

*Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck... "Saints... October... 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.



2012

10th Year Edition  
Established Nov 2002  
VOL 1 Issue 120



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

## *Saints Muster Call, San Diego 5-7 Oct*

Saints Ed Copher & John Crossley, San Diego 2009



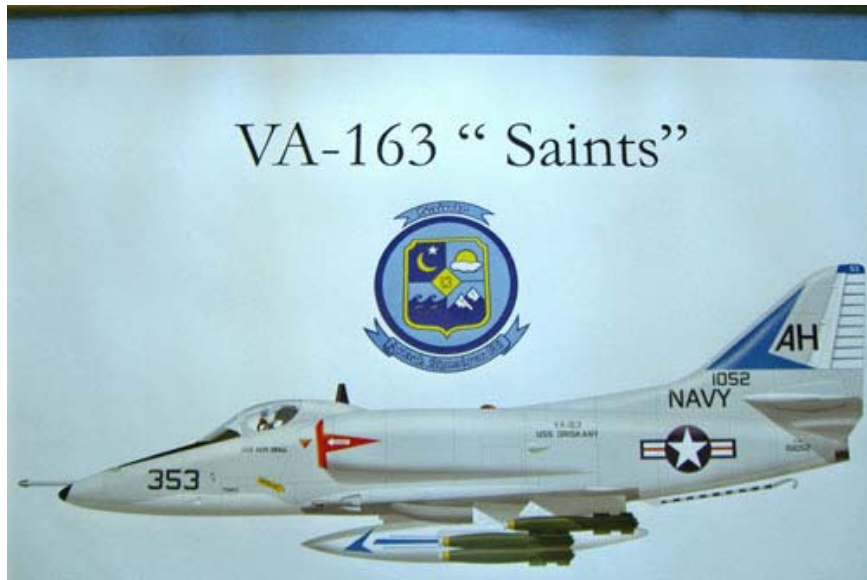
Old Town San Diego



San Diego... YES!!!!



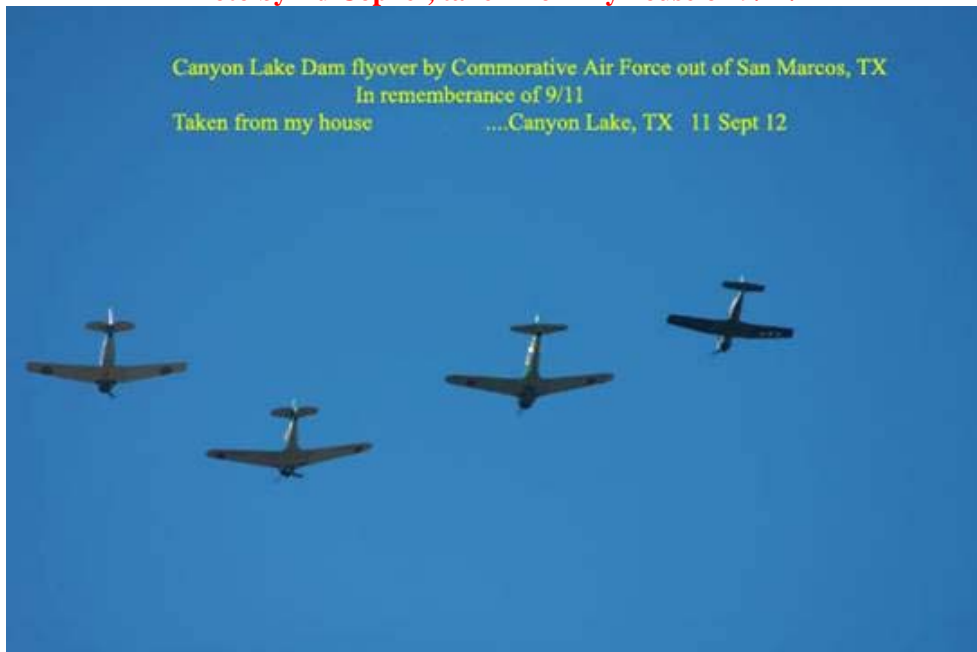
Go Saints!!!



