

Editors note: The June newsletter was delayed due to my move to the new house at Canyon Lake, TX

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*Toooo Weeet.... Attention on Deck.....“Saints...June... Newsletter”.....Arriving!*

*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.



2012

10th Year Edition  
Established Nov 2002  
VOL 1 Issue 116

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

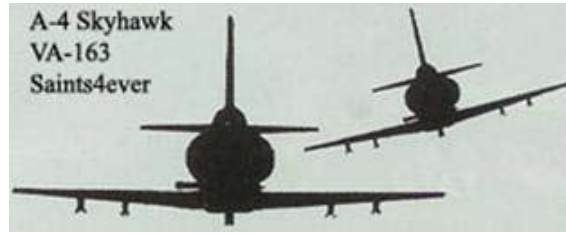
\*\*\*\*\*“NEW Home address”\*\*\*\*\*

242 Toye Blvd.

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Same email: [falconman64@live.com](mailto:falconman64@live.com)





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.... 19,548 views (as of 29 Mar 2012)**



## **SAINTS WEB SITE**

Saints Internet Web Site [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org) (password: *saints4ever*)

*4,850 Visitors since Mar 09*

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



**Saints 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion Photos:** Submitted by George Gabrys  
These pictures were taken in Coronado.  
Our first reunion welcoming Harry Jenkins home from Hanoi Hilton.



Saints 1st Reunion



Saints 1st Reunion



## Saints 2012 Reunion:

Location: Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley

Date: 5-7 Oct 2012

Point of Contact: Scott Mitchell [ccsm249@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:hcook@texas-skies.com) or [ecopher@satx.rr.com](mailto:ecopher@satx.rr.com)



**Saint Member Publishes Book:** Submitted by Dennis Dooley

I recently published a book that I wish to let you know about. It is not an aviation book though. If you wish to learn about it go to [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) book page and enter "A Hard Ride" by Richard and Dennis Dooley and then look at the information pages about the book.

I always enjoy your monthly newsletter. Keep up the good work.

Dennis Dooley, Saint



**Dave Small Celebration of Life:** Submitted by Bill Tomko



Thought you may want a briefing on the Dave Small Celebration of Life. Hubert Cook and his wife Dorothy attended as well as me to represent the Saints. Hubert and I served with Dave on the 1995/66 WesPac's. As you all know I was Dave's PC for old 353 until someone (not Dave) crash landed our Plane and it was cannibalized. I then transferred on to the AO gang (my sentence to HARD LABOR for 2 years :-)) and Hubert served as an AE. We had the Honor of meeting Dave's lovely sister Susan, reuniting with Dave's wonderful Wife Sandy who cared for him so faithfully and lovingly the past several years during Dave's health decline and incapacitation. We met many welcoming and warm family and friends all attesting to Dave's great friendship, generosity, support and helpfulness in their lives much above and beyond normal friendships and families typically experience. Thanks Dave Small for your kindness, you will always be a Giant in my memories. May God Bless your family and friends and fill the empty hole in their hearts and may HE have a special Place in Heaven for your kindness to others. Sincerely. Picture from above, left to right: Bill Tomko, Sandy Small, Susan (Dave's sister) Hubert Cook, taken at Dave's rustic favorite Watering hole in Carson City NV.



**News for the Enlisted:**

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TREA: The ENLISTED ASSN  
FROM WASHINGTON  
NEWS FOR THE ENLISTED

[Join TREA](#)



[www.trea.org](http://www.trea.org)



## MILITARY REPORT

— The Military's Largest Benefits Update —

[www.Military.Com](http://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](mailto:sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org) / [bluebolts6364@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](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=XayOuMhlzDM> 7:11 min video

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

First click on a state.....then when it opens .....an alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home town .....then 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/>

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### 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](http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html)

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### Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

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

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**Note from editor:** My move is complete to new house at Canyon Lake, TX.

--Be Well

---Ed Copher "Saints Keeper of the Flame"

**Note from Denny Earl:** 01 May 2012

Great work, Ed! Thanks for all you do. See you in October.

Denny Earl

## \*\*Web sites of Interest\*\*

### Oriskany Web Sites:

[USS Oriskany](#)  
(CVA 34)

25 Sep Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated  
1950 / 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.](#)  
20 Sep  
1979

1. USS Oriskany Online: *Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola*: [www.ussoriskanyonline.com/](http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/) [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. Two Memorial Video's of the Oriskany: <http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/>
4. Oriskany Reunion Association: [www.ussoriskany.com](http://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. Remembering Oriskany Guest Book: <http://www.rememberingoriskany.bravepages.com/guestbook2.html>
8. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: [http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\\_photos.htm](http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm)
9. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-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](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

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### Photos/History of Vietnam:

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History

From the Denver Post.

Click here: [VietamPictorialHistory](#)

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### 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>

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**A-4 Skyhawks:**

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

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**Another Saints website site:** By Saint Dennis Lund

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

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

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

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**VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:**

**VA Benefit Blog**

[https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app\\_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall](https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall)

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**Douglas A-4 Skyhawk:** 6:10 min video

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

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**Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:**

[http://www.v-prod.com/trailer\\_vietnam.html](http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html)

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**Remembering the Brave:**

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

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**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&maptype=blank&airport\\_id=KNLC&mapservicetype=sectionals\\_esri&MapHeight=99pc&MapWidth=99pc](http://wh94.fltplan.com/route/index.cfm?AirportSingle=t&maptype=blank&airport_id=KNLC&mapservicetype=sectionals_esri&MapHeight=99pc&MapWidth=99pc)

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**A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website:** Some of our Saints photos in there!!!

[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/)

[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/)

[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/)

[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854694748/)

[www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/)

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**Virtual Aircraft Encyclopedia:**

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

**McDonnell-Douglas A-4 Skyhawk:** [http://www.aviastar.org/air/usa/mcdonnel\\_sky.php](http://www.aviastar.org/air/usa/mcdonnel_sky.php)

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**RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 MAR 2012**

Read the **Articles** go to the web site at: [http://post\\_119\\_gulfport\\_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html](http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html)

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**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](#)

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**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/>

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**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 2011 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 04 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](http://www.va163.org)  
(password, *saints4ever*)

