

# Redacted On-Line Version



## USS Canberra

*Prora et puppis pro Canberra*

CA-70 / CAG-2

### Members of the Crew



Volume 36-1

USS Canberra Reunion Association

Spring 2025

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Editor: Ken Minick

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

## 2025 USS CANBERRA

### Reunion Information

**Portland, ME- Oct 19-23, 2025**

**Reunion Dates:** Our Reunion dates are Sunday, October 19th through Thursday, October 23th.

**The cutoff for hotel reservations, tour selections and for Armed Forces Reunions is Sept. 18, 2025.**

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

**The Hotel Contract, The Maine Tour Connection group contract and our Contract with Armed Forces Reunions all state that reservations must be in their hands by the above listed date to be able to guarantee your spot.**

**Although Armed Forces Reunions no longer handles anything but hotels for reunions our size they did offer to handle our Registration for us this year because, as yet, we do not have the ability to accept credit cards.**

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 activities as you want, but reserve early and cancel out at a later date if you find you cannot make the reunion.

**\*\*\*ATTENTION PLEASE\*\*\***

## Dues

Membership dues in the amount of \$25 are now due for 2025 (1 January through 31 December).

**Please mail your dues to:**

USS Canberra Reunion Association, Ltd.  
c/o Ken Minick  
2115 Pride Ave  
Belpre, OH 45714

**Please make your check out to:**

USS Canberra Reunion Association, Ltd.

**Please check the Address label on this newsletter.**

If there is an \*\*\* after your last name, your dues are not up to date according to our records (dues not received as of 02/20/2025).

If you feel there is an error as to when your dues expired, please contact Ken Minick at the address above or by email at: [usscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:usscanberra@gmail.com)

### *Contents of the Members of the Crew*

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**BEST WESTERN MERRY MANOR INN – PORTLAND, MAINE**

**(207) 774-6151**

[www.merrymanorinn.com](http://www.merrymanorinn.com)

**Location**

**700 Main St., South Portland, Maine 04106**

The BEST WESTERN Merry Manor Inn is located right off Interstate 95. Within minutes, guests can enjoy a day of exploring famous lighthouses, touring charming coastal villages, or soaking up the sun on one of the many Maine beaches.

**Reservation Information**

Call the number above and reference USS Canberra Reunion to receive the discounted group rate.

**Group Name:** USS Canberra Reunion

**Reunion Dates:** October 19-23, 2025

**Rate:** \$129 + tax (currently 9%). Group rates are available three days before and three days after the arrival/departure dates, based on availability.

Attendees are also offered a free full hot breakfast buffet (**gratuity not included**).

**Cut off Date: 09/18/25** Late reservations will be accepted on a space and rate available basis.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations must be received 24 hours prior to the day of arrival or there will be a charge of one night room plus tax.

**Parking & Shuttle Information**

There is plenty of free parking in the hotel's spacious 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 Portland International Jetport using taxi's. They reimburse our guests on the way in and prepay for taxi's for the trips back to the Jetport (**gratuity not included**).

**Wheelchair Rental**

ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit [www.scootaround.com](http://www.scootaround.com) for more information or make reservations.

**USS Canberra  
(CA-70/CAG-2)  
Facebook**

If you are a Facebook user and are interested, there is a USS Canberra (CA-70/CAG-2) Facebook page that is open for anyone to view.

It is not affiliated with our Association, although some of our people use it.

**\*\*\* CHANGES \*\*\***

If you have an email address or have changed your email address in the last few years, please inform us via email, so we can update our data base.

Also, if your phone number has changed, please let us know. **Send updated info to:** [usscanberra@gmail.com](mailto:usscanberra@gmail.com) or [kersh444@yahoo.com](mailto:kersh444@yahoo.com)

**Wednesday Banquet Buffet  
Hot Entrees**

- Prime Ribs of Beef Carved to Order
- Chicken Cordon Bleu
- Baked Stuffed Haddock with Lobster Sauce
- Chef's Selection of Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
- Tossed Salad - Rolls and Butter

**Desserts**

- Chef's Selection of Dessert
- Freshly Brewed Coffee, Tea,
- Iced Tea and Decaffeinated Coffee
- will be served with dinner

**Vegan Dinner**

Chef's Choice

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Total Price</b>                     | <b>\$45</b> |
| Children 12 and Under                  | <b>\$25</b> |
| <b>Price Includes Tax and Gratuity</b> |             |

