



# USS Saratoga Association



Honoring the Memory of two great fighting ships

Visit us on the web: [www.uss-saratoga.com](http://www.uss-saratoga.com)

January 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just a note to briefly re-cap our Harrisburg reunion for those who did not see my “Reunion Recap” on our Facebook page. Based on the feedback I have received from many members, if you missed our Harrisburg Reunion, you missed a great one! Dennis Steinour was a terrific host and put on a superb reunion!

Ray Casey and Military Reunion Planners did a great job also interfacing with the hotel keeping all events moving smoothly all week.

Congratulations to Len Ducouer who received our “Rooster of the Year” award for his many contributions to the Association in 2023.

We had 170 attendees with at least 21 first-time attendees, and we gained about 10 new members during the week. A special thank-you to each of those many generous members who donated to the Association when they checked in. Those donations are greatly appreciated and will work toward funding the Association and the Scholarship Program.

Speaking of the Scholarship Program, Steve Katz stepped aside as the Committee Chairman and Frank Salinas volunteered to take that position. Frank has served on the review team in the past, so he is a natural fit for that position. Steve will remain on the review team for new scholarship applicants. Special thanks to Steve for getting this program off to a great start and smoothly on course for Frank to assume.

The tours were all very well planned, and a great time was had by all who attended them. Thankfully, the rain held off all week and then it rained “cats and dogs” after the last tour had completed.

The ships store sold out during our total inventory sale and was officially closed. We sold our Saratoga Trailer and Carl Fales is the proud new owner. We will now move on to the next phase of our on-line ships store during 2024. Our on-line store is already making new Saratoga items and will soon be up on-line selling them. We also intend on having a ships Store presence at our reunions.

Thanks to our new Historian, Mike Curry, for setting up, manning, and making our memorabilia room a success during the reunion. Those two porcelain soup terrines presented to the USS Saratoga by the City of Philadelphia and Campbells Soup Company were a beautiful new addition to our collection. The newly donated CV-3 photo of the entire crew was really interesting too.

The wives’ luncheon was a great success this year as well. Everyone really enjoyed the guest speaker.

The silent auction may have had the most items in recent memory. The raffle items were a class act with items like a bucket of cheer, custom hand-made Saratoga quilt, a hand-made Oak challenge Coin display rack, a Signed Print of the USS Saratoga and an F-14, our usual Chelsea ships clock and a large Tin Rooster. Special thanks to Fran Gower and Nancy Hill for managing all the details and to all who made/donated these items.

The hospitality room was very large and accommodated everyone who showed up. Saratoga (CV-3 and CVA/CV-60) videos played in the background. We had plenty of snacks and drinks for everyone. The Bartender even invented two drinks for our reunion, “The Fighting Cock” for the guys and “Saratoga Dream “ or something like that for the ladies.

The Banquet was a great success as well! Nancy Krebs sang a beautiful Star-Spangled banner to begin the festivities. We handed out door prizes and Gary Brown was the high bidder for the signed Banner. The Red Lion Hotel, even though an older hotel, was very clean and the staff was most accommodating. They made everything happen without a glitch. Special thanks to their General Manager and the entire staff for their tireless support.

All-in-all it was a great reunion. I heard nothing but positive comments as people left the hotel on Sunday morning. New members said they were definitely coming to our next one in JAX and long-time members were saying this was one of the best ever.

As always, it took a lot of work by a lot of people to make it all happen. A Special thank you to all who spent many hours dedicated to making it one to remember!

So, we are all looking ahead to our next reunion in Jacksonville, Fl. 2-6 October 2024 at the Doubletree Riverfront in Jacksonville. Military Reunion Planners is deep into organizing our tours and we hope to have the details published early in 2024. I look forward to seeing everyone there in October.

For your planning records, our 2025 Reunion will be in Nashville Tennessee.

- ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**
- President  
**Mark Kikta**
- Vice President  
**Dennis Steinour**
- Secretary  
**Ed McCready**
- Treasurer  
**Mark Beecher**
- Parliamentarian  
**Frank Salinas**
- Historian  
**Mike Curry**
- CV/CVA-60 Liaison  
**John Lipscomb**
- CV-3 Liaison  
**Steve Medina**
- Master at Arms  
**Jim Krywucki**
- Chaplin  
**Steve Bird**
- Scholarship Chair  
**Frank Salinas**
- Board Members  
**Mark Beecher**  
**Mark Kikta**  
**John Lipscomb**  
**Ed McCready**  
**Frank Salinas**  
**Brad Senter**
- Newsletter Editor  
**Jerry Church**

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

**Greetings to all my shipmates and family members of this great organization the USS Saratoga Association.**

This newsletter writeup will highlight most of the week's events of the 71<sup>st</sup> **Annual Reunion** of 2023 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As a first-time host for such an event I am impressed by how it all comes together, and the amount of support from everyone is overwhelming.

The Red Lion Hotel went above and beyond to see that attendees were happy and pleased with their rooms and the venue. The hotel management team and staff were spot on and happy to assist us with any request we needed. We had 165 registered attendees with 21 "First Timers" in attendance. Many were just overwhelmed by the organization and planning that goes into a reunion, as well as the warm welcome and shared brotherhood they received from all.

Wednesday started with a tour of the sweetest place on earth, "**Hershey Chocolate World**", and a bus tour into the town built by Milton S Hershey. Followed by our much-anticipated **Welcome Dinner** where we greeted old friends and recognized those first-time attendees.

Thursday we were off to hallowed ground with a visit to the **Gettysburg Battlefield**. We started the day at the Visitors Center with the film "A New Birth of Freedom" then to the Cyclorama. At noon we boarded our buses and with the help of National Park Tour Guides we departed for an auto tour of the Battlefield with stops at various points of interest for photos and reflection of what took place there.

Friday it was off to Lancaster County and the sights of Amish Living. Starting with a stop at "**The Amish Experience**" to watch a video of Amish life. As our narrated tour buses rolled through the countryside many were amazed at the farms and techniques still used today by the Amish. Amish children waved as our buses rolled by. We made a stop at an Amish Store that sold homemade bakery goodies like Whoopie Pies and Apple Dumplings, and plenty of handcrafted items available for sale as well. Lunch was served at the Amish Farm of Judiah and Ruth Lapp along with their family. Everything that was placed before us was from their farm and homemade. Many attendees purchased homemade spreads and jams, handmade quilts and more. The favorite seemed to be the homemade peanut butter spread. I heard some folks say they would be skipping dinner that night because they had so much to eat.

Saturday Morning started with a worship service with our Association Chaplin's Steve Bird and Lee Martin. This service and moment of reflection is always well received and welcomed.

At our Annual Reunion Business Meeting, the high lite is always the opening of the floor to members, to nominate and vote on where the following year's reunion should be held. After several possibilities and a volunteer to act as "Host", it's going to be in Nashville in 2025. Our Historian, Mike Curry, will be stepping up as Host.

**The Ladies Luncheon** was hosted this year by Kathy Kikta. Their guest speaker for this year's luncheon was Heather Andrews. Heather is a published author, photographer and Master Gardener who creates native pollinator habitats. The event was very well attended and fun for all.

The week-long hospitality room was wrapped up with folks picking up the numerous items that were offered in the silent auctions. And speaking of the hospitality room a hardy "Well Done" goes out to our faithful bartender "Jolly". She even created two new drinks for attendees: For the guys "The Fighting Cock" and for the ladies "Saratoga Dream".

**The Navy Memorial Team** was on hand Friday and Saturday to video the stories of shipmates and their times aboard the USS Saratoga. We had one CV-3 spouse attendee to share her husband's stories from WWII and several CVA/CV-60 shipmates from Plank Owners to Decommissioning Crew. One interview was with a father and son team that served onboard during the Viet Nam and Desert Storm eras. Look for a link on the Association website in the future to these stories as they become published and later archived in the Library of Congress for future generations to enjoy.

**The Farewell Banquet** is the final gathering of the reunion. As we all gathered on this last night of fellowship, we were honored to have "The Sounds of Brass" (a Carlisle, Pennsylvania Town Band) play pop and patriotic military songs as attendees found their place to sit for the dinner program. The program then started with the presentation of colors carried by the Navy ROTC unit of Harrisburg High School. Nancy Krebs sang a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. There was a somber silence as our Association President Mark Kikta read the names and Secretary Ed McCready rang the bell for shipmates that have passed away in the past year. Taps were played by the "Sounds of Brass" trumpet player and a moment of silence followed. As dinner was served many attendees reflected on the events of the week while also clinging to hope that they had a winning ticket for one of many door/raffle items up for grabs. Thanks to 'Sara Kids' Fran and Nancy for their continued support in running these events year after year.

