

The Neptune

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"Adamante Semper Parato"

www.patron2.com

A Message from the President

s we approach the Christmas season, I can't help but think of our military men and women who will be serving our country in various places around the world instead of enjoying the holidays with their loved ones here at home. We all did that when we were in the service, and we know what it's like to spend Christmas in some far away land. So, we can easily find it in our hearts to wish those good people well and to hope for their safe and speedy return to the U.S. in the months ahead.

Just a few short months ago, we enjoyed the biggest and best VP-2 reunion ever, coupled with the dedication ceremony of our Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial. The reunion was outstanding by itself, but it was made even more significant and enjoyable by combining it with the unveiling of the Memorial, which was a milestone in our Association's history, and which means so much to so many people within and outside of our organization. Our 2006 reunion organizers, Bob and Pat Wolfe, Dave and Dottie Michel, Joe and Esther Brown, Harvey Jansen, and Mary Lou Hall are owed a debt of gratitude for all they did to make our stay in Bow as enjoyable as it was. To this group we offer our sincere thanks for a job well done.

By the time the WPSM dedication ceremony was over, there wasn't a dry eye in the park. From the beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at the opening to the final benediction, gun salute and Navy Hymn at the end, the dedication ceremony was as elegantly carried out as humanly possible. The privilege of being able to stand at that podium and turn the Memorial over to the Mayor of Oak

Harbor will be remembered always as one of the proudest moments of my life.

We keep thanking the members of the Memorial committee over and over again, not so much because they need to keep hearing it, but because we need to keep saying it. We owe them so much. A few people like Don Hanson, Dave Bowen and Don Grove stuck with the job of completing the Memorial through many years of good times and bad, and are especially deserving of our thanks. Several others volunteered their time to the Memorial committee's work for shorter periods and can also be proud of what they contributed. Those who ordered bricks or gave donations to the Memorial should also feel a sense of pride in what we were able to do. Without all the money and man-hours that were volunteered for building the Memorial, its completion would not have been possible.

At the reunion, we voted in a new slate of officers for the next four-year term. My thanks to the outgoing officers: Frank and Marie Hart, Wayne Bowman and Dave Bowen, for all they did during their years of service to the Association. Thanks also to Doug Donohue and Vic Gulliver for continuing on as board members. And congratulations to our new board members: Joe Ryan, Bill Haeckler, Al Hall and Joe Chruma. We are looking forward to accomplishing great things in the years ahead.

Lois and I would both like to extend our best wishes to all Association members for a happy and joyous Christmas season.

All the best, Floyd D. Palmer, Association President

Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial – Final Report

By Don Hanson and Don Grove

Halleluiah! The Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial is finished, and what a fitting final dedication ceremony. There was: a flyover by a P-3C Orion from VP-1; the national anthem stirringly sung by a talented vocalist; an invocation by a local pastor; an excellent speech by the Commander of NAS Whidbey's Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Ten; a gifting of the memorial to the City of Oak Harbor by Floyd Palmer, VP-2 Association President; an eloquent speech by the Oak Harbor mayor; an emotional benediction by a retired Navy Chaplain; TAPS; a 9-gun salute to lost airmen; and martial music played by the Northwest Navv Ceremonial band. We'd provided 500 chairs. Those were filled and there were some 150 spectators standing.

The short speech by the Wing Commander was perfect. He merged the old airmen with the new airmen in two sentences. He acknowledged our older generation of PBY, PV, PB4Y, PBM, P5M and P2V days and the new, young active duty P-3 airmen. He went well beyond the words that Bob Wolfe and our committee passed on to his staff. He spoke to the changes that had been made and will continue to be made, and ensured that future challenges will be met. He mentioned the P-8A, the new multi-mission maritime aircraft, a variant of Boeing's 737, that's being produced and will eventually replace the P-3.

I was especially moved by retired Navy Chaplain Wes Westlund's reciting the liturgical benediction while the Navy Band played the Navy Hymn in the background. This was followed by the NAS Whidbey Island Honor Guard's gun salute, and a solemn rendition of TAPS. It was a beautiful close to the dedication ceremony.

Bob Wolfe was our Master of Ceremonies, and he did a perfect job. As you know, he was a triple-threat man: he served on our memorial committee; he chaired our reunion committee; and he MC'd our dedication ceremony. We owe him many thanks.

