

KEARSAGA^{II}

The Newsletter of the Kearsarge Association

Issue 17

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

March, 1999

BRUCE COVINGTON

Bruce Covington, died March 2, 1999 after a two year battle with cancer. Bruce was a retired Machinist Mate, and a Master Chief Petty Officer who served 24 years in the US Navy. He also served as a president of the USS Kearsarge Association (1994-1998).

During Bruce's Naval service he served on several ships including the USS Kearsarge, the USS Randolph, the USS Hyades, the USS Phillipine Sea, and the USS Saratoga. Quite the athlete, Bruce served on many of the sports teams on the USS Kearsarge. In fact, he turned down an offer to try out for professional baseball, to continue his career in the Navy. After his retirement from the Navy, Bruce founded Controlled Conditions Corporation and earned an associate degree in engineering. Survived by his wife of 49 years, Gloria, who has served as Treasurer of the USS Kearsarge Association Lady Kays, he also leaves a daughter, Charlene Cerza, and her husband, Tony, of Virginia Beach; a son, Clyde D. Covington of Virginia Beach; a sister, Patsy King and her husband, Pete, of Rockingham, N.C.; and five grandchildren. Bruce was remembered with a floral arrangement at his funeral by the USS Kearsarge Association.

The Kearsarge Association first became acquainted with Bruce, after he wrote me, volunteering to be the local reunion coordinator for the 1994 Virginia Beach Reunion. Anyone who attended that reunion can attest to the fact that Bruce did an outstanding job. So good, in fact, that we elected him President of the Kearsarge Association. Bruce and I, again worked together on the 1996 San Diego Reunion. Then, once again, in November 1997, Bruce and I met, this time in Corpus Christi, Texas to do a sight visit for the 1998 reunion. It was shortly after this, that Bruce became aware that he was terminally ill with cancer. Despite his illness, Bruce continued to be totally committed in spending hours on the phone trying to establish the best value



for the upcoming reunion activities. However, when it was time for the reunion on which he had worked so hard, he was unable to attend due his illness.

When Bruce became the local reunion coordinator for the Virginia Beach reunion, he shared his knowledge of the hotel business, with which he had been associated, to help establish a standard our members have come to expect of our reunions. It was always fun working with Bruce on the reunions, and we both shared the idea that the reunions should be the best possible while not breaking anyone's pocketbook.

I know the members of the USS Kearsarge Association will miss Bruce as a member of the association, a fellow ship mate and friend.

TAPS

Don Dergstrasr, V1 Division, '52-'55 passed away March 13, 1998 after a short bout with cancer.

Bobby Crook, VA 115, '54-'55 passed away September 26, 1998 after being ill with bladder cancer.

Karl Zech, VF 112, '53-'55, passed away July 29, 1998. Karl died from heart failure.

Frank Maugans, LCDR, 'S' Division, '54-'56, passed away May 5, 1998 after a bout with cancer. Maugans enlisted in 1936 as an enlisted man and raced through the ranks to retire as a commander. His decorations included the European-African Area Campaign, World War II Victory, United Nations, American Defense (1 Star), China Service, Korean Service, American Campaign and National Defense Service (2nd Award). His wife Kak fondly remembers their 'nautical' marriage with 60 years service, and remembers a Kearsarge mug he gave to her 42 years ago which she still has.

MINI-REUNION

In late January, there was a mini reunion (3 days) at the Stardust in Las Vegas, of R Division personnel, who served aboard the Kearsarge during the years of 1952-55. Those attending were: Paul Blake (from San Antonio), Norm Garvey (Ft. Lauderdale area), Don Tatum (northern California), Paul Young (southern California), Willie Williams (Washington state), Gale Jose and Richard Farkus (snowbirding in Phoenix area), Bob Karguth (Texas) and, for one day, Matt Elchuck (from Ohio), and their respective wives. A great time was had by all!!

