

Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck...“Saints...May 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.



2019

16th Year Edition
Established Nov 2002
VOL 1 Issue 198



Standing the Watch

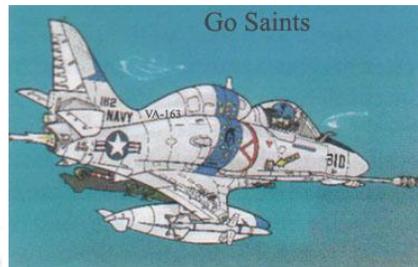
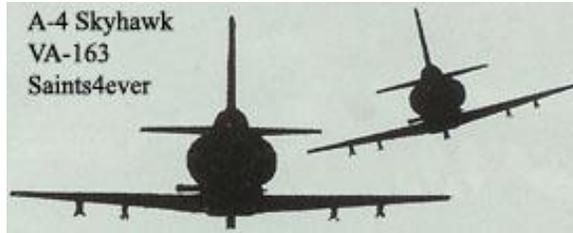
Ed Copher, Editor, “Saints Everlasting Keeper of the Flame”

Saints Tradition

An old Saints tradition is that friends who have not seen or heard from each other for long periods of time never question their friendship. These friendships resume at the same time they left off regardless of distance and time between them. We call these friends “**Family**”.

Saints Motto

“Fight by Night or Day, Land or Sea”



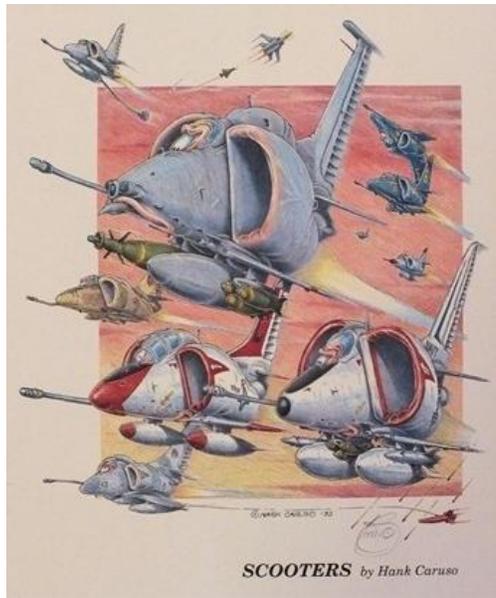
ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT



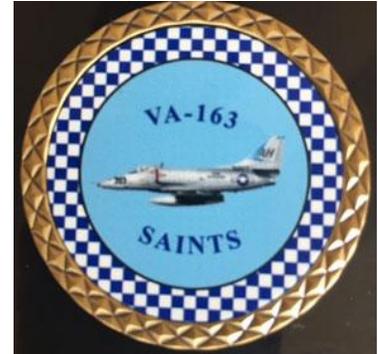
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk







Birds of a feather... Flock Together



[Click Here](http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/) <http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/>

Also on Saints website, [PHOTOS](#) section

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

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

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

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

15,839 *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**

New Fee: Webmaster Maintenance Fee. \$120 p/year (paid Jan 2018)

*****Paid 26 March 2019: Annual webmaster fee of \$120*****

***** Paid 22 Feb 2018: Domain Registration \$26.90 for 2 years, next due 31 Mar 20**

***** Paid 31 Mar 2018: Domain Protection \$4.50**

Jim Houston, **Webmaster** for www.VA163.org began charging for maintaining the Saints website. He is charging \$10 a month (\$120 p/year).

Ed Copher
176 Landa Street #315
New Braunfels, TX 78130

Any donations are appreciated

[Folks that have sent in website donations 2017-19:](#) A big shout out..."Thank You"

Ken Adams
Ed Chadwick
David Farley
JC Ferris
Bob Feuillerat
Earl Groff
Tom Harwood
Bill Houk
Tom Kline
Dan Lestage
George Lundy
Pete Munro
Floyd Oakes
MA Petty
John Roosen
Bill Sargent
Russ Sticklely
James Thompson
Bill Tomko

Anthony Stable
James Marcely (VA-164)

