

# USS BRADLEY ASSOCIATION

*Founded July 6, 2002*

## December 2019 NEWSLETTER



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## *President's Message*

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Many thanks to all for making our 9<sup>th</sup> reunion, which took place in San Diego, a success! I hope everyone had a good time. Time spent together is always a good time!

Regarding this past reunion, a few loose ends needed attention (more than ever) with an able assist from Bruce Gottsch, Bill Johnson, Dennis Walker, and "Clippers" Shattuck, as we adapted and made it work.

A reunion committee has been set up to handle each facet of our next reunion (Jacksonville, FL in 2021) i.e. hotel, meals, tours, etc. Details TBA.

Thanks, and well Done.

Steady as ya go!

*Bill*

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## *Treasurers Report ending 30 June 2019*

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Fund balance at beginning of year was \$4778.86

In reviewing the Financial Summary of Receipts and Expenditures for the 6-month period ending 30 Sept. 2017, it appears that the Association received \$655.00 in dues and \$580.00 in donations for a total of \$1235.00

Expenditures during this period amounted to \$370.34 for newsletter printing and mailing costs. This was also the total of expenditures for this time period.

Excess of Receipts over Expenditures was \$864.66

The Total Fund Balance of the Association at the end of this 6-month period is \$5,643.52.

Summary Report prepared and submitted by Don Ruhl, Treasurer



**Annual reminder - Keeping in Touch:** Since the founding of the USS BRADLEY Association more than a decade and a half ago, keeping in touch with those BRADLEY Shipmates brought into the association has been an ongoing challenge.

Certainly, people move, and many no longer have landlines. And of course, as time passes, we can lose contact. Sometimes we (the association) will be notified of changes in address, telephone number, email address or about those shipmates we have lost to death. Other times we will not be notified and lose contact with shipmates.

With that in mind we need your help maintaining contact with you. All contact information is held in strict confidence. We're asking that all association members update their data in one of the following ways: First, email our Association Secretary at ([bradleyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyassociation@gmail.com)) with your present postal address and a phone number. We'll have your current email address once we've received your email message. Second, if you don't have access to reliable email, telephone me at 541-393-6308. If you leave a message, please include your name AND telephone number!

Third, you can of course send a message via snail mail to: Bradley Association, P O Box 21145, Eugene, OR 97402. Please include your mailing address and a telephone number.

Finally, you can go to the Bradley web site at: <http://www.ussbradley.com/> then select Contact Us in the upper right of the page and fill out the info in the Contact Form. When you hit the Send button, the information is sent directly to Bill. We currently only have 105 current email addresses out of 291 members. Please consider providing your email address – this helps the association save money when producing and sending newsletters.

**Thank you all for your prompt attention to this very important matter.**

## **Membership Dues** ***(If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so ASAP!)***

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](mailto:donruhlcpa@yahoo.com)

## **San Diego Reunion Recap – September 26-29, 2019**



It was good to be back in San Diego! We had very good weather as most shipmates began to gather at the Handlery Hotel on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup>. True to form, some shipmates arrived a day earlier to do some exploring before the official start.

Thursday saw shipmates checking in at the hospitality room (with Association President Bill Barrett), which overlooked the pool. The display table was loaded, by our shipmates, with photos, flags, plaques, patches, and other sorts of memorabilia from our days aboard the

BRADLEY. After checking in (and sometimes before), shipmates began reconnecting and catching up since the last time they met, which in some cases had been many years. Also, we were surprised with a visit from Captain Heck who joined us for a brief time, but said he'd be back for the banquet.

Friday morning found shipmates, family, and friends mustering in front of the Handlery waiting for the bus that would take us on our scheduled adventures for the day. When the bus arrived, it became apparent that a breakdown in communication had occurred between the reunion planning vendor and the association as the bus was not set up to accommodate our less mobile shipmates.

After a brief discussion with the bus driver and an examination of the "luggage" compartment, it was determined that we could fit the

powered scooters into that space. Well, those things ain't light! But true to form people worked the problem and through a group effort, shipmates were able to load the scooters into the "luggage" compartment. A big thanks to our bus driver for being so accommodating in resolving this problem!!



