

KEARSAGA

USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

ISSUE 53

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

Winter 2015

Presidents Message by John Starnes

Wow! It has been a whirlwind at the Starnes house since our reunion. Shortly after we got home, a new grandson was born. We are keeping him while his mom and dad are working. It is a huge lifestyle change for us. What a blessing he is!

We have new officers who snapped in quickly and are working hard. It is a pleasure working with them. As in the past, we are all seeking the same goal, to keep the Kearsarge Association alive and well.

San Antonio, the location of our next reunion, is a beautiful city with a lot to see and do. We are most fortunate to have a point of contact who knows the city well and is already assisting us. We are planning a spring reunion because of the weather. It gets extremely hot and humid during the summer months. We are in the beginning of our planning stage and will keep you up to date as we move along.

It is always a joy and pleasure to see old and new friends and shipmates. The reunions are extremely important. They are exactly what keeps us together as an association. Talk to your friends that were on the Kearsarge and encourage them to join us. Our membership is declining, but with your help we can turn this around. Our website is www.kearsargeassociation.com. Check it out. We appreciate Dale Maddy, our new webmaster, for keeping it up to date.

Until next time,

John

SHIPS HISTORY



JOHN W. VERBIST WINS NAME CONTEST



The Ship's Newspaper Name Contest, that closed on 19 December 1945 was won by John W. Verbist EM2c of the Engineering Department. John submitted his entry on the 17th of December along with several other brain storms that he had. The contest committee, composed of Cdr. Wescott (chairman), Cdr. Coombs, Cdr. Robinson, Cdr. Hardcastle, Lcdr. Ott, Lcdr. Block, Mr. Hertel (formerly a Lt. in the navy), and the Newspaper staff, composed of Ken Greenspan and Jack Barbour, had to choose from some 80 or 90 names submitted, the one that caught the eye.

The contest was a close one with names like Flattopics, Cee Vee Doouble Three, K Rations, Third Sarge and Kearsaga all very close. The committee agreed that Kearsaga was the best and submitted their choice to Captain McKenna who was well pleased with the selection.

A short time ago, Verbist was transferred to another duty station and therefore he was unable to receive the Parker '51' pen and pencil set at the commissioning ceremonies. The set will be mailed to him.

SHIPS HISTORY

I served 3 1/2 years aboard the aircraft carrier the USS Kearsarge CVA 33.

The first 18 months the Kearsarge was involved in the Korean War, for which our ship received two (2) battle stars.

During that time a few pilots didn't return, and there were also shipboard fatalities. These were sobering times that won't be forgotten.

When the Korean War ended, the last 23 months serving aboard the Kearsarge was a 180 degree turn-around! During that time it became a new era which I call "Hollywood Far East."

Our ship took part in three (3) major movies: The Caine Mutiny, The Bridges of Toko Ri, and The Eternal Sea. The casts of these movies included Humphrey Bogart, Van Johnson, Fred McMurray, Lee Marvin, Jose Ferrer, William Holden, Grace Kelly, Mickey Rooney, Sterling Hayden and Fredrick March. All "A" list stars of the 50's. The "Caine" was awarded Oscars at the Academy Awards in 1955.

Some stars brought their families aboard. While at sea Bogart and his wife and son were aboard. Many of the crew got to meet Lauren Bacall, which was a big deal!

Reflecting back, sea duty wasn't bad. Had I had a taste of shore duty I might have shipped over. I still marvel that during my Navy hitch I spent more time on one ship than I attended high school!

