



## USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

NOW THE USS LEXINGTON ON THE BAY IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

JANUARY 2018

### Captain F. W. "Rocco" Montesano, USN (Ret)

Executive Director, USS LEXINGTON Museum on the Bay



A native of Hackensack, New Jersey, Captain F. W. "Rocco" Montesano graduated in 1971 from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He

completed his first carrier landings on USS LEXINGTON in July 1973 and earned his "Wings of Gold" in August 1973.

As a Navy jet aviator, Captain Montesano held a variety of positions, including Commanding Officer, while serving in several aircraft carrier based aircraft squadrons. He served as a staff member of Naval Central Command in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and subsequently headed the test and evaluation of Air Programs in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C. He commanded the Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi from 1994 to 1996 and served as Manpower Director for the Chief of Naval Air Training until retiring in 1998.

Captain Montesano completed eight cruises to the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean, North Atlantic, and North Arabian sea while serving on board the USS CORONADO and aircraft carriers USS SARATOGA, USS MIDWAY, USS KITTY HAWK, and USS FORRESTAL. He has amassed over 5500 flight hours and 900 carrier landings.

Captain Montesano's awards include two Legion of Merit Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, two National Defense Medals, Overseas Service Ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, and five Sea Service Ribbons.

Following a 30-year career in the U.S. Navy, Captain Montesano accepted the position of Executive Director of the USS LEXINGTON Museum in May 1998. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from St. Mary's University. He serves on the Corpus Christi Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, was past president of the Historic Naval Ships Association and is a member of the Corpus Christi Downtown Rotary. He has also served as a member of the Airport Advisory Board, the Chamber of Commerce Infrastructure Committee, the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board, and the South Texas Military Task Force.

Captain Montesano is married to the former Joanne Jacobs of Hackensack, New Jersey. They have two children, Michael and Cariann. Michael is a graduate of the University of Texas-Austin and is a writer, and Cariann, a graduate of Texas A&M who is a practicing Veterinarian.

While serving as Executive Director, his accomplishments were many. Some of which are;

Successful fundraising campaign to install a world class theater in the #1 Elevator Pit. The Joe Jessel MEGA Theater was opened in 2001. It has progressed from showing movies using film to a state of the art 3D laser projection system.

Successful fundraising campaign to install air conditioning in Hangar Bay II for special events and another for interactive games on the Hangar Deck.

Successful campaign to build a passenger elevator from the Hangar Deck to the Flight Deck.

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## Sunrise Press - EMAIL Version:

The cost of publishing the newsletter, printing and postage, is growing. A decrease in the number of newsletters mailed out would greatly reduce this expense. Please consider receiving the Sunrise Press by email. The newsletter can be stored and read on your computer at your leisure, or printed to take with you. The email version is better than the printed, with color graphics/pictures, e-links and more.

To receive the email version of the newsletter, please send your email address to Greg Plante at [gplante@gulftel.com](mailto:gplante@gulftel.com) (please put USS LEX in the subject line). Thank you.

You can also view the Sunrise Press on the Associations website:

<http://www.usslexingtoncv16.org>

### A Word from Lance Wagner:



If you know someone who served on the LEX, let me know and I'll send them information about our group.

If you move, please remember to send me your new address and phone number.

Dues are \$20/year and are due by December 31st. Make checks payable to: USS Lexington Association.

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

### A Note from Greg Plante:



If anyone has articles they'd like to include 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

For electronic submissions, my email address is [gplante@gulftel.com](mailto:gplante@gulftel.com); Please put USS LEX in the subject line so that my spam filtering software won't delete it.  
*Thanks, Greg Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press*



