



# The Neptune

President – Floyd D. Palmer  
Secretary/Treasurer – Douglas Donohue  
1<sup>st</sup> VP – Dave Bowen  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Frank Hart

Director – Vic Gulliver  
Director – Wayne Bowman  
Director – Marie Hart

Volume Number 12, December 2005

“Adamante Semper Parato”

[www.patron2.com](http://www.patron2.com)

## A Message from the President

**F**irst off, thanks to our men and women in the military for all they do for our country. It is our military service men and women who keep our country free... not the politicians who merely talk about it.

You will note that much of this edition of the Newsletter is devoted to the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial. The memorial is on schedule and on track for completion and dedication during our 2006 reunion. In fact, the dedication ceremony and turnover to the city of Oak Harbor are scheduled for 10:00AM on Thursday September 14, 2006. I hope to see most, if not all of you at the reunion and at the dedication ceremony. This will be a big event in the history of the VP-2 Association.

Creating and completing the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial hasn't been an easy task. For more than four years, Don Hanson has headed up the memorial committee that has brought us to where we are today. Over that span of time, a dozen or more people have worked on and off for that committee, contributing what they could when they could to the work effort. Dave Bowen, Al Hall, Vic Gulliver, Wayne Bowman and Don Grove have been major contributors to the committee's work. We owe a great debt of gratitude to these volunteers who have probably given much more time to this project than they had ever imagined when they first signed on.

Fundraising for the memorial is going well. The good news is that the memorial committee has raised more than 90% of what they'll need to pay the bills next summer. The bad news, if you can call it that, is that a number of our own members

haven't yet dedicated bricks to themselves or to loved ones to help fund the memorial. More brick orders from our own members could rapidly put us over the top in our fundraising effort.

Bob Wolfe, Dave Michel and J.J. Brown of the reunion committee are firming up their plans for a terrific reunion next September. The reunion committee will be coming out with a separate mailing about the reunion soon.

You may recall that our Association officers are elected for four year terms. We will be holding elections at the 2006 reunion for all positions on the Executive Board except Treasurer (Doug took over in 2004). The open offices will be president, first vice-president, second vice-president and three director seats. If you would like to be nominated for a position on the board, give me a call or an email to that effect. We'll have more to say about this in the June 2006 Newsletter.

Support your Ship's Store. Plan to show up at the reunion properly attired!

Lois and I both wish you all a happy holiday season.

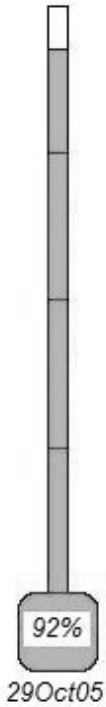
All the best,

*Floyd D. Palmer,*  
Association President



## Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial Update

By Vic Gulliver



The Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial (WPSM) is happening. It is a reality. Two years ago, by an overwhelmingly favorable vote, the VP-2 Association chose to pursue a statue and granite wall design for a memorial to those who served and to those who died in VP squadrons home-based at NAS Whidbey Island. Today, work is underway on the statue for the memorial, and contracts will soon be signed for the granite wall and for other components of the memorial. The memorial will be dedicated and turned over to the city of Oak Harbor

on September 14th during our 2006 reunion.

The WPSM was and is an initiative of the VP-2 Association. We voted to create it and we have been the driving force in getting it built. While most of the money to build the memorial has come from our membership, former members of other VP squadrons have also generously contributed to the building fund. We have also had some significant donations from businesses and from civic organizations, not only in Oak Harbor, but from around the country. Our thanks go out to those who have opened their pocketbooks in tribute to the Whidbey VP force. At the time of this writing, we've collected more than \$100,000 to pay for the memorial. We still have a way to go to pay all the bills. In the fundraising department, we've had some surprises and some disappointments. We had expected to receive some financial support from the many defense contractors who built and equipped our airplanes. That did not materialize. But, we got help from some friendly and patriotic sources that we hadn't counted on, such as banks, a bus company, businesses and civic organizations located in and far away from Oak Harbor. We have a contractor lined up to build the memorial substructure, who will donate his services and do the job at a considerable saving.

On the plus side, more than 300 bricks have been ordered and dedicated as specified by donors. On

the minus side, there are still many VP-2 Association members who have not yet ordered their bricks. There are likely good reasons that some members haven't ordered bricks. Some people might not be interested in the memorial and what it stands for. Some people might not feel able to donate the \$200 that it takes to order a brick. Probably a number of people have procrastinated, waiting to see if the memorial would ever get off the ground. For the procrastinators and for others, time is running out. We need to place the order for the inscribed bricks in the next couple of months.

