



USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

JULY 2024

IT'S THE ISSUE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR

By: Greg Plante Editor, Sunrise Press

It's finally here... The issue that it seems everybody has been asking for. All of the information that you'll need to prepare for the re-union this year in Pensacola, Florida. It been more than years since being in Pensacola, It's been decades. Most of our members were stationed in Pensacola while on Lexington, and most are nostalgic to return there for a visit. Living not too far from there in the neighboring county to the west in Alabama, my wife and I get the chance to go over there quite often. Sometimes I end up on base delivering a truckload of goods to the Navy Exchange Warehouse on base. I marvel when heading out the front gate at how much it's changed, yet still holding the old charm it once had. Okay, there were some sad looking buildings just outside the gate, I know, but there was still a certain charm to the town as a whole. It's kind of fun seeing what has changed. New businesses in old buildings next to old businesses still in the same old place, Yet I still feel like I'm "home" when I'm there.

Our Shipmate, Bob DiMonte, is our host this year, and he has organized a wonderfully fun reunion for us (but then, which reunions aren't that and more?). We'll be enjoying the very nice Holiday Inn Resort on Pensacola Beach for our venue. A tour day that will include (see pages 7-10) The National Museum of

Naval Aviation. Folks, you could spend days in that place...it's AMAZING. One of my favorite places to visit. Followed by an Italian lunch buffet at the Mustin Beach Officers Club aboard NAS Pensacola. "But" as they say in the commercials, "that's not all... there's MORE." We'll be touring a little bit of

Pensacola itself on the way to our memorial service at what I honestly think is one of the finest Veteran Memorial Parks I've ever been to (and there have been quite a few). The Pensacola Veteran's Park will provide a wonderful and respectful backdrop for our memorial service.

Our banquet will be a Maui Luau themed buffet, and folks are encouraged to leave the usual coat and tie at home. So grab your best brightly decorated Hawaiian shirt if you have one. The dress code is Florida Casual, though our host says that shoes and shirts are required.

Amid all of this, of course is the hospitality room where you can swap sea stories with your fellow shipmates while nibbling on snacks and washing them down with some beer or wine. It's a highlight of most attendees memories of the week that they take home with them.

If you've never been to one of our reunions, come join us. You'll be hooked and counting down to the next one. As we meet in our former home of Pensacola, let's make this one of the best attended reunions yet. I'll see you there, shipmates!!



**Sunrise Press - Triannual Publication
USS LEXINGTON ASSOCIATION**

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USS LEXINGTON CV 16 ASSOCIATION

Executive Officers:

President: Christopher Hagger
Vice President: Alfrieda Denson
Treasurer: Eric Friedli
Secretary: Greg Plante

Appointed Positions

Chaplain: Christopher Hagger
Sunrise Press Editor, Webmaster, and
Data Base Tech: Greg Plante
Historian: (open)

WEBSITE: www.usslexingtoncv16.org



Office of the Treasurer

Treasurer: Eric Friedli

Membership Dues: \$25/year
Due by Dec. 31st.
Make checks payable to:
USS Lexington Association

Send Dues to Eric or Pay Online

MAIL to: Eric Friedli

12734 19th Ave NE Seattle, WA98125

PAY ONLINE: website: usslexingtoncv16.org

CLICK: "Dues and Donation"



A Note from the Editor:

Have you read an interesting article or story recently? Or maybe have some memorabilia from your time on the LEX? Share it with your shipmates! Just send them to me and I'll put them in the Sunrise Press, space permitting, including a byline to credit you with the submission.

My postal address is:

23428 College Ave. Robertsdale, AL 36567

For electronic submissions, email me at:

editor@usslexingtoncv16.org

Greg Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press

Sunrise Press - EMAIL Version:

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

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

www.usslexingtoncv16.org

**2024 Reunion
USS Lexington Association**

Pensacola FL

Ross R Terry, Capt USN Ret

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/pensacola-fl/capt-ross-terry-11785588>

Carl Ray Michel

<https://www.stodghillfuneralhome.com/obituary/Carl-Michel>

Darrel Flynn

<https://www.sunrisefuneralhomeandcemetery.com/obituary/DarrellButch-Flynn>

Gerald Reeg

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/siouxcityjournal/name/gerald-reeg-obituary?id=36218560>

F. O'Connor (served 1943-1945)

Roland Hoffer (on board 1957-1960)



Help us keep our "TAPS" records up to date...

