



## USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

JANUARY 2017

### Trump wants a bigger Navy but the Navy wants its fleet fixed first

[David B. Larter](#), January 21, 2017 [NavyTimes.com](#)

The Navy is in bad shape and its leaders are starting to make noise about it.

The carrier George H.W. Bush is heading out for deployment Jan. 21 —about a month late — which meant an extended gap in carrier presence in the Middle East in the middle of a war on the Islamic State group. And the culprit was a longer-than-anticipated trip to the shipyards. It's a sign of the times.

President Donald Trump has vowed to provide more money and an end to budget cuts that have wreaked havoc on the Navy's training and maintenance cycles — the period between deployments overseas. The constant demands on the force have caused an ever-growing list of equipment and weapons' systems that need to be fixed but lack funding and adequate time to perform the repairs.

"We are under stress right now," said Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson at a Defense One forum discussion Jan. 17. "There is persistent demand for naval forces from the [combatant commanders]. If you just take the raw numbers, we're meeting about half of those demands. So we're stretched pretty thin."

The strain on the fleet is made all the more real by the lack of funding for fixing its ships. "This long war we're in and emerging or re-emerging threats have raised the stakes and kept us on the field longer than our bullpen is able to stay healthy," Adm. Bill Moran, vice chief of Naval operations said. "Deferred maintenance is insidiously taking its toll on the long-term readiness of our fleet." "When the transition team asked me what I would do with more money today, this year and next my answer was not, more ships," Moran said. "It was making

sure that the 274 ships we had were maintained and modernized to provide 274 ships worth of combat power ... When we make decisions that either directly or indirectly underfund our readiness accounts, we do not get the full value from our Navy."

Within moments of Trump inauguration Friday, the administration had posted a commitment to reversing the strain on the Navy on the White House website.

"Our Navy has shrunk from more than 500 ships in 1991 to 275 in 2016. Our Air Force is roughly one third smaller than in 1991," the statement reads. "President Trump is committed to reversing this trend, because he knows that our military dominance must be unquestioned."

#### Them old budget blues

But experts and analysts say it may not be time to spike the football just yet — the challenges ahead for such a windfall are significant.

First off, the new White House budget director Mick Mulvaney is a



South Carolina Tea Party Republican who during his time in Congress [crusaded against both domestic and military spending](#). Second, the cash can't flow until Congress repeals the Budget Control Act which locked in defense spending cuts for years to come.

That fight won't be easy, experts say, especially with the aggressive domestic agenda Trump laid out in the campaign, said Dan Palazzolo, a professor of political science at University of Richmond, in a recent interview.

"There are going to have to be a lot of trade-offs," he said. "Donald Trump wants a lot of things: Big tax cuts, big infrastructure spending, doesn't want to touch entitlements, defense spending.

"Really, this is going to be the challenge of Trump's presidency: How do you translate these broad policy proposals into policies, and defense is in that mix. It's going to be on Congress to help him figure that out," Palazzolo said.



# WELCOME ABOARD & NEWSLETTER NOTES

## Welcome Aboard: New Members

### Kevin (The Fly) Crawford

Onboard: 01/1977– 10/1980 - V1 DIV/Yellow Shirts

### Matthee Eastman

Onboard: 02/1977 - 06/1979 - B DIV

### Robert Gordon

Onboard: 07/1967 - 09/1970 - V2 DIV/Arresting Gear

### Harold Hodges

Onboard: 08/1955 - 02/1952 - V2 DIV

### David Hutto

Onboard: 1961 - 1963 - G2 DIV

### Dale Jenkins

Onboard: 06/1972 - 11/1975 - 1 & 2 DIV/Side Cleaner

### Carol McBride

Onboard: 11/1982 - 12/1984 - CR DIV

### Charles Offerman

Onboard: 1959 - 08/1961 - 3rd DIV

### Raul B. Perdomo

Onboard: 01/1965 - 09/1967

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### 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.

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. \*Note email recipients, Dawn Brophy will do a mailing twice a year (January/July) to anyone that's showing in arrears. Dues are \$15/year, make checks payable to: USS Lexington Association.

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

**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 to the left*). Please contact Greg if you have any questions about anything in the newsletter, or if you would like to offer anything for inclusion.

