

U.S.S. KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 74

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

SUMMER 2020





WORKING ON MKE 2021 2020 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Shipmates and Friends of The USS KEARSARGE Association. Unfortunately, our great country is caught up in this very tragic situation now in addition to the COVID 19 health crises. Let's all hope and pray that our so-called leaders of all affiliations will come to their senses soon and find the remedy and get us straight and level again. As Sailors, I think that most of us learned early on that personal responsibility, accountability and playing by the rules and trusting in our shipmates always kept the "ship" "steady and on-course." Enough editorializing.....

As you all know, our 2020 reunion had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 issue. Your elected Officers have not "been dead in the water" though and currently, we have firm dates of 31May to 04 June 2021 rescheduled for Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We have been able to negotiate with the Hilton Double Tree in downtown MKE for almost the same terms that we had for this year. The MKE Tour Company has also tentatively agreed to provide our "excursion" requirements. Of course, this will be a "wait and see" situation as no one knows just how long this state of insanity will last. You will be kept fully informed with updated information as it becomes available. Anyway, PLEASE go ahead and "save the dates" and let's all hope for the best. Provided that 2021 will be a "go" for the reunion, your future KEARSAGA newsletters will contain necessary details and pertinent registration info.

If any of you have former KEARSARGE (33) shipmates who are not members, then please encourage and invite them to join the Association. We always need members and as we are vividly aware, age is not on our side to sustain our superb group. For LHD 3 Association members, I encourage and request that you "lend a hand" to recruit former LHD 3 shipmates and inform them of the group.

I sincerely hope that every one of you have been and are currently staying well, healthy and safe. If you are a "Praying" person, please hit your knees for our country.

REQUEST, if any of you have memories (includes "sea story's") of times aboard KEARSARGE, send them to Secretary-Treasurer Bill Hollywood and KEARSAGA Editor Jack DeMerit for publication. Your fellow Association members will enjoy reading them, I'm sure. **C. V.**

"IN OMNIBUS PINNACULUM"

Ship's Store price increases for KEARSARGE JACKETS: Fellow members, due to product and shipping price's being raised we have to increase jacket prices as listed in this newsletter. The Association has been absorbing higher costs for some time but after discussion with Chuck and Charlotte Patton (Our Ship's Store Operators) the decision was necessary in order to stay at the "break even point" and not do deficit spending of your Association funds. (Unlike our U.S. Government) Thanks for your support and understanding.



VA Increases Automobile Grant For 2020

By Jim Absher

The Department of Veterans Affairs' automobile grant increased to a maximum of \$21,488.29 effective Oct. 1 for fiscal 2020.

The fiscal 2019 maximum amount was \$21,058.69.

The automobile grant is a tax-free benefit available for veterans who buy a new or used vehicle and have service-connected disabilities including:

Loss, or permanent loss of use of one or both feet

Loss, or permanent loss of use of one or both hands

Permanent impairment of vision in both eyes to a certain degree

Severe burn injury

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

The VA pays the grant directly to the vehicle's seller for the total price, up to \$21,488.29. If it costs more than that, you must make up the difference. You can receive this grant only once.

If you qualify for the automobile grant and suffer from joint immobility of your knees or hips which was a result of your military service, you may also qualify for the adaptive equipment grant -- a separate program that is payable more than once.

You must be approved for this grant by the VA, so don't just go out and buy a car, hoping to be reimbursed. Fill out the paperwork and get it approved BEFORE you begin shopping.

Check out our automobile grants page for details and information on how to apply.

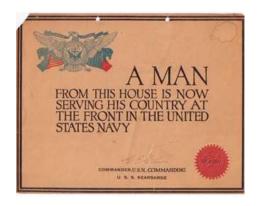
Stay On Top Of Your Benefits!

Military benefits are always changing -- please keep up with everything from pay to health care by signing up for a free Military.com membership, which will send all the latest benefits straight to your inbox, as well as give you access to up-to-date pay charts and more.





