

Web Site:  
[www.usstoddard.org](http://www.usstoddard.org)

Date: July 1, 2004

# USS STODDARD ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



USS STODDARD DD566  
WWII \* Korea \* Vietnam

16th Reunion - Chicago (September 15th–18th) - 2004  
Doubletree Guest Suites—Downers Grove, Illinois



Chicago Trolley Tour

## Chicago invites you to explore "The Windy City."

Come discover the beautiful waterfront city on The Spirit of Chicago and visit the historic Great Lakes Naval Training Center. **Chicago** is among the world's cleanest, most accessible, and friendliest of big cities.

### Plan of the Week

**Wednesday** morning (September 15th) registration begins in the Hospitality Room. The room will be posted in the lobby of the hotel. Cruise books, photographs, and other memorabilia will be displayed. A packet will be available containing, sightseeing brochures, and listings of fine restaurants that are close to the hotel. The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service on an availability basis to area restaurants (within a 5 mile radius) and the Metra Train Station.

**Thursday** (September 16th), from 9AM to 5:30PM, **Chicago Trolley Tour**. Hop on and off Trolleys and Double Deckers along the 13 mile route to eat, shop, and see the sights. A **MUST STOP "NAVY PIER."** (Voted the best tour in Chicago.) Some of the route stops:

**Sears Tower, Theater District, Art Institute, Hilton Towers (Buckingham Fountain), Museum Campus (Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, & Adler Planetarium), North Pier, Navy Pier, Water Tower (Chicago Visitor's Center).**

**Thursday evening ICEBREAKER** will be a Chicago Style Pizza Buffet with one hour open bar held at The Doubletree.

**Friday** (September 17th), Early Wake Up Call. We will leave the hotel at 6:30 AM for a tour of **Great Lakes Naval Training Center Recruit Graduation Ceremony**, lunch at The Port O'Call, and a short memorial service. Return to hotel for Subs in The Hospitality Room. Great Lakes Naval Training Center has been here for 97 years. There are 39 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places—a world steeped in history and tradition. The Center generates more than \$700 million in revenue each year for Chicago. There are over 160,000 visitors each year.



**Friday evening, Chicago After Dark.** A three hour lectured tour via A/C Coach leaves the hotel at 6 PM.

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## Reunion activities



Phone: (630) 971-2000

### RESERVATIONS DUE—AUGUST 31ST—10AM

#### *Group Room Rates*

Single/Double Occupancy \$109.00

Triple/Quad Occupancy \$119.00

Room rates include a full “cooked to order” breakfast daily in the Atrium.

#### **Request: USS STODDARD REUNION RATES**

**Pre/Post Rates:** The above rates will apply three (3) days prior to and three (3) days after the official convention dates, based on availability.

**Reservation Method:** All reservations must be made individually through the hotel’s reservation department by calling:

Phone: 1 (630) 971-2000; or

Toll free: 1 (800) 222-8733

**Cut Off Date:** The cut off date is Tuesday, [August 31, 2004, by 10 AM.](#) Reservation requests received after the cut off date will be based on availability at the hotel’s prevailing rates.

Check In: 3:00 PM

Check Out: 12:00 Noon

**PAYMENT:** Each guest is responsible for individual charges, payable at checkout.

### HOTEL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

\*Doubletree Guest Suites

211 Butterfield Road

Downers Gove, Il 60515

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

Phone (630) 971-2000

Fax (630) 971-1168

Toll Free Reservations 1 (800) 222-8733

### AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

The hotel does not provide a shuttle from the two airports. O’Hare International Airport is about 20 miles North of the Doubletree Guest Suites. Midway Airport is about 25 miles from the Doubletree.

Our recommended taxi service provider is, [American Taxi](#), which provides transportation to the hotel from both major airports. Current average rates are: O’Hare \$21.00 and Midway \$30.00.

### METRA

Metra Commuter Rail Service is available at the nearby Hinsdale Train Station. The shuttle is available to transport guests between the hotel and train station. Metra links Doubletree guests to downtown Chicago 7 days a week. The Metra Line transports passengers into centrally located Union Station.

The current one-way adult fare is \$3.70 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the station or on the train if a ticket agent is not present.

\*Map on Page 3.

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**Saturday** (September 18th), from 9 AM to 4PM, Ship and Shore Tour. The tour includes a two hour luncheon cruise on Lake Michigan aboard *The Spirit of Chicago*. Entertainment is provided by the talented crew singing songs in a Salute to Broadway. Chicago Skyline as seen from a boat has been voted—one of the top ten views in America.

