



**USS LEXINGTON CV16**

**49 YEARS OF SERVICE**

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

**JULY 2017**

## **Carrier Ford Accepted Into the Fleet**

*From Navy Times (Vol 67 Is 11) by David B Larter*

The Navy announced on June 1 that it has accepted its newest aircraft carrier, the Gerald R Ford, with a commissioning ceremony projected for some time in July.

The acceptance of Ford marks the beginning of the end of a very long road for the new carrier, which incorporates several new technologies including an electromagnetic launching system that will replace the old steam launch system, and a new arresting gear system, a high tech brake calibrated to the weight and design of each of the aircraft it's trapping.

The carrier successfully completed its acceptance trials May 26 after the U.S. Navy Board of Inspection and Survey completed its assessment of the ship. The Navy is still working out the kinks in

several new technologies, including the Electro-magnetic Aircraft Launch System and the Advanced Arresting Gear, but the Navy has plenty of time to do that ahead of its first deployment, which is slated for 2022, according to Navy documents reviewed by Navy Times.

The ship will first have to go through full-ship shock trials in 2019m which will test how the ship stands up to explosions near its hull. Those tests are complicated, take time to analyze and inevitably break stuff on board.

Ford is the first of a new class of carrier that will ultimately include CVN-79, the John F Kennedy, which is about 28% complete and slated to join the fleet in 2021, and CVN-80, the Enterprise.



**The Newest Aircraft Carrier gets Underway**



## WELCOME ABOARD & NEWSLETTER NOTES

### Welcome Aboard: New Members

— No New Members at time of Printing —

#### *a better newsletter! ...and it's free!*

The costs of publishing the newsletter, printing and postage, is growing, and a decrease in the number of newsletters mailed out will greatly help.

**We are looking for people who have access to email, and are willing to receive their newsletter in their email.**

The Press can be stored and read on your machine at your leisure, or printed to take with you. It is also better than the print version, with color graphics, pictures, e-links to more info, all sorts of stuff often including 2 - 6 bonus pages not in the print version.

**PLEASE give this some real consideration! To give you an idea of what you're missing, go to the Association website where the last several issues are posted and see for yourself.**

<http://www.usslexingtoncv16.org>

Send your email address to [gplante@gulftel.com](mailto:gplante@gulftel.com). Please put USS LEX in the subject line so that the spam filtering software won't delete it.

### Sunrise Press - In this Issue...

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#### A Word from Lance Wagner:



If you know someone who served on the LEX, let me know and I'll send them information about our group.

If you move, please remember to send me your new address and phone number.

Look at the date after your name on the label that was used to mail you this newsletter; It is the date your dues are to be paid. \*Note email recipients, Dawn Brophy will do a mailing twice a year (January/July) to anyone that's showing in arrears. Dues are \$15/year, make checks payable to: USS Lexington Association.

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

**Sunrise Press Newsletter** is a quarterly publication of the USS Lexington Association CV, CVA, CVS, CVT, AVT16. Our editor is Greg Plante (*contact information in box to the left*). Please contact Greg if you have any questions about anything in the newsletter, or if you would like to offer anything for inclusion.

### Association Officers:

**President:** *Lloyd Friedli*

**Vice-President:** *Gary Shorrel*

**Treasurer:** *Lance Wagner*

**Secretary:** *Dawn Brophy*

**Chaplain:** *Christopher Hagger ThM*

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

#### A Note from Greg Plante:



If anyone has articles they'd like to include in the newsletter, please send them to me and I'll put them in, space permitting, including a byline to credit you with the submission.

My postal address is: 23428 College Avenue, Robertsedale, AL 36567

For electronic submissions, my email address is [gplante@gulftel.com](mailto:gplante@gulftel.com); Please put USS LEX in the subject line so that my spam filtering software won't delete it.

