

Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume 28

1 November, 2013



New on the roster: Clarence (Spud) Lambing (1953-1956 and off the fallen list); Art Detonnancourt (LCDR 1959-1962); Joe Ramsdale (LTJG 1960-1963); AK2 Phillip Boring, USN(ret) (AK2 1987-1991) Peter Rosasco (Son of LCDR R. A. Rosasco CO 1943); George Hubert (AME3 1963-1964); Jim Hayes (LT 1962-1965); Steve Frost (AK3 1982-1985)

Lost Contact: Christina Reed; Joe Valenzuela (1986-1990); Don Hopkins; MS1 David Morenus, USN(ret) (MS2 1973-1977); Duane Seams (AK 1955-1957); Gil Buthlay (1980-1984); Thomas McManus (PH2 1960-1962)

Taps: Ronald Schug (LT 1961-1964); LCDR Snell (1966-1968) USN(ret); Linwood Robertson; Captain Perry Frank Hunter III USN(ret) (XO/CO 1964-1965); Dan Rusk (VP-204); William "Bill" McGannon (LT 1965-1968); Harry Dunlap (1966-1968)

Help off the web site

Note: The below is why I enjoy doing all this for the VP-44 community, this is the third request of this nature this year.

Hello, I would like to know if it's possible to get a copy of the "After Action Report" of the VP-44 bombing of Naru Island. My father, Lt. Cmdr. R. A. Rosasco, was "Skipper" and led the Squadron. I have seen the report on your web site but haven't been able to print it. Please let me know where I might get one.

Many thanks, Peter Rosasco

Mr. Rosasco,

I was in the squadron when your father reported in to us, we had just moved to NAS Kaneohe Bay from Ford Island, Pearl Harbor and we had a big party for him at the Cook estate in Waialoa and he got dunked in the swimming pool and took it very well. I have included pictures of him before and after that episode, also the report he made of the attack, was the first night attack by a force of PBY aircraft. We had been bothered by twin engine Mitsubishi aircraft ever since we had been down in the South Pacific and we wanted to get some measure of revenge. Your father got permission from the wing to make a night raid, it was supposed to have been

preceded by a squadron of B-24's but they didn't make it. My crew was at Halavo Beach, Florida Island, just across the "Slot" from Guadalcanal so we didn't get to go.

I flew with your Dad on the 12th and 13th of February 1943 to Tulagi and then over to Rinnell Island to take a Marine coast watcher to relieve the Marine that was on duty there. The islanders there are Polynesians and were a very handsome race of people. The Marine on duty there did not want to leave as he was shacked up with one of the chiefs daughters. Your father threatened him with a court martial if he didn't leave. He left! Your father was a great guy the squadron loved him. If you have trouble with the attachments I will be happy to send them by post.

Regards,
Dick Watson

Here is another one:

Hello Sir,

I got your name from the website for Reunions of VP-44 from 2012 back to 2000.

I have been looking for information on my Great Uncle for years.

I found his name on the Home Page for VP-44 on the "Memorial Plaque" which is today located at the Admiral Chester Nimitz Museum in Frederickburg, Texas. I went to the Museum 10 years ago and never saw the plaque.....what a shame.

My Great Uncle's name was George Goovers, Jr. and he was aboard 8V55, ie, "Strawberry 5," on 3 June 1942, along with Ensign Jack Reid, Ensign Bob Swan, Ensign Gerald Hardemen, Raymond J. Derouim AMM2C, Patrick A. Fitzpatrick AMM3C, Musser, Francis ACRM and of course George Goovers, Jr.

George was special not to me in life, because when he died in Aug of 42, I was barely 2 1/2 years old....but because of a letter he sent to my mother, his niece. In that letter he asked if she would consider nicknaming me "Buck" in honor of his closest friend who had died in the war. In addition he is special because of a "Cross" he made for me out of a quarter. Our family received that letter from Uncle George somewhere during the 2nd week of September 1942, and we already knew that he had died on August 24, 1942

Two items to mention....I have carried that nickname "Buck" and I also have that "Cross" about my neck since that date in 1942....just a few days ago was the 72nd Anniversary of his death... and next week will mark my 72 anniversary of the nickname and wearing the "Cross."

