

USS BRADLEY ASSOCIATION

Founded July 6, 2002

January 2024
NEWSLETTER



Lapel pin awarded upon Honorable Discharge - 1976

President's Message

Happy New Year Shipmates - wishing everyone a healthy and prosperous 2024. Our reunion in Annapolis is only four months away and I hope everyone has been able to download the application. I'm looking forward to visiting the Naval Academy; sign up only for the tours and meals you want. More info will be coming on where the hospitality suite will be. I hope to see some new faces along with the regulars. Hard to believe it's been 50 years since my 74 WestPac aboard the Bradley - it seems like yesterday! Let's make this the biggest and best reunion yet.

Bob Planeta

Treasurers Report 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Fund Balance 1 January 2023:

Uncommitted Cash = \$8106.10

Receipts:

Member Dues = \$110.00

Sale of Hat = \$10.00

Total Funds Received = \$120.00

Disbursements:

Newsletters, Postage & PO Box = \$645.37

Reunion Hotel/Catering Deposit = \$1250.00

Other Disbursements – Postage on Hat = \$5.70

Total Funds Disbursed = \$1901.07

Excess of Funds Disbursed over Receipts = -\$1781.07

Reconciled Account Balance 31 December 2023: \$6325.03

To see Bob Planeta's story related to these photos, continue to his story below the reunion registration info.



With the Washington DC Honor Flight from Reno



The reunion registration information is below

The hotel we'll be staying at for our 2024 reunion is called Graduate Hotel and is located in Annapolis MD. I'll just say this up front - the hotel's online reservation process is challenging. Because of that, Wendy (our reunion vendor) has agreed to make reservations for us. You are strongly (**STRONGLY!!**) encouraged to CALL Wendy to make your hotel reservations. Her phone number is listed below.

As noted below, there is a \$28/per day self-parking charge (\$32/day for Valet Parking).

There is also a \$25/per day "amenity" fee charged (see below). We talked with the hotel several times to try and get them to waive this fee, but to no avail. If it's any consolation, this fee includes two free cocktails per room per night. In discussions with several shipmates we've noted that this "amenity" fee now seems to be a common thing for many hotels and resorts.

Also, please be aware that when checking in, the hotel will put a \$25/day "hold" on your credit card - this too is a common practice and is for "incidentals". For example, if there's a mini-bar in your room and you open any beverages from that mini-bar, that cost will be applied to your credit card hold and the balance will be put back on your credit card. If you do not use any incidentals at all, the entire hold amount will be put back on your credit card.

The full registration package is below.



USS Bradley Reunion

May 3 – 6, 2024

Graduate Hotel Annapolis

126 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401

Name of Shipmate: _____ Name of Shipmate's Guest: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____ E mail: _____

Phone: _____ Will you be staying at the hotel? ☐ Yes ☐ No, Staying at: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ # of Room nights _____ x \$215.46 (includes tax) = \$ _____

Room types: King/Double bed (1-2 people) for up to 2 people per room

Special Room/Dietary Request(s): _____

Emergency Contact Info:

In case of an emergency during the reunion, list a family member we should contact that is not traveling with you. Name:

_____ Phone Number: _____

Reunion Admin Fee \$20 per person x _____ = \$ _____

Friday, May 3, 2024

2:00 PM Hospitality room (Bob Planeta's suite) open for check-in and visiting

4:00 PM Check-in at hotel

Saturday, May 4, 2024

9:00 - 9:30 AM Board Free Purple Shuttle (wheelchair and scooter accessible)

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM Naval Academy Tour Begins (tentatively). Reunion participants will have the option of either the GEMS tour or the Historical Walking Tour

GEMS Tour	\$35.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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Historical Walking Tour	
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Active or Retired Military	\$10.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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Seniors (62+)	\$13.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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Adults (18 – 61)	\$14.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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Children (K – 12)	\$12.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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6:00 PM Buffet Dinner	\$71.50 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:00 AM Hospitality room (Bob Planeta's suite) open for visiting

