

# VA-163 SAINTS GRAM

***KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE***

*Distance and time may separate us*

*but friendship and memories won't*

Dedicated to those who have invested their lives to the cause of Freedom in America! God Bless our Men and Women who are (or Have) in any way or manner served to protect our Great Nation and the freedom we have.

And God Bless the United States of America.



15th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 180

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

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

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

*Donations are appreciated*

Ed Copher

242 Toye Blvd

Canyon Lake, TX 78133



Message from the Saints Webmaster: Submitted by Jim Houston

**Saints Website Roster & Newsletter changes:**

I made a change in how the **Roster changes** will be posted on the website. It is too time consuming to publish the complete Roster list every month, so from now on **only the changes will be posted**. A complete roster will be posted once a year, and is available any time.

Check out the website to see how it works.

Along the same lines, I'm going to **edit the newsletters down and only publish the changes each month**. I understand you have put a lot of work into them, but in my opinion, the members want to see the "news" in "newsletters", and not so much of the same stuff every month.

Jim



**SURVEY of Interest: Saints Reunion Cruise 2019** Date will be around **April 2019** out of Galveston

This is the survey for count on how many might be interested.

Please fill out and return to Hubert Cook [hcook150@gmail.com](mailto:hcook150@gmail.com) (not later than Jan 2018).

**Survey:** April 2019 Saints/Ghost Riders Cruise

Please return to [hcook150@gmail.com](mailto:hcook150@gmail.com)

\_\_\_ Yes/No would like to go on a cruise

\_\_\_ Maybe, will advise by January 2018

\_\_\_ Number of adults in your party 21 and over

\_\_\_ Number of minors in your party

\_\_\_ Early or late seating at Dinner (the majority will win and all do as the Romans)

\_\_\_ Yes/No do you plan to drive to Galveston and park at the facility

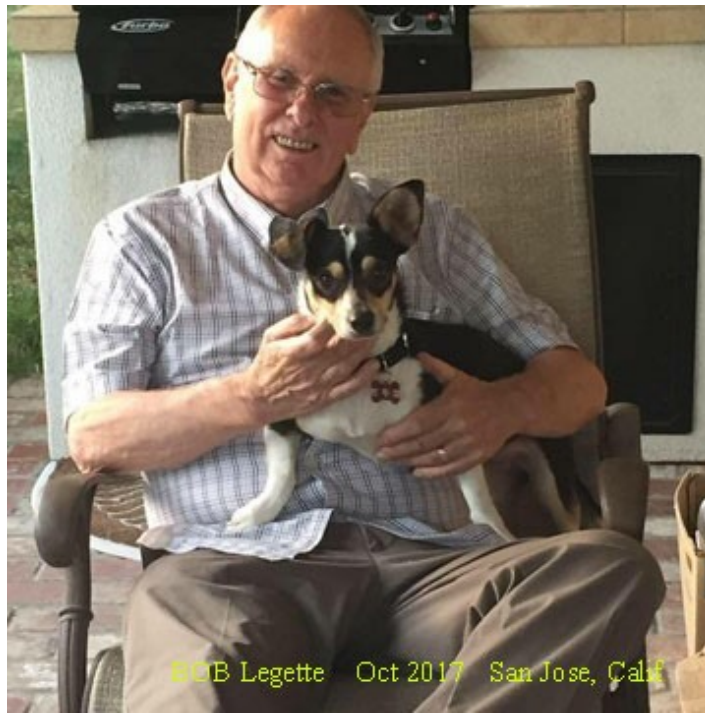
Names of those that would like to attend:

**Point of Contact: Hubert Cook, [512-923-5841](tel:512-923-5841)**



Ed Copher & Mark Morell: Saints Plane Captain





Bob Legette Oct 2017 San Jose, Calif



Fritz & Penny Schroder



Veterans will be not be watching or listening to NFL games on **Sunday 12 Nov & Monday 13 Nov** in solidarity with veterans around the country, as football players have continued to disrespect the national anthem, the American flag, Military Heroes, and everything our nation stands for.

**Boycott all football telecasts. All fans, all ticket holders, are asked to stay away from attending or viewing any NFL games on Sunday 12 November; let the NFL play to empty stadiums.**

**Pass this post along to all your friends and family. Honor our military, some of whom came home with the American Flag draped over their coffin. Continue with the weekly boycott of televised games, but let's make this a day the owners, coaches, players, and advertisers will notice.**

**They have a right to protest if they want to, but during the National Anthem is NOT the time or venue! They show an utter lack of patriotism and total disrespect for our Veterans – living and dead – and everything for which they put their lives on the line!**



**VETERANS,  
SHOP THE  
ONLINE  
BX/PX**  
shopforexchange.com/veterans

The Department of Defense will soon grant **online exchange shopping** privileges to **Veterans of all United States Armed Forces**, including:

- > TAX-FREE SHOPPING
- > NAME BRAND PRODUCTS
- > EXCLUSIVE MILITARY PRICING

**KNOW A VETERAN,  
TELL A VETERAN**

Send Veterans to [VetVerify.org](http://VetVerify.org) to submit a verification form to check their eligibility.

