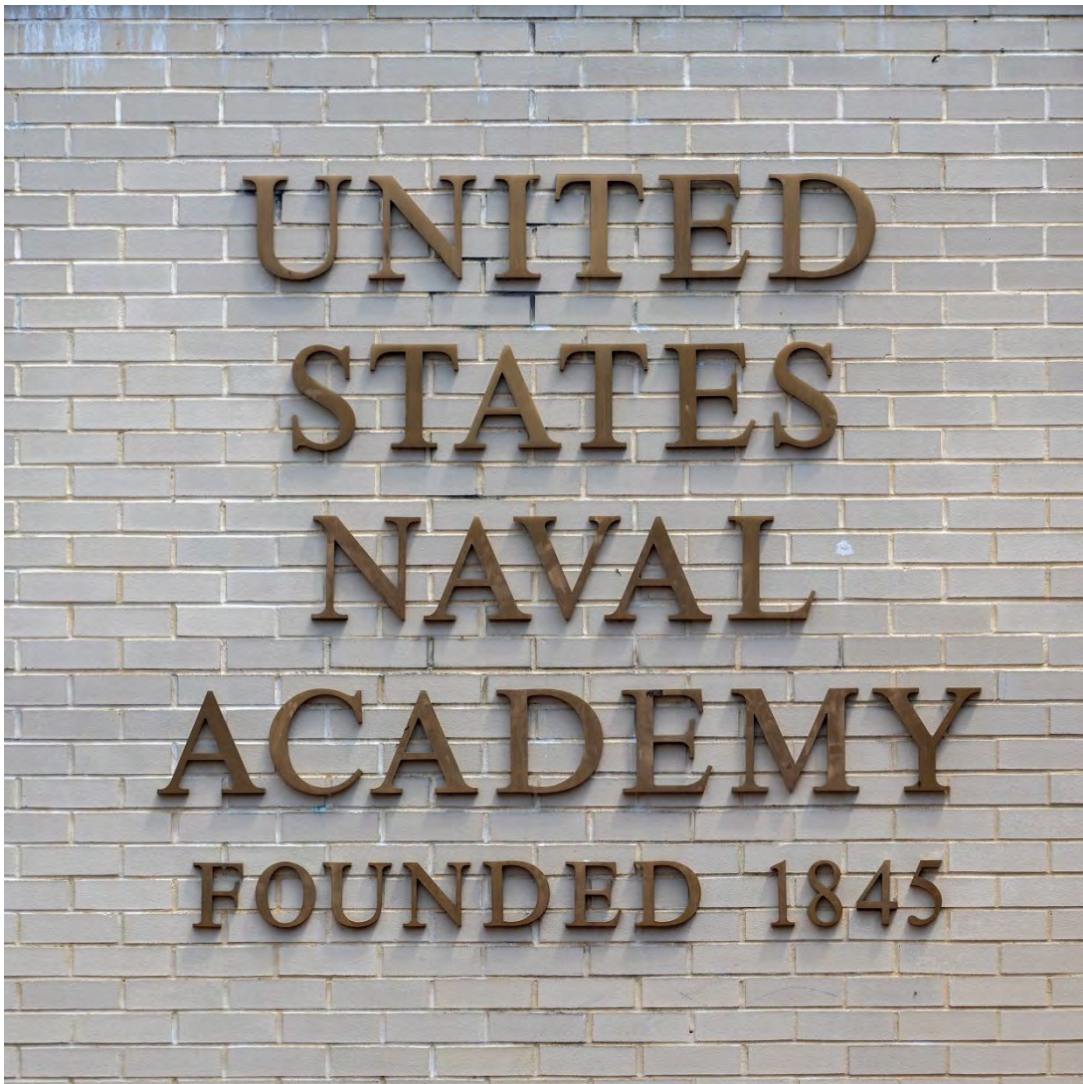


USS BRADLEY ASSOCIATION

Founded July 6, 2002

July 2024
NEWSLETTER



Entrance at Commodore John Berry Gate

President's Message

I hope everyone is having a good summer. To our shipmates in Texas, I hope you weren't affected by the recent hurricane (Beryl). As I write this it's been several days of triple digit weather here in Reno, NV. I just got to say - Lord whatever you're cooking, it's done! Recently, I was a guest of Honor Flight Nevada at the Reno Rodeo. Yes, it was my first rodeo. We had a box of 12 seats for vets who had been on an honor flight. Sitting in the box was a 99-year-old veteran of the Battle of the Bulge - he is quite a character (see photos below). The Rodeo Association presented him with a silver belt buckle, like the one the cowboys and cowgirls won.

