



The Neptune

President – Floyd D. Palmer
Secretary/Treasurer – Marie Hart
1st VP – Dave Bowen
2nd VP – Frank Hart

Director – Vic Gulliver
Director – Wayne Bowman
Director – Dave Quindt

Volume Number 9, December 2003

“Adamante Semper Parato”

www.patron2.com



President's Message

Season's Greetings!

As the year draws to a close, I stopped to reflect on the Association's past year. What an exciting year it has been! We have a great organization and so much to be joyful about. Thank you, each and every one of you, for helping to make the VP-2 Association great!

On behalf of the Association and myself, I want to extend a hearty “thank you” to Doug Donohue for putting his time and skills to use in creating the VP-2 website (www.patron2.com). Be sure to check out the website and drop Doug an email if you get a chance at nvsoar@charter.net to let him know what a great job he did.

I am thrilled to announce that we currently have 461 members! It is amazing and exciting to watch the membership go up every time I write my part of the newsletter. In the near future Marie Hart will be sending out dues notices so be sure to watch your mail. Remember, your dues keep this Association thriving!

You will soon be receiving information from George and Pat Jenista about the 2004 VP-2 Reunion. It is hard to believe that it is less than a year away! The 2004 reunion will take place from September 28 to October 2 in San Antonio Texas and is sure to be a great time. Mark your calendars!

Later in this newsletter you will find an update on the memorial from Don Hanson, our memorial

committee chair. This is such a great project. I encourage all of you contribute to the memorial fund or, at the very least, get a hold of a memorial committee member to share your insights and opinions. This memorial is to commemorate our fellow shipmates, friends and brothers. You deserve to be a part of it.

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that Marie Hart will be stepping down as the VP-2 Secretary/Treasurer at our 2004 reunion. As many of you know, Marie has worked tirelessly for and on behalf of the Association. She has been with the Association from the beginning and has been instrumental in making the Association the success it is today. I feel truly blessed to have worked with such a wonderful lady and I, like many of you, have grown to love and respect her as part of my family. Marie, may you be blessed in all of your adventures ahead.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season,
Floyd D. Palmer



A Note From the VP Memorial Committee

In the July Newsletter, the Memorial Committee provided the Association with a description of the proposed memorial and asked the Association to cast ballots on the acceptance of the design and to make pledges of financial support for the memorial. The Committee felt that before they could go forward with a broad fund-raising program, a showing of support from within our own membership was necessary.

The ballots and pledges were slow in coming. Of the first \$16,400, \$12,400 was pledges from Committee members and our President, Floyd, who again pledged \$10,000. A second, reminder mailing was made, and a slow but steady stream of ballots and pledges came in. By 28 August, \$41,150 had been pledged and a vast majority of members approved the design. However, we hadn't reached our goal of getting pledges for half of the \$150,000. It was decided to make one more pledge drive and set a date for a meeting to decide future moves. A postcard pledge drive was initiated, and a date of 16 October was set to evaluate our status and make decisions. The pledges kept coming in spurred by the September postcard campaign so that by the time of the meeting, \$53,350 had been pledged. There were only five "NO" votes of the nearly 150 votes cast, the rest being very supportive.

On 16 October, the Committee met in Oak Harbor to consider our position. Four members were present and spent the entire day covering all aspects of the project. Considering that we have not yet gone "outside" of the Association for pledges, the Committee was encouraged from the Association's response, that the Memorial could become a reality. However, after much discussion and soul searching, it was decided to "down size" the proposed design to reduce the estimated costs. Therefore, it was decided to remove the bronze statues of the woman and child from the design, leaving the "Lone Airman", the three-panel memorial wall with name plaques, and the two matching granite benches. This will reduce the overall estimated price by approximately \$45,000. Our goal now stands at \$105,000 to complete the Memorial. It was felt that if at a later date funds became available, that at that time, the addition of the other statues could be considered.

