

# VA-163 SAINTS GRAM

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**KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE**  
*Distance and time may separate us  
but friendship and memories won't*

Dedicated to those who have invested their lives to the cause of Freedom in America! God Bless our Men and Women who are (or Have) in any way or manner served to protect our Great Nation and the freedom we have.

And God Bless the United States of America.



17th Year Edition  
Established Nov 2002  
VOL 1 Issue 206



**Stay Home and Stay Alive**  
**Stay Strong, it will come to pass**

**Standing the Watch**

Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Everlasting Keeper of the Flame"

**Keeper of the Flame, Song by Miranda Lambert**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=ydE6lzad-VQ>

**I'm the keeper of the flame**  
The teller of the story  
**Keeper of the flame**  
For the ones that came before me  
For the little pilot lights waiting to ignite  
Like fireflies in the rain  
**Keeper of the flame**



**ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT**



ATKRON 163



**Click Here**

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/>

Also on Saints website, PHOTOS section

**Contains 80 Albums (Sets).... 4,832 Photos**

**View Counts as of 04 April 2020**

**Total**

**936,751 views**



\*\*\*SAINTS WEB SITE\*\*\*

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) (password: *Saints4ever* (capital S))

**17,237** Visitors since Mar 09

[History](#), [Latest Info](#), [Photos](#), [In Memoriam](#), [Miscellaneous](#), [Newsletters](#), [Links](#), [Recall Roster](#)

\*\*\*Total cost for the Saints Website is \$293.97 per year

**4 Sept 2019** paid \$286.34 to “GoDaddy” web hosting for 2 year renewal

**15 Jan 2020** paid \$120 to “Webmaster” for maintenance of site, annual renewal

**04 Mar 2020** paid \$14.45 for “Domain Name” one year renewal

**Any donations are appreciated**

Ed Copher  
176 Landa Street #210  
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Folks that have sent in “**website**” donations 2017-19: A big shout out...”Thank You”

- Ken Adams
- Raymond Baker
- Dave Carey
- Ed Chadwick
- David Farley
- JC Ferris
- Bob Feuillerat
- Earl Groff
- Tom Harwood
- Bill Houk
- Tom Kline
- Daniel Lestage
- George Lundy
- Roger Meyer
- Pete Munro
- Floyd Oakes
- MA Petty
- John Roosen
- Bill Sargent
- Russ Stickley
- James Thompson
- Bill Tomko
- Anthony Stable
- James Marceley (VA-164)
- Tommy Wimberly



**Folks that have donated to the “Saints Flower Fund”: Thank You**

*Flowers have been sent to 3 funerals*

- Ken Adams
- Raymond Baker
- Russ Stickley
- Earl Groff
- John Roosen
- Thomas Harwood
- Griff Sexton
- Ed Chadwick
- Daniel Lestage



**Saints Reunion Survey:** Pensacola, Nov 2020

Got a few positive responses last month.

Some Saints folks are in the early stages of planning a possible 2020 November VA-163 Reunion in Pensacola. Please respond with a Yea or Nay that you would be interested in a reunion to be held in Pensacola around Nov 2020.

Respond to Ed Copher [newsman242@gmail.com](mailto:newsman242@gmail.com)



Happy Birthday Fritz



Saints Old Decal from the New Orleans Saints, 1966



Remember the decals the New Orleans football team sent to VA-163. One of the pilots had sent the team some squadron decals. I think we lost that pilot and no one else continued corresponding with the team.

Stay safe during this covid-19 pandemic.

Your shipmate, Wayne Pippin



VA-163

First Row L-R SCHNEIDER, W. F.; SCHULTZ, K. M.; FARRIS, J. C.; SHULER, A. C.; LTJG P. H. MONRO; ROWE, J. A.; GAMBILL, J. N.; WINTER, T. S.; Second Row L-R CRAIN, L. C.; BENTSCH, R. G.; JONES, R. G.; HORTON, W.; HALL, J. R.; HOLMIS, R. NEFF, L. Z.; BURCH, D. E.; GULICK, P. E.; MURPHY, R. I.; JOMENISKO, F. J.; BUCKMANN, D. C.; HOLDER, G. L.; Third Row L-R HENDERSON, C. L.; HANN, D.; SULLIVAN, M.; STEADMAN, T. A.; RUDANOVICH, P.; BARON, H. E.; HAGLE, R. J.; TUCKER, L. L.; MCFARDLAND, M. A.; RUCKER, J. N.; DICKSON, J. L.; ERICKSON, W. E.; VALDER, D. G.



VA-163

First Row L-R JONES, W. E.; PETTY, M. A.; REISE, L. D.; LTJG TAYLOR, LT MITCHELL; LTJG SCHROEDER; CHIEF BAGINELL, MORRISON, R. L.; Second Row L-R FISCHER, J. M.; DUSKA, A.; TURNER, HUDMAN, W.; THOMAS, T. M.; ROOLDA, T. P.; BRYAN, J. R.; REYNOLDS, C. H.

