

SOCIETY FOR HISTORIANS OF THE EARLY AMERICAN REPUBLIC

Office of the President

SHEAR Distinguished Service Award

for

James C. Bradford

James C. Bradford holds a BA and MA from Michigan State University and a PhD from Virginia. Jim has taught early American and naval history at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, and since 1981 at Texas A&M University. A restless individual, Jim rarely stands still. He has given courses or lectures in Great Britain, Italy, Germany, France, Canada, Russia, and Malaysia.

Jim is the author or editor of at least nine books of naval history plus the *Papers of John Paul Jones*, about whom it is said “he has just begun to write!” He lists another eight book chapters, and he serves as series editor for two libraries of naval and maritime historical monographs. From 1981 to 1996 he served as Book Review Editor for the *JER*. From 1996 to 2003 he served as Executive Director of SHEAR, stepping down in the reorganization that brought us to Philadelphia the next year.

Jim Bradford is the second most famous founder of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. At Annapolis in 1979 he served as Program Chair and Local Arrangements Chair, probably wrote half of the papers, delivered them in his rich trademark baritone voice, poured the cocktails, served up the pretzels, and cooked the banquet dinner. When SHEAR launched the journal, Jim took the Book Review desk and helped turn *JER* in a very short time into the go-to venue for smart reviews of recent books (recent as in not three or four years late). In his own published memoir, *JER* editor Ralph Gray, never one to mince words, said of Bradford, “He was good at . . . getting review copies” and “good at getting well qualified scholars to review those books. . . . His one limitation was that he couldn’t spell!”

For his vision, confidence, determination, indefatigable service, loyalty, good humor—and the best radio voice we have ever counted among our members—we hereby recognize James C. Bradford with the SHEAR Distinguished Service Award.



John Lauritz Larson

July 19, 2014