Once loaded we headed down to the waterfront at the foot of Broadway St. where we loaded onboard the tour boat Marietta to begin our tour of San Diego



harbor. The first part of the tour found us pulling away from the dock and heading east, passing under the Coronado Bridge for a look at 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Naval Station from the water.

I think it fair to say how struck we all were by a couple of things. First was the security around the perimeter of the base that reached out into the harbor. Floating barriers and armed security boats were in place to keep unauthorized vessels away from the ships and base. Second were the ships themselves. Of course, the weapons systems (that we could see) were different from when the BRADLEY was operating. But the most obvious, striking change was to some of the ships themselves - the "new" littoral ships especially! They were made of what looked like unpainted aluminum. And the design! They were sleek, with minimal uneven surfaces. Some of the ships had a catamaran style hull, while others were tri-hull, with the center (bow) protruding from the front like some sort of missile. Really – like something out of science fiction! If you go to the link below, you'll see





photos of the ships as well as other reunion photos (you may need to press the Ctrl key and then click for the link to activate):

<https://wjohnson.smugmug.com/Navy/USS-Bradley-Reunions/n-QJx28F/San-Diego-September-2019>

So, we then looped around and went back to the dock where we began, but the fun wasn't over just yet. We took on more passengers (aka tourists) and then departed, heading west as if heading out to sea. We passed a couple of carriers (Theodore Roosevelt and Nimitz) as well as the Star of India with sails rigged. We continued around, getting a good look at NAS Coronado as planes and helos took off and landed, as well as a view of Ft. Rosecrans Cemetery and Pt. Loma. Along the way we passed another very interesting Navy vessel, the USS Sea Hunter. This vessel had a center hull with two outriggers (yes, outriggers). It's an experimental craft testing unmanned vessel capabilities. And you thought "self-driving cars" were new! FYI - we did not make it out to buoy 1 SD. We looped around and headed back to the dock. Looking at San Diego as we were headed back, we were struck by how the view of the city skyline had so radically changed.



Once back on the bus we headed to Cabrillo National Monument out at Point Loma. While it wasn't a crystal-clear day, it was still pretty darn good, and we had pretty fine views of the Pacific and even got to watch a couple ships entering and departing San Diego harbor (again, check the link for photos). As part of the Cabrillo Festival, there was ceremony celebrating the 1543 landing of Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo on the shores of San Diego harbor.

Because we had a bit of extra time, Dave Burgmeier (SM2 '78 – '83) suggested we locate Capt. Willis BRADLEY's grave and pay him a visit. Our bus driver was game, so we let Dave off and he asked at the grave location place and found it. A grounds keeper (a former BM from the USS Long Beach) was





kind enough to give Dave a lift in his work-cart and guide us (in our bus) to Capt. BRADLEY's grave. It's worth mentioning that our bus driver was very excited to be doing this. It was a tight fit for our bus, but she did a great job of navigating the narrow road and could be heard saying, "This is so cool!!". On a personal note, I confess I didn't know Capt. BRADLEY was buried in the Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery. It gave me great pleasure knowing that every time the USS BRADLEY departed and returned to her home port in San Diego, Captain BRADLEY was watching over us.

After that we returned to the Handlery Hotel. The hospitality room was re-opened and we rested up before a fine buffet dinner, consisting of a main dish with London Broil with Port reduction, Blackened Mahi Mahi, salad and market vegetables. The author Rick Campbell donated a couple of his books that were auctioned off during dinner for \$160.00, with the money going to the association treasury. And of course, sea stories were told before we all retired for the night.



The next day we once again mustered in front of the Handlery waiting for our bus (same bus, different driver). After boarding, we departed for a tour of the 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Naval Base. Unfortunately, we didn't get a tour of an active duty ship as had happened at previous San Diego reunions. Our escort/tour guide was former Navy (now a Public Information Officer – PIO) and she explained that with the operational tempo of the fleet today, they don't have time to accommodate tours like they used to. In fact (hold on for this one) the crews don't even stay on board anymore when in port. They stay in "dorms". Loud groans and comments (which can't be printed here) arose from our shipmates.

