

# KEAR SAGA II

*The Newsletter of the KEARSARGE Association*

ISSUE 40

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

Spring 2009

**God Bless America**

## **Branson Reunion Preview**

Greetings Shipmates, and happy May to each and every one of you.

As I submit this article, Ed, Lois, John and Dianne are making their way to Branson. They will, among other things, lock in hotel accommodations and all major events relative to our next reunion. Ed and I spoke recently and he, being typical Ed, was most concerned over price, value and entertainment choices. I said Ed, having been there twice, I have good news and bad news. The good news is, there is more to see and do than we possibly can. The bad news is that there is more to see and do than we possibly can. You simply can't go wrong on Branson. With that said, there is no doubt in my mind; they will select the best of the best. They always do!

For no particular reason, other than my affection for the Kearsarge and for our association, I was recently looking through the 1957-1958 cruise book. Having done so has caused me to submit this for consideration in the next newsletter.

I want to remember and honor, by name, the shipmates lost during the cruise: Cdr. Davis, Ltjg Fitzgerald, Cdr. Dennis, Ltjg Thompson, Ltjg Terry, Chief Anderson, Airman Bosler, Airman Muckenthaler and AB2 Klotzbach. I realize lives were probably lost on every major deployment Kearsarge made. I just happened to have been a part of this one and the 1959-1960 cruise.

Ed arranged to hold an impressive memorial ceremony during our locks tour in Seattle. I also know that he plans to do the same in Branson and I can tell you first hand that they are some patriotic folks!

I encourage you to bring the names of those you wish to honor to Branson or submit them to Paul. Alternately, you can call me at 972-317-0286. Regardless, honoring a fallen shipmate is always the honorable thing to do.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Branson,  
John Starnes, Vice President (V-2 Div '56-'60)

## **The Branson Reunion 2010 has been tentatively set for May 16-20.**

John Bennett, Diane, Lois and I met at Branson on May 12<sup>th</sup> for the site visit and decided that May would definitely be a good time for our reunion. The weather was a little rainy at times, but warm, the traffic was light, the shows were not crowded, and most offered several show times.

We had a very busy week reviewing several hotels and shows and meeting with sales directors. We are still negotiating with a couple of hotels, so I can't tell you what the host hotel will be at this time, but we will be locking into one very soon. There are so many things to consider when selecting a hotel.

We are also trying to get the 2010 schedule for the shows that we think you will enjoy seeing. We saw some very impressive ones. However, we are planning many other activities as well as shows.

This was my first visit to Branson, and it was all new and exciting for me. However, I'm sure many members have visited Branson before and may not consider visiting again. While we will be busy with shows and tours, it's not the main focus of the Kearsarge reunions. It's the comradeship that makes them so successful. Visiting with old friends and shipmates and meeting new ones is the highlight of all our reunions.

I'm proud to have served aboard the Mighty Kay and those years will be forever etched in my mind, but the past reunions have also been a memorable part of my life. As long as I'm able, I personally plan on attending every reunion.

The earlier we can get the "show on the road" the easier it is to plan. So save the date and plan on attending.

Ed McKee, Association President

## **TAPS**

### **Edward Benner (Marine Det. ('54-'55))**

On 3/18/09 Donald Erdman (CPL Mar Det '54-'56) wrote:

Dear Paul,

This is to inform you that Edward Fenner passed away on December 2, 2008. Ed served aboard the KEARSARGE in the Marine Detachment 1954-1955. Ed resided in Yuma Arizona.

Don Erdman

### **Roy Newman (AM3 VF112 '53-'55)**

USS Kearsarge Association

Dear Sir,

This to inform you that Roy F. Newman passed away December 18, 2008. After a lengthy illness he is at rest. His association with the Navy was a positive one. One that he looked on with pride and pleasure, recounting his days in the service to me and our family

He had a full, busy life and will be missed greatly.

Sincerely,

Rosalie Newman and Family

### **Harold Gordon Lee (Battle of Midway veteran)**

From the S.D. Union: Harold "Buzz" Gordon Lee passed away on December 22, 2008 at the age of 91. He was a submariner. He completed his 20 years of Naval Service on the USS KEASARGE.

