



# VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.VP-21.org, and www.VPB-111.org

**John G. Esposito, Editor**

**FALL EDITION 2010**

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

Attached to this newsletter is the registration form for our April 2011 Reunion in Charleston, SC. Don't lose it. It's the only one we'll be sending you. As you can see, Tiny has arranged a wonderful program with an extraordinary series of events. I hope to see you all there.

On a sad note, I'm forwarding a request from my friend, Norm Roinestad, for the prayers and best wishes of his friends and former shipmates. Norm has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He hopes to be able to make the reunion but isn't taking any bets on it. If you'd like to contact him, his email address is:

[nroinestad@peoplepc.com](mailto:nroinestad@peoplepc.com)

and his mailing address is:

4 Rocky Road, Windsor, ME 04363-9714.

He'd love to hear from you.

We're still looking for missing shipmates. If you know the correct addresses of any of the following, please let me know:

Stanley Ball, John Banta, August Barthes, Sheldon Bates, Marvin Baumfalk, Howard Bayles, Waldo Bayles, Vaughan Beard, Robert Beasley, D.F. (Bud) Becker.

Bill

### **DONATIONS RECEIVED:**

The following named persons have generously made contributions to our organization since the last issue of the newsletter:

MERRILL CHURCHILL  
CHRISTIAN EYBERGEN  
ROBERT S. GELLES  
JAMES T. GIRTMAN  
FRED O. KELLAR  
WILLIAM J. LOCKE  
RONALD S. PETRICK  
GERALD N. PUNCHES  
LAWRENCE G. REINHARDT

Thanks to each of you for helping to keep our organization airborne.

Dick

**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, Richard S. Webb, 219 Montoya Drive, Lady Lake, Florida, 32159-8642.

### **TAPS:**

It is with deep regret that I make mention of the passing of our following shipmates:

- **Wm. Ahlberg**, ADJ-2. Served in VP 21 '63 to '68. He resided in Mechanic Falls, ME. Cause of death was cancer.
- **Vernon Wallace Bates**, AL-3 He served with VP 21 from '49 to '52. He died of natural causes at the age of 81 on 9 November 2010. He resided in Sarasota, FL.

- **Harold Watkins**, AT-1. Age 72. Served with VP-21 from '55 to '59. He resided in West Chester, PA. Cause of death is unknown.
- **Guy Hammersmith**, SN. Served in VP 21 from '53 – '55. Passed away on 9 July, 2010.. He was 75 years old.
- **Gus Lavakis**. Served in VPB111 from '43 to '46. Resided in San Lorenzo, CA. Passed away 2 February 2010.
- **Andrew Holland**, AL-1. He served in VP-21 from '49-'51. He passed away on 8 March, 2010 at the age of 88.

May they rest in peace.

### **WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:**

- Richard Stein. He served in VP 21 in '69 and was transferred later during that year to VP 8 due to the de-commissioning of VP 21.
- Frank Daddario. ???
- Chuck Stein. '57 to '59. No details known.

Welcome home, Richard

### **From the Online Coordinator**

When the summer newsletter was sent out we had ten members' email addresses “bounce” as no longer being a valid address. Unless we hear from them or else receive an updated email address from the membership these members will become lost to us. Check out the email roster under the “Bad Email Section” to see if there is anyone listed there who is a regular correspondent of yours and for whom you have a current address and pass it onto Dan Dwyer at [DDWyer1@Maine.RR.Com](mailto:DDWyer1@Maine.RR.Com)

On a happier note, since sending out the summer edition of the newsletter we DID receive updated email addresses from nineteen of our members.

### **Power of the Internet**

As a result of our having a squadron web site out on the web, we have recently been in contact with a Marc Osman in California who is an employee of Neptune Aviation Services out in Missoula, Montana. Neptune Aviation flies P2V5 and P2V7 aircraft that have been retrofitted so as to serve as aerial tankers contracted for by the Forest Service to fight forest fires in the Western United States. Marc sent us some photos of LH-8, BUNO 145906 all painted up in “civilian” clothes which almost led to CDR Locke, the former PPC of LH-8 having a heart attack. Thanks to Bob O’Connor, Bill Locke’s Co Pilot who in turn, sent a photo of the NAVY crew of LH-8 in front of LH-8 that flew the bird back in the late 60’s. Here it is 42 years later and she’s still flying!! Check out Neptune Aviation’s web site at NeptuneAviation.Com.

Dan

### **From the Storekeeper:**

Looking for a gift idea for your significant other to get you for a Christmas present? Look no further than your Association Small Stores that has a great selection of gift items such as the popular P-2 Neptune “Two Turning VP Two Burning” gold embroidered Navy Blue color ball cap with 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. 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 Outer Banks brand Polo Shirts with embroidered Naval Aviator Gold Wings and **VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association** lettering at \$25 (available in medium, large and X Large sizes), and an incredible book, *The Story of One Eleven*, about our rich heritage as a Navy PB4Y squadron that served

in England, North Africa and the far Pacific during World War II. We also have a related book, *Low Level Liberators*, that tells the story of Patrol Bombing Squadron 104 in the South Pacific during World War II. Both books sell for \$29 each and each tell incredible stories about the brave young men who fought valiant battles in these marvelous flying machines. These and other gift items may be viewed on the Association Website at [www.vp-21.org](http://www.vp-21.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).

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).

Thank you.

Carter

### **AH, THE GOOD OLD DAYS:**

Check it out.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YzWhZdxPKGE>

Submitted by Ron Hoffman

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

**Return Service Requested**

**Non-profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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## **FALL 2010**

### **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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