Soon we will be working on the **2026 Reunion, to be held in Galveston TX**. I promise it will be before hurricane season. I Hope to see you all there.

On a sad note, we lost a shipmate in December; Joseph Frank was a member of Bradley's first crew. Our condolences to his family.

Stay safe and stay cool

Bob Planeta

Membership Dues

At the Association general business meeting held in Washington DC in 2015 it was approved that the annual dues be increased to \$30 per year effective following the meeting. 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

Annapolis Reunion Recap May 3 – 5, 2024

This year our reunion was held in Annapolis Maryland – home of the US Naval Academy. As with past reunions, shipmates brought family and friends, several of which had been at previous reunions. We always enjoy having family and friends attend our reunions. It gives shipmates a chance to learn a bit about each other from a different perspective, as well as giving those family members and friends a chance to learn a bit more about their father, son, uncle, brother, or friends time aboard the Bradley all those years ago.

This year we stayed at the Graduate Hotel which was a short walk to “historic” Main St. leading down to the waterfront and the Naval Academy. Main St. had many shops and restaurants but wandering off Main St. led other surprises of old Annapolis.

This year our Association President, Bob Planeta, rented a suite which included a sitting room. This was done to save money as renting a hospitality room was cost prohibitive. Still, it worked, and we were able to gather as usual, albeit a bit tight and not much room to lay out Bradley memorabilia as has been done in the past.

And so it was that on Friday as shipmates began to arrive, we gathered informally in “Bob’s” room, drifting in and out, greeting each other with handshakes, hugs, and smiles, and catching up on what each had been up to for the last couple to many years.



enclosed electric vehicle). Unlike most of our other reunions our weather this time was rather dreary. Having the GEMS vehicles to tour us around the Academy was a welcomed feature of the reunion. After the tour there was plenty of time for folks to wander around the Academy on their own, as well as around town.

That night we had a buffet dinner at the hotel that featured roast beef, vegetables, salad, rolls, etc. It was a nice venue, and everybody continued to chat, get to know each other, and tell a few stories.

Sunday we were scheduled to take a boat tour of Chesapeake Bay, so after breakfast we again walked across the street to catch the pink shuttle down to the waterfront. Because the distance to walk from the pink shuttle drop off to the boat was a bit much for some of our shipmates, Fuzzy’s son Westly (and friends) were gracious and offered their rented van to shuttle folks very near to where we were to catch the boat (thanks Westly!!).



Saturday, we hopped on the free pink shuttle bus across the street from our hotel for a ride down to the Naval Academy where most of us had signed up for a GEMS tour (a small



Again, the weather was rather gloomy and spit rain off and on. We arrived in plenty of time to catch the boat, but it had not yet arrived. With no place to take cover, the boat company, *Watermark*, allowed us to shelter in another of their tour boats until our boat arrived. AND – they opened their bar so a few pre-tour refreshments could be had. A **BIG** thanks to *Watermark* who went the extra distance to make us comfortable.



Our tour boat arrived, and we embarked and settled in. It was a very nice tour boat with plenty of (padded) indoor seating and large windows so we could get out of the occasional drizzle and still see out. A couple of highlights of the Chesapeake Bay tour



were the Chesapeake Bay bridge, Point No Point Lighthouse and Thomas Point Lighthouses, many sail boats, and other sights.

After the bay tour we had time to again wander the waterfront and Annapolis before heading back to the hotel for our business meeting prior to dinner.

During the business meeting we elected association officers as follows:

President	Bob Planeta
Vice President	Bill Barret
Treasurer	Don Ruhl
Secretary	Bill Johnson

As Don Ruhl was unable to attend, Bill Johnson presented a summary of the association's finances. Essentially, he presented the same information that was published in the January 2024 newsletter.

