



USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

OCTOBER 2016

Another Fantastic Reunion

By Sunrise Press Editor, Greg Plante



Where does one begin to describe accurately this last reunion, except with a hearty WOW?

I want to preface this article with a thank you to past president Bob DiMonte for the excellent job he did as host of this reunion. It's grueling work to organize one, and he did Baton Rouge, LA and Pigeon Forge, TN *back to back*, with Pigeon Forge suffering no effects from such a large task. Kudo's, Bob, and our deepest thanks. So what made it so grand?

First, as they say in Real Estate, "location, location, location." The Music Road Resort hotel was awesome. They left no detail unattended at this place.

We kicked off the reunion Monday evening with an opening reception catered with *delicious* Hors d'Oeuvres and a cash bar. Reluctantly, like all good things it had to end so we could all get up the next morning in time for a wonderful bus tour of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

We went to the highest place through the New-found Gap, to the Rockefeller Memorial at the TN/NC state line, hearing enroute, the history of the area by our knowledgeable tour guide, Kathy. The vista was beauti-

ful as we remembered our shipmates that have departed our ranks for those of the Supreme Commander's. This was followed by a wonderful lunch at the Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant. No one left there hungry, that's for sure.

Wednesday was a free day for folks to laze around the pools, shop, see shows, or visit attractions that have made this area famous for more than it's so-popular country music star, Dolly Parton. If you felt there was nothing to do, it was because you didn't step out of the front doors of the resort into the veritable wonderland that is Pigeon Forge.

Lastly, Thursday was the morning business meeting followed by more free time before the delightful banquet that evening to close out yet another successful and enjoyable reunion. The food was exquisite, the entertainment enjoyable, and we even found out one of our oldest members, Chief Ralph Blackford, a survivor of the CV2 sinking in the Coral Sea, was also a Karaoke star.

Friday morning was bittersweet as everyone said their goodbyes over breakfast, and lingered around the parking areas not wanting to succumb to the reality that it was finished until next year.

Welcome Aboard: New Members

Francis Gardner; onboard: 1943 - 1945

James Lee; onboard: 1971 - 1974

Robert Smith

TAPS



James Applewite: Passed away July 2016

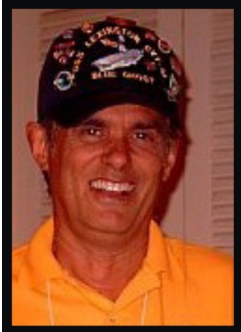
Charles (Chuck) Lambeck: 09/09/42—07/04/2016; Pensacola, FL

Joseph D. Ploium: Ridefield, WA; WW2 January 1943—December 1947

Marshall Ray Perkins, USN Ret 1941-2016: Passed away July 27, 2016; Pensacola, FL

William (Bill) Royer: Passed away August 23, 2016

Robert (Bob) Thompson, Danville, IL: Passed away September 25, 2016



A Word from Lance Wagner:

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 phone number. 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 to be paid. Remember that dues are \$15/yr.; 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 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

For electronic submissions, my email 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. Our editor is Greg Plante (contact information in box above). Please contact Greg if you have any questions about anything in the newsletter, or if you would like to offer anything for inclusion.

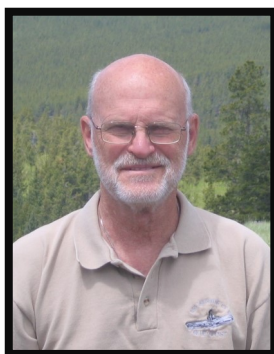
Association Officers:

President: Lloyd Friedli **Vice-President:** Gary Shorrel **Treasurer:** Lance Wagner
Secretary: Dawn Brophy **Chaplain:** Christopher Hagger ThM

WEBSITE: www.usslexingtoncv16.org

Presidents Message

Lloyd Friedli



A huge thank you to outgoing President Jim Barnes, outgoing VP Keith Conneally and outgoing Secretary Jay Southard. Your service to the Association is greatly appreciated! And welcome to our new Vice President Gary Shorrel and new Secretary Dawn Brophy. I look forward to working with you and Lance Wagner, Treasurer, Greg Plante, Editor and Chris Hager, Chaplain

over the next two years.

