

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

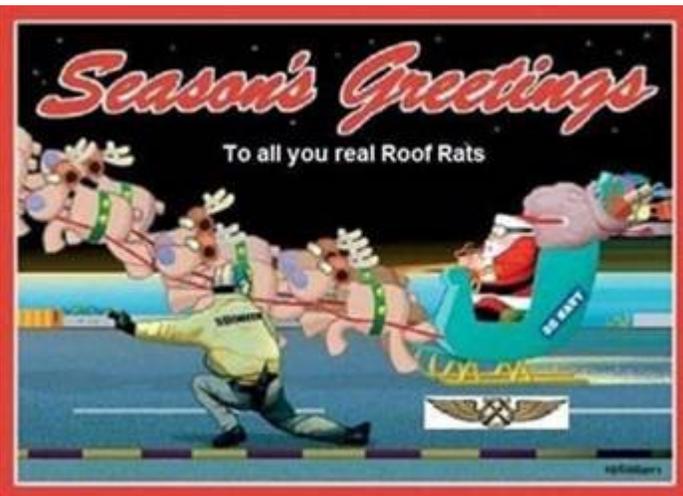
And God Bless the United States of America.



2019

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

May you be blessed with happiness and good health always



Standing the Watch

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

Keeper of the Flame, Song by Miranda Lambert

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=ydE6lzd-VQ>

I'm walking in their footsteps
I'm singing their old songs
Somebody blazed this trail
I'm treadin' on
I'm bent, but I'm not broken
I'm stronger than I feel
I'm made of flesh and bone
Not made of steel

**I'm the keeper of the flame
The teller of the story
Keeper of the flame
For the ones that came before me
For the little pilot lights waiting to ignite
Like fireflies in the rain**

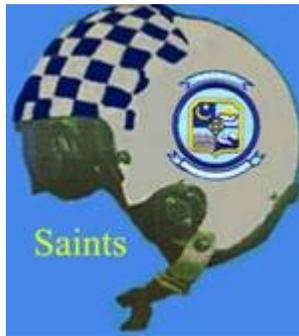
Keeper of the flame

I've been burned out to ashes
Waiting for a wind
To carry me and start a fire again
Sometimes I'm just a flicker
A candle in your eye
But I swear to God
I'll never let it die

**I'm the keeper of the flame
The teller of the story
Keeper of the flame
For the ones that came before me
For the little pilot lights waiting to ignite
Like fireflies in the rain
Keeper of the flame**



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT



Also on Saints website, PHOTOS section

Contains 80 Albums (*Sets*)... 4,832 Photos

View Counts as of 04 Dec 2019

Total

936,206 views



******Paid \$49.99 to Flickr.com for Saints Photo website on 17 Nov 2019**



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

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

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

16,795 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 Marceley (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 Sticklely

Earl Groff

John Roosen

Thomas Harwood

Griff Sexton

Ed **Chadwick**

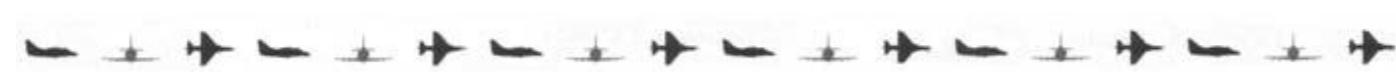


From Bill Tomko: 22 Nov

Dear Friends and Family, Thanks for all the Prayers, kind thoughts and funny remarks and words of encouragement some I will share here worth a laugh. 1 That I am a tough Pollack that will sure make it another was to listen to the doctors and BEHAVE, but us Polish have that Gene that can't behave from a lovely Polish gal and other uplifting remarks. Ok, the Great News is that With the help of your love and many prayers which I can not thank you enough The Good Lord saved a WENCH LIKE ME 🍪 **The Artery that started to clog 3 years ago and was targeted as the possible problem for a stent has ACTUALLY improved over the year with 40% more blood flow and was actually BETTER. The next was my previous heart stent and ancillary vessels which were fine with NO problem and concerns for an Open Heart Procedure. I have never seen a bigger smile from our friend and surgeon DR. Manu when he finished and told me the outcome. My heart is healthy and he see's no problems at all concerning the future and to exercise to help the shortness of breath to help rid the previous symptoms and less stress like "Don't worry be happy" And yes I did sing it to the Nurse rolling me into the Surgery room I guess. Afterwards he came to the recovery room with Marge and gave post procedure instruction and I asked is a**

