

Toooo Weeeettt..Attention on Deck...Now hear this...Standby to hear a message from the bridge.... "Saints **September** 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.



2021

18th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 223



Stay Safe, Be Healthy, Be Well

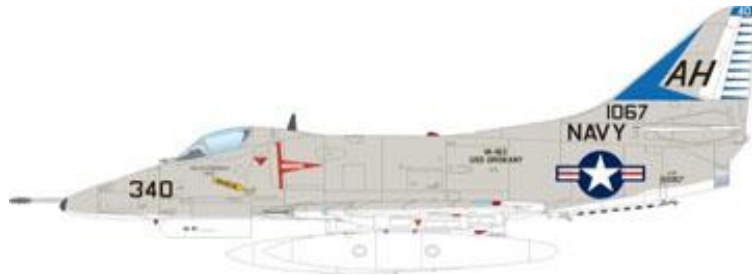
Military Enlistment Oath: I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution Of The United States against **all enemies, foreign and domestic**; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States.

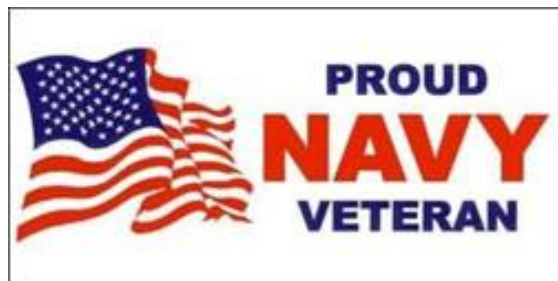


Patriot

pa·tri·ot *Noun*
[pey-tree-uh-t, -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





Saints Bombs Away





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 September 2021

“Over a million views”

1,114,705 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**

20,501 *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 Stickley

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)



Reunion Reunion Reunion

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 as of 03 August 2021:

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 signup 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

John Roosen

Bill Sargent and Toni

Fritz Schrooeder 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



Other Reunions:

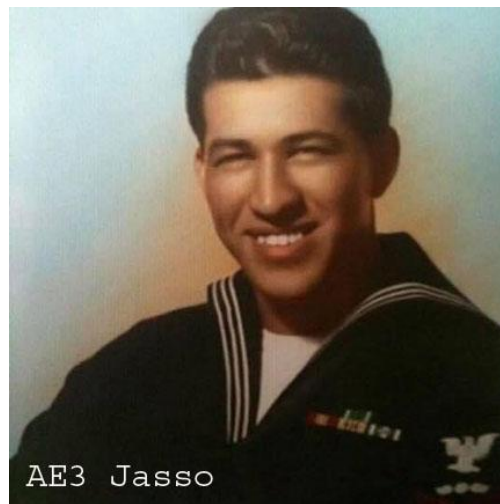
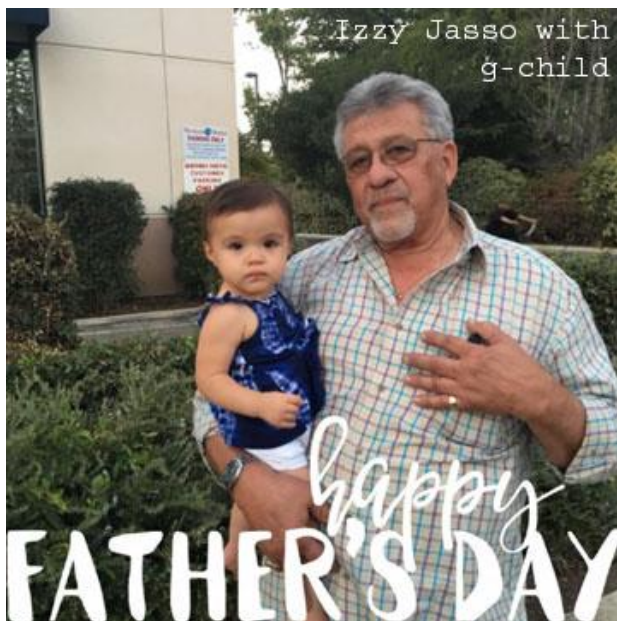
Skyhawk "Hook" Reunion: 9-11 Sept at the Nugget in Sparks, NV

Oriskany Reunion: 19-22 Sept at Coeur d' Alene Casino in Idaho. Contact Fred Mouring 208-568-1894



Saint Rick "Bear" Sprague is in the hospital:

Prayers are needed for Rick. In hospital in Michigan





[“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.



