

Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck... "Saints...July 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.



15th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 176



Standing the Watch

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

Saints Tradition

An old Saints tradition is that friends who have not seen or heard from each other for long periods of time never question their friendship. These friendships resume at the same time they left off regardless of distance and time between them. We call these friends "**Family**".

Saints Motto

"Fight by Night or Day, Land or Sea"



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

Listen to music as you read the newsletter:

[When the Saints Go Marching In – US Navy Seventh Fleet Band](#) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related> at the top right of your screen, click the Minimize minus sign (-). It will then go back to the newsletter with the music playing. When finished listening to music, go to your desk top home page, on the bottom tool bar, right click on [When the Saints...](#), and select close.

[Vietnam Memorial Wall Song](https://www.facebook.com/100000531380774/videos/1142596289101406/): <https://www.facebook.com/100000531380774/videos/1142596289101406/>

[Sea Cruise](#): Frankie Ford: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5tIHtbtFQ&feature=em-share_video_user

[Goodnight Saigon](#): Billy Joel <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjzjh-QztE&feature=share>

[VN Vets song](#): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/215020061882554/permalink/1206478169403400/>

[Vietnam War Song](https://www.facebook.com/TheWarriorConnection/videos/721229604627086/): <https://www.facebook.com/TheWarriorConnection/videos/721229604627086/>



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk



CAG-16 patch 1967





NAS Lemoore memorial



Birds of a feather... Flock Together



[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 05 July 2017

Photos

724,091 views

Albums

30,719 views

Total

780,544 views



Added new Reunion Album: "Hubert Cook photos" (80 pics)

www.Flickr.com charges \$24.95 per year to keep the **SAINTS Photo Albums** on their web site.

****Paid the one year fee on 15 Nov 2016****



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

MAKE SURE AND VIEW THE WEBSITE. IT HAS BEEN RECENTLY UPDATED WITH LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

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

13,338 Visitors since Mar 09

*****Total cost for the Website is \$151.97 per year**

\$183.95 to renew GoDaddy website hosting (paid for 2 years on 10 Sept 2015)

\$80.00 to renew Domain Name (va163.org) (paid for 2 years on 07 Mar 2016)

\$30.00 to renew Domain Provider (paid for 2 years on 27 Mar 2016)

\$10.00 to renew Domain Protector (paid for 2 years on 27 Mar 2016)

\$25.00 to Saints Photo Site, Flickr.com: \$25 per year (paid 15 Nov 2016)

Donations are appreciated

Ed Copher

242 Toye Blvd

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Saints Website and Photos site FEES:

Jim Houston, Palm Coast FL, is the Saints webmaster; designed the website, and does all the updates etc.

Website Hosting Provided by **GoDaddy** cost **\$183.95** for two years (*Paid up until 10 Sept 17*)

Domain Name: Provided by **Internet Domain Name Services** www.idns.ae an annual charge for keeping the www.va163.org is \$40 p/yr, paid for 2 years (*Paid up until 15 Mar 2018*)

Domain Provider: Provided by **Active Domain** \$15 p/year, paid for 2 years (*Paid up until 31 Mar 2018*)

Domain Protector: Provided by **Domain Admin** \$5 p/year, paid for 2 years (*Paid up until 31 Mar 2018*)

Photos Site: Saints Photos on the Flicker site is \$25 p/yr (*Due 15 Nov of each year*) **Paid 15 Nov 2016**



Fritz & Penny Schroeder: June 2017



Saint Nick & Dora Tsongranis: June 2017



[Bill Tomko Saints Jeep:](#)



[Skipper Compton in Tuscaloosa newspaper article:](#)



[Message from Pete Cole:](#) Skyhawk Association

Ed, I am glad you guys had a great reunion. If you could send me a picture or two, I can put it in the Summer Skyhawk Association Journal edition of the "Prez Sez." I will include your comments about the reunion.
As you know since I am now the Skyhawk Association Prez, George Blosser, whom I think has twisted your arm a bit, is now the Navy VP and SDO coordinator. Hope you can include him on these BZ news letters.
Keep the Flame Ed and thanks for the support. Glad the Saints and Ghost Riders had a Great reunion. Come to Hook and the SA Luncheon and general meeting. The Attack Ready Room wants you!
Pete Cole, Prez Skyhawk Association

[Article to be in Magazine:](#)

VA-163 and VA-164 Saints/Ghost Riders Reunion: VA-163 and VA-164 held a reunion at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, NV on 3-5 May 2017. As reported by Ed Copher, ecopher@satx.rr.com, the VA-163 SDO, in his June news letter, the "VA-163 Saints Gram":

"The Saints Reunion was a great success. A big thank you for all that was involved in organizing it and especially Ode (ed., Richard Odegaard). The banquet was especially enjoyed by all, very emotional touching speakers. NAS Fallon tour was a lot of fun, very nice air park. Top Gun is there now! Oldest member attending was Brian Compton at age 89. The Nugget was very nice, and accommodating, most rooms were like brand new and first class. When is the next one????"

