

MARCH 2023

Memories... By: Greg Plante, Editor

As we get older, we often take solace in memories of our youth. For me, one of the strongest is my time aboard the USS Lexington, AVT16.

They begin while I was stationed aboard NAS Pensacola. A friend and I went down to the Allegheny pier to see where she berthed (she was out at the time) and I remember thinking "hmmm, I wonder to which end of this long pier she ties up." We came back after one of her returns, as I had never seen a carrier thus far, and I was gobsmacked at her immensity. She took up the whole darned thing!

Later, when it came time for my first assignment to sea duty, I like many at the mercy of Navy Detailer wisdom had put three very far flung overseas shore options, and ended up instead, on Lexington, which was really better for us financially and logistically. We didn't even have to move.

Checking aboard, I remember coming aboard at the afterbrow, paranoid that I may have forgotten the proper protocol for coming aboard a US Naval vessel, and then entering into the cavernous hanger bay. Now where do I go? I stopped someone walking by: "Excuse me, where do I find Personnel?" It was conveniently located nearby. So close, even I couldn't get lost. I entered the space, and my first observation was that my head was almost touching the overhead suspended ceiling they installed, I guess in an effort to make it more office-like. A Master Chief (cue the paranoia again) came to me at the counter, and in my nervousness I voiced my observation. "Wow... you have a really low ceiling in here!" I barely finished my statement, when I quickly received a bellowing "CEILING!? You're on a ship, airman! Get out of my office until you know what you're talking about!" Well... at least I got first impressions taken care of right from the start. Way to go, Plante... I exited back into the hangar bay looking for any passing shipmate that could possibly take pity on me and quickly bring me up to speed on just what was my great faux pas. Newly educated, I re-entered Personnel, and quizzed by the afore-

mentioned Master Chief as to whether I was any smarter, responded that I had indeed misspoke, and was just surprised at how close I was to the OVERHEAD. It was apparently deemed acceptable, I was checked in, and someone was assigned to get me to OC Division in Air Ops to finish check in.

The hangar bay; after checking in with personnel and checking my feelings of being overwhelmed at taking it all in, I would have to say that my first indelible memory would be the smell of the ship. I remember many times coming home after a deployment, I was usually greeted by a bride not as enamored by that smell telling me "Ugh, you smell like the ship... go change your clothes". The "smell". Machine oil, Marine diesel, paint, and dare I say faint undertones of over 40 years of blood, sweat and tears of former shipmates from her long and storied history, combined into a cocktail of an olfactory experience that is imprinted on my mind and memory to this day. I remember visiting her for the first time after being gone from her almost 20 years, and the first experience I had coming aboard was the still present smell that immediately transported me back in time. I found it comforting. Like coming home to the smell of mom's cooking after being a long time away. My bride? While was in an "Ahhhhh" moment, she was in an "Ughhhh" moment. She still hadn't warmed up to it thru the passing years, and we still enjoy laughing about it.

It is usually the start of a long line of memories for me. The smell as I passed the bakery in the early morning hours of my obligatory lower deck watch; the coffee urns on the mess decks, of whose elixer I often availed myself on those same watches; early morning recovery from the morning launch telling me it was time to rise and shine. It was hard to miss, as our berthing area was right next to the hydraulics for the number three arresting cable, and right under the flight deck. The phrase "rock the house" easily comes to mind.

<u>Continue on page 3</u>

DEWSLETTER NOTES & INFORMATION

Sunrise Press - Triannual Publication USS LEXINGTON ASSOCIATION CV1, CVA16, CVS16, CVT16, AVT16

- Front Page: Message from the Editor: Memories
- Pg 2: In this Issue; Notes & Information
- Pg 3: Editor Message continued
- Pg 4: TAPS and New Members
- Pg 5: Presidents Message
- Pg 6: 2023 Reunion Hotel Information
- Pg 7: 2023 Reunion: USS LEX Museum on the Bay
- Pg 8: 2023 Reunion: Area Attractions/Corpus Christi
- Pg 9:2023 Reunion: Itinerary
- Pg 10: 2023 Reunion: Registration Form
- Pg 11: Chaplains Corner
- Pg 12: From My Email
- Pg 13: News Letter Information
- Pg 14 Diversions
- Pg 15: Just for the Fun of It



