

# KEARSAGA

USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

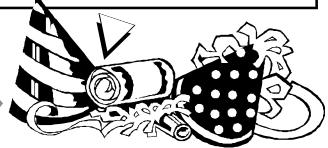
ISSUE 61

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

Winter 2017



## HAPPY NEW YEAR



It has been 72 years since the Kearsarge was built and 47 years since it was decommissioned.



Here's hoping that all KEARSARGE Association members and their families had a very Merry Christmas, and that 2017 will bring much happiness, good health to YOU ALL and a positive outlook for our great country.

To keep you informed, VP Barry Rittle, his wife Linda, my wife Jan and I will be heading to Jacksonville (locals say JAX) Florida (Apr/ May) to initiate arrangements for our 2018 KEARSARGE Association reunion. I say that now so that if any of you have any suggestions/ recommendations for our consideration, please email them to me and Barry at your earliest opportunity. We always look for ways to improve and increase the reunion "FUN EXPERIENCE".

This column will ramble a bit as I will respond to and address some correspondence that your elected officers have received in the past. (As info, I will be the Association point of contact (POC) to address any issues (large or small that may arise) that we receive from our members.

We had some issues with the KEARSAGA being mailed to old addresses, but I think that between Dale and Bill that will be corrected with this KEARSAGA edition.

We had a members letter stating great

concern over an article "Why I like The Navy" that he said was plagiarized by a Navy Captain from a Vice Admiral. A similar article had appeared in the KEARSAGA some years ago. To be very honest, I

sent that latest article to be published and I don't care if the VADM is upset with the 4 striper. That would have to be a conversation between them, although, I think that he was probably happy to see the great article. We'll continue to publish articles that appear to be of interest to our great members.

We had another letter about an obit that we overlooked to published in the KEARSAGA. We send apologies as appropriate to all and correction will be made.

I received a copy of another letter with a \$500.00 donation to The Association from Ms. Diane Petrowski (Dana Point, Ca.) in memory of her late husband Robert (Bob) Petrowski. She stated that "The "Mighty Kay" held a special place in Bob's heart. My personal interpretation is that like many of us now "Old Sailors", Bob grew up on The Kearsarge.

Last, I'll close with a "Remembrance" of another Association Member and shipmate that I knew when I served aboard from 59-61. Emery G. Murray passed away earlier in 2016 and his wife Betty was unable to communicate that to me until last month. Emery was a PO-3 "Yellow Shirt" in V-3 Division and served as an aircraft "spotter/director". Emery served in the Navy from 59-63. 

"IN OMNIBUS PINNACULUM"

# USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

## Education Officer Sign USS Kearsarge CV 33

by Barry Rittle, Kearsarge Association VP  
ETN-2, OE Division '65 – '69

As some of you may already know, the association officers from time to time receive email correspondence submitted thru the association website ([www.kearsargeassociation.com](http://www.kearsargeassociation.com)). The following was received from a Fred Schuhle who lives in Geneva, New York:

"I have a wooden sign that reads Education Officer, USS Kearsarge CV-33 that has been in my garage entirely too long. Have no idea where it came from or how it got to me, but am happy to mail it to a group or museum that will appreciate it more. Thanks for your service."

I responded to Fred's email telling him the association appreciates his offer and would gladly accept the subject sign. Subsequently I received the sign as shown below:



Our intention is to have the sign at the 2018 Reunion in Jacksonville, FL where it will be included with the items placed on auction. This will be a once in a life time opportunity to own this fine piece of Kearsarge memorabilia , so bring lots of money and plan on bidding high, as I am sure there will be a lot of bidders wanting to take this sign home. Remember this is a unique, original, one of a kind item from the ship. Additionally, based on its age, it is also an antique or a relic in nautical speak.

Since Fred found the sign in his garage but has no idea how it got there, it would be interesting to know if any of the association members can provide additional information relative to the sign. Any

information provided would be greatly appreciated and would add significantly to the overall value of this unique relic.

