

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



2016

14th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 164



Saint 304 & 301 Battle Damage



**Standing the Watch**

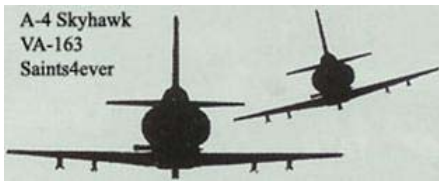
Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Everlasting Keeper of the Flame"

**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/>

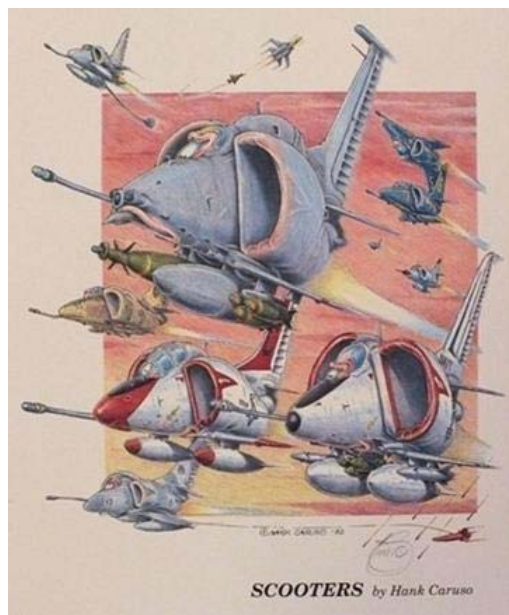
**Sea Cruise:** Frankie Ford: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5tIHtbctFQ&feature=em-share\\_video\\_user](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5tIHtbctFQ&feature=em-share_video_user)

**Goodnight Saigon:** Billy Joel <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Qjzjhl-QztE&feature=share>



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\\_A-4\\_Skyhawk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk)







*Birds of a feather... Flock Together*





[Click Here](#)

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

Also on Saints website, [PHOTOS](#) section

**Contains 76 Albums (Sets)... 4,634 Photos**

**View Counts as of 04 June 2016**

**Photos**

601,343views

**Albums**

24,099views

**Total**

**655,603 views**



[www.Flickr.com](http://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 2015\*\***



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

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

*9,556 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](http://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 2015)**

*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](http://www.idns.ae) an annual charge for keeping the [www.va163.org](http://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 **Whoisproof** \$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 2015**



**Reunion Survey for May 2017:** Submitted by Richard Odegaard [richard.odegaard@gmail.com](mailto:richard.odegaard@gmail.com)

Greetings to all Saints! It is time for another reunion. The 2017 reunion will be held the first week of May at the Nugget casino in Sparks, NV. We will be joined at this event by our sister squadron, VA-164, the Ghostriders. Please take a look at the attached letters. We are looking for a level of interest at this time that will justify going forward with the event. Hopefully, many of you will look forward to a trip to Reno and renewing acquaintances with those you went to war with 50 years ago.

Letters will be going out to those without email addresses later this week. An early response would be greatly appreciated. Ode

**SURVEY: Deadline for response was 31 May 2016**

**Saints Event Coordinator**

Richard (Ode) Odegaard

**Ghostrider Event Coordinator**

Jim Waldron

2490 Old Waverly Court

Sparks, NV 89436

775-626-898

115 Enclave Lane,

St. Simons Island GA 31522

[410-409-1987](tel:410-409-1987)

Greetings to all Saints and Ghostriders,

Here is your one year warning of the next great "All Hands" reunion event. We are looking forward to hosting the reunion on May 3-5, 2017, at the Nugget casino in Sparks. We have had a number of requests for a joint reunion and given the shared history, this sounds like a terrific opportunity to renew old friendships. We have an enthusiastic endorsement from both Skipper Compton and Span.

Although it is very early in the planning stages we have secured a great room rate (\$59 plus tax and resort fee) at the Nugget. The Nugget has agreed to extend this great rate for two days prior to the reunion and two days following the reunion. **We are requesting a reply no later than the end of May 2016 from all that receive this letter indicating that "YES" I plan to attend or "NO" I will not be able to attend or "Maybe" I can make it. Please make sure that you include your contact information.** If you are not able to make it to this reunion, rest assured that you will be kept in the database for future events. This reply involves no commitment either way but merely gives us some indication of the number of rooms to hold and what events to plan.

