

December 2017

## Special Points of Interest

- A Patio Brick at the Memorial?
- History of Naval Air at Whidbey.
- Scholarship Thank You
- VP 2 Reunion in San Diego
- Maintaining the WPSM
- Treasurer's Notes
- More on Cruising
- Chaplain's Corner
- VP Officers and Appointments

## Officers

**President –**  
*Greg Kelley*

**1<sup>st</sup> VP –**  
*Dino Vlahakis*

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Hello, fellow members and associates,

As we come to the end of November, I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving and celebrated all that we have to be thankful for. Of course, this month also has Veteran's Day and an opportunity to remember all of our fellow veterans and their families. This past summer Sue and I had a special occasion to remember service members. We were in Columbia Falls, Maine and visited the headquarters and museum for Wreaths Across America. This organization distributes wreaths at Christmas time to all National Cemeteries, including those abroad. Last year 1,300,000 wreaths were placed. Their motto is REMEMBER our fallen US veterans, HONOR those who serve and TEACH your children the value of freedom. This year Sue and I will be placing wreaths at the Houston National Cemetery on December 16. The time and day is the same for all locations. If you would like more information on WAA, go to <http://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org>.

This edition of the newsletter, the largest ever, is primarily devoted to our next reunion in San Diego next October. There are full details on the reunion and optional tours as well as the registration form. This can be mailed in or you may register on line. Many of us trained in San Diego before coming to Whidbey. This is an opportunity to see what has changed. The Harbor Cruise and the Air and Space Museum should both be interesting.

Please be sure and read the other articles. There is an informative article on cruising to help us decide on 2020. There are also articles on possibly buying a brick for the WPSM and on a book of the history of NAS Whidbey Island. Please pay particular attention to the Treasurer's Notes.

There have been no new members since the last newsletter. If you know of any non members, please make them aware of us and invite them to the reunion.

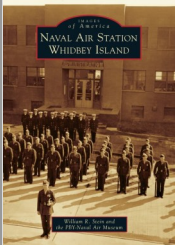
As the year comes to a close, Sue and I wish you very happy holidays and a wonderful New Year. We hope to see you all in San Diego in October.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

This is a reprint. One final opportunity to pursue having a brick at the Memorial.

### 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](mailto:Josephgleason1@verizon.net) so he will know the level of interest.



### History of Naval Air at NAS Whidbey Island



Dave Bowen recently found this newly released book on our heritage. He passed one on to our Chaplain, Doug Millar, who also enjoyed it. Your Editor agrees. The book is "Image of America-Naval Air Station Whidbey Island", by William R. Stein and the PBY-Naval Air Museum. A paper back book of 127 pages with lots of vintage photos and a written history of the base itself, starting with the development of the seaplane base and then the "Clover Valley Fighter Strip", up until today. The book will serve not only as a trip down memory lane for those stationed at Whidbey in days gone by, but will also illustrate to younger generations their connection to those who served in the not so distant past."

The book can be ordered through the PBY-Naval Air Museum web site [www.pbymf.org](http://www.pbymf.org) or by calling 360-240-9500, which is the museum itself. It retails for \$21.99 and was printed in the USA. By purchasing the book through the PBY-Naval Air Museum, you will be supporting their efforts at this fine museum that many of us visited in Oak Harbor at our last reunion.

A Sailor will walk 10 miles in a freezing rain to get a beer but complain about standing a 4 hour quarterdeck watch on a beautiful, balmy spring day.

## Scholarships from the Association *by Greg Kelley*

As many of you are aware, the Association has five endowed scholarships. Two are with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), two are with the College of the Ozarks and one with Hillsdale College. The requirements include a provision that we receive an update on the students that are awarded scholarships. The five most recent updates follow.



