

VP-2- The Neptune

Volume 1, Issue 19

June 2010

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I wonder how many of our Association members are aware that the Centennial celebration marking the 100th year of naval aviation will begin in January 2011, just shortly after our reunion in Pensacola. None of us were around in those early days of naval aviation, but many of our members came into the Navy and served in VP-2 in the first half of the history of naval aviation. Lots of changes have taken place in the Navy since we served. In a way, those serving now might think of us as pioneers from the "early" days of naval aviation. How old does that make you feel?

Speaking of Pensacola, our reunion committee is hard at work making the preparations for our arrival in November. There is more in this Newsletter about the reunion, including how to sign up for it if you haven't done so already. We have a good sized group signed up, but there is always room for more. Reunions are all about getting together with old friends, so the more of you who attend, the better time we will all have. Look over the list of those planning to attend. If you don't see the names of some old friends from VP-2, contact them and find out why they haven't registered yet. (The list in this Newsletter was valid as of May 1st when the Newsletter went to press. It is likely out of date by now.) We are showing a list of attendees on the website at www.patron2.com, which is updated monthly through October.

One last important point to consider about the reunion: We will be in Pensacola on the day of our national elections. Those attending the reunion should consider making arrangements to vote early or by absentee ballot. Vic from Chicago says "vote early and vote often."

We have some important business to discuss at the reunion business meeting, including the election of officers for the Association, and picking a location for our reunion in 2012. There is more on these subjects elsewhere in this Newsletter. Both of these matters require volunteers. Anything the VP-2 Association does, requires volunteers. Are you ready to step up?

We have some new members since our last Newsletter. Welcome to new members #572 Ken and Diana Covey ('65-'67) of Kasilof, AK, #573 Rod and Janet Peterson ('62-'63) of Meridian, ID, #574 Jim and Janice Enoch ('62-'63) of Dandridge, TN, #575 Bill and Heidi Pruitt ('66-'69) of Port St. Lucie, FL, #576 William and Kay O'Dell ('53-'56) from Winter Park, FL and #577 Stephen and Mary Vavrick ('67-'68) of Woodbridge, VA. I hope to be able to introduce them to our Association in Pensacola.

As I usually do, I want to take the time to thank our men and women in uniform for their service to our country. This is a difficult time for our military service members who have arduous duties in many different parts of the world. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their service and for their sacrifices in our behalf.

Lois and I are looking forward to seeing you all (or y'all) in Pensacola.

Floyd D. Palmer
Association President



Officers:

President – Floyd D. Palmer

1st VP – Dino Vlahakis

2nd VP – Al Hall

Director – Vic Gulliver

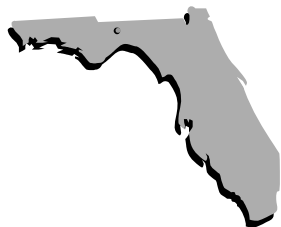
Director – Milt DeBuhr

Director – Jim Welch

Secretary/Treasurer –

Doug Donohue





VP-2 Reunion - Pensacola ● November 1-5, 2010

By Jim Summitt

HILTON PENSACOLA BEACH GULF FRONT

Hotel reservations are the responsibility of each individual. The December 2009 Newsletter had all of the information you need to close that loop. Don't wait until the last minute and, if you have any problems, contact Jim Summitt at (850) 729-6945 or summittk@cox.net.

REUNION ITINERARY

- Monday, Nov. 1: Check in; evening welcoming reception.
- Tuesday, Nov. 2: Excursion to the Blue Angel Practice, Aviation Museum and optional sightseeing.
- Wednesday, Nov 3: Association business meeting/luncheon; free PM.
- Thursday, Nov 4: Sightseeing during the day; evening Banquet.
- Friday, Nov 5: Duty room open until 10:00 am; Hotel checkout by 11:00 am.

PLEASE NOTE! ATTENTION! EVERYONE!

The Registration Form has been modified to include additional important items, as follows:

Special Excursion (Optional): The Committee has contracted with Beach Bum Trolley, LLC to provide a very attractive package for the excursion to the Blue Angel Practice and Aviation Museum on Tuesday, November 2nd at a cost of \$44.00 per person.

IT IS OPTIONAL.

