$\textbf{\textit{Toooo Weeet}}... \textit{\textit{Attention on Deck}}... \text{``Saints}... \\ \textit{\textit{May}} \textit{ newsletter''}... \\ \textit{Arriving!}$ 

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.



16th Year Edition







#### Standing the Watch



Ed Copher, Editor, "Saints Everlasting Keeper of the Flame"

## **Saints Tradition**

An old Saints tradition is that friends who have not seen or heard from each other for long periods of time never question their friendship. These friendships resume at the same time they left off regardless of distance and time between them. We call these friends "Family".

## **Saints Motto**

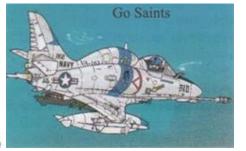
"Fight by Night or Day, Land or Sea"











ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas\_A-4\_Skyhawk





































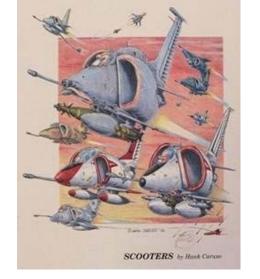














Birds of a feather... Flock Together















http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/

Also on Saints website, PHOTOS section

Contains 80 Albums (Sets).... 4,832 Photos

View Counts as of 04 May 2018

**Photos** 

801,895 views

<u>Albums</u>

30,988 views

**Total** 

# 859,768 views





www.Flickr.com charges \$24.95 per year to keep the **SAINTS Photo Albums** on their web site.

\*\*PAID the \$24.95 annual Flickr photo site fee on 15 Nov 2017\*\*



## \*\*\*SAINTS WEB SITE\*\*\*

## THE WEBSITE HAS THE LATEST NEWSLETTERS AND ROSTER

Saints website www.va163.org (password: Saints4ever (capital S)

14,419 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

New Fee: Webmaster Maintenance Fee. \$120 p/year (paid Jan 2018)

\*\*\*Paid 30 Jan 2018: the annual webmaster fee of \$120\*\*\*

\*\*\* Paid 22 Feb 2018: Domain Registration \$26.90 for 2 years, next due 31 Mar 20

\*\*\* Paid 31 Mar 2018: Domain Protection \$4.50

Jim Houston, Webmaster for www.VA163.org began charging for maintaining the Saints website. He is only asking \$10 a month (\$120 p/year).

I am asking for donations to continue to utilize Jim's services.

Ed Copher

176 Landa Street #315

New Braunfels, TX 78130



## Gene Currin's wife passed away:

Cecile Barrett passed on 14 April 2018 at the age of 62. Celebration of life was held at Church of Eleven 22 on 25 April in Jacksonville, FL.





#### **From Dave Carey:**

Dear family and friends,

As you may know our grandson, Beckett - the cutest grandson ever, has Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Because the population is so small the CF Foundation is the primary, and almost only, sponsor of medical research. There are no government programs funding research for a cure. Cystic Fibrosis is being cured by small donors. People who give generously. People like you.

Recently the president of the CF Foundation, Preston Campbell, said at a conference, "Cystic Fibrosis is the most exciting story in medicine today," describing the ongoing work to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis.

There are medications now available that treat the root cause of CF and provide real life improvements for about 40% of those living with the disease! While we celebrate these successes, there is still much work to be done to find a permanent cure for all with CF.

Please consider joining us as we support Beckett and the approximately 30,000 Americans living with cystic fibrosis. Help us provide hope that a cure is on the way. This year on May 19th, we are participating in the 2018 Austin Great Strides walk to raise money for a cure. Please come and join us at Mueller Lake Park, 4550 Mueller Blvd, Austin, TX 78723 as we celebrate the great success the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has had in groundbreaking research and as we pursue the goal of finding a cure.

We need your help in three ways:

Join us by signing up to be a member of Team Beckett at Mueller Park on May 19th. We appreciate your support and would love to see you at the walk.

Please consider joining Team Beckett and asking those around you to sponsor our Team. We love our donors, they make so many awesome things happen; but we are ecstatic about our teammates! We are asking our team to ask just two friends or family members to donate to the cause. Just think, you could tell our story to that strange uncle and a good friend and you could be an official member of Team Beckett!

Lastly, consider a 100-percent tax deductible donation to Team Beckett to help us find a cure. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation uses these funds efficiently, with 90 cents of every dollar going directly to research and improving lives.

