Toooo Weeeettt..Attention on Deck...Now hear this...Standby to hear a message from the bridge.... "Saints May 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 243

National Day of Prayer, 4 May

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



"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















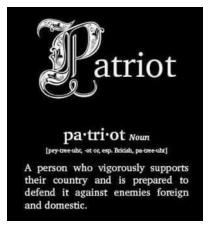


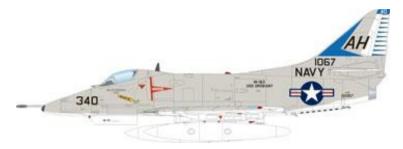












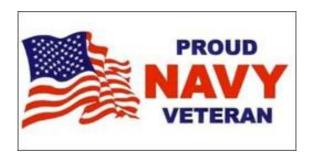














Standing the Watch



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

























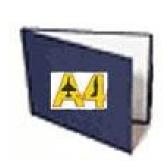




ATKRON 163



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 May 2023

"Over a million views"

1,118,225 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 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

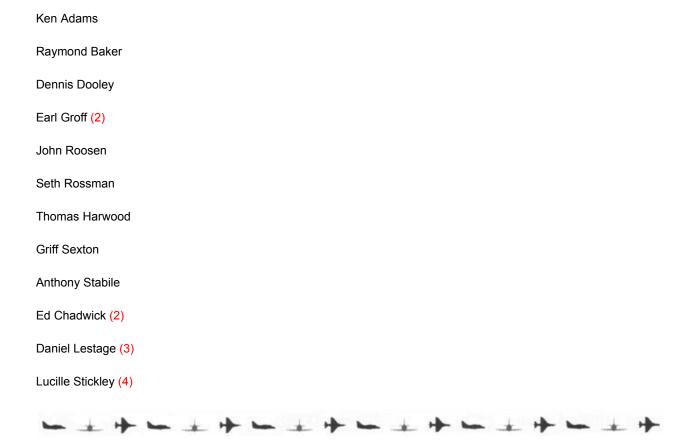
Ed Chadwick (3)



Folks that have donated to the "Saints Flower Fund": Thank You

Flowers have been sent to the last 12 funerals

The cost of each arrangement is over \$175





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 Piper Saratoga 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.

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 Dolphin Tour 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.

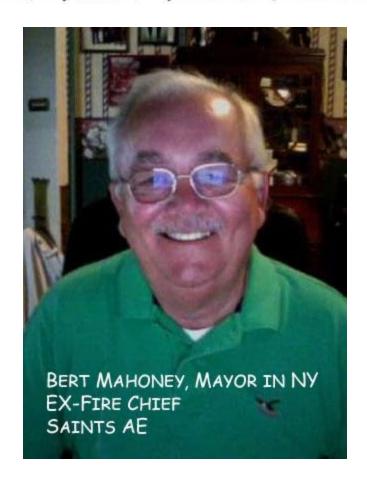
Point of contact: Ed Chadwick: chadco@chadcorealestate.com Phone: 503-781-3973

<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 Skyhawk Association A4ever magazine.



-++-++-++-++-++-++





Skip is laid to rest at NAS Pensacola



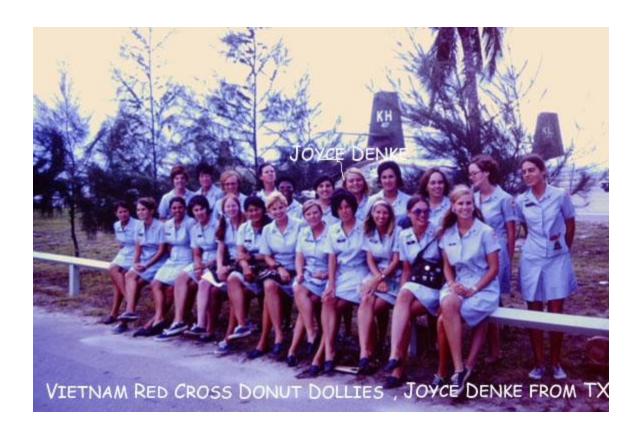
Raquel Welch, 1940-2023

There's something special and noteworthy about online, and broadcast obituaries that followed her death at 82 on February 15: the fact that she made a trip to Victuum to entertain the toops with the Bob Hope hours she signed and greeted every last man and wom-USO show during the 1967-68 Christmas holidays.

