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



# 2022

20th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 238







Merry, Merry Christmas to all. God Bless

## Ed & Stella

### Blessing

May the good Lord bless and keep you The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation *under God*, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is God's gift, that's why we call it the present"

"Remember today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday"

"Don't complain about growing old! Some people don't get the privilege"

Stay safe, Be proud, Be strong, Be healthy, and Be well

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; bthink about Him in all your ways, and He will cguide you on the right paths.

<u>Military Enlistment Oath</u>: 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.





Salute to all you Saints heroes. Thank you for your service.

May God Bless you









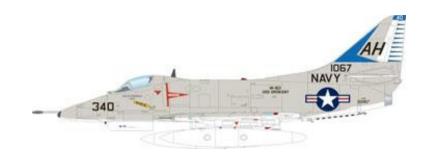






patritot Noun [pey-tree-ubt, -ot or, esp. British, pa-tree-ubt]

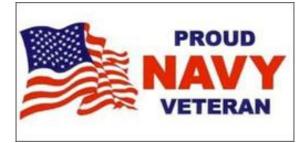
A person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies foreign and domestic.













#### ${f S}{f t}$ anding 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 December 2022

"Over a million views"

# 1,117,444 views

## "Saints Reunion Virginia Beach" 49 photos & 1 video

Click on link below

https://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/albums/72157720165688053/with/51698826279/

\*\*\*\*Paid **\$76.00** to Flickr.com for Saints Photo website on 27 April 2022

# \*\*\*SAINTS WEBSITE\*\*\*

## THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website <u>www.va163.org</u> password: Saints4ever capital S



#### History, Latest Info, Photos, In Memoriam, Miscellaneous, Newsletters, Links, Recall Roster

\*\*\*Total cost for the Saints Website is \$293.97 per year

# \*\*\*14 March 2022 paid \$15.45 to "Active-Domain" website hosting for 1 year renewal\*\*\*

\*\*\*5 OCT 2021 paid \$306.75 to "GoDaddy" website hosting for 2 year renewal\*\*\*

15 Jan 2022 paid \$120 to "Webmaster" for maintenance of site, annual renewal

01 March 2022 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 2017-22: A big shout out..."Thank You"

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dave Carey

Ed Chadwick (3)

**Dennis Dooley** 

David Farley

JC Ferris (2)

Bob Feuillerat

Earl Groff (3)

Tom Harwood

Bill Houk (2)

Dale & Mary Landroth

Daniel Lestage (2)

George Lundy (2)

Roger Meyer

Pete Munro

Floyd Oakes

Richard Odegaard

MA Petty

John Roosen (2)

Seth Rossman (2)

**Bill Sargent** 

Fritz Schroeder

John Shore (2)

James Thompson

Bill Tomko

Anthony Stabile (2)

Lucille Stickley (4)

James Marcely (VA-164)

Steve Cutting (VA-164)

#### Folks that have donated to the "Saints Flower Fund": Thank You

### Flowers have been sent to the last 12 funerals

Ken Adams Raymond Baker Dennis Dooley Earl Groff John Roosen Seth Rossman Thomas Harwood Griff Sexton Anthony Stabile Ed Chadwick (2) Daniel Lestage (2) Lucille Stickley (4)

La + + La + + La + + La + + La + +

# <u>TAPS</u>



Slow Salute, Rest in Peace, Sir

Skipper of VA-164 passed away: Capt William (Bill) Span: Submitted by Ed Chadwick

Here is a message I received from a friend about the Magic Pumpkin. I added a recent picture of Captain Span with David Compton. The Compton's and Span were close friends.



This is a great career summary of a fine Navy officer who was my NROTC instructor at Ohio State in '64 and early '65 and who died this week at age 94. I have been asked by his family to speak at his memorial service in Virginia Beach in the near future. You can see from his career assignment timeline that he went right from Ohio State to combat flying off Vietnam, ending his combat tours with 287 missions in the A-4. Semper Fi, Buck

https://www.epnaao.com/BIOS\_files/REGULARS/Span-%20William%20F.pdf

#### <u>OBITUARY</u>

https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/pilotonline/name/william-span-obituary?id=38 278253&utm\_source=webshareapi&utm\_medium=share\_button&utm\_campaign=w sapimobile\_beta

# <u>High Flight</u>

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth Of sun-split clouds... and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of... wheeled and soared and swung. High in the sunlit silence, hov'ring there ... I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long delirious burning blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace, Where never lark nor even eagle flew -And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod The high untrespassed sanctity of space, Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

> Pilot office John Gillespie Magee, Jr. Number 412 Squadron RCAF Killed 11th, December 1941