As a Marine, I was fortunate enough to pass through Pearl Harbor in 1962 and visited his grave site (and I am the only family member to have been there since 1942 until today.)

At his grave site in the "Punch Bowl" I was in my Marine Tropical Uniform I gave the slow hand salute, and with tears flowing I told Uncle George that "Buck" was here with him and I put my hand on that same "Cross"

A few months ago my Nephew/Godson, and career Navy Man, was being transferred back to San Diego again, and he stopped by my home and asked if I would help him search for family on Ancestry.com. I said yes, and WOW!

A week ago he sent me copies of web sites and I finally have have a picture of Uncle George. I had searched for years for any information about him.... and I couldn't even recall what he looked like. When I saw the picture of the crew of 8V55 I knew it was George because his face was so similar to my Grandfather.

Are there any members of your organization who were in that "Battle of Midway?" If there are I would like to ask if they would be able recall George, or how he died?

I am the oldest surviving relative....His father died in 1947, his brother died in 1953, and George never married.

I'm sorry for the length of this Email, but to finally get information on George and he is part of the battle that changed World War II in our favor just send chills down my spine.

Thank you so much for reading this, and

Semper Fi to all the men of VP-44

John E. Adams (Buck)

VA Health Care Access Update: Affordable Care Act Impact

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched an awareness campaign and a new website <http://www.va.gov/aca> to let Veterans know what the Affordable Care Act means for them and their families. Veterans receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs will see no change in their benefits or out-of-pocket costs when portions of the Affordable Care Act take effect next year. "VA wants all Veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-being," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "If you are enrolled in VA health care, you do not need to take any additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time." "VA encourages eligible Veterans who are not enrolled in VA's health care system to take advantage of the world-class care we provide to the men and women who have served this Nation in uniform," Shinseki added.

Veterans can apply for VA health care at any time by visiting <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll>, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or visiting

their local VA health care facility. Full details on eligibility are available at http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book. VA's health care system for Veterans has no enrollment fee, no monthly premiums and no deductibles. Most Veterans also have no out-of-pocket costs, though some may have small copayments for some health care or prescription drugs. "VA will continue to provide Veterans with high quality, comprehensive health care and other benefits they have earned through their service," said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA's chief physician and Under Secretary for Health. The Affordable Care Act was created to expand access to coverage, reduce rising health care costs, and improve health care quality and care coordination. The Affordable Care Act creates new opportunities for coverage for uninsured Veterans and their families.

There are more than 1.3 million Veterans and more than 950,000 spouses and children of Veterans without health insurance. Most uninsured Veterans are eligible for VA health care. For those who are not eligible for VA care – such as Veterans' family members – the law created a new Health Insurance Marketplace. In 2014, the Marketplace will be a new way to shop for and purchase private health insurance. People who purchase insurance through the Marketplace may be able to lower the costs of health insurance coverage by paying lower monthly premiums. For more information, visit <http://www.healthcare.gov>. For information about VA health care and the Affordable Care Act, VA encourages Veterans and family members to visit the new website at <http://www.va.gov/aca>, or call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. or Saturdays from 11a.m. to 3 p.m., Eastern time. The new website includes a Health Benefits Explorer, where Veterans can learn about the benefits they can receive if they enroll in VA care.

MPA: Welcome Our Newest Board Members!

We are happy to announce the newest members of the Maritime Patrol Association board of directors!

RADM P.D. Smith, USN (Ret) (CO VP-44 1973)

CAPT Mark Creasey, USN

CDR Matt Pottenburgh, USN

Pelican Shop

Check out are updated Pelican Shop, thanks to Jim Dunlap are new web master. Excellent time to try it out and get something for yourself or a Shipmate and beat the Christmas rush!

