



USS Canberra

Prora et puppis pro Canberra

CA-70 / CAG-2

Members of the Crew



Volume 26-2

USS Canberra Reunion Association

Summer 2015

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*****PLEASE READ FIRST*****

2015 USS CANBERRA Reunion Information

Mobile, Alabama 14-18 October 2015

Reunion Dates: Our Reunion dates are Wednesday, October 14th through Sunday, October 18th.

The cutoff for hotel reservations is **September 13, 2015** and for Armed Forces Reunions it's **September 14, 2015**.

We're sorry, but we cannot have any cushion to accommodate procrastinators.

The Hotel Contract and our Contract with Armed Forces Reunions both state that reservations must be in their hands by the above listed dates 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 or as few of our tours as you want, but reserve early and cancel out at a later date if you find you cannot make the reunion.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. Website

AFR, Inc. offers Reunion Registration on-line.

Just go to their website at:

www.afr-reg.com/canberra2015

Fill out the form and pay by credit card.

Fall Newsletter

The fall newsletter is usually mailed around the first of September so we can pass on last minute info to those who are planning on attending this year's reunion. It will include information useful to newcomers as well as useful updates for old timers. It could possibly arrive after the cutoff date, so get your reservations in early.

USS Canberra Directory

We no longer have a printed version of our Membership Directory. We do offer a new version via e-mail. It is in Microsoft Excel format. If you desire a copy, please let Ron or Ken know via e-mail. The directory is updated each January. If you desire updates, you will need to request one each January.

Military Experience in the 114th Congress

The number of House members in the new 114th Congress with military experience declined from 84 to 81. The number of senators with military experience increased from 19 to 21. This is the first Congress in many years without any WWII veterans and for the first time a female veteran (Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa) is serving in the U.S. Senate.

Contents of the Members of the Crew

Agent Orange Update (RAO Bulletin)	PAGE 2
USS Canberra Hats	PAGE 2
Supreme Commander	PAGE 3
Found Shipmates	PAGE 3
USS Canberra Wearables	PAGE 3
Filing a VA Claim (VFW Magazine)	PAGE 4
Reunion Reminder	PAGE 4

Agent Orange Update: From the 15 May 2015 RAO Bulletin

The Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims has made a landmark ruling that will help many Navy and Coast Guard vets who have been classified as Blue Water Sailors. The case was *Gray vs McDonald* and was decided on April 24, 2015. This will greatly benefit many Vietnam Navy veterans effected by Agent Orange. In it they declared that the Harbors of Danang, Cam Ranh Bay and Vung Tau must now be classified Brown water instead of Blue water. Basically the court said these ports were classified as deep-water, but should have been classified as being in the spray area and not by the fact that large vessels could enter them. The VA must now declare all vessels that entered these harbors as dioxin (AO) exposed and compensate the sailors on them that have presumptive diseases that are recognized as having their genesis in AO exposure. In regard to service in mouth of rivers, such as minesweepers, the court said that even the VA Secretary declared that there is no definite boundaries of a river mouths, therefore they cannot just make a decision by “flipping a coin” as to what vessels were exposed and which were not. The court further stated that inland water service cannot be limited to the ships that are on their “official” ship’s list. The emphasis should be on the likelihood of exposure to herbicide and that the fact that a large river’s brown water plume can extend far out to sea. It stated that the use of “mouth” and “borders” around Vietnam may extend well beyond the physical land mass of a river and the VA’s current interpretation of the code of Federal Regulations that cover this area are “arbitrary and capricious”. To put the icing on the cake, the court ruled that the VA’s reliance on the IOM’s (Institute of Medicine) 2011 report on dioxin exposure is unacceptable because the IOM was “too general and inconclusive in nature”. This means that the VA’s rating system cannot conclusively contend that some offshore vessels were NOT contaminated by AO. Finally, the court ordered the VA to redraw its lines and rules as to what are the proper boundaries and “exercise its fair and considered judgment to define inland waterways in a manner consistent with the regulations with emphasis on the probability of exposure”. In essence they said the present methods are patently unfair. This ruling should bode well for sailors and Coast Guardsmen who sailed and flew into areas that should have been considered contaminated long ago. However, for all vets who may have a claim in the works, the regulations are going to have to be promulgated by the VA and they must decide if they wish to honor past claims as they may look at this as new rules that did not apply when the original case was denied. The VA can be very obtuse about how they honor a change of the code of Federal Regulations. They also have a right to appeal this to the U.S. District Court, but that is very doubtful.

www.veteransresources.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Bulletin-150515-PDF-Edition.pdf

Ship’s Silhouette Hats

We have Ship’s Silhouette Hats in stock.