We need your help. Our only way of knowing our members have passed, is if someone tells us. We ask that you please notify us of any members who are no longer with us so we can update our records and honor our deceased shipmates in the Sunrise Press.

Email notifications to: editor@usslexingtoncv16.org

Snail Mail to: Greg Plante, 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, AL 36567

 **WELCOME ABOARD: NEW MEMBERS**

Steven Farris
Liberty, MO

Raymond Algje
Pensacola, FL

Daniel Watkins
Abbottstown, PA

William Fields
Columbia, TN

Gerald Seely
Gulf Breeze, FL

David Ashton
Pensacola, FL

David Paules
Northampton, PA

Hugh Headrick
Foley, AL

Thomas Young
Center, TX

Carol Lynch
Pensacola, FL

Richard "Rick" Thompson
Warren, OH

USS Lexington CV16 Association: MEMBERSHIP

The Association welcomes all shipmates, navy, marines, Ships Company, air group personnel who served at some time on a USS Lexington CV 16 (all her designations) or on the USS Lexington CV 2.

Dues are \$25/year, and due at the end of each year. Dues can be paid online at: www.usslexingtoncv16.org

Dues paid by mail: **Make checks payable to :USS Lexington Association**

Send your dues to: Eric Friedli, 12734 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 981125



Well, my brothers and sisters of the USS Lexington Association. The time is at hand and we are in the final turn getting closer to our reunion. We are so looking forward to seeing each of you and continuing to ensure that this association continues to touch lives through memories and sharing. We have lost some shipmates since our last reunion, so again let us continue to reach out to those who served aboard this wonderful ship. I hope we have made our reservations to attend, remembering that reservations have to be booked by August 25th.

Those who are attending please be careful as you travel, let's have a great time together...

Looking forward to seeing you....

Shared from a letter from Alice Reeg, Wife of Gerald Reeg



I am sorry to announce that Gerald (Jerry) Reeg passed away on August 12, 2022. The Navy was a proud military accomplishment for Jerry - this farm kid from Wayne, Nebraska. Every Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and other days, his

American flag flew in front of our house. He was 17 years old in 1956 when his father had to sign for him to join the Navy.

He had a great time in Corpus Christi on the Lexington as he brought his family in June of 2009 to show what his life was like on board this big ship.

Jerry has a complete history of his years in the Navy; all of his ports of call, and one conflict he talked about when China tried to take over Taiwan and Lexington went to the Formosa Straits for 40 days, until China finally left.

Jerry worked as a truck driver for 34 years and a proud Teamster and union steward. He could have signed up again for further Navy service, but he wanted home... marriage and family. We have 4 daughters; two teachers, a nurse, and a pharmacist. He always wanted a good education for his daughters, and there were always rules for his girls, too.

Did the Navy help make Jerry the man he was? YOU BET. He learned to "get along" and lead to "get it done." He was awarded the "Two Million Miles of Safe Driving" award.

I know this is a long letter, but I and my girls are so proud of this Navy man, husband, father, grand father, and great grand father. The Navy or any branch of the military helps many young men and women in starting their life. Keep up your dedication to your members who are retired.

So proud,
Alice Reeg

DUES NOTICE!! At the 2023 reunion in Corpus Christi, The members voted in an increase in dues to \$25/year

Pensacola Beach, Florida

Save the Dates!!!

September 30th - October 3rd 2024

At the Holiday Inn Resort, Pensacola Beach

14 Via De Luna Drive, Pensacola Beach, Florida 32561

Room Reservations can be made by calling 850-932-5331 and using group code LEX.

Or online @ <https://www.holidayinnresorts.com/redirect?>

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USS LEXINGTON CV16 ANNUAL REUNION, Pensacola Beach, FL

ITINERARY

September 30th – Monday: Hotel Check-inWelcome!

