

The Sunrise Press

USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE
NOW THE USS LEXINGTON MUSEUM ON THE BAY
IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

January, 2016

Copied from Navy TimesOnline. Article by :
Andrew Tilghman, Staff writer

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said he is willing to send American helicopters and troops to Anbar province to help the Iraqi military forces close in on and seize Ramadi from Islamic State militants.

"The United States is prepared to assist the Iraqi army with additional unique capabilities to help them finish the job, including attack helicopters and accompanying advisers if circumstances dictate and if re-

quested by Prime Minister [Hader al-] Abadi," Carter told lawmakers on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

His comments came amid reports that the Iraqi security forces have advanced into downtown Ramadi and seized a key military operations center. Hundreds of U.S. troops are deployed in Anbar province, but their mission has been limited primarily to inside-the-wire training activities at Al Asad Air Base and Taqaddum Air Base.

Carter's suggestion that U.S. forces and helicopters might support Iraqis closer to the front lines is the latest sign that the Pentagon and White House are intensifying military efforts to defeat the Islamic State group. Last week, Carter revealed



Image by CNN.com

plans to send an "expeditionary targeting force" to Iraq that will include up to 100 U.S. special operations troops to focus on raids on Islamic State group targets in Iraq and Syria.

About 3,600 U.S. troops are authorized to be deployed in Iraq. The vast majority are focused on train, advise and assist missions, but during the past several months, some American advisers have been moved outside the wire and closer to Iraqi-led

combat operations.

For operations in which U.S. troops accompany Iraqi forces onto the battlefield, as they did in Sinjar in November, the Americans typically remain at a rear position, advising Iraqi military commanders, standing by

to provide medical evacuation and gathering intelligence that can develop targets for air strikes.

The U.S. has spent months training Iraqi forces in Anbar, conducting airstrikes almost daily and providing munitions like AT4s, the 84mm unguided shoulder-fired missiles that can stop truck

bombs, Carter said.

Islamic State militants seized Ramadi in May. Carter said the Iraqis' progress this week comes after a "frustratingly long time." Islamic State fighters in Ramadi are estimated to number 600 to 1,000, defense officials said. The militants who have controlled the city for more than six months have set up a daunting defensive perimeter of mines, shooting positions and improvised explosive devices.



A Word from Lance Wagner:

Look at the list of new members; if you see someone you once knew and want his address and phone number, write to me and I'll get it to you. If you know someone who served on the Lex, let me know and I'll send them some information about our group.

Please remember if you move to send me your change of address and new telephone number. Please be sure to include the area code, as many have changed.

Another thing, **look at the date after your name on the label that was used to mail you this newsletter. It is the date your dues are paid to. If it is 2010 or before, you are behind on your dues.**

**Send dues to: Lance Wagner,
71-21 73rd Place
Glendale, NY 11385**

Remember that dues are **\$15/yr**; make checks payable to: USS Lexington Association.



If anyone has any articles they'd like to see included in the newsletter, please send them to me and I'll put them in, space permitting, including a byline to credit you with the submission. My postal address is: **23428 College Avenue, Robertsdale, AL 36567**. Otherwise for electronic submissions, my e-address is gplante@gulftel.com. PLEASE put USS LEXINGTON or even just LEX in the subject area so that my spam filtering software won't delete it on me. Thanks, Greg Plante.
Editor, Sunrise Press

Sunrise Press Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the USS Lexington Association CV, CVA, CVS, CVT, AVT16, It's Editor is Greg Plante, with contact information in the box to the left, if you have any questions about anything in the newsletter, or would like to offer anything for inclusion.

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REUNION NEWS

WOW... What a great time we had in Baton Rouge. The Hotel, people, and food were wonderful. The tour of the Cajun swamp and WW2 museum, were both interesting and exciting. Were can you hold and pet a live "gator"? The French Cajun dancers rocked the building and everyone enjoyed their music and performance.

My thanks to all that helped put this together. A big thank you to Del Florian and Mary Friedli for hosting the hospitality rooms, it stayed crowded the entire reunion, At times; I thought security might shut us down. Thanks also go to J and Sheila Southard for all their administrative and photographic efforts.