YOU MUST SIGN UP & PAY IN ADVANCE - BUT I STRONGLY RECOMMEND IT. IT IS A BARGAIN!

- Transportation from the hotel directly to reserved seating on the flight line for the Blue Angel practice show. May be the only way you will get reserved seating!!!
- Transportation to the Aviation Museum
- Guided tour of the Naval Aviation Museum
- Guided tour of the flight line where dozens of old planes including the famous Truculent Turtle (P2V-1) and a P2V-7
- Lunch at the Cubi Bar inside the Museum
- IMAX movie
- Transportation back to the hotel
- Handicapped in wheel chairs can be handled

Name Badges: We require some information from those who need name badges. Of course, we will have an adequate supply of "2010 Reunion" bars to add to the name badges of attendees at previous reunions.

VP-2 Reunion 2010 Final Registration Form

Initial Registration or Deposit Only: I (we) plan to attend the VP-2 Reunion in Pensacola, November 1-5, 2010. I am enclosing a check for a \$30.00 per person deposit or \$140 per person final payment.

Squadron Mate: _____ Years in VP-2 _____ - _____

Accompanying Spouse (partner) _____

Final Payment: I have already registered. I am enclosing a check for the balance remaining on my reunion fees.

Squadron Mate: _____ Payment \$ _____

Please forward by 1 August 2010. This will provide an accurate count on the number of attendees the hotel will need to accommodate our meetings, meals and rooms!

Special Excursion to Blue Angel Practice & Aviation Museum (Optional): Please sign me up for the Beach Bum Trolley Excursion, November 2nd. I am enclosing a check for \$44 per person (may be included in the fee check above, if desired)

Squadron Mate: _____

Number _____ x \$44 = \$ _____

Mail your check, made out to VP-2 Reunion 2010 to: Jim Summitt, PO Box 250, Niceville, FL 32588-0250. Questions: (850)729-6945, summittk@cox.net

Name Badges: If you need a name badge, provide the following information:

First Name (or nick name), Last Name (please print)

Squadron Mate _____ Spouse (partner) _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, November 2 is Election Day. Please remember to vote either early or by absentee ballot.
- Options for transportation from the airport to the hotel. There are many shuttle options in the Pensacola area which you can research on the internet, if desired. They are all within the same price range. Here are our suggestions.

Shuttle Type (up to 10 passengers)

Beach Bum Trolley, LLC, (850)941-2876 or (888)462-1026 toll free

Request 48 hours prior

Use Airport Transportation Request on

www.beachbumtrolley.com

Cost is \$35 for up to 4 passengers

Up to 6 additional passengers at \$6 each

Drivers accept Mastercard and Visa

Regular taxi (up to 3 passengers) \$31-32

- Pictures to Bob Casey. We will again try to put together a slide show covering VP-2 history and previous reunions. Anyone who has pictures to share (must be digitalized), send them along with appropriate annotation to Bob Casey at email address spec439@yahoo.com
- The check-in packet will have a Naval Air Station MWR information sheet. If you are interested in using the base golf course, you might want to call ahead of time. They have a restaurant serving breakfast and lunch. Phone (A.C. Read Golf Club): (850)452-3859.
- The check-in packet will have a Pensacola Beach information sheet listing the restaurants and activities close to the Hilton Hotel including the Fort Pickens National Park.
- The Hilton has more than adequate free parking.
- Late sign-ups and/or payments (after August 1) will be accepted but the reunion cost for being late will include an extra \$20 late fee for a total of \$160 per person.
- Refunds: In general, those who register for the reunion, but who are unable to attend, will be eligible for a refund of their registration fees, minus the \$30 per person non-refundable deposit, if they notify the reunion committee before October 30th of their inability to attend. Hotel reservations must be cancelled separately. Refunds will be issued when the reunion financial books are closed after the reunion.

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS:

Call Jim Summitt (850)729-6945 or email summittk@cox.net

SEE YOU IN PENSACOLA!!!!



Stuff to Think About

Betsy and Jimmy Pugh submitted the following :

- Have you ever noticed that it's much easier to form an opinion when you don't have all the facts?
- There's a big difference between good sound reasons and reasons that sound good.
- Today's Dad wants his son to have all the things he never had... like all A's on the report card.
- The guy who thinks he knows it all is especially annoying to those of us who do.
- Nobody has ever been bored by someone paying them a compliment.
- The best way to keep from stepping on other people's toes is to put yourself in their shoes.
- Folks who don't know anything ought to keep it to themselves.
- When your Congressman says there's nothing to worry about, somebody had better start worrying about him.
- Insanity is hereditary. You get it from your kids.

