

Website:

www.ussstoddard.org

Date:

April 2023



USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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

**33rd Stoddard Alumni Reunion
Saint Louis, Missouri
September 28th–October 1st, 2023**



Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel
900 Westport Plaza
St. Louis, Missouri 63146

**USS Stoddard Rate \$144
Plus Taxes**

Rate 3 Days Prior or After
Subject to Hotel Availability

Call: 888-627-7064

Ask for:

**USS Stoddard Group Rate
Sheraton Westport Hotel**

Cutoff for Rooms 9/7/2023

Includes:

- Buffet Breakfast For 2
- Free Wi-Fi
- Free Parking,
- Free Airport Shuttle



Hosts:

**John & Carlene
Rauh**

Email: CJRAUH@LDD.NET





*Welcome to
St. Louis*

Carlene and I wish to welcome you to St. Louis! Living about 90 miles south of St. Louis, we have often enjoyed the city and can't wait to share it with you. If you have a chance to spend more time here please do. Our home port for the reunion will be the Westport Plaza Sheraton Hotel. The Westport Area has many shops, bars, and restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

We have tried to do our best to keep the costs of the tours reasonable and still give you a great experience. Costs in the last few years have really increased. The cost of the tours include transportation, tour guide, tips for both guide and driver, admission to Arch, AB Brewery, St. Louis Aquarium and one includes a lunch on *The Hill* (famous Italian neighborhood).

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Don't forget plans are to see the famous Clydesdales and you don't want to miss that.

DISCOVER ST. LOUIS TOURS

Friday -Depart hotel with you Professional Discover St. Louis guide. Enjoy a guided tour of the downtown area and the *St Louis Riverfront*. Visit the iconic *Gateway Arch* and enjoy the movie, “*Monument to a Dream.*” Also enjoy the newly remodeled, state-of-the-art *Arch Museum*, which traces the story of the Native Americans, explorers, pioneers, and rebels who made America possible. Featuring six themed exhibit areas, this innovative and interactive museum celebrates America’s pioneering spirit.

Enjoy an included lunch at *Favazza’s Restaurant* located in the famed Italian neighborhood known to locals as “*The Hill.*” Lunch will include Sicilian chicken with a side of pasta, Italian salad, Italian bread and butter, coffee, tea or water, and cannoli for dessert.

This afternoon, enjoy a Day Fresh tour at the AB Brewery, which highlights the journey of a beer from seed to sip. Guests will start the tour with a visit to the *Clydesdale paddock and stables*, then go to the *Beechwood Aging Cellar*, the historic *Brewhouse*, and the *BEVO packaging facility*. All guests 21 and over will get multiple samples on tour and will take home a day-fresh bottle of beer. (Please note this is an extensive walking tour that lasts about 1-1.5 hours.

(There are tables at Brewery Center if you don’t want to do all the walking. Our tour will visit the famous Clydesdales first.)



Saturday - Depart the hotel with your professional Discover St. Louis guide. Enjoy a drive through *Forest Park*, home to the *1904 World’s Fair* and many of St. Louis finest attractions and museums.

Visit *Soldiers Memorial*, a state-of-the-art museum facility in downtown St. Louis that honors military service, veterans, and their families. You will enjoy a self-guided tour. (Currently working to offer a short *USS Stoddard Memorial Service* onsite at *Soldiers Memorial* – not yet confirmed.)

Next stop is historic *Union Station* where you will enjoy lunch on your own at one of the many dining options – *Station Grill*; *Landry’s*; *Train Shed*; *1904 Café* or the *Soda Fountain*.

After lunch, visit St. Louis’ newest attraction, the *St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station*. Interact with 13,000+ sea animals as you explore the waters of a freshwater river to the shallow waters of a salt marsh all the way into the deep, dark abyss of the open ocean.



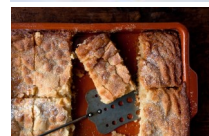
Saturday Evening -“Taste of St. Louis Buffet” all the great foods that St. Louis is noted for including: *Toasted Ravioli*, *Pork Steaks*, *Fitz’s Root Beer*, *Goopy Butter Cake* and *Ted Drew’s Ice Cream*.



Pork steaks are truly a St. Louis creation. **A local grocery chain called Schnuck's started cutting the steaks and promoting them as an inexpensive cut of meat in the late 1950s.** Soon every store in the region followed suit.



