

Newsletter of the USS BAINBRIDGE Association Christmas of 2023

Message from your President



Charles Gilbert

Holiday Greetings shipmates. We currently have 159 members on our roster. Of those, only 78 have their dues current. We have 37 members who have dues that need to be paid. We have 44 members on the inactive list. Our association was started in 1995. Last reunion it was decided by the executive committee to reduce the overall size of our reunions. We now will continue having reunions, but have cut out the scheduling and subsidizing of all venues outside of the hotel. When participation in the reunions again allows us to provide venues, we will gladly do so. I encourage all of you to make an extra effort to be proactive and pay your dues on an annual basis, and attend our reunions if possible. Your support will keep us viable as an Association. Please contact Richard Goerner to get the status of your last dues submission and Richard Holloway for the payment of you dues. As always, I am here to assist you with questions or problems that may arise.

In regards to our next reunion, The hotel has been selected and contract signed. The dates of the reunion are: Sunday May 19th until Wednesday May 22nd, 2024. The hotel info is: The Courtyard Norfolk Downtown 520 East Plume Street Norfolk, VA. 23510. The phone number is (757)963-6000. Reservations are being taken by the hotel. Please remember to tell them that you are with the USS Bainbridge Association group.

I have tentatively arranged a tour of the DDG-96, USS Bainbridge during our reunion. As the reunion gets closer, I will firm up our tour with the PAO of the ship. I plan on giving them a call after the New Year.

Our Face book Group has seen a steady rise in members. We now have 313 shipmates as part of our group. I have sold 8 Ball Caps in the last 5 weeks. The ship's store is in a transitional status as it changes homeport. I will be taking over the duties from Bob Beaty. Final completion of responsibilities will be completed by end of May 2024.

Our web site (ussbainbridgeassociation.org) has had 1,429 visits. It is listed as a top performer with a score of 94%.

The following shipmates have passed away this year: Robert Hemingway - Jan 3, 2023, William Gary Ellis - May 1, 2023, David Colgate - June 19, 2023, Thomas Boyd - July 1, 2023. May they rest in peace.

USS Bainbridge Association Beginning and Ending Tribute.

The New Jersey-based USS Bainbridge (CGN-25) rounded out the battle group in the main source of fuel, ordnance, food and general supplies for the ships of the battle group and the USS Kearsarge (LHA-3) Amphibious Readiness Group consisting of USS Nashville (LPD-13), USS Pecos (LSD-38) and their embarked Marines.

After transiting the Suez Canal, TR and other battle group ships entered the Arabian Gulf where CVW-8 aircraft flew combat air patrols in support of Operation Southern Watch, the U.N. no-fly zone over Iraq.

Following a port visit to Jeddah, United Arab Emirates, the carrier sailed north through the Red Sea to participate in Exercise Trident, a training evolution with other NATO naval forces from May 21-25. Roosevelt was suddenly diverted to a port visit in Naples when orders were received to alter course for the Adriatic and take station for Operation Deny Flight, the U.N.-mandated no-fly zone over Bosnia.

The situation and death toll in western Bosnia had worsened since TR had last been in the area. The new watch followed land-based

Italy, air base and notified they would have their EA-4B Prowler aircraft in the air in 60 minutes.

The detachment of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 141 and VAQ-209, a reserve squadron complementing VAQ-141 during Deny Flight, played a waiting game for six days following O'Grady's downing. The two squadrons' men and aircraft were split between Adiano and Roosevelt to give NATO forces the Prowler's jamming and tracking abilities.

As TR wrapped up the last day of a Corfu port visit, the word came that "Blasher 52," O'Grady's code

Flight: Four CVW-8 aircraft, in teams of two, fired on two Krajina Serb surface-to-air missile sites after being "illuminated" on the SAM sites radar.

NATO's Exercise Coiled Cobra began Aug. 7 and for four days, the battle group tested its abilities while maintaining its Bosnian presence. Just as things seemed to be heating up in Bosnia again, two of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's daughters and their husbands fled to Jordan, and Washington was concerned about the situation, so TR headed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea to pro-

against the nations of the former Yugoslavia.