Bill Johnson then broached the subject of dwindling attendance at the reunion and how that was potentially putting future reunions at risk because of the need for minimum numbers in order to keep costs down (block room rates, tours, meals, etc.). Fuzzy brought up the idea of joining with Tin Can Sailors to attend their reunions. Bill brought up that Fuzzy's suggestion was raised at the 2019 reunion, and that while not voted on, the general consensus at the time was to continue as a Bradley only reunion.

The topic then turned to where our **next reunion will be held.** **Galveston Texas** rose to the top of the list very quickly and was voted to be the location of our next reunion, to be held in late April or early May (trying to dodge both spring break and hurricanes). As Bob noted above, we'll begin working on this very soon, so keep a weather eye peeled for more info in the Winter or Spring newsletter.



At our Saturday dinner, former XO Doug Menikheim led off shipmates with memories and words of inspiration.

This year shipmates were in a "poetic" mood, and both Fuzzy Furrier and our Association Vice President Bill Barrett read poems about sailors and the sea. While I don't have what Fuzzy read, I do have what Bill wrote and read, and he asked that it be included in this newsletter.

"A BEARS' TALE"

A/- WHEN I WAS A YOUNG MAN
MANY YEARS AGO, I JOINED THE
NAVY, WHY? I DON'T KNOW

B/- I SERVED, HAD QUESTIONS,
BUT WITH HONOR AND PRIDE
FOR THIS YOUNG MUG, OH WHAT
A RIDE, WHAT A RIDE!

C/- I WENT TO PLACES I'D NEVER
DREAMED, TIME WENT FAST OR
SO IT SEEMED.

D/- I MET SHIPMATES THAT I'LL
NOT FORGET, AND SOME FOOLS,
I WISH I NEVER MET!
BUT NOW AS I THINK ON THAT
TIME GONE BY, BRADLEY, MY
SHIPMATES, COULD BRING A TEAR
TO MY EYE!

E/- MAYBE WE ALL FEEL THE
SAME AFTER WE ARE OUT.
THE LAUGHTER, THE MEMORIES,
THAT'S WHAT IT IS ALL
ABOUT!

F/-
TIMES WERE GOOD AND TIMES
WERE BAD. ~~WHAT~~
BUT THAT'S ~~WHAT~~ WE HAD!
WE HOLD ONTO THE GOOD, AND
FORGET ABOUT THE BAD

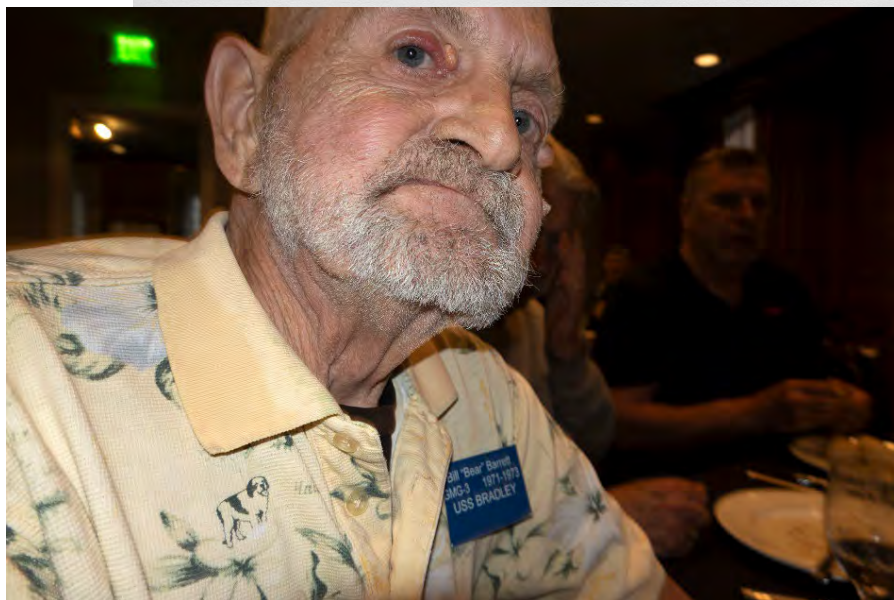
G/-
TO ALL THE FRIENDS I MADE
ALONG THE WAY, WOULD I
DO IT AGAIN? OH, ANY DAY,
ANY DAY!