1200 Hospitality Room opens, (2nd Deck) Registration Begins -

1745 Hospitality Suite Closes

1800 Opening Reception: (2nd Deck) Greetings and opening remarks from the Association President.

Heavy Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar -

October 1st – Tuesday: Tour, Lunch, Memorial Service

0830 Meet in Hotel Lobby for tour

0845 Bus departs for Tour, Lunch, Memorial Service

1200 Luncheon at Mustin Beach Officers Club (Italian themed buffet)

TBA Memorial Service at Pensacola Veterans Park

TBA Return to Hotel, Hospitality Room opens

October 2nd– Wednesday: Business Meeting and Banquet

1000 Business Meeting (2nd Deck)

TBD Hospitality Room opens

1800 Cocktail Hour

1845 Group picture

1900 Banquet, (Invocation and Presentation of Colors, Music, Karaoke, and Dancing)

October 3rd – Thursday: Check-out

Have a safe trip home! - See you in Bremerton Washington - 2025

For your information:

The Hospitality Room is open during specific times throughout each day (see Itinerary for times) , This is a great place to gather with your fellow shipmates, reminisce with old friends, meet new friends, and just enjoy some time to relax.

Snacks and Drinks are provided

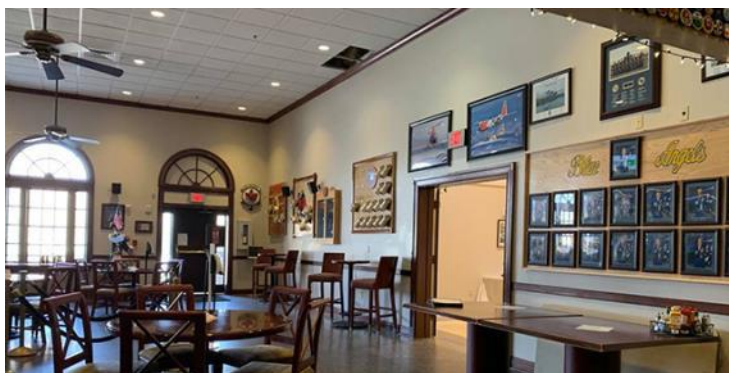
2024 Reunion Tour ~ Pensacola, Florida

NAS PENSACOLA ~ National Naval Aviation Museum



2024 Reunion Tour ~ Pensacola, Florida

Lunch at Mustin Beach Officers Club, NAS Pensacola



2024 Reunion Tour ~ Pensacola, Florida

Memorial Service at the Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park



Korean War Memorial

CAPT Robert Rasmussen, USN (Ret.) & Randy New, 2007

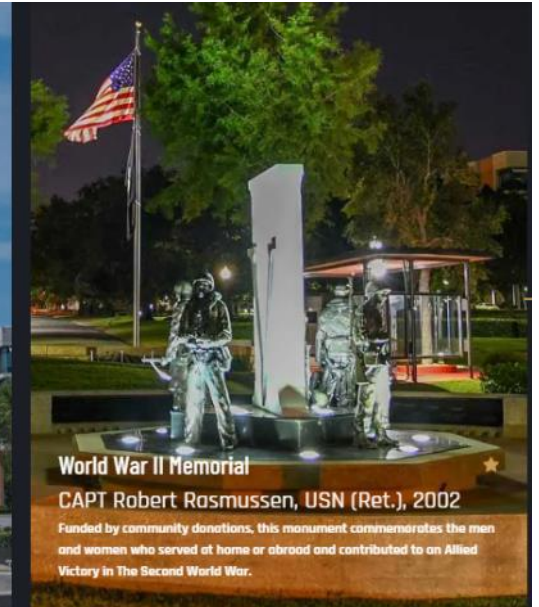
Funded by Veterans of The Korean War and community donors, the Korean War Memorial depicts both the military and humanitarian aspects of the "Forgotten War."



