

The Evolution of the Fighting Ship: Bataan



IT TAKES A FIRST CLASS FIGHTING PERSON TO
MAN A SHIP THAT IS CALLED **BATAAN** !

I GUESS THAT MOST OF YOU THAT ARE GOING TO SAVANNAH, GEORGIA FOR OUR REUNION, HAVE MADE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH THE HOTEL AND SENT THE TWO FORMS, COMPLETED AS REQUESTED, TO JOHN TIMPE AND COASTLINE TRAVEL, INC. IF YOU HAVE NOT, OR, IF YOU HAVE MISPLACED THE FORMS — I HAVE PUT A NEW SET AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER. NOW JUST DON'T PUT THIS NOTICE AWAY SOMEWHERE AND FORGET IT — THIS REUNION, FROM WHAT JOHN TELLS ME, WILL BE ONE THAT WE CAN PUT UP WITH THE BEST THAT WE HAVE HAD.

I HAVE A VERY UNUSUAL QUESTION TO ASK OF YOU — YOU

DID YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE, IN OUR ORGANIZATION, A MEMBER THAT HAS A VERY SIGNIFICANT TITLE AS WELL AS A VERY IMPORTANT JOB THAT HE PERFORMS. — HE IS PROBABLY THE OLDEST ABLE SEAMAN IN THE MERCHANT MARINE ! WHO IS THIS ABLE BODIED SEAMAN — WELL HE IS NONE OTHER THAN AB-2 AND A FORMER MEMBER OF THE V-2 DIVISION FROM 1950-52 — CHARLES 'CHARLIE' FUSS . CHARLIE HAS WRITTEN OVER 50 MARITIME ARTICLES AND IS THE AUTHOR OF SEA OF GRASS. HE IS AN ABLE SEAMAN/HELMSMAN IN THE STEAMING CREW OF THE SS AMERICAN VICTORY. CHARLIE HAS JUST WRITTEN A SOFT COVERED BOOK ABOUT THE SS AMERICAN VICTORY , CALLED SS AMERICAN VICTORY, MARINERS MEMORIAL & MUSEUM SHIP . I READ THE BOOK, AND WAS AMAZED AT THE RECORD THAT THIS SHIP HAS — YOU CAN BUY THE BOOK FOR \$17.00, WHICH INCLUDES POSTAGE — FROM: CHARLES FUSS
2983 W. VINA DEL MAR BLVD
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33706

“HE WAS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF AN IRISH SMILE — ROSY CHEEKS TO PROVE IT AND IF YOU ASK ELLIE , HE COULD SHOW HIS IRISH TEMPER THAT WAS SHORT LIVED. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CREW ABOARD THE USS BATAAN CVL-29 DURING THE KOREAN WAR. THOSE ABOARD THE SHIP WERE LUCKY TO KNOW HIM AS WERE THOSE WHO KNEW THIS IRISHMAN. ANCHORS AWAY AND SMOOTH SAILING INTO THE HANDS OF GOD.”
THESE WERE THE WORDS SPOKEN AT THE MEMORIAL SERVICES OF OUR DEPARTED PRESIDENT **HUGH SULLIVAN**. HUGH WAS OUR FIRST ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE USS BATAAN CVL29/LHD5 ORGANIZATION. HUGH PASSED AWAY FEB. 16, 2008 AFTER A BATTLE WITH LUNG CANCER. HE SPENT HIS ENTIRE ENLISTMENT ABOARD THE CVL-29. AS THE BAG PIPES PLAYED, AT THE SERVICE — WE CAN SAY WITH PRIDE — THANK YOU GOD FOR LETTING US KNOW HIM.

Bataan Leaves Dry Dock, Moors

Pierside

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Jeremy L. Grisham

PORTSMOUTH, Va. – The multi-purpose amphibious assault ship *USS Bataan (LHD 5)* moved out of dry dock to her new berth at Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) Feb. 7 as part of her depot planned maintenance availability (DPMA).

The movement is part of the DPMA plan, which is to refurbish spaces and install new components and systems aboard the ship.