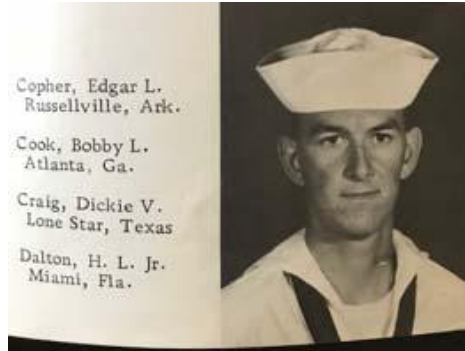
[George “Tommy” Decker:](#) Saint Plane Captain

Tommy transferred from the Saints to being a Navy helicopter Combat Air Crewman/Door gunner with HAL 3 Seawolves flying over 450 missions in Vietnam. After the Navy he became a Dredge boat Master 1600 ton Survey Boat captain for a Dredge and Dock company. Lives in Pearl River, Louisiana. The average life expectancy of a helicopter door gunner in Vietnam was in days, not weeks! Two other Saints went to HAL 3, AMH Lowell Franz, and AE Greg Klees, they were both in Helicopter

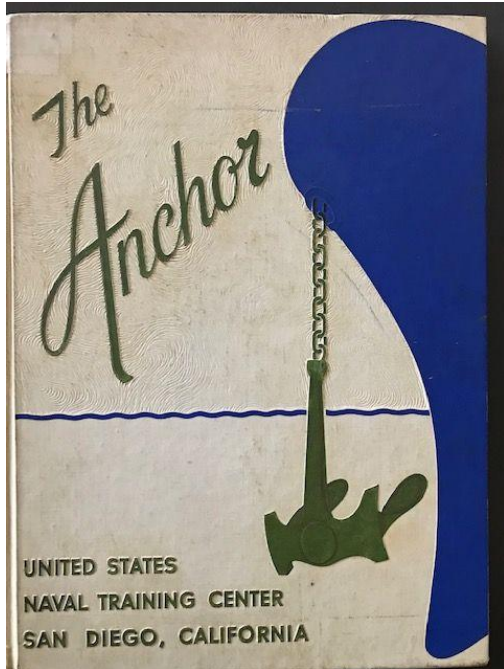
maintenance, and Tommy became a door gunner.



COMPANY COMMANDER R. F. TABBUTT, CMC AND PETTY OFFICERS - 21 APRIL 1965.
Jan- Apr 1965 San Diego, CA



Copher, Edgar L.
Russellville, Ark.
Cook, Bobby L.
Atlanta, Ga.
Craig, Dickie V.
Lone Star, Texas
Dalton, H. L. Jr.
Miami, Fla.





