

KEARSARGE

USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

ISSUE 62

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

Spring 2017

Presidents Message

by C.V. Lindley



Spring is once again upon us but here in Pensacola Florida it's been Fall/Spring like weather almost the entire winter season. We only had two nights when the temperature was in the mid twenties.

To keep all Association members informed, I will be traveling with my wife Janice to Jacksonville Florida (The locals say Jax) in mid April to meet Association Vice-President Barry Rittle and his Wife Linda. We will be formalizing plans for our 2018 REUNION in the great River city of Jacksonville. Tentatively, we are looking to book a nice hotel (The Doubletree) right on the St. Johns river in downtown Jax. Hopefully we'll be successful, We'll be trying for the last week in April or the first week in May of 2018.

A subject of very great concern to your elected officers is the future of this great KEARSARGE Association. As we are all aware, the clock/calendar is catching up with all of us. By my calculations, our youngest members now are probably 69-70 (+/-) years old, I am not one of those. That means in just 10 short years we're looking at 80 being our youngest CV-CVA-CVS members. We MUST recruit members from LHD 3 KEARSARGE crew members to preserve the legacy that we all hold in such high regard. I'm asking for a strong effort on everyone's part to use any communication method that you might have to contact former LHD 3 crew members and tell them about this Association to include our superb web page. Place notices through American Legion, DAV, VFW, FRA, any/all service organizations that you may belong to. Encourage them to become a member and attend our 2018 reunion in Jacksonville.

I had a nice telephone conversation yesterday with Jeff Martin who is an active duty Commander, and, the Commanding officer of The Naval Technical Training Center, Lackland Texas. He is a great individual and a "plank Owner" of LHD 3 (he was a YN3 then) and has already made a "Facebook" Post for our Association to get the "ball" rolling to encourage LHD 3 Sailors. Those of you at the San Antonio reunion met him and already know what a very nice individual he is and remember the "warm welcome" that he gave to our group. 

"IN OMNIBUS PINNACULUM"

SENIOR CHIEF MORRIS

By Larry Rauchut EM3 1955-1956

At the last reunion in San Antonio we had a great experience at LACKLAND AFB at the USN Master at Arms training school. Our host was Senior Chief Jason Morris. He was really personable and spent time with all of us "old timers" talking about the modern Navy.

I live in an active adult community with more than 300 veterans and we always have a Veterans Day ceremony. I invited Senior Chief Morris to come and be featured speaker.

Senior Chief Morris spoke to a crowd of about 200 folks and he was dynamic telling the folks about the military in today's dangerous world. There were two comments he made that the audience will never forget.

First, "Only on percent of the population can qualify for the service and the men and women that enlist are the best."

Second, Senior Chief Morris looked at the folks and said, "You are safe because the armed forces will protect you and the United State of America."

There was a moment of noticeable silence and then applause. 

**Join your shipmates
in Jacksonville, Florida**

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MEMORABLE MOMENTS

By Eric Oxendorf
Baraboo, WI

At 18 years old, I joined the US Navy Reserve in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1966. Four months later I transferred to the Regular Navy. I started out in boot camp at Great Lakes and then on to Aviation Electrician (AE) school in Jacksonville, Florida. From there I went to H-3 helicopter training in Imperial Beach, California at the Naval Air Station Ream Field (later known as Naval Air Station Imperial Beach). I had volunteered for Vietnam twice on paper, so of course I served there for 4 tours. The first tour was with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Six, (HS-6). We were in an air wing (Carrier Air Wing 53, I believe) and we deployed aboard the USS Kearsarge, CVS-33, on what ended up to be her last ever WestPac cruise, in 1969. Later tours were with HC-7 Det 110 Big Mother off NVN.

While we were on that last cruise, there were many memorable events. To start, it was quite an experience just crossing the International Date Line and missing my duty day.

The saddest event was the collision of the HMAS Melbourne (the Australian aircraft carrier) and the destroyer, USS Frank E. Evans. There were a number of lost lives on that. Our helicopter squadron rescued a number of the survivors, and we also recovered some of the bodies. That was a night I will never forget. I was on duty that night and it all started about one o'clock in the morning. Rescue work carried on until daylight when the scene of the collision was more apparent. That's all I would like to say about that.

An event that happened on that cruise that added to my national pride, was an American landing on the moon for the first time! I stayed up that night knowing it was going to happen. I remember being on the fantail looking up at the moon on that clear night as the captain came on the 1MC, blew the boson's whistle waking up the entire ships company, announcing that a man had landed on the moon just moments earlier. So while on the fantail I took a shaky picture of the moon-with a man on the surface. Of course you cannot see him, but it still meant a lot to me.



