

Tooooo Weeet.... Attention on Deck.....“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.



2012

10th Year Edition
Established Nov 2002
VOL 1 Issue 117

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



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

Listen to music as you read the newsletter:

Click Here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related> “**When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band**”, 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.



Birds of a feather... Flock Together





Click Here <http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/>

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

Contains 72 Albums (Sets).... 4,011 Photos.... 19,704 views (as of 30 June 2012)



[SAINTS WEB SITE](#)

Saints Internet Web Site www.va163.org (password: *saints4ever*)

4,901 Visitors since Mar 09

*****NOTICE***** *Please sign the **Guestbook***





Allen "Al" Shuler passed away on 29 June 2012



Chief Al



Al and Charlie



Al and wife, Carol

03 Sept 1943 – 29 June 2012

Sign Guest Book: <http://www.legacy.com/guestbook/DignityMemorial/guestbook.aspx?n=allan-shuler&pid=158344541>

Shuler, Allen C. (Saint AB-2, Line Div 1965-68)



Aviation Boatswains Mate, MCPO, Retired
7492 SE Teton Dr.
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
shuleral@comcast.net

Obituary:

Allen Cromer Shuler II, 68, of Hobe Sound, Florida, passed away on June 29, 2012 at Stuart Nursing and Restorative Care. Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Shuler had previously lived in Orlando before relocating to the Hobe Sound area ten years ago. He was a **Command Master Chief** for the United States Navy, and retired after twenty-six years of service. From there, Mr. Shuler worked for Homeland Security until he retired in 2012. He proudly served our country during the Vietnam War, where he did three tours of duty with **VA-163 Saints**. Mr. Shuler was also a 32nd degree Mason, and a past member of the VFW. He was an avid Harley Davidson enthusiast. Mr. Shuler was of Baptist faith. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Carol C. Shuler of Hobe Sound, FL; son, Allen Cromer Shuler, III of Little Rock, AR; two grandchildren, Adrian Shuler and Cassidy Shuler; three sisters, Mary Shuler of Las Cruces, NM, Carolyn Ferguson of Marathon, FL, and Kathleen Bills of McCook, NE. Mr. Shuler was predeceased by his sister, Louise. Visitation will be held on Thursday, July 5, 2012 from 4:30-6:00 PM at Aycock Funeral Home in Stuart, Florida. A graveside service will be held on Friday, July 7, 2012 at 1:45 PM at South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth, FL. Please visit Mr. Shuler's online guestbook at www.aycockfuneralhome.net. All arrangements are entrusted to Aycock Funeral Home, Stuart, Florida.

Message from his wife, Carol Shuler:

Al was a good man and a sailor to the end. He had lung cancer that spread to his brain but he had Alzheimer's first. He has been in a nursing home since Jan. 14 and I went everyday to see him.....my life began with him. I worked in Orlando until I retired, and he worked for Homeland Security until he retired Jul 31, 2010. Thank you for kind words and putting it in newsletter. Don't know if you knew Jay Lundsford (think the whole world did) Al's best friend. Talked to him a couple of times in Calif. and he had brain cancer also. Last message he left me said he wasn't doing well and I think he passed away also.

In my eyes, AL SHULER was a SAINT.

Thank you,
Carol Shuler



Saints 2012 Reunion:

Location: Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley

Date: 5-7 Oct 2012

Point of Contact: Scott Mitchell ccsm249@verizon.net

The reunion will be held in San Diego, CA on the **weekend of 5 - 7 October 2012**. The site of the gathering will be the Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley. Activities will include a 3 hour dinner cruise around San Diego Bay on Friday evening, an escorted tour of the USS Midway Museum Saturday afternoon and a sit-down banquet to celebrate our fellowship at the hotel on Saturday night. A bloc of 30 rooms has been set aside by the hotel at a rate of \$109 per night. Saints will be eligible for this low rate for up to 2 days before the reunion weekend and 2 days afterwards for a total of six nights. We will be able to book rooms 6 months prior to the event beginning in April 2012. The hotel is also providing a complimentary hospitality suite for our use and all Saints will be entitled to a 20% discount in the hotel restaurant and bar. Be on the lookout for an e-mail or letter setting forth the event schedule and associated fees right after the first of the year. A booking code for the bloc of rooms will be provided when the hotel is ready to accept reservations.”

Hubert Cook had the reunion info put in the “VFW national quarterly magazine”.