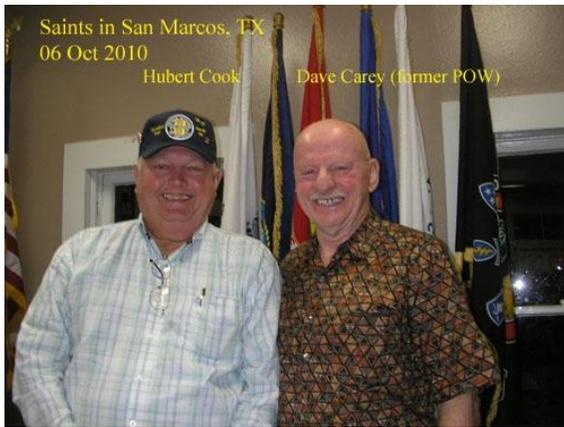


Folks that have donated to the "Saints Flower Fund": Thank You
Flowers were sent to Hubert Cook \$160 & John Langlains \$80.98

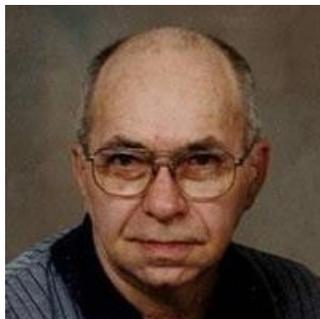
Ken Adams
Russ Stickley
Earl Groff
John Roosen
Thomas Harwood
Griff Sexton



Hubert Cook and M.A. Petty have been added to the website **Memorial Page**. MA passed away Nov 2018.
RIP



John Langlains Passed Away: An original Saints plank owner from 1960, helped design Saints Patch



[Obituary for John "Whiz" Langlinais at MELANCON FUNERAL HOME:](#) Click on this blue Funeral services were held Saturday, April 20, 2019 at a 1030 a.m. Liturgy of the Word in Evangeline Memorial Gardens Chapel in Carencro, LA for John Whiz Langlinais, age 80, who passed away Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at Lafayette General Medical Center in Lafayette. Interment will be in Evangeline. RIP RIP, "Smooth Seas and Clear Skies", "Fair Winds, Following Trail"



[Saints WestPac 1965-66 Video: "CORRECTED LINK", last months newsletter had the wrong link:](#) 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.

CORRECTED LINK address: <https://youtu.be/bwuTIK544cQ>



[Ed in Rehab, 3 months into recovery from open heart surgery:](#)



[Bill Houk & other CA Fire Captains:](#)



Oriskany Reunion for V-1 Div, 13-16 May 2019: Yellow shirts
South Point Hotel & Casino



USS Oriskany Reunion, Pensacola 20- 26 Oct 2019



They can be purchased this website <https://topgunnavy.com/>



Oriskany Bell for Memorial Dive:



**IF YOU HAD
SOMETHING LIKE THIS**

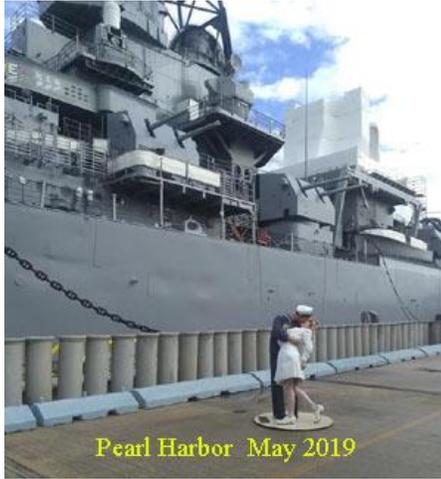


**YOU MIGHT BE A
US NAVY SALTY DOGS MEMBER**



Any man who may be asked in this century, what he did to make his life worthwhile, can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served in the United States Navy".

Pres. John F. Kennedy



CHOOSE YOUR RATE, CHOOSE YOUR FATE

Ratings

SOUND OFF WITH YOUR RATING!





SCUTTLEBUTT

Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"

The Smoking Lamp is out due to JP-5 Jet Fuel in the drinking water.

Cold Saltwater showers "only" due to no fresh water.

Remember: The soap will not rinse off in cold saltwater shower....



The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints and VA-125

Skyhawk Association Links:

Association main page: <http://a4skyhawk.info/>

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.

Skyhawk Association Digital Journal: Feb 2017

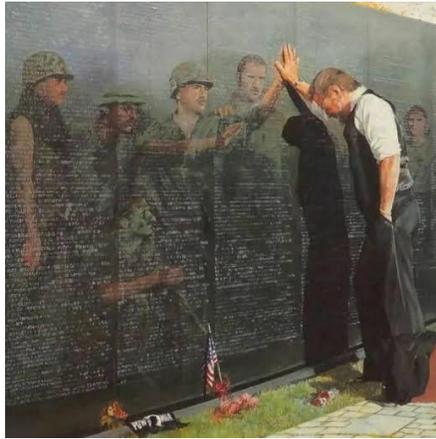
This year's digital edition can be found at: <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-journal-public/skyhawk-association-journal-public-page1>

Skyhawk Association Journal - THE A-4ever

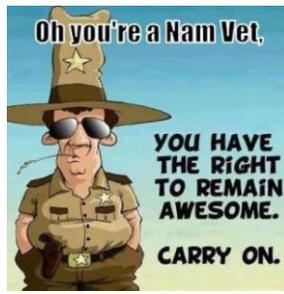
a4skyhawk.info

Our "Members Only" Journal is published twice yearly and contains excellent textual and color image examples of the historical and current activities of one of the ...