Click here to go to Brian's page & donate.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Brian, Alyssa, and Beckett Smith

Dave & Sandy Carey





## From Bill Tomko:

alt="In new window" class="gZ T-I-J3">

Dear Saints, I wanted to share the update and info on Pete Fey's newly published Project on GAG 16 which focuses on most all of our Squadrons. The book includes many photo's interviews with the Pilots and Skippers, etc and all fact based history. Thought you may be interested and may be a nice keepsake for us and pass down to our families. Amazon is taking Pre Orders now and it should be released soon May 1st potentially. Ed Copher can you distribute this to the Email Roster please since there are no news letters and put pertinent info on the Book List regarding Saints, CAG and Big O??? Thanks. Warm Regards. Bill

PS: check out the Amazon link/book if interested <a href="https://www.amazon.com/Bloody-Sixteen-Oriskany-during-Vietnam/dp/161234979X/ref=sr\_1\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1519093789&sr=8-1&keywords=peter+fey&dpID=51AewtWjQ5L&preST=SY291BO1,204,203,200QL40&dpSrc=srch



From Seth Rossman cwo4sir@gmail.com

Mar 17

' class="f T-KT-JX">

Photo of the napalm drop by our birds is on PDF page 14. The squadron is never mentioned; only CAG-16 and the Oriskany. I don't know which A4 squadron dropped the rest of the bombs. Someone may remember.

I was so impressed with China Lake that I requested it out of PH "A" School. I spent two years there.

You can forward this for the web site if you want. Like I said no copyright.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=59295fe2da&view=att&th=162340fbf0be6db5&attid=0.1&disp=inline&realattid=f\_jevdwbsa0&safe=1&zw



From Ed Chadwick: 600,000 pilots

Open the TechCrunch article.

Number of active pilots in the United States in 2017, down from over 800,000 pilots in 1980. That's kind of insane when you think about it; how are fewer people answering "hell yeah" to the question, "Would you like to disregard your own biological infirmity and soar into the sky in defiance of nature?" [TechCrunch]



From Ed Chadwick: Welcome To the Warbirds Resource Group

This is an amazing site with more information than you can imagine. You can even look up surviving aircraft to compare with your log books. <a href="http://warbirdinformationexcha">http://warbirdinformationexcha</a> nge.org/





## A few facts about the Vietnam wall.

There are 58,267 names on the wall.
39,996 were just 22 or younger.
8,283 were 19. 33,103 were 18.
12 were 17 years old.
5 soldiers were 16.
There are 3 sets of fathers and sons on the wall.
31 sets of parents lost 2 of their sons.
997 were killed their first day.
1,448 were killed on their last day.
8 women were on the wall, nurses.
244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war and 153 of them are on the wall.







## **SCUTTLEBUTT**

Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"

The Smoking Lamp is out due to JP-5 Jet Fuel in the drinking water.

Cold Saltwater showers "only" due to no fresh water.

Remember: The soap will not rinse off in cold saltwater shower....



The Skyhawk Association has 797 members, 14 Saints are members

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints and VA-125

**Skyhawk Association Links:** 

Association main page: <a href="http://a4skyhawk.info/">http://a4skyhawk.info/</a>

VA-163 page: http://a4skyhawk.info/article-unit/va163

Please join the Skyhawk Association. A great Quarterly Magazine, allot of A-4's and Saints articles.

Only \$30 per year.

**Skyhawk Association Digital Journal:** Feb 2017

This year's digital edition can be found at: <a href="http://a4skyhawk.info/article-journal-public/skyhawk-association-journal-public-page1">http://a4skyhawk.info/article-journal-public/skyhawk-association-journal-public-page1</a>

## Skyhawk Association Journal - THE A-4ever

#### a4skyhawk.info

Our "Members Only" Journal is published twice yearly and contains excellent textual and color image examples of the historical and current activities of one of the ...









Agent Orange Troop



## **Vietnam War Resources:**



Below is a link to a web site about the war in Viet Nam. Whether you are a Viet Nam veteran or not, you may find this web site very interesting because it contains an absolutely enormous amount of information about the war. <a href="http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html">http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html</a>



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

#### Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

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





## **Newsletters are on Saints Website:**

Go to Saints Website, click on Newsletters,

To view the Roster: click on Roster, then Complete Roster, password: Saints4ever (capital S)



## \*\*Websites of Interest\*\*

## **Oriskany Web Sites:**

USS Oriskany (CVA 34) 25 Sep 1950 / 20 Sep 1979 Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated 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.