H/-
THERE WERE WOODEN SHIPS AND
THERE WERE IRON SHIPS, BUT THE
BEST SHIPS ARE FRIENDSHIPS, AND
THAT SHIP WILL SAIL ON!

"BEAR" BARRETT GMG/3
ROUND BARREL

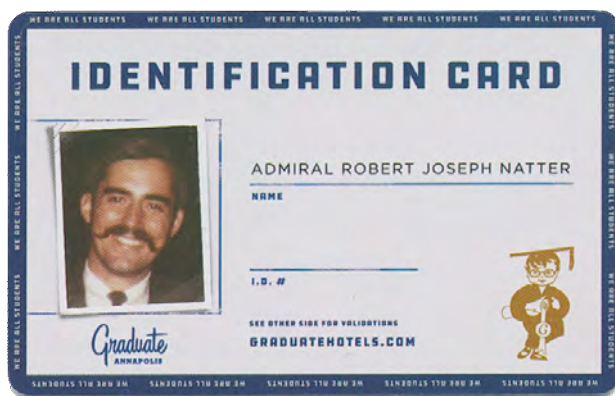


"So then this little sailor dude whips out a can of spinach, this crazy music starts playin', and ... well, just look at this place."



I arrived in Annapolis a couple days before the reunion was to begin. The Graduate Hotel in Annapolis has photos of well-known Naval Academy graduates, and upon checking in, as with other hotels, I was given two key cards. But these cards had photos on them, one of which caused me to do a double take. It had the photo of our former shipmate, Admiral Natter (Lt. Natter while on the Bradley). When I explained to the woman checking me in that I'd served on the Bradley when Admiral Natter had AND that I was there to attend the Bradley reunion she became rather animated and called her co-workers over to share that bit of info with them. She said that while they were accustomed to people recognizing other Academy graduates (Roger Staubach and Jimmy Carter for example), they didn't recall anyone staying with them who'd actually served with one of their Annapolis key card alums. Each morning as I walked passe the front desk the clerk who checked me in greeted me by name. She said she remembered my name because of the Admiral Natter/Bradley connection. Very cool!

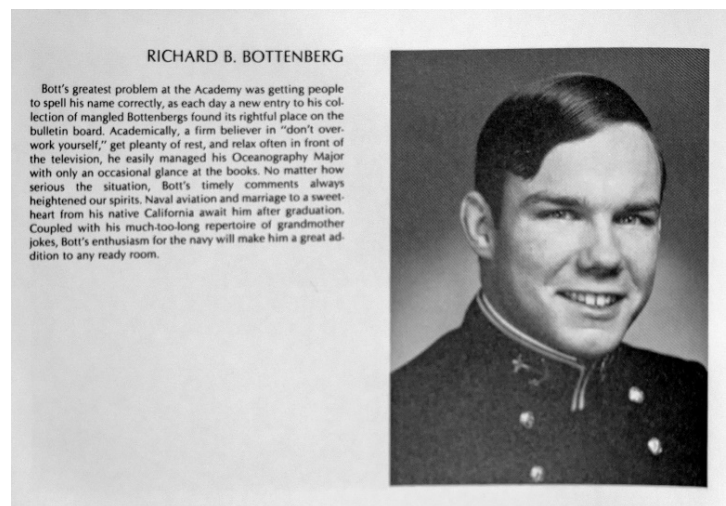
Then later, a sharp-eyed shipmate noticed that the "owner" showing on the end of each rooms "sea desk" was – you guessed it: Robert J Natter. I think it fair to say that we were quite pleased to see our former shipmate so well represented at our hotel and that we were proud to have been associated with Admiral Natter (however loosely) once upon a time.



Side notes (so to speak)

Before the reunion in Annapolis, I spent about a week in Washington DC. During my working life I spent a fair amount of time there and when I had time always enjoyed visiting the museums and various monuments and sites. On this trip, in addition to returning to many of those sites, I enjoyed a mini reunion of sorts, visiting with a couple of former Peace Corps colleagues.

