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

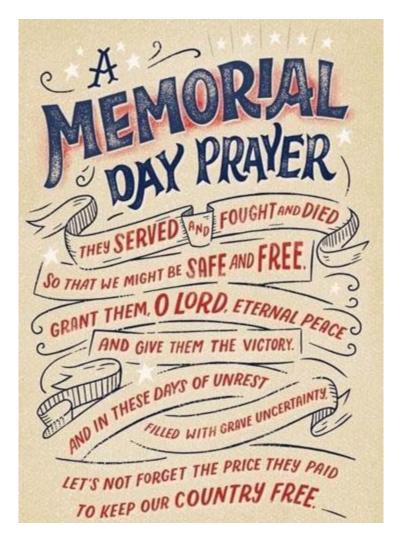
VOL 1 Issue 244

# **Prayer for our Nation**

Dear God, I pray You will be put in Your rightful position in this country. Give the leaders of this nation the wisdom and integrity to lead our nation in the best direction. Give each one discernment I pray, when making decisions or drawing up the legislation and laws that they pass. And may the decisions that they reach be godly and wise.

As the days become increasingly dark in our country, I pray that the light of Your love will shine on this land. May peace reign in our nation and protect us from those that would seek our downfall, I pray.

I really thank You that you have placed me in this land and I am grateful that I am a citizen of this nation. Thank You, Lord, for my country. In Jesus' name, 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

<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



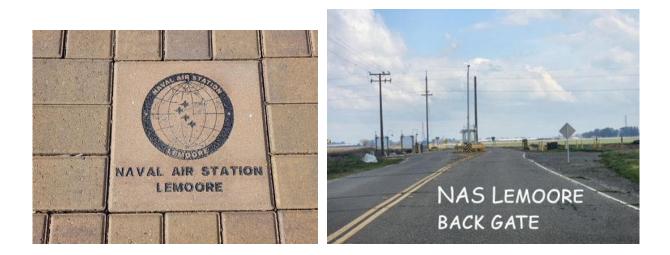














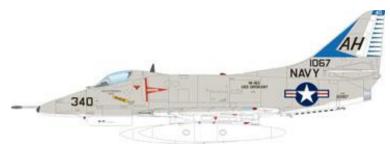






patritot Noun [pey-tree-ubt, -ot or, esp. British, pa-tree-ubt]

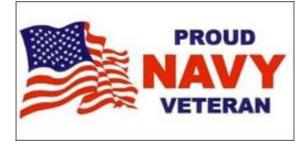
A person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies foreign and domestic.

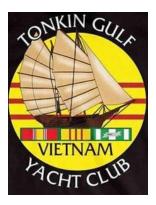












 $\operatorname{St}$ anding the Watch



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 June 2023

"Over a million views"

# 1,118,333 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 <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 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 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 (2)

 John Roosen

 Seth Rossman

 Thomas Harwood

 Griff Sexton

 Anthony Stabile

 Ed Chadwick (2)

 Daniel Lestage (3)

 Lucille Stickley (4)





Saint AE-2 Nick Tsongranis passed away on 4 June 2022 in FL. **RIP** Just recently found out about his passing from his wife Dora. Nick was of Greek nationality. Saints 1961 - 1964



## 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.

<u>Tuesday</u>, <u>October 17th</u> 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.

<u>Wednesday</u>, <u>October 18th</u> 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.

<u>Thursday</u>, <u>October 19th</u>, 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.

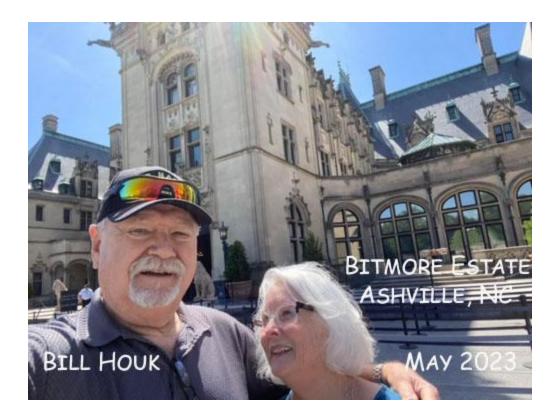
Point of contact: Ed Chadwick: <u>chadco@chadcorealestate.com</u> Phone: 503-781-3973

