Toooo Weeet... Attention on Deck... "Saints... Sept... 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.



10th Year Edition Established Nov 2002 VOL 1 Issue 119



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

Reunion Time... Saints Muster Call, San Diego 5-6 Oct



2009 Reunion



Bob Hope Memorial, San Diego



Kissing Sailor, San Diego















ONCE A SAINT, ALWAYS A SAINT

Listen to music as you read the newsletter:

ClickHere 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











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

Also on Saints website, **PHOTOS** section

Contains 72 Albums (Sets).... 4,011 Photos.... 20,192 views (as of 31August 2012)





SAINTS WEB SITE

Saints Internet Web Site www.va163.org (password: saints4ever)

5,022 Visitors since Mar 09

NOTICE Please sign the Guestbook



Saints 2012 Reunion:

<u>Location:</u> Hilton San Diego, Mission Valley
Date: 5-7 Oct 2012

REUNION update 03 September 2012

Point of Contact: Scott Mitchell ccsm249@verizon.net

For those attending the reunion: it's time to get your payment in the mail to Scott Mitchell. Advance purchase tickets are being paid for this month. There are a few T-shirts still available and don't forget to bring something warm for the Friday night dinner cruise. San Diego nights can be cool on the water. "Thanks, Scott

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.

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:

<u>Hotel:</u> 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.

<u>Friday night:</u> 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

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

T-Shirts: \$20

Point of Contact: Scott Mitchell ccsm249@verizon.net



Hi - I just got back from meeting with CAPT Harry Jenkin's family re: a book I'm writing about the Alcatraz Gang - a group of 11 POWs of which Harry was part. Noticed you had some great pictures from Hanoi. Wondering if you had any other good images of Harry in captivity or the guards...

You may know that Harry left your mark on the shower stall in the Zoo. He scratched a greeting to Jim Stockdale into the wall: "Hi CAG - SAINT" Best.

Alvin Townley



New handbook available for veterans, dependents, survivors

8/24/2012 - **WASHINGTON** (**AFRNS**) -- The 2012 edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors is available online.

Produced by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the handbook's chapters cover such topics as VA pensions, home loans, medals and records, special veterans groups, and other federal benefits. It also has a listing of VA facilities, plus links to helpful websites and a telephone directory.

People can view the handbook by individual chapters and sections, or download the entire document, in English or Spanish, in .pdf format. Visit

www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp. (Courtesy of VA News)











MILITARY REPORT The Military's Largest Benefits Update

ACTIVATE RELEASED TO LOCAL SECTION AND CONTRACT AND ACTIVATION

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 <u>subscribe</u> 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/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."



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



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

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 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

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



From Marvin Reynolds daughter: 07 Aug 12 Thank you so much for the email, we are so proud. Deborah Monteferrante, Marvin's daughter

About Marvin Reynolds: 03 Aug

From: TWimbo@aol.com

Pass this to the Saints organization.

I knew Marv Reynolds well. We were instructors at Pensacola in BTG-9 and VT-4 in 1959-61.

Tom Wimberley, Corpus Christi, TX VA-164

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Museum & Memorial: 07 Aug 12

Submitted by Anthony Chibbaro warriortc@msn.com

While in NJ recently for my Mother's 90th birthday - one day I went to the NJ Vietnam Veterans Museum and Memorial - interesting.

They have a circular Memorial Wall with the near 1500 NJ Vietnam Veterans killed in that war - one of the names on that wall is that of Frank Tunick, one of the junior officers killed in the USS Oriskany fire - he was from Linden, NJ.

There are around 8 different sets of steps leading up to the wall. I walked up a set of steps, went to the wall, and found myself standing right in front of Tunick's name on the wall.

When I mentioned what had happened to a woman who works in the Museum, she replied - "that happens a lot". Wow!

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

- 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. Remembering Oriskany Guest Book: http://www.rememberingoriskany.bravepages.com/guestbook2.html
- 8. Oriskany Dive Video & Photos: 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: http://glewis.us/obooks.htm & 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
- 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 Oriksany History 1972: http://www.ussoriskany.com/id17.html
- 16. USS Oriskany digital Cruise Book Project (http://glewis.us/obooks.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

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

Oriksany Cruise Books:

http://navysite.de/cruisebooks/cv34-67/index.html

NAS Fallon, NV:

Check out this site: http://cnic.navy.mil/Fallon/index.htm

FA-18 Strafes Taliban Compound:

Close up view of a 20mm strafing run performed in support of U.S forces in Afghanistan . The Americans had been taking small arms and sniper fire from the compound. More footage @ http://YouTube.com/Funker530 http://www.military.com/video/operations-and-strategy/air-strikes/fa-18-strafes-taliban-compound/1780247702001/

LOST FILM FOUND - Honolulu, August 14, 1945 -- THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Great video of a Spontaneous Victory Parade in Honolulu in 1945. Take a

look at this movie -- absolutely fabulous! Notice the cars and jeeps, youth.

The guys in khaki or gray shirts and black ties are Navy officers or chiefs.

The rest are Army or Marine. How young they all were to do what they did.

This guy really captured a moment in history! (You can listen to Jimmy

Durante singing "I'll be Seeing You" in the background, too) This is a

super video of a time past - we need to remember and be THANKFUL. Check out

the color fidelity. It's not bad for 1945. Nothing will ever compare with

Kodkachrome film.

Click here for the video: http://vimeo.com/5645171

Our Vietnam Generation (Video Trailer is about 10 minutes long)

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. 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

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

Another Saints website site: By Saint Dennis Lund

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

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

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

Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: 6:10 min video

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

Vietnam War Documentary Trailer:

http://www.v-prod.com/trailer_vietnam.html

Remembering the Brave:

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

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 <u>"grab the screen" with the pointer (white glove hand)</u> 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

A-4 Skyhawk Photo Galleries on Flickr.com website: Some of our Saints photos 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/

Virtual Aircraft Encyclopedia:

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

McDonnell-Douglas A-4 Skyhawk: http://www.aviastar.org/air/usa/mcdonnel_sky.php

RAO BULLETIN Update, 01 SEPT 2012

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

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

<u>Captured:</u> 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/

Music of the Vietnam War:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnnLrmboOYE&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 3 Sept 2012

New or changed address:

Non e

Please advise if you have any additions or corrections.

Complete Roster can be found on the Saints website – www.va163.org

(password, saints4ever)

