

December 2020

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Dino Vlahakis

2nd VP –
Bill Klett

Director –
Vic Gulliver

Director –
Nick Niccum

Director –
Floyd Palmer

**Secretary/
Treasurer**
Bob Behrend



VP-2 THE NEPTUNE

A Message from the President

This has continued to be an unusual year. However, at this Thanksgiving time, I think we all have much to be thankful for. As far as I am aware, we have not lost any of our members to Covid 19. I personally have not had any serious illnesses in my family. Our granddaughter is a nurse in Austin Texas, whose floor at Dell Seaton Hospital, has been turned into a Covid ward. She takes all precautions and continues to be healthy and safe. We can be thankful that at least two companies have vaccines that should be available soon. With over 250,000 deaths the coronavirus may soon be under control.

The cancellation of the reunion seems to have been the correct decision. Hopefully, we can be on track to schedule a reunion for 2022. More on this on page 2. Please let me know if you would like to be involved in the planning.

We have been fortunate to have received interesting stories from our members which have appeared in the past few newsletters. While we may not realize it, we all have stories that will interest our fellow members. I hope you will think about this and let me know your stories of your history with VP 2. This issue has an interesting story of a deployment to Iwakuni, Japan. This was the first VP 2 deployment to Iwakuni.

Please check the website, or the newsletter if you receive a hard copy, to see the due date for your dues. The twenty dollars every two years helps maintain your Association and support our scholarships.

I encourage you to read all the newsletter as we try to have something for everyone. Suggestions are welcome.

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

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

Reunion Update



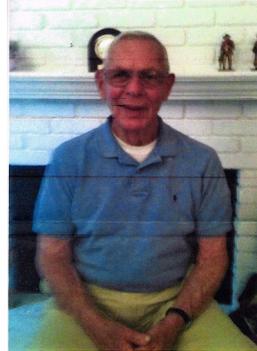
We are all disappointed by the cancellation of our 2020 Reunion. While a lot of planning had taken place, cancelling turned out to be the correct decision as more than 250,000 Americans, of all ages, have died. The majority have been in our age group. Now we must look at the future. Right now, while the prospect of a vaccine is brighter, 2021 still is not very promising given the planning that must take place. It seems the most realistic thinking looks at 2022. Your Executive Committee has looked at many possibilities and recommends that we look at returning to Whidbey Island. That is where our Navy roots are and it will be six years since the last visit there. We will work in that direction. However, we are open to other suggestions and welcome them. You may contact any of the Board members as listed in the newsletter. As always your President welcomes all comments on any subject.

Wear the Damn Mask



Iwakuni Deployment 1953

This recollection was submitted by Bruce Rosnes, Member 284.
Hope all will appreciate, especially those who have ever deployed to Iwakuni.



During my stay, our COs were Berg (for just a few weeks) Cordie Weart and Barlow. I was one of two nuggets in the squadron at the same time Weart checked in and the two of us were in his crew until our return from Iwakuni. His wife, Nukki and my wife and others planned several parties while we were gone.

Check in at Iwakuni was a bit frosty. It was the middle of winter with snow on the ground and our billets were tents with a central pot belly stove. A walk down a plank path led to the latrine which wasn't any better than the tent. By the end of our stay they had constructed the new concrete housing. 4 to 8 in a 4 bedroom area. Depending on your position in the squadron you usually shared a room with a mate.



I remember we had a super plane captain. Corry was his name. Came from Louisiana and his family would send him a new supply of some vile smelling tobacco stuff each month. Chick weed, as I recall, a base for chewing gum. He'd take a mouth full, sit in the jump seat between us with the little spittoon between his legs, and make sure we didn't break his airplane.

A lot of good times and memories. Thanks to you folks for keeping it going.

Bruce Rosnes

Our scholarship students at College of the Ozarks appreciate the Patrol Squadron Two Association



I am writing this letter to express to you my sincere gratitude for this scholarship for books. One of my biggest expenses since I moved into college has been books. They are necessary for my classes but also can be very costly. This scholarship will be helpful in covering those costs. Thank you!

I do want to let you know a few things about me, and why I chose to come to College of the Ozarks. I grew up here in southwest Missouri and attended School of the Ozarks for high school. In high school, I was involved in our band program and the Young Americans for Freedom chapter. I also was the teacher's assistant for Kindergarten and ran cross country for a few years. When I began looking into where I wished to attend college, I immediately looked here to College of the Ozarks. I love the ideals of the school. Here, the leaders try to create a Christian atmosphere where students can focus on learning. I am a Nursing major with a Spanish minor. The nursing program here is exemplary, and the graduates come out knowing how to do their job well and to the glory of God. College is meant to be a place where people learn a trade, and I know that, when I graduate here, I will have a strong Christian education behind me.

Owning books is essential to understanding the information taught in class, and the scholarship will help provide me a way to pay for these books. I am grateful to be the recipient of your scholarship. Thank you and have a blessed day.

Sincerely,

Brooke Roberts.

Another Letter from a College of the Ozarks scholarship recipient.



My name is Noah Lewis, and I am a recipient of the Patrol Squadron Two Association Scholarship. Before I came to college, I was homeschooled since middle school. When I heard about College of the Ozarks, I decided to take a trip down to Hollister, Missouri, and check out the College. I remember after the tour having a strong desire to come to this institution. I am happy to say I was accepted and am now able to fulfill that desire and get a wonderful education. As for my extracurricular activities, I try to attend First Baptist Church here in Branson as much as I can. As I am a BTS major, I hope to get more and more involved with a local church so that I can come out of college with an academic and personal experience in the ministry. My hobbies include writing and reading when I can and I love helping others when they are going through a hard time.

