



## USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

**MARCH 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 were 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**

- Front Page: Pensacola Beach Reunion Outlook
- Pg 2: In this Issue; Notes & Information
- Pg 3: TAPS and new Members
- Pg 4: The Presidents Message
- Pg 5: Pensacola Beach 2024 Reunion Venue
- Pg 6: 2024 Reunion Itinerary
- Pg 7: 2024 Reunion Tour info for NAS Pensacola
- Pg 8: 2024 Reunion Tour info for NAS Pensacola
- Pg 9: 2024 Reunion tour info for Memorial Service
- Pg 10: Area site of interest in Pensacola
- Pg 11: Registration for 2024 Reunion
- Pg 12: Chaplains Corner
- Pg 13: Scholarship Info
- Pg 14 Diversions
- Pg 15: Just for the Fun of It



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

**2024 Reunion**  
**USS Lexington Association**

**Pensacola FL**

**Dewey Smith**

<https://www.nhowensfuneralhome.com/obituary/dewey-smith>

**George R Fox**

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/capt-raymond-fox-usn-ret-obituary?pid=205717435>

**Charles F Manns, JR**

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/insidenova/name/charles-manns-obituary?id=34854379>

**Benjamin Ganis**

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/pensacolanewsjournal/name/benjamin-ganis-obituary?id=16187678>

**Carl Ray Michel**

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

**Gerald Reeg**

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

**John Cuellar**

<https://www.treshewell.com/obituary/john-cuellar>



**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](mailto:editor@usslexingtoncv16.org)

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



**WELCOME ABOARD: NEW MEMBERS**

---

Carmen McDonough  
San Diego, CA

Gerald Robinson  
Pensacola, FL

**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](http://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**



My fellow brothers and sisters of the U.S.S. Lexington Association. As we look forward to our reunion in September/October timeframe I am truly excited to see everyone again. Included in this issue is the itinerary for upcoming tours, food choices, and registration fees. Mr. DiMonte has graciously ensured that costs are kept at a minimum and that we are not staying as many days as before. This certainly allows us to have a great time and not incur unnecessary spending. We are certainly grateful for all that Mr. Eric Friedli is doing for the Association by managing the finances. We are truly a blessed association.

With that being said I hope each of you will be able to attend, after all this is where Lady Lex was docked for so many years. Pensacola has so much to offer, and it is still a nice place to visit. We have several shipmates that reside in Pensacola, so we look forward to seeing them. So let us reach out to those shipmates and see if we can persuade them to participate, remember we want to grow as much as possible.

Please start putting back a little each month as we prepare for our momentous reunion, I look forward to seeing each of you.

Fraternally yours

Christopher Hagger

President, USS Lexington Association

**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?>

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



# USS LEXINGTON CV16 ANNUAL REUNION, Pensacola Beach, FL

## ITINERARY

### September 30th – Monday: Hotel Check-in ....Welcome!

**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 - 2024

#### *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



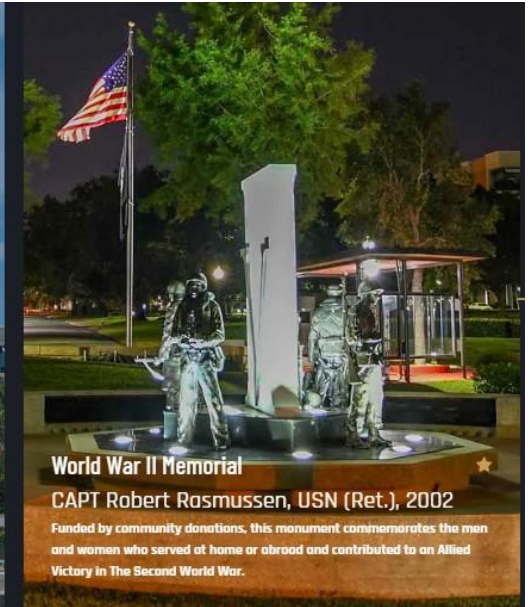
**Korean War Memorial**  
 CAPT Robert Rasmussen, USN (Ret.)  
 & Randy New, 2007

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.



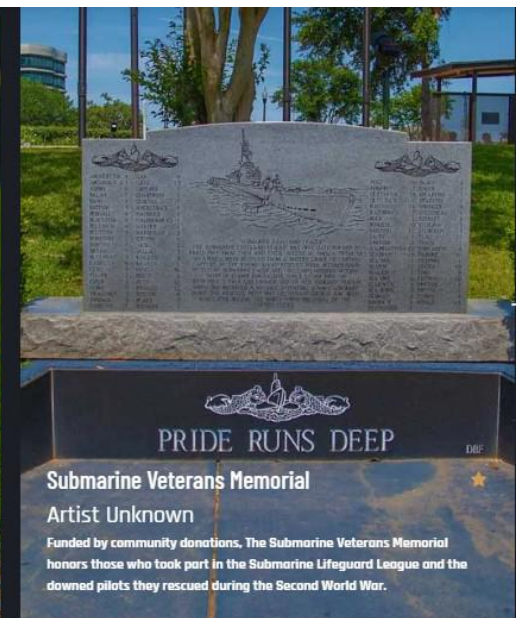
**Purple Heart Memorial**  
 Michael Boyett

