

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



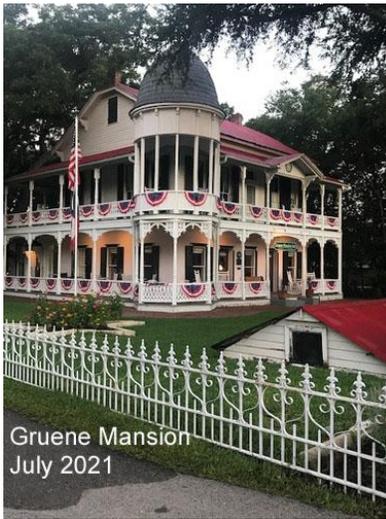
2021

18th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 221

Celebrating the 4th of July in Gruene, TX





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.



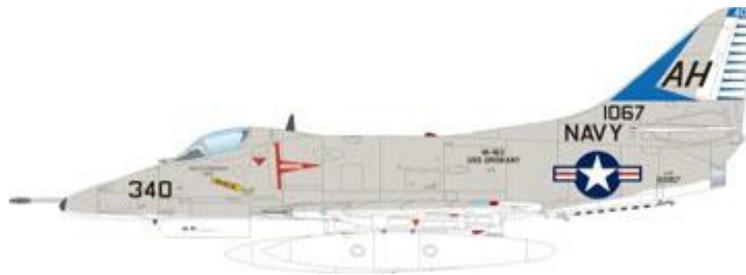


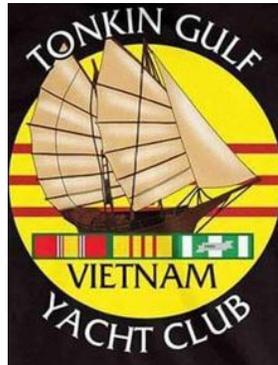
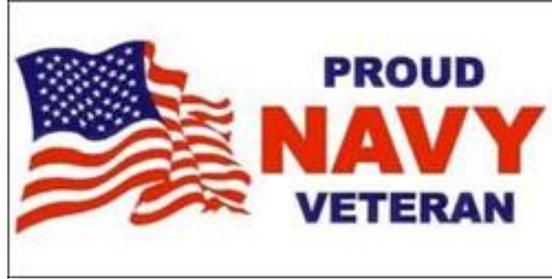
Patriot

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!

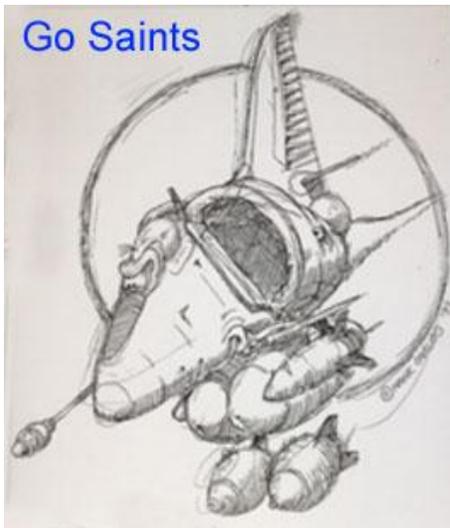
We'll bring forth those hidden in the shade, and

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 03 July 2021

“Over a million views”

1,114,232 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**

20,236 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 2017-20: 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

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

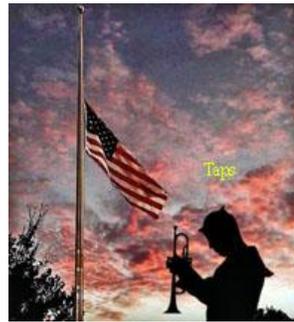
Thomas Harwood

Griff Sexton

Ed Chadwick

Daniel Lestage

Lucille Stickley (3)



Slow salute to you sir....RIP

Harry Warnock Passed Away: Just found out about this

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/jacksonville-beach-fl/harry-warnock-10013448>



Reunion's Info:

1. **Saints Reunion:** 3-5 Nov 2021, Virginia Beach, contact Ed Chadwick chadco@chadcorealestate.com

UPDATE 29 June 2021: 45 folks have indicated that they will attend.

Let me know the name of the person or persons who will be accompanying you. Don't forget to reach out to other squadron mates and sell them on meeting us in November. **So**

far there are 45 souls represented. We will increase our numbers and enjoyment, if you help. Leave no one behind. Thanks, The other Ed

01 June 2021: We are very close to having a reunion and securing a hotel in **Virginia Beach, VA**. The main events would occur on **November 3rd, 4th and 5th, with a banquet on the night of the 5th**. I need a head count to conclude negotiations with the hotel and to line up events. Please respond with:

Whether you plan to attend?