Submitted by Paul Young (FP3 R Div '53-'55)

### **Harold B. Canzellarini (DK3 S Div '47-'50)**

Feb. 12, 2009

25 Cypress Road

Old Saybrook, CT

Dear Friends of "KearSaga"

It is with much sadness that I write to inform you of the recent death on Jan. 24, 90, of my beloved husband, Harold. He was aboard the KEARSARGE CV33 in the late 1940s and was discharged in Jan. of 1950.

That ship was the love of his life until I came along and even after that. He always wore his cap and was happy when it brought fond memories to others who knew of the ship or were Navy people.

Please continue with your wonderful work of connecting people.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Harold (Joanne) Canzellarini

### **Anthony DeRosa (GMC '45-50)**

We have received notice that Chief DeRosa of Margate FL has died. No details were provided.



## Letters

Feb. 1, 2009

Dear John,

I have enclosed a check for my membership dues. Your latest newsletter was one of the best so far. I wish my wife and I had been able to attend the reunion. We will, most assuredly, make some in the future.

Thank you for the great job you do to provide us members with the news and information about a very important and impressionable time we shared.

Yours Truly,

John Coddington (ASM2, V-6 Div Sept '67-Dec '69)

From Ron Foster (MM2 M Div "52-'55)

Sorry I'm late with dues. My best friend and wife died June 19, 2008. She did all the book work. We were together since we were juniors in high school and ran Foster (??) for 50 years. We were planning to go to the Seattle reunion but did not make it.

I was aboard the KEARSARGE when she was in dry-dock and called Barbara up and asked her to come up to Bremerton. We got married there. I was 2<sup>nd</sup> Class MM in charge of #4 generator in 1951-1955.

Ron Foster 21775 Easton Rd., Easton, KS 66020

From Ron VanDeSteege (YN3 G Div "47-'49)

Dear John,

As usual I really enjoyed reading the Kear Saga. The last issue more than ever as you had the note from Fran Crump. He was the first I read about who was aboard the same time as I was. I was in the Gunnery Office.

Did not make the Seattle reunion but hope to make Branson. Keep up the good work.

Ron VanDeSteege, 105 E. Costilla Ave., Centennial, CO 80122

196 Homestead Dr.

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

26 January 2009

Greetings John,

Enclosed is my check for the Kear Saga yearly dues. It appears that you and your shipmates had a great time in Seattle. It's a beautiful area.

From the looks of events, I think that our Squadron VA702/145 which was attached to CVA-33 during the Korean War "Police Action" has had its last reunion due to illnesses, deaths, and that nobody wants to volunteer to undertake all the responsibility to plan such a gathering.

Perhaps, what is left of us should join with you, once again. As we did back then! In the meantime, take care.

Sincerely,

Frank "Bud" Scheller (AO3 VA702 '51-'53)

From Dale Roberts (New Member)

Ahoy John,

I have enclosed \$10.00 check for the Kearsarge Association and the Kear Saga newsletter, also. Send info for the CVS-33 Kearsarge patch. I was aboard the KEARSARGE for the Aug. 1967-April 1968 WESSTPAC cruise and numerous Car/Quals. Total sea duty on the KEARSARGE was 1 year 5 months and 13 days. I was an ATR3 - Aviation Electronics Technician (radar) 3<sup>rd</sup> Class with VAW-111, Det -33 and flew as an aircrewman in the E-1B Tracer (Willy Fudd)

Thanks,

Dale R. Roberts, Apt 108, 331 Main St., Forest City, PA 18421

1.23.09

Fairview, OK 73737

# 1185

Enclosed is my check for my dues. I received my (Dec 08) KearSaga today and enjoyed reading it.

I would like to make a suggestion. My daughter lives in Summyvale, Ca. (south bay) and she and her family took me to the USS Hornet at Alameda, Ca. a few years back and I understood the keel and 3 or 4 decks were to be the Kearsarge before the Hornet was sunk in WW2.

