

June 2019

Special Points of Interest

- A Plank Owner Story—Reid Carter
- Tribute to Jim Welch
- Scholarship Updates
- Save the Date—Reunion 2020
- Final Bricks for WPSM
- Treasurer's Notes
- Chaplain's Corner
- Just for Laughs
- VP Officers and Appointments

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President –
Greg Kelley

1st VP –
Dino Vlahakis

2nd VP –
Vacant

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.

As I write this, Memorial Day is approaching. While this is sometimes celebrated by family gatherings and picnics, let's not forget that it is a day to remember and honor members of our Armed Forces who died while on active duty. Sue and I were on a Viking River Cruise in April and one of the tours was of the American Cemetery in Luxembourg. These were mostly casualties from the Battle of the Bulge plus General Patten. There are 26 military cemeteries outside the US, 20 in Europe. Remember the fallen as you observe Memorial Day!

There are a number of articles of interest in this newsletter: Reid Carter was a Plank Owner in VB130, the predecessor of VP 2. He had an interesting life. As most of you know, Jim Welch suffered heart failure and passed in January. It is not usual to recognize our member's passing in this section of the newsletter but Jim was not usual. We have a number of reports from our scholarship recipients. They all have interesting experiences. Please take time to read about them. Be sure to take note of the "save the date" for the 2020 Reunion. It is going to be another great one. Plan to attend if you can.

Jim Welch served on your Executive Board as 2nd Vice President.. We now need a replacement. The Executive Board oversees the operations of the association in-between the business meetings held at each reunion. The current members are shown as Officers in the column at the left. Openings are filled by the Board and then elected by the membership at the next business meeting. If any members of the Association are interested in serving, please contact me at gregnsue@sbcglobal.net.

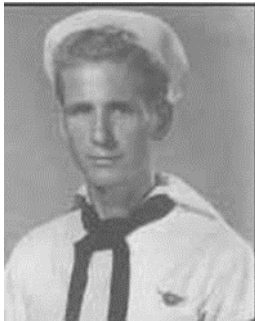
I look forward to sharing more information on the reunion in Jacksonville in the next newsletter. This may be delayed to January to ensure Armed Forces Reunions have all the optional tours worked out.

Welcome to member #618 Phil & Terry Bright (68-69)

Sue and I wish you all a great summer and fall.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

Story of a Plank Owner by Greg Kelley



Reid 1944



PV1 Ventura



Reid in Pacific, 2nd from right

Reid Carter passed away in December 2017 at the age of 98. He was Association Member 171. He joined VB 130 in 1943 prior to its commissioning. VB 130 was commissioned on March 1, 1943 in Deland, Florida. Reid was in college in 1942 when he received his "Salutations" letter from his draft board but was allowed to enlist if done within thirty days. He enlisted in the Navy, and although Reid wanted to be a pilot, he failed the color blind test and became a radioman/tail gunner assigned to the predecessor squadron that became VP-2. The full crew was Pilot, Co-Pilot, Aviation Mech, Radioman and Ordnanceman. The squadron initially deployed to the Caribbean and Brazil, and conducted Anti-Submarine Warfare patrols for about a year. This was to protect the convoys of surface ships. They then returned to NAS Quonset Point for aircraft upgrade and training. Following this, VB 130 joined the 7th Fleet, first in Hawaii and then on to many isolated islands, and the Philippines and Dutch East Indies. Reid saw a lot of combat. Besides his Combat Aircrew Wings, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and 4 Air Medals.



After the war Reid joined Chevron Corporation and retired after 27 years as a geophysicist.

Note: After the December newsletter Reid's son, Bruce, contacted me with information used for this article. Most of this was excerpted from his contribution to the Veteran's History Project. This is 47 pages. If you would like the full history please contact Greg Kelley at gregnsue@sbcglobal.net.

Tribute to Jim Welch, Executive Committee Member By Greg Kelley



Jim Welch, AT



Jim Welch, Retired

James (Jim) Welch passed on January 13, 2019. He was Association Member 413 and served in the squadron 1956-58. While on active duty, Jim served as an Aviation Electronics Technician (AT). He later had a successful career with IBM, Memorex and his own company, DP Pro Leasing.. With the association, Jim served on the Executive Board as 2nd Vice President for ten years.

Jim was instrumental in the success of several reunions. At the 2010 Reunion in Pensacola, he volunteered to chair a reunion in Fort Worth in 2012. In Fort Worth the Association agreed to have a reunion planner for the next reunion in Charleston. When the selected planner did not perform, Jim and Vic Gulliver picked up the pieces and led us to a successful time in South Carolina. After the Oak Harbor Reunion in 2016, the Executive Board decided to try another reunion planner and selected Armed Forces Reunions. Jim served as coordinator and led us to a very successful reunion in San Diego. His health prohibited him from attending, but we all benefited from his leadership. He left a legacy that will endure.