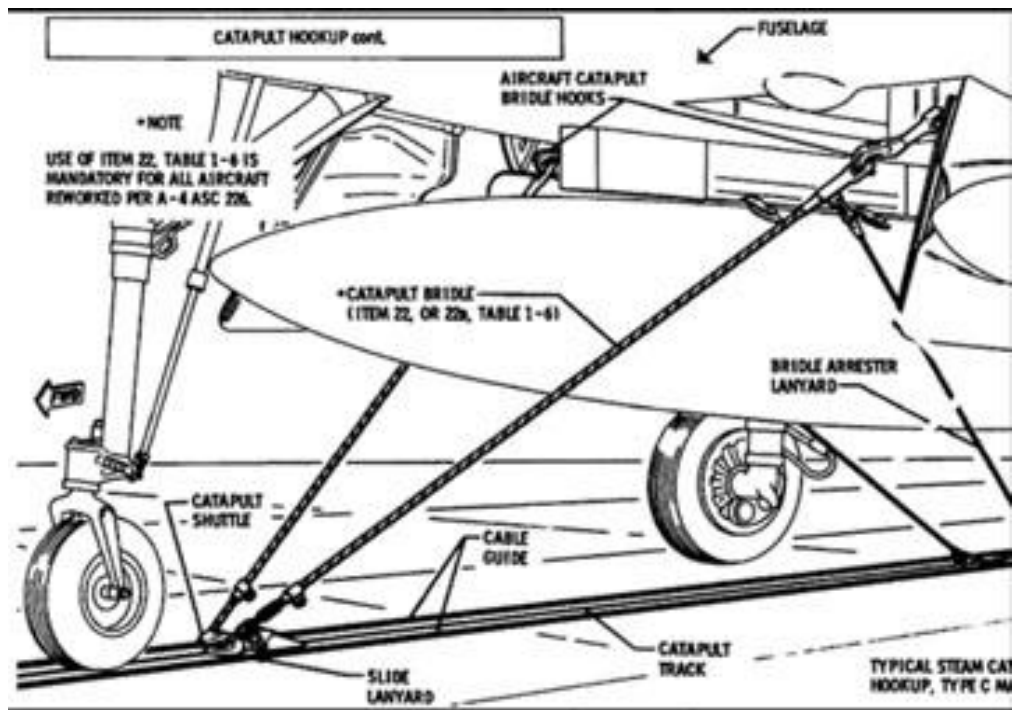


Handful of A-4's



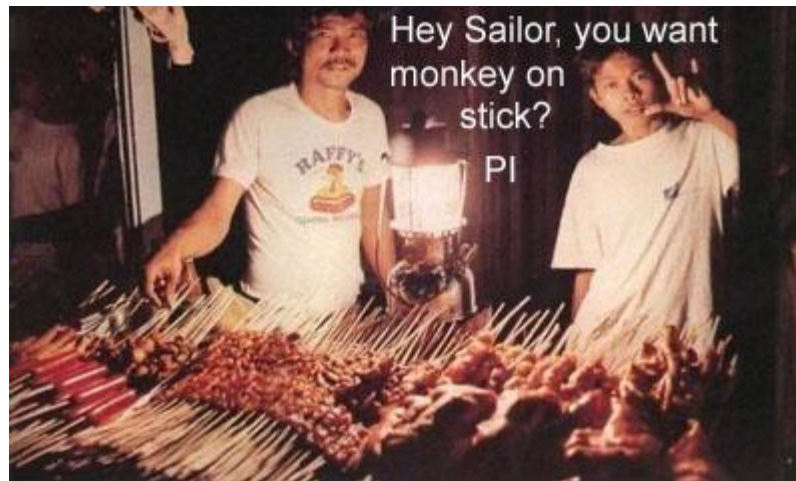
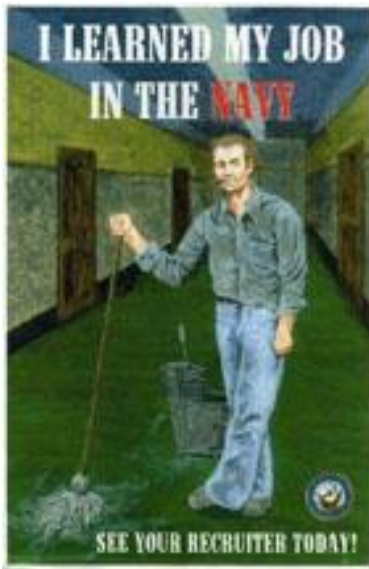
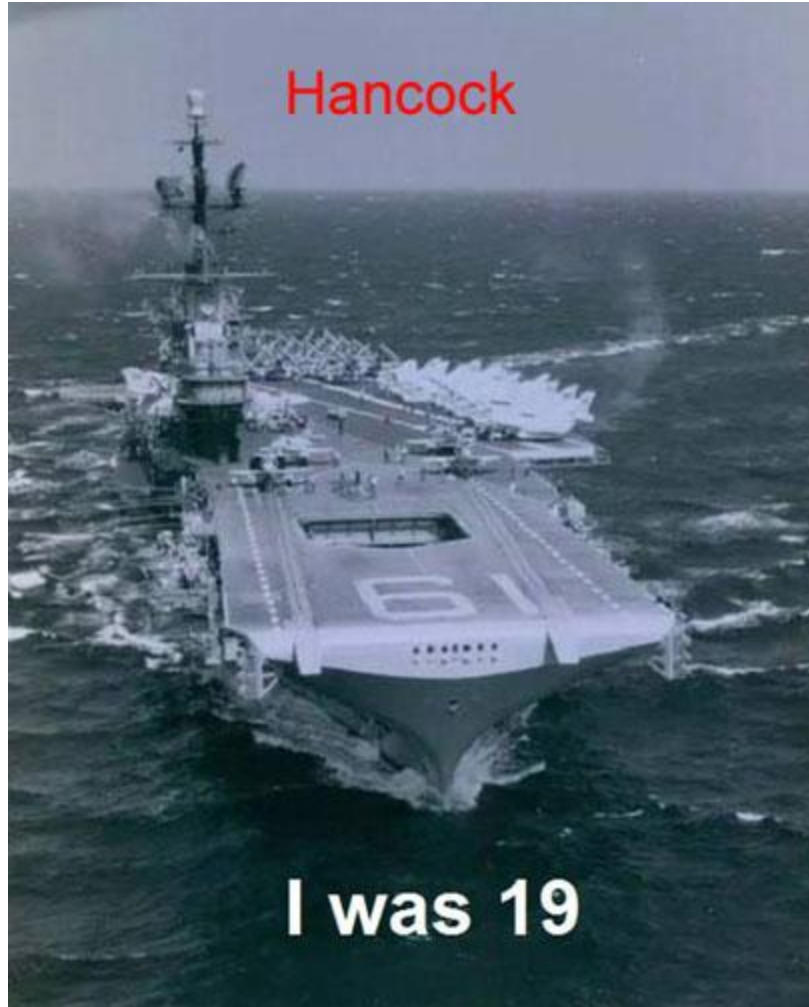


