

**Website:**

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

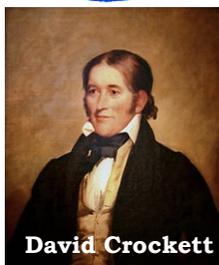
**Date:**

**July 15, 2011**

# USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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

**23rd Reunion - San Antonio  
September 28th- October 1st- 2011**



**David Crockett**

Born August 17, 1786  
Greene County Tennessee  
(then in State of Franklin)  
Member of US House  
Tennessee 9th District  
1827-1831  
Tennessee 12th District  
1833-1835  
Political Party  
Anti-Jacksonian  
Spouses  
Polly Finley(1806-1815) died  
Elizabeth Patton(1815-1836)  
Occupations  
Pioneer, Soldier, Trapper,  
Explorer, State  
Assemblyman, Congressman  
Died March 6, 1836 Age 49  
Alamo Mission,  
San Antonio,  
Republic of Texas



**Hosts:**

**John & Carlene**

**Rauh**

We are looking forward to seeing all of you in September. The hotel is located within walking distance of most Riverwalk attractions. If you wish to take local transportation – it is available at the hotel. The trolley and the river barge stop at the hotel.

We have a great hospitality room overlooking the river. The hotel has just completed several updates – all rooms have new furniture and lighting. The El Tropicano Hotel has an interesting history, which we included in this newsletter.

There is a new reservation program on line which will make it easier for your to make your reservations: [www.eltropicanohotel.com](http://www.eltropicanohotel.com) If you prefer, you may call 877.214.9768 for reservations. The hotel will honor the special rate, which includes breakfast, until August 28<sup>th</sup>.

All of the scheduled tours are handicap accessible. If you have any questions regarding any of our planned activities, just call us. We scheduled Thursday and Friday and decided to leave Saturday open, except for the association meeting and banquet.

There are so many things to see and do in San Antonio; we thought it might be fun for you to pick what you wish to do. The hospitality room will be open on Saturday, if you wish to hang out at the hotel and visit. Transportation is available from the hotel at a very nominal cost, and will take you most places in San Antonio.

The airport shuttle information and driving directions are included in this newsletter for your information. The average afternoon temperature in San Antonio will be 85 degrees.

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**Registration & Hotel Deadline is August 28th, 2011**

**List of Events for the USS Stoddard 23rd Alumni Reunion**

**Wednesday Registration:** Hospitality Room—beginning at 1 PM.

**Wednesday 7:30 P. M:** We begin the reunion with a narrated 40 minute evening cruise by water barge along the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk. The boat will pick us up at the front of the hotel.

**Thursday:** The bus will pick us up at the hotel.  
 We will attend the IMAX presentation of “Price of Freedom” at the Rivercenter Mall.  
 After the **IMAX**, we will walk across the street to **“THE ALAMO.”**  
Lunch will be on your own at the **Rivercenter Mall food court.**

Following lunch, it’s a short trip to **“MISSION SAN JOSE”-**

The final stop of the day will be the **Vietnam Memorial Park** for our annual USS Stoddard Memorial Service.

**Thursday evening: Texas B-Q Buffet** at the El Tropicano Hotel featuring smoked brisket, dry rub pork loin, and barbecue chicken. The Mariachi’s will provide entertainment.

**Friday:** The bus will pick us up at the hotel for our trip to historic Fredericksburg, TX to visit the **Museum of the Pacific War and the Nimitz Museum.** We will have a German lunch buffet at the **Fredericksburg Brewing Company**, located near the Museums.



Fredericksburg will be celebrating its German Heritage with **Oktoberfest**—”Oompah” at its best! There will be German music, food and drink, arts and crafts. Oktoberfest has become an annual tradition around the world. Oktoberfest a community event of family entertainment featuring two stages and two tents with continuous “oompah” music, art & crafts, Kinder Park, a German Bier Tent, and Oktoberfest Vineyard area.

**Saturday:** Free day to explore San Antonio. Public transportation is available at the hotel. The Trolley will pick you up across the street from the hotel and the water taxi will pick up in front of the hotel on the river. The cost of the Trolley is \$4.00 per day. The water taxi is \$5.00 one way, or \$10.00 for a day pass. Trolley and Water Taxi run from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

We will have visitor packets available at registration.