**Blue Angel A-4...Gear up!!**



**Photo by Ed Copher, taken from my house on 9/11/12**



Canyon Lake Dam flyover by Commorative Air Force out of San Marcos, TX  
In remembrance of 9/11  
Taken from my house ....Canyon Lake, TX 11 Sept 12



ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

*Listen to music as you read the newsletter:*

**Click Here** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA&feature=related> “**When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band**”, at the top right of your screen, click the Minimize minus sign (-). It will then go back to the newsletter with the music playing. When finished listening to music, go to your desk top home page, on the bottom tool bar, right click on **When the Saints...**, and select close.

*Birds of a feather... Flock Together*



**Click Here** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/va163saints/sets/>

Also on Saints website, [PHOTOS](#) section

**Contains 72 Albums (Sets).... 4,011 Photos.... 20,392 views (as of 30 Sept 2012)**



Vietnam

Memorial

Wall

Salute



## SAINTS WEB SITE

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

*5,111 Visitors since Mar 09*

### **+++NOTE+++ Updated Website**

All 2012 "Saints Newsletters" are now on the website  
"Saints Roster" is current as of 28 Sept 12



## Saints 2012 Reunion:

Location: Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley

Date: 5-7 Oct 2012

Point of Contact: **Scott Mitchell** [ccsm249@verizon.net](mailto:ccsm249@verizon.net)

*Will be at the hotel on Thursday, with rental car. Looking forward to seeing you all there...*

*Be Well*

*Ed Copher...Saints Forever*

## REUNION PLAYBOOK

This is meant to be a comprehensive guide to our activities while in San Diego October 5 and 6, 2012. A copy of these notes will be available when you check in at the hotel (or on the Hornblower Cruise for you locals), so don't fret if you forget to bring them along.

**HOTEL:** Our hotel is the Hilton San Diego Mission Valley, located at 901 Camino del Rio South, 92108. Tel: 1-619-543-9000. Self parking is \$8.00 per day, Valet; \$18.00 per day and visitor parking \$3.00 per hour up to \$12.00 max per visit. The sales staff asserts that there is on-street parking nearby, but we'll see about that.

Check-in time is 4:00 PM which always causes problems for East Coasters who generally arrive around noon. Please be patient. You will be assigned a room as they become available. There will not be a hospitality suite with bar set ups in which to gather. The plan is to mingle in the lobby lounge each day. We are entitled to a 20% discount on all bar and restaurant service on 5&6 October, so be sure and ask for it.

**TRANSPORTATION:** We looked into group transportation from the hotel for our two scheduled events, but found that we would need to rent two buses and the cost per person exceeded cab fair. So, cabs it is.

From San Diego's Lindberg Field, there is no hotel sponsored shuttle service. Those not renting cars at the airport should contact Super Shuttle for pick-up and delivery to/from the hotel. Your fee is to be discounted 10% (be sure to ask). The discount is connected to the hotel, not our group. Call Super Shuttle at 1-800-258-3826 and book your pick-up before traveling. You can go on-line as well at [reservations@supershuttle.net](mailto:reservations@supershuttle.net).

We will cab individually or in small groups to the Hornblower dinner cruise and the Midway Museum on Friday and Saturday.

**HORNBLOWER DINNER CRUISE:** The "MV Lord Hornblower" sails from Grape St. Pier - 1800 N. Harbor Drive at 7:00 PM

Friday night. Boarding time is 6:30 PM. Dress: Resort Casual, but bring a sweater as it can get cool on the water. We will be ticketed in advance, so there will be a boarding manifest with individual names. You must have a photo ID to board. Your dinner entree must be selected in advance and the choices are on the "pay-to-play" sheet. Dinner will include a nice salad and a desert. Adult beverages will be pay as you go. Cruising time is from 7:00 to 10:00 PM.

class=Section2>

**MIDWAY MUSEUM TOUR:** 910 North Harbor Dr. Turns out that the museum is not able or configured to host a group of 60 people on a single tour. It is set up very well for individual self-guided tours with a complementary audio device to guide one along. There are about 70 stations on the audio tour, but you do not have to follow them in sequence. You will receive a map of the ship and your audio device and then you are on your own to see what you want to see. Touring all 70 stations in sequence takes about 3 hours. There are formal docent presentations on the port catapult, in the arresting gear and a 25 minute island tour that includes Pri-Fly and the bridge. The museum is open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Tickets will be purchased in advance for \$9.00 and distributed at check-in. They are \$10.00 at the gate with military ID and \$15 for non-retirees. So this is a \$7 savings per couple. You may proceed to and through the museum at your leisure. There is a café that serves lunch on the fan tail in the old jet shop. Or, you can do lunch in Old Town and consume some Tex-Mex treats. But save room for the . . .

**SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET:** We will sit down to break bread together at 7:00 PM Saturday night at the hotel. Dress: Tie Optional. Cocktails and a social hour will commence at 6:30 in the dining room. If you have special dietary needs you should make them known as soon as possible. All cocktails and dinner wines will be served from a cash bar in the dining room. There will be no wine service at the tables. There will be a short video presentation after dinner and then a brief business meeting to plan for the next reunion.

### PRICES:

**Hotel:** If you have not made reservations yet, call the hotel (Mission Valley Hilton) at 1-(619) 543-9000 and book your room **\$109 p/night**. Please let me know via e-mail when you have your accommodations set. So far, I have three attendees, Harris, Hunter & Steadman who will not be using the hotel. Saints will be entitled to a 20% discount in the hotel restaurant and bar.

**Friday night: 3 hour dinner cruise has been booked, and gave them an estimate of 60 people.** So far we have 40 confirmed for that event which will be **\$46.50 per person**. We have to purchase the tickets 2 weeks in advance to get the discounted price for a large group, so I need to know who wants to set sail with us.

**Saturday Afternoon:** Escorted tour of the USS Midway Museum **\$9 - \$15**

**Saturday Night banquet** at the hotel has been laid on and will be **\$50 per person** to include all taxes and gratuities.

**T-Shirts: \$20**



**Bob Odegaard was killed in a Commemorative Air Force air show crash on 12 Sept 12.**

<http://www.worldwarbirdnews.com/2012/09/09/bob-odegaard-killed-in-super-corsair-crash/>

**NOTE:** Not Saint Richard Odegaard "Oded"



**Neil Armstrong's ashes buried at sea:**

9/15/2012 The cremated remains of Apollo 11 astronaut **Neil Armstrong**, the first man to set foot on the moon, were committed...

[http://photoblog.nbcnews.com/\\_news/2012/09/14/13866917-neil-armstrongs-ashes-buried-at-sea?lite](http://photoblog.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/09/14/13866917-neil-armstrongs-ashes-buried-at-sea?lite)



**MILITARY REPORT**  
— The Military's Largest Benefits Update —

[www.Military.Com](http://www.Military.Com) : News

Military Report is the most comprehensive military benefits and quality-of-life newsletter for military personnel and retirees. Make sure that you and your colleagues [subscribe](#) for this free update publication.

Click on each blue link to go there.



**The Skyhawk Association has 890 members, 14 Saints are members**

Ed Copher is the Association SDO for VA-163 Saints

**Skyhawk Association website, VA-163 page:**

VA-163 Page, click here: <http://a4skyhawk.org/3e/va163/va163o.htm>

Please join the **Skyhawk Association**. They have a great **Quarterly Magazine**...allot of A-4's and Saints articles. **Only \$30 per year.**

**Skyhawk Association Members:** Use link to access the Ready Room for; recent additions, aircraft histories, photo galleries, our roster, journals, and more. Need access? Contact the **RR Coordinator**.

A-4s Forever! [sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:sdo-coordinator@a4skyhawk.org) / [bluebolts6364@aol.com](mailto:bluebolts6364@aol.com)

**"Skyhawk Association Members:** Use the new site address <http://A4skyhawk.org> to get access to the wealth of info available and contact the webmaster for access to the 'Members Only' information at email [webmaster@a4skyhawk.org](mailto:webmaster@a4skyhawk.org) ."



