



# THE BRIGHT PENNY

December 2003

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

## 2004 Reunion in Branson, MO.

Another year is coming to an end and along with it the end of a remarkable era. This edition of The Bright Penny is the last one that Jim Barrett will publish. Jim has devoted many years and countless hours of hard work to give birth to and guide the USS Berkeley Association. Even though Jim turned the day to day workings of the Association over to me in December, 2000 he has continued to serve as the editor for The Bright Penny as well as maintaining the website. It is now time for Jim to travel and enjoy life with Elaine. Both of these responsibilities will now be added to my job description.



**Ray Bartlett**

I know I speak for the entire membership as I offer my gratitude to Jim for all he has done to pay tribute to the USS Berkeley.

There are currently 296 members in the Association. While the increase in dues did discourage a few of the members we have had many new members sign up in the last year. Efforts are ongoing to increase our membership base. I've asked before and I'll ask again, if you know anyone who served on the Berkeley who is not a member, give them a nudge and tell them to contact me.

The 2004 reunion in Branson, Missouri is less than a year away. Information flyers and sign up sheets will be mailed out in March to all current members. Our reunion committee has done a great job getting things set up for our enjoyment. Be sure and put the reunion on your schedule as it promises to be one of the best so far.

Efforts are currently underway by several Adams Class DDG Associations to obtain one of the ships for a floating museum. Currently there are two ships that could possibly be involved; the USS Charles F. Adams, DDG-2 and the USS Barney, DDG-6. The USS Charles F. Adams is looking at the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum and the USS Barney is looking at the Miami-Dade Historical Maritime Museum. There is a great deal of controversy at the present time as to which of the ships is in the best shape and which one could be obtained from NAVSEA. Anyone who is interested in getting more information can go to [www.cfadams.org](http://www.cfadams.org) or [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CFA\\_Confederation/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CFA_Confederation/).

### USS Waddell Decommissioning

HS NEARCHOS (DDG-219) Ex-USS Waddell (DDG-24) was decommissioned in July 2003 at Souda Bay, Crete. Rick Bennett, President and Webmaster for the USS Waddell Association, traveled to Greece to observe and photograph the ceremony.

While in Greece Rick took hundreds of photos of the former Waddell, Berkeley and Strauss. Additionally, he took extensive video of the ships and has graciously provided a copy to our Association. There is a lot of video of Berkeley inside and out and you will be able to view it at our reunions. To see the still shots you can visit his Web site at [www.usswaddell.com](http://www.usswaddell.com). A big bravo zulu to Rick for all his efforts and for providing some closure of ex-Berkeley as she awaits her fate.

## MASTER CHIEF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Master Chief Yeoman (Surface Warfare) Curtis Kiesau was born in 1948 in Waukon, Iowa, where he attended local schools. He studied one year at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point before enlisting in the Navy in September 1967. After completing recruit training at San Diego, he reported to USS BERKELEY (DDG-15), the first of many varied duty stations and ships, which also included the Defense Intelligence School/Defense Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC, 1970-1971; Defense Language Institute West Coast (German language training), Monterey, California, 1972; U.S. Navy Representative's Office, Munich, West Germany, 1972-1974; Commander, Submarine Squadron Six (embarked USS L. Y. SPEAR (AS-36)), 1974-1975; USS SPRUANCE (DD-963) (Plankowner), 1975-1977; Naval Junior ROTC Area Six Program Manager, Naval Base, Charleston, South Carolina, 1977-1981; Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Two, 1981-1984; Administrative Branch Supervisor, Service School Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, 1984-1990; Personnel Exchange Liaison Representative, U.S. American Embassy, Bonn, Germany, 1990-1992; and Command Master Chief, USS GETTYSBURG (CG-64). Master Chief Kiesau earned designations as Naval Intelligence Clerk in 1971 and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist in 1982.

