

Savannah Business Meeting Minutes

USS Bataan Reunion Association

May 17, 2008

Meeting called to order at 0900 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Savannah, Georgia, by Acting President Ken Morris, who led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ken remarked on the passing of Association President Hugh Sullivan, and called the group's attention to the memorial flowers on the podium in his honor.

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were read by Secretary pro-tem Jim Ward and approved as read.

Treasurer Wayland Havig reported a current balance of \$16,801.67. However, certain refunds in connection with the Savannah reunion will raise the final figure to approximately \$18,000. The Treasury Records have been audited by Charles Fuss. A summary of expenses and income figures is available.

No old business was discussed.

New business items centered on preparation for the 2009 Reunion, scheduled for Tulsa, Oklahoma. Jim McDonald recommended that the 2009 contract include provisions for covering "ill-health" cancellations at no charge, in view of the age bracket status of Association members.

Allen Lemont, 2009 Reunion Chairman, requested comments from the Group on "final plans" for next year's event. Previous chairmen offered their assistance in putting the event together, using "check lists" and the assistance of "event coordinators." It was suggested that the major "Veterans" magazines need to be notified.

Wayland Havig reviewed the "Hospitality Room" expenses, and various cost reduction plans were suggested; however, the group expressed their feelings for continuation of the tradition of a casual meeting place during the Reunion.

2009 Chairman Lamont reviewed the attractions and facilities for Tulsa. The Embassy Suite has offered a \$127.14 per night rate to include taxes, breakfast and a "Happy Hour". The same special rate will apply to early arrivals and post-reunion stays. The hotel is near major highways, has free parking, and an airport shuttle.

The chapel service will be hosted at the Will Rogers Memorial Auditorium. The date will be set between Memorial Day and Mothers Day to achieve lowest cost. Assistance in operating the event will be given by Ernie Wiggins, who is a Tulsa resident. Ernie is the son of Association Member Bob Wiggins.

On other discussion topics, Treasurer Wayland Havig expressed concern with our lack of appeal to LHD5 shipmates. He said LHD5 had asked for the use of our Bataan Association logo and the Board had denied it. After discussion, the Group voted to approve the LHD5 use of our logo.

2010 Meeting Proposals were suggested for the following cities: Louisville, KY; Pensacola, FL; and Branson, MO. All of these were sites of successful reunions in previous years and will be considered by the Board for 2010.

Election of Officers began with the Chaplain, Don Border, replacing Bill Butler.

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Walter Weinmann was elected Secretary with Associate Member and son-in-law Jack Schmidt as his Assistant and Editor of “Bataan Speaking”, our Newsletter. Treasurer Wayland Havig was re-elected by acclamation.

Acting President Ken Morris was elected President, and the vacated Vice-Presidential post was accepted by Historian Dick Weaver.

President-Elect Morris recognized Les Reynolds of the HMS Glory, the British carrier that served with the USS Bataan in Korean waters. Les invited Association members to attend the HMS Glory Reunion next fall in England.

Nile Rigg was recognized for bringing his magnificent scale model of CVL 29 to the reunion and displaying in the Hospitality Room.

First time attendee Ben Radziewics was recognized and told about seeing the ship for the last time before it was salvaged.

Cal Hitchcock reported former Bataan Captain Nora Tyson’s promotion to Rear Admiral and current assignment to a Far East Command.

Nine “Plank Owners” from World War II were recognized and four Korean War Commissioning members were present at the meeting.

President Elect Morris adjourned the meeting at 1038 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Ward, Secretary Pro-tem