How many people?

Number of nights you would use the hotel?

Whether you can walk 150 yards [for one tour]?

This is only a showing of interest, not a commitment. However we need the numbers to be as accurate as possible. The Reunion is for all members of the Squadron, their friends and families. The airport serving the area is Norfolk International [ORF]. You will be happy to know that the event is planned to be one of the least expensive which we have enjoyed. Please respond to this email, while you remember receiving it.

Like ASAP! Thanks.

Ed Chadwick chadco@chadcorealestate.com

ALSO:

Would everyone please **check to see if all their contact information is current on the squadron roster (located on the website).**

Ed Copher could you give step by step instructions on how to access it and how to have the corrections made? In addition it would also be good to have your readers check on listings other than their own and help make corrections for their mates

who cannot follow instructions, don't read the newsletter or other reasons. I will be using the rooster to make contact with folks. For corrections to the roster, contact Ed Copher newsman242@gmail.com

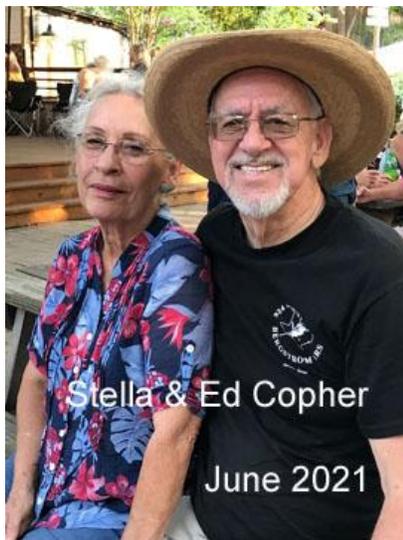
[Listing of folks that have indicated they will attend the Saints Reunion:](#)

As of 30 June

Ed Copher and wife Stella, Ken Adams and wife Betsy, Floyd Oaks and son, Dick Vaughn and wife, Doc Adeeb and wife Dani, Bill Sargent and wife, Brian and David Compton, Fritz Schroeder and wife Penny, George Lundy, Gordon Hunter and wife, Admiral Jerry Breast and wife Byrd, John Miles and girlfriend Edie, Roger Meyer, John Roosen, Griff Sexton, Richard Odegaard and Pamela, Scott Wilkins and wife, Bill Tomko, wife Marge and grandson Colin, John Weber and wife Sarah, Michael Mich, John Shore and wife, JC Farris and wife, Earl Groff and sister Betty Barthle, Suzanne Harriss, Suzanne Eckes and photographer, Ed Chadwick and boss Dinah

2. **Skyhawk "Hook" Reunion:** 9-11 Sept at the Nugget in Sparks, NV
3. **Oriskany Reunion:** 19-22 Sept at Coeur d' Alene Casino in Idaho. Contact Fred Mouring 208-568-1894







I Was A Sailor Once

*** I liked standing on the bridge wing at sunrise with salt spray in my face and clean ocean winds whipping in from the four quarters of the globe - the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as her engines drove her swiftly through the sea.

*** I liked the sounds of the Navy - the piercing trill of the boatswain's pipe, the syncopated clangor of the ship's bell on the quarterdeck, the harsh squawk of the 1MC, and the strong language and laughter of sailors at work.

*** I liked Navy vessels -- nervous darting destroyers, plodding fleet auxiliaries and amphibs, sleek submarines and steady solid aircraft carriers.

*** I liked the proud names of Navy ships: Midway, Lexington , Bunker Hill, Saratoga , Coral Sea, Antietam, Valley Forge - - memorials of great battles won and tribulations overcome.

*** I liked the lean angular names of Navy "tin-cans" and escorts - - Barney, Dahlgren, Mullinix, McCloy, Damato, Leftwich, Mills, Stickell, Noa, Paul, Coontz, T.C. Hart, Glover - - mementos of heroes who went before us.

And the others - - San Jose, San Diego, Los Angeles, St. Paul, Chicago - named for our cities.

*** I liked the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the topside speakers as we pulled away from the oiler after refueling at sea.

*** I liked Liberty Call and the spicy scent of a foreign port.

*** I even liked the never-ending paperwork and all-hands working

parties as my ship filled herself with the multitude of supplies, both critical and mundane in order to cut ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe where there was water to float her.