Master Chief Kiesau retired in September 1994 having completed 27 years of active service. He attended the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, where he earned his BA in Liberal Arts and was employed by the U.S. Geological Survey at the Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center in La Crosse. After residing there for seven years, he and his wife relocated to Wausau, Wisconsin where they are actively involved in remodeling a home and he is employed with a nationally known insurance company.

Master Chief Kiesau is married to the former Carolyn Thomas (formerly a Disbursing Clerk Third Class of Naval Station Long Beach) of Ashton, Maryland. Their daughter, husband and brand new grandson live in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Master Chief Kiesau's personal decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (w/Gold Star), Combat Action Ribbon, Joint



**YNCM (SW) Curtis Kiesau**

Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy "E" Ribbon (2 Awards), Navy Good Conduct Medal (w/Silver Star), Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal (w/Silver Star) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal (w/2 Bronze Stars), Southwest Asia Service Medal (w/Bronze Star), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (w/3 Bronze Stars), Navy & Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon (w/Bronze Star), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation, NATO Peacekeeping Service Medal and Sharpshooter Pistol Shot Medal.

"I have truly missed all the traveling my family and I did with the Navy, and I miss many of my shipmates although I have managed to stay in touch with some of them. It was a terrific time to be a member of the Navy and to have enjoyed so much both ashore and at sea, both stateside and overseas."



## The last of the Adams Class DDG's

The only Adams Class Destroyer remaining in service is HS Kimon D-218 (ex-USS Semmes DDG-18) operating out of Salmis Naval Base near Athens. Ex-Semmes was commissioned on 10 December 1962 and is the only ship of her class to exceed forty years of continuous active service. HS Nearchos D-219 (ex-USS Waddell DDG-24) was decommissioned on 18 July 2003 at Souda Bay, Crete where ex-Berkeley and all of the other decommissioned ships are berthed. Ex-Berkeley was the second longest of the class in service with 39 years and 2 months.

On 19 June 2003 ex-USS Richard E. Byrd (DDG-23) was sunk off Crete as a target by the Hellenic Navy with three missiles and two torpedoes. The ship was never placed into service, but was towed to Greece and used for spare parts.

## Saving the USS Charles F. Adams

The Charles F. Adams Confederation has announced that the Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum has made a decision to abandon their effort in acquiring the ship. Additional information is available on the CFA Website [www.charlesfadams.com](http://www.charlesfadams.com)

## Another effort

The USS Barney (DDG-6) Association is working diligently to acquire the Barney as a museum ship for display in Florida. Currently on the list to be scrapped, NAVSEA recently moved her to the bottom of the scrap list and that will give the Barney group more time to raise the necessary funds to save the ship.

## USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

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Annual Dues: \$20.00

Association Director: Ray Bartlett



Editor: CDR Jim Barrett (Ret)

## Letter from the Editor

As Ray Bartlett stated in his column this will be my final issue as editor of the Bright Penny newsletter. Ray will be taking over as the new editor and he will also assume the job of Webmaster for our Web site.

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve the Association for the past eighteen years. We got off to a slow start in 1985 with about 20 former crewmembers and have since grown to nearly 1,000 in our roster. I leave with a smile on my face knowing the Association and all of its collateral duties are in good hands. Ray and Donna Bartlett have brought a high degree of interest, professionalism and dedication in keeping the Association growing. Continue to give them your support for one of the finest DDG's to ever serve our U.S. Navy. I look forward to future reunions and sitting out there among all of you and watch our new leaders carry out their duties. I can now say I am fully retired.

BERKELEY HISTORY  
DECEMBER

## 40 Years Ago, 1963

In port Long Beach. CDR Wyatt E. Harper Jr. is the Commanding Officer.

## 30 Years Ago, 1973

On 26 November the ship's homeport was officially changed to San Diego, CA. **1-05**, Inport, Bangor, WA.; **06-07**, WSAT; **8-11**, Inport, Esquimalt, Canada; **11-13**, WSAT; **14-31**, Inport, PSNS. CDR Jerry S. Jones is the Commanding Officer.

