



# USS Gunston Hall

## LSD 5

Winter 2008-09 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

### *Hello Shipmates,*

I hope that all shipmates and their families had a Merry Christmas and wonderful holidays, are looking forward to a prosperous 2009 and going to our reunion. It is drawing ever closer ... I know that many of you are planning to attend so we can have a great reunion. We have a good number of shipmates that will be attending and are looking for many more if possible so everybody can get together and tell a few sea stories and renew some old memories.

The reunion will be held April 26-28, 2009 in Branson, Mo. at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center located at 1700 W. Hwy 76 which is directly on the 76 "strip" next to the Dick Clark theater and within walking distance of many area attractions and shows. A hot breakfast is included each morning.

The daily room rate is \$55.21 which includes all taxes and is good for three days before and three days after the reunion for anyone wanting to stay longer. When making reservations with the hotel **make sure you tell them you are with the Gunston Hall reunion group** so you receive this rate and are counted toward our block of rooms we have reserved. The phone number of the hotel is **1-800-641-4106**; you will be asked for a credit card to hold the room but **you will not be billed anything until check out**. If you have to cancel you will not be charged anything as long as you cancel with the hotel at least 48 hours before the reunion. I recommend driving to Branson if possible as the closest airport is in Springfield which is about 50 miles from Branson. There is shuttle service available but can be expensive. The hotel does not provide shut-

tle service to the airport.

There will be drawing for a free room for all three days of the reunion for some lucky shipmate. The winner will be selected from shipmates who have made their reservations with the hotel by Jan. 31, 2009. Our treasurer Chod Cremer will conduct the drawing; if the person selected has to cancel alternate name will be drawn. Somebody will win!

**So if you want to have a chance at a free room make sure you make your hotel reservations no later than Jan. 31, 2009!**



Meal prices for the two buffet dinners on Sunday evening and Tuesday evening and refreshments in our hospitality suite will be \$47.00 per person. Please send a check to Chod Cremer, P. O. Box 201, Agency, IA 52530. If you must cancel your money will be refunded as long as you notify us 10 days before the reunion.

I am trying to arrange a 2 hour tour on the Showboat Branson Belle, a paddle wheeler on Table Rock Lake which includes a 3 course meal and great entertainment. They have group rates and cater to military reunions. The prices for 2008 were from \$45 to \$52 per person so hopefully they will still be in this price range. If you are interested please notify me asap so we can make arrangements. The Belle has handicap facilities. I have been on this tour and I think everyone will enjoy it.

If you have any questions about anything just give me a call or send me an e-mail. So let's get on board and make your reservations now so this will be a great reunion for all.

- Ron

**HAPPY★NEW★YEAR**

# Connections

Excerpts from the Visitors' Log on the website:

## **Dean Hedlund, YN3**

Email : coaster@lakedalelink.net

## **John L. Galle Sr., YN3, 1945-46**

Email : gallejr7@windomnet.com

Glad to see the reunion a bit closer to Minnesota, plan to attend. Did unload some memorabilia I had thanks to Ron Kennedy who by the way does a great job organizing the reunion.

## **Jim Weinkauf (Wink), EM-2, 1957 to 1960**

Email : jandjtea@peoplepc.com

When I came onboard the 2 year boy's from Korea draft where getting out. We went overseas in Sept, 57 if I remember right.

## **Robert Berger, BM, 1967-68**

Email: imawheelnut2yahoo.com

Any bm's from that era, please mail me. O'brian, Worthams, Lucas, Jolla, Dave Malloy or anyone knowing of them

## **William R "Bud" Voegele, SFP2, 1954-59**

Email : suebudvoe@sbcglobal.net

*Ed. Note:* Some of the information above may have been edited to make it fit. The complete, unedited entries remain on the GHRA website.



Deluxe Accommodations on the Gunnysack

# Korea

We have had some detailed and interesting accounts of World War II submitted by shipmates that served during that war. At this time, two of three personal logs have been put up on the website. So far, we have no personal accounts on the ship's movements and activities during the Korean War or the Viet Nam War. We would like to do both ... for starters we would like to have personal accounts and memories of the Korean War.

## 1950

June 25 The North invades the South.

June 28 President Truman authorizes U.S. military force against the North.

Sept 15 Landing at Inchon

Sept 22 Liberation of Seoul

## 1953

July 25 Armistice signed.

So, where was the good ship Gunston Hall all this time? In what activities/actions was she involved? C'mon all you Korean vets ... help us out.

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## 64 years ago

January 31, 1944

The invasion of Kwajalein began. Three days later, only 51 of the 3,500 Japanese defenders survived

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## Sick Call

### **Darrell Harris, SK, 1952-56**

Darrell is in the hospital battling pancreatic cancer.

