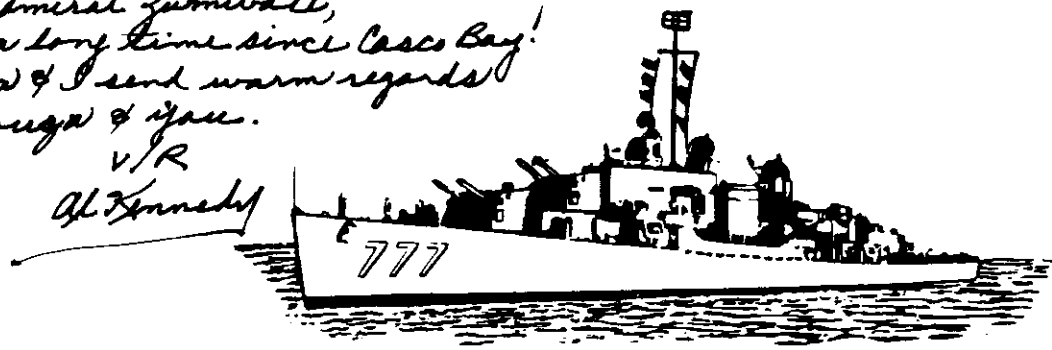


Dear Admiral Zumwalt,  
It's a long time since Casco Bay!  
Laura & I send warm regards  
to Mough & you.

V/R  
Al Kennedy

MAR 27 1992

Ships?



# USS ZELLARS (DD777)

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USS ZELLARS ASSOCIATION  
3321 St. James Place  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
TEL: 703/573-5973; FAX: 703/573-4329

25 March 1992

Greetings,

Time again for the Annual Letter to the membership. Since no one else offered to Indian wrestle me out of the job, I'm still Secretary/Treasurer. Not complaining, however, because it's a great way to stay in touch.

Enclosed you will find the following items:

- o A current directory of known shipmates
- o A 1992 membership card in the USS ZELLARS Association
- o A bumper sticker for use in trolling for shipmates as yet unlocated.

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### SPECIAL NOTE

Your 1992 membership card is enclosed in advance. It is requested that you send in a check for \$15.00 for 1992 dues, payable to USS ZELLARS Association (address is USS ZELLARS Assn., 3321 St. James Place, Falls Church, VA 22042). It's hard to say who was "first out of the gate" this year, since eight(8!) shipmates had already sent their '92 dues all at about the same time and way, way in advance of receiving this annual request. Those shipmates who mustered in early for 1992 are Bud Dodd, Bud Franklin, Vince Munro, Ralph Patterson, Mike Popernik, Wilfrid Thompson, Fred Von Hinken and Rodger Hayes. In the weeks since "The Big Eight" ante'd up, many more have sent in their dues. If receipts keep up at this rate, this note will be a stragglers call instead of an advance notice.

<p>NAMESAKE Thomas E. Zellars, Lt. U.S.N. DESTROYER CLASS Allen M. Sumner KEEL LAID December 24, 1943 Todd Pacific Shipyards Seattle, Washington LAUNCHED July 19, 1944 COMMISSIONED October 25, 1944 DECOMMISSIONED March 19, 1971 SOLD TO IRAN October 12, 1973</p>	<p>DISPLACEMENT 2200 Tons LENGTH 378'6" WIDTHS (Beam) 40'10" DRAFT 15'8" SPEED (Knots) 34.2 COMPLEMENT 345 Officers &amp; Enlisted Men</p>	<p>BATTLE STARS 1 World War II 4 Korean War ARMAMENT 6-5"/38 Cal. 12-40mm. 11-20 mm. 10-21" Torpedos 6-"K" Guns &amp; 2 Roll Racks (Depth Charges)</p>
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### 1992 Reunion

Red Peterson has completed the plans and arrangements for our 1992 Reunion in Tucson, Arizona during the period of October 16-19. You should have received the announcement, program and registration application from him by now. If the mail has gone astray, or you've moved, or aren't on the mailing list, or whatever, you can get in touch with Red at

Red and his wife Osie Leah deserve the thanks of us all in the Association for their time and effort in planning and then making the advance arrangements for the coming gala reunion that will be at least a match for all the preceding gatherings. Last fall the Association treasury sent the customary advance of \$500.00 to Red as seed money to get started on arrangements.

### 1991 Reunion

Congratulations are in order to Miles and Cora Wharfield for their outstanding achievements in hosting the Reunion at South Padre Island in Texas last October. The activities, arrangements and festivities were much enjoyed and ran smoothly---so obviously a great deal of hard work and good planning had gone on in advance and behind the scenes to provide this very memorable event. One of the highlights of this get-together was the poolside dinner, complete with a mariachi band. The annual memorial service was conducted by our Chaplain, Bud Franklin. Bud has spent many hours over the years putting together his annual memorial service, and all present were moved once again by his eloquent words. The service was conducted at the Iwo Jima Memorial on the grounds of the Marine Military Academy in Harlingen, Texas. It is interesting to note that the memorial at Harlingen was built first and then used as the mold for the Iwo Jima monument in Arlington, Virginia.