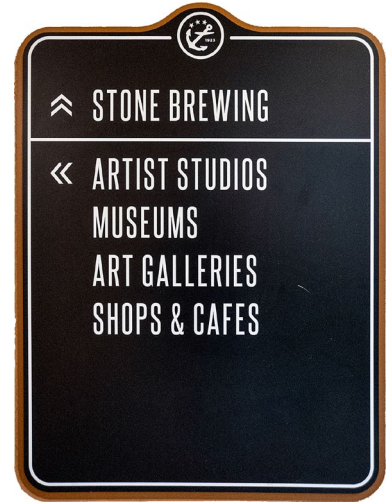
After the bus was checked out by a security dog, our escort directed the bus driver so that we got a good look at the base and the ships tied up there. In fact, this tour provided us with a view of the ships from the opposite direction that we'd seen them on the harbor tour (again, check the link). We were allowed to get out and stretch our legs at one point, very close to where the hospital ship Mercy was docked. Another thing that's different now than when the BRADLEY was in service - nesting. If you recall, we'd sometimes have to walk across two or three nested ships to reach our "home". We didn't see a single instance of any ship being tied up outboard of another ship!







Another hiccup was that we'd expected to be able to go into the Navy Exchange to eat lunch. Well phbttt – that didn't happen either because we weren't active duty. Soooo, we again had a bit of extra time and today's bus driver was also accommodating. We decided (and he agreed) to go to Liberty Station (formerly NTC, aka Boot Camp) to get lunch. Most ate at the Corvette Diner or Dirty Birds Bar and Grill, but a couple of people went to what could be described as a sort of food court. They even had a brewery there – can you imagine that?! In our old barracks no less!! After lunch we returned to the Handlery once again and rested up before the business meeting that afternoon.



We had a fair amount to discuss at this meeting. The most significant topic to be discussed was how to arrange/coordinate/setup the next reunion. Because of the problems we've encountered with the vendor for the last two reunions, we decided to try a different approach. Please refer to **REUNION BUSINESS** in the Business Meeting Minutes below.

Another significant decision was to recognize that a change of the season and perhaps the days of the week to hold the reunion might be necessary. It was agreed to by members to move the season the reunions have traditionally been held from Fall to Spring. The reason for this is because of concerns with weather. The Fall schedules run the risk of being impacted by hurricanes or tropical storms if held in the southeastern US. The Spring option will eliminate that potential and give us additional options for locations to hold reunions.

Along with the possible season change, it was agreed to move the reunion from a weekend schedule to a mid-week schedule. This decision was taken in the interest of holding down costs. Typically, hotel costs mid-week are less than weekend rates.

That evening we had our traditional banquet dinner. The room was full with shipmates, family, and friends filling tables across the room. Prior to sitting down to a very good meal we took portraits of people in attendance. The served dinner consisted of a choice between Salmon or Southwest Tri-tip for the main dish, along with salad, vegetables, and either carrot or chocolate cake for dessert, and of course coffee.



After dinner we held our traditional memorial ceremony where we honored those shipmates who had passed away, as well as all service members.



The floor was then opened for people to speak (aka tell stories). We were very fortunate to have Captain Heck as a guest at the banquet. Most of us who sailed on the BRADLEY had little interaction with the Captains, unless, well – you know...

Anyway, Captain Heck led off. You know, one thing I'd have never thought of about Captain Heck was that he had a sense of humor, but he does! He told us that one of the reasons he came was because he wanted to know what was really going on when he was Captain. Ha! A couple of us told him a couple of stories. But he had a story or two of his own. Interestingly enough, the

one that stuck out was about an interaction he had with a young, inexperienced ensign.

After the storytelling things began to break up as the hotel staff began breaking down the banquet settings, but people lingered, continuing to visit, and yes, tell more stories! All members were looking forward to 2021.