- 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: <a href="http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany">http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany</a>
- 5. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <a href="http://patriotmediainc.com/">http://patriotmediainc.com/</a>
- 6. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: <a href="http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\_photos.htm">http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\_photos.htm</a>
- 7. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis</a>
- 8. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. http://glewis.us/obooks.htm 2. http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html
  - 3. http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html

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 Oriksany History 1972: http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html
14. <u>USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project</u> ( <a href="http://glewis.us/obooks.htm">http://glewis.us/obooks.htm</a> )
15. Oriskany 1970Flight Ops: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&amp;feature=email">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&amp;feature=email</a> 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=DJ5ykZjRalM
19. USS Hancock: Click here: Scotty Moore - The USS Hancock ("Hannah")
20. Tour of Duty photo site: 3000 photos, some Saints <a href="https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/">https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/</a>
21. <u>USS Oriskany Fire &amp; Sinking:</u> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS2uky8K5Jk 42 min video
22. 1963 TOUR OF THE USS Oriskany: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e92t7kgV Ws & https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9Mh975VCII
23. O Boat Sinking Video: http://trib.al/t69QQT4
*******

9. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: <a href="http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss\_oriskany\_67/index.html">http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss\_oriskany\_67/index.html</a>

*******	=
Landing on Carrier:	
https://www.facebook.com/Fighterjetsworld/posts/2060252990674125	
******	=
Navy Commercial:	
https://www.facebook.com/USNavyAircraftCarriers/videos/10156139765898669/	
******	
Article about Stockdale:	
https://www.facebook.com/Tailhook.Association/posts/1613398878698053	
******	
X'' Mell Tillo io amazinioi	
Vietnam WallTHIS IS AMAZING!	
This is really sobering. First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city where you went t death, a picture or at least their bio and medals.	o high school and look at the names. Click on the name and it will give details of the person's
This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.	
I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for or Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.	our country.
http://www.virtualwall.org/ iStates.htm	

 $\underline{https://www.facebook.com/Fighterjetsworld/photos/a.1094529503913150.1073741829.1093830760649691/2065223843510373/?type=3}$ 

\*\*\*\*\*

Why Naval Aviators are the best trained pilots in the world! You can turn on your sound and go full screen .  These videos show the difference between Naval Aviation and any other kind. The links below are two videos about F-18 carrier operations aboard the USS Nimitz during weather that causes a severely pitching deck, which you can see in the videos. It's more dangerous than most combat missions and the tension in the pilots and crew is very apparent.  Watch Part 1 first, then Part 2 . Great videos.  Part One <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=4gGMI8d3vLs">http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=4gGMI8d3vLs</a> http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=4gGMI8d3vLs
Part Two
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=S0yj70QbBzg < http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?
*****
Vietnam Aircraft Losses:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_aircraft_losses_of_the_Vietnam_War
*******
Vietnam Song:
https://www.facebook.com/TheVeteransSite/posts/1724893187572582
*******
Blue Angels with A-4's:
http://www.avgeekery.com/watch-blue-angels-reborn-flew-4f-skyhawk/
*******

**USS Nimitz during bad weather** 

**How A-4's Ruled the Sky's:** 

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## **Skyhawk Videos:**

This is for the A4 Skyhawk enthusiast .Got this from my Nephew in law. I love to see those Bombs and Rockets go off "ON TARGET" and successfully complete the mission. I took many Skilled and brave Pilots and many hard working and skilled crew to do these 12 to 16 hours a day. Hard to believe I used to load the Ordinance so many, many years ago, where did all those muscles go? <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IQymtxjt24">www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IQymtxjt24</a>

www.youtu.be/1mfdRvzUVtM

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgwEWSjzwz8

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

## VA-164 Video: Miss Jessie and Ghost Rider 401

Dick Perry of the O-boat's VA-164 and the saga of Miss Jessie.

https://www.facebook.com/DosEckes-Productions-362988187722/?pnref=story

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The Blues Flying the A-4**

Oh the good old days. Scooter drivers prepare to shed a tear.....