THE FOLLOWING ASSOCIATION MEMBERS HAVE REGISTERED TO ATTEND THE PENSACOLA REUNION:

Last Name	First Name	Partner	Yrs VP2	Last Name	First Name	Partner	Yrs VP2
ARNOLD	John	Joyce	64-67	KOSAKOSKI	Bob	Rosemary	67-69
BEHREND	Robert	Sue	63-66	KOSBAB	Neil	Linnea	56-59
BENDER	Robert	Carolyn	61-64	KROGH	Dave	Phyllis	56-59
BIGGERS	Newt	Carol Ann	67-68	LEE	Ira	Ellen	57-59
BOWEN	David	Connie	62-65	LEIS	John		46-50
BOWMAN	Thomas	Arlene	62-64	LOBERGER	James	Beverly	62-64
BROWN	Joseph "JJ"	Esther	58-60	LYFORD	Howard	Bonnie	55-58
BROWN	Charles		67-69	MASSEY	Luther	Linda	67-69
CASEY	Robert		58-59	MICHEL	David	Dorothy	58-62
CHAMPOUX	Robert	Myrna	67-69	MILLAR	Douglas	Anne	62-65
COKER	Robert		67-69	MORAN	Thomas	Barbara	56-59
COVEY	Kenneth	Diana	65-67	MORGAN	JT	Janice E Henry	60-63
COWEN	Wayne	Shirley	64-66	O'GARA	Mike	Barbara	57-59
CRIPPEN	James	Jo	61-63	PALMER	Floyd	Lois	61-64
DANDO	Meryl		58-62	PARKS	Robert		67-69
DAVEY	Daniel	Juana	60-62	PORTERFIELD	Gary	Lynda	63-65
DEBOER	Kenneth	Cathy	64-66	PRUETT	William	Heidi	67-69
DEBUHR	Milt	June	61-64	RHODES	Thomas		62-65
DONOHUE	Doug		59-62	ROGSTAD	Allen	Shirley	67-68
EASON	William		56-59	RUSSELL	Jerry	Sharon	61-65
EDWARDS	William	Barbara	56-59	RYAN	Joseph	Joyce	58-59
ESTEP	Hubert	Lucy	55-57	SATTERWHITE	William	Marilyn	62-65
FARWELL	Patricia		55-59	SCHNEIDER	Edward	Jane	61-64
FLYNN	Maynard	Sharon	67-69	SEEBALD	John	Suzanne	57-59
FORSETH	"Skip"	Kathy	67-69	SOMMER	Marvin	Carolyn	54-57
GLEASON	Joseph	Joan	60-63	STARK	Richard	Candace	65-67
GULLIVER	Victor	Pat	59-63	SUMMITT	James	Eileen	56-59
GUTER	Richard	Barbara	61-63	TATE	Thompson	Juanita	54-57
HAMILTON III	Arley	Ann	56-59	TERRY	Ronnie	Kathy	65-68
HAND	Ernest	Anne	59-61	TUCKER	Joseph	Rosemary	62-64
HANSON	Donald	Fay	58-61	VAUGHAN	Kenneth	Becky	68-69
HARTSAW	Dave	Regina Sue	56-58	VEATCH	Philip	Ruth	61-63
HENRY	Glenn	Judy	55-58	VLAHAKIS	Dino		59-61
HERMAN	Harry		58-59	WALKER	Bruce	Mary Jo	56-59
HOWARD	Bert	Mary Anne	68-69	WALSH	Russell	Peggy	62-65
JENISTA	George	Pat	56-59	WATERS	Ronald	Judy	57-60
JOHNSON	Billie	Patricia	66-67	WELCH	Jim	Pat	56-58
KELLEY	Greg	Sue	63-66	WOLF	Ronald	Jeanette	63-66
KLETT	William	Julie Ann	59-61	WOLFE	Robert	Pat	64-66



