



USS Gunston Hall

LSD 5

Summer 2008 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

Reunion '09 – Branson MO



Our hotel, The Ramada Inn

Hello Shipmates,

Well we have concluded our negotiations for our 2009 reunion in Branson and have selected the Ramada Resort and Conference Center as the site for our reunion. There are many hotels in Branson with a wide variety of prices and I believe we have chosen a quality hotel that will keep the cost down for all of our members and still provide us with everything we need to have a great reunion. The USS Ashland LSD-1 just recently held their reunion at the Ramada.

The daily rate will be \$49 plus 12.68% tax for a total of \$55.21 each night. This rate will also be good for three days before the reunion and three days after the reunion for anybody who wants to spend some extra time in Branson. ***Make sure you tell the hotel that you are with the USS Gunston Hall reunion group when you make your reservation*** and if you plan on arriving early or staying later to take advantage of this rate and room availability. This price also includes a hot buffet breakfast each morning and our hospitality room for all three days - we will be bring our own food and beverages to the hospitality room. Our meal prices for the two dinners during the reunion will be approximately \$35.00 per person.

The hotel's reservation number is 1-800-641-4106 and you will be required to give them a credit card number to hold the room for you. But you will not be charged anything until you

check out at the end of the reunion. So there is no reason not to make your reservations as soon as possible so we can get an idea of how many shipmates will attend and we can plan accordingly.

The Ramada is located directly on the 76 "strip" which is the main drag in Branson and the new Dick Clark American Bandstand theatre is right next to the hotel with Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede theatre located across the street from the hotel. There are many shows and attractions in Branson close to the Ramada with a variety that will please everybody. Andy Williams, Mickey Gilley, and Jim Stafford are just three of the many theatres that offer entertainment for everyone. There is also a Veterans Memorial Museum just a few blocks from the hotel that should be very interesting to all shipmates. Tickets for the museum are around \$12.

One attraction that I would recommend is the Showboat Branson Belle on the lake that puts on a very entertaining stage show, includes a meal and a tour of the lake.

The closest airport to Branson is Springfield, Mo. and it is approximately 50 miles from Branson. Air service to Springfield is very limited. Shuttle bus service is available from the airport to Branson with costs ranging from approximately \$20 to \$40 each way per person. I know how costly gas is today but I would recommend driving to Branson if at all possible. That way you have your own transportation during the reunion for checking out the many attractions that Branson offers. We will again be having a lottery drawing for a **FREE ROOM** for all three days of the reunion for some lucky shipmate. More details will follow.

So let's all get on board and start planning for a great 2009 reunion. Any questions just give me a call or send me an email. Looking forward to seeing many shipmates in Branson. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

- Ron

More Info:

For those with computers here is the link for the Ramada.

www.ramadabranson.com

To check out the theatre schedule in Branson click on www.

discoverbranson.com

Connections

The following are entries taken from the Visitor's Log on our website. Not all of the new entries are reproduced here and these may have been edited. However, they all remain unedited on the web page.

Jim Hulse, SF, 1959-64

Email: hulse@ihug.co.nz

comments : I am Proud to have served on the Gunny.
I found many 'mates' who were my friends.

Peggy Wehe

Email: wehe1963@suddenlink.net

I recently attended the 2008 Reunion for the USS Epping Forest LSD4. There is interest in a website. My husband served on Epping Forest from 1957 to 1960. You have a very good website.

Harry D Trapp, MR, 1952-54

Email : hdrtrapp@juno.com

Great web site and information.
Thanks Ron

Harold "ANDY" Andrews, MM, 1943-46

Email : andyhvacr@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for a job well done,Ron.

Brian Roades, USN 1973-94

Email : brian_roades@yahoo.com

Just found the web page by chance
My father (**Forest Roades**, EM, 43-46) was on the ship during the war. Dad passed in Nov of 2001. He would have liked this site.

Lyle Hansen, RM, 1951-54

Email : lhansen6368@msn.com

First time I have looked at this whole document.
Some of the guys have done a nice job.

Gil Sutton, BM, 1969-70

Email : wgs.truckin@live.com

Made the last cruise.
Just found this site. It looks good.

Oliver Humphrey, MM, 1966-70

Email : ziggie2000us@yahoo.com

I would very much like to hear from anyone that was on the ship from 66-70

Mark Austin, EN, 1970-72

Email : chevyman2_49@comcast.net

Grand old ship ... got us to Nam and back even though she was getting a little long in the tooth (old).
I was in her crew when we decommissioned her.