# The Supreme Commander

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

## World War 2 Shipmates

| <u>Shipmate</u>  | <u>Ship</u> | <u>Div</u> | <u>Aboard</u> | <u>Hometown</u> | <u>Departed</u> |
|------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Green, George R. | CA-70       | 3rd/1st    | 1943-46       | Belmont, CA     | 12-26-2024      |
| Petretto, Joseph | CA-70       | S          | 1943-46       | Guilford, CT    | 01-09-2025      |

## Cold War/Vietnam Era Shipmates

| <u>Shipmate</u>           | <u>Ship</u> | <u>Div</u>      | <u>Aboard</u> | <u>Hometown</u>       | <u>Died</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Arnold, William L.        | CAG-2       | OE              | 1965-66       | Reno, NV              | 2016        |
| Konieczny, John J., Jr.   | CAG-2       |                 |               | Mt. Pleasant, PA      | 2019        |
| Babb, Charles H.          | CA-70       | S               | 1968-70       | Altamonte Springs, FL | 2023        |
| Smith, James W.           | CAG-2       | M               | 1959-65       | Lakewood, CA          | 2023        |
| Allgood, Alfred L.        | G2/70       | X               | 1967-69       | Gainesville, GA       | 2024        |
| Bayman, Nicholas R.       | CAG-2       | E               | 1959-62       | Chattanooga, TN       | 2024        |
| Bolling, Brian            | CAG-2       |                 | 1966-67       | Manhattan Beach, CA   | 2024        |
| Clarkson, Andrew V.       | CAG-2       | OI              | 1959-61       | Yuma, AZ              | 2024        |
| Daley, George E.          | CAG-2       | FM              | 1965-68       | Fort Myers, FL        | 2024        |
| Fields, Shirley           | CAG-2       | 9 <sup>th</sup> | 1958-59       | Moundville, AL        | 2024        |
| Orsini, James S.          | CAG-2       | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 1956-59       | Virginia Beach, VA    | 2024        |
| Rockwell, Bruce A., Sr.   | CAG-2       | A               | 1957-58       | Swanzey, NH           | 2024        |
| Rodrique, Franklin D.     | CAG-2       | OI              | 1956-59       | King of Prussia, PA   | 2024        |
| Turney, John E.           | CAG-2       | 1 <sup>st</sup> | 1956-59       | Gladwin, MI           | 2024        |
| Vinci, David F.           | CAG-2       |                 |               | Skokie, IL            | 2024        |
| Donovan, David A., II     | CAG-2       | Eng             | 1959-61       | Virginia Beach, VA    | 2025        |
| Johnson, Paul R.          | CAG-2       | Flag            | 1960          | Groton, MA            | 2025        |
| Motschenbacher, Dennis R. | CAG-2       | OR              | 1966-68       | Turkey, NC            | 2025        |
| Stone, Thomas S.          | CAG-2       |                 |               | Pine Bluff, AR        | 2025        |

## USS Canberra Association Website

As many of you already know, the Canberra Reunion Association has had an active website for the last 20 years. It's address is: [www.usscanberra.com](http://www.usscanberra.com)

It has various pages on it: Ship's History, Log Book, Photo Gallery, plus a few more. It also has an online Crew Members list that you can access. You access the Crew Member's list from the home page of the site. Just type in the password and click on the: **Member Sign-In** button. It only has minimal Information about our shipmates. **The password is given to dues paying members only.**

If you find a shipmate that you want more information on, contact your President or your ACTING Sec/Treas.

Dues paying members can also request a directory that has all of our Shipmates information in it.

The directory is digital in Excel format. Contact your ACTING Sec/Treas for a copy of the Directory.

At the bottom of the home page is 2 buttons for the Log Book.

One is for making an entry into the Log Book, the second is for viewing the log book.

# A Note From The President

Hello to all my shipmates and their families.

Just to let you know, the reunion is coming along fine. We have the hotel booked and ready and the Banquet meal picked. The tours have been selected and are ready to be booked. All the night time activity has been planned and ready to enjoy.

There are some things that need to be taken care of, such as we need a Secretary and a Treasurer for the Association. I am planning on splitting the Sec/Treas into two officers instead of one. I think that having two officers for one person is just too much. So I am asking any and all of my shipmates to step up and help keep the Association vibrant. I know all of you are wanting to help, so this will be a great way to help this great Association out.