Attack Squadron VA-163 “Saints” 2012

San Diego, Mission Valley Hilton; 5-7 Oct 2012

Activities include a 3 hour dinner cruise Friday evening, an escorted tour of the USS Midway Saturday afternoon and a sit-down banquet at the hotel on Saturday night. Complimentary hospitality suite, 20% discount in the hotel restaurant/bar. Contact hcook@texas-skies.com or ecopher@satx.rr.com



Stolen Valor/Supreme Court

Thursday 06/28/2012 was a big day at the Supreme Court but this item may have fell through the cracks for many. The “Stolen Valor Act” was struck down by the court, saying that the First Amendment defends a person’s right to lie – even if that person is lying about awards and medals won through military service. The case started in 2007 when a California man was convicted under the Stolen Valor Act of 2006 – federal legislation that made it illegal for people to claim to have won or to wear military medals or ribbons they did not earn. The man in question claimed to have won the country’s highest military award, the Medal of Honor, but was later revealed to have never served in the military at all. He was sentenced to three years probation, a \$5000 fine and community service, but he and his lawyer appealed the decision, saying that the Stolen Valor Act is unconstitutional – essentially that it violates a person’s right to lie. In its argument before the Supreme Court, the government said that such specific lies fall under a special category of speech that is not protected by the First Amendment – when the speech could do harm. In its 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court said the act as written, the act is too broad and ignores whether the liar is trying to materially gain anything through his or her false statement, which would be akin to fraud. “The Act by its plain terms applies to a false statement made at any time, in any place, to any person,” Justice Kennedy said in his opinion, “...the sweeping, quite unprecedented reach of the statute puts it in conflict with the First Amendment.





Happening Now In Vietnam

America's top defense official, Leon Panetta, traveled to Cam Ranh Bay, a symbolic return to what was a vital naval base for the United States during the Vietnam War. This was intended to highlight a deepening partnership between the United States and its former foe as both seek to [counter the growing influence and military assertiveness of China](#). Despite long-standing efforts by China to forge ties with Vietnam's communist government, leaders in Hanoi are [increasingly turning elsewhere](#) for new partnerships, most notably with the United States. "This is a country that's clearly thinking very strategically about China and its place in Asia," said a Southeast Asian Expert, "And Vietnam has turned out to be one of the more straight shooters. They call it like they see it on China. That's something attractive to the U.S." The hope is that military cooperation will advance to the point where Vietnam would provide a key military access point and possibly even host a rotation of U.S. troops and Navy warships— a new approach the United States is adopting in Australia and Singapore and looking to implement in the Philippines. There are signs Vietnam may be ripe for such an arrangement in coming years; since 2003, 20 U.S. Navy ships have been allowed stops in Vietnam. In Cam Ranh Bay, for example, Vietnam has begun in the last few years to allow U.S. Navy supply ships to dock for repairs and maintenance. Panetta toured one such ship on Sunday. As one of the best natural harbors in the area, the bay has long held strategic importance for many countries. But one reason it is particularly appealing militarily is that it provides direct access to the South China Sea, a large swath of disputed territory that has created enormous friction in recent months between China and its neighbors, including Vietnam. The bay also could prove particularly useful to the United States given a new strategy announced by Panetta on Saturday at a security conference in Singapore. In a speech to defense leaders from 28 countries, Panetta [vowed that by 2020, 60 percent](#) of the U.S. naval forces will be shifted into the Pacific and 40 percent in the Atlantic, in contrast to the current 50-50 split.



The Swabbies



MILITARY REPORT

— The Military's Largest Benefits Update —

www.Military.Com : News

Military Report is the most comprehensive military benefits and quality-of-life newsletter for military personnel and retirees. Make sure that you and your colleagues [subscribe](#) for this free update publication. Click on each blue link to go there.



[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



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

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

The real story of Viet Nam: What Really Happened with Viet Nam!

5 Minute video

The truth! Finally!!! But don't expect to see it broadcast or released anywhere... it would embarrass the Congress. Observe which Party controlled the Congress at the time.

Click on: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67C8yzww_Y&feature=digest

Sad to learn that 285 Vietnam War Veterans die EVERY day – yuk!



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.vhfcn.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/>

A well done moving video by Vietnam vets from Michigan .

This was made by Michigan Vietnam Vets, but it says it all for every Vietnam Vet. Share it with a Vietnam Vet or a family that may have lost a Dad, Brother, Uncle or Son...

