



USS Gunston Hall

LSD 5

Spring 2009 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association



Reunion '09 Edition



Headquarters—The Ramada Inn

Hello Shipmates,

I hope this finds all hands making plans for our 9th reunion coming up in Branson. As this will be the final newsletter before the reunion I want to go over the details once again so hopefully everybody will get the word. The reunion dates are April 26-28, 2009 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in Branson, Mo. The address of the Ramada is 1700 W. Hwy 76. Our daily room rate is \$55.21 which includes all taxes, our hospitality room and a complimentary breakfast each morning. This rate is also good for three days before the reunion and three days after the reunion for anybody who wants to stay longer. **The hotel's phone number is 800-641-4106; when making reservations be sure to tell them you are with the Gunston Hall reunion group so you receive this rate.** You will be asked for a credit card to hold the room but you will not be charged anything until check out. If you have to cancel your reservations you will not be charged anything as long as you notify the hotel at least 48 hours before the reunion. Check in time is 3 PM and check out at 12 noon.

Our treasurer Chod Cremer conducted a drawing for the free room and the winner is Ed Tank, MM 63-65. Congratulations Ed. If for some reason he can't make it to the reunion we have a runner up who will receive the free room.

Our tentative schedule at this time will be for a buffet dinner on Sunday the 26th at the Ramada and will begin approximately 8 PM. We plan to hold our meeting on Monday in the hospitality room around 9 AM. I am changing things up a bit for our Tuesday evening function. **We will have a VIP dinner and show at Legends in Concert at Dick Clark's American Bandstand Theater** conveniently located next door to the Ramada. The dinner will be at 6:15 PM followed by the show at 8 PM. I'm sure some of you have seen the Legends in Concert show at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. It's a great show with impersonators of famous entertainers. At this time the entertainers scheduled are Alan Jackson, Blues Brothers, Elvis, Rod Stewart and Tina Turner. I think all of you will enjoy the dinner and show. Prices for both dinners and the show are \$47 **per person** or \$94 **per couple.**

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Connections

Debbie Dickinson Wilkinson

(Daughter of **George Dickinson**)

Email : shoequeen2@yahoo.com

comments : Thanks for keeping me on your mailing list.

I enjoy reading your newsletters.

Bob Brunelle, RM, 61-62

Email : brunellerw41@msn.com

comments : I was an RMSN on board.

Usually on open bridge when leave/enter port.

Please contact if you remember me.

John L. Galle Sr., YN, 45-46

Email : galle7@windomnet.com

comments : Looking forward to Branson.

Want to invite crew men from 45/46 to try

to make the reunion ... we could lift one or two

Great experience

Eddie Knoll, EN, 69-70

Email : edwood04@gmail.com

comments : I just found the website, enjoyed looking through it.

I have many fond memories of the old "sack"

Sheldon Weaver, SN, 59-62

Email : mammamoon@suddenlink.net

comments : somebody please send me a e-mail

i-m getting lonesome - cooter weaver

Eugene Aurand, CS, 65-67

Email : eugene_aurand@yahoo.com

comments : This was my first sea duty station.

Now married to Filipina and living in Ozamiz City.

Island of Mindinao. You would not recognize Olongapo now.

Continued from page 1 ...

For those who haven't sent their meal money as yet please send your check for the meals no later than **April 10th** to Chod Cremer, P. O. Box 201, Agency, IA 52530 as time is growing short and we have to give specific counts to the hotel and also to the theater for the dinner and show. Many thanks to the shipmates who have told me they are going to the reunion. **If anybody else is planning on going and have not let me know as yet I must have your response no later than April 10th as that is the deadline for sending your meal money to Chod. Give me a call or e-mail me if you intend to go. Also you had better make your reservations with the Ramada real soon as our room block is almost full and you could be shut out and then have to hope they have rooms available at possibly a higher rate.**

Let's have a great reunion!

- Ron

Recommendations

As our time in Branson is very short I would recommend a couple of attractions that I have checked on and everyone seems to agree that they are certainly worthwhile to visit.

One is the Titanic museum. Group rates of 15 or more people are \$17.50 per person which includes taxes and also an audio device. Another interesting attraction that I think all the shipmates would like is the Veterans Memorial Museum which is about 6 blocks from the hotel. Group rates for 15 or more are \$9.50 per person. You will see some pictures from both attractions in this newsletter. Hours of both museums are 9 AM to 7 PM.