Toasted ravioli, colloquially known as *T-Ravs*, is breaded deep-fried ravioli, usually served as an appetizer. **It was created and popularized in St. Louis, Missouri at two restaurants, Mama Campisi's and Charlie Gitto's.**



Legend has it that the St. Louis gooey butter cake originated by accident in the 1930s, when a baker mixed up the proportion of butter in one of his coffee cakes. Rather than throw it out, he sold it by the square, and the sugary, sticky confection was a hit.

Sunday Afternoon-*USS Stoddard Alumni Annual Meeting*

Sunday Evening -*USS Stoddard Banquet & Raffle at the Sheraton Westport Hotel*
Please remember to bring your items for raffle. (Preferably from your home state)

One Against Four:

This U.S. World War II Destroyer Took On a Whole Armada of Japanese Battleships Brave or foolish?

by [Sebastien Roblin](#)

Here's What You Need to Remember:

If naval warfare were likened to chess, World War II-era destroyers were surely pawns: numerous, expandable and versatile frontline fighters that excelled at protecting more valuable ships from encroaching enemies.

Thus did Lt. Cmdr. Robert W. Copeland, captain of the destroyer-escort *Samuel B. Roberts* address his crew over the ship's public address system on October 25, 1944 as he prepared to turn his ship around and charge straight towards a Japanese armada consisting of eleven destroyers, eight cruisers, and four battleships. Copeland wasn't exaggerating. Amongst the foes facing *Roberts* and other ships in Task Force 74.4.3 ("Taffy 3") was the *Yamato*, the largest battleship ever built, with three triple 18.1" gun turrets. At 65,000 tons, the battleship alone out-grossed all six escort carriers, three destroyers and four destroyer-escorts in Taffy 3. The small ships in Taskforce 74.4 were only supposed to cover a nearby invasion fleet in Leyte Gulf against sporadic air and submarine attacks. However, the day before Admiral 'Bull' Halsey had redeployed the fast battleships also covering the beachhead to assist in a night-ambush of an approaching Japanese fleet at the Suriago Strait. He assumed that a separate Japanese fleet under Admiral Takeo Kurita approaching from the west had been driven off by heavy air attacks. This assumption proved fatally inaccurate. Kurita's powerful ships began potting shells at the Taffy 3's escort carriers at 7 AM. To buy time for the slow carriers as they fled eastwards, Rear Admiral Clifton Sprague had the escorting destroyers and destroyer-escorts (anti-submarine frigates) lay down a dense smokescreen using generators in their smokestacks.

If naval warfare were likened to chess, World War II-era destroyers were surely pawns: numerous, expandable and versatile frontline fighters that excelled at protecting more valuable ships from encroaching enemies. The 114-meter-long *Fletcher*-class destroyers *Heermann*, *Hoel* and *Johnston* grossed only 2,500 tons fully loaded and were dubbed "tin cans" due to their lack of armor. Each was armed with ten torpedo tubes and five turreted 5" 38-caliber dual-purpose with a maximum range of ten miles that could fire rapidly and accurately thanks to their Mark 37 radar-assisted fire control systems. However, they had little chance of penetrating the thick armor belts on Japanese cruisers and battleships. The small 1,700-ton John C. Butler-class destroyer escorts (anti-submarine frigates) had just two 5" guns and three torpedo tubes for anti-ship armaments. However, just a few hits below the water line from 825-pound warheads of Mark 15 torpedoes could threaten even a battleship. But these only had an effective range of three to five miles—and the further away they were launched, the more time the target had to evade them. The destroyer *Johnston* was first to engage the Japanese fleet, zig-zagging wildly to evade incoming shells as she lay a 1.5-mile long curtain of smoke. Her captain Commander Ernest Evans then decided to charge Kurita's fleet head-on. Over the next five minutes, the *Johnston* unleashed 500 shells into the heavy cruiser *Kumano* as she closed to unleash a full spread of ten torpedoes. Narrowly missing the battleship *Kongo*, one blasted the bow clean off the *Kumano*, taking her out of the fight. Abruptly, the *Yamato* slammed six 18.1" and 6" armor-piercing shells into *Johnston*'s bridge. Fortunately, these penetrated straight through the unarmored vessel rather than detonating, but still mangled Evan's left hand, left the search radar tattered in fragments on the deck, and disabled power to three of his five gun turrets. Evans managed to steer into a nearby squall for cover to effectuate repairs. The destroyer *Hoel* was even less fortunate, her bridge destroyed by a 6.1" salvo early on, wounding her captain and knocking out her radio. By 7:15, Taffy 3 too had found respite in a nearby sea squall. But Sprague knew the further east he sailed, the farther he was from hoped-for reinforcements. He decided he had to turn south—but needed a distraction to prevent the faster Japanese ships from simply heading off his carriers. So around 7:40 AM he instructed the escorts to close for a torpedo run—a seemingly suicidal act that was immortalized as *The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors* in a book by James Hornfischer.



