

**USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2009**

**BYLAWS OF THE USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSOCIATION...Article 1, Section 5 reads:**  
*Members are encouraged to make an annual contribution of \$10.00. Notice of dues will be included in the first newsletter each year. There are no mandatory dues.*

You will find included with this newsletter a printed card with information on one side about 'dues' and on the reverse side information as to what is contained in the Association files on each member or friend of The Sullivans Association. Moreover, an envelope addressed to The Sullivans Assn. **Treasurer, Jim Rauth**, is provided for your use. While it is hoped that many members will send a check of \$10.00 some will be able to be more generous and mail a check for a greater amount, and others will find it difficult to mail any amount. Regardless, we hope that you will review the information that is now in The Sullivans Association files as recorded on the enclosed card, make any corrections and mail it in the enclosed envelope. Many thanks in advance for your help and cooperation.

**The shipmates of the United States Navy Destroyers, THE SULLIVANS, join together:**

**To:** Promote the memory of **George, Francis, Madison, Joseph and Albert**, the five Sullivan Brothers who died when their ship, **USS Juneau (CL52)** sank after being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine during the battle of Guadalcanal on November 13, 1942: **To:** Continue the spirit and unity that lived and continues to live among the crews of these gallant ships. **USS THE SULLIVANS (DD537)** and **USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG68)** during their years of service to our nation: **To:** Promote and foster fellowship, camaraderie and communication among our members and their families: **To:** Pledge our continued loyalty to our great country: and **To:** Honor the memory of our departed shipmates.

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

**USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSN.  
OFFICERS ROSTER 2009-2011**

**CURRENT OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT-----BRUCE KAHLER(62/64)  
VICE PRESIDENT----- JOHN MATAKA (60/63)  
SECRETARY-----ROGER SMITH (55/56)  
TREASURER----- JIM RAUTH (61/64)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

CURRENT OFFICERS, JIM HENDRICKSON (62/63),  
GERARD LEHNER (43/46), HARRY NELSON (52/54)

**BOARD OF ADVISORS**

RONALD BLACK (52/55), WILLIAM GALARNEAU (63/65),  
RONALD GLESSNER (51/55), RALPH HENDRICKS (51/55),  
DEAN LEONARD (DDG 68 02/05), RICHARD ROTH (53/54)

**FOUNDERS**

PAUL FANT (43/45) deceased  
CHARLES McCARTY (44/45) deceased  
ROBERT SANDER (43/45) deceased



NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____
CITY	_____ ST _____ ZIP _____
YEARS ON BOARD	_____ SHIP _____
SPOUSE	_____ PHONE _____
EMAIL	_____

Please mail this form or email the secretary any changes to your current mailing address. It is very important that we keep our roster information up-to-date.

Membership in The USS The Sullivans Association is open to all who have served on USS THE SULLIVANS DD537 or USS THE SULLIVANS DDG 68. To join the association please complete this form and mail to:

**ROGER K. SMITH, Secretary**  
**USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSN.**  
**P.O. Box 177, Athol MASS. 01331-0177**  
Or email to [rksdd537@mass.rr.com](mailto:rksdd537@mass.rr.com)

John Mataka is updating the list of DD537/DDG68 email addresses. To make sure it is accurate and current he would like you to send him a message with your current email address. Email him at [jsmatakadd537@comcast.net](mailto:jsmatakadd537@comcast.net). All "spam", etc. is locked out of this address.

**MEMBERSHIP LISTS.** The policy of the Executive Board is not to send out a complete membership list because of privacy and the expense and work involved in sending over 800 lists to members. However, if you mail or email a list of shipmates (maximum 12) to the secretary we will inform you if any are members. Also we can email a list of crewmembers' emails that we have compiled.

## USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

**EXCITEMENT RISES AS THE SULLIVANS ARRIVES IN INDIA.** Early in the morning on 16 February, USS THE SULLIVANS made her approach to the Indian port of Cochin. Excitement filled the ship as the crew put on their dress uniform to offer a proper “hello” to the people of India. The relationship between India and the United States has been one of mutual agreement and desire to broaden the scope of peace across the region. THE SULLIVANS anticipates a port call filled with receptions and interactions to form another bond of friendship with the people of India.