Agent Orange Troop



Vietnam War Resources:



Below is a link to a web site about the war in Viet Nam. Whether you are a Viet Nam veteran or not, you may find this web site very interesting because it contains an absolutely enormous amount of information about the war. <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html>



Vietnam War Resources, Data Site: *Amazing accumulation*

ALMOST ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM AND A LOT MORE:

This is probably the best search list ever compiled about Vietnam. It would take months to look at everything this site offers.

Click on the link: <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam..html>

Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Life+Magazine+Vietnam+War+Photography&go=&form=QBIR>



Newsletters are on Saints Website:

Go to Saints Website, click on [Newsletters](#),

To view the Roster: click on [Roster](#), then [Complete Roster](#), password: **Saints4ever** (capital S)



****Websites of Interest****

Oriskany Web Sites:

[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-wYnlBZis>
8. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm> 2. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
3. <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. **USS Hancock:** Click here: [Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock \("Hannah"\)](#)
20. **Tour of Duty photo site:** 3000 photos, some Saints <https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/>
21. **USS Oriskany Fire & Sinking:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk> 42 min video

22. 1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV_Ws & <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII>
23. O Boat Sinking Video: <http://trib.al/t69QQT4>
24. Oriskany Video: With F-4's https://youtu.be/e92t7kgV_Ws
25. USS Oriskany Alumni: "facebook page" and gallery has some great photos. Go to Facebook to join the group.

Oriskany Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10155705239611910?sfns=mo>

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/>

ADM Stockdale History:

<http://usnhistory.navylive.dodlive.mil/2015/11/13/navy-legend-vice-adm-stockdale-led-pow-resistance/>

49 plane flyover:

Click here: [Arrowhead Stadium, 49 plane flyover - YouTube](#)

Great Military Commercial:

https://www.youtube.com/embed/uoABty_zE00?rel=0

Skyhawk Association: Scroll down for articles about VA-163 and other units. Also about NAS Lemoore.

David Weber (AKA "Twidget") one of our website volunteers has developed a site map for the Skyhawk Association website. Dave has written the computer code which will allow users to simply click on a particular link and go directly to that location on the web. There is also a "Glossary" located in the Ready Room under the heading "Finding Stuff". We hope you find these latest web tools useful. Thanks to all for volunteering to be an SDO. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thanks as always, George

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article/aviators>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/page/civilian-skyhawks>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/collings-foundation> Collings Foundation <http://a4skyhawk.info/article->

[unit/vac](#) Valiant Air Command <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/tass> TASS <http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/a4llc> A-4L LLCh<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/draken-international>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/va125>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/va163>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/nas-lemoore>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/vmt103>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/vmat203>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/faqu>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/mcas-el-toro>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/mcas-kaneohe-bay>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/aes12>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/mcas-cherry-point>

<http://a4skyhawk.info/article/skyhawks-around-world>

[Navy Commercial:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/USNavyAircraftCarriers/videos/10156139765898669/>

[Article about Stockdale:](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/Tailhook.Association/posts/1613398878698053>

[Vietnam Wall](#)--THIS IS AMAZING!

This is really sobering. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went to high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's death, a picture or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country.

Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

[Vietnam Aircraft Losses:](#)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_aircraft_losses_of_the_Vietnam_War

[Blue Angels with A-4's:](#)

<http://www.avgeekery.com/watch-blue-angels-reborn-flew-4f-skyhawk/>

[How A-4's Ruled the Sky's:](#)

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/how-the-4-skyhawk-ruled-the-skies-21967>

[Skyhawk Videos:](#)

This is for the A4 Skyhawk enthusiast .Got this from my Nephew in law. I love to see those Bombs and Rockets go off "ON TARGET" and successfully complete the mission. I took many Skilled and brave Pilots and many hard working and skilled crew to do these 12 to 16 hours a day. Hard to believe I used to load the Ordinance so many, many years ago, where did all those muscles go?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IQymtxjt24

www.youtu.be/1mfdRvzUVtM

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgwEWSjzww8

VA-164 Video: Miss Jessie and Ghost Rider 401

Dick Perry of the O-boat's VA-164 and the saga of Miss Jessie.

