

Toooo Weeeettt..Attention on Deck...Now hear this...Standby to hear a message from the bridge.... "Saints *February* 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.



20th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 228

“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.

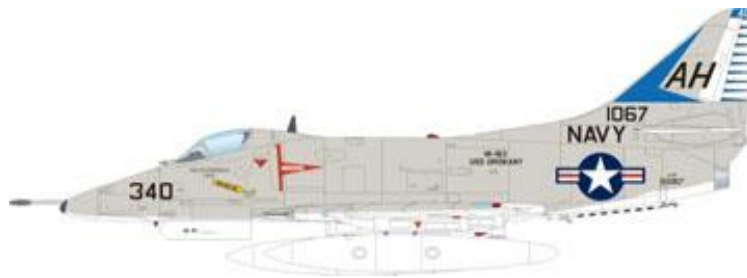




Patriot

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



Tailhook Navy







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 3 Feb 2022

“Over a million views”

1,115,833 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

30,455 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)

James Thompson

Bill Tomko

Anthony Stabile

Lucille Stickle (4)

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 8 funerals

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dennis Dooley

Earl Groff

John Roosen

Thomas Harwood

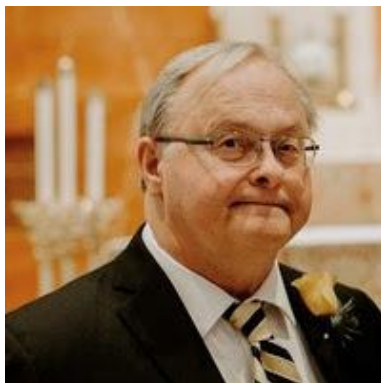
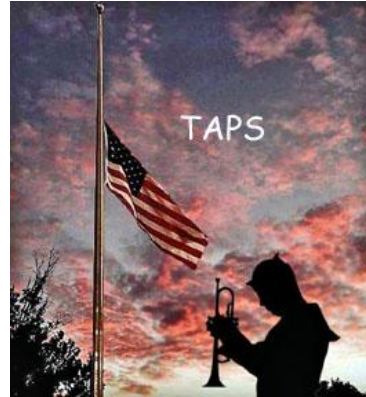
Griff Sexton

Anthony Stabile

Ed Chadwick

Daniel Lestage (2)

Lucille Stickley (3)



AE-2 Rick "Bear" Sprague passed away 22 Jan 2022:

Slow salute, RIP Sailor, we have your watch

Saints 1965-1969, the Oriskany hoodie was given to him by Saint Anthony Stabile
Flowers were sent by the Saints flower fund.

Link to the Ricks obituary: <https://www.lakefuneralhomes.com/obituary/richard-sprague>



Wayne Pippin needs to be in our thoughts and prayers as he suffers from cancer.

Ray Miller is suffering from dementia and needs prayers.



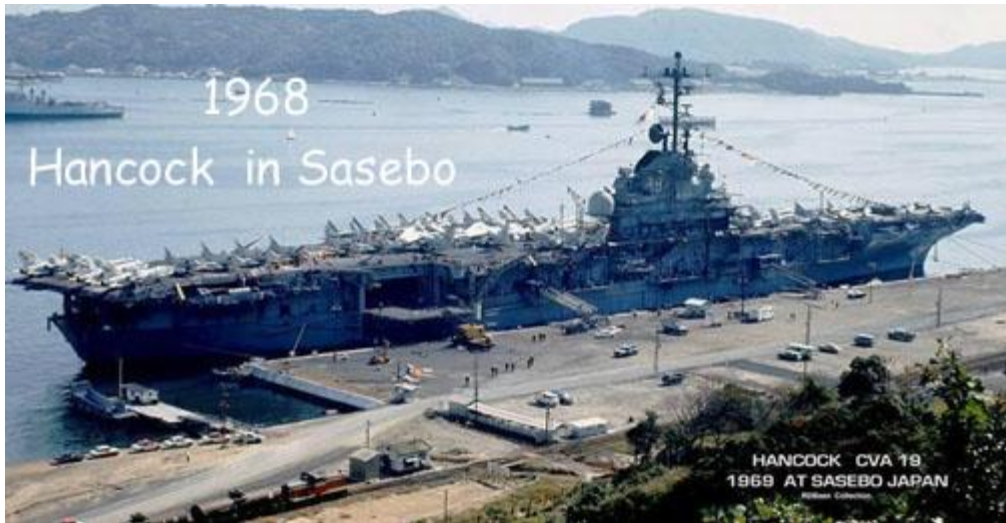


VA-164 "Ghost Riders" aboard USS Oriskany (CVA-34), 1966
Dad is back row, 6th from left.