It's always hard to say goodnight in the end knowing that the next morning many will be heading back to our homes and daily schedules. It is my hope that this reunion review might encourage you to attend a reunion and bring another shipmate with you. A hardy "Well Done" to all who helped me through the year and on the scene to make this a memorable event. It was good to hear that so many attendees enjoyed the reunion and were already looking forward to next year's reunion in Jacksonville, Florida. My reservation is already made. Is yours?

# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY:

**Greetings Shipmates!** Here is the list showing all the changes since the June newsletter. If you have a change in address or email, please let me know so I can keep the record current.

You might want to add this page in the back of the new directory as a reference.

PAGE	Last	First	Address	City	State	Zip	E-mail address	Action
21	ALLEN	Ruben G.	220 S Ocean Grande Dr #201	Ponte Vedra	FL	32082-4590		ADDRESS CHANGE
21	ARNOLD	Randal I.	12914 Millstream Bend Ln	Tomball	TX	77377-8258		ADDRESS CHANGE
21	ARCHITZEL	David	1471 Spring Meadow Lane	Suffolk	VA	23432	david.architzel@gmail.com	JOINED AS LM
21	AKRE	Catherine						NAME CHANGE
21	ADAMS	Robert	34 Pamela Drive	Little Rock	AR	72227	rhadamsthu@yahoo.com	NEW MEMBER
21	ABOOD	Mitchell D.						UPGRADE TO LM
21	BEASLEY	Charles N.						UPGRADE TO LM
22	AUBE	Adrien A.					aaube38@gmail.com	EMAIL CHANGE
23	BEASLEY	James J.	4332 EsterBrook Drive	Chattanooga	TN	37412		ADDRESS CHANGE
23	BELL	Alfred D.	896 Solarlight Drive	York	PA	17402	SARA60ADB2@Gmail.com	JOINED AS LM
23	BITTER	Chuck	124 Cross Creek Drive	Pooler	GA	31322-9310	chuckbitt3502@comcast.net	JOINED AS LM
24	BOLTON	Johnny G.						UPGRADE TO LM
25	CAPONE	Christopher	94 S. Mountain Road	Wallkill	NY	12589-3307	ccocmc@charter.net	NEW MEMBER
26	CIFONIE	Anthony	1606 Park Ave	Sycamore	IL	60178	acifonie@gmail.com	JOINED AS LM
28	D'ALESSANDRO	Anthony R.						UPGRADE TO LM
29	DIAZ	Manuel G.	4206 Anice Street	Houston	TX	77039		ADDRESS CHANGE
29	DON-JORDON	Edward					Ed4@yahoo.com	EMAIL CHANGE
30	EISENACH	Richard A.	1200 Greenwood Ct.	Menashe	WI	54952	rseisenache@yahoo.com	JOINED AS LM
31	FARMER	Diana	3249 E 2nd St	Tulsa	OK	74104-2134		ADDRESS CHANGE
33	GETTER	Forest	1930 Vesper Ct.	Lehigh Acres	FL	33972-1054		ADDRESS CHANGE
33	GIKAS	James J.	16493 77th Road	Live Oak	FL	32060-6802		ADDRESS CHANGE
35	HAMMOND	George A.	1259 Caper Ave	Foley	AL	36535-4734		ADDRESS CHANGE
36	HORN	Mark J.	15259 Evergreen Oak Loop	Winter Garden	FL	34787	MJHorn1204@gmail.com	NEW MEMBER
37	IMEL	Robert W.	4801 Pretty Lake Ave #131	Norfolk	VA	23518-2038		ADDRESS CHANGE
37	HOWARD III	Richard A.	2453 Burton Road	Utica	NY	42376	richard.howardiii@hotmail.com	NEW MEMBER