**Saints and Military sites for Hats, Shirts, Pins, Decals, and Models:** Submitted by Bill Tomko

Go to Saints Website, **Miscellaneous Section**, for details. Also [www.usmedals.com](http://www.usmedals.com)

I have done a ton of Internet research looking for Saints, Oriskany and A-4 related collectibles, pictures, books, videos, models, decals, pins, shirts and hats. I was asked to publish some of the links I had been satisfied with. I am happy to share it here and if you need help finding some thing please feel free to email me at [Tomkowj@aol.com](mailto:Tomkowj@aol.com)



The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam war with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes.

Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site.

Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

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

**The real story of Viet Nam:** What Really Happened with Viet Nam!

5 Minute video

The truth! Finally!!! But don't expect to see it broadcast or released anywhere... it would embarrass the Congress. Observe which Party controlled the Congress at the time.

Click on: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67C8yzww\\_Y&feature=digest](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F67C8yzww_Y&feature=digest)

**Sad to learn that 285 Vietnam War Veterans die EVERY day – yuk!**





### Remembering the Vietnam War:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XayOuMHLzDM> 7:11 min video

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

First click on a state.....then when it opens .....an alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home town .....then it should show you a picture of the person or at least his/her bio and medals.....<http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm>



### Vietnam War Resources, Data Site: Amazing accumulation

#### **ALMOST ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM AND A LOT MORE:**

This is probably the best search list ever compiled about Vietnam. It would take months to look at everything this site offers.

Click on the link: <http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>



### Statistics about the Vietnam War

Interesting information about statistics and myths associated with the Vietnam War... <http://www.vhfcn.org/stat.html>

### Superb Vietnam Tributes:

A Place Called Vietnam...<http://www.operationmom.org/ToOurParents.html>

<http://patriotfiles.org/VietnamWar.htm>

<http://www.vietnampix.com/>

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### A well done moving video by Vietnam vets from Michigan .

This was made by Michigan Vietnam Vets, but it says it all for every Vietnam Vet. Share it with a Vietnam Vet or a family that may have lost a Dad, Brother, Uncle or Son...

I thought they did an excellent job on this. Touching, I suspect in the future this theme will be shown over and over again for each conflict. Thankfully the Gulf war vets were welcomed home with honor.

This is one of the better Vietnam videos made by and for Michigan Vietnam Veterans, but I believe all of you will appreciate this. This story could and is retold by 49 other states and territories as well.

If you know a Vietnam Veteran consider sending this link to them.

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

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### Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

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

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

### Oriskany Web Sites:

USS Oriskany  
(CVA 34)

25 Sep Stricken from Navy List 1989. Sold 9 Sep 1995, but contractor defaulted. Repossessed by the Navy and contract terminated  
1950 / 30 Jul 1997. Sunk off coast of Florida 17 May 2006 for use as artificial reef. [Click on the ship name for a complete history.](#)  
20 Sep  
1979

1. USS Oriskany Online: *Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola*: [www.ussoriskanyonline.com/](http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/) / [www.mbtdivers.com](http://www.mbtdivers.com)
2. The best pictures of the reefing. *Going to her final resting place*: <http://www.irishmansoftware.com/Oriskany.htm>
3. Two Memorial Video's of the Oriskany: <http://www.ussoriskanyonline.com/>
4. Oriskany Reunion Association: [www.ussoriskany.com](http://www.ussoriskany.com)
5. Video of Big O going under: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1401279762745553286&q=oriskany>
6. Patriot Media "The Mighty O": <http://patriotmediainc.com/>
7. Remembering Oriskany Guest Book: <http://www.rememberingoriskany.bravepages.com/guestbook2.html>
8. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: [http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany\\_photos.htm](http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm)
9. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9l-wYnlBZis>
10. Oriskany Cruise Books on CD's: 1. <http://glewis.us/oobooks.htm> 2. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>  
3. <http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html>
11. Oriskany 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: [http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss\\_oriskany\\_67/index.html](http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html)
12. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: <http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml>
13. Oriskany model: <http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/>
14. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584>
15. USS Oriskany History 1972: <http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html>
16. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (<http://glewis.us/oobooks.htm>)
17. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email> 10 min
18. **Oriskany Memorial Dive for Saint Ralph Bisz**: *Saints logo patch placed on Oriskany, 20 Sept 2010*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YqNETwJvF3A> 7:13 min video
19. **Oriskany Dive to put Saint Larry Spear's ashes to rest on Oriskany**: *03 Dec 2010*  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aBnOkCrDnQo> 7:25 min video