**IN MEMORY OF A
MAVERICK:CAPTAIN JOHN S.
MCCAIN III, UNITED STATES NAVY
(RET.)**





HANCOCK - GRAM

November 1968



Howard E. Greer

Dear Families and Friends,

Since my last correspondence with you, the men of Hancock have successfully carried their ship through two periods "on the line," one of a month's duration. The last period in the Tonkin Gulf, from September 14 to October 14, vigorously tested the men's seamanship and stamina. They worked long and hard in support of the ship and her demanding flight schedule. Once again, the results of their efforts reaffirmed my confidence and pride in them and in the ship. The air wing inflicted heavy damage on the enemy in our efforts to stem the flow of war materials to South Vietnam. I know that you share with me this feeling of accomplishment.

On the evening of October 14, we left the Tonkin Gulf for several well-earned days of rest and relaxation. The ship was docked in Subic Bay, Philippines, from October 17-21. Then she sailed southwest for Singapore, one of the more exciting ports in the Far East, where we visited from October 25-30.

Although Subic Bay is primarily a naval installation, tours were offered to provide the men with the opportunity to see other areas of the Philippines. They could take an overnight trip to the busy capital city of Manila; they could go up-river by canoe to Pagsanjan Falls, a major scenic attraction in the islands; or they could visit Baguio, a beautiful mountain town and a favorite Filipino resort.

Tours were also offered in Singapore--one of the city and one of Malacca, the oldest and most historic area of Malaysia. For those who were not interested in tours, Singapore had a large variety of things to do and places to see independently. It is also one of the better shopping cities in the Orient.

During the voyage from Subic Bay to Singapore, your men were given the chance to participate in a spirited and time-honored tradition of the Navy. The Hancock crossed the equator. Those men who had crossed the equator before were known as shellbacks, while those who had not were called pollywogs. The shellbacks prepared a ceremony for the initiation of the pollywogs into the Domain of King Neptune. I am sure that you have heard more about this ceremony in letters from your men.

As you can see, the last few days provided a welcomed diversion from our daily routine. The business of the Navy is our main job here, however, and we returned to the Gulf of Tonkin early this month for another arduous period of combat operations. I cannot place too much emphasis on the role you play in that job. Without your letters of concern and encouragement, it is much more difficult for us to undertake and complete our tasks. Keep your letters coming, and I will continue to ask the men to respond as often as possible.

I appreciate this opportunity to give you some idea of what we are doing on the Hancock. I feel that it gives us a convenient means of bridging the gap in terms of the miles that separate us.

Sincerely,

Howard E. Greer

Howard E. Greer, Captain, USN
Commanding Officer



All the jet aircraft that the United States Air Force Thunderbirds and the United States Navy Blue Angels have flown.



[1986 Theft of a Marine A-4 by a Plane Captain:](#)

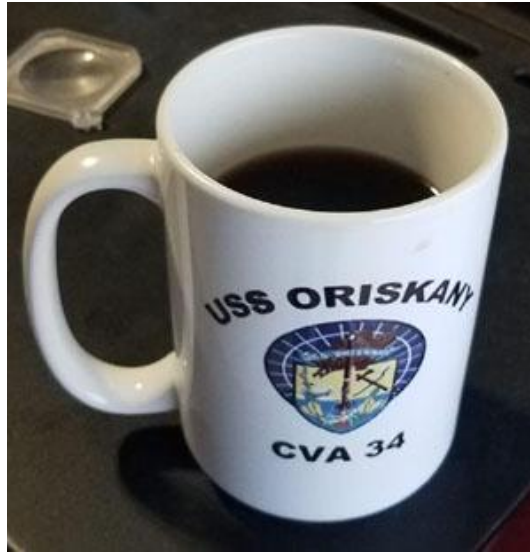
This is a great story, with a long lead in. You may remember this young Marine. When many of us flew the A4 in the 60's, its advertised cost was one million dollars.

