

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

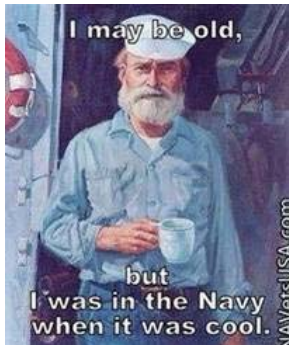


2016

14th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 168





Standing the Watch

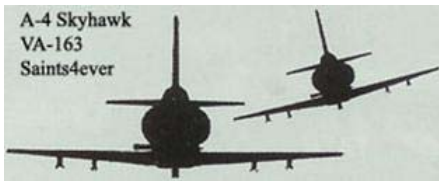
Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Everlasting Keeper of the Flame"

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/>

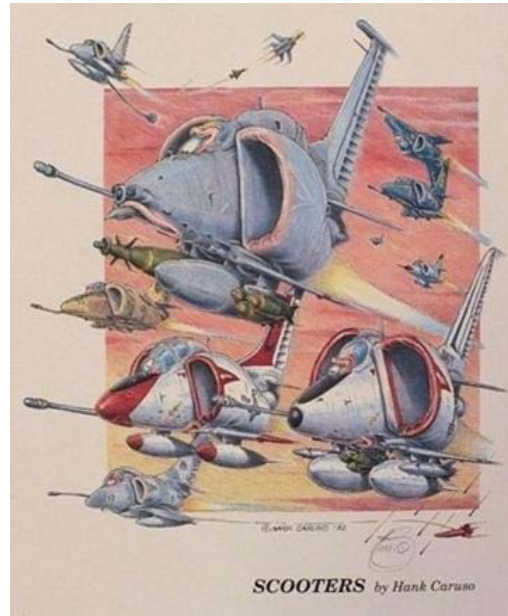
Sea Cruise: Frankie Ford: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5tHtbctFQ&feature=em-share_video_user

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



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







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

View Counts as of 04 Oct 2016

Photos

623,930 views

Albums

30,292 views

Total

678,537 views



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*****

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))

9,778 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 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 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 **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*



Saints Reunion Reno

3-5 May 2017

Saints Event Coordinator

Richard (Ode) Odegaard

[775-626-0898](tel:775-626-0898) richard.odegaard@gmail.com

Ghostrider Event Coordinator

Jim Waldron

2490 Old Waverly Court

Sparks, NV 89436

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

115 Enclave Lane,

St. Simons Island GA 31522

Date: 3-5 May 2017

Location: Nugget Casino, Sparks NV

Saints and Ghostriders,

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.

RSVP as soon as possible so we can know the number of rooms to hold and what events to plan.

An update on the 2017 Reunion is in the planning stages.

At present we believe that 50 plus Saints with significant others in tow will show.

A SWAG at the Ghostriders says perhaps 20 or more will show.

If you have not RSVP'ed with the coordinator, please do so.

It is important that you respond in some fashion, so we can update you contact info.

The Nugget Hotel Resort has a total of 1400 rooms, and is **ranked Second of seventeen in Sparks Nevada.**

Each reunion we find ourselves with fewer old friends to reminisce about days gone by.

Overall number of known Living Saints crew is about 190.

Saints 2017 Reunion will take place at the Nugget Hotel/Casino from Wednesday 3 May to Friday 5 May 2017. The Hotel has extended the room rate for 2 days prior and after the event. \$59 plus taxes and fees.



50th anniversary of the "Mighty O" fire: 50 years ago on 26 Oct 2016



The 1966 USS *Oriskany* Fire was a major fire that broke out aboard the *Essex-class* aircraft carrier [USS Oriskany](#) on the morning of **26 October 1966**. The fire broke out after a lit flare was locked in a flare locker. The fire killed 44 people, mostly air crew, and injured 156 more. It was the first of three major fires to befall American carriers during the [Vietnam War](#).

Background

***Oriskany* departed San Diego for her second Vietnam deployment, and third wartime deployment, on 26 May 1966. The carrier arrived on station off the coast of Vietnam a few weeks later, and commenced operations in support of operations in Vietnam.**

Sequence of events

At approximately 0728 hours, as *Oriskany* was preparing to begin flight operations and stowing ordnance from night operations, an alarm was sounded for a fire in compartment A-107-M, a flare locker, containing over 250 MK-24 magnesium flares, located just off the forward hangar deck, adjacent to the Starboard sponson. A flare had inadvertently ignited, and the sailor handling the flare threw it into the locker and dogged the door shut.^[2] General quarters was sounded, and firefighting teams began to attempt to cool the area near the burning locker; because the high pressure within the locker made it impossible to open the locker door, fighting the fire directly was impossible. About 10 minutes into the fire, the pressure became so great that the doors blew out, igniting a helicopter located on the port side forward of the hangar deck. With the ship headed into the wind, getting ready to launch aircraft, the heat and smoke were drawn forward into the berthing quarters located forward of the hangar bay. Other sailors in the area worked to move aircraft, many of which were bomb and fuel laden, from the hangar to the flight deck to prevent them from catching fire. On deck six, in a pump room servicing the forward elevator, the sailor on duty attempted to close the large air vents servicing the compartment, which were starting to blow smoke in; unable to do so, he used wet rags to protect himself.^[2] Closer to the fire, sailors began attempting to evacuate "officers' country", a series of staterooms occupied largely by pilots assigned to *Oriskany's* air wing.