The following members, wives, relatives and friends were on hand in Texas, including a substantial showing of Plank Owners:

Leonard A. Bell and wife Charlotte  
Manuel Benavides and wife Jessie  
Jimmie M. Bilyeu and wife Anna Mae  
Nick Bisconti and wife Violet  
Jim Bolam  
Harold Buck and wife Oma Lee  
Curtis Chittenden and wife Catherine  
Ken Culbertson and wife Teresa  
Bob Danko and wife Rosalie  
Bud Dodd and wife Edith  
Bob Eaton and wife Phyllis  
Bill Eddleman and wife Mary  
Chuck Farnsley and wife Jan  
Bud Franklin and wife Betty  
Bill Gatts and wife Helen  
Bernard Goldate and wife Mary

Paul Gowen  
Joe Halloran and wife Rose  
Carl Helke and wife Cindy  
Terry M. Herban and wife Joanne  
Bob Hodge and wife Dee  
Darold Jorgenson and wife Dorothy  
Al Kennedy and wife Laura  
Milan Kolpack and wife Kathleen  
Marion Krawczyk and wife Cass  
Bob LeBlanc and wife Sara  
Manfred Marotta and wife Mary  
Bill McGee and wife Betty  
Ira Overton and wife Mary  
Jerry Patterson and wife Elaine  
Ralph Patterson and wife Sally Ann  
Red Peterson  
Dick Raven and wife Gerda  
B. J. Reynolds and wife Gloria  
Dale K. Rice and wife Kay  
Bud Ring and wife Pat  
Dave Roach(brother of Billy Joe) and wife Janie  
Jim Schultz and wife Janet  
Lester Sinton and wife Nancy  
Bill Smith, wife Louverla and daughter  
John Stone and wife Lois  
Raymond Strickler and wife Velma  
Bob Sutton and wife Mildred  
Melvin Thomas and wife Sharon  
Stanley Ulku and wife Julia  
Fred Von Hinken, Sr. and wife Stella  
Norb Walczak and wife Terry  
Duane Warner and wife Joyce  
Preston Watson and wife Leah  
Leonard Westnedge  
John Whalen and wife Stephanie  
Miles Wharfield and wife Cora  
Glenn Willig and daughter Denise  
Harry Wistrand and wife Faine  
Frank Ziegler and wife Herta

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#### 1991 Business Meeting

The following members of the USS ZELLARS(DD-777) Association  
will serve one year terms during 1991/92:

#### OFFICERS

Miles Wharfield	President
Bob Eaton	Vice President
Al Kennedy	Secretary/Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Farnsley  
Bud Franklin  
Fred Von Hinken

Howie Walters  
Duane Warner

Other Significant Business:

- o It should be noted that the custom has been for the shipmate who puts on the annual reunion to serve as the Association President during the following year.
- o Association members were encouraged to send in information cards if not already submitted.
- o Selected Red Peterson's nomination of Tucson, Arizona as the site of the next reunion in 1992. The alternative site considered was Denver, Colorado.
- o The Association's finances were in order with a comfortable reserve in hand.

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We welcome aboard our newly-found shipmates and hope this letter finds them and their families happy, healthy and prosperous. Some background might be useful to new and prospective members. Marion Krawczyk started us off by organizing and putting on our first reunion in 1985, in Baltimore, Maryland. He is therefore our Founding Member and we are grateful to him on a continuing basis for his initiative. Duane Warner hosted the second annual reunion during 1986 in Houston, Texas. Carrying on the by now established tradition, John Walsh put on Reunion #3 during 1987 in Chicago, Illinois. Harold Buck, Bob Eaton and Cecil Hill joined together to host the 1988 Reunion(#4) in Portland, Oregon. In 1989 Tom Ward staged Reunion #5 in Norfolk, Virginia. Then in 1990, Chuck Farnsley staged Reunion #6 in Indianapolis, followed by the most recent #7, staged by our current President, Miles Wharfield, at South Padre Island, Texas.

Since Day One of the Association, we have been looking for former shipmates, all ranks and rates, snipes, stew burners, gunners, bridge gang, deck force, CIC, all of them. If they sailed in ZELLARS ever, we're looking for them. Every year we advertise our reunion in all Navy and related military magazines and papers(Navy Times, All Hands, American Legion, VFW, DAV, Shift Colors, etc.). But if a former crew member doesn't get any of these publications, he has no way of knowing that the Association exists. Hundreds of former ZELLARS crew members are out there, all unaware that we are searching for them. If you know of any of these former shipmates, do please send me their names and addresses. It will make for bigger and better reunions in the future as the old brightwork is shined with nostalgia.

Some of our new members will find a General Information post card enclosed herein. This stamped and self-addressed card will be used to update our directory. Please take a minute, fill it out and drop it in the mail. You'd be surprised at how interested old shipmates are in renewing old acquaintances. And you can be assured that your name and address won't be sold to a mailing list company.

Also, if the enclosed roster has incorrect or incomplete information, please contact me and I'll send you another General Information post card.

