



THE BRIGHT PENNY

October—December 2016

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

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year – 2017

Happy New Year to all of you and your families. We hope your new year is off to a good start. We have high hopes for another good year in 2017.



A quick reflection on 2016 reveals a good year for our Association, and another successful reunion. As we look at our goals for 2017, we have two key areas that we hope to improve. The first goal is improving a couple of processes through our web site. The second goal is to substantially increase our paid membership number.

In the near future, Jim Barrett will begin mirroring our current web site over to a new software package. It is necessary to replace our antiquated FrontPage software that the web site has been running on. Two important improvements that will result from the software upgrade are the ability to use PayPal (and credit cards) for Ship's Store purchases and dues payments, and the ability for additional staff members to update the web site. Member's master roster updates will occur much more rapidly in the future since the information will not need to be forwarded to the web master for updating. People wishing to join the Association will soon be able to complete the application on line as well as pay their dues with PayPal and credit cards. For those who prefer to make these payments by check, that option

will still be available but will take substantially longer to complete.

Our goal of increasing paid membership to the levels we experienced a few years ago will be a bigger challenge. Paid membership is the primary source of income for the Association, and we need to ensure we have adequate funding to operate our web site and cover other operational costs. We are not certain why paid membership has dropped substantially, but we are exploring some ways of increasing it again this year and beyond. One possibility is to discount reunion cost for paid members.

We will begin preliminary planning for the 2018 reunion this summer, and as always could use some volunteers to help out. We hope that members living in the 2018 reunion area might be able to assist us in the hotel selection process. If you are willing, please let us know.



Gift for RADM Ward

The Association presented to RADM Tom Ward, Commanding Officer of Berkeley 1967-69, an admirals cap to commemorate his 31 years of service. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1951 and

retired in 1982. RADM Ward suffered a stroke in 2011, which has greatly affected his mobility and speech. Yet, his thoughts and intelligence are fully intact. He is able to move about quite effectively in his electric wheelchair.

We wish RADM Ward and his wife Peggy a Happy and Healthy New Year!

2017 Dues Reminder

Many past Association supporters have yet to renew their memberships for 2017. While our master roster continues to grow, our paid membership numbers continue to dwindle. Please consider supporting the USS Berkeley Association. You can send dues payments to Gerry Hansen at the following address.

USS Berkeley Association
c/o Gerry Hansen
6318 S. 20th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Checks or money orders in the amount of \$20 should be made out to the USS Berkeley Association. We thank you for your support!

USS BERKELEY ASSOCIATION

5553 Makati Circle
San Jose, CA 95123
408-656-3879

E Mail: ddg15@ussberkeley.com

Website: www.USSBerkeley.com

Annual Dues: \$20.00

Director: Al Meier

Asst. Director: Dale Johnson

Secretary: Pat Clark & Tammy Meier

Treasurer: Gerald Hansen

Membership Committee Chairman: Al Meier

Regional Chairmen:

Northeast: Duane LeDoux

Southeast: Randy Wilkins

North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Don Carson

Northwest: Ron Bravo

Southwest: Dr. William Perry

Ship's Store Mgr: Gerald Hansen

Bright Penny Editor & Publisher: Jim Barrett

Webmaster: Jim Barrett

ACVA Representative: Vacant

Newsletter Distribution: To dues current members via



Al Meier

**Host City for
2018 Reunion**

Our 2018 reunion will be on the west Coast, and now is the time to select the host city. At our 2016 Business Meeting last September, Portland, Seattle, and Long Beach were nominated to be the 2018 host city. We conducted a short survey to see what members' preferences are looking toward the next reunion, and the results are as follows. The reunion month of September was again a unanimous choice (74%), the dates of September 20-23 were the popular choice, and the key location preference was "Best Value". An important consideration if Long Beach is selected as host city, is whether or not a short cruise should be included. The choices pertaining to Long Beach were a 4-day cruise for the reunion, a hotel-based reunion followed by a cruise, or a hotel-only reunion. The vote favored a cruise being included (63%), with the cruise to take place after the 3-day hotel reunion. Attendees will have the option to attend either or both the hotel and cruise portions of the reunion, and the hotel-based portion will have the same format that we have been using for our recent reunions.

We are now ready to select the reunion host city, and a cruise only factors in should Long Beach be selected. Please take a few minutes to visit the web site and select your choices. Two points for your top choice, and one point for your second choice. Please do not assign both choices to the same city as only one will be recorded. The voting will run through March 15th, and the host city will be announced on the web site and in the April edition of the Bright Penny newsletter.

Should Long Beach be selected as the host city, a 4-day cruise will be planned with approximate cost listed in the April newsletter. The cruise will have a Monday departure, and will return on Friday morning.

Gary Stanton Obit

We received news last week of Gary L Stanton's passing on January 20th. Gary was an HTC and was onboard the Berkeley 1967-68. We send our condolences to Gary's wife Marie, and to his family and friends.

**1979-80 Cruise Book
Added**

The 1979-80 USS Berkeley cruise book has been added to our collection on the web site. Thank you to Barry O'Conner for loaning his cruise book to the Association, and to Jim Barrett for adding the book on our web site.

**Berkeley History
January 2017**

50 Year Ago, 1967

- 01 - 04 Holiday upkeep, Long Beach
- 05 - 13 Fleet Exercise "SNATCH BLOCK"
- 14 - 31 Upkeep and Tender Availability Long Beach

40 Years Ago, 1977

- 01 - 31 Inport, San Diego
- 27 Change of Command, San Diego

30 Years Ago, 1987

- 01 - 03 Underway, Transit to Chinhae, Republic of Korea
- 03 - 06 Inport, Chinhae, Republic of Korea
- 06 - 11 ASWEX 87-1K with Republic of Korea Navy
- 11 - 12 Hot Wash-Up, Chinhae, Republic of Korea
- 12 - 19 Underway, Transit to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
- 13 Sonar Dome Casualty
- 19 - 24 Inport Guam, Inspect and repair forward sonar dome
- 24 - 31 Sea Trials, Underway for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

20 Years Ago, 1997

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