

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.**



2016

14th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 162



Ed Copher, Brig time, USS Lexington, Corpus Christi, Mar 2016



Standing the Watch

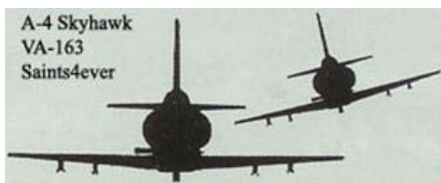
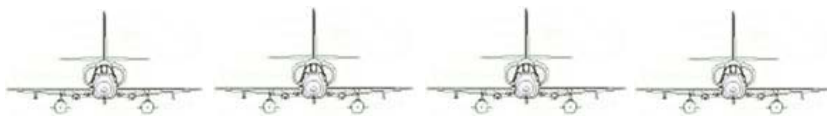
Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Keeper of the Flame"

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

Listen to music as you read the newsletter:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related> at the top right of your screen, click the Minimize minus sign (-). It will then go back to the newsletter with the music playing. When finished listening to music, go to your desk top home page, on the bottom tool bar, right click on [When the Saints...](#), and select close.

[Vietnam Memorial Wall Song: https://www.facebook.com/100000531380774/videos/1142596289101406/](https://www.facebook.com/100000531380774/videos/1142596289101406/)



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





Saints 310 in DaNang with wing damage Oct 1966



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 76 Albums (Sets)... 4,634 Photos

View Counts as of 01 April 2016

Photos

593,816views

Photo stream

30,130views

Albums

24,029views

Total

647,975 views



www.Flickr.com charges \$24.95 per year to keep the SAINTS Photo Albums on their web site.

****Paid the one year fee on 15 Nov 2015****



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

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

9,446 Visitors since Mar 09

*****Total cost for the Website is \$151.97 per year**

\$183.95 to renew GoDaddy website hosting paid for 2 years on 10 Sept 2015

\$80.00 to renew Domain Name (va163.org) paid for 2 years on 07 Mar 2016

\$30.00 to renew Domain Provider paid for 2 years on 27 Mar 2016

\$10.00 to renew Domain Protector paid for 2 years on 27 Mar 2016

Donations are appreciated

Ed Copher

242 Toye Blvd

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Saints Website and Photos site FEES:

Jim Houston, Palm Coast FL, is the Saints webmaster, designed the website, and does all the updates etc.

Website Hosting Provided by GoDaddy cost **\$183.95 for two years *(Paid up until 10 Sept 17)***

Domain Name: Provided by Internet Domain Name Services www.idns.ae an annual charge for keeping the www.va163.org is \$40 p/yr, paid for 2 years *(Paid up until 15 Mar 2018)*

Domain Provider: Provided by Active Domain \$15 p/year, paid for 2 years *(Paid up until 31 Mar 2018)*

Domain Protector: Provided by Whoisproof \$5 p/year, paid for 2 years *(Paid up until 31 Mar 2018)*

Photos Site: Saints Photos on the Flicker site is \$25 p/yr *(Due 15 Nov of each year) Paid 15 Nov 2015*



The U.S. Navy's new \$13 billion aircraft carrier will dominate the seas: No steam catapults

Scheduled to be launched this month, and can support laser guns and dynamic armor

A \$13 billion U.S. aircraft carrier is about to hit the open seas.

It's the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), the most expensive and most advanced warship ever built. The ship was christened in November 2013 and is scheduled to be commissioned this month.

The Naval behemoth can house more than 4,500 people and weighs 90,000 tons. The CVN-78 is the lead ship in the Ford class of aircraft carriers, replacing some of the U.S. Navy's existing [Nimitz-class carriers](#). At first glance, both classes have a similar-looking hull, but the Ford class introduces a series of technical innovations designed to improve carrier's operating efficiency, and reduce operating costs and crew requirements. http://www.cnet.com/pictures/meet-the-navys-new-13-billion-aircraft-carrier/?ftag=ACQ9265a8a&vndid=1848963237&ttag=cnet-fb-560&nan_pid=1848963237



San Diego -- USS Nimitz (CVN 68) completed an onload of 393 privately owned vehicles (POVs) Dec. 2, as part of an Opportune Lift (OPLIFT) program to assist Sailors and their families with the ship's homeport shift from Naval Base Coronado, to Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Wash.



SCUTTLEBUTT

Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"

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

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

Remember: The soap would not rinse off with saltwater....?



[The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members](#)

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints

Skyhawk Association website, VA-163 page:

VA-163 Page, click here: <http://a4skyhawk.org/3e/va163/va163o.htm>

Please join the Skyhawk Association. They have a great **Quarterly Magazine**...allot of A-4's and Saints articles. **Only \$30 per year.**

Skyhawk Association Members: Use link to access the Ready Room for; recent additions, aircraft histories, photo galleries, our roster, journals, and more. Need access? Contact the **RR Coordinator.**

A-4s Forever! sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org / bluebolts6364@aol.com

"Skyhawk Association Members: Use the new site address <http://A4skyhawk.org> to get access to the wealth of info available and contact the webmaster for access to the 'Members Only' information at email webmaster@a4skyhawk.org ."