## Anybody Still Have One

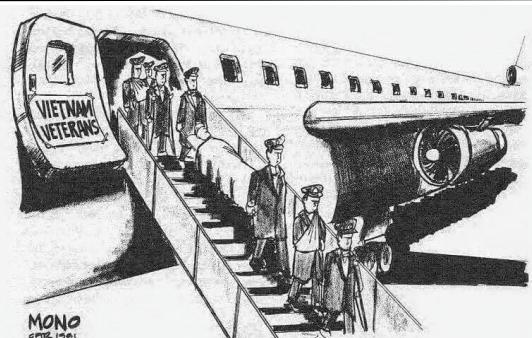
ARMED FORCES LIBERTY PASS	SERVICE	DATE ISSUED
	U. S. NAVY	30 Oct 68
LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE INITIAL		CARD NO.
WHITE, John R.		1003
SERVICE NO.	GRADE RATE	
B13 39 36	Non-Rated	
ORGANIZATION—INSTALLATION—BASE		
USS KEARSARGE (CVS-33)		
TIME LIMITS		
Watch Standers		
SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF ISSUING OFFICER		
J. PRZEWOWSKI, LT, SQ, USN		
DD FORM 3451 Apr 60		
REPLACES WD AGO FORMS 7 AND 8, NAV PERS FORM 547 AND CG FORMS 2518 AND 2792 WHICH MAY BE USED		

Jack White mailed a copy of his liberty card.

## 1966-1970 OE Division



Tom White (CA.), Bruce Nelson (ME.), Barry Rittle (PA.), Dale Maddy (WI.), and Bill Hollywood (AK.) attended the last Kearsarge reunion in San Antonio, TX. This was the first time this group of men have been together since September 1969 (47 years ago). They had a great time and encourage more shipmates to join them in Jacksonville, FL. in May 2018.



Vietnam Vets — No Yellow Ribbons,  
No Parades...No Respect

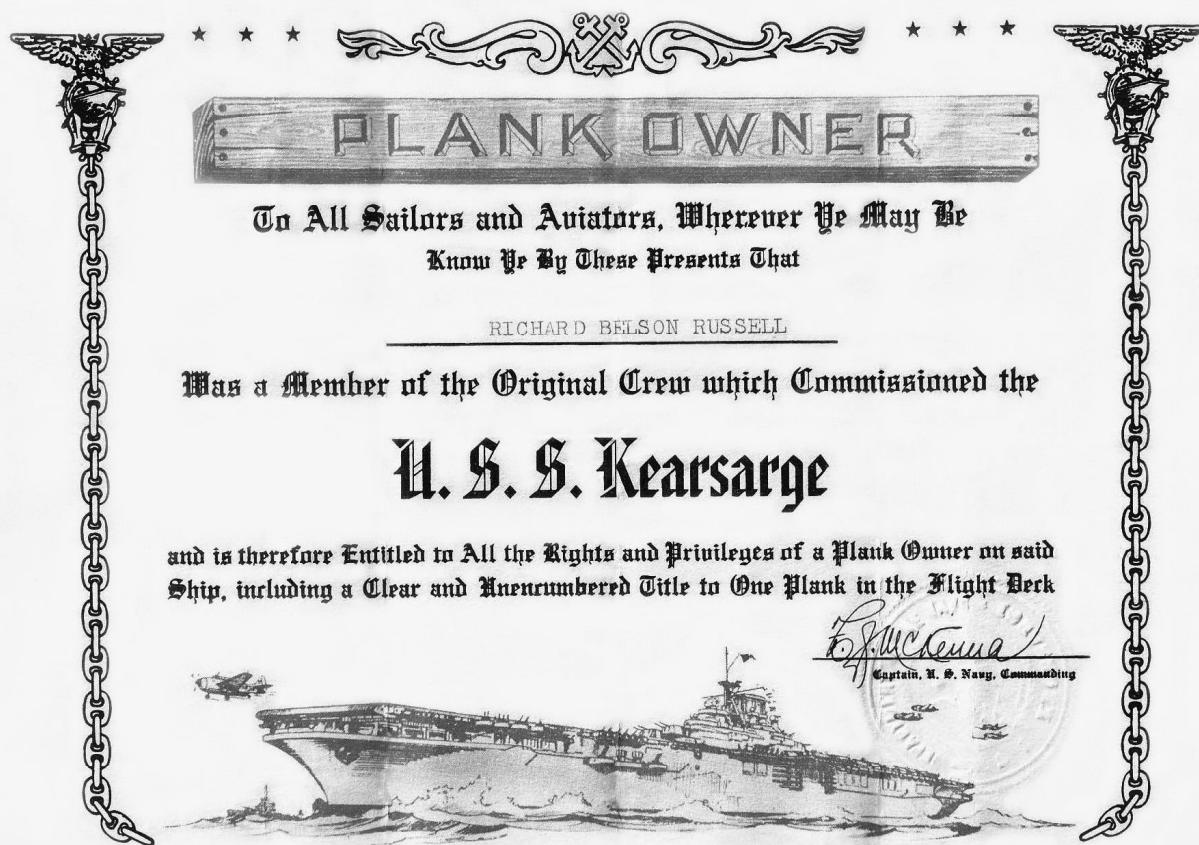
AHOY SAILOR!