Notes about our Scholarships

The Association currently endows four of our seven scholarships to students at The College of the Ozarks (Hard Work U.) Last October, Fox & Friends aired a three hour program dedicated to the college. Jerry C. Davis, President of Ozarks made the following comment about the show and mission, vision and goals of the School.

“We are pleased with our students and their representation of this fine institution. I think you’ll find that students at College of the Ozarks are different from most college kids. Our students understand the country’s founding principles, are well informed and still believe America is one nation, under God. I was moved when the students, on their own accord, started singing the “Doxology” during a break. The producers were so impressed, that they had the students sing it live on the air. Many ask why *Fox & Friends* chose *Hard Work U.* as the live spotlight for an entire morning show. It’s because the College’s mission, vision, and goals are meaningful, noble and worth sharing with the United States of America.”

A thank you and updates from four of our scholarship recipients at College of the Ozarks.

Dear Members of Patrol Squadron Two: I would like to earnestly thank all of you for the scholarship money donated to College of the Ozarks. My name is Calvin Goze. I am a 20-year-old engineering student from Rogers, Arkansas. I was homeschooled with seven other siblings. During high school, I participated in competitive speech and debate, which tremendously helped my public speaking abilities. My hobbies include spending time with friends, playing the drums, and tinkering with technology. I enjoy 3D design and express my creativity through my 3D printer. Before coming to College of the Ozarks, I was unsure whether to choose an engineering school closer to home or a larger university. After much consideration, I chose College of the Ozarks because of the Christian values and the debt-free work education it provides. Currently, I work in the web development office at the College. Adapting to new web development technologies and gaining valuable job experience are parts of my job that I love performing. I plan to attain a bachelor's degree in engineering as well as an associate's degree in mathematics. Before, I had planned on using my own money on engineering books and supplies, but now I can invest my money in a new computer that will further my academic pursuits. My journey will be difficult, but with the Patrol Squadron Two's donation, the journey has become much easier. Sincerely, Calvin Goze

Dear Members of Patrol Squadron Two: Hello, my name is Erica Cooper. I am a sophomore at College of the Ozarks. Before College of the Ozarks, I attended Crocker R-11 High School. In Crocker, I was given the opportunity to lead many programs. My positions included President of FFCLA, Treasurer of Student Council, Senior Class President, Kiwanis Key Club Vice President, Cheer Captain for two years, Vice President of FCA, and President of National Honor Society. I began looking for a college sophomore year of high school and immediately fell in love with College of the Ozarks. What student would not love a college where they can openly display their faith, love of country, and are provided with well-rounded education? College of the Ozarks is known for their excellent teachers and programs, and even more for their patriotism, Christianity, and ability to give an education to those who are not able to get one elsewhere. While at College of the Ozarks, I plan to get involved with the community. Community is everything, and here at College of the Ozarks the influential community has already had so

Scholarships continued

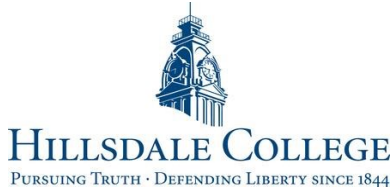
many positive impacts on my life. I have truly found a campus where I can openly grow and strengthen my faith. My declared major is Child Studies, in which I hope to eventually develop a career where I will be helping children who need it most. As you know, books are a vital part of any college career regardless of where you may go. My two main expenses at College of the Ozarks are the health and technology fee and books. This scholarship not only helps me pursue my calling but also helps the children that I may help in the future. I cannot thank you enough for providing this opportunity to further my career. Blessings, Erica Cooper

Members of the Patrol Squadron Two Association: Since receiving your scholarship, I have progressed to become a senior, due to graduate in December. Currently, I am still a county firefighter and actually live in one of the stations off campus. I commit a minimum of 60 hours per week to responding to calls. That is in addition to working 15 hours a week on campus, one day a week at another job, and one weekend a month for drill with the National Guard; all with a full course load of 15 credit hours. My plans after graduation have changed some, as I have identified multiple ways to achieve my career goals. Initially, I was planning to apply to become a Warrant Officer with the National Guard in order to become a helicopter pilot. Ultimately, my goal is to become an aerial wildland firefighter. Recently, I have discovered a flight school in Utah that has a good record with veterans. I will be able to utilize my GI Bill and other benefits that I have been able to save (thanks in part to your generous scholarship) to be able to pursue a path more tailored to aerial firefighting. In addition to exploring additional school options after graduation, I am in the works of securing employment with the United States Forest Service as a wildland firefighter. This position requires me to be based out of one station, but can take me virtually anywhere in the United States. In this position, I would be able to laterally transfer almost anywhere, as long as there is a position to fill (which according to my research would be a seasonal opportunity). I have been able to achieve a great sense of peace of mind in knowing that I have multiple options upon graduation to ultimately achieve my personal goals. Much of that peace of mind comes from having current financial security, which your organization helped tremendously in aiding me achieve such a feat for an individual still in school. As a person who was at one point homeless, financial security means more to me than perhaps the average college student. Thank you again for awarding me not only your scholarship, but peace of mind. James "Reid" Williamson