2016 Pigeon Forge TN.

The contract has been signed and the date will be Sept 12 -16, 2016. The host Hotel will be Music Road Resort, a 163 room luxurious hotel and convention center. The resort has a seasonal waterpark and indoor pool. The rate will be \$109 a night and includes a full breakfast. More details will be coming in the January 2016 Sunrise Press, stay tuned, you do not want to miss this reunion.

Bob DiMonte
Past President

A Call to Remember

By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger

**If we take care of God's House, He will
take care of our house**

By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger



Many years ago, I woke one morning to the sounds of birds singing outside my bedroom window when I lived in Port Arthur, Texas. It was at that moment that God placed a thought in my heart which has been whispered to me ever since. He shared with me that "If I would take care of His House, He would take care of my house."

Several years later, my wife and I was given an opportunity to move to Odessa, Texas where we now reside. When we moved to Odessa, the oil boom was in full bloom

which made it difficult to find a house worth investing in to call home. However, after months of searching, we were blessed to find one. We could tell by the color of the bricks; it was built sometime in the early 70's. While looking at it, my wife said, "We are going to have to renovate, but the house has good bones."

Her words made me think the revelation concerned a home built of brick and mortar; oh, I was so wrong. The Lord spoke to us in the book of Revelation 3rd chapter around the 20th verse. He said, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with Me." We are designed to be Temples unto God. Paul said in the book of 1 Corinthians 3rd chapter around the 16th verse, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" As my wife said about our now new home, it is an old house but, it had good bones. After the long renovation process of removing walls, replacing the insulation, raising the ceiling, etc... We finally made the house livable for us.

My friends, I know when we watch the news on Fox News, CNN, Morning Joe or whatever your preferred news channel may be; the world seems so scary, so unsafe, and/or so unfair. But, we must remember this is God's House and He said, "Behold, I stand at the door and I knock." Unless, we hear someone knocking at our door, we

would never get up to answer it. Sometimes, things happen to make us get up and go check if someone is at our door. It could be our neighbor, it could be our co-worker, it could be a loved one, or it could be a stranger. We are all God's property, and it is our duty to pray for them, and with them. It is our duty to share words of life with our fellow man so he or she can have the tools to renovate their walk, renovate their behavior. It is our duty to share the light with them, again the Bible says who lights a candle and put it under a shade, no it is uncovered so the whole room can be given light. We are not an islands unto ourselves, we belong to each other. My brother on my left and my sister on my right, I am responsible for them. There is scripture when Jesus said "When I was thirsty you gave me drink, when I was hungry you fed me." Then the person asks, Lord when did I give you drink or fed you? The Lord replies, when you do it for the least of these, you do it for me." My Lexington family, as the new year approaches, and we bid last year good-bye, let us get our tool belt out with all that we need and let's get to work. Our country, our state, our city, our neighborhood needs renovation. Let us take care of God's House, and He will take care of our house. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God Bless

a better newsletter!... and it's free!

The costs of publishing the newsletter, printing and postage, is growing, and a decrease in the number of newsletters mailed out will greatly help.

We are looking for people who have a computer with e-mail, or access to e-mail, and are willing to receive their newsletter in their e-mail.

The Press can be stored and read on your machine at your leisure, or printed to take with you. It is also better than the print version, with color graphics, pictures, e-links

to more info, all sorts of stuff including 2 - 6 bonus pages not in the print version.

PLEASE give this some real consideration !!! To give you an idea of what you're missing, go to the Association website where the last several issues are posted and see for yourself. That's <http://www.usslexingtoncv16.com/>

Send your e-mail address to gplante@gulftel.com. Please remember to put **Lexington** or **Lex** in the Subject line so my virus filter will leave it alone.

EMAIL RECIPIENTS!

I'm often asked in e-mails for dues expirations by various members, since there is no address sticker on a mailer label. We've come up with a solution.

Jay Southard's, databases tell him all of those fine things, and he will do a mailing twice a year (January & July) to anyone that comes up showing in arrears, so, watch your e-mail for a note from Jay and don't delete it. You'll need it to know what you owe.



The patch that Roland King designed and copyrighted is the official Association patch, and the ship's store will soon enough have a supply of both the smaller and larger patches of the same design. Contact for the patches will be:

**Lance Wagner
71-21 73rd Place
Glendale, NY 11385**

From Shipmate Roger Wolfe.....

I am forwarding the below as an FYI to anyone who served aboard the Lex when she was the CVA 16.

