

# USS Gunston Hall LSD 5

*Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association*  
July, 2004

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## *Negotiations Over – Imperial Palace Wins Out*

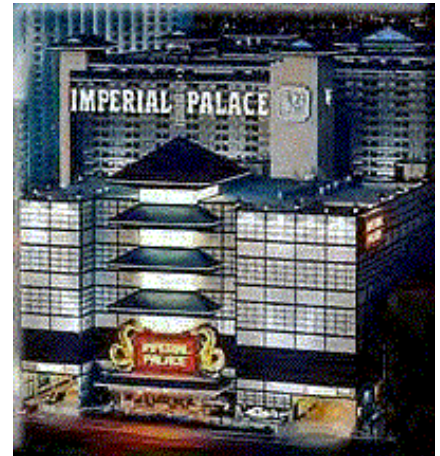
We have completed negotiations to select the hotel for our next reunion; the Imperial Palace has once again come out on top. We had been in negotiations with three Vegas hotels over the past six to eight weeks and the Imperial Palace had the best rates and accommodations for our association overall. Prices have gone up considerably in Las Vegas since '03 but we were able to hold the line fairly well. Prices at other hotels were well over \$100 a night in addition to other minimums that could have proven difficult to meet. Also all rooms at the Imperial Palace will be completely renovated in time for our reunion.

The reunion will be held May 1-3, 2005 at the Imperial Palace; we were able to obtain room rates of \$69.00 + 9% tax, single or double occupancy. Additional persons in a room will be \$19.00 each + tax. The hotel does not allow Saturday arrivals. **Reservations must be made directly with the hotel by calling 1-800-800-2981.** To obtain the special group rate be sure to tell them that you are with the USS Gunston Hall LSD5 reunion. The cut-off date for room reservations will be 5 PM on April 1, 2005. Any rooms unassigned after this date will be automatically released and returned to the hotel for general sale; please make sure that

you reserve your room well in advance so you will not be shut out. Rooms and rates after April 1<sup>st</sup> are strictly on a space available basis only. Check in time is 3:00 PM and check out time is 12:00 noon. If the hotel is able to accommodate guests earlier than 3:00 PM all efforts will be made to do so. Individual reservations must be guaranteed by either a major credit card or a deposit equal to one nights room and tax. Credit cards will be billed when the individual reservations are made and reservations will not be confirmed until payment has been received. Reservations canceled less than 48 hours prior to arrival time will be subject to a cancellation penalty equivalent to the first nights room and tax so if you need to cancel please make sure that it is done well in advance if possible.

We will have a hospitality room available all three days as before and will also have a buffet on arrival Sunday evening with another dinner on Tuesday evening. A room will also be available to us on Monday for our meeting.

The registration fee is \$78 per person which covers the meals on Sunday and Tuesday, hospitality room costs such as coffee, etc. and other costs associated with the reunion. Please send your fee of \$78 (or \$156 if you are bringing a guest) to



our treasurer Chod Cremer, P. O. Box 154, Agency, IA 52530. Make your check out to GHRA Reunion 2005.

### **FREE ROOM**

To encourage early registration so we can work with the hotel with actual numbers of attendees instead of an estimate which will help keep costs down, we will be having a drawing for some lucky shipmate to win a free room for the three days of our reunion. Your registration fee must be received by Chod Cremer by December 15, 2004 to be eligible for the drawing. Please remember that this registration fee only covers reunion expenses such as the cost of the banquet meals, coffee in the hospitality room, etc. and other related costs. **You must still deal directly with the hotel in making your room reservations.**

## HELP WANTED



We have an immediate opening for a webmaster. This prestigious position offers many rewards and flex hours. The pay sucks but you would be helping the GHRA a lot.

It can be a shared responsibility with one or more members and, for the short term, **Jack Buick**, RD 56-59 is available to help out. Unfortunately, Jack is not able to commit beyond the immediate future.

