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# The Sunrise Press

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**USS LEXINGTON CV16**

**49 YEARS OF SERVICE**

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

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**JULY 2018**

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## **AN ERA ENDS** *Remembering Roland King*

**I**t is with heavy hearts that we inform our members of the passing of one of our members. One so important that, without him, there would be no association of which to be a member.

Our founder, Roland King, has ended his watch.

In 1978, Roland started seeing things about CV2, our predecessor lost in the Battle of the Coral Sea, and that they had an association of former crewmembers, but he could never find anything about our own CV16. He felt strongly that there needed to be one as well, for her former crewmembers from throughout almost a half century of service to share the camaraderie that can only be found amongst fellow shipmates.

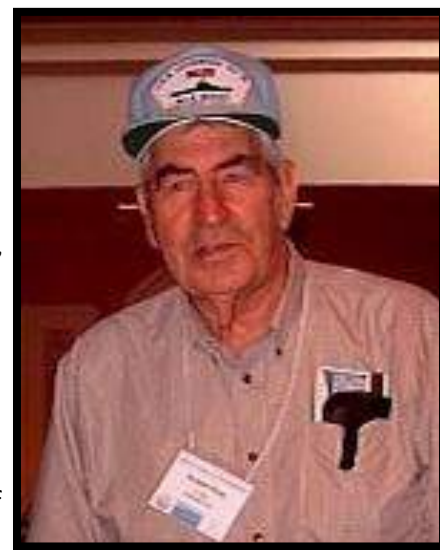
Acting upon those feelings, Roland arranged a meeting at the Legion Hall in Worchester Massachusetts, asking any CV16 friends that he knew of to attend, as well as advertising to potential attendees.

Out of that meeting grew the first reunion in Niagara Falls New York. Another former shipmate that has recently since passed, Charlie Ryberg, saw a reunion notice in the Legion magazine and attended the reunion.

At the reunion as Roland tells it – “Having ideas but not being a good spokesperson I needed someone to be a spokesman for the group” – “At the business meeting I saw this little redheaded shipmate who had on a yellow and black striped shirt, ‘looked like a bumble bee’ and that was Charlie and we took it from there.”

After this first reunion, the gears kept turning in his mind, and a year or so later, Roland followed his instincts and talked to Captain Green about going

onboard the USS Lexington. By the time everything was ironed out, it lead to the 1980 reunion being in Pensacola and included, of all things, a day cruise on the Lex. What an awesome thrill that had to have been. I’m betting there were flight ops and such as well for the benefit of guests.



Again in 1989 the reunion was held in Pensacola and included time onboard the ship; this was the largest reunion of the Association, with numbers we’d love to be able to reach again, of some 600 attendees. That’s right, 600. Folks, that’s just over 10% of a wartime manning level when you include squadron personnel. What a turnout. Imagine, only 11 years after the seed of the dream began germinating it grew to 600 attendees. What a wonderful legacy for us to live up to.

In addition to this great work, Roland was also involved in civic matters in his own home state.

In the mid to late 1980’s Roland and Charlie worked with the Lions Club of Lexington Massachusetts to establish the memorial plaques that are part of an outstanding memorial in that town. The Association, in



fact, made a donation for use in maintaining that memorial in Roland’s memory.

The plaques are on short stones that remember each of the 5 ships of war that have been named Lexington.

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



**Association Officers:**

**President:** Lloyd Friedli

**Vice-President:** Gary Shorrel

**Financial Adviser:** Lance Wagner

**Secretary:** Dawn Brophy

**Historian:** Daisy Morgan

**WEBSITE:**

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

Do you know anyone from the ship that may not know about our annual reunions? Hullnumber.com posts contact info for our reunions, as well as advising current members of Hullnumber.com with a message alerting them. If you share the link included below, they will get this page:



Entering the code given will open an email page to go to the person running the reunion (in this case Bob DiMonte) who will then respond to them with info on the reunion. It's just one more way that we can spread the word to those who aren't members yet, or may be on the fence about becoming one to get interested in one of our reunions (and joining our merry band of shipmates) and come to one.

The CV-16 Reunion Information has been posted on HullNumber.com.  
[http://www.hullnumber.com/reunion\\_info.php?cm=CV-16](http://www.hullnumber.com/reunion_info.php?cm=CV-16)



**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.

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

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



**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 Ave.,  
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.

*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.

To receive the email version of the newsletter, please send Greg an email with your information.

You can also view the Sunrise Press on the Associations website:  
<http://www.ussexingtoncv16.org>



If you order from Amazon.com (*and who doesn't*) change to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select your charity as the **Lady Lex Museum on the Bay Association**. Amazon donates .5% of every purchase to the museum if you select it as your charity. This can really add up over time. Good for the ship and good for the association.  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) CHECK IT OUT!



**SHIPMATES LOOKING FOR...**

**Looking for..... What?**

This is *your* newsletter. From the Associations point of view, this newsletter is to promulgate information concerning our reunions, and that remains its primary task. But there is room for much more than that, and that's for you. Looking for an old shipmate? Looking for a cruise book from a particular cruise? Maybe filling in the gaps of memory while writing some memoirs? Let us know what you're looking for and we'll include it in the "Looking for" section of this newsletter.



**Dale Arnold**

04/14/2017 - Lancaster, PA  
Onboard: 1945-1946

<https://www.smedley-finkenbinder.com/notices/Dale-Arnold>

**Earl L. Benjamin**

11/21/2013 - Hughes Springs, TX

<http://www.reeder-davis.com/obituary/4128686>

**Herbert M. Burpee**

04/22/2017 - Snohomish, WA

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/heraldnet/obituary.aspx?n=herbert-miles-burpee-herb&pid=185386785&fhid=2359>

**Joseph P. Conroy**

04/20/2008 - Glenview, IL

**Arthur Cornell**

03/02/2015 - Mt Vernon, OH  
Onboard: 1944

**Adolphe Dugas**

02/06/2017 - Webster, MA  
Onboard: 1943-1946

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/telegram/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=184097729>

