

The Sunrise Press

USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

APRIL 2019

US Navy veteran held in Iran sentenced to 10 years

From Navy Times Online, By: Jon Gambrell, The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A U.S. Navy veteran from California has been sentenced to 10 years in prison in Iran, his lawyer said Saturday, becoming the first American known to be imprisoned there since President Donald Trump took office.

Though the case against Michael R. White remains unclear, it comes as Trump has taken a hard-line approach to Iran by pulling the U.S. out of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers.

Iran, which in the past has used its detention of Westerners and dual nationals as leverage in negotiations, has yet to report on White's sentence in state-controlled media. Its mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"Obviously the concern is that the Iranians are using this as a tool against the United States, given the other individuals who are in custody," Washington-based lawyer Mark Zaid told The Associated Press.

White's arrest was first reported by IranWire, an online news service run by Iranian expatriates, which interviewed a former Iranian prisoner who said he met White at Vakilabad Prison in the northeastern city of Mashhad in October.

In the time since, White has been convicted of insulting Iran's supreme leader and posting private information online, Zaid said. He said the information surrounding the case remained vague. He learned of the sentence from the U.S. State Department, which in turn learned of it from the Swiss government, which looks after American interests in Iran.

The State Department said late Saturday that it was "aware of the detention of a U.S. citizen in Iran."

"We have no higher priority than the safety and security of U.S. citizens abroad," it said, without elaborating on the case.

The New York Times first reported White's 10-year sentence.

White's mother, Joanne White, had told the Times that her son, who lives in Imperial Beach, California, went to Iran to see a woman she described as his girlfriend and had booked a July 27 flight back home to

San Diego via the United Arab Emirates. She filed a missing person report with the State Department after he did not board the flight. She added that he had been undergoing treatment for a neck tumor and has asthma.

White worked as a cook in the U.S. Navy and left the service about a decade ago.

Zaid said Saturday that White apparently traveled to Mashhad without informing the woman in advance. It remains difficult for Americans to get visas to Iran, 40 years after the Islamic Revolution and the U.S. Embassy hostage crisis.



In this 2018 photograph released by lawyer Mark Zaid, Michael R. White, right, is seen with his mother, Joanne White, left. White, a U.S. Navy veteran from California, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison in Iran, his lawyer said Saturday, March 16, 2019, becoming the first American known to

"That's certainly our concern, that's he's being used as a pawn," Zaid said. "But we're more in a confused state than an aware state." There are three other Americans known to be held in Iran.

Iranian-American Siamak Namazi and his octogenarian father Baquer, a former UNICEF representative who served as governor of Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province under the U.S.-backed shah, are both serving 10-year sentences on espionage charges. Iranian-American art dealer Karan Vafadari and his Iranian wife, Afarin Neyssari, received 27-year and 16-year prison sentences, respectively. Chinese-American graduate student Xiyue Wang was sentenced to 10 years in prison for allegedly "infiltrating" the country while doing doctoral research on Iran's Qajar dynasty.

Iranian-American Robin Shahini was released on bail in 2017 after staging a hunger strike while serving an 18-year prison sentence for "collaboration with a hostile government." Shahini has since return

to America and is now suing Iran in U.S. federal court.

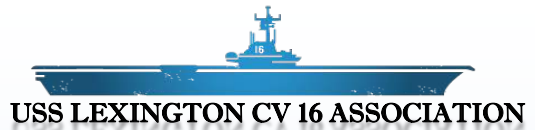
Also in an Iranian prison is Nizar Zakka, a U.S. permanent resident from Lebanon who advocated for internet freedom and has done work for the U.S. government. He was sentenced to 10 years on espionage-related charges.

Former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran in 2007 while on an unauthorized CIA mission, remains missing. Iran says that Levinson is not in the country and that it has no further information about him, though his family holds Tehran responsible for his disappearance.

SUNRISE PRESS - In this Issue...

- Front Page: US Navy Vet in Iran sentenced to 10 years
- Pg 2: In this Issue; Notes & Information
- Pg 3: TAPS & Welcome Aboard/New Members
- Pg 4: Message from our Association President
- Pg 5: Chaplains Corner: *Christopher Hagger*
- Pg 6: Spot-Light on Veterans Memorial: Parker, SD
- Pg 7 - 10: 2019 Reunion Information
- Pg 11 - 12: From My Email
- Pg. 13: 2 articles from The American Legion Magazine
- Pg 14: Scholarship Application
- Pg 15: Just for the Fun of It

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



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A Note from the Editor:

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 Ave. Robertsdale, AL 36567

For electronic submissions, my email address is gplante@gulftel.com. Please put USS LEX in the subject line so that my spam filtering software won't delete it..

