



USS Canberra

Prora et puppis pro Canberra

CA-70 / CAG-2

Members of the Crew



Volume 31-3

USS Canberra Reunion Association

Fall 2020

Ken Minick - 2115 Pride Ave Belpre, OH 45714 Ph: 740-423-8976

Website: www.usscanberra.com

e-mail: usscanberra@gmail.com

PLEASE READ FIRST

**2020/21 USS CANBERRA
Reunion Information
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Due to the Covid-19 Virus This Year's Reunion Has Been Cancelled/Rescheduled.

The reunion could have been held this year with distancing and masks.

We had four different views from our members. Some of our members said they would not fly to the reunion.

Others said that they would not come due to the virus.

Still others said that they would come even if masks and distancing were involved.

Last, but not least, we had some that said they would come without masks and distancing.

In the end, one of the problems was that we would only have about half or less of our normal attendees.

Thus, we would not have been able to fulfill our commitment to the hotel on the number of rooms that we were contracted to occupy.

The Association would have then had to pay the hotel for the unused contracted rooms.

After much deliberation, we therefore moved the Reunion to 2021.

The 2021 Reunion will be held at the Airport Marriott Pittsburgh where the 2020 Reunion was scheduled to be held.

The dates are Wednesday 13 October to Sunday 17 October 2021.

2020 Hotel Reservations

If you have made reservations at the Airport Marriott Pittsburgh for 2020 make sure that you cancel them .

Found Shipmate

Following is a **USS Canberra Shipmate** that was found since the Summer 2020 Newsletter went out.

<u>Shipmate</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Aboard</u>
Heuser, Allan W.	CAG-2	OI	58-59

USS Canberra (LCS-30)

The future USS Canberra (LCS-30) is still tracking to launch in March 2021 so the Christening Ceremony could be hosted right before launch in late February or March of 2021. They will not start looking at possible dates until the end of this year.

The Christening Ceremony: Is always on Saturday and starts at 10AM and lasts one hour. They host a VIP pre-breakfast that starts at 8:30AM and then a reception after the ceremony with lunch and cake. The entire ceremony wraps up around noon.

COVID-19 could affect the Ceremonies!

More Information in the Winter Newsletter!

Contents of the Members of the Crew

Agent Orange Update	PAGE 2
Canberra Hats	PAGE 2
Supreme Commander	PAGE 3
Bob Beach	PAGE 3

AGENT ORANGE UPDATE

I recently received the following e-mail. If you have any questions let me know. I have the Deck Log links and other info. Contact me if you want it sent to you or your VSO. It may take some time, depending on the number of requests. It will be sent via e-mail.

I am not sure if the Vietnam Era Canberra sailors are fully aware of enactment of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-23). My guess is some are and perhaps many are not. Anyway, I will try to keep this message as short as possible.

I am a Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veteran having deployed twice with an aviation squadron aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ranger (CVA-61). Those two WestPac/Vietnam deployments were during periods Oct 68-May 69 and Oct 69-Jun 70.

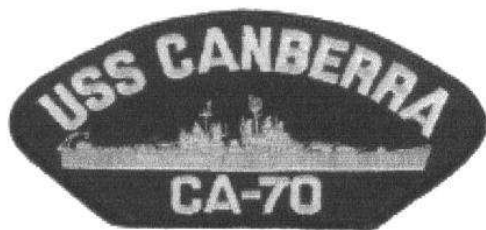
I'm writing to offer your association some relevant information that will be helpful to those Canberra sailors who sadly have one or more of the medical conditions recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as linked to exposure to tactical herbicides including Agent Orange during their service aboard a Navy ship in the waters off the coast of the former Republic of Vietnam (RVN). Public Law 116-23 (copy attached) provides presumptive herbicide exposure disability benefits to those sailors that meet the eligibility requirements specified in the law.

