

*Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck... "Saints...February newsletter"...Arriving!*

*ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE*

## VA-163 SAINTS GRAM

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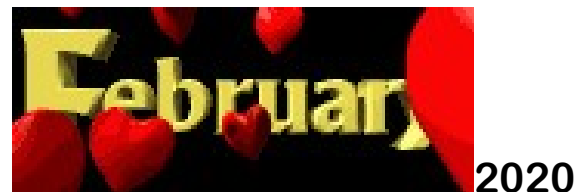
### *KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE*

*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

## Standing the Watch

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

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

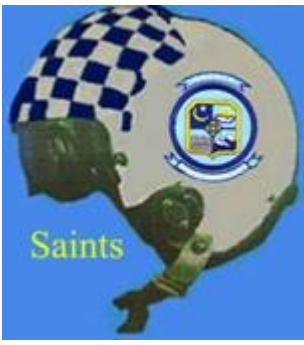
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=ydE6lzad-VQ>

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





[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 29 JAN 2020**

**Total**

**936,503 views**



**\*\*\*\*Paid \$49.99 to Flickr.com for Saints Photo website on 17 Nov 2019**



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

**THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER**

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

***17,003 Visitors since Mar 09***

**\*\*\*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**

**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



### **Lt. Dave Landmesser Passed Away:**

Over Christmas, my family was discussing our visit to Lt. Dave Landmesser and his family in San Bernardino, CA. in 1971. So we looked him up on the net and found that **he had checked out on February 26, 2019.** It was quite a shock as he was a good friend during his time with the Saints. He joined the Squadron at Cecil Field and went with us to Lemoore. He left in 1963. His obit can be found by searching Dave Landmesser on the net. He was one of the plank owners and helped build

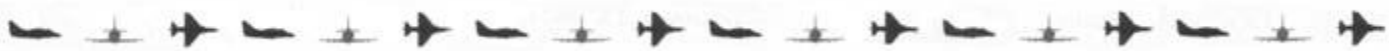
the original Saints with CDR Manherz, XO Creighton, Bob Sample, Walt Ohlirch and the whole original crew. Sorry I did not know earlier. Thanks for your great job of keeping the Saints alive.

Joe Ziemian, Ft. Myers, FL





Ed Copher Oriskany Fire Story:

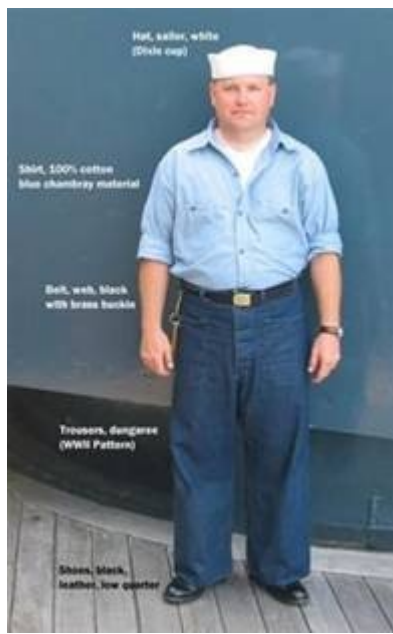


Bill Houk donated his gear to the Oriskany Museum



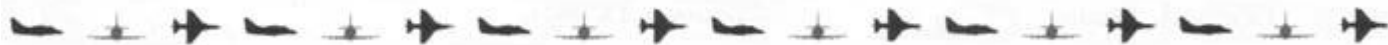
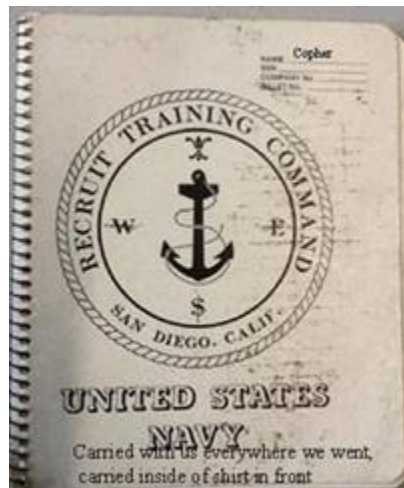