At the present time the Committee is waiting on the City of Oak Harbor to make a decision on whether we will be offered a place in the Veterans Memorial Park for our proposed memorial. Unfortunately, things are moving very slowly due to the Parks Board proposing a review of waterfront park sites, their needs, and the addition of a new "walkway" along the waterfront. We also have a mayoral election going on. If we get city approval, our plan is to solicit funds from outside of the Association and continue to work toward our final goal.

Meanwhile, we will be collecting the 2003 pledges, and 2004 if a person so desires, so that those monies will be in place when it is time to place orders and sign contracts.



Attention!!!

Every Member Get a Member

Submitted by Vic Gulliver

We're getting closer to the goal of 500 members with each passing day. In 2003 alone, we've signed up 53 new members and more are coming each week. Marie just signed up member number 461 in November. The closer we get to the goal of 500 members, the more we realize that we could go even higher if we tried hard. Unfortunately, VP-2 isn't producing any more alumni. The only members we'll ever get are those who were in the squadron before it was decommissioned in 1969. We need to concentrate on finding and communicating with as many of those people as we can so that they'll know about the VP-2 Association.

Here's an idea that could put our membership numbers way over the top. Take a look at the latest roster. Think back to your days in the squadron... yeah, we're talking to **you!!** Whether you were on a flight crew or worked in an office or a shop, think of one old friend or acquaintance (yes, he's old whether we like it or not) who isn't now a member. If you can think of more than one, you get extra credit. If you know the correct spelling of his name, and if you have any idea where he settled down, then we have the beginnings of an Internet search that could help us to find him. Pass his name and possible location to Vic Gulliver or Doug Donohue either by email or mail. They can then start an Internet search to find those people. The more unusual the name, the easier it will be to find them on the Internet.

It is surprising how many people share the more common names. If you have Internet access, you can do the search yourself.

Also, if you have Internet access, check out the VP-2 website at www.patron2.com. Look at all the pages of the website, but in particular look at the Wanted list to see the old squadron mates we're trying to find. We want to add the names you come up with to that list. Maybe someone else in the Association knows how to reach one of those people and will step forward with the information.

Everybody, concentrate on finding and signing up one new member before the San Antonio reunion. Got that? At ease.



Technology Update

Our Website at www.patron2.com

We are fortunate to have two new volunteers to run our own VP-2 website. The website at www.patron2.com is dedicated to VP-2 Association matters and to the activities of our members. Doug Donohue has gotten the website off and running with the able assistance of Rick Dombrowski. Doug is the technical guru of the site doing his magic to get our "stuff" on the Internet, and Rick is the website editor who solicits and approves material for placement on the website. After more than a year of the website lying dormant, it is now up and operating and bears looking into. There are some new features you should see, including:

1. The entire roster of all the VP-2 people we've found, most of whom are dues-paying members, is now on the website along with the email addresses we know about.
2. There are a growing number of photos from our days in the squadron and from the reunions we've attended. We need to get more photos on the website. Please email your photos to Rick for posting on the website. Whenever possible, identify the people in the photos so the names can be included on the website.

3. The VP-2 Association board of directors is listed on the website along with their postal and email addresses if you need to contact them.
4. There is space on the website for your sea-stories, exaggerations and lies. Write them up and submit them to Rick.
5. There is dedicated space for announcements by members.
6. There is a section devoted to VP-2 Association reunions, past and upcoming, including space for snapshots, which we encourage you to submit for all to see.
7. There is a "Wanted List," which holds the names of squadron-mates that we'd like to find. You never know when someone will run across their name on the Internet and be surprised that we're looking for them. Tell Rick about any names you want to add to that "Wanted List."
8. We intend to put each new Newsletter on the website, and display several past editions of the Newsletter also.
9. There is a section of the website devoted to the Memorial we are creating.
10. A summary of the history of VP-2 is on the website, including a list of all the aircraft types flown, deployment sites and dates, commanding officers, and important milestones in the squadron's history.

