

USS BRADLEY ASSOCIATION

Founded July 6, 2002

July 2022 NEWSLETTER



(Front Row L-R) Jose Carvalho, Mike Gensburger, Bill Johnson, Fred Todd, Mike Davis, Randolph Watkins. (Back Row L-R) Rick Browning, Bill Barrett, "Butch" Shattuck, Bob Planeta, Bill Smith, Al Hughey, "Fuzzy" Furrer, Terry Crawford.

(Additional photos at this link: <https://wjohnson.smugmug.com/Navy/USS-Bradley-Reunions/Jacksonville-Reunion/n-tsXwHv>)

President's Message

The reunion in Jacksonville was a huge success. I want to thank the Association Officers for all the work they did to make it happen, especially Bill Johnson for setting up all the conference calls and dealing with the reunion planners.

It was really great to see some crew members who had attended a reunion for the first time. I encourage all shipmates to attend no matter what era you sailed the Bradley. I don't know any group of people who are closer to each other than a ship's crew.

Thank you to Bill Barret for all his years of service as the Bradley Association President. I hope I can fill your shoes as the newly elected President.

There is a group of members who are getting together for an Alaskan cruise in May 2023. If you are interested in joining them contact Sheryl Johansen for info. **This is not a Bradley Assoc. function and does not replace the Association reunion.**

We missed a founding member of the Bradley Association at the reunion - PN2 Bruce Gottsch. I wish you well my brother.

Finally, our next reunion will be in Annapolis Maryland in 2024. I'm looking forward to visiting The Yard and seeing where the Navy leadership trains (we all know the Chiefs and First-Class Mess that really run the Navy). Happy Anniversary to the Walkers, we hope to see you at the next reunion. *Bob Planeta*

Treasurers Report 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2022

Normally the Treasurers Report would have come out in the first newsletter of the year. Due to the urgent need to get out the February 2022 newsletter the report was not included. Here now is a summary of that report.

Fund Balance 1 January 2021:

Uncommitted Cash = \$5929.40

2022 Reunion Hotel Deposits (Note - paid in 2020) = \$500.00

Receipts:

Member Dues = \$500.00

Disbursements:

2022 Reunion Hotel Deposit = \$300.00

Newsletters = \$646.55

Total Funds Disbursed = \$946.55

Excess of Funds Disbursed over Receipts = -\$446.55

Fund Balance 31 March 2022:

Uncommitted Cash = 5482.85

Note: After the reunion in Jacksonville, we received \$734.42 of our \$800.00 (total) deposit. The \$65.58 was for our hospitality room.

Annual reminder - Keeping inTouch: 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.

Records show that since 2017 we've lost contact with at least 43 shipmates, and the list grows with each newsletter mailing. Also, since 2017 we're aware that 24 shipmates have, sadly, passed away.

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) 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, call 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 50333, Eugene, OR 97405. 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 our Secretary. We currently only have 125 current email addresses out of 265 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

St. Augustine Reunion Recap – April 22 – 24, 2022

I think it safe to say that despite the challenges of pulling this reunion together everyone had a very good time! The



Hilton Hotel sits right on the St. John's River looking across at the USS Orleck. (*Sidebar – as I write this I'm listening to an old interview of Al Green from 1991 prompting flashbacks to early 70's on the Bradley. Good Times!*)



We began on Friday afternoon meeting in the hospitality room where we renewed friendships and greeted some shipmates attending their first reunion. No time was wasted before sea stories began to roll. The itinerary for the next two days was available and reunion badges were handed out. This was an informal gathering and people drifted in and out of the room until early evening.

Saturday morning found us gathering in the hotel lobby waiting for our bus. Once aboard, our tour guide (Michelle Reyna) began by giving us a bit of history about St. Augustine. The trip there was uneventful, but once there Michelle really dove into her tremendous knowledge about the history of St. Augustine.



As the bus wound around the narrow streets, we saw the famous Fountain of Youth, Flagler College, the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche, and the St. Augustine Light Station, to

mention just a few. We got off the bus for short look-arounds at several of these places. We also had a wide variety of eating establishments for lunch.



After returning to the hotel and a bit of a rest-up we gathered in for an informal buffet dinner with Chicken Florentine and Beef Teriyaki.



Sunday we headed to our River Cruise and Amelia Island Excursion. Once there the boat tour crew insured we were all safely loaded aboard.