TREASURER'S NOTES

BY DOUG DONOHUE

January 2010 marked the beginning of another biennium in the annals of the Patrol Squadron Two Association. Looking back over the years - Frank Hart made the pitch for our association at the NAS Whidbey Island Chief's Club in 1986, two years after the first get-together of VP-2 veterans, and thus the association was formed. (See the report at http://www.patron2.com/files/reunions/r_1986.html.) We have managed to hold a reunion every two years since, with the 2010 Pensacola get-together the fourteenth gathering where those who have participated in the VP-2 experience are seen standing around enjoying one another's company, telling a bunch of lies, and inspecting the effects of gravity. Along the way the association has published a biannual newsletter for several years, sponsored the construction of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial, and donated funds sufficient to support two perpetual undergraduate college scholarships. What a great bunch of folks. I am proud to be part of the VP-2 family. Thank you all!

A call for dues donations to support association operations is made at the beginning of each even numbered year to all who still have \$20 to spare in their pockets. Those concerned with their dues status can find that information on the mailing label of the newsletter, on the roster page of the website, or by getting in touch with me. My contact info is in the newsletter and on the website.

Many thanks to all those who continue to support the association through their dues and other donations. Association cash expenses continue to be very low, and in-kind donations pick up what would otherwise be significant drains on the treasury.

Please remember to keep your contact information current..

All the best from Nevada, Doug



High Quality Photos Needed

Doug Donohue received a letter from Baldur Sveinsson of Iceland. For those not familiar with Mr. Sveinsson, he maintains what is probably the most extensive collection of P2V photographs on his website at www.verslo.is/baldur/p2. He is seeking additional photographs of P2V's with the natural metal finish (unpainted), which he believes were assigned only to VP-2 and VP-11 (east coast). These might be P2V-5's or P2V-7's. First of all, visit his website and you will probably be able to see photos of the planes you used to fly or maintain.

Secondly, if you have any high quality photos that he could use, particularly of natural metal finish P2V's, send them on to him at baldur@verslo.is



The following provided by Leigh Callaway:

Attached perhaps for the Association archives – Crew 12's formal designation as Alfa Crew about Mar 1969 on the ramp at NS Sanglely Pt., Philippines.

PPC Richard L. Lanning, Tacco Edward F. Cox, Co-pilot Ronald F. Belanger. PP3P/Nav Leigh Callaway, Jez Operator AW1 D.E.Westrick, MAD Operator AE2 K.R. Putnam, Ordnance AO3 Danny Spruil, Radio Operator ATN2 C.R. Chastine, Julie/ECM Operator AWAN Bob Debaun. Not Pictured Plane Captain ADJ2 Max Lucero, 2nd Mech ADR 2 F.B. Dutton.

DELAWARE VALLEY HISTORICAL AIRCRAFT ASSOCIATION— WINGS OF FREEDOM MUSEUM

BY JERRY BYRNES '54-55

In January 2007, my wife Ann and I relocated to Warminster, PA in the heart of Bucks County. We had been coming to Bucks County most Thanksgiving weekends for over thirty years and when it came time to retire we had found the perfect place.

I was not aware that this area was home to two Naval Air Stations: NAS Johnsville, which trained astronauts in the 60's and 70's, and NAS Willow Grove, which had been converted to a Joint Armed Forces Reserve Base in the late 90's.

Affiliated with the Willow Grove Base was the Delaware Valley Historical Aircraft Association's Wings of Freedom Museum. How lucky can one ex-Navy air guy get?... just five miles away from home.

Naturally, I had to investigate and what I found was a living, breathing testament to aviation. Display after display of artifacts and memorabilia; everything from the Wright Brothers to modern day aircraft. Prior to becoming Willow Grove Naval Air Station in 1942, it was known as Pitcairn Field, home of the Autogyro. After looking around and talking to some volunteers, I was hooked and became a volunteer.

The tradition of displaying historic aircraft at Willow Grove began shortly after World War II. In 1946, a group of naval officers led by LCDR David Ascher rescued captured Axis and Allied aircraft from the scrap heap and assembled them into a display along PA Route 611 in Willow Grove.

Concern for the upkeep of these aircraft grew and a new group of naval reservists stepped forward to take the job. In 1972 they formed the Willow Grove Historical Aircraft Association. In the decade that followed; the membership grew as word spread throughout the area and people began to notice the display of aircraft.