Brick inscriptions are dedications. While the memorial is a generic tribute to the Whidbey VP force, the bricks that surround the memorial are individual tributes to specific people... shipmates, spouses, flight crews, or yourselves. Most of the bricks that have been ordered thus far are dedicated to the service member who ordered them. Those bricks will become an integral part of the memorial and a lasting tribute for you to see, for your kids and grandkids to see, and for all those who visit the memorial to see. A couple of samples:

**AWI R. H. PETE RAPER**  
VP-1 CREW 4  
1970 WESTPAC

**THE GULLIVER FAMILY**  
VIC PAT GLEN  
JON ANNE DAVID

For the procrastinators, please don't wait too long to get your order in.

When we voted for the memorial in 2003, we also encouraged and accepted pledges for monetary support to gauge our ability to pay for the memorial. We still have a number of members who have not fulfilled their monetary pledges with donations. The decision to go ahead with the memorial project was based, in part, on the pledges for donations that we received. If you pledged a donation and still have not contributed, we would appreciate your support with an appropriate donation. Keep in mind that all donations to the memorial, including brick orders, and even your dues payments to the VP-2 Association are tax-deductible.

Finally, I hope that each and every VP-2 Association member, who is financially able to do so, will take advantage of this opportunity to have

his or her name become a permanent part of this historic memorial by ordering an inscribed brick. If you have already ordered a brick, you can join a growing group that has ordered multiple bricks. You gain another tax deduction in 2006 by ordering an additional brick with a check dated in 2006. A brick order form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your use in planning your inscription and in placing your order.

A special note: If you know about any next of kin of someone who was lost and will be named on the memorial, please let the memorial committee know so that those families can be contacted about the memorial dedication.

I hope to see you next September and I hope to see your name etched in a brick at the memorial.



*Michael Maiden working on the Memorial.*

## Ship's Store



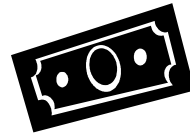
Joe Tucker in Kansas City, KS is now the manager of our Ship's Store. The Store carries several kinds of shirts, including sweatshirts and golf shirts with an embroidered VP-2 logo, and T-shirts with either a printed P2V on the front or the familiar squadron patch design on the front. We also carry ball caps, sun visors, VP-2 lighters, squadron patches, lapel pins and coffee mugs.

All Ship's Store sales are now done by mail. We no longer take orders on the Internet. There is an order form in this newsletter, and you can also download the order form from our website at [www.patron2.com](http://www.patron2.com).

For those who are planning to attend the 2006 VP-2 reunion, Joe is expecting to offer some of these

products for sale at the reunion. But there is a limit to what Joe can haul to the reunion. To make sure that you can get the sizes and colors you want, it is recommended that you place your order soon and get your products prior to the reunion. We don't carry a lot of each size and color of our shirts (which are the most popular sellers) to keep our costs down, so we may have to restock some products to fulfill all the orders. You can help out by getting your orders in early to give Joe the time he needs to get the products to you.

We thank Joe Tucker for the time and effort he devotes to managing the Ship's Store.



## Notes from the Treasurer

January of an even-numbered year is coming up and you know what that means! No, it isn't leap year! It's time to pay your Association dues. Dues notices will be mailed out soon. Before you forget, put your check for \$20 in the mail to Doug Donohue. That buys you two years of membership. Any donations above the \$20 amount are welcome. Dues and donations to the VP-2 Association or to the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial fund are tax deductible.



## The [www.patron2.com](http://www.patron2.com) Website

The VP-2 Association has a tremendous website, displaying stories, photos, announcements, and other material of interest to VP-2 Association members. Doug Donohue, our webmaster, does an exceptional job in running the website. But, he is limited by the material he has on hand. He can't create the photos and the sea stories that are needed to keep the website fresh and alive. He can only display what we send him to display on the website. Go through your old boxes of photos. Think back to some of the stories you can tell about life in the squadron. Let your friends know how and what you are doing these days with a notice that Doug can post on the website. And, visit the website often to keep abreast of what's going on with the Association. When you send in your dues to Doug, send along something else that he can post on the website for the rest of us to enjoy.

