

Subject: Fwd: VA-163 Saints Newsletter...June 2020
From: Ed Copher <newsman242@gmail.com>
Date: 6/2/2020, 1:53 PM
To: "Adams, Ken Mule" <kmuleadams@gmail.com>, Barley 164
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Randy" <patty1honey@gmail.com>, "Blosser, George"
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<DBLFAL@gmail.com>, "Lee, Bob" <mobilitybob@gmail.com>, Magner 164
<rodmagner@gmail.com>, Nelson 164 <chucknelson1941@gmail.com>,
"Odegaard, Richard" <richard.odegaard@gmail.com>, Rogger 164
<babyrogger99@gmail.com>, "Roosen, John" <jjroosen13@gmail.com>, Sharp
164 <sharpa6@gmail.com>, "Steve & Carla Cutting 164"
<adobefarms1@gmail.com>

Toooo Weet... Attention on Deck... "Saints...June newsletter"...Arriving!

ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE

VA-163 SAINTS GRAM

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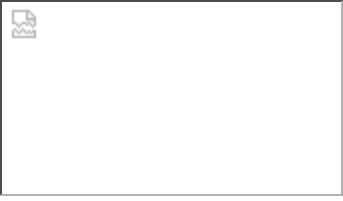
KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

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.



2020

17th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 208



Stay Safe, Be Healthy, Be Well

It will come to pass



Standing the Watch

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

"Keeper of the Flame"

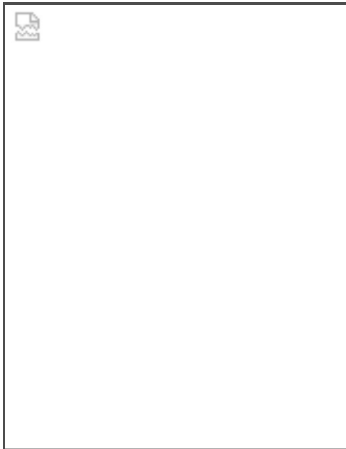
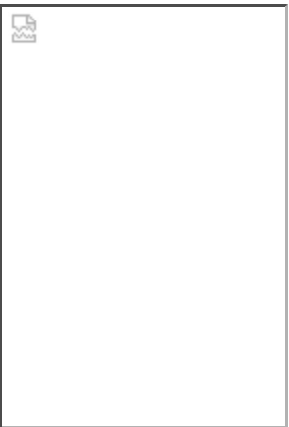
Memories glimmer and hide in the dim shadows
Daring us to '...catch me...if you can!'

As time steadily treads its own meandering path,
It's hard to trace old members of the clan.
Then someone steps up with lantern and blade
Shouting, "Let's gather them in for us all, good neighbor!
We'll bring forth those hidden in the shade, and
Share them with one and another!
"I'll keep that flame high and the blade ever sharp,
That our friends may never be lost in the dark!"

Keeper of the Flame, Song by Miranda Lambert

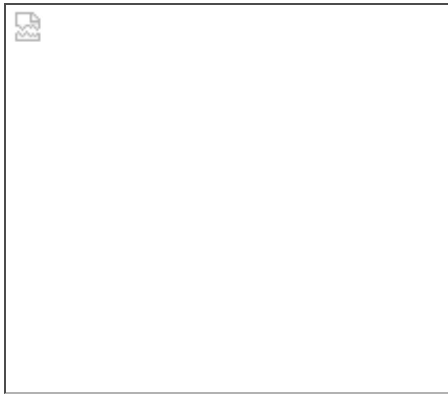
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=ydE6lzd-VQ>

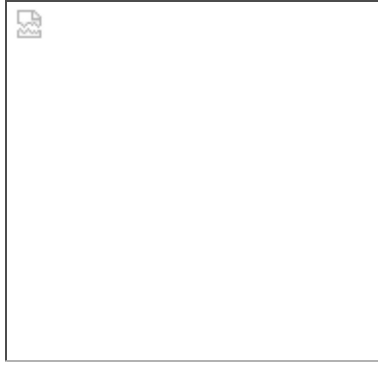
**I'm the keeper of the flame
The teller of the story
Keeper of the flame
For the ones that came before me
For the little pilot lights waiting to ignite
Like fireflies in the rain
Keeper of the flame**