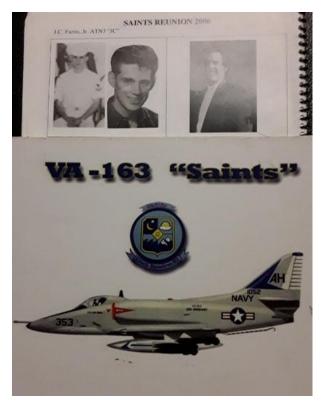
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#### Toxic Chemical Exposure Info from Ed Copher:

The VA finally rated me eligible for Vietnam-era herbicide exposure (Agent Orange). I have been fighting them since my first claim in 2004. They now recognize that the Oriskany deck logs show that the Oriskany was within the 12 mile limits of Vietnam in 1966 & 67 on a few dates. They also recognize that our fresh water might have been contaminated with AO that was brought onboard during unreps. They first denied my claims because of no evidence of "boots on the ground", now under the Blue Water Navy Act of 2019, they finally say I am eligible for toxic exposure. I have neuropathy (numbness) in both of my feet. They still deny my claim, so I have a lawyer and am appealing the claim to Federal Court. The VA recognizes that I have neuropathy, and that I might have been

exposed to AO, but claim it is not related to my military service. The neuropathy disorder is on the VA list of things that could be caused by AO. Venting.....

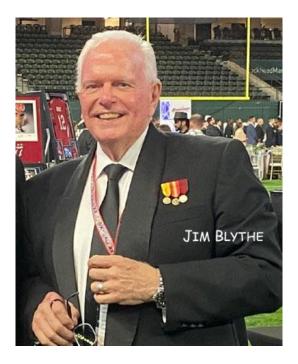


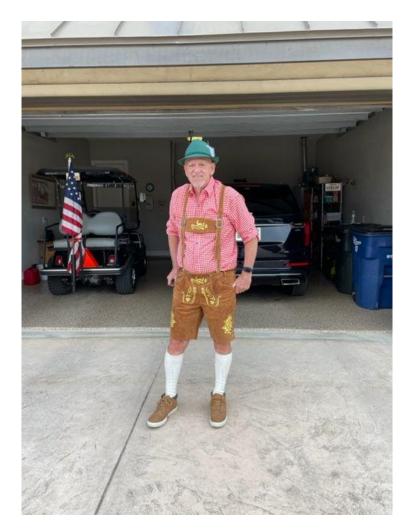


JC Ferris



I had it refurbished for my late father- in- law's family. Using materials from an old motheaten uniform.





Ed, ready for Wurstfest, Nov 2022



#### Dave Carey: Former Saint POW

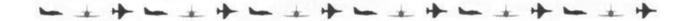
I know Dave and had some dinners and meetings with Dave at our Squadron Reunions over the years, meetings with.

Try www.davecarey.com for some details

 <u>David J. Carey - Veteran Tributes</u> <u>www.veterantributes.org/TributeDetail.php?recordID=39</u> Dave Carey was born in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, in 1942. He entered the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1960, and was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy on June 4, 1964. Carey next attended flight training at NAS Pensacola, Florida, and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1966. After completing A-4 Skyhawk Replacement Air Group training he served as an A-4 pilot with VA-163 at NAS Lemoore, California, and deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany (CVA-34) from 1966 until he was forced ...

2. <u>Motivational Speaker Dave Carey | Texas, USA | HOME</u> www.davecarey.com

DAVE CAREY is an acclaimed motivational speaker, consultant, coach, and author aiming to bring joy, hope, wisdom, and encouragement to all with whom he has contact. Drawing from his experiences as a POW for five and a half years he reminds his audiences of the power of the human spirit to triumph over adversity; - and that we always have choices. His programs are customized to address the challenges your organization faces; and to reinforce the values and goals of your organization



#### TA-4, Civilian A-4, submitted by Ed Chadwick

Nice bird. In between cruises in 1968 my squadron received 3 or 4 new TA4's to use. The straights were in short supply due to the war. It was a memorable experience to fly a plane with 4 total hours on it. I helped initiate a program where our enlisted troupes were able to ride in the back seat. Flying one day with another pilot - we each took turns testing the plane. In one maneuver I did 17 consecutive aileron rolls. The reason I stopped was dizziness. As in the strait A4E, I disproved the NATOPS warning of inertial coupling. I loved flying A4's. They brought me home after 170 plus combat missions. Thanks for the film.