Figure 2. Brian Compton, Former Skipper of VA-163, (right), and Ed Chadwick on Lake Tahoe (photo from Ed Copher)

Figure 3. VA-163 Squadron Mates Enjoying the Reunion at the Nugget (photo from Ed Copher)



Message from Ed Chadwick:

The only pilot we lost on the 68 cruise was LCDR William Rankin. Bill was killed in route to Vietnam in July of 1968, off Hawaii immediately after a night cat shot. No one is sure, but the radar package may have come out of the instrument panel with the shot, impeding movement of the stick. It happened later to other pilots, so we removed the damn thing from all our planes. I trained Bill during our four month turn-a-round.

He was a good friend, pilot, officer and a gentleman. It is also interesting that one of his daughters is married to a son of another

VA-163 pilot, Dean Cramer.

I will attempt to locate someone from the 1963 cruise.

Ed



Found new shipmate: Submitted by Ed Chadwick

Ed,

We have, after several years of searching, finally found John Emory Gleason, nick named "The Baby Saint". Emory was a Saint pilot on our 1968 cruise. Please log him into the data base and send him the most recent newsletter. His search has lasted for at least the last three reunions and should be an example of what can be accomplished with enough persistence. A special thanks is owed to Scott Mitchell for this find.

Ed Chadwick



Skyhawk loss updates: Submitted by Gary Verver

10 Sep 1963 VA-163 A-4B BuNo 142867: unknown pilot was killed during a training flight Tuesday when his A4D Skyhawk crashed on Luzon Island 20 miles south of Lingayen Gulf. Pacific Stars & Stripes, Tuesday, September 17, 1963. A **LCdr. Michael A. Zibilich, VA-163 Ops Officer**, was killed in an operational accident in 1963 per the 1952 Lucky Bag. According to the 1952 Lucky Bag "Mike was lost when his aircraft — probably an A-4B — crashed in an "operational aircraft accident, Dec 1963." In the Class of 1952's book, "As We Recall," the only information given is "aircraft accident 1963." There is no mention of a lost aircraft in that time at VA 163." Although the date of loss I have is 10 September 1963 vs. Dec. 1963 Zibilich is on the 1963 USS Oriskany cruise book In Memoriam page. Ed Chadwick has three or four inquiries out on this loss.

26 January 1967 VA-44 A-4E BuNo 150112: 1918 while attempting a carrier landing, an A4E aircraft, BuNo 150112, from VA-44 bounced off ramp. Pilot Lt(jg). Dickensen ejected from aircraft at 30-26.7N, 80-14.1W. Maneuvering to avoid pilot. 1920 USS R.E. Byrd (DDG-23) recovered pilot, No apparent injury to pilot. Commenced steering various courses at various speeds conducting Carrier qualifications. USS Lexington deck log, Thursday, 26 January 1967.

10 September 1967 **VA-163** A-4E BuNo 150047: **Lt. Dale Landroth** ejected and was rescued. 0800 one A-4 type aircraft crashed in water on the bow. Pilot ejected. Pilot recovered by helo #39. 0827 received medical report of A-4 pilot: no injuries. USS Oriskany deck log, 10 September 1967.

The Skyhawk was configured as a tanker. Lt. Landroth, a last minute replacement on the tanker for LCdr A. Adeeb, lost power immediately on launch from the stbd cat, ejected and came down in the water on the stbd side. The HC-2 Det. 34 UH-2, piloted by Lt(jg.) L.W. Livermore and Lt(jg.) J.H. Fraser, moved in to pick him up as

soon as he was clear of the ship and settled in the water as it had a full load of fuel. It struggled back into the air, dumped fuel and returned for the pickup. The hoist operator, AN John B. Miller, and swimmer, AN Albert E. Barrows, effected the rescue. From Dale Landroth.

I had a very informative chat with Dale and his wife Mary who was flight crew qualified and got a lot of TA-4 backseat time when she was with VA-125. Might make a good journal article Bob.

Thanks to Ed Copher for putting me in touch with Ed Chadwick who made the connection with Dale. Ed C tells me Dale's nick name is "Step and a Half", because he's so short he takes a step and one half for every normal man's step. Looking at the pilots group photo from this cruise Dale looks like one of the few Skyhawk pilots that would have described the cockpit as roomy.

