



USS Canberra

Prora et puppis pro Canberra

CA-70 / CAG-2

Members of the Crew



Volume 23-4

USS Canberra Reunion Association

Winter 2012

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**To Faithful Old Friends And
To Cherished New Friends.
There Is Not A Better Time To Say
"Thank You"
And To
"Wish You A Happy Holiday Season"**

*Jerry D.
Phyllis & Ken
Barbara & Ron
Jean & Bob
Mary & Bill
Louise & John
Jackie & Len
Diane & Gene
Pat & LeRoy*

2013 Reunion

For those of you who have not heard, the 2013 National Reunion of the USS Canberra "Members of the Crew" is planned for Reno, NV. Details are still being worked out at this time. Check our website for more info after 15 December. The Spring 2013 edition of the "Members of the Crew" Newsletter will have a complete listing of planned activities for this reunion. If there are any members close to this area who are willing to help in preparation for this reunion, please contact me at home at 740-423-8976.

Change of Address

If you move, we would appreciate it if you would inform us of your new address, either by mail, phone or e-mail. We would like you to continue to receive our newsletters. The Post Office will forward the newsletters for up to 60 days and will report a change of address to us (for a nominal fee). If it has been over 60 days, then we have no idea where you have moved to and you will no longer be able to receive the newsletters unless you contact us with a new address.

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2012 Business Meeting Highlights

- Jerry Der Boghosian, President Emeritus, opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Master-At-Arms Gene Sibley. The Invocation followed and was given by Chaplain Bill Dorsey.
- It was brought up that we all need to keep our ailing shipmates and families in our thoughts and prayers.
- President Ken Minick stated that if anyone is interested in assuming any of the Officer positions in the Association, or would like to become a “Trainee” for one of the positions, please speak up. Unfortunately, as usual, no one spoke up so the following were re-elected as Officers of the Association:

President Emeritus	Jerry Der Boghosian
President	Ken Minick
Vice President	Bob Tyliniski
Secretary/Treasurer	Ron Nullet
Chaplain	Bill Dorsey
Historian	John Chenoweth
Master-at-Arms	Gene Sibley
USMC Liaison	Len Kucharski

LeRoy Johnson volunteered to be John Chenoweth’s Assistant and was duly elected as such.

Some of the staff visited John and are in the process of digitizing much of what he has in storage.

- The Financial Report was submitted by our Secretary/Treasurer Ron Nullet. Shipmate Bob Morgan, after reviewing it, made the recommendation that it be accepted. The Association is presently sound financially although we still have outstanding costs for the 2012 Reunion.
- The 2013 Reunion was then discussed. We’ll be looking at locations this November in Reno, NV for the 2013 reunion. Do to the low turn out at Branson, and the slow sign-up for Warwick, only 22 people had signed up by mid-July, we put off setting up the 2013 reunion. The reason for this is, when we sign a hotel contract it usually has an attrition clause in it where we have to guarantee that we will use a certain number of rooms and have a certain amount of meals eaten at our functions. We are liable for any of the rooms/ meals not used at the hotels. We do not want to sign a contract where we would owe money for not fulfilling our obligations. We also do not want to sign a contract where we have more people wanting to attend than we have rooms contracted for. In the future we will try to find, if possible, hotels that do not demand an attrition section in the contract.
- We’ll hopefully start looking at locations this coming spring/summer for the 2014 reunion.
- A Member’s directory is available via e-mail to members desiring one. The format is Microsoft Excel.
- A special thanks was once again given to Bob’s Printing (Bob, Fran and Mike Beach and their staff) for printing and mailing our Newsletters. Another special thanks was given to the ladies who keep the reunion running with their work in and around the hospitality room each year.
- The meeting was then opened for discussions from the floor.
 - Possible 2014 sites were discussed. No decisions have been made.
 - Canberra’s memorabilia transfer to another museum/ship was discussed.
 - A lively discussion about east versus west reunions then ensued.
 - A discussion about the breakdown of our database followed.
- Jerry closed the meeting by leading the singing of “God Bless America”.
- A motion was made and seconded that the business meeting be closed.

Agent Orange Update

The USS Canberra (CAG-2) operated on the Saigon River from March 31 through April 1, 1966, on the Cua Viet River during December 15, 1966, and on the Mekong Delta Ham Luong River during January 15, 1967.

For the purposes of VA compensation benefits, Veterans who served anywhere in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides, as specified in the Agent Orange Act of 1991. These Veterans do not need to show that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides in order to get disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

Service in Vietnam means service on land in Vietnam or on the inland waterways of Vietnam.

This includes Veterans who:

Set foot in Vietnam. (This includes brief visits ashore, such as when a ship docked to the shore of Vietnam or when a ship operated in Vietnam's close coastal waters for extended periods and crew members went ashore, or smaller vessels from the ship went ashore with supplies or personnel. The Veteran further must provide a statement of personally going ashore.)

Served on a ship while it operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam.

Blue Water Veterans are not presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides unless they set foot in Vietnam or served aboard ships that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

American Legion Service Officers

Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. While the majority of a service officer's work involves application for VA disability benefits, these compassionate professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other important topics.