Executive Officers:

President: Christopher Hagger Vice President: Alfrieda Denson Treasurer: Eric Friedli Secretary: Greg Plante

Appointed Positions

Chaplain: Christopher Hagger Sunrise Press Editor, Webmaster, and Data Base Tech: Greg Plante Historian: (open)

WEBSITE: www.usslexingtoncv16.org



Office of the Treasurer Treasurer: Eric Friedli

Membership Dues: \$20/year Due by Dec. 31st. Make checks payable to: USS Lexington Association

Send Dues to Eric or Pay Online MAIL to: Eric Friedli 12734 19th Ave NE Seattle, WA98125

PAY ONLINE: website: <u>usslexing-</u> <u>toncv16.org</u> CLICK: "Dues and Donation"



A Note from the Editor:

Have you read an interesting article or story recently? Or maybe have some memorabilia from your time on the LEX? Share it with your shipmates! Just send them to me and I'll

print them in the Sunrise Press including a byline to credit you with the submission. My postal address is: 23428 College Ave. Robertsdale, AL 36567 For electronic submissions, email me at:

editor@usslexingtoncv16.org Greg Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press

Sunrise Press - EMAIL Version:

The email version is better than the printed, with color graphics & pictures, e-links and more.

For those receiving the email version of the Sunrise Press: You will receive an email stating that the Press is available for viewing on the website. Follow the link to the Association website where you can view or download the current issue of the Sunrise Press.

www.usslexingtoncv16.org

2023 Reunion USS Lexington Association September 25th - 29th



Continued from page 1 - Memories

The friends made, the hijinks engaged in that I won't repeat in case there are statutes of limitations not vet reached, the feel of the ocean's swells beneath my feet as we operated in the Gulf of Mexico setting record after record for launches and recoveries that likely will not be matched for a long time. The feeling that the Lady Lex was somehow a living, sentient being proving to the world that she still had a role to play in our Navy after all of these years.

After all of these years..... She turns 80 years old this year, and though she hasn't plied the waters deep for over 30 of those years, her job is still not finished as she rests pier-side in Corpus Christi, Texas, teaching and inspiring awe in the many visitors that enter her hangar deck and interior spaces for a tour, and to learn both her proud history, and that of the Navy in general, as well as that of the brave American men through the centuries that served aboard ships in all of the earth's seas to preserve our freedom. I can't wait for our reunion September 25th-28th this year, and to return "home" once again. I hope my memories jogged your own, inspiring a sentimental longing in you to want to join us, and also hope to see you there.

NOTE: I would like to encourage our fellow shipmates to share some of their own memories of the Lexington for publication in our newsletter. Are you a bad speller? Is your grammar or punctuation challenging? Do these things keep you from wanting to share? Let me help. I will gladly proof and edit your submissions to make them flow better if indeed they even need the help. None of us are Pulitzer Prize winners. But your memories preserved for posterity for others to enjoy... What a contribution you can still make to your shipmates, and enrich the quality of our community and it's newsletter.

Oldest living Pearl Harbor survivor marks 105th birthday





NEW ORLEANS lined the sidewalk outside the National World War II Museum in New Orleans to greet the oldest living survivor of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor as he marked his upcoming 105th birthday.

"It feels great," Jo-seph Eskenazi of Redondo Beach, California, told reporters after posing for pictures with his greatgrandson, who is about to turn 5, his 21-month-old greatgranddaughter and six other World War

II veterans, all in their 90s.