All Veterans are now authorized to us the BX:





### RECRUIT COMPANY MARCHING ORDER



# A SAILOR YOU BE

*Have you felt salt spray, upon your face?  
Have you seen porpoise at the bow, keeping pace?  
Have you viewed sea birds, above the wake in flight?  
Have you fixed on a star, at sunset shining bright?*

*Has there been a time, to save a shipmate?  
Has the roll of the deck, ever kept you awake?  
Has the vastness of sea, left you feeling alone?  
Has a foreign port, made you wish you were home?*

*If you have weighed anchor, from calm shelter  
If you have crossed the equator, at noon time swelter  
If you have stood your watch, on a pitching deck  
If you have made landfall, on the horizon a speck*

*When you have secured the decks, for the night to turn in  
When you have mustered at sunrise, seen a new day begin  
When you have dogged down hatches, in mountainous sea  
When you have known all these things, a sailor you be*

by:  
**Noel Payne**



## The Sailor's Prayer

Lord, hear my prayer,  
send your angels, to guard well, we sailors,  
serving in your fleet,  
protect us from harm or defeat,  
give us guidance and wisdom,  
to pursue diplomacy, instead of war,  
peace, instead of hatred,  
life, over death,  
when I die, permit me appear first  
at your gate,  
allow the devil, to think, I am late,  
and, before he realizes his mistake,  
grant me entrance, and assign me to serve,  
life eternal, in your heavenly fleet



**IF YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST  
TIME YOU PUT THIS ON**



**YOU MIGHT BE A  
US NAVY SALTY DOGS MEMBER**

*To Err Is Human, To Forgive Divine*

### Navy Rules For Gunfighting

1. Go to Sea
2. Drink Coffee
3. Buy some candy at the gedunk
4. Send the Marines

### Army Rules For Gunfighting

1. Select a new beret to wear
2. Sew combat patch on right shoulder
3. Reconsider the color of beret you decided to wear
4. Send the Marines


### Air Force Rules For Gunfighting

1. Have a cocktail
2. Adjust temperature on air-conditioner
3. Determine "what is a gunfight"
4. Send the Marines






**INFORMATION**  
**FOR**



**OUR NAVY FAMILIES**



**WESTPAC**  
**CRUISE**  
**1967**



## A Little History of the Viet Nam War: Submitted by Tom Kline

### ***A little history most people will never know. Interesting. Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.***

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.

The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 63 years since the first casualty.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps LCpl Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.

12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school

8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall

Beallsville, **Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.**

West Virginia **had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.**

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers the Vietnam War created. To those who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain these numbers created we are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.



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

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)



**Navy Sailor of the year is from NAS Lemoore:**

[https://www.wsocvtv.com/news/local/navy-names-north-stanly-high-school-grad-2019-sailor-year/JNII5EGV5NH5LODGKCLN4KOCZM/?fbclid=IwAR1sNjIUduM6rkX7o3oSbt\\_JpA67FHWIYUX-w71pv4G785eve6B2tDgZmjA](https://www.wsocvtv.com/news/local/navy-names-north-stanly-high-school-grad-2019-sailor-year/JNII5EGV5NH5LODGKCLN4KOCZM/?fbclid=IwAR1sNjIUduM6rkX7o3oSbt_JpA67FHWIYUX-w71pv4G785eve6B2tDgZmjA)

**High Flight by John Denver:**

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

**Super Bowl commercial about First Responders and Military was rejected: Ugh!!**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=DQP4jG2u2wE>

**F-18 Parking on Flightdeck:**

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



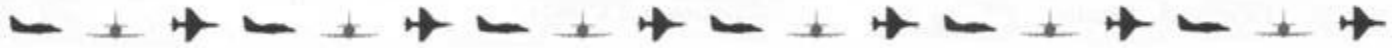
**A-4 Launch 1962:**

<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/>

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

No need to log in.

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

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**NAS Lemoore April 1968:**

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



# SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

## “Muster Call”

Revised 30 JAN 2020

New or changed address:

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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**