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT







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

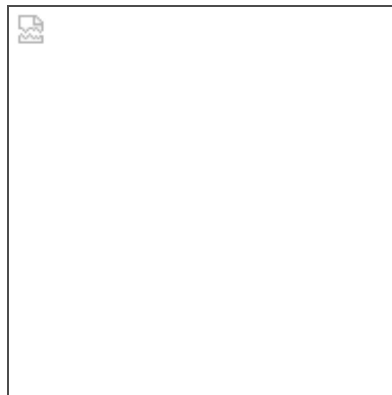
Also on Saints website, PHOTOS section

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

View Counts as of 02 June 2020

Total

937,223 views



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



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

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website www.va163.org (password: *saints4ever* (all lower case))

17,672 *Visitors since Mar 09*

[History](#), [Latest Info](#), [Photos](#), [In Memoriam](#), [Miscellaneous](#), [Newsletters](#), [Links](#), [Recall Roster](#)

*****Total cost for the Saints Website is \$293.97 per year**

4 Sept 2019 paid \$286.34 to “GoDaddy” web hosting for 2 year renewal

15 Jan 2020 paid \$120 to “Webmaster” for maintenance of site, annual renewal

04 Mar 2020 paid \$14.45 for “Domain Name” one year renewal

Any donations are appreciated

Ed Copher

176 Landa Street #210

New Braunfels, **TX 78130**

Folks that have sent in “website” donations 2017-20: A big shout out...”Thank You”

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dave Carey

Ed **Chadwick**

David Farley

JC Ferris

Bob Feuillerat

Earl Groff

Tom Harwood

Bill Houk

Tom Kline

Daniel Lestage

George Lundy

Roger Meyer

Pete Munro

Floyd Oakes

MA Petty

John Roosen

Bill Sargent

Russ Stickley

James Thompson

Bill Tomko

Anthony Stable

James Marcely (VA-164)

Steve Cutting (VA-164)

Tommy Wimberly (other)



Folks that have donated to the “Saints Flower Fund”: **Thank You**

*Flowers have been sent to **3 funerals***

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Russ Stickley

Earl Groff

John Roosen

Thomas Harwood

Griff Sexton

Ed **Chadwick**

Daniel Lestage



TAPS:



AO3 Ron Tomko passed away in Chicago: Fair Seas and following winds. RIP Sailor

Submitted by Saint Bill Tomko, cousins.

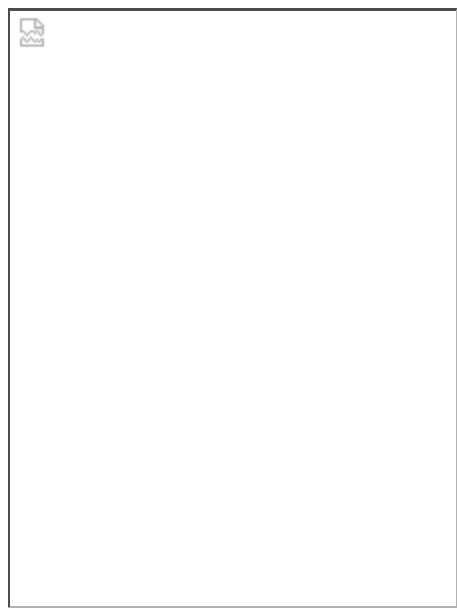
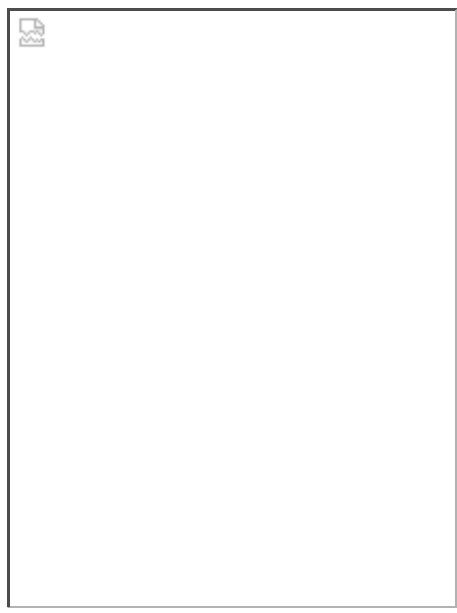
The Saints website **Memorial section** has been updated with Ron listed.