Eskenazi turned 105 on Jan. 30. He had boarded an Amtrak train in California on Friday for the journey to New Orleans. The other veterans, representing the Army, Navy and Marines, flew in for the event. They were visiting thanks to the <u>Soaring Valor Pro-</u>

gram, a project of actor Gary Sinise's charitable founda-Flag-waving admirers tion dedicated to aiding veterans and first responders. The program arranges trips to the museum for World War II veterans and their guardians. Eskenazi was a private first class in the Army when the attack occurred. His memories include being awakened when a bomb fell — but didn't explode — near where he was sleeping at Schofield Barracks, reverberating explosions as the battleship USS Arizona was sunk by Japanese bombs, and machine gun fire from enemy planes kicking up dust around him after he volunteered to drive a bulldozer across a field so it could be used to clear runways.

"I don't even know why — my hand just went up when they asked for volunteers," Eskenazi said. "Nobody else raised their hand because they knew that it meant death. ... I did it unconsciously.

He was at the Army's Schofield Barracks when the Dec. 7, 1941, attack began, bringing the United States into the war. About 2,400 servicemen were killed. Eskenazi and his fellow veterans lined up for pictures amid exhibits of World War II aircraft and Higgins boats, designed for beach landings.

"Thank you guys for providing us a country that was worth fighting for," veteran Billy Hall, a who rose to the rank of major in the Marines after enlisting in 1941, shouted to well-wishers.

The museum opened in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum and has expanded in size and scope since then.

*** No TAPS were reported at the time of this printing ***

Help us keep our "TAPS" records up to date...

We need your help. Our only way of knowing our members have passed, is if someone tells us. We ask that you please notify us of any members who are no longer with us so we can update our records and honor our deceased shipmates in the Sunrise Press.

Email notifications to: editor@usslexingtoncv16.org Snail Mail to: Greg Plante, 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, AL 36567





Laurie, Robert G Onboard: 06/1978-08/1983 V2 Plat/Lens Shop

Rogers, Pamela J Onboard: 09/1989-02/1991 V1 Crash & Admin

Smith, Edward H Onboard: 03/1984-07/1990 B #1 Fire Room Woodyard, Paul D Onboard: 05/1967-1969 V2 Cat Pults

Young, Marshall A Onboard: 02/1973-02/1974 Engineering/Boilerman **Furness, Gary L** Onboard: 12/1977– 12/1982 B #2 Fire Room, BR Shop

USS Lexington CV16 Association: MEMBERSHIP

The Association welcomes all shipmates, navy, marines, Ships Company, air group personnel who served at some time on a USS Lexington CV 16 (all her designations) or on the USS Lexington CV 2.

Dues are \$20/year, and due at the end of each year. Dues can be paid online at: <u>www.usslexingtoncv16.org</u> Dues paid by mail: **Make checks payable to :USS Lexington Association**

Send your dues to: Eric Friedli, 12734 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 981125

🗘 President's Message



Hello my USS Lexington brothers and sisters, this morning when I opened my eyes to a brand-new day I thought for a brief moment of the magnitude of our journey as an Association. I thought of how we have been blessed through the years to have accomplished so much with the small group of men and women that served aboard. I hope down in my heart that we certainly have a turnout worthy of all the efforts that are being poured into our next reunion.

Sometimes, when I look at the condition of our Union and the direction that we seem to be going (my personal observation), I get concerned deep in my heart. I wish our younger generation understood the price that was paid and is still being paid by veterans of yesteryears. On a grand scale, this is what our reunions represent. A reminder of the reason why we gave ourselves to protect, to serve, to learn, and to grow. Protect our country from enemies foreign and domestic; to serve those less fortunate than us, giving them a leg up to accomplish the impossible and become a vital part of the fabric of this great country. To learn from each other and learn from our mistakes of yesterday. To learn that we are the same and we can grow from each other's history and the strength of our ancestor's teaching. I am reminded of a poem by Sara Teasdale that was so beautifully referenced in Ray Bradbury's writing: There will come soft rains...