## Association Officers:

**President:** *Lloyd Friedli*

**Vice-President:** *Gary Shorrel*

**Financial Adviser:** *Lance Wagner*

**Secretary:** *Dawn Brophy*

**Historian:** *Daisy Morgan*

## WEBSITE:

**[www.usslexingtoncv16.org](http://www.usslexingtoncv16.org)**

**Sunrise Press Newsletter** is a quarterly publication of the USS Lexington Association CV, CVA, CVS, CVT, AVT16.



## WELCOME ABOARD: NEW MEMBERS

### David Anspach

Onboard: 12/1979 - 08/1984 S-2

### James D. Bates

Onboard: 01/1986 - 12/1989 V-2 DIV

### Keith Beltman

Onboard: 09/1985 - 11/1989 V-4

### Daniel Bishop

Onboard: 08/1983 - 04/1986 A Gang

### Steven Blanchard

Onboard: 01/1984 - 10/1987 V1 DIV

### Steve Bopp

Onboard: 06/1976 - 09/1979 HR

### Dean Brown

Onboard: 01/1984 - 01/1987 V1 & V4

### Moonfeather Chastulik

Onboard: 02/1989 - 02/1991 Navigation

### Mark Constable

Onboard: 09/1975 - 08/1976 G DIV

### Robert Cutshall

Onboard: 1971 - 1973 S-2 Galley & Bakery

### Joe Demuth

Onboard: 07/1980 - 07/1983 "H" Gang/ A DIV Diesel Shop

### David Foulk

Onboard: 1955 - 1959 Div 6

### Michael Furco

Onboard: 03/1984 - 11/1987 E DIV & IC Shop

### James Ginson

Onboard: 08/1987 - 06/1991 ET Shop

### Lester Hurst

Onboard: 12/1970 - 10/1975 R DIV

### Bobby Marshall

Onboard: 12/1971 - 07/1973 V-6

### Fitzgerald Mason

Onboard: 12/1986 - 08/1990 S-5 wardroom

### Diane McKinney

Onboard: 08/1980 - 08/1983 X DIV

### Scotty Moir

Onboard: 11/1978 - 05/1980 O1

### Ken Murphy

Onboard: 1964 - 1966 V-2

### Mike Peate

Onboard: 11/1984 - 09/1988 R DIV ERO3/HT

John Reed

Onboard: 1955 - 1956 OE

### John Romano

Onboard: 06/1968 - 12/1971 CR DIV

### Gerald (Jerry) Schmidt

Onboard: 07/1970 - 12/1973 V-2 Div CATS

### Ans Texidor

Onboard: 07/1989 - 09/1991 V-5

### Raymond Whittaker

Onboard: 1967 - 1971 Navigation

### Michael Winchell

E DIV

### Warren Wolf

Onboard: 05/1970 - 02/1974 A DIV

### Robert Wood

Onboard: 11/1981 - 07/1986 Deck, 3rd & 1st DIV

### Joseph Woods

Onboard: 09/1971 - 07/1974 X DIV



## TAPS

### James Calloway Burton

11/02/2016 - Washington, GA

Onboard: 1963 - 1965

<http://www.hopkinsfuneralhome.com/obituaries/James-Callaway-Burton/#!/Obituary>

### Jerry Price

07/12/2017 - Bethany, OK

Onboard: 1957 - 1958

<http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=Jerry-Price&lc=4850&pid=186098772&mid=7485383>

### A.Karl Nensewitz

Alpena, MI - 02/20/2017

Onboard: 1945

<http://www.thealpenanews.com/obituaries/2017/02/a-karl-nensewitz/>





This addition allows disabled veterans and the elderly access to the Flight Deck.

Filming done on the ship: AXE Commercial, Ford Commercial, JAG TV Pilot, Disney Move Pearl Harbor, Harper's Bazaar photo shoot, PEPSI commercial featuring Blake Shelton, Lucky Strike Commercial and various others.

Exhibits come to life with mannequins including the Captain's In-Port Quarters exhibit that provides an intimate look inside the Captain's life when not at sea. Here, audiovisual projection enables a mannequin of the Captain to come to life with moving lips, blinking eyes, and voice as he welcomes visitors to his ship.

The Smart Phone Tour allows visitors to use their cell phones and a QR reader to find more information on exhibits. The new Pearl Harbor Exhibit features a dramatic film montage that retells the story of the attack with state-of-the-art battle animations, an 8,000-watt sound system, and transducers that shake the walkway with each rumbling explosion.

His outstanding leadership style resulted in being selected as the 2017 Society of Human Resources Management Association CEO of the Year.

Flight Deck resurfaced using 3 million pounds of asphalt, monorail system for exterior maintenance.

Parking lot for visitors.

Upgrading of all exhibits and the addition of many new exhibits. B&A Crane, 5"38 guns, Quad 40's.

Marketing campaigns that received various advertising awards. Lexington has been selected by the Caller Times Readers Best of the Best Local Tourist Attraction for many years.

5,513,646 Visitors from May 1998 to November 2017.



# These

## ARE GONNA BE SOME TOUGH SHOES

to fill!

**Thursday January 4, 2018**  
**6pm | Reception & Dinner**  
**Aboard USS Lexington**  
 RSVP to [debble@usslexington.com](mailto:debble@usslexington.com)  
 or 361-888-4873 ext 307  
 Business Casual, Converse Encouraged.

Help us celebrate the career of our very own All-Star, Rocco Montesano.



**75 YEARS**  
**USS LEXINGTON**  
 1943 2018



**Successful fundraising campaign** to install a world class theater in the #1 Elevator Pit. The Joe Jessel MEGA Theater was opened in 2001. It has progressed from showing movies using film to a state of the art 3D laser projection system.



**Successful fundraising campaign** for Hangar Bay II, one to install air conditioning for special events and another for interactive video games.



**Successful fundraising campaign** to build a passenger elevator from the Hangar Deck to the Flight Deck. This addition allows disabled veterans and the elderly access to the Flight Deck.



**SWAY TO THE MELODIES!**  
 Directed by the Big Band Sound of Kean's Landing & Company  
 Star: Tishia Bell  
 \* John Armstrong  
 \* Gene Pitt  
 \* Christine Schuler  
 \* Mike Pitt  
 \* Cate Campbell  
**USS LEXINGTON'S 14th Annual Stage Door Canteen**  
 Friday February 2, 2007



Filming done on the ship: AXE Commercial, Ford Commercial, JAGTV Pilot, Disney Move Pearl Harbor, Harper's Bazaar photo shoot, PEPSI commercial featuring Blake Shelton, Lucky Strike Commercial and various others.