As we head into 2017 there are several things we will look at in an effort to improve the USS Lexington CV16 Association. Among those are:

- Enhancement of the Scholarship Program
- Review of our dues expiration notice procedure (Dues remain \$15 but we need to improve our notification to you.)
- Investigate the practicality of placing an Association Exhibit on board the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay.
- Develop an ongoing program to increase Association membership.

We will continue to support members who agree to host our annual reunions. For 2017 the reunion will be in Minneapolis MN and the January and April Sunrise Presses will include the specifics. Please plan to attend. Congratulations and thank you to Bob DiMonte, Del Florian and all those involved in hosting the 2016 Pigeon Forge reunion. I was unable to attend but it was an outstanding success and all I have heard is "one of the best ones ever".

For those of you with computers look at our website www.usslexingtoncv16.org and follow the USS Lexington page on Facebook. The Sunrise Press continues as our main communication tool being prepared and published by Greg Plante. Each of you can help tremendously by providing articles.

Finally, be an active part of the Association, read the Sunrise Press, look at the website, look at Facebook and send suggestions.

Thank you to all of you at the reunion for the card and your thoughts and prayers following the death of my brother. We missed you all. Lloyd and Mary

In Remembrance: It is with profound sadness that we note the passing of Association Past President Bill Royer. Bill was President from 1994 to 2007. Bill and Helen's contribution to the USS Lexington CV16 Association has been truly outstanding. We all wish the best to you Helen and Bobbie and the rest of the Royer family.

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 email, or access to email, and are willing to receive their newsletter in their email.

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 often 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.

<http://www.usslexingtoncv16.org>

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

Association Dues: EMAIL RECIPIENTS!

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

Dawn Brophy's databases tell her all of those fine things, and she 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 Dawn and don't delete it. You'll need it to know what you owe.

Remembering 911

By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger



And then the sun rose – revealing the destruction of an attempt to break the spirit of freedom. Yes, the sun did rise, capturing in full light the faces of strength; the faces of bravery. But, most of all the face of a new beginning. Yes the sun rose. And then there was another day.

As Americans we need to step back, take a deep breath, and remember. Really remember. Where were you when you heard the news? Where were you standing? What were you doing when you began to wonder and question the act of what was happening? Were you driving to an appointment? Could you have been enjoying breakfast? Were you getting off from work, or getting ready for work. Whatever you were doing at that moment, time stopped when you heard the news. Just think, somewhere in yesteryears memory it is still holding there like a plane in a holding pattern before it is summoned to land.

In New York, men and women gathered for the best yet safe view to watch dreams slip away. Men and Women stood, watching our fellow Americans jump to their own death. Let us attempt to embrace what it would feel like or sound like for a body to fall onto a concrete pavement just to escape the flames, the smell, the hot metal of what was left. But also understanding that it wasn't just a body, it was a dad, a mother a sister or brother. This living being with a soul had to make a decision of how they wanted to die. It wasn't a when they were going to die because now was the time; it just was how. Again this shows the bravery of Americans. Not to crawl into a corner, but to step boldly toward danger.

Meanwhile in the air; there were planes still under terrorist control men and women were calling home leaving messages that shouldn't have to be heard. Yet somewhere, someone still listens as their loved one says their last goodbyes. Their voice sprinkled with sadness and uncertainty, yet brave, ensuring not to alarm the listener of this message as if it might against all odds be alright after all. Let us remember the receiver of the message, as warm tears fell to the floor listening

for a clue that just maybe their love one would come home tonight.

I guess we can ask the question now.....

Why would a loving God allow bad things to happen to us? After all we feed the world, when American sneezes the world catches a cold.

There is no direct answer to this question. There is no recitation to make the hurt go away. There is no quick fix solution. But there is hope. There is faith. There is tolerance. We can seemingly search for a reason why this happened, however we would just paint ourselves into a corner. However, I do know this for a fact. That we serve an AWESOME GOD, He does love us, and in spite of what is going on in America, God has blessed, God *will* bless America.

In the book of Acts around the eleventh chapter, twenty-sixth verse toward the end it reads as such: The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch because their conduct was so Christ like. They knew they were Christ like because of their love. My brothers and sisters, God has allowed us to go through some things to make us stronger. He allows us to go through some things to keep us grounded, as well as humble. He makes us to be more like Him. To love in spite of experiences. God Bless you my brothers and sisters of the Lexington community.