Dear Member of Patrol Squadron Two: 6 MAY2019: This past year, I have attended Advanced camp at Fort Knox Kentucky for ROTC. This was a one month Military exercise designed to test my readiness to be an officer in the U.S. Army. At camp, I ranked in the top 15-30 percent of cadets. Last summer, I completed an internship at Science Applications International Corporation where I was an intern development programmer. Through this internship, I improved my skills in web application development as well as how to work better in a team environment. I have received an internship at American Century Investments, where I will be doing web development this summer. This past year, I have maintained a 3.8 GPA while completing 36 credit hours. Thank you for your continued support as I go into my last year at College of the Ozarks. Again, I want to sincerely thank you for providing this scholarship. Sincerely, Christian T. Slater



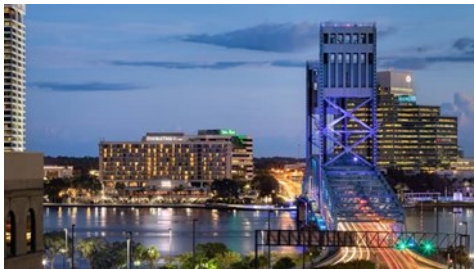
More on a Scholarship Recipient



Amongst our scholarships we have one awarded annually to a student at Hillsdale College. The College has provided a profile on the current recipient, Andrew Dick.

Andrew has thirty-five credit hours and a 3.28 grade point average. His interest is Economics. His future plans include advanced studies in either law or business. At Hillsdale, he belongs to the Hillsdale Veteran's Association, the Federalist Society, the Catholic Society, and the Students-for-Life Club. He previously served with the United States Air Force National Guard at the Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township, Michigan. During his four years of active duty, he served as an operations intelligence analyst, reached the rank of staff sergeant, and received an Air Force Achievement Award and two nominations for Outstanding Airman-of-the-Year. Andrew is an independent, non-traditional student.

Save the Date - 2020 Reunion - Jacksonville



Bob Behrend and Greg Kelley are serving as your reunion committee. We have contracted with Armed Forces Reunions, the same company that assisted with the San Diego Reunion. The dates are October 15-19 2020. Of course you can come earlier and stay later. The reunion will be at the DoubleTree Jacksonville Riverfront. Please do not contact them yet. Details and registration will be in the year-end newsletter. We expect to have the tour selections by then as well. Plan to attend.

Final Bricks at the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial

In the past few newsletters, and at the last reunion, we promoted the opportunity for one last chance to donate a brick to the Memorial. This was primarily for those who were not around when the Memorial was built. However, the offer was open to all. Donations of \$200 were made to subscribe for nineteen additional bricks. Dave Bowen reviewed the plans to ensure the placement did not conflict with the original design. The original engraving company has been contracted to do the work. The remaining obstacle is to find consecutive dry days to complete the work. We know how often dry days occur on Whidbey, but the project should be complete this summer. Thanks to Joe Gleason for coordinating this.



Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial



Treasurer's Notes

By Bob Behrend

A big thanks to all of you that have kept your dues current, or in many case paid in advance. Because of this, the Association treasury has once again reached a level that allowed us to establish two additional scholarships at the College of the Ozarks, also known as "Hard Work University".

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.

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 edition of Chaplain's Corner, it is just a few days before Easter and my mind is taken back to my childhood and my Easter celebrations of that time. I was raised in Virginia and attended public schools in the 1940s-50s. In those days we started school each day with a reading from the Bible, the class praying the Lord's Prayer, and then the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Our class was composed primarily of Catholics, Protestants, and those of Jewish faith. Thus we were very careful to limit our class Bible readings to the Old Testament so as not to offend any of our Jewish friends. In those days we celebrated many holidays including: Washington's Birthday, Lincoln's Birthday, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We had a "Christmas" break from school and an "Easter" break – which was Good Friday before Easter and Easter Monday only. All of these holidays were discussed in depth in class and we all came to have a pretty good understanding of what they commemorated and what they were all about.

Now our country has become so secularized that we have taken God completely out of our schools, our government, and in many cases our thinking. This is very sad and in my opinion very detrimental to the health and stability of the country. As a result many of our citizens (particularly our younger generations) have no real idea as to what some of our holidays are truly about – particularly Christmas and Easter.

