

# USS SALISBURY SOUND AV13



*Fortes Fortuna Juvat  
Fortune Favors the Brave*



## USS SALISBURY SOUND NEWS

[www.salisburysound.org](http://www.salisburysound.org) OCTOBER 2019 email: [brubru@comcast.net](mailto:brubru@comcast.net)

### President's Corner

My thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Newport, RI reunion such a resounding success.

First, a big thank you to our hardworking and talented officers and board members who played an active role: our vice-president, David Day; our secretary, CAPT Marian Bruce; our treasurer, Barry Henry; our historian, Bill Lewis; our chaplain, RP1 Peter Keck (who also did an outstanding job with our 50/50 raffle), and board members Robert Bliven, Everette Lange, Victor Fischer, Art Keesing, and Pete Stansfield.

With a special thanks to Pam Brown of Gatherings Plus, and the accommodating staffs at the Ramada Middletown and Wyndham Newport Hotels.

Highlights of the reunion were the Tuesday tour of Newport that featured a visit to the world-famous Breakers Mansion and a drive by tour of the Cliff Walk, topped off by lunch at the historic Red Parrott Restaurant.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a conducted tour of Battleship Cove in Fall River, MA, which included tours of the USS Joseph P.

Kennedy Jr (DD-859), USS Lionfish (SS-298), PT Boats 617 and 796 and the German missile corvette Hiddensee. The highlight of the day was a tour of the USS Massachusetts (BB-59), where we were served a delightful lunch in the ship's wardroom.

While on board the USS Massachusetts, we held our Memorial Service, honoring 20 of our shipmates who have passed away since the last reunion.

Finally, we all enjoyed the Final Evening Banquet/Dance, preceded by the Cocktail Hour, at the beautiful Atlantic Resort in the Wyndham Newport Hotel. Congratulations to Raymond Johnson on winning the cash prize of the 50/50 raffle.

The Board recommended and the membership approved San Diego, CA for 2020. The February Newsletter will contain all the exciting details. Stay tuned.

See you in San Diego!

Maurice Medland  
President



Photo courtesy of Sharon Lange

### TAPS

During a solemn and inspiring Memorial Service, we marked the passing of 20 shipmates. Our sincere condolences go out to the families and friends of these shipmates.

LTJG Edward T. Allen (65-7) 1988

Floyd Brittain (45-6) (N)

John Fler (46) 2018

Don Gnaedinger (62-4) (CR) 2018

Roland Laabs (52-5) (A) C213 12/9/18

Alfred Lowerison (55-56) (V)

R.T McElrath (50-1) (2nd) C266 9/27/18

H. L. Manning (50-4) (M) C272 8/18/19

Jerome Martin (58-60)

Harold Murphy (58-9) (OA)

James Murphy (49-52) (A)

Jimmy Parrish (51-4) (M) 4/25/18

Robert Seaberry (55-7) (W) C268

James Roarty

LCDR Ronald Shelly (63-5) 6/23/93

CPO George O. Sutton (47-8) (V)

Robert Volk (55-6) (V) C209 12/24/18

Harold White (52-6) (A) C214 6/5/19

Tom Willi Pine Island C12 11/19/18

Bobby Witty

## Newport, RI Reunion

We had a total of 42 people signed up, including shipmates, wives and guests. Attending for the first time: James F. and James A. Christie. Welcome! See you next year in San Diego.

## Membership

We currently have 554 on our roster consisting of 69 Charter Members, 131 Regular Members, 6 from other tenders, 18 Widows and 330 Non-Members. Our numbers are declining as can be expected because of our age. We need to get out the word to our shipmates to join up. They're not making any more Sally sailors. If you have contact information on a shipmate that is not on the roster, please give the information to Acting Secretary Victor Fischer. He in turn will send an invitation to join our association.

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## Dues

As a reminder, our dues are \$20 per year for regular members and \$15 for charter members. If you fall behind for five years you will be moved to a non-member status. You are encouraged to keep your dues up to date to fund our newsletter and other expenses that are incurred.

The last date that you paid dues is listed on the fourth line of the address on the envelope of this newsletter. For those who receive this by email you will receive an email dues reminder.

Please make the check out to Salisbury Sound Association, and mail to:

Victor Fischer, Acting Secretary  
664 Fourth Street  
Lemont, IL 60439  
[duffer664@sbcglobal.net](mailto:duffer664@sbcglobal.net)



### **Sally Baseball Caps**



The Sally Polo Shirts have been discontinued but sales continue to be brisk for Sally Baseball Caps. Caps are \$22 plus \$6 for shipping and handling. These beautiful caps feature a state-of-the-art embroidered image of the ship that is incredibly detailed. Don't miss out. Order yours before the current supply is exhausted. Make check out to USS Salisbury Sound Association and mail to:

Barry Henry, Treasurer  
3298 Province Circle  
Mundelein, IL 60060

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### **Update on CAPT Bruce**

As many of you know, our Secretary CAPT Marian Bruce had a bad fall in his home that resulted in a broken collar bone and a trip to the hospital. More recently, he reports that he was in the hospital for a possible stroke. He is now home after six days in the hospital and states that he is doing as well as could be expected but does not yet feel able to perform the duties of Secretary. Victor Fischer will be Acting Secretary until CAPT Bruce is ready to resume his duties.

