



USS Saratoga Association



Honoring the Memory of two great fighting ships

Visit us on the web: www.uss-saratoga.com

Winter 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just some notes to re-cap our 2024 Jacksonville reunion. Based on the feedback I have received from many members, if you missed our Jacksonville Reunion, you missed a great one!

Our Hospitality Suite was a huge success thanks to the tireless efforts of Jim Krywucki with his wife Karen and Mark Beecher. The room was tight quarters at times but accommodated everyone who showed up. We had plenty of snacks and drinks for everyone. The Bartenders did a great job keeping the lines moving and kept everyone happy and entertained.

At our General Business Meeting we presented three most notable awards:

Congratulations to Dennis Steinour who received our **“Rooster of the Year”** award for his many outstanding contributions to the Association in 2024.

Congratulations to Brad Senter, although not present at the meeting, who was awarded a special **“Lifetime Service Award”** for his leadership and dedication to our Association as President for over 27 years.

Also, congratulations to Steve Katz who was awarded our newly established and very first **“Saratoga Association Leadership Award”** for going far above expectations in working with and supporting our Association.

The United States Navy Memorial folks were there to take some more videos for the Navy Memorial Project as well, thanks to the efforts of Dennis Steinour.

We had approximately 300 attendees, which is our second largest attendance on record. The largest was in the same hotel in 2013. We also had an all-time high of 64 first-time attendees and 30 new members who joined our association at the reunion. It was great to have so many shipmates attending this year.

The tours were all very well planned, and a great time was had by all who attended them. The NS Mayport Tour was a huge success and the most popular tour, with terrific ships tours on two different ships coupled with tours of the base and a great Luau lunch.

Thankfully, the rain held off all week. I think we really dodged the hurricane tracks as we arrived in town after hurricane Helene and we got out of town before hurricane Milton came through. Timing is everything they say!

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

The ships store was open again this year at the reunion thanks to the efforts of Wayne Addkison and his wife. The store was open every day and our folks got plenty of Saratoga Gear from him this year.

Mike Curry, our Historian, did a great job setting up, manning and making our memorabilia room a success during the reunion. The Chelsea Ship’s Clock that was presented to Saratoga from President Nixon, was a great new addition to our display.

The wives’ luncheon was a great success this year as well. Feedback was that everyone really enjoyed the guest speaker. Thanks to my wife Kathy for making that happen.

The silent auction had the most items in recent memory I believe. Most all the silent auction items this year were donated either from the Harvey Hirsh collection or donated by Brad Senter. Special thanks to Fran Gower and Nancy Hill for managing all the details and thanks to all who made/donated the outstanding raffle items too. It was a hopping spot all week.

Continued Page 4

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President

Mark Kikta

Vice President

Dennis Steinour

Secretary

Ed McCready

Treasurer

Mark Beecher

Parliamentarian
Scholarship Chair

Frank Salinas

Historian

Mike Curry

CVA/CV-60

Liaison

John Lipscomb

CV-3 Liaison

Steve Medina

Master at Arms

Jim Krywucki

Chaplain

Steve Bird

Board Members

Mark Beecher

Mark Kikta

John Lipscomb

Ed McCready

Frank Salinas

Newsletter Editor

Jerry Church

MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

Burr it's cold here in Kansas, and by now probably is most of the nation.

Yes, Winter is upon us and indoor activities take precedence over outdoor.

Winter gives me time to reflect on the past year and the time shared with my Saratoga shipmates.

I often wish we lived closer to each other and had more opportunities to get together than just once a year at a Saratoga Reunion. But that is why the reunion is there, and we make the most of our yearly gathering.

When I think about it today, being a member of this Association and attending the annual reunions has allowed me to get to know more shipmates than I ever knew when I served onboard. And has tightened the bond with shipmates I lived with 24/7.

These are my friends and I'll leave it at that.

