

Toooo Weeeettt..Attention on Deck...Now hear this...Standby to hear a message from the bridge.... **“Saints December newsletter” ...Arriving!**

ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE



VA-163 SAINTS GRAM



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.



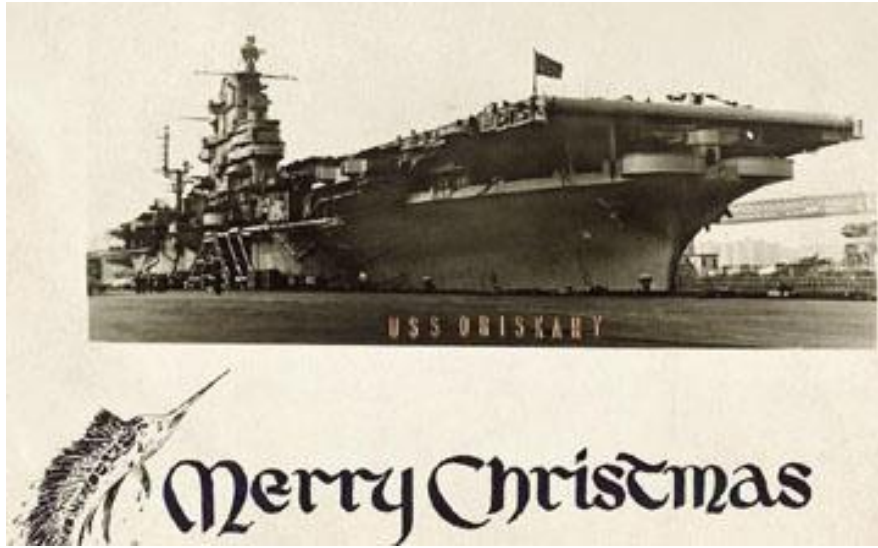
2021

18th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 226









“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God’s gift, that’s why we call it the present”

Stay Safe, Be Healthy, Be Well, Salute to all you heros

Military Enlistment Oath: I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution Of The United States against **all enemies**, **foreign** and **domestic**; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States.



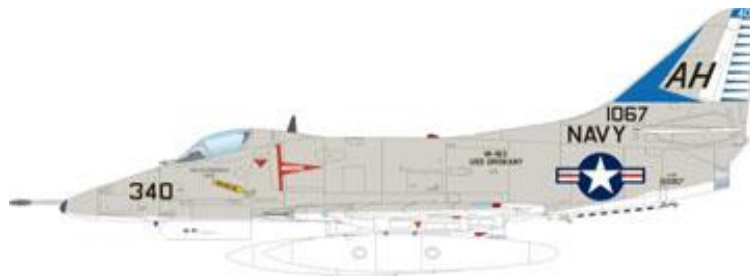


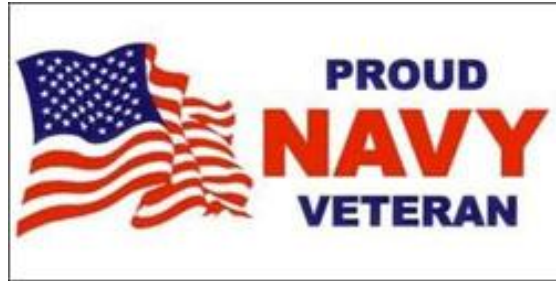
Patriot

pa·tri·ot *Noun*

[pey-tree-uhit, -ot or, esp. British, pa-tree-uhz]

A person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies foreign and domestic.





Standing the Watch



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

"Keeper of the Flame"

Memories glimmer and hide in the dim shadows

Daring us to '...catch me...if you can!'

As time steadily treads its own meandering path,

It's hard to trace old members of the clan.

Then someone steps up with lantern and blade

Shouting, "Let's gather them in for us all, good neighbor!"

We'll bring forth those hidden in the shade, and

Share them with one and another!

"I'll keep that flame high and the blade ever sharp,

That our friends may never be lost in the dark!"

ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT







ATKRON 163



Saints Photos Website



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

Also on Saints website, PHOTOS section

Contains 80 Albums.... 4,832 Photos

View Counts as of 5 December 2021

“Over a million views”

1,115,401 views



New Album: "Saints Reunion Virginia Beach"
49 photos & 1 video

Click on link below

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/albums/72157720165688053/with/51698826279/>

****Paid \$63.95 to Flickr.com for Saints Photo website on 01 April 2021

*****SAINTS WEBSITE*****

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website www.va163.org password: **Saints4ever** capital S

20,896 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

***** 5 OCT 2021 paid \$306.75 to "GoDaddy" web
hosting for 2 year renewal *****

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

01 March 2021 paid \$14.45 for “Domain Name” one year renewal

Any donations are appreciated

Ed Copher

1211 Gruene Vintage

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Folks that have sent in “website” donations 2017-21: A big shout out...”Thank You”

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dave Carey

Ed Chadwick

Dennis Dooley

David Farley

JC Ferris

Bob Feuillerat

Earl Groff (3)

Tom Harwood

Bill Houk

Tom Kline (2)

Dale & Mary Landroth

Daniel Lestage (2)

George Lundy

Roger Meyer

Pete Munro

Floyd Oakes

Richard Odegaard

MA Petty

John Roosen (2)

Bill Sargent

Fritz Schroeder

John Shore (2)

Lucy Sticklely

James Thompson

Bill Tomko

Anthony Stabile

Lucille Sticklely (3)

James Marcely (VA-164)

Steve Cutting (VA-164)

Tommy Wimberly (other)

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

Flowers have been sent to 7 funerals

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dennis Dooley

Earl Groff

John Roosen

Thomas Harwood

Griff Sexton

Ed Chadwick

Daniel Lestage (2)

Lucille Stickley (3)



Reunion Critique: 3-6 Nov

The reunion in Virginia Beach was a great success. Great compadary, good tours, and good food & drinks. Skipper Compton was a hoot. He went on from Saints to make 2 star Admiral and Skipper of the USS Nimitz. He is now 93 year old, and just whistles all the time and says “Augusta”, which is a Spanish greeting. His son, David, lives with him and is his caretaker. His wife is in a nursing home in AL.

A big shout out to Ed Chadwick for organizing the reunion. A well done job.

Thank you Ed Chadwick, it was appreciated by all.







Reunion shirts can still be ordered from Ken Adams \$29, email kmuleadams@gmail.com





Jim Blythe Veterans Radio show, Dallas



Jim Blythe with family on Hancock 1968



Jim Blythe
25 Nov 2021





Ed Copher Oriskany Fire Interview: Done at Virginia Beach on 5 Nov, 30 min video

1. [ED.COPHER RAW INTERVIEW](https://f.io/oxWyqbJo) <https://f.io/oxWyqbJo>

2. Also Lady Jessie video site with Saints interviews: [Lady Jessie Web](#)



AMH3 Leroy Peck: Submitted by his daughter

Good evening! First I would like to thank you all for your service! My father served aboard the Big O from 26/July/64 - 16/July/68 VA-163. Leroy Peck, retired AMHC. Sadly, he passed away 3 years ago. I found this in his belongings and wanted to share. Hopefully, some of you may remember him and have stories to share. I was not born until august of 68 but he did tell me stories about the Forrestal fire, not much about the war. Here's to memories and again thank you for your service ~ Proud Daughter of a Navy Veteran.



Tom Decker, VA-163 PC, later became door gunner on Seawolves helicopters: 320 missions over Vietnam

After 2 cruises with the Saints in 1967 & 68. He became a gunner with HAL3 Seawolves. He was in shape from humping A-4 chain bags with VA-163.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=W4f_hQP1sdk&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0jzv3FVQ3LxRPidTK5641iClgTKCQrYhYZdSfcprw4VBUn_glwAM1mtM



Join the "VA-163 Saints" Facebook group:



Please join the “**VA-163 Saints**” Facebook group. Updates on the reunion etc. and other interesting Saints postings. You can post pictures and other info for others to enjoy. Just go to Facebook Groups and search for **VA-163 Saints**. Ed Copher is the group administrator and will approve your joining.



[John Shore 1965-66 WestPac Video:](#)

<https://youtu.be/pWeBAyWifP8>



[Huggin the Deck video:](#) 54 min video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSgDIS5I9s8>



[The Story of a Vietnam War Veteran: The Stockdale Paradox](#)

*“You must never confuse faith that you
will prevail in the end ... with the discipline
to confront the most brutal facts of
your current reality...”*

— Admiral James Stockdale, Medal of Honor recipient

September 9, 1965, was a life-changing day for James Stockdale. It was the day that his Douglas A-4 Skyhawk was shot out of the sky, forcing him to eject to save his own life. The North Vietnamese captured the American admiral that day. But little did they know then that they would take in a very, very troublesome prisoner. They detained Stockdale at the Hỏa Lò Prison, the infamous “Hanoi Hilton.” He soon established communications among the American prisoners of war, and a code of rules to organize the prisoners and boost their morale.

