

Toooo Weeeettt..Attention on Deck...Now hear this...Standby to hear a message from the bridge.... "Saints October newsletter"...Arriving!

ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE



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.



18th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 223

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that's why we call it the present"

Stay Safe, Be Healthy, Be Well



Military Enlistment Oath: I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution Of The United States against **all enemies**, **foreign** and **domestic**; that I will bear true faith and

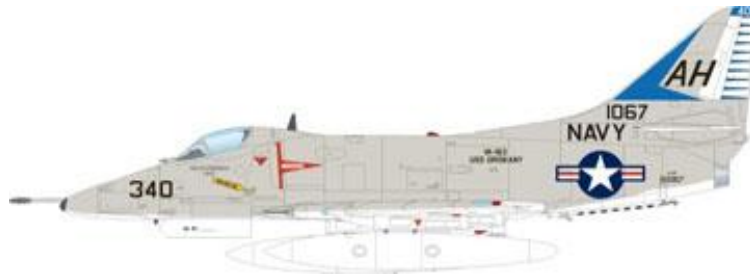
allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States.



Patriot

pa·tri·ot *Noun*
[pey-tree-uhz, -ot or, esp. British, pa-tree-uhz]

A person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies foreign and domestic.





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

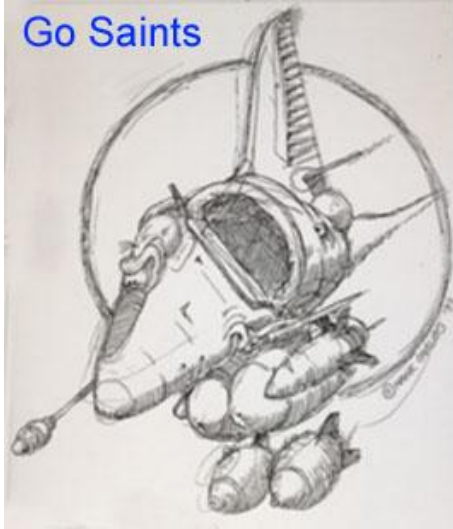
Share them with one and another!

“I’ll keep that flame high and the blade ever sharp,

That our friends may never be lost in the dark!”

ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT







ATKRON 163



Saints Photos Website



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

Also on Saints website, PHOTOS section

Contains 80 Albums.... 4,832 Photos

View Counts as of 02 October 2021

“Over a million views”

1,114,907 views

****Paid \$63.95 to Flickr.com for Saints Photo website on 01 April 2021

SAINTS WEBSITE

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website www.va163.org password: *Saints4ever* *capital S*

20,664 *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

01 March 2021 paid \$14.45 for “Domain Name” one year renewal

Any donations are appreciated

Ed Copher

1211 Gruene Vintage

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Folks that have sent in “**website**” donations 2017-21: A big shout out...”Thank You”

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dave Carey

Ed Chadwick

Dennis Dooley

David Farley

JC Ferris

Bob Feuillerat

Earl Groff (2)

Tom Harwood

Bill Houk

Tom Kline

Dale & Mary Landroth

Daniel Lestage (2)

George Lundy

Roger Meyer

Pete Munro

Floyd Oakes

Richard Odegaard

MA Petty

John Roosen

Bill Sargent

Fritz Schroeder

John Shore (2)

Lucy Sticklely

James Thompson

Bill Tomko

Anthony Stabile

Lucille Stickley (3)

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 7 funerals

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dennis Dooley

Earl Groff

John Roosen

Thomas Harwood

Griff Sexton

Ed Chadwick

Daniel Lestage (2)

Lucille Stickley (3)



NOTE FROM EDITOR: about 20 Oct a Special Edition of the Saints newsletter will be sent out, titled “**Oriskany Fire Special Edition**”. Lots of pictures and articles about the fire on 26 Oct 1966. Any inputs are welcomed.