(Continues on Page 4)

“One Against Four” Continued From Page 3)

This occasioned Copeland's speech on the destroyer-escort *Samuel Roberts*, which pressed forward at flank speed, her guns silent to avoid being spotted. Despite taking a shell to the mast for her trouble, she closed within two miles of the heavy cruiser *Chokai* and unleashed her three torpedoes—one of which blasted away the *Chokai*'s stern. The already wounded *Hoel* managed to release half her torpedoes at maximum range but was then shot to pieces, with her guns knocked out and engine damaged. Despite limping at half speed, her injured captain Leon Kintberger circled around to launch a second salvo. Combined with torpedoes fired by the *Heermann*, these forced the *Yamato* to disengage with evasive maneuvers, removing the deadliest enemy ship from the battle. Now surrounded by Japanese ships, the *Hoel* sustained forty hits from various naval guns, flooding her engine room and setting fire to her ammunition stores. Still, the battered destroyer continued exchanging fire with Japanese cruisers until she capsized at 8:55—leaving behind only eighty-six surviving crew out of the 339-man crew. Having expended his deadliest weapons, *Roberts* rejoined the carriers only to bump into the cruiser *Chikuma* laying broadsides into the vulnerable flat-tops. The escort closed for a gun duel with the *Tone*-class cruiser grossing nine times its, pummeling it with rapid-fire anti-aircraft guns and over 600 five-inch shells in thirty-five minutes. Combined with fire from the roving *Heermann*—the attack set *Chokai*'s bridge on fire. Soon, several cruisers and all four battleships were lobbing 8", 14" and 18" shells at the *Roberts* as she weaved evasively at twenty-eight knots. The little vessel's outrageous fortune could not last. An 8" shells damaged one of her boilers, reducing speed by 60 percent, and one of her's overheated and exploded. Finally, the *Kongo* tore a twelve-meter-long hole in the *Robert's* engine room with three 14" shells. At 9:35 Copeland finally gave the order to abandon ship. 120 of her over 200 crew managed to escape. The *Heermann* too was engaged by both the *Chikuma* and *Tone*, sustaining 8" shell impacts that destroyed her wheelhouse. She managed to withdraw behind the cover of a smoke screen. The hobbled and now torpedo-less *Johnston* too joined the charge. Closing within four miles of *Kongo*, she struck the battleship fifteen times before ducking back into the smoke to dodge return fire. She then "crossed the t" of a squadron of seven Japanese destroyers—pitting her full five-gun battery against only the frontal guns of the Japanese vessels. Raked by 5" shells, the entire squadron peeled away to the west and opted to launch long-range torpedo attacks. The battle by then had become a confused smoke-filled melee, with numerous near-collisions between the American escorts. Finally, around 9 AM *Kongo* got the drop on the *Johnston* again, crippling her engines with her 14" guns. Unable to maintain the high speeds necessary to dodge shellfire, Japanese guns redirected their fire at her instead of the elusive carriers. *Johnston* was completely dead in the water by 9:40 AM—by which time the Kurita had ordered the withdrawal of the Japanese fleet, believing Taffy 3's destroyers and escort carriers to be cruisers and fleet carriers. Evans finally ordered to abandon ship at 9:45. The Japanese destroyer *Yukikaze* fired a final killing blow, her captain reportedly saluting the sinking ship as he steamed by. 270 of the 330-man crew made it into the water—but only half were recovered from the water two days later. Evans was not among them. Of the destroyer, only the heavily-damaged *Heermann* survived. Besides the doomed *Roberts*, the destroyer escorts *Dennis*, *John C. Butler* and *Raymond* survived charge, having released all their torpedoes and expended their 5' shells.

Of over 1,500 Americans that died in the Battle of Samar, most came from the escorts. In a seemingly hopeless fight, the tin can sailors had willingly tackled far more powerful warships—damaging, delaying and distracting them to help save vulnerable aircraft carriers with over nine hundred crew each. The free-wheeling gallantry of their bold act of sacrifice remains one of the most extraordinary incidents in naval history.