### 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*

**Treasurer:** *Lance Wagner*

**Secretary:** *Dawn Brophy*

**Chaplain:** *Christopher Hagger ThM*

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



Fad-ing light dims the sight And a star gems the sky, gleam-ing bright From a - far draw-ing  
nigh, Falls thenight. Day is done, gone the sun From the lakes, from the hills, from the skies. All is  
well, safe - ly rest; God is nigh. Then good night, peace-ful night; Till the  
light of the dawn shin-eth bright. God is near, do not fear, Friend, good night.

**Robert A. Letts: March 22, 2016; Trenton, NJ— Plank Owner, onboard 1943-1945**

**Jack Haines: June 4, 2016; Washington, PA— WWII/Pacific**

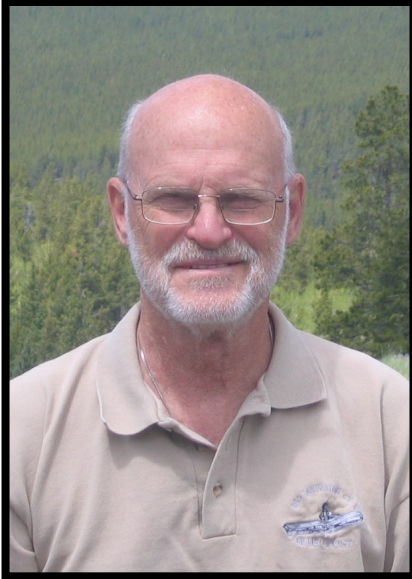
**Bruns Edward Meloy: October 10, 2016; Hoover, AL— onboard 1946**

**Jack W. Hammontree: November 8, 2016; Pensacola, FL**

**Walter C. Walling: November 17, 2012; Portland, OR— onboard 1945-1946**

**Franklin R. Thomas: November 22, 2016; Sanford, FL— onboard 1943-1945**

**James (Jim) Dunlap: January 11, 2017; Lakeland, FL— onboard 1943**



Hello to all! I hope your holiday season was great! And that 2017 has begun well and that all of you anticipate a safe, prosperous and interesting year.

I trust the USS Lexington CV16 Association will enter into your plans in some way during the year. Plans for the reunion in Minneapolis in September are well underway. This newsletter

presents the basic plan and the April and July issues will include specific's with forms, etc.

With regard to the newsletter (the Sunrise Press) Greg Plante and his wife Theresa continue to provide an outstanding publication for us. Send them articles or suggestions you may have, they want and need your input.

In addition to the newsletter there are other avenues available for USS Lexington information. There are two or three Facebook sites, one of which is the USS Lexington Association page. Also go to [www.usslexingtoncv16.org](http://www.usslexingtoncv16.org) for our official Association website. And the Museum on the Bay website [www.usslexington.com](http://www.usslexington.com) shows the multitude of things they do and provides a crew sign-in section.

On a more personal level – if you have anyone in your family pursuing continuing education check out our scholarship program. This year it stays pretty much with our 'high school senior going to college' program but next year we hope to enhance it to open it up to other 'students'. (See Vice President Gary Shorrel's article in this newsletter.)

Sometime in the next few weeks you should receive a note indicating what year your dues expires. Please consider some contribution as the dues support our newsletter, our donations and the Association scholarship program.

The best to each of you and your families as we move into 2017!

**Lloyd Friedli**

**President USS Lexington Association**

### ***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](mailto:gplante@gulftel.com). Please put USS LEX in the subject line so that the spam filtering software won't delete it.

### **Looking for... WWII Arresting Cable Stanchion**

I have a WWII aircraft tail hook and recently purchased what the seller says is 150 feet X 1 inch of arresting wire. I would like to cut the wire in 2, 3 and 5 foot lengths for display with my hook. In You Tube videos and photos there was a bracket or stanchion that raised up from the deck to elevate the arresting cable for the trap. After the trap the stanchion recesses back into the deck. I would like to reproduce the brackets to hold up my cable with my tail hook positioned as catching it. I have not been able to find any detailed photos showing these stanchions. I have tried the Emil Buehler Library in Pensacola. I am interested in seeing a close up view and the approximate height and length when extended. Photos and video only show them from a distance. Does anyone have any information pertaining to the arresting cable stanchions used in WWII?

