



SUMMER 2009 VOL 6 ISSUE 1

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NEWSLETTER

REUNION – San Diego

OCTOBER 22 – 25, 2009

The **USS Bradley Association** will hold its fourth, ship wide reunion in **San Diego, California**, at the Handley Hotel. As in the past Military Locator and Reunion Services (ML&RS) will run the reunion for the association. If you are a registered member of the association (That's how you got this newsletter!) details will be mailed to you by ML &RS). Reunion information is also available on ML&RS's website: Military Locator & Reunion Service, Inc.com Please contact ML&RS with any questions regarding the reunion.

Their mailing address is: PO Drawer 11399, Hickory NC 28603-6402.
Telephone: (828) 256-6008. Email Address: dinamlrs@charterinternet.com



Business Meeting MINUTES *Chicago Reunion July 3-6, 2008*

USS Bradley Association

The meeting was called to order by association president, Jerry Martin at 3:45 pm.
Members present: Bill Barrett, Bruce Gottsch, Jerry Martin, Bob Schneckenberger, Butch Shattuck, Bill Smith and Fred Todd.

The first order of business was a discussion of the next meeting place and date for the association's next reunion. After some discussion San Diego was suggested as the site. It was also agreed upon to schedule a reunion next year, only one year away. Those present felt that having the reunion over the July 4th weekend probably hurt turn out as well as high gasoline and airline ticket costs. President Martin stated that we need to get interest up once again in the association and its activities and this would be a good way to begin. No specific date was

established as yet but it will be in July, August or September 2009 in San Diego. The board will work with ML&RS to establish a specific date.

Election of officers for the next year resulted in Jerry Martin continuing as President and T.J. MacVeigh returning for another year as VP. Don Ruhl and Bruce Gottsch will continue in their capacities as Treasurer and Secretary respectively. The board of directors will also remain the same for next year.

After a discussion as to how to keep the membership informed about the results of the Chicago reunion and next year's San Diego gathering, Bob Schneckenberger made a motion, seconded by Bill Barrett to mail a postal card to those members we have mailing addresses for. The membership with current email addresses will be kept up to date as usual.

President Martin stated he would contact T.J. Mac Veigh and Webmaster Tom Hyett about website progress. Secretary Gottsch was requested to contact Don Ruhl for a financial report to be included with these minutes.

The association has been contacted by the President of the USS Davidson, another Garcia Class DE/FF about the possibility of having a joint reunion. The members present at the meeting were not opposed to the idea but stressed they wanted a Bradley Reunion next year in San Diego. The officers will check on that possibility.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:41pm by made by Bob Schneckenberger and seconded by Bill Smith.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce L. Gottsch, Secretary



LAST DAYS OF THE BRADLEY – By Cdr. J.J. Kennedy, Commanding Officer

After change of command in Subic Bay, November 1986, **BRADLEY** worked with the other ships in the CTF75 task group, and conducting exercises with the Korean Navy. We were also sent to Hong Kong with another ship to participate in a local ceremony, which was subsequently canceled due to the death of a high Hong Kong official. Absolutely the only time in 5 visits to Hong Kong wherein U.S. Navy ships were allowed alongside a pier, there. A port visit to Phattya Beach was enjoyed by all and we completed the WestPac cruise after the Korean-US joint ASW exercise, followed by a short port visit to Chinhae., Of course, we ran in to a typhoon enroute to Pearl Harbor and the other ship in our group suffered some damage to their sonar system and stopped in Guam for repairs, **BRADLEY** continued alone to Pearl.

BRADLEY embarked Tiger Cruise personnel in Pearl and completed the cruise back to San Diego, entertaining our 'Tigers' throughout the days. Of course, homecoming festivities were exciting, and **BRADLEY** entered a post-deployment stand down and maintenance period. Immediately after, we conducted local SoCal operations until **BRADLEY** entered a Selected Restricted Availability August-September, 1987. Following the availability, **BRADLEY** conducted inspections/local operations through the remainder of 1987.

1988 saw **BRADLEY** conducting typical local SoCal exercises and operations until mid March, when we were informed we would be de-commissioned in the Fall, as well as all other ships in the **Garcia** class.

However, we had one last commitment – a goodwill visit to Alaska ports with **USS O'CALLAHAN** and a 4-striper as “Commodore” June-July, 1988. Our visits included Anchorage, Juneau, Seward, Homer, Kodiak and Vancouver, B.C. It was the general feeling after the first port visit that we enjoyed Alaskan hospitality and shore visits much more than the Asian visits in 1987. The folks literally met the ship upon arrival, grabbed as many sailors as they could, and then took them to their homes and local sites to show off their cities! I remember leaving pierside in Juneau, and the locals were throwing salmon, crab, and halibut from the pier so we didn't starve on our way home. Most bars and admission-required places of business waived entry fees for all sailors in uniform and most reported they were not allowed to buy food or drink – it was all on the house. We went through memorabilia like water – significant was over 4200 **BRADLEY** ball caps sold in the ship's store over the two month period. What a good time for all!

Upon return to San Diego, **BRADLEY** crew commenced decommissioning preparations and SHE was decommissioned 29 September, 1988. Subsequently, we were informed all **Garcia** class frigates had been leased to the Chilean Navy – so, at least for those vessels, A U.S. scrap yard was not in the immediate future.

CDR J. J. Kennedy, Jr.

Our thanks to **Captain Kennedy** for this insight into the final days of the USS BRADLEY. Ed.

For an Enlisted Shipmate's perspective on the Alaska Cruise check the Newsletter section of our website:

North Pac 88: Twilight Cruise of the USS Bradley – Daily Cruiser Journal of GMG3 Brian Brisky) Part I – Winter 2003 Newsletter (Vol. 2 No. 8) Part II – Early Summer 2004 Newsletter (Vol. 2.No. 8) Ed.



ARE YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE ASSOCIATION?

Keeping all of our shipmates onboard the association is one of the most important functions of this organization. Sadly, each year we lose contact with many shipmates due to moves, changes in email addresses or new telephone/cell numbers. These changes are usually unavoidable and everyone who has ever moved, especially career military folks, know all that entails. **Message is simple ... please keep your association in the loop when your contact information changes. We DON'T want to lose CONTACT WITH you, shipmates!**

Feel free to contact the **BRADLEY** Association's Secretary to update your information.

My mailing address is: P. O. Box 1256, New City NY 10956.

Telephone numbers: Home: 845-634-3993 Cell: 914-261-1984. EMAIL: bgottsch@verizon.net



WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR FUTURE BRADLEY NEWSLETTERS

Now that our website is back, up and working, thanks for the efforts of our webmaster, Tom Hyett and President Jerry Martin, why not consider writing an article to be published in future newsletters and posted on our **BRADLEY** Association website? Check out those already posted for ideas. Interesting **BRADLEY** history and crew member memories are shared here. Send all articles to the association's secretary either by email or U.S Postal Service.