



T H E

BRIGHT PENNY

April - June 2020

A NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY

Hope All Is Well!!!

Director's Update



Hope all our former shipmates and their families are safe from the coronavirus, and are coping well with all the restrictions that will hopefully soon be relaxed and eventually removed. We have experienced many things in our life's, but this almost seems like the script of a sci-fi movie. Many times good results follow bad experiences, and hopefully our new world will be better as a result of what we are currently experiencing. However, it is still very sad to see what so many around the world are experiencing with the loss of loved ones.

Our next reunion this coming October has been planned, and is still a go at this point in time. We will reassess the situation in the July time frame to determine whether the reunion will need to be re-scheduled to the Fall of 2021. Either way, we still intend to hold the reunion in Portland, Maine in the October time frame.

Master rosters are scheduled to be delivered to 2020 active members of the Association at the end of April. As was the case with the 2019 master roster, an effort has been made to update the contact information for shipmates we have not heard from in recent years. Those members receiving their

master roster via email, will see recent updates in red. Those receiving hard copies via US mail will see recent updates in a gray-highlight. BeenVerified is the company we are using to gather updated information, and you can download a free copy of BeenVerified on your smart phone by visiting Google Play and searching for "Beenverified free app". The updated rosters will show the latest information we have for each shipmate that hasn't provided updates since 2017, and in most cases this should be accurate. However, it is advisable to retain prior master rosters to see what other addresses and phone numbers that may still apply. In some cases, email addresses have been updated, but our focus is not on having the most current email address since many people have multiple email addresses. If you see any information that you know is incorrect, please let us know via the email address ddg15@ussberkeley.com on our website.

Blue Water Navy Update

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently sent a report to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees. It explained their concern with the scientific evidence regarding the links between Agent Orange exposure

and bladder cancer, Parkinsonism, hypertension, and hypothyroidism. The VA claims that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine did not identify any "definitive casual links" between Agent Orange and the diseases. The VA is now waiting on the results of its own study. The National Academy of Medicine has already established an association between Agent Orange exposure and the four diseases. The Fleet Reserve Association is supporting the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.5610), which would expand the presumptive conditions linked to exposure to Agent Orange to include the aforementioned diseases.

The FRA has signed onto a letter to President Trump, along with several other associations, requesting that he intervene and add these ailments to the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions for disability benefits immediately. Currently to qualify for Agent-Orange related benefits, a veteran must have one of the 14 conditions VA presumes to have been caused by exposure to the defoliant, which are: Chronic B-cell Leukemia, Hodgkin's Disease, Multiple Myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Prostrate Cancer, Respiratory Cancers, Soft

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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.

Ship's Store Sale

We will be holding a "Pre-Reunion Ship's Store Sale" in July. Our Ship's Store manager, Gerry Hansen, will have select items on sale from July 1 -30. Visit the ship's Store at www.ussberkeley.com during the month of July 2020 to check out the specials. Gerry will also have the ship's Store setup at our October 2020 reunion in Portland, Maine, but supplies may be limited and back to regular pricing.

Help support your Ship's Store!!!

Berkeley History
April 2020
(continued)

50 Year Ago, 1970

- 01 - 07 Task Group 77.3 Operations, Yankee Station
- 08 Attached Task Group 77.5
- 11 - 14 Enroute Yokosuka
- 15 - 25 Upkeep, Yokosuka
- 26 - 28 Enroute Yankee Station, Attached Task Group 77.5
- 28 - 30 Task Group 77.5 Operations, Yankee Station

40 Years Ago, 1980

- 01 - 02 U/W Socal opareas - NGFS spotter Services, San Clemente Island, CA
- 03 U/W Socal opareas
- 04 - 06 Inport NAVSTA San Diego, CA
- 07 - 11 U/W Socal opareas - COMPUX 3-80
- 12 - 20 Inport NAVSTA San Diego, CA
- 21 - 23 U/W Socal opareas
- 24 Inport 'B' Pier, WPNSTA Seal Beach, CA
- 24 - 27 U/W Socal opareas
- 28 Inport WPNSTA Seal Beach, CA
- 29 U/W Socal opareas
- 30 Inport NAVSTA San Diego, CA

30 Years Ago, 1990

- 01 - 22 Inport San Diego: Leave and Upkeep period
- 23 - 24 Underway Socal: Dependent's Cruise
- 25 - 30 Inport San Diego: Phased Maintenance Availability

20 Years Ago, 2000

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

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Tissue Sarcomas, AL Amyloidosis, Chloracne, Diabetes Mellitus Type 2, Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Early-onset Peripheral Neuropathy, and porphyria Cutanea Tarda.

Vietnam veterans who have any of the above 14 conditions should file a claim with the VA if they haven't already done so. Veterans with questions about benefits or filing a claim can visit the VA Agent Orange website at: www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/. You can also call 800-749-8387.

USS Zumwalt Update

The Navy accepted delivery of the USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000), the next-generation stealth destroyer, more than three years after its commissioning. The destroyer has a functional combat system and will move onto the next phase of developmental and sea testing, according to a news release from Naval Sea Systems Command. The ship was commissioned in 2016 but broke down a month later while passing through the Panama Canal.

The four-billion dollar ship has faced other delays and cost overruns. Navy officials are calling the delivery a major milestone for the Zumwalt. The combat test team, consisting of sailors, Raytheon engineers, and Navy field activity teams, have worked diligently to get the Zumwalt ready for more complex, multi-mission at-sea testing.

The Navy's original plans were to buy more than two dozen of the new ships, but that has been reduced to three. The Zumwalt is joining the U.S. Pacific Fleet.