

U.S.S. LOWNDES - APA 154

MARCH 2007 NEWSLETTER

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Reunion dates: October 4 thru 7th, 2007.

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I'm hoping to make this 19th reunion in St. Louis, MO as memorable as I possibly can. I also hope and wish that many that have - will attend and those that have not - will make this one their first. If there is another reunion in 2008, I feel that it will have to be in the Midwest again, since I know it has been getting more and more difficult for many to travel. This reunion will be held in St. Charles, MO where history comes alive every day. With its 19th Century architecture, one-of-a-kind shops, unique museums and glorious festivals that celebrate a rich history. From fur trappers & traders in the 1700s to the rendezvous of Lewis & Clark in 1804. St. Charles has always been a perfect place to meet for over 200 years.

This year I have contracted with Holiday Inn-Select (St. Charles), 4341 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Phone (636)928-2927. The hotel is located just 12 miles from Lambert International Airport. The room rate will be \$82.00 per night with rates guaranteed three nights prior and after our event. And there is a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport. There is also shuttle service available within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. I working on the events and details will follow. **Be sure to mention USS Lowndes Reunion when making reservations.**

Jan Trober

Enclosed with this issue of the newsletter is a brochure describing the hotel. Also enclosed is a stamped and ready for mailing post card requesting the intentions of shipmates, spouses and siblings to be returned as soon as possible so Jan will have information to set up a successful reunion. There are many attractions to be visited in St. Louis and St. Charles. I'm sure Jan will arrange an interesting tour for our enjoyment.

Lambert – St. Louis International Airport

Serviced by Air Canada, America West, American Airlines, Comair, Continental, Delta, Frontier.

Midwest Connect, Northwest, Southwest Airlines, United, USAirways.

For those attendees taking an alternate mode of travel to St. Louis, like the Q2 please, allow plenty of time as the Q2 travels only 6" for each gallon of fuel so make sure you have enough motion lotion to make the trip.

See Page 6 for more information about tours and attractions supplied by Jan Trober.

Holiday Inn

SELECT™

ST. PETERS/ST. CHARLES (St. Louis Area)

4341 Veterans Memorial Parkway • St. Peters, MO 63376
(636) 928-1500 • Fax (636) 922-1840 • www.hisstlouis.com



Directions: From I-70, take Cave Springs Exit 225 south to Veterans Memorial Parkway, drive one-half mile west.

Frances Robertson

We sure had a good time in Seattle and hope to see all at the St. Louis, 2007 reunion. What fascinated us was there were no telephone or electric lines from pole to pole as in other cities. We really need a system like that in our city. For several days we had lots of rain and covered the trees when it froze. The electric was out. Some areas got hit hard. The limbs in our yard came down and one snapped the line from the pole to our house. But, my jack of all trades, hubby, rigged up a temporary set up so we had electricity and heat. The fellows that did the repairs for the utility were from Minnesota. We seem to be getting along OK except for some aches and pains that come from being senior citizens.

Ed. note: This all happened after their return from Seattle and should not affect our reunion in October.

Mary Schaffer

Enjoy getting the newsletters, keep them coming. I will try to make the reunion this year, but I'm so busy baby-sitting for my great grand daughter who is not 1 year old yet. She really keeps me busy.

Robert Warnberg

Enclosed my dues for 2007. I always enjoy reading the newsletters. My grand son, Scott who attended the reunion in Las Vegas is now head of the Air Force hospital in Alaska as a top Sgt.

Right, Bob you should be proud of your son and his accomplishments.

Lorene Stratton

I'm walking pretty well with a cane. Dallas still plays softball, but I guess our traveling days are over. Our kids came down and picked us up to go to South Carolina for Christmas.

Joyce DuBois

Thanks for the newsletter, Enjoy receiving them. Frank is Doing well considering his problems.

Certainly wish the best for Joyce and Frank.

Stuart Hyde

We've stayed away from Christmas letters, but 2006 brought so many good things, we felt an urge to share some of them. In June/July, Allie had an exhibit of 32 large paintings on display in San Francisco. It was an exciting experience for us and visitors. After the Iwo Jima and Okinawa book. I began a revision of my textbook, "Television & Radio Announcing". It will be the 11th edition, to come out in 2009 just 50 years after the 1st edition. We enjoy our life in Marin. We share our home with Jezebel, our German Short Haired Pointer, who turned a vigorous 13 in November. Oh, and I'm returning to STSU to teach media performance during the Spring semester.

It appears that the two of them have no difficulty in not having enough activities to keep them young and busy.

Marlene & Ronald Schadler

We want to say thanks for keeping us in the Lowndes family.

