

# KEARSAGA



U.S.S. Kearsarge Association Newsletter



ISSUE 76

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

WINTER 2021



President's  
Message  
by C. V. Lindley

## Shipmates, Families & Kearsarge Association Friends

HAPPY 2021 to everyone from Jan and me here in Pensacola Florida. Let's hope and pray that "21" will be a better year. I am in the recovery/rehabilitation mode currently from a severe case of Covid 19. I was hospitalized for 17 days beginning on November 24. I'm told that full recovery could take months. I'm presently on oxygen therapy for at least two more weeks. I hope to finish O2 by mid to late January. Jan was pretty sick and also Covid positive but her's didn't require a hospital stay and she is fully recovered. **I sincerely urge you all to take every precaution against this terrible virus! Words are inadequate to describe how it so badly affects you.** 4 of my doctors strongly recommended to me that EVERYONE should take the Covid vaccine ASAP.

Regretfully, we have CANCELLED our proposed 2021 Spring Reunion for Milwaukee, Wisconsin due to the virus. *However, we are currently getting proposals from Branson Missouri for an August-September 2021 Reunion.* As your elected officers, we made the decision to try for Branson in order to still have our reunion this year. As for future locations, times and dates, those will be decided when we are able to have a business meeting with the membership in attendance.

To expound on the Branson location and the August-September time frame, here are some of our considerations. We had a great Reunion there in 2010 with superb attendance. It is still in the central United States and Branson is a STRONG pro-military town and there is a lot to do there. OF COURSE, this is all very tentative as everything is truly dependent on the C-19 crisis. We just maintain flexibility as your leadership team. The health and welfare of Association Members is always paramount and will never be compromised.

**ALL SUGGESTIONS FROM YOU ARE WELCOME AND REQUESTED.** Please send me e-mails.

We are planning, as you read this Kearsaga, for August – September. You will be kept up to date with the next newsletter, possibly in March. I am very hopeful and remain optimistic that we will be able to make a Branson port call as planned.

"IN OMNIBUS PINACULUM"

C.V.

## WELCOME ABOARD

### New Members!



Richard Lucero 1385

Barrie Eldredge 1520

Rick Tennes 1521\*

\* Associate Member



## 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.

## CPO ROBERT THACKER TO BE BURIED AT FORT SMITH NATIONAL CEMETERY

*By Max Bryan*

The United States Navy serviceman who died aboard the U.S.S. Roosevelt will be buried with military honors in his hometown. United States Navy Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, of Fort Smith died from COVID-19 on April 11 in a United States Naval hospital in Guam after serving aboard the naval ship with more than 750 infected crew members. Thacker's funeral date at Fort Smith National Cemetery has not yet been determined because of a Department of Defense travel ban to prevent the spread of the virus.

The U.S. military has also halted military honors at burials and funeral services, said Edwards Funeral Home Manager Jim Edwards. "It's going to be determined by when things can go back to normal," Edwards said.

Thacker was the first active duty military member to die from the virus, according to AP. He is survived by his wife Symantha Thacker, whose Facebook account showed her and her husband with two children.

Edwards said the date of the funeral will not be determined until after the travel ban is lifted. Department of Defense officials implemented the travel ban on March 11 and have extended it as they have seen fit. The ban is reviewed every 15 days. If the travel ban was not in place, Thacker could be buried without a graveside service — the National Cemetery has buried caskets while loved ones have watched at a distance, outside the cemetery. This kind of a burial prevents military funeral honors.

Edwards also said Thacker's military honors will also include planeside arrangements prior to the funeral. "All of that is very important to the family, as it should be.

Thacker, an aviation ordnanceman, died in the Guam hospital after he was moved from the Roosevelt on April 9. He had tested positive for the virus 10 days earlier. His wife, an active duty military member stationed in San Diego, was at his side at the time of his death.

Thacker attended Southside High School in 1997. Mayor George McGill said he was sad to hear about the death of Thacker, who he called one of Fort Smith's "fighting men." U.S. Rep. Steve Womack and Sens. John Boozman and Tom Cotton each expressed their condolences about Thacker after his death was announced.