**Angelo Fantozzi**

06/02/2018 - Fresh Meadows, NY  
Onboard: 1943-1945

<http://obituaries.nydailynews.com/obituaries/nydailynews/obituary.aspx?n=angelo-fantozzi&pid=189235819&fhid=22046>

**Haorid Klamen**

05/20/2015 - St Louis, MO

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/stltoday/obituary.aspx?n=harold-m-klamen&pid=174906427&fhid=8519>

**John McClellan**

02/04/2018 - Canton, MA  
Onboard: 1943-1946

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/john-mcclellan-obituary?pid=188095683&view=questbook>

**Thomas P. McCue**

12/08/2015 - Escondido, CA

**Wilburn McCurley**

11/22/2017 - Yuma, AZ  
Onboard: 1955-1960

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/yumasun/obituary.aspx?n=wilburn-riley-mccurley&pid=187356989&fhid=6823>

**Frederick C. McFarland**

05/14/2018 - Pensacola, FL

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/pensacola-fl/frederick-mcfarland-7851283>

**Rocco Montesano**

04/13/2018 - Corpus Christi, TX  
Ex Director of USS LEX Museum on the Bay

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/corpus-christi-tx/frank-rocco-montesano-7821451>

**Robert Nieman**

04/21/2018 - Lake Placid, FL  
Onboard: 1942-1945

**Guy Poosch**

03/08/2004 - Jacksonville, FL  
Onboard: 1944

**Albert Rogers**

09/07/2017 - Eugene, OR  
Onboard: 1943

Treasurer of LEX Associatin in Early 80's  
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/albert-rogers-obituary?pid=186631538&view=questbook>

**Robert Scrivner**

03/11/2017 - Appleton City, MO  
Onboard: 1943

**John Toscas**

12/14/2014 - Denver, CO  
Onboard: 1944

<http://www.horancares.com/obituary/John-William-Toscas/Denver-CO/1467196>

**Leonard Tronnes**

08/03/2017 - Oregon, WI  
Onboard: 1943

<https://www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com/notices/Leonard-Tronnes>

**Ralph Truax**

04/23/2018 - Fountain Hills, AZ  
Onboard: 1943-1946

[http://www.fhtimes.com/obituaries/ralph-truax/article\\_39321564-4ca3-11e8-8103-db7468f0128c.html](http://www.fhtimes.com/obituaries/ralph-truax/article_39321564-4ca3-11e8-8103-db7468f0128c.html)

**Joseph Zliceski**

06/03/2017 - Clifton, NJ  
Onboard: 1942-1946

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/northjersey/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-zliceski&pid=185959747&fhid=17141>

DAY IS DONE, GONE THE SUN  
FROM THE LAKE, FROM THE HILLS, FROM THE SKY  
ALL IS WELL, SAFELY REST, GOD IS NIGH

FADING LIGHT, DIMS THE SIGHT  
AND A STAR GEMS THE SKY, GLEAMING BRIGHT  
FROM AFAR, DRAWING NIGH, FALLS THE NIGHT

THANKS AND PRAISE, FOR OUR DAYS  
'NEATH THE SUN, 'NEATH THE STARS, 'NEATH THE SKY  
AS WE GO, THIS WE KNOW, GOD IS NIGH

WHILE THE LIGHT FADES FROM SIGHT  
AND THE STARS GLEAMING RAYS SOFTLY SEND  
TO THY HANDS WE OUR SOULS, LORD, COMMEND

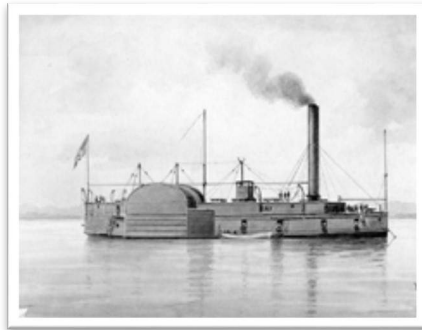


## FIVE SHIPS LEXINGTON



**1<sup>ST</sup> LEXINGTON – 16 GUN BRIGANTINE** – Originally the merchantman Wild Duck purchased by Continental Congress in March, 1776, and renamed in honor of the courageous Lexington Minuteman, captured three British ships while patrolling Virginia capes. Seized by a British Frigate when returning from the West Indies, Lexington's company overpowered their captors and brought the British as prisoners to Baltimore. In 1777, deployed to European waters with Continental brigs Reprisal and Dolphin, took 10 British ships as prizes. Off the coast of France the Lexington was captured by the British on 29 September 1777 when she ran out of ammunition on a calm sea.

**2<sup>ND</sup> LEXINGTON – 18 GUN SLOOP-OF-WAR** – Commissioned June 11, 1826, served two tours in Mediterranean and in South American waters, landed a raiding party in Falklands in 1832 in reprisal for seizure of two American whalers; also landed marines at Buenos Aires to protect U.S. interests. Converted into storeship, Lexington transported troops during Mexican war and landed raiders at San Blas. After the war she provided security along California coast when the territory was being transferred to U.S. control. In 1852 Lexington joined Commodore Perry's historic expedition to Tokyo that opened Japan to western commerce. Decommissioned in New York in 1855.

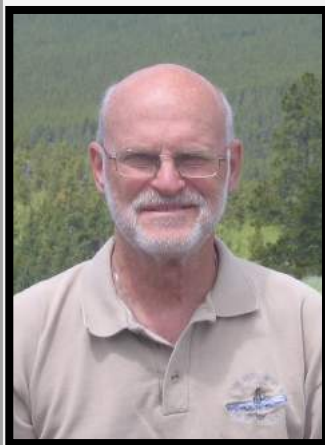


**3<sup>RD</sup> LEXINGTON – RIVER GUNBOAT** – Side-wheel steamer purchased by War Department in 1861. Converted into a gunboat with four 8-inch guns and two 21-pounders. In the Civil War the Lexington swept Mississippi River system and spearheaded drives on Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers. She played a vital role in the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donnellson, helped to save General Grant's troops from disaster at Shiloh, provided cover for General Sherman at Chickasaw Bluffs, and attacked Vicksburg. Led flotilla in successful expedition up the Red River in 1864. Later captured three confederate steamers at Beulah Landing, Mississippi. Decommissioned 9 July 1865.