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

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





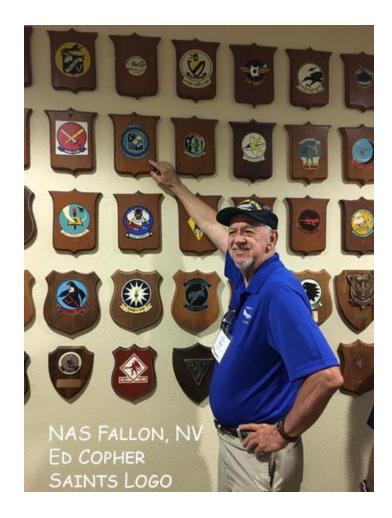




















Closed the Base 01 Feb 1993









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







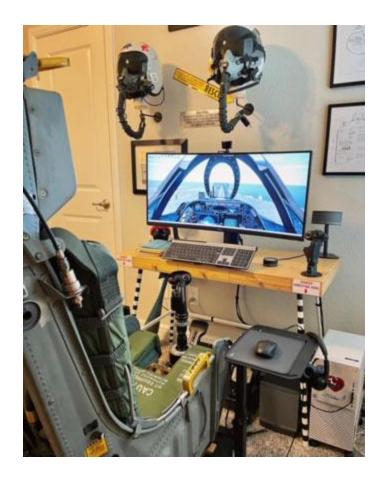


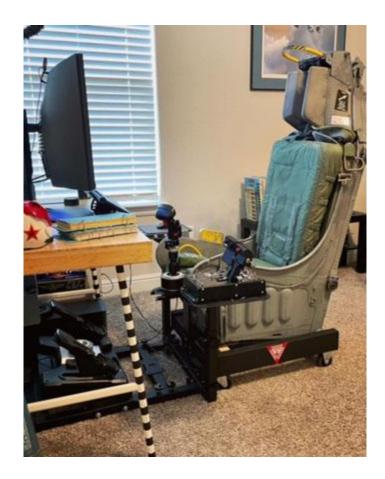


DEFUSING of 750-pound bomb.

FLIGHT DECK is cleared.





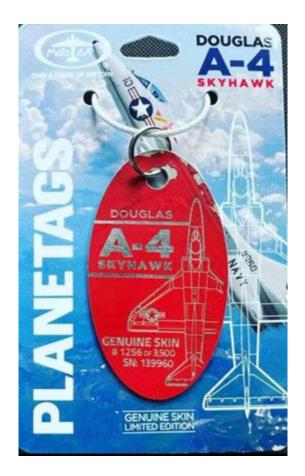
























https://theaviationgeekclub.com/the-story-of-the-iaf-skyhawk-pilot-who-shot-down-two-syrian-mig-17s-flying-an-a-4-fitted-with-french-designed-and-israeli-manufactured-30-mm-defa-cannon/











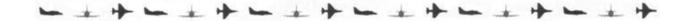


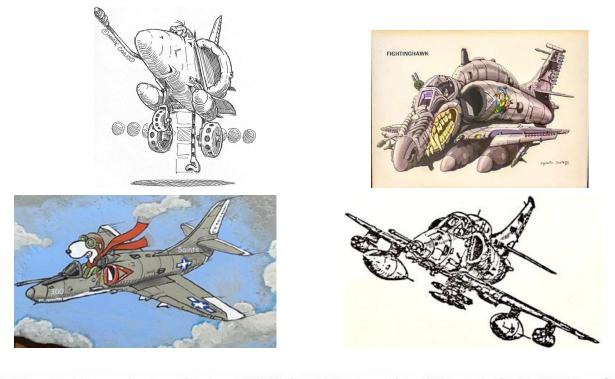


# Join the "VA-163 Saints" Facebook group:

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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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 =W9rl1R

**Restored TA-4 Taxi:** 

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

Blue Angels A-4 video:

USMC/USN A-4 Skyhawks facebook.com Another Blue Angels A-4 video:

USMC/USN A-4 Skyhawks facebook.com

# Review Of Ken Burn's Vietnam PBS Series - Maggie's Farm

http://maggiesfarm.anotherdotcom.com/archives/30521-Review-Of-Ken-Burns-Vie tnam-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-gal lons-of-fuel-left-without-declaring-an-emergency-after-falling-asleep-during-a-cross-cou ntry-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=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: <u>www.mbtdivers.com</u>

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:

http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany

- 5. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": http://patriotmediainc.com
- 6.32 Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: <u>http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\_photos.htm</u>

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. 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: <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 <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnOkCrDnQo</u> 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 https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/ 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=6l8DlJA5DU0&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=eVxpCHqXQoI

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: 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.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=lwAR0ICpJW03arF1pU2JU 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> <u>via</u> <u>fonthill.onmicrosoft.com</u>

\_\_\_\_\_

# Oriskany Amature flight deck videos: From Facebook

- 1. <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157816002016910/</u>
- 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=IwAR23MVLfw69KhDs Q9A5BFS3tAEGzT\_dBFHtHXMHL-GsiBh7TUxnRSdL-1Cs

# A-4 Inflight Crash video:

## 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:<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#

# 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\_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 June 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

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