**Saturday 4:00 PM:** The annual alumni meeting will be held in the Hospitality Room.

**Saturday 6:30 PM:** Banquet and Raffle—We will begin the evening with cocktails (cash bar) and hors d’oeurs—dinner served at 7:30 PM.

**Remember to bring your items for the raffle.** As in the past, please remember that many in our group will be flying to San Antonio and will be limited as to what they can take home.



**San Antonio Airport Shuttle**



Shuttles depart from the SA Airport from 7:00 AM to 1:30 AM daily.  
 Shuttles depart from downtown hotels beginning at 4:00 AM every 15 minutes.

**Reservation required from hotel to airport.**

Shuttle tickets are sold at baggage claim area at Terminal #1 and Terminal #2.

Cost from SA Airport to El Tropicano is: One Way \$18 and \$32 round trip per person.

There is a coupon on line for \$2 off one way or round trip. [www.saairportshuttle.com](http://www.saairportshuttle.com)



## ***History of the El Tropicano Hotel –Your Reunion Home***

In August of 1962, El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel opened its doors. Having the distinction of being the first hotel built on the beautiful, historic San Antonio River, El Tropicano Motor Hotel – as it was known as then—was the local headquarters for visiting presidents and movie stars. Named the “Texas Whitehouse” when President Johnson was in office, El Tropicano served as a second home for the first family. The White House press corps held their briefings here daily, bringing illustrious guests to the property, including Dr. Christian Bernard, the first surgeon to perform a heart transplant on a human being.

Stars who have stayed at El Tropicano over the years include Rock Hudson, Danny Thomas, Tony Bennett, Jonathan Winters, Harry Morgan, George Hamilton, Dolly Parton, and the Rolling Stones. When the films Viva Max and The Americanization of Emily with Julie Andrews were being filmed on location in San Antonio, the cast stayed at El Tropicano.

From the open air lobby with its meandering stream that ran the length of the first floor to the colorful Fontana Club that featured two bright pink live flamingos as its mascots, El Tropicano became the happening place. Everybody wanted to be here dining and dancing and enjoying the irresistible atmosphere. Many San Antonio families have fond memories of their weddings, proms, quinceaneras, honeymoons, and other special events that have taken place at this grand hotel.

And now, El Tropicano is back, with its familiar name and trademark philodendron leaf. Our doors are open to all of San Antonio and visitors alike as you take the opportunity to see this iconic hotel—a tribute to the original but with a modern, tropical, Latin flair.

### **El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel**

**110 Lexington Avenue—San Antonio, TX 78201**

[www.eltropicanohotel.com](http://www.eltropicanohotel.com)

The El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel rate will be \$104.00 per day for single or double occupancy.

This rate will be honored two days before and two days after the reunion.

Cancellations must be 72 hours prior to arrival.

The hotel will hold the USS Stoddard room block at the \$104 rate until **August 28th, 2011**.

Reservations require a credit card guarantee or advance deposit.

#### **Complimentary Agreement:**

Free parking—Free WI-FI- Free Hospitality Room

Two full American breakfast per double occupancy—only 2 per day

One full American breakfast per single occupancy—only 1 per day

**RESERVATIONS: 1-877-214-9768 or website**

**Use Group Code: USG**



**Driving to Reunion? - Directions to the El Tropicano Hotel**

**From the Airport**

Take Airport Blvd.—Tamp ramp onto US Highway 281 South road then changes to I-37—At exit 141C turn right onto ramp towards McCullough/Nolan. Keep left onto Elm St. for .02 mile—Turn right, onto McCullough go to the second signal, which is Broadway Street and turn left. Proceed to Fourth Street (one block) turn right. Travel approximately 2 blocks on 4th St.. Hotel is on right hand side.

**From the North**

From I-35 North. As you approach downtown, take lower level of I-35 South. Exit on Lexington Avenue. Turn left and go 5 blocks. Hotel is on left at corner of Lexington Avenue and North St. Mary's St. (Exit 157A)

**From the South**

From I-35 South (Laredo). Take lower level of I-35 South and exit on Lexington Avenue (Exit 157A)