We hope that the website will become a channel for communication among our members. The whole purpose for having a website is to stimulate memories, to facilitate the sharing of shipmate's experiences and to provide current status reports on the association's projects. Your squadron-mates want to hear your stories and share your photos. What you see on the website now is just the beginning. We want to hear from all of our members, dating back to the days of the PV. Don't be bashful; submit your stories, photos, and any ideas for how the website can be improved to better meet your needs and our organization's goals. Those members without Internet access should be

aware that a trip to your local library will enable you to visit the website. The library staff will be happy to assist you. Or perhaps a friend or relative can show you the website on their computer. For those with email capability, you can reach Doug Donohue at nvsoar@charter.net and Rick Dombrowski at rmdeez@aol.com. It is suggested that you "bookmark" our website at www.patron2.com on your computer and visit the site periodically to keep up with what people are saying about you!!!

Email Addresses

We have the email addresses of more than 200 of our members posted on our website and printed on the Association rosters. We've sent a few messages out to the email addresses we have to get the word out on some important issues and also to test the validity of the email addresses we have. Each time we send out a message to the group, we get a number of them returned because email addresses seem to change more rapidly than we can keep up with them.

We would like to rely more heavily on email communication with the members of the Association. To do that, we need to know everyone's email address and we need to hear about it when you change your email address. Right now, we only have email addresses for about half of our members. We suspect that most of our up-to-date, technological-minded, creative and motivated members have Internet access and email capability they haven't told us about. Please, if you haven't told us already, let us know your email address. Look on the website and see if your email address is listed in the roster section. If not, send a message to Marie Hart at fm12621@aol.com or to Vic Gulliver at vicgulliver@comcast.net so we can add you to our email address list.



Chaplain's Corner — *Doug Millar*

A few years ago I was wandering through a large shopping mall in Seattle in early December. The mall was all decked out in Christmas decorations and in the center of the mall was a life sized display of a frozen lake with ice skaters, horse drawn sleighs, Christmas carolers, bonfires, trees trimmed for Christmas with wrapped packages all around, and a stage off to one side for live performances which were scheduled throughout each day until Christmas. It was all very reminiscent of those beautiful Currier & Ives paintings that I enjoy so much.

As I stood in the crowded mall with hundreds of shoppers hurrying past me, I was somewhat mesmerized by the beauty and tranquility of the scene. Two young women walked up beside me. Being totally unaware of my presence they stopped for a moment to view the scene, reflected to themselves, and then one of them said to the other "What is Christmas all about anyway?" Her friend replied, "I don't know. I guess it's about Santa Claus, presents, and lots of parties!" With that, they moved off into the flow of humanity towards the nearest Department Store.

How sad. In our society today our government has done a great deal to remove Christ from our schools, our public events, and our consciousness. Many have tried to get rid of the word Christmas altogether and instead call the celebration "Winter Holiday."

What is Christmas all about anyway? It is about the love of God for the human race and God's desire to draw each human being back to Himself. God took on human flesh in the form of Jesus Christ so that He might ultimately be put to death on a Roman cross as the pure and perfect substitute for every human sinner. According to the Scriptures, the penalty for sin is death and Jesus Christ paid that price in order that we might go free. It is a freely offered gift to each of us. But like any gift it is of no value to us unless we are willing to accept it. Have you ever accepted this gift from God? If not, why not stop right now and thank God personally for what he has done for you and for me?

Then you too can personally benefit from the true gift of Christmas.

During this Christmas season may we all take time to meditate on the truth of the following verses, which are found in the New Testament book of Philippians. These verses talk about Jesus Christ: (chapter 2, verses 5-11) He made Himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. And in human form He obediently humbled Himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross. Because of this, God raised Him up to the heights of heaven and gave Him a name that is above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Merry Christmas! Hopefully this will be the happiest Christmas that you have ever experienced.



In Memoriam

The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

George Silberstein (July 03)
CAPT. Robert M. Kercheval, CO 1948 / 49 (29 July 03)
CAPT. Charles E. Healy (12 Aug 03)

Please keep these families in your prayers.