Paul Young, R Division, '52-'55

CORPUS CHRISTI REUNION MEMORY BOOKS

The Corpus Christi Reunion Memory books have been published and mailed, so those of you who ordered one should have received it by now. If for some reason you did not receive yours, you should contact Jerry Carter of Olan Mills Photography, phone #512-852-5282.

CHIEF DONLEY

I met retired Chief Richard Donley and his wife, Nancy, for the first time at the Corpus Christi Texas Reunion. When he arrived in our hospitality room, he began by telling me all of the things he was going to do for the association at the reunion. He volunteered for bartending duty in the pour room. (In Texas we couldn't pour alcoholic beverages in the hospitality room, but it had to be a private room.) Noting that the chief was a non-drinker made this a surprise. Chief Donley also informed me that he would pick up all the items for the pour room we needed, wherever he could find the best price. At the time I thought, "this guy is sure biting off a lot" and I wondered if he knew what he was getting himself into. However, after agreeing on a shopping list I did accept his offer.



The next day the chief shows up with all the items we had agreed on the previous day and was ready to set up the Pour Room. I'm not sure what the chief and the bell hop had set up, but the bell boy was always wanting to know if he needed any ice, which we always had plenty of for both the pour and hospitality rooms. On the second day of the reunion he and Nancy not only restocked the pour room, but picked up the items needed by the Lady Kays for the hospitality

room while the rest of us were on tours. The pour room items were free, but donations were gladly accepted and most donated quite willingly. However, when someone was taking advantage of the system, the chief had a way of looking at them that caused their hand to dig deep into their pocket. Talk about non-verbal communication!

George Beam showed up at the reunion with a nice set of dress blues to wear to the dinner dance on Saturday night, but George did have a small problem in that since he had been discharged in 1962, he had forgotten how to roll a neckerchief. Chief Donley, along with Chief Frank Walter, came to the rescue and gave a neckerchief rolling demonstration to the delight of many of those in the hospitality room. Donley's wife, Nancy, said it is one of the very few times she could remember him with his mouth closed. Along with his "Official Pour Room Duties" the chief always had a sea story flowing, as well.

If there are any more Chief and Nancy Donleys out there, make sure you look me up at the next reunion.

HELP WANTED - APPLY WITHIN

Due to some issues addressed at the last business meeting, and with the passing of Robert Finley, Treasurer, the Kearsarge Association is now hiring.

Treasurer. Due to the passing of Robert Finley, the Association needs someone to step forward and fill the position of treasurer. This will be a temporary position until the official election is held at the next Kearsarge Association Reunion. The duties will include keeping the financial records of the association and putting out a yearly financial statement. Check writing responsibilities will not be part of the duty and the association is paying someone to maintain the membership renewals and make the deposits for memberships. All bank statements will be forwarded to you to be entered into a spreadsheet such as Excel. Without the burden of the membership card renewal, this job should be much easier than in the past.

Historian. At the past reunion it was decided that there was a need for someone to assume this position who would (1) Store and archive the memorabilia and mementos the Kearsarge Association presently has and continues to receive. (2) Use those items and articles to write historical articles for the *Kear Saga*. (3) Make presentations of many of those items and bring or ship them to the reunions for display. Expenses for framing, shipping, etc. will be covered by the Kearsarge Association.

Two Steering Committee Coordinators. It was also decided at the last business meeting of the Kearsarge Association that there was need for additional positions to be appointed by the President. These positions would require two people who would learn the operations of the Kearsarge Association and coordinate special committees as needed for our reunions. It was felt

that additional members needed to be aware of the full range of activities needed to continue the association, and that there was a need to share the work load.

