

June 2017

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Officers

President –
Greg Kelley

1st VP –
Dino Vlahakis

2nd VP –
Jim Welch

Director –
Vic Gulliver

Director –
Nick Niccum

Director –
Floyd Palmer

**Secretary/
Treasurer**
Bob Behrend



VP-2 The Neptune

A Message from the President

I hope you all have had a good winter and have had time to reflect on the wonderful reunion in Oak Harbor. There were many great photos in the December newsletter to help us remember. Hope those who were there enjoyed them, and the rest will see this as an incentive to attend the next reunion in San Diego. Reunions are always a good time to reminisce with old friends and shipmates. Plans are already underway for the next reunion and are discussed later in this newsletter.

As this is written, I am thinking about Memorial Day, which occurs on May 28 this year. Veteran's Day honors all who served. But Memorial Day is special. It honors those who served and gave their lives for our country in that service. Please take a moment to remember them.

As you will note, while the hotel has been contracted for, the reservations period will not be open until January 2018. We do encourage that you do book early after that. Full instructions will be in the December Newsletter. As also noted, we have a reunion planner who is working with us to ensure this is another great reunion. Of course, this is not free, but we are working to control costs and make the reunion affordable to all, but still have all the functions we are used to..

Ken Price contacted me after the last reunion and wanted to share his experiences in VP 2, and especially, his deployment to Eniwetok for the Hydrogen Bomb tests. I found this interesting and think you will too. I suspect many of you have interesting experiences, as well, that we would all like to know about. Please think about this and do not be shy about sending an email or note that we can share with all the Association.

The Treasurer's report has some important information that many of you will need to react to. Please read and contact Bob Behrend with the requested information.

Sue and I wish you a wonderful summer and fall, and look forward to seeing you at the next reunion.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

Planning has begun for San Diego *by Greg Kelley*

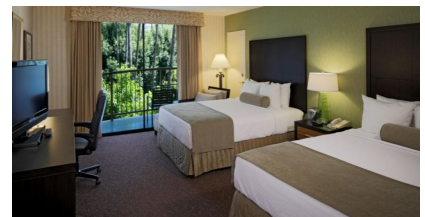
You all voted in Oak Harbor to have the next reunion in San Diego. We had hoped for volunteers to help make this happen. Unfortunately, no one stepped up for this task. But, your Executive Committee is going to make this happen. With the able guidance of lead volunteer Jim Welch, we have selected a Reunion Planner to assist with this. We have selected Armed Forces Reunions. More about them later.



SAVE THE DATE. October 18- 21, 2018.



The reunion will be at the Crown Plaza San Diego—Mission Valley Hotel, 2210 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, Thursday, October 18 - Sunday October 21, 2018. Monday, October 22, is the check out day. The Crown Plaza is



a four star hotel with many amenities. Full details for making hotel reservations and signing up for tours will be in the fall newsletter. That newsletter will provide the costs and have the tours that will be planned. As in the past, we are working to make the reunion as affordable as possible. The room rate is \$129 plus tax single or double. This will include breakfast. You may make reservations beginning in December .

What is Armed Forces Reunion and who is Ted Dey?

After researching various reunion planners, your Executive Committee selected Armed Forces Reunion in Norfolk VA. This organization was founded by Ted Dey in 1988 and has an excellent reputation. As the name suggests, Ted specializes in reunions for military organizations. Recent reunions have been for Army Chaplains, USS Memphis, and USS Missouri, and the A6 Intruder Association.

One difference this year is that registration will be through Armed Forces Reunion and will cover the regular registration as well as any tours you select. This can be on line or by mail. The registration and tour information will be in the December Newsletter. We expect the registration will include the same items as past reunions. That includes welcome reception, closing banquet, ready room and incidental costs, as well as the fee for the planner.. We expect the fee will be in line with the past three or four reunions. We will have the exact number in the December newsletter.

Things to do in San Diego

San Diego is a wonderful city, as most of us know. Many of us served at least a few months there at NAS North Island. There are many things to do and some are highlighted here. These may or may not be on one of the tours that are offered.