**4<sup>TH</sup> LEXINGTON CV-2 'LADY LEX'** – Built in Quincy, Mass on the hull of a battlecruiser, the 36,000 ton carrier was commissioned 14 Dec 1927. First ship to average more than 30 knots on an ocean voyage. On the decks of the Lexington and Saratoga, launching and landing techniques of aircraft were perfected. Lt. Botch O'Hare, based on 'Lady Lex' downed five Japanese bombers on 20 Feb 1942 to become the first navy ace of WW II. In the Battle of Coral Sea, 7-8 May 1942, pilots from 'Lady Lex' sank first enemy carrier of the war. The Japanese advance to Australia was stopped, but the Lex was sunk when fires erupted after taking 3 torpedoes and 2 bomb hits.



**5<sup>TH</sup> LEXINGTON (CV16)** – Built in Quincy, MA; commissioned in Boston 17 Feb 1943. Participated in 35 engagements in forward Pacific during WW II. Pilots from Air Groups 16, 19, 20, 9 and 94 downed 387 planes, destroyed 645 planes on the ground, dropped 2,735 bombs on Japanese bases, sank or damaged 588,000 tons of warships and 497,000 tons of Merchant shipping. Ship's gunners shot down 15 attacking planes. Lexington was torpedoed off Marshalls 4 Dec 1943, and later hit by Kamikaze off Luzon 5 Nov 1944. Awarded 11 battle stars and the Presidential Unit Citation. In 1955 she was remodeled with an angular flight deck. Since 1963 she has served as the Navy's Training Carrier. More planes have landed on USS Lexington (CV 16) than any other ship in history.



As you know the 2018 Reunion is in San Diego in a few months. Some of you were there as part of your Navy career and this is a great, fun chance to visit again. Those who have not been there will find it a beautiful exciting place. An outstanding reunion is planned and I encourage you to attend.

Check out the reunion pages in this Sunrise Press and send the reservation form to Lance.

This is an election year for the Association. The nominating Committee is working on a slate officers to keep moving the Association forward. If you would serve on a committee, or help the Association in any way let me know. We need good shipmates to keep the Association strong.

As you can see by the first page of this newsletter we mourn the death of Association founder, Roland King. Roland was a strong supporter of (in his words) "a family orientated" association. Bring your family to San Diego!

With the finding of the USS Lexington CV2 we are again reminded of our departed shipmates who died at sea serving this great Nation. God bless all the men and women who serve, and who have served the United States of America.

Have a great summer!

Lloyd



- |                    |                     |                   |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>AMERICA</b>     | <b>HOLIDAY</b>      | <b>STARS</b>      |
| <b>BURGERS</b>     | <b>HOT DOGS</b>     | <b>STRIPES</b>    |
| <b>CELEBRATION</b> | <b>INDEPENDENCE</b> | <b>UNCLE SAM</b>  |
| <b>DECLARATION</b> | <b>JULY</b>         | <b>UNITED</b>     |
| <b>FIREWORKS</b>   | <b>LIBERTY</b>      | <b>USA</b>        |
| <b>FLAG</b>        | <b>PATRIOTIC</b>    | <b>WATERMELON</b> |
| <b>FREEDOM</b>     | <b>PICNIC</b>       |                   |

 **WELCOME ABOARD: NEW MEMBERS**

**Edwin Benson**

Onboard: 02/1962 - 08/1965 A

**Billie Kingsley**

Onboard: 08/1961 - 03/1962 R2

**James Taylor**

Onboard: 06/1977 - 10/1979 OI

**John A. Boyle**

Onboard: 09/1976 - 02/1979 Repair/DC

**James (Jim) Kudela**

Onboard: 01/1975 - 11/1977 QMSN-NAV

**Harley E. Warner**

Onboard: 02/12/1959 - 12/1961 ADMIN

**Earnest Dotson**

Onboard: 1972 - 04/1976 V2 CATS

**Jerome S. Schulman**

Onboard: 01/1957 - 10/1959 V2

**Joe M. Zepf**

Onboard: 03/1982 - 12/1986 ABE

**John G. Funk**

Onboard: 05/1966 - 09/1968 2nd DIV

**Bill P. Simpson**

Onboard: 09/1972 - 08/1975 B

**Tappen Jennings**

Onboard: 01/1970 - 04/0971 1st DIV

**Gary Taylor**

Onboard: 03/1983 - 11/1996

*Believing God.....because* By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger



Throughout the scripture we are reminded to believe God and believe in God. Believe Him according to His word and according to His will. When some are questioned about what they believe in, each person gives a different answer or different sort of answers. Some people might state that they believe in UFO's; that means, I think UFO's are real. "I believe in democracy" that means I think democratic principles are just and beneficial. But what does it mean when Christians, congregations stand and say: I believe in God"? Far more than when the object of belief is UFOs or democracy. I can believe in UFOs without ever looking for one, and in democracy without ever voting. In cases like these, belief is a matter of the intellect only. But the Creed's opening words, "I believe in God," render a Greek phrase coined by the writers of the New Testament, meaning literally: "I *am believing into* God." That is to say, over and above believing certain truths *about* God, I am living in a relation of commitment *to* God in trust and union. When I say, "I believe in God," I am professing my conviction that God has invited me to this commitment and declaring that I have accepted his invitation. Now in doing so I don't know what all I am supposed to know, I don't know what it means to walk daily in what I believe. Because life has a way of shaking our belief sometime, so I don't know exactly how this walk is done. But, I do know what I have committed to.

When I first go married, I didn't know how to be a husband. I knew how a husband was defined and watching how my dad and grandfather conducted themselves gave me an idea. But, to say I know what it is like to be a husband I had to learn daily. This is our walk with God, we don't know how to walk but His Holy Spirit will teach us daily to walk and believe. To trust and push forward. To pray and have faith. Believing God, because God invited me to believe in Him. Despite what we are going through my brothers and sisters let us believe God.

Chaplain Hagger pastors *All People Worship Center* in Odessa, Texas and also oversees the operation at *All People Hospice and Healthcare*.