I ordered a CVA 16 hat from Militarybest.com. I have a CV 16 hat, but it's the first time I have been able to order a CVA 16 which was the designation when I was aboard in 1955-1957.

Subtotal 18.95
Shipping 3.99
Tax 0.00
Total 22.94

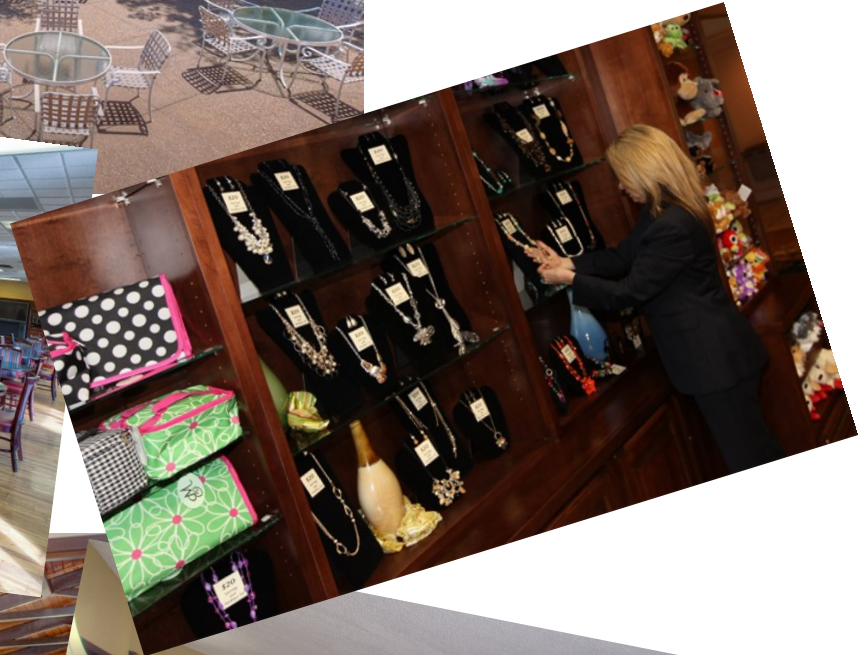
Congratulations to Sarah McCabe of Garden City, NY

Granddaughter of Shipmate Joseph G. McCabe, on winning the \$1000 USS Lexington Scholarship. It is with great pride that we share your submission below.

Throughout our country's history, millions of men have died fighting to protect the people and preserve democracy at its very core. One of those brave men, my Great Uncle Francis McCabe, was a Seaman 1st Class on the U.S.S Lexington Essex-class Aircraft Carrier during World War II. She served as the flagship of Fast Carrier Task Force 58 and participated in every major naval operation from Tarawa to Tokyo. Tokyo Rose nicknamed her "The Blue Ghost" because she didn't wear the typical camouflage paint and always returned after the Japanese thought she was sunk. Upon the ship, my Great Uncle Frank was a gunner who won 6 medals, and the Purple Heart, for his bravery in battle. Frank memorialized his experiences by keeping logs, which included his brilliant cartoons. He drew very artistic pictures of his views of what was occurring at the time. On November 5th, 1944, Frank was manning his gun during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. That day, Frank and forty-nine other men were buried at sea after being hit by a Japanese kamikaze plane. He was only twenty-two years old. The remaining crew managed to put out any fires within 20 minutes, and the Lexington pushed on, continuing to fight. In 1993, my grandfather, Joseph G. McCabe, donated all of Frank's medals and war-time memorabilia, including the Purple Heart, to the U.S.S. Lexington Museum On The Bay, so that others could see what Frank had achieved, what he died for. There, those reminders will remain an ever-lasting tribute to Frank's memory and of all of those who fell alongside him, protecting our great nation.

Pigeon Forge 2016 reunion

I thought I'd throw out a little teaser on our 2016 reunion and show you some pictures of the venue where we will be meeting, the Music Road Resort.



I Am Coming!



Dear Terrorists,

I am a Navy Aviator. I was born and raised in a small town in New England. I come from a family of five. I was raised in a middle class home and taught my values by my mother and father.

My dad worked a series of jobs in finance and my mom took care of us kids. We were not an overly religious family but attended church most Sundays. It was a nice small Episcopal Church. I have a brother and sister and I am the youngest in my family. I was the first in many generations to attend college.