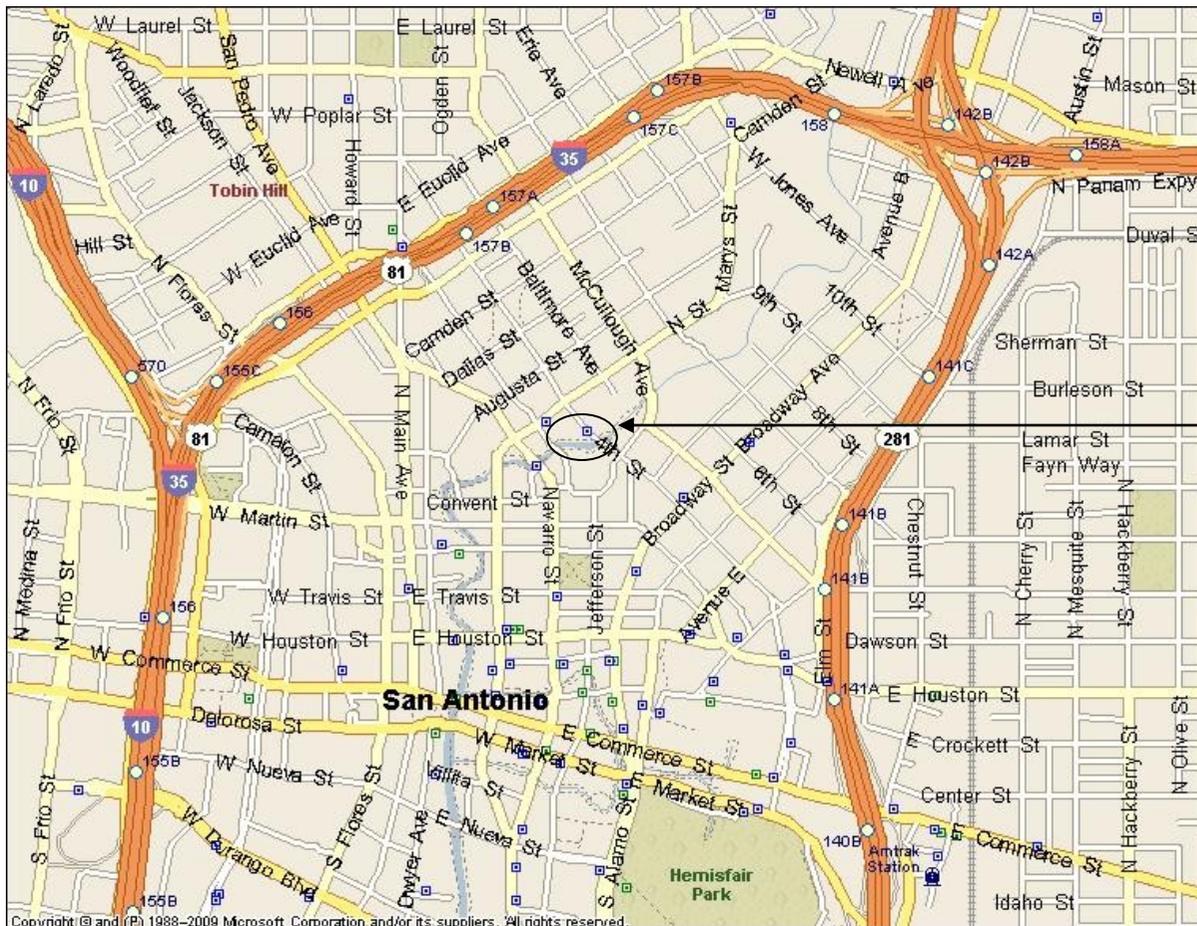
From I-37 South (Corpus Christi.) into downtown and take exit 141 the Commerce Street exit. Turn left onto Commerce and go down 2 blocks to Bowie Street. Turn right onto Bowie, stay in the right hand lane and once you pass the second light, the street name changes from Bowie to Fourth Street to Lexington Avenue. Hotel is on right hand side.

**From the East**

(From I-10 East) Follow I-10 West into San Antonio. Take exit 574—I-37 North/Hwy 281 North. Exit 141 Commerce Street and turn left on Commerce. Go down 2 blocks to Bowie Street. Turn right onto Bowie. Stay in the right hand lane and once you pass the second light, the street name changes from Bowie to Fourth Street to Lexington Avenue. Hotel is on the right hand side.

**From the West**

(From I-10 West) Take I-10 East to I-35 North and exit 157B at McCullough Ave. Take a right onto McCullough go 1 1/2 blocks turn right onto Camden St. 2 blocks turn left onto Lexington Ave. Go 4 blocks hotel is on the left.