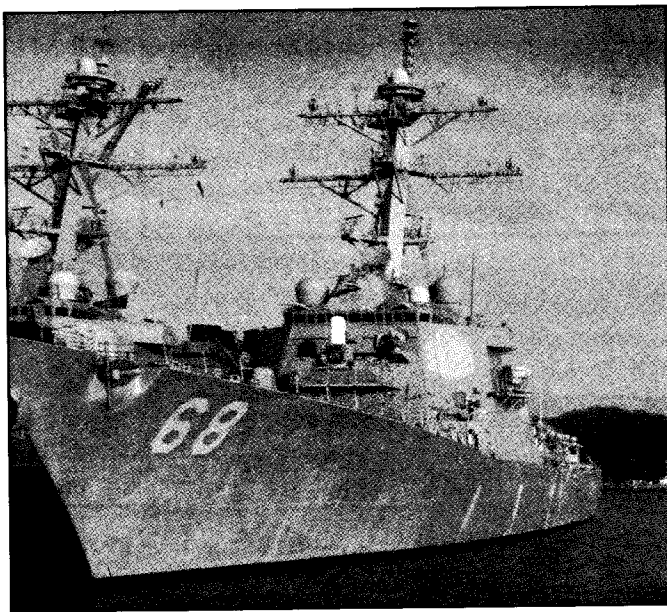
Captain Ryan C. Tillotson, Commanding Officer of USS THE SULLIVANS, beamed with pride on the bridge wing. “Having visited India nearly two years ago as a student of the National Defense University, I am excited to return to this fascinating country with rich traditions and cultural history,” Tillotson said.

For most of THE SULLIVANS’ crew, this will be their first visit to India. The crew has been lucky to see many different cultures throughout the deployment. As an east coast U.S. ship, THE SULLIVANS has had the rare opportunity to work in the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility, making port calls in Yokosuka, Japan, Chinhae, South Korea, and Singapore among others. India will be the perfect way to cap off the trip to Seventh Fleet as there is so much to learn from the culture and gain from working with the Indian Navy.

For some, the port call was one of heightened anticipation. Electrician’s Mate First Class Phil Rahim’s great grandfather was born in India. Rahim grew up in a Hindu household in Trinidad and has never gotten the chance to visit the country of his heritage. Rahim, who recently checked onboard THE SULLIVANS, cherishes the chance to see the culture and traditions of India. “I am excited to see where it all started,” said Rahim. “My grandfather came to India when I was a little boy and I didn’t have the opportunity. And now I can see what he has seen.”

The timing of THE SULLIVANS arrival proves to be a critical time for India. In November 2008, terrorists attacked the Taj Hotel in Mumbai. “Having stayed at the Taj Hotel myself, I was deeply affected by the unwarranted attacks that occurred there,” Tillotson said. “I extend my sincere condolences to the people of Mumbai and I hope that a full investigation determines what happened and who was responsible.” The United States and India share many common concerns based on mutual security and the promotion of freedom in the region. THE SULLIVANS hopes that this port call to Cochin will help build and foster these relationships and strengthen the prosperity of the Indian Ocean region.

THE SULLIVANS also offers large congratulations to the people of India as they have celebrated the Indian Republic Day less than one month ago. The crew anticipates learning about the history of India and building the military to military relationships with this fine country. “I look forward to this unique opportunity to continue the excellent relations that our nations and Navies have with each other,” said Tillotson. As a result of port visits such as this one, India and the United States have a steadily increasing positive relationship based on mutual respect. THE SULLIVANS looks forward to engaging in the many events planned during their time in Cochin and to welcoming the people of India into THE SULLIVANS family. We stick together! *Submitted by ENS Kari Weniger, PAO. USS The Sullivans DDG68.*



DDG68 outboard of U.S.S. McCampbell  
DDG85 Yokosuka, Japan Jan. 20-26, 2009.



Captain Ryan Tillotson and STG1(SW/AW) Charles  
Colemer overlook India as USS THE SULLIVANS  
DDG68 makes her approach.

# USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2009

### A HISTORY OF USS THE SULLIVANS DDG68 DEPLOYMENT FOR 2008-2009.

September 12, 2008. Departed Mayport, Florida.

September 27, 2008 **Cherbourg, France:** Participated in the dedication of the WWII monument to the U.S. Navy at Normandy. (See October newsletter for details and photographs for this event.)

**Rota, Spain:** Brief stop for fuel. A gun shoot was also conducted on the range in Rota. Numerous sailors were qualified during the short one-day visit.

**Souda Bay, Greece:** A chance to pick up supplies and fuel. The crew enjoyed liberty in nearby Chania. The ship conducted exercises with other NATO ships.

**Bahrain:** The extensive Navy base there offered many conveniences of home such as a large shopping mall, uniform shop, laundry services, good restaurants and an internet connection.

**Kuwait City, Kuwait:** The Kuwaitis were happy to welcome THE SULLIVANS to their country. The crew participated in sporting events and receptions that fostered friendship between the two countries.

**Abu Dhabi, UAE:** The crew got a chance to see one of the world's fastest growing cities. With indoor snow skiing, one of the world's biggest malls and the world's only 7-star hotel, the sailors were in awe of what Dubai had to offer.

**Sasebo, Japan:** This was a rare chance for a Mayport ship to travel so far from home. Many of the crewmembers last duty station had been in Sasebo, so they were able to show their shipmates around the city. Some of the crew visited Nagasaki, a short tour away.

**Okinawa, Japan:** THE SULLIVANS celebrated New Year's in Okinawa. A short stop for fuel and supplies, Sailors enjoyed a night off to celebrate the New Year. The aquarium in Okinawa drew a crowd with it's large exhibits and exotic creatures.

**Yokosuka, Japan:** Yokosuka offered a rare experience for THE SULLIVANS.

Every member of the crew participated in a community relations program while in port. The Department of Defense school on base in Yokosuka is named after the five Sullivan brothers. ENS Carl Comasco organized a ship to school exchange for the Kindergarten through fifth grade students. Teachers and students came and toured the ship while Sailors went to the school and participated in the classroom, taught Spanish, colored, and played on the playground. The bond formed between the children, the teachers, and the Sailors was remarkable.

**Chinhae, Republic of Korea:** The CO of the base stated that his main goal was to provide the crew with anything they needed or desired and they did. Sailors enjoyed a special bazaar with mink blankets, furniture, and other traditional gifts. Pusan was a short bus ride away and offered the traditional side of Korea as well as the large city aspect. The cold weather didn't keep the crew from enjoying everything Korea had to offer.

**Yokosuka, Japan:** The second trip to Yokosuka brought an opportunity for liberty in Tokyo. Tokyo was a short train ride away from Yokosuka and drew the crew to experience the big city life. Sailors were able to relax and explore the country and cherish the opportunity to travel to this beautiful country.

**Singapore:** Singapore was THE SULLIVANS only true liberty port. The schedule was cleared of all work and Sailors were given the opportunity to fully explore the city. Singapore offered culture, cleanliness, and an amazing transportation system. Sailors easily found their way around to many different traditional sights as well as an extensive restaurant and bar area on the river. The crew enjoyed the time to relax in a warmer climate than Japan. Sailors returned to the ship ready to work for the last few months of deployment.

**Cochin, India:** See opposite page of this newsletter for details for the Cochin Port visit. *Submitted by ENS Kari Weniger, PAO. USS The Sullivans DDG68.*