**Innovative ship preservation:** The Flight Deck was resurfaced using 3 million pounds of asphalt, and a monorail system was installed for exterior maintenance.



His outstanding leadership style resulted in being selected as the 2017 Society of Human Resources Management Association CEO of the Year.



Marketing campaigns that received various advertising awards. Lexington has been selected by the Caller Times Readers Best of the Best Local Tourist Attraction for many years.



**YOU JUST HAVE TO CROSS THE HARBOR BRIDGE**  
 • SHE'S BEEN REPORTED SUNK 4 TIMES  
 TODAY, SHE'S PRETTY EASY TO FIND  
 • DROPPED PLANES AT SEA •  
 FINDING YOUR CAR SHOULD BE A CINCH  
 • SHE LOGGED 209,000 MILES IN HER LIFETIME •  
 YOU JUST HAVE A FEW TO GO



Ranked #1 on Trip Advisor for Corpus Christi attractions  
 5,513,646 Visitors from May 1998 to November 2018



The SmartPhone Tour allows visitors to use their cell phones and a QR reader to find more information on exhibits. The Pearl Harbor Exhibit features a dramatic film montage that retells the story of the attack with state-of-the-art battle animations, an 8,000-watt sound system, and transducers that shake the walkway with each rumbling explosion.



Exhibits come to life with mannequins including the Captain's In-Port Quarters exhibit that provides an intimate look inside the Captain's life when not at sea. Here, audiovisual projection enables a mannequin of the Captain to come to life with moving lips, blinking eyes, and voice as he welcomes visitors to his ship.

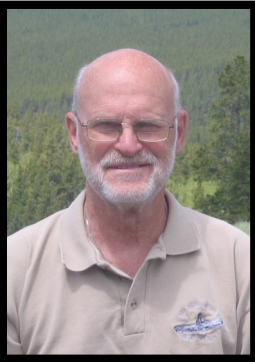


Upgrading of all exhibits and the addition of many new exhibits. B&A Crane, 5"38cal guns, Quad 40mm guns, etc.





## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Happy New Year to all! I look forward to a good year for the USS Lexington CV16 Association during 2018. We will reinforce our relationship with the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay. Executive Director F. W. "Rocco" Montesano retired at the end of 2017 and a new Executive Director will come on board. Rocco has

done an outstanding job and the USS Lexington has been in good hands during his tenure as its director.

Our reunion is in San Diego in September and Bob DiMonte has plans made so that we will have a great time. Plan to attend! Check out the information in this newsletter and on our website at

[www.usslexingtoncv16.org](http://www.usslexingtoncv16.org).

And I remind you again that if you have anyone eligible to receive one of our scholarships to have them submit an application. Also if you have shipmates who are not Association Members encourage them to join.

Looking forward to a great year!

Lloyd



### ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DUES

In the business meeting that took place at the Minneapolis reunion, it was voted on and passed, that **dues would increase to \$20/year.**

It was also recommended and approved that all **Dues will be due by December 31st of each year** instead of the month the member joined.



If you order from Amazon.com (*and who doesn't*) change to smile.amazon.com and select your charity as the Lady Lex Museum on the Bay Association. Amazon donates .5% of every purchase to the museum if you select it as your charity. This can really add up over time. Good for the ship and good for the association. [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) CHECK IT OUT!



Editors note: Please excuse the language, but I had no way of editing this submission from shipmate Bob DiMonte. It is suspected that this is actually him coming back from a liberty call....



## SHIPMATES LOOKING FOR...

Looking for..... What?



This is *your* newsletter. From the Associations point of view, this newsletter is to promulgate information concerning our reunions, and that remains its primary task. But there is room for much more than that, and that is for you. For instance, this section is for just what the title says. 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 for your grandkids to enjoy one day. That's what this area is for. Let us know what you're looking for, and we'll include it in here.

### Subject: Cruise-book

Message from: Dennis Wikfors

My father and uncle served on the USS Lexington during the 1961– 1962 cruise. I have a cruise book if anyone is seeking photos or information.

Email: [wikfors@gmail.com](mailto:wikfors@gmail.com)

## **COPING WITH LOSS**

*By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger*



### **Coping with loss Safe place to heal**

When someone you love dies, in order to heal correctly and renew your capacity to love, you must mourn. This fosters in healing however, healing requires support

and understanding of those around you to help you embrace the pain. Those around you also will help you embrace your loss, not just move on but embrace it, understanding this will help you become the new you. The you that is starting life again.