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#### VA-163 Saints Onboard USS Oriskany:

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

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#### NAS Fallon, NV:

<http://cnic.navy.mil/Fallon/index.htm>

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#### First Aircraft Landing On A Ship, 101 Years Ago:

[http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/FirstAircraftLandingOnAShip101YearsAgo\\_206050-1.html](http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/FirstAircraftLandingOnAShip101YearsAgo_206050-1.html)

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#### Photos/History of Vietnam:

Excellent Viet Nam Pictorial History

From the Denver Post.

Click here: [VietnamPictorialHistory](#)

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#### Vietnam War - Source list

I am passing this along because it is probably the best search list ever compiled about the Vietnam War. This simply has to be shared with anyone who ever served in Vietnam. It would take months (*more like years*) to look at everything this site offers:

<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

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**[A-4 Skyhawks:](http://a4skyhawk.org/)**

<http://a4skyhawk.org/>

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**[Another Saints website site:](http://www.va-163saints.com/)** By Saint Dennis Lund

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

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**[When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsGUbXCeIA&feature=related)**

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

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**[VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:](https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app_129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall)**

**VA Benefit Blog**

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

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**[Douglas A-4 Skyhawk:](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hApICSSZqAs&feature=related)** 6:10 min video

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

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**[Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:](http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html)**

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

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**[Remembering the Brave:](http://www.jensensutta.com/slideshows/RTB/)**

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

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**[Lemoore Naval Air Station Operations Area Map:](#)**

If you want to look over NAS Lemoore, Go to the first URL line below, then click on it. This will take you NS Lemoore (Reeves Field), CA Flight Plan home page. Here you will want to click on

[Click here for full scale & interactive Sectional view of KNLC.](#)

Once you to this interactive map, you can zoom in with the mouse click on + or - (in left upper corner) all around the base at Lemoore, all of operations area. While you are snooping around the base looking at all the hangars, FA/18 Hornets and Super Hornets, zoom and "grab the screen" with the pointer (white glove hand) and move south down to the Administration and Housing Area to continue snooping.

<http://www.fltplan.com/AirportInformation/KNLC.htm>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**[Virtual Aircraft Encyclopedia:](http://www.aviastar.org/index2.html)**

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

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

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**RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 OCT 2012**

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

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**2012 VA Benefits Edition:**

In the Link and in cover as well, you'll find it broken down in the sections listed for easier reading and researching, also with link to PDF as well as one in Spanish, or look through the document reader embedded.

[VA Benefits 2012 Edition](#)

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**Captured:** A Look Back at the Vietnam War on the 35th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon  
**141 Photos. Good history of the war in photos.**

Click here: <http://blogs.denverpost.com/captured/2010/04/30/captured-a-look-back-at-the-vietnam-war-on-the-35th-anniversary-of-the-fall-of-saigon-2/>

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**Music of the Vietnam War:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnnLrmbOYE&feature=related> 8:36 min video

**1960's:** *Great photos, music, and facts.*

This is the one of the best presentations of the sixties. It is very well done. Just click on the link and sit back and enjoy the memories.

Click here: <http://objflicks.com/TakeMeBackToTheSixties.htm>

**1950 - 1982 Jukebox:** *This is really cool. Have fun with it.....!!*

Click here: <http://www.tropicalglen.com/>

**What We Drove in the 50's & 60's:**

<http://cruzintheavenue.com/CarsWeDrove.htm>

**Music from 60's & 70's:**

Nine different play lists with about 100 songs on each list from 60's & 70's

<http://chu65nang67.us/nam/vietnam.html>



**2012 VA Benefits Guide Now Available**

The VA 2012 guide to "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors" is now available online. This is the all-in-one place to learn about the benefits to which you or a family member might be entitled.

Click [here](#) to view the guide.

## SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

Revised 30 Sept 2012

**New or changed address:**

None

*Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.*

**Complete Roster can be found on the Saints website – [www.va163.org](http://www.va163.org)  
(password, *saints4ever*)**