**Saturday evening** at 4:30PM—The annual Stoddard Business Meeting. The Annual Awards Banquet will be held in the hotel. The banquet will be a semi-formal served dinner, with one hour open bar. Banquet photos taken before dinner. Please let us know those you wish to sit with at the banquet. We will prepare a seating schedule.

**STODDARD RAFFLE** and a **50/50 SPLIT** will be held at the banquet. (Attendees bring a gift basket of their local specialties to be raffled during the banquet. This is voluntary.)

Please sign up early. We need to finalize all of the arrangements by the end of August.

Hope to see you in Chicago!

Paul Liske and Robert Butler

Reunion co-chairpersons

O'HARE AIRPORT

DOUBLETREE HOTEL

MIDWAY AIRPORT

from your secretary, marilyn harpster...

**Ship's Store:** There are lots of Stoddard items in the store; these make great gifts! Clothing and ball caps have embroidered ship's silhouette and USS Stoddard DD-566 emblem.

Our navy blue jacket, with windproof & water resistant urethane coated nylon shell, super soft 6 oz. light weight fleece lining, elastic cuff and waistband, two front and one inner chest pockets with zippers are \$50 each (L & XL).

Golf shirts (navy blue or white) are high quality cotton, with pocket on left breast.

Long sleeve sweatshirts (navy blue or white) are super soft. Shirts and sweatshirts are \$25.00 each (M, L & XL). On clothing items, other sizes and be ordered for delivery in September—Reunion time.

The hats new low profile style, are \$15.00 each.

There are license plate frames, yellow with USS STODDARD (DD566) LAST FLETCHER CALSS DESTROYER in blue letters, really sharp; \$4.00 each.

The Stoddard patch, with design voted

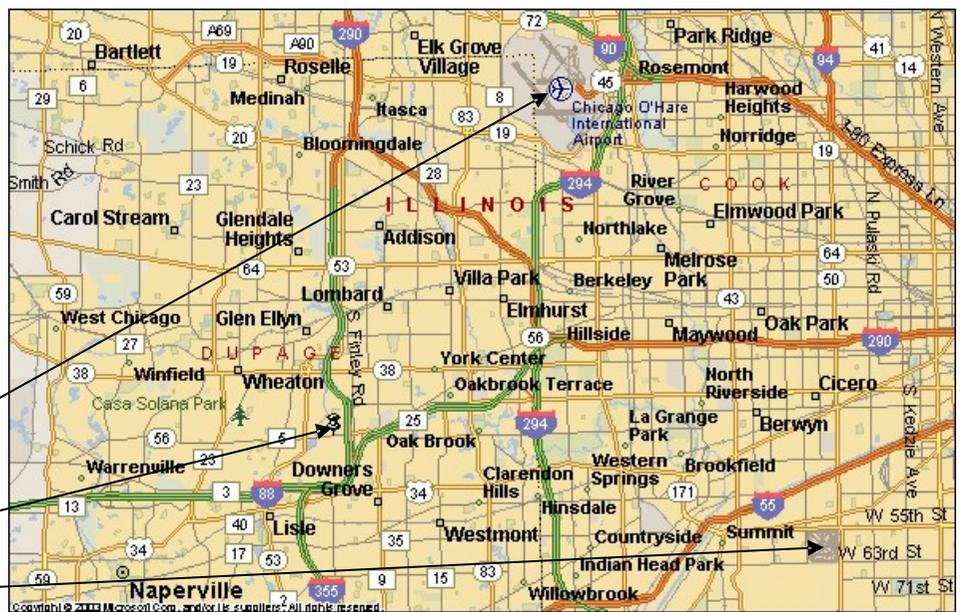
on at the Pittsburgh Reunion, are \$4.00 each, get one to stitch on the shoulder of your Stoddard wind-breaker jacket!

Thermally insulated mugs with this embroidered patch embedded in the clear insulating layers are \$17.50 each, or \$32.50 for two.

We have a VCR tape of the sinking of the Stoddard off of Kauai filmed by the Navy, this tape also included footage of her at Mare Island filmed by shipmate John Bowman, \$7.00.

A new item to the store is the History Channel program "Destroyer - Heavy Metal" - your "566" prominently rides the waves in several scenes of this video. This tape is available at \$22.00, much less expensive than when you order direct from the History Channel due to a special group price we obtained. Those who have seen the program say it is wonderful.

All prices include shipping charges. Send orders to Marilyn Harpster, 751 Intek Way, Westerville, OH 43082; make checks payable to USS Stoddard Alumni Association.