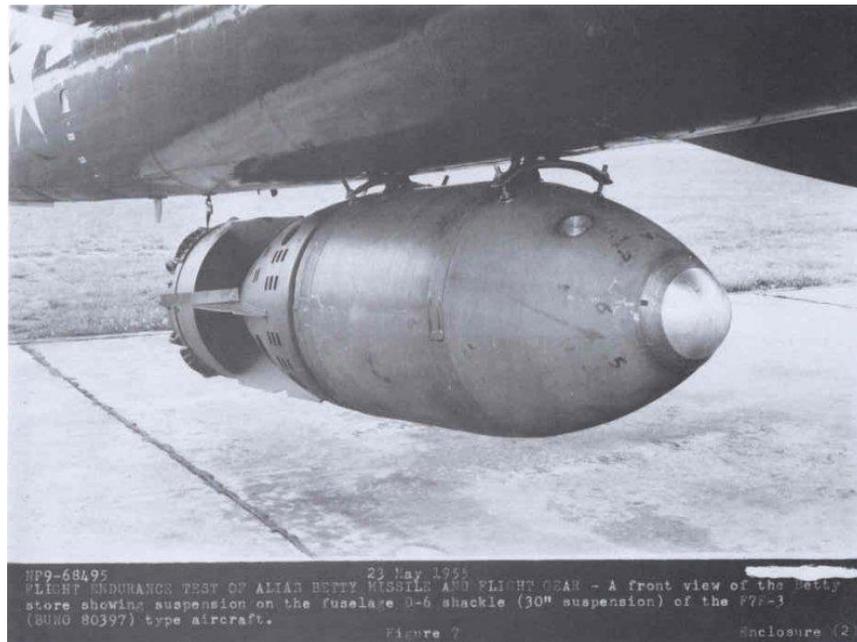
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### **Did the Sally Carry Nuclear Weapons?**

By Maurice Medland

Yes, indeed. One of the little-known facts about the USS Salisbury Sound is that she carried a complement of nuclear depth charges. The Mark 90 Betty nuclear depth charge employed a Mark 7 nuclear warhead. The selectable five to 10-kiloton weapon (about a third to two thirds the size of the Hiroshima bomb) was only test fired once off San Diego in 1955 as Operation Wigwam.

The Mark 90 was developed in 1952 and was used as an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) depth charge for the P5 Marlin seaplane and the P2V Neptune land-based patrol plane. It had a length of 10 ft. 2 in, a diameter of 2 ft. 7.5 in, and a weight of 1,243 lbs. A quantity of 300 Mark 90s was produced. All units were withdrawn from service by 1960 and replaced by the Mark 101 Lulu, which the Sally also carried. Our own CAPT Marian Bruce and CAPT Bill Bloh were loading officers and delivery pilots using the Betty and had the same roles using the follow-on Mark 101 Lulu. Both the Betty and the Lulu are at the new National Nuclear Museum in Albuquerque, NM. Only the Lulu is on display and we were privileged to see it on our trip to Albuquerque for our 2017 reunion. Below is a picture of the Mark 90 Betty:



On September 25, 1959, a United States Navy Martin P5M-2 Marlin (BuNo 135540, SG tail code, '6', of VP-50) was patrolling out of NAS Whidbey Island when it was forced to ditch in the Pacific Ocean, about 100 miles west of the Washington-Oregon border.

A Mark 90 depth charge casing was lost and never recovered, but it was reportedly not fitted with an active warhead. The ten crew members were rescued by the US Coast Guard, after ten hours in a raft. The press was not notified at the time.

During my tour aboard in the mid 1950's, I remember being on deck when a US Army truck pulled up on the dock next to the Sally and a contingent of heavily armed GIs scrambled to surround the truck with weapons drawn. A mysterious cargo was unloaded and placed aboard in a newly built, equally mysterious compartment deep within the ship. The compartment was guarded around the clock by an armed Marine. We were never told what the top-secret cargo was, but it almost certainly was the Mark 90 nuclear depth charge.

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Photo courtesy of Darryl Kenes

### **Sally Model**

This is an incredibly detailed model of the USS Salisbury Sound (AV-13) in 1/100 scale. It was built by Darryl Kenes using the Sally blueprints he found on our web site. Darryl built the model in 2016 for his cousin, Wenzel “Pat” Dousa, who served aboard the Sally 1953-55. The base is made from chestnut timbers Daryl rescued from a barn built in 1928. The largest of the timbers had 163 rings, so the wood is at least that many years old and well-seasoned.

Darryl recently surprised another family member with a model of *his* ship, the USS Bushnell (AS-15). He builds several models a year as a hobby. He noted that the Salisbury Sound model took approximately six months to finish. He had already started the Sally project when he found our web site and eventually the blueprints. He said a local firm reproduced the plans in 1/100 scale making the project a lot easier to complete.

Darryl’s first project in 2010 was his dad’s ship during WWII, USS Tombigbee (AOG-11), a Patapsco-class gasoline tanker. Since then, he has built destroyer escorts, tankers, and salvage and rescue ships as well as several tugs and oil field service ships. He also built a 1/200 scale model of USS Yorktown (CV-5) as she was on the first morning of the battle of Midway.

A big thank you to Darryl for bringing a smile to the faces of all who served aboard this great ship. *Bravo Zulu!*