

Delta Queen Commemorative Nameplate Plaques Available

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The legendary Delta Queen riverboat, now a floating hotel on the Tennessee River at Chattanooga's Coolidge Park, can be remembered through the purchase of brass-plated nameplates. Sydney Slome, proprietor of the Delta Queen Hotel, has announced the Delta Queen Crew Club, a program that allows fans to commemorate their trips with the purchase of a \$100 brass-plated nameplate. Each plaque will be engraved with the name of the passenger, their homeport, and the number of cruises they have taken on the Delta Queen. The plaques will be attached to each of the vessel's three decks beginning at the tip of the bow, below the handrails, at ankle level. Slome assures that the process will not compromise the boat's historic integrity in any way. The 1927 steamboat arrived in Chattanooga last February.

"We are committed to maintaining the Delta Queen to a level of standard that she deserves and demands," Slome said. "This program will contribute towards her care and maintenance while providing a special way to remember the joy she has brought to so many during her years of service."

Harry Phillips coordinated the relocation of the vessel from New Orleans to Chattanooga. "Captains, mates, engineers and loyal passengers continue to donate their time to clean, paint, polish, and serve as greeters and tour guides while visiting the Delta Queen as a boutique hotel," Phillips said. Former staff and past passengers continue to gather aboard the Delta Queen for work weekends in Chattanooga since the boat's arrival.

Pat Traynor of Marco Island, Fla., has taken 45 trips on the Delta Queen since 2001 and has visited the Delta Queen Hotel five times since it opened in June. "The old gal still exudes her famous charm, wrapping her arms around you when you arrive. And another little piece of your heart still stays behind when you depart, reminding you to come back soon," she said. "Captain Phillips' vision for her return to the rivers is one we all share, and the Delta Queen Hotel staff is dedicated to preserving her until this happens. The commemorative plaque program is a wonderful way for us to support the legendary one, and a way for us to leave our permanent stamp on her forever."

Traynor also urged devotees of the Delta Queen to spend time aboard the Delta Queen Hotel. "She is in the best place she can be right now, nestled in a very safe, picturesque landing at Coolidge Park. The success of this venture is crucial until she can cruise again, and I hope that both former passengers and crew will visit her from time-to-time," she said.

Leah Ann Ingram, managing partner of the Delta Queen Hotel and co-owner of All Aboard USA, encourages Delta Queen fans to check the website for special packages and group rates. Membership in the Delta Queen Crew Club will offer additional benefits in the months to come, including special Crew weekends and packages that are currently being developed.

The weather-resistant 3-by-6-inch plaques are available for purchase for \$100. This special offer is limited in number and is only available to past passengers and crew or may be purchased in memory of a past passenger or crew member. To become a member of the Delta Queen Crew Club and order a plaque, call 800-499-9877 or visit www.deltaqueenhotel.com.