Frances Miller

Thank you for remembering me with the Lowndes newsletters. I shed a few tears, reading, that the reunion 2007 is going to be in St. Louis, MO. It was Fran's Hometown. Frank had also put in 1700 hours of volunteer work for the VFW. The firing squad (21 gun salute) was always peculiar because they never seemed to be fired at the same time.

Patrick McGinley

My Dad (Andrew John) told me that he drove the landing craft to the shores. One time he arrived at the beach with a boat full of Marines, the front ramp wouldn't go down. Mortars were falling all around and so he said, "Over the sides!" As the Marines jumped out of the craft, he ran to the front to see what the problem was. While at the ramp, a mortar shell hit the steering wheel where he would have been. He jumped on board another craft and went back to the ship to get another boat. Another time he was alongside the ship waiting for the Marines to get into the landing craft. He was asleep over the helm. The officer on deck saw him sleeping and hollered down asking him what was wrong. Dad told him he had been on duty for 24 hours. The officer asked his name and then checked the relief roster. His name wasn't on it. The officer told him to get on deck immediately, get something to eat and go to bed.

David Brinkman

I had been contacted by Patrick, son of Andrew – MoMM who was a member of the amphibian boat crews and made a run to the beach at Iwo Jima. Served on the Lowndes from Nov. 1944 to Aug. 1945. Pat took a wild shot and went to Yahoo! Main page and typed in USS Lowndes in the reunion link and came up with my name. Guess if used properly AOL can be useful. Bill Thomas has a faint recollection of Andrew, medium height with curly black hair. Andrew passed away February 20, 1969.

Roseanna Jones

I just had a birthday last November, my kids sure know how to throw a party! Received many cards. Dick and I are so happy here in Wichita. Where we live is like living in a small town, as we're so close to all major stores, a big shopping mall, Super Walmart and Sam's. We have quit camping and sold our truck and 5th wheel, but we still want to go south to Texas for about a week or so to visit our friends there and make a few trips to Mexico.

Jackie Richards

Wally and I have finally had a good year health wise. We visited our daughter in Texas. She was very homesick, so Wally and I went down again for the week of Thanksgiving to spend some time with her and the family as she had a few days off from her duties as a school nurse. Wally and I, my sister and husband spent a few days in Estes Park at our nieces vacation home. The weather was not the best as we had wind, cold, clouds, rain and even some snow. In October we went to Stevens Point, Wisconsin for Wally's army reunion.

Mary Fearing

As some of you have heard, I received some disappointed news in September, I have cancer, Lymphoma. I had to have surgery to remove a section of bowel, that the lymph nodes were attached to. Due to the side effects of chemo, my fingers are very numb and it's extremely hard for me to write, so Marilyn my daughter is typing this for me. Dean is doing we;; and has been a really big help, he says he really likes to do the dishes now!!! I just finished my 4th round of chemo and had another one December 21st. Hope the chemo hits the cancer.

This I gotta see, Dean liking to do dishes. Wonder if he brought that home from the Lowndes mess hall duty? Hang in there Mary, we're with you.

Shipmate located:

Roger E. Solley
440 Via Linda Vista
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
<twosolleys@aol.com

Returned Mail:

James T. Tolle
Mrs. Chas. Murray
Jewel Jesky
Mrs. Albert Resetar
Mrs. John Johnson

Jim McKellar

Last September I had the honor of accompanying my 90 year old Father, Ed, to a reunion of his former shipmates from WWII in Seattle, WA. During the event I learned a lot about the Navy's role at Iwo Jima. For instance, as you watch the movie "Flags of Our Fathers" you'll see a broached LCV(P), PA 154-21 broached on the beach. The attack transport USS Lowndes - APA 154 that carried the 4th Marines from Maui to Iwo Jima and the Lowndes Beach Party making a landing on the shore. The Lowndes also operated as an alternate hospital ship tending the many wounded brought to the ship. The ship got underway only when the Kamikaze attacked. As my Dad said, "One came right over our mast and took out one of the picket ships on the other side." Later in the battle all hands were on deck as a group of Marines and one Navy corpsman pushed to the top of Mount Suribachi and raised the US flag on the mountain top. During the reunion, it became clearer than ever to me that all of those who served in any capacity in WWII, whether in combat or industry, were just regular people from everywhere who did more than you ever thought you were capable of doing. Then you came home and built a country that I have enjoyed all my life. From my heart, I say Thank You.

Thank you Jim for your personal input.

