



# VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.vp-21navy.org

**James L. Mattson, Editor**

**FALL 2020 EDITION**

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

My Fellow Blackjacks,

Hope springs eternal and, because it does, I am planning a reunion for 2021. I regret that I do not yet have many hard plans, but I can tell you that the dates will be 15-19 September.

We'll be staying at the Residence Inn in Bath. I have not negotiated a final cost yet so don't jump the gun and immediately call for reservations. I should have that resolved by 31 January so I suggest you call on 1 February (or soon after) at (207) 443-9741 and state that you will be attending the VP-21 Reunion in order to receive the negotiated rate. If you run into any problems, ask to speak to Ms. Kathy Domingo, the Sales Manager.

I plan the following squadron events: river boat trip on the Kennebec on the Maine Maritime Museum boat, get-together dinner at Joshua's Tavern in Brunswick, a visit to the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum (BNAM) including a tour of the Museum/Blackjack Ready Room, our Two-Bell Ceremony in the Memorial Garden, and our business meeting.

Our reunion will be held at the same time as the BNAM/NASB Reunion. We will be able to avail ourselves of some of their events, especially a lobster bake under a tent at the Museum where we'll have reserved squadron tables. They also plan other events such as a cocktail party at the Flight Deck Brewery and a golf match. Information will be provided when available.

Registration sheets will be provided as soon as all events are locked down. In the meantime, I strongly recommend that you make your hotel reservations as soon after 1 February as possible.

In the last newsletter we asked for volunteers to act as backups for each of our Directors. Perhaps I should not have used the term "volunteers" because, surprisingly, I received no inputs. Come on Blackjacks, it is vitally important to have someone who can maintain backup copies of our important records and to fill in for or replace a Director. These 'collateral duties' typically take no more than a few hours each month. So please, consider stepping up and be of service to your shipmates by providing needed continuity to cover: me as maintainer of the Master Roster and act as our Historian; Dan Dwyer – On-Line Coordinator; Herm "Smitty" Schmidt – Webmaster; Leland "Tiny" Ledford – Treasurer; and Carter Nute – Storekeeper. Dick Herbein is already the backup for Jim Mattson – Editor.

2020 has been a crappy year. I trust that 2021 will be better and that I'll see all of you in September. In our last newsletter, I provided pictures of the very nice display cases that were contributed to us and are installed in the Blackjack Ready Room. I have received permission to display any and all books written by our squadron writers. I know of at least three of you and there may be more. If you'll provide me with copies (preferably hard copy), I'll ensure that you get well-earned recognition.

Finally, remember, when making a purchase from Amazon, please sign in with [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum. Amazon will make a contribution to the Museum at no cost to you.

Fly safely and stay well.  
Bill

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

As it appears the woes of year 2020 COVID-19 issues are in the rear-view mirror and the introduction of vaccines are promising it is time to look forward to better times ahead. For those who have “cabin-fever” from normal in-person shopping experiences your VPB-111/VP-21 Association is here to help with a safe virtual on-line shopping opportunity in preparation for our planned September 2021 Reunion in Maine. Therefore, to view all Association memorabilia treasures visit our VPB-111/VP-21 Website at [www.vp-21navy.org](http://www.vp-21navy.org) and click on the Small Stores tool bar to bring up full color photos and instructions on how to place an order. You will most certainly find an item to place on your “Preflight Check-List” to ensure you are prepared for Reunion festivities. Any questions, contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 256-8875 or by E-mail at [ccnute@cox.net](mailto:ccnute@cox.net). We look forward to seeing you in Maine for Reunion 2021!