MISSING SHIPMATES. We have lost touch with Jim Anderson, Mel Atkins, Leroy Brim, Don Claffey, Dave Connely, Don Dimmitt, James Emmons, Ed Euwele, Frank Evans, Gib Frahm, Jack Hottle, Ed Limoges, John Lowth, Wayne Marks, M. C. Morse, Tom O'Toole, Chuck Parnell, Bartlett Rhodes, Paul Shackelford, Bill Street, Ray Williams and John Wilson. Most of the PROBLEM ARISES BECAUSE THE POST OFFICE WILL ONLY FORWARD MAIL FOR A LIMITED PERIOD IN EVENT OF A CHANGE OF ADDRESS. If you move in the coming year, let us know your new address so you won't be listed in the ZELLARS Directory as LOST. And if any of you know current addresses of any of the missing shipmates listed above, please send them in to me.

#### NEWS OF SHIPMATES.

o Verlyn(Red) Peterson's kidney transplant continues to be spectacularly successful. He's running on only one speed now: flank.

o Red Peterson reports that Dale Conklin was hospitalized with a severe bout of pneumonia. Dale is back home now although we understand that he has been on oxygen assist. Sounds as though cards and letters to our shipmate would be in order.

o Anyone who has ordered license plate frames, but not yet received them, should contact Duane Warner,

#### TAPS

It has been learned belatedly that Rear Admiral Blinn Van Mater, the C.O. at the time of commissioning, passed away on 1 June 1991. Condolences may be sent to his widow, Mrs. B. Van Mater at

We also pass on the sad news that Leon Dalton died in an automobile accident on 27 November 1991. Condolences may be sent to his widow, Mrs. Marcella Dalton,

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Before closing, here are the remarks made by Bud Franklin, the fine Chaplain of our Association, during the Memorial Service at the Harlingen which so touched all who were there and listened.

"Any American would feel honored today to speak to you of those young men of the USS ZELLARS, who answered their nation's call to duty and made the ultimate sacrifice. As a veteran of one of the five wars of the last 75 years, it's an especially touching privilege to address you on their behalf.

"Throughout the years, many have written warnings that the true meaning of these sacrifices is being lost or at least clouded as a result of the short memories of our citizens. As more time is put between our young people and those who lived the horrors of war, memories will inevitably fade. This is neither good nor bad. It is a reality. So, it is our duty and privilege, we veterans who returned, to insure that everyone who breathes the fresh air of freedom in the world today is reminded.

"Reminded of the young and idealistic doughboy of World War I, fighting the war to end all wars. He knew little or cared less of the politics involved. His country needed him and he went willingly. World War II and the inhumanity of the Nazis and the Japanese again forced the peace loving people of the United States to fight.

"Many who know the fear for life, muddy foxholes, flying planes, sailing ships, and longing for family during the Second World War, also felt the biting cold and uncertainty of Korea. There -- on a frozen Asian peninsula -- war became political. No longer were we called on to just win battles. The so-called "big picture" of global politics was imposed as an additional consideration.

"Then -- Vietnam. The very mention of the name conjures up memories of the divisions and indecision within our country during that period of history. Only a fool would call the veterans and those who died for what they believed was the best interest of their country "war mongers".

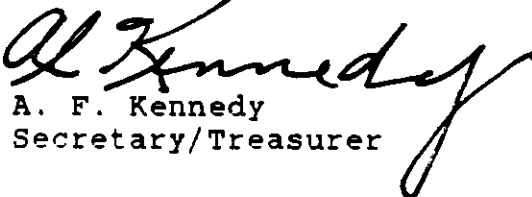
"Now our latest conflict, the Gulf War, popularly known as "Desert Storm", where our young men and women under the direction of President Bush once again brought pride back to our people and country.

"Those who served in the time of conflict did not die in vain. Let no life be insignificant. Let no politics dictate or sway our feelings toward those who have paid with their lives. No amount of wishful thinking will bring back our shipmates whom we honor today. They wanted to live and experience the joys of life as much as you and I. Their dreams were no less realistic, their lives no less important. Yet, they were struck down in the prime of their lives defending this nation and the principles our forefathers set down for us to build on.

"The memories are painful -- sometimes almost more than we can bear -- but it is through the tributes that we pay to those who have fallen, that we can truly appreciate the gift we have been given. They were only with us for a short time -- we remain forever grateful -- may God's light shine upon you -- we miss you -- and we will never forget."

That's all for now. Red Peterson/Reunion Chairman, President Miles Wharfield, all the other members of the Board and myself look forward to seeing you in Tucson, Arizona in October at the even bigger and better Reunion #8. Keep in touch!

All the best,

  
A. F. Kennedy  
Secretary/Treasurer

P.S. The attached directory gives addresses and phone numbers of shipmates, and, when known, dates served aboard, rank/rate in ZELLARS, division assignment, wife's name, Reunions attended[e.g., (1,2,5)], and identifies Plank Owners(P).

Corrections are most welcome and should be sent to the USS ZELLARS Association, 3321 St. James Place, Falls Church, VA 22042