We are asking all Saints to contact me by email at [richard.odegaard@gmail.com](mailto:richard.odegaard@gmail.com) or a letter to the above address or by phone to [775-626-0898](tel:775-626-0898). We are asking the Ghostriders to contact Jim Waldron at [YDK164@aol.com](mailto:YDK164@aol.com) or phone to [410-409-1987](tel:410-409-1987).

Sparks (Reno) offers a multitude of entertainment opportunities. If there is any interest we will try to arrange a visit to NAS Fallon. Other events may include the National Auto Museum, Lake Tahoe, Carson City/Virginia City, Fleischmann Planetarium, the Riverwalk, golf, Reno Aces (triple A baseball), etc.

We will flesh out the details of the reunion in future correspondence. Remember that both squadrons have a lifelong tie to this area in Ms. Jessie Beck. There is even an elementary school in Reno that is named after her. Looking forward to hearing from you!!







Saint JO Wheeler, VFW Chaplin in Selma, NC



"Lest We Forget"



50 Years Ago: Saints Blog

Earl Groff: Jelloman

1. Hello All, 50 Years ago this Friday, May 27, 1966, I flew my first hop in a T-34 at Saufley field. My instructor was Lt jg Norman L Roggow. In 1967 he was in EWS 111 on the Oriskany. He was killed on Oct 8, 1967 while on a COD flight from Da Nang back to the ship. Some of you may have known him. EAG

2. OG Saxton: More remembrance. That loss occurred a couple of days before I rode the COD from Cubi to the O boat to report for duty in VA-163. I

I hope all is well with you. OG

3. Jelloman: Ed, in mid March 1968 six of us were transferred to VA-163 from VA-125. 163 had just come back from the 67/68 cruise. We were LTjg

We departed Dixie Station 9 FEB 1969, went to Subic then to Japan. Flew back to the states on charter jet. The ship arrived 10 days later. VA-163 wa

4. Ed Copher: I was in VA-163 from Aug 1966 to Dec 1968. Left the SQ while the Hancock was in Sasebo, Japan, flew charter back to Lemoore. B W

5. Jelloman: That is about the time Ken Adams detached, maybe you flew back with him. He went to Top Gun. He was my flight leader for my first

6. Jelloman: Hello, Does anyone have any info on Emory? I have never been able to find anything on him. I think he went to A-5's after 163. EAG

7. OG Saxton: Jello, Emory is a mystery. I last saw him in late 1970 or early 1971 when the America returned to Norfolk from Westpac. He and I mad

8. Ed Chadwick: We have tried to find him in the past with no luck. Recently the YDK

told me they were in some Navy school together, I think he said

pre-flight, and that Emory was from Florida.

10. Jelloman: Hello ED, Thanks, He is in the Flight Jacket, Class 03-66 NAVCAD Lake Wales, Florida. I was in Class 02-66. He was in my group through flight training. Jello



### [Interview with Saint Pilot Robert Senecal \[6/12/2008\]](#)

Lois Elaine Jackson:

We are at the Institute of Historical Survey in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Today is May 14, 2008. The veteran being interviewed is Robert Senecal, who lives at 2380 Mesilla Hills Drive in Las Cruces. He was born in Columbus, Ohio and he is now, how old?

Robert Senecal: **Sixty-five.**

Lois Elaine Jackson:

He served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam. The interviewer is Elaine Jackson. We start with learning how you attended the U.S. Naval Academy.

Robert Senecal:

Out of high school, I was seventeen years old. I had applied to all of the military academies. I was also a football player in high school. The Naval Academy did not recruit me for football. I was recruited for football by West Point. I was accepted to West Point, I would have been the class of '64 but I chose to go to the Naval Academy. I was not picked for the Air Force Academy mainly because that was my third choice. I was like [inaudible] or something like that. So that's how I got in there. I spent four years there, the hardest four years of my life. I can recall even after in combat getting shot at night missions, I come back and say, "At least I'm not going through plebe year," which was the hardest experience I'd had in my life. Back then women were absolutely forbidden. If I was caught talking to a woman who was not my mother or my sister that was a Class-A offense.