Another memorable event, beside our ports of call in Sasebo, Yokosuka, Subic Bay, Hong Kong and Hawaii, was our trip across the Pacific, back to the states (we were called back early with the Paris peace talks to end the Vietnam War) Our cruise was cut short, along with the USS Constellation (CVA). We actually had a race across the Pacific: our 1945 aircraft carrier, the Kearsarge versus the USS Constellation-at full steam for 3+ days. We arrived in Long Beach at least 4 hours ahead of them! I have to say the amazing thing about that race: looking across the sea and about a mile off our port side was the Constellation slowly falling behind! Of course that was a larger heavier ship and we had been throwing junk overboard for a couple of days to lighten our load. The Kearsarge shook like a nervous bridesmaid. It was amazing how much rattling that went on at full steam. There were things falling everywhere from the overhead. I had nearly got hit by a pipe that broke lose in the hangar bay ceiling. Just a split second before, I walked by the spot where it landed.

I have a lot more stories-like any sailor, but I will save them for another day. 



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LOOKING BACK

By John Bennett, 1959-62,
Member Number 17

The Kearsarge Association is 25 years old! To celebrate we would like to list and pay homage to past officers, reunion coordinators and helpers who have made it possible to reach our Silver Anniversary. I hope you enjoy the highlights of past events in this issue' and we will share more in the next two issues of Kearsaga.

THE BEGINNING

Ken McDaniel was looking for former shipmates of his who were IC Electricians in E Division aboard the USS Kearsarge CVA 33.



He later told me he made the mistake of finding one and then wondered if he could find everyone he worked with. He started posting notices in military type magazines and started getting responses from all ratings and years aboard the Kearsarge. At this time he changed his notice to ask who was interested in attending a Kearsarge Reunion. Ken started getting many responses so a reunion was on. He also found out that a new Kearsarge was being built in Pascagoula, Mississippi and would be christened in 1992. After discussing this with shipmates who had made contact with him the date and the area for the first reunion were set. Ken and his daughter, Janet Keener, contacted the shipyard to inform them of the upcoming Kearsarge Reunion. The shipyard was pleasantly surprised and invited all attending the first reunion to the christening. Mrs. Alma Powell would christen the new ship and General Colin Powell would be the guest speaker.

1992 - Mobile Alabama

President John Bishop, Vice President T.W. Smith, Sec/Treasurer and Kearsaga Editor John Bennett, Historian Steve Udell.

Reunion Coordinators, Ken McDaniel and Janet Keener.

Site Visit, None.

As attendees starting arriving it was wonderful to greet former shipmates and make new acquaintances. Everyone was pleased that over 200 were attending the first reunion! At the first business meeting the attendees formed the Kearsarge Association with the first slate of officers. Because of poor health Ken McDaniel passed on any position in the association but, along with his daughter Janet Keener, continued to help the association in numerous ways.

One of the major highlights of the reunion was to be able to attend the christening of USS Kearsarge LHD3. As our busses approached the shipyard and the new Kearsarge came into view one can only imagine how awed we were by the sight of her.

During General Colin Powell's speech we were honored because he recognized the former Kearsarge sailors and asked us to rise. Next Mrs. Alma Powell broke the bottle of champagne and christened the new ship "Kearsarge". She leaned over and kissed the bow amid cheers from all attendees.

1993 - Mini Reunion, Pascagoula, Mississippi

While attending a USS Kearsarge LHD 3 commissioning meeting in Pascagoula John Bishop and I were informed that it would be appropriate for our association to present a plaque to the new Kearsarge. I started a fund raising campaign to pay for the plaque plus we needed to come up with a design. Over \$5000.00 was collected from our members which paid for the plaque, plus a surplus which was donated to the upcoming commissioning banquet. The design of the plaque was agreed upon and a foundry in Pennsylvania was contracted to fabricate it.

The plaque was presented to Captain Montgomery at the Commanding Officers Banquet the evening before the commissioning. The next day at the commissioning the Kearsarge Association was given front row seating and recognized by Captain Montgomery during his speech. Tours of the newly commissioned Kearsarge were given, but Captain Montgomery told us that if we would come the next day he would see that we would get special tours. True to his word we toured the ship top to bottom.

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USS KEARSARGE
The Tradition of Excellence

USS Kearsarge Sloop of War
Named after a prominent peak located in New Hampshire's White Mountains, and sunk the CSS Alabama in the only open sea battle of the Civil War.
1862-1894

USS Kearsarge BB-5
Sailed around the world as part of the Great White Fleet, and was the only US Navy battleship not named after a state.
1900-1920

USS Kearsarge CV/CVA/CVS-33
Received battle stars for Korean and Vietnam War service, and also recovered two Project Mercury astronauts.
1946-1970

USS Kearsarge LHD-3
As your commission begins, we challenge you to keep the Kearsarge Tradition of Excellence alive.
1993-

Presented by
The USS Kearsarge Association
October 16, 1993

1994 - Virginia Beach, Virginia

President Bruce Covington, Vice President T.W. Smith, Sec/Treasurer and Kear Saga Editor John Bennett, Ship Store Art Killian, Historian Steve Udell.