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel, please advise Marie Hart.

Congratulations to **HOMER RAGSDALE**

as the winner of the free room and free Registrations Fees, if he attends the 2004 Reunion. His name was picked from among those who voted in the Memorial Balloting by the imposed deadline.

Homer also resides in Redland, CA, which was very near or in the recent fires.

FYI

We have learned that Marie Hart has decided to retire as the VP-2 Association Secretary/Treasurer to coincide with our 2004 reunion in San Antonio. Marie has had that job since the first days of the formation of our Association, which was almost twenty years ago. Rumor has it that Marie volunteered to be the Secretary/Treasurer on a temporary basis until someone "qualified" for the job could be found. So, now we're looking for someone who is qualified.

HELP WANTED

We're looking for a volunteer to serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the VP-2 Association. The position has a four-year term of office. Necessary skills include:

- A sunny disposition,
- A computer, including knowledge of Word, Works and Excel,
- Email/Internet capable,
- must be able to add and subtract and do gozintas,
- Must be able to get along with Floyd,
- Must be a member of the VP-2 Association (or wives/widows).

The sooner we find Marie's replacement, the sooner he or she can begin to learn the ins and outs of the job from Marie. Volunteers should contact Floyd Palmer by email at plmf01@hickorytech.net

Without getting into all of the nitty-gritty, the job entails such things as keeping the membership roster up to date, providing copies of the roster to the membership periodically, mailing out and accepting new membership applications, accepting and depositing dues payments, writing checks to reimburse Association expenses, and other such things as would be expected of a Secretary/Treasurer.

Marie will be hard to replace, but we need to try. Please consider serving the Association in this capacity. We await your message to Floyd.

War Veteran Status



We're still trying to determine the military service dates of some of our members to see if they qualify as war veterans under the definitions laid down by the IRS.

If your name is shown below, we need to have you contact Vic Gulliver with your beginning and ending service dates, including training, cadet or midshipman status and including reserve duty, whether it was active or inactive reserve.

You can reach Vic Gulliver at 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60025 or at vicgulliver@comcast.net, whichever is easier for you.

John Ahle
Joseph Brown
George Dill
Jack Fruits
Dwight Gilliam
John Hinkle
Jerry Jones
James Lamb
Arlen Mootz
Arthur Norton
Jerry Shepard
Alfred Swanda
F. Van Leeuwen
William Zambriski

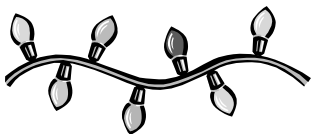
Daniel Babbage
Jerry Brown
Dick Dorrheim
Tom Gallaher
Ruben Gomez
Dennis Hoogerwerf
Westley King
Maurice Lund
Michael Moreno
Paul Perry
Richard Sorenson
Charles Sweet
John Willcuts

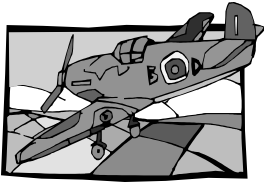
Jack Barnes
Raymond Bryant
Dave Finley
Bernie Galvin
Richard Haase
Cyril Imming
Henry Knepp
Howard Lyford
Norman Morton
George Persons
Gene Sprague
James Tucker
Charles Wisner

John C. Brown
Harley Cline
Maynard Flynn
Doug Gilbertson
F. Himelick-Vandore
John Isaacson
Neil Kosbab
Robert McKnight
Frank Murias
Obie Quelland
Lloyd Stine
Joseph Tucker
James Wright



Happy
Holidays
from your
VP-2
President!





Fellow Aircrewman:

Available now in Av Green, Khaki, black and white, and authorized, per Navy Uniform regs, on Working Khaki, Av Green, Indoor Duty White, and Winter Working Blue.

I have gold bullion embroidered AC wings in all these colors. Normal price is \$10 retail. Way too many on hand.

For a picture, go to:

http://www.vpnavy.org/associate_wings.html

Sale \$5 each, 3 for \$12, shipping included.