2016 USS LEX Reunion: September 12th - 15th
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Our group tour of the Great Smoky Mountains
Rocky Top Tours



Many thanks go out to the folks at Rocky Top Tours. They gave us a wonderful trip up Newfound Gap through the Smoky Mountains. They also went well out of their way to accommodate our group. We enjoyed beautiful views, interesting stories, and an all-around wonderful day.



2016 USS LEX Reunion: September 12th - 15th
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Memorial Service

Top of the Mountains: Newfound Gap at the Rockefeller Memorial

Our group held a Memorial Service which included the playing of TAPS and the Bell Ringing for each of the shipmates that we received notice of their passing throughout the year. The invocation was given by Chaplain Chris Hagger.



Former Shipmates recognized during the Memorial Service
September 2015 - September 2016

Applewite, James
Birchell, George W.
Campa, Patrick
Chambers, Leroy
Fink, Richard
Frey, J.H.
Friday, Thomas Jr
Grindrod, Edward P.
Lambeck, Charles
Lauella, Richard J.

Mayo, Jay
Miller, George E.
Perkins, Marshall Ray
Ploium, Joseph D.
Royer, William
Schorre, Bill
Thorndike, E.J.
Ward, James D.
Windgo, Hugh A.
Wright, Randolph

Memorial Invocation

On behalf of a grateful Nation and a Proud Navy
O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies
can't be numbered, make us, we beseech Thee, deeply
sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life;
and let Thy Holy Spirit lead us in holiness and right-
eousness all our days: that, when we have served Thee
in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers,
having the testimony of a good conscience; in the com-
munion of the Christian Church; in the confidence of a
certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious
and holy hope in favor with Thee our God, and in per-
fect charity with the world; All which we ask through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



2016 USS LEX Reunion: September 12th - 15th
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Banquet

A fun evening beginning with a wonderful meal, followed with Karaoke and Dancing.



Local Entertainment with
Kathy & Mike Smith
Mountain Stories and Music



Chaplain Chris teaching
the ladies how to do the
Electric Slide



DANCING



2016 USS LEX Reunion: September 12th - 15th
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Food , Fun, Fellowship

A time to reunite with old friends, make new friends, and tell all kinds of "sea stories"



2016 USS LEX Reunion: September 12th - 15th
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Business Meeting



Sitting Officers:
Keith Connealy, Vice President
Dawn Brophy, Secretary
Jim Barnes, President
Lance Wagner, Treasurer

For more information about the Business Meeting, please see the Meeting Minutes on page 13 of this newsletter.

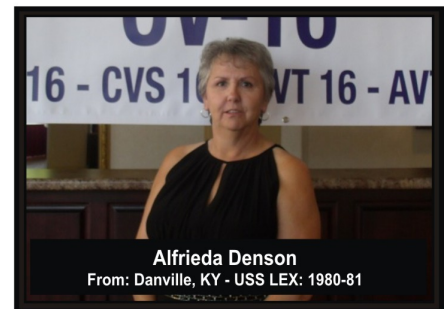
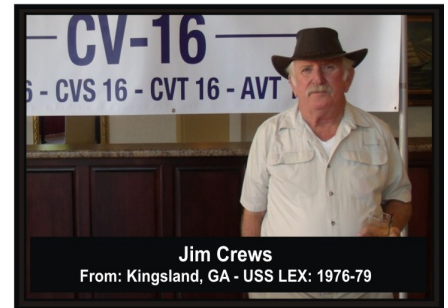


During the Business Meeting we take time to recognize all of the WW2 Vets in attendance, along with new members and first time attenders.

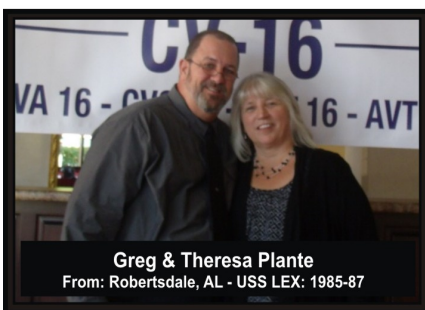
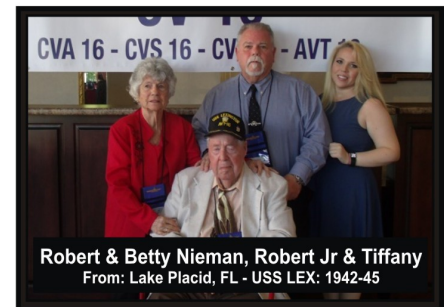
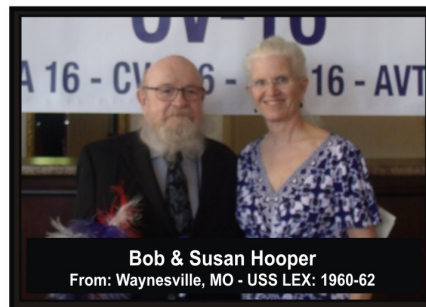