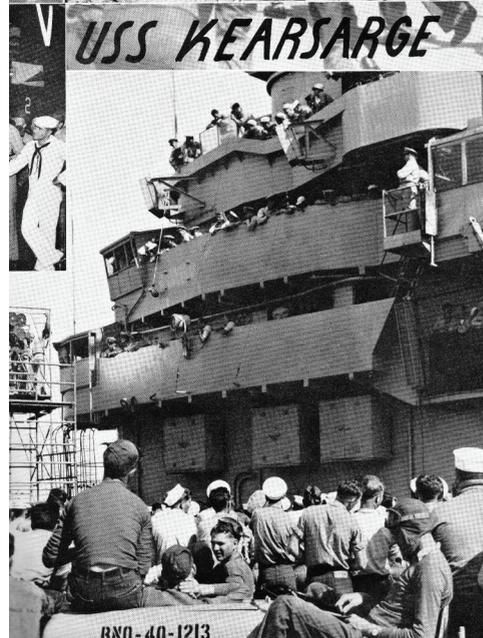
Paul Young



Lauren Bacall and the ships skipper. Left is Humphrey Bogart between 2 officers and their son.



Here is Van Johnson, Fred McMurray, and Robert Francis. This picture was taken just a few seconds before the take of "Caine Mutiny." The boys are standing on the catwalk adjoining the bridge.



THE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Kearsarge Association President John Starnes



John was born in Monroe, NC in 1939. He joined the Navy at 17 and went to boot camp at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois. He reported for duty aboard the USS Kearsarge on November 18, 1956 in Bremerton, Washington. He was initially assigned to the Air Department, V3 Hangar Deck Division. He was later assigned to V 2 Division, Catapults and Arresting Gear and was a qualified Catapult Captain when he left the ship in 1960. He completed instructor school and curriculum development training which was most helpful at his assignment as an instructor and supervisor at two different Naval Air Stations. He received orders to the USS John F. Kennedy pre-commissioning unit, Norfolk, VA and was aboard when the ship first got underway. He served as the crash, fire, salvage and rescue chief for three years. His next assignment to Rota, Spain as the Passenger Service Chief in the Air Terminal was short lived. He was selected for Warrant Officer and went right back to sea aboard the USS Inchon as the aviation fuels officer. He then went to COMNAVAIRLANT Staff for three years. From there he was assigned to be the first officer in charge of Naval Air Technical Training Center, Lakehurst, NJ, Norfolk, VA detachment. John's next duty station was the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, where he was the aviation fuels officer. It was during this time that the Ike set a record of 154 consecutive days at sea. His next assignment was Navy recruiting duty in Dallas, TX where he was responsible for multiple stations in north central Texas. John's final assignment was at the US Naval Safety Center, Norfolk, VA where he retired as a Lieutenant Commander after 30 years service. After the navy, it was a privilege to work at the Johnson Space Center as an Aviation Safety Program Manager for over 19 years. John is married to Paula and they reside in Highland Village, TX. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Kearsarge Association Vice President Calvin V. Lindley, AA, AN, ADR-3



Calvin was born in Chicago on 9/8/1942, but due to divorced parents, was raised near Odenville, Alabama (NE of Birmingham in the country) from the age of 14 months. He had a strong desire to join the Navy from the 7th grade so he dropped out of High School after the 11th grade and enlisted at the age of 16. (All documentation completed but couldn't be sworn in until the age of 17) Departed Birmingham on 9/9/59 for his first plane ride to San Diego RTC and a "whole new world" for the next 30 years and 22 days. He checked aboard The Kearsarge as an "AA" (No "A" School for HS drop out's) on 23 December 1959 in Sasebo Japan and was assigned to V-6 Division. He advanced to ADR-3 on 16 May 1961 while on his second WestPac deployment. He was almost immediately assigned to the Ship's MAA Force, (not the Mess Deck) as a tender young sailor. Imagine being assigned with all those "old salts", many who were WW II veterans. He was transferred off The Kearsarge to HS-6 in San Diego in September 1961 upon returning from WestPac. He continued to serve until 10/01/1989 with duty stations practically all over the world and retired as a Master Chief Petty Officer (E9). Along the way he attended an Adult High School and earned a HS diploma and also an Associate's degree from The State University of New York, (Albany). Upon retirement from the USN, he continued to work for the Navy as a civilian doing Helicopter "logistic's/engineering" support. He also had his own business with Penske Truck rental for several years. He currently resides in Pensacola Florida with his wife Janice of 36 years. They have a total of six children with nine (9) grandkids and some "great's" also.

