



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

USS BATAAN CVL-29

WHAT A WINTER – FOR SOME IT WAS ONE TO NEVER FORGET, OR, ONE THAT WE WOULD LOVE TO FORGET – FOR OTHERS – IT WAS JUST ANOTHER WINTER – AND FOR YOU SNOWBIRDS – WHAT CAN I SAY? THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS TO PUT THE YEAR IN OUR MEMORY BOOKS, THE SAME AS WE HAVE DONE WITH OUR EXPERIENCES ABOARD THE MIGHTY CVL-29.

ONE THING THAT WE HAVE, AND STILL GOING STRONG, IS THE **USS BATAAN LHD-5**. THIS AWSOME SHIP HAS BEEN CALLED ONCE AGAIN TO HELP PRESERVE THE FREEDOM THAT WE, OF THE CVL-29, HAVE FOUGHT TO KEEP.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN READING AND HEARING OF THE LHD-5, BUT FOR THOSE THAT MAY HAVE MISSED SOME INTERESTING FACTS, ALLOW ME TO JUST ENTER TWO, OF I AM SURE MANY, HAPPENINGS:

March 25, 2003

Aboard the USS Bataan at sea, the AV-8B Harrier thrusts itself off the flight deck -- Up until now, it has been for practice in the preparation against the global war on terrorism. Now, it's for real. Operation Iraqi Freedom has commenced, and Bataan plays a major role as a strike force for freedom. The multipurpose amphibious assault ship usually carries a mixture of helicopters and Harriers, but for this mission, it has been designated a "Harrier carrier." "This is different from a regular mission - this is a straight stick of having a full deck of Harriers here for a single purpose. That purpose is to get the Harriers with ordnance to the place needed, when needed," said Bataan's Commanding Officer, Capt. E. S. Yerger. "We are here to support our Marines on the ground. Being a Harrier carrier is in direct support of their safety by providing vital air support to the troops. "This is the second time a large deck amphibious ship has been a Harrier carrier," Yerger continued, "but it's also a first because we have more Harriers and are launching more strikes than ever before." Having strictly Harriers aboard is a first for Bataan, but the crew is stepping up to do the job they were trained to do. "I think it's a good idea to be a Harrier carrier, because sometimes it's hard to mix jets and helos.

Now we can focus solely on the Harriers, and it makes flight operations more efficient," said Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class (AW/SW) Aurora Selby. "We are taking on the full responsibility of controlling the Harriers now that we only have them on board. If we had helos and Harriers, the Harriers would be controlled by the tactical air control center, not us. Taking on this responsibility is making us sharper and better at our jobs." Staying sharp and getting the Harriers off the deck and ready to strike is a crucial part of Bataan's mission. "Before, our job was to get the Marines ashore for the fight, and now our job is to bring the support, close air support, to the Marines on the ground in the fight," said Marine Maj. Michael Manzer Jr., air operations officer. "I'm planning out our deck cycle to launch waves of several Harriers at a time, which has not been done before. It's like an orchestra. Everyone has their part to play at a certain time, and when it all comes together, it's beautiful music." Bataan's role has greatly increased compared to its last deployment. "In Afghanistan, we offloaded our Marines and then our operational tempo decreased. Now, we've offloaded our Marines, and we are filling up our fly window launching and recovering Harriers almost everyday," said Lt. Cmdr. Paul Devereux, air traffic control division officer. "I'm excited that our role is bigger than last deployment." Bataan's mission is bigger, faster, more challenging and making history. "This is the first time a ship of this class has carried so many Harriers, and it's been a real challenge for the flight deck crew. We are performing bigger sequences of launching and recovering Harriers than ever before," said Lt. Larry Young, aircraft handling officer. "Everything happens so quickly on the flight deck, and the number of sorties that we are putting out in one day are just phenomenal. I have never seen so many people work so hard on a flight deck before." That hard work is apparent from the flight deck crew to maintenance personnel, to air operations planning, to the pilots. It takes everyone working as a team to bring the Harrier carrier to life. "The flight deck is very busy. We are moving planes, chocking and chaining, and getting the aircraft where they need to be," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handler) Airman Kelly Fazzini. "It makes me feel good knowing that I'm helping the Harriers get where they need to be for their mission. The flight deck crew gets the job done as fast and as safe as possible." Since Bataan deployed on short notice without any workups for this mission, every day is a learning experience. "Once you get into the groove of it, no matter who you are - a pilot, flight deck crew, or the air boss, it's going to work out, and the plan we have in place will come together. The goal is obtainable," said Marine Capt. Toby Buchan, VMA-542 Harrier pilot. "Since this level of Harrier carrier has not been done before, it will prove the diversity of the large deck amphibious ships. "This ship went from carrying a Marine Expeditionary Unit to becoming a Harrier carrier on the same cruise. We are finally utilizing the ship and Harriers to their full potential," Buchan continued. "It's a dynamic evolution for us to be able to bring a punch to the fight and supply around the clock coverage for our Marines on the ground." And that's exactly what Bataan is doing, proving that the Harrier carrier is a strong fighting force for the mission at hand. The ship and embarked Marines are components of Commander Task Force 51. The ship and crew left its home port of Norfolk, Va., in January for an unscheduled deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is the ship's third deployment since its commissioning in September 1997.