*Thanks, Greg Plante, Editor of the Sunrise Press*

**James Doyle**

April 2017 - Lakewood, CO

**William P. Kvasnica Sr**

October 20, 2016 - Munster, TN

Onboard: 1943 - 1945

**Delbert Lang**

September 2016 - Bremerton, WA

Onboard: 1961 - 1964

**Dwight P. Nutting**

June 13, 2017 - Pace, FL

Onboard: 1984 - 1985

**Edward B. Steinbuch**

February 3, 2017 - Castro Valley, CA

Onboard: 1943 - 1945







## Looking for descendants of Dad's shipmates...

*Original Submission 2012; Resubmitted 2017*



My Dad, William Fred Haithcox aboard the USS Craven, May 1944. Middle is Wally Larson, on right is Leo Cunningham. I would love to find descendants of either of these two guys. I understand that Wally was from Whitefish, Montana. They were on the USS Lexington, flew an Avenger Torpedo plane. Here is the story as told by my Dad and somewhat documented in his flight journal...

*On a previous mission, their plane was shot up. When they landed on the carrier, it went in to be repaired. The next mission came up and all planes took off except them. The mechanics came up and said "hey. your plane is ready" They said, "well we got nothing else to do lets go". So they took off. The plane left the end of the carrier runway and went straight into the Pacific ocean...with the carrier continuing on out to sea. The destroyer USS Craven was assigned to protect the carrier and when they crashed, started looking for them. They were all 3 able to get out of the plane before it sunk and with waves as tall as buildings began waving for the destroyer to see them. The destroyer only was going to make 3 passes...they couldn't risk the safety of the carrier for only 3 dipshit airmen that couldn't fly their plane... On the last pass they were spotted and picked up.*

Contact: Rick— email: [wrhphoto@aol.com](mailto:wrhphoto@aol.com)  
[www.rickhaithcox.com](http://www.rickhaithcox.com)

## Looking for Air Group 16 Info...

I am currently building a model of the Lexington, and would like to get information on the air groups assigned to her. What I need are the plane numbers and pilots that flew them, how many kills they were credited with, etc. I have seen rosters from other carriers but am unable to find one for the Lexington. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Scott - email: [stromboe@hotmail.com](mailto:stromboe@hotmail.com)

## Looking for Former Chaplain...

I am looking for a former Chaplain from when I was on the USS Lexington in 1986. His name is Chaplain Melvin.

Contact: Shane - email: [shanemyers7@yahoo.com](mailto:shanemyers7@yahoo.com)

## Private Request:

We have someone looking for information on a shipmate. If anyone knows him, please contact Lloyd Friedli with any details. Here is what we *do* know...

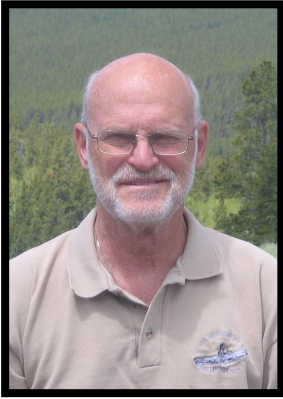
He was from Mitchell, Indiana, born on June 1, 1942. It's believed he went by his middle name Clyde "Lee" McPherson. His mother was Katherine Marshall, he had a brother named Paul and sisters were Rose and Carol. He spent the majority of his life in Pinellas County Florida (Pinellas Park and Largo). He was on Lexington about 1972. It's believed he passed away in 2012. We know this information might only be known by someone he was close to, but it's all that we have.

Contact: Lloyd - email: [deadman12@frontier.com](mailto:deadman12@frontier.com)

## 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 is for you. For instance, this section is for just what the title says. 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 for your grand kids to enjoy one day. That's what this area is for. Let us know what you're looking for, and we'll include it in here.





It is time for the ladies to make their shopping plans for the Mall of America; for us young and old sailors to hone up on our stories to tell each other so that we are ready for the USS Lexington CV 16 Association reunion in September. Deane Dietel has planned an outstanding reunion for us as you can see in other parts of this ship's letter. Make plans to attend; as a lot of you know it is a great time and

a time to see old friends and a time to easily make new friends.

In May at a family high school graduation in a small town (Wamego) in Kansas I had occasion to visit a new veteran's memorial the town had just recently finished.



That plus Memorial Day in which our American Legion Post has a program honoring our veterans and our active military men and women reminded me how very many outstanding veteran memorials there must be around the country.

From the memorials in Washington DC to the many small parks, etc. there has to be thousands.

Here in Lexington IL ours is small with the US flag and all the service flags displayed. It contains a granite monument and a platform of bricks with veteran's names shown.