Reunion Reunion Reunion

1. Contact Ed Chadwick for registration form, or get it from the Facebook group page, "VA-163 Saints". chadco@chadcorealestate.com
2. Contact Ken Adams for shirt order. kmuleadams@gmail.com
3. 3-6 Nov 2021, Best Western, Sandcastle Oceanfront, Virginia Beach. Airport is Norfolk (ORF) 19 miles from the hotel. Contact Ed Chadwick chadco@chadcorealestate.com

Itinerary

Following is a brief description of the major reunion events we anticipate. When everything firms up, a more detailed itinerary will be shown with prices and a sign-up sheet. Don't miss any of these fun filled days. Also don't forget to look up shipmates who have yet to commit. Leave no friend behind.

Wednesday:

Take a bus to tour the Military Aviation Museum with flyable WW2 aircraft. Box lunch. Then a bus tour of Virginia Beach, with a tour guide. You will sit back and enjoy the scenery by motor coach. Dinner on your own at restaurants to be recommended. Hospitality room in our hotel for gathering, telling lies and a drink or three.

Thursday:

Tour of NAS Oceania including: LSO school, which is very popular, in part due to their simulators. A box lunch. Squadron hanger housing VFA 106, with planes and aircrews. Officers Club "meet and greet". We arrive at the base by cars many of us will be renting, then be taken to the different locations by Navy Bus. Should it be too long a program, there will be transport back to your car for anyone needing to leave early. COVID shots are required. Dinner on your own at restaurants to be recommended. Hospitality room in our hotel for gathering, telling lies and a drink or two. Live music by squadron mate JC Farris and band.

Friday:

Self guided tour of the Nauticus Maritime Museum and the Battleship Wisconsin. Lunch on your own. We will arrive at Nauticus by car on your own schedule, so you can take as much or as

little time seeing the sites as you want. Don't miss the ship's movement @2PM. Leave the Museum by 1:35 PM and take a short walk to our tour boat.

Victory Rover Cruise departs from Nauticus with many sites along the way to the Norfolk Naval Station – the World's Largest Naval Base. You will see all the ships of the Atlantic Fleet – Destroyers, Frigates, Cruisers, Submarines, Amphibious Assault Ships and Aircraft Carriers. VA 163 Banquet Dinner followed by a short speech from our own Admiral Jerry Breast. Live music by Jc Farris and band. For those able seamen and women, bring your dancing shoes.

Notes:

Suzanne Eckes will be attending and would like to interview more people. She is also interested in the stories and perspectives of our former enlisted men, who kept us heroes alive. Volunteers needed to help out, contact Ed Chadwick.

Enjoy our hotel's amenities including two restaurants with bars, indoor swimming pool, free parking for one car per room, free breakfast, and free WiFi.

Attendees signed up, as of 31 July 2021

Ken Adams and wife Betsy

Doc Adeeb and wife Dani

Jim Blythe and wife Diane

Jerry Breast and wife Byrd

Ed Chadwick and wife Dinah

Bryan Compton and son David

Ed Copher and wife Stella

Suzanne Eckes and photographer

JC Farris and wife Sandra

John Emory Gleason

Earl Groff and sister Betty Barthle

Suzanne Harriss

Gordon Hunter and wife Brooke

Daniel Lestage and wife Helen

Jim Ludington and wife Christine

George Lundy

Roger Meyer

Michael Mich

John Miles and girlfriend Edie

Floyd Oaks and son Mark

Richard Odegaard and Pamela

Wayne Pippin

John Roosen

Bill Sargent and Toni

Fritz Schroeder and wife Penny

Griff Sexton

John Shore and wife Marcia

Bill Tomko, wife Marge and grandson Colin

Dick Vaughn and wife Terry

John Weber and wife Sarah



[To order reunion shirts, through Ken Adams:](#) Email Ken

Shirts are available for the reunion. The cost is \$29.00. The airplane is from a picture I took of Lt. Moose Lundy. I had it digitized so it could be embroidered. For those that are interested, you can look at the company web site for the shirts. I have to order the shirts and they are then embroidered here in Cartersville.