Marine Aviation Memorial Bell Tower

The Verdin Company, 2012

Made possible through the help of donors across the nation, The Marine Aviation Memorial Tower pays tribute to the Marines who serve with or in support of the Marine Corps aviation elements.



World War II Memorial

CAPT Robert Rasmussen, USN (Ret.), 2002

Funded by community donations, this monument commemorates the men and women who served at home or abroad and contributed to an Allied Victory in The Second World War.



Purple Heart Memorial

Michael Boyett

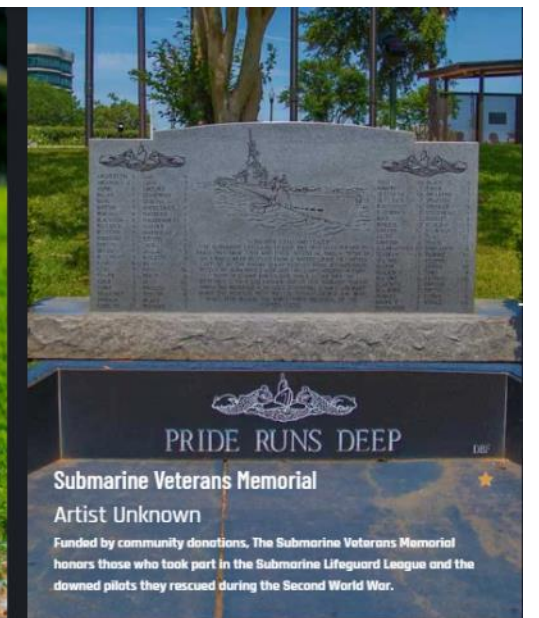
Funded by Marcus J. Michles II in gratitude to his father and all other recipients of The Nation's oldest military decoration.



The Monument to Children

Randy New 2000

This monument acknowledges the hardship and sacrifice of children and families of American Warfighters and was funded by the Children of America's Twentieth Century Heroes.



Submarine Veterans Memorial

Artist Unknown

Funded by community donations, The Submarine Veterans Memorial honors those who took part in the Submarine Lifeguard League and the downed pilots they rescued during the Second World War.



Gold Star Families Memorial Monument

Woody Williams & Kenton Blackwood, 2019

Funded by the Wingman Foundation and community donors, The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument was constructed in tribute to the families who've lost a loved one in the defense of Democracy.



World War I Memorial

Artist Unknown, 1922

Originally installed on Garden Street in downtown Pensacola, this marble memorial was relocated after the establishment of The Veterans Memorial Park of Pensacola.

2024 Reunion Tour ~ Pensacola, Florida



REGISTRATION FORM

2024 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION, PENSACOLA BEACH, FL

Please Note: This form does not include your hotel reservation. Hotel reservations must be done separately by you.

HOTEL INFORMATION - Holiday Inn Resort, Pensacola Beach, FL

Room Reservations can be made by calling 850-932-5331 and using group code LEX.

Or online @ [https://www.holidayinnresorts.com/redirect?](https://www.holidayinnresorts.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=RS&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=PNSPB&PMID=99801505&GPC=LEX&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)

[path=hd&brandCode=RS&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=PNSPB&PMID=99801505&GPC=LEX&cn=no&viewfullsite=true](https://www.holidayinnresorts.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=RS&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=PNSPB&PMID=99801505&GPC=LEX&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)

Group Rate for Rooms: \$159 per Night Reservations must be Booked by August 25, 2024

The Registration Form is also available on our website, with the ability to pay using your Debit or Credit Card.
www.ussexingtoncv16.org

NAME _____ SPOUSE/GUEST _____

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

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DATES ON BOARD _____ DIVISION _____

Register me for the following:

Reunion Registration Fee (not optional).....Number of attendees _____ x \$30 each = \$ _____

Tuesday, October 1st

Tour/Lunch/Memorial Service..... Number of attendees _____ x \$70 each = \$ _____

Lunch at Mustin Beach Officers Club aboard NAS Pensacola will be an Italian themed buffet.

