

# USS BRADLEY ASSOCIATION

*Founded July 6, 2002*

August 2021  
**NEWSLETTER**



April 1973 – Checking our guns on the way to join Task Force 78 at Haiphong Harbor as part of Operation End Sweep. As part of the agreement to end the Vietnam war, Operation End Sweep was to remove mines laid in May 1972. USS Bradley operated with Task Force 78 from 18 April – 23 April 1973.

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## President's Message

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Shipmates!

It has been my honor (still is) to be Bradley Assoc. President for the past 10 years!

I ask all members; shall I continue or hand the helm to a new President? Fresh ideas, etc. either way I will always be for 1041! This was on my mind.

Also, younger Bradley Assoc. members – consider attending our next reunion. You will enjoy!

For my “close aboard” shipmates, best of health always and “fair winds”!

As always – “Steady as ya go”!

Steady as ya go,

*Bill Barrett*

# 2022 Reunion Jacksonville, FL April 22 - 25

As you all know, we were forced to cancel our 2021 reunion. We've been working with Military Reunion Planners (MRP) out of Colleyville, TX, to plan our RESCHEDULED reunion for 2022.

**Note** - the format for signing up for the 2022 reunion is a bit different than we've used in the past.

**1** - You must make your own hotel reservations – simply follow the instructions below under the Hotel Information section. MRP *strongly* recommends using the booking link on below to make hotel reservations rather than call the hotel. *If* you call and have *any* issues getting a room as advertised in the Hotel Information section below, call Ray Casey (with MRP) at (817.251.3551) or email him at ([raycasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:raycasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com)). He will help you.

**2** - You also need to fill out the Reunion Reservation form below and mail it with your check to MRP at the address at the top of the form to be signed up for the dinners and tours.

Jacksonville looks to be an interesting, fun location for our next reunion. We hope to see you there!

# USS BRADLEY 2022 REUNION

## Jacksonville, FL / April 22-25, 2022

### ***Welcome to Jacksonville!***

Come to Jacksonville, known as Florida's "First Coast", for the 2022 USS Bradley Reunion. Among the events being planned are visits to historic St. Augustine, and a river cruise and excursion to Amelia Island. Do not miss this opportunity to catch up with your friends and share some sea stories.



### ***Hotel Information***

The reunion officially begins on Friday, April 22 and ends on Monday, April 25. You will be staying at the full-service **DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville – Riverfront**, located at 1201 Riverplace Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207. The Doubletree is centrally located on the downtown riverfront and set amidst the historic San Marco district, and across from The Jacksonville Landing. While staying at the hotel you may consider taking the water taxi, from the hotel, across the river to *Jacksonville Landing*. Located along the north bank of the *St. John's River*, *Jacksonville Landing* offers several restaurants, an extensive food court, and unique shops.



The room rate is **\$135 (Standard)**, **\$145 (Riverfront View)** or **\$165 (Riverfront Jr. Suite)** plus tax per night, based on room type occupancy and **includes breakfast**. All guest rooms are non-

smoking. For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available three days before and three days after the official reunion dates, based on availability.

Be aware that there have been a lot of problems with calling hotel central reservations offices. The safest, most fool-proof way to make your hotel reservations is on-line through the hotel "booking link". If you are comfortable with using a computer, we highly suggest you make your hotel reservations using the Hotel Booking Link. [Click here to make your hotel reservations on-line now.](#)

If you have any difficulty getting a reservation at the group rate, or plan on coming in early or staying late at the same rate, you should call Military Reunion Planners at 817-251-3551 or email us at [info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com). We may be able to help with your reservation.

The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or **March 22, 2022**, whichever comes first.

### ***Transportation & Directions***

The closest airport is Jacksonville International (JAX); the hotel is located about 15 miles from the airport. The least expensive way to the hotel would be via Uber or Lyft. You may also take the Super Shuttle for about \$25 pp. The Super Shuttle kiosk is located in Baggage Claim. Reservations are required for your return trip from the hotel back to the airport. Super Shuttle can be reached at 904-765-9999. For those of you driving to the reunion, the hotel is offering complimentary self-parking. Valet parking is also available for a fee.