At the moment we have the following officers:

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| President Emeritus:    | Ken Minick     |
| President:             | Cecil Kersh    |
| Vice President:        | David Hicks    |
| Sec/Treas (Temporary): | Ken Minick     |
| Chaplain:              | Bill Dorsey    |
| Historian:             | LeRoy Johnson  |
| Master-At-Arms:        | Steve Coupland |
| Marine Liaison:        | Bob Saunier    |

Our VP just came aboard, Thank you very much David.

I would like to thank all of the members that have been reinstated. I am so proud to have you back on board with the Association, Thank you so very much. I know that most of you will be at our Reunion in October.

I am proposing to make some changes in the Association, all good changes. I will have an Officer's meeting on Sunday October 19, 2025 in the hospitality room beginning at 6:00 pm. This meeting will be a MUST attend meeting for all officers as I am going to discuss a lot of important issues of the Association.

Don't forget we need your help in stepping up and becoming an officer. I will help anyone who accepts any of the officer duties.

Thanks to everyone for all the trust you have put in me.

If anyone knows of any member that is sick or in the hospital, please let me know by phone, e-mail or letter.

## Your Shipmate Cecil

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## On-Line USS Canberra Museum

The on-line USS Canberra Museum, **that pertains to both the CA-70 and the CAG-2**, has been up and running for 5 years now. Gordon Peck, the son of Ralph Peck, one of our WWII shipmates, has been responsible for getting it up and on-line and is responsible for its updating. If you have any photos, items or stories regarding you or someone that served on the Canberra, he'd love to share them with the world. You can contribute by taking a photo of an item, scanning a document or writing an article and sending it to him by email. Please include a brief description, including the person's name, date (if known) and current location of the photo or document.

His email is: [gordon@usscanberramuseum.org](mailto:gordon@usscanberramuseum.org)

If you have any questions, contact him via his email.

The web address for the on-line museum is: [www.usscanberramuseum.org](http://www.usscanberramuseum.org)

You can also access the Museum by going to our website at: [www.usscanberra.com](http://www.usscanberra.com) and clicking on the link at the bottom of the home page.

# USS CANBERRA REUNION ASSOCIATION

## OCTOBER 19th to 23rd, 2025

### BEST WESTERN MERRY MANOR INN – PORTLAND, MAINE

#### Sunday, October 19

|         |   |           |  |
|---------|---|-----------|--|
| 7:00 am | - | 10:00 pm* | Hospitality Room Open                    |
| 7:00 am | - | 9:00 am   | Breakfast Buffet                         |
| 9:30 am | - | 6:00 pm   | <b>Reunion Registration Open</b>         |
| 7:30 pm | - | 10:00 pm  | Pizza Party - Game Show - Know Your Ship |

#### Monday, October 20

|         |   |           |  |
|---------|---|-----------|--|
| 7:00 am | - | 10:00 pm* | Hospitality Room Open  |
| 7:00 am | - | 9:00 am   | Breakfast Buffet   |
| 8:00 am | - | 9:00 am   | <b>Reunion Registration Open</b>   |
| 8:30 am | - | 4:00 pm   | Kennebunkport Tour   |
| 2:30 pm | - | 4:30 pm   | <b>Reunion Registration Open</b>   |
| 7:30 pm | - | 10:00 pm  | Make Your Own Cold Cut Sandwich's<br>Game Show - So You Think You're Funny |

#### Tuesday, October 21

|         |   |           |   |
|---------|---|-----------|---|
| 7:00 am | - | 10:00 pm* | Hospitality Room Open                       |
| 7:00 am | - | 9:00 am   | Breakfast Buffet                            |
| 8:30 am | - | 2:15 pm   | Maine Maritime Museum—Bath City Tour        |
| 7:30 pm | - | 10:00 pm  | Chicken Wings - Game Show - To Be Announced |

#### Wednesday, October 22

|         |   |          |                                       |
|---------|---|----------|---------------------------------------|
| 7:00 am | - | 2:00 pm  | Hospitality Room Open                 |
| 7:00 am | - | 9:00 am  | Breakfast Buffet                      |
| 9:30 am | - | 11:00 am | Business Meeting                      |
| 5:00 pm | - | 10:00 pm | Wine and Cheese Social Hour           |
| 6:00 pm | - | 10:00 pm | Banquet Dinner (Raffle Table Drawing) |

#### Thursday, October 23

|         |   |         |                       |
|---------|---|---------|-----------------------|
| 7:00 am | - | 9:30 am | Hospitality Room Open |
| 7:00 am | - | 9:00 am | Breakfast Buffet      |

### Farewells and Departures until 2026

\*Although the Hospitality Room is scheduled to close at 10:00 pm on Sunday thru Tuesday, the hours will be extended if enough people are using it at that time.

### CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable registration fee (\$15 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that our vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code.

Refunds are processed 4-6 weeks after the reunion.

Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.

Register and pay online at: <https://www.events.afr-reg/e/Canberra25>

\*\*\*\*Tour descriptions are on Page 6\*\*\*\*

# USS CANBERRA REUNION ASSOCIATION TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

## Monday - October 20

### **KENNEBUNKPORT TOUR WITH STOP AT LEN LIBBY'S**

Begin the day with a ride to Kennebunkport. You will tour Kennebunkport and hear the history and folklore as you ride thru two shipbuilding villages on Maine's south coast. We will drive past the beaches, the Bush family compound at Walker's Point, hear the legend of the Wedding Cake House and maritime history of sea captains and shipbuilders. We will stop at the Franciscan Monastery with its seaside shrines and gardens. You will have free time with lunch on your own and shopping at Dock Square. We will then travel to Len Libby's. At Libby's you will have a photo op with Lenny the Chocolate Moose and a "Sweet Treat" awaits you at Len Libby Chocolate before returning to the hotel. You've heard of chocolate mousse, but have you ever seen a chocolate moose? See what these local chocolatiers have created!

**8:15 am board bus, 4:00 pm back at hotel**

**\$69 Person includes bus & guide, Lunch on your own.**

## Tuesday - October 21

### **MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM - BATH - THE CITY OF SHIPS**

We will depart hotel for - **Bath - The City of Ships!**

Our first stop will be the Maine Maritime Museum - It is a display of Maine's shipbuilding industry from the 1600s to the present. While there you will see a boat building demonstration and a unique lighthouse exhibit. Next stop is the village of Freeport. You will have free time in Freeport Village. It is the home of L.L. Bean's Flagship Store and Freeport Outlets. You will be provided walking maps with coupons for Freeport shops and have lunch on your own.

**8:15 am board bus, 2:45 pm back at hotel**

**\$79 Person includes bus, escort, and admission. Lunch on your own..**

**Driver and Guide gratuities are included in the tour prices.**

**Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled time  
Unless otherwise noted, all tours require a minimum of thirty five people**

Register online and pay by credit card at: <https://www.events.afr-reg/e/Canberra25>

## USS CANBERRA ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration tour and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to **ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.** in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at <https://www.events.af-r-eg/e/Canberra25> (4% will be added to total). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**. After that date reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. **Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.**

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.  
 322 Madison Mews .  
 Norfolk, VA 23510  
 ATTN: USS CANBERRA

| OFFICE USE ONLY |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Check # _____   | Date Received _____      |
| Inputted _____  | Name Tag Completed _____ |

| CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/18/2025<br>Please see Newsletter for description of Tours & Meals | Price Per | # of People | Total     |
|---|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| <b><u>TOURS</u></b>   |           |             |           |
| <b>MONDAY:</b> KENNEBUNKPORT TOUR WITH STOP AT LEN LIBBY'S                          | \$69      |             | \$        |
| <b>TUESDAY:</b> MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM - BATH - THE CITY OF SHIPS                    | \$79      |             | \$        |
| <b><u>HOTEL MEALS</u></b>   |           |             |           |
| <b>WEDNESDAY BANQUET BUFFET - Beef - Chicken - Fish</b>                             |           |             |           |
| Adult   | \$45      |             | \$        |
| Child - 12 and Under  | \$25      |             | \$        |
| Vegan Dinner  | \$45      |             | \$        |
| <b><u>MANDATORY REGISTRATION FEE</u></b><br>(Administrative Expenses)               |           |             |           |
| REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON (Required)  | \$15      |             | \$        |
| <b>Total Amount Payable to <u>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</u></b>                   |           |             | <b>\$</b> |

**PLEASE PRINT NAMES AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAME TAGS**

YOUR FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR LAST \_\_\_\_\_

SHIP #: CA-70  CAG-2  Division Assigned \_\_\_\_\_ DATES ABOARD: FROM: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ TO: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

IS THIS YOUR 1st USS CANBERRA REUNION? YES  E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please list First and Last Names of **Spouse and all Guests** so that we can make their Name Tags.

- |          |          |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

**(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)**

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS?  YES **(PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).**

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program on Page 5.

**CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am - 4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

Register online and pay by credit card at: <https://www.events.af-r-eg/e/Canberra25>

USS Canberra Reunion Association  
c/o Cecil Kersh  
612 Lancer Lane  
Kenner, LA 70065

## Address Service Requested