MOAA—James Stroud is a junior at University of North Carolina Wilmington, majoring in molecular biology and chemistry. He plans to continue studies to obtain a doctoral degree in genetics and find a career in genetic engineering or gene therapy. His father is a retired Army Officer and he is grateful for the experience the service exposed him to. He thanks us for our service and the opportunities we have provided to students like him,

MOAA—Perri Nelson is a junior at The College of William and Mary. She spent her early formative years in Ewa Beach, HI. There her father read many books to her, and one summer 200 books in two months. This established a long term interest in reading and helped prepare her for college. She was pleased to learn that our headquarters are in Pearl City, so close to where she lived as a toddler.

College of the Ozarks—Rebekah Ekland was home schooled and had a love for music and art. She started college in art, but after exposure to ROTC, she changed her academic plans and now plans to become a Second Lieutenant in the Missouri National Guard and receive a degree in Criminal Justice so she can become a police officer.

College of the Ozarks—Raine Prather is a senior majoring in Nursing and minoring in ROTC. Her childhood involved her church and as many sports as allowed. Although many colleges were possible, Ozarks was her first choice. The scholarship has helped her with tuition and reduced the stress that a busy college life introduces.

Hillsdale College—This was submitted by the college. Taimur (Tim) Khan is a religion major and plans to pursue a graduate degree in mental health counseling. He has studied abroad at Oxford University. Previously he served as a corporal in the Marine Corps.

**Sailors constantly complain about the food on the mess decks while concurrently going back for second or even third helpings.**

**In the traditional crackerjack uniform you were recognized as a member of United States Navy, no matter what port or part of the world you were in. Damn all who want to eliminate or change that uniform.**

**Yes, it's true, it does flow downhill.**

## VP-2 Reunion

The VP-2 Association is having a reunion... but you already knew that!

Here's all the hot scoop: First of all, mark your calendars to save October 18th-21st, 2018.



We've picked a first-rate four-star hotel in San Diego to host our reunion. The Crowne Plaza-Mission Valley is located in Hotel Circle North in Mission Valley. We've negotiated a favorable room rate of \$129 plus tax per night (single or double) with a buffet breakfast for two included in the rate. Members must make their own hotel reservations by calling 866-663-4592 and mentioning VP-2 to get our preferred rate. Members can also book their hotel rooms online at <http://tinyurl.com/y8annngw>. HERE'S AN IMPORTANT NOTE: The hotel will only honor our \$129

room rate until September 13, 2018. After that, a higher rate will apply depending on their remaining room availability. The hotel will require a credit card to book your room, but you will not be charged for the room until check-out. You can cancel your reservation without penalty up to 48 hours before the reunion. So, it is smart to book your room now even if you aren't 100% sure of attending. For those who wish to extend their stay in San Diego, our hotel has agreed to offer the \$129 room rate to our members for three days before and three days after the reunion.

Our hotel has all the amenities we would expect. There is an on-site fitness/exercise center plus an outdoor pool and whirlpool. There is an ATM in the lobby, and free WiFi in all the rooms and public areas. The Islands restaurant offers soups, salads and sandwiches in addition to their extensive Pacific Rim menu. The Kona Café offers coffee and sweets. There is also in-room dining service available. Hotel check in is at 4:00 pm; check out by 12:00 noon. For those who arrive before the check in time, luggage storage is available. Car parking for our members is \$6 per night. Yes, of course, there is a bar.



The hotel has a complementary shuttle van that runs within a three mile radius of the hotel with scheduled stops at Old Town San Diego, SeaWorld, the Zoo, Fashion Valley Mall and the Fashion Valley Trolley station.



We have contracted with a professional reunion planning firm to conduct our reunion. Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFRI) has an excellent reputation, and will handle your reunion reservations and payments. Beginning now, you can register for the reunion and select the tours (if any) that suit you in two ways. You can either print out the form in this newsletter and send the form and a personal check or money order to AFRI by mail, or you can register online with AFRI and pay with a credit card. AFRI accepts Visa, Mastercard and Discover cards. Note that there is a 3.5% additional fee imposed if paying with a credit card. To register for the reunion online, go to [www.afr-reg.com/vp2](http://www.afr-reg.com/vp2).