Wednesday, October 2nd

Farewell Banquet (Maui Luau Buffet).....Number of attendees _____ x \$70 each = \$ _____

- Mixed green salad with assorted toppings and dressings
- Roasted Pork Loin
- Mahi with Tropical Mango Chutney
- Chicken Curry
- Vegetable Medley
- Coconut Rice Pilaf
- Sweet Potatoes
- assorted dinner rolls/butter
- Key Lime pie
- Fresh brewed coffee and hot/iced tea.

TOTAL: \$ _____

Normally Coat and Tie, Banquet dress will be Florida Casual to fit with the Luau theme. Shirt and shoes, however, is required, so let's break out our bright, colorful Hawaiian shirts!

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

MAIL to: Eric Friedli 12734 19th Ave NE Seattle, WA98125

Cut-off Date: September 1st, 2024

"A dear friend of mine who was quite a lover of the chase told me the following story: 'Rising early one morning,' he said, 'I heard the baying of a score of deerhounds in pursuit of their quarry. Looking away to a broad, open field in front of me, I saw a young fawn making its way across, and giving signs, moreover, that its race was well-nigh run. Reaching the rails of the enclosure, it leaped over and crouched within ten feet from where I stood. A moment later two of the hounds came over when the fawn ran in my direction and pushed its head between my legs. I lifted the little thing to my breast, and, swinging round and round, fought off the dogs. I felt, just then, that all the dogs in the West could not, and should not capture that fawn after its weakness had appealed to my strength.' So is it, when human helplessness appeals to Almighty God. Well, do I remember when the hounds of sin were after my soul, until, at last, I ran into the arms of Almighty God."

—A. C. DIXON.

When we embark on the study of the principles and procedures of prayer, first place, must, of necessity, be given to faith.

Faith projects our prayer onto God –

As much as I enjoy being the President of the USS Lexington Association, my calling is to be a Minister of the gospel. Being a minister of the gospel, I often speak with some of my church members and others that I work with daily. The question that always seems to meet me in the early morning hours is "Why God sometimes does not answer my prayer."

I have shared many times on this subject and it never gets old or out of date. There is a principle we should adhere to when approaching the "Throne of Grace," to receive an answer from God. I shared with the church I remember going to my dad when I was growing up and asking him a question, my dad always answered me even if he was tired from working all day or if I woke him from sleeping, he found the strength and the time to answer me. Our God will always answer us if we apply the principles of prayer when we approach the Throne.

First, when we pray there always seems to be a delay. Delay is often the test of the strength of our faith. How much patience is required when these times of testing come? Yet, faith gathers strength by waiting and praying. So, when God (our Father) directs us through his Spirit to stand still, let us stand still and allow patience to work in us. Because, as we are waiting God (our Father) is doing something in us. He is preparing us to receive the answer He so wants us to have and receive. Remember God (our Father) is a Spirit and those that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and truth.

I am reminded of Jacob and how he prayed pointedly and with ardor, to be delivered from Esau. But before that prayer could be answered, there was much to be done with, and for Jacob. He must be changed, as well as Esau. Jacob had to be changed into a new man before Esau could be. Jacob had to be converted into the image of God before Esau could be changed into the image of Jacob.

Stand still my brothers and sisters, God (our Father) does hear your prayer.

Be Blessed

Chaplain Christopher Hagger ThM

Chaplain Hagger pastors Olive Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas .

He also overseas the operation at All People Hospice and Healthcare.

Contact: Address: 4745 N. Sierra Ave, Odessa, TX 79764 — Phone: 432-258-7751 / FAX: 432-381-5272 / Cell: 832-312-0892

Chaplain Hagger can be reached anytime.....no matter what the time.

Submitted by shipmate Dennis Boydston

Lost Warrior

If it is okay with you, I might take a short nostalgic trip back in time to an era of CVA's. It was 1959 and Big 16 boat was cruising in Westpac. (Note: salty old tars are excused for using the term "boat" whereas boots, laymen, and airdales are relegated to using the word ship. Also, nobody ever said deploy... it was always "cruise.")

Some of you AVT'ers might not be familiar with the deep water navy, so I'll acquaint you with some old time reality.