• Dear Sirs, I would like to thank you all for your service. My cousin sent me the following picture from our family archives. I hope that you are able to see it. We are trying to figure out from which year(s) this was issued, so that we can try to figure out which family member served on board. Above Commander U.S.N., in the picture, it looks like G. E. Gel... Your kind attention in this matter would be greatly appreciated. Thank you and take care - Janet McClary, janet_mcclary@hotmail.com



• From S. Wilson, Attached is a photo of Gary Olsen. He served aboard the USS Kearsarge from 1962- 1966 as an FN and later an MM3. He worked primarily in the aft engine room and later assigned to the ship service turbo-generator #3 for the last 1-2 years of his service. Gary was recently diagnosed with mesothelioma, an aggressive form of cancer related to asbestos exposure. We are seeking former shipmates who would have worked alongside Gary between 1962-1966 in the M-division and can recall the duties they performed on a daily basis and hopefully some of the equipment they would have been working with. I'm hoping you wouldn't mind providing me contact information of individuals who may

be able to help us piece together some information about all equipment which could have been a factor in Gary's exposure. He is standing alongside the sigma 7 space capsule recovered on October 3, 1962 in Honolulu. Please contact me directly at swilson@mrhfmlaw.com or at 971-998-0937.



VA Approves More Appeals

The Board of Veterans Appeals is adjudicating more disability claims appeals. The Board processed 11 percent more claims (more than 95,000) and held 38 percent more hearings in FY2019 when compared to FY2018. The improvement at the BVA is due to more staff and to a new appeals structure that was mandated by Congress and supported by the FRA. The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act (H.R.2288-Public Law 115-55) sponsored by Reps. Mike Bost (Ill.) was enacted into law on August 23, 2017. The law created three "lanes" for veterans' appeals including: The Local Higher Level Review Lane where an adjudicator reviews the same evidence considered by the original claims processor; The New Evidence Lane where the veteran may submit new evidence for review and have a hearing and,

The Board Lane where jurisdiction for the appeal would transfer immediately to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The Act would allow some veterans, who were already going through the appeals process, to opt into the new system.

Wierd Stuff You Didn't Know!

Every day, more money is printed for the Monopoly game than by the U. S. Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women but women can hear better.

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%. The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David,

Hearts - Charlemagne,

Clubs -Alexander, the Great,

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

U.S.S. KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION SHIP'S STORE



Ship's Crest



Cloth CV, CVA, CVS 33 - \$5.00

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



Golf Shirts

CV, CVA, CVS 33 - Navy Med, Large. X-Large, 2X Large-\$29.00



Sweat Shirts

CV, CVA, CVS 33 - Navy Med, Large. X-Large, 2X Large-\$36.00



Dress Shirts

CV, CVA, CVS 33 Short Sleeve Navy Med, Large. X-Large, 2X Large-\$29.00





CV, CVA, CVS 33 NAVY - \$16.00

Watch Caps



Navy - CV, CVA, CVS 33 \$11.00



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 and a zippered inside pocket. We are offering it in Navy with a Navy lining with USS Kearsarge, CV, CVA, CVS and ship's silhouette on the back. Small, Medium, Large & 1X Large for \$78.00 2X Large for \$83.00 — 3X Large for \$85.00



A light weight nylon jacket with flannel lining is also available in Navy with the same stitching on back. Small, Medium, Large & 1X Large for \$60.00 2X Large for \$65.00 - 3X Large for \$68.00

Iney are Special Order items 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 your checks payable to the Kearsarge Association and send order to:

Charles Patton 9125 Live Oak Avenue Ocean Springs, MS 39564

(228) 324-7174 charlotteap@bellsouth.net

Will the VA Pay for Your Funeral?

It's something none of us want to think about: our demise. What will happen after we're gone? Will we have a big funeral? Will anybody show up?

If you want to have a big funeral and a fancy tombstone in a nice cemetery, it will cost a lot. That's OK. You're a veteran; the Department of Veterans Affairs will pay. **Right?** Well ... **not so fast.**

Before we discuss what the VA will pay, let's discuss the major costs associated with dying.

Funeral Prices: According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the average cost of a funeral with burial in 2017 was \$8,755; the average cost of a funeral with cremation was \$6,260. That's just the cost of transporting and preparing the body, and holding a small viewing. If you want a service and a wake, expect to pay more.