Loosing someone is a wound that is an open. Like any other physical wound, it needs to heal, so in order for this wound to heal we want to ensure that it is bandaged correctly, that it is free from debris, and also, we don't exacerbate the problem by putting that wound in danger of being reopened. Dr. Alan Wolfelt states: In the emotional realm we explore a multitude of emotions that are often part of normal grief. These emotions reflect that you have special needs that require support from both outside yourself and inside yourself. Embracing this will help you authentically mourn and heal in small doses over time.

So, what is bandaged correctly? It is about allowing someone to be present to your pain, it is not about taking away the pain. A bandage is present to cover the wound, it will not take away the pain, it is present during the pain. Sometimes, we feel that we can do it alone or we attempt to self-medicate our self by diving into our work, or staying busy doing nothing. Talk to that friend, talk to that person that has been with you through thick and thin; hard times. Sharing even the things that hurt, this ushers in healing. This is bandaged correctly.

Free of debris, you don't want to be around someone who doesn't understand what you are going

through, who tries to encourage you to move on. I have met those who just didn't want to talk about it; this my friend is not healthy. You need someone in your sphere of relations that embraces your pain and cries with you. Maybe someone who has walked that walk.

Don't exacerbate the problem. Thoughts of suicide also may occur during your grief journey. Hundreds of grieving people have shared thoughts like this. "I wouldn't mind if I didn't wake up tomorrow." Comments like this reflect a need to further explore the depth of your sadness. It's natural to experience these passive and passing suicidal thoughts; it is not natural to want to or make plans to take your own life when someone in your life dies. If these thoughts are a part of you it is time to talk to a professional helper. Suicidal thoughts are sometimes an expression of wanting to find relief from the pain of your grief according to Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt. Dr. Wolfelt is a great resource when finding ones' way through this process. He is the director and founder of the Center for loss in Colorado.

I am praying for you and lifting my USS Lexington family in prayer....

Chaplain Hagger pastors All People Worship Center in Odessa Texas and also oversees the operation at All People Hospice and Healthcare.

### **Contact Information:**

**Christopher Hagger**  
**4745 N. Sierra Ave.**  
**Odessa, Texas 79764**

**Home: 432-385-7643**

**Cell: 832-312-0892**

**Office: 432-385-7502**

*He can be reached anytime ...  
no matter what time it is.*

## VETERAN TRAVELED THE WORLD ABOARD 4 AIRCRAFT CARRIERS

**Joe Woods, of the Village of Bonita, had a long and interesting career in the Navy.**

*From the Villages Daily Sun, September 30, 2017 — By Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun Staff Writer*

Not everyone can say their career took them around the world twice, but Village of Bonita resident Joe Woods can.

After graduating high school in Ohio, Woods decided to join the Navy.

"My plans were to only stay in the Navy for four years, but I enjoyed it, so I stayed," Woods said. "Then my thoughts were I'd get out after 20 years, at the young age of 40."

But he wasn't quite done after 20 years either. He got promoted to chief petty officer and later, warrant officer. After that, he got commission without a degree, making him what is known in the Navy as a "mustang."

"I ended up staying 30 years, four months," Woods said. "I retired after 30 years, but the next day I was recalled to active duty to active duty in a retired status for an additional four months."

Woods has sailed across the world aboard four different aircraft carriers — the USS Lexington, USS Midway, USS Intrepid and USS Independence.

During his career, Woods was selected for a program that allowed him to go to college while on active duty full-time, and he earned his bachelor's degree at the University of West Florida. Later he earned his master's degree through another program at Michigan State University.

Through his career in the Navy, Woods went on many assignments and visited cities all over the world.

As an officer in charge of the U.S. Navy Element in Belgium, Woods was responsible for all of the U.S. exchange officers throughout Europe and had to visit them twice a year for three days.

"I used to go to the admiral and say 'I think I'll go up to London, I'll swing over to Oslo, Norway, and then I'll stop by Stockholm, Sweden.'" Woods

said, laughing.

Another exciting experience for Woods was when the USS Midway ran over a fishing boat and he was sent out to evaluate the damages in rough seas.

"They didn't speak English and I didn't speak Korean," Woods said. "But I could tell by their gestures that they wanted cigarettes, so we went back to the ship and took them back 12 cartons of cigarettes."

As Woods moved up in ranks, he didn't want to just sit in an office. As administrative department head on the USS Midway, Woods took the initiative

Woods said as he moved up in rank, he was able to see and understand the problems on both levels, which allowed him to reach out to young enlistees who were in the position in which he once had been.

Woods accomplished many things in the span of his three decade career, but he is most proud of three in particular.

First, he won the Junior Officer Competition for Excellence in Ship Handling, a competition among all carriers in the Atlantic Fleet.

Next, he won Junior Officer of the Year, and finally, he conducted the first boot camp at Ford Island, Hawaii, as a commanding officer. After the boot camp, he received a flag that was raised and lowered on the main mast of the USS Arizona.

Woods served in the Navy from 1959 to 1990 and retired as an executive officer of a major activity in Pensacola.

He met his wife, Barbara, in The Villages and they recently celebrated their 10th anniversary.

