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# The Sunrise Press

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USS LEXINGTON CV16

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

**MARCH 2026**

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From Greg Plante, Editor

This is the group photo from a previous reunion aboard USS Lexington in 2019. Folks, our next one is coming up soon (Sept 28-30th, 2026), and I hope you don't wait too long to register. It is one that is usually quite well attended, and we'd sure hate to see someone miss out because there were no more rooms left (see the hotel info on [page 6](#) to reserve a room) It would do my heart good to have a turnout that would make this group photo look small.

Our ship is 83 years old now, and we'll be having our memorial service in her hangar bay as we remember some of our shipmates that have gone to their final muster, and enjoy a catered luncheon, with an address from the director of the Lexington Museum, Captain Steve Banta.

Visiting in the hospitality room, and renewing friendships while also making new ones, and culminating in a wonderful banquet, musical entertainment, dancing, and all around merriment (let's not forget our always popular raffle), it really is shaping up to be a reunion to remember. We even going to introduce a contest for the best dressed cowboy and cowgirl at the banquet. Bob says his only request is to leave your six shooters at home. LOL

If you've registered, great! If you aren't a member of our Association yet, register anyway, you'll likely make enough fast friends there that you'll want to join. We hope to see you there.

Greg Plante, Editor

**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: Charles Alchimowicz

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



**Office of the Treasurer**

**Treasurer: Eric Friedli**

Membership Dues: \$20/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

print them in the Sunrise Press including a by-line 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)

**2026 Reunion  
USS Lexington Association  
September 28th - 30th**

**Corpus Christi**

## **THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND YOU**

Since you were discharged, have you needed to ask a question about your veterans benefits, only to be given the run a round?

The new and improved VA has one of the best health care and benefits programs in the Federal Government.

I have listed the most important numbers for you to inquire about any questions, all you need is your DD-214.

### **VA RESOURCES**

**For any questions or requests: 1-800-698-2411 is always the right number**

**Vet Centers 1-877-927-8387**

**Homeless Veteran Resources 1-877-424-3838**

**Schedule a 1 On 1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert and to find a VA facility near you.**

**Remember 1-800-698-2411 is always the right number.... Hope this helps you find the answers to your questions.**

**STAY TUNED FOR MORE VA INFORMATION IN THE FUTURE**

**Charles Nichols**

1942-2025

BMC USN Ret

**DR. Robert Boyett**

1940-2026



**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**

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**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 \$20/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**



## Presidents Corner

Greetings, my fellow shipmates, in this month of February, we are quickly approaching our reunion in September of this year. As you and I look forward to seeing each other again to fellowship and catch up, we are still preparing to ensure that our reunion starts off smoothly, so we can embrace the moment.

We have secured our accommodation (thank you, Bob) for your help in this matter, and we have secured our entertainment (thank you, Dale).

Regarding our Memorial Service, if anyone has information on any shipmate we have lost in the last couple of years, please email me their information so we can compile a list for recognition during the memorial service.

Our Itinerary will be as follows:

### **September 28th – Monday:** Hotel check-in

1200 Hospitality Room Opens, Registration Begins

1800 Meet and Greet in Hospitality Room

### **September 29th – Tuesday:** Lunch and Memorial Service

The Memorial Service and Luncheon will be held aboard USS Lexington.

Captain Steve Banta will be our guest speaker.

1115 Remarks from Captain Steve Banta and our Association President

1130 Memorial Service. Please be in your seats.

1200 Lunch Served

After lunch, you are free to take advantage of wandering about the ship, and while remembering when. This is your time to see the ship, wander around the town, or just hang loose.

### **September 30th – Wednesday:**

1000 Business Meeting

1800 Cocktail Hour in Hospitality Room

1845 Gather for Group Pictures

1900 Invocation and Presentation of Colors

Opening Remarks by Association President

Dinner and Entertainment – Cash Bar

Normally, dinner is coat-and-tie, but this year we are asking folks to consider an alternative: Cowboy Chic.

There will be a contest for best-dressed cowboys and cowgirls. IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU LEAVE THE OL' SHOOTIN' IRONS BEHIND. LOL

### **September 29th – Friday:** Check Out

Have a safe trip home! – See you in 2027

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 ones, and just relax. Snakes and Drinks are provided.

Fraternally yours, Chris Hagger

# Let's Get Together in Corpus Christi Home of the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay

**The Omni Hotel will be the venue for our 2026 Reunion.**

(361) 882-1600

Located in the downtown Marina District, the hotel offers luxurious guestrooms with spectacular views of the Corpus Christi Bay.



