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BRIGHT PENNY

October - December, 2022 A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE USS BERKELEY (DDG-15)

Setting Course for Corpus Christi

Director's Update

As we enter the fall season and year-end holidays are on the horizon, we are now approximately eleven months away from our upcoming 2023 Corpus Christi reunion. Most of the planning has taken place and more reunion information can be found in the "2023 Reunion Update" article in this newsletter.

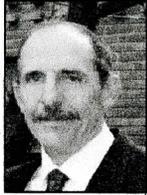
KT Goodman, FT3 1987-89, a Corpus Christi resident has provided an article titled "Corpus Christi" which is on page 3 of this edition and provides some additional information about our 2023 reunion's host city.

At our 2021 reunion in Portland, Maine, we had a PowerPoint presentation titled "Agent Orange Update." This topic is still a concern for those of us who were in the Tonkin Gulf either aboard the Berkeley or other ships during the Vietnam War. This PowerPoint presentation is available to anyone who would like a copy, just email Al Meier at alphawhiskey.ddg15@yahoo.com if you would like a copy.

2022 has been a difficult year for our country and most of the world. Here is hoping that the remainder of the year will renew our hope and faith. Although it's early, I would like to wish you and your families a Happy Holiday Season!

The Year In Review - 1971

USS Berkeley under the command of Commander John F. Frost, III, welcomed the new year in a holiday leave



status at her home port of Long Beach. Preparations for the forthcoming deployment to the Western Pacific in March were already in the implementation stages. Mid-January found Berkeley conducting type training in the Southern California Operating Areas. On January 12th, the ship successfully conducted her Operational Readiness Inspection under the observation of Commander Destroyer Division 192. In the later part of January, Berkeley participated in First Fleet exercise COMPUTEX 1-72.

The tempo of pre-deployment activities increased in February. Berkeley received her annual Nuclear Technical Proficiency Inspection on February 9th and 10th and was recommended for a grade of outstanding. Upon completion of the NTPI, the ship was underway for additional type training to accomplish pre-deployment qualification in gunnery. On February 16th, the ship entered a Pre-Overseas Movement (POM) period. Commander Destroyer Division 192 commenced the ship's annual command administrative inspection on February 18th which culminated in a personnel inspection on February 26th. On February 24th, the wives, children and friends of Berkeley were treated to a brief cruise in the local waters off Long Beach.

On March 16th, Berkeley set sail for her sixth cruise to the Western Pacific. After brief stops in Hawaii, Midway and Guam, the ship arrived in Subic Bay on April 7th ready to assume a

vital role in the operational commitments of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

Upon completion of a brief upkeep period in Subic Bay, Berkeley was underway for Yankee Station to serve as escort to the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) in the Gulf of Tonkin under the command of CTG 77.5. On April 17th, the ship received three Vietnamese Midshipmen who were to undergo six weeks of training and orientation on shipboard procedures. After nearly two weeks of escort duties, Berkeley returned to Subic Bay for a much-needed upkeep.

The month of May once again found the ship serving as escort vessel to Kitty Hawk. While in the Gulf of Tonkin, Berkeley was called upon to assist the USS Truxton (DLGN-35) on PIRAZ station. On May 14th, Berkeley conducted dual ship anti-submarine operations with USS Cochrane (DDG-21) and USS Graybeal (LPSS-574) during a brief interlude in escort duties. Upon completion of Yankee Station operations, the ship began the long transit with Kitty Hawk to Sasebo, Japan for upkeep.

While in port in Sasebo, Berkeley received a change of assignment. Because of engineering difficulties experienced by another unit, Berkeley was ordered to assume the duties of the PARPRO ship in the Sea of Japan during the month of June. Prior to commencement of operations in the Sea of Japan, the ship visited Yoko-

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suka, Japan and received special equipment and personnel to accomplish the new role as CTU 71.0.4.

