

June 2022

## Special Points of Interest

- Floyd Palmer—A remembrance—by Vic Gulliver
- Reunion 2022—Pensacola
- College of the Ozarks and Hillsdale College student thank yous
- Treasurer's Notes
- Chaplain's Corner
- Just for Laughs
- VP Officers and Appointments

## Officers

**President –**  
Greg Kelley

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP –**  
Bill Klett

**Director –**  
Vic Gulliver

**Director –**  
Nick Niccum

**Director –**

**Secretary/  
Treasurer**  
Bob Behrend



# VP-2 THE NEPTUNE

## A Message from the President

We lost our long time President in December just as the Newsletter was coming out. Floyd Palmer was truly a Navy success story. Vic Gulliver has written a tribute that appears on page 2.

We believe, with assistance from Beach Bum Trolley, we have a great reunion planned. The registration form is attached to the newsletter email. It can be completed for mail in. We encourage you to register early for the reunion so we can plan for the number attending. The hotel will not charge if you have to cancel. The same is true for registration and the tours as long as it is for illness or other reasonable happenings. So there is no penalty for registering if you have to cancel.

Over the past few newsletters, we have had interesting articles by our members on their VP 2 experiences. We have another article already for next December, but we want more going forward. Please send us your stories. We need to share them.

We need a new Executive Committee Member. Consider getting involved.

Personal medical moments. 2-3 years ago, I had surgery for a torn meniscus in my left knee. My surgeon noted that there was not much cartilage but I ignored him. After two plus years of pain and reduced mobility, I decided on a partial knee replacement in April. Within six weeks I was totally recovered with no pain and with two additional weeks of physical therapy now wish I had not waited. Sidelight: During pre-op tests discovered recently developed A-Fib (irregular heartbeat). My new friend, the cardiologist, says not to worry but must be monitored. He says 1 in 4 in our age group (all of us) have A-Fib. Take care of yourselves.

Sue and I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to the reunion in Pensacola. Stay safe.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

## Floyd D. Palmer (1944-2021)

### A remembrance by Vic Gulliver

I first met Floyd when he was assigned as 2<sup>nd</sup> Mech on our flight crew in 1962. He was new to the squadron and barely 18 years old. Rick Dombrowski, our plane captain, took Floyd under his wing and taught him a few things about being an airplane mechanic and a good sailor.



Skip ahead to my first VP-2 Association reunion in 1996 in Oak Harbor where I reunited with several former crewmembers including Floyd. I hadn't seen those guys in 33 years. Floyd took me aside and gave me a brief synopsis of how the Navy, his VP-2 tour, and his time in our flight crew had turned his life completely around for the better. He was forever grateful for the unexpected opportunities that began in VP-2. Years later, he asked me to proof-read his autobiography, which I did.

Floyd came from humble if not tragic beginnings. Floyd was a troubled youth whose life was made immeasurably better by joining the Navy and learning a skill. He made the most of his squadron training to get a follow-on job as an airline mechanic. Before too long, Floyd and his wife, Lois had branched out to buy and salvage a small failed school bus company. With many years of hard work and clever business skills, that bus company grew into a major industry in Minnesota. .

At the 1998 reunion in San Jose, Floyd was unanimously elected to be president of our Association. He served in that post for the next sixteen years. During those years, we did more than just have biannual reunions. We created the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial (WPSM). We raised the funds to restore the world's most famous patrol aircraft, the Truculent Turtle. We have funded numerous college scholarship grants for military personnel and their dependents. Floyd wanted a more professional looking VP-2 Newsletter, so he arranged for a publisher and personally paid to have the Newsletter professionally printed and mailed to the members. During his time in office, our Association membership grew from under 200 to more than 600 members.

Floyd came up with the idea of sponsoring a P2V-7 display at the main gate to Ault Field, so he tasked Don Hanson to form a committee to work on that project. That concept became unfeasible, so it was reimagined as a memorial that eventually became the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial. The WPSM wall shows the names of 86 people who perished in P2V crashes. We raised most of the money to pay for the memorial by selling inscribed bricks for the memorial floor at \$200 each. Everyone whose name appears on the wall also has an inscribed brick on the floor. Floyd made sure of that. He purchased a brick for every victim who didn't otherwise have one. He didn't want that to be known, but now you know. Floyd was also very generous when we were raising money for the Truculent Turtle.