25 July 1968 **VA-163** A-4E BuNo 150006: **LCdr. William Rankin** was killed in route to Vietnam, off Hawaii immediately after a night cat shot. No one is sure, but the radar package may have come out of the instrument panel with the shot, impeding movement of the stick. It happened later to other pilots, so we removed the damn thing from all our planes. I trained Bill during our four month turn-a-round. He was a good friend, pilot, officer and a gentleman. From Ed Chadwick. Thanks to Ed Copher for putting me in touch with Ed Chadwick

01 May 1980 MALS-32 OA-4M BuNo 154336, DA-000, DBR on the ground at MCAS Cherry Point when VMA-231 AV-8A Harrier BuNo 159242, CG-06, crashed. The crash was one of the most spectacular in Harrier history: During a vertical takeoff at Cherry Point, the plane rolled, dropped to the runway, bounced into a ditch, burst into flames, flipped, slid through the SOES hangar and into a parking lot, where it damaged/destroyed 20 vehicles. Although the accident occurred at Cherry Point on 1 May the Skyhawk wasn't stricken until 13 January 1981 at NARF Pensacola. From Capt. Ike Diehl "The best I can remember is that the OA-4M was on the port side of the hangar, right at the location where the Harrier first impacted the hangar door. If memory serves me correct, the Harrier struck the front of the Skyhawk and knocked the front landing gear out from under it. The Skyhawk had its tail pointed toward the wall and its nose toward the center of the hangar. I hope that helps a little, but that is about all I can remember, and I don't have any pictures of the crash site."

05 May 1982 VT-7 TA-4J BuNo 158145: 0608 Helo #400 is airborne. 0752 Plane crash port bow, maneuvering to recover pilot. Lat 29.44.5N Long 87.36.5W. 0812 Recovered pilot Ens. Jakab. Taken to medical for observation at time 0802. 0813 Helo #400 is airborne. 0925 TA-4J BuNo 158145 sank at Lat 29.44.5 S Long 087.36.5W. Pilot recovered. Injuries none. Time 0752. USS Lexington deck log, 05 May 1982.

Thanks to Ed and Ed all of the VA-163 losses have (pending Zibilich confirmation) been resolved.

Re the 16 Feb 1970 loss of VT-21 TA-4J BuNo 155108 "Unknown IP ejected safely and student David P. Laskey suffered severe flailing injuries to both his legs and one arm. From Robert Gernat June 22, 2015."

Have we heard back re the pilots name?

I could use some help finding the name of the unknown pilot temporarily attached to VA-195 who was killed when he crashed in an open field 2 1/2 miles northeast of NAS Atsugi per the Pacific Stars & Stripes, Tuesday, November 28, 1961. This was A-4C (A4D-2N) BuNo 145137 from the USS Bon Homme Richards 26 April 1961 to 13 December 1961 Western Pacific cruise. According to Don "Gamera" Chan it crashed, near civilian house, 3 Choume, Hongou, Seya Town, Totsuka Ward, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture.

Further research found another Pacific Stars and Stripes article stating "A Navy pilot killed in the crash of his A4D Skyhawk near NAS Atsugi Monday apparently gave his own life to keep the plane from crashing in a heavily populated area. Preliminary Investigation indicated the pilot could have ejected from his plane at a safe altitude, over the heavily populated area, the Navy reported. However, it appeared that the pilot headed the plane for an open field and ejected at an altitude that did not give his parachute sufficient time to open. The pilot, temporarily attached to Attack Sq. 195, was on a final landing approach when his plane crashed into an open field 2 1/2 miles northeast of NAS Atsugi. The pilot's name is being withheld pending notification of kin.

Although the USS Bon Homme Richards In Memoriam page lists a pilot from VF-191, a pilot from VF-193, a pilot and crew member from VA-196, two pilots from VAW-11 and one from Hutron 1 it does not list anyone from VA-195. We don't have a VA-195 SDO and I'm looking for VA-195 contacts that could provide the pilots name or any hint as to where I might find additional info about a TAD pilot.

G. Verver gp@verx2.org



[Can anyone help Gary with this VA-125 info:](#)

1. Hello Ed, I see that you are also the VA-125 Skyhawk Assoc. SDO. The following articles are August 1965 and are there anything based on these articles that narrow it down to VA-125?