There was in the days of CVA16 such a plane as an A3D Sky Warrior. Along with being the largest carrier-based aircraft at the time, it was unequivocally the prettiest bird in the air. If you saw it in flight it might bring to mind a graceful swan or a majestic condor.

A squadron of three was attached to Lady Lex on each far east cruise. They are twin engine bombers with 21,000 pounds of thrust and listed as 600 mph on the top end. However, keep in mind, it's not likely they were ever designed for any kind of aerobatics.

One bright leisurely day, many of the crew were topside enjoying the sun while the sky warriors were off on a mission. Everything was tranquil including the sea, the wind, and everyone's disposition. There was the obligatory stench of spent fuel oil from the stack, but not enough to spoil the mood.

With no warning, from out of a literally clear blue sky, the birds appeared from aft. Flying low, they headed diagonally port to starboard right over the ship. Single file, they each consecutively executed a barrel roll. All of us witnesses stood in jaw-dropping awe. You can imagine a byword: "Did you see that?" The experience may have been the definition of "forever etched in memory." One could suspect, however, the air boss may not have been so thrilled.

At that time, yours truly was attached to E Division in the lighting shop. One duty of such an electrician was standing watches, along with signalmen, on searchlights during night air operations. It was always windy up on the 07 level,

especially while turned into the wind. We would take the canvas covers off the searchlights and crawl inside to block the wind. With sound powered headsets, we could pick up aviation bridge activity where our orders originated.

One busy night, in recovery mode, the sea was relatively calm and everything seemed normal. One ill-fated A3D caught the hook and somehow skidded to port. It slipped far enough for the port landing gear to drop over the deck edge. It leaned at a scary, sharp angle.

The order came to light off the port searchlight. It was the first time I was ever pressed to spring into urgent action. I jumped up and threw the power switch and checked the inspection window all in about 5 seconds. The mechanism was running properly, so the signalman took over. He opened the shutter and suddenly it was like daylight. The light trained on the teetering plane while there was much ado on deck.

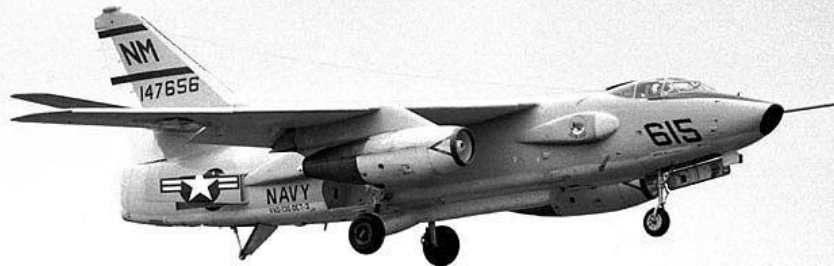
The ship took a slight, slow roll to starboard, and a similar roll to port, it was just enough for the big bird to slip further sideways. It fell over and momentarily disappeared from view. Half a barrel roll later, it appeared in the light, flat on its back in the briney.

One could feel the main engines shut down as we floated away from the plane. Finally stopping adrift, probably most of half a mile away, we never lost sight of the plane in the intense light. Within a few minutes, the plane's belly hatch opened and a collective sigh of relief came over all, as the three crew members emerged onto the belly of the inverted plane.

Our plane guard Destroyer Escort quickly launched a whale boat which expertly collected the crew. They seemed unscathed, but we might expect they were a little traumatized.

