

June 2020

Special Points of Interest

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- Masks for the pandemic
- Honor Flight Experience by Richard Rigg
- College of the Ozarks cops with no on campus students
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Greg Kelley

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Dino Vlahakis

2nd VP –
Bill Klett

Director –
Vic Gulliver

Director –
Nick Niccum

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**Secretary/
Treasurer**
Bob Behrend



VP-2

THE NEPTUNE

A Message from the President

This has certainly been an unusual year. I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. The pandemic has impacted all of our lives in one way or another. I believe most of us have been under stay at home orders for some period of time. When we are going out, I hope we are all wearing masks when we cannot maintain safe separation. As things are opening up, we can start to get back to normal. We can all get through this together.

The coronavirus has not only kept us at home, but also caused the cancellation of our planned reunion. There is more about this on page 2. I am sure we will have a great time together when the next reunion arrives.

As many of you may know, Sue and I leave the heat and humidity of Houston for a less oppressive climate on the lake in Maine during the summer. We plan on doing this again, but leaving a little later and having fast food take out for evening meals. The arrival is also a little different. Maine has a mandatory and strict quarantine for fourteen days for out of state arrivals. That means we need to have fourteen days of food before we enter the state.

I am writing this as we come to the beginning of Memorial Day weekend. This is a good time to be with friends and family in small groups for back yard barbeques and relaxation. However let us not forget the true reason for the holiday. This holiday, originally called Decoration Day, began around 1864 and is to honor all the military who died in military service. I hope everyone takes a moment this weekend to reflect on this and remember the lost veterans.

There are a number of articles of interest in this newsletter: I encourage you to read them all.

Sue and I wish you all a great summer and look forward to the development of a safe vaccine.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

Reunion Update



As you all know from the email or snail mail you received in March, the 2020 reunion was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. With many restrictions in place, and most health experts predicting that Covid 19 will return at the same time as the flu in the fall, this looks like it was a good decision. At this time most experts feel a vaccine, while possible by year end, will probably not be widely available in large quantities until 2021. We believe that with our age group, we must show caution in protecting our health. Proper planning for a successful reunion takes at least a year. Therefore, we do not feel it reasonable to plan for a reunion until 2022. As soon as the situation becomes more stable, your Executive Committee will move forward with a planning date and location for 2022. We ask for your understanding of this approach and look forward to gathering again then.

Masks of Today

During this pandemic it is recommended that we wear masks when out in public. These are masks made by family members of some of the Executive Committee members. Helps protect those around us.



Continued



Honor Flight Memoirs

Richard Rigg (Member 277) served in the squadron from 1957 to 1961. He has prepared a report on his Honor Flight trip in 2016 with his grandson, Brandon. I hope you will find this account interesting. It appears on the next two pages.



Richard and Brandon

**California Central Valley Honor Flight #12
October 24-26, 2016
Fresno CA to Washington D.C.**

Object: To provide opportunity for Veterans of World War 2, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans to visit memorials dedicated to those who served in those conflicts.

I learned of this event from our daughter, Debbie, who had heard about it from a customer at her work. She obtained the name and phone # of the local coordinator of the event, Paul Loeffler. I obtained and submitted an application form and I was on the list.

Each participating Veteran was required to have a "Guardian", someone to assist them during the 3 day excursion. I was fortunate to have our Grandson, Brandon Wolfe, Debbie's son, an Air Force Veteran of the Afghanistan Conflict, who volunteered to be my Guardian.

The transportation was provided by Allegiant Airlines, was free for Veterans, paid for by Community donations. However, Guardians had to come up with \$1000. Our family took care of that!

At 5:30 am on Monday, October 24th all 67 Veterans, their Guardians and family members assembled at the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport for a final brief and farewell. We departed at about 8:30 am.

At about 5:30 pm (Eastern time), 2:30pm (Pacific time), we landed at Baltimore Washington Airport and loaded on to 3 tour buses.

About 6:30 pm we arrived at the American Legion Post 276 in Severn Maryland, where we were welcomed and treated to a delicious BBQ steak dinner! We were then bused to the Crystal City Hilton Hotel where we spent the night.

On Tuesday morning, day 2 of our trip, we had a hearty breakfast at the Hilton, boarded our buses and headed out.

Our first stop was at the World War 2 Memorial where a group photo was taken of all 67 Veterans in their red jackets and Guardians in their blue jackets, all provided by the Fresno area trip contributors.

Our particular group of Veterans was composed of 10 WW2 Vets, the rest of us were Korean War era and some Vietnam Vets. Thirty five of our Veterans were in wheel chairs so loading and unloading from 3 buses several times to visit several of the memorials required team work-and it worked well.

