

*Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck... "Saints...November 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.



16th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 204



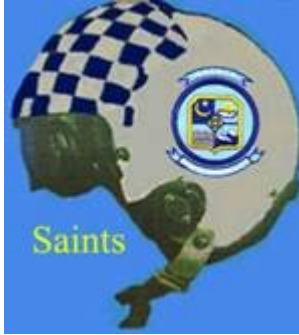
**Standing the Watch**

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



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT





**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 Nov 2019**

Total

**936,122** views



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

**THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER**

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

***16,661*** 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**

**Any donations are appreciated**

**Ed Copher**

176 Landa Street #210

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Folks that have sent in “website” donations 2017-19: 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
- Dan Lestage
- George Lundy
- Roger Meyer
- Pete Munro
- Floyd Oakes
- MA Petty
- John Roosen
- Bill Sargent
- Russ Stickley
- James Thompson
- Bill Tomko
- Anthony Stable
- James Marcey (VA-164)
- Tommy Wimberly



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**



**Louie Nordbye Obituary:**

From Savannah Morning Newspaper:

Here is an Obit of Louie Nordbye, Saint Pilot.

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/savannah/obituary.aspx?n=louie-dale-nordbye&pid=193510957>



Ed, **Please let everyone know that Dave Carey, Saint Ex-POW, will be my guest and speaker at two events in Dallas on Nov. 9. The Colony is putting on a Veterans Day program where he is speaking and Navy League will be honoring him as our speaker. If anyone wants information put out my number 214-502-4600**

James Blythe

Certified Senior Advisor

Skipper Brian Compton's new phone number: 334-654-5060



**26 Oct 2019 was the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Oriskany fire: SAD**

Message from Chibbaro, Anthony (O' Ships Company) [WARRIORTC@msn.com](mailto:WARRIORTC@msn.com)

From Tony C, who was ships company but roomed with Saint pilot, Ron Tardio, who perished in the fire:

To the gym today wearing a 'Navy' tee shirt - tomorrow will go to the gym wearing an Oriskany tee shirt - in memory and honor of our 44 fellow officers and sailors who died in the Oriskany fire on 26 October 1966.

At 2330 hours on this date - 25 October 1966 - I reported to the bridge for a 'midnight watch' - it was in addition to my 12 watches in Communications - **Cdr Juntilla**, CIC Officer, had advised me that it would help me getting transferred to CIC if I started standing some bridge watches . . I'd been CIC Officer on a DER out of OCS and wanted to transfer to CIC.

Standing that watch probably saved my life as I'd had some 2+ hours of sleep when I heard the first alarm - "this is a drill, fire, fire . . this is not a drill, fire, fire" - I turned over in my bunk to go back to sleep.

**Saint Ron Tardio**, who had the bunk below mine, pulled my curtain; shook me awake, and told me "Tony, it's really bad you have to get up" before I could say a word to Ron, he did what I would have done IF I'd gotten up quickly - ran aft, and I too, would have died of smoke inhalation like Ron.

**Lynn Bentley** and I were the last two guys out of the 01 Junior Officers Bunk Room - Lynn remembers the name of the officer who was at the hatch in the passageway leading out of the bunk room, who told us that we couldn't go

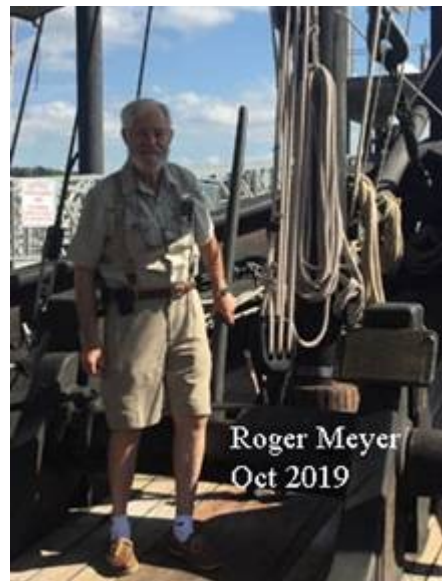
aft, that we had to go forward, which we did - through the hatch leading to the area where the anchor chains are stored. There were flames on the other side of the hatch after we closed it.