# VP-2 Reunion 2006

When: 11-15 September

Where: Bow, Washington



Why: Wonderful Time To Visit Pacific Northwest

What: Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial Dedication

- Tour Naval Air Station with lunch
- Banquet with Sit Down Dinner
- Excellent Resort Facilities
- Many Shopping Options



## Under Consideration

- Visit Paul Allen Heritage Museum
- Boeing Plant Tour
- Whale Watching
- Fishing Charter
- Viking Cruise
- Golf Outing
- Door Prizes



We ain't gett'n any younger folks. Tis Time to Treasure our Friendships.

This reunion is a Big One! Once in a lifetime opportunity to remember, honor and salute our Whidbey based shipmates who lost their lives while conducting patrol squadron missions.

You will be proud to stand on the shores of this isle we call Whidbey as this impressive memorial is dedicated.

Expect to receive more details in January but Plan Now to attend.

## Chaplain's Corner — Doug Millar

Recently I read a book called "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn (published by Tyndale House Publishers), which I ran across at Costco. I must say that it has revolutionized my ideas on what Heaven will be like. Some of us are stuck with the idea that Heaven will be spending forever sitting around on some cloud playing a harp. Personally, I can't think of anything more boring than that. But according to the Bible, this image could not be farther from the truth.

But what is the *truth*? In our world today we are being told that there is no absolute truth, that truth is based on what we think. This may sound good but it has nothing to do with reality. For example, I may choose to believe that the moon is made of cheese. However we all know that this is absolutely wrong. What I believe the moon to be made of has nothing whatsoever to do with its actual make-up. *It is what it is*, regardless of my personal opinion. So, where can we get absolute truth? Jesus Christ said (and it is recorded in the Bible in John 14, verse 6) that "I am the way, the *truth*, and the life." And again in John 17, verse 7, He said in a prayer to God his Father "Your word (God's word) is *truth*." So, there is *absolute truth*, and a good bit of it is recorded in God's word, the Bible.

There are many people who neither believe in a Heaven nor a Hell. They are free to hold these beliefs. However Jesus Christ did believe in both - and He spoke frequently, and in detail, about each place.

If you wonder what Heaven might be like I would encourage you to check out Mr. Alcorn's book on the subject. He has been studying Heaven for over 15 years, has a library which contains 150 books on the subject, and is regarded as having written what some describe as the most authoritative work ever published on the topic of Heaven. His book starts out with a short discussion of how a person can know whether or not he/she is going to Heaven. Then he has a fairly lengthy section, which is theological and academic on issues regarding Heaven. But the last half of the book is easily readable and is purely in Question & Answer

format. He gives his answers (based on the Bible) to questions like what will we look like, will we have gender, how old will we be? Will there be animals there, or snow, or mountains, or various races of people? How about art, music, theater, sports? Will I recognize my wife (or wives) and will we still be family? What will we be doing throughout all of eternity? He deals with all of these and many other questions.

If you find the subject of Heaven to be at all interesting or intriguing then I would recommend that you give this book a read. Stop by your public library and check it out. Or better yet, ask someone to give it to you for Christmas. After all, the reason that we even have Christmas is that it is a remembrance of Christ coming to Earth in the form of a man - to allow Himself at Calvary to die for the sins of each of us. It is through His sacrifice that we are offered the gift of eternal life and a future place with Him in Heaven.

Have a wonderful Christmas season.



### In Memoriam



We have lost the following squadron mates and friends:

Terry W. Hinds (14 May 03)  
Jack Dodson (28 Aug 05)  
Earl Lofgren (21 Oct 05)  
Cdr. Sherman Black (29 Oct 05)

Our hearts and prayers also go out for Frank and Marie Hart in the loss of their son in a diving accident on 5 Nov 05.

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 Personnel, please advise Doug Donohue by email at [nvsoar@charter.net](mailto:nvsoar@charter.net).

### Recruiting...Looking for Volunteers

Bob Champoux, our chairman of the Recruiting Committee, is asking for a volunteer or two to help out in organizing and distributing the search workload to other committee members. Contact Bob at [Rchampoux@comcast.net](mailto:Rchampoux@comcast.net) or (425) 890-3857.