Reunion Ships Store Coordinator. We would like to find someone to run the ships store at the next reunion. As Art and Betty Killian have been saddled with this job for the last three reunions, and as they do so much work during the year, it seems time they got some relief. This job would include (1) coming in a day ahead of the next reunion to help Art and Betty set up the ships store for operation. (2) work with the president of the association, to coordinate Kearsarge members and the Lady Kays, to staff the ships store during the reunion, and (3) staying to pack up the ships store and shipping the items back to Art and Betty as they resume their regular keeping of the ships store after the reunion. The ships store will be closed during all tours and association activities so none of the fun would be missed.

In the future... Before the next reunion we will be looking for volunteers to step forward to serve as bus captains for tours, whose job would be to count heads and take tickets (you always get the front seat), people to man the registration desk (you get to meet many of the people coming in), and people to assist the Lady Kays and Chief Donley and Nancy with the hospitality room and pour room. As our association grows we welcome help!

USS KEARSARGE LHD-3

The USS Kearsarge LHD-3 left the Norfolk Naval Base April 14 to begin a regularly scheduled, six-month Mediterranean deployment. The Kearsarge will relieve the USS Nassau which is now supporting the the NATO offensive in Yugoslavia.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

If you are on line please send your e-mail address to Cal Waterbury and he will enter you on our list of members on line. Cal sends out a directory from time to time and sends it to all on the list. Send to purvis@n-link.com

2000 REUNION, PROVIDENCE R.I.

Ted Edington, our local reunion coordinator, has been working on the next reunion and is involved with several options at this time. As he receives more of the information a final date will be set. At this time it looks like the reunion will take place in the September, October time frame in the year 2000. More info as things start to sort themselves out.