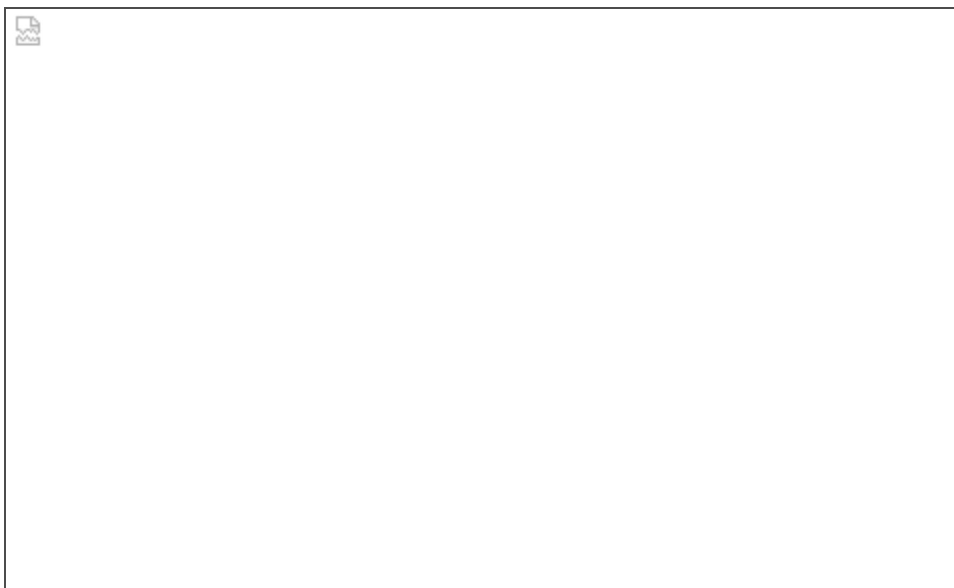
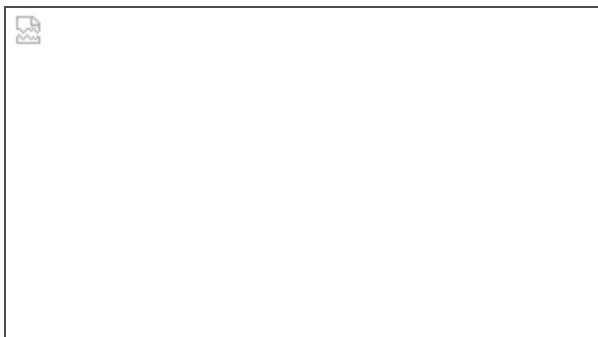