For anyone desiring to contact Jim, he can be reached at: <jim@CertifiedHawaii.com>

Joe Erlandson

I remember Orbie B. Dickson and I were in a so called foxhole with others. I don't remember when, but Donald Bowman came over the edge of the foxhole and stood there with a Jap's gold tooth in a pair of pliers. Don't recall how much longer after that when someone came by and told us that Bowman had been killed. If I remember right, Dickson had been at Guadalcanal before Iwo Jima and

was a little more stable than I was. I just wanted to get the hell out of there but he held me back and I thank him for that. Fred Brinkman mentioned that Jerome Freider received a citation and he sure deserved it. also remember he was carrying and helping the wounded all the time. We were carrying ammo or something closer to the front in the middle of the night and he was taking care of the wounded in the rain. I believe some of us came off the island on the 5th day on an LST>

Ed. note: Yes David in answer to your query, it was common for the Japs to have gold teeth, thereby making them one of the collectibles for the American GI's. Does the above tale by Joe give you an insight as to some of the things that went on during WWII? Do remember helping Don give giving Derral Easter, a member of our Beach Party, a shot of morphine after sustaining a wound and will NEVER forget his glassy eyes from the reaction of the drug used to ease his pain. To this day, can't understand how some of the younger people of our generation can think it so cool.

Bill Dunbar

David, again I am compelled to tell you how much your work means to me, and now to Robbie. Having lost my Dad when I was 17, the kids know only stories, and of course the war seems to them like another world. For an 11 year-old boy, there's nothing cooler than having a relative who was in a war. And the fact that your site tells the story just brings that part of Dad's life to life. And now the movie will do a bit of the same, I'm sure. I think I'll risk it and take Robbie, my son, to see the movie. He's quite mature and level-headed, like his namesake.

Ed. Note: As much as Lt. Dunbar and I didn't see eye to eye during that time of stress and strife, I'm sure if we were to meet now after all is said and done there would be some things that we would certainly agree on in our golden years.



William H. Robinson

Born March 15, 1926 in Akron, Ohio and passed away November 3, 2006. A military funeral was performed by the VFW Honor Guard. Joined the Navy at Erie, PA February 1944 and boarded the Lowndes in December at Pearl Harbor as a F1c. His watch station was as a lookout and his General Quarters station was in the shaft alley. He left the Lowndes December 1945 as a MoMM3c in San Francisco, CA where he was assigned shore duty and drove a truck. Last active duty was at Camp Shoemaker in May 1946. Trucking agreed with him and he owned several rigs for 6 years before joining Roadway Express in 1954 until he retired in 1986 after 31 years. He spent every free minute during the summers on His Correct Craft Competition Ski Boat. Survivors include 3 children and 6 grandchildren.



Bernard G. M. Tracz

Born August 22, 1925 in Campbell, Ohio. Passed away September 2006. Enlisted in the Navy December 21, 1943. Served on the Lowndes September 14, 1944 (Becoming a Plank Owner) to December 17, 1945 as a RM2c. He served at the USTN ay Great Lakes, IL and also on the USS YDG 8 before being discharged from the Navy on May 16, 1946. Attended the NTSCH at Northwestern University. As a civilian he was employed as a shipping clerk for the Hackett Company in Warren, Ohio before retiring August 22, 1990. His passion was oil painting, giving numerous paintings to his family and friends. He was also an avid bowler, belonging to several leagues, and in his earlier years enjoyed polka dancing. He is survived by a niece, a nephew; 2 great-nephews and a great-niece.



Harold K. Castine

Born in Columbia, SC. Passed away August 16, 2006. He enlisted in the Navy During WWII and came aboard the Lowndes On September 14, 1945 and left the ship March 23, 1946. He served primarily in the South Pacific where he also served aboard the USS Prairie and other ships during that time. Participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa campaigns. After being discharged from the Navy he returned to the Mill Village and was employed by the Olympic Mills. In the mid-sixties he left the Mill and went to work for the United States Postal Service from which he retired in 1988. Surviving are his wife, Hilbert; Son Joby; daughter Karen and Debbie; a niece and several nephews; great-nieces and great nephews.

While on the Lowndes he was BM2c, no other information available.

Mar. 2007-6

Is there someone from your military days you'd like to see?
They may be at the ...

USS LOWNDES 2007 REUNION

St. Charles, MO ~ October 4th – 7th, 2007

Welcome to St. Charles

St. Charles, once the capital of Missouri is the oldest city on the Missouri River, founded in 1769. Today, historic St. Charles offers many unique shops, restaurants and cafes. Your reunion program offers plenty of time on Saturday to explore this very historical area, and take part in St. Charles' annual Oktoberfest festivities. On Friday you will have the opportunity to tour neighboring St. Louis, which was defined as a world-class city when they hosted the 1904 World's Fair. St. Louis' key role in the development of America's west is evident today in this city of diverse attractions and cultural experiences. Friday evening join your friends for a great meal and a good laugh at the *Die Laughing Comedy Club* located in your hotel. The USS Lowndes reunion will provide many wonderful opportunities to catch up with your friends and family while exploring the place where the ice cream cone, iced tea and hot dogs were invented.