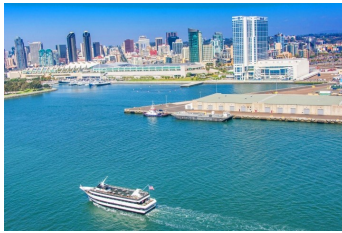
There is a reunion registration fee just like always. For this reunion, the fee has been set at \$135. per person, which covers the cost of the first evening's buffet dinner, the Sunday night banquet, refreshments in the Ready Room, incidental costs, and the fee charged by the reunion planner. **It is important that we get an early handle on how many are coming to the reunion, so there is a \$10 discount per person for those who register prior to April 1, 2018.** Final registration and tour selection deadline is September 13, 2018. Note that all fees and tour payments are refundable if participation is canceled prior to September 13, 2018. AFRI will refund all money paid to them minus their \$10 planner fee and minus any money they have had to commit to tour companies or to the hotel by the date of cancellation. The VP-2 Association will endeavor to refund whatever AFRI cannot refund.

In general, the reunion runs from Thursday through Sunday. Most members are expected to check in to the hotel on Thursday afternoon, but an AFRI rep will be on hand as early as Wednesday afternoon for those who arrive early. Plan to arrive early enough to attend the welcome-aboard buffet dinner at the hotel Thursday evening. There are tours on Friday and Saturday for those who sign up, or those days can be spent visiting with old friends. A Sunday morning religious service will be scheduled, and there is a final Sunday night banquet at the hotel. We'll have a bar set up at both the Thursday and Sunday night dinners. All lunches and Friday/Saturday dinners are on your own. There will be a Ready Room available each day with an assortment of light refreshments.

## REUNION TOURS

We have selected two tours for our members...on Friday and Saturday. These are optional tours that must be paid for in advance. Early reservations are most helpful for planning purposes. The tours are:

Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: A HARBOR CRUISE/ OLD TOWN



Note: Those with walking disabilities may find it difficult to get down the ramp to the boat. Restrooms are not ADA accessible. Enjoy a two-hour narrated harbor cruise of San Diego Bay. This deluxe tour covers it all: Harbor and Shelter Islands, Point Loma, Cabrillo National Monument, North Island Naval Air Station, the Submarine Base, and Coronado Bridge. Take in all the sights of San

Diego from a modern yacht with comfortable amenities. The boat has spacious indoor and outdoor seating areas, an onboard snack bar with full service bar. The tour is about 25 miles in length and will give you an opportunity to see San Diego in a unique way with amazing photo opportunities. After disembarking you will continue onto Old Town, the birthplace of California as the American flag was first raised here in 1846. Five original adobe buildings are part of this historic park, which includes museums, retail shops, and restaurants. 9:15am board bus, 2:30pm back at hotel. Cost is \$69. per person and includes bus, guide, and cruise. Lunch on your own.



Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>: SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE MUSEUM

Spend the morning in Balboa Park to explore the San Diego Air & Space Museum. The museum offers a dazzling collection of historic U.S. and foreign aircraft and aviation memorabilia, which bring to life the more significant events associated with flight and space exploration. The International Hall of Fame honors, in portraiture and narrative, those men and women who have made a substantive contribution to the advance of aerospace sciences. See some of the legendary aircraft of this era, including the inspiring Spitfire and the vaunted Japanese Zero. Proceed to Coronado and the Ferry Landing Marketplace for lunch on your own while enjoying spectacular views of San Diego across the bay. 9:45am board bus, 1:30pm back at hotel. Cost is \$53 per person and includes bus, guide, and admission. Lunch on your own.

Note that Driver and Guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. Tips are appreciated. Please plan to be at the bus boarding areas at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time. All trips require a minimum of thirty-five people, unless otherwise stated.

## Arrival and Departure

Our hotel does not provide van service to and from the airport. Those flying in to the San Diego airport should reserve round trip shuttle transportation service in advance of arrival. The SuperShuttle can be reserved online at [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) or by calling 800-974-8885. Their rate is expected to be \$14 per person each way between the airport and our hotel. Senior discounts may be available. For those who arrive at the airport without shuttle reservations, vans and taxis are available at the Transportation Plaza across from Terminals 1 and 2, and outside of the Commuter Terminal. Those options are expected to be more costly than the SuperShuttle. Those with smart phones may opt for an Uber taxi to the hotel.

