

Toooo Weeeettt..Attention on Deck...Now hear this...Standby to hear a message from the bridge.... "Saints *March* 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 241



"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



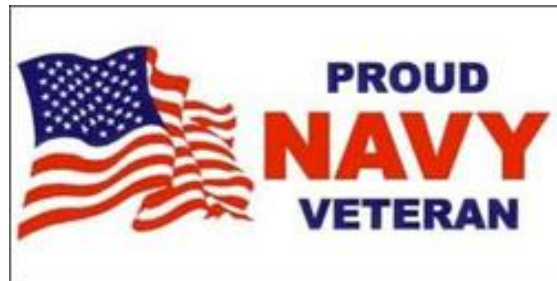
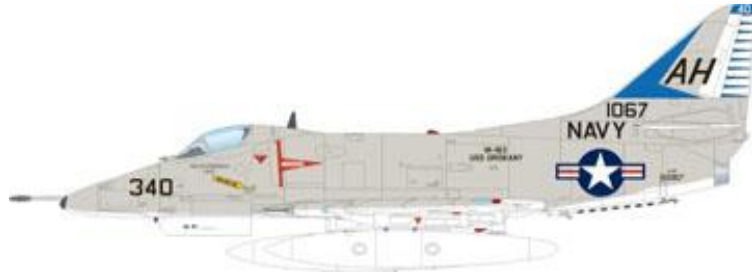




Patriot

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!

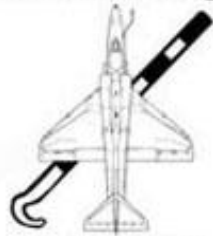
"I'll keep that flame high and the blade ever sharp,

That our friends may never be lost in the dark!"

ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

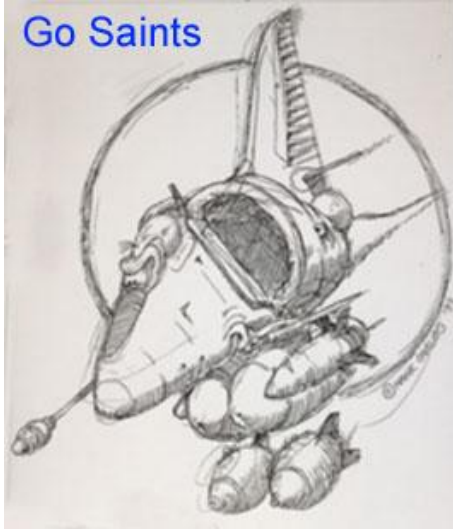


Tailhook Navy



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 03 March 2023

“Over a million views”

1,117,776 views

“Saints Reunion Virginia Beach” **49 photos & 1 video**

Click on link below

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

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

*****SAINTS WEBSITE*****

THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website www.va163.org password: **Saints4ever capital S**

31,933 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 2022 paid **\$15.45** to "Active-Domain" website hosting for 1 year renewal

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

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

01 March 2022 paid \$14.45 for "Domain Name" one year renewal

Any donations are appreciated

Ed Copher

1211 Gruene Vintage

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Folks that have sent in "**website**" donations 2017-22: A big shout out... "Thank You"

Ken Adams

Raymond Baker

Dave Carey

Ed Chadwick (3)

Dennis Dooley

David Farley

JC Ferris (2)

Bob Feuillerat

Earl Groff (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 Sticklely (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 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)



Saints 2023 Reunion in Planning Stage: Submitted by Ed Chadwick

Looking like the Holiday Inn on Pensacola Beach might be the best deal.

Do not let money issues hold you back from going to the reunion. Scholarships are available for anyone that wants to go.

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



Found new Saint : Pilot 1962-63

LtJg James A. Cade

4887 Old Tree Notch

Brantley, AL

Email: jamescade@troycable.net





MADE IT TO 77....WOW

ED WITH STELLA, BIRTHDAY 19 FEB 2023



RICK "BEAR" SPRAGUE RIP SEP 1966 ORISKANY

SEP 66





<https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10158652539831910/?mibextid=W9rl1R>

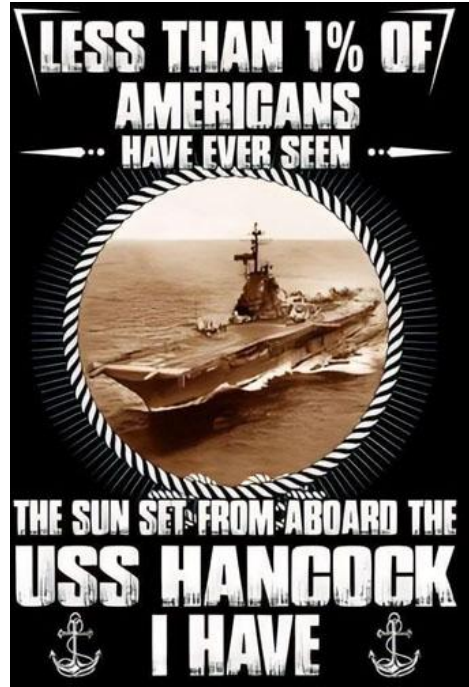




VA-164 A4 at the ramp, Oriskany 1966









Video from Hancock: <https://youtu.be/AyCKdZmgQDQ>

Hancock History:

Originally: Ticonderoga on 26 January 1943

Renamed: Hancock 1 May 1943

Commissioned: 15 April 1944

Decommissioned: 9 May 1947

Reclassified: CVA 1 October 1952

Recommissioned: 15 February 1954

Decommissioned: 13 April 1956

Recommissioned: 15 November 1956

Reclassified: CV 30 June 1975

Decommissioned: 30 January 1976

Status: Scrapped in 1976

According to the US Navy Unit Awards website, Hancock and her crew received the following awards, in approximately chronological order:

Navy Unit Commendation for seven different time periods in WWII

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Taiwan Straits from 26 August 1958 to 7 September 1958

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Quemoy-Matsu from 14 September 1959 to 17 September 1959

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Vietnam for five time periods that fell between 1 July 58 and 3 July 65

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Korea for four time periods between 1 October 66 and 3 June 74

Navy Unit Commendation for service 6 December 1965 to 25 July 1966

Navy Unit Commendation for service 1 August 1968 to 22 February 1969

Meritorious Unit Commendation for service from 21 August 1969 to 31 March 1970

Meritorious Unit Commendation for service from 20 November 1970 to 7 May 1971

Navy Unit Commendation for service from 8 February 1972 to 14 September 1972

Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation for numerous time periods during the Vietnam war Operation Eagle Pull - 12 April 1975

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Meritorious Unit Commendation Operation Frequent Wind - 29 April to 30 April 1975

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

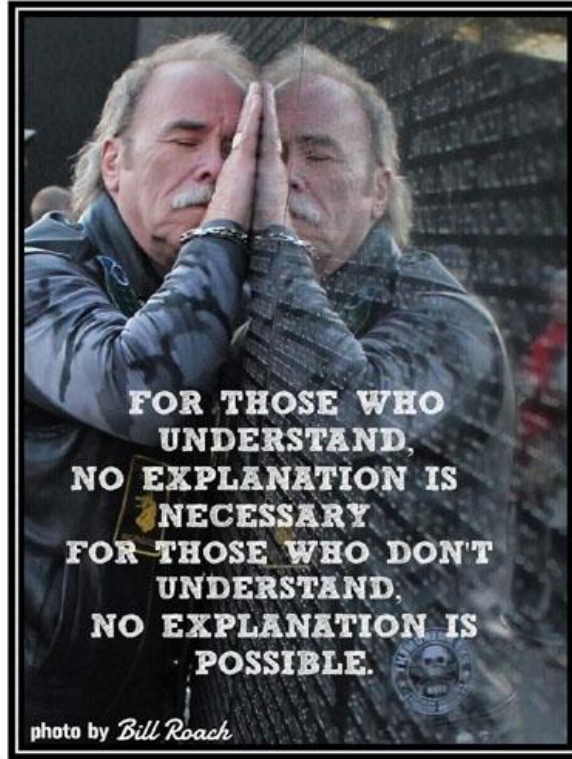
Humanitarian Service Medal

Navy Unit Commendation



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







Skyhawks of the VMA-533.







Hey Mule take my picture





Man Eater, will suck you right in and spit you out.... Saw it happen twice on ship, ugh!



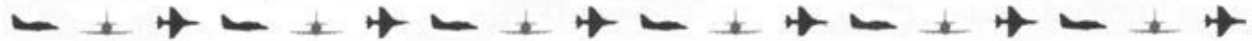
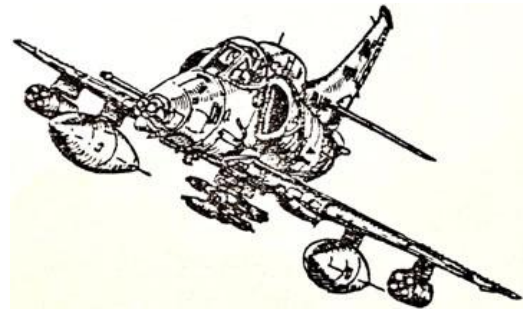
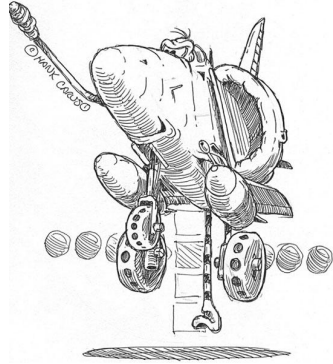
[Join the “VA-163 Saints” Facebook group:](#)



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.





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!

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)

<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
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
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
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

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=k9Mh975VCII>
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:](https://www.facebook.com/groups/28616026909/permalink/10157960059966910/)** 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=IwAR210YA4tzW4VITm58zt0aerctBQCmhNBOt9okW6Brb7V0Jmzlh9RNEP1g>

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_U4WZ8OXNJUGY

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/pWeBAyWfP8>

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

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

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. j.slater@fonthillmedia.com via 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=qm2jT6Ftn3E&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

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

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

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 March 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 –

www.va163.org password, Saints4ever capital S



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