Ed

Civilian Skyhawk https://fb.watch/gtoxd8gMWM/



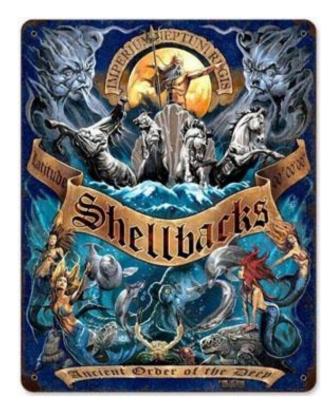
#### **Burial and Memorial Benefits for Veterans**

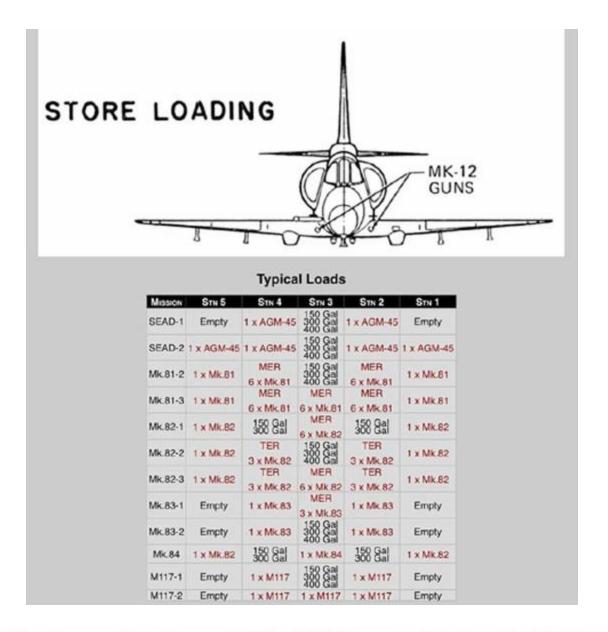
Preparing for a funeral can be a difficult and confusing process. Veterans, service members, and their families may be entitled to <u>VA burial benefits</u> to help plan and pay for burial, funeral service, and transportation costs. Learn about <u>each burial benefit</u>, <u>how to apply, and where to go for assistance</u>.











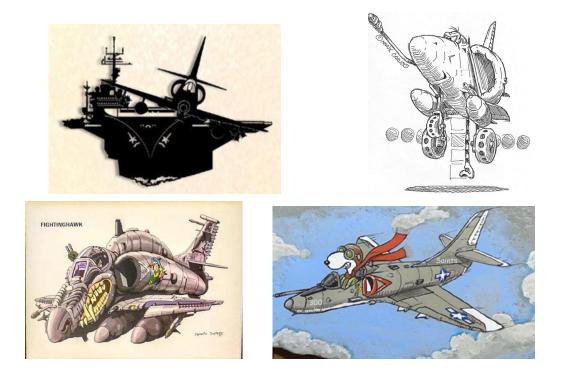
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#### Join the "VA-163 Saints" Facebook group:

Please join the "VA-163 Saints" Facebook group. Updates on reunions 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.

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#### La + + La + + La + + La + + La + +

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!**

Attack Squadron 163 (VA-163) crew Roster:

https://www.hullnumber.com/crew1.php?cm=VA-163

Civilian Skyhawk:

https://fb.watch/gtoxd8gMWM/

Oriskany Movie, Bridges at Toko-Ri

https://youtu.be/K46-MRxjteU

Carrier Anchor video:

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1464882337319813?fs=e&s=TIeQ9V

A-4 RC video:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/807712349254574/permalink/8830135263678869/

Lady Jesse A-4 RC video:

https://youtu.be/fMZRI7c7vs0

Navy Dreams: This is a cool retro WWII type video. Music is great too.

This poor sailor kid had a hell of a dream! And where it was made. Ready? In RUSSIA to American music!!! I would love to see that LSO on my platform.....

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp-IQroPNIM

How Blue Water Navy Ships were exposed to Agent Orange - BLUE WATER NAVY ASSOCIATION https://www.bwnvva.org/how-blue-water-navy-ships-were-exposed-to-agent-orange.html

<u>Oriskany Websites:</u> 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: <u>http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm</u>

3. Oriskany Reunion Association: www.ussoriskany.com

4. Video of Big O going under: <u>http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany</u>

5. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": http://patriotmediainc.com

6.32 Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\_photos.htm

7. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I-wYnIBZis</u>

8. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: A. http://glewis.us/obooks.htm

B. <u>http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html</u>

C. http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html

9. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: <u>http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss\_oriskany\_67/index.html</u>

10. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <a href="http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml">http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml</a>

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 <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNETwJvF3A</u> 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! <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRalM</u>

19. Tour of Duty photo site: 3000 photos, some Saints <u>https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/</u>

20. USS Oriskany Fire & Sinking: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk</u> 42 min video

21. 1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV\_Ws</u> & <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII</u>