Floyd was only 78 when he passed away. He had retired from the bus business, leaving the operation of the company to their daughter, Holly. But he remained on the Executive Board of the VP-2 Association. Buses were his business, but he never lost his gratitude to the Navy or his love of country. Wherever Floyd has gone, he's probably working on making it better.



## Treasurer's Notes



By

*Bob Behrend*

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](http://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](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

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. If you are receiving your newsletter via snail mail and there are two asterisk (\* \*) next to your dues due date, it means we do not have your current email. If you wish to receive the newsletter via email, please notify me with an updated email.

Executive Committee Member needed.



Between Reunions, the Association is directed by the seven member Executive Committee. With the untimely death of Floyd Palmer in December we have a vacancy. If you would be interested in serving, please contact Greg Kelley. Any Board Member can provide additional information.

Business Meeting

We have a business meeting at this year's reunion, as at every reunion. Because of Covid 19 and cancellation of the 2020 reunion, all members of the Executive Committee are up for election/reelection. These are Greg Kelley, President, Dino Vlahakis, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Bill Klett, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Bob Behrend, Secretary/Treasurer, and Directors Vic Gulliver and Nick Niccum. Although all the existing members have volunteered to continue, any member is welcome to run for any position. We will also elect a replacement for Floyd Palmer, a Director, who passed in December.



Because of our declining membership and difficulty in locating reliable reunion organizers, we will also have a discussion on future reunion plans.



## VP 2 Reunion 2022



As we said previously, we have made arrangements with Beach Bum Trolleys in Pensacola to be our reunion planners for Reunion 2022. Working with them we have selected a hotel experienced in hosting military reunions for groups our size and accommodating our needs, including the Ready Room. We have arranged for many events, some included in the basic reunion and several optional tours and a dinner. The reunion will start on October 31 with check in and welcome reception and end with the banquet on November 3 with checkout on November 4.

### Where will we stay?

The hotel we have selected will be transitioned to a Choice Comfort Inn by October. It is currently a Rodeway, also a Choice brand. It will not have a bar. However there is a liquor store within a three minute walk. For those eligible, the Navy Package Store is less than a ten minute drive away at Corry Field.



A plus is the Ready Room. It is located in the Phase II Building where we will have 30 rooms. We will have beer, soft drinks and water along with snacks and coffee available for you.

You may book the hotel room immediately. You will not be charged until you arrive and occupy the room. The room is \$95 plus tax per night and may be reserved by calling 850-455-4561 at any time. Tell them you are with the VP2 reunion 2022 group. The rate is good for three days before and after

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## Registration

The registration form for the reunion is included with this newsletter. Beach Bum Trolleys have also posted it on their website at [www.http://beachbumtrolley.com/vp2registration.pdf](http://beachbumtrolley.com/vp2registration.pdf)

As an added note the banquet entrees descriptions are:

Beef—Pepper Coated Strip Loin grilled & served w/ rosemary

Fish -Grouper Margarita-sautéed filet of Gulf grouper w/ a tequila & triple sec sauce

Chicken Feta & Pancetta Stuffed Chicken breadcrumb crusted & sautéed w/ a chicken volute sauce .

## What will you be able to do?



Beach Bum Trolleys have arranged a number of events for us. Included with your registration is a Welcome event at the hotel with a Fish Fry (includes chicken for those who do not eat fish) on October 31. The registration also includes the banquet on November 3 and, of course, the Ready Room. The registration fee is \$130. This is per person.



Beach Bum has set up several optional events for us. Tour #1 will be on November 1. Those who sign up for this will take a trolley to the Naval Air Station to watch the Blue Angels practice and then continue through the flight line to the Naval Air Museum where we can tour the displays and have lunch at the Cubi Bar and Café. The cost is \$55 per person.

On November 2, you will have a choice of optional tours. Tour # 2 is the Dolphin Tour. This tour will take you around Pensacola Bay and may allow you to see the Blue Angels practice from over the water. This tour includes lunch. The cost is \$55 per person



Tour #3 is of historic downtown Pensacola. This will take you by many historic sites, including a stop at Veteran's Memorial Park, and ends with lunch at McGuire's Irish Pub. The cost for this tour is \$55 per person.

Tour #4 is an optional activity for a BBQ dinner at the hotel on November 2. This will be a wonderful southern dinner. The cost of the dinner is \$30 per person

More information on these activities may be found on the Beach Bum Trolley website, <https://beachbumtrolley.com>

Thursday will be our business meeting and yet another opportunity to meet with our ship mates.

