

Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck... "Saints January newsletter"...Arriving!

ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE



VA-163 SAINTS GRAM



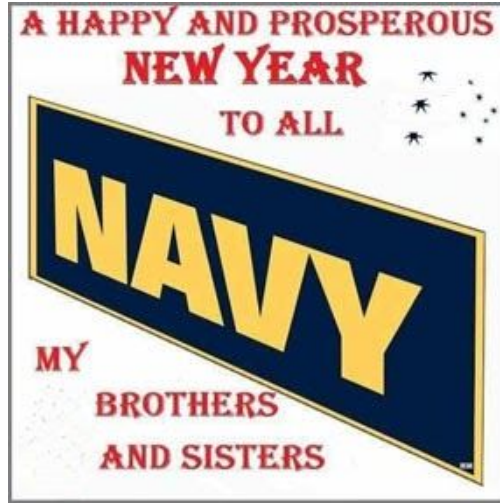
KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

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.



Happy happy New Year and Be Well



2021

18th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 215



Stay Safe, Be Healthy, Be Well

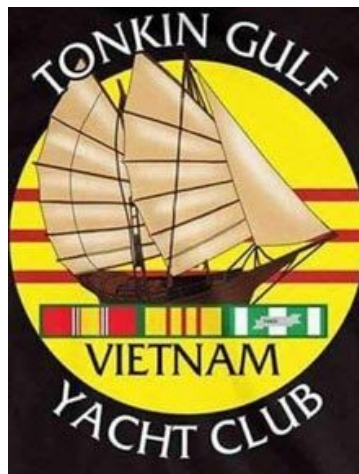
It will come to pass

To all the healthcare workers; thank you for your service.

God Bless our Military and Law Enforcement

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.





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!

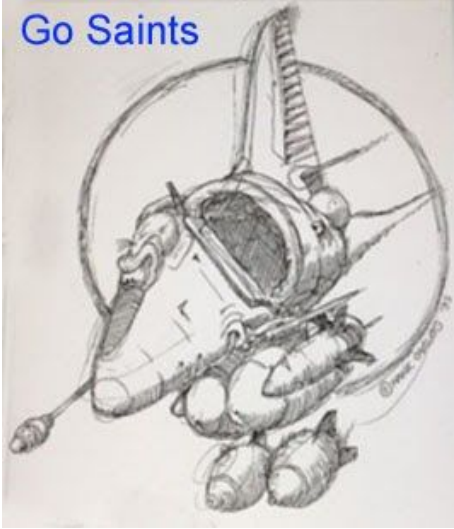
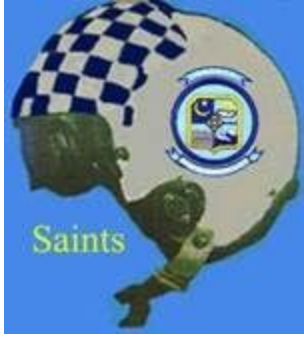
“I’ll keep that flame high and the blade ever sharp,
That our friends may never be lost in the dark!”

Keeper of the Flame, Song by Miranda Lambert

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=ydE6Izad->Very was

ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT





ATKRON 163



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

Also on Saints website, PHOTOS section

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

View Counts as of 05 January 2021

Total

939, 111 views

****Paid \$49.99 to Flickr.com for Saints Photo website on 17 Nov 2020

SAINTS WEBSITE

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

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

18,776 *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

1211 Gruene Vintage

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Folks that have sent in “**website**” donations 2017-20: 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

Dale & Mary Landroth

Daniel Lestage

George Lundy

Roger Meyer

Pete Munro

Floyd Oakes

MA Petty

John Roosen

Bill Sargent

Russ Stickley

James Thompson

Bill Tomko

Anthony Stable

Lucille Stickley (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

Earl Groff

John Roosen

Thomas Harwood

Griff Sexton

Ed Chadwick

Daniel Lestage

Lucille Sticklely (3)



Saint Doug "Smitty" Smith passed away:

Smith, Doug "Smitty": Saint AMS-1 386 313 5438 (Jan 65 - April 66)
6 Pine Circle Dr.