It was a very difficult first year, the purpose at the time, and probably still has validity although it's not practiced, is to weed out the ones that are not going to make it. Generally, if you can make it through your first year, your attrition is a lot less your second and third year. So plebe year is very hard. I took my commission. My father had been a pilot during the Second World War, had had flight training prior to the war. I chose at that time not to follow in my father's footsteps.

I wanted to go surface Navy, so I chose a destroyer. It was the USS Cowell, DD547, an old World War II vessel. Very much made for combat: very sparse quarters, very small, but heavily armed. It really didn't belong in the Navy of the '60's, but that's where we started. I joined that ship in early July of '64.

I can recall we were in Sasebo, Japan. We went to see - we spent time in the Philippines, Subic Bay. I can recall the night of the Tonkin Offensive. I was sleeping. I didn't have a watch until the eight o'clock watch. Eight A.M. watch, in the morning. My compadre roused me out of bed at three o'clock and said, "Wake up. We've gone into condition three. We've had an incident at Tonkin Gulf and we're on our way there." Condition three is as close to getting ready for battle as you can be.

We worked three section watches. We spent the next 90 to 80 days on the line off the coast of Vietnam, guarding the carriers and the aircrafts. It wasn't much of a war. It was no war for me that time. It was a combat evolution, but I was never shot at. Nothing happened.

We were well past our date due for rotation back to the United States. I came back, but I remember watching the aircraft coming aboard the carrier while I was plane guarding and the ship sent me to engineering school at San Diego for three months. When I came back I talked to my commanding officer and I asked to be transferred to flight training. He said, "Well, because I've just sent you to engineering school and because you could change your mind, I'll wait for a year." Well, we waited for a year and I was transferred. This was 1966.

I detached from the ship in March. I went to Pensacola, Florida, and started flight training sometime in April of '66. I went through the standard program of pre-flight and what they called primary training, the first time you flew out of the field that's - then you went to a ground school and you were flying, and your grades in ground school and flight training determined what you went to. My grades were good enough I was eligible for jets. I went to jets at Meridian, Mississippi.

The Naval or auxiliary air station there, named after James P. McCain. McCain Field. There's a history between the McCains and myself. All the McCains went through the Naval Academy on maximum demerits, they were bad boys. The grandfather, Joseph P., who had passed away at the time, was commander of the 3rd Fleet during the Second World War.

His son, John S. McCain Senior was a rear Admiral. He was a submariner, and I remember him lecturing to the naval academy on several occasions. Crusty man, really crusty, he later became commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet. His oldest son, John, who is the Republican nominee for President, was class of '59, but I met him through his younger brother Joe P. III who was my classmate and lived across the hall from me.

All of these McCains were troublemakers at the academy. They all collected huge amounts of abuse, and I can say my company felt it. Most of us made it through because Joe McCain took all the heat. He was hated. I still have his demerit cards, he gave them to me. No midshipman in the history of the Naval Academy had as many demerit cards as Joe. But Joe and his older brother, I remember, used to go down to Virginia for a football game. We went to little Joe's house. This was like October of our plebe year. Little Joe and his brother were in a squabble, fighting and this sort of thing. Just typical family, but that's what they were doing.

The reason I say this is because John was one of my instructors at Meridian. As it turns out, after I got my wings and I was sent to my squadron, John had been in my squadron when he was shot down and made a POW. And I was curious about his reputation because I knew his reputation stunk prior to that. They said, "Whatever he did before, when he came to our squadron, he became a warrior." He was a very, very, professional man up until the time he got shot down. I have nothing but regards. And I kind of - From scuttlebutt and everything, he took a huge amount of abuse as a POW, I mean, almost as bad as plebe year, I'm sure.

But again, my squadron had the worst casualties prior to me joining it since the torpedo in Midway. There were 20 pilots assigned, and there were 15 aircraft. By the end of the cruise, 4 had been killed, 4 had been made POWs, 2 were sent home with injuries. That left 10 pilots plus the replacements and we lost 16 out of the 15 aircraft, since they kept replacing them. So it was a very bad, hard cruise.