10:00 – 10:30 AM Board Free Purple Shuttle (wheelchair and scooter accessible)

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM Chesapeake Bay Trio Boat Tour (optional lunch)	\$59.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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Optional Lunch	
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Tier 1: Selection (see below) _____	\$16.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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Tier 2: Selection (see below) _____	\$20.00 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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7:00 PM Buffet Dinner	\$71.50 per person x _____ = \$ _____
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4:00 PM Business Meeting	
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Reunion Total: \$ _____

****The Buffet dinner costs are \$55 per person plus tax (6%) and service charge (24%) bringing the total to \$71.50 per person.**

Check out time is 11:00 AM

Ride The Yard - GEMS Tour



See the Yard in style with our GEM tour in a comfortable, five-passenger electric vehicle, which highlights the “gems” of the Naval Academy. Leaves daily from the Visitor Center.

Tour Duration: 75 minutes



Visit all the historical and monumental highlights, get the inside scoop on admissions and learn about the midshipmen experience in our most popular tour. Leaves daily from the Visitors Center. The walk is approximately one mile.

Duration: 90 minutes.

Chesapeake Bay Trio Water Cruise



Join our live interpreter for an enjoyable 3-hour cruise from Annapolis' historic harbor, up the scenic Severn River, then into the Chesapeake Bay, under the Bay Bridge, to Thomas Point Lighthouse.

Tier 1 – Basic Lunch Options \$16 / box including non-alcoholic drink

- A. Chicken Caesar Wrap – Herb and garlic wrap
Tender chicken, shaved parmesan, romaine lettuce, house Caesar dressing
- B. Pesto Turkey Sandwich – Sourdough bread
House roasted turkey, provolone, romaine, pesto mayo on the side
- C. Italian Stuffed Ciabatta – Ciabatta loaf
Ham, genoa salami, pepperoni, romaine, Italian dressing on the side
- D. Ham & Swiss – Multigrain bread
Christmas pit style ham, Swiss cheese, romaine, mayo & mustard on the side
- E. Santa Fe Veggie – Tomato herb wrap (vegetarian – vegan w/o cheese)
Corn, black beans, roasted red peppers, cheddar, scallions, lettuce, avocado salsa

Tier 2 – Upscale Boxed Lunch Options \$20 / box including non-alcoholic drink

- A. Cranberry Pecan Salad w/ Chicken – Balsamic Vinaigrette
Spring greens, romaine, dried cranberries, candied pecans, crumbled feta
- B. Bruschetta Chicken Wrap – Herb and garlic wrap
Roasted chicken, fresh mozzarella, tomato, basil, romaine, balsamic dressing
- C. Smokehouse Turkey Club – Sourdough bread
House roasted turkey, smoked bacon, smoked gouda, arugula, herb tomato mayo
- D. Orchard Chicken Sandwich - Multigrain bread
Roasted chicken breast, granny smith apple, sharp cheddar, arugula, cranberry mayo
- E. Hawaiian Club – Multigrain bread
House roasted turkey, pit ham, pineapple, roasted red pepper, Swiss cheese, sweet whole grain mustard
- F. Veggie Stuffed Ciabatta – Ciabatta loaf (vegetarian – vegan w/o cheese)
Balsamic portabella, zucchini, yellow squash, roasted red pepper, pepper jack cheese, spring greens, hummus

All boxes include fresh baked cookie, butter mint, heavy weight cutlery with linen feel napkin in tamper proof boxes. Gluten Free Options available

To make your reservation, follow the link below or email me (wendy@goelite.travel) or call me (Wendy) at 972-800-1647 and I will be happy to do it for you.

Booking Link: [USS Bradley Reunion](#)

Group Code: **3235474**

Dates when booking online can be adjusted at the top of the webpage by clicking **EDIT** - choosing dates outside of what was contracted will appear as **"Sold Out"** or **"Not Available"**. Please note, the booking link and our reservations team will only have contracted nights available. Booking pre or post nights: The best practice would be to book the reservation first to ensure you secure a spot within the block, then reach out to me with your confirmation numbers with requests for adjustments to expedite the process.