To find a Service Officer near you, go to:
<http://www.legion.org/serviceofficers>

VFW Help With VA Claims

As the largest organization of combat veterans, the VFW understand the frustrations that can arise with making a VA claim. That's why their National Veterans Service (NVS) was created. Their nationwide network of skilled VFW Veterans Service Officers will help you wade through all the bureaucratic red tape, offering you a better opportunity to get the disability claim you deserve. You don't even need to be a VFW member to take advantage of this free service. As a veteran, this is a service you've earned.

A VFW Service Officer will:

- *Offer research and advice to veterans who wish to handle their own claims.
- *Assist veterans who are filing original claims for compensation and/or pension with the Department of Veterans Affairs and complete the required VA forms on behalf of the claimant.
- *Assist veterans in reopening claims for service-connected disabilities and complete the required VA forms.
- *Follow up on status of claims filed by veterans with the VA Regional Office.
- *File Notice of Disagreement with the VA Regional Office if a veteran believes the decision made by the VA was incorrect.
- *Review statements of the case from the VA regarding denials of claim and assist veterans with the preparation of responses.
- *Assist veterans or surviving spouses in the preparation of appeals for denial of claims and file the appeals with the local VA Regional Office for forwarding to the Board of Veterans Appeals in Washington, D.C.
- *Complete VA Forms other than for original claims.
- *Answer/research telephone inquiries regarding medical, death/burial and other miscellaneous benefits.

Help With Finding A VFW Service Officer

Need help filing a claim? To find a VFW service officer in your state access: www.vfw.org/nvs

- Select "Assistance" from the menu
- Select "National Veterans service" from the pull-down menu
- Locate the "Find a Service Officer" box on the right-hand side of the screen

Select your state and hit "Go"

Found Shipmates

Following are names of **USS Canberra Shipmates** that have been found since the Fall 2012 Newsletter was published.

If you want to contact any of them, let Ken know.

<u>Shipmate</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Aboard</u>
Akers, James W.	CAG-2	E	65-67
Heise, Ronald K.	CAG-2	Deck	61-62
Lorance, A.D.	CAG-2	4th	66-68
Sandfer, James D.	CAG-2	R	59-61
Axberg, C. G. "Gil"	CAG-2	F	58-60

The Supreme Commander

Following are names of **USS Canberra Shipmates** that have met the Supreme Commander.

<u>Shipmate</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Aboard</u>	<u>Died</u>
Allen, George W.	CA-70	6th	44-46	2012
Bean, Karl Jack	CA-70	B	43-45	2012
Fackrell, Alan J.	CAG-2	F	62-63	2012
Iagallo, Michael J.	CA-70	M	43-45	2012
Keenan, Kenneth J.	CAG-2			2012
Korell, Gary A.	CAG-2	X		2012
Leftwich, Clarence W.	CAG-2	OI	60-67	2012
Moul, H. Stanley "	CA-70	9th	43-45	2012
Murray, Joseph B.	CA-70	9th	43-45	2012
Peek, Edward B.	CA-70		43-45	2012
Rhind, John H.	CAG-2	F	56-60	2012
Steele, Hubert N.	CA-70	S	43-47	2012
Stroud, Joal C.	CAG-2	OR	59-60	2012
Trautman, Clifford T.	CA-70	5th	45-46	2012

Dues

Membership dues in the amount of \$25 are now due for 2012 (1 January through 31 December).

Please mail your dues to:

USS Canberra Reunion Association, Ltd.
c/o Ron Nullet
P.O. Box 614
Centereach, NY 11720-0614.

Please make your check out to:
USS Canberra Reunion Association, Ltd.

**2012 National Reunion
 Warwick, RI**

The 2012 reunion in Warwick is history and was enjoyed by all who attended. There were 12 CA-70 WWII and 59 CAG-2/CA-70 shipmates attending, including 6 first timers, for a total of 160 shipmates, family and guests enjoying our Saturday Night Banquet.

Our guest speaker was Cdr. David Wright, RAN. He is the Assistant Naval Attaché in Washington D.C. Cdr. Wright gave an informative talk on the Canberra ships and the Australian capital of Canberra. The Divisions with the highest attendance this year were R and OE Divisions with 9 attendees each.

USS Canberra Jackets, Shirts, etc

We still have CAG-2 jackets, chambray shirts and golf shirts available. The golf shirts and coaches jackets are only available in blue.

CAG-2/CA-70 shirts are available for shipmates who were aboard during the last few years of the Canberra's commissioning.

Jackets are \$100 (add \$5 if you want your first name on the jacket). Golf shirts are \$28 and Chambray shirts are \$33.

All of the prices include shipping.

Contact Ron Nullet (PO Box 614; Centereach, NY 11720-0614 **or** ronsteam@optonline.net **or** phone 631-736-3444) if you are interested in these items.

*******Lifetime Dues*******

Are Also Available

You can pay your dues with a lifetime membership!

Age 60-70 = \$275

Age 71-80 = \$210

Over 81+ = \$140

Hurricane Sandy

Please keep all of our shipmates and families that were affected by Hurricane Sandy and the Nor'easter that followed in your thoughts and prayers.



The MV Blue Marlin enters Port Phillip Bay on 17 October 2012 with the Hull of the future HMAS Canberra 3 onboard..



The hull of HMAS Canberra 3 was in Geelong Victoria in preparation for floating off of Blue Marlin on 22 October 2012.

**The HMAS Canberra is to be commissioned in early 2014
The HMAS Adelaide is to be commissioned in 2015**