Three of the officers have later made Admiral, two Navy Crosses. Some people say Compton should have had the Medal of Honor. It was a hard luck squadron, but it wasn't hard luck, it was just taking a lot of casualties because it went to the bad places. Anyway, that was the cruise before I joined, when I joined the cruise, yes, it was bad, but it wasn't as bad as before - not as many losses. Coming back to the United States in January of I guess it was '69. The squadron was decommissioned and I had a shorter tour at Military Command in Honolulu.

Also during this period there was a young WAVE who I had met and became close friends with, she would visit me when my ship was in Sasebo and Hong Kong, and was on her way to Naples, Italy for a new tour, during that period we got married. Back then, whether you were in the Navy...She got pregnant at our honeymoon. Because I was stationed in Hawaii, she was stationed in Italy we got together in Groves, Texas, which was where her father was at the time.

We got married, did our honeymoon in Galveston. We went to Vermont. I put her on a plane back to Italy. I went back to Hawaii. Four months later when we got together, the Navy shipped her out, she was four months pregnant. So that started our married life, the first of our kids.

About one year after I was in Hawaii, I received orders again. This one I wasn't happy about, I was going back as a Naval Advisor into Vietnam. I started out down in Saigon, I was heading a mine sweeping division up and down the Yungtoa [?] River, but about four days after I reported in that position I was pulled out, and sent up to Da Nang as the executive officer of the advisors in ICOR.

The advisors in I Corps (ICOR) acted as advisors to the Vietnamese Navy in that area. It consisted of six coastal groups from the de-militarized zone (DMZ), all the way down to the southern part of the province, which was called Hung-ai. Hung-ai was a river. Coastal Group 16 was on one side of the river. The villages of My-Lai, the six My-Lai villages where the massacre took place were right across.

I had the honor of seeing the first senior advisor of Coastal Group 16 make it out without being injured or killed. It was a very hot spot. I did lose two advisors there, but they were on a rescue mission, they were drowned. I also had one Silver Star award by a Chief Petty Officer in that area. The six coastal groups we had what was called a 'River Assault Group' at Hue City. We had a Patrol Boat River (PBR) Squadron also at Coastal Group 14 and a Swift Boat Division that worked up and down the coasts. I forget what the name was, but it was designed to stop the arms by sea, which I'm pretty sure was successful.

I spent my tour there, came home. The Navy wanted me to go back to sea. I had a wife I had been married to for two years. I had known her for six months. I had a child I had just seen and one I had never seen. I said, "I think what you're going to do is give me shore duty, and then I'll resign my commission." I resigned my commission September of 1972. I stayed in the Reserves, which is a good thing because they're paying me now. That was my career in the Navy.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

As you talked about this, are there any other incidences that you would like to include?

Robert Senecal:

You know, like I said at the beginning, the Navy taught me two things: how to stay alive and how to kill people, and I did a lot of it. Staying alive, which was hard and killing people, which was just as hard. Mostly, when I was getting shot at flying, and dropping bombs, but that tour on the ground made me appreciate what it was like for the guy on the ground when I'm dropping bombs on him.

It became, well - it was always a personal war, it was always - I was scared, anybody who was there who did this sort of thing was scared. If they weren't they were idiots. That last tour, even though there weren't as many opportunities to get shot at, I had a family.

It was an extremely lonely period, but I couldn't let that happen because I had, sixty or seventy, I don't know how many advisors were working for me, that I was responsible for. So I couldn't be letting that effect me too much. But I do recall one time, when I first got there my counterpart. The guy came up to my armpit. His name was Glen Huswun. He goes by the name of David now, he's in Santa Ana, California.

We had to go across from DaNang - He told me, "Tomorrow we go north and we go to Hue." Hue City is separated from Da Nang, and Hue City is the old imperial capital. If you recall, in 1968, that was during the uprising, or the Tet Offensive. Hue City, the citadel held out for something like a month, against everything we threw at them. So it was still fresh in everyone's mind. We went across this pass called the Hai Van Pass that took you up into the mountains from Da Nang, down and into Hue.