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



 **2024 Reunion: September 30th - October 3rd**

**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&regionCode=1&hotelCode=PNSPB&PMID=99801505&GPC=LEX&cn=no&viewfullsite=true)

[path=hd&brandCode=RS&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=PNSPB&PMID=99801505&GPC=LEX&cn=no&viewfullsite=true](https://www.holidayinnresorts.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=RS&localeCode=en&regionCode=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, 2023

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

[www.ussexingtoncv16.org](http://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**

Chaplains Corner –

At Mount Olive Baptist Church where I Pastor, I have been faced with several well-meaning individuals who feel some sort of way because of a decision they made some years ago. These decisions to some are affecting them now. So, each morning when they awake or at night before they go to sleep, they look over their life and pick themselves apart.

Picking oneself apart is not a healthy way to live spiritually. God did not intend for us to live in a state of mind of regret. He wants us to be free of those mistakes we made in the past, pick up and move on. Moving on means walking in the footprints God has already made for your life.

**In the book of Philippians 3:31-14 verse, it reads as such: Brethren or Sisters, the bible is gender friendly. I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

We have to remember, that the decisions that were made in our yesteryears were made based on the information that we had at the time. If we had more information or had a different view through a different set of glasses, we would have made a different decision. So, Paul is saying yes, we have all made a few boo-boos or hiccups in our lives. Be of good cheer, we are going to forget the past, tie our boondockers real tight, and start moving into our promises of tomorrow. We are going to stop pulling our tomorrows apart expecting to change yesterday. Your promises await you, God said He would never leave nor forsake you.

God Bless my dear shipmates



Chaplain Hagger pastors Olive Baptist Church in Odessa, Texas .

He also oversees 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.*



## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

### **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, funds permitting, 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 seniors or college/technical school underclassmen who are family members (son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece, nephew, etc.) of a USS Lexington Association member.

### **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION:**

Applicants can submit an application for our scholarships online.

Go to our WEB site, [usslexingtoncv16.org](http://usslexingtoncv16.org) and press the "Scholarship Program" button on the first page of the WEB site. This link will take the applicant to a page describing the program, eligibility and a form to complete and email to our scholarship program review committee.

The USS Lexington CV 16 Association is proud to make these scholarships available to relatives of the Association. Good luck to all who apply.

### **ESSAY REQUIREMENT:**

In the space provided on the application write an 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 you wish to share with the award committee.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 1ST, 2024**

**It is our desire as an Association to support continuing education for our high school seniors, college underclassmen and technical school attendees. Additionally if returning veterans meeting the family criteria continues their education we want to support those efforts as well.**



