



USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



USS STODDARD DD566
WW II • Korea • Vietnam

July 9, 2003

15th Reunion, September 24-27, 2003! Welcome to Philadelphia – The City of Brotherly Love!

Dear Shipmates, Ladies and Friends:

Our 15th Reunion in Philadelphia, PA is rapidly approaching. We have planned the program to make your visit to this historic city a memorable one. If you have not yet sent in your registration, please complete the reservation form and send in your registration to help us make the final preparations. We are looking forward to a great turn out, and great time together.

If you have not made your hotel reservation yet, call today to secure the specially negotiated rates - the group rate is \$119.00 for single/double rooms and \$144.00 for triple occupancy (plus occupancy and city tax). Make your reservations directly with the hotel at 215-928-1234 or 800-233-1234 or www.Hyatt.com and request the USS Stoddard Reunion rate.

Since the newsletter announcement in May, we have secured a very few precious Phillies baseball tickets for Friday evening. Act now to assure a seat at the favorite American past time. Please call me (609-953-7684) or E-Mail: drhanna@pics.com as the tickets are limited.

The new Constitution Center just opened on Independence Day. It has been under construction for the past three years, and is a very impressive facility. While we did not plan an organized tour as part of the program, it is located in Independence Mall and not far from the hotel.

Please visit the website at www.ussstoddard.org for up to date hotel, sightseeing, and tour information.

Registration begins on Wednesday afternoon in the Hospitality Suite. It will be the meet and greet place. A gift bag will be available for you containing "A taste of Philly," sightseeing brochures, and a listing of fine restaurants that are in close proximity to the hotel.

On each day, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Philadelphia Trolley Works will have a trolley available at the hotel from 9:30AM to 4:00PM. The trolley offers a ninety (90) minute tour of the City. Riders can get on and off at any stop, sightsee and shop all day.

Additionally, on **Thursday from 10:00AM to 2:30PM a Land and Sea Package Tour** will be available. This tour is a ninety (90) minute tour of the City; then guests will board the Spirit of Philadelphia for a fabulous 2-hour lunch cruise along the Delaware River.

The official kickoff event will be the **Thursday Evening Mixer.** "**The Philly Fun and Games Buffet**" will be held at the Hyatt.

On Friday we will be touring the "**Big J**" – (USS Battleship New Jersey). A wreath laying ceremony will take place on the ship. Later in the day, choose to go to the Phillies game, a trip to Atlantic City, or tour the city on your own and dine at one of the great restaurants nearby.

A **City View Tour** is scheduled on Saturday from 9:00AM to 3:30PM. This tour includes a visit to Independence Historic National Park, the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall and the National Constitution Center. This is a must for anyone visiting Philadelphia. You can also explore, on your own, **the Independence Seaport Museum** which is within walking distance of the Hyatt Hotel. It features interactive exhibits, magnificent ship model, over 14,000 naval artifacts and climb aboard the 1892 cruiser OLYMPIA, and tour the WWII submarine BECUNA.

At 16:00 hours the Annual Business Meeting will be held in a room adjacent to the hospitality suite. The meeting will adjourn in time to get ready for the Reunion Photographs to be taken.

The highlight annual awards banquet will be held in the Hyatt Hotel. The banquet will be a semi-formal served dinner. The theme for the evening is **A Night to Remember and Celebrate.** There will be tables with seating for eight or ten guests. We will prepare a seating schedule for everyone. The standard raffle and a silent auction will also take place at the banquet. *Don't forget to bring a gift for the raffle.*

We are looking forward to seeing you in the City of Brotherly Love.

Reunion Chairpersons,

Paul Hanna and Rita Hanna

from Chaplain Pro Tem Joe Harpster...

It is my sad duty to report that **Walt Roemke** (GM1, '51-52) passed away in May after a long and brave fight with cancer. Marilyn and I were able to travel to Fort Wayne to attend the memorial service and to express the sympathies of all the shipmates to Dee and other members of Walt's family. Dee plans to be with us in Philadelphia, and we all look forward to having her with us.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM

Hyatt Regency Hotel at Penn's Landing
201 Christopher Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA
215-928-1234 or 800-233-1234 or www.hyatt.com

15th USS STODDARD REUNION

September 25-27, 2003

Please make your hotel reservations directly with the Hyatt Regency at Penn's Landing. Request the Stoddard Reunion group rate (\$119.00 single/double, \$144.00 triple occupancy, plus occupancy and city tax). Send this official reunion registration form directly to Paul Hanna as shown in the bottom of the form, along with your registration payment.

