



# VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.vp-21navy.org

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**John G. Esposito, Editor**

**WINTER 2014 EDITION**

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## **A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:**

Establishment of the Brunswick Naval Museum is moving along rapidly. I expect that it will be opening in April. Inclusion of our VPB-111/VP-21 artifacts has been discussed with the curators and they will comprise an important part of the exhibits. The Museum can use the help of us all. I will be writing to each of you soon to let you know how you can contribute to this worthy cause. Obviously, monetary assistance is an important consideration but physical assistance at the Museum by our local squadron members will also be valuable. Let's all help keep the memory of VPB-111/VP-21 alive and flourishing.

Squadron mate Jack Sprouse (AE3 62-64) has authored a book called "On Neptune Wings". Information regarding the book may be found at: [http://www.amazon.com/Neptune-Wings-Jack-Sprouse-ebook/dp/B00II61IEK/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1393428072&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Neptune-Wings-Jack-Sprouse-ebook/dp/B00II61IEK/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1393428072&sr=1-1).

During my second tour in 21 (65-67), I had the distinct pleasure of serving under two of the finest officers that I met in my 34 years of service – John Orrill and Ian (Mike) Johnson. I think that all of us who were in the squadron at that time will agree that, with those two outstanding officers and gentlemen at the helm, VP-21 was the finest squadron in the Navy. Not only did they lead us in a professional manner (resulting in us winning the Battle "E" and the Isbell Trophy), but they also made our tours enjoyable. John Orrill passed away on 24 October 2012 and now we've lost Mike Johnson on 11 February of this year. The world is lesser for it.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of James C. White of Tulsa, OK, please let me know. He fell off our radar following our last newsletter.

Bill

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE ON-LINE COORDINATOR:**

Every time we send out a mass emailing to the membership we continue to receive an inordinate number of bounced emails due to the member not updating his email address with us. Please take this opportunity to seriously look at the Email roster that is provided to all members that have an email address on file with us to see if you see a shipmate's name listed under the LOST/BAD section of the roster, and if you have a current address for that member please forward it to [DDwyer1@Maine.RR.com](mailto:DDwyer1@Maine.RR.com)

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE STOREKEEPER:**

Reunion 2015 is around the corner and it is a perfect time to order squadron emblem items to be properly attired for our Pensacola gathering. Your squadron Small Stores has in stock the popular P-2 Neptune "Two Turning VP Two Burning" gold embroidered Navy Blue color ball cap **with** and **without** a gold "scrambled egg" design on the visor for \$20 or \$18 respectively. 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 Small Stores order, contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by e-mail at [ccnute@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:ccnute@earthlink.net).

### **DONATIONS RECEIVED:**

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

- Janice Herrick
- Allan J. Place
- Daniel L. Bologna
- Leland Ledford
- Raymond H. Gaus
- Bruce T. Willey
- Ronald D. Rocheleau
- W. Scafer Bean
- Les Raye
- Robert Bjork

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.

### **TAPS:**

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

- **Robert Goodie:** age 84. Passed away 4 October 2012. He served in WWII, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict.
- **Robert N. Silvan:** age 80. Served in the US Navy for 20 years as an AT. Robert resided in Lewiston, ME. He passed away on 29 December 2013. No other details re available.
- **John Bloomquist:** No details are available.
- **John Leighton:** Served in VPB 111 from 1943 to 1945. He was an Ensign in Crew 12 in '45.
- **Ian Johnson, USN Retired:** Passed away 11, February 2014. Former CO of VP 21.

**SICK BAY:**

- Danny Binger of VA Beach, VA. Served in VP 21 from '65 to '68. Danny will be undergoing a liver transplant operation in the near future. Your prayers are requested.

**WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:**

- Peter Field
- Larry Goforth
- Jimmie Burgess
- William B. Carper. Served in VPB-111 from 1944 to 1945.

**STRAW POLL REPORT FROM THE 2015 REUNION PLANNERS:**

We received 46 returns from the straw poll published in the last newsletter. Even though they were scattered across the country, from Florida to California, Washington State, Minnesota, and Maine, four out of five responders would plan to drive to Pensacola. That offers flexibility on hotel location and suggests we allow plenty of free time for personal side trips.

Nearly two-thirds prefer three meeting days; another third favor a day less. We'll plan on three days of activities, plus arrival and departure days, and make sure the hotel offers the same rates for days on either side.

The majority (84%) of responders have been to at least one prior reunion. Over half have attended three or more, which suggests that we have a loyal core support group. But everyone's welcome, so hopefully we can expand our numbers. Ten responses were received from people who have never attended a reunion and only 3 live nearby in Florida, so that's encouraging.

Overall, it was a worthwhile effort. We got good input and will build it into our planning.

Mindful that we go to these reunions primarily to enjoy being with old friends, we'll build in plenty of time for that, but plan to attend a Blue Angels practice, spend a good part of a day at the Air Museum, have a great banquet and arrange for a memory book. We'll keep the bus trips to a minimum but try to arrange some other interesting visits locally and aboard NAS. We'll also provide information and maps for those who want to explore the area or revisit old haunts.

Thanks for all the input and comments. Additional ideas are always welcome. Please send them to Bob O'Connor at roconnor@gulftel.com or 755 Wedgewood Dr., Gulf Shores, AL 36542.

**VP 21 HISTORICAL INFORMATION IS BEING SOUGHT:**

Richard H. Niegorski is seeking information concerning a flight that departed Hal Far, Malta on or around Thanksgiving in the 1950's. This aircraft was bound for Port Lyautey. Subject plane experienced a May Day and crashed in a French fighter field. Richard is presently seeking some additional details regarding this incident. If anyone was on board this aircraft, or is otherwise familiar with this incident, please contact Richard at the below address/phone number:

Richard H. Niegorski  
14 Pine Ct.  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
Phone: 724- 513- 6412

**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**

### **MARCH 2014**

#### **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:*

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