



T H E

# BRIGHT PENNY

April—June 2019

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

## Portland, Maine in 2020!!!

### Director's Update

The polls have closed, and Portland, Maine easily outdistanced the rest of the field of five.



Planning for the 2020 reunion will commence soon, and any feedback you can provide on our next reunion host city will be greatly appreciated.

We hope to announce the reunion dates and host hotel in the October 2019 newsletter. Hopefully this information will be available on our website by the August/September time frame. Information regarding Portland and area attractions will appear in future newsletter articles. Please check the "Reunions" page on the web site for the latest 2020 reunion information.

### Help Requested!

[Website: USSBerkeley.com](http://USSBerkeley.com)

We are looking for a shipmate who has experience working with WordPress software. We are not trying to recruit anyone to be our web master or create a part-time job for anyone.

We are looking for someone that we would be able to call and consult, to assist us with some of the problems that pop up on the USS Berkeley website from time-

to-time.

Also, if there is anyone out there that is up on "Beaver Builder" page builder, we would like to ask for some helpful hints and suggestions.

Jim Barrett and Gerald Hansen are maintaining the web site at the present time. There are times when it would be nice to have someone with additional knowledge and current experience to ask for advice.

If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Al Meier; Jim Barrett; or Gerald Hansen.

### Obituaries



**Paul F. Pimentel, LT:**

Paul F. Pimentel, 76, died in Los Angeles, CA on February 5, 2019. Paul served aboard the Berkeley as a LT from 1965 to 1968.

After serving as deputy secretary of the state of Massachusetts, Paul turned to the environment, energy independence, and the economy. During the course of

40 years, he and his team brought their vision from startup to a world leader in the industry. They developed a model that unlocked billions of dollars in energy and water savings, and is now being implemented across the globe. Paul was most proud of the creation of Vineyard Power, an independent, clean-energy cooperative that will bring more than 800 megawatts of low-cost offshore wind power to the Cape and Islands of Massachusetts.

Paul is survived by his wife Sandra; his children, Lisa Pimentel, Christopher Pimentel, Susan Andrien, Courtney Child, and Joanie Pimentel; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; several foster children; and a bounty of extended family and friends.

### **Michael G. Merchant, CDR:**

Michael served aboard the Berkeley from 1970 to 1972, and was the Weapons Officer. Michael died on February 27, 2019.

### **Wayne N. Stoker, OSC:**

Wayne served aboard the Berkeley as a Chief from 1970 to 1974. Wayne died on March 13, 2019.

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     Southeast: Francis Sholly  
     North Central: Larry Norris  
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     Northwest: **Vacant**  
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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.

**2019 Master Roster**

The 2020 master roster is still in review, and we hope to deliver the email copies by late May. If you have any updates to provide, please submit them through the web site by May 24<sup>th</sup>. For those without web access, please text your updates to (408) 656-3879. The U.S. mail versions should be delivered in early June. In either case, if you haven't received your copy and have paid your 2019 dues, please text the preceding number to let us know.

**Berkeley's Gunfire Support**

If anyone is interested in reviewing the USS Berkeley's Naval Gunfire Support history during the Vietnam War (March 1966 – January 1973), it can be found by going to [www.aad.archives.gov](http://www.aad.archives.gov).

Once you enter the site, select Vietnam War 1965 – 1975. That will take you to "Wars/International Relations: Vietnam War. Scroll down the page to "Records About Naval Gunfire Support During The Vietnam War, created 3/1966 – 3/1973" Select the second search button, and click on it. In the boxes, fill in the following: Name of Firing Ship – Berkeley; Hull Type of Firing Ship – click on the "Select from Code List", and select DDG and click on submit; Hull Number of Firing Ship – 15; then click on "search.

You will be provided with 830 partial records. To view each individual record, click on the "View Record" in the first column.

Note: Are the values in the field "Range To Target in Thousands of Yards" accurate? When NARA staff reviewed the records, they found that a significant number of the values provided distances beyond the accurate range of typical gunfire.

**Follow the VA on RallyPoint**

This is the world's largest military network. Veterans, family members, and government civilians are engaging on this social network. The VA recently signed a memorandum of understanding with RallyPoint. There are over 425,000 Veteran-related discussions on the platform, and it's a great place to ask questions such as "How do I get my Navy medical records to submit a VA claim?" Check it out at [www.rallypoint.com](http://www.rallypoint.com)

**Berkeley History April 2019**

50 Year Ago, 1969

01 – 30 ROH Long Beach Naval Shipyard

40 Years Ago, 1979

01 – 30 CNO Project 487

30 Years Ago, 1989

01 – 06 Underway Southern California Operating Area: Refresher Training

07 Underway, Enroute Concord CA

08 – 10 Inport Concord: Ammo Offload

12 – 14 Underway, Enroute San Diego

15 – 16 Inport, Dan Diego: Defuel

17 – 30 Inport, San Diego: Phased Maintenance Facility Continental Marine Shipyard, San Diego, CA

20 Years Ago, 1999

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