**ALL FROM THE EL TROPICANO HOTEL**

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## WestPac Memory—1963

In November 1963 I was an Ensign serving as First Lieutenant aboard USS Stoddard (DD-566). We were deployed to WESTPAC, and one of my collateral duties was Welfare and Recreation Officer. We had detached from our task force several days earlier and were alongside a tender in Sasebo, Japan. Most of our crew was participating in their first deployment, and our commanding officer, CDR Charles L. Wall wanted to give them some activity to keep them away from the bars and brothels of Sasebo. The Captain and XO decided that a bus tour to Nagasaki would offer the participants “wholesome” activity, and several guided tours were available from the Sasebo Naval Base. As Welfare and Recreation Officer I was to lead the tour. Everyone remembers where they were in November 1963—the instant they heard of President Kennedy’s assassination—it just so happened that the day of the tour coincided with the Saturday following that fateful day in Dallas. At first we considered canceling the tour, but the Captain and XO said we needed to show the Japanese civilian tour company and the Japanese public that our government doesn’t depend on just one person and is strong even in the face of adversity. Although we were in an official period of mourning, the tour was to take place as scheduled.

The XO, CDR Charles A. Whitmore, called me to his stateroom Friday evening and told me that he was going to hold me personally responsible for the behavior of the men, and that I must assure that everyone remain with the tour and behave like gentlemen. I had a good relationship with my Petty Officers, and many of the attendees were in my Division, so I implored my senior Boatswain Mates to help me keep everyone “focused”. We left Sasebo about 0800 and traveled to Nagasaki and enjoyed the city sights all day, including Peace Park, and the home overlooking the harbor that Puccini occupied while writing the opera, Madam Butterfly.

Our tour guide named “Charlie” Honda was very knowledgeable, having lived in Nagasaki all his life. He had been employed at the shipyard that was the intended target of the atomic bomb attack. He had heeded the warning leaflets that were dropped on the city and had moved his family into the countryside before the bomb, and survived. On the tour bus, Charlie had a young Japanese woman with him—the depth of his knowledge of Nagasaki, his entertaining anecdotes: and his pretty assistant kept my charges enthralled the entire day. I couldn’t have asked for forty better-behaved sailors on liberty.

Unknown to me—just before returning to the Stoddard, our last tour stop was a saki winery outside of Nagasaki. We were taken through the plant and shown every step of the process of manufacturing and bottling saki..

Everything was fine until we left the factory to return to the bus. At the exit door an employee of the winery was handing each sailor a fifth of saki. Of course we couldn’t take it back aboard ship, and American sailors do not waste good wine, so they all proceeded to drink the rice wine in the 40 minutes it took us to get back to the Naval Base. By the time we arrived at the ship, my forty perfect gentlemen were for the most part quite inebriated. And when the bus drew up to the brow to my horror the XO was standing on the quarterdeck. With one chilling glance from CDR Whitmore I knew there was absolutely no way I would ever convince him what superb ambassadors his sailors had been that day. I explained what happened, knowing that I would have trouble believing it myself. I think some of my senior petty officers convinced him later that I was not a total screw-up, since I was later trusted to lead a recreational tours in other liberty ports during that deployment. For the remainder of my time aboard Stoddard, my relationship with the XO was stormy, and I have always thought that harkened back to the fateful day when I delivered a busload of sailors back to him that were unfit for duty for at least 12 hours.

### *CAPT James S. Day, Jr., USNR-Ret*



**USS Stoddard -1960's**



*from secretary,*

*carlene rauh ...*

The reunion registration is enclosed. Please note that the deadline for hotel reservations and reunion registration is August 28th.

We have included the driving directions and the airport shuttle information for your information. If you have any questions or need further assistance in making your travel plans, please let us know.

Also, we are working on a new alumni directory. Please let us know if you have any changes of address and/or phone and email changes. If you are attending the reunion, you can give me the information at that time.

Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

## More Fletcher Class Facts

Fletcher-Class 1950s (Armament Conversions)  
Configuration LL

Thirty-nine (39) Fletcher-class destroyers that received the 1950s armament update replacing their 40-mm gun mounts with 3-in. gun mounts. Other class improvements, such as radar and sonar, were also made at that time. The converted ships had the following equipment: four 5-in./38 cal. single MK 30 gun mounts, three twin 3-in./50 cal. gun mounts, one quintuple 21-in. MK 14 torpedo tube mount, two MK 10/11 hedgehog mounts, one MK 9 depth charge release track, tripod foremast with SPS-6 and SPS-10 radars, and QHB sonar

**The following ships received Configuration LL:**

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| USS Daly (DD-519)          | USS Cogswell (DD-651)  |
| USS Isherwood (DD-520)     | USS Ingersoll (DD-652) |
| USS Ammen (DD-527)         | USS John Hood (DD-655) |
| USS Mullany (DD-528)       | USS Dashiell (DD-659)  |
| USS Trathen (DD-530)       | USS Black (DD-666)     |
| USS Heermann (DD-532)      | USS Cotten (DD-669)    |
| USS Miller (DD-535)        | USS Dortch (DD-670)    |
| USS The Sullivans (DD-537) | USS Hunt (DD-674)      |
| USS Boyd (DD-544)          | USS McDermut (DD-677)  |
| USS Cowell (DD-547)        | USS McGowan (DD-678)   |
| USS Hailey (DD-556)        | USS McNair (DD-679)    |
| USS Prichett (DD-561)      | USS Hopewell (DD-681)  |
| USS Ross (DD-563)          | USS Picking (DD-685)   |
| USS Rowe (DD-564)          | USS Uhlmann (DD-687)   |
| USS Stoddard (DD-566)      | USS Wadleigh (DD-689)  |
| USS Abbot (DD-629)         | USS Preston (DD-795)   |
| USS Braine (DD-630)        | USS Benham (DD-796)    |
| USS Hale (DD-642)          | USS Jarvis (DD-799)    |
| USS Stembel (DD-644)       | USS Rooks (DD-804)     |
| USS Caperton (DD-650)      |                        |



**tommy brant,**  
**chaplain...**

### May They Rest In Peace

*In celebration of their life and in thanksgiving for their service to our country.*

<b>Hubacek, George</b>	F1C '44/'46	12/07/2008
<b>Sanders, Joe</b>	SN '57/'58	04/20/2011

## David Crockett – Frontiersman and American Hero



**Cricket "Crockett" Laible**

Davy Crockett, one of the last standing defenders of the Alamo, is the Great, great, great, great, great Uncle of Cricket Crockett Laible, wife of Stoddard alumnus John Laible. (LTJG 1966-1969)

David Crockett was born the fifth of nine children August 17, 1786 in a log cabin in Greene County, Tennessee near where the Limestone Creek flows into the Nolichucky River. At the age of 12, Davy's father secured a job for him with a stranger who stopped at the Crockett Tavern. He went 400 miles by foot to help the old Dutchman move cattle from Knox County, Tennessee to Rockbridge, Virginia.

He was a true self-made man, working 2 days a week in return for four days of schooling plus board when he was around 18 years old. He mastered the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic during that six month period.

Davy was an adventurer, hunter, and explorer with an unquenchable desire for "elbow room." He made a living by hunting, exploring, serving as a soldier under Andrew Jackson in the Creek Indian War of 1813. He was a state legislator, and was a US Congressman for three terms. Defeat for another term, he decided to head for Texas where a portion of its lands were opened in 1821 to American settlement. He, two neighbors, and his nephew, headed West to Texas November 1, 1835, arriving February 1836. Davy was dressed in his hunting suit (linen-fringed hunting shirt, leather leggings, and moccasins) and a coon skin cap. He found the land to be the richest country in the world, and felt that military service was the best way to secure a land claim. On January 12, 1836 Colonel Crockett took an oath to serve in the Volunteer Auxiliary Corps of Texas for a six-month enlistment.

Davy Crockett was a leader at the Alamo. His good humor, statesmanship, general reputation, and ability to spin a yarn contributed to his leadership attributes. David Crockett was assigned to defend the Chapel area of the Alamo – the place all the women and children were housed. Davy fought many of the enemy with his rifle Betsy, his pistol, and his knife. Davy's area was the last area to fall...he and his Tennessee Volunteers were brave and ferocious fighters who finally succumbed to the greatly outnumbered army of Santa Ana on March 6, 1836.

David had a rule: "I leave this rule, for others when I am dead. Be always sure, you are right, then go ahead." This has been passed down in the Crockett family, simplified to "Be sure you're right, then go ahead."