A Navy pilot was killed Wednesday when his jet attack bomber crashed at NAAS Lemoore during a training flight. A Navy spokesman at NAS Lemoore near Fresno, CA identified the pilot as Lt(jg). Clyde E. Edgar, 34, of Winston-Salem, N.C. His parents' names were not known. The details of the crash and its cause were not available, Edgar had been stationed at Lemoore. The public information office at Lemoore reported Edgar was taking part in weapons delivery training when the crash occurred. Nashua Telegraph, August 9, 1965

A Navy pilot was killed Wednesday when his jet attack bomber crashed at NAAS Fallon during a training flight. A Navy spokesman at NAS Lemoore near Fresno, CA, identified the pilot as Lt(jg). Clyde E. Edgar, 24 of Winston-Salem, NC. Reno Gazette-Journal (Reno, Nevada,) Thursday, 05 August 1965

I have an unknown VA-125 A-4C SOC in August 1965, no day specified.

2. Could this be VA-125 TA-4F BuNo 154320 SOC on 12 March 1970?

A TA-4B (sic) jet trainer was destroyed Thursday when the tow cable from a CH-47 helicopter which was towing it from NAAS Fallon broke and it dropped about 200 feet onto a farmers field. The helicopter had just taken off to tow the trainer to Sharpe Army Depot at Lathrop, CA, for structural repairs. Reno Gazette-Journal (Reno, Nevada), Friday, 13 March 1970.

Gary Verver gp@verx2.org



USS Oriskany (CVA-34) in the movie "The Bridges at Toko-Ri" (1954) ...

Sure looks different without the angel deck – Great Movie!

USS Oriskany (CVA-34) was a straight deck aircraft carrier at that time...

<https://youtu.be/K46-MRxjteU>



Here is what we have re VA-163 Skyhawk losses. Ignore the cell colors.

Gary Verver gp@verx2.org

The A-4 losses spreadsheet is FYI. Excel and sorted by strikes (**red cells**), repaired (**orange**) followed by the other survivors. Within these groups they're sorted by custodian and action date. The codes in the status column are OA=open Argentina, ON=Open Navy, OM=Open USMC, PN=need pilots name Navy, PM=need pilots name USMC.

144879	A4D-2	AH-3..	6-Dec-61	1AA1	VA-163	Lemoore	CA	Lt(jg). Henry E. Kramer, 25, ejected safely from his A4D-2 Skyhawk before it crashed in a field six miles west of NAS Lemoore Wednesday. Humboldt Standard, Eureka, CA, Thursday, December 7, 1961.
144883	A4D-2	AH-3..	22-Aug-62	1AA2	VA-163	USS Oriskany	Pac	Lt(jg). Alva E. Kemmer was killed when his Skyhawk developed engine trouble and crashed in the western Pacific. Pacific Stars and Stripes, August 24, 1962.
142867	A4D-2	AH-3..	10-Sep-63	1AA2	VA-163	USS Oriskany	P.I.	VA-163 pilot (LCdr. Michael A. Zibilich) was killed during a training flight Tuesday when his A4D Skyhawk crashed on Luzon Island 20 miles south of Lingayen Gulf. Pacific Stars & Stripes, Tuesday, September 17, 1963. LCdr. Michael A. Zibilich, VA-163 Ops Officer, was killed in an operational accident in 1963. From the 1952 Lucky Bag.
144982	A4D-2	AH-314	13-Jan-64		VA-163	USS Oriskany	Pac.	Ens. D.B. Small was rescued when VA-163 A-4B BuNo 144982/314 rolled off the starboard side of the flight deck forward of the island into the sea at latitude 27-54N and longitude 134-56E at 1028. Helicopter and USS Phillip (DD-498) commenced search for pilot. Recovered helicopter with rescued pilot onboard at 1035. USS Oriskany deck log, 13 January 1964.
151089	A-4E	AH-3..	18-Jul-65	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Lt. Malcom Arthur "Art" Avore KIA. As Lt. Avore's Skyhawk was catapulted off the Oriskany for a mission over South Vietnam, his engine failed and he was forced to ditch the aircraft. The aircraft sank within seconds and he was unable to escape. This accident occurred on the last day of the line period for the Oriskany.
151134	A-4E	AH-352	9-Sep-65	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Cdr. James B. Stockdale ejected and was captured when he was hit by 57mm AAA during an attack on railway sidings about 15 miles S of Thanh Hoa.