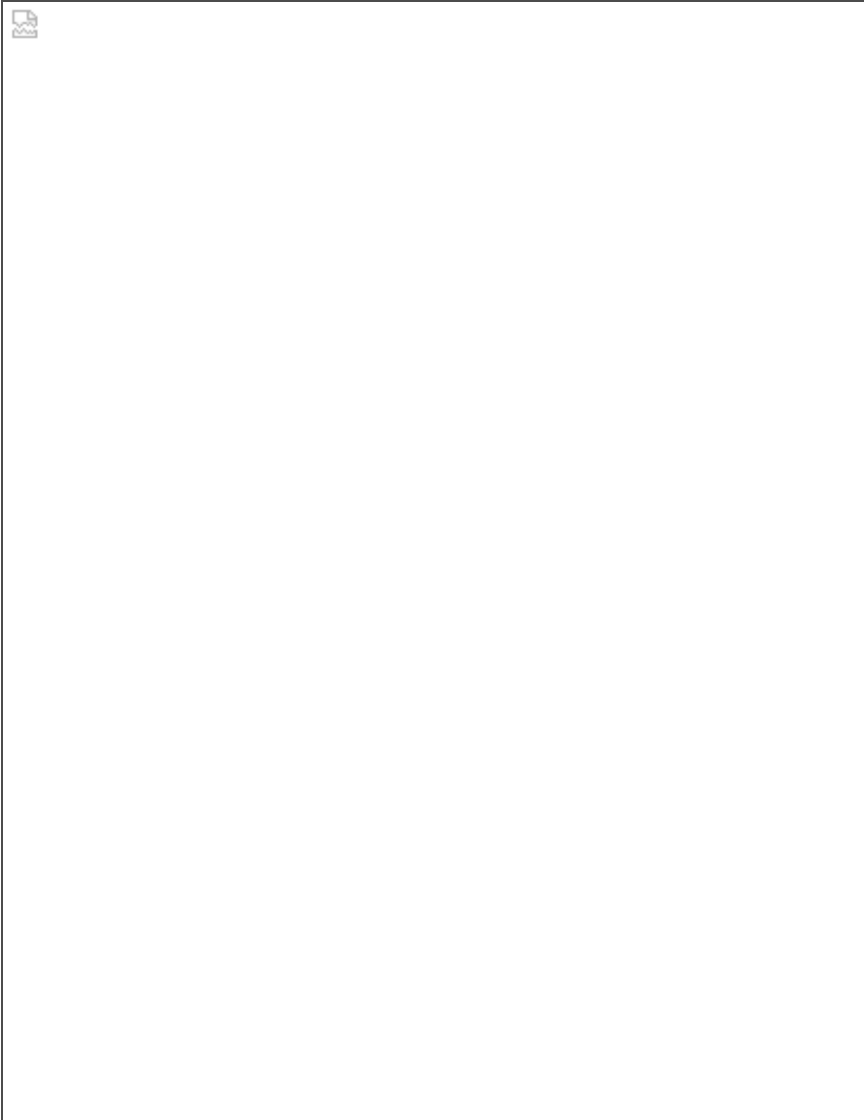
I wanted to let you and the saints know my Cousin Ron Tomko passed away this week in Chicago. Ron was 74 years old. As