Contact Information:	Phone:
Christopher Hagger	Home: 432-385-7643
4745 N. Sierra Ave	Cell: 832-312-0892
Odessa, Texas 79764	Office: 432-385-7502

# Happy Independence Day



**We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.**



**Submitted by Shipmate Charlie Scott**

**Written by retired U.S. Marine Lt. Colonel Goodsen**

*(I've forwarded this writing to only military veterans and to those I believe will understand why the Colonel had to write this; Charlie)*

"In my 76th year, the events of my life appear to me, from time to time, as a series of vignettes. Some were significant; most were trivial.

War is the seminal event in the life of everyone that has endured it. Though I fought in Korea and the Dominican Republic and was wounded there, Vietnam was my war.

Now 42 years have passed and, thankfully, I rarely think of those days in Cambodia, Laos, and the panhandle of North Vietnam where small teams of Americans and Montagnards fought much larger elements of the North Vietnamese Army. Instead I see vignettes: some exotic, some mundane:

- \*The smell of Nuc Mam.
- \*The heat, dust, and humidity.
- \*The blue exhaust of cycles clogging the streets.
- \*Elephants moving silently through the tall grass.
- \*Hard eyes behind the servile smiles of the villagers.
- \*Standing on a mountain in Laos and hearing a tiger roar.
- \*A young girl squeezing my hand as my medic delivered her baby.
- \*The flowing Ao Dais of the young women biking down Tran Hung Dao.
- \*My two years as Casualty Notification Officer in North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.

It was late 1967. I had just returned after 18 months in Vietnam. Casualties were increasing. I moved my family from Indianapolis to Norfolk, rented a house, enrolled my children in their fifth or sixth new school, and bought a second car.

A week later, I put on my uniform and drove 10 miles to Little Creek, Virginia. I hesitated before entering my new office. Appearance is important to career Marines. I was no longer, if ever, a poster Marine. I had returned from my third tour in Vietnam only 30 days before. At 5'9", I now weighed 128 pounds - 37 pounds below my normal weight. My uniforms fit ludicrously, my skin was yellow from malaria medication, and I think I had a twitch or two.

I straightened my shoulders, walked into the office, looked at the nameplate on a Staff Sergeant's desk and said, "Sergeant Jolly, I'm Lieutenant Colonel Goodson. Here are my orders and my Qualification Jacket."

Sergeant Jolly stood, looked carefully at me, took my orders, stuck out his hand; we shook and he asked, "How long were you there, Colonel?" I replied "18 months this time." Jolly breathed, "You must be a slow learner, Colonel." I smiled.

Jolly said, "Colonel, I'll show you to your office and bring in the Sergeant Major. I said, "No, let's just go straight to his office." Jolly nodded, hesitated, and lowered his voice, "Colonel, the Sergeant Major. He's been in this job two years. He's packed pretty tight. I'm worried about him." I nodded.

Jolly escorted me into the Sergeant Major's office. "Sergeant Major, this is Colonel Goodson, the new Commanding Officer." The Sergeant Major stood, extended his hand and said, "Good to see you again, Colonel." I responded, "Hello Walt, how are you?" Jolly looked at me, raised an eyebrow, walked out, and closed the door.

I sat down with the Sergeant Major. We had the obligatory cup of coffee and talked about mutual acquaintances. Walt's stress was palpable. Finally, I said, "Walt, what the hell's wrong?" He turned his chair, looked out the window and said, "George, you're going to wish you were back in Nam before you leave here. I've been in the Marine Corps since 1939. I was in the Pacific 36 months, Korea for 14 months, and Vietnam for 12 months. Now I come here to bury these kids. I'm putting my letter in. I can't take it anymore." I said, "OK Walt. If that's what you want, I'll endorse your request for retirement and do what I can to push it through Headquarters Marine Corps."

Sergeant Major Walt retired 12 weeks later. He had been a good Marine for 28 years, but he had seen too much death and too much suffering. He was used up.

Over the next 16 months, I made 28 death notifications, conducted 28 military funerals, and made 30 notifications to the families of Marines that were severely wounded or missing in action. Most of the details of those casualty notifications have now,

thankfully, faded from memory. Four, however, remain.

#### MY FIRST NOTIFICATION

My third or fourth day in Norfolk, I was notified of the death of a 19 year old Marine. This notification came by telephone from Headquarters Marine Corps. The information detailed:

- \*Name, rank, and serial number.
- \*Name, address, and phone number of next of kin.
- \*Date of and limited details about the Marine's death.
- \*Approximate date the body would arrive at the Norfolk Naval Air Station.
- \*A strong recommendation on whether the casket should be opened or closed.

The boy's family lived over the border in North Carolina, about 60 miles away. I drove there in a Marine Corps staff car. Crossing the state line into North Carolina, I stopped at a small country store/service station/Post Office. I went in to ask directions.

Three people were in the store. A man and woman approached the small Post Office window. The man held a package. The store owner walked up and addressed them by name, "Hello John. Good morning Mrs. Cooper."

I was stunned. My casualty's next-of-kin's name was John Cooper!

I hesitated, then stepped forward and said, "I beg your pardon. Are you Mr. and Mrs. John Cooper of (address)?"

The father looked at me - I was in uniform - and then, shaking, bent at the waist, he vomited. His wife looked horrified at him and then at me. Understanding came into her eyes and she collapsed in slow motion. I think I caught her before she hit the floor.

The owner took a bottle of whiskey out of a drawer and handed it to Mr. Cooper who drank. I answered their questions for a few minutes. Then I drove them home in my staff car. The store owner locked the store and followed in their truck. We stayed an hour or so until the family began arriving.

I returned the store owner to his business. He thanked me and said, "Mister, I wouldn't have your job for a million dollars." I shook his hand and said; "Neither would I."

I vaguely remember the drive back to Norfolk. Violating about five Marine Corps regulations, I drove the staff car straight to my house. I sat with my family while they ate dinner, went into the den, closed the door, and sat there all night, alone.

My Marines steered clear of me for days. I had made my first death notification.

#### THE FUNERALS

Weeks passed with more notifications and more funerals. I borrowed Marines from the local Marine Corps Reserve and taught them to conduct a military funeral: how to carry a casket, how to fire the volleys and how to fold the flag.

