

# KEAR SAGA II

*The Newsletter of the KEARSARGE Association*

ISSUE 42

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

January 2010

## REUNION TIME!

Here it is, a new year, and 2010 is the year of the 10<sup>th</sup> USS Kearsarge reunion-to be held in Branson, Missouri. If you haven't been to a reunion, perhaps now is the time to attend. If you haven't made your reservations with the Lodge of the Ozarks, now is the time for that too. The sooner you make your hotel reservations and send in your registration, the quicker we can get a head count. Registrations are due April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Check out the hotel at [www.lodgeoftheozarks.com](http://www.lodgeoftheozarks.com) but don't make your reservations on line as you will not get the reduced rate of \$93.29-total per night. Please call 417-334-7535 or 877-327-9894 and don't forget to tell them you are with the USS Kearsarge Association or if you want a refrigerator in your room. Remember the price also includes a private hot breakfast buffet. Look over the schedule and registration form carefully, as you have many choices.

Sailors, get into those old naval uniforms, if you can, for the dinner dance. The last time most of us dressed nautical was 1998 in Corpus Christi, Texas and how much fun that was! We have had an overwhelming response from members already. This reunion promises to be an exciting, fun-filled one with former shipmates and old friends coming together. It's also an opportunity to meet new ones. I personally have enjoyed meeting so many wonderful, friendly people by attending the Kearsarge reunions. Hope to see you there!

Ed McKee, USS Kearsarge Association president

The reunion registration form and additional information will be found on pages 6 and 7

## TAPS

**Thomas (Tim) Labadie (L/Cpl, MD 67-69)**

I wanted you to know that my husband Tim Labadie passed away Nov. 14, 2009 at the age of 61. He was in the Marines (1966-1969) and stationed on board the KEARSARGE CVS 33 as part of the Marine Detachment, when it was in Long Beach, CA. I was from Long Beach and we met and married in 1968. He was on board during the 1967-1968 WestPac tour. We always credited the Marines and the KEARSARGE for bringing us together.

He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Sincerely,  
Jody Labadie

**Michael A. Petti (AD3 VF-112 52-53)**

This was forwarded by Gino Tebaldi (AT3, VF112, 01/54-07/54) who wrote:

Hi John, Copy of note from Katherine Petti, sorry to let Kearsarge Association know of Mike Petti's (AD3, VF112, 1952-53) death.

Gino and Mary,

It is with sad heart that I tell you my husband passed away Dec. 15, 2009 at the Ellwood City Hospital. He always enjoyed seeing his Navy friends at the reunions.

Please keep him and our family in your prayers

Katherine Petti and Family

## LETTERS

21 September 2009

Mr. John Work

Dear John;

Enclosed please find my check for my 2009-2010 association fees. I want you and the officers of the association to know how much I appreciate your efforts in publishing the "Kearsaga." It serves to bring back memories of the men above and below me with whom I served. I do keep in touch with a few of them, and the number of these is dwindling as we get older. Nevertheless, all of them will always remain in my thoughts and prayers.

For your information, I have been working on a book for about the last 15 or more years, entitled "Up All Late Sleepers," which depicts life aboard the Kearsarge from 1952-1955. If I get around to having it printed, I may send you a copy before having it published, primarily because there may be some things in the book that would undoubtedly be frowned upon by the Navy Department.

I do subscribe to Navy Times, and note the differences between the peacetime and wartime Navy. The antics of both officers and enlisted personnel during the Korean Conflict were often overlooked and tolerated. I knew Paul Czesak, and he will attest to the hell raising ashore by both officers and enlisted personnel.

Anyhow, keep up the great work!

Sincerely,

Wayne E. Dempster, former LT., USNR OI Div 1953-55

January 26, 2009

TO: John Work, USS Kearsarge Association

FROM: Pete Gormsen, USS Kearsarge 1967-1968 Westpac Cruise

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

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

June 15, 2009

Dear John:

I am sorry that my dues are late, but my wife thought that she had paid them., but when she checked she discovered that she hadn't. We are enclosing a check for \$20.00 for 2009 and 2010.