The registration form is on the next page. Please complete and mail to Armed Forces Reunion or register online.



## How is the WPSM maintained?

We are sure that those who attended the reunion last year saw how nice the Memorial looked. This does not happen by accident (nor by magic). Since the memorial was completed, Dave Bowen, Bob Wolfe and Don Grove have spent countless hours polishing the statue, pulling weeds and cleaning the bricks. This past fall Dave once again worked to polish the statue to keep our memorial looking great. On behalf of the members, the Executive Board thanks these guys for their dedication in doing a wonderful job. Bravo Zulu!



**PATROL SQUADRON 2 ASSOCIATION (VP-2) – OCTOBER 18-21, 2018**

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.afr-reg.com/VP2](http://www.afr-reg.com/VP2). AFR accepts Visa, Mastercard, and Discover cards and all credit card payments are subject to a 3.5% convenience fee. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before Sept 13, 2018. After September 13, 2018 reservations will be accepted on a space available. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 11327**  
**Norfolk, VA 23517**  
**ATTN: VP-2**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/13/18</b>   |  | <b>Price Per</b> | <b># People</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--|--|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>TOURS</b>   |  |                  |                 |              |
| FRIDAY 10/19: HARBOR CRUISE/OLD TOWN TOUR  |  | \$69             | #               | \$           |
| SATURDAY 10/20: SAN DIEGO AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM                                       |  | \$53             | #               | \$           |
| <b>SUNDAY: FAREWELL BANQUET</b>  |  |                  |                 |              |
| <b>(Please select your entrée. Price is included in package)</b>                     |  |                  | <b># People</b> |              |
| Sliced and Grilled Tri-Top Served with a Wild Mushroom Sauce                         |  | #                |                 |              |
| Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast Topped with a White Wine Beurre Blanc                |  | #                |                 |              |
| Garlic Herb Marinated Salmon Topped with a Sundried Tomato Basil Cream Sauce         |  | #                |                 |              |
| Portobello Mushroom Ravioli Topped with Marinara Sauce, served with Fresh Vegetables |  | #                |                 |              |
| <b>PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE – BEFORE 4/1/18</b>                                   |  |                  |                 |              |
| Covers various reunion expenses, including Sunday's Farewell Banquet.                |  | \$125            | #               | \$           |
| <b>PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE – AFTER 4/1/18</b>                                    |  |                  |                 |              |
| Covers various reunion expenses, including Sunday's Farewell Banquet.                |  | \$135            | #               | \$           |
| Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>                           |  |                  |                 | \$           |

**PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT YOUR NAMETAG TO READ**

VP-2 ASSOCIATION MEMBER FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Years in VP-2 (i.e. 1960-1964): \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS OF VP-2 ATTENDEE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOU NEED A NEW VP-2 REUNION BADGE, WRITE NAME HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

IF YOUR SPOUSE NEEDS A NEW VP-2 REUNION BADGE, WRITE NAME HERE: \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_ (Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS?  
 (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY). ☐ YES ☐ NO

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-4:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.



## Treasurer's Notes



*By Bob Behrend*

In the last newsletter we mentioned that many Association members have long since stopped paying their dues. Further, we asked that you please check your dues status by visiting the roster page on the Association website (patron2.com), or email/mail me (address below) and I would provide your status. We received little or no response to this request, so we are asking again,

Some of you will find you are way behind in dues payment and it may be too much of a financial burden to bring your dues current. If this is the case, send what you can. If you are more than six years behind and we do not receive any payment from you, your membership will be placed in an inactive status and you will be removed from the newsletter email list. Bottom line: we want you to be an active part of the Association, but you need to participate.

[behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto: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

For widows of former Association members: You are receiving this edition of the Association newsletter because you are on the newsletter email list. However, for many of you, VP-2 may not/no longer be of any interest to you. To ensure the Association newsletter is reaching those of you who wish to continue receiving it, we are asking for a positive response by email/mail to the address above to let us know if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter. Widows who attend the reunions need not reply

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.



## More on Cruising

By Vic Gulliver

At the Oak Harbor reunion, we heard an informative briefing by Bob Satterwhite on the option of taking an ocean cruise instead of our regular hotel-style reunions. A vote was taken and the members in attendance voted to have our next reunion in San Diego. The idea of cruising had good support, but the majority voted for a hotel reunion. For the benefit of all members (and not just those who heard the O.H. briefing), let's have a comparison of cruising vs. hotel reunions.

How does the cost of a cruise compare with the cost of a hotel reunion? At our typical reunions, we incur five basic kinds of expenses: (1) transportation to get there, (2) the hotel cost, (3) the reunion fee, (4) meals not covered by the reunion, and (5) optional tours. Whether we cruise or use a hotel, the cost of getting there is the same. Whether we cruise or use a hotel, the cost of optional tours is the same and still optional. The biggest difference in cost between cruising and hotel reunions centers around the hotel and food. The usual reunion fee mostly covers the cost of the two organized dinners... the welcoming buffet and the final banquet.

There are many cruise options from which to choose... from a variety of ports, to a variety of destinations, in a variety of price ranges. For comparison purposes, a Caribbean or Mexican Riviera cruise of four or five days duration would give us a "time together" comparable to our usual four day hotel reunions. There are many choices for such cruises on major cruise lines in the price range of \$300-350 per person. Let's say \$700 per couple. A group rate would give us a better price, but let's use \$700 per couple. Our hotel in San Diego will cost over \$600 for four nights. In San Diego, our reunion fee is \$250 per couple, and we'll have to pay for four lunches and two dinners per couple that aren't covered by the reunion. The minimum cost for our reunion in San Diego will be over \$1,000 per couple. Sorry, there are no "singles" cruise fares. Just as with our hotel rates, it pays for singles to double up.

What do we get for our \$700 on a cruise? That \$700 pays for an inside cabin (no window), all meals, and all entertainment. Breakfast, lunch and dinner in the main dining rooms are from menus and lavish. One can also eat (more casually) in the buffet (around the clock on some cruise lines). There are also specialty restaurants where, for an extra charge, one can eat in a cozier atmosphere. As in a hotel or restaurant, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages are extra. There are many free activities available during the day (games, lectures, movies, pools, etc.), and a choice of entertainment nightly. All free. There is a big "production number" show nightly in the main theater, plus shows in other smaller lounges. Musicians, comedians, magicians, singers, and dancers are performing throughout the ship. It's all published in the plan of the day. Just choose what you and your friends want to do. Tours in the various ports are available, or you can stay on board with plenty to do. Ships have casinos that are closed when in port. Those who want a "room with a view" can pay more for a window cabin or a cabin with balcony.



## More on Cruising (continued)



Shipboard cabins tend to be smaller than hotel rooms. Most cruise ships now have limited their smoking areas. Some ships only allow smoking in the casinos. At our hotel reunions, we're used to having our organized meals in our own private dining room. We can't do that on a cruise, but we can arrange to have all of our evening dining tables together in the same area. We would have to negotiate the use of a "ready room" on a ship. Most likely, we would only be able to arrange part-time use of a meeting room, including a room for our business meeting.

We have reached an age when we must be concerned with available medical care. Each cruise ship has a medical center with a full time doctor and staff. However, medical care is not included in the cost of a cruise, and Medicare does not pay for medical care outside of the continental U.S. Travel insurance that covers medical care, evacuation and trip delay is recommended. Such insurance can be purchased from the cruise line, your travel agent or your own insurance company. Shop around. Prices and coverages vary.

