

Website:

[www.ussstoddard.org](http://www.ussstoddard.org)

Date:

April 2022



# USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

**USS STODDARD DD566**  
**WWII \* Korea \* Vietnam**

**32nd Stoddard Alumni Reunion**  
**Jacksonville, Florida**  
**September 14th-18th, 2022**

Double Tree by Hilton  
Jacksonville Riverfront  
1201 RiverPlace Blvd.  
Jacksonville Fl. 32207

Reservations:  
800-222-8733

**Must Ask For:**

USS Stoddard  
Group Code STO  
OR

Book Online  
With EasyLink  
Put Address Below  
In Your Browser

[https://  
group.doubletree.com/7ttmtx](https://group.doubletree.com/7ttmtx)

Standard Room - \$119

Riverfront Room - \$139

Riverfront Suite - \$159

Rate Good Three Days  
Before / After Reunion

Breakfast for 2 Included  
Additional Breakfast \$10

Free Parking

Free Wi-Fi

**Hotel Cut off Date is:**  
**August 12, 2022**



**Hosts:**

**Bill & Ulla**

**Melyan**

**Email: [keystonewillie@verizon.net](mailto:keystonewillie@verizon.net)**

Final preparations are being made for you to have a fantastic time at our USS Stoddard Reunion in Jacksonville, Florida. Here are some interesting facts about your reunion city: Jacksonville is the most populous city in the state, and is the largest city by area in the contiguous United States as of 2020. As of 2020, Jacksonville's population is 949,611 and ranks as Florida's fourth-largest metropolitan area.

Jacksonville straddles the St. Johns River in the First Coast region of northeast Florida, about 25 miles south of the Georgia state line and 328 miles north of Miami. The area was originally inhabited by the Timucua people, and in 1564 was the site of the French colony of Fort Caroline, one of the earliest European settlements in what is now the continental United States. Under British rule, a settlement grew at the narrow point in the river where cattle crossed, known as *Wacca Pilatka* to the Seminole, and the Cow Ford to the British. A platted town was established there in 1822, a year after the United States gained Florida from Spain. It was named after Andrew Jackson, the first military governor of the Florida Territory and seventh President of the United States.

Harbor improvements since the late 19th century have made Jacksonville a major military and civilian deep-water port. Its riverine location facilitates Naval Station Mayport, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, the U.S. Marine Corps Blount Island Command, and the Port of Jacksonville, Florida's third largest seaport. Jacksonville's military bases and the nearby Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay form the third largest military presence in the United States.

Significant factors in the local economy include services such as banking, insurance, healthcare and logistics and as with much of Florida, tourism is important to the Jacksonville area

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The following are events we have scheduled for the Reunion. We only have a few days to see so many great sites. We can't go to all, please stay few days and enjoy this historic part of Florida.

**Thursday: Tour the Navy Base at Mayport**

Naval Station Mayport is located 15 miles east of Jacksonville, Florida, at the mouth of the St. Johns River in Duval County. The **Naval Station Mayport** is a major United States Navy base. It contains a protected harbor that can accommodate aircraft carrier-size vessels, ship's intermediate maintenance activity and a military airfield. NS Mayport has grown to become the third-largest naval surface fleet concentration area in the United States. The station has a busy harbor capable of accommodating 34 ships and an 8,001-foot runway capable of handling most aircraft in the Department of Defense inventory. Naval Station Mayport is also home to the Navy's United States Fourth Fleet, reactivated in 2008 after being deactivated in 1950.



The base at Mayport requires all non-military over the age of 17 requesting entry to the base to have submitted their information prior to coming on tour.

**You must fill out the enclosed form and submit with your reunion registration.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Friday: Tour of Old St. Augustine**

St. Augustine is a city on the northeast coast of Florida. It lays claim to being the oldest city in the U.S., and is known for its Spanish colonial architecture as well as Atlantic Ocean beaches like sandy St. Augustine Beach and tranquil Crescent Beach. Anastasia State Park is a protected wildlife sanctuary. The Castillo de San Marcos is a 17th-century Spanish stone fortress with views of the St. Augustine Inlet.



The tour also includes admission to Old Store. A look around St. Augustine's Old Store Museum reveals a collection of odd tchotchkes, rusty and weathered cans, medicine bottles, and a treasure trove of goods and hardware from a bygone era. Walking amongst all these vintage wears is like being on a travel back in time. Watch in amazement as friendly clerks, butcher and Snake Oil salesman demonstrate the very latest inventions for turn-of-the-century living. Get to know the latest and best time-saving miracles from the rocking' 1900s!