Palm Coast, FL 32164

ds1420@aol.com

From: Gayle Dickerson <gayle.dickerson@verizon.net> Douglas W Smith passed away 23 Dec 2020 in Palm Coast, FL after a long struggle with COPD. Like the true Navy man he was, he fought until the end. May he rest in peace for eternity. There will not be a service due to the Covid virus but he **will be cremated in his Naval uniform.**

From Bill Tomko:

Ed, more sad news on another Saint and good friend I served with in 1965 and 1966 and have kept in touch with. I talked with Smitty 2 weeks ago and he was in the hospital fighting COPD and lung cancer. He was so proud of the Navy he wanted me/us to know he was proud to serve with the Saints and other squadrons. Please pass it on as he knew his life would end soon. God bless Smitty and join the Saints in heaven who have left us. Bill Tomko. Please read the email attachment above from Gayle who is Mike's dear friend that was taking care of Mike Smith aka Smitty and may God Bless her for her kindness.



Saint John Weber: Needs to be in our thoughts and prayers

John recently got out of the VA Hospital in Indianapolis after spending 8 days there to have part of his foot amputated. He is wheelchair bound, but can get around now. The VA is paying his wife to be his caregiver, and they gave him \$8500 worth of handicap equipment.



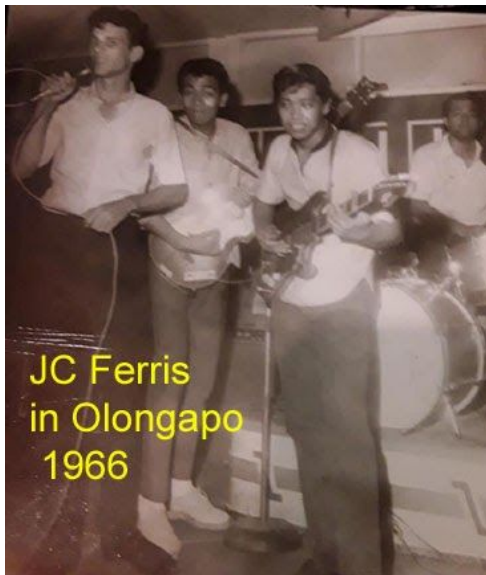


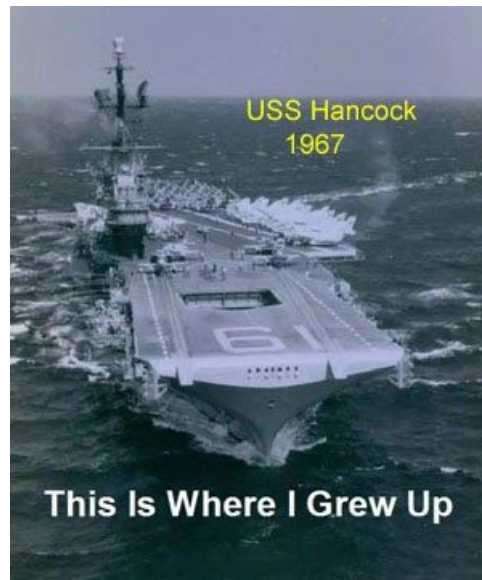
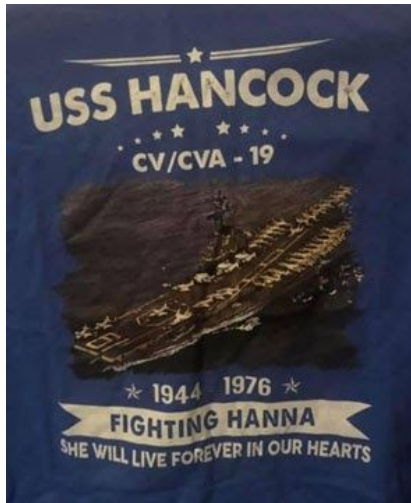
Memorial Tree was planted for Leon Bryant:

Dear Ed, thank you again for the order you placed through Tribute Store in memory of Commander Leon Bryant. This email is to let you know that your tree has been planted in Crawford County, Michigan as part of the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Project. This project, led by American Forests and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, aims to plant 1.8 million jack pine seedlings in 2020 to restore habitat for the rare Kirtland's warbler. Kirtland's warblers are uniquely picky – they prefer jack pines between 5 and 20 years old that sit on Grayling sand with upwards of 1.5 acres available. Because of wildfire suppression, these young trees have diminished, and with them the warblers' territory. But thanks to you, we're one step closer to saving this bird, which was recently

de-listed from the Endangered Species Act after being on the list since 1967. It is the first songbird ever de-listed.