The San Diego Zoo is world famous and located in Balboa Park. It has over 3700 animals of 650 species and sub species. It is located near the Crown Plaza.



Balboa Park. This is not only home to the Zoo but also to many museums. Meets a wide variety of interests. This photo is of the Veteran's Museum.

USS Midway

Located along Navy Pier in downtown San Diego, USS Midway Museum features the longest-serving U.S. Navy aircraft carrier of the 20th century. Guests can enjoy a self-guided audio tour of 60 different locations on the carrier, from the engine to the control tower; and family-friendly activities including listening to real pilot conversations during Desert Storm, climbing in bunks, and more.



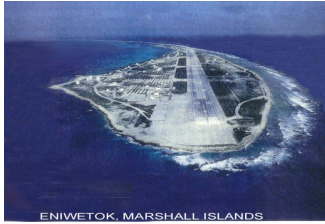
Other popular activities are the daytime cruises around San Diego Bay. Dinner in the Gas Light area, which has many fine restaurants, is another thing to consider.



The Old Town San Diego State Park is not far away and offers nice walking areas and a lot of history.

'Never tell the Platoon Sergeant (Chief) you have nothing to do.'

'Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer for anything.'
US Navy



VP 2 at Eniwetok Atoll



Ken Price submitted this. This is an interesting chapter in VP 2 History and an opportunity to learn more about Ken.

I was born and raised in Goose Creek, TX, now Baytown, and left in 1951 to join the Navy.

I am a one year member of the VP-2 Association and would like to share a bit of VP-2 history. In 1951 I joined the Navy right out of High School as the Korean War was on and the Army was still drafting guys as soon as they graduated. After Boot Camp, A and P Schools I was assigned to VP-2 on an island I had never heard of but as a new Tin Bender, ready to do my part.

In the Fall of 1952, VP-2 was deployed with 12 P2V-5's to the Atoll of Kwajalein in the Marshall islands for the first Hydrogen Bomb Test at the Atoll of Eniwetok. (up close to Bikini Atoll where the Atom Bomb Test were conducted) We were already there when the U.S. Air Force arrived with B-50's, C-124's and a B-36. They took almost all of the Ramp Parking so our 12 aircraft were pushed to the very end of the runway. The B-50's were to fly through the Hydrogen cloud to collect air samples in square boxes fixed to the top of the fuselage. VP-2's job was to fly Barrier Patrols and warn shipping to vacate the area. Good idea but difficult to accomplish, especially the Japanese Fishing Boats who were almost impossible to communicate with but we tried.

I believe the tests were called "OPERATION IVY" and lasted about two months. It was an interesting deployment and we were back at Whidbey for Christmas and then off to Kodiak in January. Typical Military operation, from 112 degrees each day to below freezing each day. But quite an adventure for a 19 year old Kid.

Ken Price - AM2 at discharge and then 8 years in the reserve at Oakland Naval Air Station.

Editor's Note on Operation IVY. (from Wikipedia)

Operation Ivy was the eighth series of American nuclear tests, coming after Tumbler-Snapper and before Upshot-Knothole. Its purpose was to help upgrade the U.S. arsenal of nuclear weapons in response to the Soviet nuclear weapons program The two explosions were staged in late 1952 at Eniwetok Atoll in the Pacific Proving Ground in the Marshall Islands.

"Things that must be together to work, usually can't be shipped together." – Supply Training Manual

Treasurer's Notes

By Bob Behrend

The Association's treasury is slowly growing more robust as we build it up from the most recent establishing of three perpetual scholarships. The scholarships are the result of your dues payments and some donations. To those members who keep their dues status current, thank you. However, there are many Association members who have long since stopped paying their dues. Dues payment by all members is vital to our continuing to establish perpetual scholarships. We ask 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 will provide your status. 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 four years behind and we do not receive any payment from you, your membership will be placed in an inactive status. Bottom line: we want you to be an active part of the Association, but you need to participate.