It wasn't all business at the Business Meeting. The highlight of the morning is our annual raffle drawings. Gifts are donated and our members purchase tickets. All money is donated to the Association's general fund. The photos above show some of the happy winners and the goodies they won.

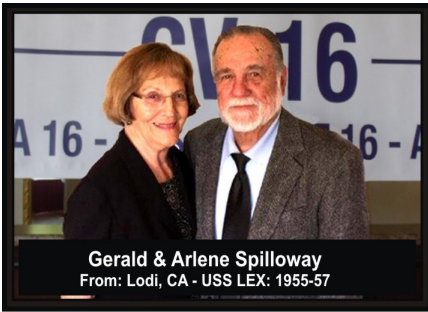
2016 Reunion Attendance: Shipmates, Friends, Families



2016 Reunion Attendance: Shipmates, Friends, Families



2016 Reunion Attendance: Shipmates, Friends, Families



Thanks for the Memories...

Thanks for the Memories...

The 2016 Reunion was awesome! We all enjoyed such a great time relaxing and visiting with friends, old and new. We want to encourage everyone to consider attending the next Reunion. 2017 Reunion will be held in Minneapolis, MN. Some of the plans in the making are a possible River Cruise and Gangster Tour. Minneapolis is also the home of the Mall of America! Watch for dates and more information in the January Newsletter. Start making plans to attend... you don't want to miss out on all the fun!

USS LEXINGTON CV 16 ASSOCIATION
2016 BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2016 – PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE

Meeting was called to order by Association President Jim Barnes at 09:30.

Jim welcomed everyone to the reunion and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Invocation was given by Chaplain Christopher Hagger.

Jim welcomed all the new members and had them state their name and where they are from.

Jim began the business portion of the meeting with old business.

Financial Report: Lance Wagner presented the 2015 reunion financial report. Lance also indicated that the membership dues will still be \$15.00. Financial report was read and accepted.

MINUTES: Minutes of the 2015 business meeting were read and accepted as read. Jim went on to the new business portion of the meeting.

SPECIAL THANKS: Jim thanked Bob DiMonte for setting up Pigeon Forge and Baton Rouge reunions. Special thanks to Marcel Wheatley for joining and helping us out for 36 years; Cheryl Wagner for her help in the raffling set-up as well as the 'Meet and Greet'. Jim also gave a special thanks to all our WWII Vets.

DONATIONS: Jim advised, at the executive board meeting, that it had been discussed at keeping our donations as previously followed. Lance stated that we would be donating as follows:

\$200.00 to the, "U.S.S. Lexington Museum on the bay".

\$200.00 to the Veterans Memorial Park

\$1,000.00 to Baton Rouge Relief, a one-time donation.

\$250.00 to the "Lone Sailor Dinner"; with a matching donation of \$250.00 (personal funds), from Daisy Morgan, to attend the dinner representing the U.S.S. Lexington.

A special 'THANK-YOU' from Bill Royer's family for our personal donation of \$100.00 to Bill's American Legion post.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Two scholarships were given this year; each in the amount of \$500.00. The named recipients of these scholarships are as follows:

HALEY MCKENZIE and MICHAEL DESTEFON

Jim advised that we should discuss the possibilities of adding 2 more yearly Scholarships, bringing the total number of scholarships to four; each totaling \$500.00.

A request from the floor was made for clarification on the 'guide-lines' for acceptance to the 'Scholarship programs.

Jim advised that a committee should be formed to over-see the scholarship programs.

Bob DiMonte nominated Gary Shorrel to be responsible for forming the committee for the scholarship program. Gary Shorrel accepted the nomination. A motion from the floor was made and passed. Jim advised that the Scholarships will remain at two \$500.00 each, for graduating High-School students for next year, (2017).

Future Re-unions:

Jim stated that the 2017 re-union was officially and successfully voted in to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dean Dietel will be hosting the 2017 re-union.