Would like to have a good time?  
Join your shipmates in Jacksonville,  
Florida for the fifteenth ships reunion.  
You will not regret it.



**Plank Owner Certificate**

Richard Belson Russell shared his plank owner certificate with us. Was signed by the USS Kearsage CV-33 first commanding officer Captain Francis J. McKenna in 1946. 



# USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

## My Navy Days

By Billy Pat Hearon  
Tyler, TX



In 1952 I was two and half months out of boot camp when I was crushed up against the hull of the USS Saline County (LST 1101). The next morning when I got up I could barely bend or walk so I went to see the corpsman in sickbay and he sent me to the hospital. I was there three and half months with a cast from my privates to my neck.

When I finally was discharged from the hospital I was dispatched to the USS Black Warrior River (LSMR-404). We sailed to Korea for ten months before returning to the states. Again I had to go back to the Pomona hospital at which time I had to go before a board with an Admiral in charge.

He said, "Sailor what can we do for you? I said, "Put me on ship that goes through the waves instead of one that goes up one wave and dives through the other one."

The way it turned out was, he got in touch with the lieutenant colonel over at the gun gang and that was how I ended up on the USS Kearsarge. The lieutenant met me at the quarter deck instead of the gangway ladder and he said you are going to be the lead third class in the ships armory. He said there was another sailor out of Nacogdoches, Texas, but he does not want the job, so I spent the rest of my time in the navy as leader of thirty men. When it came time for me to get discharged the lieutenant colonel was a full colonel and he presented me with a test to become a second class petty officer. He wanted me to stay in the navy and go to Vietnam for duty on a river boat as a gunman. I told him no, but he insisted that I take the test anyway. I did, but I dive bombed it and purposely missed questions that I knew the answers to. I got my discharge and went on home. About three months later I received a letter that I had made second class. I spent my 180 days at home and that is where I have been ever since.

## 15th Commanding Officer

Capt Percival W. Jackson  
June 1960 - June 1961



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Percival W. Jackson, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, for extraordinary heroism in operations against the enemy while serving as Pilot of a carrier-based Navy Torpedo Plane and Commanding Officer of Composite Squadron TWENTY-SEVEN (VC-27), embarked from the USS Savo Island CVE-78, in action against enemy Japanese forces at Leyte, Philippine Islands, during the Battle of Leyte Gulf on 25 October 1944. His outstanding courage and determined skill were at all times inspiring and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Born: September 16, 1914 at Middlebury, Vermont  
Home Town: Poughkeepsie, New York

*My perspective... As a child I watched films about the war in the pacific. Now I can put a face and a name to one of those hero's. I was not even born when Percival flew these missions. I was a freshman in high school when he was the commanding officer. Dale Maddy*

# USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

## MAIL CALL

### Jere Whitehouse ETN3

I served on the Kearsarge from around 1965-1966. I came on board as she went into drydock in Long Beach and went on the WestPac cruise in 1966. I had a Top Secret Clearance and had attended Crypto School in Vallejeh after ET school on Treasure Island. It seems Lt. Keinrath was divison head of the Electronics Division. ( One of my best friends was Barry Rittle and I searched for him for many years. I would like to reconnect with former shipmates! 

### Bob Donohue (then LT MSC USN)

I was the Medical Administrative Officer on KEARSARGE on that FRANK E. EVANS' fateful day. Although we did not, initially, receive many casualties, (MELBOURNE rescued most survivors, who were treated and ferried back to us later.) I appreciated the heads up call from Comm O (LT Jack Connelly?) after an initial incomplete report . To this day I recall and think, with great pride, of the immediate preparatory action to receive and care for casualties by the Corpsmen, Dental techs, Medical and Dental officers. (As I recall 1 DO and 1 DT, had been on cross service temporary duty on MELBOURNE at the time of the incident.) Also thanks and pride in the MARDET that evacuated their berthing area (at 5 AM) and assisted us to set a potential blood drawing area.

I was in Australia last year and saw the New MELBOURNE and was able to relate some of the incident to the guide and fellow tourists. 

### David Thomas RD-3

I served aboard Kearsarge (CVS-33) from Nov '68 to Dec '69. Arriving as an RDSN, I made RD-3 while aboard her. My second ship was a big change as I went to a Coastal Minesweeper which was decommissioned a short while after I went aboard. The last ship I served on was USS Bronstein (DE-1037), a ship that sailed with Kearsarge in 1969 as part of the ASW Group. I intend to join the Association and look forward to being an active member. 