Others that come to mind are the Pensacola FL Veterans Memorial Park which we support and the Anthem AZ Memorial at which at 11:00 am on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November each year the sun shines through a series of panels to shine upon the Great Seal of the United States. I think it would be great to have a feature in the Sunrise Press periodically featuring veteran's memorials around the country and I will visit with Greg Plante our Editor about that.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING A LARGE NUMBER  
OF YOU AT THE REUNION!

Regards, Lloyd



## Note from the Editor:

### Veteran's Memorials Feature:

*I think this is a FANTASTIC idea. Anyone that would like to showcase their a monument/ memorial to veterans, please send me a picture via snail mail or email (my contact info is on page 2), and if possible, maybe a little about it. Is it for a particular branch or all branches, was it erected by the local Boy Scouts or VFW or Legion post, or the city, state or county, etc. You needn't be an accomplished author, as we'll edit/spellcheck to the best of our grammatical recollections. I look forward to hearing from you. Greg Plante*

*On another note...*

*Last month a friend of mine posted a video on facebook. I thought I'd go ahead and share it with you. Here's the link...*

<https://www.facebook.com/USNavy/videos/10154540840122823/>



U.S. Navy Month in Review - May 2017



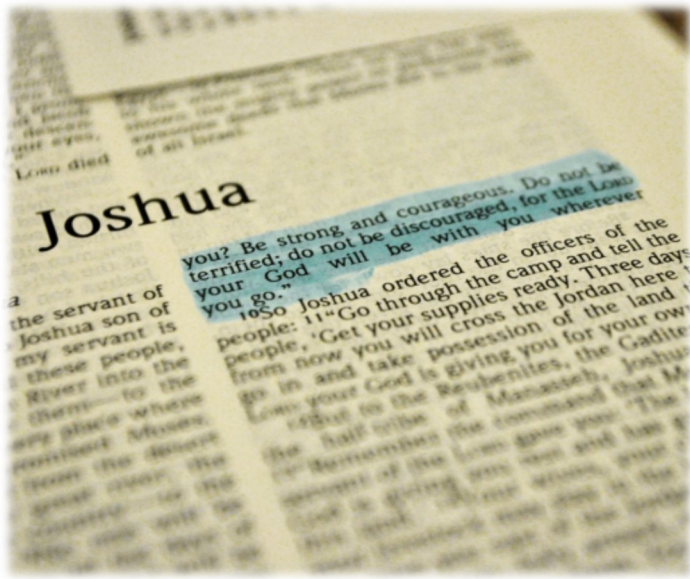


## A.O.R. - Area of Responsibility



*By: Chaplain Christopher Hagger*

Each morning I like to get up before my day starts and spend time reading, getting my directions in order for the day. I also like to spend that quality time in prayer. One of my favorite books in the Old Testament I enjoy reading is the book of Joshua. If I take my time I find a lot of meat in that book that I can chew on for days, for weeks even months. I find truths and promises that I can apply to my everyday living. The other day as I was reading this book again, I notice that God told Joshua more than two times to "Be strong and very courageous."



We find Joshua has been chosen by God to lead the Israel Nation over into the promise land. However, there seems to be a few conditions that had to be met before their crossing. These conditions not only had to be met but, kept in place. These conditions determined whether their crossing would be successful or not; these conditions determined whether the battle that was before them was a victory or not. These conditions being met determined whether their mind stayed on serving God or not; Philippians 2:5 reads as such: In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. So these conditions were very important to be kept so that God could bless them in their endeavors.

One of the conditions given to Joshua was to be very strong and courageous. To be strong or firm. To stand on what he knew to be true, and in doing so displaying great strength. To encourage, to repair, to become hard, hardened and holding fast. Why would God keep reminding Joshua to be very strong; well first let me identify what the book of Hebrews shares with us. It states in the thirteenth chapter "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever." With that scripture being in mind, God's statement of conditions to Joshua wasn't just for him then but, whatever he would face tomorrow or the next day, or the next year. God wanted Joshua to be successful in his walk, in his endeavors. Because God was in his tomorrow, as well as in the years following.

God had given Joshua not only a responsibility but a territory to be responsible for. We can call it an Area of Responsibility. AOR.....I often wonder if we know what our AOR is. We all have one, even if we are not aware of it. We could be responsible for the family down the street or, the young couple at our local church. We could be responsible for our Grandchildren, or even someone that mentored us. In the next few Chaplain Corners I will get more indepth with this Chapter and this book. I am traveling now and the connections are not the best. So I will see everyone at our reunion and I will finish this on our next Chaplains Corner.

