

Bataan Speaking

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



September 2017 Edition

Responses Rolling in on Charitable Distribution Survey of Association Membership Choices

President Barbara Atherton reports that members of the Association who received the first *Bataan Speaking* Newsletter and the Distribution of Association Funds Survey are sending back their Questionnaires with some interesting choices. “We’re getting some unique local requests, as well as many who want their share of remaining Treasury funds distributed to National Veterans charities. I’m pleased that our membership wants to handle this in a generous way.”

“We are extending the deadline for the responses, as we want to be sure every active member has their wishes carried out as called for in our final on-site meeting,” Barbara added. “So if you haven’t sent it in, please do so at once. And include any photographs you might want to share in the “Memory Book” that is being prepared.”

It is also important that the Secretary have available the e-mail contact that is to be filled in on the survey form. Those addresses will assure continued communication to the membership.

The survey was sent out by Chaplain Don Border and his wife, Phyllis; she carefully hand addressed every one of the 135 mailings. The list was based on latest available addresses for dues paying members from the last three years.

If you haven’t returned your survey, please do it today, along with photos!

New Webmaster for the Association is a “Professional Nerd”



Chris Novak, a Naval Historian, who also has a day job as a Computer Technician, is taking over the management of the Bataan Association multi-faceted website.

The site was established by the late Secretary Sando Cosenzo and Dick Weaver, both Korean War veterans on the Bataan. Dick had been our Historian and took on the additional assignment of Webmaster. Now Dick has passed it on to Chris to update it and provide a way to keep association information flowing. Even though in person reunions are impractical, the original Purpose Statement can be carried on by the means of our internet connection.

Upon graduating the University of Illinois (Urbana) with a major in business and a minor in history, Chris joined IBM in 1978 and spent 24 years there as a “sales engineer”, working with the first IBM PCs when introduced in 1981. In 2004 he formed Professional Nerds® to offer a variety of consulting and computer services working out of his home and a brightly colored van that proclaimed his business talents.



Meanwhile, the excitement of Naval History caught his interest and he became familiar with the dramatic events of World War II. His father enlisted in the Army Air Corps in September 1944 but was allowed to delay induction until he graduated high school. As a result, he was still in Basic Training when the dropping of two atomic bombs convinced Japan to surrender, ending WW2 with the joyous slogan for all military personnel “**Home Alive in ‘45**”. Without the use of atomic weapons, Chris is convinced that he (and millions of other American and Japanese) wouldn’t be here today, as his father would have been killed in any invasion of Japan (slated for Nov 1, 1945 and Mar 1, 1946). Instead his father was assigned to occupation duty in Germany, was honorably discharged, went to college on the GI Bill, married, and raised a family.

Chris's mother was also a history major who instilled in him curiosity and a love of reading (especially about history) which continues to this day. But reading about history isn't as exciting as actually talking to someone who was there. While Chris takes care of technology for people, he's also interested in speaking with those who were there; that's how he met Jim Ward, who lives in his town of Glen Ellyn, IL.

You can reach Chris at the new Association contact email address:
BataanCVL29@gmail.com

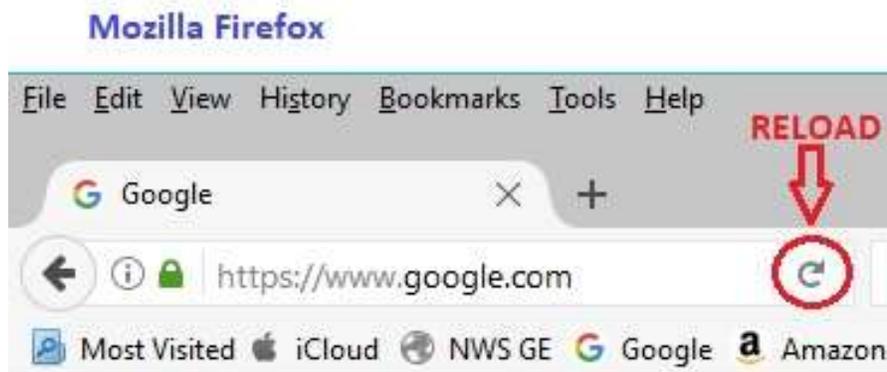
Website biography: <http://www.professionalnerds.com/chrisn.html>

Personal Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ProfessionalNerd>

Business Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ProfessionalNerds>

To view updated content on the Association's website, you'll need to REFRESH / RELOAD the page content. Here's how to do this using Chrome, Firefox, and Internet Explorer. The procedure is similar for Apple's Safari, Microsoft's new Edge, and other browsers and devices.

