



# VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

[www.vp-21navy.org](http://www.vp-21navy.org)

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**John G. Esposito, Editor**

**WINTER 2013 EDITION**

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:

The next time I'll be communicating with any of you will be at our 2013 reunion in Virginia Beach. I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you there that can make it. Bill Kearney has put together a great program and those of us who do attend are certain to have a very enjoyable time. See you there.

If any of you are interested in contributing to the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens, where our squadron artifacts are scheduled to be exhibited, you may do so by sending your check to them at P.O. Box 943, Brunswick, ME 04011. They're asking for a \$60 annual membership fee but will gladly accept any amount. Their web site is [www.brunswicknavalmuseum.org](http://www.brunswicknavalmuseum.org). In the past, your Association has been very generous in helping to maintain the gardens. I hope that we continue to do so now that the entire chapel complex is to become a place where the history of our squadron will be on display. Fly safe.

Bill

## DONATIONS RECEIVED:

This quarter the following persons have generously made donations to our group:

David Messer  
Raymond Gaus  
Ron Rocheleau  
Michael Weatherington  
David Johnston  
Jim Mueller  
Les Raye  
Richard R. Cattrysse  
William Locke

Many thanks are extended to all of the above.

**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.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE STOREKEEPER:

**From the Storekeeper:** You asked – We listened! Your squadron Small Stores will soon have 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](http://www.vp-21navy.org). For further information or to place your order, contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by e-mail at [ccnute@earthlink.net](mailto:ccnute@earthlink.net). All Small Stores items will be available for sale during the upcoming VPB-111/VP-21 2013 Reunion in Virginia Beach.

Thanks, Carter

## TAPS:

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

- **James Corbett Gibson**, as reported by one of his shipmates, F.K. Bud Mills, of Homeland, CA. Jim served in VPB-111 from '43 to '45. He passed away July, 2012. His widow Eloise survives him. Bud is honored and proud to have served with Jim and their crew during World War II for 34 months in the American Theater, European Theater, North African Theater, and Pacific Theater. Jim is remembered with affection. He was our Radio Operator on the B-24, PB4Y1 in VPB 111, Crew 12 in the Pacific. Remaining members of the crew living are: Harold H. Ashton, Plane Commander residing in St. Helena, CA; Sam Leonetti, Plane Captain, residing in Egg Harbor, New Jersey; Norwood Sperry, Tail Gunner, residing in Florida, and myself, Farville K. “Bud” Mills, Bombardier. Others gone on before are: James G. Bell, Gunner; Frank H. Brauner, Gunner-Photographer; Edward Trybala, Radar Operator; Ken La Count, Gunner; H. Hutchison, Co-Pilot; J. Hanzel, Navigator. A total of 105 Combat Missions were completed: American Theater 26, European 35, Pacific 44.  
F. K. Bud Mills, [foko17@verizon.net](mailto:foko17@verizon.net), Homeland, CA
- **Lacie Blevins** of Tenn. passed away in October, 2012. He was in VB-111 and served as Co-Pilot to Captain Francis W. Kieper for 66 missions in the Pacific Theater.
- **Lowell Anderson** served in VP-21 from '55 to '57. He passed away on 11 January of this year. He was 80 years old.
- **John W. Witten** served in VPB 111 from '43 to '45. He passed away in 2013.

May they rest in peace!

**SICK BAY:**

**Ted Guzzy** is currently battling cancer.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER:**

Our website domain name has changed to [www.vp-21navy.org](http://www.vp-21navy.org). Frank Balogh initially setup our website back in 1999 and he maintained it until he passed away September 23, 2009. Regrettably no information was left behind when he passed away. In May 2010, in response to the Board of Directors search for a replacement Webmaster, I volunteered to take on the task. With no experience in web maintenance I tackled the job and by July 2010, I finally established my credentials with our web hosting company and gained access to the site and maintained it since then. You might say that's history, but I was not aware at the time that our domain name was procured from a separate domain name registrar company. Apparently the lease on the domain name [www.vp-21.org](http://www.vp-21.org) came due somewhere in the November/December 2012 time frame and an email bill may have been sent to Frank Balogh's defunct email address, since he was the leaser. The bill was not paid. As I understand it, after something over 40 days from the time the payment was past due the website became available to the highest bidder. Since our website is very active, it was immediately snapped up by a Japanese organization. Rather than getting into a protracted and expensive effort to get back our old domain name, we registered the new domain name [www.vp-21navy.org](http://www.vp-21navy.org) and rapidly restored our presence back on the internet. Of course the change could not have occurred at a worse time. The Fall 2012 Vagabond Newsletter had just been published and distributed, and our email distribution had just been sent out. So the word did not get out as rapidly as we would have liked. At this point I am sure that many of the external websites like [www.vpnavy.org](http://www.vpnavy.org) that point to our site will need to be advised of the change. So I ask all members if you know of any sites that link to ours, please let them know about the change. It is regrettable that this occurred, but we plan to keep a least 2 board members in the loop with credential information for both our hosting and domain registration companies, so that we can maintain an online presence in the future, without interruption.

Thanks for your patience.  
Smitty

**WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:**

No lost sheep found this quarter.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE ON- LINE CO-ORDINATOR:**

The following members have had their e-mails returned due to invalid e-mail addresses:

- Baker, Jack: Easton, MD. N/L returned 12/27/2012.
- Becker, Fred: Wauconda, IL. N/L returned 12/27/2012.
- Brenn, Robert: Phoenix, AZ. N/L returned 12/27/12.
- Davis, WM: Allison Pk., PA. N/L returned 12/27/12.
- Dunn, Elwood: Oxford, ME. N/L returned 12/27/12, 8/24/2010.
- Taylor, James: Haymarket, VA. N/L returned 12/27/2012.

It is in turn requested that they contact Dan Dwyer to correct this anomaly.  
Dan Dwyer

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

**Non-profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Permit #61**  
**Southampton, PA**

**Return Service Requested**

### **WINTER, 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*
- *Esposito John G., Editor/Director, 862 Central Ave., Southampton, PA 18966*
- *La Fontaine, Edward, Museum Director, 161 Jackson Dr., Frankfort, KY 40601*
- *Locke, William Chairman, 255 Mere Point Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011*
- *Nelson Robert, Special Projects, 49 Woodland Drive, Tequesta FL 33469*
- *Novay , Ron, Director, 7775 Lake Hardeman Rd., Saulsburry, TN 38067*
- *Nute, Carter, Storekeeper/Director, 7605 NW 50th ST., Gainesville, FL 32653-1137*
- *Ledford, Leland, Treasurer/Director, 127 Pete St., Waterloo, SC 29384-4647*
- *Schuster, Fred, Dir/Historian/Director, 2713Cabin Creek Rd., Edwardsville, IL,62025*
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- *Webb, Richard, Director, 219 Montoya Dr., Lady Lake, FL 32159-8642*
- *Woods, Dale, Director, 5480 W. Arrowhead Lake Dr. Glendale, AZ 85306*

*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.*