**HOTEL INFORMATION: OMNI, CORPUS CHRISTI**

**Weblink for Booking Reservations at our Discounted Group Rate:**

<https://www.reservationdesk.com/hotel/6037601/omni-corpus-christi-hotel-corpus-christi-texas/>

**Group Rate for Rooms: \$149 per Night**

**Reservations must be Booked by August 29, 2026**

**Rate includes Breakfast**

**Rate is also good 3 days prior to and after reunion**



**LOCATION: 2914 North Shoreline Boulevard**

**LATITUDE: 27.815073**

**LONGITUDE: 97.388703**

**Attractions:**

**Escape Rooms**

**The Flight Deck**

**3D MEGA Theater**

**Pearl Harbor Exhibit**



<https://usslexington.com/attractions/pearl-harbor-exhibit/>

# Area Attraction ..... Things to Do and See



The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is a nonprofit, 180-acre botanical garden and nature center located at 8545 South Staples, Corpus Christi, Texas. It is open daily. Major exhibits include an arid garden; Exhibit House with bromeliads, cycads, cacti, and succulents; hibiscus garden; hummingbird garden; landscape demonstration beds; orchid house with more than 3000 orchids; a major collection of more than 100 plumeria varieties; contemporary rose garden with a large pavilion; sensory garden; and water garden. The site also contains a mesquite nature trail through 30 acres of brush. It features some 35 species of woody trees and shrubs, herbs, grasses, and cacti, as well as white-tailed deer, collared peccaries, and coyotes.



The Texas State Aquarium is a nonprofit aquarium located in Corpus Christi, Texas. It is dedicated to promoting environmental conservation and rehabilitation of the wildlife of the Gulf of Mexico. It has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since 1995. It is the largest aquarium in Texas and one of the largest aquariums in the United States.



Art Museum of South Texas

The Art Museum of South Texas is celebrating 50 years on the Corpus Christi Bay. The original complex, designed by world-renowned architect Philip Johnson, opened to the public in October of 1972. To honor our past, celebrate our present, and plan for our future, we have created an exciting selection of exhibitions and educational programs. We are honored to serve as THE fine arts institution for the Coast Bend region. Welcoming over 100,00 visitors annually, we strive to provide a unique selection of cultural offerings for our guests.

## HERITAGE PARK

Heritage Park is Corpus Christi's historic park which hosts and supports many art and cultural activities, as well as a variety of community events throughout the year. Come and step back in time at this historic cultural center where several Victorian-style homes now stand.

**Address:** 1581 N. Chaparral Street

There are twelve historical Corpus Christi homes located in Heritage Park. Many of these are recorded Texas Historical Landmarks, the oldest one dating back to 1851. Each home pays tribute to the area's ethnic and cultural diversity. If you are interested in learning more about the history of Corpus Christi, visiting Heritage Park is an excellent place to begin your history lesson.

## Corpus Christi Shopping

Walk through a shark's mouth to find a souvenir, or shop designers at the Outlet Stores. Or maybe a stroll through the Antiques Shops..... You'll find lots to do in the area.