"Thacker's dedication to our nation was perhaps only surpassed by the tremendous love he had for his dear family. His appreciation for the special things in life — particularly his loved ones and passions — reminds us how precious time really is and how this virus poses a threat to all of us, even the warriors dedicated to defending America. My thoughts and prayers are with the Thacker family and all who counted Petty Officer Thacker as a friend or loved one. We honor his life and service in uniform, and pledge to keep this proud son of Arkansas's legacy alive in the years to come."

## TAPS!



**Gene R. Setula** 1027

**William Peters Hayman** 1495

**Warren Seebach** 1954 - 1955  
**Marine, Non-Member**

## GROUP THREATENS TO SUE VA OVER NAZI SYMBOLS IN NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERIES

*By Richard Sisk*

An advocacy group is preparing to go to court unless the Department of Veterans Affairs swiftly removes Nazi symbols and references to Adolf Hitler from the headstones of three German prisoners of war from World War II buried in national veterans cemeteries.

The swastikas and inscriptions, which state in German, "He died far from his home for the Führer, people and fatherland," should not be allowed in VA cemeteries where American veterans are interred, said Mikey Weinstein, chairman of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation.

## MOST POPULAR FREE VET RESOURCES

*from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*

**Free Concert, Sport Tickets from VET TIX**  
**National Park Passes**

**Veterans Health ID Card for Base Access**

**The VA Welcome Kit**

**Space A Flights**

**Free Flu Shots at Walgreens**

**Free Sports Gear for Military/Veteran Kids**

**Free VA Recipes and Cookbooks**

**Free Video Games for Veterans**

**Free LinkedIn Premium Account**

**Free Local Events for Veterans with Team Red, White and Blue's App**

**Exclusive Veteran Access to ShopVCS.com**

**Amtrak Veteran Discounts**

**Free Digital Shadowboxes and Premium Membership from TogetherWeServed.com**

**Network and ask Questions on RallyPoint.com**

**Borne The Battle Podcast: Military Films**

Go to the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs to learn more.

## MORE SAILORS REENLISTING

By Gina Harkins

The Navy is moving away from the "suck it up, buttercup"-style culture of the past to appeal to the millennial generation and beyond and new retention numbers indicate the approach is likely working.

The service blasted past its 2019 retention goals for enlisted sailors in their first 10 years in uniform. It held onto nearly 65% of Zone A sailors, or those with less than six years in and 72% of Zone B sailors, those with 6 to 10 years in.

The Navy set out to keep at least 55% of sailors in Zone A and 65% of those in Zone B. When combined with Zone C sailors, those who've been in the service for 10 to 14 years, the 2019 reenlistment rate was 74% across the three zones. Fleet Master Chief Wes Koshoffer, with Navy Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education, told reporters the high re-up rates are a result of an ongoing culture shift in the Navy. Leaders are listening to rank-and-file sailors, he said, and the Navy is focused on developing policies based on what's easier for the individual and their family.

Child Care Remains a Retention Priority. "Family didn't come in your seabag, shipmate. We need you," Koshoffer said. "That is no longer our mantra."

## WHAT ABOUT MY SPOUSE?

By Dorothy Mills-Gregg

A veteran shops at the commissary in China Lake, California. (DeCA) 12 Jan 2020

While some newly eligible veterans and caregivers were welcomed by commissaries and exchanges with cake and balloons, several others were met with surprises on some base guest policies.

More than 4 million veterans and caregivers became eligible this year to shop at commissaries, exchanges and MWR facilities. Details on how veterans would be identified for the benefit and permitted on secure bases to access these facilities were not released until a few months before implementation.

While the Dept. of Defense said each branch is training its Visitor Control Center staff, some newly eligible patrons have reported they were told they could not bring a guest with them.

"My husband and I have absolutely no problem with following these rules, regulations, or the processing of this as a spouse," wrote one reader who was denied at Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth. "But to be told that it is not for me as a spouse is downright heartbreaking and discouraging and not right to us. Especially since I served along beside my husband during all of those years of enlistment."