39	KIMSEY SR.	Charles Ed	1171 Apalachee Downs Dr	Bogart	GA	30622-2678		ADDRESS CHANGE
39	JOY	Daniel	502 Venice Drive	Blandon	PA	19510	lhmonkeywr@aol.com	JOINED AS LM
42	LUNDSTROM	Larry D.	1824 Avenue H	Gothenburg	NE	69138-1432		ADDRESS CHANGE
44	McCully	James	2023 Scarborough Way	Bushkill	PA	18324	Livlafluv1@gmail.com	NEW MEMBER
45	MITCHELL	Brandon	829 Heritage Circle	Dalton	GA	30721	usnmitch@yahoo.com	NEW MEMBER
45	MOATS	Thom M.	4705 NE 22nd Ave	Ocala	FL	34479	Thom1Moats@gmail.com	NEW MEMBER
46	MUTSCHLER	Dwight A.	2120 Pigeon Plum Loop	N Fort Myers	FL	33917		ADDRESS CHANGE
47	NORTON	Larry	2515 Wild Iris Lane	Dacula	GA	30019	ljnr748@gmail.com	NEW MEMBER
48	PATTERSON	Gerald J.	490 River Bend Drive	Crossville	TN	38555		ADDRESS CHANGE
49	PHILLIPS	John S.	25 Jet Way	South Dennis	MA	02660	jumpyp52@yahoo.com	JOINED AS LM
49	PHILLIPS	John	PO Box 9363	Lee	FL	32059	JPK9Phillips@gmail.com	NEW MEMBER
51	RIDGWAY	James M.	5312 Georgia Mountain Rd	Guntersville	AL	35976		ADDRESS CHANGE
51	ROBERTS	Howell F.	10343 Federal Blvd #J-501	Westminster	CO	80260		ADDRESS CHANGE
52	ROTEN	William F.	135 Birkdale Ct Unit B5	Jefferson	NC	28640		ADDRESS CHANGE
52	RORRER	Brian O.					rorrerbrian@gmail.com	EMAIL CHANGE
52	SCHAEFER	Patrick E.	2300 17th Street	Plano	TX	75074	Pesjas2300@outlook.com	NEW MEMBER
52	SALINAS	Frank R.						UPGRADE TO LM
53	SCHAEFER	Richard L.	1124 Hounds Run	Safety Harbor	FL	34695-4475		ADDRESS CHANGE
53	SCORSONE	Samuel J					scors56@gmail.com	EMAIL CHANGE
53	SCHNEIDER	John S.	91 Hawthorne Road	Fulton	NY	13069	orangebass44@gmail.com	JOINED AS LM
53	SHAW	C. Hunter	46 Panther Drive	Hanover, PA	PA	17331	Hunteroni@aol.com	NEW MEMBER
54	SIONKOWSKI	Robert						UPGRADE TO LM
55	STALEY Jr.	Donald R.	2790 Park Ridge Street	Apopka	FL	32712		ADDRESS CHANGE
55	STAFFORD	Karen S.	828 Holly Drive, Apt B-16	Fulton	NY	13069-2054	silverfox31251@gmail.com	NEW MEMBER
56	TANDY	Maurice J.	113 Wesley Way	Gilford	NH	03249-5514		ADDRESS CHANGE
59	WEISGERBER	Frederick L.	218 Alloway Aldine Road	Woodstown	NJ	80998	bluenote2@comcast.net	JOINED AS LM
60	WILSON	Robert T.	141 Gray Lane	Allons	TN	38541		ADDRESS CHANGE
61	ZARSE	Robert J.	130 Windsor Park Dr #C209	Carol Stream	IL	60188-5319		ADDRESS CHANGE

Please check the envelope for your due's status. If you are an annual dues paying member, please honor the commitment you made and keep current. As a reminder, dues can be paid online using a credit card or you can use the form on Page 6 and send it (or a copy) with a check. Please do not send cash.

## 2024 USS SARATOGA DUES NOTICE & DONATION FORM

On Page 6



## ***"Shipwrecked Lives"***

by

**CAPT Steve Bird, CHC, USN (Ret)**

As I was preparing for this Newsletter article, I was curious what the Scriptures shared about ships.

In my research, there were at least 31 references regarding ships and 41 references on sailing.