Currently, our exhibit contains 18 aircraft and nearly 40 display cases with separate focuses on WW I, the Pitcairn era, WW II, the Tuskegee Airmen, the Cold War, women in aviation, Korea, Southeast Asia and contemporary aviation and space exploration. One of the highlights of our collection is a fully restored Messerschmitt 262 as well as a P-3 Orion.

DVHAA members come from all walks of life. Many are veterans from all branches of the military as well as many civilian aviation enthusiasts. Some have an aviation background; some do not; but all share a common interest in the preservation of aviation history. Everyone is encouraged to spend whatever spare time they have helping and maintaining the museum exhibits, restoration of our aircraft collection and giving tours of our museum.

Currently we have about 300 members and certainly would welcome any new volunteers. There are no prerequisites to join the DVHAA, except a desire to preserve the wonderful aviation history for future generations. We are a close-knit group and thoroughly enjoy our time with each other and the opportunity of continuing our fascination in aviation.

On several Tuesdays throughout the year, the DVHAA provides a series of lectures profiling aviation. In the Fall 2009, the guest speakers were Dr. Russell Atkinson, Observer of Nuclear Testing in the Southwest, Dave Gosser, (Maj. USAF-Ret), a P-51 Pilot Instructor in WWII and Susan Loricchio, an Amelia Earhart Historian. Our Museum Curator, Susan Halteman is responsible for arranging the speakers and publishes a schedule outlining the dates and topics for the series.

Should any of you VP-2 shipmates be in this area I would welcome the opportunity of introducing you to our members and giving you a "cook's tour" of the facility. My phone is (215) 328-0808 and e-mail is jgbyrnes54@yahoo.com.



Picture on the Left:

Fokker at the Wings of Freedom Museum

Picture on the Right:

ME 262 at the Wings of Freedom Museum





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY DOUG MILLAR

My wife and I have just returned from a week in Williamsburg, Virginia, where we found spring to be at its height. The weather was lovely, the forests full of blooming dogwood trees, the shrubs aglow in their brilliant reds, pinks, whites, and purples, and many of the bulb plants still dotting the landscape with splotches of color. As a boy I had grown up only 20 miles from this "birthplace of the nation," the "Historic Triangle" of Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown - so the trip was very nostalgic for me, as well as beautiful.

While in Williamsburg we decided one evening to eat in one of those buffet restaurants. You know the type - enough food on hand to feed an entire third world nation for about a month! Somehow, with the help of another senior citizen (as well as old age and cunning), we managed to get ahead of the four busloads of school kids who were racing towards the front door of the restaurant, a scene that looked very similar to a school of sharks in a feeding frenzy.

Soon, with our plates nicely filled, we settled into a comfortable booth to eat. People of all descriptions came and went - short folks, tall folks, young and old folks, fat and skinny folks - but apparently all hungry folks! A white haired, old black gentleman shuffled over to the table near us and took his seat. He was fairly tall, slender - with a smile on his face. His appearance radiated happiness and contentment, and I could hardly help but watch him as he laid out his silverware, reorganized his beverages, and prepared to eat. With his plate of food on the table before him he stopped, bowed his head, and prayed softly to God in a display of gratitude for blessings received. That little event touched my heart.

I began to look around the restaurant and watch others as they took their seats and began hurriedly to eat. I realize that it is not fair to try to decide whether or not a person is grateful to God by whether or not he or she bows over food in a public place, but it did cause me to think about the matter. Are we grateful for the uncounted blessings that have been lavished on us as a nation "under God?" Do we even still consider ourselves to be a nation "under God?" It seems that we are becoming less and less open about the fact that God has blessed us, to the point that our president claims that we are no longer a Christian nation. More and more it appears that we think we are a people who can fend for ourselves, a people who don't need, or necessarily even want, the blessing of God - if we believe that there is a God at all!

The Old Testament is filled with prophecies and warnings to nations that turn their backs on God. History is filled with the outcome of those prophecies and unheeded warnings. God offers each of us as individuals, and all of us collectively as a nation, hope for the future. It requires a turning to God - rather than a turning away from God. In the Old Testament book of 2 Chronicles, chapter 7, we read the promise and prophecy made to King Solomon at the dedication of a magnificent temple, which he had built for God. Solomon was described as the wisest and richest man in the world of his day. Unfortunately he turned away from God - he finished poorly. The result: his glorious temple was totally destroyed by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar in 586 B.C. His people were uprooted and removed from their land for 70 years.

