



VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.vp-21navy.org

John G. Esposito, Editor

FALL 2013 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:

Bob and Gary are getting things rolling for the 2015 reunion and some preliminary information follows. It's going to be a barn burner. Attached to this newsletter you'll find a survey form they've developed in order to provide us all with the most productive and enjoyable reunion possible. Please follow the directions and get your thoughts back to them as soon as possible

With every newsletter, we lose some members. Some pass away and we can't do anything about that except mourn our loss. But some just change addresses and forget to let us know. I'm starting a new program. With each newsletter I'll list the names of those we lost on the previous one. Then, if you know of their whereabouts, either send me their corrected address or contact them and suggest that they do so. My email address is blocke21@comcast.net. This issue's list follows:

Louis McTrusty, De Pere, WI, 58-69 AT1
William Evans, Birmingham, AL, 43-45
Delbert Bennett, Casa Grande, AZ, 49-52 AN

As I'm writing this, it's 11 November and I want to wish you all a wonderful Veterans Day and thank you for your service.

Fly safely,

Bill

A MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER:

Call for Biographies

The Association Webmaster wants to publish your biography on the VPB-111/ VP-21 Veterans Association website. If you were a member of VB-111, VPB-111, VP-111, VP (HL)-11 or VP-21, then you are part of our history, as well as part of the U.S. Navy's history.

While the basics of our squadrons' histories are formally documented in various publications, including our own website History Pages, most individual personal histories are not. When I accepted the post of website director, one of my primary goals was to gather those histories in the form of biographies. Who were these individuals who made our squadrons function? Who were those willing to go into Harm's Way? When did they join the Navy? Where did they grow up? What were their jobs in the squadron in other Navy assignments? What were some of their memorable events? What did they do after the Navy? What about their families? What are they doing now?

These are some of the things I'm sure we would all like to know about our old shipmates, our brethren - about those who were in the squadron when we were, to be sure, but also about those shipmates who preceded us and prepared the way, and those whom we passed the baton onto. All of us, from 1943 to 1969, worked and played together, sacrificed and celebrated together, and placed our lives in each other's hands on a daily basis. That's how spirit is born.

Performing our duty and measuring up helped our character to develop. We were, and remain, family. It's why we look

forward to seeing each other again. It's what makes us proud to have served together. It's what makes us proud to have been American sailors.

So I want your story. I want to make it available to all who want to read it, whether it be your brother shipmates, historians, family, or friends. I want photos too; ideally of when you first joined the Navy, during your squadron days, and the present. You can email your biography and photos to me, or send them to me via the USPS. Please! Don't be shy. I know many of us are reluctant to talk about ourselves.... And don't worry about the technicalities of structure, grammar, or spelling. I'll make that my job (or maybe my wife's). Just talk about yourself and work in answers to the following questions:

Where did you grow up?

When did you join the Navy?

When were you in VPB-111 and/ or VP-21?

What was your job in the squadron?

Talk about a memorable event or two - and name names.

If you made the Navy a career, what were your other assignments?

What did you do after the Navy?

What are you doing now?

Talk about your family (spouse's name, children's names, grandchildren, etc).

If you have access to our website, you can use the already published biographies as examples.

[This is a reprint of the Webmasters article published in the winter 2003 newsletter]

Send to:

Herman Schmidt.

3404 Red Tailed Hawk Drive • Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952 • Tel: 772-621-4503 • EMAIL: schmidthw@bellsouth.net

A MESSAGE FROM THE STOREKEEPER:

From the Storekeeper: Christmas is around the corner and it is a perfect time to drop hints to family members who are looking for the right gift to you from Santa. Your squadron Small Stores now has in stock the popular P-2 Neptune "Two Turning VP Two Burning" gold embroidered Navy Blue color ball cap **without** a gold "scrambled egg" design on the visor. This handsome ball cap can be yours for a modest \$18.00 cost that includes shipping and handling. The ball cap with a gold "scrambled egg" design on the visor is still available for a \$20.00 cost that also includes shipping and handling. Other popular Small Stores items include the VP-21 Squadron "Blackjack" Patch (5" Large at \$10 or a 3" Small at \$6); VP-21 "Blackjack" Lapel/Hat Pin at \$4; VPB-111 "Dumbo" or "Truculent Turtle" 3" Small Squadron Patches at \$6; White Polo Shirts **now include** embroidered Naval Flight Officer and Naval Aircrew Wings in addition to Naval Aviator Gold Wings and **VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association** lettering at \$30 (available in S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL sizes). These and other gift items may be viewed on the Association Website at www.vp-21navy.org. For further information or to place your Small Stores order, contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by e-mail at ccnute@earthlink.net.

Storekeeper Special Notice: We have Association members' inquiries about ordering personalized squadron Coffee Mugs. Our Small Stores coordinated orders for Association members from a commercial vendor 10 years ago. The vendor is still in business and they have an ample stock of the VP-21 logo that can be placed on a mug or stein of your choice. The vendor recommends placing orders by each individual to optimize choosing your own personalized images and names to be placed on the mug/stein and also to minimize shipping cost savings to the Association member. How do you place an order? Go to the following website: www.milart.com. Once on the website, select the Mug & Steins toolbar to pull up images of the mug or stein you would like to order, make your selection and then follow the instructions on how to personalize your order. Once you click on the image of the mug/stein you want, click the "Design Order" box and it will display blank areas for you to select order quantity and personalized mug/stein choices. In the "Front Design" box write in "**Bin2014/VP-21**" to order the VP-21 Blackjack logo. The rear design is for your choice of an image (CPO, etc.) or USN Wings (Air Crew, Naval Flight Officer, Pilot) that may be viewed by clicking on the "Misc. Images" option. Additionally, front and rear personalization may include your name and/or nick-name. If you need help to place your personalized mug/stein order online contact Military Art China representative, Ms Terry McComb, at 1-800-445-6847. For those members who do not have Internet access and would like to place an order by mail (I have printed mail order forms), contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by e-mail at ccnute@earthlink.net.

