



# USS FISKE

DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER



Volume 29 - Number 1 - February 2013

## Countdown to Reunion Begins! Deck Hands Needed to Assist



President Gil Beyer

### President's Letter

With the advent of Spring, I am really looking forward to attending our upcoming reunion. The venue looks excellent and the lineup of things to do and see is shaping up nicely.

As you know, Charleston played a significant role in the history of the Fiske. She was there in January, 1962 to have her sacrificial anodes replaced, only to suffer a cracked SONAR dome in the process - that mishap required a replacement as well. Suddenly - and with no apparent connection - CDR C. E. Hunter was relieved by CDR C. H. Butt III who was probably the best CO I ever served under.

It is with some fondness that I remember the days spent at the aptly named *Folly Beach* over Spring Break that year. At that age we sailors felt immortal and very convinced that we were so much more worldly and sophisticated than those 'kids' that had gone straight from high school to college. I tried, with mixed success to convince some college girls that a sailor was a better date choice than the college guys that were there too. Oh well, wisdom comes with age!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in

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Charleston, and to extend a warm handshake to all who have joined us since we met in Milwaukee.

Don't hesitate - mark your calendars and make plans to attend now! With that, I wish you all fair winds and following seas.

- Gil



with Secretary Jeff Kovite,  
Reunion Host

It seems like yesterday when we gathered in Milwaukee and visited our old boot camp. Fast forward to 2013 and our 14th bi-annual reunion is drawing near in beautiful Charleston.

The rooms and festivities will be at the Crown Plaza Convention Center, a 4 Diamond AAA boutique hotel just a short buggy ride from the Charleston airport. You can explore the hotel at [www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc](http://www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc) to get a view of the rooms, banquet halls, pool, restaurants, etc.

For this reunion we are using a professional organization, Military Reunion Planners to do the heavy lifting - negotiating room rates, arranging tours - etc. There are many wonderful tours available, the *USS Yorktown (CV 10)*, *USS Laffey (DD 724)*, the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* and Fort Sumter to name a few; also, tours of Charleston Harbor, visits to plantations and, of course, guided tours of Old Charleston. You'd have to stay a month to see everything.

Reunion information has been published in the American Legion and Tin Can Sailor magazines with the hope that we will find new shipmates. Look for more details on the Fiske web site as the planning progresses and, of course, an update in the next newsletter.

- Jeff



# From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,  
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

Russian author, Leo Tolstoy, wrote in his novel (Anna Karenina) ....*"Spring is the time of plans and projects."*

Now, as in the past twenty-eight years, your officers and crew members are hard at work to bring you the best-ever 14th Bi-Annual reunion in Charleston, SC this coming fall.

Plans are in place and contracts have been signed. With that, you might ask *"what more has to be done other than to show up"* ... the answer is plenty!

The best events are those that appear to be seamless. It may be hard to believe, but it does take a full two years of planning behind the scenes to ensure that everything imaginable has been covered.

Planning, for example ... how much do we buy and bring to the hospitality room in the way of snacks and drinks? How many caps and shirts from Ship's Store must be packed and transported, along with reunion souvenirs and special items? Who will be there to receive the goods? Is there a room put aside for the General Meeting on Saturday afternoon to elect new Officers? Is there a photographer? Who will stuff all the goodie bags? Who will be at the door to greet registered guests? What about the Silent Auction, and what will be auctioned off? Has a guest speaker been invited? What is the POD? How will the task lists be divided up among the "committee" members? Will there be volunteers to help with setting up, cleaning up, etc.?

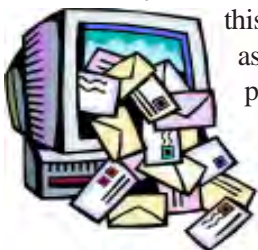
The list goes on and on. It's one thing to talk about reunions, quite another to pull one off successfully. As the time draws near, we coordinate our activities to ensure that all tasks have been completed before finally breathing a collective sigh of relief that we have done all that could be done. It takes teamwork and cooperation.

FYI - Look for registration forms with payment options and meal preferences in the May issue so you can plan ahead. I have a few surprises in Ship's Store as well.

