USS Canberra

Prora et puppis pro Canberra

CA-70 / CAG-2

Members of the Crew

Volume 37-3 **USS Canberra Reunion Association** **Fall 2026**

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*****PLEASE READ FIRST*****
2026 USS CANBERRA Reunion Information
Herndon, VA
18-22 October 2026

Reunion Dates: The Reunion is not far off. Our Reunion dates are, Sunday October 18th through Wednesday October 22nd.

The cutoff for hotel reservations and tours is October 1, 2026.

The Hotel Contract and our Contract with Gatherings Plus both state that reservations must be in their hands by the above listed date to be able to guarantee your spot.

As in the past, tour reservations may be limited to a first come, first served basis.

Please remember, we have a liberal cancellation policy. So take part in as many of our tours as you want, but reserve early and cancel out at a later date if you find you cannot make the reunion.

Contact Cecil Kersh at the address, phone number or e-mail address listed in the Masthead of the Newsletter **for information (events, costs, etc…) about the reunion.**

USS Canberra 2026 Reunion Site

Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport

2200 Centreville Rd.
Herndon, VA 20170
Call 1-877-390-5944 or 703-349-6969
and reference the
USS Canberra Reunion.

Contact Cecil Kersh for more info.

For Reunion First Timers

It won't take you long to figure out that the place to be at the reunion is the USS Canberra Hospitality Room.

Mid October is usually a beautiful time in the Herndon area where temperatures average about 69 during the day and near 49 at night. You may want to bring along a light/medium jacket.

The daily dress code is casual. It's also casual for our tours. Some of our tours require some walking, so bring a good pair of walking shoes.

Wednesday night is our more formal banquet dinner. A suit, sport coat and tie or simply a nice shirt and pants are fine, you'll be welcome no matter your attire.

Parking and Shuttle Information

There is plenty of free parking in the hotel's lot.

RV's can park at the hotel but they do not provide any electrical or sewer hookups.

The hotel offers free transportation to and from the Dulles Airport.

On-line Reunion Registration

You can register for our reunion and pay on-line at:

https://www.wetravel.com/trips/uss-canberra-ca-70-cag-2-gatherings-plus-4829249618

Contact Cecil for other reunion information.

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A Shipmates Story

In an earlier Newsletter, we had asked for stories about Our Shipmates Naval/Canberra history. We received from Peter Jelito, EM2 1960-63, stories from his entire Naval Service. This is one of the many he submitted.

Funny Events and other Tales

As to the date of the event, I have not a clue, except it was in late summer or fall, when the Canberra was hosting some Midshipmen for a two week cruise off the East Coast. One early evening, the seas were calm and the sun about to set when I happened to walk from the fantail forward on the starboard side. I noticed some deck hands who engaged a couple of midshipmen in a conversation. The deck crew had a medium size cardboard box positioned on the deck, with one seaman peering through a small hole in the box, holding a flashlight with a red lens. The midshipmen were curious enough to inquire what was in the box.
The seaman replied that it was a sea bat they had caught and put in the box. One of the midshipmen asked if he could look in the box to which the deckhand replied YES SIR, but he had to use the flashlight with the red lens. Since the box was positioned on the deck, the midshipman had to bend over to peer into the hole thus exposing his posterior. Conveniently there was a swab leaning against the missile compartment, which was picked up by one of the deckhands and swung toward the exposed rear end of the midshipman.
He turned around and indignantly asked why, only to turn back to the box and peer right back into the hole in the box. A second whack to the midshipman's posterior lit the midshipman's light bulb and both he and his companion left red faced toward their quarters.

Not so funny at the time was a trip to Bermuda for a two day stay. As soon as we pulled into the harbor, all members of the E Division were called to a work party, to make the ship look pretty. We had many strings of heavy duty cable with light fixtures every three feet which were normally used in dark spaces as work lights. These light strings were now to be rigged all around the railing on the main deck as well as from the fantail up to the rear mast, to the front mast to the bow of the ship. A first class electricians mate, who's name I do not recall, was in charge and he lacked only one thing, and that was a bull whip. From sundown until late in the evening we rigged lights, repaired light fixtures, replaced light bulbs and cursed the 1st class, as we missed liberty call and were in a rather foul mood. This 1st class from then on could not be seen on the main deck after dark, as it was rumored that he feared he'd have to swim back to the nearest beach.