AND -----

Thin Mint

Date: Thu, 29 May 2003 06:06:23 -0400

Sender comment: To the Crew of the 1st USS BATAAN, CVL-29

USS Bataan Participates in Operation Thin Mint

By Journalist Seaman Apprentice James Kusher, USS Bataan Public Affairs

ABOARD USS BATAAN, At Sea (NNS) -- Sailors and Marines aboard USS Bataan (LHD 5) happily participated in Operation **Thin Mint May 20** by each receiving their own box of Girl Scout Cookies. That figures into more than one box for every Sailor and Marine onboard Bataan," said Cmdr. David Pry, Bataan's supply officer.

. "The gesture is beyond awesome. Girl Scout Cookies are the best cookies in the world. Our Sailors and Marines will eat them right up, and the effect on morale will be amazing." The San Diego Imperial Council Girl Scouts organized the operation sending more than 90,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to the Arabian Gulf in support of service members deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Bataan received 4,704 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies. That figures into more than one box for every Sailor and Marine onboard Bataan," said Cmdr. David Pry, Bataan's supply officer. "The gesture is beyond awesome. Girl Scout Cookies are the best cookies in the world. Our Sailors and Marines will eat them right up, and the effect on morale will be amazing."The commencement of Operation Thin Mint was passed over Bataan's 1-MC Announcing System, inviting the crew to pick up their boxes on the mess decks. "When I heard the announcement, I was in the Hangar Bay and a lot of people around me were so excited they started running to the mess decks," said Personnelman Seaman Apprentice Glen Sparks. Cpl. Lacardian Durr, a Radio Operator with the Headquarters Company 2nd Marines, picked up his own box of Thin Mints from the mess decks."People were running upstairs to the berthing talking about it and coming back with boxes, so I went down to the mess decks," said Durr. "Everyone was really happy down there. It's not everyday you get your favorite Girl Scout Cookies free. "Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Giovanni Alvarez was really grateful. "I'm really glad the Girl Scouts remembered us out here and sent us cookies. It brought a big smile to my face," said Alvarez. "My niece is a Girl Scout," said Pfc. James Srock, a Rifleman with the 3/2 Lima Company 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade. "I can't wait to get home and see her, and tell her about it. This is really great. "Capt. Nora Tyson, executive officer of Bataan, is impressed by the donation. "It's a way of saying thank you from the proud young girls who embrace many of the same ideals that we do," said Tyson. "The effect on morale will be immeasurable. "Capt. Earle Yerger, commanding officer of Bataan, is very happy to see his crew excited with this special gift. "It is great that all our Sailors and Marines get to enjoy the donated cookies while away at sea said Yerger. "It reminds them of the support we have at home in our historic endeavor. "Yerger and Tyson are also huge fans of the cookies. "My favorite are the Shortbread cookies," said Yerger. "I would have to say the Peanut Butter cookies are my favorite," said Tyson. "But back in the height of my Girl Scout days I tried to give them all equal time. "Sailors and Marines aboard Bataan sent their thanks across the seas to the Girl Scouts for making this deployment a little sweeter. "Everybody's a fan of Girl Scout Cookies," said Pry. "We are all really grateful."

The ship and embarked Marines are components of Commander Task Force 51. The ship and crew left its homeport of Norfolk, Va., in January, for an

unscheduled deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is the ship's third deployment since its commissioning in September 1997. For related news, visit the USS Bataan (LHD 5) Navy NewsStand page at www.news.navy.mil/local/lhd5.