While basking in the warmth of southern sunshine and wishing away the cold, snow, and frost for much of the country, I am mentally ticking off what remains on my lists; at

this point, there is still much to be done, but I can assure all of you that with the team we have in place, it will be a grand affair. If you have any second thoughts about attending - don't - we will not disappoint you. Happy Spring and fair winds to all!

- Sandie



## U S S F I S K E

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### President & Historian

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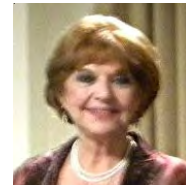
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## Are You Moving?

Don't leave your Navy family behind! We don't want to lose track of you. Please let us know when you change your email, phone or home address by contacting anyone above.

Send Ship's Store orders  
and "Fiske Mates" stories to:

Sandra Siciliano  
USS Fiske Association., Inc.  
6528 Steeplechase Dr  
Tampa, FL 33625



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## Notable Quotes



"It follows then as certain as that night succeeds the day, that without a decisive naval force we can do nothing definitive and with it, everything honorable and glorious."

**George Washington  
to Marquis de Lafayette,  
15 November 1781**

**VISIT THE WEBSITE!  
WWW.USSFISKE.ORG**



**UPDATE YOUR PROFILE!!  
WEBMASTER@USSFISKE.ORG**

USS FISKE DD/DDR 842  
14th Bi-Annual Reunion  
September 26-29th 2013  
Call

**1-877-227-6963**

(or) reserve online at:

[www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc](http://www.crowneplaza.com/charlestonsc)

Group Code USF

Room Rate \$130.53

(includes 13.5% hotel tax  
and two breakfast buffets)



## Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite  
SOG2 1959-1961

Keeping the *Honor Roll of Deceased Shipmates* is part of my responsibility as the Association's Secretary. Most of the time when I add a name to the list it is someone whom I have not served with and often not met.

Lately, though, names have been logged that I know from my duty aboard the Fiske; men that I stood in the chow line with, shared a laugh, or went on liberty with. Men like **Richard Karcher**, slight and diminutive, but a generous man with a great big heart and a friendly smile. **Duwayne Morganson**, a tall and rail thin FT in 1960, who never lost his sense of humor and his laugh. I am glad to have served with men like this and proud to call them my friends. It pains me to add their names to this list, but that is how life is.

Several others have joined the Honor Roll since the last newsletter. I didn't know them, yet I consider each to be a friend and a shipmate. One is **William Wolverton**, DK3, who served on our ship from 1953 to 1956 and died this past November. Another is **Alfred Wickersheim**, BM2, who kept the Fiske "shipshape" from 1952 to 1954. Alfred passed away last August. Perhaps you knew one of them. And there is **Joseph A. Coffman**, a seaman who sailed on DD842 from 1945-46. He was a plank owner who died this past December 12th.

In honor of all who have passed, as a representative of the Association, our sympathies and condolences are sincerely sent to the families and friends of the deceased. If you would like to see the complete *Honor Roll of Deceased Shipmates*, please visit the website at [www.ussfiske.org](http://www.ussfiske.org)

Wishing you fair winds and smooth sailing, as always,

- Jeff

## Crowne Plaza Reservations...

Reunion Update from Host, Jeff Kovite

The Crowne Plaza is ready to take your room reservation! Just call or reserve on-line. **Making your reservation as soon as possible will help us to plan a great reunion!** If you call, tell them you are with the USS Fiske. If you are asked, give them the group code of USF. Your reservation will be held with a credit card, but you will not be charged until you check out.

The official dates for the reunion are from Thursday, September 26 to check out on Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup> – three nights.

The rate for the room is \$115.00 plus a 13.5% hotel sales tax making a total of \$130.53 per room per night, a good rate for Charleston. This also includes two breakfast buffets per day; plus, the hotel has agreed to offer the same group rate for three nights prior and three nights following the reunion for those shipmates wishing to spend more time in Charleston.