Sunday morning saw most of our shipmates heading home after saying goodbye at breakfast. Some stayed on a bit longer in San Diego visiting old haunts, if they were still there. Some of us went to the air show at Miramar MCAS (formerly Naval Air Station) where the Blue Angels performed, as did the British Royal Red Arrows.

## **Minutes of the USS BRADLEY Assoc. Business Meeting 28 Oct. 2019 San Diego, CA**

Meeting called to order by President Bill Barrett at 1510.

The meeting was opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Treasurer Don Ruhl presented a Treasures Report – he noted that we collected \$160.00 from an auction held at last night's dinner. Two books were donated for auction by the author Rick Campbell – "Ice Station Nautilus" and "Blackmail".

A motion was made and voted on to accept Don's report.

A discussion followed the Treasurer's report regarding membership dues (\$30.00/year). Bruce Gottsch noted that the decision was made many years ago to not exclude former shipmates who have been unable to pay dues.

A motion was made and voted on to maintain current wording in winter newsletter reminding members to pay dues.

### **Agent Orange update**

Butch Shattuck reported on the BRADLEY Association's outstanding efforts to gain AO benefits for former BRADLEY shipmates. He noted that legislation has been signed by the President, but that review of individual cases won't begin until January 2020. Tony Brown stated that he has deck logs showing BRADLEY was in Da Nang during the 1972-73 cruise. Butch Shattuck noted BRADLEY is currently accepted as Agent Orange affected. Because of the above, remaining funds raised from previous efforts to support Agent Orange work were transferred to Association general funds.



## **Reunion Business**

Bruce gave a background of reunion planning including how/why we lost the original vendors that planned the reunions. He noted problems arose when they closed their business on short notice and that Ozark Kirkwood was found on short notice. Bruce acknowledged Bill Barrett's extraordinary efforts to overcome Ozark Kirkwood shortcoming for the San Diego reunion.

Because of the problems we've faced with the vendor for the 2019 and 2017 reunions, Bruce suggested we needed to conduct reunion planning business in a different way when working with the vendors.

He suggested we needed to establish a number of committees for working with vendors, setting up/arranging the reunion. He then summarized what's involved with setting up the reunion.

A motion was made and voted on to accept Bruce's suggestion to adopt a committee structure for working with a vendor in setting up reunions.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS**

We are looking for Bradley Shipmates to volunteer to be part of one of the Planning Committees mentioned below. **Note** – the Hotels Planning Committee is fully staffed. Please consider volunteering for one of the other Planning Committees. If you are interested, please contact Bill Johnson at: [bradleyassociation@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyassociation@gmail.com) and he will put you in touch with the other Planning Committee members. Planning Committee member selection will be finalized on 31 January 2020.

Fuzzy suggested looking into Tin Can Sailors to tag onto their reunions. Discussion about Fuzzy's suggestion followed but was not acted on due to Tin Can Sailors reunions being generic in format (open to any and all former Tin Can Sailors). While no motion was made or vote taken, it was generally agreed to maintain the BRADLEY Association's approach to reunions by continuing to have it remain BRADLEY only.

Bruce outlined his vision for the committees needed which included: Hotels, Tours, Memorial Service, Banquet/dinner/hospitality room food, reunion insurance, raffles and fundraisers. The floor was then opened to for shipmates to volunteer for committees.

*Reunion planning committee/volunteers:*

*Hotels* - Butch Shattuck, Bob Planeta, Tony Brown

*Tours* - Randy Watkins

*Memorial Service* - Al Hughey (in absentia by agreement of members present), Gary Justice

*Banquet/dinner/hospitality room food* - Bill Barrett

*Reunion Insurance* - Bruce Gottsch

*Raffles and Fundraisers* - Dennis Walker, Randy Watkins

### **Next reunion location**

Proposed locations/number of votes:

Albany NY - 1

Boston MA - 0

Buffalo NY – 0

Jacksonville FL – (would/should hold in Spring to avoid hurricane season, so would need a vote to change time of year.) 13

(Gary Justice suggested having a backup location in case the primary location proves unworkable for some reason. It was mentioned that as happened with the current (2019) reunion, the second highest vote getter would become the default backup location.)