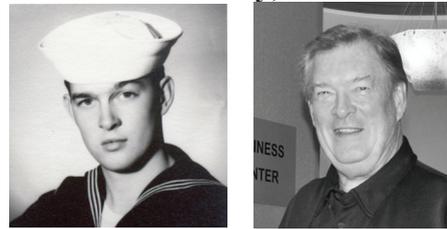
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Kearsarge Association Secretary/Treasurer Bill Hollywood, ETR2



Bill was born in Sitka, Alaska in 1946. He graduated from high school in Ketchikan, Alaska in 1965. When he graduated, no business would hire draft age boys in his town, so when invited by a friend to go with his family to Key West, Florida, he jumped at the chance. His friends Dad was being transferred in the Coast Guard from Ketchikan to Key West. Bill was drafted into the army, but on the day he was to report to the army, he joined the Navy on December 4, 1965. After boot camp, he was sent to Treasure Island Electronics "A" school. After graduating from there, Bill was sent to San Miguel, Philippines. Upon arrival, it was noted that this was a communications base and they had no Radar. They needed people with lots of security clearances, so Bill was sent to Manila, to be a courier for the US Embassy, during the Manila Summit Conference. He was assigned a car and driver to deliver people and messages wherever the embassy needed them. He had transportation from the Kearsarge HS-6 squadron to and from Sangley Point to the US Embassy. Upon return to San Miguel, they decided to have Bill work on the Microwave system and he made 2nd class while working there. In May 1968, Bill boarded the Kearsarge in OE division, went to a "B" school for high frequency transmitters and receivers, and worked on them until he got an Honorable discharge on September 30, 1969 with 300 other shipmates since we were close to our time and the ship was being decommissioned. When Bill got home to Ketchikan, he went to work at the local Pulp mill for 11 years, followed by 20 years working for the State of Alaska as a Maintenance Mechanic on State owned buildings in several communities. After retiring from there, Bill worked 10 years for a subcontractor as a Maintenance Mechanic on the Ketchikan Federal Building, and Retired for real in April 2013. Bill has been married to Barbara since September 25, 1971. They have two daughters who live in New Mexico with their families.

Kearsarge Association Webmaster Dale Maddy, ETN3



Dale was born in Belleville, Ohio in 1947. He graduated from Western High School in Buda, Illinois in 1965 and immediately enrolled in a radio/television repair school in Rock Island, Illinois. To avoid being drafted into the Army he enlisted into the Navy in April 1966 and attended boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Station. After boot camp, he was sent back to Great Lakes for electronics class "A" school. He boarded the USS Kearsarge on June 26, 1967 and was immediately placed in OE division. Dale made two WESPAC cruises, the 1967-68 and again in 1969. He was on board when the Migthy-K went to Korea during the Pueblo incident in Jan 1968. In October 1968, he was sent to test equipment calibration school at North Island, San Diego. He was on board in 1969 when the movie Tora, Tora, Tora was filmed in Pearl Harbor. He was also on board when the USS Frank E. Evans sank. He was one of the last men to stand watch just before the decommissioning in February 1970. He received an honorable discharge in April 1972. Since leaving the Navy, he worked as a computer systems analyst for John Deere and later as a feed salesman for Agri-King, Inc. In 1985 he attended Clinton Community College. His last 23 years before retiring, he served as Executive Vice President of ANC, Inc. He was married for 20 years and has one daughter.



*USS Kearsarge CV-33 April 13, 1946
Background ships USS Montauk LSV-6 and USS Lyon AP-71
USN Official Photo from NAS NYNY*

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Kearsarge Association Store master Charles Patton