I have flown Naval aircraft for 16 years. For me the flying was never a lifelong dream or a "calling," it just happened. I needed a job and I liked the challenge. I continue to do it today because I feel it is important to give back to a nation which has given so much to me. I do it because, although I will never be rich, my family will be comfortable.

I do it because many of my friends have left for the airlines and someone has to do it.

My government has spent millions to train me to fly these multi-million dollar aircraft. I make about 70,000 dollars a year and after 20 years will be offered a pension.

I like baseball but think the players make too much money. I am in awe of firemen and policemen and what they do each day for my community, and like teachers, they just don't get paid enough.

I respect my elders and always use sir or ma'am when addressing a stranger. I'm not sure about kids these days but I think that's normal for every generation.

I tell you all this because when I come for you, I want you to know me. I won't be hiding behind a woman or a child. I won't be disguised or pretending to be something I am not. I will be in a U.S. issue flight suit. I will be wearing standard US issue flight gear, and I will be flying a navy aircraft clearly marked as a US warplane. I wish we could

meet up close in a small room where I could wrap my hands around your throat and slowly squeeze the life out of you, but unfortunately, you're hiding in a hole in the ground, so we will have to do this a different way.

I want you to know also that I am very good at what I do. I can put a 2,000 lb weapon through a window from 10,000 feet up. I generally only fly at night, so you may want to start sleeping during the day. I am not eager to die for my country but I am willing to sacrifice my life to protect it from animals like you.

I will do everything in my power to ensure no civilians are hurt as I take aim at you.

My countrymen are a forgiving bunch. Many are already forgetting what you did on Sept 11th. But I will not forget!!

I am coming. I hope you know me a little bit better, see you soon...sleep tight.

Signed

A U.S. Navy Pilot

God Bless



Navy Truisms,

- A Sailor will walk 10 miles in a freezing rain to get a beer but complain about standing a 4 hour quarterdeck watch on a beautiful, balmy spring day.
- A Sailor will lie, cheat and scam to get off the ship early and then will have no idea where he wants to go.
- Sailors are territorial. They have their assigned spaces to clean and maintain. Woe betide the shipmate who tracks through a freshly swabbed deck.
- Sailors constantly complain about the food on the mess decks while concurrently going back for second or even third helpings.
- After a cruise, a Sailor will realize how much he misses being at sea. And after retiring from the Navy considers going on a cruise and visiting some of our past favorite ports. Of course we'll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for the privilege. Just to think, Uncle Sam actually use to pay us to visit those same ports years ago.
- You can spend three years on a ship and never visit every nook and cranny or even every major space aboard. Yet, you can name all your shipmates and every liberty port.
- Campari and soda taken in the warm Spanish sun is an excellent hangover remedy.
- PO2 / E-5 is almost the perfect military pay grade. Too senior to catch the crap details, too junior to be blamed if things go awry.
- Never be first, never be last and never volunteer for anything.
- Almost every port has a "gut." An area teeming with cheap bars, easy women and partiers, which is usually the "Off-limits" area.
- Contrary to popular belief, Master Chief Petty Officers do not walk on water. They walk just above it.
- Sad but true, when visiting even the most exotic ports of call, some Sailors only see the inside of the nearest bars/clubs.
- Also under the category of sad but true, that lithe, sultry Mediterranean or Asian beauty you spent those wonderful three days with and have dreamed about ever since, is almost certainly a grandmother now.
- A Sailor can, and will, sleep anywhere, anytime.
- Yes, it's true, it does flow downhill.
- In the traditional "crackerjack" uniform you were recognized as a member of United States Navy, no matter what port or part of the world you were in. Damn all who want to eliminate or change that uniform.
- The Marine dress blue uniform is, by far, the sharpest of all the armed forces.
- Most Sailors won't disrespect a shipmate's mother. On the other hand, it's not entirely wise to tell them they have a good looking sister either.
- Sailors and Marines will generally fight one another, and fight together against all comers.
- If you can at all help it, never tell anyone that you are seasick.
- Check the rear dungaree pockets of a Sailor. Right pocket a wallet. Left pocket a wheel book.
- The guys who seemed to get away with doing the least, always seemed to be first in the pay line and the chow line.
- General Quarters drills and the need to evacuate one's bowels often seem to coincide.
- Speaking of which, when the need arises, the nearest head is always the one which is secured for cleaning.
- Four people you never screw with: the doc, the DK, PC and the ship's barber.
- In the summer, all deck seamen wanted to be signalmen. In the winter they wanted to be radiomen.
- Do snipes ever get the grease and oil off their hands?
- Never play a drinking game which involves the loser paying for all the drinks.
- There are only two good ships: the one you came from and the one you're going to.
- Whites, coming from the cleaners, clean, pressed and starched, last that way about 30 microseconds after donning them. The Navy dress white uniform is a natural dirt magnet.
- Sweat pumps operate in direct proportion to the seniority of the official visiting.
- The shrill call of a bosun's pipe still puts a chill down my spine.
- Three biggest lies in the Navy: We're happy to be here; this is not an inspection; we're here to help.
- Everything goes in the log.
- Rule 1: The Chief is always right. Rule 2: When in doubt refer to Rule 1.
- A wet napkin under your tray keeps the tray from sliding on the mess deck table in rough seas, keeping at least one hand free to hold on to your beverage.
- Never walk between the projector and the movie screen after movie call and the flick has started.
- A guy who doesn't share a care package from home is no shipmate.
- When transiting the ocean, the ship's chronometer is always advanced at 0200 which makes for a short night. When going in the opposite direction, the chronometer is retarded at 1400 which extends the work day.
- When I sleep, I often dream I am back at sea.
- If I had to do it all over again, I would. TWICE!

