

Dear USS Gurke Crewmember,

Collectively, each and every USS Gurke reunion has produced some special memories, and within each reunion there have been “moments” that will always stay with us. Are those days gone? Certainly not!

To be sure, the past two years have been trying. Age is creeping up and slowing us down, and we have lost good friends loyal attendees. Don't be discouraged – the flame is still there. Minneapolis is going to be the reunion that turns the flame into a bonfire – believe me when I say, Minneapolis is a great reunion site. In case you are wondering about the agenda, one of the major attractions, Fort Snelling does not open until Memorial Day weekend, so if the questions comes up, why aren't we going to Ft Snelling – that is why. This year's self entertainment night may be the best ever. Even as we speak one of your shipmates is probably rehearsing his rendition of “*Sixteen Chickens and a Tambourine*” which he will perform for us. Folks, if it comes to pass that will be worth the price of admission! (No guarantees at this point)

All of the above are reasons to attend the reunion – but none of them are the primary one. Comradeship! You are carrying on the heritage of a great ship – one that you were proud of - one that you were a part of it. You helped write the history of the ship. You come to the reunion to see old friends and make new ones – that has not changed since the first reunion in Charleston, SC – nor will it. Look at your memory book, then at the mailing roster and you'll see a great disparity in the numbers. Some will say the reunion is too expensive. In spite of inflation, the cost is virtually the same as last year – and not much more than two years ago! The reservation packets are being sent early this year giving you more time to save, or make installments. Make your plans to attend, your shipmates really would like to see you; if you haven't attended in a couple of years, this is the year to come back. Will we see you there?

Show this letter to your family and drop a small hint that a trip to Minneapolis and the reunion would be a great Christmas gift – and it doesn't have to be completely paid for until sometime in April. Or, you could give them a trip to go with you to Minneapolis! We have a group - the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment - who jumped into Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. They just met three weeks ago at Ft Benning, GA. Only thirteen of the paratroopers were able to be there, and that in itself is remarkable, but even more so is that we actually had nearly 100 attendees. They brought their whole families along. Not only have the paratroopers stayed close, but since their families also attend, all the families are close! The reunions are still going strong even though the age of the paratroopers prevents more than just a few of them to attend each year! It's still a strong and vibrant reunion group! Think about that, you are spring chickens compared to these guys!

BECAUSE MANY OF YOU HAVE ASKED, THE REGISTRATION PACKETS ARE BEING SENT EARLY THIS YEAR. THIS WILL GIVE YOU A LONGER PERIOD TO PAY FOR THE REUNION – IF YOU NEED THE EXTRA TIME. A RESERVATION FOR THE REUNION WOULD MAKE A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT. TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO REGISTER EARLY, EVERY REGISTRATION FOR EITHER OPTION A OR OPTION B RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2011 WILL RECEIVE A 3% DISCOUNT FROM THE REUNION OPTION PRICE. YOUR DEPOSIT IS SUFFICIENT TO QUALIFY FOR THE DISCOUNT. YOUR DISCOUNT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE APPLIED – YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MONEY SAVING OFFER – REGISTER RIGHT AWAY.

We look forward to seeing each and every member of the USS Gurke Association in Minneapolis for the 2012 reunion!

Larry, Brenda, Dina, Lynette, Elaine and Karen – Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc

USS Gurke 2012 Reunion Information

The 2012 USS Gurke DD-783 reunion will be held **May 17-20**, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Minneapolis/St Paul Airport. The hotel is located at 3 Appletree Square (I-494 & 34th Ave South), Bloomington, MN, 55425. The location is an ideal accommodation for the reunion. The Crowne Plaza is across from the new Hiawatha Light Rail Station, making it quick and easy to get to Downtown Minneapolis and Target Field. Each hotel room boasts free high-speed, wired and Wi-Fi access, expanded cable channels and HBO, plenty of space to work with an over-sized desk, plush bedding, and all of the personal care items you would expect from a superior hotel. The Crowne Plaza offers ample hospitality, banquet and meeting space. No other hotels in Bloomington, MN are closer to both the airport and the mall. Few Minneapolis airport hotels provide guests with a free shuttle to the Mall of America like the Crowne Plaza does. The hotel offers complimentary airport shuttle service 24 hours a day from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport. Call the hotel direct at (952) 854-9000. There is complimentary parking for guests driving automobiles. Only a limited number of RV and Mobile home parking spaces are available, and they are in the over-flow parking lot just off the parking ramp. **To insure a parking spot is available, advance reservations are required. If you are driving a camper or RV, put this on your reservation form so ML & RS, Inc can make a reservation for you.** Normal check-in time is 3:00 PM, but every effort will be made to have rooms ready before then. In case you arrive before your room is available, just stow your gear and relax in the hospitality room until the room is ready. Directions to the hotel will be in your confirmation letter. **Questions:** The information contained herein should answer most of your questions; however, if anything is unclear, please do not hesitate to call our Customer Service Representative at **1-828-256-6008**.