Hai Van Pass was always where the Viet Cong (VC) would come and throw the rockets at you. They'd launch the rockets, then they'd run and hide and you couldn't get them. They were just artillery pieces. But the pass itself was subject to a lot of ambushes. It was twisty turny, it climbed about 2,000 feet. I said to my counterpart, I said, "I've got a brand new jeep and I'll be glad to drive." He said, "Fine." And I picked him up, just he and I.

We started up. The new jeep, and I was just having fun, I was driving as fast as I could go, downhill. It wasn't until I was almost down that I looked at my counterpart, and his hands were on...He was just petrified. His hands were white. I said, "I think I've blown it, I've really blown it." I thought, what can I do, he'll never go with me again.

A week later he comes back and he says, "We go north again tomorrow." I say, "Okay." He asks, "Will you drive?" I said, "I thought I bothered you." He said, "Oh no, you go very fast. VC never catch us." On those trips when we went, he had the most amazing inside information. I think it was the second or the third trip and he said, "We go this way." I mean, there's a couple routes to get out from where our headquarters were.

This one was a half an hour out of the way. I said, "This one's longer." He said, "Today maybe we go this way." Sure. I had nothing to do, I was there for a year. We started up, and sure enough, the other way...they had an ambush. He knew. How, I have no idea. This little man is so small, and he had this little Beretta .22, that was his side arm. It matched his size. He and I went everywhere together.

If I went out of the base, he went with me. He took me. A lot of times I would go without him, but most of the time he took me. Like I say, I was so disappointed. Because I came back, I got out of the Navy after, and then Da Nang fell and I sort of shook my head. In the mean time I had a lot -- my roommate at the academy is a POW from 1966 on -- So the war was very personal.

When it finally ended, I just assumed he was dead. To find him again was just an awesome thing. Since then, any function he's had...I was at his sons wedding. By the way, three children made it out [?], two of them are doctors. One of them is a CPA. Very successful, but he came to the United States as a refugee. He got work as a stock clerk, and his wife worked in a bank. All of his education and training counted for nothing. He had to go back to school, he took his three kids and they went to the library. He said, "I study. You study." The work ethic was phenomenal. I went to his sons wedding carrying the official gifts and this sort of thing. We have a lot of history between us, and that part is very, very good. The getting shot at, getting dirty, and night ambushes is not very good.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

But you remember the good things.

Robert Senecal:

Certainly. I remember the bad things too, but, you know. I remember the nasties, they were there, I mean, everyone else that was in combat arms did it, so - I don't feel like I was different. In fact, I feel quite a bit differently, because the young people who were going over there. They were 19, 18 year olds. My last tour in Vietnam, I was just about to turn 29, so I was an old soul. I was a senior officer in relative terms, so, and I was also a professional. That was what I was trained to do. I didn't feel I had the right to complain. This is what they indoctrinated me to do, so that's what I did. I don't know much else I can tell you. If you want sea stories I can go on and on. You don't want to know the scariest thing you'll ever do as a night carrier landing. Getting shot at is never any fun. I remember the first time it ever happened, I couldn't believe these people were shooting at me. But they were, they were very angry, and they wanted to kill me. I can partially understand that, because I was busy killing them.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

So, in other words, the academy did its job?

Robert Senecal:

Yes. Now the question - Do I think it's done its job today? The brutality of the first year at the academy is what unnerved me to everything else. That doesn't take

place now. So there is a difference, and I don't know if that's going to help people in the long run or not. You go through that institution for four years, and it's not like a college, there's no way it is. You get a degree, but it's not like a college. It's very hard. Very difficult, and it can be very depressing. It prepares you, I think.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

You have to be able to stick it out.

Robert Senecal:

Yes, the academy is indoctrination. You're duty bound. You believe in honesty, and you have to believe in integrity and loyalty and honor because that's the nature of the beast. I'd much rather deal with a WestPoint graduate, an academy graduate, than any politician off the streets. I think I'd rather deal with anybody than a politician [laughter]. That says my piece, and I've said it.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

Where were you when you were discharged?

Robert Senecal:

I was in San Diego.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

And did you stay there?