Upon completion of the duties as PARPRO ship, Berkeley proceeded south via the Taiwan Straights for a port visit to the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong. In the midst of the Hong Kong visit, the ship recalled its crew in order to avoid typhoon Gilda's destructive path. The crew responded with excellence and less than three percent were left behind in Hong Kong. The ship set its course for the Bashi Channel and when danger had passed, Berkeley returned to Hong Kong on June 28th. While in Hong Kong, Commander Jerry A. Dickman relieved Commander John F. Frost as Commanding Officer USS Berkeley in ceremonies conducted on June 29th.

July found Berkeley at work again on station in the Gulf of Tonkin as Northern Search and Rescue (NSAR) commander. Berkeley's stay in this duty was accentuated by evading typhoons Harriet and Jean. After completion of the NSAR assignment, the ship set a southerly course for the equator and Penang, Malaysia. On July 22nd, the ship entered the domain of King Neptune at 0-00N 105-53E. Two hundred and seventy-eight members of the ship's company were introduced to the mysteries of the deep and transformed into Shellbacks. Berkeley arrived in Penang after transiting the Straits of Malacca on July 23rd, and commenced four days of memorable rest and relaxation in a balmy "tropical paradise" that seemed to be lifted from the pages of Somerset Maugham.

Upon completion of her stay in Penang, Berkeley was once again underway and bound for eight days of upkeep at the former British Royal Navy Base in Singapore. When the upkeep ended on August 7th, Berke-

ley returned to Vietnam and assumed the arduous and demanding duties of Naval Gunfire Support (NGFS) ship in Military Region One near Cua Viet on the Demilitarized Zone. For two weeks, Berkeley alternated with HMAS Brisbane and provided support for the First Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The ship's gun mounts rained 2,143 projectiles on targets prior to the arrival of the USS Sheldon (DD-790) and the Berkeley's return to Subic Bay on August 22nd.

While in upkeep in Subic Bay, LCDR John R. Dalrymple, Jr. relieved LCDR Leland E. Wood as the Executive Officer on August 23rd. On August 29th, Berkeley departed Subic Bay in company with the USS Hull (DD-946) and retraced the path that had brought her to the Western Pacific. On September 1st, the ship officially shifted operational control to Commander First Fleet. On September 16th, the Berkeley entered the familiar waters of Long Beach Harbor and greeted families and loved ones after steaming more than 31,000 miles.

Berkeley entered a four-week post-deployment standdown period for leave and upkeep which terminated in a tender availability with USS Piedmont. On November 1st, Commander Destroyer Squadron 29 broke his flag on Berkeley and the ship shifted from DESRON 19 to DESRON 29. Berkeley received official notification in December that she would be the recipient of the coveted Battle Efficiency "E" Award for Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Three. Additional awards were administered to Gunnery, Missile, ASW and Operations departments.

The remaining two months were highlighted by two brief underway periods for type training in the Southern California Operating Areas. Berkeley ended the year inport in Long Beach and reflecting proudly upon a year filled with accomplishments.

Ship's History: October 2022

50 Years Ago, 1972

- 01 - 10 Linebacker Operations - North Vietnam
- 11 - 13 Enroute Hong Kong
- 14 - 18 Inport Hong Kong
- 19 - 20 Enroute Subic Bay
- 21 - 22 Inport Subic Bay
- 23 - 26 Enroute Guam
- 25 Change of Command Ceremony at Sea - CDR Jerry S. Jones relieved CDR J. A. Dickman
- 26 Inport Guam
- 27 - 31 Enroute Pearl Harbor
- 29 Outchop 7th Fleet, Inchop 1st Fleet

40 Years Ago, 1982

- 01 - 31 Inactive Maintenance and Industrial Work

30 Years Ago, 1992

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

20 Years Ago, 2002

The H.S. Themistokles was decommissioned in February 2002 in Salamis, Greece

Corpus Christi

Welcome to Corpus Christi, the Sparkling City by the sea, aka the Gulf Coast Capital. Our small city has many attractions, including must visit restaurants and several museums to enjoy. The USS Lexington Museum and the Texas State Aquarium highlight the North Beach Area, and some great seafood restaurants are located along the Corpus Christi Bay Beach.