I thoroughly enjoy the. KearSaga. I was one of the last to be transferred off the KEARSARGE CV 33 when it was decommissioned to have some major repair work done in Bremerton, after going through the Canal. I was then transferred to the SAMUEL N. MOORE DD747 and made 3 tours to Korea on it.

I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent on the KEARSAARGE and learned an awful lot over and above the 14 weeks I spent at engineering school after boot camp.



I left the Navy an MM2 after 5 years, got married, then went into the reserves for 25 years and retired as a Chief Engineer. I changed rates because the reserve unit I joined had a diesel powered mine sweeper to train on, which was fun and interesting.

Sincerely,

Richard Griffith 9 Brant Lane, Weaverville., NC. 28787, MMFN M Div 1948-50

31 January 2009

Kearsaga Editor Paul Czesak

Dear Paul,

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 that 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 drydock 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 AG2, OA Division 1953-55

#### Kearsarge Shipmates

I am writing to the Kearsaga the first time. I had been looking for a Kearsarge reunion for a long time. When I did find out about the Kearsarge Association I was over-joyed and now we are having a reunion in Branson Missouri. I can hardly wait and I hope to meet some of the shipmates from the 55-56 Cruise-1 would like to say that being on the Mighty-K was a BIG part of my life. I do encourage all of the members to go to Branson as I am from Missouri and I can tell you there is something for everybody to do in Branson. Mostly I am looking forward to being with my shipmates more than the seeing the shows or eating the food, which is GREAT by the way. I also think Silver Dollar City is one of the attractions everyone should see. I have a lot more to say but will save it for the Branson Reunion in May. I am very excited about this reunion and meeting all of you.  
Don Littrell USS Kearsarge CVA-33, AN, V-1 Division 1955-56

June 23,2009

Sir;

Thank you for the wonderful job you and your associates are doing with this newsletter. I went aboard almost sixty-two years ago. It was the proper way to start my adult life. Again, thank you.

Jackie D. Olinger QM3 ON Div47-50

18 June09

Hi John,

Sending my dues for 09,10. Hope you and family are well. Here is some history of "K" you probably heard before. On Feb 27, 1952 we arrived PSNS Bremerton, WA. The "K" was in dry dock. April 15, 1952 sailed to Bangor to load ammo. On 15 Feb, 1956 Capt Joules French accepted command, Peter Boyle was X.O., and on 18 April 1952 the USS KEARSARGE reported to the 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet for duty.

The first plane to kiss our deck was the AD "00" piloted by CAG, CDR Howard P. Ady. At sea all sorts of planes arrived - ADs, Banshees, F9s, Corsairs, and AJs. We left for Hawaii on 11 August 1952.



On 7 Sept moored to Buoy 11 in Yokosuka, Japan. Then, sailed for the Sea of Japan on 14 Sept, 1952 with Admiral Hidy, Commander Carrier Division Five, Task Force 77.

Hope to see you in Branson. Proud to have served aboard the KEARSARGE.  
Bill Rich (FP3, "R" Div, 52-53)

July 15, 2009

TO: John Work, USS Kearsarge Association,  
FROM: Dell (Rusty) Sanders, AMH-2, V-6 Div.

I served on the "Mighty K" from 12-1956 to 12-1959, along with our president, Ed McKee. I'm glad he found me about a year ago and let me know what was going on. I think this is very informative News Letter you guys have put together. Keep up the good work. Ed sent me a picture of himself and his wife and I must say, he has aged a little bit in the past 50 years. I know I have. He also sent me pictures of the Kearsarge after she was scrapped. It really hurt to see her like that. I think I would rather know she was setting on the bottom some where off the coast of Florida like her sister, the USS Oriskany, CVA-34 than to see her like this. At least the fish could call her home. Please find my membership check and again, keep up the good work. Guys.....  
Rusty Sanders, PO Box 536, Kingfisher, OK 73750, AC 405-375-4131 or rustysanders2@aol.com