Chuck was born in Gulfport MS in February 1942. He enlisted in the navy at the age of 21 to avoid a draft notice from the army. Getting on a plane for the first time he flew from Jackson MS on January 3, 1964 to San Diego RTC. After graduating from boot camp on Good Friday of that year he spent from April 8, 1964 until December 14, 1967 stationed on the Kearsarge. He checked in aboard the Kearsarge as an FA, fireman's apprentice, in Long Beach California. He was assigned to mess cooking duty upon arrival. His first division after mess cooking was A Division, engineering, and his first duty station was machine shop. From there he transferred to air conditioning and refrigeration. He spent the rest of his enlistment doing sea duty on the Kearsarge in air conditioning and refrigeration. He made Machinist Mate 3rd class September 16, 1966. He enjoyed sea duty and took advantage of all the Chaplain tours that were offered in each port. When his enlistment was up the ship was in the gulf of Tonkin so he had the experience of flying off the ship to return to Gulfport MS. Since it was December and jobs in AC/Refrigeration were scarce he ended up going into a ship fitters apprentice program at Ingall's Ship yard. He spent the next 26 years building ships for the navy including Arliegh Burke class and Spruence Class destroyers, LHA's, LHD's and even was part of the team to refurbish the Iowa. One of the first ships he worked on was the Inchon, one of the ship's John Starnes served on, and one of the last ships he worked was the new Kearsarge, LHD 3. He was even able to go out on the Builders and the Acceptance trials for the LHD3, he found it to be the highlight of his job at Ingall's. Chuck is married to Charlotte and they reside in Ocean Springs MS.

MAIL CALL

Ron Van De Steeg
303-798-1143

Boy, 2 years goes fast at my age. Just received my Kearsaga and thanks to the label I saw it was dues time again.

I would like to ask if any of our old shipmates knows any of the following men who served with me in the gunnery office from December 1947 to February 1949. George, A. Ott, Robert A. Erwin, T.V. Kirby, R.D. Janke. I would like to hear from any of them.

R. Hartman Pilot
VF112 1954 – 1955

I hope to get to a reunion some year, but I am always in Canada in the summer, until the end of September. Have a good one!

George F. Mann
SIC, V6 Div., 1946

Thanks for the work you do for us old timers. We were nearing the end of our shakedown cruise in June of 1946 – probably in or near Cristobal, CZ. It was about this time in June. I operated the #3 barrier on the shakedown. The CV-33 was a great ship. Best wishes always.

Jackie D. Olinger QM3

Thanks! For doing such a splendid job keeping the ship's crew alive. It was sixty-seven years ago when I boarded our ship in the Brooklyn Naval shipyard. This memory has been a very pleasant memory throughout the years.

Roland Frary
CVS-33 1963-1966

We enjoyed the Pensacola reunion. It was great to see friends that were aboard the ship with me. I hope to make the San Diego reunion. My granddaughter is living out there.

Frank L. Crump.
Gunnery Dept.

Highlights of my experience aboard the Kearsarge were when the aircraft carrier recovered astronauts Gordon Cooper and Wally Shirra due to the foresight and ingenuity of the gunnery

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department. As I remember, the bosuns had 1000 feet of nylon rope for special purposes in Hong Kong that worked perfectly on the whaleboat towing it motored over to catch the Mercury spacecraft and hooked onto it with the department (1st Lt.) to pull it under the crane by the 3rd “shepherds crook”. Then it was a matter for the deck elevator.

Diel Griffith MM2

Several weeks ago, I received a very interesting, pleasing, and fantastic letter about a subject I have not thought of for a long time, even though it was my life for several years. Then my marriage interrupted it.

My contact with the USS Samuel N. Moore DD-747 lasted a little over 3 years. My marriage lasted 61 years.

Now I am interested in the Samuel N. Moore but 60 years ago it was just a past adventure. I worked and stood watches in the aft engine room and as I think move and move about when, it becomes a bigger part of my life, when I read that article you sent me.

I remember the shore bombarding off the Korean shore, and the times we moved farther out when shells came our way. In addition, when we were in a storm that damaged the 5-inch gun turret, which was removed for several weeks, until we received another one.

I really enjoyed that engine room and the shipmates who worked together to keep the engine room so interesting. Thanks again for a preview of my early life.

Donald W. Littren V1 Div. 1955 – 1956

In the #49 issue of the Kearsaga CVA-33, I was reading about the elevator that was on the starboard side aft. I looked on my card, and when I was aboard there was no elevator there. That was my crew shelter when we were underway.