The tour also includes admission to The Old Jail. The Old Jail is a historic jail in St. Augustine, Florida. It is located at 167 San Marco Avenue. On August 27, 1987, it was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. The St. Johns County Jail now serves as the Old Jail Museum.



Hop on and Hop off Trolley included after tour.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday: The USS Stoddard Memorial Service**



The *USS Stoddard* Memorial Service is at the **Veterans Memorial Wall** in downtown Jacksonville. The quarter-million dollar monument was dedicated in November, 1995 and serves as a tribute to more than 1,500 Jacksonville area American war heroes. The outdoor memorial was promoted as "the largest of its kind" and "the only wall that honors veterans from all six [service] branches" (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine). The 65 foot-long black granite monument contains the names of servicemen and women from World War I through Operation Desert Storm and the current war on terrorism. In front of the wall stands a torch with an eternal flame.

## Spotlight on a Former USS Stoddard Officer—William (Bill) Coleman



Bill was born in Wise County, Virginia. His father died while his mother was carrying him. She and Bill and his two brothers moved to Johnson City, TN for her to find work. Bill said, “She worked hard and taught us a great work ethic. I went through the school system and graduated from Langston H. S. in 1959. “I enjoyed school and was a pretty good student. I got scholarships to several mostly black schools including Knoxville College in Tennessee. Although ETSU had integrated the year before, I decided to attend Dillard University in New Orleans and graduated in 1964 with a bachelor’s degree in biology.”

Seeing himself as a naval officer was the furthest thing from his mind while he was growing up. Coleman said, “Since I was a kid, for some reason, I wanted to be an Air Force doctor. When I went to college I majored in biology to prepare me for pre-med courses. Unfortunately, I didn’t get grades good enough to go to med school but did earn a bachelor’s degree in biology from Dillard.”

About that time Bill met and married his wife, Joy, from Meridian, Miss. While looking for a job he decided to take a teaching position in her hometown. He determined that his future wasn’t going to be great in secondary education. I wanted to get into the Air Force and be a pilot, but I couldn’t fly because I wore glasses. That changed when Vietnam was ramping up. They needed every pilot

they could get and let me know I could attend their commissioning schools but were currently filled up and couldn’t take me for another nine months. I didn’t want to stay in that school system another nine months and decided to join the Navy through the officer candidate program and was commissioned an Ensign in 1965. Bill Coleman’s career path had been determined.

Bill Coleman dedicated his life in service to his country and family. During his service he served as Executive Officer (second in command) of three vessels and was Commanding Officer of four different U.S. Navy warships. Bill joined the Navy through the officer candidate program and was commissioned an Ensign in 1965. Bill Coleman’s career path had been determined. That career decision spanned over 27 years of service. During that time he logged nearly 20 years at sea in eight different ships. His sea tours included duty aboard the smallest, a 780-ton minesweeper, to the largest 64,000 ton battleship Wisconsin as Executive Officer. Captain Coleman completed four deployments to the Vietnam area of operations. Upon taking command of the Minesweeper USS Advance in August 1970, while still a Lieutenant, he became the most junior African-American ever to command a Navy warship.

Once during his early service he had been ordered initially to a guided missile destroyer, which was a new ship of the day, but his orders were changed to a smaller and older destroyer escort. Bill said it was the best thing that ever happened to him. He said he had the greatest commanding officer in his entire career. In my young career he empowered me and taught me things that served me all the rest of my time in the Navy. I’ll never forget him,”

Bill Coleman’s combat experience was aboard a number of different vessels. “I was on a destroyer in Vietnam. We did a lot of rescue work of downed pilots who had to ditch or parachute after being hit on a mission. Once attempting to rescue a downed pilot who had bailed out of his plane we took some rounds from a place called Tiger Island just off the coast of North Vietnam. It was notorious for ambushing ships. “On my second ship in Vietnam waters I had orders for some special training. When completed I was headed back to my ship, the USS Stoddard, by helicopter, and as the helicopter came over the horizon we saw my ship was actually shooting. As we flew in closer we saw a hole in the right rear quarter which had been hit the day before.” “The depressing thing about Vietnam for me was when we were offshore deployed as plane guards. Every aircraft carrier that served in Vietnam had plane guard ships. When they got ready to launch or recover there was always a rescue ship at the stern. To me, one of the saddest things was we could hear the pilots and carrier talk and they’d take off at noon with 12 planes. And 45 minutes to an hour later they would come back and there are only 10 planes. We knew two had been hit and were missing or lost. Yeah, that was kind of hard for me to deal with. You know, we’re out here and I’m drinking a Coca Cola, under this tropical sun and these guys are going out paying the price.”