Colorado Springs CO - 4

Jacksonville FL was voted as the 2021 reunion location. A vote was taken and unanimously approved to move this reunion to Spring 2021 – probably March.

It was suggested hotel costs might be kept down if the reunion were held during the middle of the week rather than the weekend. A motion was made to explore moving the reunion to the middle of the week. The vote was unanimous and so the “Hotel committee” has the lead in exploring this.

#### **Association Officer Votes:**

Don Ruhl voted to remain as Treasure

Bill Johnson voted as Secretary

Butch Shattuck voted as Vice President

Bill Barrett voted as President

Because of his extensive involvement with the BRADLEY Association from the beginning, Bruce Gottsch was appointed to the BRADLEY Assoc. Board of Directors by President Bill Barrett.

#### **General comments:**

Bill Barrett spoke about working through the problems the association encountered with this year’s reunion.

#### **Meeting adjourned at 1633, 28 Sept. 2019**

## **REUNION PLANNING**

From BRADLEY Association Business Meeting San Diego CA 2019

- (1) Hire a **NEW** company to run the next reunion; which will include **a company representative at reunion**
- (2) Establish Reunion Committees to supervise reunion company

### **ONCE STAFFED, NO ONE PERSON MAY RUN A COMMITTEE!!**

#### **Committee members MUST have working email and KNOW how to use it!**

Reunion Committees will regularly report to the association secretary on their progress. The secretary will then compile a committee report summary of the progress of said committees and forward same to the president and directors. This information will also be shared with ALL Active Committees.

Reunion Committees will assess the following:

- a. **Reunion Hotel:** Dates/Rates; Rooms (King/Queen); handicap accessible; Parking; Airport Transportation; Breakfast; Hospitality Room Availability and snacks with drinks; Opt. in or out



b. **Food Service:** Thursday night welcome Reception (Cheese and crackers) with dinner on your own; Friday Night Buffet (Local Favorites)

Banquet Saturday Evening: Sit Down Meal w/2-3 Entree choices etc.; Opt. in or out  
Banquet Dress Suggestions

c. **Banquet Programs/Speakers**

d. **Memorial Service** (Saturday Evening following Dinner: Including the Two Bell Ceremony and Missing Shipmate Table and Settings; Program planning and printing

e. **Fund Raiser/Raffles** (Friday evening after buffet)

f. **Tours and Activities** (Usually Friday and Saturday) Saturday Activity MUST end and all shipmates back at the hotel for the Association's Business Meeting; Local Sites & destinations and Costs including admission and transportation; Lunch; Opt. in or out

g. **Insurance:** Possible through umbrella organizations such as DESA or Tin Can Sailors; destination security; Travel; loss of hotel; Liability

h. **Ship's Store (fundraising):** BRADLEY Association merchandise

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## *USS BRADLEY Association Officer & Directors*

### *2020-2021*

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Bill Barrett - **President**

Irwin Shattuck - **Vice President**

Don Ruhl - **Treasurer**

Bill Johnson - **Secretary**

**Past Presidents/Directors:** Paul Groos

**Directors:** Jose Carvello, Bruce Gottsch, Alfred Hughey, Randall Watkins

**Webmaster** - David Nugent

**Newsletter Editor** - Bill Johnson

**Google Administrator** - Tom Lettington

**Facebook Coordinator** - Sheryl Watkins



The statue known as "Unconditional Surrender" stands near the USS Midway floating museum in San Diego



Lt. Commander Lou Conter - one of the last three USS Arizona survivors still alive, and the only one to make it to Pearl Harbor for the 2019 commemoration of the December 7, 1941 attack on Hawaii.

Photo courtesy of Tom Fake - National Park Service, Ret.

View of USS Horne, USS Fox, and either USS Sterett or USS Jouett (all DLG's reclassified to CG's in 1975) nested in San Diego, late 1974 or early 1975. Viewed from BRADLEY fantail during early morning berth change. Note Ltjg. Bruce Nichols checking things out from the pier.