<https://youtu.be/HersvTbNdC0>



[Oriskany Reunion:](#)

Oriskany Annual Reunion **Oct. 9-13 2022 Kansas City** Dennis Young is the host PH# (816) 686-0197, hope to see all shipmates there!!
The 2023 Reunion will be at The Oriskany Museum in NY.



[Join the “VA-163 Saints” Facebook group:](#)



Please join the “**VA-163 Saints**” Facebook group. Updates on reunions 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.



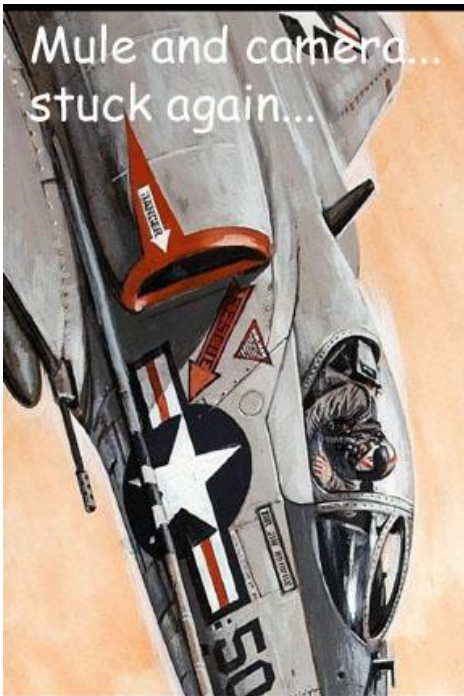
[The Winter edition of the A-4ever magazine is available:](#)

As in previous years, the Winter Edition of the A-4ever is a digital copy and is now available on the Association website - skyhawk.org. No need to sign in just click on the picture and the rather large file will start to download.

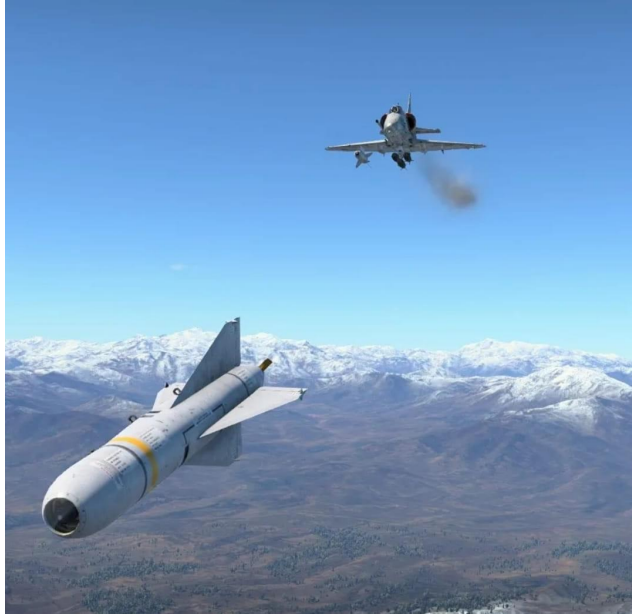
Enjoy



The damaged aircraft was repaired and made serviceable in a remarkable 13.5 hours.