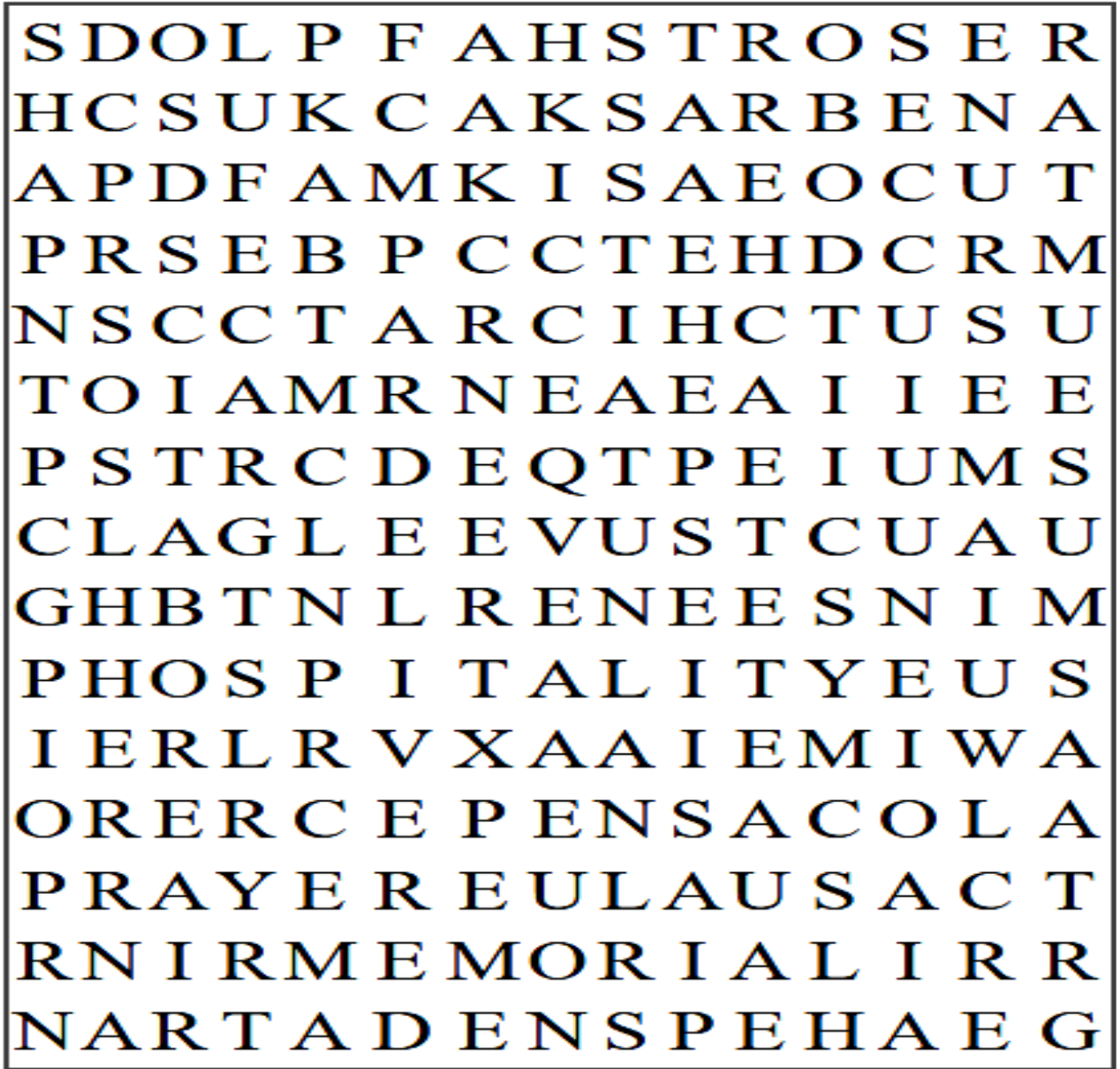
Shortly, The D.E. began firing 3 inch shells. Boom!... Boom! We got underway, and for at least 15 minutes it was Boom!...Boom! They may have been continuing firing, but we could have been out of earshot. I wondered if the gunners needed to go back to Artillery 101.

So, it was a happy ending although, sadly, there was the loss of a multi-million dollar, beautiful, graceful bird.