Internet Links

Branson Websites

<http://www.branson.com/>

<http://www.explorebranson.com/>

Ramada-Branson Hotel

<http://www.the.ramada.com/branson12843>

Nimitz Museum

<http://www.nimitz-museum.org/>

Other Links

American Naval Fighting Ships:

<http://www.hazegray.org/danfs/>

<http://www.navsource.org/>

<http://www.military.com/>

Coming Soon

For the latest reunion info:

www.ussgunstonhall.org/Branson/info.htm

For a list of attendees:

www.ussgunstonhall.org/Branson/attend.htm

IMPORTANT

With the reunion coming up in only 10 months, you sure don't want to miss out because you have let your dues lapse. Dues are \$20 per year. Dues must be current in order to attend the reunion, have a voice in the organization and receive these newsletters.

Your expiration date follows your name on the mailing label or in the "To:" box on your e-mail. Or, call and we will help you out!

Send your check payable to GHRA to our treasurer ...

Chod Cremer

PO Box 201, Agency IA 52530

Connections, continued

Ed Murphy, RM, 1959-60

Rate : RMSN

Email: wildirish22@aol.com

Donald E Weidinger, SN, 1960-64

Email: dlmtaz4@hotmail.com

The best ride ever.

The ship did a lot of PR and equal to the task of support for any situation.

World War II

We continue with paraphrased excerpts from the personal World War II logs of George Dickinson and Horace Silver. At the last entry, the ship had left Hollandia en route to Leyte.

Beginning with the invasion of Leyte ...

1944

- Oct 20 Arrived for invasion of Leyte. Weather very hot.
Left for Hollandia and reinforcements.
Oct 24 Arrived Hollandia
Oct 30 Returned to Leyte with LCMs, equipment & men.
Nov 02 En route to Peleleu (Weather HOT).
Nov 03 Arrived Peleleu; continued on to Leyte.
*Editor's note: There is a bit of confusion here.
Apparently the ship made several round trips
between Peleleu and Leyte.*
Nov 05 Arrived Leyte, continuing to Hollandia.
Nov 06 Typhoon
Nov 08 Burial at Sea
Nov 09 Arrived Hollandia

- Dec 03 Left Hollandia for Schouten Islands
Dec 04 Loaded LCTs, equipment & men.
Dec 05 Sailed for Leyte
Dec 09 Arrived Leyte, unloaded and sailed for Hollandia.
Dec 13 At Hollandia: loaded LCMs and men.
Dec 18 Unloaded at Leyte; sailed for Hollandia.
Dec 25 Sailed for Sansapor with equipment and men.
Merry Christmas!
Dec 30 Left Sansapor, sailed for Lingayen Gulf, PI

1945

- Jan 04 Passed within 60 miles of Corregidor. Nice fireworks!
Jan 08 0800 hours: Our Lucky Moment - Others not.
*Editor's note: The text is emphasized by the author
but he offers no explanation.*
Jan 09 Arrived Lingayen Gulf – Unloaded. Very Hot.
Left for Leyte at 2100 hours. Very glad to go.
Hell hole!
Jan 23 At Ulithe for overhaul.

To be continued

Branson 2009

April 26, 27, 28
Save the dates!

Soon we will have information regarding shows that will be playing in Branson in April '09. This list is a sampling of what is currently playing to whet your appetite.

Andy Williams
Moon River Theater

Bobby Vinton
The Mansion

Buck Trent
Grand Country Music Hall

Clay Cooper
Clay Cooper Theater

IMAX
IMAX Theater

Jim Stafford
Jim Stafford Theater

John Denver Tribute
Little Opry Theater

American Bandstand Stars
American Bandstand Theater

Rankin Brothers
Welk Resort

Yakov
Smirnoff Theater



LSDs docked at Sasebo, Japan.

Can anyone tell us who took the photo & when?

For that matter, is it Sasebo?



Our hospitality area is a small building separate from the hotel. It sits in a somewhat wooded area that will likely become our beer garden. The photo is the deck attached to the building which is for our exclusive use throughout the reunion.



Dick McQuate, RM, 64-66 spotted this and sent the picture.

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman

11832 W. Virginia Avenue

Avondale AZ 85323

<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>

E-mail: info@ussgunstonhall.org

623/907-3688

Save the dates
Don't miss out
April 26, 27, 28, 2009



The USS Gunston Hall Symphony Orchestra – aka The Gunnysack Band



Recognize yourself or any of these fine musicians? Let us know!

Photo by Jack Harer, RM, 1952-55