Within five minutes, an explosion occurred in the flare locker, the result of multiple flares igniting at once.^[2] Aircraft in the hangar bay caught fire, and nearby sailors attempting to cool the area were burned. Down in officers' country, several men were killed when a fireball shot down the passageway, burning their lungs. Other personnel suffocated to death in the passageways. On the flight deck, firefighting crews worked feverishly to cool the steel deck, while other flight deck personnel began pushing ordnance off the flight deck. Down in the hangar, the aircraft that caught fire were pushed over the side, along with ordnance that was staged on the hangar from an earlier replenishment.

A pilot trapped in his stateroom was able to find a wrench to open the porthole. With items in his room catching fire, the pilot continually wrapped himself in wet sheets or blankets, and kept his head out the porthole; as the sheets or blankets began to smolder, the pilot would wet the items down again, wrap himself up, and return to the porthole.^[2] Unable to escape due to the fire outside his room, the pilot kept this up for some time. Finally, an enlisted sailor discovered his plight and was able to supply him with a fire hose, a battle lantern, and an Oxygen Breathing Apparatus; for the duration of the fire, the pilot used the hose to fight the fire and cool his stateroom, and keep the fire from spreading again into the room.^[2] Nearby, the executive officer of the air wing's Crusader squadron, finding himself in a similar situation, stripped naked and forced his way through his porthole. He was able to obtain a firefighting suit, and later helped the ship's fire marshal in organizing firefighting parties.

In the elevator pump room, the fireman on duty attempted to request assistance from his supervisor. Frustrated over the lack of progress, the sailor tried to find out if there was something keeping help from reaching him, and discovered that a large amount of water from the firefighting efforts had settled over the hatch. He opened the hatch in an attempt to save himself, partially flooding the compartment in the process. Trapped by water and smoke, the fireman continued to try to keep himself safe until his supervisor and the ship's ordnance officer, a qualified Navy diver who happened to find scuba gear, entered the compartment and rescued him.^[2] Ironically, the scuba gear belonged to the trapped sailor.^[3]

Near the pump room, several officers and enlisted men took refuge in a void extending from below the hangar to a deck below the pump room. One officer had been badly

burned, and a second was knocked unconscious after nearly falling off a ladder inside the void. After breaking the padlocks off of storage spaces inside the void to release the usable air inside those spaces, the officers and men began to wait the fire out in the void. Eventually, though, they decided to try to make their way to safety. One of the enlisted men left the void to seek out an OBA, and was able to find a pair of stretcher bearers to help carry out the injured officers. Working through some initial difficulties, the officers and men eventually made their way to safety.^[2]

At approximately 1030 hours, the ship's fire marshal, who had been leading firefighting operations on the hangar deck, informed Damage Control Central that the fire was under control. The last of the smaller fires was extinguished around five hours later. Unable to remain on station, *Oriskany* set course for the Naval station at Subic Bay in the Philippines.

During the fire, some of the injured were flown from *Oriskany* to [USS Constellation \(CV-64\)](#).^[3]

Aftermath

Forty-three men died in the fire; one died shortly afterwards. On 28 October, a memorial service was held aboard *Oriskany* for those killed in the fire. After offloading her fallen and undergoing repair in Subic Bay, the ship returned to San Diego for more extensive repairs.^[3] The ship returned to service the following year, undergoing training before returning to Yankee Station. Several sailors were court-martialed for their actions immediately prior to the fire; however, all were acquitted. A Navy investigation determined that magnesium flares, such as those involved in the fire, could ignite when jarred in certain cases; this is believed to be what caused the flare to initially ignite.

The fire aboard *Oriskany* would be the first of three major fires aboard American carriers in the latter half of the 1960s. [A fire aboard USS *Forrestal*](#) on July 29, 1967 killed 134 sailors and injured 161, and [a fire aboard USS *Enterprise*](#) on January 15, 1969, killed 28 sailors and injured 314.

Fatalities

The officers and enlisted men who died aboard *Oriskany* are:^[4]

Ship's Company

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
Dewey L. Alexander	LTJG	39	Houston, TX
Ramon A. Copple	LTJG	35	Shreveport, LA
Richard E. Donahue	CDR	37	Centerville, IA
Robert L. Dyke	JOSN	22	Alamo, CA
Frank M. Gardner	LT	43	Cranston, RI
William J. Garrity Jr.	LCDR	40	Havre, MT
James K. Gray	SN	22	Happy, TX
Jack H. Harris	CDR	40	Schofield, WI
Greg E. Hart	AA	17	Seattle, WA
James B. Hudis	LTJG	25	Brookfield, WI
Harry W. Juntilla (1)	CDR	42	Minneapolis, MN
James A. Kelly Jr.	LTJG	25	Phoenixville, PA
James A. Lee	SN	20	Globe, AZ
Walter F. Merrick	LCDR	46	Bangor, ME
Donald W. Shanks	BM3	25	Crescent City, CA
Franklin M. Tunick	LTJG	25	Linden, NJ