***Travel safely and we will .... See you in Jax!***



# USS BRADLEY 2022 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

>>> Mail this completed form with a check payable to: MRP, Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034

DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
		Reunion Registration – Per person, non-refundable	\$20 pp		
Sat 4/23	0900-1600	Historic St. Augustine Excursion	\$59 pp		
Sat 4/23	1800	Casual Group Buffet Dinner at the Hotel	\$55 pp		
Sun 4/24	0830-1530	River Cruise & Amelia Island Excursion	\$66 pp		
Sun 4/24	1800	Farewell Banquet Dinner – <i>make entree selection below</i>			
		Roast Sirloin	\$55 pp		
		Chicken Marsala with Mushroom	\$50 pp		
		<b>Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee</b> (If registering after March 7, 2022)	\$15 pp		
		<b>Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect your \$\$</b> (Fee is non-refundable)	\$20 pp		
<b>TOTAL</b>					

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME (As you want it to appear on badge): \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

# OF USS BRADLEY REUNIONS ATTENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS (ex. dietary, wheelchair lift, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

## RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY MARCH 7, 2022

- There will be a \$15 pp surcharge for orders taken over the phone. Please have your order ready before calling MRP.
- Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased above.
- Insurance holders are eligible for a refund less processing fee until Midnight before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the reunion.
- Insurance ends once the reunion begins – notification in writing/email must be received prior to start of reunion.
- Late reservations are accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee.
- To register and pay by check please print this form and mail it with a check to: MRP, Box 1588 Colleyville, TX 76034
- Cancellations subject to \$10 pp processing fee and any credit card charges imposed by carrier
- Tours require a minimum of 30 people to operate. Full refunds made, should tour cancel due to participation.

Call or email MRP if you need to add, cancel or modify your reservation at 817-251-3551 or email [info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com). MRP agents are available weekdays from 9-4 CST. Voice Mail is 24/7  
 You must leave a voice message to receive a call back. Thank you for using Military Reunion Planners, LLC.



# USS BRADLEY 2022 REUNION

## JACKSONVILLE, FL / APRIL 22-25, 2022

**Meet & Greet:** Friday, April 22 (6:00pm)

Join everyone and kick-off this year's reunion with a Welcome Reception at the hotel.

**Historic St. Augustine Excursion:** Saturday, April 23 (9:00am-4:00pm)

Regarded as the oldest city in the United States, together we'll explore the incredible history of St. Augustine and Florida and discover how it grew and prospered under Spanish, British, French and

American rule. Your professional guide will regale you with captivating historical accounts of the native Indians, Spanish Galleons, Pirates and the Revolutionary War. You will ride through the *Fountain of Youth* property and hear the fable of the fountain, Ponce de Leon's discovery of *La Florida*, and his encounter with the natives. We tour all the major sites and stop at the Castillo de San Marcos, the fort that was never captured in battle. St. Augustine was also the first winter resort for the rich and famous during the Gilded Age. After the excursion, there will be time for self-exploration, shopping, and lunch, on your own, in this quaint little town. This will be a wonderful day in *Old Florida*.



**Casual Group Buffet Dinner:** Saturday, April 23 (6:00pm)

Join your mates for a very casual 2-item buffet dinner at the hotel – main course will be a choice between Chicken Florentine and Beef Teriyaki. A nice end to the day!

**USS BRADLEY Business Meeting:** Sunday, April 24 (TBD)

Check your itinerary at registration for specific room location. No need to pre-register for the meeting.

**River Cruise and Amelia Island Excursion:** Sunday, April 24 (8:30am – 3:30pm)

Amelia Island is known as "Florida's Golden Isle." One of a chain of barrier islands, *Amelia Island* is a charming place - 13 miles long and two miles wide. Settled by the French, developed by the Spanish, named by the English and tamed by the Americans, *Amelia* is the only location in the United States to have been under eight different flags. But first, enjoy a River Cruise to intriguing Cumberland Island. This excursion offers an extensive and rich history of Amelia and Cumberland Island with views of wildlife along the way. We cruise by Fernandina's shrimp boats, historic Old Towne and Ft. Clinch to the wild horses of Cumberland Island. Our historians will share the colorful stories that define the character of this unique part of the world. After the cruise you will be escorted by our local guide to an area where you may have lunch on your own. Take time for a leisurely lunch by the water and/or browse the many interesting shops. Then, we will have a guided, riding tour for an inside look at the Island's most historical attractions including the "Silk Stocking District," boasting some of Florida's most elegant Victorian homes, *Fort Clinch*, and *American Beach*, the only beach open to African Americans until the 1960's. We will take the scenic route back to the hotel and make a short stop at Kingsley Plantation where you will learn of the unique history of a black African slave who married her



white Master and helped him run his cotton plantation, which is now a state park. This is fantastic day discovering *Old Florida* and a bygone era. Don't miss it!

