

December 2016

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Officers

President –
Greg Kelley

1st VP –
Dino Vlahakis

2nd VP –
Jim Welch

Director –
Vic Gulliver

Director –
Nick Niccum

Director –
Floyd Palmer

**Secretary/
Treasurer**
Bob Behrend



VP-2 THE NEPTUNE

A Message from the President

What a wonderful reunion. Thanks go to Nick and Lynda Niccum, Dave and Connie Bowen and Bob and Pat Wolfe for all their hard work and attention to detail to make this happen. Bravo Zulu. It was great to return for a visit. Some live here, others have visited for past reunions and for some this may have been the first time back. My wife Sue, came back for the first time since March 1966 and my last visit was 1975. The memories are great, and seeing the WPSM was awesome. We had 170 for the banquet. It was such a delight to see so many attending, including several of the new members attending their first VP 2 Reunion. We also were able to honor some of the members who date back to the earlier squadron patch. It was also a pleasure to be able to honor Doug Donohue for his years of service and contributions to the association. The full report from the committee is later in the newsletter, as well as the reunion photos by Dino Vlahakis. Thanks, Dino, for capturing the event.

A year ago we asked for more bios, with limited response. This is an opportunity to leave history and share our experiences with the other members. Please read the repeated article on Page 3, and send something to Doug for inclusion on the website.

If you can provide an email address, as requested by Bob Behrend in his report, you will get your newsletter sooner and it will be in color. The photos in this issue really aren't the same in black and white. You will also save us money and labor for printing and mailing. For those receiving the newsletter by email, there is an extra page listing members we do not have email addresses for. If you know any of these, let Bob know.

We agreed to have the 2018 reunion in San Diego. We need help to make this happen. Be sure to read the help wanted notice on page 6.

We welcome the following new members since the last newsletter. Great to have them aboard. #609 - Ted Sager (61-65), #610 - Ken and Yvonne Shutt (65-69), #611 - Bob and Margie McLaughlin (65-68) and #612 - Steve and Nancy Green (62-64)

We look forward to seeing each other again, and hopefully those who could not be in Oak Harbor, at the 2018 reunion in San Diego. Stay tuned for details.

As the year comes to a close, Sue and I wish you very happy holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.



Letter from a PV 1 Member

Greetings former Airdales

My membership in the VP 2 Neptune originated when VB -130 was included in the Neptune Society. As a former member of VB-130, Ventura PV-1 Squadron, 1944-1945, serving in So. Pacific, Philippines, Moratia, Celebes Islands.

I crewed 45 missions as plane captain, returned stateside 1945. Assigned Hutchison, Ks. for retraining on PB4Y-2. After VJ day I was re-assigned to USS Norton Sound AV-11, PBM aircraft for first exploration to Polar area, 1946 reassigned to reserve training center Los Alamitos NAS. Separated US Navy, enlisted USAF 452nd Bomb Wing B-26 aircraft

The Korean War started, spent 2 years in Korea, 3rd Bomb group. Returned stateside for transition to F-86. Reassigned Europe US NATO forces 1954-1958. Returned stateside to March AF Base duty on B-47 aircraft. Reassigned Vandenberg AFB duty on ATLAS, ICBM series missile.

Separated 1964. Had a wonderful career, saw most of the world, and two World Fairs' Lost alot of friends, and have a locker full of memories. I would enjoy hearing from any old PV-1 members.

Bless those still aboard.

John Wallenburg (wallfish@q.com)

189 Wilma lane

Grants Pass, OR 97526

Who is a voting member? by Vic Gulliver

Can Spouses Vote in our Business Meetings?

There might have been some confusion at our reunion business meeting on the issue of voting. The question was whether or not spouses of members are allowed to vote in our meetings. The short answer is "yes they are." Here is the background on that:

The VP-2 Association is a veterans' charitable organization with tax advantages as defined by the IRS. To obtain and keep that status, our membership must consist of at least 90% war veterans. We do meet that standard. Our Association by-laws define members as "those persons who have served in Patrol Squadron Two and who are either veterans or war veterans as defined by IRC 170(c)(3)." Our by-laws also define Affiliated Persons as "family members of veterans and other persons of high moral character who have an abiding interest in supporting the purpose of the Association." Our by-laws stipulate that "Affiliated Persons may be invited by the Executive Board to participate as members."

So, while spouses are not officially "members" of the Association, spouses have been invited to participate as members in such matters as attendance at reunions, voting in business meetings, and in whatever else the members do. Spouses of active members do not pay separate dues, and widows of former members do not pay dues.