Thank you again for your purchase in honor of Commander Leon Bryant. Together, we're helping to restore habitats like this one across North America.

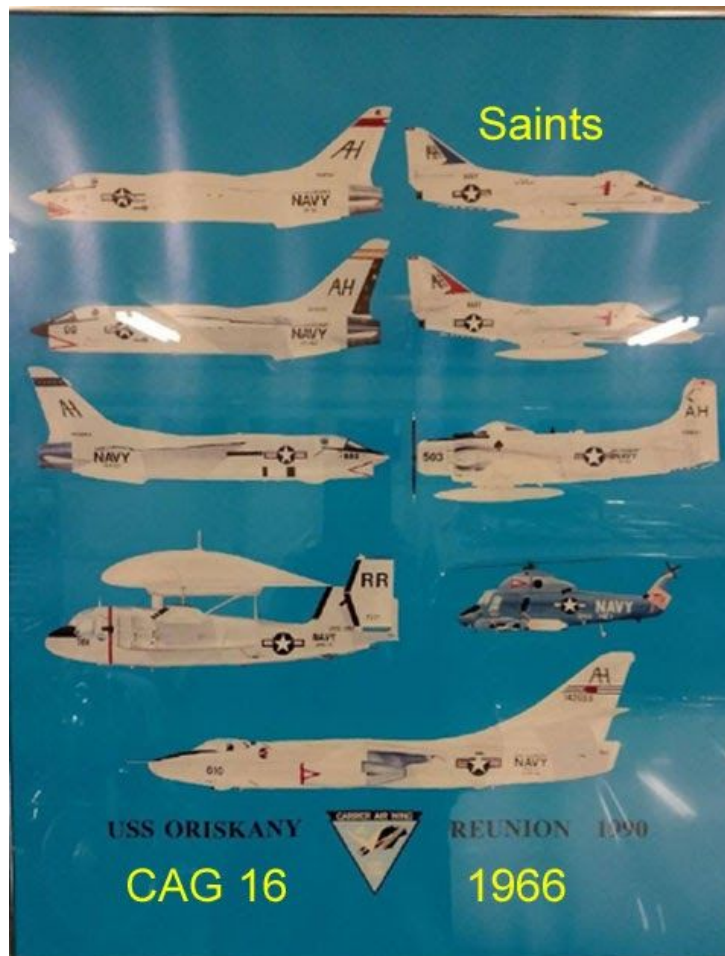






USS Hancock

My home with
VA-163... 1967 Westpac



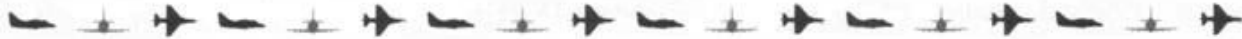
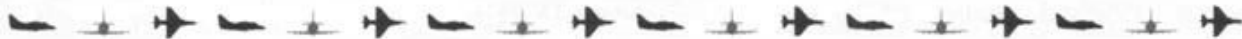
Saints