The Web site is: [Companycasuals. Com](http://Companycasuals.Com). The model is K540 and they have ladies as well, model L540. I would need to know the color if you want to order one. The Royal

Blue matches our tail color. If something happens that you can't attend but ordered a shirt, I can mail it/them to you. A picture of the logo is below. **You can send your order information to me: kmuleadams@gmail.com.** The earlier I can get orders the easier it is to have them on time. I would like to use **October 1** as a cutoff for orders.

Thanks, Ken "mule" Adams







[Join the “VA-163 Saints” Facebook group:](#)

Please join the “**VA-163 Saints**” Facebook group. Updates on the reunion etc. and other interesting Saints postings. You can post pictures and other info for others to enjoy. Just go to Facebook Groups and search for VA-163 Saints. Ed Copher is the group administrator and will approve your joining.



[Hancock: Delightful article. I wish I had read this my first time aboard. I was told the Hancock shot down the last Japanese plane in WWII.](#)

Navy's Oldest Operating Carrier Retires Today

Hancock
1976

1976

SAN FRANCISCO — How would you like to be able to retire at age 31?

Well, if you had fed more than 3,000 men three times a day for more than 20 years, traveled several times around the world, been shot at (and hit), bombed, hit by a kamakazi, burned, and smashed under 55-foot waves, you'd be tired too. That is just what one of the great ladies of the United States Navy has undergone. And has now earned her rest. On Friday, at 2:00 P.M., January 30, at Naval Air Station, Alameda, the USS HANCOCK, oldest operating aircraft carrier in the Navy, will be "retired" for the third and final time. With this decommissioning, her hull will be sold instead of mothballed.

Weighing in at almost 37,000 tons and 898 feet long, "Fighting Hanna" was launched on January 24, 1944, in Quincy, Mass., on the 207th birthday of her

namesake, John Hancock, first signer of the Declaration of Independence. She was paid for with war bonds sold by and to employees of the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company at a cost of \$96,000,000.

"Hanna", fifth US ship to bear the name HANCOCK, has served in three wars. The first Hancock — 72 tons, length 60 feet, beam 20 feet, with 70 men — fought in the Revolutionary War. During World War I, HANCOCK earned the Navy Unit Commendation, four battle stars, and several other awards for outstanding service. She also has received many ribbons and commendations for service during Korea and Vietnam. Even with her many scars, nothing was able to put her out of action — only time has succeeded in that.

After World War II, she was mothballed until 1954 when she went into action as the first US carrier to be fitted

with a steam catapult to make her capable of launching the newer, heavier aircraft. Shortly thereafter, she spent more time in drydock having her angled deck and elevators installed. She also had an escalator put in to assist heavily laden pilots to reach their planes quickly.

Where there has been action, "Fighting Hanna" was there. From Korea to Vietnam, she has been a busy lady.

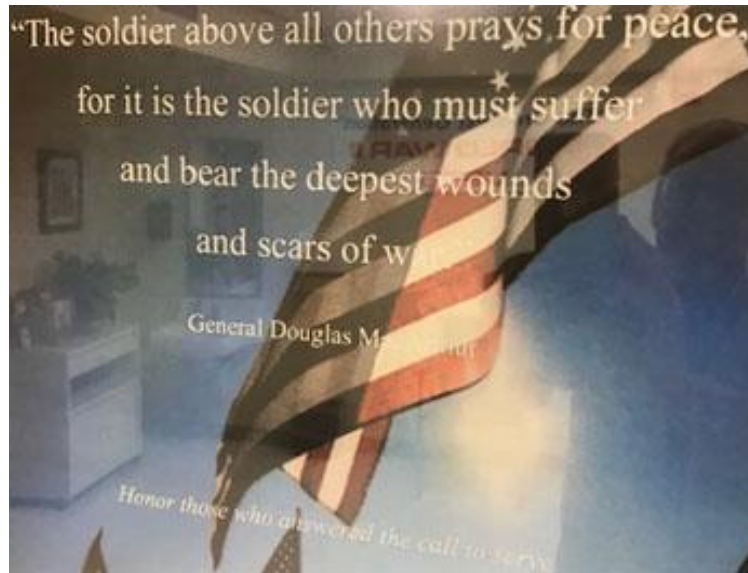
HANCOCK has also been busy in some large humanitarian actions. At the end of World War II, she carried almost 10,000 persons from the South Pacific home to California. She also brought home several air groups and a cargo of aircraft. This was "Operation Magic Carpet".

