

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.



2023

21st Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 245

### Independence Day Prayer

Loving God, We greet this Fourth of July with grateful hearts as we call to mind the vision of freedom and justice for all upon which our country was built.

We thank You for our independence, peace and for all those who have bravely given their lives in the defense of freedom and justice....AMEN

**Shalom:** Hebrew word for “**Peace be with you**”

**Quote** from Dr. Charles Stanley, who just passed recently:

**“Obey God and leave the consequences to Him”**



"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*

**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.



 **Salute.**

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

*May God Bless you*



**UNITED STATES NAVY SEVENTH FLEET**



**VIETNAM**



**VETERAN**  
1959-1975

**"TONKIN GULF YACHT CLUB"**

The complex block is a commemorative graphic for a Vietnam veteran. It features a black background with a yellow border. At the top, the text "UNITED STATES NAVY SEVENTH FLEET" is written in yellow. On the left is a map of the Pacific region with labels for "China", "South China Sea", and "South of Taiwan". In the center is a circular logo for the "TONKIN GULF YACHT CLUB" featuring a sailboat on a yellow and red background. To the right of the logo is the text "VIETNAM" above a Vietnam service ribbon, and "VETERAN" above the dates "1959-1975". At the bottom, the text "TONKIN GULF YACHT CLUB" is written in yellow.





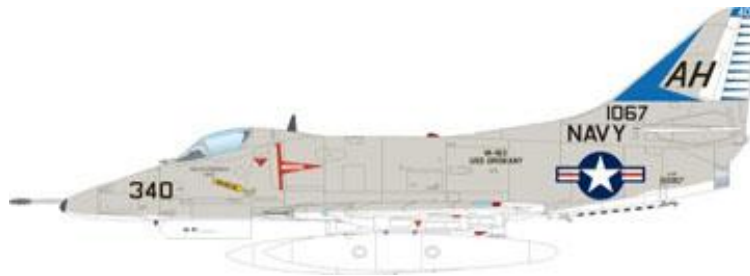


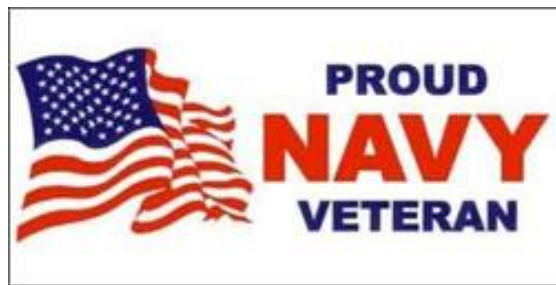
Patriot

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**





**Tailhook Navy**



**A-4 SKYHAWK**







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 04 July 2023**

**“Over a million views”**

**1,118,445 views**



“Saints Reunion Virginia Beach” 49 photos & 1 video

Click on link below

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

\*\*\*\*Paid **\$76.31** to Flickr.com for Saints Photo website on 16 April 2023

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

**THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER**

Saints website [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) password: *Saints4ever* **capital S**

**32,456** *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**

**\*\*\* 14 March 2023 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 (4)

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 (2)

John Shore (2)

James Thompson

Bill Tomko

Anthony Stabile (2)

Lucille Stickle (4)

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 the last 13 funerals**

The cost of each arrangement is over **\$200**

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dennis Dooley

Earl Groff (2)

John Roosen

Seth Rossman

Thomas Harwood

Griff Sexton

Anthony Stabile

Ed Chadwick (2)

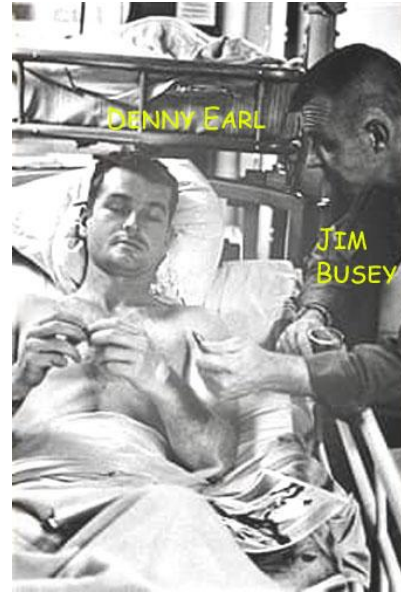
Daniel Lestage (3)

Lucille Stickley (4)



**Four Saints recently passed away:**

1. Admiral James Busey, 21 April 2023
2. AE2 Eusebio "Issy" Jasso, 13 June 2023
3. AE2 Nick Tsongranis, 4 June 2022
4. AM3 Mark "Lurch" Morell, 22 Jan 2021



**ADMIRAL James "Jim" BUSEY IV**, USN (Ret), Golden Eagle Emeritus

It is my sad duty to inform you that on **21 April 2023**, Golden Eagle Emeritus ADM James "Jim" Busey IV made his Last Take Off in Lincoln, CA. Jim was born on 2 October 1932, in Peoria, Illinois, the son of James Buchanan Busey III and Louise (née Rogers). He attended the University of Illinois in 1951 and enlisted in the Navy in January 1952. Jim graduated from boot camp at Naval Station, Great Lakes, IL in March 1952 and after graduating from AT (A) school in February 1953, was promoted to AT-3. In March, he was selected for the NAVCAD flight training program, flying the SNJ, SNB Navigator, F6F Hellcat, TV-2 SeaStar and F9F-2 Panther at NAS Pensacola, FL; NAS Corpus Christi, TX; NAF Cabaniss, TX and NAS Kingsville, TX. Jim received his Wings of Gold and was commissioned as an Ensign on 6 August 1954.