After the ceremony, the memorial patio was crowded with people looking to see their bricks and to get pictures of the airman and the wall. When the VP-2 reunion folks had to man the buses to leave for their scheduled lunch, and people began drifting down to the reception at the Yacht Club, the crunch subsided somewhat. Eventually, the Yacht Club was full of people. That was another outstanding success. It was like the 5-loaves and 5-fishes story; as fast as the hors d'oeuvre trays were emptied, the Yacht Club volunteers brought forth replacement trays. While people mingled and munched, Don Grove and Jim Lotzgesell accepted orders from people for memorial bricks. memorial patio will have over 580 commemorative inscribed bricks.

It was a big day for the VP-2 Association, Navy Patrol Aviation, and the City of Oak Harbor. The memorial is impressive and fitting for all of us airmen, and especially for those who didn't come home.







Following are excerpts from the speech given by Captain David M. Taylor, USN, Commander, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Ten, at the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial dedication ceremony:

"Mayor Cohen, RADM Summitt, Captain Abernethy,

Captain Campbell, Ms. Kristen LeMieux (representing Senator Rick Larson), veterans and family members of past Patrol Squadrons, honored guests, citizens of Oak Harbor, good morning.

First let me say that it is an honor to stand here today and I am humbled to be a part of this ceremony. I have had the privilege to serve our Navy for over 27 years and I can honestly tell you that each day I remain on active duty I feel more and more fortunate to be in the company of such great Americans.

I am also thankful for the many brave sailors that have come before me that paved the way for all of us on active duty today... like the brave airmen we are honoring.

I'd also like to give a warm and special welcome to the family members of those lost that are in attendance today. We appreciate your sacrifice and we value the service of your loved ones.

You might have noticed some sailors in flight suits in the audience. They represent each active Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron not currently deployed, stationed at NAS Whidbey Island. I asked them to wear flight suits in honor of all patrol and reconnaissance airmen past and present. Aviators wear flight suits, it is what we are most comfortable wearing, the bag as they are affectionately referred to is an important part of Naval Aviation and the evolution of the flight suit has a long history. It is part of our culture. I would like to extend a warm welcome to these great Americans serving their country today... in war time they are carrying on the tradition of excellence in combat.

And I believe that our record in combat is directly tied to the standards and traditions of excellence and bravery that squadrons like VP-2 set for us. The proud heritage and can do spirit of those that

came before us carries on in all of us. In 1943, VP-2 was engaging enemy submarines in the Caribbean. They were fitted with ground attack weapons for convoy protection and other related roles. In the 1950's VP-2 deployed to the Korean Theater of Operations, flying combat missions in support of the United Nations. In the 1960's they deployed to the combat zone in Southeast Asia.

As all this was happening a new threat emerged, Communism and with that Patrol Aviation expanded following World War II building a force capable of locating, tracking and, if needed kill an enemy submarine of any and all types no matter how sophisticated. The United States and its allies committed to preserving democracy not just at home but around the world. We saw an enemy capable of destroying the world and the submarine was one of the primary instruments.

It is not an understatement that Patrol Aviation's ability to conduct anti-submarine warfare at such a high level was a major contributing factor in our victory over the Soviet Union during the cold war. Long hours of patrol and monitoring, playing cat and mouse with the enemy submarines in the Greenland-Iceland-UK gap, off the eastern United States, in the Bering Straits and Sea of Japan, in the Mediterranean and anywhere we could chase the Russian Bear... wore the enemy down. monumental effort was a Navy mission and we did it well. The goal was to never let an enemy sub go undetected and unmonitored. This kind of effort requires skill, tenacity, perseverance arrogance. The kind of arrogance that comes from long hours of hard work by both maintainers who fix our aircraft and the aircrews who flew them. These people knew that they could prosecute and if needed kill the enemy when and if the order came, anytime, anywhere. In short, we were in our heyday and we won.

In the late 80's and early 90's the focus of patrol and reconnaissance aviation moved away from open ocean anti-submarine warfare and major Soviet fleet monitoring to a more littoral and overland operation as the Soviet bloc countries fragmented. And of course today we have a new enemy which manifested itself just over five years ago when they flew planes into buildings on our sovereign ground. Patrol and Reconnaissance crews are now chasing this enemy around the world.

Former Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral George Anderson, said "The Navy has both a tradition and future—and we look with pride and confidence in both directions." When I look in this audience, I see true warriors that set a proud tradition for the rest of us to follow. When I look at this statue I see a proud warrior from the past, but I also see the present day warrior in his face. No matter our rank, race or gender, we can all understand the look of determination, as well as the slight tired look from long hours of on station in less than ideal conditions, extreme cold, blazing heat, excessive vibration and the all night burners. But what shows the most is the pride in doing a job worth doing and doing it well. We are all connected through time to a common bond, Patrol Aviation and its superior record of accomplishment. We thank the brave airmen we honor today and the many others who came before us for setting the bar high.