cocktail now ok when I get home ,he said yeah, celebrate and have lot's of them ,BUT, follow the instructions for the next week and he Put "MARGE IN CHARGE" (the Traitor, I thought he was my FRIEND) to make sure I behaved and followed his instructions ie the Artery in my arm they went up does not open up with any lifting, pressure ,etc. So now Sergeant Marge in Charge has been all over it But my loving Sarge has been really as always taking very good care of me and actually improved Morning coffee and Breakfast in Bed and tending to all the things we need to do. I surely am Blessed with her and all you my Dear Friends, Family and surely the Lords Mercy. May He Bless you all.

With Love and gratitude from both me and Marge. Bill



Denny Earl: Purple Heart, wounded in both legs and still landed back on the Oriskany



that I report this conclusion, Mr. President, in the hope of allaying any fears that anyone here may have acquired as the result of the wire story that our beautiful State of Hawaii is stricken with a rabid affliction.

The community itself is satisfied that there has not been an outbreak. It is greatly relieved and thankful.

ANOTHER WAR HERO—UTAHAN FLIES BACK BY "INSTINCT"

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, there have been many heroes in the war in Vietnam, more than will ever be chronicled. But today, as we commemorate the 26th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a recent feat by a young Utah pilot is well worth singling out as an example of the tenacity of our fighting men.

LA. (Jg.) Dennis Earl, of Mendon, a small northern Utah community, said that he was flying by instinct in successfully landing his A-1E Skyhawk on the deck of the aircraft carrier U.S.S. *Oriskany* after groundfire shattered both of his legs.

Although advised by a fellow pilot to dump his bomb load and "ditch" into the Gulf of Tonkin, Lieutenant Earl elected to blast a North Vietnamese road, then head for and land on the *Oriskany*, even though nearly unconscious from the excruciating pain in his legs.

I salute this courageous young American and invite Senators to read his own account of the ordeal, as contained in the *Deseret News*, Salt Lake City, of November 29. I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the *Record*.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the *Record*, as follows:

The Utah Navy pilot who landed his jet safely on an aircraft carrier after a Viet Cong bullet shattered both his legs said Wednesday he was "flying on instinct."

LA. (Jg.) Dennis Earl of Mendon, Cache County, told the story to the *Deseret News* via long distance phone from his bed in the Pensacola (Fla.) Naval Hospital.

After being hit LA. Earl blasted a road in North Vietnam before streaking back to the aircraft carrier *Oriskany* for treatment.

He said four planes left Nov. 20 to bomb two bridges in North Vietnam. Other pilots got the bridges first, so LA. Earl and his wingman, Lt. Cmdr. James Bussey, headed for some barges.

"I was flying along at about 6,000 feet when the bullet hit me," the Utahn recalled.

"It was a kind of a fluke. The .50 caliber bullet hit my rudder pedal, split in two, and one piece hit my left foot and the other piece hit my right leg," he said, adding:

"I'd bet it was some guy on the ground who'd been shooting in the air for two years and never hit anything until I flew into one of his bullets."

A wounded pilot is beset with many agonizing problems and decisions.

Cmdr. Bussey saw the Utahn beating his fist on the cockpit in pain. LA. Earl was advised to jettison his bombs.

But LA. Earl disregarded the pain and blood loss with a decision against wasting the bombs.

He swooped down and blasted a North Vietnam road.

"You cratered it up good" called Cmdr. Bussey on the radio, jubilantly. Then his voice took a more serious tone.