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

### Contact Information:

**Christopher Hagger**

**4745 N. Sierra Ave.**

**Odessa, Texas 79764**

**Home: 432-385-7643**

**Cell: 832-312-0892**

**Office: 432-385-7502**

*He can be reached anytime...*

*no matter what time it is.*

## **2017 REUNION: SEPTEMBER 7TH - 10TH**

Have you made your plans for our annual reunion? Now's the time to make your reservations! We will meet in Minneapolis in early September. Our host hotel will be the DoubleTree by Hilton.

The hotel is located just 10 minutes from the MSP Airport and the Mall of America. The hotel offers many luxurious amenities including an onsite Restaurant and Multiple Dining options, a Fitness Room, Hot Tub/Whirlpool, Indoor Pool, Complimentary Breakfast Buffet, and Complimentary Shuttle to the airport and the Mall of America.



### **Hotel Reservation Information:**

#### **Double Tree by Hilton: Bloomington/Minneapolis South**

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel

**1-800-222-TREE**

or go to their website

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dtgroups/personalized/M/MSPBSDT-LAR-20170904/index.jhtml?WT.mc%20id=POG>

Hotel Online Reservation Information: **Group Code: LAR**

The group rate is good three days pre and post reunion.

**Hotel Reservations must be made by August 22, 2017**



Mall of America is the nation's largest shopping and entertainment destination featuring over 520 stores, 50 restaurants and the largest indoor Nickelodeon theme park- Nickelodeon Universe, SEA LIFE Minnesota Aquarium, The LEGO store, American Girl Store, Theatres at Mall of America and Moose Mountain Adventure Golf are also fun-filled attractions available to our guests. Plus there's no sales tax on clothing or shoes!





# **2017 REUNION: SEPTEMBER 7TH - 10TH**

## **Tours and Attractions...**



### **Mississippi Riverboat Luncheon Cruise:**

While the steamboat era is a page in American History, it is a page that can be re-read as you board an authentic steam-wheeler for a cruise on the Mighty Mississippi River. The swish of the paddlewheel and the blast of the whistle will delight you as we enjoy the sights along the river. We will enjoy a complete luncheon while being entertained by live Dixieland music.



### **Twin Cities Highlights Tour:**

This tour begins in Minneapolis where we'll explore the famous Nicollet Mall, Sculpture Gardens, Guthrie Theatre, Milwaukee Train Depot and more. A short stop will be made at Minnehaha Falls. This is where the Minnehaha Creek dives over the falls into the Mississippi River. While in St. Paul we'll explore the Center for the Performing Arts, Children's Museum, Mickey's Diner, the Fitzgerald Theater, Minnesota State Capitol, and the magnificent Cathedral of St. Paul, and lots more.



### **Gangster Tour & Wabasha Street Caves:**

Baby Face Nelson... Machine Gun Kelly... Kid Caan... Ma Barker... those are the names Americans - especially Minnesotans, were familiar with during prohibition. Our tour begins in St. Paul where a costumed gangster guide will hi-jack our motor-coach and take us to the Wabasha Street Caves which housed a nightclub and restaurant in the 1930's. The tour will also take us to the Landmark Center which was the sight of many famous gangster trials. St. Paul was more than a quiet river town... we will drive by many notable places where local gangsters visited and left their marks.



# ***2017 REUNION: SEPTEMBER 7TH - 10TH***

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## **Itinerary for the 2017 Reunion of the USS Lexington Association:**

### September 7th - Thursday

1200 Hospitality Room opens/Registration: Room 115/Poolside Parlor Room

1800 Opening Reception with Cash Bar and Light Meal: Atrium 1

### September 8th - Friday — Tour Bus meets at the North Entrance Area

0800 - 1100      Twin City Tour

1300 - 1600      Gangster Tour and Wabasha Caves  
- short walks/wheelchair accessible

### September 9th - Saturday — Tour Bus meets at the North Entrance Area

1100 - 1500      Riverboat Luncheon Cruise  
- short walk/wheelchair accessible

### September 10th - Sunday

1100 Business Meeting: Plaza 1

### Banquet: Edina Room

1800 Group Picture

Social Hour with Cash Bar

1900 Invocation

Presentation of Colors

Dinner followed by Music/Band

### September 11th - Monday

0600 - 1000      Complimentary Breakfast  
& Check-Out

2017 REUNION OF THE USS LEXINGTON CV-16 ASSOCIATION  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA - SEPTEMBER 7 – 10, 2017

**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: Double Tree by Hilton/Bloomington-Minneapolis South**

Hotel Reservations can be made by calling the hotel or by website.