## 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

### Hat

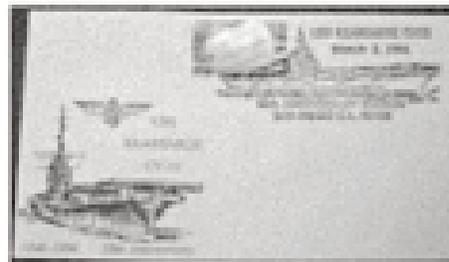


CV, CVA, CVS 33  
NAVY - \$16.00

### 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 \$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 back. Small, Medium, Large & 1X Large for \$53.00 2X Large for \$55.00 - 3X Large for \$57.00

They 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**

2501 Bienville Blvd., Unit 514

(228) 324-7174

Ocean Springs, MS 39564-3129

charlotteap@bellsouth.net



## JAPAN AND THE PHILIPPINES WILL COOPERATE ON A NEW DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE U.S. NAVY'S FORMER HOME AT SUBIC BAY

By Seth Robson

Japan will help the Philippines redevelop the former U.S. naval base at Subic Bay, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced.

Philippines finance secretary Carlos Dominguez and Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Toshimitsu Motegi confirmed the plans after they met in Manila on Thursday. The pair agreed to cooperate in "drawing up a master plan, which would bring out potential for economic development in the Subic Bay area," according to a Japanese government statement.

Subic Bay was once home to thousands of U.S. sailors and their families before the Navy vacated its bases there in 1992. It's still a regular port call for U.S. warships and for Marines who practice beach landings nearby in Zambales province.

The strategic harbor's importance has grown amid Chinese efforts to build military facilities on artificial islands and claim sovereignty over territory to the west in the South China Sea.

Last June, the U.S. Navy announced it was "exploring the viability of a shipyard in Subic Bay for use as a potential repair and maintenance facility."

The shipyard's owner, Hanjin Philippines, declared bankruptcy earlier in 2019 owing \$900 million to South Korean creditors. A pair of Chinese firms subsequently expressed an interest in buying the facility, sparking alarm in some quarters.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency will help develop the Subic Bay plan, which aims to develop knowledge-based industries, logistics terminals, public utilities and roads to grow the local economy, Bloomberg reported Jan. 9.

Meanwhile, China has financed a \$987 million, 44-mile freight rail line connecting Subic Bay to Clark Freeport, on land once occupied by the U.S. Air Force's Clark Air Base, the agency reported.

Japan's interest in Subic Bay was expected, according to Patricio Abinales, a Philippines expert at the University of Hawaii.

"Pundits in Japan have been pushing for Japan to aggressively counter Chinese advances in Southeast Asia with their own initiatives," he said.

## SEARCHERS FIND WRECK OF U.S.S. NEVADA

By Wyatt Olson

The sunken hulk of the USS Nevada has been found off the coast of Hawaii, where the battleship — dubbed "unsinkable" for its endurance through World War II — lay since 1948.

Two private firms working together, Search Inc. and Ocean Infinity, discovered the Nevada almost three miles underwater and about 65 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu, the firms said in a statement Monday. Search Inc., a cultural resource management firm, specializes in archaeology; Ocean Infinity surveys the seabed with marine robotics, according to their websites.

The Nevada's lifespan was exceptional, given the troubled waters in which it sailed. It stayed afloat through two world wars and two nuclear-bomb tests.

"Nevada is an iconic ship that speaks to American resilience and stubbornness," James Delgado, the lead maritime archaeologist on the mission, said in the statement. "Rising from its watery grave after being sunk at Pearl Harbor, it survived torpedoes, bombs, shells and two atomic blasts. The physical reality of the ship, resting in the darkness of the great museum of the sea, reminds us not only of past events, but of those who took up the challenge of defending the United States in two global wars."



Photos and video of the excursion show portions of the ship, such as an anti-aircraft gun and hatch for a 5-inch gun room, still intact. Portions of the hull number are visible, as are inscriptions in the steel, all preserved because of the lack of light and oxygen at the extreme

depth.

The Nevada was commissioned in 1916 and headed to Great Britain during World War I, according to an account posted online by the Naval History and Heritage Command.

It spent the interwar years cruising everywhere from the Caribbean to Australia. In the late 1920s, the ship was modernized, including installation of new anti-aircraft guns and other beefed-up firepower.

