



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

September 1994

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY (DDG-15) ASSOCIATION

## Masthead

This is the first newsletter for the USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION since the decommissioning. The name comes from the ship's voice radio call sign which remained with her for her entire service life. BRIGHT PENNY will continue on into the future as the voice call of this publication.

## 1995 Reunion

The plans are in motion and the details will be published in the next issue of the Bright Penny. Our East Coast Planning Committee is headed up by Capt. Gordon Monteath (Ret) and the target date is the weekend of 6, 7 & 8 October, somewhere in the vicinity of Washington, D.C. All of our previous gatherings have been in San Diego because the ship was there. In the past we've had good attendance from the east coast group and we feel a reunion is due in their area for a change. At each reunion we will vote for the location of the next one.

## The Association

Through past correspondence we have had an overwhelming response in favor of a USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION. At present we are a quasi-association until we can meet as a group for the first time and elect officers. By default, all of you are now members. Our roster continues to build and so does our operating costs. In summary, our treasury is in need of a boost. Now is the time to "Ship Over" for the next reunion and you are requested to send \$10.00 as dues for this period. Until we meet as a group and establish a permanent dues schedule the current plan is to call for dues one year in advance of each reunion rather than on an annual basis. This seems to be a more manageable way to build the fund. Dues serve

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## The Final Hours

By Jim Barrett

The Guided Missile Destroyer USS BERKELEY is now decommissioned and transferred to another navy, and all the farewells and ceremonies were completed in a fashion which we can all be proud. Thirty years of history was brought to a close with all the pomp and circumstance fitting for a great ship of the United States Navy. Her final party brought together members of her first crew, her last crew and many from all the years between. It was a great and memorable week of celebration and recognition for her 30 years of naval service. CDR Fred J. Mallgrave III and his crew performed a superb job in making this such an elegant event.

On Wednesday, the 30th of September, a Berkeley only ceremony was conducted by CDR Mallgrave and many crewmembers received awards and recognition for outstanding performance during her final months. At this ceremony it was my pleasure to address the crew and present CDR Mallgrave with a letter of appreciation on behalf of all former crewmembers for making this occasion a memorable event for all Berkeley crews, past and present. A copy of the letter is

in this newsletter. That evening the final deck log entry was made by LCDR Robert Senter, the ships Executive Officer.

**"23:59: AS DIRECTED BY THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, BERKELEY DECOMMISSIONS. AS HER COMMISSIONED LIFE CEASES, HERE AT PIER THIRTEEN, ALL CONDITIONS ARE NORMAL, ALL SPACES ARE CLEAN. BERKELEY'S CREW SLEEPS THEIR SLUMBER, A WELL-DESERVED REST, STOUT HEARTS LIKE OAKS, BEAT IN THEIR CHEST. LIKE THEIR SHIPMATES BEFORE THEM, THEY GAVE HER THEIR BEST, NOW AS DIRECTED BY CNO, WE LAY BERKELEY TO REST."**

On Thursday, the 1st of October, formal ceremonies were conducted, the ship's commissioning pennant and colors were hauled down and the crew departed the ship. It was a somber and somewhat emotional moment for many of us present, but we all stood proud and accepted the inevitable that ships are not forever and must eventually pass on into history. She will not be forgotten and our Association will keep her memory alive and her past crews together long into the future.

## HS Themistocles (D 221)

Following additional underway training HS THEMISTOCLES departed San Diego on the 9th of December, 1992 and headed towards her new home port at the Naval Base in Athens, Greece. On board was U.S. Navy combat systems and boiler control troubleshooters who rode the ship to Panama. Steaming in company with THEMISTOCLES was HS FORMION (Ex-Strauss (DDG-16)). Their route took them through the Panama Canal and onward for the Atlantic crossing.

The crew was quite anxious to get home by Christmas, however, they ran into a hurricane after leaving Panama and had to change their heading and adjust speed. The ship pulled into Burmuda to recover from the storm and then headed for home on the final leg. They didn't make it in time for Christmas, but did arrive before New Years.

Have an interesting experience or short story to tell about the Berkeley? Send it in. Pictures too!

### ■ The Association

many purposes beyond normal overhead costs. Reunions cost money and often the price of meals are inflated to cover other expenses like advance cash deposits to reserve a hotel banquet room. A well organized reunion should be able to price out a dinner which includes tax and gratuity, and no more.

A portion of the dues should be returned in the form of amenities during the reunion such as refreshments and hors d'oeuvres in the hospitality room, table decorations and door prizes. This newsletter is an example of how some of the fund is used and the cost of mailing is expected to increase next year. Last month 135 letters went out to former crewmembers that are not on the last roster.

Let's get this association off to a good start and do it right. Your support and interest is appreciated.

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# MEMORIES?



Stand by for heavy rolls !!  
 Lunch is now being served  
 on the mess deck..

## Berkeley History

### 30 Years Ago

Berkeley is on her first deployment to the Far East. She is at sea with the USS BON HOMME RICHARD (CVA-31) as part of TG 77.7 on Yankee Station in the South China Sea. CDR Michael D. Ricinak is the Commanding Officer.

### 20 Years Ago

The ship departed Subic Bay P.I. on 14 September enroute to TG 77.6 in the South China Sea. 21-30 September in port Hong Kong. CDR Jonathan T. Howe is the Commanding Officer.

### 10 Years Ago

Conducting type training in the San Diego local operating area. 27-30 September in port San Francisco. CDR Robert W. Reighley is the Commanding Officer.

September 30, 1992

CDR Fred J. Mallgrave III  
 Commanding Officer  
 USS Berkeley (DDG-15)

Dear Commander Mallgrave:

On behalf of all former crewmembers of the USS BERKELEY I wish to express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation for the grand farewell you hosted for our ship. This past year you have been most supportive in bringing together as many former crewmembers as possible to make this occasion a memorable event for all who have served in BERKELEY. She is going out with a flair fitting of the style she has exhibited so well through her years of service.

The USS BERKELEY has served our country in exemplary fashion for the past 30 years. Today she is among the last of her class to leave the fleet which is a tribute to the outstanding care given by her many crews. We can all look back with pride knowing she has set the example and been the model for other ships to emulate.

Tomorrow BERKELEY will be passed on to another navy for further service on the high seas. She will not rest in silence with cold iron, but instead, sail under a new flag as D-221. And, from afar, we will continue to follow her new mission of service with the Hellenic Navy.

Commander Mallgrave, you and BERKELEY's last crew have done an exceptional job in caring for her, keeping her bright and looking young for the many miles she has steamed. Thank you from all of us for a job well done and best wishes as you move on to new challenges.

James L. Barrett  
 CDR, USN (Ret)