Saints and Military sites for Hats, Shirts, Pins, Decals, and Models: Submitted by Bill Tomko

Go to Saints Website, **Miscellaneous Section**, for details. Also www.usmedals.com

I have done a ton of Internet research looking for Saints, Oriskany and A-4 related collectibles, pictures, books, videos, models, decals, pins, shirts and hats. I was asked to publish some of the links I had been satisfied with. I am happy to share it here and if you need help finding some thing please feel free to email me at Tomkowj@aol.com



VN Memorial Wall with Faces:

<http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/20740/WILLIAM-R-HALE>

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>



Remembering the Vietnam War:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XayOuMHIzDM> 7:11 min video

VIETNAM Veterans, War Casualties.....RIP: Memorial Virtual Wall

First click on a state.....then when it opensan alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home townthen it should show you a picture of the person or at least his/her bio and medals.....<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



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>



Statistics about the Vietnam War

Interesting information about statistics and myths associated with the Vietnam War... <http://www.vhfc.org/stat.html>

Superb Vietnam Tributes:

A Place Called Vietnam...<http://www.operationmom.org/ToOurParents.html>

<http://patriotfiles.org/VietnamWar.htm>

<http://www.vietnampix.com/>

Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

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





SAINTS Newsletters in Archives: *To view the last 12 months newsletters*

Go to www.yahoo.com (click on the link in blue)

On the Yahoo home page, select **Sign-In** (top right side)

Type in Yahoo ID: va163lemoore@yahoo.com

Type in Password: **saints4ever** (lower case)

After Signed In, back on the Yahoo home page, select **MAIL** (left side bar)

When you get into the mail box, select **Inbox** (on left side bar)

Select the newsletter that you want to view.

To get out of Mail, under the top toolbar, find **Yahoo!** click on that to get back to the Yahoo home page.

NOTE: The newsletter is being sent as an “Attachment” to the email.

To open the attachment, click on the Icon that looks like a **paperclip** on top part of email next to the date.

ALSO: When you first get to the Yahoo Home Page, if you are already signed in to a different yahoo account, then you must sign out of that account, and then sign in to Saints account.

“ALSO”

Newsletters are on Saints Website: *Past month's newsletters*

Go to Saints Website, click on Newsletters, password: **saints4ever**



****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. USS Oriskany Online: *Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola:* www.ussoriskanyonline.com / www.mbtdivers.com
2. The best pictures of the reefing. *Going to her final resting place:* <http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm>
3. Two Memorial Video's of the Oriskany: <http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/>
4. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com
5. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>
6. Patriot Media “The Mighty O”: <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
8. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnIBZis>
9. 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>

10. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
11. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
12. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
13. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
14. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
15. **USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project** (<http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>)
16. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
17. **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
18. **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
19. **Saints Video on YouTube: Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire!**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRaIM>
20. **USS Hancock: Click here: Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock ("Hannah")**
21. **Tour of Duty photo site: 3000 photos, some Saints** <https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/>

A new source of information on the Big O and Saints:

I think many of the pilots and crew may appreciate this since it refers to them.

Go to this site and at **page 64** down it covers information on the **Big "O"** and the aircraft lost in **CAG 16** for 1965 thru 1968 with some pilot and circumstances regarding the loss of the aircraft. Maybe a good thing to add to the newsletter and website. Please send me a copy of the newsletter as I still don't get them with the standard way you use to distribute them. https://books.google.com/books?id=IF6-CQAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Bos'an Pipe: Pipe me aboard!

<https://www.facebook.com/michael.logan.35574/videos/10153168259665948/>

View from Blue Angels cockpit:

<https://www.facebook.com/AeroSedifer/videos/745922842209341/>

Top Gun:

<https://www.facebook.com/AeroSedifer/videos/731026593698966/>

Popeye:

<https://www.facebook.com/DoYouRemember/videos/1119252111470186/>

Vietnam Memorial Flight: Collins Foundation TA-4 and F-4D at Ellington AFB, Houston TX

<https://www.facebook.com/F4Phorever/videos/781565941943918/>

L-19 landing on Midway USS Midway - Last Day of Saigon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfUj6udXAGU&authuser=1>

3 Carriers Together:

These pictures represent a very rare occasion when three carrier groups can be in the same hemisphere long enough to do a photo op.

<http://jwvsw.org/carriers.pdf>

VA-163 Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club Shirts are available

For 927 Commands that operated in the Vietnam Theater from 1950 to 1975.

To view the TONKIN GULF YACHT CLUB SHIRT with

Rocker = **ATKRON 163**

Rating = **NAVY**

Click on: <http://www.hullnumber.com/TONKIN-GULF-SHIRT.php?rating=NAVY&hn=VA-163>

LINK TO COMMAND ROSTER PAGE:

<http://www.HullNumber.com/VA-163>

My best wishes to All Hands on your end,
Dave Schultz - Web PO

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>

[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/>

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:](#)

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

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

[1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:](#)

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:](#)

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>

Do you remember these?

This will bring back memories

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k

Vietnam Photos:

<http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo--599932980.html?format=embed#mediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=%252Fflightbox%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 you 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/ringofffreedom/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 April 2016

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 01 April 2016

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
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