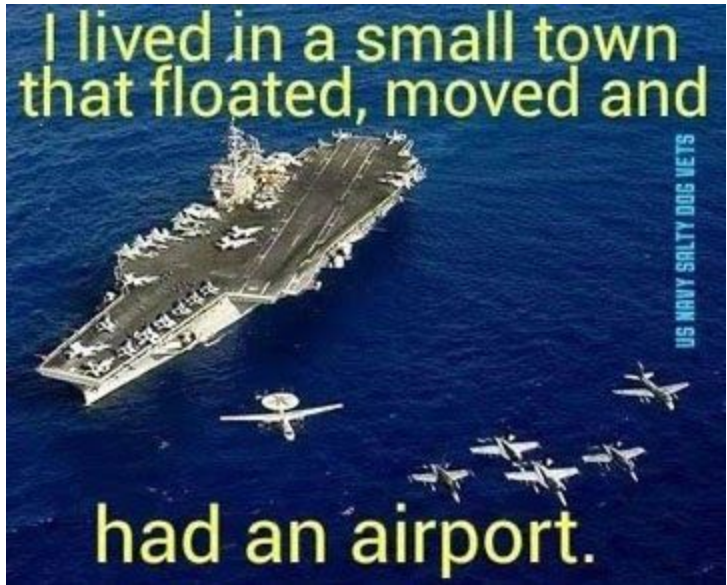
USS ORISKANY

REUNION 1966

CAG 16

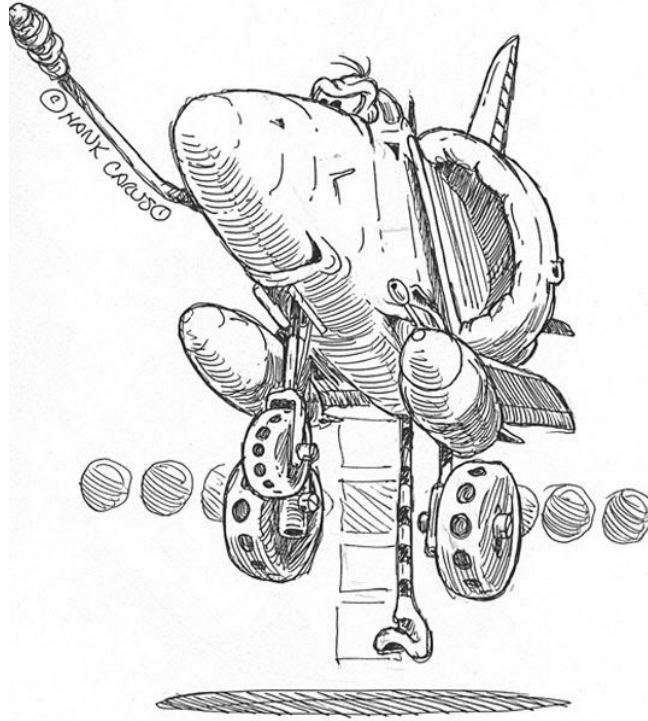
1966













Trivia: When did the nickname "Crackerjack" for the a US Navy Sailor's uniform originate?

ANSWER: The term "Crackerjack" actually refers to the Enlisted Service Dress Blue uniforms worn by enlisted sailors E-1 through E-6. Though the term "Crackerjack" is also deemed as a term referring to excellence, the association with sailors began when the Cracker Jack company (candy popcorn) introduced their mascots "Sailor Jack and his dog, Bingo" on their boxes. They were first shown on boxes in 1918. Sailor Jack is shown, even today, on Cracker Jack boxes wearing the definitive dress blue uniform synonymous with U.S. Sailors. Crackerjacks are the single, most identifiable uniforms for a Sailor around the world. During the late 70's, there was an experiment that temporarily got rid of crackerjacks for a period, in favor of a uniform similar to what officers and chiefs wore (Salt and Peppers). In the end, there was a lot of opposition, and when Reagan became President, traditional crackerjacks were reinstated. When I was in boot camp in 1979 I was issued Salt and Peppers and the Crackerjack uniform was optional. When I graduated from boot camp....I bought my first crackerjack uniform at the Exchange for \$80.00.



At that time we also were issued utilities and dungarees was optional.



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: <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 contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 30 Jul 1997. Sunk off coast of Florida 17 May 2006 for use as 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

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>

Landing on Oriskany Video:

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

Veterans Benefits Newsletter:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVBA/bulletins/2ae5164>

Oriskany Sinking video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=F2-Aew7SMO8&fbclid=IwAR2xrucXr7I2laUx8SM98-IIDXpAi3gBQX0IIEp4Fb6JPagec-xEZFEEVHU>

A-4 Top Gun Pepsi Commercial

<https://youtu.be/0hUvoiYiCLw>

Olongapo Video 1967

<https://fb.watch/25VVzdzdWYv/>

Blue Angels Final F-18 Flight Video:

https://americanmilitarynews.com/2020/11/pics-vids-heres-the-blue-angels-final-flight-with-their-legacy-f-18s-after-34-years/?utm_campaign=DailyEmails&utm_source=AM_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Master_List&utm_campaign=83a90af137-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_11_06_11_07&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_9c4ef113e0-83a90af137-62207002&mc_cid=83a90af137&mc_eid=e4458860e9

Oriskany Video:

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

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>

A-4 Vietnam Magnet:

https://www.teepublic.com/magnet/8726181-douglas-a-4-skyhawk-vietnam-veteran?feed_sku=8726181D21V&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Agency_Within_Shopping_AllDesigns&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-O35BRDVARIsAJU5mQWMJuS72eubdxmx2vtcaunkAOWtSgDb1aq1iRqXkESu76z5ldq_yJMaAsMIEALw_wcB

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>

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

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 05 January 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**