Casket Prices: If you want a fancy casket, expect to pay an average of \$5,000 for it. Amazon, Costco and Walmart sell caskets for less than \$1,000, but some fancy ones cost more than \$10,000. If you just want to be buried in a pine box, be sure to check local laws. Some states don't allow that.

Cemetery Prices: The cemetery will cost you even more. While some states allow you to be buried in biodegradable caskets and some even have natural burial preserves where they allow you to be buried in the woods, most don't. A burial plot in a public cemetery will cost between \$200 and \$2,000. If you want to be buried in a private cemetery, that price can go up to \$5,000 in some places. If you're in a city, the price can easily go up to \$25,000 for the gravesite alone. If you want to be cremated and have your ashes buried, expect to pay up to \$2,500 for the plot. Of course, there are additional fees. You have to pay for them to dig the hole and fill it back up; this can cost more than \$3,000. Just doing the paperwork (some places require a permit to be buried) can reach up to \$1,000. Some fancy cemeteries even charge a fee for "perpetual care;" this is the cost of upkeep for the cemetery -- cutting grass, planting trees etc. If you want a tombstone, expect to pay at least \$500 to \$5,000.

Paying the High Cost of Dying: Cemeteries aren't regulated by the federal government. They don't have to comply with the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule, which requires an itemized bill

allowing you to pick and choose which services you wish to buy. Some states have regulations, but many do not. Don't expect to get a line of credit from the funeral home or cemetery, either. They want payment up front. What will they do if your family doesn't pay the bill, dig you back up?

What Will the VA Pay? Doesn't the VA pay for all of this? It will pay some, but not all, of your burial costs, and probably very little of your funeral costs. Of course, all these benefits are only for veterans with at least an "other-than-dishonorable" discharge.

Burial and Plot Allowance: The VA will pay a burial allowance to an eligible veteran's family to help defray burial and funeral costs. The burial allowance is a tax-free benefit paid automatically. If you are eligible for a plot allowance the VA requires receipts to show the actual cost paid.

- If the death occurs while hospitalized by the VA, it will pay a \$780 burial allowance and \$780 for a burial plot.
- •. If the death is considered service-connected, the VA will pay a burial allowance of up to \$2,000 and may reimburse some of the costs of transporting remains.
- •. If the death isn't service-connected, the VA pays a burial allowance of \$300.
- •. For an indigent veteran with no next of kin, the VA will furnish either a casket or cremation urn for interment in a national, state or tribal veterans cemetery.
- •. The Social Security Administration also will pay a death benefit of \$255. These amounts usually change every year.

Cemetery All veterans with other-than-dishonorable discharges are eligible for free burial in a national VA cemetery. Space is limited; the VA recommends you request a pre-determination of burial eligibility to avoid any delay when the time comes. Most states have their own veterans cemeteries. Usually, the eligibility requirements are the same as for federal cemeteries.

In most cases, spouses are eligible for burial next to the veteran at little or no cost. Also, markers are provided. Arlington National Cemetery has very limited space for burial; there is more space available for inurnment of cremated remains. Only certain veterans are eligible for burial at Arlington.

If you wish to be buried in a civilian cemetery, the VA may pay a small fee for your plot and will supply a free headstone. Some states also help with the cost of burial and the cost of setting a headstone. You can always choose to be buried at sea from a Navy ship.

Your Urgent Care!

1. How do I find the nearest in-network community

urgent care provider?

Use VA.s Facility Locator at https://www.va.gov/find-locations/ and click on the VA-approved urgent care locations and pharmacies near you. There are currently two types of urgent care network locations: walk-in retail health clinics and urgent care centers. Seek care at a retail location for an uncomplicated illness such as a sore throat. Visit an urgent location for more pressing illnesses or injuries requiring services such as splinting, casting, or wound treatment.