150071	A-4E	AH-343	7-Nov-65	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	LCdr. Charles G. Wack ejected 12 miles off the coast and was rescued by a USAF HU-16 piloted by 1st Lt. J. Kirby when he was hit by ground fire as he rolled in on a SAM site 10 miles SW of Nam Dinh.
151067	A-4E	AH-340	13-Nov-65	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Cdr. Harry T. Jenkins ejected and was captured after he was hit by 37mm AAA during an armed recce mission over Route Package 1.
151083	A-4E	AH-350	17-Nov-65	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	LCdr. Roy Howard H. "Hap" Bowling KIA, lost to AAA during an Alpha strike against the Hai Duong bridge between Hanoi and Haiphong.
142132	A4D-2		11-Apr-66		VA-163	Yuma	CA	Ens. Daniel S. Kapner, 25, a member of a NAS Lemoore attack squadron, was killed yesterday when his A-4 Skyhawk jet crashed during a practice strike mission at the Chocolate Mountain range in Imperial County, CA. Oakland Tribune, Tues., April 12, 1966.
152100	A-4E	AH-301	23-Jul-66	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Cdr. Wynn Foster (CO) ejected near the SAR destroyer USS Reeves after he was by 57mm AAA which severed his right arm as he crossed the coast N of Vinh.
150079	A-4E	AH-3..	27-Aug-66	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Lt(jg). Schroder ejected safely from VA-163 150079 when it crashed into the sea at 18-46N 106-37.5R at 0356. USS Buck (DD-761) commenced search for pilot at 0357. USS Buck recovered downed pilot at 0520. USS Oriskany deck log, 27 August 1966. (electrical failure)
150072	A-4E	AH-3..	23-Oct-66	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Cdr. R.H. Caldwell ejected safely from VA-163 A-4E BuNo 150072 crashed into the sea, estimated position 18-55N and 107-08E at 0120. Detached USS Buckley to proceed to scene of accident. 0142 detached USS Hamner to investigate red flare sighted bearing 040 from Oriskany. 0213 Cdr. Caldwell recovered by USS Hamner, USS Oriskany deck log, 23 October 1966. mid-air collision with another A-4
151075	A-4E	AH-304	26-Oct-66		VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	A fire in a flare locker in Hangar Bay One of the USS Oriskany (CVA-34) spreads through the hangar deck and to the flight deck. Before the fires are extinguished SH-2F Seasprite BuNo 149774 & BuNo 150183 are lost & VA-163 A-4E Skyhawk BuNo 151075 is destroyed and three others are damaged, 26 October 1966. SOC NARF Alameda 16 January 1967.
150102	A-4E	AH-307	12-Jul-67	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Lt. Don M. Wood ejected safely from VA-163 A-4 BuNo 150102 when it crashed off the starboard bow at latitude 17-39N and longitude 116-10E and sank in 2,150 fathoms of water at 1002. Pilot was picked up by helo in good condition. USS Oriskany deck log, 12 July 1967. (bad cat shot)
150097	A-4E	AH-312	20-Jul-67	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Lt. Russ W. Kuhl ejected near the northern SAR destroyer about 45 miles S of Hon Gay after his Skyhawk was hit by light flak approaching the coast for a strike on the My Xa POL storage site.
149961	A-4E	AH-304	25-Jul-67	1S	VA-163	USS Hancock	SEA	LCdr. Donald Vance Davis was killed when he was either shot down or flew into the ground during a night attack under flares on a truck convoy near Ha Tinh.
150052	A-4E	AH-313	4-Aug-67	1S	VA-163	USS Hancock	SEA	Lt(jg). Ralph Champion Bisz was killed when his Skyhawk was hit by a SA-2 missile as he approache a POL storage site at Luc Nong.
152028	A-4E	AH-315	31-Aug-67	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Lt(jg). David Jay Carey was captured after his Skyhawk was hit by a SA-2 missile which also brought down LCdr. Stafford as he approached the railway bridge target at Vat Cach Thuong.
149975	A-4E	AH-310	31-Aug-67	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	LCdr. Hugh Allan Stafford was captured after his Skyhawk was hit by a SA-2 missile which blew him out of the cockpit still strapped to his seat as he approached the railway bridge target at Vat Cach Thuong.
150047	A-4E	AH-3..	10-Sep-67	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	SEA	Lt. Dale Landroth ejected and was rescued. 0800 one A-4 type aircraft crashed in water on the bow. Pilot ejected. Pilot recovered by helo #39. 0827 received medical report of A-4 pilot: no injuries. USS Oriskany deck log, 10 September 1967. The Skyhawk was configured as a tanker. Lt. Landroth, a last minute replacement on the tanker for LCdr A. Adeeb, lost power immediately on launch from the stbd cat, ejected and came down in the water on the stbd side. The HC-2 Det. 34 UH-2, piloted by Lt(jg.) L.W. Livermore and Lt(jg.) J.H. Fraser, moved in to pick him up as soon as he was clear of the ship and settled in the water as it had a full load of fuel. It struggled back into the air, dumped fuel and returned for the pickup. The hoist operator, AN John B. Miller, and swimmer, AN Albert E. Barrows, effected the rescue. From Dale Landroth.
150116	A-4E	AH-306	22-Oct-67	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	NVIET	Lt(jg). James Edward Dooley – KIA, lost to ground fire during a strike on Haiphong's railway yard.
149963	A-4E	AH-311	24-Oct-67	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	NVIET	Lt(jg). Ralph Eugene "Skip" Foulks rescued, lost to AAA
150086	A-4E		25-Oct-67	1S	VA-163	USS Hancock	NVIET	Lt. Jeffery Martin Krommenhoek – KIA, lost during an attack on the Phuc Yen airfield. Declared KIA 10 years later.
149959	A-4E	AH-300	26-Oct-67	1S	VA-163	USS Hancock	NVIET	LCdr. John Sidney McCain III - POW, lost to SAM during a strike on a thermal power plant at Hanoi.
150131	A-4E	AH-303	5-Jan-68	1S	VA-163	USS Oriskany	NVIET	Lt(jg). Ralph Eugene Foulks – KIA, lost to AAA or flew into the ground during a night attack on trucks 25 miles SW of Nam Dinh.
150006	A-4E	NP-	25-Jul-68	1SA	VA-163	USS Hancock	HI	LCdr. William Rankin was killed in route to Vietnam, off Hawaii immediately after a night cat shot. No one is sure, but the radar package may have come out of the instrument panel with the shot, impeding movement of the stick. It happened later to other pilots, so we removed the damn thing from all our planes. I trained Bill during our four month turn-a-round. He was a good friend, pilot, officer and a gentleman. From Ed Chadwick.