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: 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.

'Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag for the purpose of storing dead batteries.'

'If it's stupid but it works, it isn't stupid.' - Naval Ops Manual



In Memoriam

We have learned of the loss of the following association and associate members since our last report.

CDR Ralph Chandler
(squadron 62-64)(Jun 15)

CDR Harry H. Ferrier
(squadron 62-64)(Apr 16)

Vincent McManus (squadron
61-64)(Jun 16)

Joseph "Bill" Schneider
(squadron 51-55)(Jul 16)

James McCann (non-member)
(squadron 65-67)(Jul 16)

Capt George Robert Miyagawa
(squadron 56-60)(Jan 16)

Richard J."Dick" Guter
(Squadron 61-63)(Aug 16)

Robert Martin Coker
(squadron 67-69)(Aug 16)

Richard M. Dombrowski
(squadron 61-63)(Nov 16)

Joseph Yaross (squadron 66-
69)(Dec 16)

Tracy Crawford (squadron 63-
67)(Jan 17)

Capt. Robert R.Oshiek
(squadron CO 63-64)(non-
member)(Feb 17)

***Rosemary Demich (wife of
Ron - squadron 59-62)May 12

***Gail Yaross (wife of Jo-
seph - squadron 66-69)(Jan 17)

***Pat Gulliver (wife of Vic -
squadron 59-63)(Feb 17)

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel, please advise Bob Behrend at behendr001@hawaii.rr.com

Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

Hello, again. I have been on a journey recently that has been something entirely new to me, - it is called "elective" surgery. If I understand the term properly it means that you can select for yourself whether or not you want to have the surgery. If you don't want to try it, you can just put up with whatever your particular ailment is in its present form. Or if you want, you can accept the surgery and hope that it will make things better for you in the future than they have been in the past. As I write this in April, it has been exactly two weeks since I had total left knee replacement surgery. I must confess that at certain times during these last two weeks I have considered that I clearly had lost my mind in saying "yes." It is the kind of situation where you gather the facts beforehand, evaluate the pros and cons of the matter, anticipate the results - and make your choice. Once done it is done, and then we look for affirming testimonies from those who have done this before us, and who give us glowing reports of their outcomes. I would have to say that it is clearly a matter of faith - faith that the future outcome will be better than the present situation, even though we cannot be sure of how it will turn out.

While housebound for these few weeks of recovery, I have had a chance to think some about the similarities and differences between this elective surgery choice and the matter of our Christian faith in Christ for our salvation and eternal life. It seems that some of the similarities are: (1) we need to realize that we have a problem; (2) we need to hear that there is a solution to the problem; (3)

it helps to hear accounts from others who have tested the solution; (4) we need to make our own choice as to what we will believe; (5) and finally we need to invest ourselves in the decision that we come to. As to what is different: with elective surgery we cannot be guaranteed what the results will be, but when we choose to accept Christ and His offer to us of forgiveness for our past and future sins, and for everlasting life with Him - we can have the assurance that this is exactly what will happen. It is a done deal!

With elective surgery we have a hope that all will turn out well. With Christian faith and acceptance we have assurance - rather than just a kind of wishing hope. Hebrews 11:1 says, "**Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**" The reason for this assurance is that our forgiveness and future life with Christ has been bought and paid for by two things - the substitutionary death of Christ for our sins; and His resurrection from the grave - which verifies all of His claims to divinity, as well as His promises made to those who will follow Him. I Corinthians 6:19 says, "**Do you not know that ... you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**" You have been bought and paid for by Christ. The matter has been settled in Heaven.

Have a great summer!

VP-2 Association Officers & Appointments

President	Greg Kelley 274 Plantation Rd. Houston, TX 77024 713-419-5799 gregnsue@sbcglobal.net
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2nd Vice President	Jim Welch 8601 Terrell Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76182 817-788-2204 japwelch751@gmail.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 floydp@palmerbusservice.com
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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



Whidbey Patron Squadron Memorial

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We're on the Web

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