So what is Easter about? Many know that it has something to do with bunnies, parades, egg hunts, and family get-togethers. Most realize that its date moves around from sometime in March to sometime in April, but have no idea why. Easter is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ that occurred two millennia ago - some three days after His having died on a Roman cross. It might better be known as "Resurrection" Sunday than Easter Sunday, but it is what it is. When the early Christians decided to set aside a special time to commemorate this event, the date picked was one that coincided with an ancient pagan celebration. This celebration always occurred on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox (which is approximately March 21 every year give or take a matter of hours, which we now can determine with our atomic clocks). Thus we find the date of Easter moving around constantly, rather than remaining at a fixed date.

But what is Easter actually about? It is about God's confirming that Jesus Christ's mission to earth was completely accomplished. Seven hundred years before Christ was born, it was predicted that Jesus would be born of a virgin and He would be called Immanuel – meaning **"God with us."** (Isaiah 7:14) Shortly after the virgin Mary became pregnant, an angel of the Lord appeared to her espoused husband and told him that Mary would bear a son and that they should name him Jesus, **"...for it is He who will save His people from their sins."** (Matthew 1:21) The last words that the Lord Jesus uttered from the cross at his death were, **"It is finished!"** (John 19:30) This means that Jesus' mission to save people from their sins was completed by His substitutionary death on that cross for each of our sins. God then affirmed .

Chaplain's Corner (continued)

and confirmed the completion of this task by raising Christ from the dead on the third day, just as had been prophesized hundreds of years earlier.

The apostle Paul confirmed the importance of this when he said, **"...if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless, you are still in your sins."** (1 Corinthians 15:17)

So what is the significance of the resurrection? Don't miss this. It is the most important moment in history! The Savior of the world had come, He had been vilified, He had been crucified, He had been put to death, and now God was raising Him from the dead to show that He was now being verified by the heavenly Father! All of the events of Easter are the actions of God showing us how much He loves each of us, and demonstrating the great lengths to which He has gone to provide for us an eternal future with Him. The apostle Paul writes, **"But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** (Romans 5:8) However, there is a catch! This freely provided gift of God is offered to each of us - but only applicable to each of us if we will accept it. We read in John 1:12, **"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."** Have you received Him into your life? If not, I would urge you to do so today. Just ask Him to forgive your sins and invite Him to come into your life and become your Lord and Savior. He will do it. He wants nothing more than to bring you into His kingdom. He has great plans for your life. Ask Him in today! Then you will learn the truth of the saying that we so often utter at Easter, "He is risen. He is risen indeed!"



In Memoriam

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

Reid Carter (squadron 43,45,47)

(Dec 17)

Jim Welch (squadron 56-58)

(Jan 19)

James T. Morgan (squadron 60-63)

(Mar 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

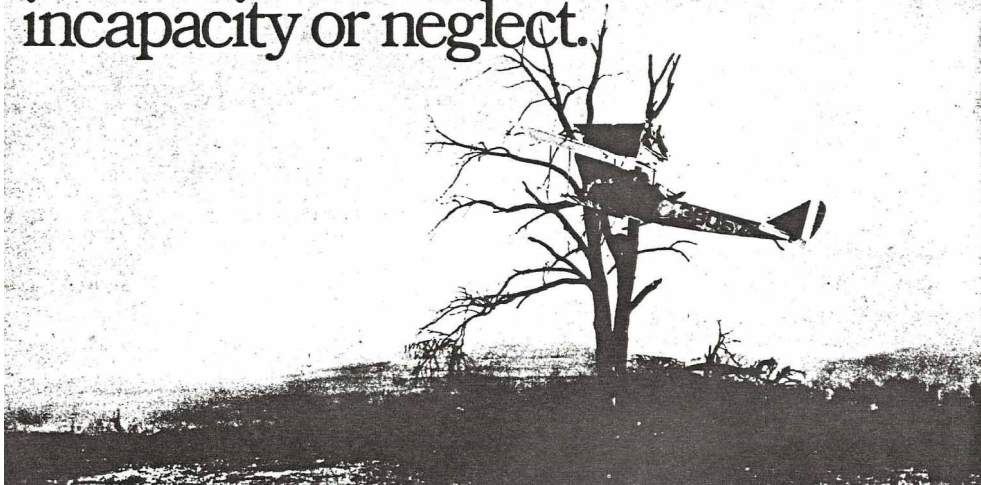
or Doug Donohue at nvsoar@charter.net



Just for laughs



Aviation in itself is not inherently dangerous. But to an even greater degree than the sea, it is terribly unforgiving of any carelessness, incapacity or neglect.



Thoughts

Even Duct tape can't fix stupid...but it can muffle the sound.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

I don't trip over things. I do random gravity checks.

Old age is coming at a really bad time!

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than "please". I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".

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	Vacant
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 nickniccum@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



**See you in Jacksonville
Reunion 2020
October 15-19**

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



We're on the Web

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