Note about chart from Ed Chadwick:

The chart shows two losses in '67 from the Hancock. Both losses were actually off the Oriskany. Also McCain's shoot down was by 85 fire, as most people believe, and was told to me by John Roosen. Root was the flight leader for the VA 163 three plane flight, which included McCain. McCain got me bumped from the schedule the night before, against my advice, since he wanted metals badly. I told him he didn't have the experience to go Downtown and his chances were slim and none. I obviously did not convince him.



[BX Online is now available for all to veterans:](#)

The Army, Air Force and Navy exchange will start allowing all honorably discharged veterans to shop online, (think Amazon, but only cheaper with no taxes.) The target start date is Veterans Day, November 11, 2017 but, you must register first. Registration begins June 1, 2017. You must call [1-844-868-8672](tel:1-844-868-8672) after June 1 to register.

Here is the site with more information:

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1049558/dod-opens-online-exchange-shopping-to-veterans>



[SCUTTLEBUTT](#)

Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"

The Smoking Lamp is out due to JP-5 Jet Fuel in the drinking water.

Cold Saltwater showers "only" due to no fresh water.

Remember: The soap will not rinse off in cold saltwater shower....



SKYHAWK ASSOCIATION REUNION
Hook '17 - Nugget Hotel - Sep 7 thru 10

LUNCHEON
Friday, 8 Sep Noon
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Chalet Terrace

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Association and
the IAF"

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[Skyhawk Association Links:](#)

Skyhawk Association SDO. As you probably already know, you can find the web link to your squadron or unit at <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/us-navy-skyhawk-units>.

There have been changes to the website structure, however, the **main page remains the same:** <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/>

The correct link to the VA-163 page is:

<http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/va-163-saints>

The SDO coordinator contact is sa-sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.net or me.

The new SA contact listing is:

<http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/association-contact-directory>

There is no ready room coordinator any more. Use the contact listing to contact the webmaster. There are no longer any xxx@a4skyhawk.org email addresses they are now xxx@a4skyhawk.net since we have changed our ISP.

Hope this makes sense; give me a shout with any questions. Sorry I did not catch this before.

Great news letter.

Pete Cole, SDO Coordinator



Skyhawk Digital Journal: Feb 2017

This year's digital edition can be found at: <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-journal-public/skyhawk-association-journal-public-page1>

[Skyhawk Association Journal - THE A-4ever](#)

a4skyhawk.info

Our "Members Only" Journal is published twice yearly and contains excellent textual and color image examples of the historical and current activities of one of the ...



The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints and VA-125

Skyhawk Association, VA-163 page:

VA-163 Page, click here: <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/va-163-saints>

Association main page: <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/>

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

Skyhawk Association Members: Use link to access the Ready Room for; recent additions, aircraft histories, photo galleries, our roster, journals, and more.

Need access to email list? The Association email list is on this new hosting service.