### **Farewell Banquet Dinner: Sunday, April 24 (6:00pm)**

Join your friends for the Banquet Dinner at the Hotel (Duval Ballroom). Cocktails will be available from the cash bar at 1800; dinner will be served at 1900. Please make your entrée selection on the reservation form.

### **Cancellation Insurance**

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by illness, injury or any other events that may impact your travel plans. MRP Tour Cancellation Insurance allows you to receive a refund of tour and banquet expenses. Note: This does not cover hotel cancellations. If you do not purchase cancellation insurance, all tour and banquet monies are **non-refundable** 6 weeks prior to the start of the reunion.

### **Important Reunion Notes:**

- Tours require a minimum of 30 people per bus to operate. Full refunds given if tour cancels.
- Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary to view and explore attractions. We ask that you consider your limitations and note any special needs on your reservation form.
- Be sure to bring photo identification (like a driver's license) to all events.
- Tour times are always subject to change up until tour time. A final itinerary is available at check-in.

**All Reservations Are Due by March 7, 2022.** Late reservations will be accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$20 late fee. There is a \$15pp surcharge for orders taken over the phone. Please make a copy of your order prior to mailing. Note tour times are subject to change. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday CST at 817-251-3551 or email us at [info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com). Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than the reservation due date No refunds will be made after this date unless you have purchased Tour Cancellation Insurance. Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59 pm the day before the reunion start date. Please note there is a refund processing fee of \$10 per person plus 3.5% fee charged by credit card processing company. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as proof of purchase. For written confirmation of your reservation please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your cancellation request. A \$25 return check fee applies. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.

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## **Name Tags**

The other thing that's different this year is how we are ordering our name tags. On the Reservation Form above you're asked how you want your name to appear on your "hotel" badge. This is a paper badge you will use in the morning to get your breakfast.

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



This year we need to order these through a separate process.

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 \$8.50.** 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Wife or guest name on name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \$3.50.**

Total cost for all name tags and city tags: \_\_\_\_\_

To order blue name tags, print and 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 7 March 2022.*

## The Adventures Continue

We all recall time spent at sea and challenges we went through. The challenges were quite different depending on which Department/Division we served in. If you were in Weapons, for example, you might have spent a fair amount of time topside working on gun mounts, standing bridge watch, sea and anchor detail, etc, and got a fair amount of fresh air, but also were oftentimes cold and wet. On the other hand, if you worked in Engineering, you might have been warm (sometimes very warm) and dry (except for the sweat), but you didn't get to spend much time in the fresh air and sunshine.



But when in port, whether in the US or overseas, it wasn't unusual to find shipmates from different Departments and Divisions spending time together – whether "steaming" or on some tour.

Today, some former shipmates continue to have adventures together. Below is one story of a couple of shipmates (and a straggler – a former Marine) who had a recent cross-country adventure, albeit a little tamer (actually a lot more) than

adventures they had 48 or so years ago. Below is (QM) Bob Planeta's story about his cross-country trip with (SH) Irwin "Butch" Shattuck, and Bob's friend (a Marine – we won't hold that against him) Larry Etter.

## Good Chow, Good Friends, Great Trip!!

By Bob Planeta QM1 retired

A few months ago, I received a call from Clippers (aka Irwin "Butch" Shattuck) saying he was interested in buying a sports car. Knowing I was something of a car aficionado he wanted to know if I had any suggestions. I told him to look at the retro style T-Birds that Ford had made from 2002 – 2005 (I didn't know then that it was the beginning of a road trip and that it would lead to the most fun I'd had since WestPac 1974).



Larry Etter and Bob Planeta in San Diego – September 2019



Butch in his new car – ready to go!

and finally settled on a road trip. We'd load the T-Bird onto a trailer and tow it behind Larry's pickup.

So, he flew to Reno and we (Larry and I) picked him up at the airport in my 1964 Checker that I restored to look like a taxi. We spent the day showing him the sights

I agreed to help Butch track one down and so my friend Larry Etter and I began a search for the T-Bird in Reno. We finally found one Clippers was happy with and so he purchased it. We had some discussions about getting the T-Bird back to Clipper's home in the upper mid-west,



Butch and Larry with Bob's sweet ride!



in Reno and then had a great time with the nightlife in Virginia City. We went to a bar that had a sign in the window that said, "Best Food in Virginia City". The waitress told us she only had three hot dogs left. That did not sound like the best food in town, so we went down the street to the Red Dog Saloon where it turned out to be open mic night, so we had dinner and some wonderful entertainment.