Name: _____ Lady's Name: _____

Stoddard Service Years & Rating: _____

Guests Attending with Me: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Business Telephone: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Accommodations:

Check-in Date: _____

Driving to Reunion? yes no

Check-out Date:

E-Mail me driving directions: yes no

Please choose from the following selections:

Full Registration – includes Thursday Mixer and Saturday Banquet* _____ × \$110.00 = \$ _____

Registration packet & Saturday evening Banquet* only _____ \times \$ 55.00 = \$ _____

Thursday 9/25/03 Land and Sea Tour _____ \times \$ 39.00 = \$ _____

Friday 9/26/03 USS Battleship New Jersey Tour _____ × \$ 25.00 = \$ _____

9/26/03 Atlantic City Tour _____ \times \$ 25.00 = \$ _____

Saturday 9/27/03 City Overview Tour _____ \times \$ 34.00 = \$ _____

9/27/03 Independence Seaport Museum $\times \$$ 8.00 = \$

USS Stoddard Alumni 2003 Dues \$ 10.00 = \$ _____

*Please include your banquet seating request

TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to: USS Stoddard Alumni Association
Mail to: Paul D. Hanna, 193 Tuckerton Road, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055
Telephone: 609-953-7684; E-Mail: drhanna@pics.com

Program Tours **USS Stoddard 2003 Reunion**

1. Philadelphia by Day – Available Daily from 9:30AM to 4:00PM - Cost per person: \$17.00

Philadelphia Trolley Works will provide a round trip shuttle service to the Liberty Bell where guests will board our beautiful open air Victorian Style Trolleys for our 90-minute fully narrated city tour. There are 18 different stops along the tour and guests will enjoy on-off privileges all day. These tours are fully narrated and provide a complete tour of historic Philadelphia, the waterfront, and museum district. Price includes transfer to and from Center City.

2. Land and Sea Package - September 25, 2003, 10:00AM to 2:30PM - Cost per person: \$39.00

Guests will be picked up at their hotel where they will take a 90-minute trolley tour through Philadelphia to include the historic district, waterfront and Avenue of the Arts. Following the trolley tour guests will board the Spirit of Philadelphia for a fabulous 2-hour lunch cruise along the Delaware River. Each fun-filled cruise includes bountiful buffets, top-40 dance hits, a live show and fascinating views of the city and its historic waterfront. Return transportation to the hotel will be provided. Tour Length: 4 1/2 hours

3. USS Battleship New Jersey – September 26, 2003, 9:00AM to NOON - Cost per person: \$25.00

The Battleship New Jersey, the US Navy's most decorated battleship, is a unique and historic facility. The Iowa-class battleship, designed for a crew of 117 officers and 1804 enlisted personnel will be the site for our wreath laying ceremony. We will have a two hour tour of the "Big J" by one of her volunteers who have worked valiantly to restore her for public view. Our ceremony will take place on the fantail, aft on the Main Deck. Our travel coach will be transporting us from the hotel to the ship.

4. Atlantic City – September 26, 2003, depart 4:00PM & return at 11:00PM - Cost per person: \$25.00

Travel to the gambling Mecca by the sea, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Guests will travel to the gaming city to enjoy their infamous casinos, restaurants and nightlife. Casino packages are not available until 1 month prior to departure date. USS Stoddard guests will receive the best package of the month (the packages usually include a dinner/drink certificate and \$10.00 or \$15.00 for gambling; the packages often cover the cost of tour). Approximate Tour Length: 7 hours

5. City Overview Tour - September 27, 2003, 9:00AM – 3:30PM - Cost per person: \$34.00

Guests will first have a chance to enjoy Independence Historic National Park. Upon arrival guests will be issued tickets to tour Independence Hall. Due to security, guests are asked to be in line one hour prior to the scheduled tour time. Once you are in the concourse the Liberty Bell is also located there. If time allows you may wish to go into the Bell pavilion before your tour of Independence Hall, if not the glass building does provide a great view of the Liberty Bell from the outside. Next guests will enjoy lunch on their own at the food cart at the Bourse building. After lunch guests will be given an overview of the center city area of Philadelphia with a stop at the National Constitution Center where through interactive components guests will learn how the constitution affects their lives and how government functions.

6. Independence Seaport Museum-September 27, 2003 – 10:00AM to 5:00PM - Cost per person: \$8.00

Explore the Delaware Valley region's maritime heritage at the Independence Seaport Museum, featuring family-oriented, interactive exhibits, magnificent ship models, an over 14,000 artifacts and art! Climb aboard Admiral Dewey's 1892 cruiser OLYMPIA, tour the WWII submarine BECUNA, both National Historic Landmarks, and search for treasure in our nautical gift shop. The Museum is walking distance from the Hyatt Hotel. Reunion attendees can visit the museum anytime between 10:00AM and 5:00PM.

WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA

HISTORICAL PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia's history from 1774 to 1800 is linked to the American Revolution and the birth of a young nation. Philadelphia is the cradle of the nation's burgeoning quest for freedom. Born along the banks of the Delaware River, Philadelphia flourished as a shipping port. The historic district begins at Front Street where there is evidence of the city's earliest settlement.

North of Market Street the nation's first commercial district arose in Old City. Storefronts and narrow streets reflect 17th century trade where small cafes and bustling galleries now populate a thriving arts community. The colonial legacy of the neighborhood is well preserved at numerous historical landmarks, including the Betsy Ross House, Christ Church and Elfreth's Alley, the oldest continuously occupied street in America.