William Walling	FN	20	Blue Island, IL
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(1)Died October 31, 1966

Carrier Air Wing 16 Staff

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
Rodney B. Carter	CDR	40	Porterville, CA
Lloyd P. Hyde	LT	28	Atlanta, GA

VAW-11

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
William R. Clements	LTJG	26	Hayward, CA

VAH-4

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
George K. Farris	CDR	35	Portland, IN
John F. Francis	LT	33	Weston, ON
James A. Smith	LCDR	31	Kansas City, MO

VA-25

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
Omar R. Ford	LCDR	32	Cambridge, NE

VA-152

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
David A. Liste	AZAN	26	Lake Charles, LA
John J. Nussbaumer	CDR	38	Vancouver, WA

VA-163

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
Clarence D. Miller	LT	30	Forostburg, MD
Clement J. Morisette	LCDR	33	Othello, WA
Thomas E. Spitzer	LTJG	25	Baldwin, ND
Ronald E. Tardio	ENS	23	Cochabamba, BO

VA-164

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
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James L. Brewer	LTJG	24	Memphis, TN
William A. Johnson	LTJG	25	Charlotte, NC
Daniel L. Strong	LCDR	29	Big Bear City, CA
Clyde R. Welch	CDR	38	Somerville, TX

VF-111

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
Cody A. Balisteri	LTJG	25	Sheffield Lake, OH
Norman S. Levy	LCDR	31	Forest Hills, NY
William G. McWilliams III	LTJG	24	Norfolk, VA

VF-162

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
Charles W. Boggs	ENS	23	Minneapolis, MN

HC-1

Name	Rank/Rate	Age	Hometown
Josslyn F. Blakely, Jr.	LT	26	Montevallo, AL
Julian D. Hammond	LT	32	Meridian, MS
Daniel O. Kern	ENS	23	Whitesboro, NY
Gerald W. Siebe	LTJG	25	Mascoutah, IL
James R. Welsh	LTJG	27	Stroudsburg, PA



Oriskany Fire Testimony Survey: Submitted by Ken Adams

This October 26 will be the 50th anniversary of the "Mighty O" fire. I was wondering if you would send out a request to our shipmates that lived through the fire to see if they would like to write a paragraph or 2 of their memories of that day. If they send them to me I will try and put together all their stories in a print out that we can hand out at our 2017 reunion.

Thanks for your help in this,

Mule Adams kmleadams@gmail.com



VA-164 video with VA-163 included: A must see, 16 min video

Fire clips included

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



Fritz Schroeder in Alaska: Sept 2016



Bell-Bottoms History:

The Navy's bell-bottom trousers are commonly believed to be introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition, the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head to fill the legs with air.



"Eternally at War" made it on Amazon.com for sale: About an USMC A-4 pilot

The screenshot shows the Amazon.com product page for the book "Eternally at War" by Jeanette Vaughan and Robert G. Lathrop. The page includes the Amazon logo, a search bar with the text "eternally at war", and navigation links. The product listing features the book cover, which depicts a helmet with goggles. The title "ETERNALLY AT WAR" is prominently displayed. Below the title, it says "Paperback - September 9, 2016" and lists the authors. The book has a 4.5-star rating from 3 customer reviews and is marked as "#1 New Release" in Vietnam War History. The price is listed as \$14.99, with options for used (\$16.46) and new (\$13.45) editions. A short description of the book is provided at the bottom of the listing.



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 Links Update: 8 August 16

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>.

Their 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@darw.it 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@darw.it 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

The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints

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? xxx@darw.it

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

SDO coordinator contact is sa-sdo-coordinator@darw.it

"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:

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



From JC Ferris: EAGLEJCJR@aol.com

I need any kind of proof that shows VA-163 was in combat in Vietnam in 65 and 66. If you have anything or know where I might find it, let me know. Hubert sent a letter telling of one trip I made when we went and got parts from downed aircraft in-country.

From Hubert Cook:

The Saints Reunion info made it in the Vietnam Veterans of America magazine in this month's issue. Don't know about the VFW or American Legion yet.



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: *Past month's newsletters*

Go to Saints Website, click on [Newsletters](#), password: **saints4ever**



****Websites of Interest****

Oriskany Web Sites:

[USS Oriskany \(CVA 34\)](#)

25 Sep 1950 /

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.](#)

20 Sep
1979

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-wYnIBZis>
9. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. <http://glewis.us/obooks.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/obooks.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/>

LAST VN Vets song:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/215020061882554/permalink/1206478169403400/>

Navy Enlisted New Rates:

<https://www.facebook.com/NASFortWorthJRB/posts/1074866962591746>

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>

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>

LINK TO COMMAND ROSTER PAGE:

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

My best wishes to All Hands on your end,

Dave Schultz - Web PO

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>

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=%252Fflightbox%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: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

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=hAplCSSZqAs&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 Oct 2016

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 04 Oct 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 (password, **Saints4ever) capital**

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