When I presented the flag to the mother, wife, or father, I always said, "All Marines share in your grief." I had been instructed to say, "On behalf of a grateful nation...." I didn't think the nation was grateful, so I didn't say that.

Sometimes, my emotions got the best of me and I couldn't speak. When that happened, I just handed them the flag and touched a shoulder. They would look at me and nod. Once a mother said to me, "I'm so sorry you have this terrible job." My eyes filled with tears and I leaned over and kissed her.

#### ANOTHER NOTIFICATION

Six weeks after my first notification, I had another. This was a young PFC. I drove to his mother's house. As always, I was in uniform and driving a Marine Corps staff car. I parked in front of the house, took a deep breath, and walked towards the house. Suddenly the door flew open, a middle-aged woman rushed out. She looked at me and ran across the yard, screaming "NO! NO! NO! NO!"

I hesitated. Neighbors came out. I ran to her, grabbed her, and whispered stupid things to reassure her. She collapsed. I picked her up and carried her into the house. Eight or nine neighbors followed. Ten or fifteen minutes later, the father came in followed by ambulance personnel. I have no recollection of leaving.

The funeral took place about two weeks later. We went through the drill. The mother never looked at me. The father looked at me once and shook his head sadly.

(continue on page 13)



TOURISM AUTHORITY

Wondering what to do with your free day in San Diego other than lazing by the pool or sleeping the day away? We've got that covered too. Well, the San Diego Tourism Authority does. They sent us some info on 7 hidden gems that you may want to see.



Balboa Park Orange Trail

HIKING

This scenic 4.1-mile family-friendly trail starts at Sixth Avenue and Upas Street. Hikers follow the orange #2 markers along a paved, gradually sloping path through gardens and museums, past the fountain, and over the historic Cabrillo Bridge.



Zoro Garden

PARKS & GARDENS

The 6-acre garden between the [Fleet Science Center](#) and the [San Diego History Center](#) was once a



The 1910 Balboa Park Carousel

FAMILY FUN

This Herschell-Spillman menagerie carousel, adjacent to the [San Diego Zoo](#), was built in New York in 1910 and was stationed in Los Angeles and Coronado before heading to its home in Balboa Park in



Spanish Village Art Center

ARTS & CULTURE

In the [Spanish Village Art Center](#), visitors can watch as artists create their work. This lively artists' col-



Spreckels Organ

MUSIC

With an astonishing 5,017 pipes, the [Spreckels Organ](#), built all the way back in 1914, is the largest



Mingei Gift Shop

SHOPPING

After touring the [Mingei](#)'s extensive collection of handcrafted artwork from around the world, stop by The Collectors' Gallery and take home unique decor, clothing, accessories, and more from artisans in



Panama 66

FOOD & DRINK

This happening spot in the [San Diego Museum of Art](#)'s Marcy S. May Sculpture Garden stays open



## 41st Reunion...

Plans are in place for our 2018 Reunion! We will have our 41<sup>st</sup> reunion in sunny southern California.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego will be our host for this exciting reunion.

Make your Hotel Reservations by calling the hotel at (866) 663-4592; Code: LEX

The group rate is \$109/night and is good three days pre and post reunion. **Reservations must be made before August 27, 2018.**



**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND!**

We will start our adventure with an opening reception on the pool lawn, complete with tiki torches and heavy Hors d' Oeuvres Carving stations.



We have contracted a city tour in the morning. We will visit sparkling Coronado, the Hotel Del Coronado, the Historic Gas lamp Quarter and beautiful Balboa Park. After lunch we continue north, exploring the stunning coastline and dramatic views of La Jolla.



**Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial**

We will have our Memorial service on the peak of MT. Soledad.

Then as we head back downtown, we go through the local beach cities of Pacific Beach and Mission Beach. You do not want to miss this tour.



**Beautiful Balboa Park**

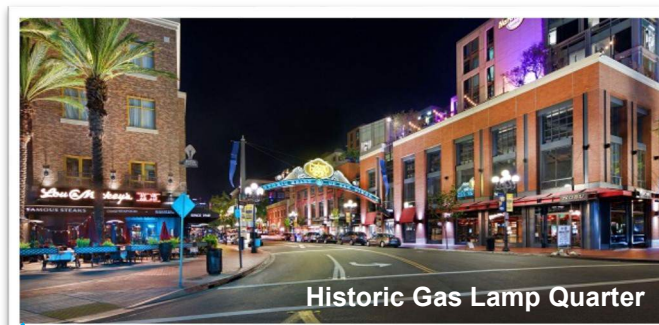
On our free day, you can visit the USS Midway, San Diego Zoo, Liberty Public Market, Old town, or just hang by the pool. Lots to see and do.

The menu for our Banquet offers four choices, all entrees include several side dishes and dessert.

We will also have a DJ for dancing and karaoke. Let's see if Lexington has talent.

I tried to keep costs and prices down, but I was informed it cost a little more to live in paradise. I believe this reunion will be a great dollar value.

See you in San Diego,  
Bob DiMonte



**Historic Gas Lamp Quarter**



**Hotel Del Coronado**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: AUGUST 27TH**  
**REUNION REGISTRATION DUE BY: SEPTEMBER 1ST**

2018 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORINA - SEPTEMBER 17 - 21, 2018

**REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/GUEST \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Additional guests - please list on back and include in the final numbers below.)*

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DATES ON BOARD \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

**Host Hotel: Crown Plaza San Diego**

**Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (866) 663-4592; Code: LEX  
The group rate is \$109/night and is good three days pre and post reunion.**

**Reservations must be made before August 27, 2018**

**Register me for the following:**

Reunion Registration Fee (not optional)..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, September 18

Tour of San Diego *(includes lunch)* ..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$85 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, September 20

Farewell Banquet ..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$55 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*- Coat and Tie suggested*

- Choice of Entrée:
- A.) London Broil with a Peppercorn Sauce \_\_\_\_\_
  - B.) Lemon Caper Chicken with a Lemon Cream Sauce \_\_\_\_\_
  - C.) Baked Mahi-Mahi with Mango Cream Sauce \_\_\_\_\_
  - D.) Portobello Mushroom Ravioli \_\_\_\_\_