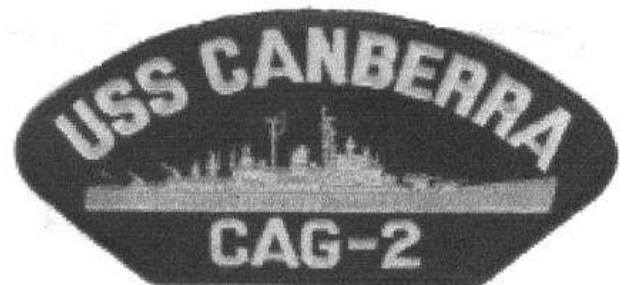
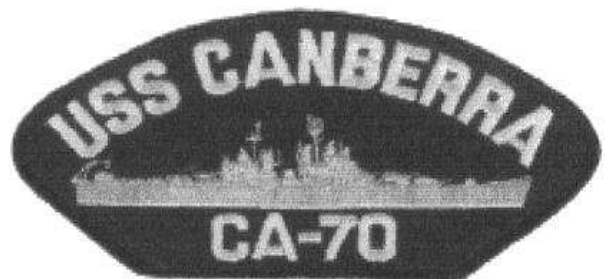
The cost for each hat is \$18.00 per cap including priority mail postage.

The the CA-70 version is only available in Navy Blue.

The CAG-2 version hats are available in Navy Blue, Summer White or Scarlet.

If you are interested in purchasing a hat you can contact Ken via mail, e-mail or telephone.

If wanting more than one hat contact Ken. The price of shipping goes down for additional hats, therefore the cost for 2nd, 3rd, etc... are less.



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>
Bridges, David W.	CA-70	9th	WWII	1982
Walsh, Gerald L., Jr.	CAG-2			2002
Cuddeback, Wayne H.	CAG-2	A	65-68	2011
Brown, O. Phillip	CAG-2		65-69	2012
Andrews, Bobby G.	CAG-2	6th	59-62	2013
Eberle, Thomas E.	CAG-2	B	62-66	2013
Rolando, John M	CAG-2			2013
Carrier, Raymond C.	CA-70	F	43-45	2014
Barbier, Leonard C.	CAG-2	8th	62-66	2015
Bruck, Harry B.	CA-70	1st	43-46	2015
Grealish, Edward P. Jr.	CAG-2	9 th	58-60	2015
Hackett, John R.	CAG-2		Vietnam Era	2015
Hagerich, Leon L.	CAG-2		59-61	2015
Harstad, Carl L.	CAG-2	8th	62-65	2015
Huffman, Kenneth W.	CAG-2	R	64-68	2015
Nelson, William E.	CAG-2		58-62	2015
Palmer, Henry O.	CAG-2	2nd	64-67	2015
Quiroga, Larry P.	CAG-2	OR	Vietnam Era	2015
Siemers, Raymond L.	CAG-2		Vietnam Era	2015
Warren, Harold E.	CA-70	F	43-45	2015
Williams, Clarence E., Jr.	CAG-2	B	Vietnam Era	2015
Williams, Jack C., Sr.	CAG-2		58-61	2015

Found Shipmates

Following are names of
USS Canberra Shipmates
that have been found since
the Spring 2015 Newsletter
was published.

<u>Shipmate</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Yrs.</u>
Arnold, Raymon D.	CAG-2	FM	61-63
Broadway, Bennett	CAG-2	B	63-67
Brown, Jack	CAG-2		56-??
Damp, Wayne K.	CAG-2	8th	62-65
Gobeil, Roland E.	CAG-2	R	56-60
Shafer, Paul	CAG-2		62-64
Silva, Jose, Jr.	CAG-2	3rd	65-67
Stone, Edward P.	CAG-2		1957



Jacket



USS Canberra Shirts and Jackets

We still have CAG-2 jackets, chambray shirts and golf shirts available. The golf shirts and 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.

Golf shirts are \$28.

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.

**From the VFW Website: <http://www.vfw.org/NVS/>
Filing a VA Claim**

As the largest organization of combat veterans, the VFW understands the frustrations that can arise when filing a claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The claims process can be confusing and one that service members and veterans shouldn't try to navigate alone. That's why the VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) was created. NVS consists of a nationwide network of service officers who are experts in dealing with the claims process and help thousands of veterans cut through the bureaucratic red tape every year. They are the key to success, recovering approximately \$1 billion in earned benefits and compensation for veterans each year. VFW Service Officers are trained experts, helping veterans develop their case with ease by reviewing and applying current law, pertinent legislation, regulations and medical histories. As skilled professionals, they assist in filing for disability compensation, rehabilitation and education programs, pension and death benefits, and employment and training programs. Furthermore, they won't hesitate to request hearings before the VA and the Board of Veterans Appeals to present oral arguments when needed. VFW Service Officers are with America's veterans every step of the way once they're ready to file a claim. This is a service the VFW is proud to offer--free of charge--to anyone seeking assistance with the claims process. It's a service our veterans have earned and deserve.

VFW SERVICE OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- * 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.

**Remember to sign up for our
Annual Reunion**

CA-70 USS Canberra CAG-2

Reunion Association

14-18 October 2014

Holiday Inn Downtown - Mobile, Alabama