## **DONATIONS RECEIVED:**

The following persons have generously contributed to the Association fund. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

- ✎ Richard J. Herbein
- ✎ Herman Schmidt

**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 we inform you of the passing of the following shipmates:

- ✎ Robert C. (“Bob”) Amburgey, 27 December 2020, Lake Bluff, IL, AX3, VP-21 1967-1969
- ✎ Allan W. Furneaux, 29 September 2020, Dover, MA, AE3, VP-21 1957-1959
- ✎ Leon J. Greenbaum, 5 November 2020, Edgewater, MD, LTJG, VPB-111, 1944-1945
- ✎ Louis E. Merchant, 21 Nov 2018, Texarkana, AR, AD3, VP-21 1948-1951
- ✎ Harold (“Gus”) Rich, 1 August 2020, Cookeville, TN, LTJG, VP-21 1964-1967
- ✎ William (“Bill”) Ernest Studebaker, 3 December 2020, Woodstock, GA, ADJ3, VP-21 1960-1963

**NOTE:** Available obituaries are posted on the Association website under Biographies/Profiles, <http://www.vp-21navy.org/biographies/>

## FOUND:

Occasionally, we ‘find’ some of our missing shipmates. Regrettably, we did not “find” anybody this past quarter. Please keep scanning the horizon.

**NOTE:** Lost and Found information is also posted on the Association website under Lost&Found, <http://www.vp-21navy.org/id122.htm>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR:

For this section entitled, “As I Remember It,” I received no inputs. Perhaps I should conclude that our Association shipmates have no ‘war stories’ to tell. Or, perhaps everyone was too busy dealing with the holidays and the Covid Pandemic.

So, I decided to include a reminder of our proud heritage. This image shows our lineage from establishment as VB-111 to retirement as VP-21. Maybe it will jog a memory – I was there (...we broke out of the clouds at 400’ and there directly ahead was a Foxtrot on the surface. You should have seen them scramble...) ... I flew that airplane (Did anybody fly the Mercator?) ... here’s an interesting story (fill in the blank). We’d love to hear it.

You have until the end of March to send something to me ([jmattson1@cox.net](mailto:jmattson1@cox.net)) if you want to chime in for the next issue.

The lineage chart is titled "VPB-111/VP-21 Lineage" and is presented in a table format. Above the table are four circular emblems: the first is the VB-111 emblem, the second is the VPB-111 emblem, the third is the VP-111 emblem, and the fourth is the VP-21 emblem. Below the table are four photographs of aircraft, each with a caption and a year: PB4Y-1 Liberator (1943), PB4Y-2 Privateer (1945), P4M-1 Mercator (1950), and P2V-6 Neptune (1953).

VPB-111/VP-21 Lineage		
Established	Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN (VB-111)	30 July 1943 in Norfolk, VA
Redesignated	Patrol Bombing Squadron ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN (VPB-111)	1 October 1944
Redesignated	Patrol Squadron ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN (VP-111)	15 May 1946
Redesignated	Heavy Patrol Squadron (Landplane) ELEVEN (VP-HL-11)	15 November 1946
Redesignated	Patrol Squadron TWENTY ONE (VP-21)	1 September 1948
Disestablished		21 November 1969 at NAS Brunswick, ME

PB4Y-1 Liberator 1943

PB4Y-2 Privateer 1945

P4M-1 Mercator 1950

P2V-6 Neptune 1953

**VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
**255 Mere Point Rd.**  
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**October - December 2020**

**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*
- *La Fontaine, Edward, Museum Director, 405 Wilkinson Blvd. - #818, Frankfort, KY 40601*
- *Ledford, Leland, Treasurer/Director, 127 Pete St., Waterloo, SC 29384-4647*
- *Locke, William, Chairman, 255 Mere Point Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011*
- *Mattson, James, Newsletter Editor/Director, 12427 Wendell Holmes Rd., Herndon, VA 20171*
- *Novay, Ron, Director, 7775 Lake Hardeman Rd., Saulsburry, TN 38067*
- *Nute, Carter, Storekeeper/Director, 7605 NW 50th ST., Gainesville, FL 32653-1137*
- *Schmidt, Herman, Webmaster/Director, 3404 Red Tailed Hawk Dr., Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952*
- *(Vacant) Historian/Director*

*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 Philadelphia, PA, Post Office (Permit #7178). All costs of the publication are supported by voluntary contributions only. To ensure that materials of interest are promptly published, members should submit same prior to the end of the publishing quarter to the Editor - James L. Mattson, [jmattson1@cox.net](mailto:jmattson1@cox.net), or 12427 Wendell Holmes Rd., Herndon, VA 20171.*