December 23, 2009

Dear John,

I am enclosing my Kearsarge Association dues. Being a member of the Kearsarge Association is a special interest to me. In 1955 and 1956 I served aboard, the CVA-33 USS Kearsarge. I was the magazine and armory officer with primary duty in EOD/SWP. Over the years I have continued in the Navy reserve. Even though I am retired now, I have served 35 plus years on Congressmen's committee's for all four federal academies. I enjoy my duty as a Blue and Gold officer for the United States Naval Academy.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Rod Stubblefield, Captain, USN (Ret.), Blue and Gold Officer

## THE NEW NAVY!

Paul Young (FP3 R Div '52-'55) our San Diego "Reporter at Large" sent in an article from the San Diego Union, a portion of which is included below:

"The view from Greg McDonough's new dwelling sure beats the heck out of his old one. McDonough is a petty officer second class serving aboard the; Navy destroyer Gridley, which is moored to a pier at San Diego Naval Base at 32nd Street

Until last week, his home was a coffin-size bunk in a room with 80 or so shipmates. All of his possessions had to fit in a drawer and a stand-up locker. Then, on Dec. 19, McDonough became one of the first 140 service members to move into Pacific Beacon, a \$322 million, high-rise housing complex on the base.,

In what promoters describe as resort-style living, sailors walk up a palm-lined drive and cross marble floors. They might plop into a cushioned chair in front of the lobby fireplace or head straight to the rooftop pool and hot tub. "There's a huge 'Wow!' factor," said property manager Bryan Lamb of Clark Realty Capital, which developed the complex in, partnership with the Navy. "If you've seen it, you know it's not a barracks."

From his 15th-story balcony, McDonough can look straight out on San Diego Bay. To his left, he can see the lights of Tijuana at night. To his right are the San Diego-Coronado Bridge and the skyscrapers of downtown.

# USS Kearsarge 2010 Branson Reunion Schedule

## Sunday, May 16

12:00-5:00 Registration in Main Lobby  
5:00 Hospitality Room-Suite 251 opens

## Monday, May 17

6:00-8:00 Breakfast Buffet in Club Vegas  
8:30 Bus *Departs* Hotel for Branson city-tour and Branson Belle  
11:00 Memorial at Branson Belle  
11:30-2:15 Lunch cruise aboard Branson Belle  
3:30 Bus *Departs* Branson Belle - Hospitality Room-Suite 251 opens upon return  
5:30 Hospitality Room-Suite 251 closes  
6:30 Welcoming Buffet in Club Vegas

## Tuesday, May 18

6:00-8:00 Breakfast Buffet in Club Vegas  
8:30 Bus *Departs* Hotel for Bass Pro Shop in Springfield  
11:30 Bus *Departs* Bass Pro Shop for Lambert's Café  
1:00pm Bus *Departs* Lambert's Café for Hotel  
Hospitality Room-Suite 251 opens upon return  
3:45 Bus *Departs* Hotel for Dixie Stampede Pre-show & Dinner show  
7:30 Bus Arrives Hotel from Dixie Stampede

## Wednesday, May 19

6:00-8:00 Breakfast Buffet in Club Vegas  
8:30 Bus *Departs* Hotel for Veterans' Museum  
10:00 Bus *Departs* Museum for Hotel  
10:30 Member's Business Meeting (room to be announced)  
12:00pm Bus *Departs* Hotel for lunch Grand Country Buffet  
1:00 Bus *Departs* Grand Country Buffet for Yakov  
4:15 Bus *Departs* Yakov for Hotel  
Hospitality Room-Suite 251 opens upon return  
Dinner On Your Own  
6:00 Bus *Departs* Hotel for Sight & Sound  
9:45 Bus Arrives Hotel from Sight & Sound