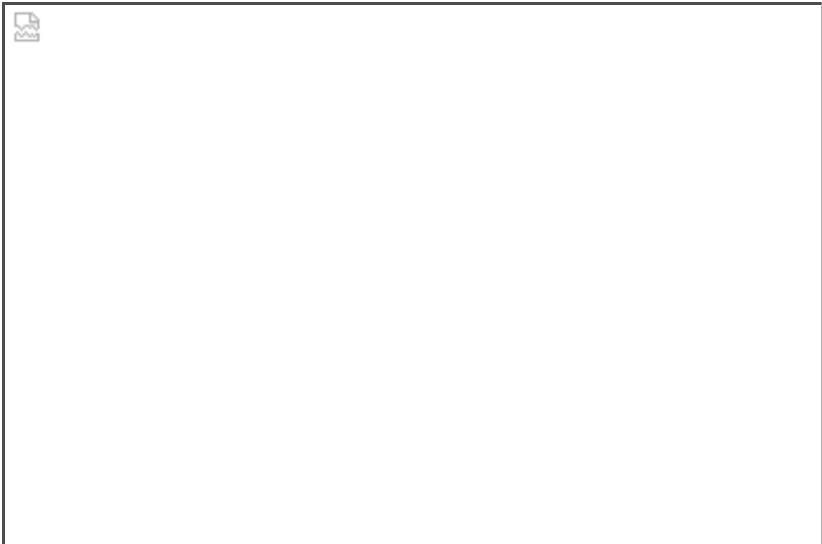
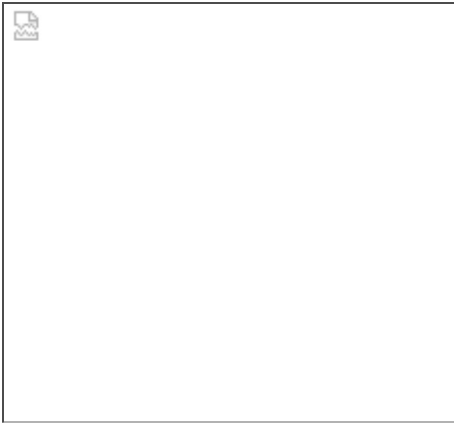
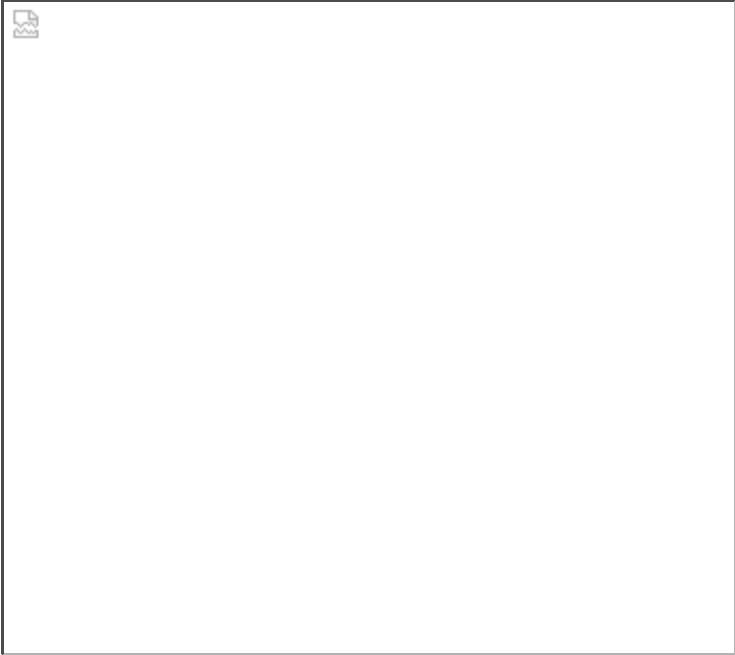
you may know Ron and I enlisted together in 1963, went through boot camp, Aviation Ordinance "A" school, Air Familiarization VA-125 at NAS Lemoore together, then both joined the Saints in 1964. We both served on the 1965 and 1966 Oriskany Combat deployments. Since we both had the same last name Ron was known as RL, and I was WJ to please LTC Wynn Foster. Ron had suffered from severe diabetes 2 amputations and heart issues the last 2 years and passed away alone in his apartment in Chicago. He was not married and had no children. I would be happy to answer any question from anybody God Bless Ron and all our Vets. Any Services are pending.

Thank You, Bill Tomko











Poem submitted by Saint Robert Lee:

It Makes a Lovely Show

**In my youthful days, I heard my country's call
I left my parents in amaze and went to the Navy's hall**

**When all were done with me, the Navy took me in
Gave me an education and a purpose, forgave my early sin**

**I sailed the calm pacific on CVA-34
I loved that aircraft carrier never longing for the shore
My friends were all the Saints pilots, at least at sea they were
I made their aircraft safe, I could make them simply purr
When they take that frightful "cat shot" to the wide unending sky
How I did or not my job, might cause one of them to die
I was only 18 years of age, But this I'll tell you true
I risk my life upon that stage, to save those few who flew**

**Ace Kramer was a friend of mine At least at sea he was
On shore he was an officer with uniform so fine
At sea we were transformed he was a mate mine
And in the Saints "ready room" at night we'd often talk and dine**