Tens of thousands of American troops saw her perform - an occasion none of them ever forgot. For that selfiess act, as well as in recognition of her movie, TV, Spring, Maryland, Chapter 651 who later joined the and stage work, Vietnam Veterans of America presented Raquel Welch with the President's Award for Excel-one of the hundreds of happy VVA members who palence in the Arts at the Saturday night Awards Banquet tiently waited for their moment with Raquel Weich, a at our 12th National Convention in Reno in 2005.

the renowned actress Raquel Welch that didn't to sign autographed photos for the delegates," said make it into many of the scores of newspaper. Marc Leepson, The Fineran's Arts Editor who helped produce the Awards Banquet and autographing session. "Not only did she readily agree, but for more than three an who waited in a long, long line."

That's the late Mike Najarian, a member of Silver VVA staff at the National office, in the photo above truly kind human being. 4





From Tony Chibbaro (Saint Pilot saved him during the fire):

Re: Triad Honor Flight - face book

IF in your area they run "Honor Flights" for Veterans to D.C. - I highly recommend that you sign up for one and make it. I was on such a flight yesterday from Greensboro NC to D.C. - FANTASTIC - the Volunteers do an outstanding job . . heartwarming to return to an airport filled with hundreds of citizens welcoming us home.

IF you Google Search . . Triad Honor Flight 2023 - face book . . click on photos . . scroll through the photos . . I am in them . . one is a photo of me and 'Dave' / I was assigned to look after him - his is missing a hand - is a Marine vet . . we are standing beside a wreath at the NAM Wall.

It is **Porter Halyburton** standing next to the General . . Halyburton was shot down in 1965 flying off the USS Independence - he got to be good friends with our **James Bond Stockdale.**

This past Saturday I had the honor and pleasure of meeting Paul Halyburton . . Navy pilot shot down - POW in Hanoi for 7 years . . he was a good friend of the late Admiral James Bond Stockdale.Lynn Bently and I were in the same company at OCS . . Lynn was on the Bridge the night Stockdale was shot down during the Oriskany 1965 deployment . . Lynn said they tried to rescue him.



Explore VA Memorial and Burial Benefits

VA provides compassionate, professional <u>memorial and burial services</u> to ease families through the loss of their loved ones. Benefits can include burial in a VA national cemetery, the opening and closing of the gravesite, grave liner, inscribed headstones or markers, a burial flag, and perpetual care of the gravesite. <u>Learn more about VA burial benefits and if you qualify.</u>

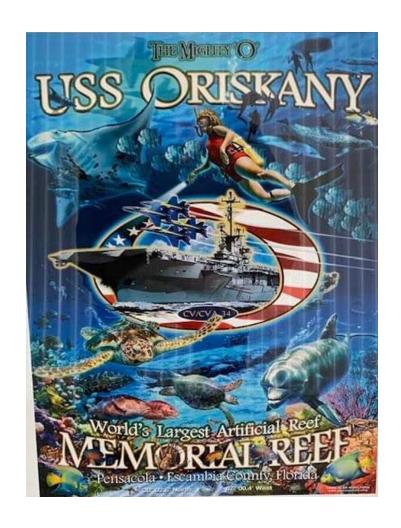


The Spring issue of the *A-4Ever Skyhawk Journal* has been mailed with an error on the cover page. Disregard the information in the "Events Bubble" about the **2023 Tailhook Reunion**. It will be conducted at the **Nugget Casino Hotel** in **Sparks, NV (Reno)** on **August 24-26**.

Update: Signed in members can now go to the Ready Room and Journal Archives to view the Spring Issue of the Journal. We're now posting two versions of each magazine issue, one, "**Print Friendly**," that allows for single page viewing and printing to improve readability and the other is the traditional "**Spreads**" layout, to view side by side pages on your computer, best for pictures that span more than one page. The correct info for Hook 23 is in the "events bubble" on both versions.