Winter also gives me time to focus on Association projects and looking forward to the needs of this organization and how I can contribute. Membership is always top on my list and seeing it grow is a good thing. Our secretary had 40+ new membership packets at the 72nd Reunion in Jacksonville and I don't think he came home with any leftovers. Well done, Edward...BZ for you. And to those that joined "Welcome Aboard".

Speaking of the reunion, I think Capt. Mark Kikta (Ret.) (and Association President), did a wonderful job as host. A lot of memories were made for a lot of folks. I, for one, haven't stepped foot in Jacksonville since my Navy Days. I was glad to be a part of it and look forward to receiving my Memory Book I ordered of this wonderful event.

As your Vice President I have been looking for some "more to do" things to assist other board members.

The secretary has so much on his plate that I usually start with him when looking for ways to help.

This year I took over the design/content of the annual reunion memory book. I have finished that and have sent the design to the reunion photographer for final assembly and distribution so look for it soon (if you ordered one) in your mail.

The Association website has had some changes made to better help the viewer navigate through it.

Be sure to check it out and discover what is new. Thanks to those who offered their input beforehand. You know who you are and I appreciate it.

One other thing is a memo to all shipmates who contributed their time to the Navy Memorial Interview Team from at our last two reunions; Interviews are now being added every Sunday evening to the Saratoga Archives

The archives can be viewed on the Association website under the "LINKS" tab of the menu bar. Dr. Mathew Fash and the team have done a wonderful job putting together and saving our "Sea Stories" for the future generations.

They have offered to return for our next reunion in 2025 if there is an interest in more shipmates wanting to be interviewed.

If I can get a count started throughout the year, I can arrange for them to be present in Nashville.

Oh... Nashville ... Yes 2025.... Be there!!!! I will be looking for you.

If you haven't heard by now three (3) Navy Carriers will be there having their reunions at the hotel during that same time period. I'm looking forward to a fun time during that week.

And maybe some friendly competition between us.

Any suggestions are welcomed. Saratoga should have the strongest showing but that's only if "YOU" attend.

One other note of interest is the voting on the reunion site for 2027 at our annual reunion business meeting.

It will be the 75th Reunion and should be something extra special. I favor a 5-day Cruise or maybe a trip to Hawaii...!!!

So, if you're thinking of hosting a reunion give it your best 3-minute presentation.

That's about all for now mates... Stay warm and keep a weather eye on the horizon...



Dennis Steinour VP (CV-60 V-1 Division 1973-1977)

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

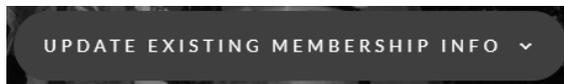
Please note the mailing envelope for your membership status.

If you are an Annual Dues Member, please remit accordingly. If you attended the JAX reunion and already paid for 2025, please disregard.

If you are a Life Member, please consider donating to the General or Scholarship fund.

We are working on the 2025/2026 Membership Directory and intend to have it printed and sent by the end on Q1 2025. I have made all the address changes as well as email, status, etc. that have been submitted.

So, if you have already notified me of the modification needed, there is no need to do so again. However, if you recently changed your address or email, please submit it electronically through the form on the **Membership** section of the website and I will make the change. The “button” looks like this:



If you do not have a computer or tablet or cell phone with internet access, or if you would prefer to do so, please use the attached membership form and send it through the mail.

In the new directory we have made a significant change to our Shipmate TAPS section. Our Vice-President, Dennis Steinour championed an overhaul of this section that now makes it easy to locate a former shipmate.

Dennis put a lot of hours into this and I think everyone will welcome this outstanding change.

We are still looking for interesting articles, meaningful memories or humorous experiences that you may remember that might be of interest to the group.

Many thanks go to Jerry Church for providing outstanding assistance on the new directory.

See you in Nashville!