**NEW BOOK ABOUT A WWII CREWMEMBER OF USS THE SULLIVANS DD537. *Life of a Navy Man* by William E. Thedford.** 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", 166 pages. Hardcover. Reg. price \$24.95. The author has written about his father, Miles Allen Thedford, born Sept. 9, 1911, died Jan. 1, 1983. Miles, better known as Ted, joined the U.S. Navy on Jan. 24, 1928 at age 16. He was the Atlantic Scouting Fleet Welterweight Boxing Champion in 1929. He reenlisted in April 1932, and served aboard the USS Parry on the Yangtze River. In 1942 Chief Thedford was assigned to USS Mayo, DD22, and served during the North Africa & Italian Campaigns. Commissioned an Ensign he was assigned to the USS The Sullivans in the fall of 1943. They left San Francisco Dec. 24, 1943 for the Pacific War. The ship departed from Pearl Harbor to California July 9, 1945. About 27 pages are devoted to his time on The Sullivans. Ted served on DD537 for the entire time he was in the Pacific. Reading some of the family story is up to you, but you will certainly find all the content related to his Navy days of special interest. He mentions our member, Robert McAlpine, quite often, and a painting done by Robert of a battle scene, "*First Kill*" 4-29-44" is reproduced. Ted Thedford was a member of the Association and attended reunions, 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9. We are sure most of our WWII members remember him. (Order from author Bill Thedford, 100 John Deere Ln. Spring City, TN 37381. Tel. 1-423-365-5764. Email [thedfordw@bellsouth.net](mailto:thedfordw@bellsouth.net). *Special price \$17.95 p.p. for Assn. members.*)

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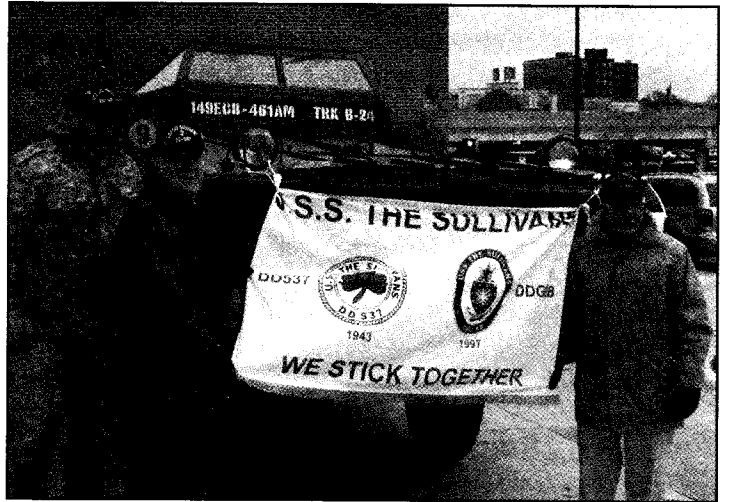


Photo from left: Mike Magee with Pres. Bruce Kahler and Charlie Brown holding our new banner, Nov. 15, 2008.

Photo at Dedication of new Museum, Nov. 15, 2008. From left: Luke Loughren, Kelly (Sullivan) Loughren, Capt. Wade Wilkenson and Kelcie Loughren.

**THE SULLIVANS BROTHERS IOWA VETERANS MUSEUM IN WATERLOO, IOWA DEDICATION CEREMONY. NOVEMBER 15, 2008.**

It was a cold and snowy day, but the dedication events went well. The Committee for the ceremony and all the staff at the museum deserve a big Thank You for presenting an outstanding program and well done museum. It is something that everyone involved can be very proud of. Members of the Association who were able to attend were Robert Alden, Ron Black, Charlie Brown, John Clifton, Jerry Cole, Bruce Kahler, James Schwab, and Leo Turgeon. Also attending was Amy Tillotson, the wife of DDG68's C.O., Capt. Wade Wilkenson, former DDG68 C.O., Catherine McFarland, Jimmy Sullivan, John Sullivan, Kelly (Sullivan) Loughren and her children, and Mike Magee. Mr. Donald Winter, Secretary of the Navy, had to cancel plans, but Rear Admiral Lee Metcalf filled in for him.

**TIN CAN SAILORS, INC.**

The Tin Can Sailors 2007 grant to USS THE SULLIVANS DD537 was \$19,000. The 2008 donation was \$8,000. Since 1992, Tin Can Sailors has given the ship a total of \$276,750. All of these funds came from memberships in Tin Can Sailors. Also the Reunion Group supplemental grants program donated \$18,796 for a grand total of \$295,546.

The USS THE SULLIVANS ASSOCIATION has about 600 members who served aboard DD537, but only 160 of us belong to Tin Can Sailors. If you are one of the many who DON'T belong, now is the time to join.