I wanted to thank you for your donation as it will help me continue with my college career without great financial stress. Being a biblical studies major, I always have a lot of books to order each semester, and this donation will help me pay for these costs. It is truly a blessing to receive this donation, and your generosity has encouraged me as a student at College of the Ozarks.

Sincerely,

Noah Lewis

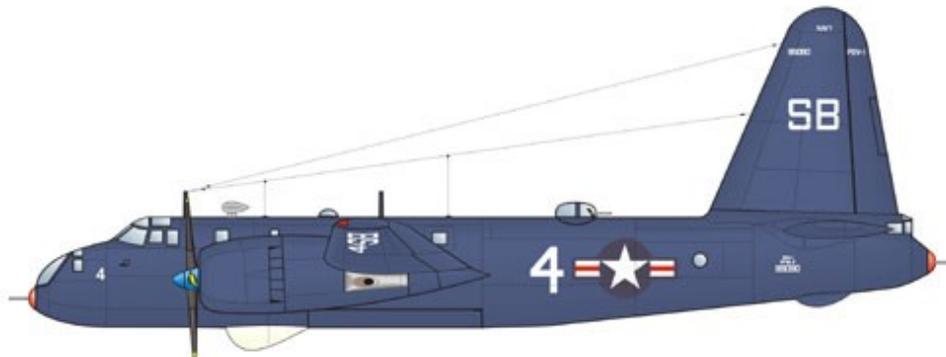


COLLEGE *of the* OZARKS®



As you should be aware, the Association sponsors four scholarships to students at College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. This school is also known as Hard Work U. Students pay no tuition but must earn their way through college with work projects to supplement their scholarships.

If you would like to help individually, as well reward yourselves, consider buying student made products. You may view products and order at www.store.cofu.edu Or you may call 833 267-1985.





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.

There are a significant number of members who have not kept up with Association dues. As stated above, please check your dues status and start to bring your dues current.

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.

Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

As I sit down to write this article, we are experiencing something that I have never experienced before – one week past a presidential election with no official winner. Oh yes, the media has declared that the Biden/Harris ticket has won, but apparently there are several lawsuits that have been filed which will delay the announcement of an official winner until the Electoral College takes its vote, and the US Congress approves whatever the College determines to be the outcome. Wow! Many of us are old enough to remember another shocking election when Harry Truman was elected president over Dewey, even though all of the morning papers announced the next day that Dewey had won. So, we watch and we wait.

No matter which party wins this election we are going to have about one-half of the nation's voters who are happy, and one-half who are very upset. How are we, who call ourselves Christians, supposed to respond? In Titus 3:1 we read, ***“Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not speak evil of anyone; and they must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone.”***

That is easier said than done, at least for me! We are also instructed to pray for our leaders. I personally have found that it is easier to respond to someone properly if I am praying for him or her.

The Bible teaches us that governments are put in place and also taken down by God Himself. In the Old Testament we read in Daniel 2:21, ***“It is He (God) who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings”*** In Job 12:23 we read, ***“He makes the na-***

tions great, then destroys them.” In Psalm 75:7 ***“God is the Judge; He puts down one, and exalts another.”*** Again in Daniel 4:17 ***“... that the living may know that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes.”*** In the New Testament we read from the Apostle Paul, ***“Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.”*** Romans 13:1

God is sovereign - which means that He can do whatever He wishes to do. Whether I like it or not (or believe it or not) has nothing whatsoever to do with what God does, or does not do. Sovereignty belongs solely to Him.

In 607 B.C., God had a prophet in Judah named Habakkuk. Things were going very badly for the Jews in Judah. The nation was engulfed in wickedness, destruction, violence, strife, injustice, perverted justice and much sin. (Sound familiar to us in 2020?) The prophet Habakkuk was indignant and angry with God. He confronted God with the question, ***“How long, O Lord, will I call for help and Thou will not hear? I cry out to Thee, ‘Violence!’ yet Thou dost not save.”*** God's answer was very interesting. He said, ***“Look! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days – you would not believe if you were told.”***

God may well be doing something in our nation of which we have no idea! He may be judging us, or He may be getting ready to bless us. Several things are evident as I look at our society. As a nation: we have turned our backs on God (not

everyone, but seemingly most); we have removed God from our public life and public spaces; we have removed Him from our schools; we have allowed one of the largest causes of death annually in this country to be the result of abortion; we have almost eliminated the word sin from our vocabulary and our consciences; and with the Covid restrictions we have even tried to prevent the worshipping together of believers in their churches. What has God said? 2 Chronicles 7:14, ***“If my people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”***

We as individuals, and also as a nation, need to repent of our sins and confess them to God, and accept His gift of salvation – which is only available to us through the costly sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us on a Roman cross outside of Jerusalem. 1 John 1:9-10 says, ***“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”***

Christmas will soon be upon us. This is what Christmas is all about – Christ being born in a stable in Bethlehem so that He could eventually die on that Roman cross outside of Jerusalem. Don't miss out on the best Christmas gift ever! Accept it today.



In Memoriam

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

William Barker (squadron 60-64)

(Apr 20)

George Winkelseth (non-member) (squadron 62-65)

(Jul 13)

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

Advice for Seniors:

#1 - Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice

#2 - "In Style" are the clothes that still fit

#3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.

#4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

#5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

#6 - "On time" is when you get there.

#7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.

#8 - It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?

#9 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

#10 - Growing old should have taken longer.

#11 - Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.

#12 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

And one more:

"One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

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
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Director	Nick Niccum 18821 185th Ave. NE, Woodinville, WA 98077 425-788-9834 nickniccum@hotmail.com
Director	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Ct., Mankato, MN 56001 507-327-6761 floyd@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/>