Reunion Coordinators, Bruce Covington, John Bennett and Diane Lewter.

Site Visit - None.

With Norfolk Virginia being the new home port of the Kearsarge this site was chosen for the second reunion. Bruce Covington, a retired Master Chief Petty Officer, lived in Virginia Beach and took on the task of local reunion coordinator. The tour director of the company we had booked called me one day telling me about our tours and that we would visit the Norfolk Naval Base, visit one of the ships and have lunch on the base. I told her we planned to visit the Kearsarge and she said only the Naval Base could pick the ship. I told her Captain Montgomery had told me that we could visit the Kearsarge so she asked if I had a phone number so she could contact him. We did

visit the Kearsarge and Captain Montgomery also arranged for us to eat lunch aboard the ship. The tour director told me that was the first time any tour group had picked the ship to visit and was allowed to have lunch aboard.

The Kearsarge was loaded for Fleet Week (the following week in New York City) and had Navy Seals and Marines aboard with tanks, amphibious vehicles and light armored vehicles. That evening at the dinner dance Captain Montgomery (who was our guest speaker) said he hoped everyone appreciated all the equipment he brought aboard just for the Kearsarge Association. This brought a lot of laughter.

Shortly after the reunion Ken McDaniel passed from his cancer. At the reunion Ken was elected Honorary President of the Kearsarge Association.

1996 - San Diego, California

President Bruce Covington, Vice President T.W. Smith, Treasurer Robert Finley, Kear Saga Editor John Bennett, Ship Store Art Killian, Historian Steve Udell.

Reunion Coordinators, Bruce Covington, John Bennett – Local Coordinators Dan Deibert and his Working Party, Paul Young, Cliff Weirick, Ed Kellner, Bob Prestwood, Allan Rollins, Chuck Willess, Jim Nall.

Site Visit – John Bennett, Diane Lewter.

A great many members were looking forward to the San Diego reunion as at one time it was the ship's home port, plus many of us attended boot training and A Schools there. Being the 50th anniversary of the commissioning of USS Kearsarge CV 33, Cliff Weirick built a model of the ship with remote control to commemorate the event. The model was officially commissioned in the Hanalei Hotel pool by Eloise, wife of former Kearsarge Commanding Officer Captain Eugene Rankin, by pouring the bubbly on the model while the Navy Band played Anchors Aweigh. Tours included a trip to Tijuana and a tour of the Marine Recruit Training Base which started with the Commanding General's Friday Morning Colors Ceremony, the recruit graduation parade, lunch at the recruit mess hall and a tour of the recruit training facilities.

Cliff Weirick came through again as we wanted to visit the USS Kitty Hawk that was in port but were told we would have to make reservations months in advance. Cliff came to the commissioning

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with his neighbor, Commander Jerry Neuberger, who said he heard we were wanting to tour the Kitty Hawk. He asked us how many would like to attend and what time would we like to visit. The tour was set up and we took a busload for the visit. We learned later the people at the base who originally turned down Bruce Covington's request for this tour worked for Commander Neuberger.

At the dinner dance former CO Captain Eugene Rankin was the guest speaker and over 300 attended the event. The event outgrew the hotel banquet room and a huge banquet tent was set up in the parking lot.

Paul Young designed a cancellation stamp that the Post Office used for all letters mailed from the reunion.

1998 - Corpus Christi, Texas

President and Kear Saga Editor John Bennett, Vice President T.W. Smith, Treasurer Robert Finley, Ship Store Art Killian .

Reunion Coordinators, Bruce Covington, John Bennett.

Site Visit – Bruce Covington, John Bennett.

Bruce Covington and I were doing the site visit and sitting on the balcony of one of the hotels we visited having our morning coffee. To the right of us was the USS Lexington, a ship like the Kearsarge. Bruce said to me, "That might be a place to hold the dinner dance." I thought about it and replied, "If we wear our uniforms and the ladies wear naval themed attire it would be perfect." Later that day we talked to the banquet coordinator on the Lexington were able to arrange the banquet.

At the reunion we toured the Lexington, visited the Aquarium, went on a sunset harbor tour, and visited the King Ranch. We were also able to arrange a tour of the US Navy Minesweeper Base at Ingle-side. Lunch was on the base and a tour of a new minesweeper topped off the day. The new minesweepers were nothing like the wooden ones I used to see in San Diego!

