

BOB HOPE

August 22, 1997

Howard E. Bartholf
U.S.S. South Dakota BB-57
Crewmembers Association
901 Pump Rd., #185
Richmond, VA 23233

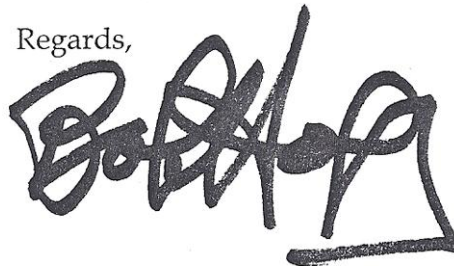
Dear fellow crewmembers,

Just wanted to thank you for making me an honorary crewmember of the U.S.S. South Dakota.

However, I must inform you, I don't do portholes or scrape paint... OK, I'll swab a deck or two.

I am truly honored to be part of the seafaring heroes of "Battleship X."

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Hope", written in a stylized, cursive script.