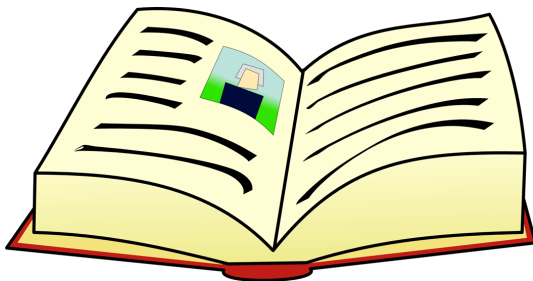
Would you like a patio brick at the WPSM.?



The Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial is complete and has been turned over to the City of Oak Harbor. We have been advised that no new bricks may be added and this may still be the case, however several members have expressed an interest in having one added, if it is found to be feasible, either as an addition or because they were not aware when the original bricks were ordered. Joe Gleason has volunteered to work with Oak Harbor to try to add additional "bricks". Costs will not be known until the feasibility of adding has been established. If you are interested, please contact Joe at Josephgleason1@verizon.net so he will know the level of interest.

This is a reprint but Bios are still needed. It is our history

VP-2 Autobiographies



Several years ago, the VP-2 Association began collecting the autobiographies of any members who were willing to write them down. The program started off with a bang, and then we sort of forgot about it, and the bios stopped coming in. You probably remember that a biography is a person's history that is written by someone else. An autobiography is written by the person in question.

The reason for collecting the bios is to display them on the VP-2 Association website for anyone to read. Our friends want to know more about how we spent our lives. But perhaps more importantly, we have visitors to our website who want to learn more about navy life or squadron life or how we contributed to military history and national security.

Our VP-2 website is like a time capsule that people can read to better understand who we were and what we did maybe long after we're gone. We did some important stuff both in the navy and after we left the navy. It can be interesting reading to someone in today's world who knows nothing about camaraderie and teamwork and selfless devotion to duty.

We would like as many of our members as possible to write their bios and submit them to Doug Donohue for posting on the website. We want to hear why you came into the navy, what you did in the navy, and what you did after you left the navy. No swear words. Don't worry about spelling... we have autocorrect to fix any mistakes.

Don't include personal stuff like address, phone number, etc. There is no particular format needed. Take a look at the great bios on the website now to see the many different ways a bio can be constructed. Humor is okay. Include a couple of photos if you can. Do take this to heart and start writing while you still remember stuff.

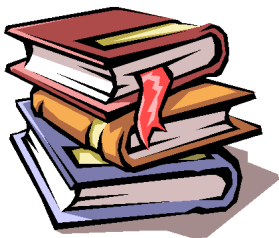
Scholarships



The Patrol Squadron Two Association now sponsors five scholarships. After we completed the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial, we funded two scholarships through MOAA (Military Officers Association of America). Last year we established scholarships at Hillsdale College and at College of the Ozarks. Ozarks elected to provide two scholarships to help pay for books. The others are granted for general college needs.

Our 2015 **MOAA Scholarship Students**, Carolina Phillips and John Cook were granted a renewal. John, our scholarship awardee last year from **Hillsdale College** also had his scholarship renewed. They are all appreciative of the assistance the association has provided.

The following excerpts are from thank you notes received from the first recipients from the College of the Ozarks.



I am a junior criminal justice and business major from Montgomery, Texas. This scholarship is beneficial to me for several reasons. First, it will help me get the best books for my education. Second, this scholarship is a tremendous blessing financially. Books can be very expensive, raising stress levels as I try to pay the sometimes hefty bills. However, this scholarship will help me stay focused on school and give me the materials I otherwise could not afford.

Thank you again for this incredible scholarship. Your donation challenges me to work hard in school to make the most of every opportunity I am given.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Saltarelli

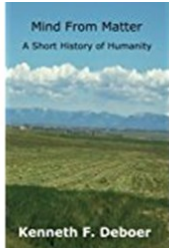
I am majoring in human and molecular biology at College of the Ozarks. Currently, I am president of the Pre-Med Club, vice president of Sigma Eta Honor Society, and a member of the Biology Club. This is my last year at the college and my plans are to go to medical school and eventually pursue a degree in the neurosciences. The past year I applied to thirteen medical schools; unfortunately this was highly expensive. Consequently I was worried how I would pay for every day necessities while I studied this semester. The Patrol Squadron Two scholarship will allow me to buy my textbooks this semester without having to worry about how I will fund my applications and medical school expenses.

Sincerely,

Hunter Sheckley



VP 2 Author *by Greg Kelley*



Our very own Ken Deboer (63-66) has recently had his book published. I found it interesting and informative. The title is " Mind from Matter; A Short History of Humanity". If you are interested, it may be purchased from Amazon.com.