AT THE LAST BATAAN REUNION, AS YOU WILL READ LATER IN THIS LETTER, THE BODY SUGGESTED, VOTED AND APPROVED OF HAVING AN ELECTED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT THAT WAS NOT THE SAME PERSON WHO IS PUTTING ON THE REUNION FOR THAT YEAR. WELL, LET ME INTRODUCE THE NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT:



ON YOUR LEFT IS KEN MORRIS, OUR VICE PRESIDENT, AND TO YOUR RIGHT IS OUR PRESIDENT – HUGH SULLIVAN. FOLLOWING IS A SHORT RESUME OF OUR NEW PRESIDENT: Hugh W. Sullivan-Born and educated in Bellows Falls Vt. and enlisted in the US Navy July 12, 1949. Following Boot Camp attended Electronic Technician Class A School at Great Lakes USNTC. Following graduation on 9-8-50, was assigned to the USS Bataan CVL-29. Spent all remaining service time on board being discharged on March 4, 1953, with a rate of ET-2. After returning to Vermont, following discharge I entered the State University and Graduated in 1957 with a BS degree in Electrical Engineering. All of my working years were spent with New England Power Co. where I held various engineering and management positions, retiring in 1993 as Director of Hydra

Production in Lebanon, NH where we still reside.

My wife, Ellie and I attended our 1st reunion in Baltimore in 1993 and have enjoyed every one since. I am honored to be chosen the first President of the Association under the new by-laws. (YOU WILL GET TO MEET KEN MORRIS IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER)

Chaplains Corner

At the U.S.S. Bataan (CVL-29) reunion this year our Memorial Service was held on Tuesday May 6, 2003. Larry and Jerry Ankiewicz were able to obtain a wonderful site for this annual event - Saint Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Bullhead City, AZ. The Pastor, Father Peter Dobrowski, was a willing and gracious host who went out of his way to assure that the service was memorable for all the participants.

The buses transporting our group from the hotel in Laughlin picked us up that morning for the ride across the Colorado River into Bullhead City. The desert landscape filled the bright sunny morning as we motored into the hills to the beautiful Spanish-style Church. The cool interior of the structure welcomed our group for what was to be a somber but celebratory event.

Father Peter and I had arranged most of the details earlier, however, in his effort to enhance our service he added bell-toned Taps and God Bless America to the speaker system for the enjoyment of all. After an invocation by Fr. Peter, Ken Morris led us in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a wreath presentation by our new President Hugh Sullivan. I read Psalm

107:21-31 and Fr. Peter added a Memorial prayer and a short homily. Names of our shipmates who lost their lives during WWII and Korea were read as Jim McDonald rang the Ship's bell. We all joined in singing God Bless America and the Memorial Service came to a conclusion.

Further, I have to report the death shipmates and one shipmate's wife.

Cliff Fanning, Cdr. USN (Ret.) advised that **Charles H. Wood**, a member of VT-50 aboard BATAAN during WWII died on April 9, 2003, after a fall that broke his hip. We extend to his wife, Nell, our deepest sympathy.

Norma Doerges advised that her husband, **Edwin Daniel Doerges** passed away on May 13, 2003. Ed was born in 1933 in The City of the Angels and grew up on his father's dairy farm in Merced, California. He was 19 years of age when he served aboard BATAAN during the Korean War. After his service Ed became a member of Local 39 of the Operating Engineers and worked for some time at El Camino Hospital. He retired at age 62, primarily due to complications from lung disease. Ed loved to fly and served for some time as a pilot ferrying doctors of the "Flying Doctors" group who administered to people in South Mexico. His hobbies included camping and ham radio operation. Ed is survived by his loving wife Norma, his sons Edward and Eric, his Daughter Elizabeth, and his two stepdaughters Kristina Richards and Jessie Ploeg. He will be sadly missed by all.

Also, one of our shipmates, Richard Kuhn, reported the loss of his wife to whom he was married for 49 years. She passed away on April 25, 2003, due to complications from cancer. We send Richard our heartfelt condolences.

Dionicio Avila passed away January 27, 2003. He was diagnosed with lung cancer. Don joined the Navy at the age of 17, and served the entire 4 years of WWII in the Pacific. He was called back to active duty to serve in the Korean War aboard the USS Bataan. He was a Gunners Mate 2ndC.