No need to rent a car unless you want to travel the countryside. For transportation, a complimentary shuttle is available to and from the airport, the nearby outlet mall and several restaurants, all within five miles of the hotel. And, for a discounted rate of \$15.00, you can take a shuttle to downtown Charleston. Don't forget to reserve soon!

- Jeff



### Revised Stolen Valor Act

WASHINGTON - The Stolen Valor Act of 2012, sponsored by decorated Vietnam War veteran Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., was passed in the Senate in December. Webb's proposal makes it a federal crime to make a false claim about having served in the military or having received a military decoration if the object of the lie is personal gain.

Those caught lying for personal gain or for a tangible benefit would face a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to six months imprisonment. "False claims of military service or military heroism are an especially noxious means of obtaining something of value because they are particularly likely to cause a tangible harm to victims of fraud," the amendment says in its findings. Now part of S.3254, the amendment is far from the final work on the bill.

The House of Representatives has its own Stolen Valor legislation, HR 1775, sponsored by Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., that also would reinstate criminal penalties for lying about military service and military awards that related to specific awards. It covers the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star and Purple Heart. Also covered would be campaign badges, including the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Combat Action Badge, the Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Ribbon and Combat Action Medal. Compared to the Senate bill, the penalty is tougher under the House bill, with up to one year in prison.

- Editor



# The Treasurer's Report



James R. Rapson  
ENS/LTjg  
1964-1967

Since assuming the position of Treasurer of the USS Fiske Association in 2007, the response by the membership for the support of the Association has been overwhelming. Any well run organization needs the monetary support of its members in order to be able to continue its functions every year. Your submission of dues monies and support of our Ship's Store has enabled us to prosper and move forward each year.

As is the case each year, it's time to renew your membership. Please clip out the dues notice on page 7 and return with your check made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR 842) Association, Inc. At \$10.00 per year, we are probably the best bargain around. Some of our shipmates have taken the option to pay in advance for several years and as such, will not receive a notice until they are next due. If you wish to check on your dues status, please send me an email only at [jrapson@cox.net](mailto:jrapson@cox.net). Also, the voluntary contribution to assist those members unable to afford dues is always welcomed.

Very quickly you will start to have information on the upcoming September 2013 Reunion in Charleston, SC. Shipmate/Secretary Jeff Kovite has been working to provide a great time for all and my understanding is that the City of Charleston is a wonderful place to visit and has many attractions for military groups such as ours to enjoy. Please indicate your response early so that Jeff can make the proper reservations for all.

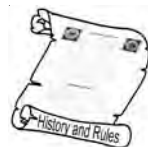
One final item: There are several web sites that purport to be the USS Fiske and sell merchandise for profit. Be aware that there is only one sanctioned place for USS Fiske merchandise and that is our own Ship's Store. Please be wary of any other solicitations and know that they are not supporting us - only themselves. Our very own Ship's Store Clerk - Sandie Siciliano - maintains an excellent inventory of items for you and if you need something special just call her or send an email to her with your request. Just perhaps your special item may become something that all members may want and enjoy.

Be active in YOUR Association. Participate in YOUR events. Enjoy fair winds and calm seas. **SEE YOU IN CHARLESTON !!!**

- James



Free History and Rules with every order!



## Fiske Challenge Coins Get Them While They Last!

This beautiful coin measures 1 5/8" between its crisscross edges. It is two-toned shiny and textured gold with silver/nickel highlights. The DD and DDR ship's patches are featured in full color (one on each side). Finished and sealed with an epoxy coating, the coin is contained within a clear poly envelope.

Yours to treasure for years to come!

**Order Yours Today!**

**\$13.00 ea, or 2 for \$25.00**

**Order from Ship's Store**

# Charming Charleston...

From Jeff Kovite



**1828-29** - A young Army recruit named Edgar Allan Poe is stationed at Ft. Moultrie on Sullivan's Island for a year. Later sets his first published story, *The Gold Bug*, on Sullivan's Island, incorporating coastal Carolina pirate lore.

**December 5, 1830** - The first steam locomotive in America to pull passengers in regular service, *The Best Friend*, begins its route between Charleston and Hamburg S.C.



