ALSO ON SAINTS WEBSITE

VA-163 SAINTS GRAM

l ---()---

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.



13th Year Edition

Established Nov 2002

VOL 1 Issue 156



Standing the Watch

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

Saints Motto: "Fight by Night or Day, Land or Sea"















ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

Listen to music as you read the newsletter:

When the Saints Go Marching In – US Navy Seventh Fleet Band 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.

The Warrior Song...

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lTs6a0ORdQU&feature=player embedded

To all of the United States Armed Forces, with thanks. - Marching Snare Drums

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy: The Andrew Sisters http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pfCFU3Mqww&feature=related

Ghost Riders in the Sky: Johnny Cash

 $\underline{http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mynzbmrtp9I}$

Run Through the Jungle: CCR

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EbI0cMyyw_M

Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue: Toby Keith

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PXSK3iDeAI

Proud to an American: Lee Hazelwood

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps7xmW-9LXQ

America, The Land I Love: James Rogers

 $\underline{http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ICCyjZs3hY}$

American "New Song": http://www.youtube.com/v/6TPgJSZf5Vw?version=3&autohide=1&autoplay=1

Ballad of the Green Berets..1966: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5WJJVSE_BE



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_A-4_Skyhawk









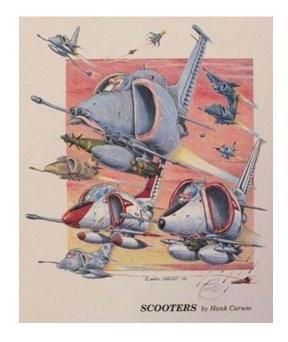










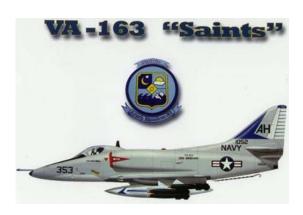




Birds of a feather...Flock Together















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

Also on Saints website, **PHOTOS** section

Contains 76 Albums (Sets).... 4,634 Photos

View Counts as of 03 Oct 2015

Photos

548,838 views

Photostream

29,933 views

<u>Albums</u>

23,568 views

Total

602,339 views





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

Paid the one year fee on 15 Nov 2014

Fwd: Saints Newsletter...October 2015





SAINTS WEB SITE

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

9,133 Visitors since Mar 09



Just paid \$183.95 to renew GoDaddy website hosting (2 years)...HELP!!!

Donations are appreciated

Ed Copher

242 Toye Blvd

Canyon Lake, TX 78133

Saints Website and Photos site FEES:

Jim Houston, Palm Coast FL, is the Saints webmaster, he designed the website, and does all the updates etc.

Website Hosting is done by GoDaddy at a cost of \$183.95 for two years (Paid up until 10 Sept 17)

<u>Domain Name:</u> (Whois Proof) There is an annual charge for keeping the <u>Domain Name</u> <u>www.va163.org</u> which is \$5 p/yr (*Paid until 31 Mar 16*)

Domain Provider: (Active Domain) \$12 p/yr (Paid up until 31 Mar 2016)

Photos Site: I also pay for the Saints Photos on the Flicker site which is \$25 p/yr (Due 15 Nov of each yr)



From James Blythe:

Ed, would you please announce to all our Saint brothers that on Aug 31, I was awarded the Senior Spirit Award by the National Society of Certified Senior Advisors. This annual national award was received for our work with Seniors and

Veterans as part of my broadcasting with KVCE radio and Heroeshousetx.. For more information please look at my web site <u>jimblythe.net</u>.



Ed Pittcock founder of CSA presently award to Saint Jim Blythe



Saint Hubert Cook on EU Tour: Sept -Oct 2015

Pic taken in Prague





Ed Copher shopping at the new HEB grocery store in Wimberley, TX:

Needed their largest cart for the Bluebell ice cream.









Need help with Photo ID's:

I have some photos of VA-163 and some of VA-164 personnel (officers and enlisted) taken at China Lake in June 1963. I'm looking to get in touch with people that were in the squadron 1962, 63, 64 that may be able to put names to the faces.

Also have photos of VF-161 and VA-165, same air group, same date, same place that I need help with.

Cheers, Gary Verver gp@verx2.org



1945 NAVAL ARMADA SET TO INVADE JAPAN

These are some very amazing pictures

View the 1945 Naval Armada Set to Invade Japan. Scroll down to view all of the photos and comments. View the 1945 Naval Armada Set to Invade Japan, Awesome!

If you have any interest in WWII info, you may find this very interesting.

Here comes another surprise. It was 1944 and the pictures were not available during the war. The US kept this place unknown to the citizens of the US. This is quite a story!

This is phenomenal! An Armada of ships and airplanes poised for the invasion of Japan...that never happened...because President Truman authorized the dropping of "A" bombs at Nagasaki and Hiroshima that resulted in the Japanese surrender. Just think of the American lives that would have been lost had this invasion occurred. Be thankful that we had a President with the courage to make the call. Sadly most Americans today know nothing about this and the sacrifices made by those before us. We are not teaching US history in our schools anymore.