### Jonathan Watson

I was a crew member & plankowner of USS Kearsarge LHD-3 from Jan 1992 thru Aug 1997. I was wondering on how to join the association 

### Ernest (Mike) Lopez

When I boarded the Kearsarge I was reluctant

and distressed when I left her I was proud of what we had done and the dedication that all the shipmates had performed to make it an excellent operating vessel. I can not express how great full I was to have received a vast amount of life's education while aboard the USS Kearsarge CVS-33! BRAVO ZULU!! 

### Richard Kortcamp AOAN VF-884

In Kearsaga issue 59, Kent Stufflebeam asks about the Commander Simons crash incident and Richard Kortcamp responded with his eye witness account of the event.

My name is Richard Kortcamp AOAN VF-884. I was aboard the Kearsarge 1952/53, the same cruise as Kent Stufflebeam, and I too saw the crash of the A4-D Skyraider. My squadron was VF-884, Airgroup 101, as was commander Simons. The A4-D's were launching forward, our planes, the old Gull winged F4-U corsair. We were to launch next.

I and 2 of my buddies were forward and starboard of the island. We watched as the A4-D's took off, they carried such a heavy payload of bombs and rockets, that when they left the flight deck, some of them dipped out of sight, below the flight deck for 3 or 4 seconds before starting to climb.

Commander Simonds plane did that, but never got airborn! We then heard the alarm, we ran to the starboard catwalk, probably the same one Kent Stufflebeam was on, only forward. As we looked down, commander Simonds was visible near the section of his aircraft!

We were turning starboard, and actually going away from the crash site. We could see a helicopter heading toward the crash site. We could no longer see any signs of the aircraft or CDR Simonds. 

### Doug Care

I Enjoy reading the Kearsaga. Hope to make the next reunion. 

### Felix Manaiia

God Bless you for what you do. Was on Kearsarge on shakedown cruise to Cuba & Panama 1946 - did nothing on board except entertain the pilots and seaman with my accordian. After 81 years I am still playing.. 

### Ms. Jody Pallen

Looking forward to the next reunion. 

# USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter



## TAPS

### Charles Willis

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Charles Willis passed away on August 30, 2015. He was always telling Navy stories and is greatly missed. Cheryl Willis

**Robert S. Petrowski**

USS Kearsarge 1957-1961

It is with great sadness that I inform you that we lost Bob on October 31, 2015.

We attended several of the Kearsarge reunions; the last one being in San Diego in 2014; and, the most memorable at the launching of the Kearsarge (LHD-3) in Pascagoula, Mississippi in 1992.

Bob loved his Navy days; The life-long friends who shared that time with him; the beautiful country he served. And , he "proudly" stood at every event that recognized our veterans. I will be adding his name to a veterans Memorial near our home. Rest in Peace...

Thank you for being a part of his "family",and for your commitment to the Kearsarge Association.  
Diane Petrowski His Loving Wife

### Rick Davis

I was notified by the US post office that our shipmate Rick Davis of Pensacola, Florida has passed away. Rick was on board the mighty K In 1963-64 as part of the HS6 group. His last issue of Kearsage was returned with a marking, "deceased" I have no other information. I believe he may have died sometime in 2015. Dale Maddy

### John A. O'Donnell "Jack" Capt. USNR (Ret.)



Of Potomac, MD, passed away on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at his home. John (Age 95) was born in Philadelphia, PA on May 30, 1921.

After graduating from West Catholic High School, John entered the V-5 Aviation Cadet Program in November 1942, after which he was commissioned ENS USNR and received his Wings of Gold September 8, 1943. He was then assigned to Composite Squadron 81, flying the FM-2 "Wildcat". He flew 59 combat missions. He was released from active duty in June 1946 and flew the F6F "Hellcat" in reserve training. He received a BA from the University of Pennsylvania under the GI Bill and volunteered for active duty in June 1951. Promoted