On 14 August he married Jean Cole and later that month was assigned to VA-36 at NAS Cecil Field, FL where he flew the F9F-5 Panther, F9F-8, F9F-8T and A-4B Skyhawk until October 1958. VA-36 deployed to WESTPAC in USS Bennington (CVA 20), with the first combination of angled deck and the then-new portable British mirror landing system. Jim would later recall that "We moved the mirror all over the deck and even routinely flew right-hand patterns to landing."

In October, 1958 Jim was assigned as instructor with Jet Transitional Training Unit (JTTU), flying the F9F-8 and F-11F Tiger, followed by another instructor tour with VA-44 at NAS Jacksonville, FL, flying the F9F-8, A-4B and A-4C. A year as a Line School student at Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, was next and then a two-year assignment to Carrier Group Five in San Diego and afloat as a Flag LT and Aide. He still managed to fly, logging time in the TV-2, F9F-8, C-1A, T-33B and C-45J. In July 1964 Jim returned to Monterey, this time to complete work on his long-delayed bachelor's degree and simultaneously receive a master's degree in business administration. He flew the C-45, T-2A and T-28B. In July 1966, he reported to VA-125 for A-4



refresher training and in January 1967 was assigned to the **VA-163 Saints** aboard USS Oriskany with CVW-16. They deployed to Vietnam in June.

**Among the four Vietnam combat deployments that VA-163 completed, the 1967–'68 deployment was by far the costliest, in losses of both pilots and aircraft. During this deployment five Saints pilots were Killed in Action (KIA), or were missing, over North Vietnam. Twelve A-4E aircraft were lost during the 1967–'68 deployment, with 10 lost to enemy action, and two as operational losses. Amidst the intense air combat of the early war period and the subsequent losses, the Saints displayed outstanding courage and bravery, resulting in many awards for valor being issued to Saints pilots.**

Among them, three were awarded the Navy Cross “for extraordinary combat heroism,” including Jim. His Navy Cross award citation reads in part, he “attacked the Hanoi thermal power plant in the face of the enemy’s most sophisticated and complex arsenal of air defense weapons. As he commenced his attack, Commander Busey sustained anti-aircraft hits to his aircraft. He skillfully regained control of his aircraft and, although his plane was severely damaged, renewed his attack, placing his weapon precisely on target. Subsequent bomb damage assessment photography confirmed that he inflicted heavy damage to his assigned portion of the thermal power plant. Although still severely handicapped by his damaged aircraft, Commander Busey evaded four surface-to-air missiles during his egress from the target area. Then, through skillful airmanship, he returned his crippled aircraft to the aircraft carrier.” **Jim flew 115 combat missions on this deployment and would later say, “Went to war in VA-163 with the greatest group of Naval Aviators anyone would want to serve with. There were countless “above and beyond” performances. Of our eight (pilot) losses, two are still unaccounted for. Airwing-16 had a tough time of it in 1967.”**

In May 1968, Jim was briefly assigned as Operations Officer of VA-125 and then assumed command of the VA-216 Black Diamonds, deployed aboard USS Coral Sea returning to combat in Vietnam. He flew 74 combat missions on this deployment. His next assignment was to CTF-77 aboard USS Constellation and USS America, as part of the Strike Plans staff until October 1970 flying the F-4J, A-4 and C-45. Shore duty followed as Operations Officer of LATWINGPAC at NAS Lemoore and then assignment as the CO of VA-125 flying the A-7A/B Corsair II until March 1972. A year at OP-96 on the CNO’s staff as the Analysis Deputy in Washington D.C., was next, then a posting as the Chief of Staff with CRUDESGRU 1 in San Diego, CA, until September 1975. Following that **he commanded NAS Lemoore, CA**, where Jim flew the C-1, S-2, UH-1 Huey and TA-4J.