 **DIVERSIONS.....**

This word search puzzle is made of words found throughout this issue of the Sunrise Press. Hopefully you'll recognize every one of them as having already read them. 😊



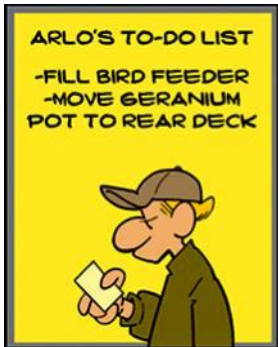
Aerobatics
Delivered
Faith
Hospitality
Maui
Mustin
Pensacola
Resort

Banquet
Dues
Grace
Inverted
Memorial
Nebraska
Pharmacist
Teacher

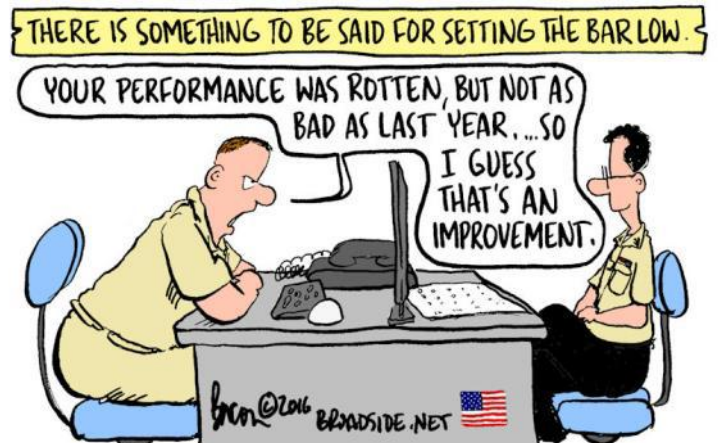
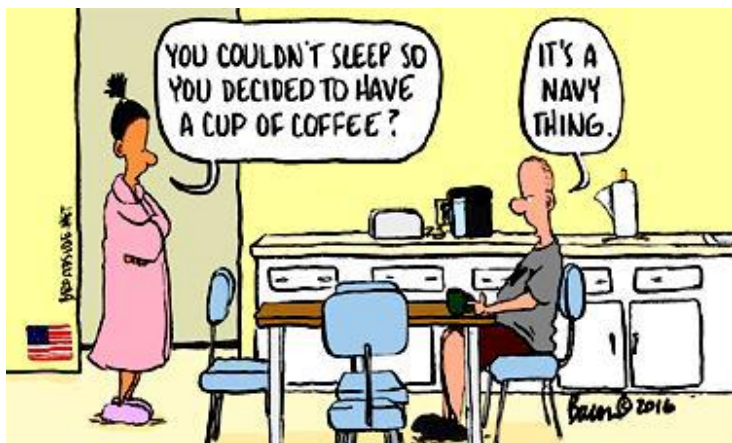
Casual
Escort
Graceful
Lexington
Museum
Nurse
Prayer
Westpac



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.

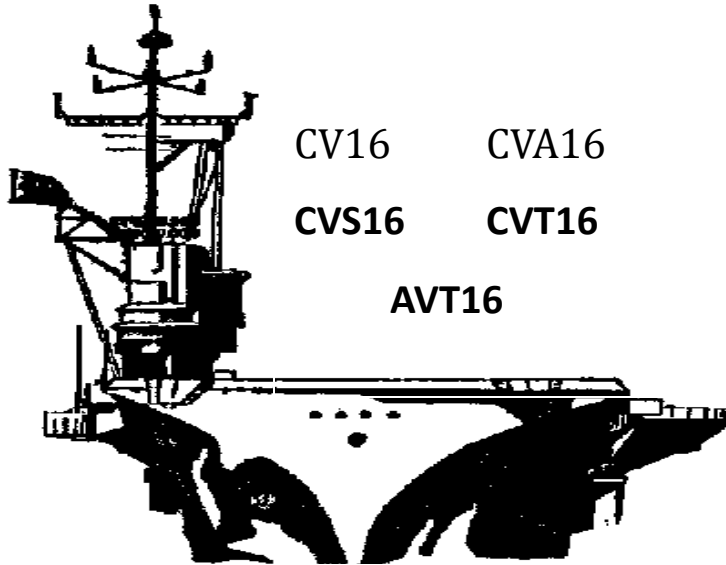


Home Port of:

USS Lexington CV 16 Association

23428 College Ave

Robertsdale, AL 36567










CV16 CVA16

CVS16 CVT16

AVT16

USS LEXINGTON

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