South of Market Street a greater concentration of historic sites can be found in Society Hill. (Our hotel is walking distance to this area). Rows of restored red-brick homes line streets and cobblestoned alleys. Stroll down DeLancey Street and its easy to envision our great political forefathers, including Washington, Franklin, and Jefferson, walking along and browsing into its storefronts.

No other city reflects America's past better than Philadelphia. Independence National Historical Park is among its finest attractions. The park features the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the Second Bank of the United States, Carpenters' Hall, the Merchants Exchange and dozens of other monuments to Philadelphia's past and America's beginnings.

The Heart of Downtown

Center City, the local name for the downtown area of Philadelphia is bordered by the Delaware River to the east, the Schuylkill River to the west, Vine Street to the north and South Street to the south. There is no better way to experience Philadelphia than to walk through the streets of this "city of neighborhoods." The easy grid of streets and compact blocks make Philadelphia a walker's paradise. The city of neighborhoods is truly an intricate mosaic of cultures. South Street is the "hippest street in Philadelphia." It is famous for its eclectic shops, diverse restaurants and electric nightlife. The largest and oldest Jeweler's Row, with over 300 jewelry-rated businesses can be found in this neighborhood. There are also many antique dealers, boutiques, restaurants, bars and coffee shops along the residential blocks from Washington Square west. Along Market Street East, the historic Strawbridge and Clothier and Lit Brothers buildings pay tribute to the retail giants of the past. The new retail giants established in the area are the Gallery, the largest downtown shopping complex in the nation, Lord and Taylor and many other small upscale establishments. At 10th and Arch Streets you will find the Friendship Gate welcoming you to Chinatown for fine art, culture and the best Asian cuisine for more than a century.

Around the Neighborhoods

Ethnic threads and excursions become more plentiful and diverse in the "neighborhoods." Longstanding areas in North and South Philadelphia provide a look at Old-World heritages. South Philadelphia's Italian Market dates back 125 years, features aromas and ingredients from the old country to shops and restaurants run by generations of the original families. North Philadelphia houses a vibrant Hispanic community who brings music, shopping and dining together from Latino cultures around the world. Across the Schuylkill River, international influences converge in University City (West Philadelphia). The area is home to the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University a prolific community of education, culture, medicine, and technology coexists with historical neighborhoods steeped in structures of architectural significance.

Culture, Parks, and Green Spaces

Philadelphia may be known for its history, but it has much more to offer including world-class art collections and resident orchestra, ballet, opera and theater companies. Along the Avenue of the Arts, the city's premier arts district you will find the Academy of Music, the new Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Theaters, and performance venues. Along the Ben Franklin Parkway, a grand boulevard with European influences, there's an impressive row of museums with works by Van Gogh, Rodin, and Wyeth. The Parkway is lined with sculptures by all three generations of Calders, the William Penn statute at City Hall, the Swann Fountain at Logan Square, and Ghost at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Also found on the Parkway is The Franklin Institute Science Museum and The Academy of Natural Sciences.

The city is full of green spaces (parks) from Roosevelt Park in South Philadelphia to Clark Park in West Philadelphia to the largest of them all Fairmount Park. With 8900 acres of winding creeks, green meadows and 100 miles of rustic trails, Fairmount Park is the largest landscaped urban park in the world. In the park you can find early American mansions, historic landmarks, outdoor sculptures, open-air theaters, the Philadelphia Zoo, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Boathouse Row and the Victorian homes of the river scullers. The Park weaves through Philadelphia's historic Northwest urban villages where stately homes stand on the tree-lined streets of Chestnut Hill and Mount Airy, famous for its historical participation during the American revolution and with the Underground Railroad.

Cosmopolitan Philadelphia

Philadelphia does not have many skyscrapers. For 86 years there was a gentlemen's agreement against any Philadelphia building rising above William Penn's statue atop City Hall. In 1987 One Liberty Place broke through the invisible ceiling making way for a new skyline for the city. Today there are five buildings shadowing Mr. Penn. All are west of Broad Street in the business district. More than 300,000 people work in Center City in these buildings in diverse industries including law, finance, technology, government, education, engineering, hospitality and health care. Streets busy with business dealings by day are transformed into lively after-hours hot spots as restaurants and sidewalk coffee bars at night. A concentration of shopping and dining can be found around Rittenhouse Square, one of the city's most popular parks and most prestigious addresses. Rittenhouse Row is Philadelphia's center for glamour. The Walnut Street area has some of the country's finest restaurants, premier shopping, pampering salons and top hotels. Located in the heart of center city is the new Pennsylvania Convention Center complex. Built in 1993 the Center covers six downtown blocks including the historic Reading Terminal, the century-old Reading Terminal Farmer's Market and the last surviving single-span train shed in the country. Below the complex, Market East Station connects the Center with Amtrak's 30th Street Station and the Philadelphia International Airport via regional rail service.

We hope that you will take advantage of all that Philadelphia has to offer by visiting the local attractions and the fine restaurants that abound all over the city. There are ethic and American-style restaurants that will be able to offer excellent cuisine for everyone's taste. Transportation is available from the hotel to all areas of the city. We suggest using the Phlash during the day time hours and cabs in the evening.

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