She repeated this service with the evacuation of many people at the end of Vietnam.

This lady has earned her retirement.
(By JO2 "Rusty" Miller, USNR)







He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.,

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,

To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,

Then at least let's give him homage

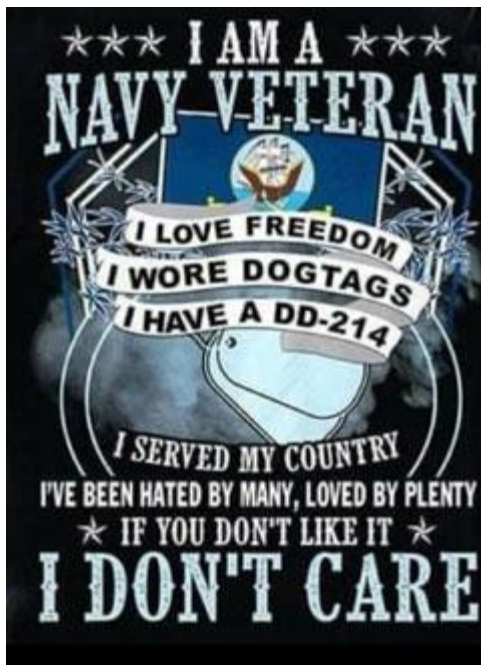
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline

In the paper that might say:

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,

A VETERAN DIED TODAY.





The soldier kneeled and faced his God

Which must always come to pass

He hoped his shoes were shining just as brightly as his brass.

“Step forward now you soldier, how shall I deal with you?

Have you always turned the other cheek?

To my church have you always been true?”

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, “No, Lord, I guess I ain’t because those of us who carry guns can’t always be a saint.

I’ve had to work most Sunday’s

And at times my talk was tough, And sometimes I’ve been violent, because the world is awfully rough.

But I never took a penny

that wasn’t mine to keep...

Though I worked a lot of overtime when the bills just got too steep.

But I’ve never passed a cry for help, though at times I shook with fear.

And sometimes God forgive me, I’ve wept unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place among the people here, they never wanted me around except to calm their fears.

If you’ve a place for me here Lord, it needn’t be so grand

I never expected or had too much, but if You don’t I’ll understand.”

There was silence all around the throne

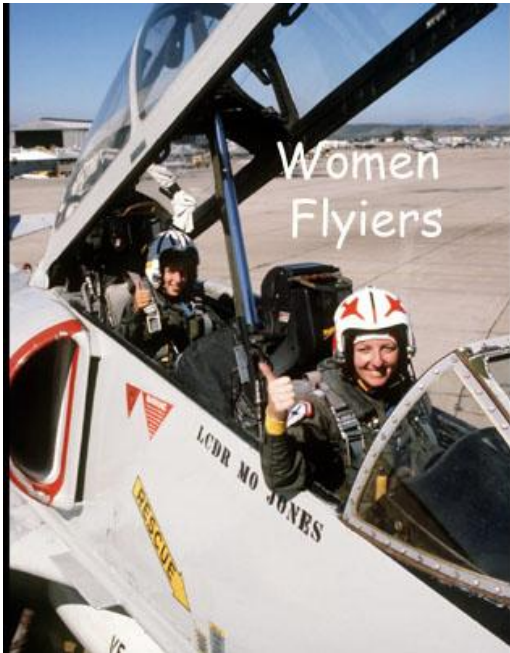
Where the Saints had often trod

As the soldier waited quietly , for the judgement from his God.