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



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**Treasurer: Bill Melyan**  
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**Storekeeper: Tommy Brant**  
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**Chaplain: Tommy Brant**  
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**Newsletter Editor: Carlene Rauh**  
email: [cjrauh@lidd.net](mailto:cjrauh@lidd.net)

**Supplement to 2009 Stoddard Directory**

**April 20, 2011– July 15, 2011)**

(New Email, Phone, and Address Changes)

**McCleary, Eugene** – **Phone#** 215-300-1965

**McAllister, William** – 10 Cottonwood Ct.  
Hanson, MA 02341-2128

**Weedlun, Merle** – 6511 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cabin John, MD 20818-1420

**Reynolds, Ira** – 9545 Chanticleer Court  
Las Vegas, NV 89129

**Email** [irareynolds@gmail.com](mailto:irareynolds@gmail.com)

**Phillips, Mike** – 4636 Cave Ave.  
Dunsmuir, CA 96025

**Bauereis, Gary** – **Email** [hs8cflyer@yahoo.com](mailto:hs8cflyer@yahoo.com)

**Hubacek, George** – Deceased 12-07-2008

**Richman, Earl** – **Email** [vivianrichman@att.net](mailto:vivianrichman@att.net)

**Anaya, Art** – 2608 W. Camp Ave. Apt. A  
Carlsbad, NM 88220

**Email** [delfido@plateautel.net](mailto:delfido@plateautel.net)

**Giesecke, Zeke** – **Email** [catmsgt@cableone.net](mailto:catmsgt@cableone.net)



*dan & roxane withers,*

*webmasters...*

Stoddard History Project on Stoddard Website

This is a project designed to capture as much history from shipmates as we can. The first step was completed by Neal Pearson (ET1 1967-1968). You can now see the first pass at the **WWII timeline of events** on the website. Neal went through the Stoddard website and browsed other places on the web, and organized the events by date. We know there are some more pieces of history locked up in the brains of our shipmates and we hope to fill in the blanks on this sheet. This will expand up through the other service years and provide a complete collection of audio/video comments about each action.

Please check out the timeline on the website and email any additions that you have. Go to [www.ussstoddard.org](http://www.ussstoddard.org) and in lower left hand corner is a box marked "History Project". Click on "**Look Here**" which will take you to the timeline project.



**\*\*DUES NOTICE\*\***

**Please check your mailing label to make certain your dues date is correct.**

**Your dues make the USS Stoddard Newsletter and web site possible. Thanks for your support!**

**2011**

**John Doe  
123 Main Street  
Anywhere, USA 99999**



# Ship's Store



## USS STODDARD SHIP'S STORE-ORDER FORM

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

**Email:** [tmbrant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmbrant@sbcglobal.net)  
**Phone:** 765-659-3605

Item	Size	Price	Qty.	TOTAL
Golf Shirt - navy	M	\$23		
Golf Shirt - navy	L	\$23		
Golf Shirt - navy	XL	\$24		
Golf Shirt - navy	XXL	\$26		
Golf Shirt - navy	XXXL	\$27		
Golf Shirt - white	M	\$23		
Golf Shirt - white	L	\$23		
Golf Shirt - white	XL	\$24		
Golf Shirt - white	XXL	\$26		
Golf Shirt - white	XXXL	\$27		
Sweatshirt - navy	M	\$21		
Sweatshirt - navy	L	\$21		
Sweatshirt - navy	XL	\$21		
Sweatshirt - navy	XXL	\$22		
Sweatshirt - navy	XXXL	\$25		
Sweatshirt - cream	M	\$21		
Sweatshirt - cream	L	\$21		
Sweatshirt - cream	XXL	\$22		
Sweatshirt - cream	XXXL	\$25		
Jacket - navy (LT. WT.)	M	\$48		
Jacket - navy (LT. WT.)	L	\$54		
Jacket - navy (LT. WT.)	XXL	\$50		
Jacket - navy (H. Wt.)	L	\$62		
Jacket - navy (H. Wt.)	XL	\$62		
Jacket - navy (H. WT.)	XXXL	\$70		
Stoddard Ball Hat -navy		\$13		
Stoddard Coffee Mug		\$ 6		
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>\$</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>Shipping</b>		<b>\$</b>		<b>\$ 7.00</b>
Stoddard Pic. 8 X 10 (Side View)		\$ 6		
Stoddard Pic. 8 X 10 (Rear View)		\$ 6		
4" Stoddard Patch		\$ 5		
(shipping included patch & pics)				
<b>*TOTAL ORDER \$</b>				

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_