



THE BRIGHT PENNY

January — March 2016

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

New Web Site Coming Soon!

Director's Update

The construction of a new web site is in-process, and we hope to have it fully operational in the next month or two.



Jim Barrett is working with GoDaddy to construct a web site very similar to our present one, but with a few important upgrades. The new site will allow for multiple staff members to update the master roster, reunion information, and special announcements. Members will be able to fill out membership applications, pay dues, and purchase items from the Ship's Store on line. All of these processes will now be streamlined.

Voting for our 2018 reunion host city has been in-process, and we had hoped to announce the location in this issue of the newsletter. However, we decided to extend the voting through May 31st to allow for more members to participate. Some ballots have been submitted without names, and therefore have not been tallied because only one ballot is allowed per person. If you are not sure that your name was on the ballot you submitted, please resubmit your ballot before the deadline. The voting is very close between Long Beach and Portland, so please take a few minutes to vote.

Planning for our 2018 West Coast reunion will commence in early June, and our first task will be finding a host hotel and setting the reunion dates. It is always a great help when members can recommend potential host hotels. If you know of a good hotel or two, please pass along the information now so that we can contact the hotels in early June. We hope to announce the city, hotel, and reunion dates in the July newsletter.

Charles F. Adams Update

The eight-year effort to bring the Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) to Jacksonville as a museum ship has moved a step closer to reality. The Navy has offered the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association the possibility of scheduling dry dock space at the naval shipyard in Philadelphia in the May/June time frame to prepare the ship to be towed to Jacksonville. The dry dock work will seal the hull, and restore the exterior paint.

The dry dock period will be about four weeks, and the tow to Jacksonville will take a week. That means that the ship could be docked downtown as early as September 2017.

There are only two main tasks that need to be completed for the project. The first is for the city to select a developer for the shipyard and Metropolitan Park properties. The second task is for the JHNS

Association to raise the remainder of the approximately \$3 million needed to open the museum. Joe Snowberger, spokesman for the association, said they have raised enough money to cover both the dry dock work and the towing. However, the association is reluctant to authorize the work before it has raised all the money needed for the museum. Snowberger said they are close to an agreement with a sponsor that would complete the funding.

Jacksonville's Downtown Investment Authority was scheduled to select one of three proposals, for the redevelopment of the shipyard and Metropolitan Park properties, by April 18th. Snowberger said the association won't be able to negotiate with the developer until the city selects the best proposal. After preliminary contact with all possible developers, there is no indication that the USS Adams won't be part of the plan regardless which developer is selected.

Blue Water Navy

Veterans who served on open sea ships off the shore of Vietnam during the Vietnam War are sometimes called "Blue Water Veterans." These Blue Water Veterans, who did **not** set foot in Vietnam or serve

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Al Meier

Newsletter Distribution: to current (paid) dues members e-mail in pdf form and to non-e-mail members via U.S. Mail.

**Berkeley History
April 2017**

50 Year Ago, 1967

- 01 – 10 Upkeep and Restricted availability
- 11 – 18 Fleet Exercise "Blue Coral"
- 19 – 28 Inport Long Beach
- 29 Underway for Western Pacific escorting USS Constellation (CVA-64)

40 Years Ago, 1977

- 01 – 30 Upkeep, San Diego

30 Years Ago, 1987

- 01 – 20 Inport, San Diego
- 01 Shift from COMDESRON 9 to COMDESRON 17
- 15 Fast Cruise
- 20 – 24 Underway, Southern California Op-Area
- 24 – 30 Inport, San Diego

20 Years Ago, 1997

In service with the Hellenic Navy of Greece as the H.S. Themistokles

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aboard ships that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam any time between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, **must show on a factual basis** that they were exposed to herbicides during military service to receive disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure. These claims are decided on a case-by-case basis. **Exception:** Blue Water Veterans with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma may be granted service-connection without showing inland waterway service or that they set foot in Vietnam. This is because the VA also recognizes non-Hodgkin's lymphoma as related to service in Vietnam or the **waters offshore of Vietnam** during the Vietnam Era.

Veterans who stepped foot in Vietnam or served on its inland waterways anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides when claiming service-connection for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

The "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" has been introduced in both the House and Senate (H.R.299 & S.422 respectively). These proposals would clarify that service members serving off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict have a presumption for filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to the Agent Orange herbicide. Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) believes Congress should recognize that so-called "Blue Water" veterans were exposed to Agent

Agent Orange herbicide and authorize presumptive status for VA disability claims associated with exposure.

The status of the two bills regarding our exposure to Agent Orange is as follows:

The Senate Bill (S.422) has been read twice and referred to the Veterans Affairs Committee. The House Bill (H.R.299) has been sent to the House Veterans Affairs subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

You can take action regarding bill "S.422". Just click on the link "Take Action" and by supplying your information the system will identify your House and Senate representatives and an email will be sent to them urging their support.

Also, if you care to do your own investigating you can access the info via congress.gov

Obituaries

LT. Carl Everett

(Ret) passed away on 26 January 2017. Carl was on kidney dialysis for many years. Interment is at the National Cemetery in Dixon, California. He is survived by Jan, his wife of 15 years.



LT. CDR Charles A McKenna Jr.

passed away on Wednesday the 12th of April. He was the Weapons Officer from 1964-66.



William E Young on Feb 14, 2017. He was stationed on the U.S.S. Berkeley in 1962-63 as a DK2, and is a plank owner.