Sébastien Roblin holds a master's degree in conflict resolution from Georgetown University and served as a university instructor for the Peace Corps in China. He has also worked in education, editing, and refugee resettlement in France and the United States.

He currently writes on security and military history for War Is Boring.



carlene rauh,
secretary...

There is no way that we can show you all the great places in St. Louis in two days, so here are some places to go on your extra days in St. Louis.

Forest Park itself at around 1,300 acres is bigger than Central Park in New York and attracts more than 12 million visitors a year. *Forest Park* is home to the region's major cultural institutions – the **St. Louis Zoo** (rated as one of the best in the USA), **Art Museum, Missouri History Museum, Science Center, Muny Opera, Boathouse, Steinberg Skating Rink, and Dwight Davis Tennis Center.**

The **Old Court House** downtown was the site of the first two trials of the pivotal Dred Scott case in 1847 and 1850. It was also where Virginia Minor's case for a woman's right to vote came to trial in the 1870s. You may tour this historic structure, and visit the restored courtrooms to learn more about our 19th century judicial system.

The **Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France**, formerly the **Cathedral of Saint Louis**, and colloquially the **Old Cathedral**, was the first cathedral west of the Mississippi River and until 1845 the only parish church in the city of St. Louis, Missouri. It is one of two Catholic basilicas in St. Louis, and it is named for King Louis IX of France, also the name-sake for the city of St. Louis.

Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel

900 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146

Reservations: 888-627-7064 Ask operator for “USS Stoddard Group Rate” of \$144 plus tax applies three days before and following reunion.

Hotel Shuttle: Shuttles start at 6:00 AM until 11:00 PM and leave every half hour. The vans are white and have a scrolling lighted sign that says servicing Sheraton and Doubletree Westport Hotels. The drivers will help with luggage - let the driver know you are at the Westport Sheraton. It's only a 10 minute drive.

The Shuttle picks up at both terminals on the baggage claim level.

Exit 18 in Terminal 1

Exit 15 in Terminal 2 (Southwest Airlines)

Southwest Airlines has a hub in St. Louis. They are likely to have more flights available and they have several non stops to various cities.

Lambert International Airport is served by:
Air Canada - Southern Airways Express
Alaska Airlines - American Airlines - Cape Air
Delta Airlines - Frontier Airlines - Lufthansa
Southwest Airlines - Spirit Airlines - United Airlines.

“Meet me in St. Louis,”

Carlene



PACT ACT

The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

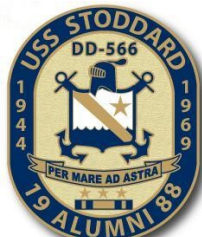
The PACT Act will bring these changes:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and **Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras**
- Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care
- Helps us improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures

To get a VA disability rating, your disability must connect to your military service. For many health conditions, you need to prove that your service caused your condition. But for some conditions, we automatically assume (or “presume”) that your service caused your condition. We call these **“presumptive conditions.”** We consider a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation. If you have a presumptive condition, you **don't need to prove** that your service caused the condition. You only need to meet the service requirements for the presumption.

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

USS STODDARD DD566
 WWII * Korea * Vietnam



John laible,
 chaplain...

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Famous Navy Quote

Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!"

Lieutenant Howell Maurice Forgy, USN, serving on the heavy cruiser USS *New Orleans* (CA-32) during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, is credited with coining the phrase. Lieutenant Forgy saw the men of an ammunition party tiring as they labored to bring shells to the anti-aircraft guns. Barred by his non-combatant status from actively participating in keeping the guns firing, Lieutenant Forgy decided that he could add his moral support to the ammunition bearers through words of encouragement, and so patted the men on the back and said, "Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!"

John

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john rauh,
 database/ email coordinator...

Several emails I sent were returned because your **email address had 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.

Some emails bounce back because they are blocked. When I receive **blocked emails** I take them out of the Stoddard database and you will no longer receive the Stoddard Alumni emails. You will need to **allow** my email address cjrauh@LDD.net in your security to receive Stoddard emails.