One of those days my wife and I were walking past the Army Navy Club and so popped in to see what was what. We weren't allowed to wander around but were allowed into their library. While checking that out I noticed a section that contained the Naval Academy "year books". On a whim I began looking for one of the officers I knew had attended Annapolis and was aboard the Bradley when I was – Ltjg Dick Bottenberg. And yup, there he was. This is what I found. I hope Mr. Battenberg doesn't mind my sharing it here. When I shared the photo with a shipmate at the reunion who also knew Ltjg Bottenberg, his comment was – "Nice haircut".



Then, since my wife had conflicting obligations at home she left DC before me, leaving me with a free day and a half. I'd often thought about going into the National Archives to see if I could find Bradley deck logs not yet digitized and on their web site but had never had the time. I took this opportunity to do that.

Upon arrival, after passing through security, I met a very helpful employee that informed me I needed to visit their site located in College Park, Maryland because that's where those deck logs were kept. At first, I was pretty bummed, but then she told me they had a free shuttle bus that traveled to their College Park site every hour! It was too late in the day to head out there just then, so I returned the next morning and caught their shuttle out to College Park which took about an hour.

I wish I'd known ahead of time what was involved with getting access to the archives – I'd have been on the first shuttle out there – getting in was quite a process! In addition to the trip out, I had to go through an orientation and then take a test that also took about an hour. They have many rules and are very strict! For example, I wasn't allowed to take in a pad of paper, but I had some notes on dates I wanted to look up on a page, so I was able to take in that page out of the notepad, but it had to be stamped and was then inspected by security before proceeding. No pen or pencil. No pack. No hat. Etc. Whew!!

Because I wasn't familiar with the process and didn't arrive until about 1200 my time was limited, but the staff went out of their way to help me find the records I was looking for. They were able to locate and retrieve original deck logs from the Bradley, as well as from the USS Mullany (my father in law's destroyer that was hit by a kamikaze off Okinawa in WW II).

I was *stunned* to see the original deck logs from the day my father in law's ship was hit, *and to see his original signature* from that day!

Anyway, one of the Bradley deck logs I was looking for was from the day the Ranger's helo was accidentally shot down by one of her own planes. Having seen (and included the Ranger deck log from that day in a previous newsletter) I was curious what was written in the Bradley deck log.

With all the restrictions and precautions the National Archives has in place when entering their facilities, I was very pleased that they allowed my small Sony camera in. With that I was allowed to take photos of the archived deck logs. Below is a photo of the *original* Bradley deck log from that terrible day in July 1974 (I've clipped out the times before and after the accident to save space).

DECK LOG—REMARKS SHEET

S/N 0106-131-0200

USS BRADLEY DE-104 ZONE DESCRIPTION -8H DATE MONDAY 22 JULY 19 74
(Day) (Date) (Month)
AT/PASSAGE FROM LOCAL SUBICUAPAS TO _____

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
0800		
L <u>13 57.8'N</u>	BY _____	
λ <u>119° 36.3'E</u>	BY _____	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
1200		
L <u>14° 17.2'N</u>	BY _____	
λ <u>119° 32.7'E</u>	BY _____	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
2000		
L <u>14° 16.7'N</u>	BY _____	
λ <u>119° 02.5'E</u>	BY _____	

LEGEND: 1. CELESTIAL
2. ELECTRONIC
3. VISUAL
4. D. R.

REMARKS

08-12 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE. 0812 MANEUVERING AT VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS TO ASSUME STATION 35AK, 4000 YDS ASTERN USS RANGER (CVA-61). 0830 ON STATION. 0900 COMMENCED ENGINEERING CASUALTY CONTROL DRILLS. MANEUVERING AT VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS. 1033 SECURE FROM ENGINEERING CASUALTY CONTROL DRILLS. 1036 ASSUMED STATION 2000 YDS OFF STARBOARD QUARTER USS RANGER (CVA-61) IN COMPANY USS JOUETT (DLG-29), BASE COURSE 1600T, BASE SPEED 10 KTS. FOR AIR SHOW DISPLAY. 1122 RANGER HELO BOAT STRUCK IN ROTOR BY SIDEWINDER MISSILE FIRED FROM F-4 PHANTOM. HELO BURST INTO FLAMES AND SANK IMMEDIATELY UPON IMPACT WITH WATER. 9/ 3500T 9/ 22 KTS. ENROUTE TO VICINITY OF WHITE SMOKE AND GREEN MARKERS. 1127 HELO BOAT ON SCENE. 1128 SIGHTED