After operating in the Pacific for most of the 1930s, the Nevada was moored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when the Japanese Imperial Navy launched a surprise attack on the Pacific Fleet on Oahu on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

The attacking aircraft concentrated on Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor, sinking or crippling most of the ships, which had been moored closely together.

The Nevada took one torpedo and several bomb hits during the first of two attack waves. Moored at the end of Battleship Row, the Nevada took advantage of the lull after the first wave to get underway. But it had not made it to sea before the second wave of aircraft descended on the harbor, striking the ship with a half-dozen bombs.

The crew was forced to beach the sinking ship at the head of the channel.

After frenzied temporary repairs, the Nevada sailed on its own power to the U.S. West Coast in April 1942, where it spent the next year being repaired and overhauled.

It returned to combat during the Battle of Attu in the Aleutian Island in May 1943 and was then transferred to the Atlantic for the D-Day invasion in June 1944. It sailed back to the Pacific and became part of the Iwo Jima and Okinawa invasions in 1945. In the latter battle, the ship was hit by a kamikaze plane and an artillery shell. It was preparing to be part of the invasion force on the Japanese mainland when the war ended in September 1945.

With the end of World War II, the Navy deemed the three-decade old battleship too ancient for the fleet.

Its final job was to serve as a target during two atomic bomb tests at Bikini in the Marshall Islands in 1946 – though even that dirty work left the ship only badly damaged and radioactive, not sunk.

The ship was decommissioned in August 1946, and two years later it was towed to sea off the Hawaiian islands and used for target practice for other Navy ships. Even that four-day pummeling didn't sink the battle-scarred ship. It was finally scuttled by an aerial torpedo. Although the Navy was aware of the vicinity of the ship's sinking, its exact resting spot was unknown until now.

The search for the USS Nevada was conducted aboard Ocean Infinity's Pacific Constructor vessel, which had set sail for a range of tasks in early 2020, well before the coronavirus had morphed into a pandemic.

"As a result of the global health crisis, the ship has remained at sea on a range of taskings," Ocean Infinity said in the statement. 

## TROOPS WOUNDED IN THE PENSACOLA SHOOTING TO BE AWARDED MEDALS

*By Gina Harkins*

Marines and sailors who put their lives at risk to save their comrades during a December terrorist attack on a Florida military base will receive awards for heroism and those killed or injured in the shooting will also be awarded Purple Hearts, Navy announced Monday.

Ensign Joshua Watson, Naval Aircrewmen (Mechanical) 3rd Class Mohammed Haitham and Cameron S. Walters, who were killed by a Saudi officer who opened fire at Naval Air Station Pensacola on Dec. 6, will posthumously be awarded Purple Heart medals. Eight others injured in the attack will also receive the award, since federal investigators determined the attack was an act of terrorism after the shooter was found to have been inspired by jihadi ideology.

"The awards to be presented include the Purple Heart, Secretary of Defense Medal for Valor, Secretary of Defense Medal for the Defense of Freedom, Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, Navy and Marine Corps Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Life Saving Award," officials with Naval Education and Training Command said in a release.

The ceremony is set for March 16 at 10 a.m. at Pensacola's National Naval Aviation Museum.

Others who shielded colleagues from the gunfire or who charged into the chaos unarmed to render lifesaving aid to shooting victims will receive heroism awards for their bravery.

The attack has led to a host of new security protocols for international troops training on U.S. military installations. Twenty-one Saudi troops were kicked out of the U.S. after they were found to have inappropriate materials -- including jihadi or anti-American content -- on their computers. The Navy and Marine Corps have also restricted base access for all foreign troops and their family members. The services have also barred them from carrying or purchasing any personal firearms while assigned to American military installations.

The troops killed or injured in the attack qualify for the Purple Heart because federal investigators determined the shooting to be a terrorist attack. The Saudi officer, who was killed by law enforcement personnel on the scene, was found to have shared jihadi and anti-U.S. military posts on social media ahead of the attack.

The shooter also posted a message stating, "the countdown has begun," after visiting the 9/11 memorial site in New York days before he opened gunfire on a classroom at Pensacola, where he was training. 