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

Co-Presidents: Bob Butler  
and Paul Liske

email: Rlbmustang@aol.com  
email: dlike@aol.com

Secretary: Marilyn Harpster  
email: jharpster@intekflow.com

Treasurer: Jay Romack  
email: romackjay@juno.com

Chaplain: Byron Goodwin  
email: gbugsy@aol.com

Webmasters: Dan and Roxane Withers  
email: withers@direcway.com

Email coordinator: Bob Hoag  
email: rwh@donobi.net

Newsletter Editor: Carlene Rauh  
email: cjrauh@ldd.net

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

Fax: 614 895-0319

## WELCOME ABOARD

Since our last newsletter, we welcome the following new alumni members:

### **Dickson, Dr. Earl W. RDSN '54**

2860 Avenida Alberto  
Lillian, AL 36549

### **Fix, Robert J. SN**

612—14th Street SE  
Minot, ND 58701

### **Johnson, Sr., John J. SN '51-'52**

P. O. Box 6011  
Wheeling, WV 26003

### **Ledbetter, Jr., Don C.**

80 SE 61st Court  
Ocala, FL 34472-7932

from your treasurer, jay romack...

Dues are \$10 per year. Please send to: Jay Romack, Treasurer, USS Stoddard Alumni Association, 335 Louise Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46217-4107.

Thanks to all those who sent their dues in after the last newsletter. It helps defray our newsletter and correspondence cost.

new alumni members con't.

### **Northcraft, Donavon R. EM3 '66-'69**

1116 E 5th Avenue  
Spokane, WA 99202-2306

### **Ramsey, Wayne L. '62-'64**

103 Jane Drive  
Warner Robins, GA 31093

### **Restelli, Carl P. '51**

5 North Road  
Southington, CT 06489

### **Wicks, Lindley MM3 '66**

580 N. Fairway Drive W  
Hoodspport, WA 98548

**Leo Gryzan** wrote: "I am a WWII veteran and served on the Stoddard 1944-45. Perhaps no one will remember me from the old Stoddard crew, but I am considered to be one of the few warrant officers (gunner) to serve aboard a WWII destroyer during that period of the Pacific action. Originally I am a "plank owner" from the USS Watts DD 567—was promoted to warrant officer from gunners mate 1C and was transferred to the USS Stoddard. I understand that it would be awkward to serve aboard the USS Watts where I had many friends and shipmates when the promotion came through at sea in the Aleutians. Jack Peters and I bunked together on the Stoddard when he was only an ensign and we stood OOD watches together. Believe he became a Navy Captain later and had his own ships to command. I left the Navy to go to college. "

**James (Bill) W. Siler, Jr. BTC**, sent the following note: "I was aboard just a few months in early 1966. I'd been aboard USS Porterfield DD 682. She left for WESTPAC in January and I was a short timer, on four months extension so I was transferred to Stoddard until my discharge in March. Other than the Stoddard, I was on the USS Henry W. Tucker DD/R 875 from 1962—1964, USS Porterfield DD 682, and was at the USNR Roanoke, VA, the Quincy, MA' NAS So. Weymouth, MA, and at SIMA Newport, RI.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!**

"On July 4th, 1776, we claimed our independence from England and Democracy was born. Every day thousands leave their homeland to come to the "land of the free and home of the brave" so they can begin their American Dream.

The United States is truly a diverse nation made up of dynamic people. Each year on July 4, Americans celebrate that freedom and independence..."

**"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."**

Chaplain's corner...

byron goodwin

As the months pass, please continue to keep all those who service our country and their families in your prayers. The burden they carry is big and demanding.

Many of our wounded are now in Veterans' Hospitals. Check with your local VA representatives to see if you can be of help.

TAPS

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

Lester Derrington EM1 —May 30, 2004—Served on the Stoddard 1943-1945.

# 16TH USS STODDARD ALUMNI REGISTRATION

September 15-18, 2004

## REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Stoddard Years and Rating \_\_\_\_\_

GUESTS ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes: **Thursday ICEBRAKER** and **Saturday Banquet**  X \$110 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Thurs. Day** 9-16-04 Chicago Trolley Tour  X \$36 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Fri. Day** 9-17-04 Great Lakes Naval Training Center  X \$28 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Fri. Eve.** 9-17-04 Chicago After Dark  X \$20 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Sat. Day** 9-18-04 Ship and Shore  X \$47 = \_\_\_\_\_

### Reunion Banquet Only

**Sat. Eve.** 9-18-04 Banquet & Registration Packet  X \$55 = \_\_\_\_\_

2004 USS STODDARD DUES  X \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: USS STODDARD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Mail to: Paul Liske P.O. Box 2991 Joliet, IL 60434-2991

Phone: (815) 741-3262

Fax: (815) 741-1307

Email DLiske@AOL.com