Thanks to all of the veterans for showing their support today, as well as active duty members who could take time out from their busy schedules to show their support for the memorial. And as we leave here today, remember to occasionally look back as this statue does, to remember our lost shipmates. Thank you and may God bless Patrol and Reconnaissance Aviation and our fallen comrades and their families."

The Ship's Store

By Vic Gulliver

In the last Newsletter, we announced that it was too costly to

keep stocking all the sizes and colors of the shirts we were carrying. So, the decision was made to discontinue the sale of shirts in our Ship's Store, but to continue selling the other items that you are used to seeing in the store. Selling off our stock of shirts has gone very well. We only have a few sport shirts and sweatshirts left, all in the smaller sizes. We still have some T-shirts in all sizes. Since we have so few sizes and colors of shirts now in stock, it is a good idea to check with me or look on the website to see which shirts are still available before trying to place an order. We're keeping the availability numbers on the website for each item/size. If you don't have access to the website, call me and tell me what you want. (847) 296-6907. I'll let you know if we have it and what it would cost to buy it and ship it. We do have VP-2 ball caps and ladies visors, Zippo lighters with our patch on them, lapel pins, patches, coffee mugs and travel alarms/desk clocks in addition to the remaining shirts.

Notice - Notice - Notice

Dave Bowen announces that a DVD showing the construction of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial and highlights of the dedication ceremony on September 14 th is currently in production. The DVD is expected to be just over an hour in length and will be available for distribution shortly. At \$10.00 each, the DVD is priced only high enough to cover costs. There is an additional charge of \$2.50 for postage and packaging. You can order a copy now by mailing the order form below to Dave Bowen at 1376 West Beach Road, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 along with your check or money order. Credit cards cannot be accepted.			
clip here and please print clearly			
YES!! Please accept my order for a DVD of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial. I am enclosing a check or money order for \$12.50 to cover the cost of the DVD plus postage and packaging.			
Name:	_ Street Address:		
City: ZIP:_	State: Phone:		



The following editorial appeared in the Whidbey News-Times of September 20, 2006:

Great addition to our town

Congratulations to the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial Committee for its dedication and perseverance in its goal of erecting a memorial to Whidbey Island Naval Air Station's brave patrol squadrons.

All that dedication culminated Thursday when the memorial was unveiled at Veterans Park on Pioneer Way across from the Oak Harbor Campus of Skagit Valley College. A bronze statue of a squadron member will forever look out into Oak Harbor Bay over which patrol planes started flying back in the 1940's.

Committee members overcame some early skepticism from the city to receive permission to build the memorial in the park. There was some concern that it could set a precedent for others who want memorials for one reason or another to use public spaces. But supporters on the city council argued successfully that patrol squadrons are special and deserve special treatment. With a location settled, committee members dedicated themselves to the hard work of fund-raising to make the project a reality.

Patrol squadron crews risked their lives for decades, dueling with the Japanese in World War II and the Soviets, North Koreans and Red Chinese during the Cold War. Flying in some of the most dangerous and remote areas of the world, dozens gave their lives to protect their country, and they continue to risk their lives today. Many of their exploits can't be told due to the sensitive nature of their missions.

The memorial is a daily reminder of the sacrifices made by our Whidbey Island patrol squadrons, and a way to say "thank you" for services rendered. At the dedication ceremony, tears were visible in the eyes of many a gray-haired former patrol squadron member. Finally, they were being publicly thanked. For this, we can all thank the hard work of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial Committee.

The following also appeared in the Whidbey News-Times of September 20, 2006:

Details of bravery have vanished from the record

By Eileen Brown

Last week's dedication of the Patrol Squadron memorial on East Pioneer Way brought many veterans back to Oak Harbor, among them HOWARD QUISTORF of Spokane. The dashing 83-year-old was something of a war hero at Pearl Harbor, and didn't let the fact that all he got was a letter of appreciation keep him from serving 30 years.

He recalled that on that December morning in 1941 he was at work in the Armory when he heard an airplane go into a power dive.

"The engine noise was unfamiliar," he said, "and he just kept coming, like he was maybe out of control. He finally pulled up and the bombs he was carrying went off. Schrapnel went everywhere."