Jim asked if there were any nominations for the 2018 re-union, and Bob DiMonte suggested, San Diego, Ca.; Lloyd Friedli suggested, Omaha, Neb. (suggestion was made at the prior re-union of 2015; Baton Rouge, La.) Jim asked for a show of hands from all members, and it was decided to have the 2018 reunion in San Diego, Ca. It was also suggested to have a re-union in Corpus Christi, Texas for the 2019 re-union. Decision was made by popular vote. Motion was made and passed.

ELECTIONS:

Jim stated that elections needed to be held this year for new officers.

Bob DiMonte made the following nominations:

President: Lloyd Friedli

Vice President: Gary Shorrel

Financial Adviser: Lance Wagner

Secretary: Dawn Brophy

Historian: Daisy Morgan

Jim asked for a show of hands. Motion was passed with a second by Bob Hopper.

Jim thanked Greg Plante for heading up the, 'SUNRISE PRESS'. Greg stated the Pigeon Forge re-union group pictures would be found on the 'SUNRISE PRESS' website.

Dean Dietel made a floor suggestion on having an extra microphone at the officers table to be used for recognizing and hearing any and all members making suggestions from the floor, so that everyone would be able to hear what was being said, due to hearing difficulties of many members. Jim was in agreement, and a motion was made and passed.

The meeting was adjourned @ 1030.

----- Original Message -----

From: Melissa McNabb

To: Bob DiMonte

Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 8:20 AM

Subject: A BIG Thank You to USS Lexington

Good morning Bob,

I wanted to let you know that we've received your organization's generous check for the flood victims in Baton Rouge at the Crowne Plaza hotel. I can't express to you what this meant to the employees that were affected. Your generosity will never be forgotten.

Thank you all very much and please pass this along. I want everyone to know that your group did put some smiles on some faces. Every little bit helps at this point. ☺

Have a wonderful week!
Melissa

Melissa McNabb

Sales Manager



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Big changes planned for the USS Lexington Scholarship Award Program

After the Pigeon Forge reunion a committee was formed to review, enhance and expand the USS Lexington Scholarship Award Program. The committee has incorporated several potential changes to the Program that will increase the number of scholarships, open the Program to a broader set of students and make it possible for one term enlistment veterans to apply. All enhancements to the Program will be reviewed with the membership at the Minneapolis meeting and a motion to adopt the new Program will be made. If passed the new Program will become effective in 2018.

For 2017 the current scholarship program remains in place and the form is included in this Sunrise Press. Please review and if you have a family member that meets the criteria please have them submit an application as the Association would very much like to support their educational endeavors.

Regards,

GaryShorrel,
Vice President, USS Lexington Association

Proposed changes to USS Lexington Scholarship Award Program

Scholarship to now be available to High School seniors who plan to attend a technical school in addition to those planning to attend a college. Applicants are eligible to apply for the scholarship up to the age of 25. Note: This allows one enlistment veterans to apply.

Scholarship is now available to first and second year (underclassmen) currently attending a college 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.

Navy scuttles sailors' enlisted rating titles in huge career shake-up

By: Mark D. Faram and Sam Fellman,
September 29, 2016
From NAVY TIMES ONLINE

The Navy deep-sixed all of its 91 enlisted ratings titles Thursday, marking the beginning of an overhaul of the rigid career structure that has existed since the Continental Navy in a radical shift sure to reverberate through the fleet and the veterans community beyond.

Sailors will no longer be identified by their job title, say, Fire Controlman 1st Class Joe Sailor, effective immediately. Instead, that would be Petty Officer 1st Class Joe Sailor.

Officials say the controversial move will improve sailors' lives and ease their transition into the civilian workforce by broadening their skills in this tectonic shift in Navy's personnel system to redraw the traditional lines between enlisted job specialties — a massive shake-up that is only beginning. Within the next three to four years, earlier if possible, the service plans to allow sailors to retrain in related skills, expanding their worth to the Navy while reaping broader assignment opportunities as well as increased advancement changes and greater access to special pays and bonuses that come with the most critical skills.

"We're going to immediately do away with rating titles and address each other by just our rank as the other services do," said Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke in a Sept. 19 interview. "We recognize that's going to be a large cultural change, it's not going to happen overnight, but the direction is to start exercising that now."

Sailors past and present have longstanding and deep love of the titles that have defined their Navy lives. All of these now belong to the history books.