Cruise ships aren't nearly as formal as they used to be. Some cruise ships have an occasional "formal night," but very few tuxedos will be seen. A coat and tie will suffice for those "formal nights," and a collared sport shirt and slacks is the norm for most dinners. No jeans in the dining rooms at night. Breakfast, lunch and the buffet are very informal...Shorts and tee shirts are the norm. If a coat and tie are needed, you'll know about it before you ever leave home.



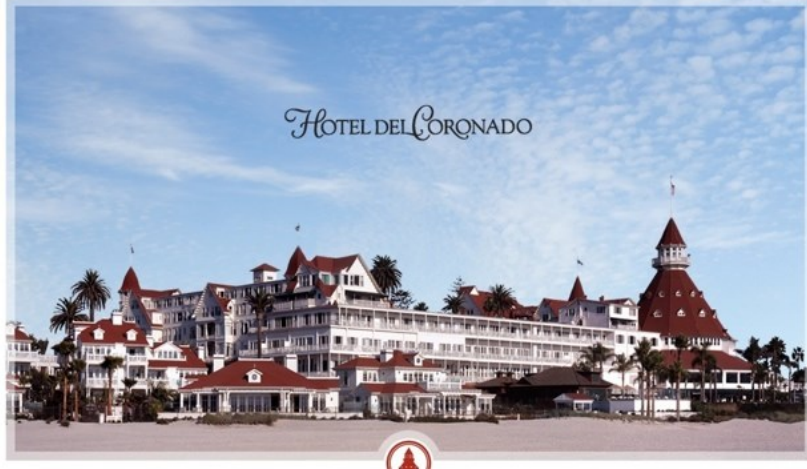
Miscellaneous: This article has dealt in round numbers. There may be a tax or small port charges added to the cruise fare. Most cruise ships add a gratuity for the room steward on your final bill. Optional tours on cruises vary in price, but there are usually many options to choose from. Alcoholic beverages on cruise ships are reasonably priced, and there are often scheduled "happy hours" where prices are reduced. Cruises require money up front and there are penalties for late cancelation. On board expenses (tours, alcohol, gratuities) are paid by credit card at the conclusion of the cruise. Some cruise lines offer discounts or onboard credits for veterans with a DD-214. Those who ask for it can get assistance in boarding and leaving the ship.

Experienced cruisers will tell you that there is more to see and do and more fun for the buck on an ocean cruise. Worried about sea-sickness? With the stabilization systems on cruise ships today, chances are you won't feel the ship move throughout the cruise. Why not give it a try. We'll vote in San Diego on where to go in 2020.

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**After a cruise, a Sailor will realize how much he misses being at sea. And after retiring from the Navy considers going on a cruise and visiting some of our past favorite ports. Of course we'll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for the privilege. Just to think, Uncle Sam actually used to pay us to visit those same ports years ago.**

Don't forget to sign up for the reunion. It is going to be a great time in San Diego. October 18-21, 2018





## In Memoriam

We have learned of the loss of the following association members and non members since our June '17 newsletter:

**Forrest Paine**  
Squadron 56-57  
Mar 2013

**John "Doc" Morgans**  
Squadron 54-57  
May 2016

**Dennis Hungerford**  
Squadron 51-53  
May 2017

**Jack Clopper**  
Squadron 57-59  
July 2017

**Charolett Brown**  
Wife of Charles Brown  
Squadron 67\*69  
June 2016

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel, please advise Bob Behrend by email at [behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com)

## Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

Hopefully you have had a wonderful Thanksgiving season and are now looking forward to the Christmas season. Although it is a busy time of year it should bring joy to our hearts as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. May it bring you happiness and the enjoyment of much love, kindness, music, family, and reflection on the blessings of the past year.

This year has certainly brought about some changes in the life of my wife and me. Over the course of six months she lost the feeling in her feet and lower legs and as a result has been forced to use a "walker" at all times. She has had two surgeries to her spine to correct this condition but to date we have seen very little progress toward the goal of walking normally again.