"There will come soft rains and the smell of the ground, And swallows circling with their shimmering sound; And frogs in the pools singing at night, And wild plum trees in tremulous white; Robins will wear their feathery fire, Whistling their whims on a low fence wire; And not one will know of the war, not one Will care at last when it is done. Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree, if mankind perished utterly; And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn Would scarcely know that we were gone."

Let us reach as many as we can that have served on Lady-Lex Inviting them to their reunion, our reunion. So, we can talk, laugh, remember and love each other.

Fraternally yoursChristopher Hagger

Let's Get Together in Corpus Christi Home of the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay

The Omni Hotel will be the venue for our 2023 Reunion.

Located in the downtown Marina District, the hotel offers luxurious guestrooms with spectacular views of the Corpus Christi Bay.

HOTEL INFORMATION OMNI, CORPUS CHRISTI

Weblink for Booking Reservations at our Discounted Group Rate

https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/corpus-christi/meetings/uss-lexington-cv-16-reunion-09252023

Group Rate for Rooms: \$139 per Night Reservations must be Booked by August 25, 2023





LOCATION:2914 North Shoreline Boulevard LATITUDE: 27.815073 LONGITUDE: 97.388703

Attractions: Escape Rooms The Flight Deck 3D MEGA Theater Pearl Harbor Exhibit Scale Models Flight Simulator

https://usslexington.com/attractions/pearl-harbor-exhibit/



Area Attraction Things to Do and See



The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is a nonprofit, 180-acre botanical garden and nature center located at 8545 South Staples, Corpus Christi, Texas. It is open daily. Major exhibits include an arid garden; Exhibit House with bromeliads, cycads, cacti, and succulents; hibiscus garden; hummingbird garden; landscape demonstration beds; orchid house with more than 3000 orchids; a major collection of more than 100 plumeria varieties; contemporary rose garden with a large pavilion; sensory garden; and water garden. The site also contains a mesquite nature trail through 30 acres of brush. It features some 35 species of woody trees and shrubs, herbs, grasses, and cacti, as well as white-tailed deer, collared peccaries, and coyotes.



The Texas State Aquarium is a nonprofit aquarium located in Corpus Christi, Texas. It is dedicated to promoting environmental conservation and rehabilitation of the wildlife of the Gulf of Mexico. It has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since 1995. It is the largest aquarium in Texas and one of the largest aquariums in the United States.



The Art Museum of South Texas is celebrating 50 years on the Corpus Christi Bay. The original complex, designed by world-renowned architect Philip Johnson, opened to the public in October of 1972. To honor our past, celebrate our present, and plan for our future, we have created an exciting selection of exhibitions and educational programs. We are honored to serve as THE fine arts institution for the Coast Bend region. Welcoming over 100,00 visitors annually, we strive to provide a unique selection of cultural offerings for our guests.

HERITAGE PARK

Heritage Park is Corpus Christi's historic park which hosts and supports many art and cultural activities, as well as a variety of community events throughout the year. Come and step back in time at this historic cultural center where several Victorian-style homes now stand.

Address: 1581 N. Chaparral Street

There are twelve historical Corpus Christi homes located in Heritage Park. Many of these are recorded Texas Historical Landmarks, the oldest one dating back to 1851. Each home pays tribute to the area's ethnic and cultural diversity. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Corpus Christi, visiting Heritage Park is an excellent place to begin your history lesson.

Corpus Christi Shopping

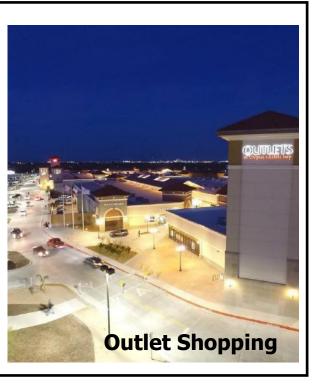
Walk through a shark's mouth to find a souvenir, or shop designers at the Outlet Stores. Or maybe a stroll through the Antiques Shops..... You'll find lots to do in the area.







Antique Shops



3 2023 Reunion: September 25th-29th

USS LEXINGTON CV16 ANNUAL REUNION, Corpus Christi

ITINERARY

September 25th – Monday: Hotel Check-inWelcome!