Those planes bore red suns on their undersides. This was war! Trying to run from one hangar to another without getting shot, he grabbed a set of truck keys and planned to go pick up some pilots. Instead, he watched as the stricken USS Utah rolled over as guys in their skivvies scrambled across the hull. Coming abreast of the USS Arizona, a powerful explosion killed the engine on the truck.

Enroute to the Armory, he rescued a 30-caliber aircraft machine gun from a stricken PBY Catalina. His plan was to turnbuckle a machine gun tripod to a pad eye in the ramp and return fire as the planes bombed and strafed. He settled down and didn't have to wait long for the second wave.

The Zeroes, freshly rearmed on their carriers, came right through the slot the first planes had taken. Quistorf stood brazenly at the middle of the Ford Island ramp and opened fire when the first aircraft closed to 100 feet, trying to hit a PBY pilot on the ground. A few bursts sent him crashing near the hospital. Another, using the same flight pattern, closed to 150 feet and again, Quistorf hit his mark.

"I know I hit two or three more planes, but I couldn't see where they went for the smoke."

He has tried to contact people who were with him that day to reconstruct the events, but seems resigned to the fact that the letter commending him for "shooting down 1 ½ aircraft" mysteriously disappeared from his service record. If any of our readers know how to initiate the process that would restore this information, please email me at lifeonwhidbey@yahoo.com.

Quistorf retired from the Navy as a Chief Warrant Officer with five battle stars in 1964. He spent his last shore duty at NAS Whidbey where he is credited with setting up the first Ground Support Division. These days, Quistorf and his companion Lorraine spend six months in Yuma, Ariz., and six months in Mead, Wash.

VP-2 REUNION 2006

From the Reunion Committee



The reunion is history and everyone now knows where Bow, Washington is located. The weather cooperated, the

Memorial Dedication was dynamite, only two visits to the ER, one gent left behind on a bus tour, and if anyone went home hungry, they just weren't paying attention. Many nice comments were heard; "Biggest and best ever", Had a grand time", "Plan to come back", "Great entertainment" and "Glad we came". The Reunion-Memorial coin was a big hit. All left-over coins were grabbed up at the spur-of-the-moment "garage sale" after the finale sit-down served banquet dinner and "Shifty Sailors" performance.

A dash of trivia: 304 registrations, Cost \$46,347, twenty one LATE registrations, six No-shows, several First-Timers and Refunds \$2,286.

We trust everyone had a safe journey home.

With Warm Regards and Best Wishes, Dave, Bob, Dottie, Pat, Esther, JJ, Harvey & Mary Lou

Special Note about Reunions

Dave Krogh has volunteered to serve on the Reunion Committee for the 2008 reunion planned for San Diego in 2008. We need a few more volunteers from the San Diego vicinity to help with that reunion. Contact Dave Krogh at (619) 427-2897 or dekrogh@sbcglobal.net or Floyd Palmer at (800) 903-9958 or plmf01@hickorytech.net. We need volunteers for every worthwhile thing we do.

For years, we have followed pretty much the same format for our reunions: home-based at a hotel with a ready room, a cocktail-hour reception the first day, business meeting combined with breakfast, brunch or lunch, a golf outing for those interested, a variety of excursions from which to choose, and a final-day banquet.

Many reunions have been four day events, while a few were three days in length.

We would be interested in hearing from members on whether they like that format or would like to see some changes to it. Send your comments to Vic Gulliver at <u>vicgulliver@comcast.net</u> or call him at (847) 296-6907.





As the war in Iraq continues, more of us encounter the loss of friends or loved ones. One of our shipmates, Mike Moreno (VP-2 '61-'64), lost a brother in the Vietnam War. Thirty-five years later, Mike's mother was asked about the impact the loss of this son had on her. She responded by writing the following poem which is printed here with the permission of the Moreno family.

"Elegy for a Son"

Yes, we grieve In the stillness of the night Echoes the silent primal howl of rage and refusal to believe.

In private moments of the day to day We weep our quiet tears Sorrow does not lessen with the passage of the years.

Oh, yes, we weep and hide our desolation with words like duty, gallantry and pride.

Still we cry:

For the bright, sweet child who was, We cry.

For the valiant man he became, We cry.

For the man he would have been, We cry.

We grieve, With dry and stinging eyes We weep tears that can't relieve.

For his loneliness, his fear, his pain Knowing our aching, empty arms Cannot hold him close again. We cry.