*** I liked sailors, officers and enlisted men from all parts of the land, farms of the Midwest, small towns of New England , from the cities, the mountains and the prairies, from all walks of life. I trusted and depended on them as they trusted and depended on me - for professional competence, for comradeship, for strength and courage. In a word, they were "shipmates"; then and forever.

*** I liked the surge of adventure in my heart, when the word was passed: "Now set the special sea and anchor detail - all hands to quarters for leaving port," and I liked the infectious thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pier side.

*** The work was hard and dangerous; the going rough at times; the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the "all for one and one for all" philosophy of the sea was ever present.

*** I liked the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flitted across the wave tops and sunset gave way to night.

*** I liked the feel of the Navy in darkness -- the masthead and range lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters - they cut through the dusk and joined with the mirror of stars overhead. And I liked drifting off to sleep lulled by the myriad noises large and small that told me that my ship was alive and well, and that my shipmates on watch would keep me

safe.

*** I liked quiet mid-watches with the aroma of strong coffee -- the lifeblood of the Navy permeating everywhere.

*** And I liked hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze-gray shapes racing at flank speed kept all hands on a razor edge of alertness.

*** I liked the sudden electricity of "General quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations," followed by the hurried clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transformed herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful workplace to a weapon of war -- ready for anything.

*** And I liked the sight of space-age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound-powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

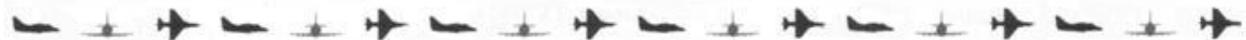
*** I liked the traditions of the Navy and the men and women who made them.

I liked the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones and Burke. A sailor could find much in the Navy: comrades-in-arms, pride in self and country, mastery of the seaman's trade. An adolescent could find adulthood.

** In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods - the impossible shimmering mirror calm and the storm-tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and mess decks.

*** Gone ashore for good they will grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon.

*** Remembering this, they will stand taller and say, "I WAS A SAILOR ONCE, AND I WOULD DO IT AGAIN."

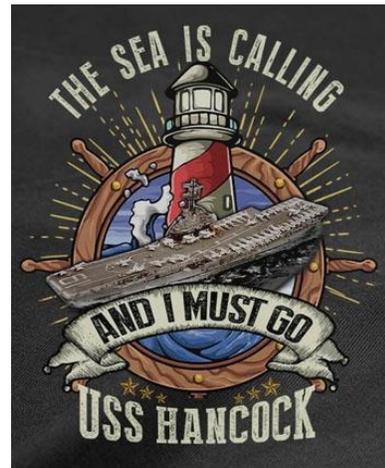


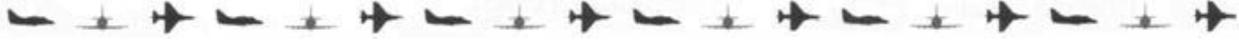
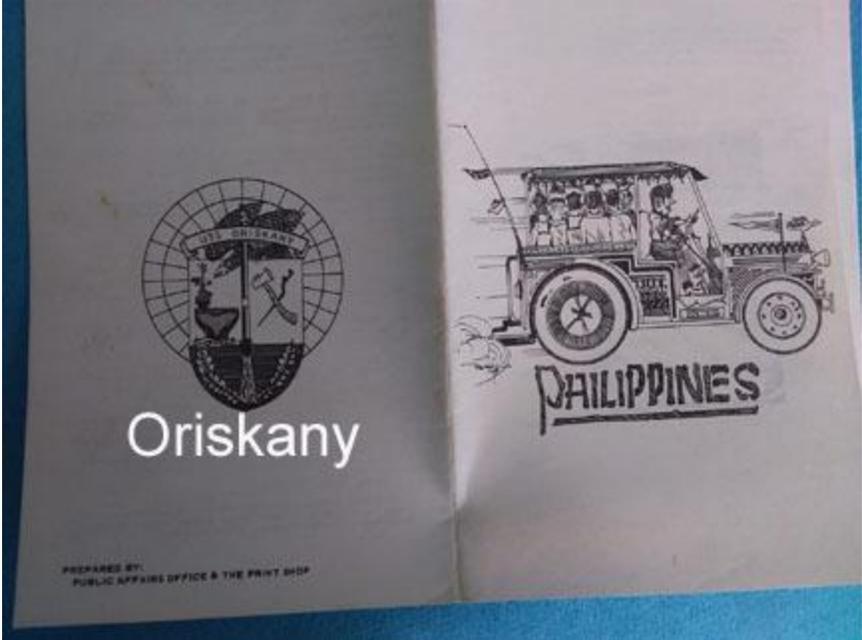