Robert Senecal:

No, I went to work in Los Angeles. I went to work for Steven Lure[?] and Company. Do you know what that is?

Lois Elaine Jackson:

No.

Robert Senecal:

Do you know what long shore men are?

Lois Elaine Jackson:

Yes.

Robert Senecal:

Okay, Steven Lure[?] is a company that has supervision equipment that hires the laborer to load and discharge vessels. I worked for that company for twenty-five years. I was vice-president of operations. It was a family owned company. It was hard work, but they paid well. I had five children, and I got them educated. When we saw our way clear we sold our home, I went and took my teacher credential. I taught a couple years because our baby wasn't ready to leave home yet. I taught a couple years in California, then I taught at Onate High School for five years before I retired, five of the most enjoyable years of my life. The kids were sometimes pains, but for the most part, the kids were really, really fun. I felt like I was finally giving something back. It was a good feeling.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

So, your decision to come here was influenced by?

Robert Senecal:

My brother and sister-in-law. They called us out, he had retired from the Marine Corps, and so did she. They had a year to figure out where they wanted to have all their household effects shipped, and they had an RV and traveled the country. They called us and said, "Merry Christmas, we're in Las Cruces." I said, "Where is Las Cruces?" They told me and I said, "Did you break down?" They said, "No, no, we're in an RV Park here." I said, "Good, are you going to be there one day or two?" He said, "No, I don't think we're going to be able to make it for Christmas." I said, "What's the matter?" He said, "We're thinking about retiring here." I said, "What has gotten into you? Or are you just being a Marine and like the desert, the sand, that sort of thing?" They laughed and laughed. About April, he called, "Look, she's back east on active duty, if you catch a cheap flight I'll pick you up in El Paso. There's a wine tasting in the Hilton of Las Cruces." First time I ever knew there was a Hilton in Las Cruces. We had wine tasting, and it was horrible. The wines of New Mexico back then were just atrocious. But then he showed me around, and I was so impressed I brought the wife and a couple of the kids back. I guess it was in July. We stayed for a week, and then I said, "We've got to buy property." So we bought property here in 1987, and we just kept coming back. "Is this what we want?" Yes, yes so far. We looked a lot of other places. We finally decided this is where we wanted. We moved here in 1999. So now, it's 2008. I should be on the Chamber of Commerce. I could really boost this place, except for the politics.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

Did your children go to college here then?

Robert Senecal:

No, the oldest daughter went to U.C. Santa Barbara, and then took her doctorate at Boston College. Number two daughter went to U.C. Santa Cruz, and she's in northern California working with restaurant supply. Number one son went to U.C. Davis. I think right now he's working with the Parks Department of Sacramento. Number three daughter is finishing up her masters. She's a mother of two and she's raising her family. They live in Sacramento. The youngest is trying to get into graduate school for - she wants to be a counselor. She was a field organizer for the Democratic Party of San Francisco. She also hates politicians, so she left that position and is getting ready to move back east, to do that. So that's my kids and I have five grandkids, two of which we're going to see a week from Friday. We're travelling east to visit the oldest. She's a professor at Shippensburg University.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

So, you've been retired for?

Robert Senecal:

I think it's been four years now.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

Do you attend Navy reunions?

Robert Senecal:

I have been to two reunions. That surprises the heck out of me. I left the Naval Academy in 1964. I came back in 2004 for our fortieth reunion just because they got my name and pestered me. I went back, and it was good to see the kids in my company. They all looked old. I did go back to one squadron reunion the next year in Jacksonville. I'm not a reunion type person. Not that it's something I won't do. It's just, let's look ahead, not back.

Lois Elaine Jackson:

Okay, we're almost at the end of the tape, so I think we can say, thank you.

Robert Senecal:

I hope it helps you in the understanding of that miserable conflict.



### The Military 1945/Now:

The Military- Then & Now

1945 - NCO's had a typewriter on their desks for doing daily reports.

2016 - everyone has an internet access computer, and they wonder why no work is getting done.

1945 - we painted pictures of girls on airplanes to remind us of home.

2016 - they put the real thing in the cockpit.

1945 - if you got drunk off duty your buddies would take you back to the barracks to sleep it off.