On one of our trips to the Caribbean we were engaged in an exercise where the Canberra and a submarine played the raiders against an unknown task force. Late in the afternoon the word was passed that the Captain wanted to have us look like a passenger liner and aside from all topside lights burning brightly we also blared loud music over the 1 MC system. The submarine was riding below our keel and as we approached our ENEMY, who was unsuspecting, the torpedoes were let loose and we won the battle. Loud cries of FOUL were heard the next morning and we had to do the exercise all over again with an outcome unknown to me. However, It was funny!

Thank You Peter for your Stories!

USS Canberra Directory

We no longer offer a printed version of our Member's Directory.
Now offered is an updated version via e-mail.
It is in Microsoft Excel format.
If you desire a copy, please let Cecil know via e-mail.
The directory is updated each January and at other times throughout the year as time permits.
If you desire updates, you can request one each year.

USS Canberra Website

The USS Canberra website can be found at:

www.usscanberra,com

It contains various subjects, such as: Ship's History, Log Book, Photo Gallery, Association Officers, Reunion Info and other "STUFF".
Also links to On-line USS Canberra Museum, the Newsletter and a "Member Sign-In" to our **BASIC** On-Line Directory.

The Supreme Commander

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

Shipmate	Ship	Div	Aboard	Hometown	Died
Baker, Robert	CAG-2	OE	1956-57	Oswego, NY	2026
Garner, Calvin (n)	CAG-2	5th	1959-61	Broken Arrow, OK	2026
Gardner, Richard W.	CAG-2			Norwich, CT	2026
Lillicotch, Martin L.	CAG-2	9th	1956-57	Overland Park, KS	2026
Liscum, Donald J.	G2/70	1,5,6,7	1964-69	No, Fort Myers, FL	2026
Pecore, Richard P.	CAG-2	OR	1959-61	Altona, NY	2026
Phillips, Raymond G., Jr.	CAG-2	B	1967-68	Escanaba, MI	2026
Stanley, James T.	CAG-2	E	1956-57	Topeka, KS	2026
Worden, Thomas G, Sr.	CAG-2	M	1961-62	Galesburg, IL	2026

******ATTENTION PLEASE****** DUES ******ATTENTION PLEASE******

Membership dues in the amount of $25 are past due for 2026 (1 January through 31 December).
Please mail your dues to:
USS Canberra Reunion Association c/o Mike Stark P.O. Box 7 Sugar Grove, IL 60554
Please make your check out to: **USS Canberra Reunion Association, Ltd.**

In earlier newsletters, you were asked to send your dues to our Secretary Roland Nixon. We heard that Roland became ill near the end of last year. We have not been able to find any more information about him since then. If you sent your dues to Roland and have not received a dues card or seen that your check was cashed, please contact Cecil.

Please Check the Address on this Newsletter

If there is an ***** in front of your first your name, your dues are not up to date according to our records.
If you feel there is an error as to when your dues expired, please contact Cecil.
at the address, email or phone number in the Masthead.

The Presidents Message

Hello to all my shipmates:

October is almost here, and our reunion is set and ready for booking. If you have not yet booked your room and tours, please do so today. We need your support and would be glad to see you there.
We have a great party planned for everyone, and this reunion will be especially meaningful as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our great country. I also have special gifts for the members who attend the party.
Sunday night plans are still being finalized, but you can count on an enjoyable evening.
This has been a very busy year, and I am already working on our 2028 reunion. Planning these events takes a great deal of time and coordination, and I appreciate everyone's support. Because of those responsibilities, I have had to step away from preparing the newsletter. Thanks to Ken, who has agreed to prepare this newsletter for our members.
This year's tour lineup is excellent, and I hope everyone will take advantage of these opportunities.
Everyone should also begin thinking about 2027. I am looking at Springfield, MO, with possible tours to Branson, MO, which is a great place to visit.
I hope to see all of you at the Crowne Plaza Dulles in October.
God bless, and please take care of yourselves.
If anyone knows anything about Roland Nixon please let me know.
Our Vice-President had to step down because of his health. We are now in the need of a Secretary and V.P. If anyone is interested please let me know.

Cecil

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Address Service Requested