SHIPS STORE

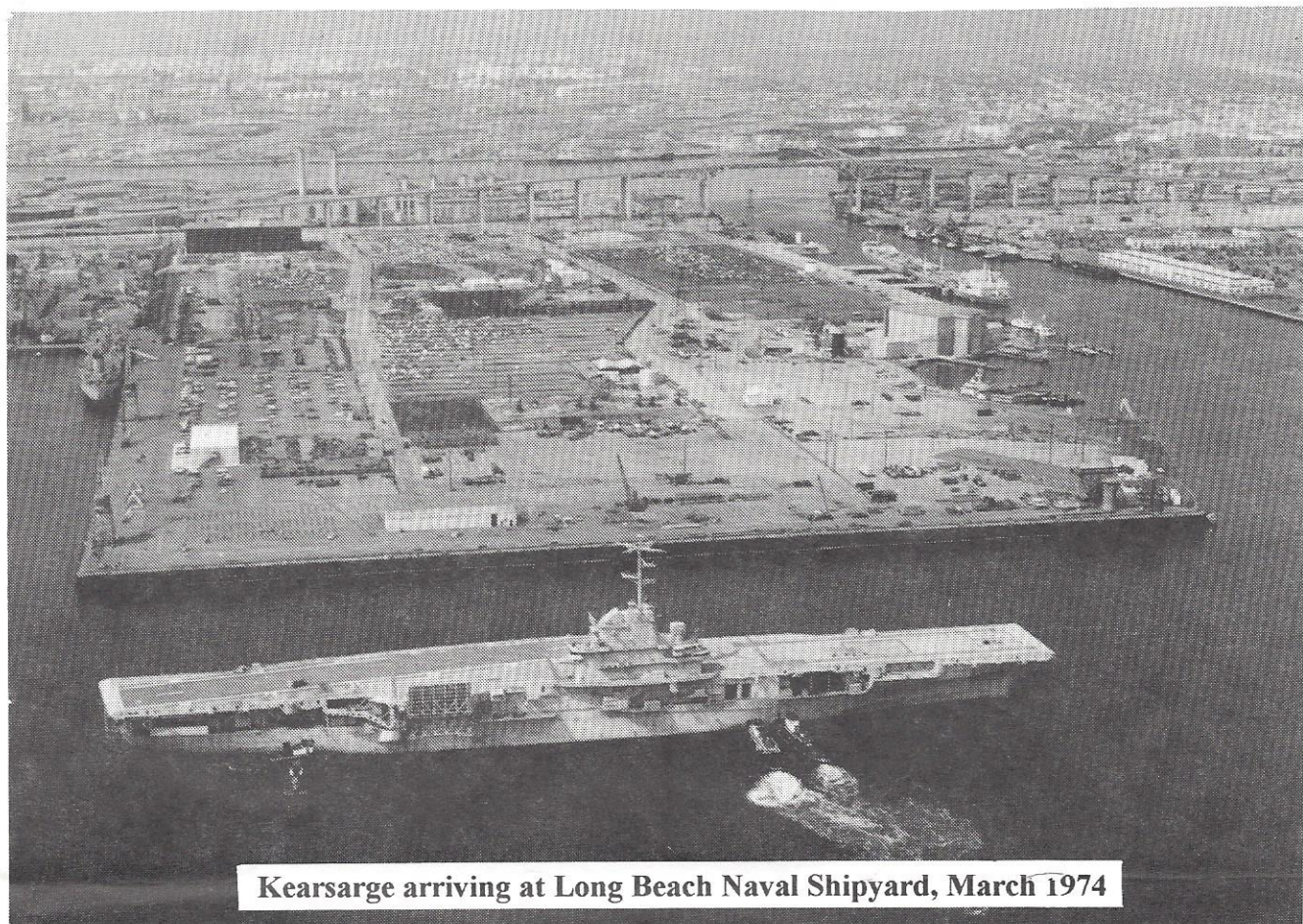
Blue Watch Caps	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$12.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, White	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with "The Mighty Kay"	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, with "50th Anniversary"	CV 33	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Red with "Marines"		\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with Gater and Ship	LHD 3	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with Ship	LHD 3	\$14.00
USS Kearsarge Hats, Blue with Ship Crest	LHD 3	\$14.00
Coffee Mugs with CV33 and LHD3 Crest		\$13.50
Magnetic Ships Crest 3" (for you refrigerator, etc.)	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$03.00
Ships Crest Patches Cloth, 4 1/2"	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$05.00
USS Kearsarge Tie Bars		\$10.00
Ships Lighters (Zippo) 3 color, straight and round design		\$21.00
USS Kearsarge Golf Shirt, White, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$29.00
USS Kearsarge Golf Shirt, Navy Blue, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$29.00
USS Kearsarge Sweat Shirt, White, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$35.00
USS Kearsarge Sweat Shirt, Navy Blue, M-L-XL	CV, CVA, CVS 33	\$35.00