Warren D. Graham passed away 10-11-97, and is buried in Lake City, S.C.. His son would like to communicate with anyone that knew his father who was aboard the Bataan during the Korean War. Please write to Warren Graham, 6903 Conifer Circle, Indian Trail, N.C. 28079.

Roland A. Bosee, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret), age 94, passed away 1-18-03 at his home. He specialized in aerospace physiology in the Medical Service Corps. He served as Assistant Air Boss aboard the Bataan. During the 50s and 60s, Dr. Bosee's Naval responsibilities included parachute and ejection seat development and space suit design for the original project Mercury astronauts. Among his honors and awards are the Legion of Merit metal, aerospace medicine citation, AMA's Harry Mosley award for outstanding contribution to flight safety, as well as many other awards.

It is with heavy heart that I must inform you of my husband, **Leon Swinson's**, death on 2-25-03. He died of congestive heart failure at the age of 82. He was very proud that he was in the Navy and of his tour of duty on the Bataan.

Bill Butler
Chaplain

IF YOU KNOW OF A SHIPMATE, OR SPOUSE , THAT IS ILL OR PASSED AWAY, PLEASE CONTACT OUR CHAPLAIN AT 200 SOMMERS PLACE, CHESTERTOWN, MD 21620; (410)778 7686. E-MAIL-bnbutl@friend.ly.net

THERE WILL BE A JOINT HMS GLORY/USS BATAAN REUNION IN THE UK. THE HMS GLORY WILL HOST THE REUNION IN WALES DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 10 - 13, 2003. ANYONE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART, PLEASE CONTACT DICK WEAVER FOR A REGISTRATION FORM, OR, YOU CAN MAKE THE HOTEL RESERVATION DIRECTLY BY CALLING 0114414928711.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK-JUNE 2003

THE USS BATAAN ASSOCIATION IS TRULY BLESSED BY THOSE WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY SUPPORTED US THROUGH THE YEARS. MANY OF OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN IN ATTENDANCE DURING EARLIER REUNIONS NOW HAVE PHYSICAL/MEDICAL PROBLEMS THAT PRECLUDE THEM FROM JOINING WITH US DURING OUR ANNUAL REUNIONS-YET THEY CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR ASSOCIATION . IT IS OUR WISH THAT BY MOVING OUR REUNIONS TO DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE COUNTRY EVERY YEAR, WE WILL PROVIDE A LOCATION THAT IS MORE CONVENIENT AND WILL NOT LEAD TO LENGTHY TRAVEL FOR OUR SHIPMATES AND FELLOW MARINES WHO DESIRE TO JOIN WITH US AGAIN.
DON'T FORGET OUR WEB PAGE: WWW.BATAANCVL29.ORG

NEW INFORMATION IS ADDED TO OUR WEB PAGE FREQUENTLY!!!!!!!!!!!!

NEW MEMBERS SINCE MARCH 2003 NEWSLETTER:

RICHARD H BARKER- ME/R DIV, KOREA. "DICK" RESIDES IN MA. "DICK" CONTACTED THE BATAAN ASSOCIATION THRU A WEB PAGE ON THE INTERNET.

CLIFFORD L BELL- AS/AIMD. "CLIFF" IS OUR FIRST DUES PAYING MEMBER FROM THE LHD-5 AND ATTENDED OUR REUNION IN LAUGHLIN. "CLIFF" WILL RESIDE IN IL FOLLOWING HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE NAVY.

JAMES J HUFF- (JESSIE), AB/V-7 DIV., KOREA. "JIM" AND JESSIE ATTENDED THE REUNION IN LAUGHLIN AND RESIDE IN CA.

BRUCE MATHIS- (BETTY RUTH), QM/N DIV., KOREA. BRUCE AND BETTY RESIDE IN FL. REFERRAL: GAYLORD ROLSTON.

ARTHUR T NORMAN- (THERESA), HMS GLORY, "ART" IS ONE OF OUR FIRST TWO "ASSOCIATE" MEMBERS AND AS A CREWMEMBER ON THE HMS GLORY, OPERATED WITH BATAAN DURING THE KOREAN WAR. HE AND THERESA ATTENDED THE REUNION IN LAUGHLIN AND RESIDE IN THE U.K.