A few ships mentioned were war ships, (Numbers 24:24; Daniel 11:30); passenger ships, (Jonah 1:3; Acts 27:2); Solomon built a navy of ships, I Kings 9:26 possibly for trading; and fishing boats, (Mt 4:21, Luke 5:4-8 John 21:3-8).

However, the most famous ship in the Scriptures would be Noah's Ark. Basically a "cargo ship" caring @ 6,744 animals, and 8 "crew members," Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives. (Genesis 6 -8). The Ark was @ 515 feet long; 86 wide and 51 feet tall in comparison to the "Super Sara" which was 1,063 feet long, 130 wide at the waterline and 25 stories high!

A big difference in both size and in purpose!

The apostle Paul uses both military and nautical metaphors when charging Timothy in his ministry profession in doctrinally and morally,

***"Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the policies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme."  
I Timothy 1:18-20(NIV)***

If the church was to advance a fight against false teachings and moral sins, he had to fight the good fight with faith and a good conscience for a person to distinguish between right and wrong.

Paul uses a nautical term "shipwreck" to explain what can happen when someone does not fight the good fight and keep the faith and have a clear conscience. The idea of the "shipwrecked" faith of Hymenaeus and Alexander is that they had veered off course, away from good teaching, and drifted into the dangerous rocks of false teaching.

They had wrecked their faith. Paul clearly links faith with a good conscience. Interestingly, the word translated "rejected" in verse 19 is a nautical term meaning "thrown overboard." Hymenaeus and Alexander had tossed out the good conscience that comes with proper belief—in other words, they loved sin.

The "ship" of their faith went out of control and wrecked. So those who accept false teachings and ignore their conscience will suffer spiritual damage, like a ship that hits the rocks and is broken up.

Therefore, let Jesus be the "helms man" of your life to guide you through the "unchartered waters" of life to avoid "the rocks" which can shipwreck your life not only spiritually but can impact us physically and emotionally.

I enjoy being your Chaplain! If I can be of assistance to you by word of prayer or encouragement, feel free to call, text or email me at [704-254-9271](tel:704-254-9271) or [sbird516@gmail.com](mailto:sbird516@gmail.com)

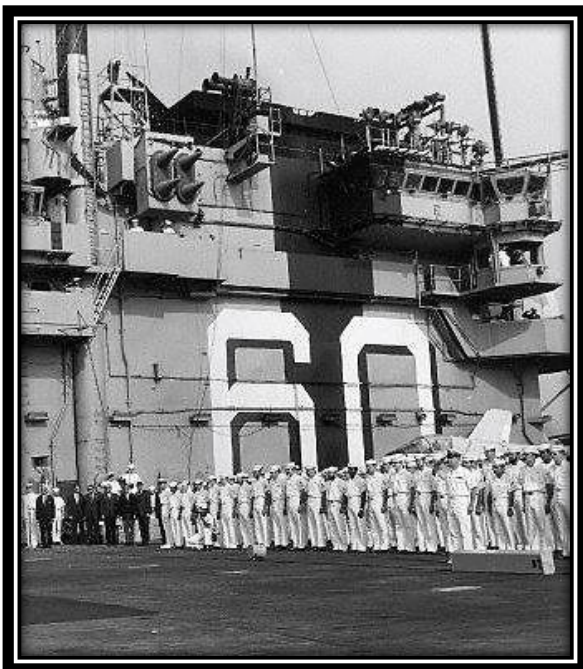
# The History Corner...

## THE END OF THE BLACK STRIPE

A rare and fascinating view of USS Saratoga (CV-3) in the newly built Dry Dock #4 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard on March 3, 1941.

You can see the yard workers in the process of painting out the famous black stripe that had been there since 1929 to distinguish her from her near identical sister, USS Lexington (CV-2).

From 6 January to 15 August 1941, Saratoga underwent a long-deferred modernization at the Bremerton Navy Yard that included the widening of her flight deck at her bow and the installation of additional anti-aircraft guns and a CXAM-1 radar.



CVA-60  
BLACK STRIPE  
HONORING  
CV-3.

PICTURE CIRCA 1970.