“It was a race to the finish,” said the ship’s Repair Officer, Lt. Cmdr. David Wuestewald. “The last fuel tank closure was being completed the afternoon prior to the dock’s flooding.”

Bataan has been at NNSY since September, and contractors and *Bataan’s* crew have been working on various modifications and habitability projects, such as the MV-22 Osprey modification in the hangar bay, and installation of a compensating fuel system.

“We are done with most of the modifications aboard the ship,” said Wuestewald. “Now the main focus will be touch-up work around the ship.”

Moving the ship out of the dry dock facility to the pier was a major evolution for the ship’s crew and Norfolk Naval Shipyard personnel, taking more than eight hours.

“It was exciting getting the CIC [Combat Information Center] manned and ready for the evolution,” said Senior Chief Operations Specialist (SW/AW) William J. Phillips. “Having water under the keel again means that at-sea operations are right around the corner.”

The crew aboard the ship had various responsibilities during the move, including standing watches, inspecting for water-tight integrity around the ship’s hull and line handling. Meanwhile, shipyard personnel were responsible for the controlled flooding of the dock, moving the dry dock’s caisson and orchestrating the ship’s movement.

“This was a major milestone in the DPMA,” added Wuestewald. “Now we look forward to the production completion date, crew move-aboard and light-off assessment.”

Bataan is more than halfway through her eight-month DPMA period. *Bataan* is the fifth ship of the Navy's Wasp-class ships. She was commissioned Sept. 20, 1997, and is the second U.S. Navy warship to bear the name.



CMDCM (SW/AW/FMF)
James A. Tubbs
Command Master Chief
USS BATAAN (LHD 5)

Master Chief Tubbs enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Nov. 17, 1982. Upon completion of recruit training and Hospital Corps "A" School in San Diego, he reported for duty, aboard Bethesda Naval Hospital. In May 1985, Master Chief Tubbs was transferred to 2d Force Service Support Group, Det "B", Beaufort, SC, where he was advanced to Second Class Petty Officer.

After reenlisting in 1987, Master Chief Tubbs reported to Charleston Naval Hospital. During DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM, he deployed with 3rd Battalion/5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. In the summer of 1992, he transferred to USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40) where he would qualify as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and earn the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

In 1995, he reported to Surgical Support Company Bravo (SSCOB), 4th Medical Battalion, 4th FSSG, Washington, DC, for duty as Inspector-Instructor. In June 1998, Master Chief Tubbs transferred to 2d FSSG, Camp Lejeune, NC to serve as the Medical Detachment SNCOIC. While there, he served with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operation Capable) for operations in Kosovo, Albania and Turkey. Upon return to Camp Lejeune, Master Chief Tubbs was assigned to Headquarters and Support Battalion, 2d FSSG, as a member of the G-3 staff. During this period, he was selected for promotion to Senior Chief Petty Officer.

Master Chief Tubbs received orders to 10th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, in the summer of 2001, as the Regimental Senior Chief. Ten months into his tour, he was reassigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Master Chief Tubbs accompanied the 26th MEU(SOC) aboard the USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) and inserted into Iraq, Djibouti and Liberia; he was selected for promotion to Master Chief Petty Officer at this time. In December 2003, Master Chief Tubbs transferred to the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism) as the G-4/Medical OPS Chief and Command Master Chief. In May 2004, he reported to Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune as the Command Master Chief. On Jan. 3, 2007, Master Chief Tubbs assumed the duty as Command Master Chief, USS BATAAN (LHD 5).

Master Chief Tubbs has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, five Navy/Marine Corps Commendation medals, two Navy/Marine Corps Achievement medals, three Combat Action Ribbons, and various other unit and campaign awards.

MEMORIES — HEY KOREAN VETS, DO YOU REMEMBER THESE TWO BRITISH SHIPS THAT WERE OUR RELIEF WHEN WE OPERATED ON THE WEST AND EAST COAST OF KOREA ?



HMS GLORY



HMS THESEUS

SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY, BUT, 52+ YEARS HAVE PASSED— WHERE DID IT ALL GO ? BY THE WAY, I JUST HEARD FROM OUR HISTORIAN, DICK WEAVER, THAT MEMBERS OF THE *HMS GLORY* MAY JOIN US IN SAVANNAH —

NOW FOR SOME OLD, BUT VERY IMPORTANT REUNION NEWS.....