Greg Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press



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.

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

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

Sunrise Press - EMAIL Version:

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

*** Update on the EMAIL Version:

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

Share your LEX stories!

Do you have special memories or sea stories from your days on the LEX. Feel free to share them with us. Just send an email (or snail mail) to me with your story's and/or pictures so I can include them in the newsletter.

email: gplante@gulftel.com

snail mail: 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, AL 36567



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 CHECK IT OUT!

UPDATE: Your AmazonSmile Impact

Remember, only purchases at smile.amazon.com (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) support charity.

Your current charity:

Lady Lex Museum On the Bay Association
has received \$209.34 as of February 2019

Every little bit counts: When millions of supporters shop at smile.amazon.com, charitable donations quickly add up.



WELCOME ABOARD: NEW MEMBERS

Dennis R. Atwood

Onboard: 1979 - 1983
B

David M. Deane

Onboard: 05/1987 - 12/1988
Deck 2

Paul A. Payne

Onboard: 12/1975 - 05/1979
Supply Dept

James D. Bailey

Onboard: 01/1986 - 10/1989
3rd DIV, Deck Dept

Michael T. Nikora,

Onboard: 01/1981 - 07/1984
V2

Oliver S. Washburn

Onboard: 01/1969 - 01/1972
A

William F. Biggin

Onboard: 1966 - 1967
5th DIV

Bob J. O'Brien

Onboard: 1966 - 1969
2nd DIV

Micheal E. Wenger

Onboard: 1979 - 1982
AG



TAPS

(No records for the TAPS section at time of printing)



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

Name: Markus Landon Penzel Email: markpenzel@yahoo.com

Subject: Looking for information about Shipmate Newbold R. Landon

Message: Newbold was my uncle, an Avenger pilot who flew off the Lex and was killed over Guam in 1944. It's a long shot, but I was wondering if there might be anyone still alive who remembers him.

Picture: Newbold onboard the USS Lexington

Newby Landon (in T-shirt) was killed later over Guam. Paul Dana (on right) was killed over Saipan



Name: Karen Mitchell **Email:** mooncloud1957@yahoo.com

Subject: Looking for anyone who knew Donald Enos Mitchell

Message: He is the older brother of my husband who never met him but wonders what kind of person he was. Any information would be helpful as my husband is 76 and wonders about him. We only found out in the last few years what ship he was on.

Share your LEX stories!

Do you have special memories or sea stories from your days on the LEX. Feel free to share them with us. Just send an email (or snail mail) to me with your stories and/or pictures so I can include them in the newsletter.

Greg Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press - email: gplante@gulftel.com - snail mail: 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, AL 36567



Fellow shipmates and USS Lexington CV 16 Association members, as I write this message we who live in the frozen tundra of northwestern Wisconsin have recently completed the month of February where we recorded the most snowfall for one month in recorded history according to the National Weather Service. 53.7 inches

of snow is the official February total but ah, spring is just around the corner. Now if we can only find the corner! As you read this in April, we may see grass again.

Now for more important stuff. Just over five months now until the 42nd USS Lexington CV 16 Association reunion in Corpus Christi. There is much more news and information about the reunion in this edition of the Sunrise Press so I won't include a lot of detail here. Be sure to register early and book the reunion hotel at <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/corpus-christi/meetings/uss-lexington-vs-16-assn>. This link will take you directly to the hotel reunion booking site.



Corpus Christi, I have found out, is not the easiest place to get to. I have booked a flight to San Antonio and rented a car. It is much easier to get to San Antonio. You may want to consider this route. We are expecting a large turnout for this reunion. I can't wait to get back on the ship again!

There are at least five Face Book sites that are related to the Lexington and/or Essex class carriers. I have and will continue to post on these sites information related to our reunion, our scholarship program and other notices as deemed appropriate. Our reunion will also soon be published in the American Legion magazine. I get a lot of replies to my postings and a lot of questions about reunions, donations etc. It appears that many former shipmates look at these Face Book sites.