EXAMINED

W. A. Fullerton

U. S. N. NAVIGATOR

TO BE FORWARDED TO THE BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL AT THE END OF EACH MONTH

DECK LOG—REMARKS SHEET

S/N 0106-131-0200

USS BRADLEY (DE-104) DATE MONDAY 22 JULY 19 74
(Day) (Date) (Month)

REMARKS-CONTINUED

08-12 (CONT.) MISCELLANEOUS DEBRIS IN WATER. NO SURVIVORS FOUND. 9/ 5 KTS 1129 9/ 10 KTS 1130 LAUNCHED MOTOR WHALE BOAT TO INVESTIGATE SCENE. 1131 9/ 5 KTS. MANEUVERING AT VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS TO MAINTAIN WITHIN 150 YDS OF WHITE SMOKE AND GREEN DYE MARKERS.

A. S. Pharr

A. S. PHARR
LTJG, USN

12-16 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE STEERING VARIOUS COURSES AT VARIOUS SPEEDS IN CIRCULAR AREA WHILE INVESTIGATING DEBRIS AND SEARCHING FOR SURVIVORS 1235 MOTOR WHALE BOAT ALONGSIDE PREPARING TO HOIST ABOARD 1247 MOTOR WHALE BOAT SECURED FOR SEA SECURED FROM ACTIVE SEARCH OF NEW CRASH SIGHT MAINTAINING CIRCULAR COURSE IN SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS 1339 SECURED FROM SEARCH PROCEEDING ON COURSE 040°T AT SPEED 5 KTS ENROUTE TO RENDEVOUS WITH USS RANGER (CVA-61) FOR PLANE GUARD ASSIGNMENT 1400 CALLED AWAY FLIGHT QUARTERS 1409 SECURED FROM FLIGHT QUARTERS 9/ 0200T 9/ 10 KTS 1418 9/ 200°T 9/ 15 KTS 1440 9/ 330°T 1500 9/ 180°T 9/ 20 KTS 1550 9/ 270°T 9/ 15 KTS

W. A. Fullerton
W. A. FULLERTON, ENS, USN

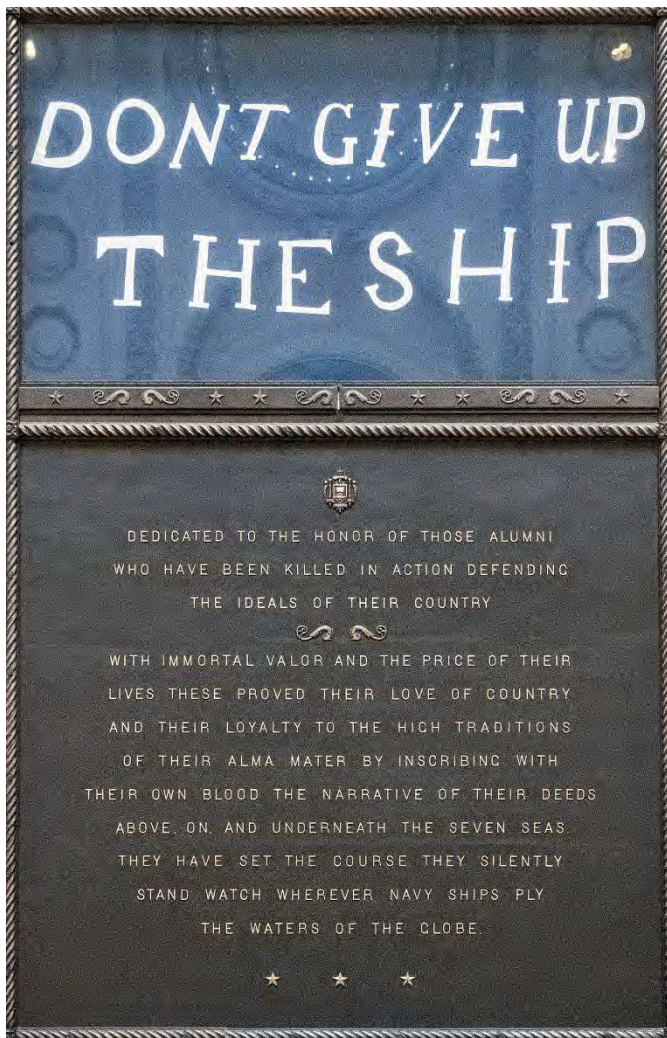
16-20 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE STEERING VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS TO MAINTAIN STATION ON USS RANGER (CVA-61)