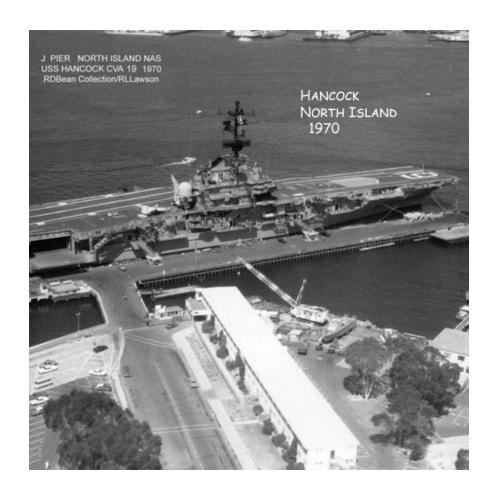




























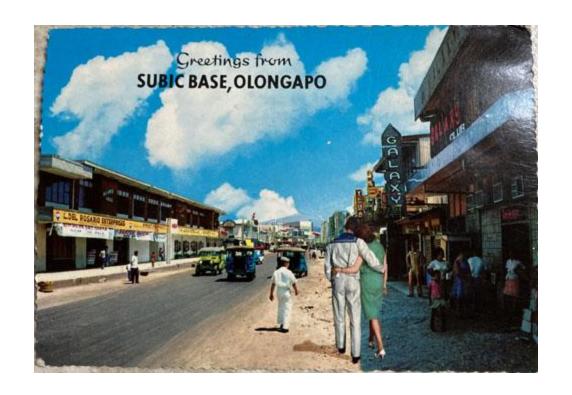












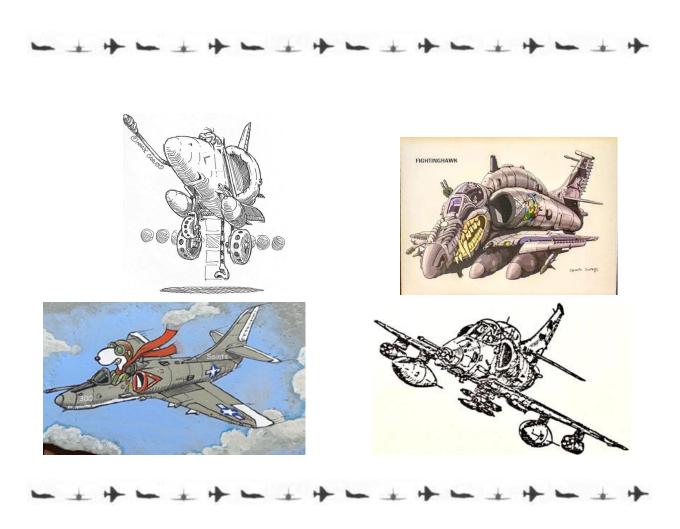




Join the "VA-163 Saints" Facebook group:

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

<u>Home page:</u> Click here: <u>Home Page | The Skyhawk Association</u>

VA-163 page: VA-163 | The Skyhawk Association

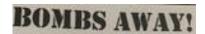
YouTube page: Skyhawk Association - YouTube

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



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-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-gal lons-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&g=%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-MRxiteU

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
- 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=9I-wYnIBZis
- 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=DJ5ykZjRalM
- 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: 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=6l8DIJA5DU0&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_o0yaSvozse5MfRLnf0VBaByznNGVWA3_U4WZ8OXNJjUGY

Blue Angels:

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

Ed Copher Oriskany Fire Interview: Done at Virginia Beach on 5 Nov, 30 min video ED COPHER RAW INTERVIEW https://f.io/oxWygbJo

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

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

<u>3uv5vccB2Y4S9 UXVE mmsKY7KuXYttPrc0oH2UM</u>

Amazing Carrier Landing:

https://fb.watch/8szS_vQV97/

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 fonthill.onmicrosoft.com</u>

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=lwAR23MVLfw69KhDs
Q9A5BFS3tAEGzT dBFHtHXMHL-GsiBh7TUxnRSdL-1Cs

A-4 Inflight Crash video:

https://fb.watch/8jyVi92eJh/

Oriskany Sinking video:

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=F2-Aew7SMO8&fbclid=lwAR2xrucXr7I2IaUx8SM98-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: vvmf.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=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-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-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 04 May 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