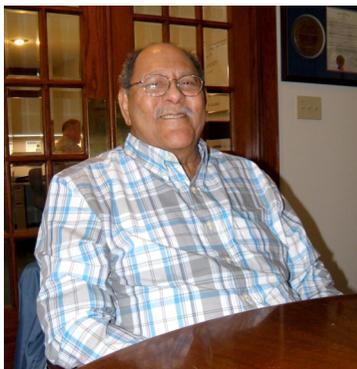


Cpt. Coleman served as the Executive Officer USS Wisconsin, which served in three American wars, holds the distinction of being the last battleship in history to fire shots in anger.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued From Page 3)

Capt. Coleman's leadership ability and academics did not go unnoticed as he was assigned to the U.S Naval Academy as an instructor for three years. "I taught leadership at the Naval Academy and ended up being the director of the course.



When Capt. William A. Coleman retired, he was one of 29 African-American naval captains in the fleet in 1992. He also holds a Master of Science degree in Personnel Management from the George Washington University and a master's in International Relations from Salve Regina University and in 1994, was selected as head of Human Relations at ETSU, retiring from that position in 2005.

His dedication to his community includes having served on numerous boards, both civic and professional. A few are: Appalachian Christian Village Board of Trustees; ETSU Quillen College of Medicine Admissions Committee; Board of Directors Johnson City Power Board; The Pro-To Club Inc. and, for more than 11 years, Foreman of the Washington County Grand Jury. He is still active on numerous current affiliations including: St. Mary's Catholic Church; Unity Committee of Johnson City, TN (UMOJA); Family Promise; and the Langston High School Interest Group which will celebrate on Nov. 17th the ribbon cutting for the new Langston Education and Arts Development facility.



*carlene rauh,*  
*secretary...*

**Covid Concerns:** We have masks and hand sanitizer available for you. We are requesting attendees to be vaccinated for the safety of all. Because we cannot guarantee we will not encounter someone with the virus during our reunion, we feel it best to be vaccinated and boosted.

**Hospitality Room:** We are anticipating that some will prefer to stay close to the hotel. We are planning to have dominos, cards, left-right-center, and other actives for you to enjoy while you visit and catch up.

**Painting Party:** For anyone interest in a "Wine and Paint Party" we can schedule for Saturday afternoon at the hotel. However we will need at least 20 people to participate. The cost is \$40 each with supplies included. If there are not enough, your fee will be refunded. We must have at least 20 signed up to arrange it.

**Raffle:** Please remember items for the banquet raffle. We encourage something from your home state keeping in mind that some of our attendees will be flying.

**Memorial Service:** This year we will have over 90 shipmates to honor at our memorial. Therefore we will have some shipmates read the members names to be honored. We will refrain from ringing the bell individually and after all names have been read, we will ring them off with eight bells, signifying the end of their watch. We are limited by a time constraint at the memorial.

**Airport Transportation:** The hotel does not have a shuttle to and from the airport. We are checking on the best and most reasonable transportation from the airport to the hotel and back.

**Reminder:**

- Return Reunion Registration by August 12th
- Make Hotel reservations by August 12th
- Raffle Gift
- Mayport Navy Base Tour information form (send with reunion registration)
- Bring Identification

## **We Salute You Cold War Veterans!**

**Sep. 2, 1945—Dec. 26, 1991**

Did you serve in the cold war? Have you received your certificate recognizing that service?



### CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Your Name

*In recognition of your service during the period of the Cold War (2 September 1945 - 26 December 1991) in promoting peace and stability for this Nation, the people of this Nation are forever grateful*

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

According to the U. S. Army Human Resources Command, in section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998, National Defense Authorization Act the secretary of defense was directed to make a Cold War Recognition Certificate (CWRC) to be available to all members of the armed forces who faithfully and honorably served in the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as 2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991. The text of that section reads:

***“The Secretary of Defense shall prepare a certificate recognizing the Cold War service of qualifying members of the Armed Forces and civilian Personnel of the Department of Defense and other Government agencies contributing to national security , as determined by the Secretary, and shall provide the certificate to such members and civilian personnel upon request.”***

Applications are available on the Internet at:

(No spaces)

<https://themilitarywallet.com/cold-war-recognition-certificate/>

The above link will give more info with a link to application. If you have trouble just Google:

Cold War Recognition Form and several links will come up.