For further information, contact:

John Bayer
Ex-AW1 (SS3)
VP-26, 1982-1984
VP-4549, 1984-1987

Congratulations to Harry Ferrier!

Submitted by David Bowen

Our own Harry Ferrier (#128, VP-2 1962-1964), was invited to attend the sixth annual conference of the World War II Veterans Committee, held in Alexandria, VA., November 6, 7, and 8, 2003. He and his son were flown there where he was honored and awarded the Chester Nimitz Award for distinguished service in the U.S.Navy during World War II.

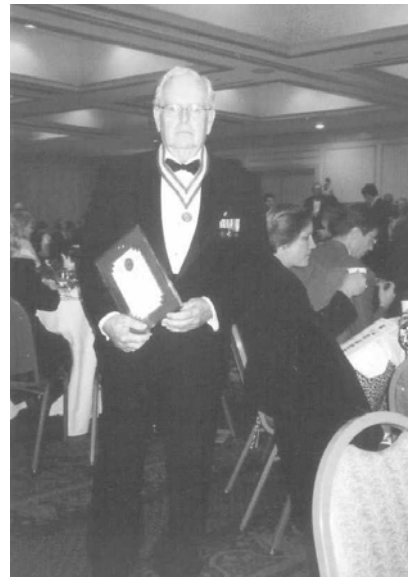
I quote from the program; "Harry Ferrier enlisted as an Apprentice Seaman on January 28, 1941. He would be the only enlisted air crewman of VT-8 to survive the Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942. In 1943 he was assigned to Bombing Squadron Five, USS Yorktown, CV-10 for his second combat tour in World War II, flying SBD-5 Dauntless Dive Bombers. He would later rise to the rank of Commander and be decorated with the

Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal (three awards), and four Presidential Unit Citations."

Harry's story was the feature article in the 8th issue (summer/fall 2002) of GHOST WINGS (www.ghostwings.com), an outstanding magazine "*HONORING the SACRIFICES of AMERICA'S VETERANS*".

You can read the whole incredible story there about Harry and his pilot, ENS. Albert Earnest (CAPT.), how the battle evolved and how they landed their badly damaged TBM back on Midway Island. Their third crewmember had been killed in action.

The following are photos of Harry taken after the ceremony and one of him as a young enlisted crewman.



*Harry Ferrier
At the sixth annual
Conference of
World War II
Veterans.*

*Harry Ferrier
as a young enlisted
Crewman.*





DD-214 Available Online

Veterans and family members of deceased veterans can now go online to request copies of the deceased's form DD-214, the official Defense Department document of separation from military service.

The DD-214 is required to receive a variety of veterans' benefits.

To request the DD-214, go to the National Archives and Records Administration at:

www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs.

Users fill out request forms online, then submit a signature via fax or regular mail.



Sit Back and Enjoy this Great letter.....

The writer and his wife live in LA and both work for Uncle Sam.

Dear Friends and Family,

I hope that you will spare me a few minutes of your time to tell you about something that I saw on Monday, October 27.

I had been attending a conference in Annapolis and was coming home on Sunday. As you may recall, Los Angeles International Airport was closed on Sunday, October 26, because of the fires that affected air traffic control. Accordingly, my flights, and many others, were cancelled and I wound up spending a night in Baltimore.

My story begins the next day. When I went to check in at the United counter Monday morning I saw a lot of soldiers home from Iraq. Most were very young and all had on their desert camouflage uniforms. This was a change from earlier, when they had to buy civilian clothes in Kuwait to fly

home. It was a visible reminder that we are in a war.

It probably was pretty close to what train terminals were like in World War II.

Many people were stopping the troops to talk to them, asking them questions in the Starbucks line or just saying "Welcome Home." In addition to all the flights that had been cancelled on Sunday, the weather was terrible in Baltimore and the flights were backed up. So, there were a lot of unhappy people in the terminal trying to get home, but nobody that I saw gave the soldiers a bad time.