Three of the aircraft carriers Joe sailed on are now museums, and Joe has visited two of them with Barbara. They plan to visit the third, the USS Lexington, soon.

Joe recently had a mural of the Lexington painted on the back wall of his villa to bring back memories. The mural was painted by Villager Debbie Robinson.

When Joe married Barbara, one of her conditions was that he tell her a story about the Navy once a month.

"He has a million of them," Barbara said, smiling.

"I could tell her a sea story every day of the month," Joe said.



Navy veteran Joe Woods, of the Villages of Bonita, holds his flag box next to a mural of the USS Lexington painted on the back wall of his villa. Woods served in the Navy for more than 30 years. Photo by: Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun

to become a command duty officer and get qualified on the bridge and for refueling evolutions, which is a tough feat.

He had to keep two ships side by side with the same speed and course in seas with 8 to 15 foot waves.

Woods said what helped him move up so much was that he volunteered for everything. As a young enlistee, he stood in line with about 100 others waiting to get shots. When they asked who would like to go first, Woods was the first to oblige.

"My last name is Woods, so I was 78th in line," Woods said. "I figured it would be easier to just go first and get it over with instead of standing there and watching 77 people get shots."



## **SPOT-LIGHT ON VETERAN'S MEMORIALS**

From Shipmate Dennis Boydston:

This wall was originally dedicated many decades ago to honor all of the World War II service men and women from Chaffee County, here in Colorado. It is displayed on the south wall of what is now the "Five & Dime" in downtown Salida, Colorado. It contains more than 700 names, most of whom have passed.



For some absurd reason it was completely stucco'ed over, presumably by someone insensitive, when the building changed hands. The present owner, being aware of the existence of the memorial, was

enthusiastic about having it restored. Some two years ago, our local elks sponsored a project to renew the wall.

The city of Salida as well as the county, got behind the project and raised funds to remove the stucco and enhance the printing. A great deal of labor and TLC went into the restoration. On July 4th, 2016, it was revealed in stunning beauty



and ceremoniously rededicated as the culmination of our annual parade. A large enthusiastic crowd showed up and our small town of approximately 5400 was a' bustle.

One of the included photos is of my best friend, Sam DeLeo, pointing to his name. Sam was a Navy veteran, stationed on a converted Mine Sweeper in the Pacific. He saw action in the island hopping campaign and had some hair raising stories about frog men missions in Okinawa. He finished his overseas deployment stationed in Sasebo, Japan after the surrender.

Sadly, Sam passed away at 95 this past July of 2017. He was highly celebrated here in Salida and will be well thought of for many years to come, thanks in no small part to this wall.

As memorials go, this one stands out aesthetically with the best of them. The city of Salida takes great pride in it.

### **Veteran's Memorials Feature:**

Anyone that would like to showcase their local monument/memorial to veterans, please send me a picture via snail mail or email (my contact info is on page 2), and maybe a little about it. Is it for a particular branch or all branches, was it erected by the local Boy Scouts or VFW or Legion post, or the city, state or county, etc. You needn't be an accomplished author, as we'll edit/spellcheck to the best of our grammatical recollections. I look forward to hearing from you.

Greg Plante, *Editor Sunrise Press*



## 41st Reunion Plans are Underway...

Plans are in place for our 2018 Reunion! We will have our 41<sup>st</sup> reunion in sunny southern California.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego will be our host for this exciting reunion.

Make your Hotel Reservations by calling the hotel at (866) 663-4592; Code: LEX

The group rate is \$109/night and is good three days pre and post reunion. Reservations must be made before August 27, 2018.



We will start our adventure with an opening reception on the pool lawn, complete with tiki torches and heavy Hors d' Oeuvres Carving stations.



We have contracted a city tour in the morning. We will visit sparkling Coronado, the Hotel Del Coronado, the Historic Gas lamp Quarter and beautiful Balboa Park. After lunch we continue north, exploring the stunning coastline and dramatic views of La Jolla.



We will have our Memorial service on the peak of MT. Soledad.

Then as we head back downtown, we go through the local beach cities of Pacific Beach and Mission Beach. You do not want to miss this tour.



On our free day, you can visit the USS Midway, San Diego Zoo, Liberty Public Market, Old town, or just hang by the pool. Lots to see and do.

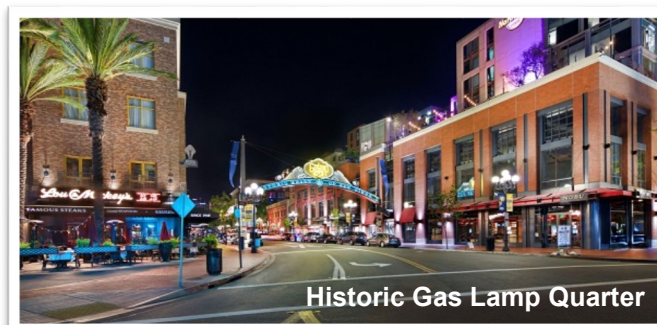
The menu for our Banquet offers four choices, all entrees include several side dishes and dessert.

