

Pelican Poop Sheet

Volume I

October 30, 2007



Shipmates,

The 2007 reunion has come and gone and I think everybody that attended had a great time and is looking forward to the next one. The Chief Val Ready Room was a very busy place and a lot of time was spent looking over the memorabilia. The banquet on Monday night started off with Sandra and Ralph Nephew getting everybody in the mood with a home-made wine and cheese tasting party in the ready room. The dinner was excellent and the DJ got to go home early because everybody ended up back in the ready room and it didn't shut down till after 1:00 A. M. You can go to our home page and see pictures of the reunion, click on "photo", click on "reunion 2007", then go to "banquet" or "miscellaneous." Once again thanks to Ray Beck, our webmaster, for maintaining a great home page. We now have a "old" new name for our newsletter as you can see at the top of the page. While looking through some of the various publications in the Ready Room, Jeff Snavelly found some old newsletters for the late 1950's and early 1960's. He suggested we start using this for our current newsletter, so we start a new era with this issue. Plans are in the works for a mini reunion in Pigeon Forge, TN sometime in 2008 and the bi-annual reunion in Tucson, AZ in 2009. I will keep you posted via the newsletter or keep your eye on the home page for further details. You will also see in the business minutes some additions coming to the Pelican Shop. I've ordered the following new items: mouse pads, Marlin golf shirts, new aircrew hats with wings on front of cap, and coffee mugs. All these new items should be on the home page before Thanksgiving so keep checking. Those of you that do not have email or some access to get to our home page, please let me know and I will print out the Pelican Shop listing for you and get it in the mail.

The next newsletter will come out about February 2008, so I want to wish all of you and your family Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Gene Toffolo **GO COLTS**

**“In Memory Of”
On the home page**

Gentlemen,

I have just modified the Home Page and Added a new in memory of page. To access, go to Home page and click on "*In Memory Of*" button under the Eternal Flame. PLEASE let me know if you see any errors.

Thanks,

Ray

Subject: Legislation Allows Veterans to Salute the Flag

All,

Just thought that I would pass the word on new legislation allowing veterans and service members not in uniform to salute the flag. This may seem like a small change, but I will now render a smart hand salute to the flag during all appropriate public events. I would ask you to pass this on to any current service member or veteran.

V/R

J.Barry McLaughlin
CMDM(SW) (Ret.)

Inhofe Legislation Allows Veterans to Salute the Flag

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1)

states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

“The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one’s military service,” Senator Inhofe said. “Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. “Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not. “

I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others.”

***Please not, the last I heard this passed the Senate but is still up for vote in the house.

Combat Aircrew Roll of Honor

Just make this information known at the reunion, especially the business meeting. The Enlisted Combat AC Roll of Honor was started in the 90s and as far as I know had not honored any of our veterans from WW2 especially Midway. Dick Watson is the first to be honored here. I want to get CDR Ellis Skidmore and any other who qualifies inducted. This information should also be in the newsletter for those who may qualify. You may use me as a contact.

Ray Beck, our webmaster

Retired Enlisted Association

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) is providing comprehensive Military Reunion Listings as a **FREE service** to the veteran community. I search the internet looking for reunions and send a request for their information to the listed Point of Contact. I sent 2,162 reunion organizations, all service branches, e-mails requesting information on their 2006 reunions, and unfortunately 35 % failed to respond. We have 1,398 listings on the 2006 Completed Reunion Listing. With the last listing update, Aug 6th, we have over 1400 reunion listings for calendar years 2007, 08, 09,10, and 2011.

Please take a look at our reunion listings on, www.trea.org, scroll down the left side, click on Reunions/Buddies, and this will bring up the reunion page. As reunions are completed, at the end of the month they are transferred to the Completed Listing. There, they will remain as a reference point for someone looking for a unit contact.

Please scroll down to page two for a Military Reunion Listing poster I created. Wouldn't it be great if it were posted in every Legion, and VFW post or anywhere else Veterans will see it.

I appreciate any help you can provide in spreading the word to the Veterans.

“ UNITED WE STAND ”

John H. Moore, SMSgt, USAF Retired (1961–87)
Reunion Manager (volunteer)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
Home: 657 E. Adams Street, Marengo, IA 52301
Home: (319) 741-5734
Cell: (319) 936-2154
E-mail: TREAreunionsite@mac.com
Web: www.trea.org

"FREEDOM ISN'T FREE"

2007 Reunion group photo

Here are the corrected names that go with the 2007 Reunion Group Photo if you have one; it is also posted on the home page.