## **A Interesting Story on Gasoline**

It was puzzling as to why the German Luftwaffe kept on using 87 Octane Aviation Gasoline while the Americans and British used 100 Octane Gasoline in their Spitfire Fighters and Americans used 130 Octane in our P-51 and other fighters.

This is a declassified article by the British Society of Chemists. It seems that the German and British aircraft both used 87 octane gasoline in the first two years of the war. While that was fairly satisfactory in the German Daimler-Benz V-12 engine, It was marginal in the British Rolls-Royce Merlin XX engine in British aircraft. It fouled the spark plugs, caused valves to stick, And made frequent engine repair problems.

Then came lend-lease and American aircraft began to enter British service in great numbers. If British engines hated 87 octane gasoline, American, General Motors Built, Allison 1710 engines loathed and despised it.

Along came an American named Tim Palucka, a chemist for Sun Oil in their South East Texas Refinery. He took a French formula for enhancing the octane of Gasoline, invented the "Cracking Tower" and produced 100 octane aviation gasoline. This discovery led to great joy among our English cousins and great distress among the Germans.

A Spitfire fueled with 100 octane gasoline was 34 miles per hour faster at 10,000 feet. The need to replace engines went from every 500 hours of operation to every 1,000 hours. Which reduced the cost of British aircraft by 300 Pounds Sterling. Even more, when used in 4 engine bombers. The Germans couldn't believe it when Spitfires that couldn't catch them a year ago started shooting their ME-109 E and G models right out of the sky. Of course, the matter had to be kept secret. If the Germans found out that it was a French Invention, they'd simply copy the original French patents. The American Allison engines improved remarkably with 100 octane gasoline, but did much better when 130 octane gasoline came along in 1944. The 130 octane also improved the Radial Engine Bombers we produced. The Germans and Japanese never snapped to the fact that we had re-invented gasoline. Neither did our "Friends" the Russians. 100,000 Americans died in the skies over Europe. Lord only knows what that number would have been without "Super-Gasoline". It all was invented just a few miles west of Beaumont, TX and we never knew a thing about it.

USS STODDARD DD566  
 WWII \* Korea \* Vietnam



**President: Bill Melyan**  
 email: keystonewillie@verizon.net

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

**Treasurer: Bill Melyan**  
 email: keystonewillie@verizon.net

**Storekeeper: Marlene Brant**  
 email: mbrant679@gmail.com

**Chaplain: Al Plapp**  
 email: aplapp@ims-1.com

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

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



**The Destroyer**

*A destroyer is a lovely ship, probably the nicest fighting ship of all.*

*Battleships are a little like steel cities or great factories of destruction.*

*Aircraft carriers are floating flying fields.*

*Even Cruisers are big pieces of machinery, but a destroyer is all boat.*

*In the beautiful lines of her, in her speed and roughness, in curious gallantry, she is completely a ship, in the old sense.*

*--John Steinbeck--*



*al plapp,*

*chaplain...*

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

**May They Rest In Peace**

<b>Bache, Richard J.</b>	QM3	51-52	7-20-2010
<b>Barnes, Harold E.</b>	LT	59-60	12-7-2009
<b>Bentley, William J.</b>	SN	52-54	2-28-2014
<b>Brehm, Wayne A.</b>	BT3	54-58	8-8-2020
<b>Gold, Robert A.</b>	LTJG	55-56	10-24-2021
<b>Goodnight, Billy Joe</b>	ET2	62-64	11-9-2021
<b>Haenze, Leroy R.</b>	ENS	58-59	9-12-2021
<b>Lenczewski, Leo L.</b>	SH1	54-55	4/29/2015
<b>Nieboer, John H.</b>	GM3	51-55	11-1-2020
<b>Sessler, Edward C.</b>	SF1	68-68	2-7-2022
<b>Warnock, Jerry</b>	TM3	59-63	10-16-2020



*john rauh,*

*email/database*

*coordinator....*

If you want to know if your dues are paid. Check the date above your name on the USS Stoddard Newsletter address label.

**2022**

Your Name  
 Main Street  
 Anywhere, USA

\*\*\*\*\*

I'm still getting several emails returned because they were changed. Please let me know if you haven't received an email from me lately or have changed your email in the last year. I will check to make certain I have your current email.

