

# USS SOUTH DAKOTA NEWSLETTER

465 Glendale Road  
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Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

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Once again I find myself having to apologize for not getting this newsletter out on time.

Haven't heard from many of you and I'm always looking for your stories to share.

So I had to go digging into dad's box of treasures.

I found a couple of interesting artifacts. (Funny word to be using because who ever thought that 60 years ago these little pieces of paper would ever be considered artifacts). Guess my Grandmother had the insight thought. She saved these for dad and he in turned saved them for me to find today.

One would think I should know all the acronyms by now!

Here's another interesting piece.

Your recruit will write you the date he is eligible to receive visitors. Then it will be necessary that you return the attached postcard ten (10) days prior to your intended visit. Upon return of this card you will be mailed a Visitors Pass entitling you to visit the station. However, no Visitors Pass can be sent unless the attached postcard is filled out properly and completely.

While reading these over, I thought of all our servicemen today and wondered if their parents receive the same documents. How hard it must be to send your 18 year old off to fight for our freedom here at home.

On one of the other pages within this newsletter, you will see a packing slip received. Personal items from the recruit were sent home once they reached their training camp.

These small pieces of paper were the beginning of your time in the navy.

I hope this newsletter reaches many of your children and grandchildren. I have to ask myself, "will they find these to be as interesting as I did?"

<http://www.ussdakota.com/uss-south-dakota-second-generation.html>

GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS  
17 AUG 1943  
(Date)

MADAY Lawrence Jerome AS  
Last Name First Name Middle Name Rank or Rating

has arrived at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois for duty.

HIS ADDRESS WILL BE: Co 12 10

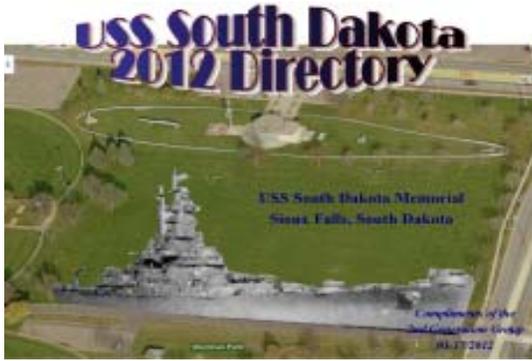
U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION, GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS

When writing to him please address mail with his FULL NAME, RANK or RATING, and UNIT as above. There may be other men on the Station with the same name and initials. Do not use nickname.

POSTAL OFFICER

NTSGL-6-1-43-100M

This is the recruitment card from Great Lakes Naval Training Center. Not knowing what "AS" stood for, I did some research and now I know it means Apprentice Seaman". Dad left the navy as a GM3/C which I know is Gunner's Mate.



## 2012 Directory Now Available

If you would like a current directory, please send an email to [ussdakota@aol.com](mailto:ussdakota@aol.com)

or write to:

Cathy Verschelden  
465 Glendale Rd.  
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

If we still don't have your photo, now's the time to send one to us.

Please do not send photo copies. Scan and email in .jpg format or mail a hard copy and we will return it to you at your request after we scan it.

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From difahey difahey@comcast.net

I hope this is still an active website. My father is William A. O'Dell 555937 US Marines and was aboard the USS South Dakota 17, July 1944 - 12 August 1945. He was with the flag and was transferred by breeches boy to USS Alabama on 12 August.

I just recorded 30 minutes of history from my father who turns 86 on June 24th. There are things I would like to ask someone. Please tell me who I contact for more information.

Dad attended one USS South Dakota reunion so you may already have his information, if not please let me know.

Diana O'Dell Fahey, daughter

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From tboduch tboduch@verizon.net

Hi Cathy.



I know it's been a while since last we spoke, but likely as you have been, I've been busy with growing grandchildren, trying to retire, and caring for my parents. I wish to God this email to you

was on a happier note, but I need to



tell you that we lost my father, George Anderson - USS South Dakota Electrician's Mate 3rd Class - April 21, 2012 at 6:01 pm. He had suffered from congestive heart failure for the last three plus years - that's why we haven't

been able to make the reunions. We were so very close and just buddies to the very end. My heart is broken as I'm sure you can understand. I'll send a copy of the obituary. We cremated and will be having a memorial service for him on May 18 at our church with a private family burial of ashes the following day at the grave of his parents and brother and sister. Both church and cemetery will have full military honors. We kept him here, at our home where Mom and Dad lived (Mom is still here) right through to his last breath. Hospice was involved which, made it easier. In lieu of flowers we asked that donations be sent in his name to the South Dakota Memorial.

Please keep in touch with the newsletters if you can. And, if you need to note my email address has changed to currently being: [tboduch@verizon.net](mailto:tboduch@verizon.net). It is a sad thing to see these great men and heroes falling now, one by one.

Karen J. Boduch  
43 Long Pond Circle  
Centerville, MA. 02632

Phone: 508-771-1031  
Email: [tboduch@verizon.net](mailto:tboduch@verizon.net)



Fred Amisih sent this photo of his family. His daughter Linda with Granddaughter, Nicole and husband, Pat.