Thank you,
Carter

DONATIONS RECEIVED:

The following persons have so generously contributed to our organization's fund. Their contributions have been greatly appreciated.

Rudolph F. Falkenstein
Gerald N. Panches
Galen S. & Joann Kyre
Arlene & Mark Baker
Joseph Brigati
Judith F. Ramsden

Charles Brinegar
Edward LaFontaine
Jack Moore
Joseph E. Sheehan, Sr.
Vincent Raab in memory of his Dad, Henry H. Hubner, VPB111

Sorry for the delay in recognizing donors in the summer newsletter. Above is the list for July, August, September, October, and to date for November. My computer died early summer and after many months of trying to get it repaired, I finally gave in and replaced it. Now I just have to learn how to use it. Happy Holidays to all.

Leland Ledford
Treasurer
VPB 111-VP 21

PLEASE NOTE: The VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association charges no dues. Our operations are totally supported by the generous contributions of our membership and by the sale of our squadron products. The association comes under section 501(C) 19, of the Internal Revenue Code as a "Not for Profit" organization. As such, contributions are legitimate tax deductions. Please make your contribution checks payable to the "VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association" and forward them to the Treasurer, Leland Ledford, at 127 Pete St., Waterloo, SC, 29384-4647.

BILL KEARNEY REPORTS;

A PARTIAL VIEWING OF THE PAST REUNION'S *TATTOO* IS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE. A full show copy is not available. However, there are several clips on our YouTube website. They are listed in the link below. Please advise if this will work for you all. <http://www.youtube.com/user/virginiatattoo>

TAPS:

It is with deep regret that I inform you of the passing of our following shipmates:

CDR Robert J. Campbell age 77, XO of VP-21 when it was disestablished in 1969. Bob, a former resident of Mount Vernon, died suddenly on May 19, 2010, at his residence in Peterborough, N.H. He graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1950. After attending Burlington Junior College, he entered the U.S. Navy, where he served for 23 years as a Naval aviator. He was the son of Kenneth and Marjorie Campbell and is survived by his brother, Don Campbell of Grand Lake, Colo., and sister, Jo Rene Connor of Nora Springs, along with five children and 14 grandchildren. Military services and interment will be at the National Cemetery in Bourne, Mass.

Que S. Jamison: Passed away on May 23, 2013. Cause of death was determined to be heart failure. He served in VPB-111 in WWII from November '42 to November '45. Que was an AMC 2nd Class. His primary role was to serve as a waist gunner in a B24PB. He saw action in Africa and the South Pacific. He had received many citations including the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Ralph R Herms: Passed away on 12 March 2012.
No other details available.

Walter Brown: Resided in Virginia Beach, VA. Walter enlisted in the US Navy at the age of 17 and flew 51 combat missions with Fleet Air Wing 7 from October 1943 to November 1944. He served with PBM Squadron VP-210 and later was commissioned into a B-24 Squadron, VPB-111, which served in England and French Morocco. He was later attached to B-24 Squadron VPB-103, Crew 10, in Dunkeswell, England and his crew was credited with sinking German submarine U-971. He was again called to active duty during the Korean War. For his distinguished service, Walter was awarded the European African Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Navy Commendation Ribbon, four Air Medals, WWII Victory Ribbon, and Korean Conflict Ribbon. He continued his service in the US Naval Reserve, retiring with a total of 37 years of active and reserve duty. He passed away on 15 July, 2009.

Richard G. Seeds, AMS 3: Served in VP21 from '62 to '64. He passed away on 4 April '13.

Theodore "Skippy" McGee, AD3: He passed away 10 October 2013. He served in VP 21 from 1950 to 1953.

SICK BAY: No sick, lame or lazy were reported this quarter.

WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:

No new round-ups were reported this quarter.

VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION
255 Mere Point Rd.
Brunswick, ME 04011

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Return Service Requested

DECEMBER 2013

VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION

A non-profit, fraternal, and historical association devoted to the reestablishment of contact with shipmates of the past, to strengthen the camaraderie among its members, to record and preserve the memories and incidents of the Association, to preserve the memory of departed shipmates, and to promote the comfort and welfare of its members and survivors. No dues are assessed!

Directors:

- *Dwyer, Dan, Online Coordinator, Director, #6 Sarah Liberty Lane, Scarborough, ME 04074*
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- *Nelson Robert, Special Projects, 49 Woodland Drive, Tequesta FL 33469*
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- *Schuster, Fred, Dir/Historian/Director, 2713Cabin Creek Rd., Edwardsville, IL,62025*
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The 'Vagabond News' is the official publication of the Association, and is circulated quarterly in the Winter (January/March), Spring (April/June), Summer (July/September), and Fall (October/December), as a third class bulk-rate mail from Southampton, PA, Post Office (Permit #61). All costs of the publication are supported by voluntary contribution only. To ensure that materials of interest are promptly published, members should submit same prior to the publishing quarter to John G. Esposito, 862 Central Ave., Southampton, PA 18966. All inputs will be published in a timely manner.