

U.S.S. CHAFFEE AND U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA
JOINT REUNION
NOVEMBER 7 thru NOVEMBER 10, 2008

NOW HEAR THIS!



All hands report to the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne in Louisville, Kentucky on Friday, November 7, 2008 for a joint reunion with the Destroyer Escort U.S.S. Chaffee 230. Barry Goodall, reunion coordinator for the U.S.S. Chaffee, has invited us BB-38 Shipmates, along with spouses and children, to join them in this historic event, to swap war stories of an incident that happened on January 23, 1945 in Lingayen Gulf.

This special reunion is scheduled to be held on Friday, November 7 through Monday, November 10, 2008. According to Barry, all U.S.S. Pennsylvania BB-38 Shipmates will have their hotel rooms paid for on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They will also pay for most meals and tours. You can't beat a deal like that! (See Barry's attached information regarding reservations and agenda.)

This is a good opportunity for those Shipmates who live east of the Mississippi River to attend this great reunion. Barry tells me the more the merrier! We're looking forward to a good turn out and a great time.

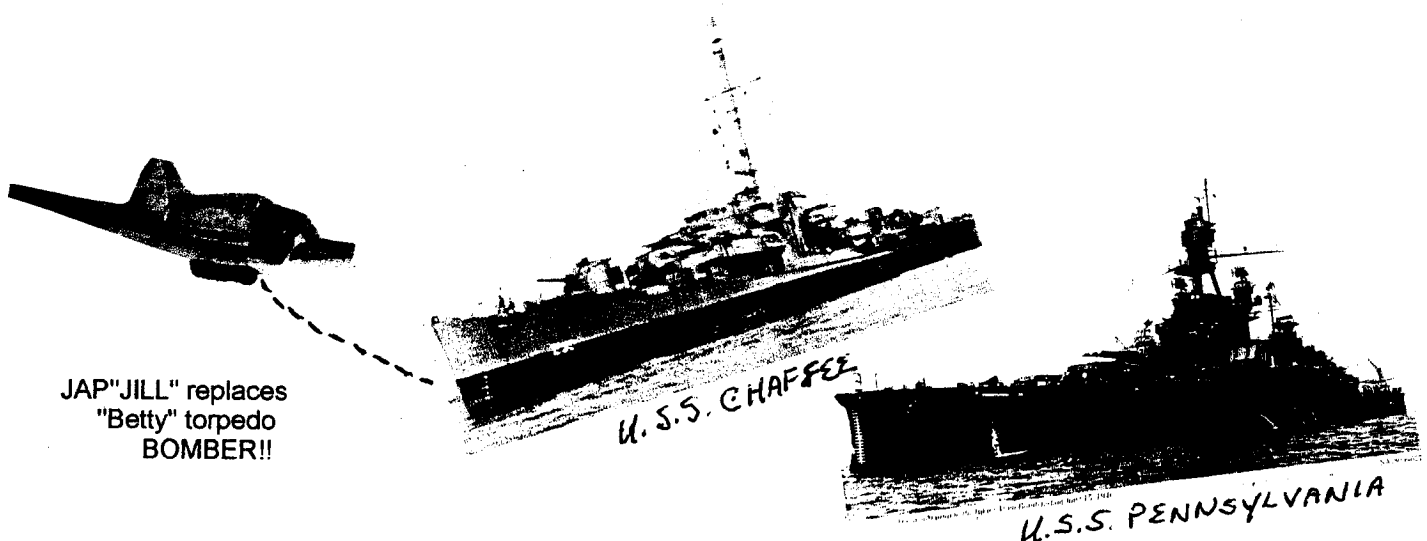
Barry requests you call the Holiday Inn Hurstbourne at (502) 426-2600 and make reservations as soon as possible. Tell them you are with the U.S.S. Chaffee Reunion. You can always call and cancel if unable to attend.

Let's make this special reunion a "BLAST FROM THE PAST!"

See you in November 2008.

Stan
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Call me if you can attend. M



JAP "JILL" replaces
"Betty" torpedo
BOMBER!!

To the Crew Members of the USS Chaffee (DE 230) and USS Pennsylvania (BB-38),

Some of the details of the following narrative are taken from the ship's log of Commander. A.C. Jones, USNR, former Captain of the USS Chaffee, provided by Robert H. Christ SM 2nd Class, USS Chaffee.