1966 Oriskany Cruise Book



TA-4J CAG Jet



Also had an A-4 with the whole bottom ripped up an wood crammed down the bores of both 20mm cannon. The story was the pilot had strafed a column of NVA. When he ran out of cannon shells he dropped down low level. REALLY low level. Dropped the arresting hook and cleared a path through the NVA troops with the hook. Hence the wood stuffed 20mm cannons.

We were told the pilot was grounded for a psycho evaluation. We were cheering him.

Personally I thought he was looking for a transfer from the Navy to a Marine squadron.



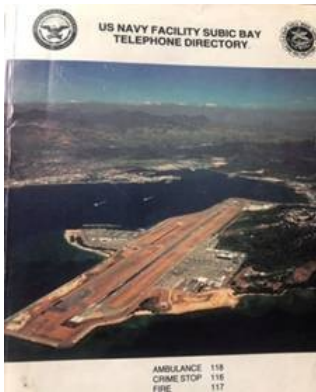
**If you have crossed this bridge:** Submitted by Ed Chadwick

For those of you who never had the experience of R&R in Olongapo, PH, this is a picture of the bridge going into town from our former Navy base. The river was lovingly referred to "Shit River", for good reasons. The kids in the boats dove for coins. For those of you who were there, following are pictures you will enjoy: <https://www.google.com/search?q=olongapo+city+1967&tbn=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewi3iIL2t5roAhXrJzQIHSvSDb0QsAR6BAgGEAE>. I knew Olongapo better than most because I frequently was on Shore Patrol duty there and secondarily I was the squadron VD officer.

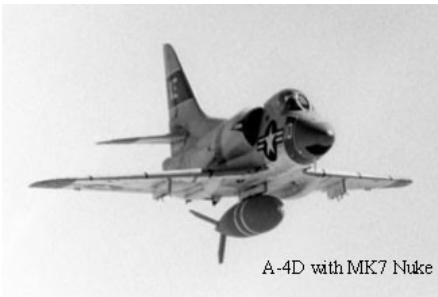


Pilot Landing Aid TV



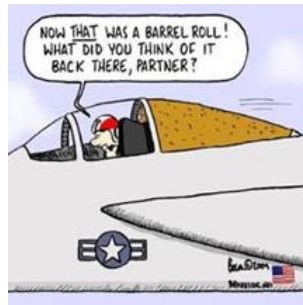


AMBULANCE 119  
CRIME STOP 116  
FIRE 117



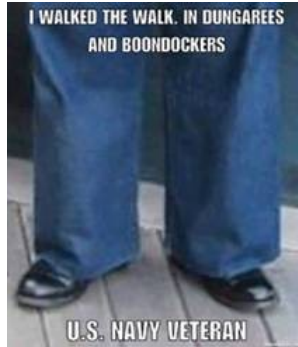
A-4D with MK7 Nuke

**WHY IS A SHIP CALLED SHE ?**  
A ship is called a 'she' because there is always a great deal of bustle around her; there is usually a gang of men about, she has a waist and stays; it takes a lot of paint to keep her good looking; it is not the initial expense that breaks you, it is the upkeep: she can be all decked out; it takes an experienced man to handle her correctly; and without a man at the helm, she is absolutely uncontrollable. She shows her topsides, hides her bottom end, when coming into port, always heads for the buoy.



WHAT ARE THESE CALLED

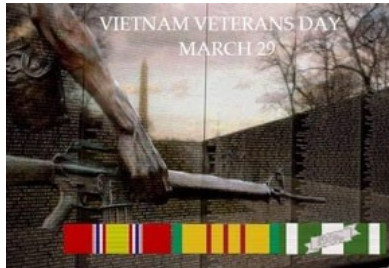
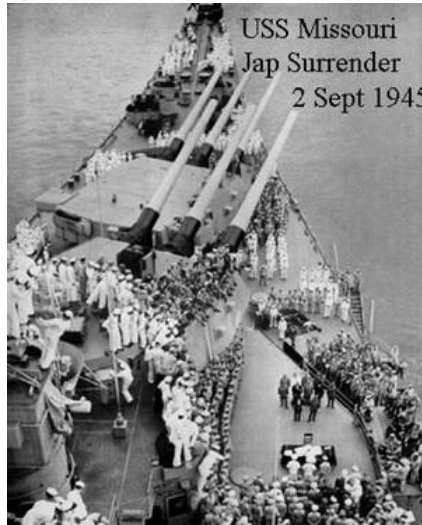
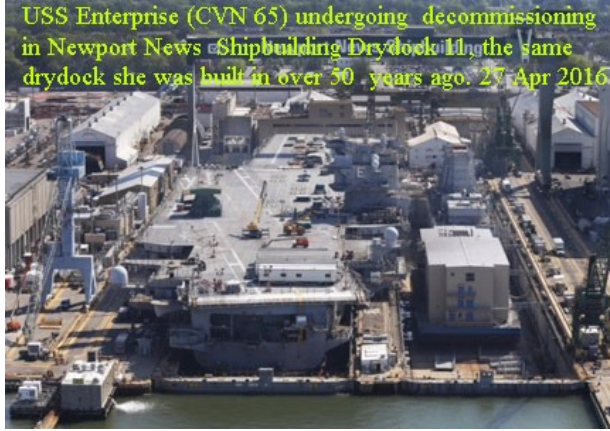
ONLY NAVY VETS WILL KNOW



I WALKED THE WALK, IN DUNGAREES AND BOONDOCKERS

U.S. NAVY VETERAN

USS Enterprise (CVN 65) undergoing decommissioning in Newport News Shipbuilding Drydock 11, the same drydock she was built in over 50 years ago. 27 Apr 2016



**VA Benefits for Blue Water Navy Veterans** received \$140M for claims in Jan & Feb this year:

Get your claim submitted to the VA. I have one pending for Agent Orange; I think it was in our fresh water.

