

May 23, 1975

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

## Information on the USS Monterey

The President's service on the Monterey began in May 1943 prior to the ship's being commissioned. He served as a Navigator until December 1944 when the ship had to undergo extensive repairs because of a typhoon. The President was discharged in December 1944 as a Lt. Cmdr.

The President served on the organizing committee to establish the Monterey reunion. He attended the first reunion held in 1965 at the Columbia University Club in New York City.

In 1967 he attended the reunion which was held in Philadelphia. (The Monterey was in mothballs there and those attending the reunion went aboard the ship.)

## Subsequent meetings attended:

1969	Washington D. C.
1971	Philadelphia
1973	Annapolis

The 1975 reunion will be the first combined with enlisted men.

Vital statistics of the USS Monterey:

Designation:	CBL-26 (Light Carrier)
Displacement:	11,000 tons
Length of Flight Deck:	622 feet
Width of Flight Deck:	109 Feet
Draft:	26 feet
Maximum speed published:	31 knots
Complement:	people 1,569; Aircraft 45
Fossil-fueled propelled	(estimate refueling every ten days under operative conditions -- every two weeks would be down to 25% to 30% of their fuel -- under transient conditions -- every 2 weeks refueling)
Firepower	Twenty 45 millimeter (size of shell) Twenty 20 millimeters

Brief History of the USS Monterey:

Ships of the Monterey class came into being as a result of the disastrous initial phases of the war in the Pacific when the Lexington, the Hornet, the Yorktown and the Wasp were sunk. As a result, the Navy needed carriers in a hurry. Cruisers of the Cleveland class were converted to carriers. Among the ships in this group were the Independence, the Princeton, the Belleau Wood, the Monterey and others.

The Monterey was commissioned at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on June 17, 1943.

Following the usual shakedown cruise, the Monterey left Philadelphia on September 20, 1943 for the Pacific. After being outfitted with planes and additional personnel the Monterey departed San Diego on October 5 for Pearl Harbor which it reached on October 9. Training exercises followed and the Monterey was engaged in the Pacific War. Specifically, it was involved in numerous strikes against Makin Atoll, the Gilbert Islands, the Tarawa Atolls, Kwajalein and Ebeye Islands, Eniwetok Atoll, the Marshall Islands, Truk Atoll, the Marianas Islands, Wake Island, Iwo Jima, Manilla and Luzon (P.I), Panay Island, etc.

On December 18, 1944 a typhoon severely damaged the Monterey and it was drydocked eventually at Bremerton, Washington where it underwent extensive repairs. On April 5, 1945, the Monterey returned to Pearl Harbor and was engaged in the final battles in the Pacific.

On June 1, 1970 the Monterey was "declared in excess of Navy needs" and was stripped and sold to Boston Metals, a Maryland firm, for \$226,000.

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