How to click **RELOAD** in your browser to refresh the page:

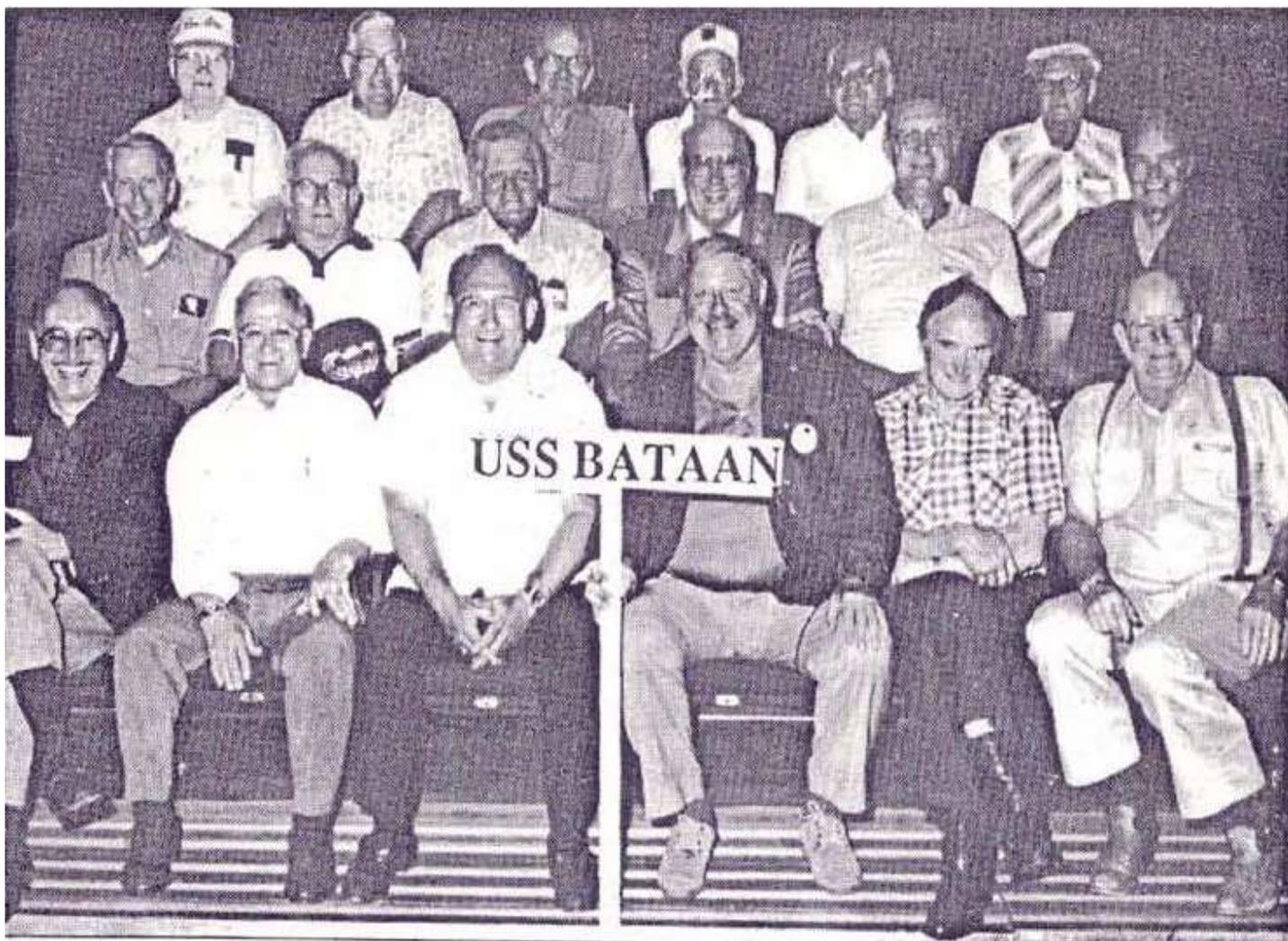


Fuzzy Photo But Sharp Dedication – “How It All Got Started”—Our Association

By Sando Cosenza *Reprinted from our website History Section*

The year *before* our first reunion (1987) an ad appeared announcing a reunion of the crew of the USS Bataan in Houston. I was excited since we had never had one. When I arrived there were not too many of us, and we soon discovered that the reunion was actually that of the USS San Jacinto. They had advertised using the names of the other CVL’s to swell the attendance and get lower prices for things.