2. What do I do when I arrive at Urgent Care? What type of identification will I be asked to show?

There is no identification card needed for VA.s urgent care benefit. When you arrive, verify they are part of VA.s contracted network, complete the intake form, and tell the provider you would like to use your VA urgent care benefit. The provider will check your eligibility. Both Veterans and providers can call 1-833-4VETNOW (1-833-483-8669) to confirm eligibility. Veterans can call 1-866-620-2071 for other issues related to the urgent care benefit.

3. Does urgent care cost anything?

No, you do not have to pay anything at the time of the visit. If you owe a copayment, VA will send you a bill. Copayments are \$30, but your liability will depend on your assigned priority group and the number of times you have used your urgent care benefit in a calendar year. Learn more about urgent care copayments.

4. Does prescription medication work for urgent care?

VA will pay for or fill prescriptions for urgent care. For routine prescription medication longer than a 14-day supply, the prescription must be submitted to VA to be filled. Before filling the prescription, VA will verify the urgent care visit. If there are issues with filling your prescription, call 1-866-620-2071.

- **5.** What if there are no urgent care clinics in my area? Contact your local VA medical facility to discuss options. Same-day primary and mental health services are available at all VA medical centers. In addition, VA continues to expand its contracted network of urgent care providers so that most Veterans are within a 30-minute drive time from their home to a network urgent care/retail location.
- **6.** If there are no in-network urgent care facilities nearby, can I visit an Emergency Dept. (ED) instead? If you are having difficulties receiving urgent care services, contact your local VA medical facility. Same-day primary and mental health services are available at all VA medical centers. If you believe your life or health is in danger, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department immediately. Please note that VA can only pay for a Veteran's emergency care under certain conditions.
- 7. Can I use the in-network urgent care provider at

my local pharmacy as my primary care provider (PCP)?

No. Urgent care is not a replacement for services your PCP offers. Use urgent care for treating minor, non-emergent illnesses and injuries. The urgent care benefit does not cover preventive health care offered by your primary care physician. Always consider talking with or seeing your PCP if you are concerned that the urgent care provider will not understand the complexities of your medical history or medications.

8. How do I know if I need urgent or emergency care? Urgent care is for non-life-threatening illnesses or injuries such as strep throat, pink eye, or a strained muscle. Emergency care is for an injury, illness, or symptom so severe that a prudent layperson reasonably believes that delay in seeking immediate medical attention would be hazardous to life or health. Such life-threatening major illnesses or injuries could include severe chest pain, seizures, loss of awareness, heavy uncontrollable breathing, or severe burns. For emergency care, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away. Please note that VA can only pay for a Veteran's emergency care under certain conditions.

9. What if I arrive at an in-network urgent care location and have difficulty receiving care?

Call 866-620-2071 or your local VA medical facility.

10. How do I get a free flu shot?

Veterans can receive a flu shot at their local VA medical facility or from any Walgreens location, paid by VA and they can also receive a flu shot, paid by VA, at an in-network urgent care location, but it must be administered in conjunction with a condition requiring urgent care.

Tricare Drug Costs to Increase More Than 40% in 2020

Prescription drug costs for Tricare users are set to rise Jan. 1, some by as much as 42%. Effective Jan. 1, 2020, a 90-day supply of generic drugs received through the program's Express Scripts mail-order pharmacy will increase from \$7 to \$10. Co-pays on brand-name drugs received through the mail will go from \$24 to \$29; the price rises from \$53 to \$60 for non-formulary drugs.

Generic drug prescriptions filled at retail pharmacies will see the cost rise from \$11 to \$13 for a 30-day supply, while the same supply of brand-name medications will increase from \$28 to \$33. Non-formulary drugs -- those not on Tricare's list of fully covered medications -- will go up from \$53 to \$60. Prescriptions filled on base will still to be free.

Want to know about changes in military benefits as they happen? Sign up for a free Military.com membership to get the latest benefit news delivered directly to your inbox.

Time To Add 'Lost 74' To Vietnam Memorial Wall

Last week, Seacoast Sunday shared the story of the "Lost 74," a group of Navy personnel killed during the Vietnam War when their destroyer was accidentally sliced in half by an Australian aircraft carrier. 74 men were killed in service to their country during a war.