## SECRETARY MESSAGE CONTINUED

Please note the address block on the address label. If it says “Life Member” you do not need to send annual dues. Donations are accepted if you wish to donate to the Association. If it says “Honorary Member” we respectfully request, you to remit the annual dues fee of \$25.00. If the label indicates a specific year, i.e., 2022, 2021, 2000, etc. that indicates the most recent year we received dues from you. As is our policy, we move members to “inactive” after 3 years since we rely on dues to maintain the cost of newsletters and directories. Your listing will remain in the directory, but you will no longer receive any communications from the Association. **If you wish to donate to the Scholarship program please use a separate check noting Scholarship.**

<b>2024 USS SARATOGA DUES NOTICE &amp; DONATION FORM</b>																			
<b>Mail form to: USS Saratoga Association, 447 Land Or Drive, Ruther Glen, VA 22546</b>																			
Name: _____				Spouse/Relative Name: _____															
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What years were you aboard: _____				Div/Squad: _____															
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<b>Life Membership Section:</b>																			
Age	Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Age	Fee	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Up to 49	\$ 350.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-55	\$ 300.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	56-60	\$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>											
61-65	\$ 200.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	66-70	\$ 150.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	71-75	\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>											
76-80	\$ 50.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	81 and up	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>														
<b>OPTIONAL: Spouses only have a 1-time <i>Lifetime</i> Membership Fee: \$25.00 ea. <input type="checkbox"/></b> <b>Children and relatives can join as <i>Honorary Members</i> with standard annual dues <input type="checkbox"/></b>																			

## SARAROGA BELL RINGERS



The Memorial Day Ceremony ringing of the Saratoga (CV3) ships bell was rung Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY by shipmate **ABH3 Peter J. Scambler (85-89)** from Glenville, NY.

If anyone is interested in doing so in the future, please contact **Bill Phelps (64-66)** at [wwp1220@aol.com](mailto:wwp1220@aol.com) or call/text at 518-369-8863.

*The U.S.S. Saratoga (CV-3) ships bell located at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery in Schuylerville, NY (Saratoga) is rung when a Medal of Honor recipient visits as well as on Memorial Day during the annual ceremony.*

*It has been a tradition since the cemetery opened and the bell installed that it is rung by a shipmate who served on the Sara either the CV-3, CVA-60 or CV-60.*

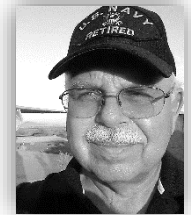
# CVA/CV-60 FIRST AND LAST TRAP'S



**First Trap 24 October 1956,  
Commander William E Fly flying F9F Cougar**



**Last Trap 24 June 1994 by Captain Mark Kikta  
(CO VS27) flying S3B Viking  
Captain Bill Kennedy (CO USS Saratoga) Co-Pilot**



## CV-3 FIRST LANDING

**First Landing on CV-3, 11 January 1928 by Lt.Cdr.  
Marc A. Mitscher  
Flying Vought OU-1**



## UPDATED 2023/2024 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY PAGE.

Directory "In Memorial CVA/CV-60" page 68 revised information.

### Mediterranean Cruise 1961-1962

**Robert Wilbur Paige**

**Carlton Stewart Hall**

**Alfred De La Cruz**

**Russel Brewer Claburn**

### Mediterranean Cruise 1963

LCDR	William T. Harvey	USN	VF-32
Lt	Stuart Douglas Evans	USN	VA-35
Lt (jg)	James Thomas Trotter, Jr	USN	VA-35
Lt (jg)	Jack R. Menshouse	USN	Ship's Boatswain
Lt (jg)	John Richard Richardson	USN	VFP 62
SFP3	Bennie Walker	USN	R Division
AMS3	Jack Augusta Sherrill	USN	V-1 Division
CS-2	Joseph E. Cummings	USN	VAH-9
ADJAN	Donald William Cors	USN	VA-36

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Dear USS Saratoga Shipmates:

Each quarter the Treasurer sends a report to the Saratoga Executive Committee advising them of funds in the bank and the status of expenses.

Your Treasurer will continue to update the Executive Committee Quarterly and share as much information as possible with the general membership via the Newsletter. Your Association is doing very well.