You can't go wrong. You will get free admission to seven museum ships, a 40-page quarterly newsletter full of interesting articles, your name will never be given or sold to any commercial firms: and if you ever decide it was a mistake to become a member, Tin Can Sailors guarantees that it will refund your membership contribution, in full, without question. But BEST OF ALL, you contribute to the preservation of THE SULLIVANS DD537 and the other museum ships.

***ALL OF THIS FOR ONLY \$25 PER YEAR.***

Fill out this Membership Application and mail it with your check for \$25 to TIN CAN SAILORS, INC., P.O. BOX 100, SOMERSET, MA. 02726-0100.

<b>TIN CAN SAILORS, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>	
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____
ZIP _____	TEL. _____
SHIP: <b><u>USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68</u></b>	
DATES ON BOARD _____	
HIGHEST RANK OR RATE _____	
RECRUITED BY <b><u>USS THE SULLIVANS ASSN.</u></b>	

**USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER  
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**23<sup>rd</sup> REUNION OF USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSOCIATION  
BUFFALO, NY. SEPTEMBER 16-20, 2009.**

***MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND A GREAT REUNION!***

**We do not want to request funds 6 months in advance**, but are including a preview of optional functions and costs so that you can start making plans. **The registration form for functions will be in the summer newsletter.** If you have any questions about the reunion please call Bill Galarneau at 781/646-0520 or email him at Wgalarneau@aol.com or call Ken Joseph at 618/539-3575. Deadline is August 10, 2009.

**REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED OF ALL ATTENDEES....** *Cost not finalized.*

**Tuesday Sept. 15. EARLY REGISTRATION.**

**Wednesday Sept. 16. REGISTRATION & EVENING WELCOME RECEPTION.** Cash Bar Hors d'oeuvres. **Cost not finalized.**

**Thursday, Sept. 17. MAGNIFICENT NIAGARA AND MUCH MORE.** You will head to the U.S. side of the Falls to visit Goat Island and Terrapin Point for a view the Upper Niagara River Rapids and the American Falls from the brink. Then you are off to Niagara Reservation State Park and the Prospect Point Observation Tower where you will have free time to ride the Maid of the Mist, explore Niagara Reservation State Park via trolley. Then it's off to the NYS Power Vista (Reservation at 11:30 am) for a brief tour and buffet lunch. Following lunch you will travel into Niagara's wine country to visit a couple wineries (group will need to split due to size) and a farm market before returning to the hotel. This package including deluxe motor coach transportation, buffet lunch, NYS Parks trolley ticket, and services of a licensed, professional guide is priced at.....**\$54.00 per person**

**Friday Sept. 18. USS THE SULLIVANS MEMORIAL SERVICE.** Following the service there will be a group photo taken and lunch will be served on the USS Little Rock..... **approximate cost is \$27.00 per person**

**Friday Evening, Sept. 18. COUNTRY WESTERN NIGHT WITH A BARBECUE.** Country attire is optional. Entertainment by the **Buffalo Banjo Band & Co.**.....**approximate cost is \$26.00 per person**

**Saturday Sept. 19. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. 8:00-9:30 a.m. GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING 9:30-11:30.** Lunch on your own. Free afternoon to visit ship, museum & store. Hospitality room open.

**Saturday Evening, Sept. 19. REUNION BANQUET.** 5:00-6:00 p.m. Cash bar. 6:00-7:15 Dinner. 7:15 Speaker. 8:00-11:00 Dance to 40,'s, 50's and 60's music by **Russ Owens Band**.....**approximate cost \$40.00 per person**

**Sunday Sept. 20. FAREWELL BREAKFAST 7:00-9:30.** Hospitality Room open until 11:00 a.m. check out time. Hugs, tears and goodbyes until 2011.

