

# USS Benjamin Stoddert (DDG-22) Association



## The Stoddert News

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SPRING EDITION

Association President: Lou Turilli 429 S. Roselle Rd., Roselle, IL 60172, [tluigi@msn.com](mailto:tluigi@msn.com) (630) 529-9875  
Editor: Art Hansen, 5800 30th Avenue, Kearney, NE 68845, [artandjane@charter.net](mailto:artandjane@charter.net) (308) 237-5435

### Washington, DC 2008—October 2<sup>nd</sup>—6<sup>th</sup>

That is **Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**—Note this is a change from our past reunions, which have been Wednesday through Sunday events. Our Washington D.C. venue was much tougher to get reasonable rates on our past schedule, so we have to adapt. We can do that, because we are Destroyer men.

On the last page of this newsletter we have information on the tours that will be available. We hope that everyone who is able to signs up for the tours. The rates are based on putting a certain number on the bus—if we have less, we still go, but the Association has to pay a premium and thereby loses money. Every seat sold over the magic number puts extra money to the Association, so it benefits us all. We have found that the tours offer an excellent opportunity to get to share Stoddert stories and meet new people. Hope you can join us.

The menus have been finalized and are as follows:

- BUFFET (Saturday night) (\$31.00 per person)
- Tossed Salad
- Corn and Pepper Salad
- Make your own Fajitas (with Chicken Ground Beef and all the Fixin's)
- Spanish Rice
- Chef's Choice of Vegetable
- Chef's Selection of Desserts
- Water, iced tea, hot tea, coffee (reg and decaf)

BANQUET DINNER (Sunday night) (\$33.00 per person)

Seasonal Greens with vegetable garnish and two dressings

Caesar Salad garnished with grated parmesan cheese and croutons

Soup Du Jour

Entrée Choices:

1. Parmesan Crusted Chicken
2. Sliced Sirloin with mushroom demiglaze

Desserts:

1. Cheesecake
2. Chocolate cake

Water, iced tea, hot tea, coffee (reg and decaf)

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**Don't delay; make those reservations today!!**

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If you have not already done so, be sure to call the hotel for your room reservations. Here are the numbers: 800-233-1234 or (703)-713-1234. In order to get the special room rate of \$95.00, be sure to ask for the reunion rate. The last report I had said that the rooms were filling up fast and there was talk of asking for another block. There is no guarantee that more rooms will be available, so it is imperative that you make reservations as soon as you think you might come. You can cancel the reservations with 24 hours notice at no charge. **Deadline for reservations is September 2, 2008.**

**Subject: Famous Warships Quiz**  
(answers located on page 3)

1. This sunken ship is a memorial in Pearl Harbor.
2. Captain Bligh suffered a mutiny aboard this ship.
3. Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar.
4. Charles Darwin made his historic voyage aboard this ship.
5. World War II German battleship hunted and sunk by the British Royal Navy.
6. This battle cruiser disappeared within 10 minutes of engaging the Bismark.
7. It was the first ironclad warship commissioned by the United States Navy.
8. Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe on this ship.
9. Frigate widely cited as the most famous U.S. warship of all time.
10. This supercarrier was named after the head of the Pacific fleet in World War II.



- Visit the [www.ddg22.com](http://www.ddg22.com) website:
- Become a member
  - Register for the 2008 reunion
  - Complete reunion survey
  - Review Commanding Officers
  - View ship photos
  - Visit the ship store
  - Read about past reunions
  - And more!

## Reunion Survey

Please visit the website, [www.ddg22.com](http://www.ddg22.com) and complete the reunion survey. Completing this survey will afford you earliest opportunity to register when forms are available, which should be VERY soon! ☺ You can also log your (current) email address and annotate the years you served aboard the Stoddert. This survey is for information only and is not a commitment to attend the reunion!

### Benjamin Stoddert Association Executive Committee 2007-2008

Lou Turilli	Chairman
Frank Chesla	Co-Chairman
Dave Saunders	Secretary
Herm Chambers	Treasurer
John Bassolino	Member-at-large
John Dishaw	Member-at-large
Art Hansen	Newsletter Editor
Carole Bryan	Webmaster

### PICTURE THIS: On Line....

For some interesting pictures, go to google.images, and type in "Benjamin Stoddert." On page 8 you will find our own Herm Chambers. Also, there are pictures of Captain E.B. Taylor, his family, and his grave at Arlington (p.6). Also, David Larson (p.10).

### 2008 50-50 TICKET DRAWING

The 50-50 ticket drawing will be held at the 2008 reunion; however, we will not be sending out tickets with a newsletter this year. Paper copy newsletters will be sent only to members of the Benjamin Stoddert Association (you can join on-line, at [www.ddg22.com](http://www.ddg22.com)). Remember, the drawing is always open to everyone, regardless of whether or not you attend the reunion. **You do not have to be present to win.** The winners who are not at the reunion will have a check mailed to him or her as soon as we return from Washington. Here is a chance to cash in on some big bucks. Ticket sales for the 50-50 will continue until just before the drawing, which will be at the Sunday evening banquet.



**John Lekwa, 2007  
50-50 Winner-check  
out that smile!**

Help support a growing Benjamin Stoddert Association. If you want to purchase 50/50 tickets, simply mail \$10.00 for each 12 tickets to Herm Chambers at the address below and include 12 address labels so we can place them on the tickets for you. Make your checks payable to USS Benjamin Stoddert Association.

