

KEARSAGA

U.S.S. Kearsarge Association Newsletter

ISSUE 70

CV, CVA, CVS-33, LHD-3

SUMMER 2019

President's Message by C. V. Lindley



2020 MILWAUKEE REUNION PLANNING IS UNDERWAY

Greetings and Salutations to Association Members, families and friends of The USS Kearsarge (All).

Spring/Summer has finally arrived here in Pensacola Fl. and warm weather is welcomed. I hope that all of you are enjoying the season and experiencing "good health" and family fun.

Association VP Barry and I along with our wife's Lynda and Jan recently completed our 2020 reunion planning trip to Milwaukee (MKE) Wisconsin. We interviewed 4 different hotels and 3 different Tour/Excursion groups to obtain the very best possible arrangements for next year's reunion. We think that we were successful and I'll provide some basic info now, but the following KEARSAGA'S will contain very detailed information for your planning purposes.

FIRST, save the dates now! May 25 (Mon.) through May 29 (Fri.) 2020.

We will be contracting with another Hilton Double Tree property (as in Jax. Fl. in 2018). I'm still negotiating room rates so all pertinent info will be forthcoming. The hotel is in the "city center" which is convenient to "walkers" who wish to explore the downtown area of MKE. The hotel staff was very welcoming and made us feel like family in their recently renovated property. We are planning for two evening buffet "suppers" (Navy speak) as well as our special Friday night banquet buffet. Breakfast (2 per room) will be included in the room rate.

The complete tour/excursion schedule is still being worked but currently we are planning on 3 events. Specific info will be in future communications but I must tell you about a very-very special trip. We have been invited to be "special guests" at RTC Great Lakes for a Recruit graduation ceremony. We'll receive a "VIP" tour, a visit to "The Kearsarge" barracks as well as lunch on base.

Member David Twiford is the "Command Master Chief" (CMC) at The RTC and is facilitating and sponsoring this great event for us. David was our guest speaker in JAX and had two tours on LHD 3. His last tour was as the ship's CMC, his first tour was from being a SN to PO2.

VP Barry and Sec./Tres. Bill will be representing our Association at The USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) reunion in late May in Long Beach Ca.. We wish them safe travels and appreciation for their dedication.

In closing, I again, "thank" Jack DeMerit for stepping up and taking on KEARSAGA editor duties.

"IN OMNIBUS PINNACULUM"

C.V.

Trump Picks Navy's Next CNO, VCNO

The president has selected Adm. Bill Moran to replace retiring Adm. John Richardson as the Navy's 32nd chief of naval operations, and Vice Adm. Bob Burke for promotion to full admiral and assignment as the Navy's new vice chief of naval operations. Moran, a native of the Hudson Valley town of Walden, N.Y., currently serves as the Navy's VCNO. He is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and National War College, and is a P-3 Orion pilot by trade. Moran previously served as the Navy's top personnel officer, a position the newly selected VCNO currently occupies. Burke, a submariner by trade, is a native of Portage, Mich., and a graduate of Western Michigan University and the University of Central Florida. Both selectees require Senate approval.

WELCOME ABOARD New Members!

1501 Randolph Malak
Aboard from 1964 - 65

1502 Jim Cerro

1503 Don Miller
Aboard from 1962 - 66



Meet the Secret Service



My name is Jack De Merit. I am the new Editor of the Kearsaga. One of my memorable moments is as follows:

About an hour after landing and tying up in San Francisco, two men in civilian clothes and carrying weapons came into the Print Shop and asked for me by name. I figured that the Officer of the Deck had verified who they were and that they were carrying but, since I had done nothing wrong, I was very curious as to who they were and what they wanted. So, I asked them. They informed me that they had been told to get ME to print some invitations for their boss and handed me two boxes of Invitations. The First Ladies official insignia was on them.

They explained to me that Lady Bird Johnson had heard about me through the Chief Of Information (awardee of the Top 10 Carrier Newsletters) and she wanted me, personally, to typeset and print her invitations for a ceremony that was to take place 2 days after we left port. They gave me the copy to typeset and I made a proof of it when I was finished and they OK'd it.

They sat down and waited for me to finish them, box them up and say goodbye. The whole operation took about one hour to complete.

After they departed from the ship, I got a call from the OOD to find out what the Secret Service wanted with me since they did not arrest me and they did leave the ship without me. After explaining what they wanted we both had a good laugh.

Later that evening while having dinner with the Admiral, I was his Pinochle partner, (more about him some other time) I asked him if he had anything to do with the First Lady requesting me and he said no. He was just as surprised as I. I can only guess that when you're good at something, it is hard to keep it a secret.

Wierd Stuff You Didn't Know!

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only ... Ladies Forbidden' and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase... 'Goodnight, sleep tight'

Sailors Bloodshot Eyes



My name is Bernie Rubalcava and I served on board the U. S. S. Kearsarge, CVA 33, from 1957 to 1958. We had a sailor in our Division, V6 where I worked. The Aviation Repair Shop. This sailor decided that after High School he wanted to try ALL the branches of the Military. Before coming to us he did the Marine Corp, the Army as a paratrooper, the Coast Guard and now he was a U. S. Navy sailor. When he would wake up in the morning, his eyes always looked like they were bloodshot.

A friend of mine said, "something is going on. He must be drinking when we go out to sea." We could not figure out where he was getting the liquor from. That was the mystery. We asked him about the bloodshot eyes and he said with a cough, that he was taking cough medication. We asked to see the bottle and he showed it to us. It was a prescription from Sick Bay with his name on it and it said Cough Medicine. So, we believed him and he put it away in his locker.

One day he had an emergency and he had to run off to the Head. He left his locker cracked open a little and my friend and I said, "now we can check out that Cough Medicine. He won't miss a small spoonful and we can try it ourselves." We opened the bottle and smelled it. It was 100% Proof Liquor.

So, now we know where the bloodshot eyes were coming from. We put it back into his locker and when he came back from the Head, we confronted him.

He said, "please don't tell anyone. I don't want to get kicked out of the Navy. I want to finish my four years in the Navy.

That's the story of our friend with the Bloodshot Eyes.

The Missing Welder



I am Steve Ostrander, ATR3. I served onboard from late 1964 to the middle of 1966. The ship was in drydock in 1965 and I had the duty. My job was to follow a welder around the Flight Deck. There were two welders. One working below and one above. I was with the one above decks and the other welder went below. We waited for the guy to come up from below and he didn't. So, we went down to check on him and found the whole room on fire. The welder was gone. We have no idea who he was but he had left the compartment burning and never let anyone know. We put out the fire and tried to find him. We never did. We have no idea where he went or if he showed up later. He just took off.

One of the highlights of my service.