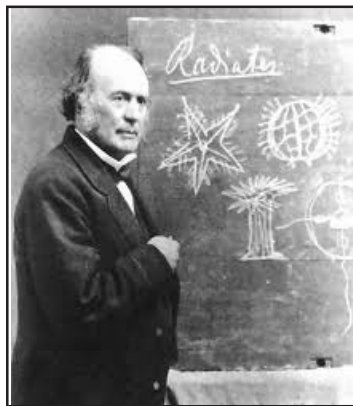
**1831** - John James Audubon arrives in Charleston to work on his *Birds of America*.



**1843** - The Citadel opens for its first class of cadets.



**1851** - Renowned scientist Dr. Louis Agassiz comes to Charleston to teach at the Medical College of South Carolina and establishes a seaside laboratory on Sullivan's Island to study the flora and fauna of the Atlantic Ocean.



**1851** - Dr. John Gorrie, a native of Charleston, receives a patent for the first ice-making machine. Instead of welcoming the invention, people view it as unnatural; they see it as tampering with the ways of God. He fails to benefit from his effort, dying penniless.



## What's Up With the Web?

with Web Master, Steve Gilbert

### How To Add a Page for the Fiske to Your Browser....



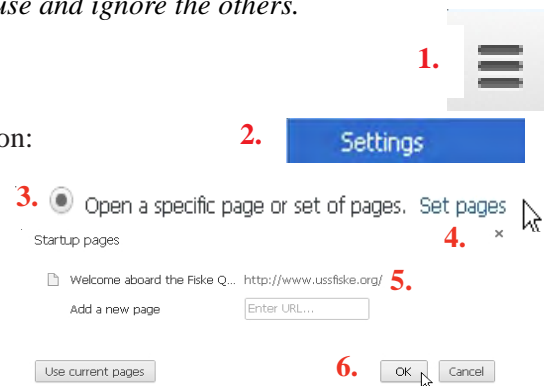
Steve Gilbert  
YN3 1958-1960

As promised in the last newsletter, here is how you add a tab to your browser for the Fiske website. I'll cover three of the most popular browsers in separate sections.

**Note:** Select the instructions for the browser you use and ignore the others.

#### First, For Google Chrome Users:

1. In the upper right corner of the Google Chrome page is an icon:
2. Click on this and scroll down to "Settings"
3. In Settings, underneath "Start Up", click on the last button to open a specific page or set of pages.
4. Click on "Set Pages"
5. Type our website name in full: [www.usssfiske.org](http://www.usssfiske.org)
6. Click OK...That's all there is to it!



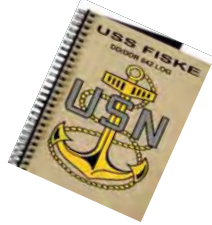
You can repeat this process to add as many "Home Pages" tabs as you wish.

...continued on page 6



Gilbert E. Beyer,  
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

# Ship's Log Entries...



*A majestic ship was she,  
that sailed the seven seas,  
we were the crew  
who saw it through,  
and logged our history.*

## Historian's Report

### Attn: 70's Crew Members:

I am in dire need of your stories about your time aboard the Fiske for our soon-to-be-published book "FISKE TALES". Please email me asap at VINTAGE40@FRONTIER.COM!

A few months ago I received a very fat envelope from the fine people at the Navy History & Heritage Command at the Navy Yard in Washington, DC. The contents of that envelope were this amateur historian's dream.

Contained therein were all the Annual Operations Reports (with the exception of 1972) submitted by the Fiske from 1970 through her decommissioning and transfer to the Turks in June of 1980.

As most of you may remember, the Ship's log was an hourly account of everything that went on day to day. The annual Ops Reports were daily reports for the entire calendar year.

They give detail on every underway drill held, every port visit and visits by dignitaries. The only missing year was 1972. It appears that either Fiske never submitted a report for that year or it was 'lost' somewhere in the chain-of-command.

Many things that I found in these reports will be incorporated into our ship's history and, hopefully, will give some background for some of our "Fiske Tales". One thing I learned for sure was that even after being transferred to the Fleet Reserve, Fiske retained her reputation as one steaming son-of-a-gun. Fiske was frequently called upon to meet commitments that others were unable to handle - including covering for

some 'tin cans' that were still members of the active fleet.