IT WAS ASKED, IF I AM DRIVING TO SAVANNAH, HOW DO I GET THERE—

FROM THE SOUTH — TAKE I-95 NORTH TO 1-16 EAST (EXIT 99) — TAKE 1-16 TO 516 EAST — 516 TURNS INTO DE RENNE. FOLLOW DE RENNE FOR APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE AND TURN RIGHT ONTO ABERCORN — GO APPROXIMATELY 1/2 MILE AND TURN RIGHT ONTO JOHNSON AND THE HOTEL IS ON THE RIGHT.

FROM THE NORTH — TAKE I-95 SOUTH TO 1-16 EAST (EXIT 99) — TAKE 1-16 TO 516 EAST — 516 TURNS INTO DE RENNE— FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS ABOVE FROM DE RENNE.

FROM THE WEST — TAKE I-16 EAST — TAKE I-16 TO 516 EAST — 516 TURNS INTO DE RENNE — FOLLOW DIRECTIONS ABOVE FROM DE RENNE.

**HOTEL ADDRESS — 5711 ABERCORN ST.; SAVANNAH, GA
(912)652-9300 ZIP — 31405**

FOR THOSE THAT ARE DRIVING TO THE HOTEL, THE PARKING IS FREE, AND, FOR THOSE THAT ARE TAKING THEIR "RVs", YOU ARE ALLOWED TO PARK IN THE HOTEL PARKING LOT, BUT, THERE ARE NO HOOK -UPS.

JOHN TIMPE AND I HAVE RECEIVED A FEW CALLS REGARDING THE COST FOR THIS REUNION — I WILL TAKE THE BLAME FOR THE AMBIGUOUS EXPLANATION OF THE COSTS — HERE, I HOPE, IS A CLEARER VERSION:

FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND HIS OR HER GUEST, THE PRICE FOR THE TRIPS ETC IS \$219.00, THIS AMOUNT IS TO BE SENT TO THE COASTLINE TRAVEL INC. FOR THE SATURDAY NIGHT FESTIVITIES AND REGISTRATION FEE, THE MEMBER AND HIS OR HER GUEST WILL BE \$35.00 EACH FOR THE MEAL, AND \$20.00 EACH FOR THE REGISTRATION FEE. THIS IS TO BE SENT TO JOHN TIMPE.

NOW IF THE MEMBER BRINGS MORE THAN ONE GUEST, THE PRICE IS \$35.00 PLUS \$20.00 PLUS \$50.00, FOR A TOTAL OF #105.00 — TO BE SENT TO JOHN TIMPE — WHY THE DIFFERENCE — IT IS BECAUSE THE ORGANIZATION IS PAYING \$50.00 EACH FOR THE MEMBER AND HIS OR HER ONE(1) GUEST. THE ITINERARY FOLLOWS:

Wed. May 14

Registration

7:00PM buffet and dancing

Thur. May 15

9:00AM Memorial Service, Hunter AFB

12:00PM Lunch @ Hunter AFB (Lunch included)

6:00PM Load buses and depart for River Cruise

7:00PM Savannah Riverboat Cruise .Meal included

Fri. May 16

8:45AM Load buses for Trolley Tour of Savannah Historical Overview

11:00AM Old Fort Jackson—Field Cannon Firing

12:30PM Southern Buffet Lunch at Lady & Sons (Lunch included)

2:30PM Return to hotel...Free evening

Sat. May17:

9:AM Business Meeting

10:00AM Ladies Paula Deem Tour (Optional, includes lunch at Uncle Bubbas

6:00PM Pictures..Meal..Dancing

Sun. May18

Depart for Home —HAVE A SAFE TRIP .. SEE YOU IN TULSA OKL ..2009

(Optional Paula Deen Tour —\$54.00)

REGISTRATION FORMS — TO ATTENDEES:

PHONE IN YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECT :

926-652-9300 OR TOLL FREE AT **877-782-9444**. BE SURE TO SAY YOU ARE WITH THE USS BATAAN GROUP TO GET THE ROOM RATE OF \$129.00 HOTEL QUESTIONS : SPEAK TO GINA KRESS OR KELLY WEBB AT THE HILTON GARDEN INN. HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2008. FILL IN THE FORM BELOW, MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO COASTLINE TRAVEL INC. AND MAIL TO:

COASTLINE TRAVEL, INC.

c/o **SHANE RICHARDS**

41 WAHISTROM RD.

SAVANNAH, GA 31404

IF YOU PREFER TO PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD, CALL COASTLINE TRAVEL AT 800338-5016. WE ACCEPT VISA, MASTER CARD, AND AMERICAN EXPRESS. BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR TRIP # READY WHEN YOU CALL. EVENTS PACKAGE RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2008.

..... **CUT AND SEND IN WITH PAYMENT.....**

USS BATAAN ASSOCIATION/REGISTRATION/TRIP #6845

NAME _____ **SPOUSE** _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **-MAIL** _____

NAME FOR BADGES _____ / _____ / _____

DESCRIPTION	COST	# OF PERSONS	TOTAL
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EVENTS PACKAGE	\$219.00	X	= \$ _____
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PAULA DEEN TOUR	\$ 54.00	X	= \$ _____
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(Paula Deen tour is optional) **TOTAL \$** _____

FILL OUT, CUT AND SEND BOTTOM FORM TO:

JOHN TIMPE; 110 RANDOMWOOD WAY; JOHNSCREEK, GA, 30022

NAME _____ **GUEST** _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____

CHOICE OF BANQUET MEAL:

SLICED BEEF POT ROAST _____ **HOW MANY** _____

BAKED CHICKEN BREAST _____ **HOW MANY** _____

BROILED MAHI MAHI _____ **HOW MANY** _____

TOTAL MEALS _____ **@\$35.00 PER MEAL** _____

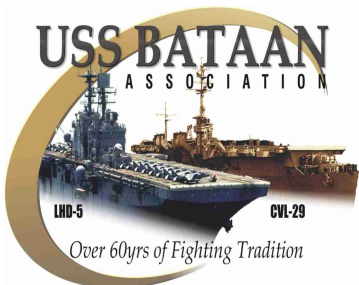
REGISTRATION FEE @\$20.00 PER PERSON _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF GUESTS @\$50.00 PER PERSON _____

TOTAL MONIES SENT _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO USS BATAAN ASSOCIATION

Sando Cosenza Secretary
4448 E. Cheyenne Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85044-1619



- 1988 - Philadelphia, President/Host Jerry Murphy*
- 1989 - San Diego, President/Host Mel Rottner
- 1990 - Pensacola, President/Host Otto King
- 1991 - St Louis, President/Host Ralph Haeffner
- 1992 - Las Vegas, President/Host Larry Ayers*
- 1993 - Baltimore, President/Host Joe Rizzo*
- 1994 - Orlando, President/Host Ed Sullivan*
- 1995 - Tucson, President/Host Jerry Ankiewicz*
- 1996 - Nashville, President/Host Ken Morris
- 1997 - Louisville, President/Host Bill Linker
- 1998 - Seattle, President/Host Charlie Anson
- 1999 - Miami Cruise, President/Host Ed Sullivan*
- 2000 - Norfolk, President(s)/Host(s) Clancy Decker/Sando Cosenza
- 2001 - San Antonio, President(s)/Host(s) Dick Weaver/Ed Greathouse
- 2002 - Branson, President/Host Clayton Wright
- 2003 - Laughlin, NV, President/Host Jerry Ankiewicz*
- 2004 - Covington, KY, President Hugh Sullivan* - Host Ken Morris
- 2005 - Ft Myers, FL, President Hugh Sullivan* - Host Don Shipley
- 2006 - Shreveport, LA, President Hugh Sullivan* - Host Gene Barefield
- 2007 - San Diego, CA President Hugh Sullivan*
Host "Armed Forces Reunions" (AFR)
- 2008 - Savannah, GA, President Hugh Sullivan* - Host John Timpe

* Deceased Presidents of our organization.