Proving the adage that “no good deeds go unpunished,” Jim was detailed as the Auditor General of the Navy in 1978 in Washington D.C. followed by a tour as the Comptroller of Navy Material Command, also in Washington D.C. Redemption came in October 1982 when he returned to the cockpit as Commander LATWINGPAC, once again in Lemoore, CA, flying the F/A-18, TA-7C, TA-4J, XV-15, F-16, and BAE Hawk/VTXTS predecessors of the T-45 Goshawk. In the summer of 1983 Jim became Commander NAVAIRSYSCOM, once more in Washington,

D.C., and he flew the CH-53E, S-76, UH-60, SH-60B, TA-7C and F/A-18. In his final postings, non-flying duties decisively caught up with him when he became the VCNO in the summer of 1985. There were other rewards, though, and in the spring of 1987, he became the Commander in Chief Allied Forces Southern Region of NATO, Commander, Naples, IT, and Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Commander, London, U.K. He managed to fly the S-3 Viking in his final tour and retired from active duty in June 1989. He said: "I had some great jobs as a Flag Officer: The most unusual was Auditor General of the Navy; most interesting was as Commander Naval Air System Command; most challenging was as Vice Chief of Naval Operations; most fun was as NATO CinC South."

ADM Jim Busey served almost 38 years on active duty, advancing from the grade of E-1 to Admiral, flying almost 4,500 hours with 189 combat missions during two deployments that saw some of the deadliest fighting of the Vietnam War. He made 407 carrier arrested landings and was awarded the Navy Cross, three Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFCs); the Bronze Star with combat "V," three individual Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" and the Navy Achievement Medal with combat "V." His non-combat awards include two Defense Distinguished Service Medals, two Navy Distinguished Service Medals and five Legions of Merit. He commanded seven separate Naval Aviation organizations over an accumulated ten-year period and undoubtedly changed the vector of Naval Aviation for decades.

Jim wasted no time making the same difference on national and international scales following retirement from active duty. In the summer of 1989, he became the FAA Administrator and flew the Gulfstream 4, Lear 60, Cessna Citation II and MD-11 until December 1991 when he led the entire Department of Transportation as the Deputy and Acting Secretary. In June of 1992 he left Government service after almost 41 years, later serving AFCEA as President and CEO and serving on other corporate and non-profit Boards of Directors, including Texas Instruments, Curtiss-Wright and MITRE. He especially valued his time with the Flight Safety Foundation, the National Aeronautic Association and the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. Jim would frequently say, "Press on, and remember to smell the roses along the way."

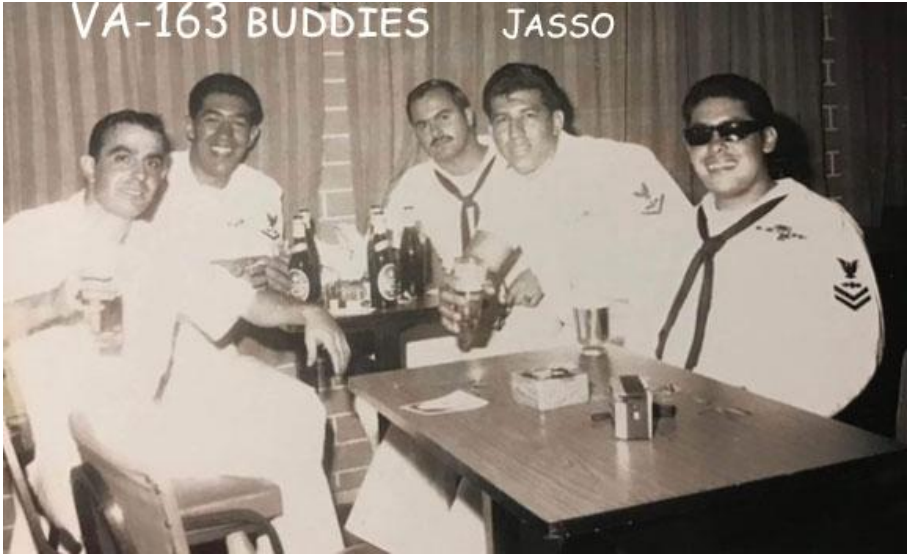
Jim and Jean were married 54 years. Jean sadly passed away in July 2008. She worked at the Department of State and hosted many dignitaries from many countries when they lived in Europe. She was a superb diplomat, active in her church in retirement, and was very proud of her children and grandchildren. Jean and Jim were preceded in death by their son, James V. Busey V, in March 2008 and is survived by daughters Angela and Nancy, four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

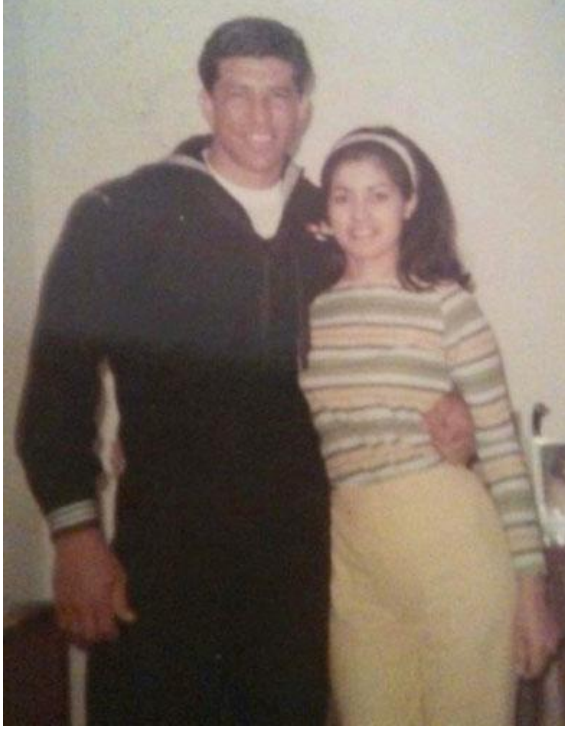
Services will be at Arlington National Cemetery. Those details will be provided as soon as they are available.