What hope does God offer for us today? In 2 Chronicles, chapter 7, verse 14, the following promise made by

God is recorded:

"If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land."

Am I grateful for the blessings that God has given me? Are you? Am I willing to lay aside my pride and humble myself before our all-powerful God? Are you?

As my wife and I stood to leave that restaurant in Williamsburg, a young family came and sat down at the table next to us. They had two children, and a third child obviously on the way. (In fact, we wondered if "mom" would make it through the meal before going into labor.) As they settled in, they paused, held each other's hands, bowed and prayed with a spirit of thanksgiving.

Is there hope for the United States? You bet there is!



In Memoriam

We have learned of the loss of the following association members since the last newsletter:

Hilliard W. McDonald (squadron 58-62)
(Feb 09)

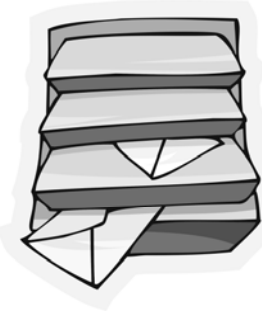
Ray W. Blackburn (squadron 53-56)
(July 09)

Howard N. Quistorf (squadron 56-63)
(Oct 09)

Jack Chapman (squadron 50-53)(Dec 09)

Leroy Betts (squadron 59-62)
(Apr 10)

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



RANDOM VP-2 INFORMATION

In the December 2009 issue of the VP-2 Newsletter, we published a thank-you letter from Alexander Gerges, who was one of two students to receive the 2010 MOAA scholarship sponsored by the VP-2 Association and the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial.

Below is a letter from Katie Tubb, who is our other MOAA scholarship winner:

Dear Members of the Patrol Squadron Two Association,

I am a junior history major at Grove City College, a small Christian school in Grove City, PA. Though I am further from home than I would like, I am very happy to be going to school here. Every semester has become increasingly challenging and demanding, and also equally rewarding. There is no school I would rather attend as an undergraduate.

One of the challenges of attending GCC (besides the intense work load!) is the college's refusal of federal funding and loans as a way to preserve the integrity and independence of the college. This means that I cannot take advantage of the GI Bill educational benefits at GCC. Because both my sister and I attend GCC, and my brother is on the way to his own school, paying for college has been tricky. Your loan and grant through the MOAA has helped my family and me tremendously, giving us more breathing room in paying for my schooling. Thank you for your support and for your interest in helping a student like me carry on in their education. That is very much appreciated!

With gratitude, Katie Tubb

And, Alexander Gerges sent us an update of his situation:

Sirs,

It's a great honor to be asked to update you on my activities. I am proud to report that I have contracted with the U.S. Army and if everything goes well, I will be serving the country for the next three years (at least) after I graduate. I have also been selected by Pittsburg State University's Reserve Officer Training Corps to participate in the Cadet Troop Leadership Training program. This summer I'll be attached to a Field Artillery unit at Fort Riley, Kansas.

This is a wonderful opportunity for me, as I will be able to gain additional training experience with a real Army unit in a branch that I am considering as one of my primary career choices. Furthermore, it gives me additional time to prepare for my Leadership Development and Assessment Course, which I will be attending this summer. This is a very important step for ROTC, as it is the culmination of my previous training with the program and will play a major role in the ascensions process, which will determine which branch I will go to.

I want to thank the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial Foundation for their support for me and making me the designated scholar of the year. It is a great honor for me to be selected. Your support has helped me continue my studies, as while I am a contracted ROTC cadet, I do not receive a scholarship from the United States Government, so I have to find my own ways to pay for my education. Thanks to your Foundation, I am able to pay for the school and limit taking out loans to do this.

Thank you very much for the support, which allows me to continue pursuit of a career in government service. I hope you are all well and that I am showing that I am a deserving candidate.