VICE ADMIRAL WILLIAM F. "BILL" MORAN

Vice Adm. Moran, a native of New York, graduated with a bachelor of science degree from the United States Naval Academy in 1981 and a master's degree from the National War College in 2006. He assumed duties as the Navy's 57th chief of naval personnel, Aug. 2, 2013. Serving concurrently as the deputy chief of naval operations (Manpower, Personnel, Training and Education) (N1), he is responsible for the planning and programming of all manpower, personnel, training and education resources for the U.S. Navy. He manages an annual operating budget of \$29 billion and leads more than 26,000 employees engaged in the recruiting, personnel management, training and development of Navy personnel. His responsibilities include overseeing Navy Recruiting Command, Navy Personnel Command, and Naval Education and Training Command.



A P-3 pilot with operational tours spanning both coasts, he commanded Patrol Squadron 46, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Two, and served extensively as an instructor pilot in multiple operational tours and two tours with Patrol Squadron 30. Additional operational tour include staff member for commander, Carrier Group Six aboard USS *Forrestal* (CVA 59).

Ashore, he served as assistant Washington placement officer and assistant flag officer detailee in the Bureau of Naval Personnel; executive assistant to Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; deputy director, Navy staff; and, executive assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations.

As a flag officer, he served as commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Group and Director, Air Warfare (N98) on the staff of the chief of naval operations.

He is entitled to wear the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (five awards), and other various personal, unit and service awards.