While we are deep into planning for the Corpus Christi reunion we have already begun to plan for the Omaha 2020 reunion. Howard Canup, your Lexington Association historian, has volunteered to host the Omaha reunion. Howard has informed me that Omaha is a very Veteran friendly city with much to see and do there. We will be announcing the dates and hotel information at the 2019 reunion and in the Sunrise Press as information becomes available.

Are your annual dues (donation) paid up? They are due by December 31 annually and are \$20. A small price to pay for membership in the USS Lexington CV 16 Association. Even if you don't or can't attend the reunions your donations fund our charitable donations and scholarship program. We are also looking into making payment easier by setting up a payment link on our WEB site. As one shipmate said "I don't write checks anymore". Many people pay all their bills online these days. Until this payment method is set up, see Lance Wagner's (our Treasurer) address in the Press for where to send your donation.

In January I posted information about our scholarship program on the various Face Book sites. I will post again in April. See our scholarship information in this and past editions of the Press. We really want to help fund college or technical school for qualified relatives of our Association members.

That's it for now. If you have any comments or suggestions about my Presidents Message feel free to email me at shorrel@charter.net.

UPDATE!!

**USS Lexington CV16 Association
Mt. Soledad Plaque Fund**

HEY EVERYONE!! Great news!!

We have reached our goal thanks to our members being so generous towards the Association. We have people meeting with the designers to make our plaque for display at the Mount Soledad memorial just outside of San Diego, CA. Thank you so very much for your generosity, and helping us to keep the great name of the USS Lexington and our Association in the public eye and in the hearts of our fellow countrymen as they visit the memorial.

Words to Remember *By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger*

Joshua 1:1-9



In the book of Joshua as you begin your reading it would seem it was a continuation of something previously written or words previously spoken. The translations would begin with "And it happened, after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, that the LORD said to Joshua..." The phrase "death of Moses" ties this material in with an earlier event which is found in Deut. 34:1-8.



God's message for Joshua was simple. I will never leave you nor forsake you; however, the condition was to be strong and courageous. Or simply put just keep believing. We all have heard that... "just keep believing." Truth of the matter is that is the hardest part. God carefully repeated the words over and over again to Joshua, "be of good courage, be strong." I know as we watch the morning,

noonday, and evening news sometimes it crosses our mind that God has forsaken us. This world as we know it seems to be spiraling out of control, but God has not forgotten His promises.

When we read God's word, if we are not careful we would think that God is speaking to those in that particular passage. And, it makes a good story, or a foundation to better ourselves. The words that we read spoken many years before are also relevant today. The principals are the same, our LORD is the same. So, the words He spoke to Joshua or the words He spoke to Moses, or the words He spoke to Abraham. The same words He is speaking to you, as well as to me. Just believe, even if you can't see the sunshine, the sun is still as bright as it has always been. When the LORD says to Joshua "be courageous", He is saying against all odds believe anyway. When the wind is blowing so hard you can't stand up straight, stick your chest out, hold your head up and believe with everything in you..... "God has not forsaken you." He will never leave you, just believe.

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

Phone:
432-258-7751 / FAX 432-381-5272
Cell: 832-312-0892

Chaplain Hagger can be reached anytime...

...no matter what the time



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

*Veterans Memorial: Parker, South Dakota
Submitted by: Shipmate Lloyd Friedli*



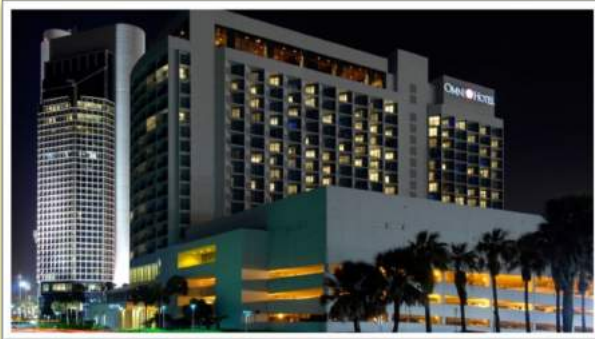
While traveling through South Dakota in June 2017, we drove through the small town (population 1,007) of Parker and came across a Veterans Memorial. The Memorial was sponsored and erected by the local American Legion Post 30 and the VFW Post 2821. The Memorial consists of a central flag display and monuments, and two flanking pedestal inscriptions facing two corner benches.