I thought they did an excellent job on this. Touching, I suspect in the future this theme will be shown over and over again for each conflict. Thankfully the Gulf war vets were welcomed home with honor.

This is one of the better Vietnam videos made by and for Michigan Vietnam Veterans, but I believe all of you will appreciate this. This story could and is retold by 49 other states and territories as well.

If you know a Vietnam Veteran consider sending this link to them.

http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

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



****Web sites of Interest****

Oriskany Web Sites:

USS Oriskany
(CVA 34)

25 Sep 1950 / 30 Jul 1997. Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 20 Sep 1979. 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=-140127976274553286&q=oriskany>
6. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. Remembering Oriskany Guest Book: <http://www.rememberingoriskany.bravepages.com/guestbook2.html>
8. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
9. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I-wYnlBZis>
10. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: <http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>
11. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
12. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
13. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
14. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
15. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
16. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (<http://glewis.us/obooks.htm>)
17. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
18. 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
19. 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

Stay' in Alive with Rita Hayworth, Fred Astaire, and Gene Kelly: 4 min video

Fabulous:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=mz3CPzdCDws

New I-Pad for dad: Hilarious.....

A daughter is visiting her father and is helping in the kitchen. She asks: Tell me dad, how are you managing with the new I-Pad we gave you for your birthday? This is in German but that's all you need to know. You'll get the rest: <http://www.snotr.com/video/8965/>

[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/>

[Another Saints website site:](#) By Saint Dennis Lund

<http://www.va-163saints.com/>

[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

[Remembering the Brave:](#)

<http://www.jensensutta.com/slideshows/RTB/>

[Lemoore Naval Air Station Operations Area Map:](#)

If you want to look over NAS Lemoore, Go to the first URL line below, then click on it. This will take you NS Lemoore (Reeves Field), CA Flight Plan home page. Here you will want to click on

[Click here for full scale & interactive Sectional view of KNLC.](#)

Once you to this interactive map, you can zoom in with the mouse click on + or - (in left upper corner) all around the base at Lemoore, all of operations area. While you are snooping around the base looking at all the hangars, FA/18 Hornets and Super Hornets, zoom and "grab the screen" with the pointer (white glove hand) and move south down to the Administration and Housing Area to continue snooping.

<http://www.fltplan.com/AirportInformation/KNLC.htm>

http://wh94.fltplan.com/route/index.cfm?AirportSingle=t&mapttype=blank&airport_id=KNLC&mapservicetype=sectionals_esri&MapHeight=99pc&MapWidth=99pc

[A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website:](#) Some of our Saints photos 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/

Virtual Aircraft Encyclopedia:

<http://www.aviastar.org/index2.html>

McDonnell-Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: http://www.aviastar.org/air/usa/mcdonnel_sky.php

RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 July 2012

Read the **Articles** go to the web site at: http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html

2012 VA Benefits Edition:

In the Link and in cover as well, you'll find it broken down in the sections listed for easier reading and researching, also with link to PDF as well as one in Spanish, or look through the document reader embedded.

[VA Benefits 2012 Edition](#)

Captured: A Look Back at the Vietnam War on the 35th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon
141 Photos. Good history of the war in photos.

Click here: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2010/04/30/captured-a-look-back-at-the-vietnam-war-on-the-35th-anniversary-of-the-fall-of-saigon-2/>

Music of the Vietnam War:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnnLrmbOYE&feature=related> 8:36 min video

1960's: *Great photos, music, and facts.*

This is the one of the best presentations of the sixties. It is very well done. Just click on the link and sit back and enjoy the memories.

Click here: <http://objflicks.com/TakeMeBackToTheSixties.htm>

1950 - 1982 Jukebox: *This is really cool. Have fun with it.....!!*

Click here: <http://www.tropicalglen.com/>

What We Drove in the 50's & 60's:

<http://cruzintheavenue.com/CarsWeDrove.htm>

Music from 60's & 70's:

Nine different play lists with about 100 songs on each list from 60's & 70's

<http://chu65nang67.us/nam/vietnam.html>



2012 VA Benefits Guide Now Available

Click here: [VA Benefits 2012 Edition](#)

The VA 2012 guide to "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors" is now available online. This is the all-in-one place to learn about the benefits to which you or a family member might be entitled. Click [here](#) to view the guide.

SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

Revised 30 June 2012

New or changed address:

None

Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

Complete Roster can be found on the Saints website – www.va163.org



(password, *saints4ever*)