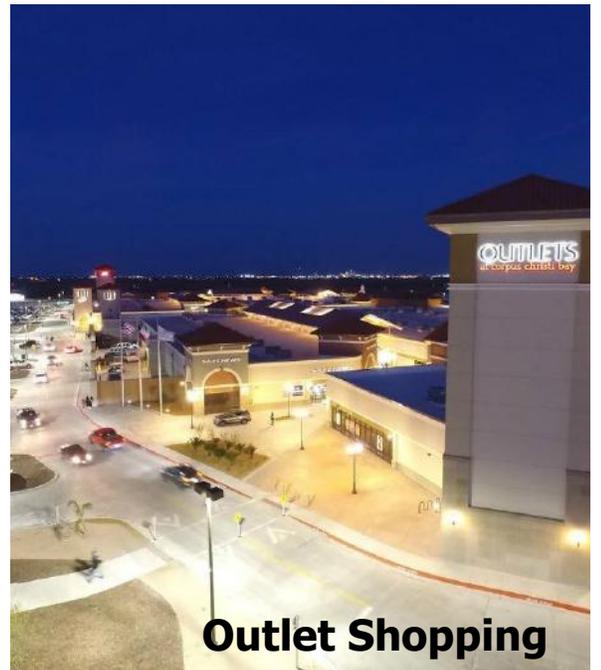
# Shopping



Souvenirs & Gifts



Antique Shops



Outlet Shopping

## USS LEXINGTON CV16 ANNUAL REUNION, Corpus Christi

### ITINERARY

#### **September 28th – Monday: Hotel Check-in ....Welcome!**

**1200** Hospitality Room opens, Registration Begins -

**1800** a Meet and Greet in the hospitality room to kick off the events

#### **September 29th – Tuesday: Lunch, and Memorial Service**

*The memorial service and Luncheon will be held aboard USS Lexington.*

*Captain Steve Banta will be our Guest Speaker.*

**1115** Remarks from Captain Steve Banta and our Association President, Chris Hagger

**1130** Memorial service. (please be in your seats)

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**1000** Business Meeting

**1130** Hospitality Room opens for visiting

**1800** Cocktail Hour in the Hospitality Room

**1845** Gather for Group Pictures under our banner

**1900** Invocation and Presentation of the Colors

Opening Remarks by Association President

Dinner and Entertainment - Cash Bar

Normally, dinner is coat and tie, but this year we are asking for folks to consider an alternative: Cowboy Chic. There will be a contest for best dressed cowboy and cowgirl. It is requested that you please leave the ol' shootin' irons behind. LOL

#### **September 29th - Friday: Check Out**

Have a safe trip home! - See you in 2027

#### *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*

**REGISTRATION FORM**

2026 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION, Corpus Christi, Texas

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

**HOTEL INFORMATION - OMNI, CORPUS CHRISTI  
(361) 882-1600**

**Weblink for Booking Reservations at our Discounted Group Rate**

Group Rate for Rooms: \$149 per Night      Reservations must be Booked by August 26, 2026

This 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Register me for the following:**

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

**Tuesday, September 29th**

Lunch/Memorial Service *only*..... Number of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, September 30th**

Farewell Banquet.....Number of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ x \$70 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of Entrée:

A.) Grilled Salmon with Texas Pecan Butter Sauce \_\_\_\_\_

B.) South Texas Cordon Bleu. \_\_\_\_\_

C.) Lemon Thyme Pork Tenderloin Medalions \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*All dinners come with a Garden Salad and dessert, Iced Tea, and Coffee \*\*

**TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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: August 28, 2026**

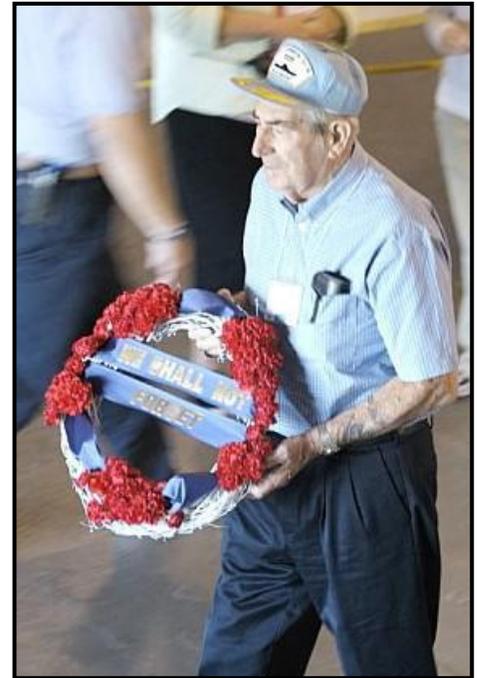
## 2026 REUNION LUNCHEON AND MEMORIAL SERVICE NOTES:

What is this Luncheon and Memorial? Every year, we hold a memorial for our shipmates that have passed. Their final muster, if you will. You'll need to be in Hangar Bay 2 September 29th at 11:15. So what are you going to eat for the price we're charging? Hold onto your tongues so they don't hit the floor. This ain't no box lunch!!

*A Garden salad* of Fresh field green, romaine and iceberg lettuce with shredded carrots, grape tomatoes, and hot house cucumbers with your choice of Ranch or Italian dressing.

*Chicken Pica.* A boneless breast of chicken cooked to perfection.

*Vegetables,* and Iced Tea



## *Jesus will Meet You where You are.....*

As I thought about what to share with each of you today, I thought of sharing some thoughts from the book of Peter. He shared with us many rich words of wisdom; however, he also challenged us to gird or guard our mindset. Whenever you want to share God's word, we want to ensure we are sharing what the Lord wants us to share not what we feel should be shared. In doing what the Lord has called us to do, the results would be a blessing for the ones hearing God's Word as well as the ones sharing God's Word.

In the book of St. John around the fourth chapter, there is a story told to us by the writer of John. We are told in the 4<sup>th</sup> verse that Jesus himself must need to go through Samaria. The "need," was placed in this particular sentence for two reasons. First, it was three days closer to His destination; second, to obey divine orders so we could have this story to share.