By the afternoon, one plane to Denver had been delayed several hours. United personnel kept asking for volunteers to give up their seats and take another flight. They weren't getting many takers. Finally, a United spokeswoman got on the PA and said this, "Folks. As you can see, there are a lot of soldiers in the waiting area. They only have 14 days of leave and we're trying to get them where they need to go without spending any more time in an airport than they have to. We sold them all tickets, knowing we would oversell the flight. If we can, we want to get them all on this flight. We want all the soldiers to know that we respect what you're doing, we are here for you and we love you."

At that, the entire terminal of cranky, tired, travel-weary people, a cross-section of America, broke into sustained and heart-felt applause.

The soldiers looked surprised and very modest. Most of them just looked at their boots. Many of us were wiping away tears.

And, yes, people lined up to take the later flight and all the soldiers went to Denver on that flight.

That little moment made me proud to be an American, and also told me why we will win this war.

If you want to send my little story on to your friends and family, feel free. This is not some urban legend. I was there, I was part of it, I saw it happen.

*Will Ross
Administrative Judge
United States Department of Defense*



VP-2 Association Officers and Appointed Personnel



President	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Ct., Mankato, MN 56001 800-903-9958, 507-388-2059 (Fax) plmf01@mctcnet.net
1st Vice President	Dave Bowen 1376 West Beach Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 306-675-5708 cjmbowen@msn.com
2nd Vice President	Frank Hart 12621 Patricia Drive, Yuma, AZ 85367 928-342-3660 fm12621@aol.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Marie Hart 12621 Patricia Drive, Yuma, AZ 85367 928-342-3660 fm12621@aol.com
Director	Vic Gulliver 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60025 847-296-6907 vicgulliver@comcast.net
Director	Wayne Bowman PO Box 380, Palmer, AK 99645 907-745-3537 wabowman@gei.net
Director	Dave Quindt PO Box 2406, Onalaska, TX 77360 936-646-2700 dquindt@livingston.net
P-2 Memorial Chair	Don Hanson, 5130 N Veness Place, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 240-0805 dchanson@whidbey.net
VP-2 Association Chaplain	Doug Millar, 12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 509-548-3154 dpmillar@crewnet.com
VP-2 Historian	Skip Forseth, 2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062 650-365-2806 p2flyer@pacbell.net
VP-2 Parliamentarian	Bob Bender, 2998 Wood School Road, Middleville, MI 49333 616-945-2793 bobbender@voyager.net
Nominating Committee	Joe Chruma, 1478 Via Codorniz, San Jose, CA 95128 408-559-7055 ccc@cdcmail.com
VP-2 Reunion Chairs	George and Pat Jenista, 710 Aqua Vista Drive, Grandburg, TX 76049 817-279-7259 george-pat@itexas.net
VP – 2 Website	www.patron2.com



From our Squadron
Flag still hanging in
Oak Harbor Tavern:

“Adamante Semper Parato”

Remain Always Prepared



Looking to Share Information in the Neptune Newsletter?

If any of our members would like to contribute news, thoughts,
experiences, etc, please email Floyd D. Palmer at:

plmf01@mctcnet.net



Membership Dues Update

Today is your day to send in your membership dues if you have not already. Please take the time to support our terrific organization! Since our last reunion, our membership is over 400 members. Our goal is to reach 500 members by our 2004 Reunion. If you know of any former VP-2 Personal, who are currently not members, please provide Marie Hart with their name and address so that she can get a membership packet to them. Besides being the most famous Patrol Squadron in the Navy, their membership will provide them with a host of great opportunities! If your spouse, who was a member of VP-2, passes away and you would like to cancel your membership, please let Marie Hart know. You are welcome to stay a member too! If you move, please forward your new address to Marie Hart too! You can contact Marie Hart at: 1261 Patricia Drive, Yuma, AZ 85367, phone her at (928) 342-3660 or email her at: fm12621@aol.com.

Floyd D. Palmer
VP-2 Association President
213 Woodhill Court
Mankato, MN 56001



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