Eastfish and Key West patrolled below the sea as the missile-armed escort ships Hayes and Kauffman kept watch for embargo-breakers topside. Upon relief by the American Battle Group, Roosevelt prepared for its Norfolk homecoming.

The day prior to arriving home, Navy Secretary John Dalton flew aboard TR to award the battle group the Navy Unit Commendation for their efforts in support of Deliberate Force.

Fleet bids farewell to USS Bainbridge

On Oct. 6, the steaming ensign of the guided-missile cruiser USS Bainbridge (CGN-25) will be hauled down to signal the end of active duty for the world's first nuclear-powered frigate.

The ship's commissioning commanding officer, retired Vice Adm. Raymond E. Peet, will be the deactivation speaker.

Last commanded by Capt. James M. Brown, Bainbridge was initially commissioned a guided-missile cruiser USS Long Beach (CGN-9) and aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CVN-65) to form the world's first nuclear-powered task group.

In the summer of 1964, the trio completed Operation Sea Orbit, the first around-the-world cruise by an American naval force since the "Great White Fleet's" voyage from 1897 to 1909.

Bainbridge's deck log provides a rich history on behalf of the nation. The diverse entries include such subjects as counter-terrorism, humanitarian efforts and regional conflicts.

On the homefront, Bainbridge has led the way in community work,



The ship earned the Commander Naval Base Norfolk Community Service Award (Group) for the second straight year, a feat not previously accomplished by any group.

LAUNCHING
15 APRIL 1961
OF
DLG(N)25
USS BAINBRIDGE
First Nuclear-Powered, Guided Missile Frigate

HONORING
Commodore
William
Bainbridge
U. S. NAVY



1774-1833

SUSAN BAINBRIDGE GOODALE — Sponsor
BETHLEHEM STEEL COMPANY, Quincy — Builder

COMMEMORATIVE
CACHET



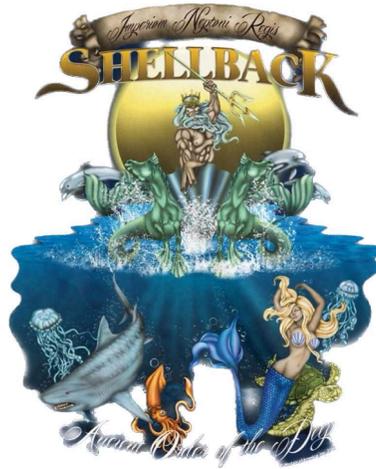
LAUNCHING
15 APRIL 1961
USS BAINBRIDGE
1ST NUCLEAR-POWERED
GUIDED-MISSILE
FRIGATE

U. S. POSTAGE

QUINCY
APR 15
11-AM
1961
CLASS. 2

LAUNCHING
15 APR 1961
USS BAINBRIDGE
FIRST NUCLEAR-POWERED
GUIDED-MISSILE
FRIGATE

Ray Peet
Capt USN, PCO



t lots of time to think

nuclear power have become evident in lieu of the current state of affairs, with the **Bainbridge** hastening ahead of the rest to become, along with the other ships of the task force, the vanguard of our military might against any Iranian military intervention.

On the surface, **Bainbridge** life goes on as usual with schedules to follow and instructions to obey, as though this were just another day at sea. But there is an underlying tension affecting the whole crew. Breakfast chatter less and less revolves around women met in various ports and plans for stereo equipment to be procured, and more and more toward the possibility of war.

Today at 1300 there will be General Quarters, practice afflicting any ship of war, and drills to guarantee readiness in case of conflict. But today they seem more like the real thing than practice. Material condition Zebra, the condition whereby all watertight doors and hatches are shut in order to maintain watertight integrity in case of a breach in the hull of the ship, is set in three and one half minutes, a full minute less than the week before, before the crisis.

Throats are dry as the men sit and wait and wonder.

"If Carter had any brains, he'd put a blockade on all those oil tankers and strangle the Iranians economically."

"Nuke the oilfields."
"Send in the Army."