RILEY CANNON

USS Navy V-2 Division Amm3C Seaman Second Class
Plane Captain of F6F Hellcats ...12 "Flyable Dud" #13 "Lucky 13" & #15

RILEY CECIL CANNON AGE 17...HE TANGLED WITH A PROP AND WON

My Father, Riley Cecil Cannon, also known as R.C. was only 17 years old when he joined the U.S. Navy in 1943. He was stationed onboard the U.S.S. Lexington CV-16 aircraft carrier during WWII in the Pacific Ocean. He was a plane captain, which meant he was responsible for launching the airplanes.

A friend onboard Alvin Fick asked a few of the crewmen to write a diary so that he could write a book on the Lexington after the war. Despite the reasons not to write a diary, R.C. did keep one. Oct 16 - 18, 1944

While preparing for take off, one wheel of the plane moved and the other wheel was still chocked. R.C. was standing under the right wing when the plane spun around and the propeller hit him in the right shoulder, cutting clear to his breast, his elbow was hit and the right hand was severed across the mid-section. The hand hung only from a small edge section. He staggered up, and was hit again in the right side of his head, cutting through his skull, and brain, creating a very large hole, larger than the size of his fist.

A man standing near the accident saw that he was going to stand up again and risked his own life to go in and hold him down and drag him out. R.C. never knew who it was that pulled him out of harms way. When his friends inquired if he was going to live, they were told that he was a dead man. When my father heard that, he mumbled, "You son of a bitch, I'm not dead yet!" He was taken below deck in a bomb elevator and waited about 10 days for transport to a medical ship. His friends tried to feed him but he was too sick and couldn't even eat the ice cream they brought. His friend Melvin Coil took possession of R.C.'s diary so it wouldn't be found. He was on the medical ship for approximately 10 days in route to a Military Hospital in Hawaii.

The Doctor's at the hospital really were not prepared to take care of such critical injuries and believed that he was going to die. Doctor (Dr. Brown) decided to try to save him by removing a muscle from his thigh and put it into the hole in his head to protect the open skull and brain. He was paralyzed on his left side because he lost part of the brain on the right side. After about two years and numerous surgeries, in which they put a metal plate over the skull, and also one in his hand to hold it together, he regained use of his left side. He was able to walk and talk normally again after about 2 years. His hand only recovered partial use.

He was later medically discharged and listed as 100% disabled. He became a journeyman carpenter and has since retired. He loves car racing and builds racing engines in his garage. He is a self-taught machinist, and welder and can build anything he wants. My Grandfather, John Cecil Cannon was a genius. R.C.'s brother Raymond was a genius and self taught scientist and inventor. My Dad won't admit it, but he's a genius too! My Dad has taught me, mechanics, carpentry, honesty and compassion.

