

# VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association Sixteenth Biennial Reunion

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Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville  
Orange Park, Florida  
April 24-28, 2017



# VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association

Our Association is devoted to the reestablishment of contact with shipmates of the past, strengthen the camaraderie among the members, record and preserve the memories and incidents of the Association, preserve the memory of departed shipmates, and promote the comfort and welfare of its members and survivors.

## DIRECTORS

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Chairman - Bill Locke  
Treasurer - Leland Ledford  
Webmaster - Herman Schmidt  
Online Coordinator - Dan Dwyer  
Newsletter Editor - John Esposito  
Back-up Editor - Richard Herbein

Storekeeper - Carter Nute  
Historian - Fred Schuster  
Dick Webb - Emeritus  
Ed LaFontaine - Emeritus  
Ron Novay - Emeritus



## 2017 REUNION COORDINATORS

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Carter Nute  
Jim Mattson



## 2017 Reunion Group

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The reunion group in the hospitality room at the Hilton Garden Inn Orange Park, Jacksonville, Florida.





Jan and Phil Byrd



Merrill and Crystal Churchill



Shaun and Bev Cunningham



Bob Herbert and Gene Forgit



Kenneth and Ann Garvin



Bill and Jane Gwin



Dave Hobart (Bones)



Bill Locke and Ed LaFontaine



Jim and Brenda Mattson





Randy and Dru McLean



Vern and Mary Ellen Neumiller



Carter and Barbara Nute



Bill Reiner



Frank and Kathy Richter



Ron Rocheleau



Mike and Dianne Weatherington

Not shown: Frank Floyd





## Check-in: Hospitality Suite

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The Hilton Garden Inn Orange Park/Jacksonville was an outstanding facility and was surpassed only by the quality of the staff. Barbara Nute and Brenda Mattson provided a warm welcome at check-in, and all of us enjoyed the well appointed hospitality suite.













# GONZALEZ-ALVAREZ HOUSE (THE OLDEST HOUSE)

For more than three centuries this site has been occupied by St. Augustinians. Beginning about 1650, a succession of thatched wooden structures were their homes. This coquina stone house was built soon after the English burned St. Augustine in 1702, and originally was a one-story rectangle with two rooms. As times changed during the Spanish, British and American occupations, a wooden second story, an off-street porch, and other features were added. Preserved by St. Augustine Historical Society since 1918, the house became a registered national landmark in 1970.

F-311

SPONSORED BY THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1986



## St. Augustine Trip

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We visited historic St Augustine and enjoyed seeing sights including the oldest house and tree in the city. A nice lunch at O.C. White's restaurant for some of us was a welcome respite to the bumpy tram ride around the picturesque town.





















## MPA Heritage Symposium

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Our reunion was timed to coincide with the 2017 Maritime Patrol Association (MPA) Symposium. Among the many MPA events, we were offered a current operations overview, P-8 and P-3 Aircraft Tours, P-8 Simulator demonstrations and a tasty lunch. Two of our Association WWII vets were featured speakers.















# There We Were ... (and, there but for the grace of God ...)



## • Surveillance, Bombing, Strafing, and Dogfighting in Liberators and Privateers in exotic places:

- Tachien
- Palawan (Pawlo Pincosa)
- Borneo (Puncak Jaya, Balikpapan)
- Singapore (Raffles, Selegie and  
Changi Point)

## • A Few Lessons Learned:

- Fast communication and precise  
navigation at 24-hour intervals
- Staying out of the line of  
fire (if possible)
- Maintaining integrity and a clear  
command structure
- Importance of  
communication, especially with  
each other at sea



LCDR  
LaFontaine

AMM3C  
Churchill



# MPA Symposium Presentation

## The Story of VPB-111

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VPB-111 WW II vets, LCDR Ed LaFontaine and AMM2 Merrill Churchill shared their experiences flying 14-hour Combat Patrols in PB4Y-1 Liberators and PB4Y-2 Privateers throughout the Philippine Islands, Borneo, Singapore and the Bintan Straits.





ST. GEORGE, VI.

SELF - - - - -

ARON E. HARMON COLUMBIA, MO.

CHARLES KASKELA PROVIDENCE, RH.

NALD E BOLDT PORTLAND, ORE.

ROW - L TO R

RACE C. SMITH KING, N. C.

RE ROBERT CLYDE KOBAR - DETROIT MICH.

CK V WALLACE ST. PAUL, MINN.

SCOTT E. BYNUM LOUISVILLE KY.

CHARD C. PRICE HATTIESBURG, MISS.