We will also have a DJ for dancing and karaoke. Let's see if Lexington has talent.

I tried to keep costs and prices down, but I was informed it cost a little more to live in paradise. I believe this reunion will be a great dollar value.

See you in San Diego,

Bob DiMonte



2018 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA - SEPTEMBER 17 - 21, 2018

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

*(Additional guests - please list on back and include in the final numbers below.)*

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATES ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

**Host Hotel: Crown Plaza San Diego**

**Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (866) 663-4592; Code: LEX**

**The group rate is \$109/night and is good three days pre and post reunion.**

**Reservations must be made before August 27, 2018**

**Register me for the following:**

Reunion Registration Fee (not optional)..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, September 18

Tour of San Diego *(includes lunch)* ..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$85 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, September 20

Farewell Banquet ..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$55 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*- Coat and Tie suggested*

Choice of Entrée:

A.) London Broil with a Peppercorn Sauce \_\_\_\_\_

B.) Lemon Caper Chicken with a Lemon Cream Sauce \_\_\_\_\_

C.) Baked Mahi-Mahi with Mango Cream Sauce \_\_\_\_\_

D.) Portobello Mushroom Ravioli \_\_\_\_\_

All entrees served with a Tossed Green Salad, Fresh Seasonal Veggies,  
Oven Roasted Potatoes, Rolls, and Black Forest Cake for dessert.

Coffee, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Mail Registration form and check payable to: **USS Lexington CV 16 Association**

**Cut-off Date: September 1st, 2018**

**Lance Wagner**

**71-21 73 Place**

**Glendale, New York 11385**



USS LEXINGTON CV 16 - 41ST ANNUAL REUNION  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA  
SEPTEMBER 17 THRU SEPTEMBER 21, 2018  
**ITINERARY**

**Sept. 17th - Monday**

1200 Hospitality Room opens - Registration begins — Poolside Hospitality Suite

1800 Opening Reception, Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar — Poolside Lawn

**Sept. 18th - Tuesday**

0845 Meet in Hotel Lobby for Scheduled Tour

0900 Bus departs for the Tour of the Greater San Diego Area  
Lunch  
Memorial Service on the Peak of Mt. Soledad

1600 Bus returns to hotel; Hospitality Room Opens

**Sept. 19th - Wednesday**

Free Day for Shopping and Sea Stories

1000 Hospitality Room Opens — Poolside Hospitality Suite

**Sept. 20th - Thursday**

0900 Hospitality Room opens — Poolside

0930 Business Meeting; All members and guests welcome — Lahaina Room

1800 Cocktail Hour (Doors will open at 1800) Cash Bar — Lahaina Room  
Group Picture; Coat and Tie suggested

1900 Opening remarks from the Association President  
Dinner Served  
Entertainment

**Sept. 21 - Friday**

1100 Checkout — Have a safe trip home.



*I received this article in my email a while back, and thought it was a good read.*

*Thanks Bob DiMonte for submitting it.*

**This is a well-written article about a father who put several of his kids through expensive colleges but one son wanted to be a Marine. Interesting observation by this dad. A very interesting commentary that says a lot about our failing and fallen society.**

**Essay written By Frank Schaeffer for the Washington Post**

***"Before my son became a Marine, I never thought much about who was defending me. Now when I read of the war on terrorism or the coming conflict in Iraq, it cuts to my heart. When I see a picture of a member of our military who has been killed, I read his or her name very carefully. Sometimes I cry."***

In 1999, when the barrel-chested Marine recruiter showed up in dress blues and bedazzled my son John, I did not stand in the way. John was headstrong, and he seemed to understand these stern, clean men with straight backs and flawless uniforms. I did not. I live in the Volvo-driving, higher education-worshiping North Shore of Boston I write novels for a living. I have never served in the military.

It had been hard enough sending my two older children off to Georgetown and New York University. John's enlisting was unexpected, so deeply unsettling. I did not relish the prospect of answering the question, "So where is John going to college?" from the parents who were itching to tell me all about how their son or daughter was going to Harvard. At the private high school John attended, no other students were going into the military.

"But aren't the Marines terribly Southern?" (Says a lot about open-mindedness in the Northeast) asked one perplexed mother while standing next to me at the brunch following graduation. "What a waste, he was such a good student," said another parent. One parent (a professor at a nearby and rather famous university) spoke up at a school meeting and suggested that the school should "carefully evaluate what went wrong."

When John graduated from three months of boot camp on Parris Island, 3000 parents and friends were on the parade deck stands. We parents and our Marines not only were of many races but also were representative of many economic classes. Many were poor. Some arrived crammed in the backs of pickups, others by bus. John told me that a lot of parents could not afford the trip.