*John*

SK3 1967-1968

**NOTICE**

The USS Orleck, DD886, a Gearing Class destroyer, and one of the most decorated ships in U.S. Navy history, made its way to Downtown Jacksonville on Saturday March 26th. The ship will become the centerpiece for the Jacksonville Naval Museum which will possibly be open in June. More to follow in later Stoddard newsletters.



**USS Stoddard DD-566**  
**32nd Reunion-Jacksonville, Florida**  
**September 14th – September 18th, 2022**



Double Tree by Hilton, Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel, 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Make your hotel reservations directly with the Double Tree Riverfront, 800-222-8733 and ask for the

**USS Stoddard Group Rate, Room rates:** \$ 119.00 Standard Room; \$139.00 Riverfront Room;

and \$159.00 for a Riverfront Suite, plus (all applicable taxes) with full hot breakfast.

Room rate honored 3 days before and after reunion.

**Registration Due By August 12<sup>th</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lady's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Stoddard Service Years: \_\_\_\_\_ Navy Rate or Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Attending with me: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

		<u>Price</u>	<u># of Guests</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Wednesday 9/14</u>	Registration Fee - <b>Fee for each person registered</b> Registration fees help pay misc. costs of Reunion	\$ 20	X _____	= \$ _____
<u>Wed. Evening</u>	Welcome Reception Hospitality Room Hor d'oeuvres/Drinks *****			
<u>Thursday 9/15</u>	Mayport Navy Base Tour & Buffet Luncheon <b>All attendees over the age of 17 must provide info on enclosed form for entry to base tour</b>	\$ 35	X _____	= \$ _____
<u>Thursday Eve</u>	Dinner on Your Own *****			
<u>Friday 9/16</u>	Trip & Tour of Old St. Augustine Includes Admission to Old Store & Jail Museums Hop On and Hop Off Trolley included after Tour	\$75	X _____	= \$ _____
<u>Friday Noon</u>	Lunch on your own			
<u>Friday Evening</u>	Land & Sea Dinner Buffet at Hotel *****	\$60	X _____	= \$ _____
<u>Saturday 9/17</u>	9:30 AM-USS Stoddard Memorial Service			
<u>Saturday Noon</u>	Lunch on your own			
<u>Sat. 1 PM – 3 PM</u>	Wine & Paint w/Instructor Create your own Masterpiece <b>(Must Have 20 attendees for wine &amp; paint or cost will be refunded)</b>	\$40	X _____	= \$ _____
Saturday	USS Stoddard Business Meeting			
<u>Saturday Evening</u>	6:00 PM Banquet & Raffle <b>Please put attendee name after entrée selection</b>			
<i>Entrees include:</i>	Herb Crusted Grouper _____	\$52	X _____	= \$ _____
<i>Garlic Mashed Potatoes</i>	Herb Crusted Grouper _____	\$52	X _____	= \$ _____
<i>Sauteed Vegetables</i>	Grilled Chicken Bryan _____	\$45	X _____	= \$ _____
<i>Salad</i>	Grilled Chicken Bryan _____	\$45	X _____	= \$ _____
<i>Warm Rolls/Butter</i>				
<i>Coffee or Tea</i>	Filet Mignon _____	\$60	X _____	= \$ _____
	Filet Mignon _____	\$60	X _____	= \$ _____

**Make checks payable to: USS Stoddard Alumni Association** **GRAND TOTAL \$**

Tips and taxes are included for all events.

**Mail to:** USS Stoddard Alumni Association  
 27385 Tierra Del Fuego Circle  
 Punta Gorda, FL 33983

Bill Cell: 941 626-1593  
 Ulla Cell: 732 664-0581  
**Email: kestonewillie@verizon.net**



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

**USS STODDARD SHIP'S STORE-ORDER FORM**

**TO:** Marlene Brant  
 508 S. Maish Road  
 Frankfort, IN 46041

Phone: 765-659-3605 Email: [mbrant679@gmail.com](mailto:mbrant679@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		
Large 12" Steammin Demon Patch		\$67		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$</b>		<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>(Below Items Shipping Included)</b>		<b>Shipping</b>		
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 Steammin Demon Patch		\$10		
Stoddard Alumni Pin		\$5		
<b>*TOTAL ORDER \$</b>				

**SORRY NO CREDIT CARDS**

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

**Ship to:** NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_