Approximately 1984 I contacted R.C.'s friend Melvin Coil and found that he still had R.C.'s diary in his possession. He mailed it to me and I wrapped it up and gave it to him on Christmas. When he opened it he was confused at first, but when he touched the cover of the small book, recognition spread across his face. He knew he had the diary back!

The crew of the USS Lexington had a 3-day, 41st-year reunion in Reno, Nevada in about 1985. He attended and was hopeful that he might see his special friend, who he only remembered by the name of Ski. The reunion was over and he never found his friend. He was sitting in the lobby sharing a picture that he had of a Kamikaze plane exploding in a ball of flames on board a ship during the war.

A man leaned over his shoulder and pointed to the picture. My father recognized his friend's voice and looked up, and said Ski? Ski responded, "R.C.?" My dad said, "Yes, it's me." Ski said, "Oh my God! Ski's eyes were tearful and his voice cracked when he tried to speak. He kept turning away and coming back.

He turned to his wife and said this is R.C. His wife knew exactly what he meant. He eventually regained his composure so he could speak. He finally said, "You don't understand R.C. I was standing only a few feet away when you got hit. Your flesh and brains hit me in the face. You were going to stand up again and I had to stop you. I've told this story to my family and friends many times over the years, but I thought you died!" Ski's real name is Stanley Kaczmarezy

Believing that his friend had died, Ski learned 41 years later that his actions had actually saved his friend's life. I'm sure he went home and enjoyed telling the rest of the story!

Men of the Blue Ghost USS Lexington CV-16 1943-1946

Action Stn November of 2000, R.C. showed a story written by Alvin Fick to me. He said that Al was the one who had wanted to write the story of the Lexington. RC was thrilled to see that his friend was not only alive and well, but actually was a writer after all.. He said, you see he really was a writer! Just like I said! He said Al was so intelligent and yet so young that he always wondered where he got his education. He said that Al and Aram were the only 1st class officers that would show them how to do anything. He said no one knew how to do anything! He always admired Al and Aram Attarian for showing them what to do and of course, what not to do.

I contacted Al Fick by e-mail on the internet and asked if he was still interested in R.C.'s diary. This is his response: Your letter via e-mail was more than a surprise. It astonished me to hear about R.C. after all these years. Although I did not witness the accident when R.C. was injured so badly, all of us in the V-2 Division (air department) knew about it, and most of us talked to Ski about what happened. A flood of exhilaration swept over me to learn that not only had R.C. survived that calamity, but had gone on to a full and fruitful life.

In spite of urgings over the years by my son, I never wrote the book. I did, however go on to a career as a writer and a magazine editor. The only pieces I have written about my Navy experiences are "Gone to Glory" which was reprinted in Sunrise Press, and "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot." The first was originally scheduled for publication and paid for by U.S. Naval Institute for use in their magazine, Proceedings. The second appeared in Aviation Quarterly. It contains many pictures taken aboard the Lexington. I will be happy to send you photocopies of both if you will let me know your address.

You ask if I am interested in your father's diary. Yes, yes, more than I can say. If it is convenient, you could send me a photocopy. Barring that, I would be very careful of the original if that is the only alternative, and would return it promptly. I have been back aboard the ship four times, the last being for the decommissioning at Pensacola, Florida. As you can imagine, these were emotional experiences.