One event that attracted my eye occurred during her deployment to Africa in 1973. In March, Fiske visited the (then) Ethiopian port of Massawa, and hosted an official visit by Emperor Haile Selassie. That made the second time that Fiske was visited by royalty on that cruise: In late January she was visited by King Neptune as she crossed the Equator on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

I'm sure that as I finish reading these reports there will be more to add to our knowledge of one of the finest 'Tin Cans' to ever serve in our Navy.

Until next time I wish you fair winds and following Seas. - Gil

### How To Add a Page for the Fiske on Your Browser....continued from page 5



#### For Firefox Users:

1. Use the New Tab button to add a new tab (page).
2. Type our website name in full: [www.usssfiske.org](http://www.usssfiske.org). Press Enter.

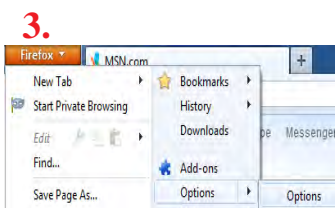
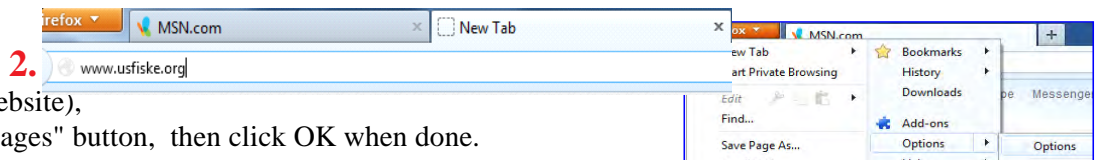
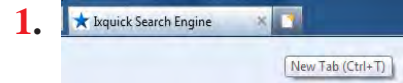
When you are finished adding tabs (new home pages),

3. Click the Firefox icon in the upper left corner of the screen.
4. Select Options.

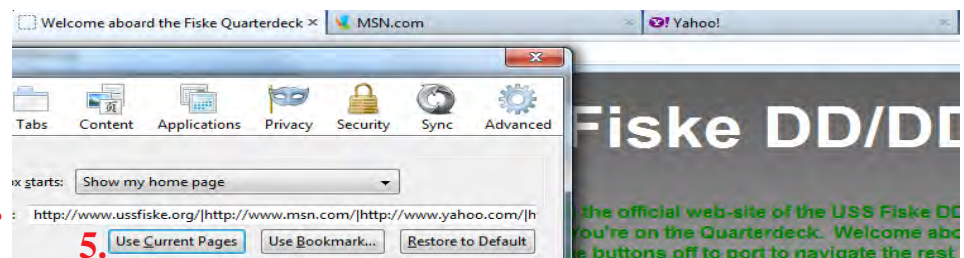
To complete the set-up of multiple home pages

(including the USS Fiske website),

5. Click the "Use Current Pages" button, then click OK when done.
6. All the home pages will be shown in a single line.



4.



6.

5.

continued on next page

# Chaplain's

## Corner



W. Frank Stancil  
GMG3 1959-1963

Father, take our lives and make them as You would have them to be. By discipline of duty, teach us self-control. By the lessons of frustrated love, guide us to a holier relation with others. By the insight of loss and sorrow, open to us the doors of understanding. In the spotlight of reason, drive us to think more clearly for self-growth. Thus Father, draw us near to You! Father please watch over our Shipmates and their



families. If it be thy will, keep them safe and healthy. Amen

Frank

### How To Add a Page for the Fiske on Your Browser....continued from page 6



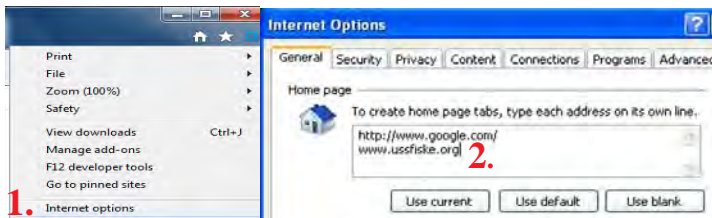
#### If You Use Internet Explorer

To set up a Fiske page using the Internet Explorer browser,



1. Click on the gear-shaped icon at the upper right corner of the screen and select "Internet Options". (It might also be shown under "Tools".)
2. Click in the text box for Home page and type our address, [www.ussfiske.org](http://www.ussfiske.org). Click OK

You can create as many (home pages) as you wish. They will appear when you start your web browser, and one of them will be the USS Fiske home page.