Updated: 12 August 2013

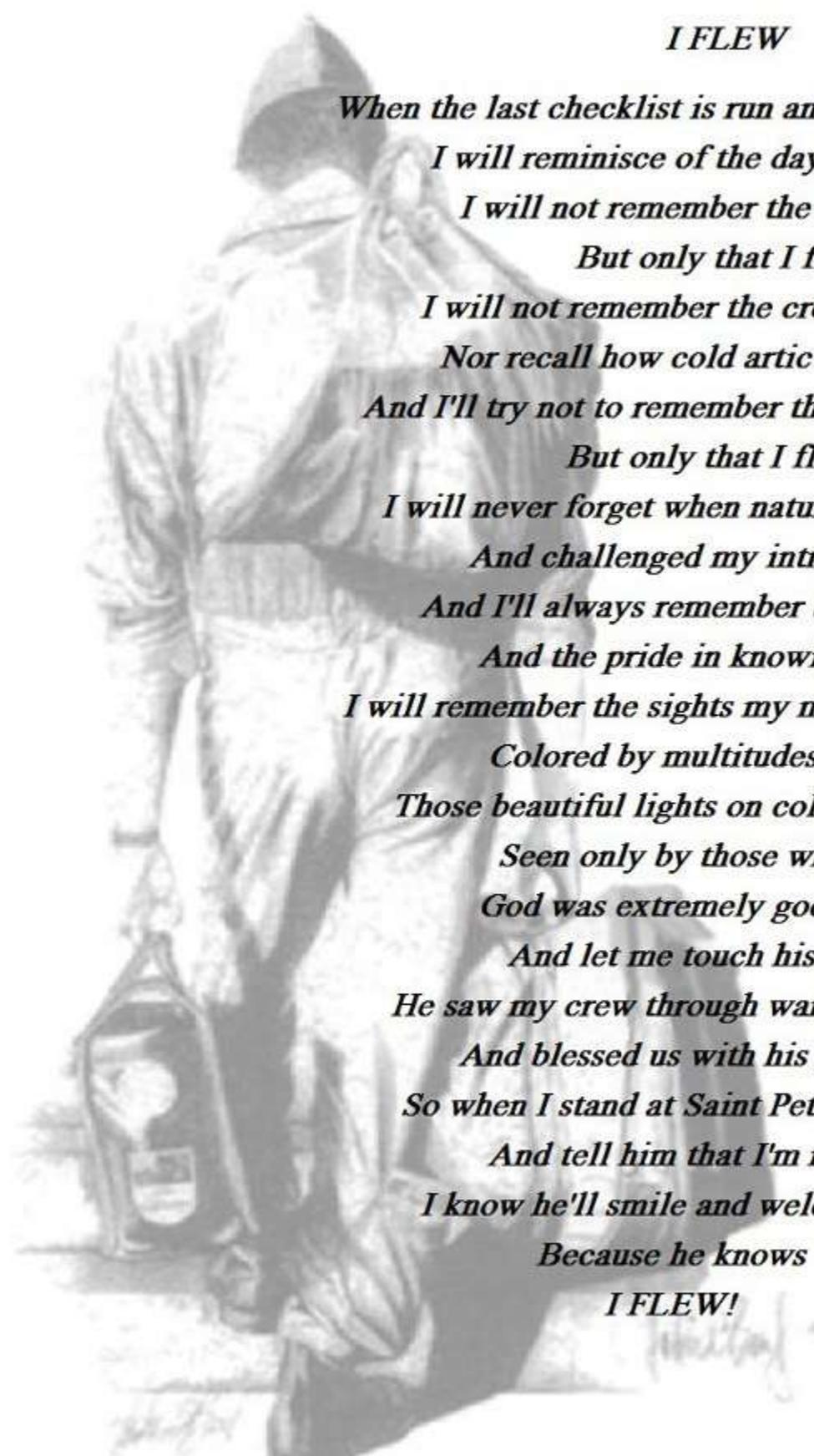
Request

Frank Romeo (AE2 1959-1962) is looking for more information on the passing of Eugene Vario (AT2 1959-1961.) Would who ever sent me the word about him please get back to me (genejanjay@aol.com) or Frank (frankp51f@verison.net.)

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, THE U.S. NAVY COULD PROBABLY OPERATE WITHOUT OFFICERS, BUT THERE'S "NO WAY IN HELL" IT COULD OPERATE WITHOUT CHIEFS.-- TOM CLANCY, MAY 1994

Until the millennium arrives and countries cease trying to enslave others, it will be necessary to accept one's responsibilities and to be willing to make a sacrifice for one's country--- as my comrades did. As the troops used to say, "If the country is good enough to live in, it's good enough to fight for." With privilege goes responsibility.

E. B. Sledge author "With the Old Breed" at Peleliu and Okinawa



I FLEW

When the last checklist is run and the bagdrag is over

I will reminisce of the days I once knew,

I will not remember the 3 AM alerts

But only that I flew!

I will not remember the crew rest in tents

Nor recall how cold arctic winds blew,

And I'll try not to remember the times I got sick.

But only that I flew!

I will never forget when nature became angry

And challenged my intrepid crew,

And I'll always remember the fear I felt

And the pride in knowing I flew!

I will remember the sights my mortal eyes have seen

Colored by multitudes of hues,

Those beautiful lights on cold winter nights

Seen only by those who flew.

God was extremely good to me

And let me touch his face,

He saw my crew through war and peace

And blessed us with his grace.

So when I stand at Saint Peter's Gate

And tell him that I'm new

I know he'll smile and welcome me,

Because he knows

I FLEW!

Brad Baker

We now have coasters for sale and will be on the Pelican Shop link. We are selling them at \$4.00 for a pack of 12, they are 4" x 4". I checked at the post office and can ship for count of 12 & 24 for \$3.50, 36 & 48 for \$6.50, 48 & 96 for \$13.50 anything above for \$16.50.



Navy Expeditionary Medal

The below information came from CDR Les Dennis:

Recently I received the Expeditionary Medal from serving with VP-44 during the Cuban Crisis. Ray Beck and I were talking about it a couple of weeks ago and I realized that our Old Guys from that time would possibly be interesting in getting this medal also. It took a long time, possibly longer than 6 months but the medal were received. I had given up on the thing and thought that possibly we didn't qualify. So, here is what I sent. You might want to put this out on your next newsletter.

For those of you who are interested were in the Cuban Crisis and are interested in obtaining the Expeditionary Medal, this is the way to do it. Enclosed are my documents excepting my DD-214. Be sure and sent it along. It will take a long time to receive this medal. I believe it was over 6 months before it arrived. I had given up on it and thought that perhaps we were not qualified after all. But it did finally arrive. So give it a shot. Check the attachments.