Eusebio "Issy" Jasso: Saints 1967-1969, Passed in Visalia, CA on 13 June 2023

Flowers were sent by the Saints Flower Fund.









**Obituary:**

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/visalia-ca/eusebio-jasso-11335062>



## OBITUARY

Eusebio Isidro Jasso, III, age 79, of Visalia, California, went home to be with his Lord on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, surrounded by his three sons.

He was born in Corpus Christi, Texas, on Sunday, August 1, 1943, to Eusebio Jasso, Jr. and Delfina Serna Jasso. Eusebio was raised in Corpus Christi and educated at Roy Miller High School, from which he graduated with the class of 1962. While at Roy Miller, Eusebio was a two-time all-state band member. He was awarded a musical scholarship to Del Mar College and later transferred to Texas A&I on a music scholarship. Eusebio also attended Ranger Junior College and transferred back to Texas A&I but was called up for service during the Vietnam War. Eventually, he received his Master's Degree from University of San Francisco. Eusebio, affectionately known as simply Jasso within Visalia and as Chevo at home in Corpus Christi, was stationed in Lemoore, California, as he began his service to his country in April of 1966. He was proud of his service and his work upon the A-4 Skyhawk. While in the service, his musical talents earned him an invitation to join the United States Navy Band, but he chose a different path away from music at that time. His service concluded in December of 1969.

While stationed in Lemoore, California, Eusebio met and later married Linda Reynoso Jasso on April 17, 1971, at Visalia First Baptist Church. The two of them made their home in Visalia, California. Eusebio became a member of the Visalia Police Department and served his community for over a decade until he was medically discharged for injury sustained while on duty. As a member of the Visalia Police Department, he served upon the newly established Motor Unit as well as the S.W.A.T. team. Eusebio was always proud of his service to the community and brotherhood to which he always belonged. His bond with others in law enforcement led him to playing the bass guitar in the band known as Unlawful Assembly and also making his home open to other officers as the garage became a weightlifting gym.

After retiring from the Visalia Police Department, he owned Ranchway Liquor on the corner of Houston and Ben Maddox. Upon selling Ranchway Liquor, he became a Revenue Officer for the Internal Revenue Service. Eusebio remained with the Internal Revenue Service until his retirement in 2006. Eusebio also served his community as a coach and mentor to many. He was an involved youth soccer coach within the AYSO and CYSA organizations. Eusebio coached at Redwood High School from the late 1980s through the late 1990s as a Football, Track and Field, and Strength and Conditioning coach. His coaching and mentorship also led him to the Hanford West football program in the mid-2000s.

Eusebio's later years saw him attending sporting events for his grandchildren and spending time with his wife of 43 years, Linda, until her passing in 2014. His care for the U.S. Navy, brotherhood of the Visalia Police Department, his family, and many friends kept his interests until his passing.

Eusebio was preceded in death by his loving wife Linda Jasso, by his parents, Eusebio, Jr. and Delfina; sisters, Alicia, Irene, Diana, and Graciela.

Eusebio leaves to cherish his memory his three loving sons, Jeff (Valerie), Cory (Jana), and Kurt (Lisa), all of Visalia; brothers, Arnold (Alicia), Luis (Linda), Steve and (Betty), and Robert (Celeste), sister Eva (David), all of Corpus Christi, Texas and his grandchildren Chase, Chance, Faith, Mikayla, Summer, Tyler, and Matthew. He also leaves numerous nieces and nephews from California and Texas and many friends.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.millerchapel.com](http://www.millerchapel.com) for the Jasso family.



**Mark Morell:** Plane Captain with Saints 1966-1968, passed 22 Jan 2021 in Benton, Ark



**Obituary:** <https://www.smithfamilycares.com/obituaries/mark-morell>



**Nick Tsongranis:** Saints 1961-1964, Passed in FL on 4 June 2022



**Obituary:** <https://www.vinsonfuneralhome.net/obituary/NicholasNick-Tsongranis>



### **Saints Reunion Pensacola Beach, 16-19 October 2023:**

Submitted by Ed Chadwick

We are committed for our reunion at the Hampton Inn, Pensacola Beach. The main reunion events are **October 17, 18 and 19th**, although I expect several people to come early and stay later. A room on the gulf front with balcony has a rate of \$159 per night, plus current taxes and fees of 13.78 %. A room on the sound side is \$119 per night, plus the same taxes and fees. Our group code is "163" and is to be used when making your reservations. The hotel phone number is 1 850 932 6800. Please ask for group reservations and Rhaena Dawson when booking your rooms. I suggest you do so soon, since we have preferential rates and there is a limited number of rooms. I believe the prices are good for the entire week.