Treasurer's

Notes

By Bob Behrend



We need your help. If you are receiving your Newsletter in print form, it means the Association doesn't have your email address. The Association is moving to email transmission of the Association newsletter. If you have an email address please send it to me at the address below. This will reduce a burden on the Association treasury as well as the work load to send it out.

For those of you receiving your newsletter via email, remember, the date your dues expire will only be available on the roster page of the Association website, or you can email me and I will provide your dues status.

If you have questions concerning your dues status email me at:

behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com

If you owe current or back dues please send a check made out to VP-2 Association and mail it to me:

VP-2 Association
98-1820 P Kaahumanu Street
Pearl City, HI 96782-1882

Widows of VP-2 vets are exempt from dues.

Lastly, please maintain current contact information with the Association. If you have moved or changed some other part of your current contact information, let me know by the email address above, or call 808-455-7670.

Reunion 2016

Well the 2016 Oak Harbor reunion is now part of our history. Judging from the many positive comments received by our committee members it was enjoyed by all. We had originally planned for the week after Labor Day, but, early on we considered the weather factor and moved the date to the week before Labor Day to give us the best possibility of good weather. It turned out to be the right decision as the weekend after Labor Day was a bit cool. The only clash we had with the weather was on the last Deception Pass tour boat ride which good naturedly, got a bit wet. The bus we chartered, however, was on hand near the dock with a heated bus, when they arrived back and whisked them away to the Best Western, arriving earlier than planned. Otherwise, the weather was spectacular. To recap the activities, we had a base tour of NAS Whidbey where we were able to tour the new multi-million dollar P-8 training facility, plus a tour of the Patrol Squadron flight line where we climbed on board a P-3 Orion escorted by current crew members. After a wonderful lunch at the Officers Club and an excellent talk by Commodore Mietus from the Wing, we proceeded to Oak Harbor to visit the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial on it's 10th anniversary and revisit old squadron mates remembered there. It was then onto the PBY museum. The PBY museum includes a partially restored PBY which we were able to climb aboard and look around. You think the P2V was cramped, try on a PBY. Saturday included an option to visit WWI Fort Casey and the Admiralty Head Lighthouse, then board the ferry to Port Townsend across the Sound for lunch and then back to visit Coupeville with optional wine tasting before returning to the Best Western. The second option was a bus ride to Paine Field to visit the Flying Heritage Collection of vintage aircraft, tanks and vehicles, have lunch, and then take the Boeing 747/787 Dreamliner factory tour. Simply amazing. Sunday included a worship service conducted by our own Chaplain Doug Millar. Then we were off for a catered picnic at Bowman Bay and boat tours of the Deception Pass waters where we all learned a little about the history of the area and it's abundant wildlife. Of course Sunday night was the gala banquet which was held at the Elks Club. The local NJROTC unit posted the colors for us and a young 13 year old girl was invited to sing our national anthem. She did a marvelous job and the attendees at the banquet joined in with her for the final chorus. Entertainment by a marvelous local group, The Shifty Sailors, was enjoyed by all with the evening concluding with dancing to music provided by a DJ who played just the right music. All in all, we think a great time was had by all.

Our honoree for this reunion was Doug Donohue who through years of effort and commitment has provided the VP-2 Association with what is probably one of the best web sites of any military organization and kept the Association's accounts in order. Doug was honored at the association board meeting and at the VP-2 Association business meeting. On behalf of everyone in the association we extend again our gratitude for Doug's efforts and monumental accomplishments. Thank you Doug.

The turn out for the reunion was much better than we had anticipated with 170 attending the Sunday evening banquet. We had several individuals or couples who were attending their very first reunion. Many said upon departing, "See you in San Diego". So if you didn't attend this one, we think you missed a good one.

And now on to the 2018 reunion which was voted to be held in the San Diego area. We are still waiting for someone to step up and volunteer to take the helm. It's not too soon to start the planning.

Your 2016 Reunion committee.

Reunion 2018 San Diego

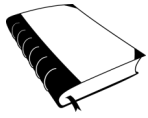


In Oak Harbor, we decided on having the next reunion In San Diego in 2018. Unfortunately we did not hear from a volunteer or volunteers to host. We hope those in the general area might consider this and step up. If not, we may have to retain a reunion planner to put this together. If you are unable to host but know of other reunions that have been in San Diego and used a planner, can you provide a recommendation (good or bad)? We want to be sure this is another memorable time









Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

Greetings! It was great to be with many of you at our reunion last August at Whidbey. A good time was had by all and if you missed it we hope you can make the next one in 2018.

Shortly after the reunion my wife and I had the pleasure of going to England for a few days in London, followed by a few days in Cornwall. At the end of that visit we did something which has been on my "Bucket List" for many years - that being to get on a ship in Southampton, England, and cross the Atlantic Ocean to New York. So on October 18 we boarded the Queen Mary 2 and transited to the US. My father had immigrated to the US through Ellis Island in 1904 and I had always wanted to follow the path of that crossing.