**I strapped him in the cockpit on that bright and shining day
I saw him take his cat shot and then quickly fly away
It was a training mission like so many ones before
He flew it like a pro until he rolled it to the shore**

The captain said twas Vertigo that took my buddies life
But all I could remember was him talking 'bout his wife

He was fifty feet above the water when the shore line did appear
Six hundred miles an hour not a sound could any hear
He lost his sense of up and down or so the smart guys say
But I believe this simple truth, his instruments did not play
I saw him roll it to the deck on that horrid sunny day

I thought that I should tell his wife
The way I saw him end his life
But he and she were Officer class
And I was just enlisted
A commander and chaplain would comfort the grieving lass
Twas not my place to go, on shore I was restricted by my class

What instrument was broken to this day I cannot say
But if I could have fixed it, there would have been much less to pay
I think about this every day, it will not let me go
The music of the marching bands makes such a lovely show
But the price we paid to see it, only God can ever know.



The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

VA-163 page: <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/va163>

Please join the Skyhawk Association. A great Quarterly Magazine, allot of A-4's and Saints articles.

Only \$30 per year.

To Join: www.A4skyhawk.info.org



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. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com
4. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>
5. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com>
6. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
7. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
8. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: A. <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm> B. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html> C. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
9. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
10. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
11. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
12. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
13. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
14. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (<http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>)
15. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
16. Oriskany Memorial Dive for Saint Ralph Bisz: Saints logo patch placed on Oriskany, 20 Sept 2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNETwJvF3A> 7:13 min video
17. Oriskany Dive to put Saint Larry Spear's ashes to rest on Oriskany: 03 Dec 2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnOkCrDnQo> 7:25 min video
18. Saints Video on YouTube: Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRaIM>
19. Tour of Duty photo site: 3000 photos, some Saints <https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/>
20. USS Oriskany Fire & Sinking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk> 42 min video
21. 1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV_Ws & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII>
22. O Boat Sinking Video: 24. <http://trib.al/t69QQT4>

23. Oriskany Video: With F-4's https://youtu.be/e92t7kgV_Ws

24. USS Oriskany Alumni: "facebook page" and gallery has some great photos. Go to Facebook to join the group

USS Hancock: Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock ("Hannah") http://scottymoore.net/USSHancock.html?fb_action_ids=620396487990408&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=other_multiline&action_object_map=%7B%22620396487990408%22%3A325920780869208%7D&action_type_map=%7B%22620396487990408%22%3A%22og.likes%22%7D&action_ref_map=%5B%5D#NASNI



Sailor Song 1961

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=4-r0ngPEHkg>



China Navy Training video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zeJqxUMzN64>



Veterans Benefits Newsletter from the VA:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVBA/bulletins/27794cb>



Nice Military Aircraft photos:

<http://www.doyletics.com/tidbits/militaryadvice.pdf>



Oriskany Dive 9 Feb 2020:

<https://vimeo.com/390358620>



Blue Angels A-4 Video:

<https://www.navalhistory.org/2020/01/24/how-the-navy-got-a-hit-recruiting-video-from-van-halen>



High Flight by John Denver:

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



F-18 Parking on Flightdeck:

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



A-4 Launch 1962:

<https://www.facebook.com/100026351565698/posts/312902602931456?d=n&sfns=mo>



I Stand:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/2eBxVxO0nh4>



Blue Angels In Flight:

https://www.wearethemighty.com/blue-angels-cockpit-footage?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Evergreen&utm_term=Veterans&utm_content=blue-angels-cockpit-footage



Blue Angels Cockpit...

[WATCH: BLUE ANGELS - Footage Inside the Cockpit](#)



Saints WestPac 1965-66 Video:

John Shore had his 8 mm movies converted to a DVD. He said it only took him 50+ years to get it put together. I took the DVD and uploaded it to YouTube.com. What a task for this rookie YouTube user, took many hours, first had to convert DVD to Mp3, and that took hours of work. Then upload to YouTube took many steps to get accomplished. Click on the link below to view on YouTube.