1st Row Left to Right

Suzanne Cook, Patricia Romeo, Patricia Rogers, Gerry Steele, Vickie Jones, Roxie Veach, Bev Serrell, Andy Serrell, Elaine Skidmore, Ellis Skidmore, Frances Weber, Barbara Klosterman, Dot Carr, Juanita Robertson.

2nd Row Left to Right

Ralph Cook, Frank Romeo, Lynn Rogers, Harry Steele, Jim Jones, Roy Veach, Jim Jackson, Nancy Jackson, Betty Hayes, Al Hayes, Frank Kurkowitz, Tom Klosterman, Joe Carr, Carl Robertson, Don Ihrig.

3rd Row Left to Right

Don Ihrig's Friend, Jeff Snavely, Mary Snavely, Harold Walters, Pam Walters, Ralph Bernard, Jo-Ann Bernard, Ralph Nephew, Sandra Nephew, Janet Toffolo, Gene Toffolo, Robert Crowley, Kitty Crowley, Barbara Blackwood, Steve Blackwood, Susan Nevala, Dick Nevala, Mike Barnes.

Pentagon Plans to Drop ID Card SSAN

Last year, MOAA urged the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to explore options to protect servicemembers from identity theft by removing the Social Security account number (SSAN) from military ID cards.

The fallout was a provision in the FY2007 Defense Authorization Act that tasked the Pentagon for a report and recommendations on how to address this pressing issue.

The Pentagon report, forwarded to Congress in July by Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) David Chu, cited the difficulties of moving entirely away from use of the SSAN, which is fundamental to all of the services' personnel records and innumerable embedded networks of security and record-keeping systems.

However, it acknowledged that the current system poses problems that need to be addressed and said the Defense Department intends to phase out the use of the printed SSAN on ID cards over the next several years.

The plan is to move to an ID card that would print only the last four digits of the SSAN, with the full SSAN electronically encrypted on the card. This would provide additional protection to the individual members while still preserving data deemed essential for hundreds of purposes, from validating commissary check purchases to confirming the identities of prisoners of war.

The reason for the multi-year phase-out is to allow time to convert the large numbers of hardware and software systems to conform to the new card, and also to allow a phased replacement of more than three million ID cards of current members, retirees, family members, and survivors so ID card facilities aren't overwhelmed.

Reference: http://www.moaa.org/lac_update_070907.htm

Seeking Missing Shipmates

Mr. Frank Romeo frankp51f@aol.com

Is seeking contact information on the following Shipmates:

C. E. Smith, AT2; Jimmy Gibson, AE from Ohio; Nick Sullivan, AE from Alabama.

- Ralph Cook wrote: Would you guys please
> send me your ideas on this situation.

-
- >>Ralph
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: Payton, Tyrone CAPT COMPATRECONWING FIVE, N00
>> To: blusgtar@ptd.net
>> Sent: Wednesday, September 26, 2007 11:09 AM
>> Subject: VP-44 WARDROOM MEMORABILIA
>>
>> Sir,

>> My name is CAPT Tyrone Payton and I'm the Wing 5 Commodore in
>> Brunswick, ME. I'm writing to inform you that one of my Sailors ran
>> across a piece of VP-44 history just today while cleaning one of
>> storage facilities.



>> We found a beautiful sterling silver chaffing dish that was presented to CDR
>> C. Thompson and his wife I assume during a wardroom Change of Command
>> event back in 1959. The year I was born by the way. As you know, CDR
>> Thompson was the CO of VP-44 from Jul58-Jul59. The inscription reads:

>> COMMANDER AND MRS C. THOMPSON
>> FROM THE OFFICERS OF
>> PATROL SQUADRON FORTY FOUR
>> JULY 1959

>>

>> Due to BRAC, Wing FIVE and Naval Air Station Brunswick will be
>> disestablishing December 2009/January 2010. I will keep the dish in
>> safe keeping awaiting your thoughts on what should be done with it.
>> Thanks for your time.

>> Respectfully and Best Regards,

>> Captain Tyrone Payton, USN

>> Commodore

>> Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing FIVE

>> 5 Jay Beasley Circle

>> Brunswick, ME 04011

*** The dish has been sent to Ray Beck so he can take pictures and post them on the home page www.vp44goldenpelicans.com , so far we've had no luck finding Commander Thompson or his family.