When the abuse of American POWs reached a climax in 1969, Stockdale was selected by his captors as a trophy for their propaganda. Knowing that he wouldn't be paraded if he was disfigured, he cut his own scalp with a razor and then beat his own face with a wooden stool, foiling his captors' plans.

After Stockdale found out that several POWs had been tortured to death, he slit his own wrists to show that he would rather die than capitulate to his captors. From that night on, the practice of torturing American POWs stopped in the facility.

Stockdale finally returned home to the United States in 1973 after seven-and-a-half years in prison. In 1976, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

Once, Stockdale had invited Jim Collins, a management scholar, out to lunch. Collins asked Stockdale about how he persevered while in Vietnam.

"I never lost faith in the end of the story," replied Stockdale. "I never doubted not only that I would get out, but also that I would prevail in the end and turn the experience into the defining event of my life, which, in retrospect, I would not trade."



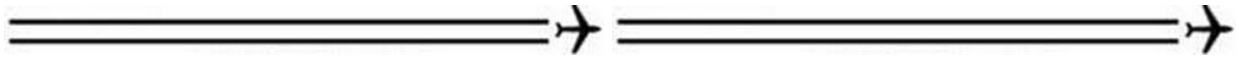
Collins then asked about the kinds of people who didn't make it out of the Hanoi Hilton. "The optimists," came the response. And then Stockdale explained.

"Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart."

After a moment of silence, Stockdale finished his thought.

“This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.”

Collins would later codify this into his coaching regime as the “Stockdale paradox” to help business leaders who were facing challenges—which is sound reasoning. After all, if this thinking can help a soldier survive POW camp, there are very few things it can’t help with. History is full of adversity. But given human nature, it’s also full of people who have overcome adversity, each in their own way.



A TOAST:

Here's to Fallen and Missing Comrades, Forgotten Never,
Burned in Memories of Times Long Past, From Places Far Away.
Here's to you- The fortunate Ones Who Came Through
The War That Never Was



Oriskany



[Oriskany returns from 1967 Westpac, Video:](#)

https://diva.sfsu.edu/collections/sfbatv/bundles/232797?fbclid=IwAR2c30_NAV_xRqQVmPvz1yOqT0Vt48dQ_oZkOYRkxKYsRv13di46YkavzyY



Purple
Aviation Fuels [nickname: "Grapes"]



Blue
Plane Handlers
Aircraft elevator Operators
Tractor Drivers
Messengers and Phone Talkers



Green
Catapult and arresting gear crews
Air wing maintenance personnel
Cargo-handling personnel
Ground Support Equipment (GSE) troubleshooters
Hook runners
Photographer's Mates
Helicopter landing signal enlisted personnel (LSE)



Yellow
Aircraft handling officers
Catapult and Arresting Gear Officers
Plane directors



Red
Ordnancemen
Crash and Salvage Crews
Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)



Brown
Air wing plane captains
Air wing line loading petty officers

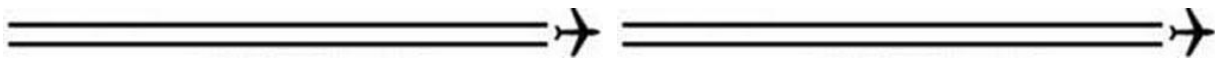


White
Air wing quality control personnel
Squadron plane inspectors
Landing Signal Officer (LSO)
Air Transfer Officers (ATO)
Liquid Oxygen (LOX) crews
Safety Observers
Medical personnel



[The Navy Hymn:](#)

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=ui6Q5kBnmC8&feature=share>







USS Oriskany fire Oct 1966.jpg



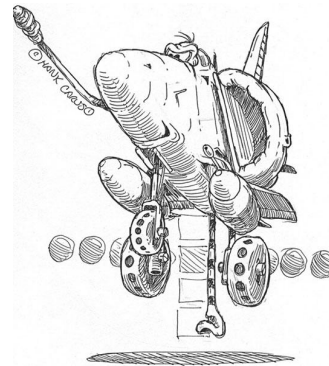
FIRE ON ORISTANY





Match Books from Japan & PI







The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

Home page: Click here: [Home Page | The Skyhawk Association](#)

VA-163 page: [VA-163 | The Skyhawk Association](#)

YouTube page: [Skyhawk Association - YouTube](#)

Please join the Skyhawk Association. A great Quarterly Magazine, allot of A-4's and Saints articles.

Only \$30 per year.

To Join: <http://skyhawk.org/>

Websites of Interest

BOMBS AWAY!