Some great pictures of the Ulithi armada! US Naval armada deployed for invasion of Japan. Keep this for posterity. There will never be another assemblage of naval ships like this again.

Staging area for the invasion of Japan. Check out the carriers on "Murderer's Row."

If any of you folks had fathers, grandfathers or uncles in the Navy during World War II, they may well have been involved in this operation, given the tremendous number of the ships and personnel involved.

You may also recognize them in some of the photos. Click below:

http://www.warbirdinformationexchange.org/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=3&t=52966



They won't let me fly their jets anymore. Submitted by Ed Chadwick

The day after I no longer pulled 5-6 Gs (or more) multiple times every day, my middle started expanding. It hasn't stopped. First my toes disappeared, and then the equipment in the Nether Regions disappeared except on outstanding occasions. My feet might as well be in China. My toenails are turning into claws.

The ladies no longer look at my ass as I walked by.

My eye sight started to fade. I once had the best vision of anyone I ever flew with except Chuck Yeager. He could see another aircraft at 60 miles and I could not see it until 50 miles. And he was older than me. I guess that is why he was an Ace.

The music has faded. Twenty five years in close proximity of screaming jet engines will do more damage to your hearing than a rock band. The VA gave me some very nice hearing aids but I don't wear the damned things. I don't want to look like an old man. However, it can be a blessing when I piss off my room mate.

My prostate started to enlarge and I have to pee every 5 minutes. Speaking of which: The pressure is too low, the hose is too short, and the nozzle is set on spray. I find it advisable to sit down to pee to avoid getting Wet Foot Syndrome. I know the location of every publically accessible bathroom within 100 miles.

My gyro tumbled and I have vertigo. I have had it many times while flying in Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) weather but this is different. This is Visual Flight Rules (VFR) weather all the time. I walk like a drunken sailor. My golfing days are over. My back swing would put me flat of my back. A walker may not be far in the future.

If I were to find myself on the ground in the middle of an empty Walmart parking lot, I would not be able to get up onto my feet. The legs are just not there anymore. I would have to crawl to a shopping cart or fence to pull myself up.

My smoking days finally caught up with me and I have emphysema/COPD. I used to cuss while climbing out returning from North Vietnam if I was so high that my Zippo lighter would not light so I could have a smoke to help me come down from an adrenalin high. I have had to go on oxygen in order to have enough to live. It is a real bummer to have to haul a bottle of O2 around with me when I go out of the house. I wear a nose harness at home and drag a plastic tube around and an oxygen concentrator out in the garage runs 24/7. The tube is always snagging on something or someone steps on the damn thing and it almost jerks me ears off. Don't get me wrong. I like oxygen. I used to really like it after a night of serious partying when I had an early morning mission. As soon as I got into the cockpit I went on 100% O2 for startup, taxi, and weapons arming pit. By the time I had wheels up I was ready to fight. My sex life is 99.9% in my head. But I think that is pretty normal for the male population which thinks about sex on the average about every 10 seconds. At least that has always been my average. And they won't let me fly their jet fighters anymore. Getting old is a bitch.

Some after Thoughts:

Some people wonder why old fighter pilots (there are no Ex Fighter Pilots) miss flying high performance jets so much. A couple of examples:

- 1. I start up, taxi out and line up on the centerline of a 10,000 foot runway. I throttle up to full power, release the brakes and go into afterburner. There is a huge shove against my back that pins my helmet against the back headrest. The runway streaks under me faster and faster. At flying speed I raise the gear to get the wheels free of the earth. Flaps up. Sink down a foot or two until the end of the runway and then the field boundary flashes underneath and I pull the nose up to point to the sky and freedom. The horizon rapidly expands and after about three minutes and 6-7 miles above the earth I come out of burner, roll inverted and at zero Gs let the nose slowly drift down to the horizon. I look out the top of my canopy at the earth far below and think about all those pedestrian assholes down there that will never know what true joy is.
- 2. I complete my mission in North Vietnam and climb out South toward home base far away. I have to go to 53,000 feet in order to have enough fuel to make it. Once there, the adrenalin is subsiding and I turn off my cockpit lights to enjoy the view. There is not one light visible an the ground. But above: Oh my God!! It is unbelievable! The sight is not describable. Only God could have created something like this. The stars and galaxies are so bright that I do not need cockpit lights to read my instruments. This is something that an old fighter pilot cannot forget and it is only one of thousands of memories that only an Old Fighter Pilot can have.

And they won't let me fly their jet fighters anymore.



SCUTTLEBUTT

Latest was heard at the "Gedunk"

The Smoking Lamp is Out!!!!! Due to JP-4 in the drinking water.



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 / 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."



Digital Edition of the Skyhawk Journal now online!