I can’t remember the names of all of the Bataan people but they included Larrie Ayers, Joe Midollo, me, a pilot named Jimmy Smyth and an air crewman named Al King from VT-50. Also a guy from Minnesota who worked on the arresting gear machinery, Kenny Brown and a few other snipes.



Editor’s Note: Mel Rotner is third from left in front row; Larrie Ayers is fourth from left in second row. Do you recognize any others?

Everything was geared for the San Jacinto people and we were not too happy. We got together and decided to start our own reunions. The snipes called Jerry Murphy in Philadelphia and he and his wife flew down to join us. Jerry was in the business of supplying foodstuffs to hotels and we then decided to have our first real USS Bataan Reunion in Philadelphia the following year (1988). The rest is history!

We placed ads in many magazines, such as the American Legion, VFW, FRA, Retired Officers, etc. This resulted in a nice turnout and the beginning of the USS Bataan Association. As you know, a number of us have joined the staff of the Supreme Commander and more will follow, but we hope the people who have manned LHD 5 will keep the Association going.

Editor's Note: At the time Sando wrote this, the new Bataan, LHD 5, had been commissioned, and we hoped we could keep a close relationship. Through the 21st Century world of the internet, we can access their website and keep VERY much in touch. We will tell you how to do it: Go to the "dropdown" on the left side of OUR website and click on "NEW BATAAN". It will take you directly to <http://www.bataan.navy.mil/> This is an official U. S. Navy site with a wealth of information about the History, Battle Records, and Daily life on our successor ship! Good reading and we will be telling you more about how the "old" and the "new" got together.

How About a FREE Copy -4" x 6"- of Your Portrait From the 2017 Bataan Reunion?

Do you remember posing for a "family portrait" in the hallway outside of the dining room in the Marine Memorial Club? It wasn't very formal but the photos turned out surprisingly well!

If you will send Secretary Jim Ward a self-addressed AND stamped envelope, he'll return a glossy 4 x 6 copy to you. You can take it to a photo Kiosk (Walmart, Target or Walgreens) and they will make as many copies as you'd like in any size you would like. Be sure to send a No. 10 envelope so it will hold the 4 x 6" photo.

This is the same photo that will appear in the memory book along with the group photos. But you can have this one right now!

Jim Ward
893 Saddlewood Drive
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

President's Message

Hello All Association Members:

I am excited about the progress made and promises kept since our 30th Reunion!

Our website is “up”, and here we are with the second edition of “Bataan Speaking”, our newsletter. And as you have read on page one, you are returning your surveys indicating your Veterans charity choices.

Our Memory Book of the 30th Reunion is in preparation and we are going to expand our communications through our newsletter.

And we're not going to forget the “New Bataan, LHD 5”. We have a link on our website to go right to their homepage. We're proud of their job in keeping the USA in good shape.

When the Editor asked for my picture to go with this message, I suggested he include my daughter, Debbie Clow (also our Treasurer), and grandson, Zachery Clow. You saw him take the group picture at the Reunion which is included in this issue. We're all working together to continue the memories of a great ship and the traditions of the U. S. Navy.

Barbara Atherton, President

USS Bataan CVL-29 Reunion Association



The “CVL 29” Patch –Where was it made?

Shown below are two Bataan patches. The one on the left is on our website and is complete with BATAAN CVL -29 on the bottom, a red tower at the top, and gold wings in between at the top of the ship’s bow view.



The other patch on the right is a bit of a mystery. It appears on a shirt I bought at the Shreveport Reunion in 2006. It has no CVL 29 line on the bottom and has just a “tower” holding the “wings”. This patch is available on the internet site Popular Patch:

<https://www.popularpatch.com/navy/aircraft-carrier-patches/cvl-29-uss-bataan-patch>

However, the vendor does NOT have the patch that we’re using for Home Page identification. So if you see the CVL 29 patch offered on the internet or at an Army-Navy Surplus Store, please let me know and I’ll share the availability in another issue.

Jim Ward, jrobward@wowway.com.

30th Annual Bataan Association Group Photo