LINK address: <https://youtu.be/bwuTIK544cQ>

Oriskany Sinking Article & photos:

<https://fighterjetsworld.com/naval/the-u-s-navy-blows-up-aircraft-carrier-sets-world-record-that-still-stands/10506/>

181 Pictures from Oriskany, including inaction Fire photos:

No need to log in.

NAS Lemoore April 1968:

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



SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”

Revised 02 June 2020

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**

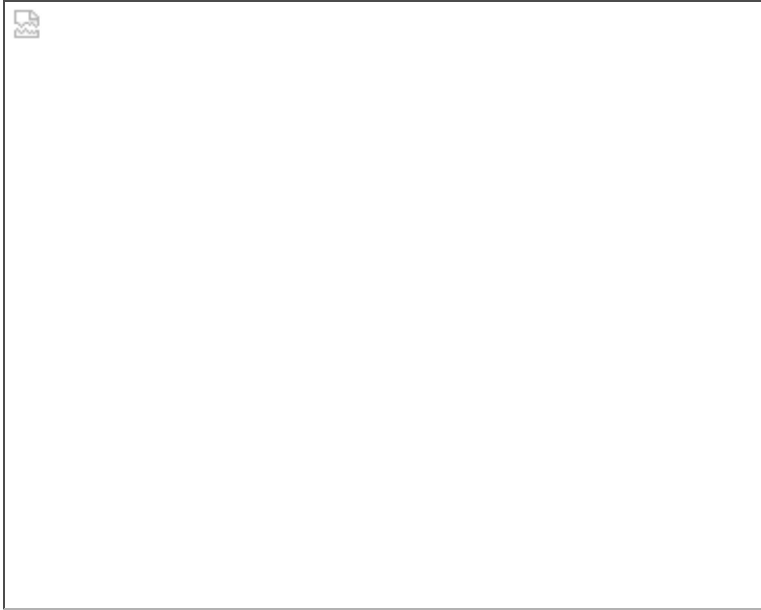


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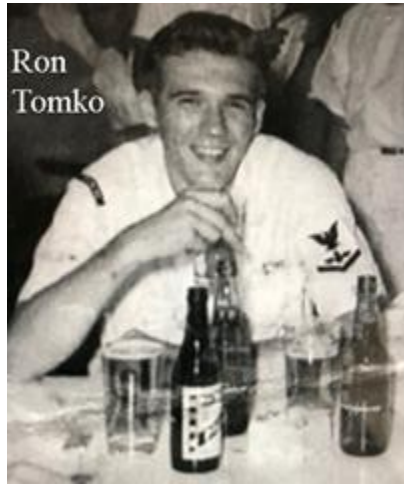


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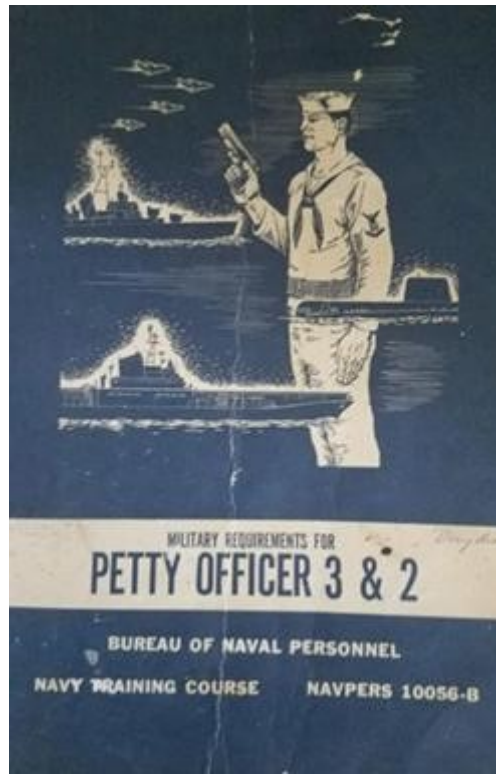


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