Among those lost were 21-year-old Gary Joseph Vigue, a 1965 Dover High School graduate who left behind a wife and a 5-month-old son.

However, because the accident occurred outside the designated combat zone at the time, the men who make up the "Lost 74" don't qualify for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

That is wrong and must be corrected as soon as possible as the fatal accident occurred June 3, 1969.

Excluding those who made the ultimate sacrifice because of an arbitrary line is out of touch with reality. Thankfully though, U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire and Angus King of Maine are two cosponsors of a bill to have the sailors' names added to the memorial.

This follows Shaheen's efforts to help secure a memorial at Arlington National Cemetery for the 129 men lost April 10, 1963, when USS Thresher sank and imploded during sea trials off the coast of Massachusetts. "It is long overdue that these men join their fellow fallen brothers and receive the recognition they deserve on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall," Shaheen said recently. "Boundary lines drawn in the water shouldn't determine the respect we pay our servicemen and women killed in the line of duty - they gave their lives for this country and their sacrifice deserves equal recognition."

Perfectly said. Kevin Galeaz of Hooksett and commander of (United States Submarine Veterans) Thresher Base, led the effort to create the Thresher memorial in Arlington. Its creation, he said, "meant everything to me because the family members finally had solace. They had been waiting for 56 years for this memorial to be placed in Arlington National Cemetery."

Galeaz also said the monument helps maintain the legacy of those lost aboard Thresher and perpetuates the story of the Thresher and the submarine safety measures enacted after its loss.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall not only enshrines the legacy of the men and women who lost their lives during the war, it serves as a continuous source of healing in a nation divided by that conflict. It brings balance to how the soldiers and sailors of the Vietnam War were treated upon their return to the States.

Service to our country is one of the most noble

things men and women can do. All steps must be taken to enshrine those who die in service of their country. The legislation to add the "Lost 74" to the wall should be passed swiftly and those in charge of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall should follow suit with the same

sense of urgency.

In the event some want to stand at an imaginary line, they might instead think of stating their case while looking into the eyes of widows, children and other family members left without a husband, father, son or brother. It's hard to imagine one would be so entrenched as to not feel compassion and compelled to do the right thing.

Ban Tobacco Sales to Under 21 Would Affect Our Troops

The national age limit to buy tobacco products would increase to 21 for civilians and service members alike in the latest version of Congress' spending package, which is expected to be passed later this week.

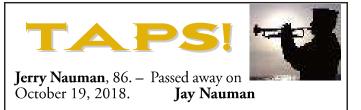
Lawmakers announced an inclusion of the provision, which does not make an exemption for military, in a joint press release from Senate Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, and Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Virginia. The two senators, from tobacco-producing states, originally introduced this measure in as separate bill earlier this year.

VA Hospitals to Ban All Tobacco Use and Vaping

"In recognition of tobacco's history in our states and aware of the threat that all tobacco products pose now and for future generations," McConnell said in a release in May, "we introduced legislation to raise the national age of purchase to 21. We've heard from countless parents who have seen the youth vaping crisis firsthand, and together, Senator Kaine and I are addressing this public health crisis head-on."

So far, 52 people have died in the United States from an e-cigarette or vaping related illness and 2,409 people have been hospitalized, the Centers for Disease Control reported on Dec. 10.

The most recent data from the CDC on military smoking rates is almost five years old, but it shows between 2011 and 2015, smoking rates among service members went down: in the Army, rates dropped from 27% to 15%; in the Air Force, 17% to 9%; in the Marine Corps, 31% to 21%; and in the Navy, 24% to 14%. A newer report with updated numbers is expected to be released soon, a Defense Health Agency spokesman said.



VA Increases Housing Grant Amounts

By Jim Absher

The amount of money the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will give disabled veterans to make their homes accessible will soon be increasing. The VA offers grants for certain disabled veterans to make an existing or new home accessible. There are basically two different grants: the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) Grant and the Special Housing Adaptation (SHA) Grant.

There are also versions of these grants that allow veterans to make modifications to homes they are living in temporarily. These are known as Temporary Residence Adaptation (TRA) Grants. They follow the same rules as the SAH & SHA grants, but have some limitations. The amount of each of these grants will be increasing on Oct. 1, 2019, for fiscal 2020.