Three Guardians on each bus were selected as the safety team for their bus. One was positioned at the top of the steps to the bus, one at the bottom and one to get a wheelchair out of the bus baggage area for those who needed one.

Besides visiting the WW2 Memorial, we visited the Tomb of the Unknown, observed the changing of the Guard, the laying of a wreath by a little boy and girl from a local elementary or middle school and by 2 of our Honor Flight WW2 Veterans.

(Honor Flight continued)

We visited the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, visited the Spacecraft exhibits on the ground floor, but were advised not to try going to the 2nd floor to see the aviation exhibits – considering our age group – 85-95 years...

We got to eat lunch at the “largest McDonalds in the country”, located in the A&S museum, paid for by our 4 Central California Congressmen.

We visited the Women’s Museum which highlights women who have been associated with our military since the Revolutionary War, including those in the Red Cross and the USO. Next we drove past the Marine (Iwo Jima flag raising) Memorial and visited the Korean and Vietnam Memorials. We then had an excellent dinner at the Hilton.

The third day, after a hearty Hilton breakfast, we visited the Air force and Navy Memorials where we ran into a group of FFA (Future Farmers of America) from Los Banos, CA, who had attended an FFA convention in Ohio and had taken a side trip to Washington, D.C..

We had a tasty bag lunch then headed back to our Allegiant Airlines aircraft and crew at the Baltimore Washington Airport for the flight home. I guess we were an imposing looking group, about 140 Veterans and Guardians in our red and blue jackets as we strode through the terminal. A number of kids, and some adults greeted us with a friendly, “Thank you for your service, Sir!”

With that we boarded our aircraft and headed home. About an hour out of Fresno we had a “Mail Call”. One of the Honor Flight staff members had a good size mail bag and called out the names of each Veteran who had mail. I think I may have had the largest bundle of mail, including a bag of cookies that disappeared before I got one.

I have to thank our daughter, Diana, who contacted friends and relatives, inviting them to write. A number of you did and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

Upon our arrival at Fresno and our aircraft receiving a “Welcome Home” spray by 2 fire trucks, we received an enthusiastic welcome by close to 1000 friends and family members.

It was a very interesting and educational, well organized trip coordinated by recently retired CEO of the Central Valley VA Medical Center in Fresno, Al Perry. This was his 12th and final Honor Flight – Job well done!

Your Associations provides four scholarships each year at Hard Work U. This is an example of how College of the Ozarks is coping with the coronavirus pandemic.

As the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic unfolds, College of the Ozarks has taken steps to slow the spread of the virus. Our efforts began with the extension of spring break from March 16-20 until the 27th. Then we started online learning on March 30th. During this interim period, our staff members stepped up to check on students personally.

After the postponement of on-campus activities, staff members contacted every student to touch base, assess needs, and relay any pertinent information. Our staff members made over 1,500 phone calls. Dr. Sue Head, vice president for cultural affairs and dean of character education, said the main reason for this effort was to show students how much they are valued and missed.

"The launch of The Bobcat Care Team was a way for us to let our students know we care about them, especially during the extended spring break COVID-19 crisis," Head said. "We love our students, and we want them to know that! The Care Team asked a variety of questions related to the students' housing, food, family. We just wanted them to know we miss them and hope to see them soon."



Reactions to these calls were positive, and many students showed concern for their peers and teachers over themselves.

At Hard Work U, every student is required to have an on-campus job, including taking care of livestock at the farms. Due to the postponement of on-campus activities, staff members have taken over essential student jobs. These necessary tasks require staff to cross-train to complete.

Bryan Cizek, dean of work education and director of patriotic activities, has worked with the College administrators to ensure that staff members cover all essential workstations, including the farms.

"The farming operations have certainly been affected," Cizek said. "Other significantly impacted workstations include switchboard, power plant, landscaping, custodial, and the dining facility. All of these workstations are critical to campus operations that rely almost solely on students. We have around 30 employees taking on additional duties. This number does not include those who have taken on custodial duties in the buildings in which they reside. "While most staff members are currently working from home, those who are working on campus are practicing social distancing while carrying out these activities. Staff who are taking on these additional responsibilities said it is a learning experience and they appreciate the students' hard work while they are on campus.

We should be proud of the students we support.