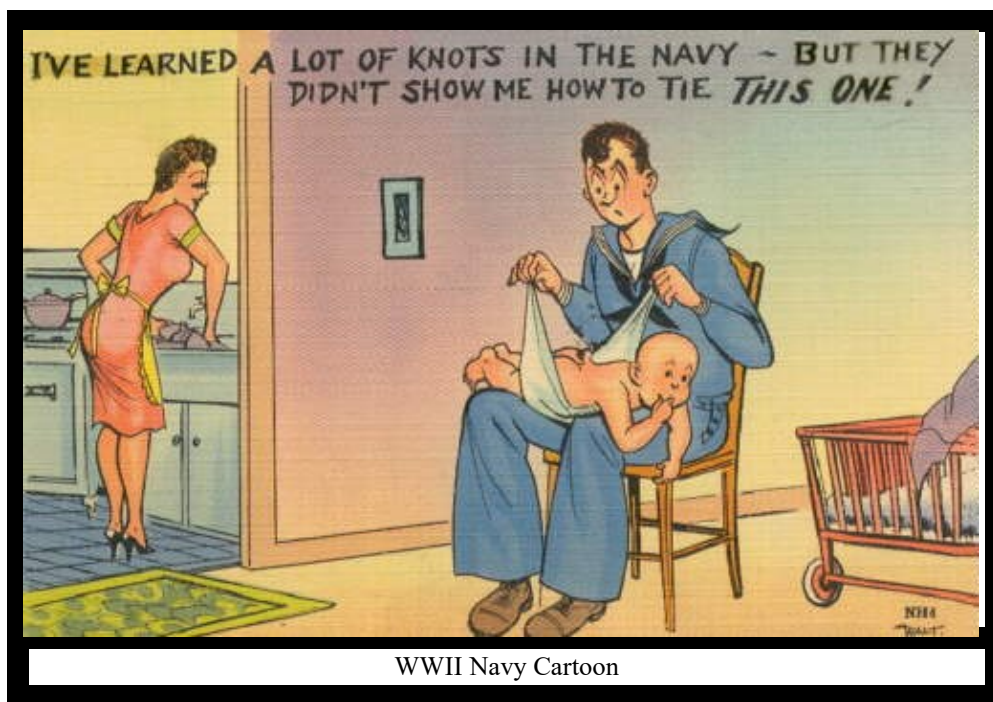
It was kind of you to write. I'm grateful. If he is still with us, my warmest greetings to R.C.

Al mentioned later that he never had any regrets about not writing the book, until the day the diary arrived! Maybe someday he will write the book!

After my contact with Al Fick, he introduced me via internet to many other Veterans that served on the Lexington. They started sending me their stories, and I found them truly amazing, and I asked if they had a way of putting them on the internet. They couldn't find anyone that had the time to create and maintain a web site. They had all tried various ways, through the Lexington Museum etc. After they had no luck for a few months, I decided I should learn to build a web site so these stories could be shared. I built a very primitive web site and started from there. I announced the web site to the Veterans and told them that this is their web site, and for them to tell me what they would like to have on their web site. It went from there and grew, and grew. It is with passion that I serve these Veterans, who served our country and who gave their all to save our freedom. I am honored that they would allow me to serve them, and trust me with honorable memories.

My Dad is an extraordinary man, my Hero and my Friend. He is intelligent, honest, courageous and stubborn! What can I say?

He is a True Cannon,



WWII Navy Cartoon

I thought someone would find this little bit of history interesting . I found a website (or rather re-found one) called [*BlueJacket.com*](http://BlueJacket.com) that is a veritable treasure-trove guaranteed to keep one busy for quite a while.

Liberty Party 1880

Following the naval review at Hampton Roads, Virginia,
Marines gather delinquent sailors from the streets of Norfolk, Virginia.