Israel





Pearl Harbor



NAVY SHOWERS SAVE WATER!



Turning off the water while you get soapy
SAVES THOUSANDS OF GALLONS A YEAR!

DO YOUR PART! SHOWER SMART!

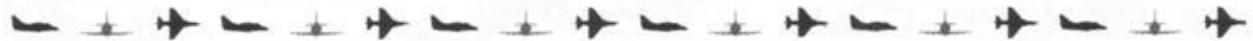
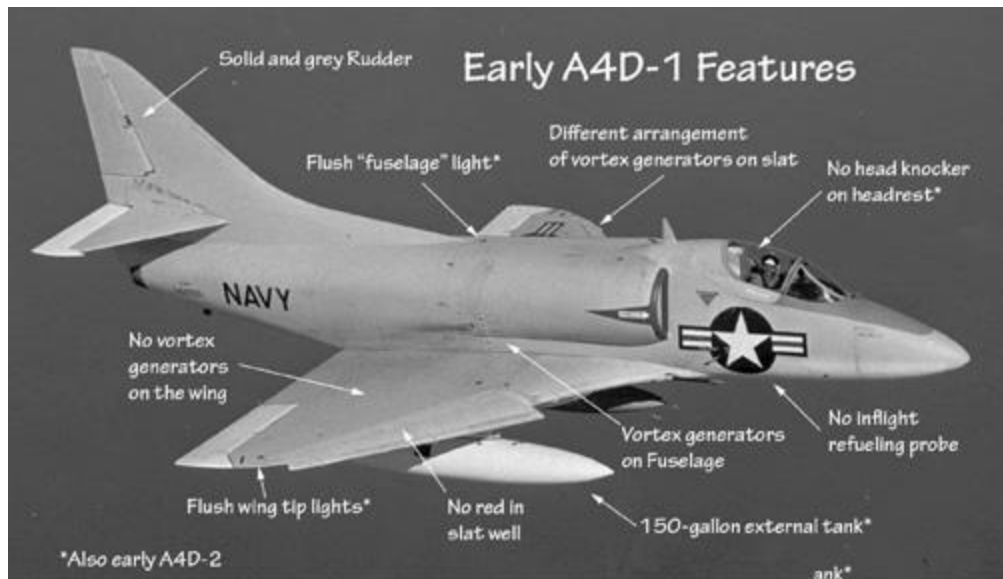
Love, SuperFirst

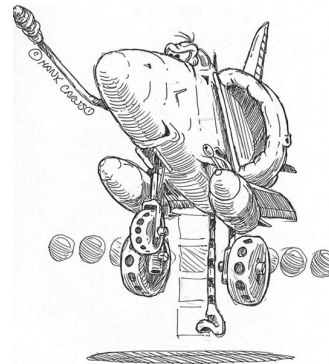
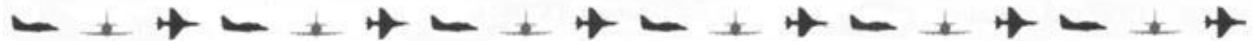


Today: "The abandoned"

Pic.1:TA-4J Skyhawk 159797, B-156
parked on the ramp,in 1989.

Pic.2,3:
Derelict remains of former
COMTRAWING-2 TA-4J 159797, B-156,
in the weeds in the Camp Davis
section of the Greater Sandy Run
Area at Camp Lejeune, with the names
Thumper and Buzzman below the
canopy.





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-wYnlBZis>
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

Landing on Oriskany Video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gm2jT6Ftn3E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR23MVLfw69KhDsQ9A5BFS3tAEGzT_dBFHtHXMHL-GsiBh7TUxnRSdL-1Cs

Veterans Benefits Newsletter:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USVAVBA/bulletins/2ae5164>

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 September 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>