Jim Krombach

[krombachja@aol.com](mailto:krombachja@aol.com)

## Obedience and Faith... two important tools

By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger



It's a new year.... a new president.... a new set of New Year resolutions in a changing world; a world filled with insecurity and uncertainty. Suggestion... walk in faith; walk by faith, or our hopes and dreams for the world as we know it or our lives; especially our lives will fall apart.

This applies to all God's children regardless of their place in this thing called life. It does not

matter what side of the railroad track you were born on, it does not matter your gender, or race. If we are going to walk in an uncertain world we need faith. That means holding on to God's perfect plan even if it's not seen or known. Still hold on.

Living by faith means obeying God's Word. It means establishing a study habit, spending quality time in God's Word, standing up and walking in what we have just read and believed. Therefore, obeying God's Word. Even if we don't feel it. Or our circumstances do not fit in what we have just read. Believe it anyway, obey it.

Jesus Christ is an excellent teacher in the "School of Faith and Obedience," we are going to learn from Him in our study

In the gospel of St. John around the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter, there we find a familiar story. It is the story about the woman at the well. If you don't know the story read it, it is a good read.

So, John writes in the 4<sup>th</sup> verse – And He (Jesus) had to go through Samaria. Samaria was on the divine agenda as the earthly journey of Jesus led through Samaria. It is good to know that when you read Jesus progress in the book of St. John, this was not his first stop in Samaria. Keeping in mind now that Jesus had to go through Samaria because of divine steps ordered by the Father. The town in which Jesus met the woman at the well is so named Sychar, The bible has a way of identifying towns, and people and situations by name, so, that we can ask the question "why is this name being placed in the book at this point?" Good question, it's because it

should prompt us to want to dig around in God's word to find the answer to our question.

So, in our digging we find in the book of Luke the beginning of Jesus journey into Samaria. In that book around Chapter nine around the 52<sup>nd</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> verse we find Jesus sending His disciples ahead of him into a village of Samaria preparing the way for Him. The village is not named in the book of Luke, but for the sake of digging, it is so named Sebaste. So why is this village not named? Good question, it is because it is not important, no great work was done there. We are reminded that they did not receive Him because He (Jesus) was going to Jerusalem. James and John saw this and wanted to command fire to come down from heaven on this village. Jesus said "the Son of Man did not come to destroy lives, but save them."

So where am I going with this.... Obedience. Jesus made it known to us his readers that He had to go through Samaria, because this is what the Father desired for Him to do. Jesus gave us the blueprint to obedience; even if we don't understand why, just do it. "Lord I don't know why your word tells me to forgive. I don't want to, but because you said it in your word, I will learn to forgive with help from you." Obedience. Even though Jesus was rejected in the first village, he stayed on course because he knew he had to go through Samaria. The reason was in the second town he arrived in...Sychar.

There we find a person that needed some good news; needed to know that someone loved her for who she was not for what she was.

Obedience leads one to walk in faith. These are some great tools to place in our backpack of life especially in this new year.

Chaplain Hagger pastors All People Worship Center in Odessa Texas. He 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.***

## **North Adams Man Honored for WWII Service at NHL Game**

By Stephen Dravis *Berkshires Staff*  
02:38AM / Wednesday, January 11, 2017



World War II veteran David Shaker, 93, is presented with a stick signed by the Bruins by Head Trainer Don DelNegro. The two North Adams natives met up when Shaker was honored for his service by the Florida Panthers.

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. — Last Saturday, 16,000 hockey fans in South Florida learned that David Shaker is an American hero.

A handful of those fans already knew it.

Shaker, a lifelong North Adams resident now retired and living in Boca Raton, Fla., was recognized on the jumbotron at Saturday's Boston Bruins-Florida Panthers game as part of the Panthers' "Heroes Among Us" program.

Surrounded by family members from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania who traveled for the event, Shaker watched as his [videotaped reminiscences](#) of World War II were shared with the crowd at the BB&T Center in Sunrise, Fla.

"I have five brothers and one sister — most live in Massachusetts, two are in Pennsylvania — they all flew down for the game," said Diane Shaker Heard, David's daughter, who lives her father in Boca Raton. "As they say in the Master Card commercial, it was priceless. His one grandson was able to come down with his wife as well."