"How you feel, Denny boy?" he said, anxiously. "Can you make it back to the ship, or do you want to eject and get picked up by Red Crown (a destroyer)?"

"Just take me home," replied Lt. Earl. He meant he wanted to make a try to get back to the carrier.

"I nearly fainted twice," Lt. Earl recalled. Cmdr. Bussey, flying alongside, shouted encouragement on the radio.

"C'mon, Denny boy, you're gonna make it! Stay awake, boy! Only five more minutes to go!"

"That wasn't right and I knew it," said Lt. Earl. "I knew we were 20 minutes away from the ship, but I was happy to have him there talking to me like that."

Cmdr. Bussey gave him direction changes as Lt. Earl flew along, his left arm holding up that shattered right leg to minimize pain.

Then the *Oriskany* came into view. "From that point on, I was just flying by instinct," recalled the Utahn.

He could see that the fire crews were out and that emergency crews had rigged a heavy webbing barricade to stop his A-1E Skyhawk from plunging off the deck into the Gulf of Tonkin.

And, he could see a light on the carrier that pilots use to guide their descent, and he radioed Navy slang to the ship that told the crew he saw it.

"I've got a meatball," he groaned. The jet bumped the flight deck, bouncing Lt. Earl's two wounded legs about the cockpit. It was the most painful part of the trip.

Finally, the barricade stopped the bouncing.

"A landing on an aircraft carrier is nothing but a controlled crash anyway," Lt. Earl cracked from his hospital bed.

He said the last thing he remembered was pleading with the men who removed him from the plane to "give me something to put me to sleep."

LA. Earl said he felt that somebody besides Cmdr. Bussey was with him on that flight.

"I believe God was with me," he said. Flown to Pensacola only Tuesday, Lt. Earl said he has an extra special reason for being glad he's there.

Her name is Miss Diane Coile, his pretty blonde fiancée. They met two years ago when he went to Florida to learn to fly.

"We plan to be married when I'm walking again," he said. That could be about four months from now.

LA. Earl expects to be flying again in six months. His right shinbone is broken, along with bones in his left foot.

He said he wants to return to Utah after New Year's, but that "the docs want me to stay off my feet for a while, so I may not make it that soon."

LA. Earl is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Earl of Mendon, Cache County.

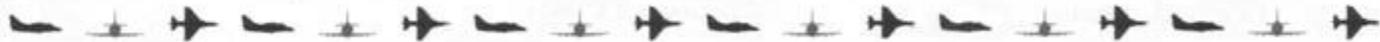
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1967

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I announce for the information of the Senate that there will be no further votes today.

Mr. President, it is my understanding that the Elementary and Secondary Education Amendments Act was temporarily laid aside; so therefore it now again becomes the pending business automatically.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will state the bill.

The BILL CLERK. A bill (H.R. 7819) to strengthen and improve programs of assistance for elementary and secondary

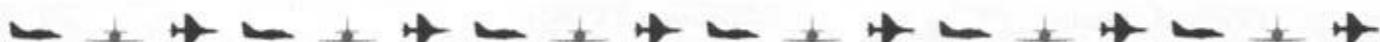


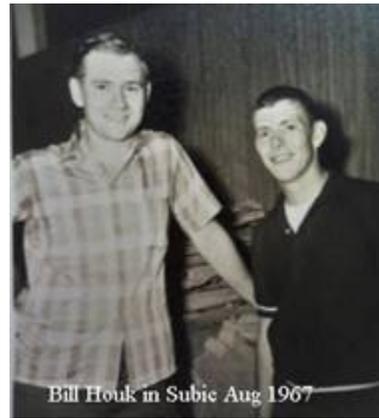
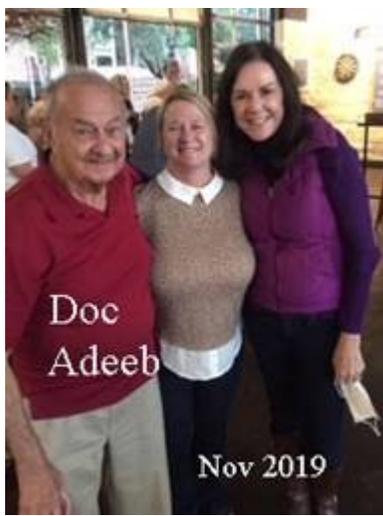
From Floyd Oakes: 24 Nov

Hello to all our extended family,

Eugene, OR is our permanent mailing address and the phone #s are correct. Dorothy and I are in a Senior Assisted Living Facility, near our kids, in Apple Valley, CA. Life is good.