It was 63 years ago last week that the USS Chaffee (DE 230) came under attack off the Island of Luzon at Lingayen Gulf. On the evening of January 23, 1945 at 2015 hours a squad of three Japanese torpedo planes was spotted by the Chaffee's radar. The order for battle stations was given and the Chaffee readied for attack. Two of the bogies disappeared over the horizon but the third plane made a wide turn back in the direction of the harbor where the *Chaffee*, USS Pennsylvania (BB-38), and other ships were located. Upon the aggressive move by the Japanese "Betty", Captain A.C. Jones of the *Chaffee* ordered the ship to be turned toward the oncoming "Betty". By this time the Japanese plane was closing in on the *Chaffee* and dropped a torpedo, slamming into the starboard bow of the ship. The plane was so close when it dropped the torpedo that water splashed over the *Chaffee's* deck. It just so happened that by Captain Jones closing the distance between the "Betty" and the ship, the torpedo did not have enough time to arm itself. The propeller on a torpedo had to spin so many revolutions before it could be armed. Once the torpedo entered the starboard bow without exploding it continued on, exiting out of the port bow.

Although the *Chaffee* sustained damage of two holes eight to ten feet in diameter, there were no fatalities and the ship was able to seal off the forward compartments. The following day officers from the *Chaffee* boarded the *Pennsylvania* in hopes of acquiring spare parts to make temporary repairs. When the Chaffee officers came aboard the *Pennsylvania* they were greeted like royalty. The crew aboard the *Pennsylvania* were under the impression that the *Chaffee* intentionally made the turn in front of the Japanese plane for the purpose of saving the *Pennsylvania*. To the crew of the *Pennsylvania* it appeared that the Japanese plane was originally closing in to attack them.

To both ship's fortunes the true intention of the Japanese pilot will never be known. No matter what the intentions were the truth of the matter is that Captain Jones inadvertently saved the day by turning the *Chaffee* into the pathway between the *Pennsylvania* and the Japanese "Betty". Not only did the officers from the *Chaffee* receive all the spare parts they needed but were also loaded down with all of the ice cream they could manage to transfer back to their ship. Of course at the time the *Chaffee* officers did not reveal the truth to the *Pennsylvania* crew that the *Chaffee* did not actually intend to sacrifice their ship for the "*Pennsy*", and as the years went by the incident became a faded memory, except for by a few.

Like thousands of other stories that took place during the war, the account of what took place that fateful day at Lingayen Gulf has been all but forgotten. Besides a handful of aging Navy Veterans, not many people have ever heard this story, or could ever appreciate the consequences of the outcome. One consequence I can point out for sure is if the Japanese torpedo had exploded that day there would not have been a certain grandson ever born to write this newsletter. Furthermore, if circumstances were just split

seconds different there would have been many lives lost with untold future generations never to be.

For what took place at Lingayen Gulf in January of 1945 I believe it will make history in uniting the surviving shipmates from both ships together after sharing that experience 63 years ago.

My name is Barry Goodall. I am the grandson of *Chaffee* shipmate, Harry Meredith, SF 1st Class. **It is my honor and pleasure to announce the 2008 Joint Reunion of the USS Chaffee and the USS Pennsylvania.** This historic event will take place in Louisville, November 7-10, 2008. The reunion in part has been made possible through private donations that will go toward expenses of the reunion. For the last two years we have had the *Chaffee Reunion* here in Louisville and have had great times, thanks to some generous sponsors that once again have pledged to make this reunion the best ever. This will definitely be a reunion you will not want to miss.

So far to date we will have paid for by sponsors all shipmate's hotel rooms for three nights, hospitality room including beverages and snack foods, banquet meal on the last night (farewell banquet at Holiday Inn), coach buses for two days, a day of races at Churchill Downs, including indoor seating, entry fees and programs included, all fees for an additional day trip yet to be decided, free shuttle to and from the airport and Holiday Inn, door prizes and giveaways.

Besides the cost of transportation to get to and from the reunion, the only expenses not covered as of yet are some of the meals. I will continue to pursue additional sponsorship to try and alleviate, if not pay for the price of daily meals. Breakfast will be up to each person's choice but I can tell you the Holiday Inn has an awesome breakfast buffet there at the hotel. The past two years each room was given two free buffet passes (one per couple). Saturday and Sunday lunches will be eaten while on the two day trips.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, November 7th

- Arrive that afternoon at Holiday Inn (check-in after 1:00 P.M).
- Get acquainted in the hospitality suite.
- Dinner that evening at TGI Friday's, which is directly behind the hotel.
- Meet back at the hospitality suite.
- Lights out time yet to be determined.

Saturday, November 8th.

- Breakfast on your own.
- Coach bus leaves for Churchill Downs approximately 10:30 A.M. (TBA)
- Back to the hotel by approximately 4:00 (TBA)
- Rest up or hospitality suite. There will always be a few die hards.
- Dinner (location and/or reservation TBA)
- Hospitality suite.

Sunday, November 9th

- Breakfast on your own.
- Daytrip yet to be determined but Huber's Winery and Orchard is possible. I want more feedback from some of you on Sunday's trip.
- Back to the hotel by 3:00 P.M.

- 6:15 P.M. Farewell Dinner Banquet at the hotel. Guest speaker (TBA).
- Hospitality suite to end the night.