To highlight a few: Gunner's Mate stood up the watch in 1775 in the Continental Navy. Boatswain's Mate dropped anchor in 1775, too. Hospital Corpsman rushed to duty in 1948 after being called four other names over the previous 150 years. Operations Specialists started tracking in 1972 an upgrade from the name Radarman before it.

Through Navy history, as many as 700 titles have come and gone. Over 400 were created and eliminating during and immediately after World War II. But this move will disband these ratings entirely and reorganize sailors into Navy Occupational Specialties, or NOS, that will define the peer group they compete with for promotion. Under this new system, for example, Gunner's mates will be identified as B320 and quartermasters will be B450.

The move also strips the titles airman, fireman, constructionman and hospitalman, titles that will be also replaced by job codes. The title seaman is the

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Mike Stevens, who urged it as way to promote more cross-training and boost sailors' post-service employment opportunity. It began by a directive from Mabus to find gender-neutral rating titles that stripped them of the word "man," in an effort to be more inclusive to women sailors who make up an increasing size of the force.

In June, the Marine Corps — also under the Mabus edict — announced they'd take "man" out of 19 occupational titles, as well. The Navy's newly released answer is to take a much more difficult and controversial approach by scrapping their existing system and starting over.

Sailors aren't losing everything in their titles, however: the warfare qualifications that demonstrate mastery of their operational commands will remain.

"Sailors take great pride in earning those coveted warfare designations and they like to place those behind their ratings because they want people to know they've earned them," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (IDW/SW) Steve Giordano said in the Sept. 19 interview. "That won't go away — they will still have those as part of their titles."

Burke says the Navy's new occupational specialties will be regrouped under broader career fields, an improved version of the 13 communities the service ratings these specialties had been grouped into. Where a NOS falls in those career fields will be driven by the individual skills within that field and not traditional lines, he said. Officials say these changes will allow sailors to choose from a wider variety of jobs and duty stations and ultimately provide multiple avenues for advancement.

And when they get out — their skills and experience will more directly translate into a civilian job.

Still up in the air is what to do about the Navy's specialty marks — those rating-specific designs on dress uniforms, belt buckles — even pins on a sailor's ball cap.

For now, there is no change, Burke said.

"It's definitely our plan to cross that bridge, but it will be one of the last thing we'll do for a couple of reasons. One depends on how we draw the career fields lines and something may fall out, based on that, I just don't know, yet."

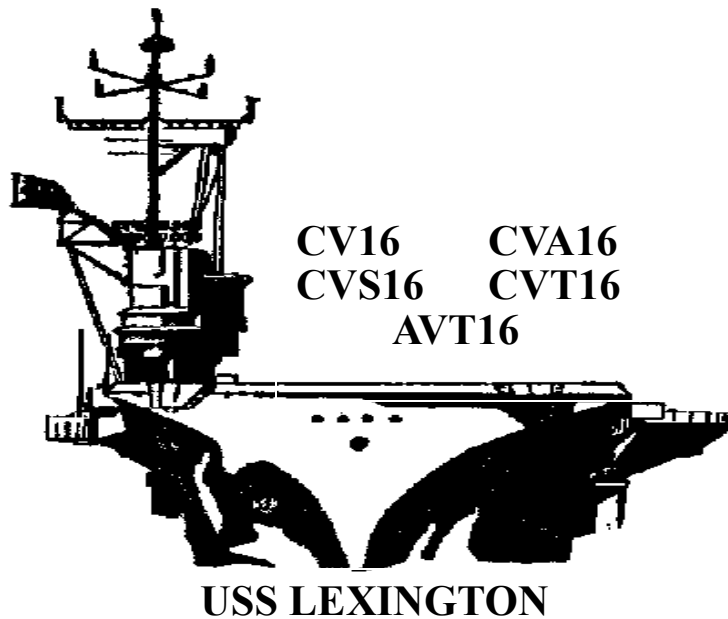


sole non-rated rating remaining, for E-3 and below.







The move leaves the enlisted force's foremost symbols as the petty officer crow and the chief petty officer anchors. It remains unclear what will happen to the ratings badges that feature iconic rating insignia that officials are considering changing. An engineman's gear. An information systems technician's sparks. These images were beloved by many and inspired countless tattoos.

The huge shift was approved by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson and had been advocated by the now retired

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



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* E-mail Version ONLY