1200 Hospitality Room opens, Registration Begins -

1800 Hospitality Suite Closes

1800 Opening Reception: Heavy Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar -

September 26th – Tuesday: Tour, Lunch, Memorial Service

0830 Meet in Hotel Lobby for tour
0845 Bus departs for Tour, Lunch, Memorial Service (Click here to see PG 13 notes)
1115 Arrive USS Lexington for Luncheon and Memorial Service
TBA Bus returns to Hotel, Hospitality Room opens

September 27th – Wednesday: Free day for Sight Seeing & Socializing

1000 Hospitality Room opens

September 28th – Thursday: Business Meeting and Banquet

1000 Business Meeting - All members and guest welcome.
1200 Hospitality Room opens (will close at 1800)
1845 Gather in Banquet Room for Group Pictures
1900 Invocation and Presentation of the Colors
Opening Remarks by Association President
Dinner and Entertainment - Cash Bar

September 29th - Friday: Check Out

Have a safe trip home! - See you in Pensacola - 2024

REGISTR	ATION	FORM
---------	-------	------

Please Note: This form does not include your hotel reservation. Hotel reservations must be done separately by you. HOTEL INFORMATION - OMNI, CORPUS CHRISTI			
Weblink for Booking Reservations at our Discounted Group Rate			
https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/corpus-christi/meetings/uss-lexington-cv-16-reunion-09252023			
Group Rate for Rooms: \$139 per Night			
The Registration Form is also available on our website, with the ability to pay using your Debit or Credit Card. www.usslexingtoncv16.org			
NAME	SPOUSE/GUEST		
(Additional guests - please list below and include in the final numbers below.)			
ADDRESS:	CITY	STATE ZIP	
PHONE EMAIL			
DATES ON BOARD			
Additional Guests:			
Register me for the following: Reunion Registration Fee (not optional)Number of attendeesx \$35 each = \$ Tuesday, September 26th Tour/Lunch/Memorial Service Number of attendeesx \$70 each = \$			
Lunch/Memorial Service <i>only</i>		X \$70 each = $$$	
Euler/Memorial Service Ony	Number of allendees	X \$50 eden = \$	
Please click here or see Page 13 for important details on this luncheon, including meal description.			
Thursday, September 28th			
Farewell Banquet	Number of attendees	x \$60 each = \$	
Choice of Entrée:			
A.) Grilled Salmon with a Brown Sugar & a Molasses Glaze and a Texas Pecan Butter Sauce			
B.) Chicken Matagorda: Lightly Marinated Breast of Chicken with Peppers & Relish			
C.) Poblano Stuffed Pork Loin, Sundried Apricots, Pistachios, & Pink Peppercorn			
TOTAL: \$			
Mail Registration form and check payable to: USS Lexington CV 16 Association MAIL to: Eric Friedli 12734 19th Ave NE Seattle, WA98125			

Cut-off Date: August 25, 2023



Today, I was speaking with a young lady whose husband has found out he has cancer. She shared that he has been showing some signs of being hurt, and angry, questioning why he has been struck with such a disease. As I listen to her and felt her heartfelt concern for her husband, I thought of something that I had experienced many years ago. I often tell this story to as many as want to hear it.

I told her that when I was twelve, I asked my mother to go to a friend of mine's house to play. She said I could go and so I walked to his house to enjoy things that twelve-year-old boys do; like wrestle, and play king of the mountain. As it goes, we begin to act like we knew Karate and begin kicking at each other like Kung Fu. Well, he accidentally kicked me in the stomach and knocked the wind out of me. I fell to the ground because I couldn't breathe. Was I afraid? Of course, I was afraid. Did I do anything wrong, like disobey my mother, or not take out the trash? No, it was none of these. In life things just happen, not because of something you did or have not done. But I did realize while lying on my back that I needed someone to help me breathe again. I had to trust them to help me breathe again.