David Shaker was 19 when he joined the Navy shortly after Pearl Harbor. He ended up serving on the USS Lexington, an aircraft carrier in the South Pacific, and earning 10 battle stars and a Presidential Citation.

In the 1 minute, 40 second video pre-recorded at the arena by the team, Shaker talked about how he slept under the wing of a plane for three years and saw his bridge partner killed by a Japanese suicide bomber.

"His machine gun bullets were ripping the flight deck 4 feet behind my back," Shaker said. "I was lucky." He was also smart — smart enough to know when to follow orders and when to take the initiative. In one engagement with the enemy, the former course saved lives.

"The captain of the ship says, 'I don't want anybody firing at 2-9-0.' He says, 'I got two scout planes, and they're coming in at 2-9-0,'" Shaker recalls in the video.

"Then a half hour later, I see a plane coming in at 2-9-0. I look at it and there's a big, red meatball, so I knew he was Japanese. So I opened up and blew him out of the sky. "I was the only gun firing of all the guns on the ship. Everybody was obeying orders but me."

What Diane Heard calls, "the most amazing 1:30 video clip I've ever seen," was the product of an hour-long interview. Fortunately, the team was able to provide the family with the outtakes, so they can preserve Shaker's stories for future generations.

The honor for the 93-year-old veteran came about after the family's dentist, a regular attendee at Panthers' games, submitted Shaker's name for consideration.

Another bit of serendipity came about when the evening's opposition, the Boston Bruins, took advantage of the chance to honor a hero from the same hometown as B's Head Trainer Don DelNegro.

"It's not normally done that the opposing team comes out, but they came out and gave my dad a signed stick, and a couple of them shook his hand while he was out there on the ice," Heard said.

It was lucky that the family could connect with DelNegro through his sister, who went to school with one of Heard's brothers and heard about the honor for Shaker through Facebook. It was no accident that Shaker was honored on a night when the Bruins were in town.

"The team reached out to me [after Shaker was nominated] and offered a few dates that were available," Heard said. "It happened that the Jan. 7 game against the Bruins was available. We're all Boston fans, so I picked the date. It just was amazing.

"We root for the Panthers. Only when they're playing Boston would I root for the other team. I had a Panthers jersey signed by the Panthers. We've taken my [12-year-old] son to a couple of games. We root for both."



### Buried at Sea Ceremony

Navy veteran Joe Zikewich was aboard the USS Lexington when it was attacked by kamikaze planes in Leyte Bay, Philippines on 5 Nov, 1944. He vowed he would never forget his shipmates who were lost at sea or buried at sea as a result of that battle.

He's pictured in front of the Peacoat Monument that honors those men and all other US Armed Services personnel who are buried at sea.