Any reservation cancelled after May 4, 2024, will be charged one night's room + tax and a \$25.00 service fee. Any room guaranteed for a late arrival that is not utilized will be charged one night's room plus tax.

Please make Reservations as soon as possible. Reservation cutoff date is April 12, 2024

Email this form to Elite Travel at wendy@goelite.travel If you have any questions, please call 972-800-1647

PAYMENTS:

Make Checks Payable to: Elite Travel. Notate USS Bradley Reunion.

Mail to: Wendy Campbell 500 St Michael Dr, Box 64, Texarkana, TX 75503

Or Pay By Debit or Credit Card (Preferred) Fill out the below CC Auth on your computer and hit submit. It will come straight to me.

Please fill out this [Credit Card Authorization](#)

► Hotel Check-in policy: The Front Desk staff member that checks you in will ask for a credit card for incidentals, there will be a \$50.00 per day, hold placed on your credit card. This hold should be released between 5- 7 days after check-out based on your bank, provided you don't have any room charges or damages. **The hotel charges a \$25 per night amenity fee. This fee will be paid upon check-out. Amenities include WiFi, fitness area, bike rentals and coffee or 2 cocktails per evening per room.**

► Hotel Check-in Time: 4:00 PM Hotel Check-out Time: 11:00 AM

► Parking at the Hotel: Self-Parking is \$28 per day / Valet Parking is \$32 per day

► Hotel Guest Rooms: 100% of Guest rooms are non-smoking, should a guest smoke in their room the penalty is \$500.00; this is the responsibility of the individual to pay the penalty.

► EARLY DEPARTURE FEES: The Hotel will charge a \$95.50 and it will be charged to your credit card upon departure.

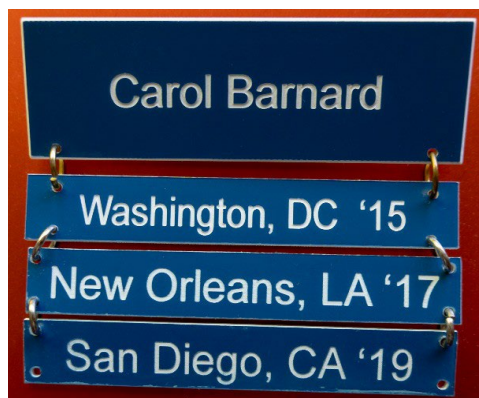
****There is a ton of information included in this form. Please do not hesitate to call me (Wendy) should you have any questions. My cell is 972-800-1647 and my email address is wendy@goelite.travel

Also, note that Purple buses run to and from the hotel every 20 minutes and accommodate handicap scooters. We will be using these busses to shuttle us to and from our tours.

Name Tags

Once again our dedicated shipmate Bruce Gottsch has agreed to facilitate getting us our name tags. See below for instructions!

At previous reunions our blue name tags have looked like this for shipmates and their wives or guests:



Again this year we need to order these through a separate process (aka Bruce Gottsch).

If this is your first reunion or you've lost/misplaced your blue name tag, you can order one by completing the information below. **Cost for each name tag is**

\$8.75. Your name, USS BRADLEY, years you were onboard, and your rate/rank is engraved into plastic as seen above. Wife or guest name tag have their name engraved on it.

☐

Option A - If you want the blue name tag, check this box.

Please fill in the information below for your name tag.

Your name tag name: _____

What years did you serve aboard? _____

What was your highest rate or rank while onboard? _____

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Option B - If you want a Wife or guest blue name tag, check this box.

Wife or guest name on name tag: _____

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Option C - If you want the reunion city tag(s), check this box and tell us how many you want _____. **Cost for each reunion city tag is \$3.75.**

Total cost for all name tags and city tags: _____

To order blue name tags, print and/or cut out the name tag form along dashed lines and send it with your check to Bruce Gottsch at: PO Box 23516, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-3516. Bruce has found a vendor who will produce our name tags.