**PLEASE REMOVE ALL PERSONAL ITEMS FROM HOSPITALITY ROOM BY END OF THE DAY**

## Thursday, May 20

6:00-8:00 Breakfast Buffet in Club Vegas  
9:00 Bus *Departs* Hotel for Titanic Museum  
10:30 Bus *Departs* Titanic Museum for Hotel  
12:00 Bus *Departs* Hotel for lunch at McFarlin's  
1:15 Bus *Departs* McFarlin's for Hotel  
2:00 Bus *Departs* Hotel for Shoji  
5:30 Bus arrives Hotel from Shoji  
6:30 Happy Hour Crystal Hall  
7:00 Dinner and Dance

## Friday, May 21

6:00-8:00am Breakfast Buffet in Club Vegas

Depart or Tour on Your Own.



**USS KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION**  
**Branson, Missouri**  
**May 16, 2010 - May 20, 2010**

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

**Member Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Division** \_\_\_\_ **and Years Aboard Kearsarge** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest #1 Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest #2 Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Guest #3 Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Attendees** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$5.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Monday, May 17**

**Tour of Branson and area, Memorial, &**

**Luncheon Cruise aboard Branson Belle** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$60.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Welcoming Buffet at Hotel** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$30.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday, May 18**

**Trip to Springfield:**

**Pro Bass Shop & Lunch at Lambert's** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$25.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dixie Stampede Dinner Show** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$50.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday, May 19**

**Veterans' Museum** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$12.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Grand Country Buffet & Yakov** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$53.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sight & Sound** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$50.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, May 20**

**Tour Titanic Museum** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$20.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lunch at McFarlin's** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$10.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Shoji Tabuchi Theater** **Number of Tickets** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$50.00 \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner Dance (PLEASE WRITE IN CHOICE) \* Full description below**

**(A) Fish \$35.00**

**(B) Beef \$40.00**

**(C) Chicken Breast \$30.00**

Member's Choice \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #1 Choice \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #2 Choice \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest #3 Choice \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail to: USS KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION % John Work,  
24611 Sandy Springs Rd., Minerva, OH 44657-9442  
Make checks payable to: USS Kearsarge Association  
Please Return Registration by April 1, 2010**

**Monday's luncheon cruise aboard the Branson Belle will include: Garden Salad, Braised Beef in a Demi-Glace Sauce, Glazed Chicken Breast with Wild Rice, Vegetable Medley, Bread, Coffee or Tea, and Lemon Raspberry Torte**

**The Welcoming Buffet at the hotel will include: Fresh Salad Bar, Hot Rolls, Roasted Pork Loin with Apple Chutney, Beef Bourguignon, Roasted Red Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Coffee or Tea, and Dessert.**

**Tuesday's lunch at Lambert's will include: Twenty different menu choices, Soft drink, Coffee or Tea, dessert, and of course their famous rolls.**

**The Dixie Stampede Dinner Show will include: Rotisserie Chicken, BBQ Pork Loin, Vegetable Soup, Biscuit, Corn on the Cob, Basted potato, Dessert, Pepsi, Coffee or Tea. They also offer a Vegetation Meal upon request.**

**Wednesday's lunch at the Grand Country Buffet features taste-tempting selection of meats, salads, fruits, vegetables, bakery fresh breads and desserts from the hot and cold food bars.**

**Thursday's lunch at McFarlin's will include a choice of Vigilante Taco, Vegetable Soup and ½ Sandwich, or Hot Roast Beef Sandwich with mashed Potatoes, Pie, and Coffee or Tea**

**\*Thursday's Banquet at the hotel will include your choice of: Prime Rib of Beef, Stuffed Breast of Chicken, with Cornbread Dressing, or Tilapia with Herb Butter. All meals include Baby Red Potatoes, Vegetable Du Jour, Rolls, dessert and Coffee or Tea.**

# KEAR SAGA

II

*The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association*

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USS Kearsarge Association  
24611 Sandy Springs Rd  
Minerva, OH 44657-9442

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**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR DUES EXPIRATION DATE**

## *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, ratelrank, Division, years aboard, address and phone number***

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