2019 Reunion: October 6th - 10th, Corpus Christi Omni Hotel
Corpus Christi, Texas: Home of the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay

The Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi will be the venue for our Reunion. Located in the downtown Marina District, the hotel offers luxurious guestrooms with spectacular views of the Corpus Christi Bay. A few of the hotel amenities include an Outdoor heated Pool, Indoor Racquetball Courts, a Fitness Center, and 24 hour dining. The hotel is giving us a special rate of \$125 per night. Hotel reservations can be made online at the link below which will take you directly to the USS Lexington Reunion special rate page.

<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/corpus-christi/meetings/uss-lexington-vs-16-assn>



Omni Hotel
900 N Shoreline Blvd
Corpus Christi,
Texas 78401
Phone:
(361) 887-1600



Tuesday, October 8th
FREE DAY!!

****Explore the City****

****Visit the Sights****

****Go Shopping****

Enjoy your Day!!



Nearby Area Attractions:

USS Lexington Museum

Texas State Aquarium

Art Museum of South Texas

Shopping:

Water Street District

Blue Frog Mercantile



La Palmera Mall
Codi's Crafts & Collectibles
and MORE!



Let's get together on the LEX!!!

42nd Annual Reunion of the USS Lexington CV16 Association

**Lots to Do
and a Ship-full of
spaces to explore!**

The Flight Deck

Escape Room

3D Mega Theater

Virtual Battle Stations

Pearl Harbor Exhibit

Flight Simulator

And So Much More!

My fellow Shipmates! It brings me great pleasure and happiness to announce that we are holding our reunion in my favorite location... aboard the lady that means so much to us and was an important part of our lives. A part that helped to make us who and what we are today.

Y'know, when it comes to Corpus Christi, you don't just happen to go thru there, because it's not on the way to anywhere. You have to go there on purpose. Just as we are for our reunion. The good part of this, is that Corpus knew there had to be a reason to come there, even before the Lexington Museum, so they made it a great place to visit more than once. There is an aquarium, shopping districts, and an art museum just to name a few sites. And the ship! Our ship! Even they are finding new ways to attract visitors, so c'mon out and join us as we swap sea stories and enjoy good fellowship with each other. And you first timers... you may come a stranger, but you will leave with TONS of new friends. I hope to see you there! *Greg Plante*

USS LEXINGTON
Museum On The Bay

USS LEXINGTON CV 16 42nd ANNUAL REUNION



Corpus Christi, Texas October 6th - 10th, 2019

ITINERARY

October 6th - Sunday: *Hotel Check-in/Reunion Registration*

- 1200 Hospitality Suite opens for check in
- 1600 Hospitality Suite Closes for Reception
- 1700 Opening Reception: Finger Foods & Cash Bar

October 7th - Monday: *City Tour, Memorial Service & Lunch*

- 0815 Meet in Hotel Lobby for Scheduled Tour
- 0830 Bus departs for the City Tour of historical Corpus Christi
 - Memorial Service and Lunch on the Hanger Bay/USS Lexington
 - Free time to explore the Ship
- 1500 Bus leaves USS LEX to return to the Omni Hotel
- 1600 Hospitality Suite Opens
- 1800 Hospitality Suite Closes

October 8th - Tuesday: *Free Day for Sight Seeing, Shopping, and Sea Stories*

- 1300 Hospitality Suite Opens
- 1700 Hospitality Suite Closes

October 9th - Wednesday: *Business Meeting and Banquet*

- 1000 Business Meeting; All members and guests welcome
- 1200 Hospitality Suite Opens
- 1600 Hospitality Suite Closes
- 1800 Banquet
 - Social Hour (Doors will open at 1800) Cash Bar
 - Group Picture (Coat and Tie suggested)
 - Presentation of Colors / Dinner Served / Entertainment

October 10th - Thursday

Checkout — Safe travels home..... Next stop Omaha

REGISTRATION FORM
2019 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION
October 6th - 10th, Corpus Christi Texas

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: Corpus Christi Omni Hotel

900 N Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi, TX 78401 - Phone: (361) 887-1600

Online Reservations: <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/corpus-christi/meetings/uss-lexington-vs-16-assn>

The group rate is \$125/night and is good three days pre and post reunion.