We now come to the 5<sup>th</sup> verse where Jesus enters the city of Samaria, however, this particular area is called Sychar or **Suchar** which means falsehood and drunkenness as a name of reproach. Genesis 33:19 gives us the background of what took place in that area many years before. I want to encourage you to read the story.

The 6<sup>th</sup> verse gives us to know that Jesus, being weary from His journey, sits on the well. He is sitting there because He is weary, but he also has a divine appointment with the lady that is coming to get water. Remember He shared that it was needful for him to go to Samaria and needful for Him to be at this well waiting on this particular woman at the time she would arrive to get water. The whole story is remarkable and it teaches us something. First, it shares with us that Christ will meet you where you are in life. He knows what you are going through. He knows what your fears are and why you are not sleeping well at night. Second, not only will He meet you he will heal you. He will heal your brokenness; He will heal your yesterdays and your tomorrows. He will heal broken relationships as well as broken promises. Understanding that He promised never to leave you nor forsake you. We all need someone in our corner, we all need someone to love us for who we are and what we are. We all need to pray. And it is so easy to say "Lord, I am having some things going on in my life that I just don't know what to do. Can you help me through this, can you give me directions, can you comfort me and make me the man or woman you created me to be? I believe that you can, and I believe you will. Also, Lord while I have your attention deliver me from me. Give me to serve you with a pure heart, and for these hiccups that keep disrupting my life, give me what to do to get rid of the hiccups. In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen."

I believe this letter was written for someone who has questions, be of good cheer the Lord hears your prayer.

Pastor Christopher Hagger



Chaplain Hagger pastors All People Worship Center 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.*

Word Search    The words in this puzzle are found throughout this issue of the Sunrise Press

W P B I R T H D A Y J F C A A X L  
F I W P M T R L M D M F O P W J H  
K B N X Y R E V H Z R U P S M M I  
C S W L P E T L D U N O H O A A C  
B S I M U L A T O R I O G R R T C  
J E X F O A E T J N P V I A Y S U  
W N B K R T H E T P C N Y M T A P  
L I A K G I T M I D A Y U I I A S  
B S N V R O E N I T N E R O L F M  
D U Q Q V N G N E B S B H E A R X  
F B U S T S Q D D U Q R B N T J Y  
X P E C T H X P M S P K U N I U Y  
B O T A N I C A L K H L B C P G C  
E P T I X P N O I T A I C O S S A  
M U N I T S I R H C S U P R O C P  
E F L A I R O M E M B E R S H I P  
F I I T R I S G K Q X Z A T O U T

APPOINTMENT	FRIENDSHIPS	MEMORIAL
ASSOCIATION	GROUP	MUSEUM
BANQUET	HICCUPS	RELATIONSHIPS
BIRTHDAY	HOSPITALITY	SHOPPING
BOTANICAL	MARINATED	SIMULATOR
BUSINESS	MARY	STATUE
CORPUSCHRISTI	MATAGORDA	THEATER
FLORENTINE	MEMBERSHIP	TOUR

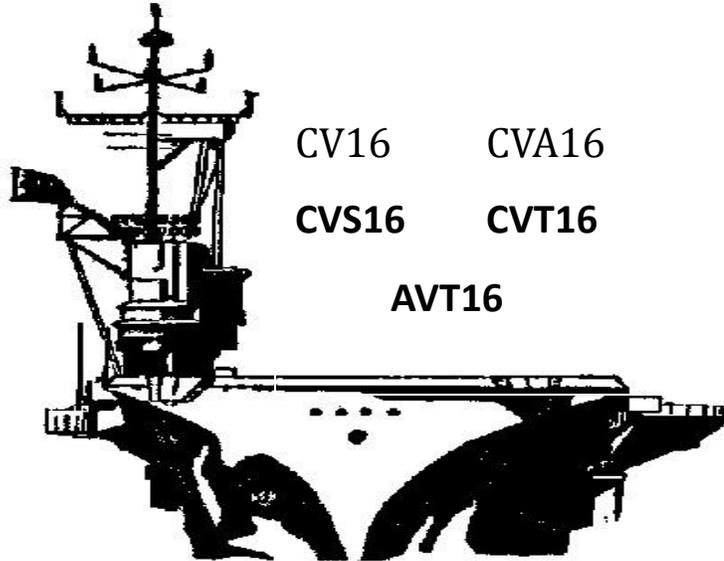


Home Port of:

USS Lexington CV 16 Association

23428 College Ave

Robertsdale, AL 36567



CV16      CVA16

CVS16    CVT16

AVT16

USS LEXINGTON

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