We departed Reno the next morning. Our first overnight stop was in Wendover Nevada where half the town is shared with Wendover Utah. In the morning, before leaving town, we went to the Wendover Field Museum. This was where Paul Tibbitts and the crew of the Enola Gay practiced for the

atomic bomb drop - and where Clippers began to hate the word museum!

On the road again we traveled to Salt Lake City and then turned north through Idaho into Montana where we entered Yellowstone Park through the West entrance and departed the park through the North entrance. Butch had reserved a cabin for us in the hills north of the park (that we only found because we had a Quartermaster on board).

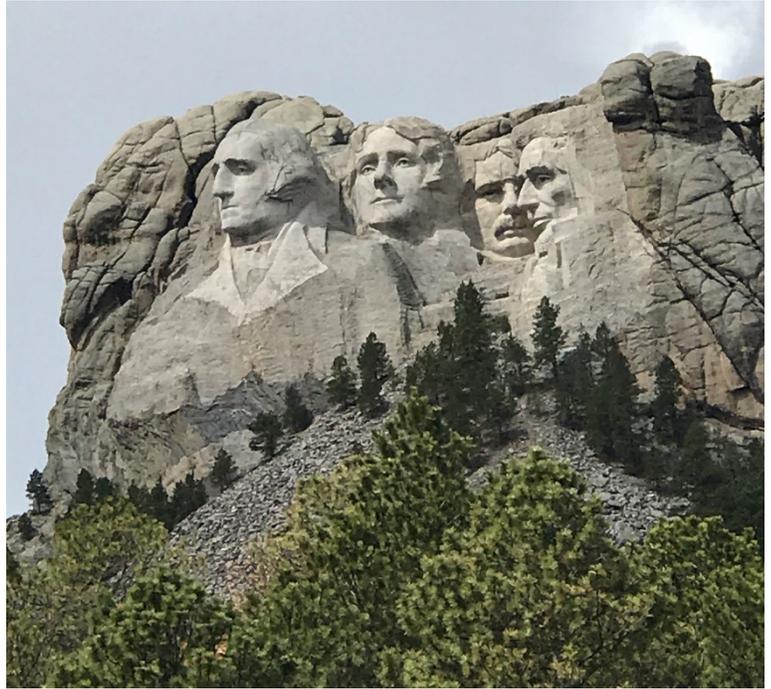


But since it was dark Larry and I decided to do some recon and walked down the road to the cabin to see if it was passable. Turns out we couldn't drive down the road with the trailer, so we went back to Gardiner Montana and got a hotel room there. While we were checking in the desk clerk asked us how we got there? We told him how we'd gone in through the parks West entrance and then out the North entrance. He said it was our lucky day because they had just opened that road today! In the morning we met another Navy Vet in the lobby. Turns out he and Larry had gone to the same school! Small world, eh?

We continued east through Montana and into Wyoming where we stopped to eat at the famous Wall Drugstore in Wall South Dakota – and then visited that Museum. We spent the night in Spearfish South Dakota.

The next morning would tax Clipper's patience as we stopped to tour Deadwood and have breakfast. We hadn't eaten so good since Petty Officer Todd fed us!

Next stop was Mt. Rushmore where we toured the site and the souvenir shop, and where we chatted with a local artist who told us some of her husband's hilarious sea stories. It wasn't long before Butch was ready to go. Our next stop was the Crazy Horse memorial and more museum and souvenir shopping. Don't know why Butch wanted to skip the Badlands tour.



We finally made it to Clipper's house where we unloaded his car. Then he took us to a local roadhouse for beer and wings. We stayed in Butch's guest house - yes, he has one on his large property in Wisconsin. It was a great trip with a lot of joking along the way. Saw some great country.

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Larry and I left the next morning as he was anxious to get home, but I did persuade him to stop in Austin Minnesota at the Spam Museum (yes they have one!) where each veteran is given a free can of Spam. Sorry you missed that museum Butch!

Larry and I made it back to Reno in two days. We met a lot of interesting people along the way and Butch's car made it safely home where he is having a ball cruising with the top

down. He reports that he has to allow extra time when he goes somewhere in the T-Bird because of all the people who stop him to talk about.

Like any great sea story, "This is no shit".