“Step forward now you soldier , you’ve borne your burdens well, walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,

you’ve done your time in hell.” ~ May they Rest In Peace. They are now safe in the arms of Jesus. God Bless their families and help them to know that their sons and daughters will NEVER be forgotten.









Drogue chute shoot container



Used for target practice
Sad.....



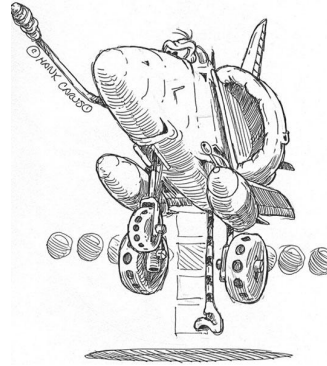
A-4s being towed from factory in NZ
Why didn't they just taxi them?



Navy March Cadence: Tin Hut

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/navyveteranspastpresentandfuture/permalink/1510849559277236/>





The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

Home page: Click here: [Home Page | The Skyhawk Association](#)

VA-163 page: [VA-163 | The Skyhawk Association](#)

YouTube page: [Skyhawk Association - YouTube](#)

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

Only \$30 per year.

To Join: <http://skyhawk.org/>

Websites of Interest

BOMBS AWAY!

Oriskany Websites: USS Oriskany (CVA 34) 25 Sep 1950 / 20 Sep 1979 Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but the contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 30 Jul 1997. Sunk off the coast of Florida 17 May 2006 for use as an 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-wYnIBZis>
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

Lots of Oriskany Info:

<http://www.navsource.org/archives/02/34.htm?fbclid=IwAR0Onwxj0QPhQRFLCmZ6wzytPb9D9YpRVSIB2Ea6cKhhUKm2gP0SECiqj-k>

A-4 Skyhawk Wikipedia:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk?fbclid=IwAR0ICpJW03arF1pU2JU3uv5vccB2Y4S9_UXVE_mmsKY7KuXYttPrc0oH2UM

Oriskany Amature flight deck videos: From Facebook

1. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157816002016910/>

2. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157815770641910/>

3. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157815786321910/>

Landing on Oriskany Video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gM2jT6Ftn3E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR23MVLfw69KhDsQ9A5BFS3tAEGzT_dBFHtHXMHL-GsiBh7TUxnRSdL-1Cs

A-4 Inflight Crash video:

<https://fb.watch/8jyVi92eJh/>

Oriskany Sinking video:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=F2-Aew7SMO8&fbclid=IwAR2xrucXr7I2laUx8SM98-IIDXp>

[Ai3](#)

Vietnam Memorial Wall Faces:

154 service members with names inscribed on The Wall were born on Oct. 23. Their photos are spotlighted today on the Wall of Faces. Every day, the Wall of Faces changes to honor those who were born on that day. Join us in remembering them today and each of the 58,279 service members with names inscribed on The Wall. Search The Wall here: vymf.org/wall-of-faces

Oriskany Video Clip:

<https://youtu.be/-UbU3iMj4zw>

Petula Clark, Sailor 1961

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-r0ngPEHkg>

Oriskany in Bridges of Toko-Ri:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bIFuGFBw_yI

Sailor Song 1961

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

Veterans Benefits Newsletter from the VA:

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

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:

Saint 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 the 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”

Revised 02 October 2021

New or changed address:

Admiral Compton has a new home phone number: 334 654 5060. His son David has moved to Demopolis and is the best source to get information on or to the Skipper. David's phone number is 571-286-6161 and email dtcompton3@gmail.com

[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](#)



Happy trails to you....until we meet again.....<https://g.co/kgs/3FJhs4>