W. A. Fullerton (NAVIGATOR)
B. E. Nichols LTJG USN



Assoc. President Planeta shared photos of his time with Battle of the Bulge veteran at the Reno Rodeo

More photos from the 2024 Annapolis Reunion below





Plank Owners Joe Carvalho and Bill Smith



Bill Wise, Walter Hancock, Jose Carvahlo, Al Johnson, Richard Duffy



Saturday night dinner



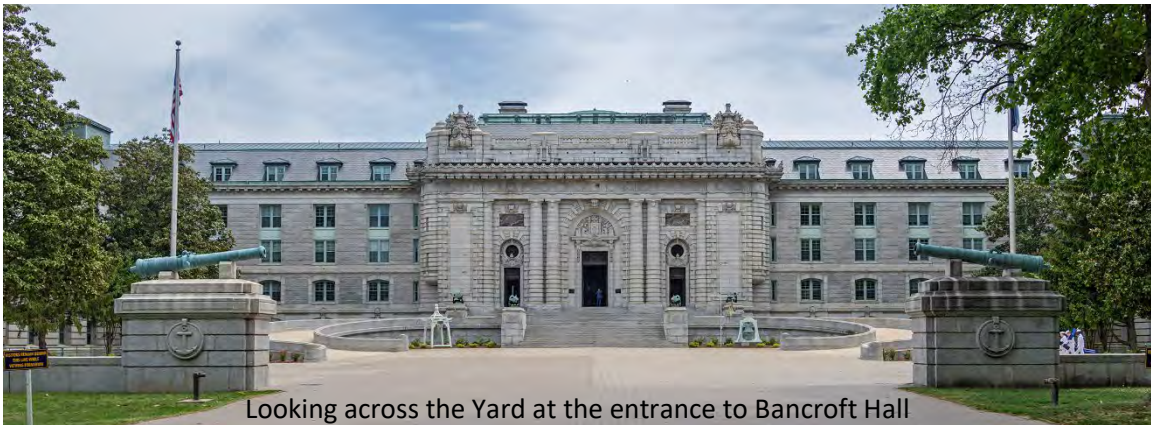
Statue of General Baron DeKalb
who arrived with Lafayette from
France in 1777



The Naval Academy Chapel



Fuzzy's poetic moment



Looking across the Yard at the entrance to Bancroft Hall



One of the murals in Memorial Hall, US Naval Academy



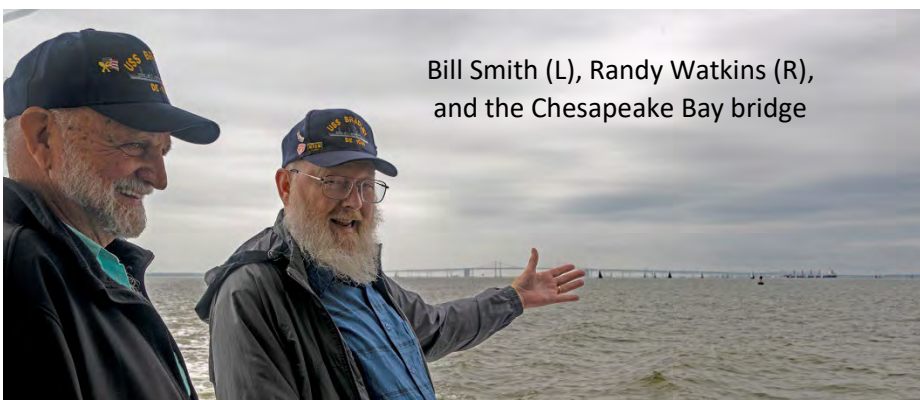
Sunday morning breakfast with the Menikheim clan



Inside the Naval Academy Chapel



Bill Wise (left) and
Ernie Gall (below)
having a good time!



Bill Smith (L), Randy Watkins (R),
and the Chesapeake Bay bridge