Hotel Online Reservation Information: **Group Code: LAR**

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dtgroups/personalized/M/MSPBSDT-LAR-20170904/index.jhtml?WT.mc%20id=POG>

Hotel Phone Reservation: 1-800-222-TREE

The group rate is \$109/night and is good three days pre and post reunion.

Hotel Reservations must be made by August 22, 2017

**Register me for the following:**

Reunion Registration Fee (not optional) ..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, Sept 7, Opening Reception - 6pm..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ (cash bar & light meal)

Friday, Sept 8, Twin City Tour/8am -11am..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gangster Tour & Wabasha Caves/1pm-4pm..... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, Sept 9, Riverboat Luncheon Cruise... # of attendees' \_\_\_\_\_ x \$85 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
- 11am-3pm - Includes cruise, lunch, live music

Sunday, Sept 10, Farewell Banquet..... # of attendees \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*Coat and Tie suggested*

Choice of Entrée: A.) Blackened Chicken Breast & Farfalle Pasta \_\_\_\_\_  
Dried Tomatoes, Artichokes and Olives with Tomato Cream Sauce

B.) Grilled Chicken Breast & Farfalle Pasta \_\_\_\_\_  
Dried Tomatoes, Artichokes and Olives with Tomato Cream Sauce

C.) Dijon Roasted Pork Loin \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosemary Au Jus, Roasted Potatoes & Seasoned Vegetables

*Meals served with Salad, Rolls, Coffee and Dessert*

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

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

**Cut-off Date: August 1st**

**Lance Wagner  
71-21 73 Place  
Glendale, New York 11385**





# THE SUNRISE PRESS

WORLD NEWS

SUNDAY 9 JULY 1944

PUBLISHED DAILY

## AIR GROUP 16 GOES HOME!

### SOMEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC:

AFTER MANY MONTHS OF MISSIONARY WORK AMONG OUR JAPANESE BRETHREN, AIR GROUP 16 HAS BEEN ORDERED BACK TO THE STATES FOR A MUCH DESERVED AND WELL EARNED REST.

WITH COMMANDER L.B. SOUTHERLAND AS THE ORIGINAL AIR GROUP COMMANDER AND WITH COMMANDER E.M. SNOWDEN AS HIS SUCCESSOR, THIS GROUP OF AIRMEN HAS CONVERTED MANY NIPPONESE TO THE CAUSE. MANY JAPANESE PLANES HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE UPPER REGIONS IN A CLOUD OF SMOKE AND MANY OTHERS WERE LEFT, BEMOANING THEIR FATE, INACTIVE ON THE GROUND.

FIGHTING 16, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF COMMANDER PAUL BUIE, HAS PROVED INDUBITABLY TO ALL UNBELIEVERS, THE POTENCY OF THE F-6-FS.

COMMANDER SNOWDEN ORIGINALLY DIRECTED THE DESTINIES OF BOMBING 16 AND WAS SUCCEEDED BY LIEUT. COMMANDER RALPH WEYMOUTH IN THAT IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT. ON MANY OCCASIONS THEY WERE SEEN TO COME OUT OF THE CLOUDS OVER ENEMY TERRITORY AND SHIPS, TO DROP LITTLE 500 POUND MESSAGES FROM WHICH WERE HEARD VERY GOOD REPORTS.

TORPEDO 16 WAS HEADED BY COMMANDER ROBERT ISLEY, NOW ONE OF OUR IMMORTALS. LIEUT. NORMAN STERRIE HAS CARRIED ON IN HIS PLACE AND THE DEEDS OF THIS SQUADRON HAVE ADDED LUSTRE AND GLORY TO THE RECORD OF AIR GROUP 16.