Sioux Falls Area  
**Community Foundation**

**Battleship South Dakota  
 Memorial Foundation  
 Endowment**

Yes, I want to help the BATTLESHIP SOUTH DAKOTA MEMORIAL FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT in the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation grow more quickly.

(Donors of gifts of \$5,000 or more are recognized as permanent Benefactors to the fund.)

- My gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.
- \* My gift is in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- \* My gift is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

*\* Write the name and address of the person(s) you would like notified regarding honorary or memorial gifts below.*

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone (    ) _____

This Endowment Fund is for the purpose of Perpetual Care for the Memorial. Please consider discussing this with family members.

- J. Robert MacDonald
- Nichola P. Russo
- David & Betty Witte, Benefactor
- In Memory of Thomas E Murphy, Sr., LTJG (Thomas & Louise Murphy)
- In Memory of George "Red" Anderson (Marylyn & Harold Bachs)
- Newton Firefighters Association In Memory of George "Red" Anderson
- Douglas & Bridget Siemonsma
- In memory of John E. Kemper, QM-2
- Mark Kemper

Candy Hanson  
 C/O Community Foundation  
 300 N. Philips Ave. # 102  
 Sioux Falls, S.D. 57104-6006  
 605-336-7055

**Richard Silvers writes:**

I was saddened to read about the loss of so many of my former shipmates. I want all of our readers to know that I am a docent (tour guide) on the battleship New Jersey in Camden, NJ - across the river from Philadelphia. I would welcome any SODAK shipmates for a tour - any Monday or Friday. [eyesrus75@comcast.net](mailto:eyesrus75@comcast.net)



# By 2017, USS South Dakota to prowls seas

By Joe Sneve  
jsneve@argusleader.com

In 2017, a \$2 billion, nuclear-powered Navy submarine will bear the name South Dakota.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, the highest officer in the Navy, hosted a naming ceremony Saturday afternoon with Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Lieutenant Gov. Matt Meachels at the USS South Dakota Battleship Memorial in Sioux Falls to commemorate plans to build the Virginia-class attack submarine.

"During her service, USS South Dakota can go from the west Pacific to the north Atlantic under the Arctic ice doing an amazing variety of extraordinary missions," Mabus said. "These attack submarines, like South Dakota, are an amazing success story. They're all coming in under budget and ahead of schedule."

**ONLINE**  
See more photos from the naming ceremony, @argusleader.com

Construction of South Dakota will begin in 2013 and will be built in Groton, Conn.

Ship naming is solely under the purview of the Navy secretary. Mabus considered states that had gone a significant length of time without a vessel named after them and the caliber of people within states.

"I get a lot of recommendations from a lot of different sources," he said after the ceremony. "One of the things I look at is places in America that have been incredibly supportive of the military and who have not had a ship named for them in quite a while."

When the SSN-790 submarine is finished in 2017, it will have been 69 years since the USS South Dako-



Ray Mabus, secretary of the Navy, speaks Saturday at a naming ceremony for the USS South Dakota, a Virginia-class submarine that will be built starting next year, at the USS South Dakota Battleship Memorial in Sioux Falls.

ELISHA PAGE / ARGUS LEADER

ta battleship, which spent combat time in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans in World War II, docked for the last time in 1947.

A Navy man himself, Michels was visibly excited about the prospects of a submarine in his home

state's name during the ceremony.

"When we look at how proud we are as South Dakotans, whether it's Navy, Marines, Army, Coast Guard or Air Force, in defending our freedom, we are one brother and sister-

hood," he said. "We understand in our small state that our liberties are only one generation away from being curtailed if it weren't for (the Armed Forces).

South Dakota in the water in 2017, and, if he's still governor, would like to be the one to christen it.

"I don't know if it's typically a woman that does it, but if it's not, I'd like to be the one to do it," he said jokingly.



## MEMORIAL NEWS

Enclosed are photos of (1) The future S.D. submarine SSN-790 (2) Bronze plaque honoring Marines who served aboard BB-57, and (3)

The bronze sailor statue at the Memorial.



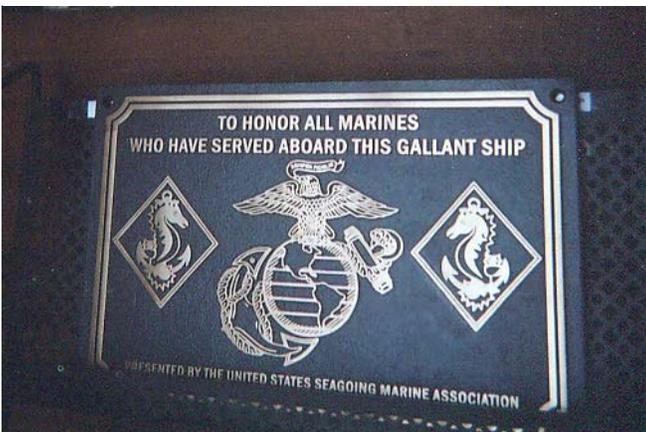
Construction of the submarine is scheduled to start in 2013 with completion in 2015. July 23, 2012