A final note: At first glance, these instructions may seem a bit overwhelming. Don't be intimidated. Take your time, explore a little and surprise yourself! Even though we are part of the "older" generation, doesn't mean we can't learn new "tricks". Once you get the hang of it, a whole new world of information and entertainment open up to you!



- Steve

# Storekeeper's News...

with 2nd Vice President,  
& Ship's Storekeeper, Sandie Siciliano



ETN2 1975-1980

Shipmates,

For those of your patiently waiting for your orders, I offer this sincere apology for the delay. Caps and some shirt sizes were completely sold out. All are in production and I expect to ship soon. Thank you, once more, for your kind understanding. In other news, ramped up activity for the reunion has me plenty busy. There are also a few new items in ship's store. Check them out on page 8. Take care, and may you all have following seas and fair winds.

- Sandie

## 2013 Dues Notice!

Please help your Association in receiving your 2013 Dues payment.

✂ Clip this out and return with your check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. ✂



Send To:

USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.  
c/o 244 Park View Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02888



Your kind cooperation will help us reduce the printing costs of notices along with the mailing expense of \$.46 cents per notice.

**NOTE:** For Members who are either current or paid ahead, the amount will be recorded for the next open year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

A contribution in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated.

The Only Official Ship's Store for the USS FISKE DD/DDR-842 Association, Inc.

# Ship's Store



**KEEP COOL  
With Your Own  
FISKE KOOZIE!**



**1** Custom Printed Collapsible Can Insulators are also known as coolies, can huggers, and koozies. Ours fits standard 12 oz. cans.

Koozies, Clips & Stress Balls Only \$4.00 ea, Combine any 2 for \$7.00 or 3 for \$10.00

**Large Magnetic Clip!**



**3**

**4 Stress Ball**



**2** New Styles - All Are Embroidered DD or DDR

Caps are \$12.00 ea \* Please Choose DD or DDR



Stone



Navy



\* Summer Mesh \$10.00



Cold Weather Cap Wool/Viscose Blend



Brushed Twill Bucket Cap



**Reunion Special!  
This and More  
Surprises Soon!**



**5**

Patches DD or DDR Large - \$7.00 Small \$5.00



**6**

Mouse Pad \$10.00

8.5" x 9.5" x 3/8" thick



**7**

DD/DDR T-Shirts Blue or Grey \$12.00 S, M, L, XL, XXL

These are just a few items the we offer in ship's store. Please visit the website to see the entire catalog!

## ORDER FORM

**8**

**PERSONALIZED MUG**



 S  T  O  R  E
 

 MissChopin@TampaBay.RR.com  
 (813) 920-6833



**Sandra Ehlers Siciliano**  
 ETN2 (USNR)
 

 K  E  E  P  E  R



Black, White, Cobalt Blue or Green  
**SUPPLIER DROP-SHIPS \$25**

**Personalized Mug: Name or Nickname** Color: Rate: Years: DD (or) DDR \* \$25.00  
 Item 7: Please print clearly to avoid errors

Item #	Quantity	Description	Color	Size	Price	Total

Shipping: Please help us keep it free! Contribute any amount here if you can, with our thanks: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIP TO:** Make checks payable to the USS Fiske Assoc., Inc.  
Please print clearly to avoid errors!

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Street Address
City	State <span style="float: right;">Zip</span>
Phone	Email Address:

**MAIL TO: Sandra Siciliano, USS FISKE - Ship's Store Keeper - 6528 Steeplechase Dr. - Tampa, FL 33625**

\* Note: Fiske Logo is representative and may not be your configuration.