**PLEASE READ FIRST**

2011 USS CANBERRA
Reunion Information
Warwick, RI
10-14 October 2012

Time is running out to sign up for our 2012 Reunion. The cutoff for all reservations is Monday, September 10th. The Hotel Contract and our Contract with Armed Forces Reunions both state that reservations must be in their hands by Monday, September 10th to be able to “guarantee” your spot. After that date, hotel and tour reservations will only be accepted on a space available basis and hotel rates cannot be guaranteed. As in the past, tour reservations may be limited to a first come first served basis. Please remember, we have a very liberal cancellation policy. So reserve early and cancel out at a later date if you find you cannot make the reunion.

**50/50 Drawing News**

At press time nearly $1,500 in 50/50 tickets have been returned. If you wish to purchase additional tickets, drop a check in the amount of $10 for each set of 12 tickets to: USS Canberra Reunion Association; c/o Ron Nullet; P.O. Box 614; Centereach, NY 11720-0614 Ron will complete the stubs for you (address labels are always appreciated). As in past years, additional tickets will NOT be available at our 2012 Reunion. The purchase of 50/50 tickets is a great way to support the Association. Not only does it provide support, but it gives you an opportunity to cash in on some big bucks at the same time. Right now the first prize is valued at almost $300 and it will only continue to grow as we get closer to the reunion. Remember, winners need not be present at the Reunion to win. The drawings will be held at the Friday Evening Buffet.

No tickets can be accepted after the 30th of September.

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, located in the hotel’s Bristol meeting room. October is usually a beautiful month in the Warwick area with temperatures averaging 60-70 during the day and 40-50 at night.

The daily dress code is casual. It is also casual for all of our tours. At the Saturday evening banquet the men usually wear a suit or sports coat with tie. Some of our tours require some walking, so bring a good pair of walking shoes.

Commemorative Hats & Mugs

This year’s ball hats and coffee mugs are in the process of being manufactured. They will both be sent directly to the hotel in Warwick. A free coffee mug will be given for each registration. **Sorry, only one cup per registration!**

As in past years, ball caps will be given to those shipmates that purchase tickets for the Raffle Table at the reunion. Additional hats and mugs will be available for sale at and following the reunion. This years ball caps will again come in Navy Blue, Scarlet and Summer White. If you do not plan to be at this years reunion, you can contact Ken to reserve your cap and mug for delivery after the reunion. They will ship sometime from late October to early November. The price of hats will be at $17 each including postage, the price of mugs will also be $17 each including postage, if ordered separately. Mugs are in full color.

The cost of one cup and one hat, including Priority Mail postage is $32.00 if ordered at the same time. **Write, e-mail or phone Ken for multiple order prices.**
Airport Transportation
The hotel offers complimentary shuttle to & from the Theodore Francis Green Memorial State Airport (TF Green, Airport CODE: PVD). Call the hotel to let them know you’ve arrived at (401) 732-6000. They will give you further instructions after you pick up your luggage at baggage claim.

RV Information
The Crowne Plaza Hotel offers complimentary RV parking for registered guests staying at the hotel. The charge is $50 per night for those guests staying in their RV overnight. Should you need full hook-ups, contact Oak Embers Family Campground at (401) 397-4042 for any questions, information, and/or reservations. Make your reservations as soon as possible due to limited space and availability.

Rental Wheelchairs
Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details. All prices quoted include delivery fees.

Have You Missed A Newsletter?
Our newsletters are scheduled to go out “around” the 1st days of March, June, September and December. If you have not received yours by the 15th of those months, please contact Ken so he can get another one out to you. The Post Office has been known to destroy a few each mailing period.
HMAS Canberra LHD-01 News Release - 28 June 2012

The platform ‘MV Blue Marlin’, of the Dutch company Dockwise, arrived to prepare the complex operation that will take the Navantia built HMAS Canberra to Australia. The semi-submersible platform docked today at about 16:00 hours at the Navantia Fene shipyard. The ‘Blue Marlin’s’ entry into the Ria de Ferrol was aborted yesterday due to wind conditions.

The ship crossed, with caution due to the narrowness of the channel, into the harbor of Ferrol. Supported by the tugs ‘Ibaizabal Five’ and ‘Hocho’ the ship, being nearly 64 meters wide, is the largest floating structure that has crossed the mouth of Ferrolana.

The "Blue Marlin" will prepare the transfer of the first amphibious ship that the Spanish naval constructors built for the Australians and which is armed with BAE Systems. The loading and transfer of HMAS Canberra, the first in a series of two sister ships to the LHD "Juan Carlos I" of the Spanish Armada, will begin in August in the outer harbor basin of A Coruña in Punta Langosteira.

It is expected that it will take the "Blue Marlin" about 50 days to complete the crossing between Spain and Australia. The operation will be repeated in 2014 with the second ship, HMAS Adelaide, whose construction is progressing well at the Navantia Fene company’s shipyard in Ferrol.

According to reports at this time, the total cost of the two LHD’s freight to Australia is around 20 million euros. The choice of shipping via loading was preferred to the traditional towing system for reasons including safety and efficiency.
MV Blue Marlin that will transport the HMAS Canberra LHD-01 to Australia