All entrees served with a Tossed Green Salad, Fresh Seasonal Veggies,  
Oven Roasted Potatoes, Rolls, and Black Forest Cake for dessert.  
Coffee, Hot Tea, and Iced Tea

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

Mail Registration form and check payable to: **USS Lexington CV 16 Association**  
**Cut-off Date: September 1st, 2018**  
**Lance Wagner**  
**71-21 73 Place**  
**Glendale, New York 11385**



**USS LEXINGTON CV 16 - 41ST ANNUAL REUNION**  
**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**SEPTEMBER 17 THRU SEPTEMBER 21, 2018**

**ITINERARY**

**Sept. 17th - Monday**

1200 Hospitality Room opens - Registration begins — Poolside Hospitality Suite

1800 Opening Reception, Heavy Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar — Poolside Lawn

**Sept. 18th - Tuesday**

0845 Meet in Hotel Lobby for Scheduled Tour

0900 Bus departs for the Tour of the Greater San Diego Area

Lunch

Memorial Service on the Peak of Mt. Soledad

1600 Bus returns to hotel; Hospitality Room Opens

**Sept. 19th - Wednesday**

Free Day for Shopping and Sea Stories

1000 Hospitality Room Opens — Poolside Hospitality Suite

**Sept. 20th - Thursday**

0900 Hospitality Room opens — Poolside

0930 Business Meeting; All members and guests welcome — Lahaina Room

1800 Cocktail Hour (Doors will open at 1800) Cash Bar — Lahaina Room

Group Picture; Coat and Tie suggested

1900 Opening remarks from the Association President

Dinner Served

Entertainment

**Sept. 21 - Friday**

1100 Checkout — Have a safe trip home.





The 2018 USS LEX Association Scholarship recipients are:

1st place (\$1,000) - Ashley Tendick, granddaughter of Shipmate Harold and Wanda Tendick.

2nd place (\$500) - Jackson Keel, grandson of Shipmate Clinton and Jean Keel.

**Winning Essay by Ashley Tendick**

On October 13, 1775 the United States Navy was officially created. Due to British Naval success the creation became inevitable. During wars, the British attacked US ships resulting in a loss of defense for the United States. As revenge on the British, the French allied with the United States to help sink British ships. The US Navy remained strong until it disbanded in 1783 after the Treaty of Paris. After strong consideration by the US National Government, the Department of the Navy was created in 1798.

The American Navy protected citizens against many threats including the British and pirates. French allies assisted in victories against the British, and logical combat allowed for victories against pirates. While all the victories hold vital importance, one of the most important victories occurred on Lake Erie, not the ocean. In fact, multiple important battles were fought off the sea, especially during the civil war. During the Civil War, new technology such as torpedoes and submarine warfare arose and helped advance the Navy. After the Civil War, the Navy once again declined. Gradually, it again rose during the World Wars. Without the Navy the United States would not be what it is today.

The Navy's importance remained consistent throughout history regardless of how much it was used. The disbanding does not mean it was not important, it means the United States was safe enough to not require an active Navy. The Navy's history is our history, and nothing can degrade its importance.

My goals for the year are primarily educational. I'm attending the University of Alabama in the fall for nursing because they have one of the best nursing programs in the south. My mission for my freshman year and beyond is to earn A's in all my classes; I want to be guaranteed a spot in the nursing program, and to know that I can do anything. Another goal I have for this year is to make the best of my college experience by making friends with the right people and making the right choices all year. The reason for these goals is to help prove that I'm deserving of new experiences. If I get all A's I can prove to others that I deserve a chance to work. If I make the right friends I'll always be happy and I can prove to people that I'm the person everyone wants to be around. If I make the right choices all year I'll prove to myself that I'm the person I want to be. That's why these are my goals for the year.

**Winning Essay by Jackson Keel**

At age 15, my grandfather, Clinton Derice Keel, left his hometown in the rural Tennessee backcountry, a hometown decimated by the Great Depression, to join the U.S. Navy. My grandfather lied about his age, and became a crew member on the USS Lexington, and went to fight in the Pacific Theatre. Without the United States Navy, my grandfather would have been stuck in a cycle of poverty. Growing up on a farm in Depression-Era McMinnville Tennessee was difficult to say the least. My grandfather lost his mother when he was seven, and his alcoholic father remarried a woman only five years older than him. Times were incredibly tough, and the poverty was overwhelming. My grandfather began to work as a caddie to help provide for his family, but money and tempers still grew shorter. Tensions between him and his stepmother began to boil over, and with the second World War in full force, my grandfather saw an opportunity. Joining the armed forces gave my grandfather a chance to leave a life he did not want. Joining the Navy gave him the ability to provide for himself. Joining the Navy opened a door of opportunity that would have remained firmly shut without its help. The first door it opened was a way to seriously provide for his family back home. When he began receiving his paychecks, he sent them home to his family, with instructions to use the money to feed and clothe his siblings. He received a letter back from his father saying that they had moved to Ohio, and he and his wife had gotten jobs working in a factory, the kids were comfortable, and they were saving his money for him. Surprised, my grandfather visited the first chance he got, and found out that he had been lied to. The money was all gone, and the family was struggling in Ohio the same way they had struggled in Tennessee. This painful reminder gave my grandfather drive and ambition to use the opportunity given to him by the Navy to create a life for himself, where he could work hard and provide for the ones he loved, to keep them out of the cycle of poverty his family had found themselves in.

To my grandfather, the Navy represented opportunity. An opportunity to better himself, his family, and his future. As his grandson, I have been blessed to reap the rewards of his hard labor, and am proud to call him my grandfather. As I go to college to pursue my education, I know that the same opportunity given to my grandfather is open to me. I do not know what the future could possibly hold, but I do know that the precedent set by my grandfather through the United States Navy gives me strength and will seek opportunity and use it to better myself and my family.