Oriskany Websites: USS Oriskany (CVA 34) 25 Sep 1950 / 20 Sep 1979 Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but the contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 30 Jul 1997. Sunk off the coast of Florida 17 May 2006 for use as an artificial reef. Click on the ship name for a complete history.

1. Great Oriskany Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola: www.mbtdivers.com
2. The best pictures of the reefing. Going to her final resting place: <http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm>
3. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com
4. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>
5. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com>
6. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm

7. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
8. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: A. <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>
B. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
C. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
9. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
10. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
11. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
12. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
13. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
14. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>
15. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
16. Oriskany Memorial Dive for Saint Ralph Bisz: Saints logo patch placed on Oriskany, 20 Sept 2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNETwJvF3A> 7:13 min video
17. Oriskany Dive to put Saint Larry Spear's ashes to rest on Oriskany: 03 Dec 2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnOkCrDnQo> 7:25 min video
18. Saints Video on YouTube: Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRaIM>
19. Tour of Duty photo site: 3000 photos, some Saints <https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/>
20. USS Oriskany Fire & Sinking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk> 42 min video
21. 1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV_Ws & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII>
22. O Boat Sinking Video: 24. <http://trib.al/t69QQT4>

23. Oriskany Video: With F-4's https://youtu.be/e92t7kgV_Ws

24. USS Oriskany Alumni: "facebook page" and gallery has some great photos. Go to Facebook to join the group

USS Hancock: Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock ("Hannah")

http://scottymoore.net/USSHancock.html?fb_action_ids=620396487990408&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=other_multiline&action_object_map=%7B%22620396487990408%22%3A325920780869208%7D&action_type_map=%7B%22620396487990408%22%3A%22og.likes%22%7D&action_ref_map=%5B%5D#NASNI

Lots of Oriskany Info:

<http://www.navsource.org/archives/02/34.htm?fbclid=IwAR0Onwxj0QPhQRFLCmZ6wzytPb9D9YpRVSIB2Ea6cKhhUKm2gP0SECiqj-k>

A-4 Skyhawk Wikipedia:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk?fbclid=IwAR0ICpJW03arF1pU2JU3uv5vccB2Y4S9_UXVE_mmsKY7KuXYttPrc0oH2UM

Amazing Carrier Landing:

https://fb.watch/8szS_yQV97/

Website on the A-4 Skyhawk with much interest as I am very keen to commission and publish further books on this beautiful and iconic aircraft. More on us can be gleaned here:

<https://www.fonthill.media/products/phantom-pilot>

If you are interested in possibly connecting and discussing a proposal on the A-4 Skyhawk or a pilot/ground crew memoir, please do not hesitate to contact me. j.slater@fonthillmedia.com via fonthill.onmicrosoft.com

Oriskany Amature flight deck videos: From Facebook

1. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157816002016910/>

2. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157815770641910/>
3. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157815786321910/>
- 4.

Landing on Oriskany Video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gm2jT6Ftn3E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR23MVLfw69KhDsQ9A5BFS3tAEGzT_dBFHtHXMHL-GsiBh7TUxnRSdL-1Cs

A-4 Inflight Crash video:

<https://fb.watch/8jyVi92eJh/>

Oriskany Sinking video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=F2-Aew7SMO8&fbclid=IwAR2xrucXr7I2IaUx8SM98-IIDXp>

[Ai3](#)

Vietnam Memorial Wall Faces:

154 service members with names inscribed on The Wall were born on Oct. 23. Their photos are spotlighted today on the Wall of Faces. Every day, the Wall of Faces changes to honor those who were born on that day. Join us in remembering them today and each of the 58,279 service members with names inscribed on The Wall. Search The Wall here: vvmf.org/wall-of-faces

Oriskany Video Clip:

<https://youtu.be/-UbU3iMj4zw>

Petula Clark, Sailor 1961

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-r0ngPEHkg>

Oriskany in Bridges of Toko-Ri:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bIFuGFBw_yI

Sailor Song 1961

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=4-r0ngPEHkg>

Veterans Benefits Newsletter from the VA:

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

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

Blue Angels Cockpit...

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

Saints WestPac 1965-66 Video:

Saint 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 the 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 December 2021

New or changed address:

Admiral Compton has a new home phone number: 334 654 5060. His son David has moved to Demopolis and is the best source to get information on or to the Skipper. David's phone number is 571-286-6161 and email dtcompton3@gmail.com

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 password, *Saints4ever* **capital S**



Happy trails to you....until we meet again.....<https://g.co/kgs/3FJhs4>