Respectfully, Alexander T. Gerges

VP-2 ASSOCIATION REUNION IN 2012

—BY VIC GULLIVER



We haven't even begun our 2010 reunion in Pensacola, and we're already talking about where to hold the 2012 reunion. We'll need to pick the 2012 reunion site while we're together in Pensacola, so now is the time to be thinking about where we should meet. We haven't been back to Whidbey Island since 2006. Perhaps it is time to revisit our old stomping grounds and pay our respects to the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial. Or, maybe you would rather go somewhere we've never been, just to be different. There are a lot of places we haven't been for a reunion, including Las Vegas, Reno, Los Angeles, Kokomo, and a few others that come to mind.

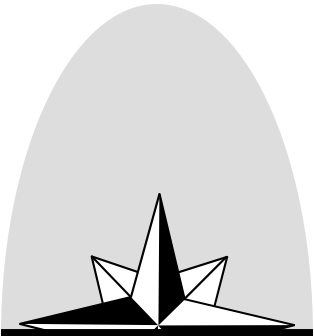
In preparation for a discussion of future reunion sites at the Pensacola reunion, send an email with your thoughts to vicgulliver@comcast.net and we'll give a briefing at the reunion on the more popular ideas. We have over 300 Association members with email, and I'm hoping to hear from all of you. Let me know your ideas between now and September. Don't forget that we can't hold a reunion anywhere unless we have volunteers from our Association living nearby to host the reunion and do all the organizing. While Kokomo might be an excellent choice for a reunion site, we don't actually have any members living there, so Kokomo is out. If you live in an area where the Association would enjoy spending a few days at a reunion, please consider volunteering to host our reunion there. You don't need to have any experience at organizing a reunion; we have many previous organizers who can offer a wealth of advice on how to host a reunion. We just need one or more people who live in that location to deal with the local hotels and other facilities we might use.

The last time we did an email survey to see where people wanted to go for a reunion, the following cities were named by at least one member: Tampa, Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Memphis, Nashville, Branson, Boston, Philadelphia, Pensacola, Las Vegas, Reno, San Diego, San Francisco Bay area, Portland, Oak Harbor, and an ocean cruise to anywhere. At the San Diego reunion of 2008, we chose Pensacola for 2010 since we hadn't been there for a long time, since many easterners wanted a reunion site closer to home, and since Pensacola is the home of Naval Aviation. For 2012, let's chose just as wisely by giving it some serious thought between now and this coming November.



Can you identify any of these "ladies?" Hint, one of them IS a lady!

THE LOCKHEED NEPTUNE



Dino Vlahakis found this poem in a box in the cellar in a news clipping from the '59-'61 era:

The following poem was composed by Mrs. Ed Bruns of Sedro Woolley, WA. Mrs. Bruns, who has a keen interest in the Navy in general and Whidbey Island in particular, spends many of her free hours watching aircraft arrive and depart the Naval Air Station. A copy of her poem has been forwarded to officials at Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, CA.

Here's to the 'Neptune'
 so faithful are you
 With many long years
 of service so true
 Spreading your wings
 in a hundred foot sweep
 Named for a mythical
 King of the deep
 I've sat many hours
 and watched you take wing
 Heard the roar of your jets
 the propellers that sing
 A feeling of pride
 sweeps over me
 As you lift off the earth
 and head towards the sea
 Out on patrol
 sub-hunting for us
 Without any praise
 fanfare or fuss
 Perhaps to the Arctic
 where temperatures freeze
 Or on to South waters
 as warm as you please
 Maybe this time
 you go out again
 To trace the swift path
 of some dark hurricane
 Or keep up your vigil
 by darkness of night
 Patrolling afar
 on one more long flight
 Your searchlight is ready
 to flash into action
 Should the object below
 prove an enemy action
 Many planes will come
 and many will go
 But none more beloved
 than you... we know
 May you fly on in peace
 forever, my friend
 Without any worries
 and peace without end
 May the best of luck
 with you remain
 Our own P2V
 a most wonderful plane
 And fortune will smile
 on those inside
 Who fly this fine ship
 with grace... and with pride



Here is a picture of PO3 Don Palmer at NAF Cam Ranh Bay 1969.

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Hats off to Joe Tucker's Son for Sponsoring the VP 2 Website. The Business Cards above are Joe's son Business Card. Thanks again!