Ed McCready CVA/CV-60 (V-1 Division 1972-1975)

USS SARATOGA ASSOCIATION DUES & DONATION FORM

Mail form to: USS Saratoga Association - 447 Land 'Or Dr. - Ruther Glen, VA 22546

Name: _____	Spouse/Relative Name: _____
Address: _____	City: _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
What years were you aboard: _____	Division/Squadron: _____
Email: _____	Phone: _____
Enclosed: \$ _____	\$25.00 ANNUAL DUES Make all checks payable to <i>USS Saratoga Association</i>
Enclosed: \$ _____	TAX DEDUCTABLE GENERAL FUND DONATION (May be combined with Dues)
Enclosed: \$ _____	TAX DEDUCTABLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION (Separate check please)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP (please indicate your age)

Age	Fee	Age	Fee
< 49	\$350 _____	66-70	\$150 _____
50-55	\$300 _____	71-75	\$100 _____
56-60	\$250 _____	76-80	\$50 _____
61- 65	\$200 _____	80 +	\$15 _____

SPOUSE - HONORARY

Spouses have a 1-time life membership fee of \$25.00
Children, relatives, and others providing significant service or support to the Association, may join as
Honorary Members for \$25.00

Chaplain's Corner...



**CAPT. Steve Bird CHC, (Retired)
CV-60 (1983-1985)**

As we start another new year around the sun, there is an air of optimism and hope for our country and in the local communities impacted by Hurricane Helene from Florida, through Georgia and Western North Carolina.

What makes me proud to be an American is to hear and see a variety of Christian affiliated groups like Samaritans Purse, Cabins 4 Christ, and the multitude of various Christian churches standing in the gap in helping our own, American people, who are in desperate need of help in providing for their physical needs but also their emotional and spiritual support.

It was with excitement and joy to watch on the local news a group donating a long line of tiny cabins to those in need in Western North Carolina to provide shelter and to bring a sense of normalcy for homeowners to live on their own property.

The outpouring of food, water, clothes, generators, gas, propane, finances is beyond the imaginable! I believe, without a shadow of doubt and regardless of how "some" people put down the church in one way or another, when tragedy strikes whether here in the US or around the world, it is the Christian church in general, who has responded to meet the needs of those who are suffering.

I encourage you to keep those in Florida, Georgia, and Western North Carolina, impacted by Helene in your prayers as they continue to push forward to rebuild their homes and to minimize the emotional traumatic impact upon their lives.

By the time you receive this newsletter, your chaplain will have returned from being deployed for a week to Asheville, NC to provide spiritual and emotional care to those who are trying to recover from this disaster.

I enjoy being your Chaplain! If I can be of any assistance to you with prayer or a word of encouragement, feel free to call, text or email me at **704-254-9271 or sbird516@gmail.com**

God bless you all!

President's message continued...

The Banquet was a great success as well! The US Navy Band and the NAS Jacksonville Color Guard started the banquet off in style! DJ Woozy played soft music during dinner and played great dance music into the evening.

The food was excellent, we handed out door prizes and John Schneider was the high bidder for the signed Banner.

The Doubletree Hotel, even though an older hotel, was clean and the staff was most accommodating. They made everything happen despite major glitches like a hotel-wide power outage.

Special thanks to their General Manager and the entire staff for their tireless support in managing the issues and keeping things on track.

Lastly, I believe the Challenge Coins we had made to commemorate the 30 years since Saratoga De-Commissioning, were quite popular. Because of the great feedback, we will investigate making challenge coins for future Reunions.

All-in-all it was a great reunion. I heard nothing but positive comments as people left the hotel on Sunday morning. Many new members said they were definitely coming to our next one in Nashville 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 Nashville, TN. 8-12 October 2025 at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel. Military Reunion Planners is deep into organizing our tours and we hope to have the details published in December 2024. I look forward to seeing everyone in October. For your planning records, our 2026 Reunion will be in San Antonio, Tx.



Capt. Mark Kikta CV-60 Air Dept. (1993-1994)

The History Corner...