**USS LEX Association Scholarship:**

Scholarship is available to High School seniors who plan to attend a technical school in addition to those planning to attend a college or university. Applicants are eligible to apply for the scholarship up to the age of 25. Note: This allows our enlistment veterans to apply.

Scholarship is now available to first and second year (underclassmen) currently attending a college/university 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.

(continued from page 7)

#### ANOTHER NOTIFICATION

One morning, as I walked in the office, the phone was ringing. Sergeant Jolly held the phone up and said, "You've got another one, Colonel." I nodded, walked into my office, picked up the phone, took notes, thanked the officer making the call, I have no idea why, and hung up. Jolly, who had listened, came in with a special Telephone Directory that translates telephone numbers into the person's address and place of employment.

The father of this casualty was a Longshoreman. He lived a mile from my office. I called the Longshoreman's Union Office and asked for the Business Manager. He answered the phone, I told him who I was, and asked for the father's schedule.

The Business Manager asked, "Is it his son?" I said nothing. After a moment, he said, in a low voice, "Tom is at home today." I said, "Don't call him. I'll take care of that." The Business Manager said, "Aye, Aye Sir," and then explained, "Tom and I were Marines in WWII."

I got in my staff car and drove to the house. I was in uniform. I knocked and a woman in her early forties answered the door. I saw instantly that she was clueless. I asked, "Is Mr. Smith home?" She smiled pleasantly and responded, "Yes, but he's eating breakfast now. Can you come back later?" I said, "I'm sorry. It's important. I need to see him now."

She nodded, stepped back into the beach house and said, "Tom, it's for you."

A moment later, a ruddy man in his late forties, appeared at the door. He looked at me, turned absolutely pale, steadied himself, and said, "Jesus Christ man, he's only been there three weeks!"

Months passed. More notifications and more funerals. Then one day while I was running, Sergeant Jolly stepped outside the building and gave a loud whistle, two fingers in his mouth..... I never could do that..... and held an imaginary phone to his ear.

Another call from Headquarters Marine Corps. I took notes, said, "Got it." and hung up. I had stopped saying "Thank You" long ago.

Jolly, "Where?"

Me, "Eastern Shore of Maryland. The father is a retired Chief Petty Officer. His brother will accompany the body back from Vietnam ...."

Jolly shook his head slowly, straightened, and then said, "This time of day, it'll take three hours to get there and back. I'll call the Naval Air Station and borrow a helicopter. And I'll have Captain Toliver get one of his men to meet you and drive you to the Chief's home."

He did, and 40 minutes later, I was knocking on the father's door. He opened the door, looked at me, then looked at the Marine standing at parade rest beside the car, and asked, "Which one of my boys was it, Colonel?"

I stayed a couple of hours, gave him all the information, my office and home phone number and told him to call me, anytime.

He called me that evening about

2300 (11:00PM). "I've gone through my boy's papers and found his will. He asked to be buried at sea. Can you make that happen?" I said, "Yes I can, Chief. I can and I will."

My wife who had been listening said, "Can you do that?" I told her, "I have no idea. But I'm going to break my ass trying."

I called Lieutenant General Alpha Bowser, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic, at home about 2330, explained the situation, and asked, "General, can you get me a quick appointment with the Admiral at Atlantic Fleet Headquarters?" General Bowser said, "George, you be there tomorrow at 0900. He will see you."

I was and the Admiral did. He said coldly, "How can the Navy help the Marine Corps, Colonel." I told him the story. He turned to his Chief of Staff and said, "Which is the sharpest destroyer in port?" The Chief of Staff responded with a name.

The Admiral called the ship, "Captain, you're going to do a burial at sea. You'll report to a Marine Lieutenant Colonel Goodson until this mission is completed..."

He hung up, looked at me, and said, "The next time you need a ship, Colonel, call me. You don't have to sic Al Bowser on my ass." I responded, "Aye Aye, Sir" and got the hell out of his office.

I went to the ship and met with the Captain, Executive Officer, and the Senior Chief. Sergeant Jolly and I trained the ship's crew for four days. Then Jolly raised a question none of us had thought of. He said, "These government caskets are air tight. How do we keep it from floating?"

All the high priced help including me sat there looking dumb. Then the Senior Chief stood and said, "Come on Jolly. I know a bar where the retired guys from World War II hang out."

They returned a couple of hours later, slightly the worse for wear, and said, "It's simple; we cut four 12" holes in the outer shell of the casket on each side and insert 300 lbs of lead in the foot end of the casket. We can handle that, no sweat."

The day arrived. The ship and the sailors looked razor sharp. General Bowser, the Admiral, a US Senator, and a Navy Band were on board. The sealed casket was brought aboard and taken below for modification. The ship got underway to the 120-fathom depth.

The sun was hot. The ocean flat. The casket was brought aft and placed on a catafalque. The Chaplain spoke. The volleys were fired. The flag was removed, folded, and I gave it to the father. The band played "Eternal Father Strong to Save." The casket was raised slightly at the head and it slid into the sea.

The heavy casket plunged straight down about six feet. The incoming water collided with the air pockets in the outer shell. The casket stopped abruptly, rose straight out of the water about three feet, stopped, and slowly slipped back into the sea. The air bubbles rising from the sinking casket sparkled in the sunlight as the casket disappeared from sight forever....

The next morning I called a per-

sonal friend, Lieutenant General Oscar Peatross, at Headquarters Marine Corps and said, "General, get me out of here. I can't take this anymore." I was transferred two weeks later.

I was a good Marine but, after 17 years, I had seen too much death and too much suffering. I was used up.

Vacating the house, my family and I drove to the office in a two-car convoy. I said my goodbyes. Sergeant Jolly walked out with me. He waved at my family, looked at me with tears in his eyes, came to attention, saluted, and said, "Well Done, Colonel. Well Done."


I felt as if I had received the Medal of Honor!