Hotel Information

The reunion officially runs from Thursday, October 4th through Sunday, October 7th. You will be staying at the full service *Holiday Inn Select St. Peters-St. Charles* which is located at 4341 Veteran's Memorial Parkway, St. Peters, MO 63376. The hotel is located close to many of the area's most popular attractions.

Reservation Information

The room rate is just \$82.00 plus tax per night. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available three days prior and three days after, based on availability. Please make your hotel reservations NOW by calling the hotel directly at the following number 636-928-1500. You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 3:00pm. Please, do not expect to get into your room before then. Make your reservations NOW, you may cancel your hotel room up to 24 hours prior to arrival and not be charged. Be sure to ask for the USS Lowndes reunion rate. They will ask you for a deposit or credit card number to guarantee your room reservation. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or August 24th, 2007, whichever comes first.

Airport Transportation & Parking

If you are flying to the reunion, the Holiday Inn Select St. Peters offers complimentary shuttle service from the St. Louis Lambert Airport (STL). Please advise the hotel you will be taking the shuttle when you make your room reservation. For those of you driving, the hotel offers plenty of free parking. The hotel is conveniently located at exit 225 off of Interstate 70.

Travel safely and

See you in St. Charles!

USS LOWNDES 2007 REUNION EVENTS

EVENT A: ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY & ST. LOUIS CITY TOUR

Friday, October 5th (9:00am-3:30pm)

Your day begins at the St. Louis Anheuser-Busch 100-acre brewery which is a rich part of America's brewing history and the largest of Anheuser-Busch's twelve U.S. and two overseas breweries. The tour begins with a visit to the historic stable, home to the Budweiser Clydesdale Eight-Horse Hitch, and one of the several national historic landmarks on the property. Discover first-hand how one of the world's greatest beers is carefully drafted in the brew house and packaged in the *Brevo* Packaging plant. At the end of the tour, there will be samples for all (you must be at least 21 years of age in order to sample the beers). Relax in the hospitality room as you sip your favorite brew or spend some time browsing the unique Anheuser-Busch gift shop. Board your coach for an informative city tour. You will learn "there is more than meets the Arch". Visit the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis whose interior is covered with 83,000 square feet of mosaics, the largest such collection in the world. Drive through *Laclede's Landing*, a nine block historic area whose old warehouses are home to many night spots, shops & restaurants set amongst cobblestone streets. No visit to St. Louis is complete without a stop at the 630-foot *Gateway Arch*, which is also home to the *Museum of Westward Expansion*. Take a tram ride to the top of the Arch or just relax and enjoy a film on how it was built. There will be time for lunch on your own at the *St. Louis Station*, an urban marketplace with several restaurants and shops.

Please note: The cost of the Tram is \$10 per person, and is not included in the price of the tour. The tram ride is not wheelchair accessible, and is not recommended for those who suffer from claustrophobia or fear of heights.

EVENT B: DIE LAUGHING COMEDY CLUB

Friday, October 5th (5:30pm-8:30pm at the hotel)

Join your friends and family for a wonderful evening of fun and laughter. The *Die Laughing Comedy Club*, located in the lobby of your hotel, presents a wonderful evening of mystery & comedy. You will begin with a four course meal with wine, followed by a great show. The show "Lucy Loves Ricky" will be sure to keep you laughing all night long as Lucy tries to break into show business by getting into Ricky's new show at the *Cope-With Your-Banana*. Please meet in the lobby at 5:15pm.

Please note: 30 people minimum required.

FREE DAY TO EXPLORE HISTORIC ST. CHARLES

Saturday, October 6th

Your hotel is located in the heart of historic St. Charles; the oldest city on the Missouri River, founded in 1769. St. Charles served as the State's first capitol. Explore *South Main Street*, the preserved historic district with more than 100 shops, restaurants and cafes, all set along the cobblestone streets lined with gas lamps. The *Frenchtown* area, known for its antique shopping, has 58 historic buildings of French Colonial and German architecture. You may choose to visit the *Lewis & Clark Museum* or the *Miniature World Museum*, or try your luck aboard the expanded Ameristar Casino – for real Las Vegas style gaming action.

BANQUET DINNER

Saturday, October 6th (7:00pm at the hotel)

Join your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the hotel. Please indicate your entrée selection on your reservation form.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of Tour & Banquet expenses up until three (3) days before the start of your reunion. If you need to cancel – please call our office immediately (817-251-3551) for a cancellation number. If you have not purchased cancellation insurance all tour and meal money is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

Notes:

~ Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 30 people per bus is not met. In this case, full refunds will be given.

~ Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary from the bus to attractions and in some instances to also see the attractions. Please consider your abilities before purchasing tours.