To get more information on the tours and meals please visit [WWW.beachbumtrolley.com](http://WWW.beachbumtrolley.com).

For those flying to Pensacola, UBER and taxis are available.

Your Executive Board believes this will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to get together again and celebrate the brotherhood. Please plan to join us.

## From our College of the Ozarks Scholarship Students



Dear Members of Patrol Squadron Two:

My name is Elizabeth Zeller, but most people call me Betsy. I am from Westcliffe, a very small town nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. I lived there from the time I was born until I came to College of the Ozarks. I have twelve siblings, and all of us were homeschooled by our parents. My dad is a retired Army Colonel Chaplain who now works full time as the president of a non-profit seminary, and my mom works as a stay-at-home mom, homeschooling my siblings and caring for our farm animals.

I am a sophomore at College of the Ozarks, studying Music Theory and Composition. I chose to attend College of the Ozarks because I heard many good things about the school from my siblings who attended here before me, and because this school provides the unique opportunity for me to work for my education, which is such a blessing to me and my family. I love studying music here, but music books and software are expensive, so your scholarship is greatly appreciated and will be well used on music materials. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Blessings,

Dear Members of Patrol Squadron Two:

My name is Dalton Decker and I would like to express my gratitude for your donation. Receiving this scholarship will ease my financial burden and allow me more time to focus on my studies and involve myself in college activities.

I grew up in Mount Vernon, Texas where I attended Mount Vernon High School. In high school, I played football, basketball, ran track, and was an active member of my school's theater department. I decided to attend College of the Ozarks because it instills a hard work ethic and the value of patriotism in its students. I am currently studying Psychology with an additional goal of receiving my firefighter certifications after graduation. Aside from my studies, I enjoy lifting weights at the gym, learning about the real estate market, participating in college intramural sports, and visiting with friends. I currently work at the Keeter Center where I have been able to further develop my skills with people and learn how to better serve them.

Thank you again for providing me the opportunity to receive the Second Patrol Squadron Two Association Scholarship. Your support of my education will help me to achieve my goals and dreams.

Dear Mr. Kelley,

I would first like to say thank you for your generous donations toward my education at Hillsdale College. Without the Patrol Squadron Two Association scholarship, my attendance here would be significantly harder, if possible. My name is Isaac Ogar. I am a native of Williams, CA and an eight year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. Receiving an education at Hillsdale has been a goal of mine for 11 years, all made possible through your generosity. As you may know, Hillsdale College is unrivalled in its strive to provide

its students with a true education. I can attest to this in my own observations in my first year being a student within it. You have made this possible and with this provision I plan to continue with my military service, utilizing my degree to receive a commission in the U.S. Army. My years in the military has shown me that it is in much need of more good leadership as good leaders are few. Hillsdale college will not only provide a great education but also fortifying and cultivating great skills for the necessity of "good leadership." This college is only able to do this because of individuals like yourself, Mr. Kelley. So again,

Thank you!



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## Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

For many weeks now we have been bombarded with live TV coverage of the war in Ukraine. We are shocked and sickened daily by the carnage; the inhumanity; the vileness; the wickedness of this unprovoked and evil war of the Russian President Putin against his neighbor in the Ukraine. We are seeing horrendous images and cruelty that we have rarely seen since World War 2 and Vietnam. This sort of thing has gone on in other places, but not in such an open and large-scale manner.

You may ask, "What is going on? This is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century! The world is now more civilized and we're supposed to be beyond these kinds of atrocities!" Really? Have you checked the streets of Chicago lately? With all of our education and knowledge we *should* be more civilized, but we seem to be going in the opposite direction: road rage; homicides at historic levels; child abuse; open shoplifting with no consequences; open borders; total disregard of legal authority; no concern or regard for truth.

How has this happened? I believe that it is the result of removing God from the public arena. Russia has officially been under an atheistic government for over 100 years. In America we have steadily removed God from our culture for the past 50 years. When God is removed we soon find His values and guidance for our lives eroding, and soon His influence is all but eradicated. Then we become our own gods and we individually begin to determine what is truth and what is not; what is acceptable and what is not. It is not a long trip from there to utter chaos and anarchy. Does this sound familiar to our present situation in America?

The humanist philosophy of the last few hundred years has tried to convince us that our human nature is good, and that our environment and experience are the things that cause some of us to become bad as we age. This sounds nice but it is in direct contrast to the teachings of the Bible, which is God's instruction manual for mankind.