Your Choice: Once again you may select one of the three options shown below, or create your own limited agenda. You may fax, mail or phone in your registration. Reservations via fax or phone require the use of **American Express, MASTERCARD or VISA.**

1. **Payment Schedule:** Initial deposit is due on or before **April 16, 2012**. Final payment is due before **April 27, 2012**. You may make up to three installment payments in any amount, at any time as long as the balance is paid by **April 27, 2012**.
2. **Cancellations:** For cancellations received on or before **May 11, 2012** there is a \$50.00 cancellation fee **plus** the cost of any activities that have already been paid for, or for which guaranteed numbers have been provided to the vendor. There will be **NO REFUNDS – for any reason** - for cancellation requests received after **May 11, 2012**. *Trip Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended. See your local insurance agent. ML & RS, Inc does not offer this service.*

Option A

Arrive on Thursday, depart on Sunday

This Option contains the following activities and services for each person who selects this option.

Three Nights Lodging (Thur, Fri, Sat); Thursday Welcome Reception w/hors d'oeuvres & cash bar; Friday Night Dinner; Saturday Night Banquet; Thursday through Saturday use of Hospitality Room (stocked with soft drinks, coffee, and snacks); Minneapolis, MN City Tag; 2012 Reunion Memory Book; Banquet and Memorial Service Program; Roster of attendees; All applicable taxes, gratuities (except tour guide & driver); bartender, set-up fees; registration fee; and the full time services of an ML & RS, Inc manager. **Cost of this option is \$767.00 per couple; \$584.00 per single. A \$100.00 per person deposit must accompany your reservation. You may make up to three installment payments in any amount, at any time as long as the balance is paid by April 27, 2012.**

Option B

Arrive on Friday, depart on Sunday

This Option contains the following activities and services for each person who selects this option.

Two Nights Lodging (Fri, Sat); Friday Night Dinner; Saturday Night Banquet; Friday and Saturday use of a Hospitality Room (stocked with soft drinks, coffee, and snacks); Minneapolis, MN City Tag; 2012 Reunion Memory Book; Banquet and Memorial Service Program; Roster of attendees; All applicable taxes, gratuities (except tour guide & driver); bartender, set-up fees; registration fee; and the full time services of an ML & RS, Inc manager. **Cost of this option is \$572.00 per couple; \$426.00 per single. A \$75.00 per person deposit must accompany your reservation. You may make up to three installment payments in any amount, at any time as long as the balance is paid by April 27, 2012.**

Option C

Arrive on Saturday, depart on Sunday

This Option contains the following activities and services for each person who selects this option.

Saturday Night Lodging; Saturday Night Banquet; All day Saturday use of Hospitality Room (stocked with soft drinks, coffee, and snacks); Roster of attendees; Minneapolis, MN City Tag; 2012 Reunion Memory Book; Banquet and Memorial Service Program; All applicable taxes, gratuities, bartender, set-up fees, registration fee; and the full time services of an ML & RS, Inc manager. **Cost of this Option is \$317.00 per couple; \$239.00 per single. A \$50.00 per person deposit must accompany your reservation. You may make up to three installment payments in any amount, at any time as long as the balance is paid by April 27, 2012.**

YOUR ITINERARY

Thursday May 17, 2012

12:00 Noon: Registration Begins and the Hospitality Room opens stocked with coffee, soft drinks, and snacks. Because of liability considerations, private alcoholic beverages cannot be brought into the hospitality room. The hospitality room will close during the welcome reception.

5:00—6:00 PM: Welcome reception begins. After a few welcome and admin remarks the cash bar will open and hors d'oeuvres will be served. *Cost of the reception is included in the price of Option A only. If you can not participate in the reception, you may opt-out. See the Registration Form, Adjustment Opportunities Block “Deduct Thursday’s Reception”.*

Friday May 18, 2012

Breakfast will be on your own. Breakfast is **NOT** included in the room rate as it has been the past couple of years. But as a concession to the USS Gurke, discount coupons of \$3.00 off the regular restaurant buffet will be provided to hotel guests. Eating in the restaurant and using the coupons breakfast is only \$8.95 (plus tax & tip). This is substantially less expensive than a private breakfast. Eat at your leisure, keeping in mind when the tour departs.