2016 - if you get drunk they slap you in rehab and ruin your career.

1945 - you were taught to aim at your enemy and shoot him.

2016- you spray 500 bullets into the brush, don't hit anything, and retreat because you're out of ammo.

1945 - canteens were made of steel, and you could heat coffee or hot chocolate in them.

2016 - canteens are made of plastic, you can't heat anything in them, and they always taste like plastic.

1945 - officers were professional soldiers first and they commanded respect.

2016- officers are politicians first and beg not to be given a wedgie.

1945 - if you didn't act right, the Sergeant Major put you in the brig until you straightened up.

2016 - if you don't act right, they start a paper trail that follows you forever.

1945 - medals were awarded to heroes who saved lives at the risk of their own.

2016 - medals are awarded to people who work at headquarters.

1945 - you slept in barracks like a soldier.

2016 - you sleep in a dormitory like a college kid.

1945 - you ate in a mess hall, which was free, and you could have all the food you wanted.

2016 - you eat in a dining facility, every slice of bread or pad of butter costs, and you better not take too much.

1945 - we defeated powerful countries like Germany and Japan.

2016 - we come up short against Iraq and Afghanistan.

1945 - if you wanted to relax, you went to the rec center, played pool, smoked and drank beer.

2016 - you go to the community center, and you can play pool.

1945 - if you wanted beer and conversation you went to the NCO or Officers' Club.

2016 - the beer will cost you \$2.75, membership is forced, and someone is watching how much you drink.

1945 - the Exchange had bargains for soldiers who didn't make much money.

2016 - you can get better and cheaper merchandise at Walmart.

1945 - we could recognize the enemy by their Nazi helmets.

2016 - we are wearing the Nazi helmets.

1945 - we called the enemy names like "Krauts" and "Japs" because we didn't like them.

2016 - we call the enemy the "opposing force" or "aggressor" because we don't want to offend them.

1945 - victory was declared when the enemy was defeated and all his things were broken.

2016 - we haven't a clue as to what victory is or what it takes to achieve it.

1945 - a commander would put his butt on the line to protect his people.

2016 - a commander will put his people on the line to protect his butt.

1945 - wars were planned and run by generals who knew how to fight and win

2016 - wars are planned by politicians who haven't a clue about fighting or winning.

1945 - we were fighting for freedom, and the country was committed to winning

2016 - we don't know what we're fighting for, and the government is committed to social programs and political correctness. Our real enemy is global warming.



## 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....



[The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members](#)

*Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints*

**Skyhawk Association website, VA-163 page:**

**VA-163** Page, click here: <http://a4skyhawk.org/3e/va163/va163o.htm>

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? Contact the **RR Coordinator**.

A-4s Forever! [sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org) / [bluebolts6364@aol.com](mailto:bluebolts6364@aol.com)

"Skyhawk Association Members: Use the new site address <http://A4skyhawk.org> 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:Tomkowj@aol.com)



**Vietnam Article:** >From San Marcos TX newspaper



REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

# Woman searching for Vietnam veterans visits

DAVID SHORT  
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 923, drew quite a crowd this week including an international TV crew from Denmark.

Guest speaker Janna Hoehn of Hawaii talked about the Wall of Faces, a new museum soon to be built at the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Hoehn said more than \$50 million has been raised in private donations so far but more is needed.

Hoehn has made it her mission to help find missing pictures of those killed in Vietnam.

"It is so important that we have one for every single



Janna Hoehn

service member killed in the war," Hoehn said. "I grew up during the Vietnam War and I remember seeing as an 18-year-old how badly returning veterans were treated coming home.

SEE VETS PAGE 3

## VETS FROM PG. 1

I've always had a huge heart for Vietnam veterans.

While the museum construction hasn't started yet, Hoehn said the website is already up and allows visitors to pull up the name of any of the 53,000 killed in Vietnam and see not only their picture but also a quick bio on them.

"We have collected probably 45,000 so far, and the search continues," said Hoehn, who is one of many volunteers undertaking the task.

Hoehn said that local newspapers like the San Marcos Daily Record have been instrumental in helping, including the three photos just found in the last two weeks following a series of articles.