In life, we go through some changes that can really take our breath away. Death, a sudden illness, or just bad news. I just want to encourage my brothers and sisters of the USS Lexington, as this country goes through its hiccups, don't lose faith in your core belief. And those around you including us as shipmates can help you breathe again.

Yours In Service, Chaplain Christopher Hagger

Chaplain Hagger pastors All People Worship Center in Odessa, Texas . He also overseas the operation at All People Hospice and Healthcare. Contact: Address: 4745 N. Sierra Ave, Odessa, TX 79764 — Phone: 432-258-7751 / FAX: 432-381-5272 / Cell: 832-312-0892



FOR SALE

Email: Bryanweber1@gmail.com

Name: Bryan Weber

Subject: Hand Painting Acquired

Message: I acquired a hand painting of the USS Lexington by Stan Stokes in an auction and I am looking to sell it if any one is interested.

30" Tall x 48" Wide Hand painting of the USS Lexington, Asking \$8,500 which is negotiable.

I believe its 1 of 2 ever painted by Stan Stokes

Contacting me through Email is best; otherwise, 707-249-3337

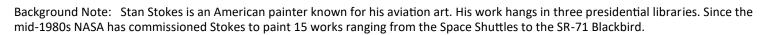




Closeup detail



Closeup Detail



U.S.S. Lexington"

Other of his works can be seen here: <u>https://stanstokes.art/</u> to compare.

Shipmates, This man reached out to us to offer this painting, and I agreed to offer some space here to do so, but I cannot vouch for the seller in any way as I do not personally know him. I believe he is sincere in this, but due diligence is always recommended in a transaction of this value. I cannot verify the actual value of this painting. As with anything for sale, it is worth whatever one is willing to pay to own it. I am familiar with the artist's work, however, as I have personally seen it in the Naval Aviation Museum at NAS Pensacola, FL. as well his huge mural at the Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, CA. which is why I'm agreeing to post his offer here.

Greg Plante, Editor.

🖞 Shipmates Looking for...졪

Looking for an old shipmate? Looking for a cruise book from a particular cruise? Maybe filling in the gaps of memory while writing some memoirs? Let us know what you're looking for and we will include it in the newsletter.

To place a notice in the "Looking For" section of the newsletter, go to the website and click on "Contact CV 16" and fill out the form. Or send an email to **editor@usslexingtoncv16.org** Written submissions can be sent to: Greg Plante, 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, Alabama 36567



Have you read an interesting article or story recently? Or maybe have some memorabilia from your time on the LEX? Share it with your shipmates! Just email them to us and we'll print them in the Sunrise Press. Email:editor@usslexingtoncv16.org

2023 REUNION LUNCHEON AND MEMORIAL SERVICE NOTES:

What is this Luncheon and Memorial Only option? We are aware that some members might not necessarily want to go on the tour, and while we encourage the tour, some may only be interested in the Luncheon and Memorial service aboard Lexington. So, being that the tour price includes the cost of the luncheon, if folks just show up for the luncheon without going on the tour, we would be very short of funds and food for those that paid for the tour. So, if for some reason you only want to do the luncheon and memorial service, that is listed below the tour. You'll need to pay the luncheon portion, and be in Hangar Bay 2 September 26th at 11:15. So what are you going to eat for that price? Hold onto your tongues so they don't hit the floor. This ain't no box lunch!!

A Garden salad of Fresh field green, romaine and iceberg lettuce with shredded carrots, grape tomatoes, and hot house cucumbers with your choice of Ranch or Italian dressing.

Chicken Florentine. A boneless breast of chicken topped with Spinach and Rosemary Parmesan Cream Sauce.

Vegetables. Brandy Grilled vegetable Medley

Dessert. A delicious Red Velvet cake, baked to perfection.

All this including Garlic Bread or rolls, and unsweet tea, lemonade, and water.