Please contact Ron Kennedy by phone or e-mail.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

For those shipmates that receive this newsletter via the Internet, please note that your dues due date is a part of your e-mail header. The 3 or 4 digit number after your name in the "To" section of your e-mail header is the month and year your dues expire. If you receive this via US Mail, your due date is the 3 or 4 digit number after your name on the mailing label. Your check or money order for \$20 must be payable to "GHRA" and sent to our treasurer, Chod Cremer, P.O. Box 154, Agency IA 52530. Do NOT make the check payable to Chod; that just complicates banking it.

## Don't Like Vegas?

A number of members have voiced strong negative opinions about having our 2005 reunion in Las Vegas. A few have even stated that they will not be attending because it is going to be in Vegas. To an extent, I share those feelings although I certainly will be at the reunion. The idea is for us to get together, swap faulty memories and outright lies, hoist a few and have a good time. The location should be a secondary consideration.

So, why are we going to Vegas? The answer is quite simple ... the majority of us voted for it. If there are some that don't want to go along with that majority, then so be it. But consider ...

Many of us are retired and living on fixed incomes. Some of those incomes are not grand enough to allow expensive vacations and trips. Las Vegas is somewhat centrally located and airfares from just about anywhere in the U.S. are reasonable. And, Las Vegas is a bargain when prices are compared with other cities. For reference, we checked out a few. San Diego was the next cheapest at \$99/night. San Francisco and New Orleans would be \$129/night. Even Cincinnati is \$109/night. And, other costs are proportionately higher than Vegas.

So please, when you are making your decision about attending, keep in mind that some of our shipmates would be unable to attend any of these more expensive sites.

It shouldn't be about location!

There have been suggestions for different methods of selecting reunion cities in the future. We will present them to you in future newsletters and vote on it at the reunion.

## SHIP'S LOG

During World War II from December 1943 to May 1945 the Gunston Hall traveled 59,081 miles. Steaming this many miles under dangerous war time conditions and participating in many major campaigns along the way helped the United States emerge victorious against our enemies. Thanks go out to all of our World War II shipmates for their efforts.

Statistics submitted by **John King**, GM, 43-45

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## CONNECTIONS

**Marv Wines**, RM 1964 – 66, w7kv@aol.com

Marv is in Eugene, Oregon

**Michael Varnell**, SK 1967 – 70,

mvarnell@etimberline.com

Mike is in Centennial, Colorado

**Denny Maxwell**, BM, 1965 – 66

**Jim Hulse**, SFM 1959 – 63, hulse@ihug.co.nz

Jim is in Auckland, New Zealand

**Curt Nestler**, ET, 1964 – 66, Clinton, Indiana

nestlerinccd@wmconnect.com

**Robert Brunelle**, RM 1962, Portland, Oregon

libertylanebob@comcast.net

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# 25 May 1945 — OKINAWA

Sunrise - 0539    Sunset - 1913    Moonrise - 1737    Moonset - 0431

U. S. S. GUNSTON HALL

Friday 25 May 1945

## PLAN OF THE DAY

### Officers' Deck Watches

00 – 04	04 – 08	08 – 12	12 – 16	16 – 18	18 – 20	20 – 24
OOD – Lockett	Davis	Wright	Garfield	Gorman	Bracy	Lockett
JOOW-Schneider	Hurley	Vinson	Hickman	Sica	Rainey	Hickman

Day's Engineering Duty Watch Officer – Florenzie

0000 – Rotate Condition III Watch as always.  
0550 – Call P.P.O's.  
0600 – Reveille.  
0615 – Turn to. Sweep down and clamp down weather decks.  
0645 – Breakfast. The oncoming Watch will eat and then relieve.  
0800 – Turn to. Muster on stations. Make reports to Ship's Office.  
All compartments must be cleared until 0900. Sick Call.  
0900 – Rest period for Section II.  
1130 – Pipe sweepers. Dinner for the oncoming Watch.  
1200 – Dinner.  
1300 – Turn to. Pipe sweepers. All compartments must be cleared until  
1400. Send #3 boat with Mail Orderly to LST 890 to deliver outgoing mail.  
1400 – Rest period for Section I.  
1600 – Pipe sweepers. Supper for the oncoming Watch.  
1630 – Supper.  
1830 – Sick Call.  
1913 – Darken ship.  
1945 – Eight o'clock reports to the Executive Officer.  
2100 – Taps. Lights out. Silence about the decks.  
2200 – M.A.A. reports "10 o'clock lights" to the O.O.D.