**Tuesday, October 17th** is a Pensacola Landmark Tour in a 1930 Ford bus. We will be picked up at the hotel at 1400 hours. There is also an aerial tour scheduled in a PiperSaratoga for those adventurous participants. The aircraft holds 5 passengers and the trip is 40 minutes long, for a total cost of \$510. This trip could also be scheduled on other days.

**Wednesday, October 18th** we plan to spend the day at the Naval Aviation Museum starting with a Blue Angels practice. John Roosen is the "Leader"for that event.

**Thursday, October 19th**. The banquet dinner will be at the hotel and will cost about \$50 per plate, not including beverages. That day we have also scheduled a DolphinTour and box lunch. That event will last two to three hours. The launch point is just down the street.

**In the evenings** we will have All Hands Meetings, with wine and beer. There you will hear stories from the good old days and may even see some films. In addition your task will be to "mill about" and renew old acquaintances.

Friends and relatives are all invited. Let's make this one special.

At present time we have about **40 folks** signed up.

**Point of contact:** Ed Chadwick: [chadco@chadcorealestate.com](mailto:chadco@chadcorealestate.com) Phone: 503-781-3973

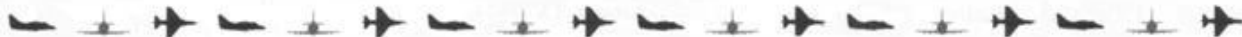
**Remember:** don't let the cost keep you from attending, scholarships are available.

**From Ed Copher:** I put the reunion announcement on the VA-163 Facebook page, and it will be in the Summer edition of the Skyhawk Association A4ever magazine.









## **USS ORISKANY** *Reunion Association*

### ***Did you know?***

The USS Oriskany Reunion Association was formed in the early 1990s to plan reunion events for former crew members of the aircraft carrier USS ORISKANY CV/CVA 34. Today, the event is a place for veterans, their families, and descendants to gather.

The group hosts the annual reunion in a different city every year and publishes a regular newsletter. In the past, they have helped support the Oriskany Museum and two scholarship funds. Membership is \$25 per year.

### **Event Contact:**

Alexis W. Albright  
Oriskany Museum Curator  
PO Box 284, Oriskany, NY 13424  
oriskanymuseum@gmail.com  
**315-736-7529**

## **2023 USS Oriskany Reunion Oriskany, NY October 1-5, 2023**

Details are being finalized for banquet pricing and excursion tickets. More information will be available by July 1. Please RSVP to the Museum by phone (315-736-7529) or online at [oriskanymuseum.com/reunion](http://oriskanymuseum.com/reunion)

The schedule is as follows:

### **Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 - Arrival**

**Monday, Oct. 2, 2023 - Oriskany Day**  
*Tours of the Oriskany Museum with a visit to the Oriskany Battlefield and dinner at the Oriskany American Legion*

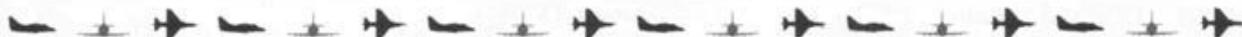
**Tuesday, Oct. 3, 2023 - Excursion Day**  
*A ride on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad to see the autumn leaves near peak foliage (details TBD)*

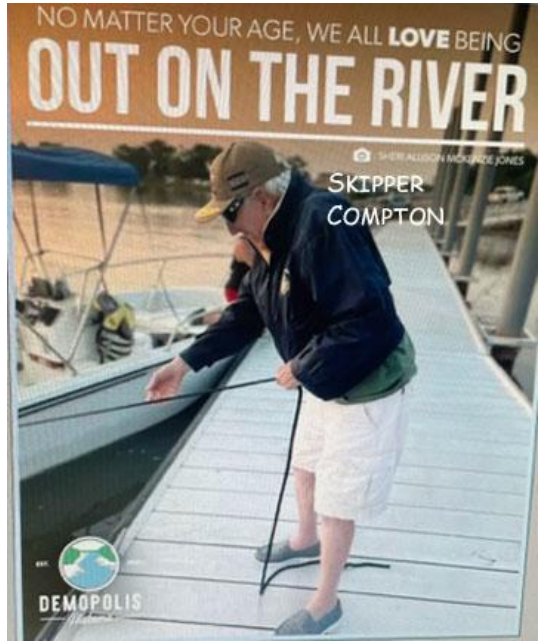
**Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023 - Mighty O Day**  
*Morning business meeting for association members, followed by an open afternoon to explore the Mohawk Valley. Banquet dinner at 6pm. (Prices coming soon!)*