We in the audience were white and Native American. We were Hispanic, Arab, and African American, and Asian. We were former Marines wearing the scars of battle, or at least baseball caps emblazoned with battles' names. We were Southern whites from Nashville and skinheads from New Jersey, black kids from Cleveland wearing ghetto rags and white ex-cons with ham-hock forearms defaced by jailhouse tattoos. We would

not have been mistaken for the educated and well-heeled parents gathered on the lawns of John's private school a half-year before.

After graduation one new Marine told John, "Before I was a Marine, if I had ever seen you on my block I would've probably killed you just because you were standing there." This was a serious statement from one of John's good friends, a black ex-gang member from Detroit who, as John said, "would die for me now, just like I'd die for him."

My son has connected me to my country in a way that I was too selfish and insular to experience before. I feel closer to the waitress at our local diner than to some of my oldest friends. She has two sons in the Corps. They are facing the same dangers as my boy. When the guy who fixes my car asks me how John is doing, I know he means it. His younger brother is in the Navy.

Why were I and the other parents at my son's private school so surprised by his choice? During World War II, the sons and daughters of the most powerful and educated families did their bit. If the idea of the immorality of the Vietnam War was the only reason those lucky enough to go to college dodged the draft, why did we not encourage our children to volunteer for military service once that war was done?

Have we wealthy and educated Americans all become pacifists? Is the world a safe place? Or have we just gotten used to having somebody else defend us? What is the future of our democracy when the sons and daughters of the janitors at our elite universities are far more likely to be put in harm's way than are any of the students whose dorms their parents clean?

I feel shame because it took my son's joining the Marine Corps to make me take notice of who is defending me. I feel hope because perhaps my son is part of a future "greatest generation." As the storm clouds of war gather, at least I know that I can look the men and women in uniform in the eye. My son is one of them. He is the best I have to offer. John is my heart.

Faith is not about everything turning out OK;

Faith is about being OK no matter how things turn out."

Oh, how I wish so many of our younger generations could read this article. It makes me so sad to hear the way they talk with no respect for what their fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers experienced so they can live in freedom. Freedom has been replaced with Free-Dumb.



## **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

At the annual USS Lexington reunion business meeting on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 proposed changes to the USS Lexington Association Scholarship Award Program were presented to the members in attendance. Changes to the Scholarship Award program are as follows:

- Scholarship is now available to High School seniors who plan to attend a technical school in addition to those planning to attend a college or university. Applicants are eligible to apply for the scholarship up to the age of 25. Note: This allows our enlistment veterans to apply.
- Scholarship is now available to first and second year (underclassmen) currently attending a college/university or technical school.
- Two \$500 scholarship awards are now available in addition to the \$1,000 award to the first and second runners up as judged by the award committee.
- The essay, of 500 words or less, as described in the application form should also include a paragraph about the applicant's educational or personal goals and any other pertinent information the applicant wishes to share with the award committee.
- The date for submission of scholarship applications to the award committee has been changed from Aug 31<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>.

By a vote of the Association members in attendance the proposed changes were approved and will be effective in 2018.

The revised Scholarship Award Program application is included on page 10 this version of the Sunrise Press.

Please encourage eligible prospective students to apply for the USS Lexington Scholarship Award Program.