The Bible tells us that each of us is born with a "sin nature" and that nature leads us in directions away from God and his values. Did anyone have to teach us to lie, or to envy, or to lust, or to be full of pride? No. It is in our very nature to do so, and it results in separating us from our Holy God. We read in Isaiah 59:2, "**Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not**

**hear.**" Romans 3:23 says "**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**"

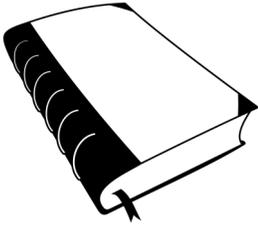
But God, because of His love for each of us, has provided a bridge across this separation – that being Jesus Christ, who being perfect and sinless was able to die a substitutionary death on our behalf. This was necessary because "**The wages of sin is death ...**" Romans 6:23. Later we read in 1 Peter 3:18, "**For Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.**" All of us are familiar with John 3:16 which says, "**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.**"

But, like any gift, you must receive it to make it of any use to you. John 1:12 says "**But as many as received Him to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.**" If you have never done so, take a moment wherever you are right now to tell God that you accept His gift of eternal life and open your life to Christ.

So, where do we go from here? Clearly our nation and our world seem to be going in the wrong direction – heading toward Hell on earth, and Hell in eternity. We as individuals may not be able to change the direction of our culture, but God is in the business of changing lives, one life at a time. He wants to work in each of our lives, and the fact is that each of us has influence in our own little circle. Who knows – if we can make a change in our circle of influence it may make a change in someone else who moves in other circles, and ultimately change the direction of our culture. "**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.**" 2 Chronicles 7:14.

It all sounds too good and too easy to be true. But it is true! Jesus said, "**You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" John 8:32

Have a great summer, and enjoy



## In Memoriam

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

Marvin L. Sommer (squadron 54-57)

(Aug 21)

Robert A. Folk (squadron 64-66)

(Dec 21)

Chuck Peterson (squadron 61-64)

(Mar 22)

Mike O'Gara (squadron 57-59)

(Mar 22)

David Crouse (squadron 57-61)

(Apr 22)

\*\*\*Lynda Porterfield (husband Gary) (squadron 63-66)

(Feb 22)

\*\*\*Barbara Guter (husband Dick) (squadron 61-63)

(Apr 22)

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](mailto:behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com) or Doug Donohue at [nvsoar@charter.net](mailto:nvsoar@charter.net)



# Just for laughs



It's weird being the same age as old people.

*When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.*

If you can't think of a word say "I forget the English word for it." That way people will think you are bilingual instead of an idiot.

*You don't realize how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.*

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

*I see people my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.*

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chunky.

*If you are trying to impress me with your vehicle, it better be a food truck.*

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

*"On time" is when you get there.*

Growing old should have taken longer.

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

Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.

## VP-2 Association Officers & Appointments

<b>President</b>	Greg Kelley 274 Plantation Rd. Houston, TX 77024 713-419-5799 gregnsue@sbcglobal.net
<b>1st Vice President</b>	Dino Vlahakis 54 Westview Lane, Lebanon, NH 03766 603-448-3729 cgV601@comcast.net
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Bill Klett 9905 Hidden Trail Ct. Fairfax Station, VA 22039 703-569-2715 flyboynmate1960@verizon.net
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Robert Behrend 98-1820 Kaahumanu St. Apt P, Pearl City, HI 96782 808-455-7670 behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com
<b>Director</b>	Vic Gulliver 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60026 847-296-6907 vicgulliver@comcast.net
<b>Director</b>	Nick Niccum 18821 185th Ave. NE, Woodinville, WA 98077 425-788-9834 nickniccum@hotmail.com
<b>Director</b>	
<b>Website Coordinator</b>	Doug Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410 775-781-3737 nvsoar@charter.net
<b>Association Chaplain</b>	Doug Millar 12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 509-888-1910 dna@dnamillar.com
<b>Association Historian</b>	Skip Forseth 2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062 650-365-2806 p2flyer@pacbell.net
<b>Association Parliamentarian</b>	Bob Bender 197 Mill Pond Drive, Middleville, MI 49333 616-450-6790 bobender@yahoo.com
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	Bob Champoux 286 145 <sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gregnsue@sbcglobal.net)



**Patrol Squadron Two Association**  
98-1820 Kaahumanu St Apt P  
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We're on the Web

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