USS SARATOGA CV-3 AND HMS ILLUSTRIOUS (Pennant #87) ASSIGNED TO THE EASTERN FLEET IN WW-II

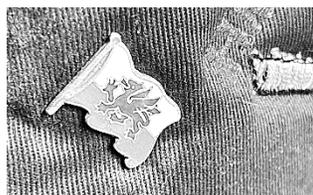
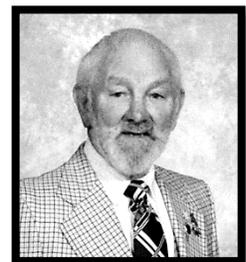
HMS Illustrious was sent to the Indian Ocean in early 1942 to support the invasion of Vichy French Madagascar (Operation Ironclad). After returning home in early 1943, the ship was given a lengthy refit and briefly assigned to the Home Fleet. She was transferred to Force H for the Battle of Salerno in mid-1943 and then rejoined the Eastern Fleet in the Indian Ocean at the beginning of 1944. Her aircraft attacked several targets in the Japanese-occupied Dutch East Indies over the following year before *Illustrious* was transferred to the newly formed British Pacific Fleet (BPF). The carrier participated in the early stages of the Battle of Okinawa until mechanical defects arising from accumulated battle damage became so severe she was ordered home early for repairs in May 1945.

The fleet departed Trincomalee on 21 March to rendezvous with the American carrier *Saratoga CV-3* in preparation for combined operations against the Japanese facilities in the Dutch East Indies and the Andaman Islands. The first operation carried out by both carriers was an airstrike on the small naval base at Sabang at the northern tip of Sumatra (Operation Cockpit). The carrier's air group consisted of 21 Barracudas and 28 Corsairs for the operation: *Illustrious* launched 17 of the former escorted by 13 of the latter on the morning of 19 April. The American bombers attacked the shipping in the harbor while the British aircraft attacked the shore installations. The oil storage tanks were destroyed and the port facilities badly damaged by the Barracudas. There was no aerial opposition and the fighters claimed to have destroyed 24 aircraft on the ground. All British aircraft returned safely although one American fighter was forced to ditch during the return home.^[74]

The *Saratoga* was ordered to depart for home for a refit by 19 May but was to mount one more attack as she was leaving the Indian Ocean. The naval base and oil refinery at Surabaya, Java (Operation Transom), and the distance from the newly renamed East Indies Fleet's base at Ceylon required refueling at Exmouth Gulf on the western coast of Australia before the attack. The necessity to attack from the south, across the full width of Java, meant that the target was outside the Barracuda's range and 810 and 847 Squadrons were replaced by the 18 Grumman Avengers of 832 and 845 Squadrons for the mission. Early on the morning of 17 May, the ship launched all 18 Avengers, escorted by 16 Corsairs. One Avenger crashed on take-off and an American Avenger was shot down over the target; only one small ship was sunk, and little damage was done to the refinery. The *Saratoga* and her escorts separated after refueling again in Exmouth Gulf and the East Indies Fleet was back in Trincomalee on 27 May where No. 21 Wing reembarked.^[75]

I had the honor to meet a former sailor that served on the HMS Illustrious at several Saratoga reunions.

Bryn Jones served on the HMS Illustrious with *Saratoga* and lived in Wales United Kingdom. At the 2006 reunion in Arlington Virginia, he gave my grandson a lapel pin and a hat from his ship the HMS Illustrious.



FLAG of WALES

SARATOGA BELL RINGERS

The Memorial Day Ceremony ringing of the Saratoga (CV3) ships bell was rung Saturday May 25th, 2024, at the **Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery**

SARATOGA NATIONAL CEMETERY

SCHUYLERVILLE, NEW YORK



U.S.S. SARATOGA CV-3 1927-1946

**200 Duell Road
Schuylerville, NY**

Bell ringers were **Lt. William W. Phelps** (CVA-60) 64-66 assisted by EN1 Ni'Jhay Logan from Saratoga Springs Naval Support Facility. If anyone is interested in ringing bell, please contact **Bill Phelps (64-66)** at 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.