LES REYNOLDS- (CONNIE), HMS GLORY, "LES" IS THE SECOND OF OUR "ASSOCIATE" MEMBERS AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE HMS GLORY DURING THE KOREAN WAR. LES AND CONNIE ALSO ATTENDED THE REUNION IN LAUGHLIN AND RESIDE IN CA.

JOHN SALLY- (ILLA), AN/V-1 DIV, KOREA. JOHN AND ILLA RESIDE IN BULLHEAD CITY, AZ AND ATTENDED THEIR FIRST REUNION IN LAUGHLIN.

REFERRALS- IF YOU HAVE MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH ANY OF OUR SHIPMATES FOLLOWING YOUR TOURS ON THE BATAAN, PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF THEM, OR MAKE YOUR SHIPMATES AWARE OF THE BATAAN ASSOCIATION. I AM MAINTAINING A LIST OF "PROSPECTS", AND WE HAVE SIGNED UP A NUMBER OF MEMBERS THRU REFERRALS.

DELINQUENT DUES PAYERS: Please refer to the date following your name on the newsletter address label, i.e. (May 04). If the date that appears on the address label is earlier than (May 04), you are either in arrears in your dues payment, or the treasurer's records are in error. In either case the situation needs to be remedied-contact **Dick Weaver**, and we will resolve it.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: Please review your copy of the roster and advise Dick Weaver of any errors that appear in the listing.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: Please let the Bataan Association officers know when you acquire an e-mail address or when you change your e-mail address. We will be increasing our use of the Internet and Web Page to send out newsletters, rosters, membership applications and other correspondence.

MEMBERSHIP/HISTORY/AUTHORIZATION FORMS: If you have not yet submitted one of these forms please do so. We will not publish your personal information on the web without your approval, and we need to maintain your "authorization to publish" on file. In the future we hope to post this form on our web page for downloading. If you have not submitted a form when you pay your dues I will send a form along with your new membership card.

HOSTING FUTURE USS BATAAN ASSOCIATION REUNIONS: The following members have expressed an interest in hosting a reunion:

Eugene Barefield- Has expressed an interest in hosting a reunion in Louisiana.

Ray Reese- Has expressed an interest in hosting a reunion in the Salt Lake City, UT area.

Don Shipley- Has expressed an interest in hosting a reunion on the west coast of Florida.

The Bataan Association leadership is in the process of developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which will lay out the steps to be taken for hosting our annual reunions. Please encourage and support those of our membership who are willing to host a reunion.

AND NOW FOR THE REUNION -

There are always those who come early, and even though the desk was scheduled to open at 10 a.m., there were early birds who wanted to be at “Table No. 1”. All the hard work went into seeing that the records, tickets, and a marvelous souvenir tote bag with USS Bataan CVL 29” on the side AND a picture of the ship as well. A handy device to hold all the collection of other ship’s stuff!

But a wait until 2 p.m. for the Hospitality Room to open. A beautiful suite on the top floor, overlooking the Black Mountains in the distance and right below the fast-flowing Colorado River. The refreshments were ample and a great warm-up for our “buffet spread”. Many choices were offered – the Chef had a salad bar that wouldn’t quit and entrees of Chicken Kiev and fish that were outstanding. Nobody went away hungry.

To add to the event, the Carl Grove (he served on the Bonhomme Richard) Trio accompanied our dinner.

The next day was an early morning departure for our Memorial Service. A lovely setting on a hillside –the church was in Bullhead City(St. Margaret Mary Catholic Parish). (See the program for details – you probably have one—if not I will include with another package).

After the always impressive service and remarks by our Host Pastor, we boarded the busses and headed for the Historic Village of Oatman, Arizona. The burros kept us amused, as well as the Shootout at Noon by Gunfighters. An early return almost resulted in a AWOL shipmate, but he was rescued at the last minute as the last coach wheeled down old Route 66 in a cloud of dust.

Back at the Flamingo with the opportunity to explore the many attractions of Laughlin –Malls, Casinos, Antique Car Displays, Riverboat rides—never a dull moment!

Dinner was on our own, with a variety of choices, but all of us ended up at “The Comedy Stop” for an evening of laughs. The “top banana” pulled one of our shipmates out of the crowd and composed a song about his role as “the catapult man”. It didn’t matter that the comic pretended that he was “shot out of a gun” (instead of shooting an airplane off the deck), we all had a tremendous laugh.

Some more time in the Hospitality Room –and then to bed to be ready for the next trip.