The Omni Hotel is located downtown on Shoreline Boulevard overlooking the Corpus Christi Bay. There is a pedestrian sea wall with fabulous bay views and a clean beach just steps from the hotel. For the sports buffs, Corpus Christi boasts a minor league baseball team named The Hooks (Houston Astros affiliate), and a minor league hockey team named the Ice Rays. The Science Museum and Art Museum are all within a few minutes of downtown. The Texas Surf Museum located adjacent to The Executive surf club restaurant is an interesting place to visit, and only about a half mile from the Omni Hotel.

The Omni Hotel is centrally located to multiple dining and entertainment venues. The T-Head and L-Head are where the marina is located and visible from the hotel, and only require a 5-to-10-minute walk. September is a wonderful time to visit Corpus Christi as the weather is pleasant with the area averaging 225 days of sunshine annually. There is much to see and do in Corpus Christi, and there are activities to suit all tastes.

We look forward to seeing our shipmates again and enjoying a great time and the camaraderie. If anyone has any questions, please contact KT Goodman at 361-945-0206 or email me at goodmankt@hotmail.com.

2023 Reunion Update

Our 2023 Corpus Christi reunion is scheduled for September 14 - 17, 2023 at the Omni Hotel. Reunion registration forms are available on the www.ussberkeley.com web site and on page 4 of this newsletter. Hotel reservations can be made by calling OMNI Reservations at 1-800-843-6664 and telling the agent that you are with the USS Berkeley Association group. The hotel is allowing group rates for 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion dates so that our members can extend their stay if they wish. Our reunion rate also allows complimentary parking in the hotel garage.

The reunion events will begin with the Bull Session on Thursday evening, followed by our group tour and Welcome Reception on Friday, and Business Meeting, Ladies Social and Banquet on Saturday. Reunion events will conclude with the Farewell Breakfast on Sunday morning. Attendees may register for all events or the banquet only. The "All Events" registration fee covers all events with the exception of the Friday tour and Sunday's Farewell Breakfast. Friday's tour is an additional \$25 per person. 2023 USS Berkeley Association paid members will save \$10 on the registration fees for themselves and one guest. Please see the reunion registration form for our pricing information.

The Friday tour is a 5-hour sight-seeing historical tour which combines history, cemetery, art, and ghost components. We will depart from and return to the Omni Hotel, and will have a one-hour lunch break. We will be transported on either a 32-passenger mini or 56-passenger coach depending on our group size. Tour guides will accompany our group.

Unfit to Serve

A new study by the Pentagon shows that 77% of young Americans between the ages of 17 and 24 would not qualify for military service. The reasons that they are unfit to serve are being overweight, using drugs, or having mental and physical health problems. To make matters worse, today's youth are overall more disconnected and disinterested in the military compared to previous generations.

Lawmakers have been raising the alarm over the recruiting environment throughout the year. A ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee stated during an April hearing that he is worried the widespread ineligibility of many Americans will contribute to readiness problems. "To put it bluntly, I am worried we are now in the early days of a long-term threat to the all-volunteer force."

In a related story, The Navy, which raised the maximum enlistment bonus to \$50,000 in February, said the incentive aims to attract the "highest quality of recruits," this fiscal year. Future sailors and veterans who agree to re-up can combine the maximum enlistment bonus with a maximum student loan repayment of \$65,000 - to cap out at \$115,000 - provided they enlisted or reassessed to active duty and were able to ship out by the end of September 2022.

Time to Renew Membership

As 2022 is soon coming to an end, we encourage our shipmates to send in dues for 2023 USS Berkeley Association membership. This not only helps support or association, but will provide you with a discount on registration fees for the 2023 Corpus Christi reunion.