About the first reunion in Corpus Christi, TX, I wish I had known about it, as I was stationed in Corpus after I left the Kearsarge. As for the reunion in Branson, Mo., we sure did enjoy it very much. I found two shipmates that I worked with in 1955. They were Lamoyne K. Gevne, and Gerald Urban. It sure was a big treat for me. Hope I can make the one in San Antonio, TX. Best wishes to all.

Ralph Arnold

I was deployed during the 1952 and 1953 deployments to Korea. I was a member of the MD division (marine detachment). I was on the crew that brought her out of mothballs for their Korean tours. I kind of lost track of papers I had and went on the computer and learned about the reunion in San Diego on Sept 1. The same day I received a call from Paul Young, computer and learned about the reunion in San Diego on who said he saw my name on old rosters that he had. I am looking forward to getting back on board. Thank You.

Paul Savje

Go to this site for a video of flight operations from the 67-68 Wespac cruise. Music by Connie Francis. <http://vimeo.com/63156932> USS Kearsarge CVS-33

Tom James

I served on the Kearsarge CVA33 in 1952-1953. Interested in the happenings aboard the ship during my time on board. I can recall a helicopter accident, 2 Marine pilots crashed on landing, and a mishap with missile that ejected from an aircraft during landing. I'm sure there are more incidents. Those were tragic events and every once in a while I recall them and see in my minds eye of the sacrifices these brave men of the US navy.

SCUTTLEBUTT

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SHIPS STORE

Golf Shirts



CV, CVA, CVS 33 - Navy or White - Med, large, W-large, 2x large - \$29.00

Sweat Shirts



CV, CVA, CVS 33 - Navy or White - Med, large, W-large, 2x large - \$36.00

Dress Shirts



CV, CVA, CVS 33 - Short sleeve - Navy only - Med, large, W-large, 2x large - \$29.00

Hats



Kearsarge CV CVA CVS 33 - Navy - \$14.00



Marine - Red - \$14.00



LHD 3 - Navy - \$7.00

Watch Cap



Navy - CV, CVA, CVS 33 - \$11.00

Ships Crest



Cloth - CV, CVA, CVS 33 - \$5.00



Magnetic - CV, CVA, CVS 33 - \$2.50

Zippo Lighter



Chrome - Ships crest CV, CVA, CVS 33 - \$15.00



Chrome - LHD 3 - \$15.00



Brass - LHD 3 Ships crest - \$15.00

50th Anniversary



1st Day Cover Envelope - \$1.50

Dawn of Glory



Print - LHD 3 with inserts of previous ships - \$20.00

Jackets



The Port Authority Challenger jacket has a Tekon nylon durable, water repellent outside with a poly-filled body with heavyweight fleece lining. It has rib knit cuffs and waistband, zippered pockets outside a zippered inside pocket. We are offering it in Navy with a Navy lining with USS KEARSARGE, CV,CVA,CVS and the ships silhouette on the back.

Small, medium, large and 1X large for \$57.00
2X large for \$61.00 - 3X large for \$65.00



A light weight nylon jacket with mesh lining is also available in Navy with the same stitching on the back.

Small, medium, large and 1X large for \$53.00
2X large for \$55.00 - 3X large for \$57.00

They are a Special order item only and all sales are final. When I have 6 orders I will place the order with the supplier. We need a minimum of 6 to be eligible for the above mentioned prices.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING AND HANDLING

Make checks payable to the Kearsarge Association and send order to:
Charles Patton

9125 Live Oak Ave
Ocean springs, MS 39564

(228) 875-7572
charlotteap@bellsouth.net

KEARSARGE

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USS Kearsarge Association
% Dale Maddy
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Lodi, WI 53555

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2016 Reunion - San Antonio, TX

Details to come later

Dues and Membership

The annual dues for the Kearsarge Association are \$15.00
To pay dues, send a check payable to THE KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION To Bill Hollywood
To sign up a new member, send information to Bill Hollywood, including
Name, rate/rank, division, years aboard, address and phone number

Association office holders

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