Wednesday was aboard the coaches for Lake Havasu and the London Bridge. Lunch at one of the fine restaurants overlooking the Lake and a walk on the imported bridge of British origin. Again, a return problem! A bus driver had miscounted noses, and the “absentees” we searched for were statistical error, not missing persons. No harm done.

More sampling the fabulous food of the Laughlin area, and more Hospitality Suite –refreshments and conversation.

Thursday was the big day for our Annual Meeting...

After the meeting everyone was quick to discuss our new by-laws and the officers who had stepped up to keep the Association rolling along.

At 4:30 the line began for the Dunning photos, with the strobe flashing away at a fast clip, so there was no “long wait”, but rather a nice refreshment time for the Banquet.

Carl Grove was on hand again with his swinging trio, with all the “oldies” of the 40’s and 50’ that brought back memories of days gone by.

A beautiful meal was served by the Flamingo Staff, and shipmates and their partners danced into the night. At the end of the evening’s events, the new officers were introduced, and many others recognized. A standing ovation was given to John Fila, the son of the late Henry Fila(Korea). John is a New York Fire Fighter and has established a link with the new Bataan LHD-5. His firehouse is directly opposite the USS Intrepid Museum. When some Bataan sailors were on leave, they visited the Firehouse and later presented John with a photo of the ship and autographed dedication letter.

50-50 Chairmen drew the winning number—it was Peg Hitchcock, Cal's wife. The Reunion was over, but the memories will linger!

On Thursday, May 8, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. a Business meeting of the U.S.S. Bataan (CVL-29) Association was held in the Macaw Room of the Flamingo Hotel, Laughlin, NV.

Present at the meeting were approximately 50 members of the association, therefore a quorum was established. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ken Morris who then welcomed all members to the meeting.

Jerry Ankiewicz, the co-host for the Laughlin reunion welcomed all participants and acknowledged the help and assistance of his brother Larry and Larry's wife Shirley.

READING OF THE 2002 MINUTES

Dick Weaver read the minutes of the 2002 Business meeting at the Branson, MO reunion. Those minutes are a matter of official record and will not be summarized here. D. Weaver did note, however, that with respect to two items in the minutes, he wished to further comment. The first item regarding the assignment of two members to explore the possibility of establishing a not-for-profit corporation Weaver noted that nothing has been done to date. He added that it was his opinion that we should probably not pursue the matter further. There was no comment from the membership on this matter.

The second item had to do with the May 30, 2003, wreath laying ceremony at the Nimitz Memorial in Fredericksburg, TX. Mr. Weaver announced that he and Ed Greathouse will be present for the ceremony and provide the wreath. He invited all members who may be in that area to attend.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Weaver, treasurer of the association, made his report to the membership, noting that the expenses for the year (5-24-02 to 4-30-03) totaled \$6,009.67, and included such costs as insurance, name tags, gifts, and reunion start-up costs. Income totaled \$25,702.31 (including last years balance), and was augmented by dues, donations, and auction income. The treasury now has a balance of \$19,692.64.

2004 REUNION REPORT

Ken Morris reported that he explored various locations within the Cincinnati, OH. area. He obtained a total of 19 packages from hotels, some good-some bad. He narrowed the list down to 3 and after visiting locations selected The Drawbridge for a number of reasons. The Drawbridge is close to the airport, it will offer a hospitality suite, and has done 20 to 25 military reunions in the past. The dates will be May 12 to 15, 2004, with the banquet held on Saturday night. Ken stated that he has no cost information at this time but that he will gather all information for publishing in the newsletter as soon as possible.

Ken Morris also reported that he has obtained proposals from various hotels for the 2005 reunion but that no location has been selected to date. He encouraged any member who might want to host that event to volunteer ASAP since all locations encourage a "look see" and booking well in advance.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Weaver noted that in prior reunions the issue of electing a President and Board of Directors was raised and voted down. Dick stated that the old method of electing the following years reunion host as the president would not work for a couple of reasons. No member has volunteered to host the 2005 and 2006 reunions, and our incorporation agreement requires that there be a Board of Directors elected. Also, in the past, the President, acting as host for the reunion had a number of important duties to accomplish and had little or no time for association business. This left important financial matters to be decided by two or three officers.