Monday, November 10th

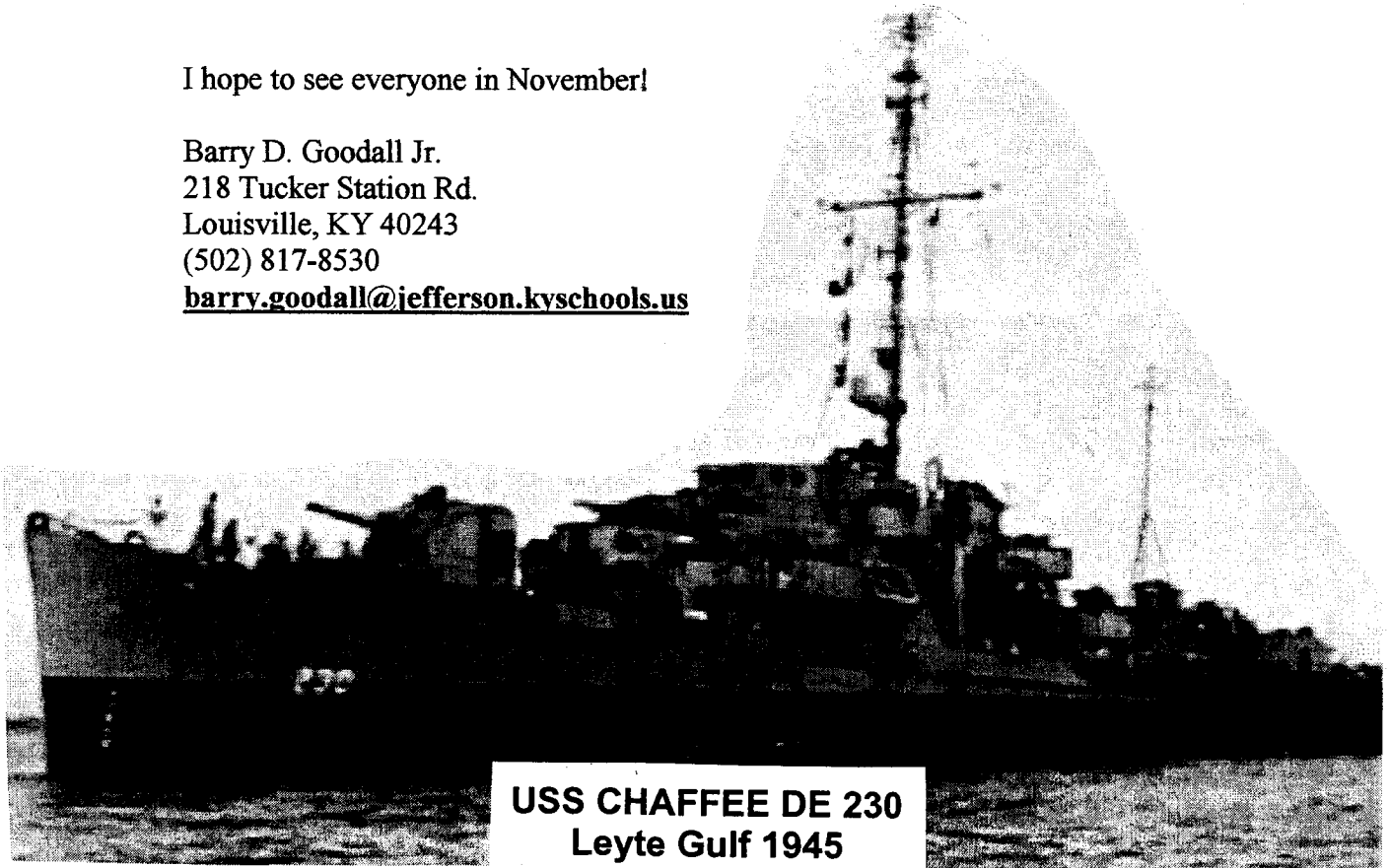
- Breakfast and checkout.

RESERVATION INFORMATION

- Holiday Inn, Hurstbourne, Louisville, KY
1325 S. Hurstbourne Parkway
Louisville, KY 40222
- Make reservations under “USS Chaffee” block of rooms
- Holiday Inn phone number (502) 426-2600
- Spouses, children, grandchildren, and friends are encouraged to attend. Additional rooms can be reserved at the group rate of \$85.00 per night.
- You will need to make the reservation by credit card but the rooms will already be paid for and you will have a zero balance at checkout unless there are extras such as phone calls, room service,etc.
- When arriving at the airport call the Holiday Inn to send for the complimentary shuttle to the hotel.
- Please make your reservations as soon as possible to allow for an approximate head count to be able to plan and make reservations for events.

I hope to see everyone in November!

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**USS CHAFFEE DE 230
Leyte Gulf 1945**