So all can start using this new list on Sunday 30 October. xxx@a4skyhawk.net

Contact Directory: <http://www.a4skyhawk.org/content/association-contact-directory>

SDO coordinator contact is sa-sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.net

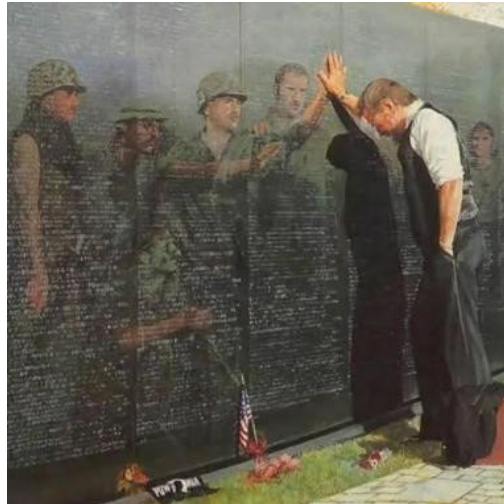
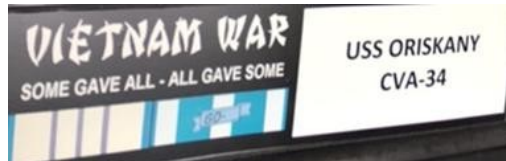
"Skyhawk Association Members: Use the new site address to get access to the wealth of info available and contact the webmaster for access to the 'Members Only' information at email webmaster@a4skyhawk.org ."



Saints and Military sites for Hats, Shirts, Pins, Decals, and Models: Submitted by Bill Tomko

Go to Saints Website, **Miscellaneous Section**, for details. Also www.usmedals.com

I have done a ton of Internet research looking for Saints, Oriskany and A-4 related collectibles, pictures, books, videos, models, decals, pins, shirts and hats. I was asked to publish some of the links I had been satisfied with. I am happy to share it here and if you need help finding some thing please feel free to email me at Tomkowj@aol.com



[VN Memorial Wall with Faces:](#)

<http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/20740/WILLIAM-R-HALE>

Vietnam War Resources:



Below is a link to a web site about the war in Viet Nam. Whether you are a Viet Nam veteran or not, you may find this web site very interesting because it contains an absolutely enormous amount of information about the war. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html>



[Remembering the Vietnam War:](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XayOuMHLzDM> 7:11 min video

[VIETNAM Veterans, War Casualties.....RIP:](#) Memorial Virtual Wall

First click on a state.....then when it opensan alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home townthen it should show you a picture of the person or at least his/her bio and medals.....<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



[Vietnam War Resources, Data Site:](#) *Amazing accumulation*

ALMOST ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM AND A LOT MORE:

This is probably the best search list ever compiled about Vietnam. It would take months to look at everything this site offers.

Click on the link: <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam..html>



[Statistics about the Vietnam War](#)

Interesting information about statistics and myths associated with the Vietnam War... <http://www.vhfcn.org/stat.html>

[Superb Vietnam Tributes:](#)

A Place Called Vietnam... <http://www.operationmom.org/ToOurParents.html>

<http://patriotfiles.org/VietnamWar.htm>

<http://www.vietnampix.com/>

[Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:](#)



None



[SAINTS Newsletters in Archives:](#) To view the last 12 months newsletters

Go to www.yahoo.com (click on the link in blue)

On the Yahoo home page, select **Sign-In** (top right side)

Type in Yahoo ID: va163lemoire@yahoo.com

Type in Password: **saints4ever** (lower case)

After Signed In, back on the Yahoo home page, select **MAIL** (left side bar)

When you get into the mail box, select **Inbox** (on left side bar)

Select the newsletter that you want to view.

To get out of Mail, under the top toolbar, find Yahoo! click on that to get back to the Yahoo home page.

ALSO: When you first get to the Yahoo Home Page, if you are already signed in to a different yahoo account, then you must sign out of that account, and then sign in to Saints account.

“ALSO”

[Newsletters are on Saints Website:](#)

Go to Saints Website, click on Newsletters.

To view the Roster: click on Roster, then Complete Roster, password: **Saints4ever** (capital S)



****Websites of Interest****

Oriskany Web Sites:

[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. Two Memorial Video's of the Oriskany: <http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/>
4. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com
5. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>

6. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
8. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
9. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. <http://glewis.us/oobooks.htm> 2. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
3. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
10. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
11. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
12. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
13. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
14. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
15. **USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project** (<http://glewis.us/oobooks.htm>)
16. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
17. **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
18. **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
19. **Saints Video on YouTube**: *Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire!*
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRaIM>
20. **USS Hancock**: Click here: [Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock \("Hannah"\)](#)
-
21. **Tour of Duty photo site**: 3000 photos, some Saints <https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/>
22. **USS Oriskany Fire & Sinking**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk> 42 min video
23. **1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany**: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV_Ws &
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII>
24. **O Boat Sinking Video**: <http://trib.al/t69QQT4>

VA-164 Video: Miss Jessie and Ghost Rider 401

Dick Perry of the O-boat's VA-164 and the saga of Miss Jessie.