Why not reserve those few decks for a Kearsarge museum. If I remember right, the hanger deck was the main part of the Hornet museum, so why not let the Kearsarge have what was going to be the Kearsarge to begin with.

This is just a suggestion, but it could be worth thinking about.

I turned 76 in 12-08 and finally retired. Hope to be around for many more years.

Sincerely

Lloyd L. Jantz D.A.V.

ME 2 -R Division, 5-53 to 11-56, 1.580.227.3945

January 26, 2009

TO: John Work, USS Kearsarge Association

FROM: Pete Gormsen, USS Kearsarge 1967-1968 Westpac Cruise, Association Member Number 1184

RE: Letter from Captain Creighton Cook, In December 2008 Newsletter

Dear John:

I read a letter from Captain Cook regarding the 1967-1968 Westpac Cruise book. Is this a new book or the same one I received subsequent to our return to Long Beach in 1968? If it is a new one, how can I order one? Also, does the Association have an E-mail address or a Website? My E-mail address is as follows: [pgormsen@dgr-cpas.com](mailto:pgormsen@dgr-cpas.com)

I enjoy reading the newsletters. Keep up the good work.

Pete Gormsen, (SK3 S1 Div '68-'69), 1401 N. Hunter St., Stockton, CA 95202

31 January 2009

Dear John,

Reading the most recent Kearsaga, I have an answer to one item mentioned and a question about another. The Kearsarge CV 33 was built at the New York Shipyard in Brooklyn, commissioned 2 March 1946. I know this because I bought an old brass ashtray on E Bay that had the years the three (up to that point) Kearsarges were commissioned and also the date of the commissioning of CV 33 and where it was built.

The other item is regarding a comment in the dedication statement by Captain C. W. Cook. He said, in his statement that the Kearsarge CVS 33, had just made it's third cruise to the Far East. Was he talking about CVS 33 or the History of the Kearsarge as CV 33, CVA 33 and CVS 33? I came on board the Kearsarge CVA 33, in April 1953, she had already made one cruise to Korea when I came on board, we were sailing from Pearl to Korea when the armistice began. We made an additional cruise, to Korea after coming out of dry-dock in San Francisco.

So I was on board during the second and third cruises to the Far East, getting off in October 1955. I don't know if the Kearsarge was designated CVA after the first Korean tour or before. However, if he was not talking about CVS 33 he should have studied his ship's history a little more thoroughly.

Sincerely,

Tom Henry (AO2 OA Div '53-'55) 635 McBride Pointe Dr., Wildwood, MO 63011



From: Richard Kemner <kemnerd@juno.com (S1C Fox Div '45-'46)

To: rsax27@yahoo.com (FC1 Fox Div '46-'50)

Subject: Re: KEARSARGE - A Bit Of History Date: Thursday, January 22, 2009 8:41:55 AM

Thanks for the info concerning Capt. McKenna. As I recall, he was a good Skipper and treated everyone the same whether they were from the air personnel, marines, or lowly seamen and deck crew. It's too bad there aren't more like him in public service today.

Dick

From: Bob Saxby <rsax27@yahoo.com Date January 20,

To: Richard Kemner <kemnerd@juno.com

Subject: KEARSARGE - A Bit Of History

Dick,

You recall that our PCO and CO was Captain Francis J. McKenna. In all the time I served in KEARSARGE I never knew that McKenna had previously been the CO of ST. LO (CVE-63) when she was lost in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in 1944.

### **USS ST LO (CVE 63) CAPT Francis J. McKenna, USN, Commanding Officer**

Prior to entering the protective rain squall, ST LO also came under intense gunfire from the battleships. Upon exiting the rain squall on the task unit's run to the south, she was nearest the Japanese until a new course change placed her on the unengaged starboard side, furthest from the enemy heavy cruisers and battleships. Her new position within the task unit enabled her to survive the surface action with relatively little damage. However, about ninety minutes after the surface action had concluded, Taffy III was set upon by kamikaze aircraft. ST LO was chosen as a primary target and a bomb-lain "Zeke 52" suicide plane crashed through her flight deck with catastrophic results. Powerful internal explosions followed and about 30 minutes later, ST LO sank into the Philippine Trench, the second CVE of Taffy III to be lost that day. RADM McKenna passed away in 1969

Our Historian, Dan Levin, has proposed excerpting installments from Alderic O. "Dick" Violette's publication, with a different KEARSARGE featured each issue. Here is the first!