Unfortunately, Bruce Covington could not attend the reunion because of illness and died March 1999 after a two year battle with cancer. Because of Bruce's absence Noel and Joyce Binder's help with the reunion was invaluable.

2000 - Newport, Rhode Island

President John Bennett, Vice President Robert Smeck , Treasurer John Work, Kear Saga Editor Paul

Czesak, Membership Tom Smith, Ship Store Art Killian.

Reunion Coordinators Ted Edington, John Bennett.

Site Visit – Ted Edington, John Bennett.

Ted Edington, a member of the Rhode Island House of Representatives, lived in the Newport, Rhode Island area and did a wonderful job of showing the association what New England had to offer. Ted and I had a great time on the site visit and were able to book our dinner dance at the Officers Club, Officers Training Command, Rhode Island. The Commanding Officer of the base was the guest speaker for the dinner dance. Ted arranged an authentic clam bake that was fantastic and is still being talked about. We also had tours to the Fall River Maritime Museum, a casino, Mystic Seaport, Newport and Newport harbor, 10 miles of coastline and a visit to the Marble House. 



Photo by Eric Oxendorf



Photo by Eric Oxendorf

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TAPS

Phillip R. Lerum

Phillip Rogers Lerum, age 83 of Fox Lake, WI. passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee, WI.

He proudly served his country for four years in the United States Marine Corps. During the Korean War, he served on the USS Kearsarge aircraft carrier ship. Upon returning home, Phil worked on farms and then at Kirsch Foundry in Beaver Dam, WI. 

Hugh G. Babcock BT1

I'm sorry to inform you that my Father passed away Nov 28, 2014. Dad served on the USS Kearsarge '51-'54. He enjoyed telling Navy stories from boot camp to discharge, and especially the ones about his time on the Kearsarge! May my Father rest in peace with his shipmates that have already passed on. Eric Babcock 

Louis B. Schwab, Jr.

I am sorry to share the news that my father, Louis B. Schwab, Jr. passed away on 12/28/2016 at the age of 88. He was a proud Plank Owner on the U.S.S. Kearsarge CV-33. He loved his time in the military, and shared many stories with his children and grandchildren about his service on the U.S.S. Kearsarge. He was proud of his service, his country and his fellow shipmates. Maryann Schwab His proud and loving daughter. 

Robert S. Petrowski

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 (1957-1961); the life-long friends who shared that time with him; and, 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 

A BIG HEARTED THANK YOU

Please accept our \$500.00 donation to the Kearsarge Association in loving memory of my husband, Robert (Bob) Petrowski.

The “Mighty Kay” held a special place in Bob’s heart. The time he spent in the Navy undoubtedly guided his lif’s path in the right direction. How lucky I was to be a part of his wonderful “journey.”

It is my hope that our donation will help the association in a special way.

Thank you, Kearsarge Association, for everything you do to keep the memories alive, and the important part you play for everyone who “proudly” served on the U.S.S. Kearsarge.

Diane Petrowski

Any man who may be asked in this century, what he did to make his life worthwhile, can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, “I served in the United States Navy”

President John F. Kennedy



MAIL CALL

Walter Dzubiak - Member #1339
ABF-2, V4 Division ('65 - '69)

Fellow Shipmate...

I was watching an old 'cheesy' episode of 'Sky King' called 'Terror Cruise'. In this episode, 'Sky' made an emergency landing on a carrier. Guess which one? Watch the clip for our beloved '33' painted on the flight deck, as he lands. Also note that it's the old 'straight deck' Kearsarge, with the barrier net up. And... the net has magically disappeared as he lands. Wow! You would think it to be very important considering he's landing a Cessna-310D without a tail hook. Ahhh... those TV dudes!

Hope you enjoy this clip.

Best Regards, 

Find the video on our website under photos

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THE RESURECTION

In the last issue we announced that Rick Davis had passed away. Two weeks after the Kearsaga was mailed, he called to say he is still alive. Oh no! How did that happen? Well, his post office returned the Fall issue of Kearsaga with a note stating he was deceased.

Even more bizarre than that, is we don't even have a member with the name Rick Davis. There is however, a Rick Dacus who is alive and well who had the same address, rate/rank, service date, and membership number. Hmmm.

Rick and I laughed about the error and I welcomed him back from the dead. I mailed Rick a copy of the post office notice so he could see for himself that I didn't make this up.

Somehow our mailing list had a Rick Dacus from Anchorage, Alaska and a Rick Davis from Pensacola, Florida and they both have the same membership number. The correct info is Rick Dacas from Pensacola, Florida.

Rick said to tell everyone he is alive and kicking and just got laid. LOL The truth is Rick Davis does not exist and never did. 

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

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USS Kearsarge Association Newsletter

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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.

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