New VA Rules for Specially Adapted Housing Grants For 2020, the maximum SAH grant will be \$90,364, and the SHA grant will increase to a maximum of \$18,074. The TRA grants will increase to a maximum of \$39,669 for the temporary version of the SAH grant and \$7,083 for the temporary SHA grant.

These amounts represent an increase of 5.51% over the 2019 levels. This increase is based on the Turner Building Cost Index, which measures costs in the non-residential building construction market. The difference between the SAH and SHA grant lies in the type and severity of disability an eligible veteran suffers from. Normally, veterans who have injuries affecting their movement are eligible for the SAH grant, while those suffering from injuries that affect their ability to perform daily tasks are eligible for the SHA grant.

Military benefits are always changing. Keep up with everything from pay to health care by signing up for a free **Military.com membership**, which will send the latest benefits straight to your inbox and give you access to up-to-date pay charts and more.

Columbia Sportswear

In October a shipmate visited Columbia Sportwear Company to make a presentation to Tim Boyle, President and CEO, for the company's support of the commissioning of the USS Portland LPD-27. During the visit, Mr. Boyle voiced wanting to do more for the military and their families. Access to the employee stores for active duty members and their families was discussed.

We have just learned that Columbia Sportwear Company has authorized all active duty military, reservist, guard, retirees, veterans and family members year-round access to their four employee stores. The military community will now enjoy the same discounts as Columbia Sportswear Employees Stores in: Richmond, California; Carlsbad, California; Henderson, Kentucky and Portland, Oregon.

God Bless our Warriors Makin Island

19 Marines killed in the Gilbert Islands in 1942 (defending against the Japanese). They had to retreat, so they asked the islanders to please bury them so the Japs couldn't find them. Years later, they checked and found a man who had been a teenager then and remembered where they were buried. They sent a C130 and an honor guard over there and found all 19 had been buried with their helmets on, their rifles in their hands, in perfect condition. The islanders had really done a wonderful job. As they were loading the bodies, a voice from out of nowhere started singing The Marine Hymn".....gave everyone goose bumps. Turns out, the voice was from a man who spoke no English but remembered a song the Marines taught him when they landed. Very touching. They got all 19. This of course was WW II!

MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE

All KEARSARGE Association Members, Please be attentive to your membership expiration date that's on the address label. We don't want to be forced to drop a single member for EXPIRED dues.



U.S.S. KEARSARGE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

First Class U. S. Postage

U.S.S. KEARSARGE ASSN.

% Bill Hollywood 3059 Crest Ave. Ketchikan, AK 99901

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



CHECK MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE If it has been highlighted in yellow please renew immediately.

You can now check your membership details on the website roster to determine your expiration date, the date by which your dues are due.



U.S.S. Kearsarge

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 including: Name, Address, Phone Number. E-Mail Address, Rate, Rank, Division, and years serving aboard.

If you are interested in receiving your Kearsaga via E-Mail, go to our website and leave a message stating: "Send KEARSAGA via E-Mail" If you do not have a computer, we will continue to send it via U. S. Postal Service.

Association Office Holders

President: C. V. Lindley, 9729 Shadow Wood Dr., Pensacola, FL 32514 • (850) 712-4664 • cvjan78@gmail.com Vice President: Barry Rittle, 10 Valley Dr., Annville, PA 17003 • (717) 673-6189 • rittleskokomo@aol.com Secretary / Treasurer: Bill Hollywood, 3059 Crest Ave., Ketchikan, AK 99901 • (907) 225-6556 • aknos@outlook.com Webmaster: Dale Maddy, 4409 Hastings Dr., Marion, IA 52302 • (608) 444-1783 • dmaddy47@outlook.com Editor: Jack De Merit, 4112 W. 161st Street, Lawndale, CA 90260 • (310) 367-3259 • abcusa@earthlink.net Ship's Store: Charles Patton, 9125 Live Oak Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564 • (228) 324-7174 • charlotteap@bellsouth.net

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