Treasurer's Notes

By Bob Behrend

A big thanks to all of you that have kept your dues current, or in many cases paid in advance. 2020, an even numbered year is when dues come due if not already paid in advance. If you wish to check your dues status, you can reach me using the contact information below, or log into the Association website at www.patron2.com, select roster from the menu and find your name. The due date for dues payment is listed opposite your name. Dues are \$20 and cover a two year period.

behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com

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

Dues checks should be made out to VP-2 Association

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.



WPSM Gets Ready for Memorial Day

We all know about the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial, What you may not realize is how much work it takes to keep it looking pristine. Dave and Connie Bowen and Nick and Linda Niccum recently devoted time and much effort to be sure the memorial looked great at the park for Memorial Day. This involved weeding and polishing and to be sure flowers are there for the holiday. A hearty thank you .



Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

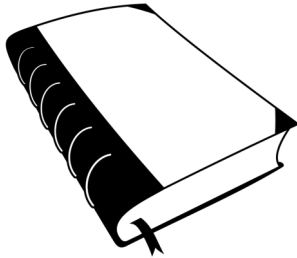
Let me begin by saying that we are thankful that to this point you have successfully survived the chaos of the corona virus, even though we've had to cancel our reunion for 2020. The pandemic is not over yet (in my state we are still under "shelter in place" orders), but it appears that we are beginning to open up the economy and hopefully we can look forward to some type of return to normal living. Will things ever be as they were again? Who can say? Life since 9/11 has never returned to what it was before, at least in terms of travel. It seems that we will be coping with TSA lines and inspections for the rest of our lives. What about life after Covid? Many seem to think that we may see whole new ways of doing things – from how we greet one another, how we shop, how we see our doctors in the future, even to how some people will do their jobs in the days ahead.

Do you ever wish that things would just stop changing so frequently? I certainly do. Recently I bought a couple of new telephones for our home, and yes, I'm still in the dark ages of landlines and cell phones! The phones that I bought came with a 68-page manual, most of it poorly translated from Chinese, which I certainly cannot understand. And of course the manual had to begin with several pages of warnings concerning the dangers of using such a device. Whatever happened to the good old days of the "Big Ben" alarm clock where all you had to do was wind it up each night, turn one knob to set the alarm time, and push the little switch to the right to turn the alarm on? Now, I feel that I almost need a degree in engineering just to get my lawn mower going!

However, there is good news! The Bible tells us that our God, **"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever"** Hebrews 13:8 (I used to hear this verse often quoted in a sacrilegious way regarding the crew meals that we got on the airline for whom I flew. It was true; the meals never did seem to change for a period of about 20 years!) But our God, Jesus Christ, the One who never changes, is the same God who created the universe; who spoke the world, the stars and galaxies into existence; who led the Israelites through the Red Sea on dry ground; who made the blind to see and the lame to walk; who raised Lazarus from the dead; who died on a Roman cross so that our sins might be forgiven; who rose again on the third day; who promised to return to Earth and reign for a thousand years; and who offers eternal life with Himself in Heaven to anyone who will accept his forgiveness of sin, allow Him to come into his or her life – and be their savior! He is the one of whom the Bible says, **"Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever."** He is the one who said, **"Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** Mathew 11:28

The offer still stands. Have you ever asked Him to forgive your sins and come into your life to be your Lord and Savior? If not, do it today. **"How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"** Hebrews 2:3

Thank you for reading this, and do your best to stay healthy. This too shall pass!



In Memoriam

We have learned of the loss of the following Association members and non-members since our last newsletter:

CDR James Loberger (squadron 62-64)

(Feb 20)

***Diana Covey (wife of Ken Covey)(squadron 64-67)

(Dec 18)

***Mary Wasicki (wife of Lewis Wasicki)(squadron 66-68)

(Aug 19)

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

or Doug Donohue at nvsoar@charter.net



Just for laughs



We all need something to lighten us up during the pandemic. Thanks to Vic Gulliver

It's no laughing matter, but it is with great sadness that we have to mention the loss of a few local businesses around the town.

- The bra manufacturer has gone bust,
- The specialist in submersibles has gone under,
- The manufacturer of food blenders has gone into liquidation,
- The suppliers of paper for origami enthusiasts has folded,
- The Heinz factory has been canned as they couldn't ketchup with orders,
- The tarmac laying company has reached the end of the road,
- The bread company has run out of dough,
- The clock manufacturer has had to wind down,
- The Chinese has been taken away,
- The shoe shop has had to put its foot down and has given the staff the boot.
- And, finally, the launderette has been taken to the cleaners!

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	Bill Klett 9905 Hidden Trail Ct. Fairfax Station, VA 22039 703-569-2715 flyboynmate1960@verizon.net
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 nicknaccum@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

Stay Safe

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



We're on the Web

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