The last reunion in Harrisburg was a success. We made money after all expenses. The Ship's Store made money at the Harrisburg reunion. However, the Ship's Store, the inventory, the lack of a Store Manager, including the general upkeep and yearly transportation costs, prompted the Executive Board to liquidate the store, and sell the inventory. A few small items, that did not sell, were donated to military or veterans' organizations. The Ship's Store trailer was sold. All proceeds were transferred to the General Fund. We still have three bank accounts – the General Fund, the Ship's Store, and the Scholarship Fund. Everyone will be given new information about the next edition of the Saratoga Ship's Store in the coming months. Your Executive Board members will be happy to answer any questions. Our new Ship's Store management organization will sell Saratoga related merchandise and channel proceeds to our Ship's Store Account. So, the Association will make money and have no store-operation expenses.


The Scholarship Fund account is very solvent thanks to your generous donations. Many shipmates have made donations that will keep our scholarships supporting students for many years to come. Thanks to everyone who has made donations, and will make future donations, to this very worthwhile cause.

In mid-2023, the Association decided to invest some of our funds in a Certificate of Deposit. Next July that CD will return around \$1500 that we can use to defer expenses or add to the Scholarship fund. A few words about our expenses. As I said earlier, after expenses, we have made money on the past two reunions. Currently, operating expenses are less are a low percentage of our revenue, which is fantastic. We will always have costs associated with general administration, printing and mailing of our publications, maintaining our Website, and storing and transporting our Memorabilia. Our revenue income keeps the Association well below the designated Internal Revenue financial threshold, allowing us to continue our 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax-exemption status.

Again, the Executive Board is always available to answer any questions you may have. I wish you all the very best in 2024 and look forward to our next reunion in Jacksonville, FL in October. Regards, Mark K. Beecher USS Saratoga Association Treasurer.

## Preliminary Reunion Plans

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**USS SARATOGA 2023 REUNION**  
**October 2-6, 2024 | Jacksonville, FL**

*Welcome to Jacksonville!*

Jacksonville has become a much *nicer* city than it was *back in the day*. There are many new attractions and a robust dining and entertainment complex called *Jacksonville Landing*. We will be staying on the beautiful St. John's River, and the *Jacksonville Riverwalk* which offers a lovely walking path and a Water Taxi stop to various points on the river. This city has something for everyone!

**Hotel Information**

We are holding group space from Tuesday, October 1 (for Early Birds) through Sunday, October 6, 2024. We'll be staying at the Doubletree by Hilton Riverfront, right on the St. Johns River. Use your GPS to find the best route to the hotel as it can be a bit confusing. The hotel is located at 1201 Riverplace Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32207.

The hotel offers 3 room rates based on size and view. You may choose a standard room at \$128, a Riverfront room for \$148 or a Riverfront Junior Suite for \$168, plus taxes per night. In order to keep room rates lower, breakfast is not included. For those who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available 3 days before and 3 days after the official reunion dates, based on availability.

**The most reliable way to make your hotel reservation is online.** Simply enter [tinyurl.com/mr25r4kz](https://tinyurl.com/mr25r4kz) into your browser (not your search box). You may also call Hilton central reservations at 800-222-8733 and reference the USS Saratoga and Group Code SAR.

Make your reservations now; we are expecting a large turnout and rooms will sell-out. You may cancel up to 72 hours prior to arrival without penalty. The hotel is holding a limited number of rooms until the group block is full or September 9, 2024, whichever comes first. If you have any difficulty getting a room at the group rate, especially if you are arriving prior to Oct 2, staying later than Oct. 6, or are trying to get a room after the cutoff date of September 9<sup>th</sup>, call MRP at 817-251-3551 or email: [RayCasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:RayCasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com) for help.

**Airport Transportation & Parking**

For those flying in, Jacksonville Airport (JAX) is about 30 minutes away. Uber or Lyft would be your least expensive way to get to the hotel. If you are driving, parking has been reduced from \$20 to just \$8 per night for self-parking or \$24 for Valet. Call the hotel directly for specific directions.

**LIKELY TOURS INCLUDE:**

- Naval Station Mayport
- USS Orleck Museum Ship
- Dinner Theater
- Amelia Island/Fernandina Beach Cruise
- Sunset River Cruise

*We look forward to seeing you in JAX!*

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