USS Hancock

1968

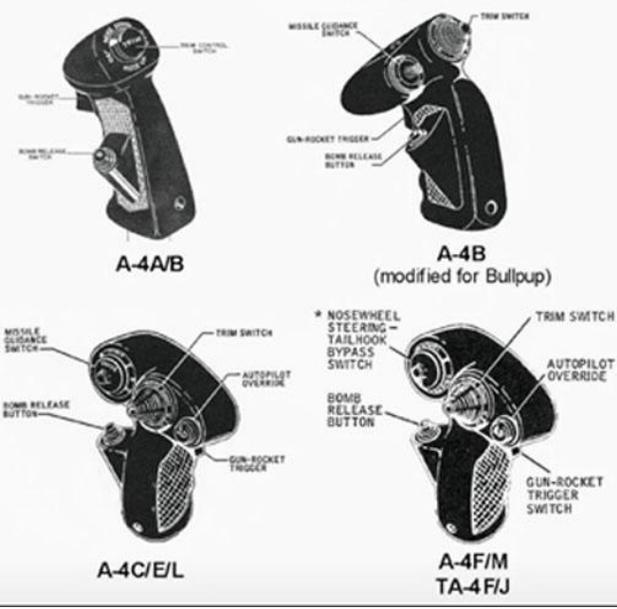
BE STRONG	BE BRAVE	BE HUMBLE	BE BADASS
USS HANCOCK (CV-19)			
WHEN YOU ARE WEAK	WHEN YOU ARE SCARED	WHEN YOU ARE VICTORIOUS	EVERYDAY







A-4 Stickgrips







John Rawls
A-1H BU No. 148483 was one of the two
Skyhawks tested by US Army with double main
wheels for operation from unpaved fields





Agent Orange Info and Ship Fresh Water: Source?????

Agent orange was brought back to the carriers by static electricity and was washed off with fresh water system which was recirculated into fresh water on the ship. Not water soluble, so remained in our water system until we ingested them. What static electricity, how was it recirculated into fresh water....?



Joe Ziemian Info changes:

As always, thanks for your dedication to the Squadron and the newsletter. After many years, I looked at the Saints roster again and noticed my info is a little out of date. Maybe 9 years. And you've been on duty before that. Wow!

Home of Record - 14701 Fair Haven Rd. Fort Myers, Fl. 33908
changes every 6 months when we go between Florida and Jersey

(Phone

seasonally to escape snow and heat...and hurricane scares)

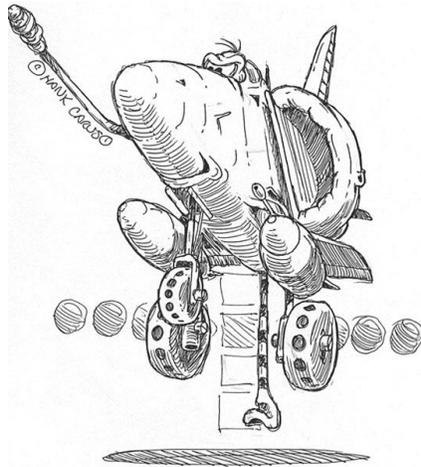
Jersey - 7 Independence Way, Southampton, NJ, 08088 (summer)

Temp phone - 609-451-5266 till 1 Nov +/- then new FI phone no.

Email- joeziem22@wmconnect.com

Looking through the roster brought back many thoughts of people hidden in the dusty archives of memories long forgotten. And my sincerest thanks for that.

Saintly Joe Ziemian, As always, thanks for your dedication to the Squadron



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 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.

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

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-IIDXpAi3gBQX0IIEp4Fb6JPagc-xEZFeeVHU>

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: vvmf.org/wall-of-faces

Oriskany Video Clip:

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

A-4 Vietnam Magnet:

https://www.teepublic.com/magnet/8726181-douglas-a-4-skyhawk-vietnam-veteran?feed_sku=8726181D21V&utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=Agency_Within_Shopping_AllDesigns&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-O35BRDVARIsAJU5mQWMJuS72eubdxmx2vtcaunkAOWtSgDb1aq1iRqXkESu76z5ldq_yJMaAsMIEALw_wcB

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>

Nice 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:

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 03 July 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>