AIR GROUP 16'S FINAL ASSIGNMENT WAS A DEFINITE DEMONSTRATION OF ITS PROWNESS AND ABILITY, AND THE ENEMY LEFT FOR HOME, A SADDER BUT WISER GENERATION.

SOME OF THE GROUP WILL NOT HEAR THEIR PRAISES SUNG, FOR THEY HAVE MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE BUT THEY WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN. THEIR HEROIC DEEDS LIVE AFTER THEM.

### IN SINCERE TRIBUTE

YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. AIR GROUP 16, WE SALUTE YOU. WE ARE PROUD OF HAVING YOU ABOARD, AND SAY "FAREWELL" WITH FEELINGS OF PRIDE AND SADNESS. YOU HAVE DONE A GRAND JOB. WE HAVE ENJOYED

ALWAYS.

HAPPY LANDINGS, AIR GROUP 16. GOOD LUCK.

**Big changes planned for the  
USS Lexington  
Scholarship Award Program**

After the Pigeon Forge reunion a committee was formed to review, enhance and expand the USS Lexington Scholarship Award Program. The committee has incorporated several potential changes to the Program that will increase the number of scholarships, open the Program to a broader set of students and make it possible for one term enlistment veterans to apply. All enhancements to the Program will be reviewed with the membership at the Minneapolis meeting and a motion to adopt the new Program will be made. If passed the new Program will become effective in 2018.

For 2017 the current scholarship program remains in place and the form is included in this Sunrise Press. Please review and if you have a family member that meets the criteria please have them submit an application as the Association would very much like to support their educational endeavors.

Regards,

Gary Shorrel,  
Vice President, USS Lexington Association

**Proposed changes to 2018  
USS Lexington  
Scholarship Award Program**

Scholarship to now be available to High School seniors who plan to attend a technical school in addition to those planning to attend a college. Applicants are eligible to apply for the scholarship up to the age of 25. Note: This allows one enlistment veterans to apply. Scholarship is now available to first and second year (underclassmen) currently attending a college or technical school.

Two \$500 scholarship awards are now available, in addition to the \$1,000 award, to the first and second runners up as judged by the award committee.

The essay, of 500 words or less, as described in the application form, should also include a paragraph about the applicant's educational or personal goals and any other pertinent information the applicant wishes to share with the award committee.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE.**

**ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED TO LATER THAN AUGUST 31, 2017**







# **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

### USS Lexington CV-16 Association Sponsored

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mail this form and essay to:

Scott and Missy Redding

11032 W. Crestline Drive

Littleton, CO 80127

All Submissions must be postmarked no later than 31 August 2017



Submitted by Bob DiMonte for your enjoyment.

Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Viet Nam, other than he had been shot by a sniper. However, he had a rather grainy, 8 x 10 black and white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if he could get her to Sign the treasured photo so he arrived at the bookstore at 12 o'clock for the 7:30 signing.

When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot, and disappeared behind a parking garage. Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted.



Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home.. Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as second in line, it was soon Richard's turn. He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it."

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for 'my gentlemen.'"

With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to-do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he were the only one there.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big, strong husband broke down in tears.. "That's the first time

anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army," he said.

That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband.

I now make it a point to say 'Thank you' to every person I come across who served in our Armed Forces. Freedom does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country.

If you'd like to pass on this story, feel free to do so. Perhaps it will help others to become aware of how important it is to acknowledge the contribution our service people make.