## SHIPMATES LOOKING FOR...

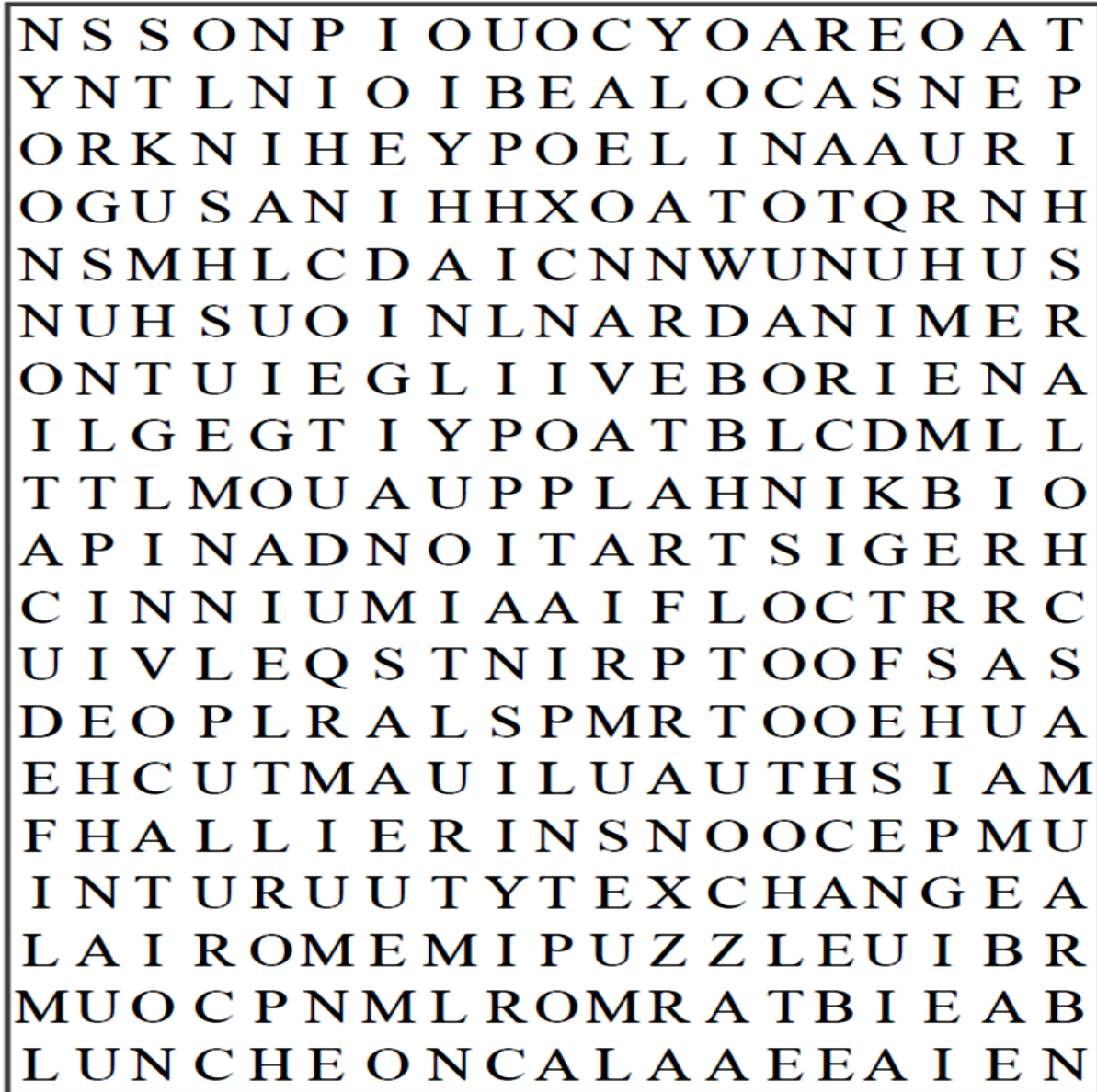
**Looking for an old shipmate? Looking for a cruise book from a particular cruise? Maybe filling in the gaps of memory while writing some memoirs? Let us know what you're looking for and we will include it in the newsletter.**

To place a notice in the "Looking For" section of the newsletter, go to the website and click on "Contact CV 16" and fill out the form. Or send an email to [editor@usslexingtoncv16.org](mailto:editor@usslexingtoncv16.org)

Written submissions can be sent to: Greg Plante, 23428 College Ave, Robertsdale, Alabama 36567

 **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. 😊



- |             |             |                  |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| APPLICANTS  | FRATERNALLY | MEMORIAL         |
| AWARD       | HOLIDAY INN | MUSTIN BEACH     |
| BANQUET     | INVOCATION  | NAVAL AIR MUSEUM |
| BEACH       | ITINERARY   | PENSACOLA        |
| BOONDOCKERS | LEXINGTON   | PHILIPPIANS      |
| EDUCATION   | LUNCHEON    | PUZZLE           |
| EXCHANGE    | MAUI LUAU   | REGISTRATION     |
| FOOTPRINTS  | MEMBERSHIP  | SCHOLARSHIP      |



**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.

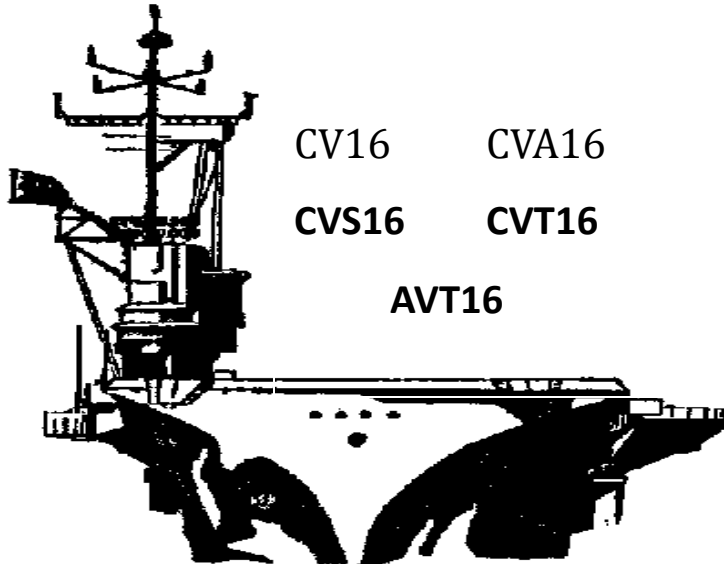


Home Port of:

USS Lexington CV 16 Association

23428 College Ave

Robertsdale, AL 36567










CV16      CVA16

CVS16    CVT16

AVT16

USS LEXINGTON

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

-  Front Pg Editors Message: PENSACOLA REUNION
-  TAPS & New Members : pg.3
-  Presidents Message: pg.4
-  2024 reunion information Pgs 5-11
-  Chaplain's Corner: pg. 12
-  Scholarship Information: pg. 13
-  Just for the Fun of It: pg. 15