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

25. Oriskany Dive video, to the Brig: 6 Dec 2021

https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157960059966910/

26. Oriskany Dive video, to the XO's stateroom and Officers Mess: 31 Oct 2021

https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157960065921910/

#### Oriskany Fire, Life Magazine

Life Magazine, November 25, 1966

"A Carrier's Agony — Hell Afloat"

An approximate **15 page article with photos** detailing the tragedy at sea. Click below for complete article:

http://www.ussoriskany.us/Oriskany/LifeNR.pdf

#### **Oriskany in Western Pacific**

https://youtu.be/CuznRX9Pa9k

#### **Oriskany Flight Ops and Unrep:**

https://catalog.archives.gov/id/85461](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/85461)

#### Oriskany on YouTube video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6l8DIJA5DU0&feature=share&fbclid=lwAR210YA4tzW4VI Tm58zt0aerctBQCmhNBOrT9okW6Brb7V0Jmzlh9RNEP1g

#### From Ed Chadwick: Pilot Down

Interestingly in1967, we lost several men and aircraft in 1967 in an attempted rescue of one Navy pilot. Orders came down immediately that no more high threat rescues would be allowed. It's possible that the reactions of many of us may have eventually altered that "no rescue" policy.

https://www.pilotsofamerica.com/community/threads/rescue-of-roger-locher.42816/

#### Oriskany Video from 1966:

https://catalog.archives.gov/id/85461?fbclid=IwAR3-cX6vMpSSO\_o0yaSvozse5MfRLnf0VBaBy znNGVWA3\_U4WZ8OXNJjUGY

#### **Blue Angels:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVxpCHqXQol

#### TA-4 inflight video:

https://instagram.com/skyhawk518?utm\_medium=copy\_link

Ed Copher Oriskany Fire Interview: Done at Virginia Beach on 5 Nov, 30 min video ED COPHER RAW INTERVIEW <u>https://f.io/oxWyqbJo</u> Huggin the Deck video: 54 min video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eSgDIS5I9s8

John Shore 1965-66 WestPac Video:

https://youtu.be/pWeBAyWIfP8

USS Hancock: Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock ("Hannah")

http://scottymoore.net/USSHancock.html?fb\_action\_ids=620396487990408&fb\_action\_types=og.li kes&fb\_source=other\_multiline&action\_object\_map=%7B%22620396487990408%22%3A32592078 0869208%7D&action\_type\_map=%7B%22620396487990408%22%3A%22og.likes%22%7D&action\_r ef\_map=%5B%5D#NASNI

Lots of Oriskany Info:

http://www.navsource.org/archives/02/34.htm?fbclid=lwAR0Onwxj0QPhQRFLCmZ6wzytP

b9D9YpRVSIB2Ea6cKhhUKm2gP0SECiqj-k

#### A-4 Skyhawk Wikipedia:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\_A-4\_Skyhawk?fbclid=IwAR0ICpJW03arF1pU2JU

3uv5vccB2Y4S9\_UXVE\_mmsKY7KuXYttPrc0oH2UM

Amazing Carrier Landing:

https://fb.watch/8szS\_yQV97/

Website on the A-4 Skyhawk with much interest as I am very keen to commission and

publish further books on this beautiful and iconic aircraft. More on us can be gleaned here:

https://www.fonthill.media/products/phantom-pilot

If you are interested in possibly connecting and discussing a proposal on the A-4 Skyhawk or a pilot/ground crew memoir, please do not hesitate to contact me. <u>j.slater@fonthillmedia.com</u> via <u>fonthill.onmicrosoft.com</u>

#### Oriskany Amature flight deck videos: From Facebook

- 1. https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157816002016910/
- 2. https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157815770641910/
- 3. https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157815786321910/

#### Landing on Oriskany Video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gm2jT6Ftn3E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=lwAR23MVLfw6 9KhDsQ9A5BFS3tAEGzT\_dBFHtHXMHL-GsiBh7TUxnRSdL-1Cs

#### A-4 Inflight Crash video:

https://fb.watch/8jyVi92eJh/

Oriskany Sinking video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=F2-Aew7SMO8&fbclid=IwAR2xrucXr7I2IaUx8SM98-IIDXp

<u>Ai3</u>

#### 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:<u>vvmf.org/wall-of-faces</u>

#### 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=blFuGFBw\_yl

#### 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

#### <u>I Stand:</u>

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

#### Blue Angels In Flight:

https://www.wearethemighty.com/blue-angels-cockpit-footage?utm\_source=facebook&utm\_med ium=social&utm\_campaign=Evergreen&utm\_term=Veterans&utm\_content=blue-angels-cockpitfootage

#### 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-st ill-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 DEC 2022

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 -

<u>www.va163.org</u> password, *saints4ever* capital S



Happy trails to you....until we meet again ...... https://g.co/kgs/3FJhs4





