



USS Canberra

Prora et puppis pro Canberra

CA-70 / CAG-2

Members of the Crew



Volume 31-4

USS Canberra Reunion Association

Winter 2020

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****2021 Reunion****

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. The Spring Newsletter will have all of the 2021 Reunion information.

*****Dues*****

Membership dues in the amount of \$25 are now due for 2021 (1 Jan. through 31 Dec.).

Please mail your dues to:
USS Canberra Reunion Association, Ltd.
c/o Bob Tylinski

5117 E. 70th Street - Indianapolis, IN 46220

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

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"

Phyllis & Ken
Jean & Bob
Pat & LeRoy
Mary & Bill
Gene
Jackie & Len

Found Shipmates

Below are **USS Canberra Shipmates** who were found since the Fall 2020 Newsletter was published.

<u>Shipmate</u>	<u>Ship</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Aboard</u>
Hieber, Raymond A.	CAG-2	FG	62-65
Fredricksen, Robert D.	CAG-2	6th	66-68

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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>Departed</u>
Perry, Robert R.	CA-70	6th	43-46	2020
Saletnik, Paul P.	CAG-2	M	V/N Era	2006
Levering, Robert	CAG-2	OR		2012
Crea, Richard	CAG-2	6th	58-59	2019
Cobb, David R.	CAG-2	FG	65-66	2020
Conway, Horace J.	CAG-2	OE	59-61	2020
Hamilton, Joseph F.	G-2/70	B	66-70	2020
McCollum, Gary E.	CAG-2			2020
Norris, James E.	CAG-2	9th	59-60	2020
Scalley, Frank	CAG-2	OR		2020
Wilcha, Gary P.	CAG-2		59-61	2020
Wood, Thomas P.	CAG-2	M	62-65	2020

USS Canberra (LCS-30)

The future USS Canberra (LCS-30) is still tracking to launch in early 2021. The **Christening Ceremony** will be hosted right before the launch. The **TENTATIVE** date is 6 March 2021. This date is subject to change.

The Christening Ceremony: Is always on Saturday and starts at 10AM and lasts one hour. They usually 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 all parts of this Ceremony including having invited guests. Check the www.usscanberra.com "View the USS Canberra Log Book" link for updates as they become available.**

VA Blue Water Agent Orange Claims

48% of Claims Received Since 1 JAN Completed

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has decided more than 34,000 Blue Water Navy disability claims under the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 that became effective Jan. 1, 2020 which extends the presumption of exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

As of 30 SEP, VA has processed 34,415 (48%) of 69,570 claims received, of which 24,328 (71%) have been granted - awarding more than \$664 million in retroactive benefits to eligible Veterans and families. "It's important we ensure Blue Water Navy Veterans and their families receive the benefits they've earned," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "As a result, VA will continue to get the word out via our social media channels, public service announcements and Veterans Service Organizations (VSO) to ensure every Veteran who is eligible applies as soon as possible."

VA also collaborated with the National Archives and Records Administration to digitize all Navy and Coast Guard deck logs for ships with known Vietnam service. Digitization of the Navy deck logs was completed in December 2019 and Coast Guard deck logs were completed this September. As part of the agreement, VA provided digital images of the deck logs to NARA to make them digitally available in the National Archives Catalog.

Veterans may contact inquire@nara.gov if the deck log they are seeking is not available in the National Archives Catalog. To learn more about Agent Orange exposure and VA disability compensation call 800-827-1000 for information. [Source: **VA News Release - October 26, 2020 ++**]