In general, a sailor needs to establish three elements to qualify for presumptive exposure benefits under Public Law 116-23 which are: (1) time of service, (2) location of service, and (3) having/had specified medical conditions. For presumptive herbicide exposure claims, the VA has a duty to assist and generally provides a lot of the documents and records to substantiate a claim. The VA has also undertaken a project to scan all of the deck logs available for ships that served in the Southeast Theater of Operations during the Vietnam War. However, the information I am providing with this message includes "links" to the digital deck log copies of the Canberra that covers the periods that the Canberra and crew were awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Vietnam Service and/or the Vietnam Service Medal. The deck log "links" will enable the Canberra veteran to locate the relevant ship deck logs for the periods he served aboard the Canberra off the coast of the RVN. Some veterans may not have the technical expertise or computer devices that will be needed to access the deck logs and to review those deck logs for ship positions that establish location within eligible RVN offshore waters. But someone in your association can probably assist with those efforts or the veteran may have a friend or family member that can help.

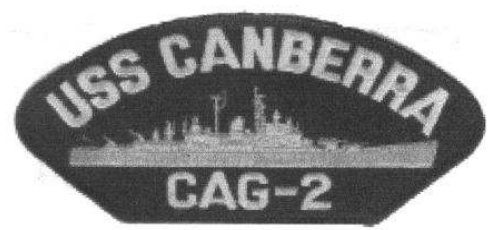
The deck log links referenced above can be found in the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet file that I have attached. So, this spreadsheet file should be downloaded from the email message and then someone who is familiar with the Excel computer application can open the file to view and use.

Finally, I want you to know that I am providing this information without any strings attached. I am a Navy Vietnam Veteran who worked with other veterans to gather this type of information and to share. During the past 2-3 years I have been doing this kind of work on a piecemeal, as needed basis. I am hopeful that the information that I am providing will help some of the Canberra sailors in their efforts to obtain disability compensation benefits for presumptive herbicide exposure.

Here is a link to the VA web sight that offers some great information about Blue Water Navy benefits provided by Public Law 116-23. <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/blue-water-navy.asp>



Ship's Silhouette Hats



We have Ship's Silhouette Hats in stock. The cost for each hat will be \$20.00 including priority mail postage. The hat is available in Navy Blue and Summer White in the CA-70 version. The CAG-2 version hats are available in Navy Blue, Summer White or Scarlet. If you are interested in purchasing one or more of these hats, you can contact Ken via mail, e-mail or telephone.

The Supreme Commander

Supreme Commander List Information

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>
Greeley, James J.	CA-70		43-45	2000
Berman, Leo	CA-70	7th	43-46	2015
Beach, Robert M.	CA-70	2nd	44-45	2020
Boccasile, Ralph F.	CA-70		45-46	2020
Clevenger, Jesse R.	CA-70	5th	44-46	2020
Forssell, Charles F	CA-70	B	43-46	2020
Kobylanski, Michael T.	CA-70	E	43-46	2020
Phillips, Charles H.	CA-70	S	43-46	2020
Blackburn, Aubrey W.	CAG-2	OE	64-66	2007
Klug, Richard E.	CAG-2	4th	57-61	2010
Cornelius, Larry R.	CAG-2	FG	62-63	2014
Starcevitich, John A.	CAG-2			2014
Burnham, James W., Jr.	CAG-2	H		2020
Carboni, Remo "Ray" J.	CAG-2			2020
Chesmore, Richard E.	CAG-2	OR	56-58	2020
Cipullo, Ernest J.	CAG-2	OI	56-57	2020
Domiano, William M.	CAG-2	OI	60-62	2020
Edens, Victor G.	CAG-2	OI	58-60	2020
Harward, Eldon C.	CAG-2	B	65-66	2020
Jencks, Harold B.	CAG-2	8th	56-59	2020
King, Robert F.	CAG-2	Staff	59-61	2020
Kirby, Robert L., Jr.	CAG-2			2020
Kralik, Tom R.	CAG-2	R	56-58	2020
Kuper, David H., MD	CAG-2	H	68-69	2020
Nisson, Richard Jene, Sr.	CAG-2	N	58-62	2020
Sheffield, Frank D.	CAG-2	4th/1st	66-69	2020

Robert "Bob" Beach



Our WW2 Shipmate, and the person responsible for getting our newsletters printed for the last 15 years, passed away on 27 May 2020 at the age of 96.

At the San Antonio Reunion in 2005, and after the death of the Association's leader, the newly elected officers had no idea how to go about getting the newsletter printed.

Bob said his printing company would be happy to print them for us and they have been doing this for us since then.

Bob was in the 2nd Division on the CA-70 from 1944 to 45 .

He retired from the Navy in 1968 as an SKC after 26 years of service.