# *Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial*

Veterans Memorial Park  
Oak Harbor, WA

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1496, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-1496

Email: [wpsm@comcast.net](mailto:wpsm@comcast.net)

Web: [www.patron2.com/files/wpsm.html](http://www.patron2.com/files/wpsm.html)

## **DONATION AND BRICK ORDER FORM**

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please print your name and full mailing address legibly so that we can send you a receipt. If you contribute \$200 or more, you may (not required) have an inscribed brick placed at the memorial. For each additional donation of \$200, you may request an additional inscribed brick. Donors are not required to request a brick. If you would like to order an inscribed brick, please enter your desired inscription in the spaces provided below. Brick inscriptions may contain up to 20 characters per line (including spaces), 3 lines maximum. The WPSM committee reserves the right to return forms requesting inappropriate inscription text. Inscribed bricks will be placed in the memorial's main patio and along the walkway leading to the memorial. To request additional bricks, please copy this form and enter the desired inscription in the provided spaces. All donations are tax-deductible per IRS regulations.

I would like to donate only       I would like an inscribed brick placed at the memorial

**Mail this form with your memorial contribution to :**

WPSM  
c/o Vic Gulliver  
1900 Franklin Drive  
Glenview, IL 60026-1076

I have enclosed my check  
made payable to the WPSM  
for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Enter your desired brick inscription in the spaces below:**

*Please check one of the boxes below (for proper placement of brick):*

Is the donor or the person being honored a military veteran?    YES    NO

This memorial is sponsored by the VP-2 Association



## VP-2 Association Officers and Appointed Personnel



<b>President</b>	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Ct., Mankato, MN 56001 800-903-9958, 507-388-2059 (Fax) plmf01@hickorytech.net
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Dave Bowen 1376 West Beach Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 306-675-5708    cjb Bowen@msn.com
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Frank Hart 12621 Patricia Drive, Yuma, AZ 85367 928-342-3660    fm12621@aol.com
<b>Secretary/Treasurer Website Director www.patron2.com</b>	Douglas Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410-2894 775-265-3861    nvsoar@charter.net
<b>Director</b>	Vic Gulliver 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60026-60026 847-296-6907    vicgulliver@comcast.net
<b>Director</b>	Wayne Bowman 1455 Kuhn Drive. HC. 04, Palmer, AK 99645 907-745-3537    wabowman@gei.net
<b>Director</b>	Marie Hart 12621 Patricia Drive, Yuma, AZ 85367 928-342-3660    fm12621@aol.com
<b>Memorial Chair</b>	Don Hanson, 5130 N Veness Place, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 (360) 240-0805    dchanson@whidbey.net
<b>Association Chaplain</b>	Doug Millar, 12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 509-548-3154    dpmillar@crcwnet.com
<b>Association Historian</b>	Skip Forseth, 2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062 650-365-2806    p2flyer@pacbell.net
<b>Association Parliamentarian</b>	Bob Bender, 2998 Wood School Road, Middleville, MI 49333 616-945-2793    bobbender@voyager.net
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Bob Champoux, 17205 NE 26 <sup>th</sup> , Redmond, WA 98052 425-890-3857    rchampoux@comcast.net
<b>Reunion Chairman</b>	Bob Wolfe, 4658 N. Parkacres Drive, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-679-2651    bobwolfe@oaharbor.net
<b>Shop's Store Chairman</b>	Joe Tucker, 3328 N 54 <sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, KS 66104 913-287-1311    tuckerfunk@yahoo.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@hickorytech.net](mailto:plmf01@hickorytech.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. If you know of any former VP-2 Personal, who are currently not members, please provide Bob Champoux with their name and address so that he 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 Bob know. You are welcome to stay a member too! If you move, please forward your new address to Bob too!

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



December 2005 VP-2 Newsletter



**Amount From Page 1:**                      **Amount for items ordered:**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping and Handling:**

<u>Item Purchased</u>	<u>Shipping Charge</u>
Caps, Visors, T-shirts, Sport Shirts	\$ 3.00 per item
Sweatshirts	\$ 4.00 per item
Coffee Mugs	\$ 4.00 per item
Travel Clocks	\$ 2.00 per item
Lighters, Patches, Pins	\$ 1.00 per item

**Amount for Shipping/Handling:**                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Sales Tax:**

For items shipped to a KS address, please  
add 7% of the amount for items ordered.                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping Data:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(phone number and/or email address are essential if we have questions about your order)

**Remittance Information:**

Send order form and a check or money order payable to the VP-2 Association to:

Joe Tucker  
3328 N. 54<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kansas City, KS 66104-1646

If you have questions, call Joe Tucker at 1-913-287-1311 or email [tuckerfunk@yahoo.com](mailto:tuckerfunk@yahoo.com)