You must have your blue name tag order to Bruce by 16 March 2024.



A Beautiful morning in Annapolis!

Ensign comes from the Latin word insignia that meant and still means emblem or banner. A warrior who carried his lord's banner or ensign became known as an ensign bearer and then just an Ensign. Ensign became a rank in the Navy in 1862 when there was a need to fill the rank for graduates of the Naval Academy who had previously been called Passed Midshipmen.

[#TriviaThursday](#)



Below is a story from our Association President, Bob Planeta. What you may not know about Bob is that, in addition to being a retired Chief, he's heavily involved in helping Veterans. Recently, because of his accomplishments and dedication to that cause, Bob was nominated and selected to join the Honor Flight to Washington DC. Below is his story...



Recently, I was selected to go on an Honor Flight from Reno to Washington DC. We started our day at 0400, meeting at the Reno airport where breakfast was provided before boarding. Then it was off to Las Vegas for a quick change of planes. Enroute from Las Vegas to Washington we were served lunch, leaving the other passengers wondering why they only got peanuts.

We were met in DC and escorted through the airport by a town crier ringing a bell and announcing our arrival. The cheers and clapping we received were very heartwarming, especially to the Vietnam Vets! We were treated to dinner by the local VFW post and then it was on to the Hilton Hotel.

The next morning we boarded the bus from Baltimore to downtown Washington where we visited the Naval Yard/Museum, the Army museum, the Air force memorial, and the Iwo Jima memorial where we met a 4th grade

school class from Kentucky. They were filling out a test paper about Iwo Jima and they came to our group and were fascinated to talk with the WWII vets.

We had lunch there and then it was on to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where I was honored to place a wreath on the tomb, along with a WWII vet. The day ended with a bus ride back to Baltimore and dinner.



The next day started with an early breakfast and then back on the bus to Washington. The second day we visited the Vietnam Veterans



Memorial (commonly called the Vietnam Memorial), the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam Nurses Memorial, and the World War II Memorial, which was really awe inspiring. If you ever go there, try to find "the Kilroy" hidden at the memorial - it's not easy!



We ended the evening with dinner at the Mission BBQ restaurant who cater to military and first responders. We placed a photo of one of the Honor Flight members sons on the wall who had been KIA in Afghanistan.

Up again the next day to catch a flight home. When we arrived in Reno it seemed like the whole community was there to greet us - what a feeling that was!

I have since gone back on an honor flight as a staff member to help with the vets and look forward to going in the future. If you have an Honor Flight where you live I would highly recommend you apply for a trip, you won't be disappointed.



Membership Dues

Those members wishing to pay their dues may do so by sending a check to Treasurer Don Ruhl as follows:

Make check to: USS Bradley Association

Amount of: \$30 per year (*indicate year(s) you are paying for*)

Mail to: USS Bradley Association
c/o Donald Ruhl, Treasurer
136 East 550 South
Mantua, UT 84324

Any questions or comments, please give me a call or let me know. Always glad to hear from fellow shipmates.

Donald Ruhl, Treasurer (360 303-2328) donruhlcpa@yahoo.com



A Second Class, First Class and a Chief Petty Officer are off the ship together for lunch. While crossing a park they come upon an antique oil lamp. They rub it and a Genie comes out in a puff of smoke. The Genie says, "I usually only grant three wishes, so I'll give each of you just one."

"Me first!" says the Second Class. "I want to be in the Bahamas, driving a speedboat, a beautiful woman at my side and not a care in the world." Poof! He's gone.

"Me next!" says the First Class. "I want to be in Hawaii, relaxing on the beach with my personal masseuse, an endless supply of pina colodas and a beautiful woman." Poof! He's gone.

"You're next", the Genie says to the Chief. The Chief says, "I want those two back on the ship right after lunch".