The Blue Angels History

The team that was established April 24, 1946, performed its first flight demonstration on June 15, 1946.	Grumman F6F Hellcat 1946	Top speeds
	Grumman F8F Bearcat 1946-1949	380 mph
	Grumman F9F Panther 1950-1955 -First Blue Angel jet	455 mph
	Grumman F9F Cougar 1955-1957	604 mph
	Grumman F11F Tiger 1957-1968	727 mph
McDonnell Douglas F-4J Phantom 1969-1974		1,485 mph, The Blue Angels fastest jet was only used for a few years due to high fuel and maintenance costs.
McDonnell Douglas A-4F Skyhawk 1974-1986		685 mph
McDonnell Douglas F/A-18 Hornet 1986 -2020		1,190 mph -At top speed the jets can fly 270 miles from Huntington Beach to Las Vegas in less than 15 minutes.
McDonald Douglas F/A-18 Super Hornet 2020-Present		The newer Super Hornets have the same top speed.

WELCOME TO NASHVILLE

Everybody wants to go to Nashville!!!

<https://militaryreunionplanners.com/SR/index.php?folder=Sara2025>

The number one tourist destination in America, Nashville, is BOOMING! The sights, sounds and lights are dazzling and there is so much to see and do. We have an exciting reunion planned with a fabulous lunch cruise with entertainment on an authentic Paddle Wheeler, a riding tour of this amazing city, a Nashville Night Out with live music and dinner, and of course, a night at the famous Grand Ole Opry.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Official reunion dates are Wednesday, October 8 through Sunday, October 12, 2025. We will be staying at the historic Millennium Maxwell House Hotel with a stunning and sordid history.

Located just outside the noise and bustle of the city, the hotel offers a free shuttle to downtown all day and into the night. This makes it easy for you to explore some of Nashville's terrific restaurants and Honky Tonks, without having to drive or find parking.

The most reliable way to make reservations is through the online booking link.

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. You may need to call MRP (number below) for assistance if you wish to come early or stay late.

The published hotel check-in time is 4pm. 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 Sept. 18, 2025, whichever comes first. We expect a sell out so it's best to make your reservations now! If you have any trouble getting rooms at the group rate, even if they say the hotel is sold out, or have questions on the program call MRP @ 817-251-3551 or email: RayCasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com

TRANSPORTATION & DIRECTIONS

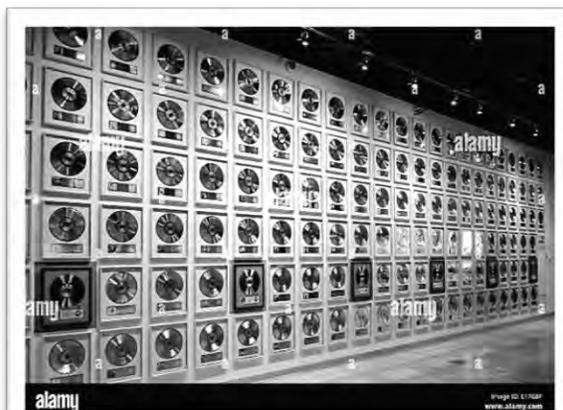
The Millennium Maxwell House Hotel is located at 2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd, Nashville, TN, 37228

The closest airport is Nashville (BNA). The hotel doesn't have a shuttle. We suggest you try Uber or Lyft. For those driving, self-parking is free at the hotel.

We look forward to seeing y'all in Nashville!



Broadway Nashville, Tennessee



Country Music Hall of Fame Nashville Tennessee

USS SARATOGA 2025 REUNION EVENTS

October 8-12, 2025, NASHVILLE TENNESSEE

GROUP WELCOME BUFFET DINNER AT THE HOTEL Wednesday, October 8: 6:00 pm

Join your shipmates and friends for a fun dinner on the 10th floor of the hotel, hopefully with a beautiful sunset. Enjoy a buffet of Beef Pot Roast and Southern friend Catfish with all the fixin's. There aren't many places around the hotel for dinner, and you have to eat, so c'mon and catch up on all the latest scuttlebutt!