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/72899/blue-water-navy-veterans-received-140m-in-retroactive-benefits-in-january-february/>

### VFW Encourages Blue Water Veterans to File VA Claim

At the beginning of the year, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-23)* went into effect. The law restores VA benefits to Vietnam War blue water sailors (those who served aboard ships off the coast of Vietnam) who had their disability eligibility arbitrarily taken away by VA in 2002. Those veterans also could be eligible for retroactive benefits.

The *Blue Water Navy Veterans Act of 2019* also requires VA to contact veterans who filed a disability claim that originally was denied.

"This long-overdue legislation has the potential to truly change lives," VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci said.

VFW encourages veterans who served in or off the coast of Vietnam or Thailand to contact a VFW service officer to discuss whether they are eligible to file a VA claim for Agent Orange exposure. Visit [www.vfw.org/nvs](http://www.vfw.org/nvs) to find a nearby VFW service officer.

**14 PRESUMPTIVE CONDITIONS**

To qualify for Agent Orange-related benefits, a veteran must have one or more of the 14 conditions VA presumes to have been caused by exposure to the defoliant, which are:

- Chronic B-cell Leukemia.
- Hodgkin's Disease.
- Multiple Myeloma.
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- Prostate Cancer.
- Respiratory Cancers.
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas.
- Al. Amyloidosis.
- Chloracne.
- Diabetes Mellitus Type 2.
- Ischemic Heart Disease.
- Parkinson's Disease.
- Early-onset Peripheral Neuropathy.
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda.

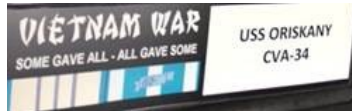


**The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members**

**VA-163 page:** <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/va163>

Please join the *Skyhawk Association*. A great *Quarterly Magazine*, allot of A-4's and Saints articles. Only \$30 per year.

**To Join:** [www.A4skyhawk.info.org](http://www.A4skyhawk.info.org)



**Veterans Benefits Newsletter from the VA:**

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVBA/bulletins/27794cb>

**Nice Military Aircraft photos:**

<http://www.doyletics.com/tidbits/militaryadvice.pdf>

**Oriskany Dive 9 Feb 2020:**

<https://vimeo.com/390358620>

**Blue Angels A-4 Video:**

<https://www.navalhistory.org/2020/01/24/how-the-navy-got-a-hit-recruiting-video-from-van-halen>

**High Flight by John Denver:**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1xNGgWNRUf8#>

**F-18 Parking on Flightdeck:**

<https://fbwat.ch/1vthAlcaGlvADom4>



**A-4 Launch 1962:**

<https://www.facebook.com/100026351565698/posts/312902602931456?d=n&sfns=mo>



**I Stand:**

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/2eBxVxO0nh4>



**Blue Angels In Flight:**

[https://www.wearethemighty.com/blue-angels-cockpit-footage?utm\\_source=facebook&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=Evergreen&utm\\_term=Veterans&utm\\_content=blue-angels-cockpit-footage](https://www.wearethemighty.com/blue-angels-cockpit-footage?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Evergreen&utm_term=Veterans&utm_content=blue-angels-cockpit-footage)



**Blue Angels Cockpit...**

[WATCH: BLUE ANGELS - Footage Inside the Cockpit](#)



**Saints WestPac 1965-66 Video:**

John Shore had his 8 mm movies converted to a DVD. He said it only took him 50+ years to get it put together. I took the DVD and uploaded it to YouTube.com. What a task for this rookie YouTube user, took many hours, first had to convert DVD to Mp3, and that took hours of work. Then upload to YouTube took many steps to get accomplished. Click on the link below to view on YouTube.

LINK address: <https://youtu.be/bwuTIK544cQ>

**Oriskany Sinking Article & photos:**

<https://fighterjetsworld.com/naval/the-u-s-navy-blows-up-aircraft-carrier-sets-world-record-that-still-stands/10506/>

**181 Pictures from Oriskany, including inaction Fire photos:**

No need to log in.

<https://genelewis.smugmug.com/SLIDE-GALLERY-FROM-JAMON-KENT-PH2/>

**NAS Lemoore April 1968:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sRIO4kvjVE&feature=youtu.be>



## SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”

Revised 04 April 2020

New or changed address:

[See website roster](#)

*Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.*

**Complete Muster Call can be found on the Saints website – [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) (password, *Saints4ever*) capital S**