Floyd & Dorothy Oakes







USS ORISKANY



Divers Patch





THE A4 EVER
 Skyhawk Association Journal, Vol. 25-1

Contents:
 Black Wednesday - Hoot
 Strike on Target-123
 Besides, It's Fun to Fly
 Puresome Unplugged

Annual Original Member Meeting
 • Island Convention • Beaufort, SC
 Spring 2020 TBD

Fall 2019
<http://skyhawk.org>



How to Apply for Veterans Disability Benefits

- 1. You can apply **online** for veteran’s disability benefits using the Veterans **On-Line** Application (VONAPP).
- 2. To apply by mail, complete Application for Veterans Compensation and/or Pension, which can be found at the VA Forms Website, and send it to your local VA office.
- 3. You can apply by phone by calling 800-827-1000.

Oriskany Deck Logs show that we are qualified for “Blue Water Navy” Agent Orange disability claims:

Ship came within the 12 mile limit which the VA goes by. My main stand with the AO claim is that our fresh water was contaminated with AO, from the ships salt water distillery and from fresh water un-reps. The VA has all the deck logs on file, and they have a list of ships that they claim qualify, but no aircraft carriers are on their list. I recently refilled my claim for Neuropathy in both feet, for the third time, has been denied twice before for “No Boots on the Ground”.

USS Mispillion AO-105	08Apr72	1200	16 48.5N 107 53.2E
USS Mispillion AO-105	22Apr72	0800	16 48.2N 107 27.5E
USS Oriskany CVA-34	30Jun66	1200	09 41N 108 41.5E
USS Oriskany CVA-34	03Jul66	1200	09 36N 108 29.5E
USS Oriskany CVA-34	30Sep70	1200	17 11.4N 107 34.5E
USS Oriskany CVA-34	11Jul72	0800	15 35.5N 109 04E
USS Parke DD-884	25Jun65	2000	See USS Coral Sea CVA-
USS Parsons DDG-33	08Apr72	0800	see USS Mispillion AO-
USS Pickens DD-685	17Sep65	1200	See USS Bon Homme R
31 17Sep65	Oriskany Deck Log in 12 mile limit		



Lady Jessie Premier: 7 Nov

We had a very nice premier here in Sacramento, and tonight Lady Jessie premieres on our local station, KVIE. And - the link is now up, meaning you can watch the entire show via computer, phone, etc.

We had to very much stay close to the Lady Jessie story line, but we look forward to a second program which will incorporate more from those of you who weren’t seen in this piece.

Hope it meets with your approval, and if so, we invite you to share it around: <https://www.kvie.org/programs/viewfinder/>

My best to all -

Suzanne Eckes-Wahl

Partner| **DosEckes Productions**

suz@doseckes.com

916.769.5141



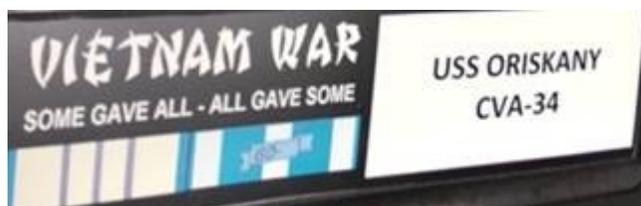
The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

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.

To Join: www.A4skyhawk.info.org



I Stand:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/2eBxVxO0nh4>



[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>



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 04 Dec 2019

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 S**

