



T H E

BRIGHT PENNY

October - December 2017

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

2018 Long Beach Reunion Dates Set!!!

Director's Update



As we head into the fourth quarter, the association is working on our 2018 Long Beach reunion, and moving toward the completion of our web site upgrade. We hope to have most of the work done by the end of the year.

The Queen Mary has been identified as the 2018 reunion's host hotel, and the reunion dates are now set for Thursday, September 20, 2018 – Sunday, September 23, 2018. Additional information is available at the web site, and in our reunion article in this newsletter.

The web site upgrade is now reaching the final stages, and we hope to make the switch to the new site soon. We will post information on the web site and in the newsletter which highlights the new features and improvements for the new site. Continue to use the current web site address, and it will take you to the new site when the switch is made.

As a quick reminder, it is a good time to renew your association dues. Thank you for your support!

As we approach the end of the year and the Holiday Season, we wish you smooth sailing and happy days! We look forward to seeing many of you at the Long Beach reunion!

Long Beach Reunion

The Long Beach reunion will be held aboard The Queen Mary September 20 – 23, 2018. The host hotel was highly recommended, and offered the best room rates. Rooms are available at the reunion price of \$137.08 per night includes taxes, and these rates are available to us from September 17 – 26. An additional facility fee of \$6.95 (discounted from \$16.95 per room) per night will be added. This fee covers audio tour of the ship, WIFI, access to the fitness center, and 50% off of selected tours and attraction tickets. The Queen Mary guided tours are supposed to be very interesting, and are recommended. There is also a discounted \$10 daily parking fee.

We are currently looking into possible tours that we can offer, and tour information will be posted on the web site once arrangements are made. We are gathering information on the museum ship USS Iowa (BB61), and will see what discounts we can pass on for those who would like to tour the battleship.

There are many things to do in Long Beach, and we will include this information in the Welcome Packets you receive at the reunion.

Reunion events will be the same as those from previous reunions with the Bull Session on Thursday

evening, a Friday tour, the Welcome Reception Friday evening, a Business Meeting Saturday morning, the Ladies Tea Saturday afternoon, and our Banquet Saturday night.

To reserve a room on the Queen Mary, call (877) 342-0742, and identify yourself as being part of the USS Berkeley group. The cut-off date for registering with the hotel at the discounted room rate is August 20, 2018.

Reunion registration forms will be available on-line by November 10th, and possibly sooner. We will also include a reunion registration form in the January 2018 newsletter. The deadline for registration will be August 20, 2018 so that arrangements can be finalized with the Queen Mary.

Veterans, Have You Heard? You Can Shop Again with the Online Exchanges

Soon honorably discharged Veterans will be able to shop all online exchanges. These shopping privileges are being extended by the exchanges to recognize your sacrifice and courage and to bring the on-base shopping that you remember to your home. The benefit, which is set to officially begin on Nov. 11, 2017 (Veterans Day), rolled out on June 5 for a group of "Beta testers" randomly selected from those who applied to use the system via the new "VetVerify.ORG"

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Regional Chairmen:

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North Central: Larry Norris

South Central: Vacant

Northwest: Vacant

Southwest: Todd Frazier

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



Al Meier

Berkeley History October 2017

50 Year Ago, 1967

- 06 – 07 Inport Nagoya, Japan
- 08 Enroute Yokosuka, Japan
- 09 – 11 Inport Yokosuka, Japan
- 12 – 24 Enroute U.S. (via Midway Island)
- 25 – 31 Leave and Upkeep Long Beach

40 Years Ago, 1977

- 01 – 31 Regular Overhaul, PSNS

30 Years Ago, 1987

- 01 Inport San Diego
- 02 Underway Sea Trials
- 03 - 05 Inport San Diego
- 05 Underway Sea trials
- 05 – 06 Inport San Diego
- 07 – 08 Underway, FTG Anchorage, San Diego Harbor
- 08 – 13 Inport San Diego
- 13 Underway for Seal Beach, Ammo On-Load
- 14 Ammo On-Load, Return to San Diego
- 15 – 19 Inport, Guest Ship Broadway Pier, San Diego
- 19 Begin SNAP II Computer Implementation
- 19 Underway
- 20 – 22 Inport San Diego
- 22 – 30 Underway, TRÉ

20 Years Ago, 1997

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

Blue Water Navy

Starting in 1991, the VA contracted with the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to review scientific and medical information related to the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange. HMD released the first report of its findings titled “Veterans and Agent Orange” in 1994, and was required to release updated reports every two years through 2016.

For every update, HMD was required to determine whether there was a statistical association between specific diseases and exposure to herbicides used during the Vietnam War, whether there was an increased risk of disease among individuals exposed to herbicides during service in Vietnam, and whether there was evidence of a causal relationship between herbicide exposure and a disease.

In March 2016, HMD released its tenth report in the mandated series. A technical workgroup of VA subject matter experts was assembled to review the report and make recommendations to the Secretary on how the findings can be used to improve the VA’s policies and the care of Vietnam veterans.

The VA recognizes certain cancers and other health problems as diseases that are associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for diseases that can be found by visiting <http://go.usa.gov/cuxfz>. VA continues to update this list based on relevant scientific and medical information, including HMD’s findings. You can view HMD’s reports by going to <http://go.usa.gov/chaAP>.

Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested and stored elsewhere, including some military bases in the U.S. The Department of Defense gave the VA a list of dates and locations of herbicide tests and locations.

Our first “Blue Water Navy” article appeared in the April 2017 newsletter. The source for “Blue Water Navy, Part 2” is the Summer 2016 Agent Orange Newsletter (www.publichealth.va.gov).

Taps

Robert Bushor (FTM2, 1968-72) passed away on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. Robert was born in Detroit, Michigan on November 11, 1947. He proudly served for six years in the United States Navy during the Vietnam war. His Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctorate were both obtained from Arizona State University.

He was married for 22 years to Linda Sue Bushor-Sherman and is survived by his three children: Christopher, Heather, and Matthew; three grand children: Nathan, Kaylie, and Leah and his siblings Dennis, Jane, Mark, Matthew, Scott, and Aaron Bushor.

Bob dedicated his life to serving the underserved and fighting for families as a juvenile dependency lawyer. Robert loved cooking, constantly finding new and interesting dishes to make for his friends and family. He took great pride and joy in working on his home, making certain that it was a warm and welcoming place for all.

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All honorably discharged veterans interested in shopping online at military exchanges can begin their verification process immediately, exchange officials said. To get verified go to www.VetVerify.ORG and submit a verification form to check your eligibility.

VetVerify.ORG uses information from the Defense Departments Defense Management Data Center to verify a veteran’s status; veterans will receive notification of their acceptance as online shoppers or, if their records are incomplete, will receive guidance on the steps they can take to update those records.

Only honorably discharged veterans qualify for this benefit.