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING AND HANDLING

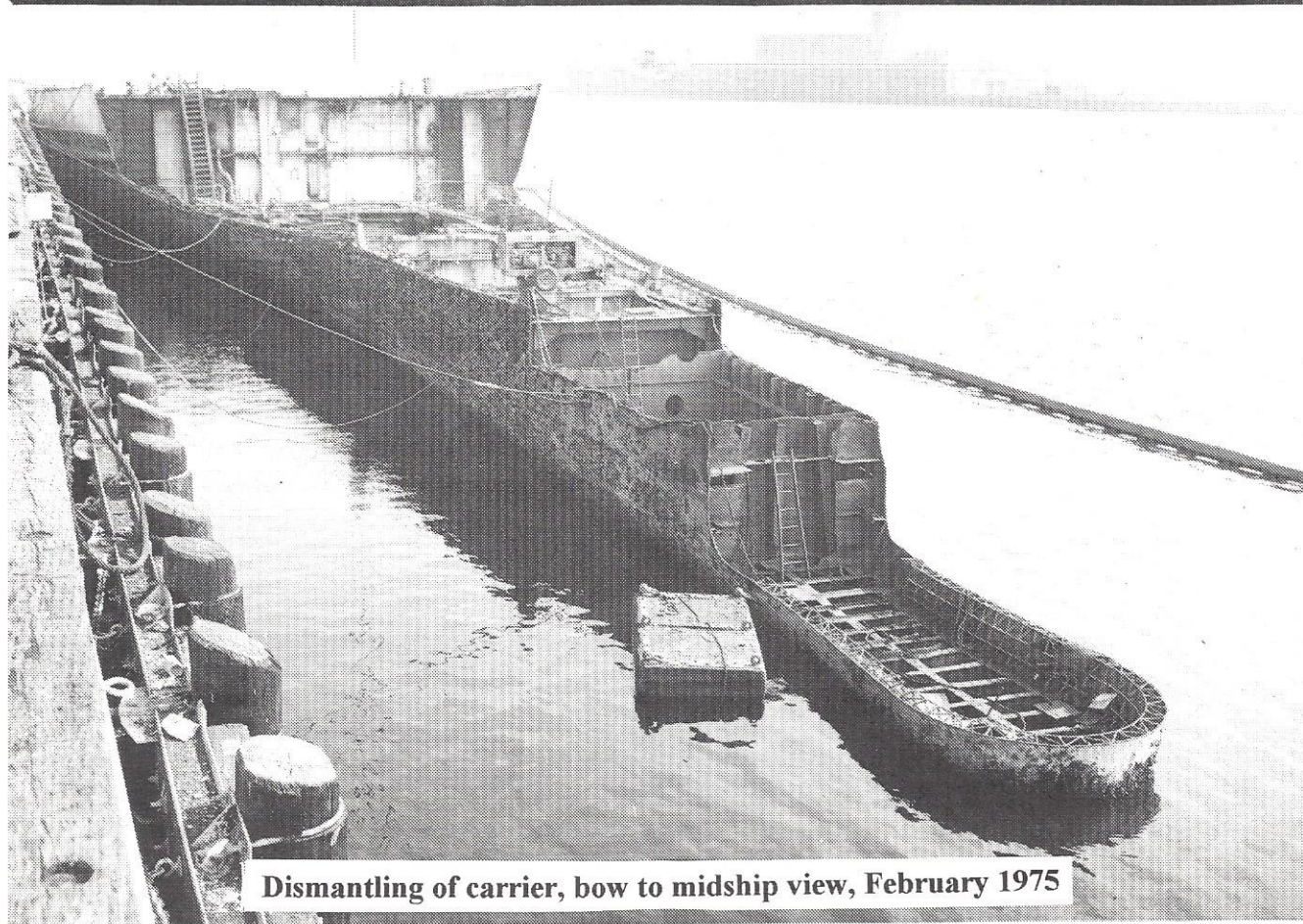
Make checks payable to the Kearsarge Association and order from Art Killian, 3632 Springhill
Lake, Tuscaloosa, AL 34305 Phone (205) 553-2710

THE FANTAIL

Photos donated by Ken Britton, CS2, S2 Division '64 - '66



Kearsarge arriving at Long Beach Naval Shipyard, March 1974



Dismantling of carrier, bow to midship view, February 1975

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CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR YOUR DUES EXPIRATION DATE

DUES & MEMBERSHIP

The yearly dues for the Kearsarge Association is \$10.00. Check your label to see when your dues expire. To pay your dues send a check made payable to the Kearsarge Association: To John Bennett, address below

To sign up a new member send information to John Bennett: Address below

FIND A NEW MEMBER FOR THE 2000 REUNION

John Bennett, President, Kear Saga Editor, 815 Savannah Dr., Columbus, OH 43228-2944 614-272-6842

TW Smith, V-President, 1172 DeLeon Court, Clarkston, GA 30021 404-296-3317

Bruce Covington, Consultant, 4928 Admiration Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23464 757-467-1668

Art Killian, Ships Store, 3632 Spring Hill Lake, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405 205-553-2710

Steve Udell, Historian, 211 Northwest First St., Young America, MN 55397 612-467-3943

Kenneth McDaniel, Honorary President (Deceased)