As you can imagine, everything on the QM2 was beautiful and extremely well done. I'm sure that our accommodations had no semblance whatsoever to those that my dad experienced, to say nothing of the food. Believe it or not, there was no battleship gray paint anywhere!

There were many highlights on that crossing, but for us one of the most memorable was the Sunday morning interdenominational church service held onboard and attended by a large number of passengers. The service was led in its entirety by the Captain of the ship, a long time sailor with the Cunard Line. He began the service by saying, "Holding Sunday morning services is a tradition in the Royal Navy that goes back to the days of sail. The Captain of the ship was not only responsible for the safety and discipline of the entire crew, but also for the spiritual lives of the men. Therefore, due to the fact that the ships did not carry a priest, it was the responsibility of the captain to conduct Christian services for the crew. It is a tradition which carries on today and is honored here on the Cunard Line." He went on to conduct a full service with many hymns, prayers, and scripture lessons. Very interesting to me is the fact that the English are not afraid to pray in the name of Jesus, nor to talk about Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Obviously they don't have the ACLU in England!

Upon our arrival in New York my wife and I went to Ellis Island (in the middle of New York Harbor just next to the Statue of Liberty). The entire island has been turned into a national monument and the facilities have been restored to be as they were in the early 1900s. It became very clear that this port of embarkation into the US was not only a place of joy and freedom for many, but also a point of extreme heartbreak and sorrow for others who were refused entry due to their health, and returned back to Europe as separated and broken families. Can you imagine the crushing emotional blow that this was to so many of those people, who after years of dreaming and saving to go to America found themselves being rejected and turned back to their lives of suffering?

Perhaps you have suffered such a blow - through the loss of a spouse, or the rejection of a lover, or perhaps a financial setback of monumental proportions, or the loss of your health and mobility. I'm sure that many of those who were turned back from Ellis Island fell back on their faith in Jesus Christ to help them through such terrible times.

Christ is just as available today for us in our times of need (as well as plenty) as He was then. The Bible tells us, **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."** (Hebrews 13:8) Christ also said, **"Come unto me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."** (Matthew 11:28) Whether we are in good times or horrible times in our personal lives, Christ is yearning for us to come to Him. **"Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near."** (Isaiah 55:6) So often I find that the last thing that I do when I am upset over something is to take it to the Lord in prayer. Let's endeavor to turn to Him more easily - whether in times of need, or times of gratitude.

Christmas is soon upon us. Have a most blessed season!

In Memoriam

We have learned of the loss of the following association member since our reunion:

Robert Martin Coker (squadron 67-69)

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel, please advise Bob Behrend at behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com

VP-2 Association Officers & Appointments

President	Greg Kelley 274 Plantation Rd. Houston, TX 77024 713-419-5799 gregnsue@sbcglobal.net
1st Vice President	Dino Vlahakis 54 Westview Lane, Lebanon, NH 03766 603-448-3729 cg601@comcast.net
2nd Vice President	Jim Welch 8601 Terrell Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76182 817-788-2204 japwelch751@gmail.com
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert Behrend 98-1820 Kaahumanu St. Apt P, Pearl City, HI 96782 808-455-7670 behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com
Director	Vic Gulliver 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60026 847-296-6907 vicgulliver@comcast.net
Director	Nick Niccum 18821 185th Ave. NE, Woodinville, WA 98077 425-788-9834 nickniccum@hotmail.com
Director	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Ct., Mankato, MN 56001 507-327-6761 floydp@palmerbusservice.com
Website Coordinator	Doug Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410 775-781-3737 nvsoar@charter.net
Association Chaplain	Doug Millar 12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 509-888-1910 dna@dnamillar.com
Association Historian	Skip Forseth 2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062 650-365-2806 p2flyer@pacbell.net
Association Parliamentarian	Bob Bender 197 Mill Pond Drive, Middleville, MI 49333 616-450-6790 bobender@yahoo.com
Membership Chairman	Bob Champoux 286 145 th Place SE, Bellevue, WA 98007 425-502-9883 rchampoux@comcast.net

**LOOKING TO SHARE
INFORMATION
IN THE
VP 2 NEPTUNE
NEWSLETTER?**



If any of our members would
like to contribute news,
thoughts,
experiences, etc.,

Email:
Greg Kelley
gregnsue@sbcglobal.net



Oak Harbor 2016 Reunion
What a great time!

Patrol Squadron Two Association
98-1820 Kaahumanu St Apt P
Pearl City HI 96782-1882



We're on the Web

<http://www.patron2.com/>