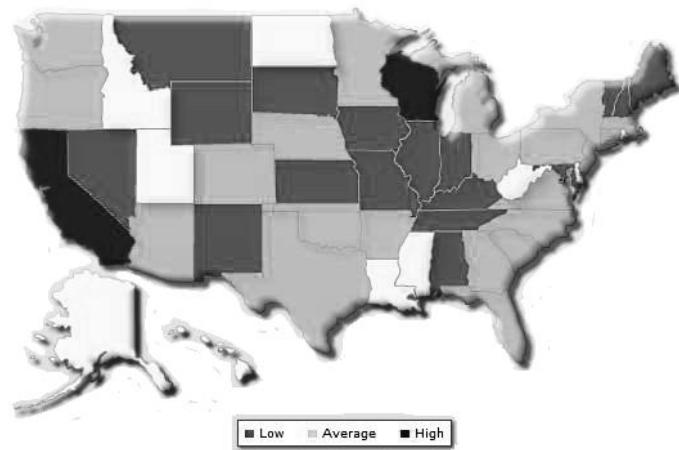
to lieutenant and assigned to VF-11, the "Red Rippers", he flew the McDonnell F2H-2 "Banshee" jetfighter in combat over North Korea in the winter campaign 1952-53, flying 66 combat missions from the USS Kearsarge (CV-33). - See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/washingtonpost/obituary.aspx?n=john-odonnell-jack&pid=183186415#sthash.VF4WxT5I.dpuf>

## NOTICE

Please take a look at our website to see the changes made to the BYLAWS. As per our business meeting in San Antonio we made changes to ARTICLE VI – REUNION PLANNING line 4 pertaining to reunion location rotation. This was voted on and approved by the attending membership. This was done so that members would be close to home in one out of every three reunions and they would only need to travel half the distance of the US in one out of three trips. It was hoped that more people would attend reunions with this change.

Second, a change was made to ARTICLE IX – DISSOLUTION. This was also voted and approved by the members. It pertains to how money and property will be disposed in the event the association was to be dissolved.

Please go online and read the bylaws. <http://www.kearsargeassociation.com/Bylaws.html>



Since April 2016 we have had 600 visitors to our website. About 3000 page visits lasting from 8 to 15 minutes each.

# USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

## HELP

### Bill Stiegler ABHCS (ret)

I saw your ad in the April FRA magazine regarding your May reunion, so I decided to hold off writing you till now so I wouldn't get in your way.

I've been looking for a Shipmate of mine for several years without any success. His name is ABF2 Richard (Fuzzy) Frisorre (!) not sure if this is the right spelling. He would have been in V-4 Division. He was aboard the Kearsarge in the early 60's and I saw him when the ship visited Pearl Harbor on its way to WesPac. I got orders to the USS Midway in 1961 and made the 62 cruise to WesPac. Somehow found out he got hurt, and now was at NAS Sangley Point in the P.I.'s. So when we arrived at Subic Bay I hired a Jitney to take me there too. Never found him there or in his hometown of Lexington Massachusetts. One relative I met thought he moved to Indiana after a career in the Navy.

What I'm asking you is Fuzzy a member of your association? I am in my 70's now.



## 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

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

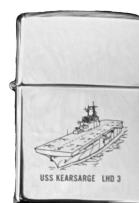


### Ships Crest



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

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



### Zippo Lighter



Chrome - LHD 3  
- \$15.00

Brass - LHD 3  
Ships crest - \$15.00

### Dawn of Glory



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

### 50th Anniversary



1st Day Cover Envelope -  
\$1.50

### 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

# KEARSAGA

USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

FIRST  
CLASS  
U.S.  
POSTAGE

USS Kearsarge Association  
% Dale Maddy  
W11037 Lake View Dr  
Lodi, WI 53555

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## CHECK MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE

*If it has been highlighted in yellow please renew immediately*



### DUES and MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership dues are \$15.00  
Check payable to the: **Kearsarge Association**  
Mail to: **Bill Hollywood**  
**3059 Crest Ave.**  
**Ketchikan, AK 99901**

New members, send your information to include:  
Name, address, phone number, E-mail address,  
rate/rank, division, and years aboard.

If you are interested in receiving your Kearsaga via E-mail go to our web page and leave a message stating "Send KEARSAGA via E-mail." For those who do not have a computer we will continue sending via U. S. Postal service.

### Association Office Holders

**President:** CV Lindley, 9729 Shadow Wood Dr, Pensacola FL 32514, (850)477-0053 cvjan78@gmail.com

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**Secretary/Treasurer:** Bill Hollywood, 3059 Crest Ave., Ketchikan, AK 99901, (907) 225-6556 aknos@outlook.com

**Webmaster/Editor:** Dale Maddy W11037 Lake View Dr., Lodi WI 53555, (608) 444-1783 dmaddy47@outlook.com

**Ship store:** Charles Patton, 9125 Live Oak Ave, Ocean Springs, MS 39564 (228) 875-7572 Charlotteap@bellsouth.net

Honorary President Kenneth McDaniel (*Deceased*) Association Founder  
John Bennett "President Emeritus", John Starnes Past President