9:00 AM: Today you will discover some of Minneapolis/St Paul attractions. Things may not be done in the order described, but all of the activities described will be included. You'll enjoy the scenic channel of lakes (Lake Harriett, Lake Calhoun, Isle of Lakes) including Minnehaha Falls. This urban waterfall is the centerpiece of a large city park in the Twin Cities. Minnehaha Falls is the waterfall of Longfellow's "Song of Hiawatha". Then you'll travel into downtown Minneapolis driving past the Walker Sculpture Garden, theater district, museums, etc. You'll make a stop at the Guthrie Theater and for lunch, but it is on your own. You'll also visit the Minnesota History Center. The museum has many significant objects from Minnesota's history, like one of Charles Lindberg's airplanes, and a can of Spam, on a purple silk pillow. The Spam is part of the MN150 exhibition of 150 quintessentially Minnesotan objects, gathered to celebrate Minnesota's 150th anniversary. You are sure to enjoy becoming acquainted with this great metropolitan area! You will return to the hotel around 2:30 PM. *Cost of this tour is not included in either of the options. You must register for the tour in advance. See the Registration Form, Adjustment Opportunities Block “Add Friday’s Tour”.*

10:00 AM: Hospitality Room opens if anyone does not go on the tour. It will be stocked with fresh coffee and cold drinks. Snacks will be served in the afternoon. Registration will resume for Friday arrivals.

6:00 PM: Social hour begins. Enjoy your favorite beverage from the cash bar while you anticipate a good meal and a fun evening.

7:00 PM: Dinner is served. This year the theme will be “A Northwoods” dinner buffet, featuring some of your Northwoods favorites. Following the meal there will be some “self-entertainment”. Prepare to participate and have fun. *Cost of dinner is included in Option A and B. If you cannot participate in the dinner, you may opt-out. See the Registration Form, Adjustment Opportunities Block “Deduct Friday’s Dinner”.*

Saturday May 19, 2012

Breakfast will be on your own. Breakfast is **NOT** included in the room rate as it has been the past couple of years. But as a concession to the USS Gurke, discount coupons of \$3.00 off the regular restaurant buffet will be provided to hotel guests. Eating in the restaurant and using the coupons breakfast is only \$8.95 (plus tax & tip). This is substantially less expensive than a private breakfast.

Everybody wants to go to the Mall of America, so go! We could get a bus departing the hotel at a specific time and later in the day pick you up at the Mall at a specific time to return you to the hotel for about \$20.00 per person; or you can go at your leisure by taking the complimentary hotel shuttle. You can stay as long or as little as you please. This makes more sense and will save you the price of a bus. The wife can buy a nice item for the \$40.00 you'll save on bus expenses.

10:00 AM: Hospitality room opens stocked with fresh coffee and cold drinks. Snacks will be served in the afternoon. Registration will resume for Saturday arrivals.

3:00-4:00 PM: Business Meeting in the hospitality room.

6:30 PM: Pre-dinner Cocktail hour and photo session begins. Individual and/or couples photos will be taken for inclusion in the 2012 Reunion Memory Book. As soon as possible after the reunion, the memory book will be sent to everyone who registers for Option A, B, or C; or anyone selecting the "Individualized Option" who places an order for the memory book. Be sure to have your photo taken!

7:30 PM: The USS Gurke Banquet. Enjoy your last night in a more formal setting. Coat and tie recommended for the gentlemen and corresponding dress for the ladies. If you can still wear a complete and correct uniform, please do so. There will be open seating, sit where you like, with whom you like. The memorial service will be part of the banquet program. *Cost of the banquet is included in all Options. If you can not participate in the banquet, you may opt-out. See the Registration Form, Adjustment Opportunities Block "Deduct Saturday's Banquet".*

Sunday May 20, 2012

8:00 AM: Breakfast will be on your own. Breakfast is **NOT** included in the room rate as it has been the past couple of years. But as a concession to the USS Gurke, discount coupons of \$3.00 off the regular restaurant buffet will be provided to hotel guests. Eating in the restaurant and using the coupons breakfast is only \$8.95 (plus tax & tip). This is substantially less expensive than a private breakfast. If you do not have an early flight or unless you must be on the road early, please join the group for breakfast.

USS Gurke DD-783

Please complete both sides of this form and return it with your deposit on or before April 16, 2012.

Mail or fax to: Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.; PO Drawer 11399; Hickory NC 28603.

Phone: 828-256-6008; Fax: 828-256-6559. Web: www.mlrsinc.com/gurke

Attendee Info	
Last Name: _____	First Name: _____ MI: _____
Spouse or Guest Name: _____ Cell Phone: _____	
Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____	
Phone: _____ Email: _____	

Emergency Contact Info	
If there should be an emergency during the reunion and we need to contact a member of your family, who should that be?	
Name: _____	Phone Number: _____