## 20 Year Ago, 1983

**1-12**, Underway READIEX 84-1; **13**, Onload, North island; **14-31**, Inport San Diego. CDR Robert W. Reighley is the Commanding Officer

## 10 Years Ago, 1993

Ex-Berkeley in service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece.

## Interesting Web sites

**[www.hmshood.com](http://www.hmshood.com)**. For WWII history buffs this is a great site with a well documented history and many underwater photos of the British cruiser HMS HOOD and the German battleship BISMARCK.

## 2004 active duty pay raise is 3.7%

An E-1 in boot camp now starts out at \$1,104 per month. An E-4 with two years of service will receive \$1,638 and a new ensign will receive \$2,264.

## TAPS

BT1 Randall Diffie passed away 6 July 2003. Randall served in Berkeley from 1974 to 1977

## Sea Tales "The Plankowner"



My father, James E. Barrett, was a Chief Warrant Carpenter at the end of World War II. Upon returning to the U.S. following three years in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, he was assigned to the Long Beach Naval Shipyard as a Ship's Superintendent. At the shipyard was the battleship USS Nevada (BB-36) being prepped in bright red lead paint to be the center target ship for the atomic bomb Able Test at Bikini Island, which was conducted in 1946.



CWO4 Barrett was a member of the commissioning crew of the Nevada in 1916 and served aboard her until 1925. Nevada was his third battleship and the favorite of five he served on during seventeen consecutive years at sea. With the Nevada in sight, he grabbed a shipyard worker with a skill saw, walked up to the quarterdeck and said to the OOD, "I am a plankowner of this ship and I am here to get my plank." The OOD did not appear to want to argue with this salty looking officer and stepped aside as the worker cut a plank right out of the quarterdeck. I still have the 18" long teak wood plank shown in the photo.

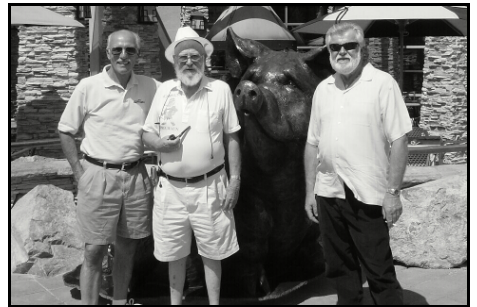
*Jim Barrett, CDR, USN (Ret)*



## Here we go again!

For the third time in the past 40 years the Signalman rate will become history by 30 September 2004. The Quartermaster rate will absorb about ten percent of the 2,322 SM's in the Navy. The remainder will have to convert to other rates and must make a decision by 31 January. The Navy's ruling that does not allow rate changes after 14 years of service is being waived for SM's. At present SM's only spend 5 to 7 percent of their time doing signalman work.

## REUNIONS



A small group of OI Division Radarmen gathered at Marriott's Desert Springs resort at Palm Desert, California on 14 June 2003. Attending were Rich and Anita Cody (NY), Dave Oldham (AZ) and Ed Dertinger (CA).



On 19 July a second group of Radarmen and their wives met at Peddler's Village in Bucks County, Lahaska, Pennsylvania. In attendance were (L-R) David and Donna Meier (NJ), Rich and Anita Cody (NY) and Bob and Joyce Landis (PA).



During the weekend of 17-19 October Paul & Hallie Downey hosted a gathering dubbed the 40th Reunion for the officers of the wardroom from the 1962 commissioning to 1966. The gala event was held in Healdsburg, California at their ranch and vineyard. Attendees were Jim & Elaine Barrett, Frank & Barbara Bennett, Jack Cane, Gene & Gay Chicoine, Charles & Judy McKenna, Joe and Rosemarie Novelline, Paul & Sandy Pimentel, Rose Ricinak, "Bud" & Jayne Schiff, Coenraad & Lesley Van Der Schroeff, Richard & Mary Wallace, Norman Wight & Phyllis Muscar and Brian & Barbara Young. The usual round of sea stories prevailed and a great time was had by all.