

Bataan Speaking

**The Newsletter of the
USS BATAAN CVL 29 Association**



August 2017 Edition

30th Annual Reunion in San Francisco Starts New Chapter in Association's History

Skillfully managed by Chaplain Don Border, and assisted by Barbara Atherton, the final Bataan Association Reunion was held at the Marine Memorial Club/Hotel in downtown San Francisco on June 20-23, 2017. The meeting was the last of site location events, but the Association structure will continue to preserve the history and tradition of USS Bataan CVL29 and the memory of those who served aboard during World War II and the Korean War.

Arrivals began on Tuesday with greetings in the Hospitality Room and renewal of old acquaintances. Wednesday morning the group boarded a tour bus to see the sights of San Francisco. While waiting for the bus, the morning arrival of the Club's mascots provided some entertainment. Daily at 9:30 a.m. three bulldogs arrive on leash to "stand guard" with the staff.

Our driver guide took us to famous landmarks of the city, including the City Hall Plaza, replete with statues of California's famous, as well as tourists enjoying the sights. San Francisco is an inter-nationally recognized cultural capital, and our guide explained the world-famous park system as well as taking us over the Golden Gate bridge.

Next on to McCormick & Kuleto's Ghiradelli Square restaurant- there was the aroma of chocolate in the air. The Factory was next door! There were plenty of landmarks to view on the way back to the hotel, with Hospitality Room time to recall the day's activities.

Thursday saw the traditional Memorial Service in the Regimental Room with Chaplain Border presiding. Our fallen shipmates and airmen from World War II and Korea were honored by the reading of the roll and the ringing of the bell. At the conclusion of the service, luncheon was served.

Chaplain Don Border was chairman of the Annual Business Meeting as reported in the Minutes on reverse side of this issue. Following the meeting a Group photo was taken, as well as individual and family pictures for the Reunion Annual.

Departures were on Friday morning, following another complimentary breakfast in the Bulldog restaurant on the top floor of the Marine Club—a fitting close to our 30th Reunion. Anchors Aweigh!

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2017 MEETING OF THE USS BATAAN CVL 29 REUNION ASSOCIATION

The meeting was chaired by Chaplain Border. Officers Present were Ed Smith, Vice-President, Kathleen Webb, Treasurer; Temporary Secretary, Jim Ward; and Don Border, Chaplain. President Clancy Decker and Secretary Sando Cosenza deceased.

The information regarding the Association's non-profit 501 C-3 status was confirmed by Debbie Clow as being in the organization files.

To be discussed at this meeting: (1) Should we continue holding reunions? (2) Upgrade the website? (3) Treasurer's Report (4) Election of Officers.

(1) Members voted not to continue holding annual reunions. However, this vote did not dissolve the Association, but rather to discontinue the Reunions. Efforts to engage the current USS Bataan LHD5 in joining our Association have been unsuccessful.

(2) Veteran members present cast a 4 – 4 vote on the decision to upgrade the web site with professional assistance presented by Jim Ward. Jim presented an explanation of the contract to upgrade and maintain the website for five years. Ward volunteered to fund the first year of the agreement (75% of the expense) and other members offered to cover the remaining four years. The decision to proceed with the web site update will depend on confirmation of a revised contract with the professional and ability to get support by the current host.

(3) A discussion of what to do with the money left in the Treasury after a report given by Barbara Atherton:

The Treasury is in the black. A portion of the funds were used to support the final Reunion expenses, specifically the Ghiardelli Square luncheon and the Regimental Room luncheon. The remaining funds will be held in the Association account. After the discussion it was agreed that there is a need for a questionnaire to be sent to members asking for an input on various charities (local or national) which might be worthy of donations. Don and Joanne Border volunteered to send out the questionnaires.

(4) Election of Officers: President, Barbara Atherton; Vice President, Ed Smith; Secretary, Jim Ward; Treasurer, Debbie Clow; and Chaplain, Don Border.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Chaplain Don Border.

Secretary, Jim Ward

Chaplain's Report

News was received that Association Founding member, Secretary and Newsletter Editor Sando Cosenza, and his wife Audrey, passed away earlier this year. Sando was born Dec, 14, 1931 and died March 31, 2017. Audrey was born Nov. 21, 1933 and died May 14, 2017. Sando served as a Dental Technician aboard the Bataan during the Korean War. His service to the Association was legend, being the Chairman of several Reunion events and initiating the Association's website. The couple spent their postwar years in Reading, Pa., and then retired to Phoenix, AZ. They will be missed.

Jack Schmidt, son-in-law, has reported the passing of Walter Weinmann on July 12, 2017. Walter served in the V-2 Division as an AM/2c aboard the Bataan in the Korean War. He was a resident of New Jersey.