NASHVILLE CITY TOUR w/ FREE TIME DOWNTOWN Thursday, October 9: 9:00am-3:00pm

This is not your typical, routine city tour, but an entertaining look at all the sights of bustling Nashville. You will enjoy a completely narrated tour of Downtown Music City, including the Nashville Honky-Tonk Scene. The tour includes a drive-by of Ft. Nashborough, the CMHOF and the Historic Ryman Auditorium. Then head on to see Vanderbilt University, a replica of the Parthenon in Greece, and the estates of Country Music's legendary performers on Millionaire's Row. There will be free time for lunch on own and browsing downtown Nashville. Your guide can help with the best places to eat and shop!

Nashville Nights Dinner and Live Show Thursday, October 9: 4:30pm-9:00pm

If you are coming to Nashville to enjoy good food and live music, then this is the place. Voted the number one dinner & show in Nashville! Nashville Nightlife Come and experience a celebration of Country Music from both past and present, where you'll experience the classics alongside of hits from the biggest superstars. Hear songs from many of the greatest artists in country music history, everyone from Hank Williams Sr. and Patsy Cline to the superstars of today like Sara Evans and Toby Keith. Plan to come with an appetite! Our nightly all-you-can-eat dinner buffet includes entrees such as fried chicken, pulled pork, Swedish meatballs, an array of vegetables, mashed potatoes, salads, hot rolls, and cobblers for dessert. This is a fun night out with your mates.

COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME (CMHOF) Friday, October 10 (9:30am-2:00pm)

This morning, we explore the amazing CMHOF in downtown Nashville. Your visit will transport you through the country's music history with engaging narratives about the people, places, songs, and stages that have played a part in the sound's storied history. On your self-guided tour experience priceless instruments, dazzling stage wear from country superstars, and iconic personal artifacts. There will be time afterwards for lunch on your own and since we are right downtown, maybe a little browsing.

OR: BACKSTAGE TOUR OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY Friday, October 10 (10:15am-2:15pm)

If you are going to see the live, Opry show tonight, consider taking the Backstage Opry tour as a perfect start to the day. Take it all in the sights, the sounds, and the stories that only happen backstage – before the country music magic happens onstage. Come on over, hang out behind the scenes, and let us welcome you to get closer to the stars and legends that make music history every week at the Opry. Afterwards, we head downtown for lunch on your own before shuttling back to the hotel.

OR: GENERAL JACKSON PADDLEWHEEL SHOWBOAT LUNCH CRUISE Friday, October 10 (10:15am-3:00pm)

Welcome onboard this authentic paddle wheeler for the most popular live variety show in Nashville. The music, comedy and dancing are terrific, not to mention the bountiful buffet lunch. Enjoy beautiful views as you cruise down the river. Come and immerse yourself in the proud tradition of the great showboats of yesteryear and delight in the panoramic sights and sounds of the scenic Cumberland River. This continues to be one of the most popular attractions in Nashville and a whole lot of fun for everyone.

THE FAMOUS GRAND OLE OPRY SHOW Friday, October 10 (5:30pm-9:30pm)

See the show that made Nashville famous! The one, the only, the Opry LIVE! We never know which celebrities will turn up and perform, but one thing is for certain, it's always a great show, with something for everyone. Music, dancing, and lots of laughs make this variety show a Nashville tradition and a crowd favorite. Come see what all the fuss is about! You never know who might show up to perform tonight!

Please note: There is a fair amount of walking involved and 6 stairs in order to get to your seats. Opry seats are benches with backs, similar to church pews. Wear comfortable and stable shoes.

WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE HOTEL Saturday, October 11: 8:30am MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT THE HOTEL Saturday, October 11: 9:30am

SPOUSE/GUEST LUNCHEON Saturday, October 11: Noon

This is always a fun event geared towards the ladies, but everyone is welcome. Plans have not been finalized as of this printing, but you can be sure it will be a good time. More details TBA.

BANQUET DINNER & PROGRAM Saturday, October 11: (6:00pm)

The photographer will be ready at 4pm to start taking portraits and a cash bar reception will be available at 5pm. The dinner & dance program will begin at 6pm in the 10th Floor Ballroom.