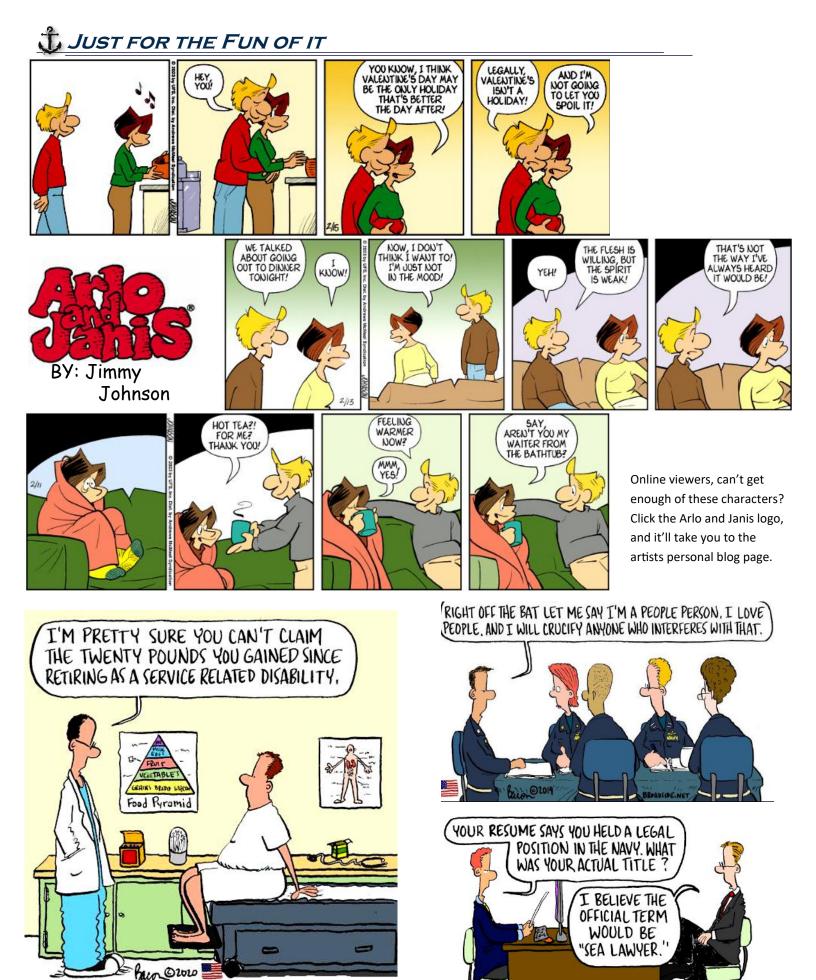
Word Search

Ch The words in this puzzle are found throughout this issue of the Sunrise Press



BANQUET BREATHE CHAPARRAL ENTERTAINMENT HERITAGE HISTORY HOSPITALITY INDELIBLE MEMORIES MUSEUM OUTLET PEARLHARBOR PENSACOLA PERSONNEL POSTERITY RECEPTION SCHOFIELD SENTIMENTAL

SEPTEMBER SHORELINE SIMULATOR SWELLS TREMULOUS WHISTLING WRESTLE



15

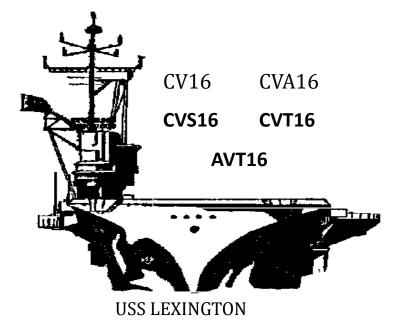
BROADSIDE, HET BALA OTOIS

Home Port of:

USS Lexington CV 16 Association

23428 College Avenue

Robertsdale, AL 36567



**** IN THIS ISSUE ****

Front Pg Editors Message: Memories TAPS & New Members : pg.4 Presidents Message: pg.5 2023 Reunion: Pg. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 Chaplain's Corner: pg. 11 From my Email: pg. 12 Just for the Fun of It: pg.15



SP 23-01