### **Thursday, October 5, 2023 - Departure**

The event will be headquartered at:  
**Hotel Utica (Doubletree by Hilton)**  
102 Lafayette St, Utica, NY 13502

Rooms are available at the group rate of \$139/night (plus tax) until Sept. 1, 2023.  
**For hotel reservations please call (315) 724-7829 or visit [oriskany.org/reunion](http://oriskany.org/reunion)**







**Army Bases have been renamed:** Ugh, they are messing with history.....

1. Fort Hood TX, to Fort Cavazos
2. Fort Bragg NC, to Fort Liberty
3. Fort Polk LA, to Fort Johnson



**Pilots:** Submitted by Ed Chadwick

I hope there's a place, way up in the sky  
Where pilots can go when they have to die.  
A place where a guy could buy a cold beer  
For a friend and a comrade whose memory is dear.  
A place where no doctor or lawyer could tread,  
Nor a management-type would e'er be caught dead!  
Just a quaint little place, kind of dark, full of smoke,  
Where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke.  
The kind of a place that a lady could go  
And feel safe and secure by the men she would know.  
There must be a place where old pilots go,  
When their wings become heavy, when their airspeed gets low,  
Where the whiskey is old, and the women are young,  
And songs about flying and dying are sung.  
Where you'd see all the fellows who'd 'flown west' before,  
And they'd call out your name, as you came through the door,  
Who would buy you a drink, if your thirst should be bad,  
And relate to the others, "He was quite a good lad!"

And there, through the mist, you'd spot an old guy  
You had not seen in years, though he'd taught you to fly.  
He'd nod his old head, and grin ear to ear  
And say, "Welcome, my Son, I'm proud that you're here!  
For this is the place where true flyers come  
When the battles are over, and the wars have been won.  
They've come here at last, to be safe and alone,  
From the government clerk, and the management clone;  
Politicians and lawyers, the Feds, and the noise,  
Where all hours are happy, and these good ol' boys  
Can relax with a cool one, and a well deserved rest!  
This is Heaven, my Son. You've passed your last test!"