Relatives of two of those were in attendance at the meeting and expressed their gratitude to Hoehn for the work she and others are doing.

The Danish TV crew who happened to be in Central Texas this week had seen the story on Edward Gaytan in the Record and came to the meeting to interview Gaytan's sister, Mary.

Only two local veterans pictures are still missing: Fred Rodriguez, killed in action in 1965 and Allen W. Thomas, killed in action in 1968. If you have pictures of either or know how to reach a relative, please let us know and we can arrange to have those pictures on the Wall of Faces too.



**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 opens .....an alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home town .....then 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/>

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**Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:**

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Life+Magazine+Vietnam+War+Photography&go=&form=QBIR>

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**SAINTS Newsletters in Archives:** *To view the last 12 months newsletters*

Go to [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) (click on the link in blue)

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

Type in Yahoo ID: [va163lemoore@yahoo.com](mailto:va163lemoore@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.

**NOTE:** The newsletter is being sent as an “Attachment” to the email.

To open the attachment, click on the Icon that looks like a **paperclip** on top part of email next to the date.

**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:** *Past month's newsletters*

Go to Saints Website, click on Newsletters, password: **saints4ever**



**\*\*Websites of Interest\*\***

**Oriskany Web Sites:**

[USS Oriskany](#)

25 Sep 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

(CVA 34)

1950 /  
20 Sep  
1979

2006 for use as artificial reef. [Click on the ship name for a complete history.](#)

1. USS Oriskany Online: *Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola*: [www.ussoriskanyonline.com](http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/) / [www.mbtdivers.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm)
8. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnIBZis>
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](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/>

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**Tribute to VN Vets:**

<https://www.facebook.com/317421738278558/videos/1107635929257131/>

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**F-14 Tomcat on Carrier:**

<https://www.facebook.com/fireontheflightdeck/posts/1165249950172569>

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**Snake Bite First Aid:**

The steps you need to take when bitten by a snake continue to evolve.

[http://www.popularmechanics.com/adventure/outdoors/a20802/snake-bites/?mag=pop&list=nl\\_pnl\\_news&src=nl&date=051616](http://www.popularmechanics.com/adventure/outdoors/a20802/snake-bites/?mag=pop&list=nl_pnl_news&src=nl&date=051616)

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**VA-163 Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club Shirts are available**

For 927 Commands that operated in the Vietnam Theater from 1950 to 1975.

To view the TONKIN GULF YACHT CLUB SHIRT with

Rocker = **ATKRON 163**

Rating = **NAVY**

Click on: <http://www.hullnumber.com/TONKIN-GULF-SHIRT.php?rating=NAVY&hn=VA-163>

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LINK TO COMMAND ROSTER PAGE:

<http://www.HullNumber.com/VA-163>

My best wishes to All Hands on your end,

Dave Schultz - Web PO

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**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>

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**VN 40 years ago...75 pictures**

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

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**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](http://www.laosgpsmap.com)

Ho Chi Minh Trail Tours:

[www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/](http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/)

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**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](#)

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**Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:**

This has a lot of the statistics on Vietnam Vets.....  
<http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm>

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**1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:**

Thought you might find this 1956 All Hands..... interesting.  
[http://www.navy.mil/ah\\_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf](http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf)

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**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>

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**Do you remember these?**

This will bring back memories  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=puGQsQux80k](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k)

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**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=%252Fflightbox%252Ffa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo--599932096.html>

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**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>

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#### **NAS Lemoore April 1968:**

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

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#### **Photos/History of Vietnam:**

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History

From the Denver Post.

Click here: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

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#### **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>

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#### **A-4 Skyhawks:**

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

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#### **When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band**

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

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#### **VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:**

**VA Benefit Blog**

[https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app\\_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall](https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall)

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**Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: 6:10 min video**

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

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**Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:**

[http://www.v-prod.com/trailer\\_vietnam.html](http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html)

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**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/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/)

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**RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 June 2016**

Read the **Articles** go to the web site at: [http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html)



## SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

**“Muster Call”**

**Revised 11 May 2016**

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](http://www.va163.org) (password, **Saints4ever**) capital**

**S**



