

"Newseyletter" Decatur Chapter No. 4, USCS

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Richard F. Hoffner, USCS # H-4456, Chapter Cachet Director
415 Moyer Road, Souderton, PA 18964-2319

Phone: 215-721-8606

e-mail: pauscg@gmail.com

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Deposit Balance \$ _____

Missing in action

Three events are still missing in action for 2011. Covers at Pascagoula MS for the "In-Service Special" of the USCGC *Stratton* are due as well as covers for the Keel Laying of the USNS *Spearhead J-HSV-1*. Also overdue are the decommissioning covers from the *USS Cleveland*, languishing somewhere in the naval postal service.

A surprise in my mailbox this week



Covers sent six months ago arrived this week from *USS Doyle FFG-39*. The covers were long overdue, sent out last June to the mail clerk. The cancel on the covers was more surprising than their showing up. The covers were postmarked with the ships Great White Fleet pictorial cancel. I had asked for the ships four bar cancel, but this is better than not getting them back. Printing is already done and one will be enclosed if you get this category.

Sudden death of carrier CO



One of five covers prepared by me to honour the CO.

The commanding officer of the *USS Harry S. Truman* died

suddenly on 8 November 2011. Capt. Tushar "Haaji" R. Tembe, USN had taken command of the *Truman* just several months before his passing in August 2011. Previously Tembe was XO of *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* and CO of *USS Nashville* and CO of *Strike Fighter Squadron 87* and served as a fighter pilot on *Eisenhower* and *USS Forrestal* attached to *VFA-132*, *VFA-83*. His service covered almost three decades. His funeral services were celebrated in The Holy Family Catholic Church in Virginia Beach, VA, at 2 p.m. Sunday, 13 November 2011.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Rob Rupp

The *USS Harry S. Truman* held a military memorial service on Tuesday, 15 November 2011, at 1 p.m. on board *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower* in Norfolk Naval Station, VA (photo above). A full military funeral will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

XO takes temporary command of CVN-75

Capt. Craig Clapperton, USN took interim command of *USS Harry S. Truman CVN-75* on 9 November 2011 until a new commanding officer was named after the death of Capt. Tushar Tembe on 8 November 2011. Capt. Clapperton was relieved of command by the former CO of the *USS Enterprise*, another temporary command, by Capt. Dee Mewbourne. Mewbourne had been CO of *USS Enterprise*

from 2008 to 2010, when he was relieved by Capt. Owen Honors, USN. Honors made national headlines when it was revealed that he took part in raunchy video skits aboard the *USS Enterprise* while XO. When the videos went virile on the Internet, the Navy removed Honors from command, and Capt. Dee Mewbourne took temporary command of *Enterprise*. He was relieved by Capt. William Hamilton on *Enterprise* in August.



U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Marie Brindova/Released

Capt. Dee Mewbourne, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier *USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75)*, greets department heads after a change of command ceremony aboard *Harry S. Truman*. Mewbourne assumed command following the unexpected death of *Harry S. Truman's* previous commanding officer, Capt. Tushar Tembe. *Harry S. Truman* is currently undergoing a docking planned incremental availability to conduct maintenance and refurbish shipboard systems. *Harry S. Truman* is expected to return to the fleet in the summer of 2012.

Change of Command aboard USS Enterprise CVN-65



Personel cover for Change of Command CVN-65