A special ceremony on

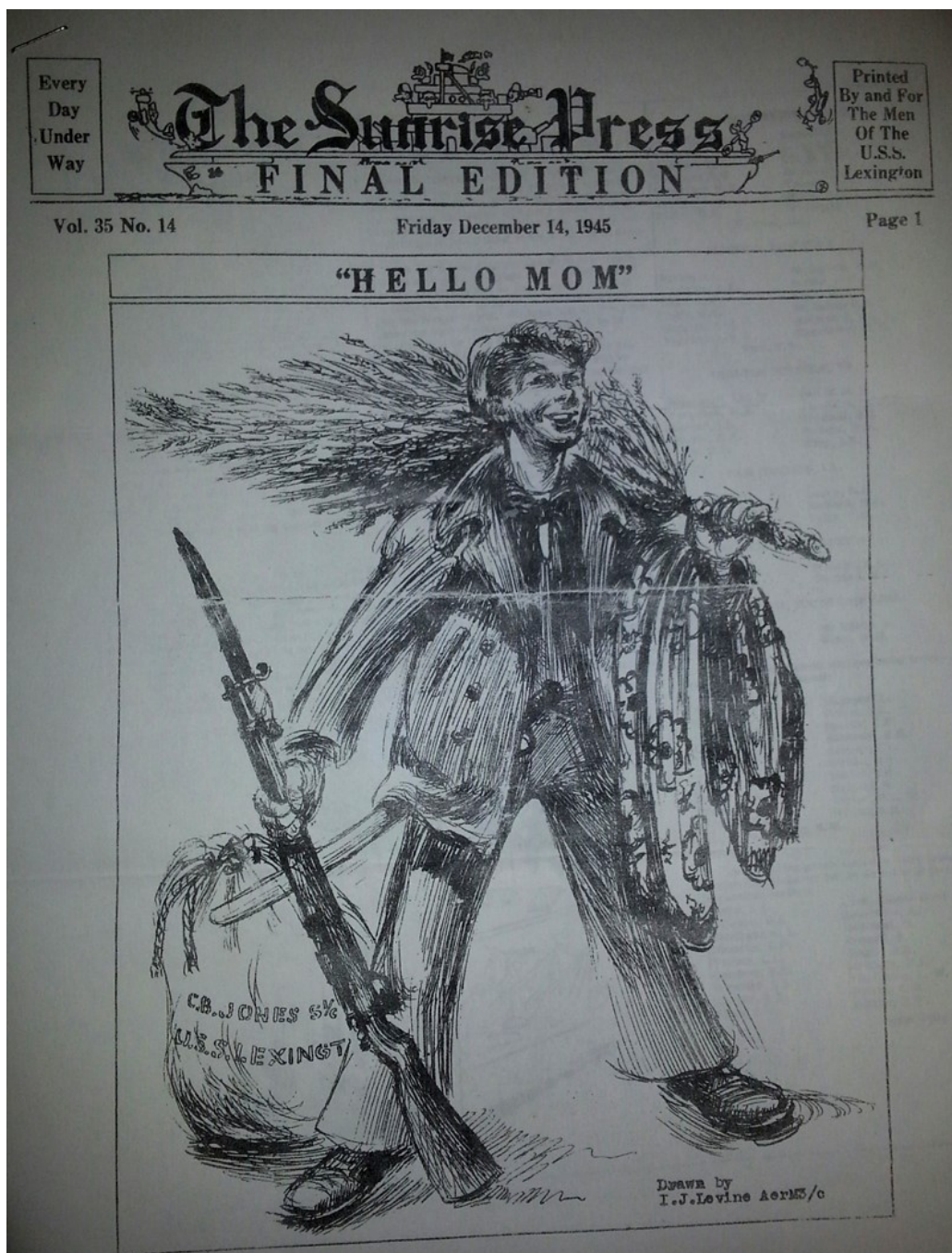


05Nov16 celebrated the dedication to duty of Joe's shipmates that fateful day.

Don Steiner, a WWII navy veteran who survived the kamikaze attack told what it was like to see those Japanese planes dive and fire at the ship he was on.

The ceremony included the reading of the names of the sailors from the Lexington who died that day and the ringing of the memorial bell as each name was read.

VFW Post Commander Jim Hubbard recounted the activities of Joe Zikewich in support of his buddies and of the Orion Veterans Memorial.



**2017 USS Lexington Annual Reunion**  
**September 7th—10th**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Plans are underway for our annual reunion. We will meet in Minneapolis in early September. Our host hotel will be the DoubleTree by Hilton.



The hotel is located just 10 minutes from the MSP Airport and the Mall of America. The hotel offers many luxurious amenities including Onsite Restaurant/ Multiple Dining options, a Fitness Room, Hot Tub/ Whirlpool, Indoor Pool, and Complimentary Shuttle to the airport and the Mall of America. *More information about cost and reservations will be in the next issue of the Sunrise Press. Also check for updates on the website: [www.usslexingtoncv16.org](http://www.usslexingtoncv16.org)*



The Mall of America is the nations largest shopping and entertainment destination featuring over 520 Stores and 50 Restaurants, the Largest Indoor Nickelodeon Theme Park, the Sea Life Aquarium and more!

Several other attractions and tours are being planned for the reunion, including a Mississippi Riverboat Luncheon Cruise...



A Twin Cities Highlights Tour...



The St. Paul's Notorious Past (Gangster Tour)...