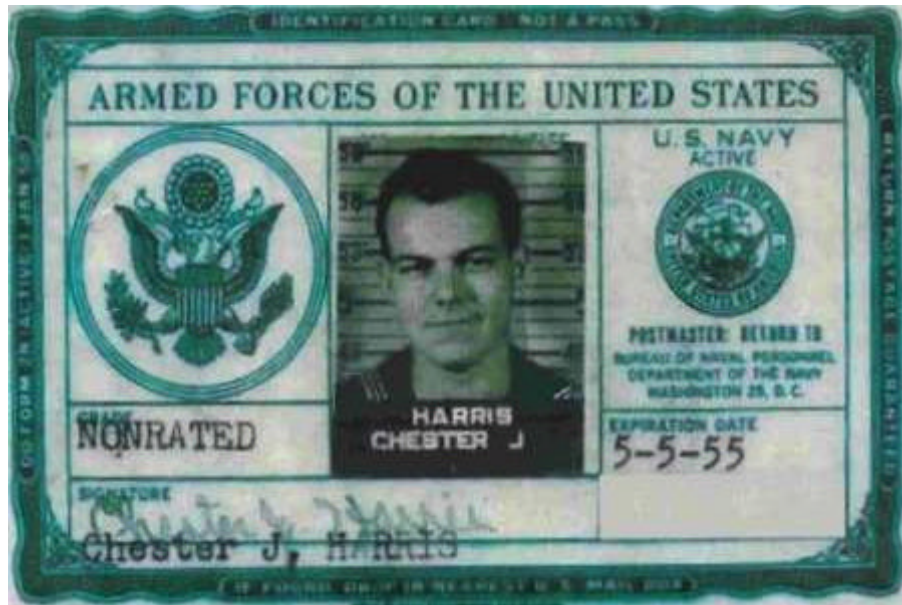
### NOTES:

1. During the next ten days or so we shall have bright moonlight during a large part of every clear night. That probably means more Jap air raids. The Japs still have some planes and they make a few more big concentrated efforts against us, but there is good reason to hope that they won't keep us awake quite as much during this full moon as they did four weeks ago. All hands should store up rest at all opportunities – morning, afternoon and night.
2. During condition I-Easy the 20mm crews have the worst break. One man of each crew must wear the telephones, stand up, and keep a bright lookout. A second man of each crew must be awake, and must not doze, although he may sit and rest. The third member of the crew may fake down, cover up, and caulk off, but he should sleep where he can be reached by the foot of the lookout.
3. The above arrangement is undoubtedly the minimum of alertness that would allow us to get all guns into action in case of a direct attack. On ships that have been hit in this area there have been gun crews, manning their guns, who didn't fire a shot before being entirely wiped out by Jap planes.

/s/ W. F. BENTLEY  
Executive Officer

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# In Memoriam



**Chester Harris**, 1934 – 2004  
EM, 1954 – 55

Although due to health problems Chester was not able to travel and attend any reunions, he was a proud Gunston Hall crewmember and a loyal member of the reunion association.

Those of us who knew him will miss his positive outlook and willingness to lend a hand whenever it was needed.

Our award winning website is entirely his creation. A labor of love, he devoted countless hours putting it together and then maintaining it for us. All without any assistance and at his own expense. He co-edited this newsletter and, in fact, the first of the internet versions

was largely his effort.

Chester spent the last months of his life in the hospital battling infections and other complications resulting from knee surgery. He passed quietly on June 7, 2004 in California.

**Edward Mazner**  
MM, 49-52

Edward passed away on May 15, 2004 after a long illness and many surgeries. Ed was one of our most supportive members having attended five reunions.