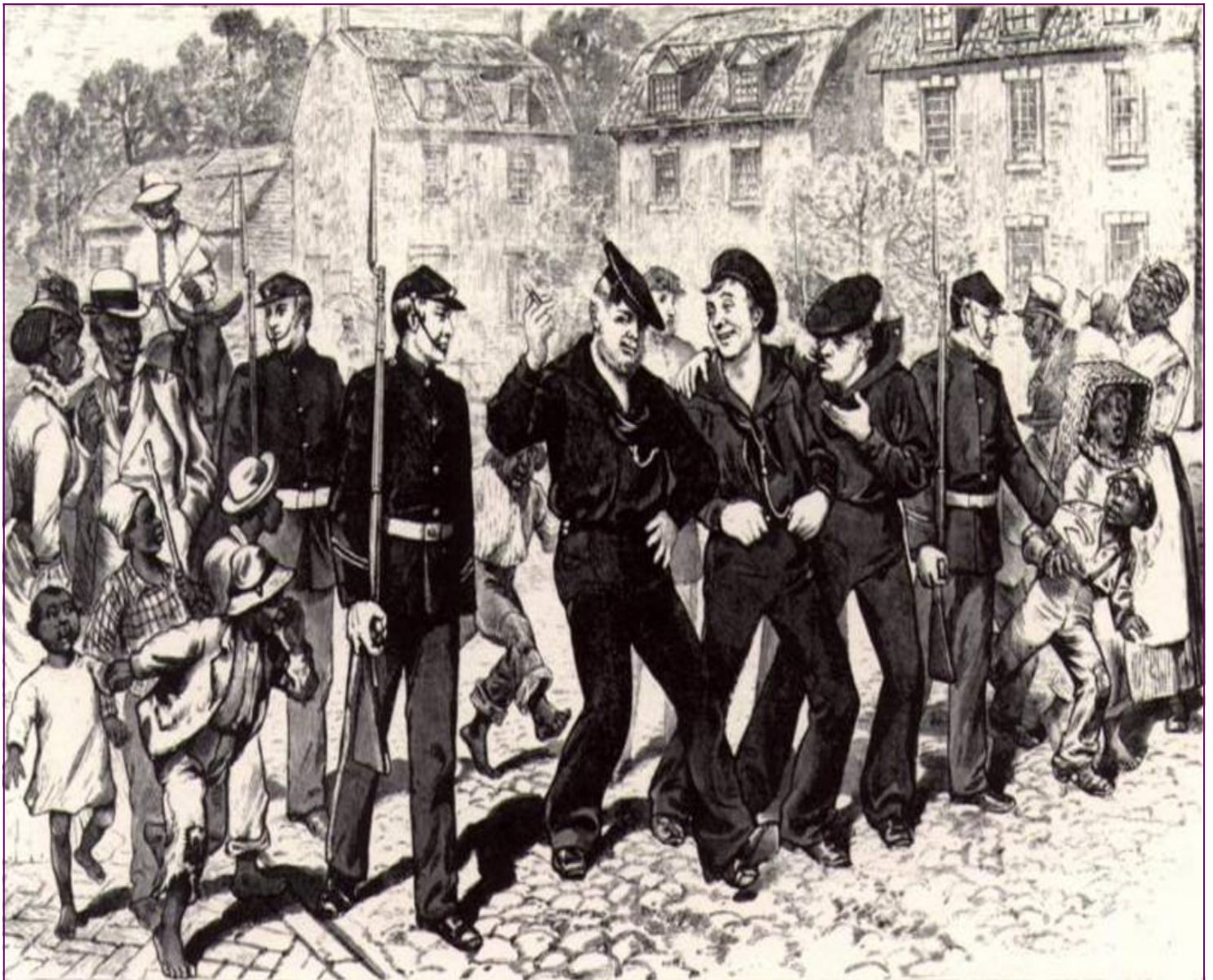


Illustration from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 27 November 1880.



Arlo and Janis

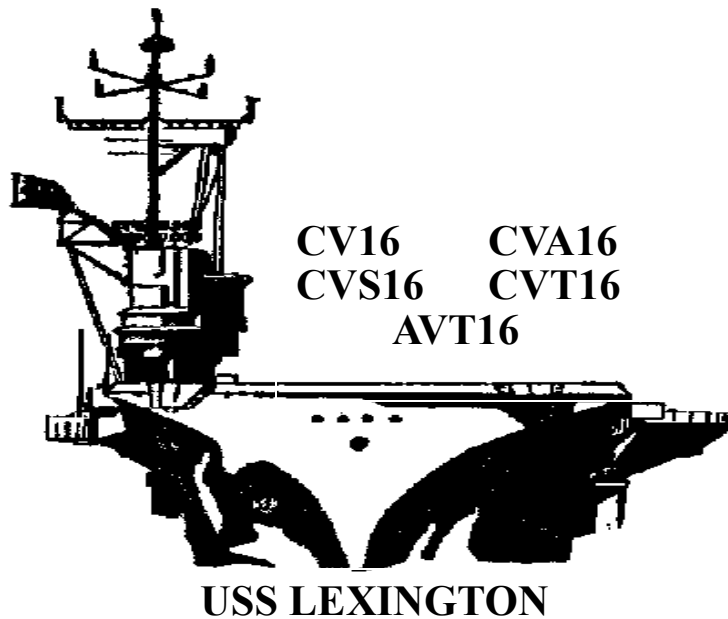
BY: Jimmy








Online viewers, can't get enough of these characters? Click the Arlo and Janis logo, and it'll take you to the artists personal blog page.



Home Port of:
USS Lexington CV 16 Association
P. O. Box 16
Lexington, IL 61753



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* E-mail Version ONLY