Hotel Reservations must be made before September 6, 2019

Register me for the following:

Reunion Registration Fee (not optional).....Number of attendees' _____ x \$40 each = \$ _____

Monday, October 7th

City Tour/Memorial Service/Lunch.....Number of attendees' _____ x \$60 each = \$ _____

Wednesday, October 9th

Farewell Banquet.....Number of attendees' _____ x \$55 each = \$ _____

Choice of Entrée:

A.) Cast Iron Grilled Filet Mignon _____

B.) Chicken Romana topped with a Seasoned Tomato & Red Onion Relish _____

C.) Salmon with Pecan Butter _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail Registration form and check payable to:
Cut-off Date: September 15, 2019

USS Lexington CV 16 Association
Lance Wagner
71-21 73 Place, Glendale, New York 11385

Submitted by: Shipmate Gary Shorrel

I don't know the name of the person who editorialized and published this on the internet, however the original story comes from the book "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz

God & 3 Mistakes

What God did at Pearl Harbor that day is interesting and I never knew this little bit of history.

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time.

In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz. Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington, DC. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone.

He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941.

There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained: Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or, God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas -- he was a born optimist.

But any way you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver lining in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, **IN GOD WE TRUST**. Why have we forgotten? **PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY! In God we trust!**

Submitted by: Shipmate Deane Dietel

This 2 minute video is pretty moving. Worth your while. "What actually made this country great is ordinary guys like this doing extraordinary things." Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/jpt6Bvr2L-s?rel=0&controls=0&showinf>

Notice in the opening shot you'll see the gunner's position is all shot to hell while the pilot's cockpit ahead of it is undamaged. Later on notice the corpsman taking a fingerprint of the deceased gunner, before the film continues, then showing the chaplain saying the final prayers, followed by taps, then the sailors push the aircraft and our patriotic airman over the side and watch it sink into the distance sea. Here's one for a serious conversation with your kids. THIS WAS REAL!

This is what 18 year old "kids" were doing in 1944. No safe spaces, no hurtful unthinkable remarks that they couldn't cope with, just dying for their country so the ungrateful, uninformed snowflakes of today could act like fools decades later.....

Submitted by: Shipmate Gary Shorrel

Sailor kissing woman in iconic VJ Day photo at Times Square dies at 95
Marina Pitofsky, USA TODAY Published 12:24 p.m. ET Feb. 18, 2019

Several similar photos were taken on V-J Day in New York City, celebrating the surrender of Japan. (Photo11: National Archives)



The man in the iconic photo of an exuberant Navy sailor kissing a woman in New York City's Times Square at the end of World War II has died. George Mendonsa, 95, had a seizure and fell in an assisted living facility in Middletown, Rhode Island, Mendonsa's daughter, Sharon Mollieur, told the Providence Journal. He lived there with his wife of 70 years, Rita, and he died Sunday just two days short of his 96th birthday. The photo

was taken on Aug. 14, 1945, which is known as V-J Day, the day Japan officially surrendered to the United States in World War II. Published in Life as "V-J Day in Times Square," it came to represent how joyful Americans and people across the world felt at the end of the war, in which 406,000 American veterans died and 671,000 were wounded, according to the USCensus Bureau.



Have you read an interesting article or story recently? Share it with your shipmates! Just email them to us and we'll print them in the Sunrise Press.
Email: gplante@gulftel.com

Lone Sailor article

Submitted by: Shipmate Lloyd Friedli

The Spring 2019 U. S. Navy Memorial newsletter included the following article documenting their annual Pearl Harbor wreath laying ceremony. If you have the opportunity to view the documentary 'Lifeline: Pearl Harbor's Unknown Hero' I recommend you see it. Narrated by Gary Sinise it is extremely well done. Also with respect to the U. S. Navy Memorial; if you are not registered on their Navy Log I suggest you consider doing so. It is free to enroll by visiting their website www.navymemorial.org or by calling (202) 380-0730.

From The Lone Sailor: "The Navy Memorial proudly welcomed award-winning documentary film director producer and writer, Tim Gray to Memorial Plaza for our annual Pearl Harbor wreath-laying ceremony.

Gray hosted a special screening of his latest film *Lifeline: Pearl Harbor's Unknown Hero* at the Navy Memorial's Burke Theater the evening before.

Lifeline documents the story of Joe George, an unsung hero of WWII. George was a crewman on the *USS Vestal* which was moored alongside the sinking *USS Arizona* during the fiery attack on Pearl Harbor.

George, a boatswain's mate second class, ignored orders to cast off from the *Arizona*, Instead he threw a line to the burning ship's six remaining survivors saving their lives. George passed away in 1996, without ever receiving official recognition for his heroic actions. But in 2017, the U.S. Navy posthumously awarded him the Bronze Star with "V" Device for Valor aboard the *USS Arizona* Memorial.