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## U. S. S. DORIS MILLER

*By Christopher P. Cavas*

The U. S. Navy's decision to name an aircraft carrier after Pearl Harbor hero Doris Miller is laudable for the symbolism of honoring an African American worthy of having a ship named after him. At first blush, however, it is a misapplication of norms to apply the name of a relatively momentary hero to an aircraft carrier and not a destroyer, as has been the tradition for generations.

Miller wore the uniform of a Navy that allowed African Americans to serve only in relatively menial positions such as steward or cook and not in more professional rates such as engineering, boat handling or gunnery. Yet in the midst of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Mess Attendant Second Class Miller took it upon himself to man a .50-caliber anti-aircraft gun aboard the battleship West Virginia. He fired on Japanese aircraft until the weapon was out of ammunition, when he was ordered to other duties before the entire crew abandoned ship.

Miller apparently was included on an early list of Navy recommendations to recognize actions of valor during the December 7th attack, although initially he was not specifically named. Vigorous lobbying by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Pittsburgh Courier, an African-American newspaper, led to Miller being publicly identified. Continued pressure resulted in Miller receiving the Navy Cross in recognition of his actions during the attack, including his assistance to the battleship's mortally-wounded commanding officer.

Miller subsequently was promoted to Mess Attendant First Class as the Courier and other outlets noted the menial nature of the position, even as the Navy promoted Miller's heroism in recruiting posters. After a stateside war bond drive Miller returned to seagoing duty and, as a Cook Third Class, was serving aboard the escort carrier USS Liscome Bay in November 1943 when that ship was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine. More than six hundred sailors, including Miller, died in the sinking. Miller's is a well-known story, both in the lore of Pearl Harbor and in African American history. The Knox-class frigate USS Miller bore his name from 1971 to 1995, a wholly appropriate honor as he fully meets the Navy's naming convention for destroyer-type ships, who bear the names of hundreds of Navy heroes from all eras in addition to persons of significance in the service's history.

The names applied to carriers are, however, a different story. Originally carrying the names of famous battles and ships of the past or significant aviation milestones, the naming convention was first disturbed in 1945 when one carrier was renamed to honor the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In the 1950s another carrier was named for James Forrestal, a Navy secretary and the first Secretary of Defense, and subsequent names shifted between people, ships, battles or significant events. The Nimitz

class of carriers bore only the names of persons and since the 1970s the process became increasingly politicized. The first two ships of the class honored five-star World War II military leaders Chester Nimitz and Dwight D. Eisenhower, followed by longtime Navy champion Congressman Carl Vinson. Theodore Roosevelt, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington followed – all names previously borne by ballistic missile submarines – followed by Senator John C. Stennis. Vinson and Stennis, despite their services to the Navy and the nation, were ardent segregationists during their careers.

Although the Stennis name was approved during the Reagan Administration, the next carrier initially reverted to the earlier tradition of perpetuating an honored ship name – in this case that of the United States, one of the six sailing frigates that made up the original U. S. Navy. In the mid-1990s Republicans in Congress mandated the next carrier honor Ronald Reagan, and the Clinton Administration acquiesced with the proviso that Democratic President Harry Truman be honored, and the United States was so renamed.

Numerous naval people, regardless of political persuasion, became increasingly uncomfortable with the growing practice to invoke political, rather than national, sensibilities in the carrier naming process. Yet the political practice continued with presidents George H. W. Bush and Gerald R. Ford becoming carrier names, the Ford gracing the name ship of a new class of carrier. With the decommissioning of the earlier ship carrying the name John F. Kennedy the second ship of the Ford class was so named, but a significant lobbying effort led to a decision to name the third ship Enterprise, honoring several famous ships which have carried the name.

It had been hoped by many that the return to a famous ship name might end the string of political names, with many famous carrier names – Yorktown, Ranger, Lexington, Saratoga, Constellation, Intrepid and more – still available.

With this background the January 20 announcement by Acting Secretary Thomas Modly to name a carrier for Doris Miller strikes many as inappropriate. Not that naming a warship for Miller is wrong, but that the name is more suitable for a destroyer. At first I agreed with that sentiment, but there are thousands of Navy and Marine Corps heroes whose acts of valor were greater than Miller's.