### **2017 Scholarship Award Recipient: Gretchen Blizzard**

*Gretchen is the grand-daughter of Jim and Madeline Barnes.*

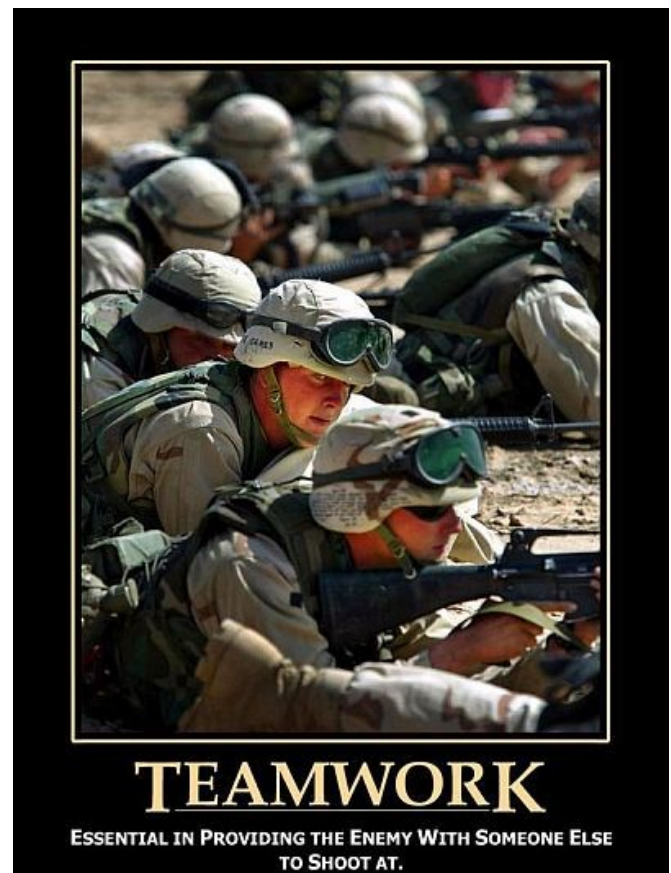
Gretchen Blizzard

US Navy Essay

13 August 2017

#### United States Navy USS Lexington CV-16 Sponsored Scholarship Essay

On October 13, 1775, 241 years ago, the United States Navy was founded. It is part of the backbone of the United States to protect our country, and defend our freedom. The current US Naval fleet is composed of 323,197 active duty Naval members, and 430 ships. These ships are composed of active duty ships, and also reserve ships. These ships range from all different shapes and sizes, and are all in place to defend our country. Included are ships such as the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier, which stretches further than 1,000 feet, and submarines such as the Los Angeles class submarine, which dips 900 feet below the ocean. All these ships serve different purposes to fight for our country. The large range in classified ships allows many different uses to fight on the water, and also fight below it. The Naval Fleet is so important to the United States of America because it allows our soldiers to not only fight on the land, but our Naval soldiers are able to fight for our country on and below the waters. The US Navy plays key roles in their protection by providing both offensive strategies, and defensive strategies. They project force in areas beyond the countries shores, while also disturbing the attacks of enemies in the water. The United States Navy's motto is "Not for self but for country" because they protect our country every day on the water.



Just a little motivational humor to share.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

### USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION SPONSORED

The Association Scholarship Award is a one-time award to a graduating high school senior or a college / technical school student in their first two years of post-secondary education up to the age of 25. The winning award is in the amount of \$1000 and two awards of \$500 will be granted to the first and second runners up to assist them in furthering their education at a college or technical school of their choice. The award program is open to any high school senior or college/ technical school underclassmen who are a family member (son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew, etc.) of a USS Lexington Association member. Complete this form and send it to the address shown at the bottom of the form before the deadline.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

High School/College/Technical school Name: \_\_\_\_\_

HS GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

PSAT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ (or circle) Did Not Take. N/A for college or technical school students.

ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ (or circle) Did Not Take. N/A for college or technical school students.

Attach a typed essay of 500 words or less concerning the United States Navy of a historical nature or more topical with respect to the current US Naval fleet. The essay should also include one paragraph about your educational or personal goals and any other pertinent information the applicant wishes to share with the award committee.

Applicants Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

USS Lexington CV16 Association Member Info: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Association Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and essay to: Scott and Missy Redding  
11032 W. Crestline Drive  
Littleton, CO 80127

All Submissions must be postmarked no later than June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018





**Arlo and Janis**

BY: Jimmy Johnson



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

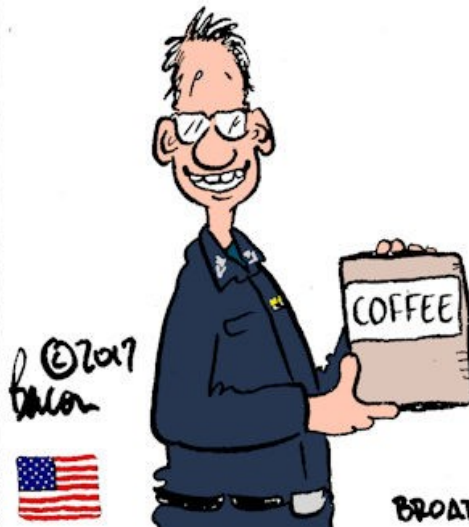
## CHARACTER

"What you do when no one is watching you"



## COMSHAW

"What you get when no one is watching you"



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Bacon



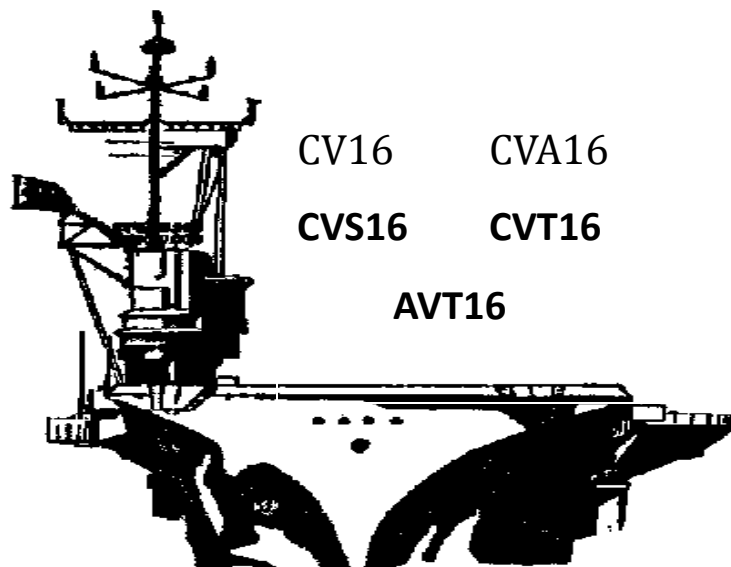
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USS LEXINGTON

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\* E-mail Version ONLY

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