



VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.vp-21navy.org

John G. Esposito, Editor

SPRING 2013 EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:

I know that Bill and Georgia Kearney already have received many compliments regarding the 2013 VPB-111/VP-21 Reunion in Virginia Beach, and the compliments certainly were well deserved. They did a fantastic job of planning, setting up, and carrying out the reunion. All the events were outstanding. The International Tattoo by itself would have been enough to have made the entire reunion a success. When you throw in the tours of Virginia Beach with its visit to the Military Aviation Museum and of Norfolk with its visit to the National Maritime Center and the USS Wisconsin, as well as, the very enjoyable BBQ dinner aboard the Victory Rover where we received an excellent tour of the harbor including observing many of the US Navy capital ships at the NS Norfolk piers, we all experienced a full and memorable time. The short stop at the Doumar Ice Cream Shop was just the icing on the cake. Thank you, Bill and Georgia.

The only down-side, and this certainly does not reflect on the performance of the Kearney's or on the over-all quality of the reunion, was that only one member of VPB-111 was able to attend. While it was wonderful to see Merrill and Crystal Churchill again, it was sad to realize that only one member of our founders was able to make the reunion. When I attended my first reunion in 1991, the members of 111 greatly outnumbered those of us from 21. It was, and still is, such an honor to be able to join with our WWII squadron mates. I hope that the Merrill's will be able to join us again in Pensacola in 2015, and since many of our squadron mates, both from 111 and 21, live in the south, hopefully, many more will be able to make it.

We in 21 must never forget that without VPB-111, there would have been no VP-21. We owe them our respect and our gratitude. As members of the Greatest Generation, and as the founding fathers of our squadron, they certainly earned and deserve both.

If any of you are looking to make a donation to a worthy cause (in addition to our Association), I've got a good one for you. Not only does the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens maintain our squadron monument that we installed in 1999, but, as decided by our membership, all of our squadron artifacts and memorabilia are being contributed to, and will be displayed at, the Museum once it is up and running. Go to brunswicknavalmuseum.org for further information on how you can make a contribution. And – it's tax deductible.

Bill

DONATIONS RECEIVED:

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

- Robert J. Kurant
- Robert Schmiedlin
- Thomas Sayre
- William Fitzgerald
- Leland Ledford
- Richard Parkhurst
- William Scherbon
- Deane Dixon
- L.W. Yoakum
- Tom Girtman
- Edward Ouellette
- Robert Brenn
- Jacques T. Baker

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: Thanks to all members who took advantage of Small Stores purchases during our 2013 Virginia Beach Reunion. Sales of the popular P-2 Neptune “Two Turning VP Two Burning” ball caps and the Association Polo Shirts embroidered with either Pilot, Naval Flight Officer or Naval Aircrew Wings were a hit. Modest profits from these sales support the Association’s ability to offer donations to meaningful projects such as the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens. Yours truly, the storekeeper, will be on an extended summer vacation from mid-June to mid-August. So, for those members who plan to make mail order purchases during this period, please understand I am not ignoring your order request. They will be filled as soon as I get back to home plate. In any event, Small Store gift items may be viewed on the Association Website at www.vp21navy.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:

Tom Dickson: Tom was an AL1 in the squadron from '51-'54. He was born on November 16, 1925 and passed away on Friday, July 22, 2011. He was proud to have served his country in World War II, (the U.S. Marines) and the Korean War in the U.S. Navy.

Wayne E. Sanders: Age 94- passed away Tuesday, April 2, 2013. He was born December 10, 1918 in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He proudly served in VPB 111 during World War II as chief petty officer in the European, African, and Pacific theaters.

Rear Admiral Herb Ainsworth: Skipper of VP 21 in the '60's, Herbert Sylvan Ainsworth, a retired admiral who lived in Los Altos for nearly four decades and taught for years at Foothill College, died Dec. 23 of an undisclosed illness. He was 92. Adm. Ainsworth was born Sept. 2, 1920 in San Francisco where he attended Drew Prep School. He played football at the U.S. Naval Academy and received his commission in 1943. He earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's in international affairs from George Washington University.

During his stint in the Navy, Adm. Ainsworth served during World War II aboard the cruiser *Santa Fe*. Winning his wings in 1945, he joined Patrol Squadron 21 and flew PBM seaplanes. Over the next few years, he served two tours of duty with the Pacific Naval Air Force and completed assignments with Patrol Squadron 6 at the Bureau of Aeronautics and at Port Lyautey, Morocco.

The admiral won his first Navy commendation medal for a NATO assignment as exercise project officer on the Allied Forces Southern Europe staff and his second for Vietnam service in command of Fleet Air Wing 8 and Task Group 72.3.

He assumed command of the Fleet Air Wings Pacific Fleet/Fleet Air Moffett Field in 1972. He retired in 1974.

In retirement, Adm. Ainsworth taught meteorology, astronomy, and mathematics for aviation at local community colleges and enjoyed tennis, golf, skiing, travel, and time with his family.

Adm. Ainsworth is survived by his wife of 20 years, Corinne van Ackere. He was previously married to Anne Kacy, who predeceased him in 1974. They had four children: Bob (Konne), Patty, Lynne (Larry) Page and Kacy; he also has a son, Christopher. He was "Poppa" to five grandsons, Damien, Justin, Carson, Brady, and Conner, and two great-grandsons, Lucas and Sawyer. In 1960, LT Bill Locke had the honor of serving as the copilot for Skipper Ainsworth on LH1.

Lloyd Trimble: Served in VPB-111 from '43 to '45.

May they rest in peace!

SICK BAY:

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

WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:

Ray Pugh. Served in VP 21 in 1969 just prior to our decommissioning. Welcome home, Ray.

VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION
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SPRING, 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!

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