Due to the late publication of the Navy retirement newsletter our 2007 reunion notice was not sent out till the middle of October. I've has a number of calls about the reunion and told them of our web page. The following called me after the newsletter came out:

Ernie Forehand & Ed Sayre; VP-44 Panama late 1940's
S. D. Stenderg VPB204
Dan Rusk VP204
Jimmy Hendricks VP-44 late 1970's
All were seeking fellow Shipmate's
Also check the guest book on the home page for shipmates looking for shipmates.

REUNION
VP 44, VPB 204, VP 204 & VPMS4
BUSINESS MEETING
August 31 – September 4, 2007

The business meeting of the reunion was opened by Gene Toffolo at 9:00 AM in the Willkie Room of the Marriott Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. Those present are initialed on the roster list kept by Gene Toffolo.

Announcements:

1. Purchase 50/50 tickets from Ralph Cook.
2. Bring your door prize tickets from your packet to the banquet tonight.
3. Door prizes are on the back table. When your number is called you select from those on the table.
4. Be sure to initial the roster to indicate your presence & check the information listed for accuracy making corrections and including your cell phone number.
5. Please give your donations for Ready Room snacks to Jeff Snavley.
6. The Ready Room will close today at 3:30 PM.

Exception was made due to the wine and cheese tasting supplied by Ralph & Sandra Nephew

7. Schedule for this evening:

5:00 – Cocktails at Marriott
5:30 – Group Photo
6:00 – Dinner & Dancing

Old Business – None

New Business:

1. Al Hayes made a motion to pay Ray Beck \$120 per year for Web fees. Motion seconded by Andy Serrell and passed.
2. Les Dennis volunteered to be the back up Web Master and his offer was gladly accepted.
3. Gene announced that the Blue Cat Association has folded due to decreased membership. Their current members have been invited to join our reunions. They turned over the balance of their treasury to us sending a check over \$1300 which has been included in our treasury. Gene and Ray thanked Dick Watson and sent him a reunion packet.

4. The generous donation by the Blucat Association is credited on the donor page. I have a link that goes to a listing of all Blucats. Here is the link to the donor page - www.vp44goldenpelicans.com/donors.htm
5. Pelican Shop: Items presented by the committee for inclusion and discussion were:
 - a. coffee mugs with logo & Cook's saying on the back
 - b. polo shirts with the King Marlin logo
 - c. air crew hats with VP44 and air crew wings (regular weight, summer weight and white)
 - d. Children's size shirts
 - e. Mouse pads
 - f. Bumper stickers (suggested by Andy Serrell)

Jim Jackson made the motion that the Pelican Store Keeper has the authority to purchase items for sale as needed. Motion was seconded by Frank Kurkowitz and passed.
6. Association Fee: At one time an annual association fee was discussed. The committee has decided not to institute an annual fee at this time.
7. Officers: Dennis Lester made the motion that the same officers serve for the following two years. Motion was seconded by Nancy Jackson and passed.
8. Those officers are as follows:

Chairman Frank Kurkowitz
 Treasurer Jeff Snavely
 Web Master Ray Beck, back up Les Dennis
 Public Relations Ralph Cook
 Chaplin Dick Nevala
 Sales & Personnel Chief Gene Toffolo
9. Memorial: Andy spoke about memorials and visiting members who are ill. Gene stated that Ray Beck has a memorial link on our Web Page. The ready room will be called the Val Ready Room.
10. Location suggestion for the 2009 reunion:

Frank Kurkowitz suggested Tucson, AZ stating that there are many interesting sites including museums, the Titan Missile site, historical areas like tombstone, etc. A show of hands indicated interest in that site. A time was not determined. A return to Pax River was also suggested as a future site.

Mini Reunions:

 - a. Jeff Snavely spoke about a mini reunion to be held next year at Pigeon Forge, TN, or Branson, MO. He explained that information will be sent out via the newsletter and each will make their own reservations and meet there. Time will be announced.
 - b. Ralph Cook encouraged all to promote the gathering of friends in your area where you have others interested in home or region get-togethers. Fellowship is what it's all about.
11. Dick Nevala shared that he spoke and prayed with Val about eternity and Val accepted the Lord. Gene will send mementos to Valerie. Dick closed the meeting with a prayer.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Jackson and Janet Toffolo

Gene R. Toffolo VP-44 December 18, 1965-April 22, 1969, Crew Five & Six
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