1. My orders from the Wing and VP-44 (Captain Serrell)
2. DD-214.
3. Standard-Form-180
4. My letter of request
5. Address from which to send

Good Article

Proceedings Magazine - September 2013 Vol. 139/9/1,327 By Lieutenant Commander Guy M. Snodgrass, U.S. Navy

Broad-Area Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance The planned deployment of the six P-8A Poseidons of Patrol Squadron 16 "War Eagles" in December heralds a return to broad-area ASW search mission. The P-8A, with its efficient turbofan engines, nascent high-altitude payload capabilities, and forthcoming sonobuoy sensors (dubbed "Multi-static Active Coherent") will greatly increase the ASW acoustic-search capability of a single aircraft over the outgoing P-3C Orion. Originally entering service with Patrol Squadron 8 in 1962, the venerable Orion is one of the few U.S. military aircraft to enjoy a 50-year service history. Primarily designed for ASW, ASuW, and ISR, the P-3 has undergone two major variant changes and several upgrades to continually improve its ability to find, track, and counter submarines.

Of particular concern during the latter stages of the Cold War was the erosion of the P-3's broad-area ASW search capability. As submarine-quieting technology and techniques improved, P-3 crews often found their effective acoustic search areas whittled from thousands of square miles to hundreds or even less. Improved quieting also necessitated that the aircraft patrol at lower altitudes, ensuring precise sonobuoy placement necessary for modern airborne ASW. While ASW aircraft maintain a degree of effectiveness at low altitude, use of non-acoustic sensors such as radar, ESM, and visual sighting are often sacrificed.

Reduced effectiveness and rapidly approaching airframe-fatigue limits created a dire need for a P-3C replacement that would meet or exceed its existing capabilities. Adaptation of the Boeing-produced 737 provided the optimal solution. Developed around a proven aircraft with large internal volume and future growth potential, the new P-8A is a superb example of a platform designed and developed to carry a wide range of payloads. The P-8A will rapidly meet or exceed P-3C capabilities over the next few years. It can transit faster, remain on station longer, and process more information, all while carrying more stores than the P-3 it is replacing. Moreover, the P-8A is also capable of remaining at high altitude during ASW operations, increasing its effective search area and improving its ability to employ non-acoustic sensors while reducing airframe fatigue. As a highly modular platform, the Poseidon will remain relevant throughout its service life by incorporating lower-cost payloads to adapt to changes in mission or environment.

Complementing the P-8A is the unmanned MQ-4C Triton, a heavily modified version of the Air Force's Global Hawk Block 20 optimized for ASuW. The Triton's predecessor, called the Broad Area Maritime Surveillance Demonstrator, is currently supporting forces in U.S. Central Command. Specifically designed for long-duration maritime-domain awareness, four MQ-4Cs are capable of sustaining, at a minimum, a 24/7 orbit at a distance of 2,000 miles from its airfield. The Triton is designed for operation by personnel from the maritime-patrol community and will provide a persistent

ISR and surface-search capability using its active electronically scanned array radar and electro-optical/infrared sensors. The P-8A will capture near real-time MQ-4C feed, increasing situational awareness and aiding operations.

Current plans call for the Navy to purchase 117 P-8As with an expected service life of 25 years. A total of 70 MQ-4C aircraft are currently planned to support five orbits positioned around the world. These acquisitions provide a greatly improved broad-area ASW search and persistent ISR capability for naval aviation.

Possible 2014 Reunion

We are still looking into a possible reunion in the Philly area and hopefully will have some information in the next newsletter.

The VP-44 Reunion Committee and I wish all of you Happy Holiday Season and the upcoming New Year.

Happy Thanksgiving

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Be Safe and enjoy life!

Gene R. Toffolo, AX2, December 1965 - April 1969, Crew Two, Five & Six
Administrative Chief, Sales Coordinator
Indianapolis Reunion Chairman 2007, Pensacola Reunion Chairman 2012
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