

*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.



16th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 203



Standing the Watch

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



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT





**THE A4 EVER**  
Skyhawk Association Journal Vol. 25-2



*Contents:*  
Improving HobbyBoss' Skyhawk  
Deaf, Dumb and Blind  
Supersonic Scooter  
56 Hours During Yankee Station's Summer of '67

*Annual Skyhawk Member Meeting*  
Tailhook Convention • Sparks, NV  
September 6, 2019

Summer 2019  
<http://skyhawk.org>





**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 Oct 2019**

**Total**

**936,008 views**



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

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

***16,433*** *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 #315

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



**USS Oriskany Reunion: 20-24 Oct 2019 Pensacola, FL**

Annual Reunion

The Oriskany Reunion Association meets once every autumn to catch up, attend to club business, and generally have a good time! Reunions typically alternate between the east and west coasts. This year's reunion is slated to be hosted **October 20-24, 2019 in Pensacola, FL**. Reservations must be made by September 21, 2019. Please check your latest newsletter for details.

<https://www.oriskanymuseum.com/uss-oriskany-reunion-association-ora.html>

Oriskany Reunion Officers

- President  
Dennis Sullivan  
10332 FM 3178  
Oakwood, TX 75855  
281-755-2558  
[dirtylarry1950@yahoo.com](mailto:dirtylarry1950@yahoo.com)



**Book written by Saint Skip Foulks sister: Skip was KIA while assigned to VA-163**

[https://books.google.com/books/about/Finding\\_the\\_Fallen.html?id=2SzgDAAAQBAJ](https://books.google.com/books/about/Finding_the_Fallen.html?id=2SzgDAAAQBAJ)

Written by sister of LTJG Skip Foulkes, VA-163



**From Saint Bob Holder: Sad to hear**

Just over 37 months ago Freida went into the hospital with sepsis and almost died from it. She was already in a mental decline and came out of the hospital with pretty bad case of dementia. I have cared for her as best as I can 24/7 as her sole caregiver for those 37 months. It is looking like Tuesday she will be in a senior care facility (NHC) in Glasgow until she is called home. You have no idea the heartbreak I am going through because I am losing my best friend ever because I do not have the strength to go on. 37 months of stress, heartbreak and being indoors doing all I can to be a good husband have taken me from a pretty vibrant 70 y/o to a 73 year old man that can hardly make it to the mailbox and back. I pray that God forgives me for the weakness I didn't ask for. Your thoughts and prayers would be appreciated. God Bless!