But for the solace that it gives, In the love he left for us in our care, And in his memory we'll forever share, Still he lives – Eternity his legacy. EE Moreno

haplain's Corner – Doug Millar



We're heading into the Christmas season and soon we'll be hearing much about "Peace on Earth, goodwill to men." I don't believe that I have ever met a person who did not want world peace. We

continue to hear news daily about the human losses in Iraq, and we yearn to have it over – to have peace in Iraq, to have peace everywhere, to have a world at peace!

But what about "Peace on Earth, goodwill to men?" Wasn't baby Jesus born on the Earth to live here thirty-three years for just that reason?

History makes it clear that there was no peace on Earth during Christ's thirty-three years of human life, nor has there ever been any lasting peace from that day to this. It is recorded in Luke, chapter 12, verses 51-53, that as Jesus was teaching one day to a crowd he said, "Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division." Then He went on to explain that His life would result in divisions within families (over who He really was), rather than peace. (Check it out. This is also described in Matthew, chapter 10.) Old Testament prophesies do tell us that a time is coming, still in the future, when Christ will return to the Earth and rule over the Earth for 1000 years. It will be a time of total peace and is described as a time when the "lion will lie down with the lamb," and people will "hammer their swords (weapons) into plowshares."

So what is it that was being offered to human beings by the birth, life, and death of Christ?

The answer is personal peace -- peace that is available to each of us as we live our daily lives. It is the kind of peace that allows us to be at rest in the midst of life's storms, not just during the calms. It is peace - when a loved one has just died, or when our wife has been diagnosed with cancer, or when our child is suffering through a miserable marriage, or when our pension fund suddenly disappears. It is peace in our minds, when we stop to consider eternity and where we will spend it. Christ offers this kind of peace to those who accept and follow Him. Through His death He took the rap for our

failures, thus making peace between a holy, perfect God and sinful people. Now He offers personal peace to us through the work of His invisible Holy Spirit, who will come and reside within each of our lives if we will only invite Him to do so.

This all sounds very deep and theological, but in reality is it very simple. This is what Christmas is all about – peace on Earth and goodwill to men! World peace will come someday, but personal peace is available to each of us right now. All we have to do is ask God for forgiveness of our past, want to follow Him in the future, and allow Him into our lives. If we do, it will be our best Christmas ever.

Jesus Christ said, "In Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16, verse 33)



Merry Christmas to you all!

In Memoriam

We have lost the following squadron mates since the last newsletter:

Edwin Payne (29 May 06)
Lyle E. Rose (1 Jun 06)
Leonard Luedke (25 Jul 06)
Ellen Miyagawa (22 Jun 06)***
Earl Travis (May 04)
Verna Mae Murias (Sept 04)***
Elena Smith (Sept 06)***
Ronald Corder (Oct 06)
*** Wives of former squadron mates***

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

Membership

The VP-2 Association is pleased to welcome the following new members who joined the Association this year:

#525	Robert Beranek (Vi)	1952-1954
#526	Joe Hopson (June)	1959-1963
#527	Robert Eccles (Tina) son of Robert Eccles	
#528	Harold Picard (Patricia)	1959-1961
#529	Virgil Pattin	1968-1969
#530	Jerry Mann (BJ)	1952-1955
#531	Bill Gutteron (Dana)	1964-1967
#532	Allen Gates (Marlene)	1965-1967
#533	John Nichols (Judy)	1954-1958
#534	Vincent McManus	1961-1964
#535	Frank Marsh (Theresa)	1955-1957
#536	Robert Coker (Judith)	1967-1969
#537	James Moody (Jeanette)	1966-1968
#538	Raleigh Chastine (Patricia)	1968-1969
#539	Joseph Yaross (Gail)	1966-1969
#540	Daniel Tabizon (Margie)	1968-1969
#541	Lee Politica (Helen)	1952-1954
#542	Charles Anderle (Dolores)	1964-1966
#543	Bill Blackburn (Barbara)	1953-1956
#544	Robert Luce (Janice)	1963-1966
#545	Alpheus Smith (Patricia)	1966-1969
#546	George Clapper (Peggy)	1950-1953
#547	Chuck Schwaebe (Pat)	1963-1965
#548	Tammy McIntire (Michael) daughter	of Lloyd Olds
#549	Dan Esposito (Heather)	1962-1965
#550	Harry Baus	1956-1959
#551	Lewis Wasicki (Mary)	1966-1968
#552	Hilliard McDonald(Lynnette)	1958-1962
#553	Rose Noel	1957-1960.

Take Note.....



It has come to our attention that Elizabeth Chruma beat Rick Dombrowski at cribbage at the reunion in Bow, WA.



VP-2 Association Officers

and Appointed Personnel



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"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



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 personnel, 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