**More information and Registration Form for the Reunion will be in the April edition of the Sunrise Press.**

**Save the dates and plan to attend! September 7th - 10th**



**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 2018  
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.

 **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

USS Lexington CV-16 Association Sponsored

The Association Scholarship Award is a one time award to a graduating Senior in the amount of \$1000 to assist them in furthering their education at a college of their choice. It is open to any senior who is a family member (son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew, etc.) Complete this form and send it to the address shown at the bottom of the form before the deadline.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

High School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

PSAT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ (or circle) Did Not Take

ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ (or circle) Did Not Take

Attach a typed Essay of 250 words or less concerning the United States Navy of a historical nature, or more topical with respect to the current US Naval fleet.

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 31 August 2017

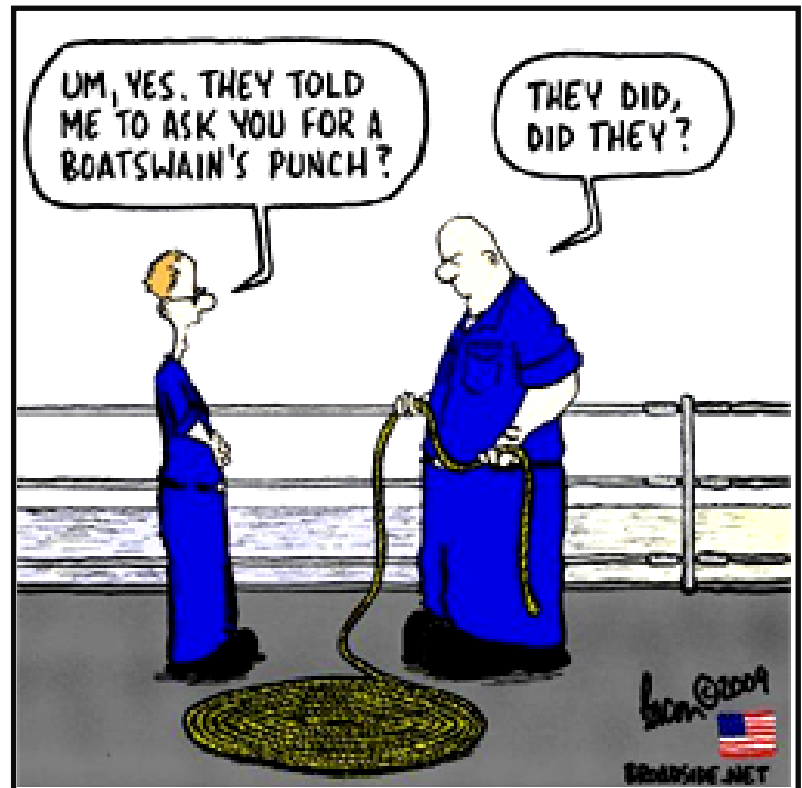


# Arlo and Janis

BY: Jimmy



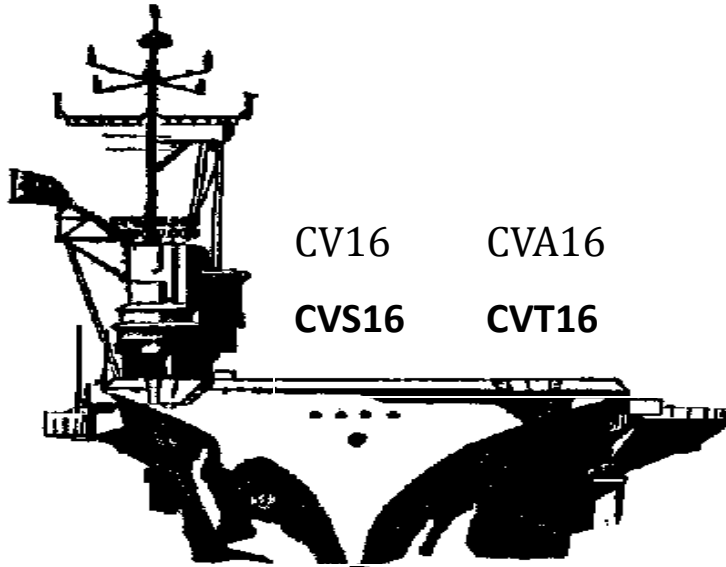
Online viewers, can't get enough of these characters? Click the Arlo and Janis logo, and it'll take you to the artists personal blog page.



Home Port of:

USS Lexington CV 16 Association







P. O. Box 16



CV16      CVA16  
CVS16    CVT16

USS LEXINGTON

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\* E-mail Version ONLY

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