*'A veteran is someone who, at one point, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including their life.'*

*That is Honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.*

*I am honored to pass this on and I hope you feel that way too.*

*I want to say "Thank you" for your service to every Veteran who reads this. In God We Trust"*



When I was young, many years ago  
I joined the Navy, Why, I don't know  
I served my time, with honor and pride  
For this young boy, it was quite a ride  
I went to places, I'd never dreamed  
Time went fast, so it seemed  
I met people, I'll never forget  
And some I wish I'd never met  
But as I think back on those days gone by  
My ship, My shipmates, brings a tear to my eye  
I didn't know then, never gave it a thought  
But my time in the Navy, could not have been brought  
I guess we all feel, that's what it's about  
Having serving our Nation, keeping it free  
Protecting our way of life, and our liberty  
And the friends I made, along the way  
Would I do it again? Any day!  
And to all my shipmates, Anchors. Aweigh!

*Submitted by: Shipmate Bob DiMonte*



## **Veteran's Park & Memorials, Robertsdale, Alabama**

*From: Shipmate Greg T. Plante, Editor of the USS LEX Sunrise Press*

You may or may not know much about the south, but one thing is true; though you will find patriotism to one degree or another in any of our 50 states and even commonwealths, in the south, military service to answer the higher calling of something greater than ourselves, is very strong. This quarter no one submitted any Veteran's Memorials, so my wife and I decided to drive through our little town of Robertsdale, Alabama and fulfill that need. We are indeed a town that loves and honors those who do or have served. Here are three memorials that you will find in our humble and lovely little town.



### **Welcome to Robertsdale, Alabama**

As you enter Robertsdale on Highway 59S where it intersects with US Highway 90, you will see this landmark displaying 44 United State flags. These flags honor local Veteran's who served in the first Persian Gulf War.



### **Gordan Coley Memorial Park**

This Veterans Memorial Park is located on a triangle-shaped parcel as you enter the city, just south of the 44 Flags. The park is named for former Mayor Gordon Coley, a Marine Veteran, who dedicated the park to the memory of local men and women serving in the military.



### **Robertsdale High School Navy JROTC: Operation Patriot59**

Operation Patriot59 is a new annual event intended to bring more attention to service people who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom. Every year on Memorial Day weekend, the local Navy JROTC will commemorate a different war or significant battle. 2018 marks the 65th anniversary of the Korean War. The cadets placed 5,425 flags on the front lawn of the high school, located adjacent to Highway 59, a major thoroughfare running through Baldwin County. Each flag represents ten American casualties from the Korean War. They also hoisted a POW/MIA flag in remembrance of the 7,704 unaccounted for Americans of the War.



Click the link on the photo, or go to the RHS JROTC facebook page to view their awesome presentation of their 2018 Operation59. Well done cadets!

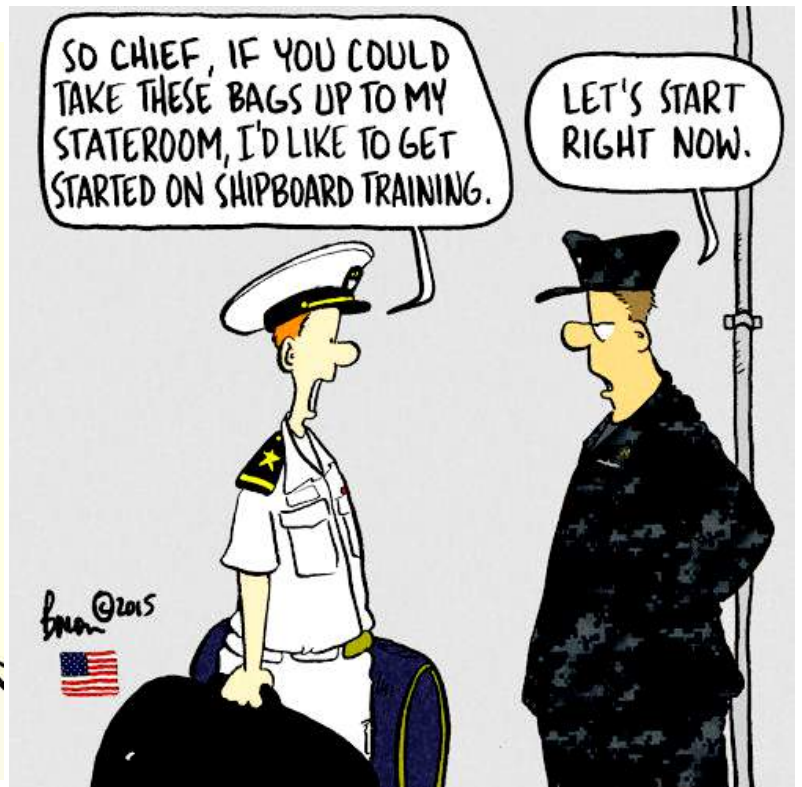




**Arlo and Janis**  
BY: Jimmy Johnson



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.

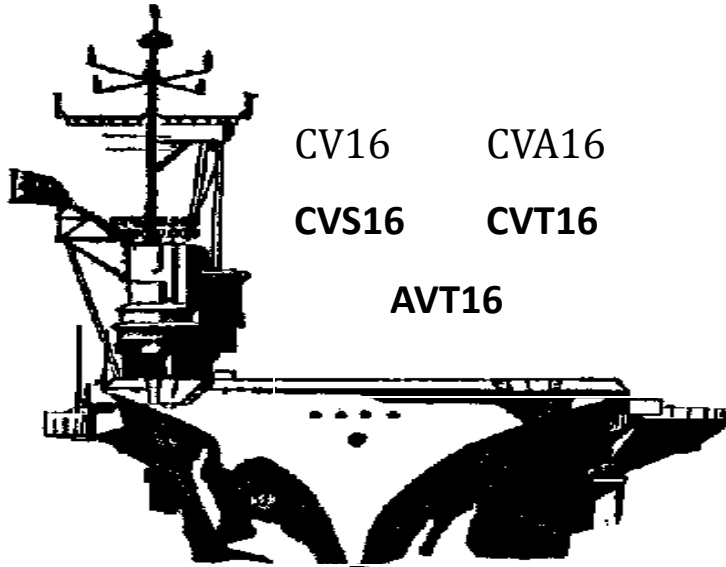


Home Port of:

USS Lexington CV 16 Association

P. O. Box 16

Lexington, IL 61753









CV16      CVA16

CVS16    CVT16

AVT16

USS LEXINGTON

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