ASCOT - "BUTTONS"

28 May, 1945

4 May 1945

1 May 1945

HARMON, A. E. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

HARMON, F. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

BOLDT, N. E. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

SMITH, R. C. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

BYNUM, S. E. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

PRICE, C. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

KOVAR, R. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

WALLACE, V. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

KASKELA, C. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

HARMON, A. E. 1st Lt. 3rd Bomb. Grp. 8th AF B/C

ASCOT - "BUTTONS"





## 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





# MPA Heritage Dinner

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The MPA Heritage Dinner was held in Ceremonial Hangar 117. We were welcomed with reserved tables displayed with our squadron logo center piece decorations. The pre-dinner reception was a great opportunity for our veterans to meet and share sea stories with MPA members past and present.

















# Business Meeting

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Association Chairman Bill Locke gave a slide presentation of the current Brunswick Landing (the former NASB), showing pictures of new buildings and old buildings with new purposes. He also gave an overview of the Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens (BNM&MG) which will be featured during our next reunion at Brunswick in 2020.







## Guest Speaker

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CDR Kirt “Whiskers” Wlaschin, O-in-C of the P-8 Quick Reaction Capability Team, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 11, gave an outstanding presentation highlighting the transition from legacy P3/EP3 into the future force of P8s and Triton, what personnel are facing today, and a sense of technology being considered to increase aircrew mission awareness.







# Whitey's Fish Camp

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An eclectic eatery, Whitey's Fish Camp provided a memorable spot for good food and camaraderie.







## MPA Flight Suit Happy Hour

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Several diehard members stayed on to enjoy the MPA Friday evening Flight Suit Social. This farewell event was a fitting conclusion to a memorable reunion week.







## Two Bell Ceremony

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The Two Bell Ceremony honored the fifty one of our shipmates who have passed since our 2015 reunion in Pensacola, Florida.





Fair winds and following seas.





# The Two Bell Ceremony

The toll of the ship's bell reminds us of the reverence we owe to our departed squadron mates.

And to those who guard the honor of our country upon and under the sea, in the air and on foreign soil.

In memory of those who lost their lives while serving with patrol bombing squadron one hundren eleven/patrol squadron twenty one. They will continue to live in our memories and be forever young.

Also in memory of our squadron mates who have left our ranks since we last met in Pensacola, Florida in 2015.

WILLIAM BALLARD  
DANNY BINGER  
CHARLES BLAIR  
RICHARD BROWNING  
EDWIN CHAMBERS  
JENARO CORCINO  
RICHARD DENSLOW  
DENNIS DEROSE  
GEORGE DOCTEUR  
ROBERT DONAHUE  
ROBERT DUBLIN  
DUANE DUPUIS  
TEOFILO ESCULANO

THOMAS FOGARTY  
RILEY FOLSOM  
PETER GOEBEL  
MICHAEL GRENS  
ALBERT GUAY  
ROBERT HALL  
GLENN HARKLEROAD  
ALBIN HERMAN  
DELNO JENNINGS  
FRED JUNKER  
CLIFFORD KEVERN  
ROBERT LATTA  
LEONARD LEGER

WALTER MARTELL  
BOB MCKEOWN  
RALPH MCROBERTS  
MERLYN MUNTZ  
GILBERT NAVARRO  
ROBERT NELSON  
RICHARD NILSON  
VERNON NOYES  
EDWARD PARSONS  
NORMAN PEMBER  
ENGELBERT PEZZEI  
FRED RADEBAUGH  
ALEXANDER RADSKY

RICHARD RINESTINE  
FRANKLIN ROBERTS  
JAMES SAMUEL  
THOMAS SPAGNOLA  
CLAYTON STOKES  
DAVID STOTLER  
ALBIN UFER  
ROBERT WALDRON  
CARL WEISENBECK  
KARL WIEGAND  
FRANK WISENBAUGH  
DALE WOODS

Let this be a reminder of the friendship they provided to us.

Let us raise our glasses to all the men who had the honor and privilege of serving our squadron. Fair winds and following seas.











I am a United States Navy flyer.

My countrymen built the best airplane in the world and entrusted it to me. They trained me to fly it. I will use it to the absolute limit of my power.

With my fellow pilots, air crews, and deck crews, my plane and I will do anything necessary to carry out our tremendous responsibilities. I will always remember we are part of an unbeatable combat team – the United States Navy.

When the going is fast and rough, I will not falter. I will be uncompromising in every blow I strike. I will be humble in victory.

I am a United States Navy flyer. I have dedicated myself to my country, with its many millions of all races, colors, and creeds. They and their way of life are worthy of my greatest protective effort.

I ask the help of God in making that effort great enough.