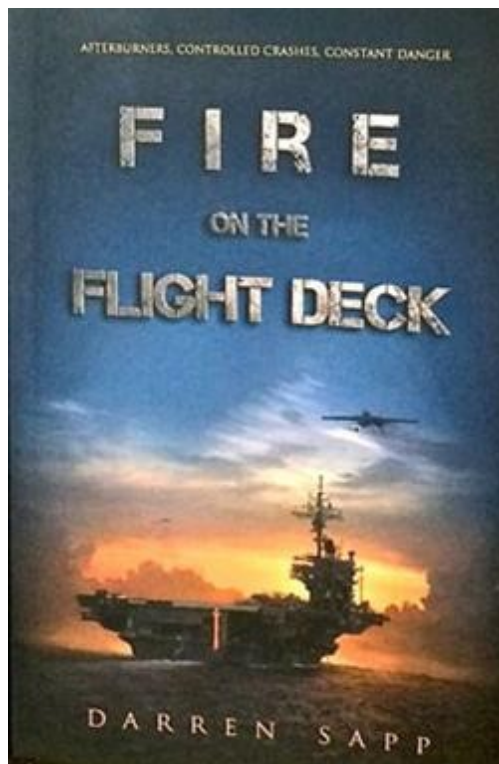
The advertisement features a soldier in camouflage gear at the top, and two women in the middle right section. The background is a mix of dark and light tones with a grid pattern in the corners.



[Ed Copher, Little Rock AFB, Oct 2017](#)



[Oriskany Fire was 51 years ago on 26 Oct 2017:](#)



Wishing ALL a great day while remembering ALL of our fellow shipmates with whom we served aboard the USS Oriskany - those who died in the fire **51 years ago this day** - and - remembering those who have since died.

I can still hear (the late) Jack Dowling - who was on the Bridge that fateful day - later telling the story of seeing (the late) Cdr Bellinger naked as a jay bird (as the saying goes) stopping to salute men on the flight deck. It was nice to see Jack at a Xerox FAX sales rep meeting in Arlington Texas years later.

Got to see Ed Copher, John Quinn, and others in 2006 at the Oriskany Reception in Pensacola.

As the saying goes - "time waits for no man" - and it passes all too quickly.

May God's good blessings be upon ALL of you and upon ALL of your loved ones.

I will wear my Oriskany tee shirt to the gym today!!

Tony Chibbaro



[No Closing Cost on Veteran's VA Loans:](#) Only good until 15 Dec

Huntington Bank. We are able to pay all lender, title company and appraisal fees for all veterans using VA



financing in all states. I would be happy to make a donation. I was hoping to get the word out about our promotion as it only lasts through 15 December.

Attachment for VA financing promotion with us paying closing costs, from lender, Title, and appraisal fees.

Matthew Stabile [4stabile@gmail.com](mailto:4stabile@gmail.com)

Huntington Bank

Mortgage Loan Officer

Residential Purchase & New Construction Specialist

NMLS ID: 847416

[\(248\) 266-5540](tel:(248)266-5540)

[https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=59295fe2da&view=att&th=15f490f209db90e6&attid=0.5&disp=inline&realattid=d814a1d34753859e\\_0.5&safe=1&zw](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=59295fe2da&view=att&th=15f490f209db90e6&attid=0.5&disp=inline&realattid=d814a1d34753859e_0.5&safe=1&zw)



**Flooded Cars & Trucks from Hurricane Harvey: Waiting to be crushed**

This picture is in Columbus, TX near I-10, there are 2 more, one in Baytown, TX and one in College Station. Over 100 acres.



**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....



Hi all,

Helen and I have relocated to be closer to one of our kids (it's an aging thing). Here is the new stuff:

Dan & Helen Lestage

601 Fairhope Avenue

Fairhope, AL 36532-2010

Ph. [251-517-7739](tel:251-517-7739)(H)/cell unchanged [904-655-6413](tel:904-655-6413)

email: [DBLFAL@gmail.com](mailto:DBLFAL@gmail.com)

I'm sure I've missed some of our "old shipmates" but pass it on if you would. Sorry we missed the last Saints/Ghostriders reunion but maybe next time.

Best to all from South Alabama,

Doc Dan