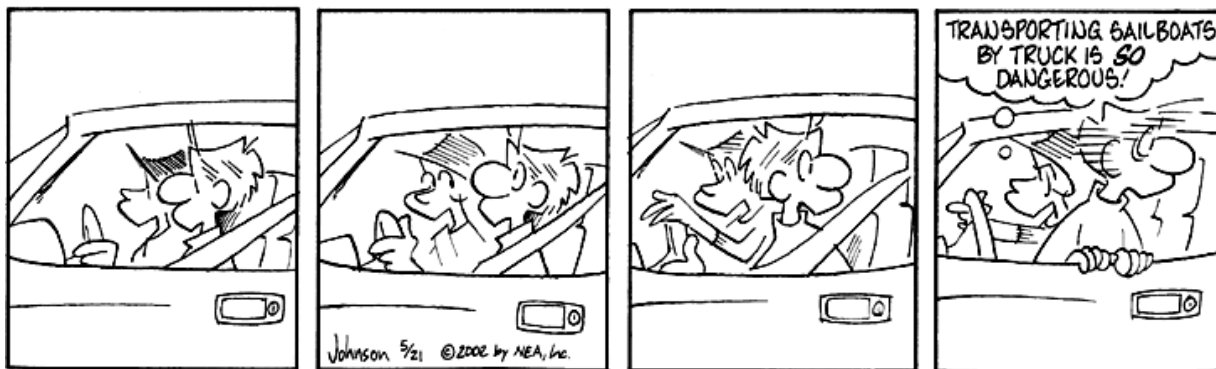




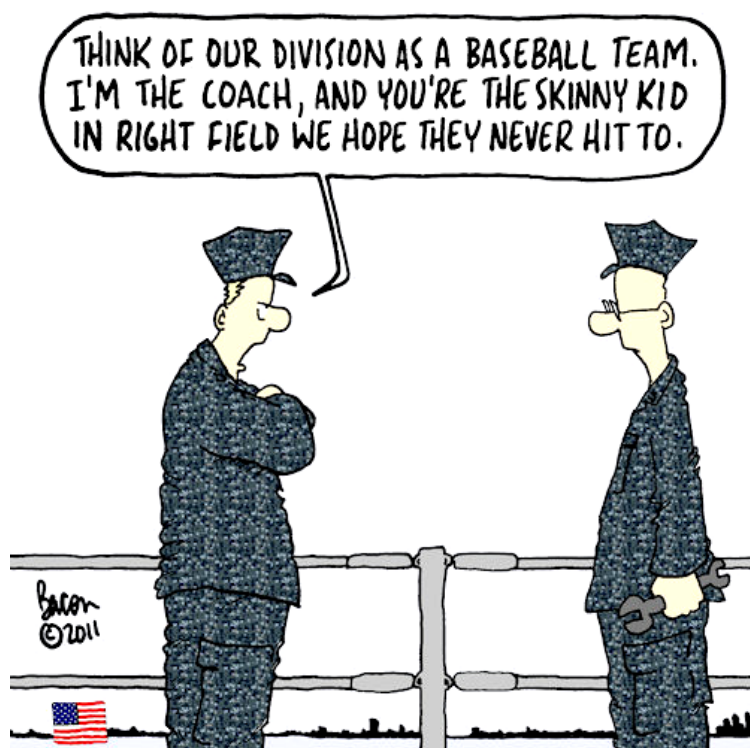


**Arlo and Janis**

BY: Jimmy  
Johnson



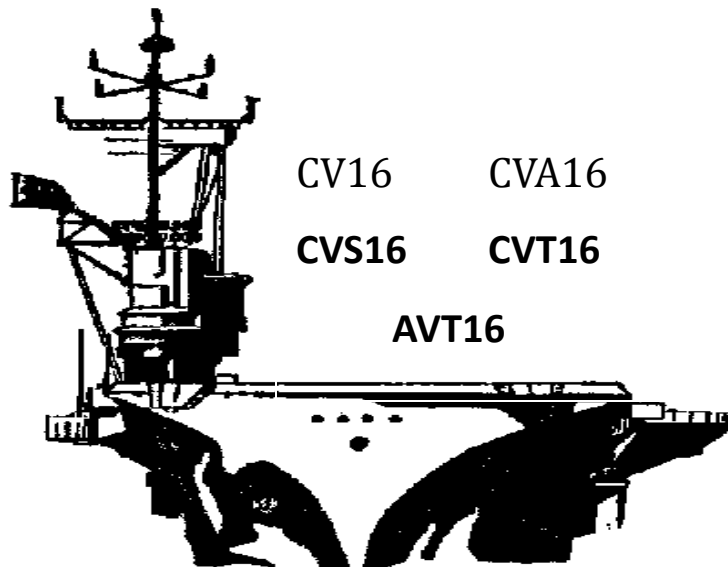
Online viewers, can't get enough of these characters? Click the Arlo and Janis logo, and it'll take you to the artists personal blog page.



Home Port of:

USS Lexington CV 16 Association

P. O. Box 16



CV16      CVA16

CVS16    CVT16

AVT16

USS LEXINGTON

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



TAPS Pg. 3



Shipmates looking for Info Pg. 4



A Message from our President Pg. 5



Chaplains Corner Pg. 6



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