The closest air service to Branson is in Springfield about 50 miles away. Shuttle service is available. Both airfare and shuttle prices are fairly expensive so I recommend driving to Branson if possible. That way you can conveniently see all the attractions that Branson has to offer.

If you have Internet access, check the on-line edition of this newsletter for links to many more attractions.

Looking for NEW BLOOD

In San Diego in 2007 I indicated that I was considering stepping down as chairman. I originally intended to do this job for a couple of years and it has been six years already so I think I have done my part to keep our reunion association functioning. If any of you have considered taking over this job, and I hope some of you have, we can discuss this at the meeting.

Conceivably there could be a change in the structure of the association and there could be several members sharing the responsibilities. Other LSD organizations have as many as six shipmates sharing the load and the rewards,

We are an aging population. The youngest among us would be approaching Social Security age. It would be best for the continuity of the association if there were younger guys running it.

I along with Jack Buick, RD 56-59 who is as responsible for any success we have had for the last six years as I am would still be available to help out a new chairman if needed

Think it over. We need some shipmate to step forward and take the reins.

If you have any questions or comments just call me or send me an e-mail.

Thanks for your support!

Ron Kennedy 623-907-3688



An exhibit at the Veteran's Museum, Branson



Grand Staircase at the Titanic Attraction

In Memoriam

Milton 'Duke' Duca, LT, 1951-55
William Lincoln, CWO, 1950-53
Audrey Stephens, wife of Quincy Stephens



Regrettably, the showboat, Branson Belle, will not be operating on Monday as was originally planned.

Internet Links

Branson Websites

www.branson-missouri.com
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/memorial-wall/photos.php?img=USSGunstonHall.jpg>
(You must squeeze it into one line)

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.americasupportsyounet.com/americasupportsyounet/>

For the latest reunion info:

www.ussgunstonhall.org/MAIN/R2009.htm

2009 Directory

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

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

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman
11832 W. Virginia Avenue
Avondale AZ 85323

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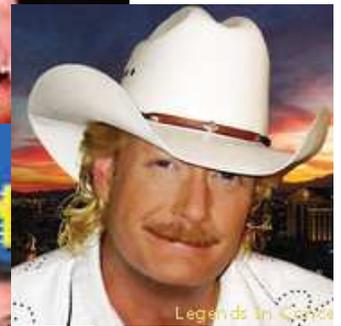
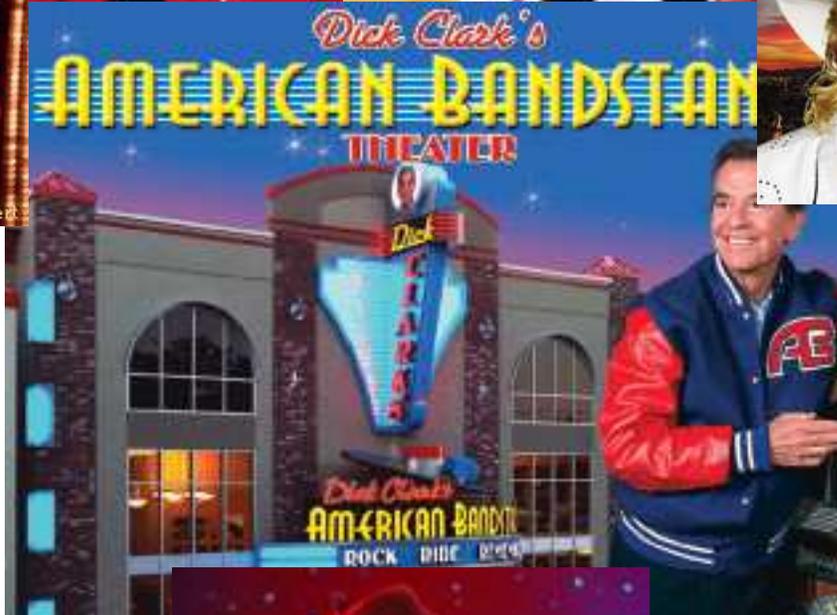
Elvis 'the King'



Rod Stewart



Tina Turner



Alan Jackson

We are booked for dinner and a show with these impersonators on Tuesday evening. The cost is included in the \$47 per person 'meal money.' Be sure to get your money to Chod TODAY. Space is limited



**Ramada Inn
Branson, MO
April 26, 27 and 28**