

**For Immediate Release**

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## **USS Boston Replica Launched in Doubletree Oak Brook Pond to Commemorate 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Oak Brook, IL – No, your eyes aren't deceiving you. There's a battleship in the pond at the Doubletree Hotel Chicago Oak Brook. It's there to help celebrate the 26th annual reunion of USS Boston shipmates that is being held at the hotel from July 14 – 17, 2011.

There have been seven U.S. Navy ships named "Boston" since the summer of 1776. Since 1986, the USS Boston Shipmates organization has been bringing former crew members together with these annual reunions. Anyone who has served on one of these ships, along with spouses and widows, is automatically a member and welcome to attend.

The group's over 3,400 members include those who served aboard the CA69 from 1942 to 1946, the CAG1 from 1955 to 1968, the CA69 from 1968 to 1970, and the SSN703 from 1979 to 1999. They have members in all 50 states, Washington DC, Puerto Rico, England, Scotland, Guam and Tasmania.



The Boston that this radio-controlled, 10 foot long model represents was the world's first guided missile cruiser. It has been under construction for 28 years, and "will never be finished" according to its builder, Gerry Kirk, who was aboard the Bs between 1966 and 1969.

The group has sponsored two recruit divisions at Great Lakes and stayed at the Doubletree both times. In addition to the ship, the group has put together a "Memorabilia Room" where a sampling of their collection of USS Boston photos and artifacts is on display and where shipmates may display their own memorabilia and reminisce.

"We are thrilled to have the USS Boston reunion back in DuPage County and delighted to see this amazingly detailed replica floating in the Doubletree pond across the street from the CVB offices," states Ms. Skip Strittmatter, Executive Director of the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information, contact the [DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau](http://www.duPAGEconvention.com) at 800.232.0502, visit the USS Boston Shipmates web site at [www.ussboston.org](http://www.ussboston.org) or contact Nancy Hebert, the group's spokesperson, at the [Doubletree Hotel Chicago Oak Brook](http://www.doubletree.com) this weekend. (more)

**Related Links:**

- USS Boston Shipmates - [www.ussboston.org](http://www.ussboston.org)
  - DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau: [www.discoverdupage.com](http://www.discoverdupage.com)
  - Doubletree Hotel Chicago Oak Brook: <http://bit.ly/oqKPLz> (shortened)
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**About DuPage County & DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau**

DuPage County is the second most populous county in Illinois after Cook County, which borders it to the north and east. Together, the two counties account for half of the state's population. One of the nation's wealthiest counties, DuPage is rich in many types of commerce and is second only to Cook in tourism revenue. With its well-developed highway and mass transit system, DuPage is easily accessible from O'Hare and Midway Airports as well as the City of Chicago.

Established through the efforts of a coalition of DuPage area hotel executives and business representatives in 1987, the DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau was formally certified in 1989 by the State of Illinois. It remains the official agency to promote the county's multi-billion dollar tourism industry and market DuPage County as a destination for visitors, conventions and economic development.

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