your treasurer, jay romack...

The following is a summary of the funds in the Stoddard Alumni Account:

Beginning Balance 1/1/03 \$12,375.80

INCOME:

Dues \$ 2,150.00

Bank fee Refund \$ 12.00

Donations \$ 385.00

Ship's Store Sales \$ 2,076.25

Hospitality Room \$ 266.25

Raffle \$ 595.00

Registration Fees \$26,479.38

\$31,963.97

EXPENSES:

Ship's Store \$ 1,932.00

Printing Newsletters \$ 404.75

Printing Directories \$ 657.24

Office Supplies \$ 121.58

Postage and Shipping \$ 1,302.81

Ship's Store Refund \$ 30.00

Reunion Fee \$ 5.00

(\$ 4,453.38)

REUNION EXPENSES:

President's Plaques
(2002 and 2003) \$ 146.48

Historic Ship Donation \$ 200.00

Take2 (entertainment) \$ 1,050.00

Philly tickets \$ 1,662.50

Lion's Club (wheelchair) \$ 30.00

Reunion Reg. Refunds \$ 690.00

Hotel Deposit \$ 1,000.00

Hospitality Supplies \$ 169.76

Philadelphia Trolley \$ 9,005.00

Dinners, supplies... \$13,875.27

(\$27,829.01)

ENDING BALANCE: \$12,057.38



15th Stoddard Alumni Reunion—Philadelphia

[Chaplain's report con't from page 3](#)

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the dead soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain asked for a group of Army band members to play a funeral dirge for his son. The request was denied since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they granted him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the Bugler to play a series of musical notes he found on the piece of paper in his son's uniform pocket. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, which we now know as "Taps" was born.

TAPS

"Day is done, gone the sun, from the lakes, from the hills, from the sky. All is well, safely rest. God is nigh.

Fading light, dims the sight, and a star, gems the sky, gleaming bright. From afar, drawing nigh, falls the night.

Thanks and praise, for our days, neath the sun, neath the stars, neath the sky. As we go, this we know, God is nigh.

[from the editor, con't from page 4](#)

400 members have email addresses. Delivering the newsletter by email would cut costs in half. We are working over the internet from Washington, Ohio, Florida, and Missouri, so please be patient with our efforts. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE LET US KNOW!!!!

from the email coordinator, bob hoag...

Shipmates:

I'm having a problem with AOL email addresses. AOL rejects my messages because your SPAM filter is set at high priority. Your messages come back to me as undeliverable. Therefore, you will need to inform AOL to stop blocking my email address: rwh@donobi.net.

Also, please let me know when your email address changes so we can keep in touch.

WELCOME ABOARD

We welcome the following new members to the Alumni Association since our last newsletter:

Ambrose, Terrace L. RD2 64-69
 Bachman, Herbert J. Jr. SMC 59
 Etherington, George FTG3 65-68
 Firebaugh, Charles FTCS LTjg 56-57
 Gravener, Danny RD3 66-68
 Gravener, Jack MM2 65-69
 Grimm, Terry Dale SM2 65-68
 Hempstead, Robert GM1 59
 Huss, Marvin D. IC1 66-67
 Ines, Andres TN 59
 Korst, Leroy M. RM3 54-56
 Krawtschenko, Paul MM3 66-68
 Manker, Bob M. EM1 66-69
 Mattioli, Charles MM3 60-62
 Nokes, Arthur SN 52-54
 Northcraft, Donovan EM3 66-69
 Pilcher, Louis J. BT3 65-69
 Purpura, George J. BTFN 52-56
 Rainbolt, Gene E. QM3 64-68
 Rau, Wayne A. SN 66-69
 Rogerson, R. G. CDR 66-67
 Salley, Lavern D. BM3 65-67
 Star, Robert R. RD3 66-67
 Sturvist, Gerald LTjg 66-68
 Thierry, Leland SHL3 65-68
 Tovrea, Ronald D. MM3 66-67
 Turo, Frank RMSN 65-68
 Yake, Jay MMFN 64-67