**Herm Chambers, 220 Meister Way,  
Sacramento, CA 95819  
[DDG22ETCM@yahoo.com](mailto:DDG22ETCM@yahoo.com)**

## 31-Knot Burke

"We are destroyer men! A big-ship man would have trouble filling our shoes. We like to think we would have no trouble filling his. We have learned the lesson of self-reliance, of not being afraid of a little rough living or any tough assignment. We are real sailormen, the destroyer men of the fleet. When things are getting too hard for anyone else, they're getting just right for us."



This quote is attributed to Admiral A. B. Burke in a Collier's magazine article (Walter Karig, "'31-Knot' Burke." September 16, 1955 p21) about the remarkable ascension of the relatively unknown Commander of the Atlantic Destroyer Fleet—by-passing 92 senior admirals—to the job of Chief of Naval Operations, and the attendant seat on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

31-Knot Burke—so nick-named by Admiral William F. (Bull) Halsey—was named CNO by President Eisenhower, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, and Secretary of the Navy Charles S. Thomas. In WWII he had earned a reputation of traveling faster than expected and arriving ahead of schedule. Unfortunately for the Japanese navy, he did just that in November 1943 when he arrived at the interception point one-and-a-half hours earlier than ordered—only to find that the Japanese had also arrived early. The primary difference being that Commodore Burke was expecting them and they were expecting nothing. Before the Japanese ships could complete their rendezvous, Burke's group of five destroyers had sunk two Japanese destroyers and when the three remaining enemy vessels scattered at high speed, the Americans gave chase and sunk a third. It was this battle near the Buka-Rabaul neck of the Solomon Sea that gave him the moniker of "31-Knot Burke."

Burke stated that his goals for the Navy included pursuing nuclear powered air-craft carriers and guided missiles as weaponry. His vision for a nuclear fleet that could stay one step ahead of the enemy, included the seeds of the guided missile destroyers to come half-a-decade later: According to the Collier's article "It could be that guided-missile ships—fast launching platforms that could even be submarines—will supplement the carriers..." (25).

Commencing with DDG-51's commissioning in 1991, the USS Arleigh Burke, the newest class of guided missile destroyers began the latest chapter in destroyer history,



The USS Arleigh Burke DDG-51

and appropriately named the man who thought the worst part of being promoted to Chief of Naval Operations was leaving the "beautiful destroyers." (22)

## The ACVA: Adams Class Veterans Association

This link (<http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org/>) is our last physical link to the ship we proudly served aboard. The Adams Class Veterans Association (ACVA) has completed the application to the Department of the Navy to have DDG-2, the USS Charles F. Adams, (the sole surviving ship of this class) gifted to the ACVA for permanent display as a museum ship in Jacksonville, Florida. The chances look very good that the gift will be made and we will be able to save an important piece of Naval history. The following mission statement is on the web site:

### Our Mission

- Work with all Adams class groups and organizations to Save, Restore and Preserve the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2;
- Educate the public on the rich naval heritage of the Adams class DDG ships;
- Document the roles of Adams class DDG ships in United States history;
- Show the importance of preserving historic naval vessels and memorabilia for future generations to appreciate.

At the web site you can sign up to volunteer to help restore the ship (once it is handed over to the group). They will need the time and expertise of many to accomplish such a task. I plan to give a week or two and encourage others to do likewise. Maybe I can get my son to join me so he, too, can experience the joy of chipping bilges in the after steering ram space.



The Charles Adams as it would look in Jacksonville, Florida.

### Answers to Famous Warships Quiz

1. USS Arizona; 2. HMS Bounty; 3. HMS Victory; 4. HMS Beagle; 5. Bismarck; 6. HMS Hood; 7. USS Monitor; 8. Golden Hind; 9. USS Constitution; 10. USS Nimitz

# THE TOURS

The itinerary and prices are preliminary at this time.

## **Friday:**

Group to depart Hyatt Dulles hotel at 8:30-9:00AM

**9: 30am:** Arrive at Arlington National Cemetery. Visit the grave sites of JFK, Robert Kennedy, The Changing of the Guard at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and visit the Robert E. Lee House



**12pm:** Visit the FDR and Jefferson Memorials

**1pm:** Lunch at Union Station

**2pm:** Visit the WW-II Memorial

**3pm:** Visit the Navy Memorial and museum



## **Saturday:**

**9: 00am:** Visit the Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans and Korean War Memorials

**10: 30am:** Drive by the Pentagon, stop at the Air Force Memorial

**11: 30am:** Visit the Iwo Jima Memorial

**12: 00pm:** Drive through Georgetown and lunch at Union Station

**1: 00pm:** Visit the Air and Space Museum

Preliminary prices for Friday's tour are \$56.00 per person which will include the cost of tram tickets at Arlington. Saturday's tour may be set at \$44.00 per person.

## **Benefits of Association Membership**

**Full pass worded access to website**

**Member Directory**  
(With written permission from members)

**Hard copy newsletters**

**NOTE: Those who have responded positively to the survey and all association members will have hard copies of this newsletter mailed to their home address!**

**Free entries into Reunion door prize drawing**

**Discount at Ship Store**

*Join Today @*

[www.ddg22.com](http://www.ddg22.com)



**DDG-22 Benjamin Stoddert  
Art Hansen, Newsletter Editor  
5800 - 30<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845**