#### **SHIPS NAMED "KEARSARGE" AND THE MOUNTAIN FOR WHICH THEY WERE NAMED.**

The Sloop of War, KEARSARGE.

The first KEARSARGE was launched on 11 September 1861 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard, Portsmouth, NH; sponsored by Mrs. Henry McFartand, wife of the editor of the Concord Statesmen; and commissioned 24 January 1862, Captain Charles W. Pickering in command.

The Sloop of War KEARSARGE departed Portsmouth 5 February 1862 for the coast of Spain to join in the blockade of Confederate raiders. Captain John A. Winslow, took command of the KEARSARGE on April 8, 1863, while she remained in European waters searching for raiders. Arriving in Cherbourg, France on 14 June 1864, she found the Confederate Ship ALABAMA in port. On June 19, ALABAMA stood out of Cherbourg Harbor for her last action. Careful of French neutrality, KEARSARGE'S new commanding officer, Captain Winslow, took the sloop of war well clear of territorial waters, then turned to meet the Confederate cruiser. ALABAMA fired first but the battle quickly turned against her and within an hour the ALABAMA had been reduced to a sinking wreck and her Captain Raphael Semmes struck his colors and surrendered.

KEARSARGE rescued the majority of the ALABAMA'S survivors; but Captain Semmes and 41 others were picked up by a British yacht. Captain Winslow was promoted to Commodore and the New York Chamber of Commerce honored him, the KEARSARGE, and her crew, mainly men from New Hampshire, for their victory. The KEARSARGE returned to sea and the coast of Spain in April 1865 in search of Confederate ships. After cruising the Mediterranean and the English Channel south to Liberia, the KEARSARGE returned to the Boston Navy Yard in August 1866.



In January 1868 KEARSARGE sailed to serve in the South Pacific and along the coast of South America to protect American interests for the next four years. She later performed similar duties in the Asiatic waters of Japan, China and the Philippines. During this time she carried Professor Hall's scientific party from Nagasaki, Japan, to Vladivostok, Russia, to observe the transit of Venus.

The last assignment for the KEARSARGE was protecting American interests in the West Indies, off Venezuela and along the Central Americas. On February 2, 1894, on Roncador Reef off the coast of Nicaragua, the KEARSARGE was wrecked. Having attained the rank of Rear Admiral, Winslow's years of service continued long after the famous sea battle. He died in Boston on September 29, 1873.

Note: the above has been extracted from the web site: [http:// www.warner.nh.us/downloads/kearsargeshiphist.pdf](http://www.warner.nh.us/downloads/kearsargeshiphist.pdf)  
With permission from Dick Violette, 29 W. Main Street, Warner, NH 03278

## SHIP'S STORE

Sweat shirt (CV-CVA-CVS 33) Med, Large, Xlarge, 2Xlarge		\$35.00
White or Navy		
Golf Shirt (CV-CVA-CVS 33) Med, Large, Xlarge, 2Xlarge		\$29.00
White or Navy		
Hat		
CV-CVA-CVS 33	Navy	\$14.00
Marine	Red	\$14.00
LHD 3	Navy	Reduced \$ 7.00
Watch Cap (CV-CVA-CVS 33)	Navy	\$11.00
Cloth Ship 's Crest patch (CV & CVA only)		\$ 2.50
Magnetic Ship's Crest (CV-CVA-CVS 33)		\$ 2.50
"Dawn of Glory" print (LHD3) 17 1/2 x 24		\$20.00
Zippo Lighters	Reduced	\$15.00
CV-CVA-CVS 33 (Ship's Crest or Ship's profile both in Brushed chrome)		
LHD 3 (Ship's profile in chrome or Ship with Ship's Crest in brass)		

## ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING AND HANDLING

Make checks payable to the Kearsarge Association and send order

And payment to:

Charles Patton

9125 Live Oak Ave

Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Reduced items are limited please check by phone or e-mail for availability  
before sending order

Phone: 228/875-7572

Email: [charlotteap@bellsouth.net](mailto:charlotteap@bellsouth.net)





White  
CV-CVA-CVS-33  
Sweatshirt  
Med, Large, XLarge, 2Xlarge  
\$35.00



White  
CV-CVA-CVS-33  
Golf Shirt  
Med, Large, XLarge, 2Xlarge  
\$29.00



Navy  
CV-CVA-CVS-33  
\$14.00



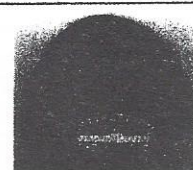
Close up of white insignia



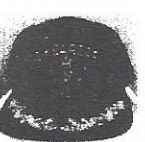
Close up of blue insignia



Red  
Marines Hat  
\$14.00



Watch Caps  
CV-CVA-CVS-33  
\$11.00

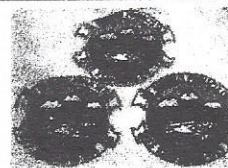


Navy LHD 3  
\$14.00

Reduced to \$7.00



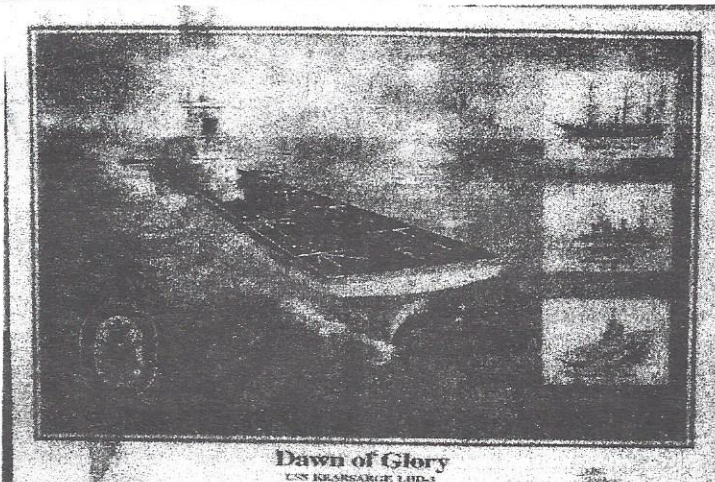
USS Kearsarge  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1<sup>st</sup> Day Covers  
\$1.50



CV or CVA only  
Cloth Ship's  
Crest Patch  
\$2.50



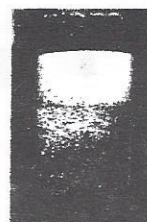
Magnetic  
Ship's Crest  
\$2.50



Dawn of Glory  
USS KEARSARGE LHD-3

17 1/2" X 24"  
\$20.00

Print is of the LHD 3, inserts are the 3 previous Kearsarges



Zippo Lighters  
CV-CVA-CVS-33  
\$21.00  
Reduced to  
\$15.00



Zippo  
Lighters  
LHD 3  
\$21.00  
Reduced  
to \$15.00

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# KEAR SAGA

II

*The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association*

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### *Dues and Membership*

The yearly dues for the Kearsarge Association is \$10.

Check your label to see when your dues expire.

To pay dues, send a check payable to the **The Kearsarge Association** to John Work.

To sign up a new member, send information to John work, including  
**name, rate/rank, Division, years aboard, address and phone number**

President Edward McKee 2005 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82007-3900, Ph 307-632-0743, Email: LoMck3@aol.com  
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### **Membership-Vacant**

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Historian & HORNET Liaison Dan Levin, 309 Surry St., San Francisco, CA 94133, Ph: 415-699-8553, Email: DWLevin@aol.com

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