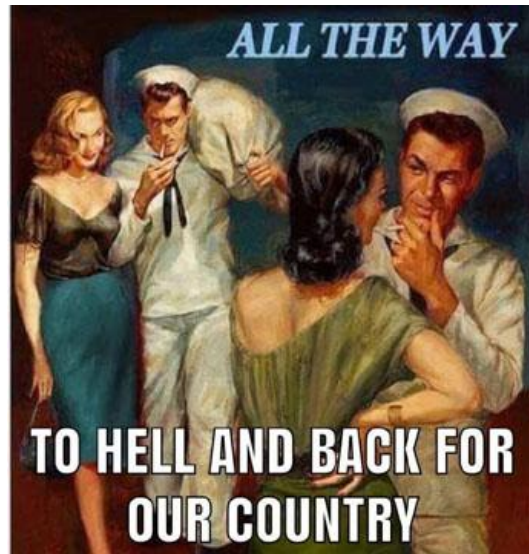






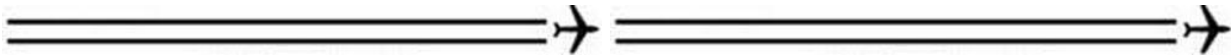
Walleye

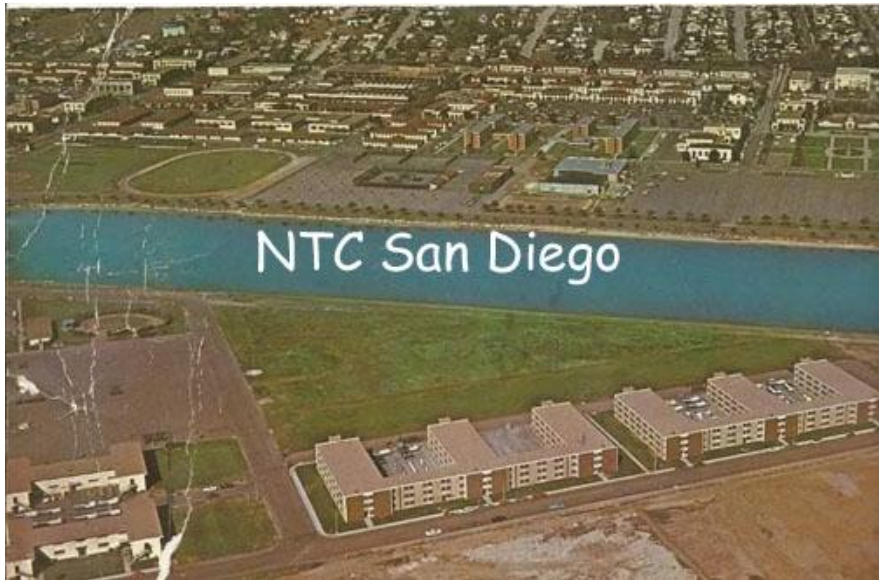




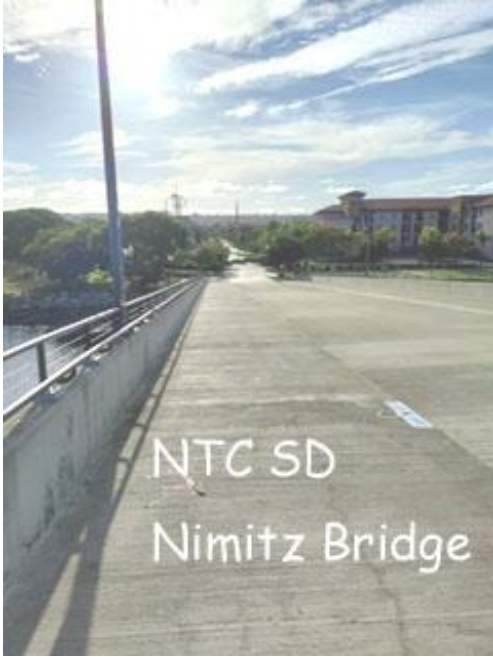


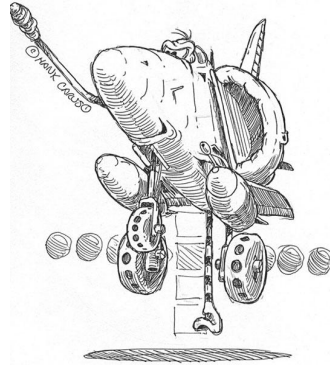
Olongapo











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-wYnIBZis>
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
25. **[Oriskany Dive video, to the Brig:](https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157960059966910/)** 6 Dec 2021
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157960059966910/>
26. **[Oriskany Dive video, to the XO's stateroom and Officers Mess:](https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157960065921910/)** 31 Oct 2021
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157960065921910/>

[Oriskany Fire, Life Magazine](#)

Life Magazine, November 25, 1966

"A Carrier's Agony — Hell Afloat"

An approximate **15 page article with photos** detailing the tragedy at sea. Click below for complete article:

<http://www.ussoriskany.us/Oriskany/LifeNR.pdf>

[TA-4 inflight video:](#)

https://instagram.com/skyhawk518?utm_medium=copy_link

Ed Copher Oriskany Fire Interview: Done at Virginia Beach on 5 Nov, 30 min video
[ED COPHER RAW INTERVIEW https://f.io/oxWyqbJo](https://f.io/oxWyqbJo)

Huggin the Deck video: 54 min video

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

John Shore 1965-66 WestPac Video:

<https://youtu.be/pWeBAyWfP8>

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/>

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=IwAR2xrucXr7I2laUx8SM98-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: vymf.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 03 Feb 2022

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>