I don't remember what all we saw on the cruise, but it was a lot! And the weather was *perfect!*



After the cruise we were free to roam around the community of Fernandina Beach to find lunch before winding our way back to the hotel.

Back at the hotel...

Reunion Business Meeting 24 April 2022 St. Augustine, FL

President Bill Barrett called the meeting to order at approx. 1600.

We began with the pledge of allegiance.

As Treasurer Don Ruhl was not in attendance at this reunion, Pres. Barrett asked Secretary Johnson to provide the group with a financial report (see summary above). A motion was made and voted on to accept the report.

Following the financial summary, nominations were put forth and votes were held for Association Officers.

Bill Barrett announced he was stepping down as Association President, having served in that position for more than 10 years.

Bob Planeta was then elected as Association President.

Bill Barrett was elected as Association Vice President.

Don Ruhl was re-elected as Association Treasurer. (*Don was not in attendance at this reunion but was contacted ahead of time by Bill Johnson to ask if he would be willing to continue as treasurer if nominated and elected, to which Don said yes*)

Bill Johnson was re-elected as Association Secretary.

Next order of business was to select the location for our next reunion. Several locations were suggested (Annapolis, San Antonio, Reno, Galveston, Hawaii, St. Louis, and A Cruise) with **Annapolis, MD being the final location selected for our 2024 reunion.** Stay tuned for details!!

Note: During the discussion about our next reunion location a suggestion was made to hold it as a cruise, which was not selected. At the banquet that night a few people discussed having an "off year" gathering as a cruise. Sheryl Watkins (wife of Randolph) is wrangling this event and has asked the following to be included in this newsletter:

In Jacksonville, several shipmates and wives expressed an interest in taking a cruise. *While **not** an official Bradley Association event.* travel agent Wendy Campbell (daughter of Mike and Barbara Davis) has booked a 2023 Alaska cruise for those shipmates who are interested.

The beautiful Carnival Spirit will depart Seattle on May 16 for a 7-day round-trip cruise to Tracy Arm Fjord, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan and Victoria. Pricing varies depending on cabin (interior, ocean view, balcony, etc.) and number of guests per cabin, but start at under \$2,500 per couple, including meals, entertainment, taxes and gratuities. Please note that, as of now, cruise line rules require all passengers to be immunized against Covid-19.

Additional details are posted on the USS Bradley Association Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/596365483754509>). Not on Facebook? Email Wendy@Goelite. *Again, this is **not** an official Bradley Association event,* but it'll give us plenty to talk about in Maryland.

For our farewell Banquet Dinner that night we had a main dish choice of Roast Sirloin or Chicken Marsala with Mushrooms. As people came in we posed for portrait photos.

We held an Auction Fundraiser at this reunion. As noted in the May 2020 newsletter, "At the San Diego reunion, Dennis Walker and Randy Watkins apparently volunteered their wives (Nancy and Sheryl respectively) as auction coordinators."

Various items were donated to raise money for the Association. For example, Bruce Gottsch mailed 19 books! Other items included (but weren't limited to): Wine Glasses, Bradley Mugs, Bradley DE Belt Buckles, Bradley fridge magnets, Bradley beer glasses, etc. Between the auction and donations, we raised \$885.00 (\$676.00 from the auction and \$179.00 from donations). Thank you to Sheryl Watkins for helping to coordinate the auction.

As always, we welcomed family and friends of shipmates. They're a great addition at our reunions, adding a different perspective and sometimes stories of their own!

With the banquet winding down we began to drift out, saying our goodbyes as we went, hoping to see each other again in two years in Annapolis! And as is often the case, there were more farewells the next morning at breakfast as we began scattering with the wind.



Fred and Joan Todd with family and friends



Wives, Family, and Friends of Bradley Shipmates



Plank owners:(L-R) Bill Smith, Al Hughey, Terry Crawford, Jose Carvalho



The New Jersey Contingent: (L-R) Bill Barrett, Victoria Cary, Jose Carvalho, Richard Duffy

Thoughts from a couple of shipmates in attendance:

One of the better things that I have done in my adult life was starting to attend the Reunions of the USS Bradley. I've had a chance to renew some old friendships, and also had an opportunity to meet some mighty nice "shipmates" that I am now proud to call friends.. Bill Smith, PN3, Plank Owner.