Saint Bob Holder



Saint AO Jerry Row on left, picture taken by Jamon Kent







Denny Earl



John Weber



Salvation Army Highest Award

Tom Wimberly



Guy in grocery store in Texas with Oriskany cap



Ed & Stella Copher

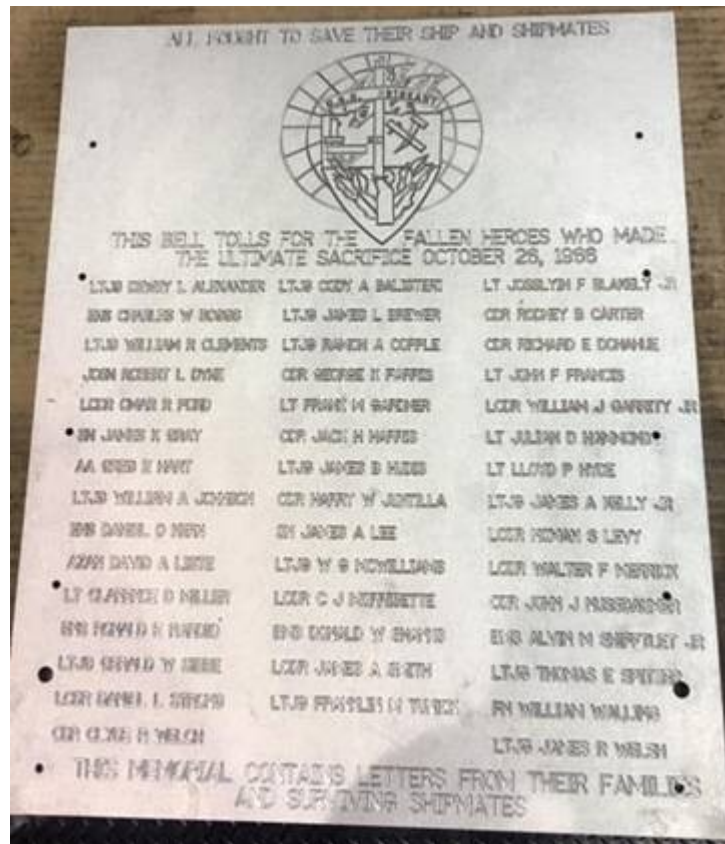
In Ark for HS reunion, Oct 19

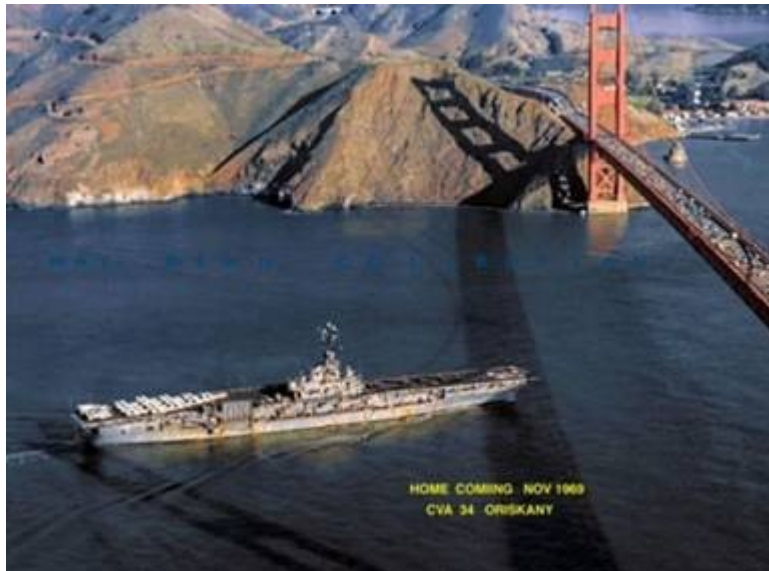


Oriskany Fire was 26 Oct 1966: 44 heroes perished

*In memoriam*  
of the 44 men lost in the fire aboard the  
**USS Oriskany**  
October 26, 1966

LTJG Dewey Lee Alexander, Texas  
 LTJG Coby Allen Balister, Ohio  
 LTJG Joseph Francis Blakely, Jr., Alabama  
 ENS Charles Wilson Buggs, Minnesota  
 LTJG James Lewis Brewster, Tennessee  
 CDR Rodney Balhaus Carter, California  
 LTJG William Richard Clements, California  
 LTJG Ramon Allen Cottle, Louisiana  
 CDR Richard Earle Donahue, Iowa  
 JOHN Robert Louis Dyke, California  
 CDR George "K" Farris, Indiana  
 LCDR Oscar Ray Ford, Nebraska  
 LT John Frederic Francis, Louisiana  
 LT Frank Maynard Gardner, Rhode Island  
 LCDR William J Garity, Montana  
 SN James Kenneth Gray, Texas  
 LT Julian Dickie Hammond, Jr., Mississippi  
 CDR Jack Harold Harris, Wisconsin  
 AA Greg Eugene Hart, Washington  
 LTJG James Brian Heald, Wisconsin  
 LT Lloyd Patterson Hyde, Georgia  
 LTJG William Allen Johnson, North Carolina  
 CDR Harry William Jostella, Minnesota  
 LTJG James Anthony Kelly, Jr., Pennsylvania  
 ENS David Obendorf Kern, New York  
 SN James Andrew Lee, Arizona  
 LCDR Norman Stanley Levy, New York  
 AZAN David Allen Lutz, Louisiana  
 LTJG William Gervan McWilliams III, Virginia  
 LTJG Walter Forrest Merrick, Maine  
 LT Clarence Dale Miller, Maryland  
 LCDR Clement Joseph Morabito, Washington  
 CDR John Joseph Nouchammar, Washington  
 BMD Donald Willard Shanks, California  
 BMD Alvin Marion Shaffert, Jr., Kentucky  
 LTJG Gerald William Sibley, Illinois  
 LCDR James Andrew Smith, Missouri  
 LTJG Thomas Edmund Spitzer, North Dakota  
 LCDR Daniel Larry Strong, California  
 ENS Ronald Enrique Tardis, Bolivia, South America  
 LTJG Franklin Michael Tomicak, New Jersey  
 FN William Walling, Illinois  
 CDR Charles Ray Welch, Texas  
 LTJG James Raymond Webb, Pennsylvania





**Need Footage:**

We are finishing up a longer version of the “Lady Jessie” documentary, and will subsequently be putting together a program on VA 163 and VA 164.

**We are struggling to obtain onboard footage, flying footage and bombing footage. Some is out there, but it can be pretty costly to make sure it is fully licensed. There is no profit in this project and we are trying**

to make it as accurate as possible, so I've been hunting around and came across the excellent footage credited to John Shore, which I believe Ed (Copher) uploaded. I'm hoping you might allow us to use this?

I'm cc'ing Ed Chadwick here because he has been an invaluable source of info and very helpful in connecting us to Saints. And he makes me seem respectable!

Thank you in advance,

**Suzanne Eckes-Wahl**

Partner| **DosEckes Productions**

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

916.769.5141



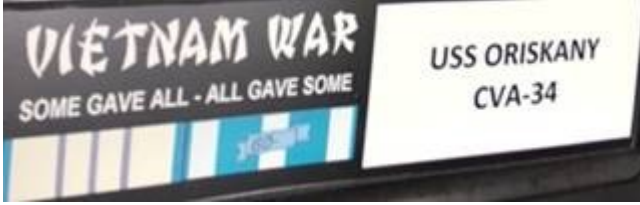
**The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members**

**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.*





**A-6 Launch, blowing Flightdeck crewman: Ouch!!**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=dbzCh3FFg74>



**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>

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**Oriskany Sinking Article & photos:**

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

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

No need to log in.

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

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**NAS Lemoore April 1968:**

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



## SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”

Revised 04 October 2019

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**

