



VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

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

John G. Esposito, Editor

SUMMER 2012 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:

Our last newsletter included the 2013 Reunion registration form and some of our members have already responded. That's wonderful. Let's keep it up. The earlier we hear from you, the easier Bill Kearny's job will be in setting up the events.

I'm going to make another appeal to you concerning the failure of some of our members to notify us when they change addresses. The postage for each newsletter is \$0.45. We send out about 650 of them at an approximate cost of \$290. This is postage only - not printing or processing. Each quarter, about 40 newsletters are returned because of bad addresses. For this service, the Post office charges us another \$0.45 each for a total of about \$18. On about half of them, the P.O. has provided a corrected address. Those are placed in envelopes and resent for a cost of another \$9. All in all, that increases our postage costs by about 9% (the same amount of additional power the PRTs gave the 3350s - but that was a good thing). The 20 returned newsletters without corrected addresses have to be discarded, denying our members receipt of their copies. The last issue included the Reunion registration forms. As a result of failing to notify us, twenty of our members didn't get a copy. Many of these returns say that the recipient is temporarily away which indicates that they've let the P.O. know they'll be gone for a while. Please remember to let us know, too.

One last note, if you have an email address and are still receiving hard copies of the newsletter, please let Dan Dwyer (ddwyer1@maine.rr.com) and me (blocke21@comcast.net) know so we can switch you over to email notification. This will not only save us the original \$0.45 and any re-mailing costs but will get the issue to you faster while reducing our printing costs. But, if subsequently you change your email address, please be sure to let Dan know.

See you at the Reunion.

Keep safe.
Bill

REUNION UPDATE;

Please be reminded that members can start making their reservations for the 2013 reunion. Just be sure to mention that they are with the VPB111/VP21 reunion. As a point of interest, Gary Powers, Sr. was awarded the Silver Star in June for his actions during his capture in the Cold War. His son, Gary, Jr. was the driving force and owns the Virginia Air Museum that we'll visit.

Bill and Georgia Kearney

Donations Received:

The following persons have made contributions during this quarter: Bernard Doran, Les Raye, and Joseph E. Sheehan.

Thanks guys for helping to keep our group airborne.

Tiny

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:

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 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); finally, 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*, which 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. For further information or to place your order, contact Storekeeper, Carter Nute, at (352) 335-1293 or by e-mail at ccnute@earthlink.net.

Thanks, Carter

TAPS:

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

- Grover A. Durant, VPB-111, '43-'45 has passed away. No further information.
- Harry Thomason passed away on 21 November, 2011 from heart and lung problems. He served in 21 from '54-'56 as an AT1.
- Herbert W. Pickering, 30 Bliss Mine Road, Middletown, RI 02842. No other details are available.

May they rest in peace.

Sick Bay:

No sick, lame, or lazy were reported this quarter.

A MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER:

All hands are encouraged to visit the website regularly to stay up to date between Vagabond editions. Our website is at: www.vp-21.org.

For those who have internet access, the newsletter is also published in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format. To access the Newsletter page enter <http://www.vp-21.org/id52.htm>. Select the edition that you would like to view. In order to view or print the Fall 2010 and subsequent editions you will need to first download Adobe Acrobat Reader. There is a link on the Newsletter page that you can click on to download the latest Acrobat Reader version.

Thanks,
Smitty

WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:

Arthur Tucote, AN. Served in VP21 from '56 to '61.
Welcome home.

From the Online Coordinator:

“For those members who were stationed at NAS Brunswick and want to keep abreast of what’s going on with the property now that the base is closed???, go to <http://www.mrra.us/> which is the web site for the Mid-Coast Regional Redevelopment Authority, the entity responsible for converting the base over to civilian use. As can be seen, seventeen organizations have opted to move on to the base but the only one that is building an entirely new facility is a Swedish company that will be making surgical dressings just across the road from where the old Hangar 2 used to be. Just as a warning, don’t get upset when you find out that this year’s “Air Show” at the base will feature the Air Force’s Thunderbirds, and not the Navy’s Blue Angels. The times they are a changing :<(((“

Dan Dwyer

VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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SUMMER, 2012

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!

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