Gray, who founded the World War II Foundation, told the Memorial Plaza crowd of over 200 visitors, 'Joe George is really one of the first heroes of Pearl Harbor...but in my heart, and the hearts of a lot of people, there were many Joe Georges on that day. And, I think that's what our American military represents most.'

Gray thanked the attending military representatives and veterans for their service saying, "I'm honored to be in your presence."

Gray previously worked as a television anchor and reporter. His documentary films are among the most requested by public television affiliates around the country."



PRESIDENTIAL SAILORS

GEORGE H.W. BUSH
FLEW TORPEDO BOMBERS FROM THE DECK OF THE *USS SAN JACINTO*, EARNING A DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS AND NUMEROUS AIR MEDALS BEFORE BEING SHOT DOWN BY ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE DURING WWII.

JIMMY E. CARTER JR.
IS THE ONLY PRESIDENT TO GRADUATE FROM THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY. HE WENT ON TO BE SELECTED FOR SERVICE IN NUCLEAR SUBMARINES BY ADMIRAL HYMAN G. RICKOVER.

GERALD R. FORD
SERVED IN NINE COMBAT OPERATIONS. ACHIEVED THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER. NEXT-GENERATION CLASS OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IS NAMED IN HIS HONOR.

RICHARD M. NIXON
HEADED UP A SERIES OF NAVY CARGO HANDLING UNITS AROUND THE PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II, ACHIEVING THE RANK OF COMMANDER IN THE NAVAL RESERVE DURING WWII.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON
TOOK A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, EARNING A SILVER STAR WHILE FLYING AS AN OBSERVER ON A B-26 BOMBING MISSION DURING WWII.

JOHN F. KENNEDY
EARNED THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL AFTER SAVING THE LIVES OF HIS CREW FOLLOWING THE SINKING OF THE *PT-109* DURING WWII.

AMERICA'S NAVY FORGED BY THE SEA

Photo submitted by Gary Shorrel (no credit available)

USS Lexington CV16 Association
Membership Dues

Dues are \$20/year, and due at the end of each year.

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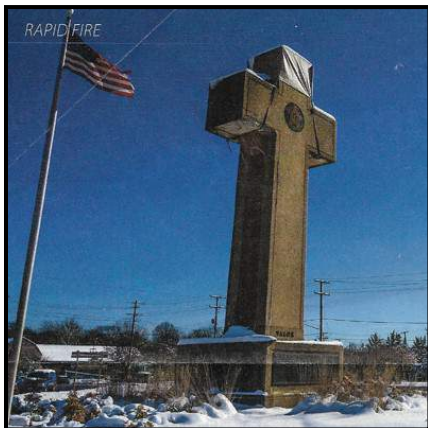
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Lance Wagner

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Legion Takes Bladensburg Memorial Fight To The Supreme Court

From: The American Legion Magazine, March 2019 Submitted by shipmate Lance Wagner



Alvergia Hobbs Guyton fondly recalls a playmate she never met; her uncle John. Growing up with only brothers for siblings, Guyton would gather her toys, gaze up at a mounted picture of John Seaburn in his Army uniform, and talk to her uncle.

Seaburn, a 20 year old Army private, was killed 5 weeks before the end of World War I in France. He

is among the 49 World War I soldiers whose names are enshrined on the Bladensburg World War I Memorial in Maryland.

To preserve their memories, The American Legion is defending the memorial at the U S Supreme Court, with arguments scheduled for Feb 27. Represented by the First Liberty Institute and Jones Day, the Legion is asking the court to reverse a Court of Appeals ruling that could lead to the bulldozing of the memorial. A ruling is expected by July 1.

In 1925, The American Legion and Gold Star Mothers erected the memorial to honor 49 Prince George's County men killed in the Great War. It stood unopposed until 2014, when the American Humanist Association filed suit, claiming the cross-shaped memorial violated the First Amendment.

The Gold Star Mothers selected a cross design to represent their sons' resting place in Europe. Seaburn's remains were repatriated for interment at Arlington National Cemetery in 1921. Decades later, Guyton and her husband,

retired Army Col. James Guyton, were stationed overseas, and she surprised her mother, Gladys Hobbs, by taking her to Marne, France, where her brother was originally buried. Guyton says the Hobbs family is proud that a local American Legion post was named for Seaburn. Post 140 in College Park was formed in 1938 and disbanded in 1991. For years, it's members helped conduct ceremonies at the memorial. Leonard Smith, the first black commander of Prince George's County, led Veterans Day and Memorial Day services there.