John

SK3 1967-1968

May They Rest In Peace

Benedict, Carl	TMSN	61-62	10-5-2010
Caro, Frank A.	LT	54-57	1-17-2015
Clay, Joseph E.	IC3	56-58	3-15-2020
Hastings, Gale L.	RD1	63-64	4-21-2019
Hennings, Raymond	F1	45-46	3-27-2015
Hirsch, Charles	STG2	64-66	12-21-2007
Hockaday, Emory B.	FN	60-61	1-30-2012
Kellar, Charles E.	GMG3	60-62	10-14-2022
Lawrence, Archie	LT	68-68	8-15-2016
Legg, Roger J.	QM3	56-58	4-21-2019
Schiffer, Victor	BM2	51-54	12-5-2018
Teeple, Edward J.	SCPO	45-45	2-1-2022
Mattson, LaVerne C.	BT2	58-62	10-3-2006
McKee, Bernard	QM2/QMC	59-61	1-8-2023
Moffa, Frank N.	BT2	59-63	5-23-2021
Moorehouse, Donald R.	EM2	59-63	12-10-2022
Sappington, Paul P.	WT2	45-45	3-5-2009
Willey, David M.	LTJG	53-55	3-10-2023

YEAH...WE THOUGHT WE HAD SEEN A THING OR TWO



UNTIL WE SAW A BUNCH OF SAILORS IN OLONGAPO



**USS Stoddard DD-566
33rd Reunion-St. Louis, Missouri
September 28th -October 1st, 2023**

Make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel and ask for the Sheraton Westport Plaza Hotel, St. Louis, MO
USS Stoddard Group Rate, Room rates: \$ 144.00 Standard Room; plus (taxes) with full hot breakfast.
 Phone Number **888-627-7064** or online <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1671213405865&key=GRP>
 Room rate honored 3 days before and after reunion. **Registration Due By September 7th, 2023**

Name: _____ Lady's Name: _____
 Stoddard Service Years: _____ Navy Rate or Rank _____
 Guest Attending with me: _____
 Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email _____

		<u>Price</u>	<u># of Guests</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Thursday 9/28</u>	Registration Fee – per person (Guests attending banquet only -No Fee) <u>Registration Fees help pay Misc. Costs of Reunion</u>	\$ 20	X _____	= \$ _____

<u>Friday 9/29</u>	Tour of St. Louis Downtown Area and Riverfront St. Louis Arch, Museum and movie “Monument to a Dream.” Lunch at Favazza’s Restaurant on the famous “Hill.” Visit the AB Brewery, Clydesdale Stables, Brewhouse, Beachwood Aging Cellar and BEVO Packing Facility.	\$125	X _____	= \$ _____
Friday Eve	Dinner on Your Own			

<u>Saturday 9/30</u>	Drive through Forest Park site of the 1904 World’s Fair. Soldiers Memorial Museum & Stoddard Memorial Service. Lunch on your own at Union Station w/many dining options and entrance to the Aquarium at Union Station.	\$100	X _____	= \$ _____
Saturday Evening	Taste of St. Louis Buffet at Hotel	\$ 52	X _____	= \$ _____

<u>Sunday 10/1</u>	Lunch on Your Own USS Stoddard Business Meeting			
Evening	6:00 PM Cocktails, Banquet, & Raffle			

Please put attendee name after entrée selection

<i>Entrees include:</i>	<i>Chicken Marsala</i> _____	\$52	X _____	= \$ _____
	<i>Chicken Marsala</i> _____	\$52	X _____	= \$ _____
	<i>Salmon w/ Chardonnay Sauce</i> _____	\$52	X _____	= \$ _____
	<i>Salmon w/ Chardonnay Sauce</i> _____	\$52	X _____	= \$ _____

Make checks payable to: USS Stoddard Alumni Association

GRAND TOTAL \$

Tips and taxes are <i>included</i> for all events.

Mail to: USS Stoddard Alumni
 4337 S. Highway 51
 Perryville, MO 63775

John Cell: 573 517-1996
 Carlene Cell: 573 517-2463
Email: cjrauh@LDD.net



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	XXXXL	\$30		
Golf Shirt - white	L	\$28		
Golf Shirt - white	XL	\$29		
Golf Shirt - white	XXL	\$30		
Golf Shirt - white	XXXXL	\$30		
Sweatshirt - navy	L	\$27		
Sweatshirt - navy	XL	\$28		
Sweatshirt - navy	XXL	\$29		
Sweatshirt - navy	XXXXL	\$29		
Sweatshirt - cream	L	\$27		
Sweatshirt - cream	XL	\$28		
Sweatshirt - cream	XXL	\$29		
Sweatshirt - cream	XXXXL	\$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 _____