Bob Hickerson sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org

Skyhawk Association 99. The annual winter edition of the Skyhawk Journal, Vol. 20-4 (Winter 2014 2015) is now available in digital format at www.a4skyhawk.org. just click on the announcement in the "Attention on Deck" box. Remember that this is a fourth, bonus edition of The A-4Ever and is not intended to be a replacement for any of the three print editions members receive in the mail. Those print editions will be delivered to you in 2015 during March, July and October as in the past. We'd love to have your feedback on this digital issue. Comments to sa-journal-editor@a4skyhawk.org and tell your squadron mates that aren't members that this edition can be viewed by all and their membership would entitle them to all editions over the year.

A-4s Forever! Raven

Fwd: Saints Newsletter...October 2015



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

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



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.

http://www.cc.gatech.edu/~tpilsch/Vietnam.html



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 opensan alphabetical order of city-town or village within that state is listed, with names of those lost from that home townthen 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

 $\underline{http://patriotfiles.org/VietnamWar.htm}$

http://www.vietnampix.com/

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

Life Magazine Vietnam War Photography:

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



NONE



SAINTS Newsletters in Archives: To view the last 12 months newsletters

Go to www.yahoo.com (click on the URL link in blue)

On the Yahoo home page, select Sign-In

Type in Yahoo ID: <u>VA163SAINTS@YAHOO.COM</u>

Type in Password: saints4ever

After Signed In, back on the Yahoo home page, select MAIL

When you get into the mail box, select Inbox (on left side window)

Select the newsletter that you want to view.

To get out of Mail, under the top toolbar, find Yahoo! click on that to get back to the home page.

"ALSO"

Newsletters are on Saints Website: Past month's newsletters

Go to Saints Website, click on Newsletters, password: saints4ever



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. USS Oriskany Online: Great Photos from Dive Shop Pensacola: www.ussoriskanyonline.com / 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
- 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. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: http://www.oriskanycharterboats.com/oriskany_photos.htm
- 8. Diving Oriskany Reef, 25 March 2007: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I-wYnIBZis
- 9. 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 1967 Vietnam Combat Cruise, DVD sale: http://www.cv41.org/GRS/uss_oriskany_67/index.html
- 11. Oriskany Information and History/Pictures: http://www.pnj.com/newsfiles/oriskany/index.shtml
- 12. Oriskany model: http://www.motionmodels.com/ships/cv/
- 13. USS Oriskany Photo Galleries: http://www.flickr.com/photos/7437991@N08/galleries/72157622440145584
- 14. USS Oriksany History 1972: http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html
- 15. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (http://glewis.us/obooks.htm)
- 16. Oriskany 1970...Flight Ops: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXaKTJIVxHM&feature=email 10 min
- 17. 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

18. 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

19. Saints Video on YouTube: Dennis Lund video filmed on the Oriskany including the Oriskany fire!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ5ykZjRalM

- 20. USS Hancock: Click here: Scotty Moore The USS Hancock ("Hannah")
- 21. Tour of Duty photo site: 3000 photos, some Saints https://www.flickr.com/groups/435090@N22/

18 Sailors Stand Like Statues. But Keep Your Eyes On The One In The Middle. UNBELIEVABLE!

http://americanoverlook.com/18-sailors-stand-like-statues-but-keep-your-eyes-on-the-one-in-the-middle-unbelievable/60057

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, 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

Tttp://www.vii taaiwaii.org/iotatoo.iitiii

Do you remember these?

This will bring back memories

 $\underline{http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=puGQsQux80k}$

Vietnam Photos:

 $\label{lem:http://news.yahoo.com/photos/a-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow/vietnam-photo-599932980.html? format=embed\#mediaphotosbobaspotlightgallery=\%252Flightbox\%252Fa-soldier-s-story-never-before-seen-images-of-vietnam-war-slideshow%252Fvietnam-photo-599932096.html$

Military Video ~ 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 for you to watch. It's not just enjoyable, it is riveting! When you are done pass it on too, I think it's important ... don't you? If 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.

 $\underline{http://www.nragive.com/ringoffreedom/index.html}$

NAS Lemoore April 1968:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sRIO4kvjVE&feature=youtu.be

Photos/History of Vietnam:

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/

Another Saints website site: By Saint Dennis Lund

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

When the Saints Go Marching In - US Navy Seventh Fleet Band

 $\underline{http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgsgUbXCeIA\&feature=related}$

VA Benefits Blog on Facebook:

VA Benefit Blog

https://www.facebook.com/vabenefitblog?sk=app 129722457108553#!/vabenefitblog?sk=wall

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/72157623854694748/

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

RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 Oct 2015

Read the Articles go to the web site at: http://post_119_gulfport_ms.tripod.com/rao1.html

ha + + ha + +

SAINTS ONBOARD (260 Names)

"Muster Call"

Revised 03 Oct 2015

New or changed address:

See website roster

Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

Complete $\underline{\text{Muster Call}}$ can be found on the Saints website $-\underline{\text{www.va163.org}}$ (password, $\underline{\text{Saints4ever}}$) capital