Name Tag Info	
If this is your first USS Gurke reunion, or if you have misplaced the nametag you received at a previous reunion, we encourage you to order one now. The nametag is a plastic tag with your name, the name of your ship, the years you served, and your rate engraved on the tag. Guest tags have the guest's name engraved on it. This is a great conversation starter and group member identifier. <u>If you fill in the info below you will be charged for the tags.</u> Cost is \$6.25 each.	
Your Nametag Name: _____	Guest Nametag Name: _____
Which years did you serve on board: _____ What was your highest rate while on board: _____	
Options A, B, and C will include a city tag (Minneapolis, MN 2012) to hang below your nametag. If you sign up for only selected activities, we encourage you to order a city tag here. Indicate below the number of city tags you wish to order. If you would like to order city tags from previous years, please list the city and year and quantity on an additional sheet of paper. Also available, for plank owners, is a plank owner tag to hang directly below your nametag. If you would like one of these tags, please indicate so below. Cost is \$3.75 each. Number of Plankowner tags wanted: @\$3.75 _____	
Number Minneapolis, MN city tags; _____ Previous years' city tags (list cities on a separate sheet) _____	

Special Needs	
If you have any special dietary, handicapped, or other special requirements, please provide the details below. Be VERY specific. Special dietary meals are available. List any special requests below.	
Handicapped Requirements: _____	
Special Dietary Needs: _____	

Cancellation Policy	
By submitting this registration form, I understand and agree that for cancellations received on or before May 11, 2012 there will be a \$50.00 cancellation fee plus the cost of any activities that have already been paid for, or for which guaranteed numbers have been provided to a vendor. There will be NO REFUNDS – for any reason - for cancellation requests received after May 11, 2012 . <u>For your protection so you do not lose your investment, Trip Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended. See your local insurance agent. ML & RS, Inc does not offer this service.</u>	
Signature Required: _____	

Payments	
Make Checks Payable to: "ML & RS, Inc"	
Personal Check # _____	Money Order _____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ Visa _____
ML&RS Inc is authorized to bill the below listed credit card in the amount of \$ _____	
Name as it appears on Credit Card: _____	
Account #: _____	Exp Date: _____
House # where you get your credit card statement: _____ Zip Code where you get your credit card statement: _____	
Signature Required: _____	

Lodging Preferences

of People: _____ Smoking: _____ Non Smoking: _____ (not guaranteed – based on availability at check-in)

Room Preference: Single _____ Double _____ King/Queen _____ (not guaranteed – based on availability at check-in)

Special Room Requirements: _____

Activity Selection

You may wish to choose one of the following pre-packaged options. You may add to or deduct from these options using the Individualized Option and/or Adjustment Opportunities selections below.

Option A: Requires \$100.00 per person deposit. Includes all activities **except tours** from Thursday noon thru Sunday morning departure. See Option Box page of Reservation Packet for complete details.

Single (one person in room): \$584.00 per person _____ Double (2 people in room): \$767.00 per couple _____

Option B: Requires \$75.00 per person deposit. Includes all activities **except tours** from Friday noon thru Sunday morning departure. See Option Box page of Reservation Packet for complete details.

Single (one person in room): \$426.00 per person _____ Double (2 people in room): \$572.00 per couple _____

Option C: Requires \$50.00 per person deposit. Includes all activities from Saturday noon thru Sunday morning departure. See Option Box page of Reservation Packet for complete details.

Single (one person in room): \$239.00 per person _____ Double (2 people in room): \$317.00 per couple _____

Adjustment Opportunities

You may make the following adjustments to the options presented above:

Deduct Thursday's Reception @ \$15.00 pp X _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Add Friday's Tour @ \$32.00 pp X _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Deduct Friday's Dinner @ \$37.00 pp X _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Deduct Saturday's Banquet @ \$42.00 pp X _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Add nights lodging @ \$120.00 per night X _____ (# nights) = \$ _____ Which nights _____

Deduct nights lodging @ \$120.00 per night X _____ (# nights) = \$ _____ Which nights _____

Individualized Option

If none of the options above fit your needs, you may select one or all of the activities below. **PLEASE NOTE: These prices do not include the cost of the reunion memory book, city tag, or name tag. If you wish to order a name tag or city tag, see the other side of this form, "Nametag Info Block."** To order a memory book, see below. The DAILY registration fee is included in the prices shown below – except if you only go on a tour, the registration fee will be added to your tour price. Example – if you register for Saturday's activities, but go on Friday's tour (and do nothing else on Friday), registration fee will be added to Friday's tour cost.

2012 Reunion Memory book: @ \$30.00 per book X _____ (# books) = \$ _____

Thursday – hospitality room, reception (cash bar), registration fee @ \$44.00 per person X _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Friday - hospitality room, registration fee, cocktail hour (cash bar), dinner @ \$70.00 per person X _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Saturday – hospitality room, cocktail hour (cash bar), banquet, and registration fee
@ \$76.00 per person X _____ (# people) = \$ _____

Total Cost of Individualized Options Selected: _____

Call 828-256-6008 for "meal only" prices (Will include registration fee)

FULL PAYMENT FOR THIS OPTION MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR RESERVATION