Dick suggested that the membership vote on changing the association by-laws to reflect the yearly election of a Board of Directors to include a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain. This

procedure will reflect our incorporation agreement and free the officers to perform the duties of their positions. The President will appoint a reunion committee to select a location for the reunion and conduct the necessary business to hire a hotel for that purpose. Mr. Weaver then Motioned that the by-laws as offered by him, and distributed to the membership be approved by the members. The Motion was Seconded and a discussion followed. There was no objection to the Motion by membership, however, some suggestions were made regarding reunion efforts. A member asked that the reunion committee explore the possibility of hiring a professional convention planner to locate a site and contract with the hotel. All the major and minor details of a reunion could then be completed by the planner who would then report to the committee. Another member suggested that there is an organization called the Armed Forces Reunion Group that will do reunion planning for us. He will give the information he has to Dick Weaver so that this suggestion can be explored.

After discussion of the Motion a vote was called and the Motion was passed with no opposed votes.

Dick Weaver called for nominations from the floor for the office of President. Ken Morris was nominated but declined to run. Hugh Sullivan was nominated, accepted the nomination, and the nomination was seconded. There being no discussion, a vote was taken and Hugh Sullivan was elected President with no opposed votes.

Dick Weaver called for nominations for the office of Vice President and Ken Morris was nominated and accepted. There being no discussion, the nomination was seconded and a vote was taken. Ken Morris was elected Vice President with no opposed votes.

Dick Weaver called for nominations for the office of Secretary and Sando Cosenza name was placed in nomination. A discussion followed in which Dick noted that although Sando was not in attendance, he had indicated to Dick that if nominated he would accept. The nomination was seconded and a vote was then taken. Sando was elected Secretary with no opposed votes.

Dick Weaver called for nominations for the office of Treasurer and Dick Weaver's name was placed in nomination at which time he accepted. There being no discussion, the nomination was seconded and a vote taken. Dick Weaver was elected Treasurer with no opposed votes.

Dick Weaver called for nominations for the office of Chaplain and Bill Butler's name was placed in nomination. He accepted the nomination, the nomination was seconded and a vote was taken. Bill Butler was elected Chaplain with no opposed votes.

Dick Weaver expressed his appreciation to all the members for resolving the issue of the new by-laws and the election of officers. Hugh Sullivan stated that he will continue to operate the association with a view to including all the needs and wants of the members.

Ken Morris asked for volunteers to help him decorate the Ballroom for the dinner/dance to be held tonight. As number of volunteers offered their help.

A member explained that the wife and son of a late member, Henry Fila were in attendance and would be present at the dinner/dance tonight. The members agreed that John Fila, a NYC fire fighter who was on duty on 9/11, and the son of Henry would be asked to say a few words at the dinner.

Cliff Bell, an active duty member of the Naval Service and a past member of the U.S.S. Bataan (LHD-5) crew, and a member of the association was acknowledged by the association membership.

The membership wanted to express their appreciation to the Ankiewicz family for hosting the Laughlin reunion. Jerry reported that he was in the "black" and that the entire affair was completed without cost to the Ankiewicz family. He added that there were 151 attendees at this reunion.

A member suggested that as we have done in past years, we should include a roster of all attendees in the reunion package given to each member as he registers. There was no roster in this years reunion package.

Member Brior reported that he had the Bataan's commissioning pennant that he had taken down the day the ship was

decommissioned. It is available for reunion display.

Bill Butler asked that any member who has knowledge of the illness or death of a shipmate, that the information be transmitted to Chaplain Butler for inclusion in the newsletter.

Hugh Sullivan noted that we needed someone to host the 2005 reunion and asked for volunteers or for the names of any member who wanted to help out with the event.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Bill Butler
Chaplain, for the Secretary

THIS NEWSLETTER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD TAKEN THE TIME TO RECORD THE HAPPENINGS OF WHAT OCCURRED AT THE FESTIVITIES. THERE WERE MANY WHO CONTRIBUTED, AND BEFORE I GIVE CREDIT TO SOME, AND FORGET THE NAMES OF OTHERS, JUST LET ME SAY **THANK YOU TO ALL.**

I HAVE RECEIVED MANY WELL WISHES FROM MEMBERS, AND TO THAT, I SAY THANK YOU! WITH THE GRACE OF GOD, AUDREY AND I WILL BE WITH YOU AT THE NEXT REUNION.

MAY THE GOOD LORD KEEP YOU SAFE.

SANDO