"Those were the main events each year in Prince George's County," says Smith, who served as commander of the Seaburn post four times. "It was one of the highlights of my Legion career."

Smith adds that he was disappointed when Post 140 had to close its doors. He now belongs to Post 275 in Glenarden.

The Guytons are thankful for the Legion's defense of the Bladensburg memorial. "The American Legion since 1919 has had a mission," says James, a member of Post 68 in Sandy Spring, MD. "If you would read that mission and look at what they were doing during World War I, and compare it to 2019, it has only gotten stronger."

Guyton is hopeful that the Supreme Court will rule in the memorial's favor. "These men went into the service and gave their lives for America," she says. "If they take away the memorial, how does the next generation know the history?"

— Henry Howard



Alvergia Hobbs Guyton holds a portrait of her uncle, Army Pvt. John Seaburn, who was killed in France.

Photo by Matt Roth

Last Survivor of *Dorchester* Sinking Passes

William G. Bunkelman—last survivor of USAT *Dorchester*, the World War II transport ship made famous by four Army chaplains who gave up their life jackets and sacrificed their own lives so that others might live - has dies. He was 98.

Although Bunkelman never considered himself a hero, he "helped save the lives of more than 50 men as their doomed ship sank in the icy Atlantic," the *Monroe (Michigan) News* reports. "Of the 904 people aboard *Dorchester*," the paper adds, "only 230 were saved. It was the worst single loss of American personnel of any American convoy during World War II."

Bunkelman pulled 54 men from the water after *Dorchester* was torpedoed. But he was always quick to call others "hero," especially the four chaplains. "In his official U. S. Army written account of the event," the *News* explains, "he wrote about seeing the chaplains 'without regard for their safety, going about the deck giving men encouragement and trying to calm their fears.'"

The chaplains, known as the "Immortal Chaplains," were

Lt George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt John P. Washington (Roman Catholic), and Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed). As the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation describes, "The four chaplains spread out among the soldiers... tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety... the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets." And when there were no more to hand out, "the chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four frightened young men."



Photo courtesy from Hawley / Monroe News

The chaplains died together as the ship slipped beneath the frigid waters between Newfoundland and Greenland. "Survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains - arms linked and braced against the slanting deck," according to the foundation's account. "Their voices could also be heard offering prayers."

One survivor described the chaplains' actions in their final moments as "the finest thing I have ever seen or hope to see this side of heaven."

 **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

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 1st, 2019



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 artists personal blog page.

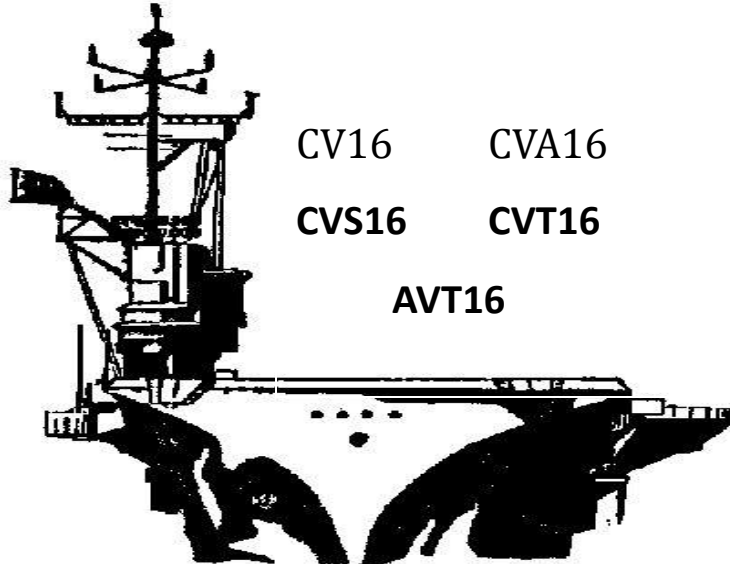


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USS LEXINGTON

****** IN THIS ISSUE ******

-  US Navy Vet held in Iran sentenced to 10 years pg. 1
-  Welcome Aboard & TAPS pg.3
-  Presidents Message pg.4
-  Chaplains Corner pg.5
-  2018 Reunion Information pg.7 - 10
-  Scholarship Application pg.14