The best Blue Angel show of all time. A-4's. Here is a video of them from the '70's. Bear Smith and Skip Umsted are the last two guys walking towards the camera before they get to their planes. They both died later in aircraft accidents. The crazy solo is Denny Sapp. Best show for the spectators because it was close to show center. Always in sight. **Tightest diamond formation ever.** 

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wk3XSV6H6w0

\*\*\*\*\*

Here is a site where books by Rene J. Francillon can be purchased. His "Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club" has a section that shows every carrier deployment during the Vietnam. It details
each aircraft loss on every cruise, including the date, aircraft type, aircraft identification, squadron, pilots name / rank and well as whether the pilot was KIA, recovered or made
POW. I look at the book when memory fails me. It's a great resource.

https://www.amazon.com/Ren%C3%A9-J.-Francillon/e/B001HCWSDM

## \*\*\*\*\*\*

## **Detail Thesis on CAG 16 1965-1967**

Commander Fey, who asked my permission to use a Photo I took of Commander Stockdale's Saints A-4 from 1965. He said he did a thesis on CAG 16 and a Manifest. Many of the Saints including Skipper's Compton and Foster were interviewed as well As Mildman and others. It spans 1965 thru 1967. I found it very interesting with insight I never was aware of, worth a read. WE WERE THERE!!! Thanks Bill Tomko

CAG 16 losses and info: https://www.google.com/?gws rd=ssl#q=Peter+Fey+rolling+Thunder

\*\*\*\*

VN 40 years ago...75 pictures

http://www.vintag.es/2015/04/vietnam-war-40-years-ago-75-beathtaking.html

#### \*\*\*\*\*\*

## **Legends of the Ho Chi Minh Trail**

http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-Minh-trail-Laos/

There are many links to the archive by date as well as to specific articles like this one about an F-4 shootdown:

http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-shot-down-plane/

This is the homepage:

www.laosgpsmap.com

Ho Chi Minh Trail Tours:

www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-chi-minh-trail-tours/

## **Vietnam War Stories:**

http://cherrieswriter.wordpress.com/category/the-vietnam-war-story/

Tags: book sites, books war, cherry soldier, combat, Combat Infantry, digital books, firefights, Grunts, Hispanic, Historical fiction, jungle warfare, Military, novels, The vietnam war, The Vietnam war story, Veteran, Vietnam blog pages, Vietnam book, Vietnam conflict, Vietnam veteran, war books, war stor, Wars and Conflicts

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Number of Vietnam Vets Still Alive:**

This has a lot of the statistics on Vietnam Vets..... http://www.nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/statistics.htm

\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### 1956 Navy All Hands Meeting:

Thought you might find this 1956 All Hands..... interesting. http://www.navy.mil/ah\_online/archpdf/ah195603.pdf

\*\*\*\*\*

## A good day to revisit the Virtual Wall:

Vietnam Wall

First click on a state. When it opens, scroll down to the city and the names will appear.

Then click on their names. It should show you a picture of the person, or at least their bio and medals.

This really is an amazing web site. Someone spent a lot of time and effort to create it.

I hope that everyone who receives this appreciates what those who served in Vietnam sacrificed for our country. 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.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

This will bring back memories
http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k
****
Vietnam Photos:
http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo599932980.html?format=embed# nediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=%252Flightbox%252Fa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo599932096.html
*****
<u>Military Video</u> ~ Ending is Fabulous
Please take the time to view this and watch till the end. I was so very touched. And once again
Thank you to ALL who have served our country! I live in a free nation because of your sacrifice! God Bless you! Because of the warriors of the past, the present, and the future, we Americans can walk tall.  For those of you of may not know, or have forgotten, Lt. Col. Oliver North was wounded in Vietnam many times and never left the men he commanded. I am now passing this on
f you are a veteran, I say thank you, for everything! You are SO special! Take the time for this one. You won't be disappointed the end is a kicker.
http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html
******
NAS Lemoore April 1968:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sRIO4kvjVE&feature=youtu.be
*******

Do you remember these?

# Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History From the Denver Post. Click here: VietamPictorialHistory \*\*\*\*\*\* Vietnam War - Source list I am passing this along because it is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who ever served in Vietnam. It would take months (*more like years*) to look at everything this site offers: http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html \*\*\*\*\* **A-4 Skyhawks:** http://a4skyhawk.org/ \*\*\*\*\* When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:

**VA Benefit Blog** 

**Photos/History of Vietnam:** 

Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: 6:10 min video

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

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:

http://www.v-prod.com/trailer vietnam.html

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

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

www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623353551691/

www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623815542532/

www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623727604239/

www.flickr.com/photos/45586426@N06/galleries/72157623854748712/

\*\*\*\*\*

RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 May to read the Articles go to the web site at: http://post 119 gulfport ms.tripod.com/rao1.html



SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

"Muster Call"

## New or changed address:

Ed Copher: <a href="mailto:newsman242@gmail.com">newsman242@gmail.com</a>

176 Landa St #315

New Braunfels, TX 78130

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