How should we respond to this turn of events? My natural reaction is to want to grumble and complain and ask continuously for healing from this problem. But in Hebrews 13:15 I read, **"Through Him then (meaning Christ), let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name."** What? Offer praise? Yes, that is what it says. I have often wondered about that phrase "sacrifice of praise." I find that it is easy to praise God when things are going well and to thank Him for His goodness, forgiveness, love, etc. This doesn't seem to require any sacrifice because it is easy. But when things go wrong - this becomes a different proposition.

But? But? This doesn't seem right?

Doesn't the potter have the right to do with his creation whatever he wishes? Certainly! And so it is with us. God is the potter and owner and we are the clay - the created ones. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, **"Do you not know ... that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in you body."** In other words - give a sacrifice of praise with your lips. Both my wife and I are trying to trust God with His sovereignty in what He is doing, but it is hard. So please pray for us that we will trust Him more and somehow bring glory to Him through these efforts.

Back in the 1970s I bought a brand new Saab. It was a beautiful silver color and I was mighty proud of that car. We took a road trip to California in it, and on the return trip we traveled up the coast on that scenic highway along the ocean shore. As you approach Crescent City from the south you are up in some steep hills that descend down into the town. Not far from town something happened to the motor and we began to hear great bumping sounds from the front of the car. I immediately shut down the engine and we proceeded to coast downhill toward Crescent City. We were able to coast right to the edge of town and the very first building that we saw was an auto repair shop with a sign out front saying "Foreign Auto Repair."

## Chaplain's Corner (continued)

We literally coasted into the shop and stopped. The owner/mechanic came out to meet us and immediately said, "A Saab, eh? I tell you what, I'll look at it and tell you what's wrong with it, but I won't work on it! The nearest available parts for this car are in Portland, Oregon, and you can hitchhike up there and get whatever parts you need and fix it yourself in my shop." My heart sank.

We pushed the car into his garage and opened the hood to try to discover what was wrong. It so happened that I had just read a book on the topic of praising God - even in the midst of calamity. It spoke to the fact that God is pleased with this kind of "sacrifice of praise." Needless to say, praising God was certainly the last thing on my mind at the moment. As the mechanic looked around the engine, I spotted an old rusty bumper from one of those VW buses. It was lying with a pile of junk in the corner. Stuck to the bumper was a bumper sticker, which read, "Praise God Anyway!" Wow! That was a piercing shot to the heart! So right there I silently shot off a word of praise in one of those "arrow" prayers to the Lord that we send out when we only have seconds to react to something. At that point I heard the mechanic saying that the engine block had somehow come loose from its mounting because one of the mounting bolts had fallen out and disappeared. He then said that he certainly didn't have a proper bolt in his shop

to replace the missing one but that he would look in his "cruise box" of old rusty junk for something that might do. He went over to the corner and started to rummage through this old box of stuff. Suddenly I heard him exclaim, " , " I'll be dogged!" (or something to that effect) "Look at this! I've never seen this in my life but let's try it!" He handed me a brand new bolt which was painted gray and that appeared to have never been used before. It was lying right on the top of the junk. He went back to the car and tried it out. A perfect fit! Within five minutes he had tightened it up, and sent us on our way. No charge!

Where did that bolt come from? I have no idea. Maybe an angel dropped it into that box, maybe not. I don't know, but it was a good lesson for me to "Praise God Anyway!"

Have a wonderful Christmas. And during this season don't forget to "offer up a sacrifice of praise." We are learning daily that "God is good all of the time, and all of the time, God is good."

## VP-2 Association Officers & Appointments

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>                   | Greg Kelley<br>274 Plantation Rd. Houston, TX 77024<br>713-419-5799 gregnsue@sbcglobal.net                    |
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| <b>Association Chaplain</b>        | Doug Millar<br>12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826<br>509-888-1910 dna@dnamillar.com                    |
| <b>Association Historian</b>       | Skip Forseth<br>2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062<br>650-365-2806 p2flyer@pacbell.net                     |
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| <b>Membership Chairman</b>         | Bob Champoux<br>286 145 <sup>th</sup> Place SE, Bellevue, WA 98007<br>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:  
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We're on the Web

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