It seems that everyone on the **Bainbridge** has a fail safe plan to solve the current crisis. Everyone, if they were in Carter's shoes, would have the problem solved in "just a day or two." But the crewmembers only understand action, and fail to grasp subtle nuances of international diplomacy. One crewmember even forwarded a request up the chain of command that requested "a field commission to commander and permission to land a hand-picked group of specialists into Iran in order to free the hostages and make the world safe for man and apple pie and give everyone free gas." The request was disapproved, but for a moment up the chain of command, superiors made light of the current state of affairs, and grinned to themselves. This "they can kill me, but they can't eat me" line of reasoning does much to raise the morale of the men, and with increased morale comes increased readiness.

The future will tell of what comes of this day in the state of global affairs, but here in Iranian waters, members of the U.S. Navy work and wait and wonder what effect their actions will have on the Iranian situation. Hopefully it won't come to a conflict, but if it does, we are ready.

The turbid waters of the **Gulf of Oman** roll beneath the hull of the cruiser, and a little bit of America prays that the dawn will bring peace.



USS Bainbridge: Haze grey and underway



Just a Reminder

As veterans, most of us are probably aware of all or some of the points of etiquette concerning the displaying of our flag. Over the years an occasional reminder can't hurt.



Honor America's Veterans through proper flag etiquette:

Make sure it can wave freely. Never allow the flag to touch the ground or any other object while it's on display.

Stand for America. Salute the American flag as it is hoisted and lowered and while saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Stand at attention with your right hand over your heart and your hat removed.

Remember the dawn to dusk rule. Display the American flag outdoors only between sunrise and sunset, unless illuminated by a spotlight.

Position your flag correctly. When displaying the American flag indoors, always place it to the right of a speaker or staging area.

Know how to show honor. To place the American flag at half-staff, first hoist it to the peak for an instant before lowering it to a halfway position.

Flashback

As many may remember, during our 2018 reunion in Phoenix, the banquet fell on Halloween night. There were many creative costumes and everyone had a great time. It's hard to believe that it's been 5 years. Come to the reunions to join in the fun.



You Don't Want to Miss Another Issue

Please ensure that your mailing address and E-mail address is correct on our roster. If it is **not** correct PLEASE submit those kind of changes by mail to:

Richard Goerner 256 Cassingham Lane Boiling Springs, SC. 29316. E-Mail: renreog.r@charter.net

Dues are payable January 1st. of each calendar year. If your dues are not current, submit a check for \$15.00 per year to :

USS Bainbridge Association (C/O Dick Holloway) 9307 Teakwood Lane, Garden Ridge, Texas 78266

Members receiving the newsletter via an email, **will not** receive a hard copy unless requested.

(THE CONTACT E-MAIL ADDRESSES ARE LISTED BELOW)

Please keep your dues & contact information up to date. If you need to check on your dues status or change your contact information, contact Dick Holloway or Richard Goerner.

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle Initial _____ Nickname _____

Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dates aboard the BAINBRIDGE _____ Rank/Rating while Aboard the ship _____ Division _____

E-Mail Address _____ Tel. Number () _____

Published by the USS Bainbridge Association

Association Officers

President: Charles Gilbert charlesgilbert63@gmail.com
Vice Pres: Garland Bishop campergarland@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Dick Holloway rehhardwood@earthlink.net
Secretary: Richard Goerner renreog.r@charter.net

Appointed Officials

Chaplain: Garland Bishop campergarland@yahoo.com
Historian: Bob Beaty rlb8601@cox.net
News Editors: Chuck Gilbert charlesgilbert63@gmail.com
& Joe Bisig Joe.bisig@centurylink.net
Photographer: Mauro Greco mtgshb3@yahoo.com
Archives: Charles Gilbert charlesgilbert63@gmail.com
Webmaster: Charles Gilbert charlesgilbert63@gmail.com

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2003 Washington DC
2004 Las Vegas NV

2005* Ft. Lauderdale FL
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2009 Savannah GA
2010 Puget Sound WA
2012 Omaha NE
2013 Chattanooga TN
2015 Albuquerque NM
2016 Springfield, IL 2017
2017 Lancaster, PA
2018 Phoenix, AZ
2021 New Orleans, LA
2022 Las Vegas, NV

*Cancelled due to two hurricanes