**NOTE:** *It is not too early to make your reservations for the hotel.* We will be staying at the **ADAMS MARK HOTEL.** The rate is \$89.00 per night. Reservations can be made by calling **1-716-845-5100.** Ask for the **USS THE SULLIVANS REUNION RATE.**

**WE SUGGEST YOU PHOTOCOPY ANY FORMS TO PRESERVE YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR FUTURE USE**

# USS THE SULLIVANS DD537/DDG68 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## MARCH 2009

**NEWS FROM BUFFALO.** As I sit at the computer writing this I can look out the window at the Buffalo River and see almost solid chunks of ice and debris floating past our vessels and into Lake Erie. For the past few days we have experienced unseasonably warm temperatures causing a thaw which resulted in the feeder creeks dumping their contents into the river. While this happens every year today is arguably the worst I've seen in several years.

Hopefully, our ships and debris deflectors will escape damage as we already have had more than enough for one year. The last weekend of December we had severe weather with strong winds from the Northeast and snow with the River rising at least six feet. The brow to the fantail came off the platform, dropping down and resting on the hull of the ship. The winds subsequently blew LITTLE ROCK back toward the mooring platform crushing the brow. Our handicapped access ramp and the brow from THE SULLIVANS were also damaged. Total bill for repair and replacement is \$27,500 of which insurance will pay all except our deductible of \$2,500 which we are scrambling to come up with. The replacement brow has to be fabricated and we pray that it will be ready for our scheduled opening the last weekend in March.

I can report that the six bubblebers we purchased to protect the hull of THE SULLIVANS was a wise investment. The area surrounding your ship has been kept virtually ice free throughout the winter. I can also tell you that the tanks we had pumped out and cleaned remain dry.

Most of you probably know that Joe Kutty, the employee dedicated to maintaining and preserving THE SULLIVANS was paid through a grant received from Tin Can Sailors. Unfortunately this year because of membership loss and the economy they were unable to provide grants to the historic ships they had been supporting so the Park is assuming responsibility for his wages and benefits. In efforts to meet this and other increased expenses we are forced to raise admission fees a dollar across the board. The employee health insurance plan was also changed to one requiring higher co-pays lowering our costs.

When you arrive for your reunion, you will find many changes in the area. Most significantly, the old Memorial Auditorium will be gone. Demolition work began in mid-January and the contractor has made significant progress to date. For various reasons to include the trains running underneath the front and position relative to the Skyway, the building could not be imploded. It is projected that construction on this site will have started on a ~~super Bass~~ **Pro Shop** by July. Also as I've previously reported, the restoration of the Commercial Slip and adjacent grounds is finished. We plan to have available for your review the Master Plan for the development of the entire area.

I hope a sizeable number of you are able to make the reunion this year and enjoy the many benefits we have on the Niagara Frontier. In closing we wish you and your families fair winds and following seas.

*Respectfully submitted, Patrick J. Cunningham, Colonel, USA Retired. Executive Director.*

**CUSTOM MILITARY LICENSE FRAMES & CUSTOM VETERAN LICENSE FRAMES.** Several years ago your editor received a gift of a license plate frame. We are not in the habit of advertising products here, but the quality of these deserve your attention. They make a great gift. If your wife or family are wondering what to give you for Father's Day, birthday, etc. you can leave this around as a hint. These frames are made of heavy plastic, and mine has stood up for more than 5 years. It has **USS THE SULLIVANS DD537** across the top and **U. S. NAVY VETERAN** lettered across the bottom. The cost is \$14 post paid with quantity discount for more. Go to [www.usaircombat.com](http://www.usaircombat.com) or write to **Dave Heffernan, O'Heffernan Worldwide, L.L.C., P.O. Box 361, Windmere, FL 34786.** They will even send the frame out and then you can send payment if you are satisfied.



USS THE SULLIVANS DD 537

### USS THE SULLIVANS (DD537)

#### FIELD DAY

**AUGUST 20-23, 2009**

Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park  
Buffalo, New York

Cost: \$35.00

Includes three meals on Friday and Saturday  
& Sunday breakfast.

Make checks payable to:

**Buffalo Naval Park**

Mail your check and the coupon to

**Buffalo Naval Park**

**1 Naval Park Cove**

**Buffalo, NY 14202**

Bring your own sleeping bag, towels, etc.

All can now sleep on board DD537

**CUT-OFF DATE IS AUGUST 12, 2009**