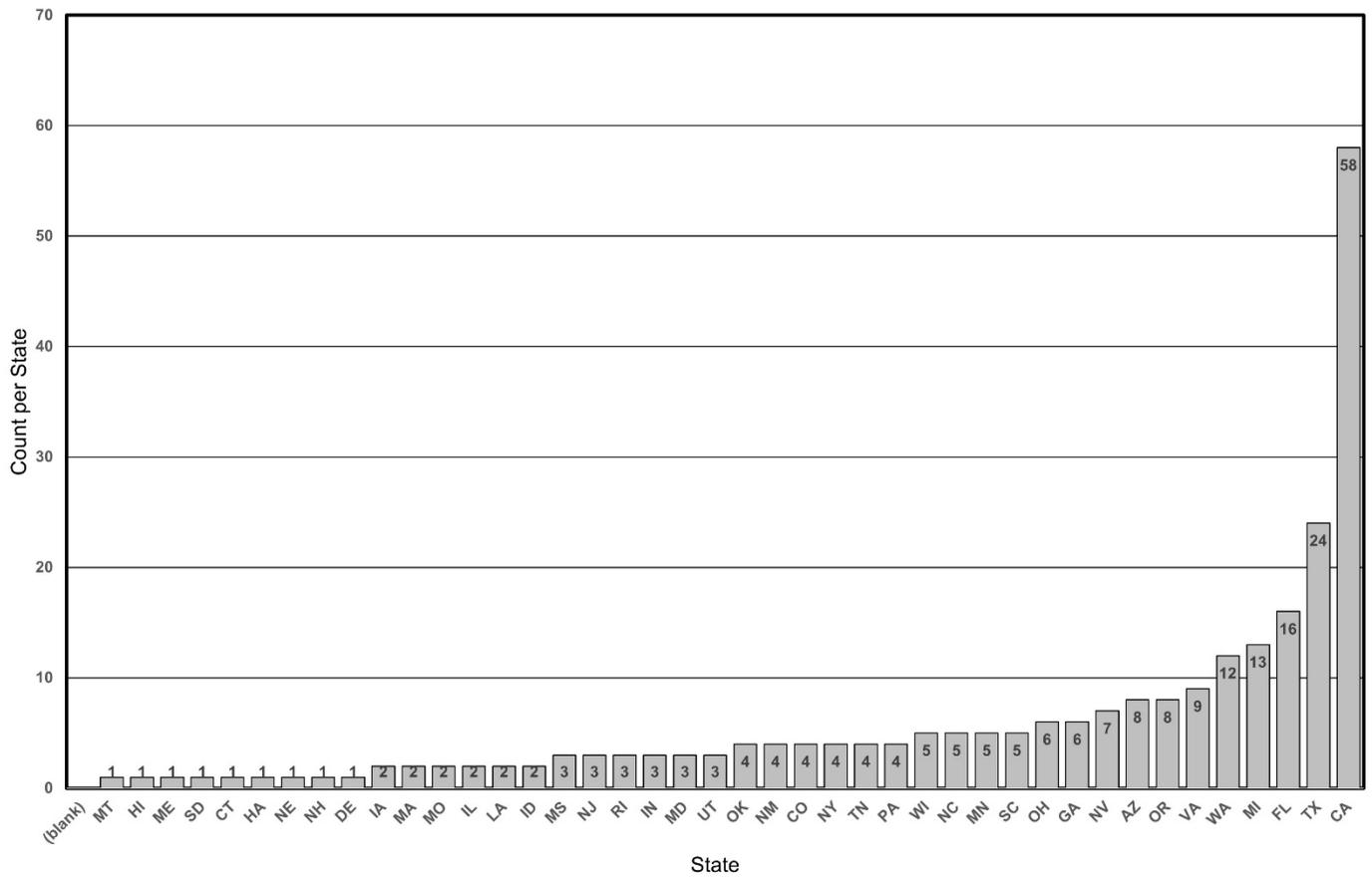
My wife Karen and I attended our first Bradley reunion in Jacksonville. We had a great time. It was so much fun meeting and getting to know other Bradley sailors and their families. I regret having not attended these sooner. Everyone was so friendly and very helpful. There were several members that served on board during the same period that I served, and we had fun reliving our experiences. My wife and I are looking forward to attending the 2024 reunion as well as a cruise with some of these great people next May. As I mentioned I regret not attending these reunions until 2022. I can't turn back the clock and I continue to get older. Rick Browning (RM2) Served 1973 to 1976

A couple of additional photos from the reunion not included in the hard copy newsletter sent out.





Members by State





Bill Barrett

Bob Planeta

Changing of the Guard