<https://www.facebook.com/DosEckes-Productions-362988187722/?pnref=story>

The Blues Flying the A-4

Oh the good old days. Scooter drivers prepare to shed a tear.....

The best Blue Angel show of all time. A-4's. Here is a video of them from the '70's. Bear Smith and Skip Umsted are the last two guys walking towards the camera before they get to their planes. They both died later in aircraft accidents. The crazy solo is Denny Sapp. Best show for the spectators because it was close to show center. Always in sight. **Tightest diamond formation ever.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk3XSV6H6w0>

Resource Book with details of all aircraft loss on every cruise: Submitted by Ed Chadwick

Here is a site where books by Rene J. Francillon can be purchased. His "**Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club**" has a section that shows every carrier deployment during the Vietnam. It details each aircraft loss on every cruise, including the date, aircraft type, aircraft identification, squadron, pilots name / rank and well as whether the pilot was KIA, recovered or made a POW. I look at the book when memory fails me. It's a great resource.

<https://www.amazon.com/Ren%C3%A9-J.-Francillon/e/B001HCWSDM>

Detail Thesis on CAG 16 1965-1967

Commander Fey, who asked my permission to use a Photo I took of Commander Stockdale's Saints A-4 from 1965. He said he did a thesis on CAG 16 and a Manifest. Many of the Saints including Skipper's Compton and Foster were interviewed as well As Mildman and others. It spans 1965 thru 1967. I found it very interesting with insight I never was aware of, worth a read. WE WERE THERE!!! Thanks Bill Tomko

CAG 16 losses and info: https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Peter+Fey+rolling+Thunder

VN 40 years ago...75 pictures

<http://www.vintag.es/2015/04/vietnam-war-40-years-ago-75-beathtaking.html>

Legends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-Minh-trail-Laos/>

There are many links to the archive by date as well as to specific articles like this one about an F-4 shootdown:

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-shot-down-plane/>

This is the homepage:

www.laosgpsmap.com

Ho Chi Minh Trail Tours:

www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/

Vietnam War Stories:

<http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/>

Tags : [book sites](#), [books war](#), [cherry soldier](#), [combat](#), [Combat Infantry](#), [digital books](#), [firefights](#), [Grunts](#), [Hispanic](#), [Historical fiction](#), [jungle warfare](#), [Military](#), [novels](#), [The vietnam war](#), [The Vietnam war story](#), [Veteran](#), [Vietnam blog pages](#), [Vietnam book](#), [Vietnam conflict](#), [Vietnam veteran](#), [war books](#), [war stor](#), [Wars and Conflicts](#)

Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:

This has a lot of the statistics on Vietnam Vets.....

<http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm>

1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:

Thought you might find this 1956 All Hands.... interesting.
http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf

A good day to revisit the Virtual Wall:

Vietnam Wall

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear.

Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

Do you remember these?

This will bring back memories

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k

Vietnam Photos:

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo--599932980.html?format=embed#mediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=%252Flightbox%252Fa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo--599932096.html>

Military Video ~ Ending is Fabulous

Please take the time to view this and watch till the end. I was so very touched. And once again....

Thank you to ALL who have served our country! I live in a free nation because of your sacrifice! God Bless you! Because of the warriors of the past, the present, and the future, we Americans can walk tall.

For those of you of may not know, or have forgotten, Lt. Col. Oliver North was wounded in Vietnam many times and never left the men he commanded. I am now passing this on for you to watch. It's not just enjoyable, it is riveting! When you are done pass it on too, I think it's important ... don't you?

If you are a veteran, I say thank you, for everything! You are SO special! Take the time for this one. You won't be disappointed ... the end is a kicker.

<http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

NAS Lemoore April 1968:

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

Photos/History of Vietnam:

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History

From the Denver Post.

Click here: [VietnamPictorialHistory](#)

[Vietnam War - Source list](#)

I am passing this along because it is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who ever served in Vietnam. It would take months (*more like years*) to look at everything this site offers:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

[A-4 Skyhawks:](#)

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

[When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related>

[VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:](#)

VA Benefit Blog

https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall

[Douglas A-4 Skyhawk:](#) 6:10 min video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hApICSSZqAs&feature=related>

[Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:](#)

http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

[A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website:](#) Some of our Saints photos are in there!!!

www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/

[RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 July](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html) to read the **Articles** go to the web site at: http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html



SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”

Revised 05 July 2017

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 (password, *Saints4ever*) capital S