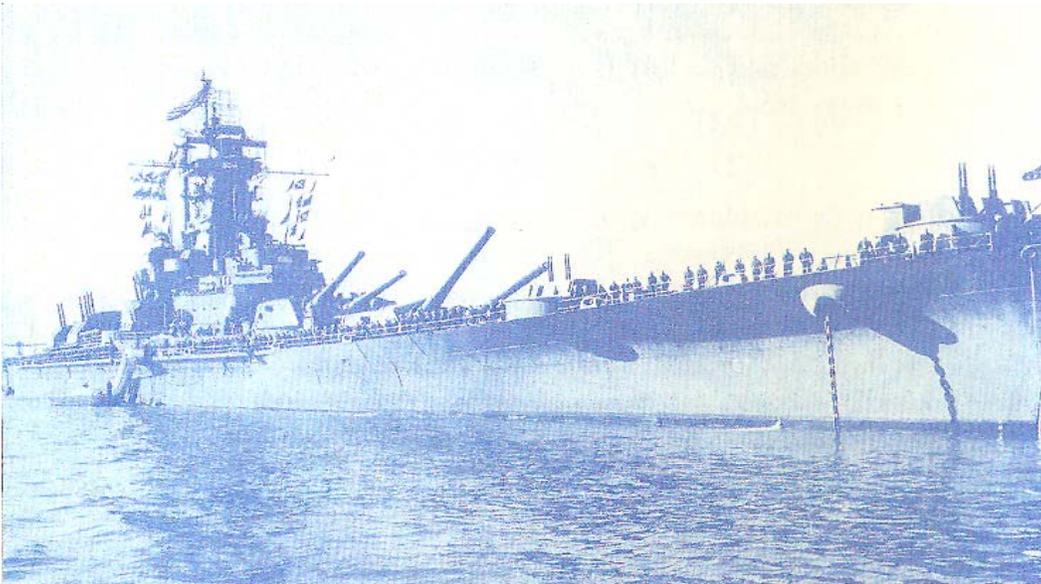
which is during Navy Week (July 19th-July 25th). The plaque will be permanently mounted in the Memorial Bldg later. Approximately 100 Marines were attached to the S.D.

The Bronze Sailor Statue is cast concrete and painted with a bronze metallic paint. Stands 6.5 feet tall and weighs 1100 # and cost \$2,500. The Lone sailor statue at the Navy Museum in Washington, DC cost \$80,000. I was quoted \$35,000 to have one made of cast aluminum.

Visitation to the memorial is up 200% so far this year.

Please join us in welcoming Richard Angles, retired Army, to the staff at the memorial. Richard is serving as our new receptionist and our visitors are enjoying his stories that he shares with them.





THE U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA BB57 I boarded this ship in September 1942 as an Apprentice Seaman. In December 1945, I left as a Coxswain (3rd Class Petty Officer).

We manned our battle station early and were on the alert for any kind of attack. This was to be an engagement where I had a job that must be done. I worked on a shell deck where the sixteen inch shells were hoisted up to the gun turret where the shells were rammed into the barrel of the sixteen inch guns. Then 6 one hundred pound bags of powder were placed behind it to send the shell to its target which could be as far as seventeen miles away with deadly accuracy.

THE U.S.S. SOUTH DAKOTA BB57 I boarded this ship in September 1942 as an Apprentice Seaman. In December 1945, I left as a Coxswain (3rd Class Petty Officer).

On November 11th, we left Noumea and set a course to Savo Island for another engagement with the Japanese fleet. We were joined with the Battleship Washington and four destroyers. We were not sure if we were going into a ship to ship engagement or if we were going to bombard the Japanese on the island. The second day out of port, we were told that a large Japanese fleet with a number of battleships, cruisers and destroyers were escorting twenty troop transports to reinforce the soldiers on Gwa-dalcanal. The Japanese were trying to land enough troops to take back the territory they had lost. If these troops landed, our troops would be far out-numbered and faced probable annihilation.

When we came from our battle stations after daylight on November 15th, we were at sea by ourselves without an escort destroyer and radar as the upper part of the ship had been damaged severely. But we were still a formidable force and were moving on a clear blue sea and a sunny sky overhead. It was a very lonely feeling of being at sea by ourselves. Alone plane on the horizon was a beautiful sight, since it was an American plane.

The Third Battle of Savo Island was a battle of major warships shoot-ing directly at each other.

Three sailors and I were responsible for supplying shells for one gun. Two other crews sent shells to the other two guns. Our job was to move the shells from a stationary position to the hoist when it was on a rotating turret. As the gunners kept turning the turret to aim at the enemy, we might be standing one place and the turret might turn forty five degrees. This kept us on our toes to keep sending these twenty-seven-hundred pound shells upstairs and keep the shells from falling over as we moved them.



NAVY WHITES I was on my way to Norman, Oklahoma to be discharged.

**EXERT** from the Memoirs of Leon Lafette Fowler