ARE YOU RECEIVING
EMAILS FROM
THE VP-@ ASSOCIATION?
BY VIC GULLIVER



Every so often, the VP-2 Association sends out informative emails to all members whose email addresses we know. For instance, we sent out messages in February and March reminding our members to register for the Pensacola reunion in November. We used an email to solicit articles and photos for this issue of the Newsletter. Prior to the mailing of this issue of the Newsletter, we sent an email advising that the issue was available on-line for those who wanted to read it before it arrived in the U.S. mail. If you didn't receive those emails, any one of three reasons could be to blame:

- You don't have an email account with an internet service provider.
- You do have an email account but you haven't told us your current email address.
- We have your email address, but you don't download your messages often enough and your mailbox is filled to the limit allowed by your internet service provider so nothing else gets through.

We don't use your email address for any purpose other than to keep you informed of VP-2 Association matters. If you have an email account, and you aren't receiving our emails, send me a message at vicgulliver@comcast.net to advise me of your correct email address. And continue to download your emails often enough to prevent your mailbox from filling up.

ELECTION OF
ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

BY FLOYD PALMER



Beyond the socializing, we do have some business to attend to at the November reunion. One item of business is the election of Association officers. Our bylaws indicate that our officers are elected for four-year terms. Four of our current Executive Board members (1st V.P. Dino Vlahakis, 2nd V.P. Al Hall, Director Milt DeBuhr and Director Jim Welch) are finishing up their second year in office. Doug Donohue is completing six years as our Treasurer. Vic Gulliver is completing his second four-year term as a Director. The Pensacola reunion will mark my tenth year as the President of the VP-2 Association. Al Hall is having some health issues and asks that he be replaced as 2nd V.P. even though his term of office isn't up.

We bring this up now so that our Association members can place their names into nomination for the office of President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, or Director. Or, members can also nominate others for these positions. **We ask that before you nominate someone else, you actually get their "okay" first.** All dues-paying Association members and all affiliate members (wives, widows or offspring of members) are eligible to hold offices in the VP-2 Association. (As far back as I can remember, I think Marie Hart has been the only affiliate member to hold an office in our Association.) So, now is the time to step forward. There is more to our Association than just coming to the reunions. We all need to share the workload of running this organization. "Workload" is probably the wrong word. With the exception of all the work that Doug Donohue does as Treasurer and Webmaster, there isn't much work for the rest of us; just some responsibility for overseeing the activities of a social organization.

Now, having said all that, Doug, Vic and I are willing to extend our service in office for another two years if no one steps forward to run for our offices this year. We would rather continue in office than to have any of the Executive Board positions go vacant. If there are volunteers or nominations for our positions, then we will either step down or gladly take part in formal elections at the reunion. But, no matter what, we still need a volunteer to replace Al Hall as 2nd Vice President. Please consider doing your part as a member or an affiliate member of the Association. If you would like to volunteer to run for President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer or Director, or if you would like to nominate someone else for one of these positions, let me know before we travel to Pensacola in November.



VP-2 Association Officers *and Appointments*



President	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Court, Mankato, MN 56001 800-903-9958, 507-388-2059 (Fax) FloydP@PalmerBusService.com
1st Vice President	Dino Vlahakis 54 Westview Lane, Lebanon, NH 03766 603-448-3729 cgv601@comcast.net
2nd Vice President	Al Hall 414 Manor Village Circle, Midland, TX 79707 432-669-1245 AL414@suddenlink.net
Secretary/Treasurer	Doug Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410 775-265-3861 nvsoar@charter.net
Director/Ship's Store	Vic Gulliver 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60026 847-296-6907 vicgulliver@comcast.net
Director	Milt DeBuhr 171 Humbug Road, Yreka, CA 96097 530-841-0805 miltdebuhr@snowcrest.com
Director	Jim Welch 8601 Terrell Drive, North Richland Hills, TX 76180 817-788-2204 japwelch@sbcglobal.net
Association Chaplain	Doug Millar, 12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 509-548-3154 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
2010 Reunion Committee	Harry Herman, 3365 Marcus Pointe Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32505-1898 850-857-4353 harry_herman@bellsouth.net
	James Summitt, P.O. Box 250, Niceville, FL 32588 850-729-6945 summittk@cox.net
Website Director www.patron2.com	Douglas Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410-2894 775-265-3861 nvsoar@charter.net



Looking to Share Information
in the
VP 2 Neptune Newsletter?

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

Floydp@palmerbusservice.com

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June 2010 VP-2 Newsletter