I am sure ALL have their own memories and stories of that fateful day.

No matter what adversities, failures, heartaches and heart breaks I've suffered these past 53 years - I am damn thankful to be alive - I very often wear a Navy or Oriskany tee shirt to the gym - a reminder to be so thankful for the years since the fire.

A side note - 7 years ago on a trip to NJ to visit family I went to visit the NJ Vietnam War Veterans Museum and Memorial Wall. It is a nice museum. To go to the round 'wall' with some 1700+ names one has to go up steps - there were about 8 sets of steps. I wanted to look up **Frank Tunick's** name; had no idea where it was on the wall - just went up a flight of steps, went to the wall - and - stood right in front of Frank's name. When I mentioned what had happened to the woman at the front desk of the museum - she smiled and told me - "that happens a lot".

All stay well,



Roger Meyer  
Oct 2019



Ed Copher  
01 Nov 2019

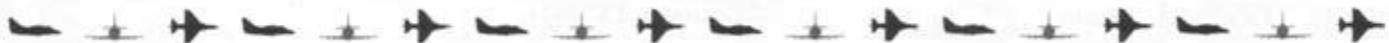






**Message from Bill Tomko about his Sailor grandson and Carriers Info: 12 month deployments.....**

Dear family and friends, I wanted to share the latest on Sailor Grandson Collin since many have asked to be kept informed. My Latest call from Collin yesterday who is Very Excited and ready to GO and use his training and skills to do what he enlisted to do. Finally He said they will be leaving/deploying Nov.18 to relieve the USS Eisenhower from the Arabian Sea duty (Monitoring Iran) after the USS IKE awaited another Carrier to relieve them after their extended 11 month deployment delays which should have been only 7 to 8 months due to numerous Carriers (8 at one point in time) were under Planned Maintenance/Nuke refueling and or associated problems adding to the Carrier fleets unavailability. Such as the USS Truman's electrical power failures and associated months of delays. That Carrier replacement shortage elongated The Abe Lincoln's return 3 to 4 months (I feel sorry for their Family members awaiting them) Collin will be shoving off leaving Naval Station Norfolk, VA for his first adventure at sea working on the flight deck moving, starting aircraft and depending on specific assignment T0 be determined job working with the Catapult crew and or arresting gear crew most likely. They will hope to be back in the US 5 or 6 months if all goes well on scheduled deployment relieved by the USS Eisenhower. May they be Blessed with Calm Sea's fair skies and the wind at his back. And to the Bad guys of Iran" Give them Hell Harry!!! Go Speed Collin and Crew and keep them safe. Proud Navy Grandpa Bill



**Lady Jessie Premier:**

While our 30 minute program doesn't contain too much stuff with the Saints cast (and crew!), several guys are in it at some point - as is the Oriskany. I'm hoping you might share this link so anyone who is interested can RSVP and join us for the premier. I realize it is a long trip for a short film- although some might not want to miss the opportunity to bedevil the panel of Ghost Riders

who will be speaking!

The program will begin broadcasting on November 6th, and should be available online as of November 7th. I will send a link when it is available. We are still working on a program specifically about Air Wing 16 for Memorial Day.

Thanks so much -

Suzanne

Click here on link: [Lady Jessie RSVP](#)

Suzanne Eckes-Wahl

Partner| [DosEckes Productions](#)

[suz@doseckes.com](mailto:suz@doseckes.com)

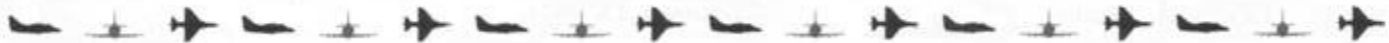
916.769.5141





New kid in the squadron:





NAS Alameda



**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](http://www.A4skyhawk.info.org)**



**Blue Angels Cockpit...**



**Saints WestPac 1965-66 Video:**

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

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



**Oriskany Sinking Article & photos:**

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



**181 Pictures from Oriskany, including inaction Fire photos:**

No need to log in.

<https://genelewis.smugmug.com/SLIDE-GALLERY-FROM-JAMON-KENT-PH2/>



**NAS Lemoore April 1968:**

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



# SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”



New or changed address:

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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**