### **Bill Ludtke, RD, 1956-59**

Bill is at home recovering from a kidney transplant

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## IMPORTANT

Don't let your dues lapse. 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 (\$20) payable to GHRA to our treasurer ...

**Chod Cremer**

**PO Box 201, Agency IA 52530**

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## Reunion '09

Don't miss the fun!

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## World War II

Continuing with our series of personal logs from the war, the following is the first installment from Joe Beauchamp, FN, 1944-47

### 1945

May 1: One month here in Okinawa.

May 3: G.Q. all night.

Kamikaze dove into cruiser Birmingham, huge explosion killed several.

May 5: Went over to visit LST 227. Had a visit with a boot camp buddy. Had beer!

May 8: G.Q. last night.

May 9: G.Q. every morning between 0210 and 0500. Very little sleep. Getting us down. No church services Sunday.

May 10: G.Q. all night. Saw several planes shot down under search lights. A 410 plane raid came over. Two phosphorous bombs exploded near us killing several. Man on LSM in well burned his feet on smoke generator.

May 11: No G.Q. What a relief. 124\* Jap planes shot down from midnight on the 10th until noon. Saw night fighters take off from Yontan air field.

May 12: G.Q. last night.

Very early about 0630 four planes came in very low! I came up from engine room and I was scared shitless when I saw them. Chief Ladao was next to me and he saw them too. Two made suicide dive on Battleship New Mexico one into merchant ship. Other escaped. G.Q. all night.

May 13: G.Q. last night.

May 15: Went over to visit another mate from boot camp aboard GC 4 at one time a luxury liner between Philippines and Panama.

May 17: G.Q. all night. 3 planes shot down.

May 18: G.Q. all night. We have had 125 G.Q.'s since we have been here since April 1st, getting all of the crew down, no sleep. We have an LSM in the well.

May 19: G.Q. all night.

May 20: No G.Q. last night. Good

May 21: G.Q. all night, seven planes shot down.

May 22: G.Q. last night. Bastards came over during pouring rain, one plane shot down.

May 24: LCI #758 and LCT #1427 in well for repairs.

May 25: G.Q. three times during night. "Make smoke". Last night a Jap bomber landed on Yontan Field with 62 Japs aboard, all had hand grenades and TNT.

USS Missouri pulled into harbor today. Nice job!

May 27: Took in our LCM's for another invasion. USS Missouri pulled out, USS New Mexico and USS Idaho are in here now.

## Internet Links

### Branson Websites

**NEW** [www.branson-missouri.com](http://www.branson-missouri.com)

**NEW** [www.showboatbransonbelle.com](http://www.showboatbransonbelle.com)

<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>

<http://www.navsource.org>

<http://www.military.com>

### Current military news and events

<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/americasupportsyou/>

### For the latest reunion info:

[www.ussgunstonhall.org/MAIN/R2009.htm](http://www.ussgunstonhall.org/MAIN/R2009.htm)

## In Memoriam

We have received word that we have lost five more shipmates. Our sympathies and condolences go to their families.

**Stephen Griswold**, SF, 65-69

**Norm Kuhn**, BT, 54-56

**Norm Truesdale**, EM, 58-62

**Robert (Bob) Hobbs**, LT, 51-53

**Walt Wasell**, BM. 51-54

### World war II (continued)

May 28: No G.Q. last night but a lot of AA fire. Got little sleep.

May 29: G.Q. early this AM, shot at several planes. Our planes have been flying in formation all day and looks good. We've had 5 days of rain.

May 30: Memorial Day, still raining, good chow.

*To be continued*

*\*Ed. Note: Throughout the log there are references to the number of planes shot down ... it is unclear who actually shot them down but we all know it was not Gunston Hall single-handedly!*

*The entire log will be placed on our website very soon ... watch for it.*

**Less than 4 months!**

Don't miss out

**April 26, 27, 28, 2009**

**Register NOW!**

## ***What to do in Branson***

In this and previous issues we have presented a few of the attractions Branson offers. There is truly an overwhelming number and we could never cover all of them. The Showboat is a major attraction and the one we hope to make a group event. From personal experience, I recommend it highly. And, on a 10 point scale, previous visitors have rated it 9.5!

**SHOWBOAT**  
BRANSON BELLE



**JOHN DALY'S  
MURDER  
ROCK**  
Golf & Country Club



### **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](mailto:info@ussgunstonhall.org)  
623/907-3688

## **Silver Dollar City – #1 rated theme park**

SDC has something for everyone including a culinary and Craft School featuring cooking and craft classes; 30 attractions and rides; 60 unique craft shops; live entertainment ... more than 40 shows daily. Branson Craftsmen demonstrating skills in pioneer crafts. A dozen family friendly restaurants offering breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



Sons of Silver Dollar City



## ***2009 Directory***

**Time is short ... we are preparing the new directory and need to know of any changes or special requirements NOW.**