<https://www.facebook.com/DosEckes-Productions-362988187722/?pnref=story>

The Blues Flying the A-4

Oh the good old days. Scooter drivers prepare to shed a tear.....

The best Blue Angel show of all time. A-4's. Here is a video of them from the '70's. Bear Smith and Skip Umsted are the last two guys walking towards the camera before they get to their planes. They both died later in aircraft accidents. The crazy solo is Denny Sapp. Best show for the spectators because it was close to show center. Always in sight. **Tightest diamond formation ever.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk3XSV6H6w0>

Resource Book with details of all aircraft loss on every cruise: Submitted by Ed Chadwick

Here is a site where books by Rene J. Francillon can be purchased. His "**Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club**" has a section that shows every carrier deployment during the Vietnam. It details each aircraft loss on every cruise, including the date, aircraft type, aircraft identification, squadron, pilots name / rank and well as whether the pilot was KIA, recovered or made a POW. I look at the book when memory fails me. It's a great resource.

<https://www.amazon.com/Ren%C3%A9-J.-Francillon/e/B001HCWSDM>

Detail Thesis on CAG 16 1965-1967

Commander Fey, who asked my permission to use a Photo I took of Commander Stockdale's Saints A-4 from 1965. He said he did a thesis on CAG 16 and a Manifest. Many of the Saints including Skipper's Compton and Foster were interviewed as well As Mildman and others. It spans 1965 thru 1967. I found it very interesting with insight I never was aware of, worth a read. WE WERE THERE!!! Thanks Bill Tomko

CAG 16 losses and info: https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl#q=Peter+Fey+rolling+Thunder

VN 40 years ago...75 pictures

<http://www.vintag.es/2015/04/vietnam-war-40-years-ago-75-beathtaking.html>

Legends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-Minh-trail-Laos/>

There are many links to the archive by date as well as to specific articles like this one about an F-4 shootdown:

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-shot-down-plane/>

This is the homepage:

www.laosgpsmap.com

Ho Chi Minh Trail Tours:

www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/

[Vietnam War Stories:](http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/)

<http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/>

Tags : [book sites](#), [books war](#), [cherry soldier](#), [combat](#), [Combat Infantry](#), [digital books](#), [firefights](#), [Grunts](#), [Hispanic](#), [Historical fiction](#), [jungle warfare](#), [Military](#), [novels](#), [The vietnam war](#), [The Vietnam war story](#), [Veteran](#), [Vietnam blog pages](#), [Vietnam book](#), [Vietnam conflict](#), [Vietnam veteran](#), [war books](#), [war stor](#), [Wars and Conflicts](#)

[Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:](http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm)

This has a lot of the statistics on Vietnam Vets.....

<http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm>

[1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:](http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf)

Thought you might find this 1956 All Hands..... interesting.

http://www.navy.mil/ah_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf

[A good day to revisit the Virtual Wall:](http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm)

Vietnam Wall

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear.

Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam War with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>

[Vietnam Photos:](http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo--)

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo-->

599932980.html?format=embed#mediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=%252Flightbox%252Fa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo--599932096.html

Military Video ~ Ending is Fabulous

Please take the time to view this and watch till the end. I was so very touched. And once again..... Thank you to ALL who have served our country! I live in a free nation because of your sacrifice! God Bless you! Because of the warriors of the past, the present, and the future, we Americans can walk tall. For those of you of may not know, or have forgotten, Lt. Col. Oliver North was wounded in Vietnam many times and never left the men he commanded. I am now passing this on for you to watch. It's not just enjoyable, it is riveting! When you are done pass it on too, I think it's important ... don't you? If you are a veteran, I say thank you, for everything! You are SO special! Take the time for this one. You won't be disappointed ... the end is a kicker.

<http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html>

NAS Lemoore April 1968:

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

Photos/History of Vietnam:

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History

From the Denver Post.

Click here: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

Vietnam War - Source list

I am passing this along because it is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who ever served in Vietnam. It would take months (*more like years*) to look at everything this site offers:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

A-4 Skyhawks:

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related>

VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:

VA Benefit Blog

https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall

Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: 6:10 min video
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAplCSSZqAs&feature=related>

Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:
http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website: Some of our Saints photos are in there!!!
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/
www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/

RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 May to read the **Articles** go to the web site at:
http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html



SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

“Muster Call”
Revised 06 May 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**