— Captain Michael J. Larkin





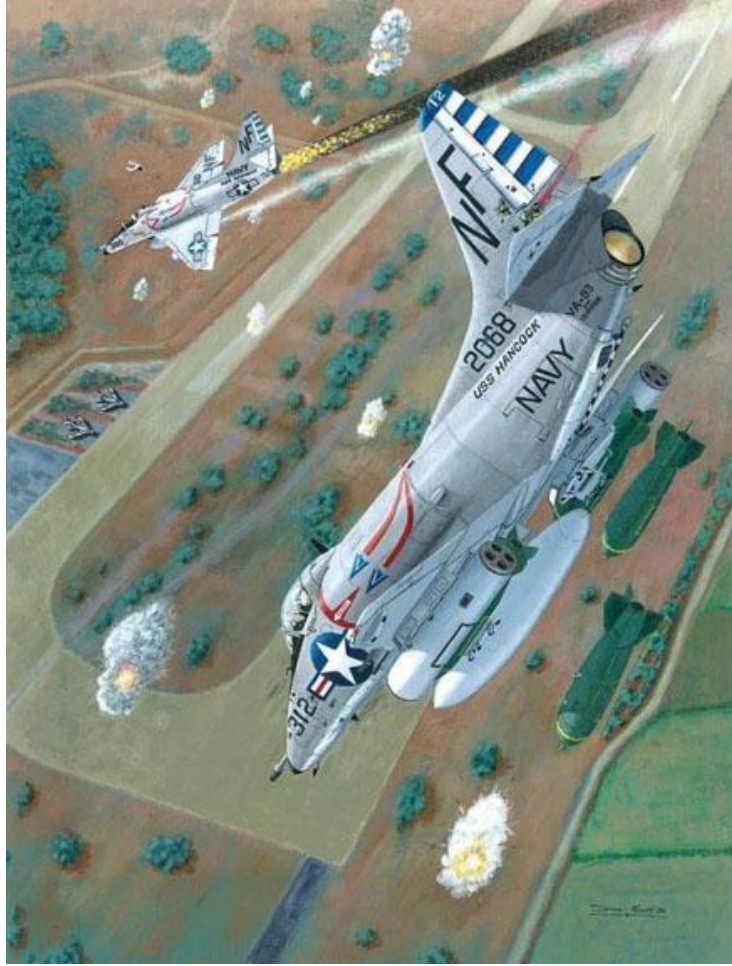






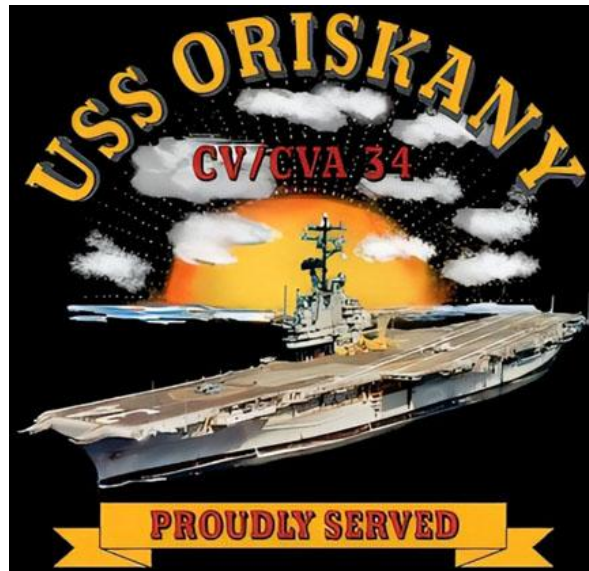
How many G's can I pull with drop tanks installed













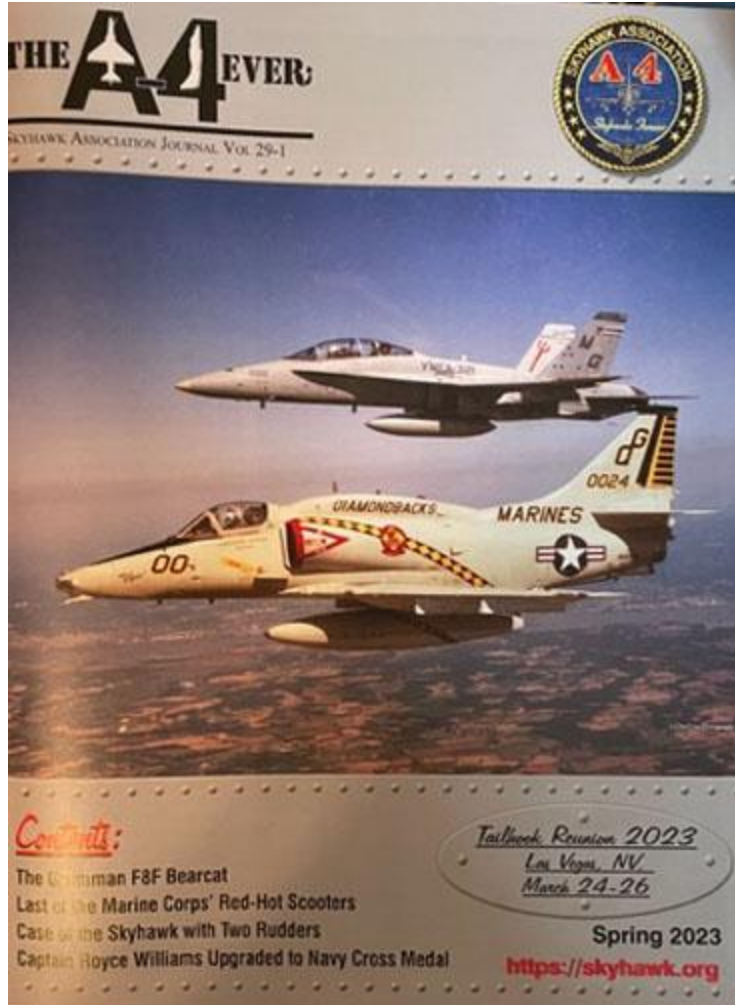
CREW CARS WHILE CHANGING HOME  
PORT FROM BREMERTON, WA, TO S.D.



KITTY HAWK



Come on.....tighten up....gota out do the Saints!!!



[Saints Video, 4 minutes:](#) Submitted by, and narrated by Gordon Hunter



<https://www.facebook.com/tom.mckinney.90/videos/10153230066507514/?mibextid=5Ufylb>



**[Join the “VA-163 Saints” Facebook group:](#)**

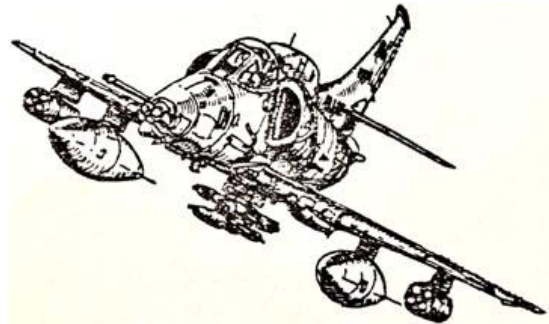
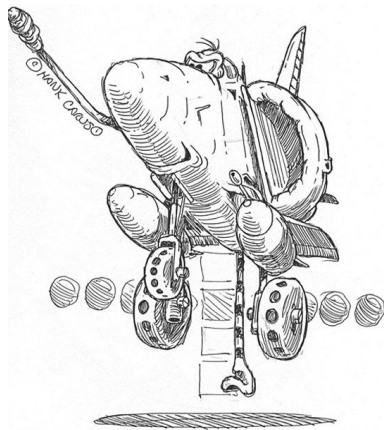


Please join the “**VA-163 Saints**” Facebook group. Updates on reunions etc. and other interesting Saints postings. You can post pictures and other info for others to enjoy. Just go to Facebook Groups and search for **VA-163 Saints**.

