



U.S.S. BENNINGTON CVS-20....22 March 1964

Dear families and friends of BENNINGTON:

As the Easter season draws near and you are separated from your Navyman, I feel it my duty to remind you of some of the reasons for BENNINGTON's deployment and what we are doing while on the cruise.

In years past, when war was expressed as "a hot war," reasons for deployment were more apparent. With world conditions as they are today the maintenance of a strong striking force is the Navy's prime goal, although its importance may sometimes become obscured to our loved ones back home. There are nations in the world today whose desire it is to see the democratic way of life replaced by their own ideology. These nations wage a continuous war of words and threats to tear at the frontiers of the free world. To contain these threats and keep them from breaking out into warfare the United States maintains strong forces at strategic places throughout the world. It is the BENNINGTON's task to be a ready force in anti-submarine warfare. Therefore, we are joining the Seventh Fleet in the Far East for the next five months to prevent war and protect free lands.

At this holy time of the year, families wish to be together but I now ask you to consider the wonderful things we enjoy because of what your loved one is protecting --your right to individual worship,



Basketball enjoyed at sea off Hawaii.