But the situation changes if one views Miller's story as representative of the trials and wrongful restrictions inflicted for more than two centuries on Black Americans by the U.S. government and its military. Mess Attendant Miller grabbing that gun without being ordered to do so was an act of defiance in the face of grievous wrongs. That the Navy wouldn't advance him professionally only perpetuated some of those wrongs, despite the award of a medal. Official – if not cultural – restrictions on the service of African Americans in the military continued until July 1948 when President Truman ordered the abolishment of racial segregation in the armed forces. Unofficial

restrictions, of course, continue to this day, and the struggle goes on.

In this setting the choice to name one of the nation's largest, most powerful and most expensive warships after Doris Miller is magnificently appropriate, recognition not only to Miller but to the thousands of African Americans denied the chance to serve their country the way they would have wanted to. Miller is worthy of the honor, as are so very many others.

## NEW MISSILE DESTROYER JOINS NAVAL SQUADRON

*By Hannah Lee*

The soon-to-be USS Delbert D. Black arrived at N.S. Mayport Tuesday morning to join Naval Surface Squadron 14. Commanding Officer Matthew McKenna said that over 300 sailors arrived with the ship and will be calling Mayport their new home.

The squadron has five other destroyer ships and the purpose of the squadron is to provide support to all non-LCS ships at Mayport. The squadron's history can be traced back to November 1920, when it began as a reserve organization in Philadelphia.

"Destroyers are the workhorses of the fleet right now," McKenna said. "They're multi-mission platforms able to conduct operations against things in the air, surface and underneath the sea."

The ship will be commissioned later in September and will be named after the first ever Master Petty Chief Officer of the U.S. Navy.

Delbert D. Black served from 1941 to 1971 and was the first Navy enlisted man to receive the Distinguished Service Medal. He served on the USS Maryland during Pearl Harbor. In 1967, the Secretary of the Navy announced Black to be the First Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. As such, he was the highest ranking enlisted man in the U.S. Navy.

The destroyer will be commissioned in Port Canaveral, Florida on Sept. 26. 

## NAVY & MARINES CAN NO LONGER USE HEMP PRODUCTS

*By Chad Garland*

The Navy has banned sailors and Marines from using shampoos, lotions and soaps made with hemp or cannabidiol, one of the main active compounds in cannabis plants, it said in a statement.

At issue is the possibility that such products could contain too much of the psychoactive compound found in pot called tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, and their use could "negatively impact mission readiness and disqualify a sailor from continued service," said the statement released Friday.

The Navy banned the use of topical products made

with hemp or its derivatives in a July 24 administrative message, saying it's impossible for consumers to determine how much THC such products contain based on label claims that may be untrustworthy. The policy warns that the use of hemp-based or products containing cannabidiol, or CBD, risks interference with the department's drug testing program.

The policy's goal is to prevent service members from unknowingly consuming THC in any amount, the Navy said last week.

The new rule follows a ban imposed last summer by the Navy on the ingestion of products containing hemp or hemp derivatives without a valid prescription, after a 2018 farm bill removed low-THC hemp from the Controlled Substances Act.

Many health and beauty products now contain hemp seed oils or other derivatives, and their manufacturers boast of their ability to hydrate skin, heal damaged hair, battle acne and more -- without getting users high.

The Army, Air Force and Coast Guard already have policies in place that forbid military members from using products made with hemp or hemp seed oil. The Navy's previous policy only banned the ingestion of hemp-derived products or use of others, such as transdermal patches, that are designed to put CBD into the bloodstream.

The new rule still allows for the use of CBD-containing products that have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, if a service member has a valid prescription. The rules do not prohibit the use of "durable hemp goods" such as rope, twine or clothing.

Sailors who test positive for THC or other substances without a prescription will be processed for administrative separation, and could receive an "other than honorable" discharge, the Navy said. That could affect their eligibility for veterans' benefits and employment opportunities.

"We have to be fit to fight and can't take a risk in allowing our sailors to consume or use these types of products," said L.A. Parker, head of the drug detection and deterrence branch of the 21st Century Sailor office.

### Wierd Stuff You Didn't Know!

**Intelligent people have more zinc & copper in their hair.**

**The first novel ever written on a typewriter was Tom Sawyer.**

**The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.**

**Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of their birthplace.**

# KEARSAGA

## 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. George H. W. Bush CVN 77

### 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

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