Ed Copher is the group administrator and will approve your joining.







Hey Mule, close your canopy before launch.....



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!**

**A4 Low level video:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/807712349254574/permalink/23869560792643070/?mibextid=W9r11R>

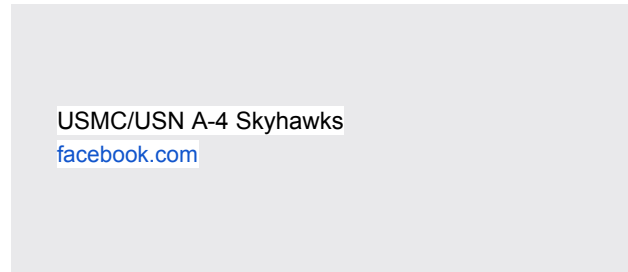
**Restored TA-4 Taxi:**

<https://fb.watch/k9dHglzuoo/?mibextid=afzh1R>

**Blue Angels A-4 video:**

USMC/USN A-4 Skyhawks  
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

**[Another Blue Angels A-4 video:](#)**



**[Review Of Ken Burn's Vietnam PBS Series - Maggie's Farm](#)**

**<http://maggiesfarm.anotherdotcom.com/archives/30521-Review-Of-Ken-Burns-Vietnam-PBS-Series.html>**

**[Scooter Memories:](#)**

<https://www.flightjournal.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Scooter-Memories-FJ-413.pdf>

**[A-4 that landed with 4 gallons of fuel left:](#)**

<https://theaviationgeekclub.com/the-story-of-the-us-navy-a-4-pilot-that-landed-with-4-gallons-of-fuel-left-without-declaring-an-emergency-after-falling-asleep-during-a-cross-country-flight-and-being-awakened-by-atc/>

**[A day in Western Pacific aboard the Oriskany, Video:](#)**

<https://archive.org/details/81104-a-day-in-westpac>

**[A-4's from Hancock:](#)**

<https://youtu.be/AyCKdZmgQDQ>

**[Oriskany Archives:](#)**

<https://catalog.archives.gov/search?page=7&q=%22oriskany%20cva-34%22>

**[Attack Squadron 163 \(VA-163\) crew Roster:](#)**

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

### **Oriskany Movie, Bridges at Toko-Ri**

<https://youtu.be/K46-MRxjteU>

### **Carrier Anchor video:**

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1464882337319813?fs=e&s=TleQ9V>

### **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>

**Oriskany Websites:** 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](http://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](http://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>
- 6.32 Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: [http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\\_photos.htm](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: 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](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=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](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\]\(https://catalog.archives.gov/id/85461\)](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/85461](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/85461))



### **Oriskany on YouTube video:**

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=6I8DIJA5DU0&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR210YA4tzW4VITm58zt0aerctBQCmhNBO rT9okW6Brb7V0Jmzlh9RNEP1g>

### **From Ed Chadwick: Pilot Down**

Interestingly in 1967, 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\\_o0yaSvozse5MfRLnf0VBaByznNGVWA3\\_U4WZ8OXNJjUGY](https://catalog.archives.gov/id/85461?fbclid=IwAR3-cX6vMpSSO_o0yaSvozse5MfRLnf0VBaByznNGVWA3_U4WZ8OXNJjUGY)

### **Blue Angels:**

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

**Ed Copher Oriskany Fire Interview:** Done at Virginia Beach on 5 Nov, 30 min video  
[ED COPHER RAW INTERVIEW](https://f.io/oxWyqbJo) <https://f.io/oxWyqbJo>

**Huggin the Deck video:** With Brian Compton interview, 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.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](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](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk?fbclid=IwAR0ICpJW03arF1pU2JU3uv5vccB2Y4S9_UXVE_mmsKY7KuXYttPrc0oH2UM)

**Amazing Carrier Landing:**

[https://fb.watch/8szS\\_yQV97/](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. [j.slater@fonthillmedia.com](mailto:j.slater@fonthillmedia.com) via [fonthill.onmicrosoft.com](http://fonthill.onmicrosoft.com)

**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=IwAR23MVLfw69KhDsQ9A5BFS3tAEGzT\\_dBFHtHXMHL-GsiBh7TUxnRSdL-1Cs](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=gM2jT6Ftn3E&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR23MVLfw69KhDsQ9A5BFS3tAEGzT_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-IIDXpAi3>

**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: [vymf.org/wall-of-faces](http://vymf.org/wall-of-faces)

**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=bIFuGFBw\\_yI](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>

**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#>

**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](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:**

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-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 04 July 2023

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](mailto: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](http://www.va163.org) password, *Saints4ever* [capital S](#)



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



