

December 2018

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## 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

I hope you all have had a good year. It was great time at the reunion and Sue and I enjoyed seeing all who were able to attend. There were about 85 attending. While space prevents including photos of everyone and everything, we hope there are enough to show it was a fun time. We agreed to have the 2020 Reunion in Jacksonville. Maybe we can learn more about the P-8. There will be more information in the June newsletter.

Please take note of the scholarship updates. The two new scholarships bring our total to seven. VP-2 is having an impact on the future of some of our veterans.

Last year I mentioned Wreaths Across America. This organization places wreaths on graves at U. S. National Cemeteries all over the world. This year the date is December 15. If you live near one of the locations, consider participating.. It is a very inspirational.

After two years of no new members, we have five to report this time. That proves we still have shipmates out there who need to find us. If you meet prospects, please let Bob Champoux know so we can get them on board. Special thanks to Bob McLaughlin for locating a couple of these new members. They are;

#613 Jim and Shirley Copeland (57-59)

#614 John and Phyllis Snook (68-69)

# 615 Phil Ray (58-62)

#616 Jim and Helen Parrot (65-68)

#617 Jay Roberts (65-68).

The Copelands, Parrots and Jay Roberts all attended the San Diego reunion to get reacquainted.

As the year comes to a close, Sue and I wish you very happy holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Greg Kelley, President, Patrol Squadron Two Association.

## A Great and Well Deserved Tribute to Dave Bowen

A well-deserved recognition to Dave was made at the reunion. The following is the text of the presentation, written by Vic Gulliver.



Greg Kelley presents plaque to Dave Bowen

“I’d like to take a couple of minutes to tell you about one of our members. Dave Bowen joined our Association more than two decades ago when the Association was just beginning to grow into what we see today. When Floyd Palmer was our President, Floyd talked Dave into serving on a committee that was working to create a Memorial to fallen VP crews. That committee was headed by Don Hanson, and was looking for a way to purchase a P2V aircraft as a centerpiece for the Memorial.

When the purchase and display of an aircraft proved to be problematic, the committee turned to the idea of building a Memorial with a statue and a granite wall of honor. You’ve all seen the magnificent Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial. Did you know that Dave Bowen designed that Memorial? You can go to our website and see Dave’s original drawing of what the Memorial should look like. Dave was a driving force in every phase of the development of the Memorial. It was Dave who scouted out many sculptors from around the country, and led the committee to select Michael Maiden to create our airman statue. It was Dave who researched many granite companies in the area, and led the committee to selecting the beautiful granite that was used in the Memorial.

It was a nearly impossible task to identify the names of those to be honored on the Memorial. There is no central repository of VP aircrew casualty names. It took more than a year of constant research effort for Dave to come up with an accurate list of deceased Whidbey VP crewmembers. The names were to be carved in stone and had to be 100% correct.

Dave was there, shovel in hand, when the foundation for the Memorial was dug. He was there supervising the laying of bricks when the patio of the Memorial was created. He made trips to the foundry to ensure the accuracy of the design of the airman statue. He was there when the statue and the granite wall were set in place. Every year since the Memorial was dedicated, Dave has been out there polishing the statue, trimming the grass, and sprucing up the bricks on the patio.

Our Association owes a debt of gratitude to Dave Bowen for his many years of service to our organization. I’d like to have Dave come forward to receive a token of our appreciation.”



## REUNION REPORT BY NICK NICCUM

The 2018 VP-2 Association reunion was held in San Diego, October 18-21. Attendance this year was a little less than previous reunions, but the enjoyment, frivolity, and good time atmosphere was not diminished. Several of our regulars had some health issues that prevented their attendance this time and we missed them. Dino Vlahakis, Vic Gulliver, Elizabeth Chruma, Ken Deboer, Bill Bacus, Marv Sommer and Jim Welch are several that come to mind. We wish them, and anyone else who missed for health reasons a recovery and look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville in 2020.



The Crown Plaza at Mission Bay proved to be a wise selection for the reunion site. They provided ample recognition and a pair of large rooms for our Ready Room. With plenty of snacks and beverages, the Ready Room was again a popular place to gather to revive old memories with shipmates and meet new friends. Several cruise books and publications were available to refresh our memories. Thursday's Welcome dinner was a full Mexican buffet on the lawn beside the swimming pool. Sunday night we had a banquet with equally good food. The entertainment for the banquet was provided by an excellent professional singer, Manuel Romero, who just happens to be the grandson of our own Melvin Fadness (59-62).

There were two field trips this year, including a harbor cruise, displaying the Navy's strength in San Diego Harbor, the second largest Navy base in the country. Lunch was in Old Town. The next day's tour was to the Air and Space museum in Balboa Park. Lunch then was in Coronado near the old ferry terminal. Sunday, Doug Millar conducted a well-attended church service, and the business meeting followed. At the business meeting Dave Bowen was singled out and given a plaque, honoring and showing our appreciation for his distinguished service to the VP-2 Association in many ways, but, singling out the contribution to the planning, design, and execution of the placing of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial near the entrance to the Seaplane Base in Oak Harbor. Dave continues to devote many hours to the maintenance and upkeep of the memorial. Location of the 2020 reunion was next, and after a close runoff between a cruise and JAX, Jacksonville won.

One of the less noticed effects of our Association's efforts is the way it connects descendants of former VP squadron members. Last reunion we learned of family members who came to Oak Harbor to search for family names on the WPSM memorial. This reunion John Farwell, retired USN Commander, attended our reunion hoping to find members who knew his dad, Warren Farwell (VP-2 57-59). He was successful in that effort. Also it was good to see several members attending their first reunion. Thanks to Jim Welch for his efforts in coordination with the Armed Forces Reunion planner to make San Diego a reality, and a great reunion.

If you didn't attend, we missed you. Plan now to attend 2020 in Jacksonville, Florida.





PHOTOS FROM THE SAN DIEGO REUNION OCTOBER 18-21, 2018



Lynda & Gary Porterfield, Greg Kelley, Bob & Sue Behrend



Barbara and Dave Finley at the Space Museum



Dave Brougham and Dan Salfisberg



Carol & Melvin Fadness, Manual Romero and Maria



Barbara & Mike O'Gara, Linnea & Neil Kosbab



Business Meeting





Bob Hallberg, Sue Kelley



Joan and Joe Gleason on the Harbor Cruise



Anna Huynh and Larry Dietrich on the cruise boat



Meryl Dando, Doug Donohue, Ed Hoit



Dancing at the Banquet



Linda Smith-Reichel, Bruce Campbell, John and Joyce Arnold, Sandy Witt

# Notes about our Scholarships

## More Scholarships



Thoughts were presented at the reunion about adding to our scholarships to benefit service members of all ranks and rates and their families. The Executive Committee agreed with the thoughts presented and affirmed expansion of our endowment to the College of the Ozarks Endowment. Our endowment now totals \$25,000. This will support four annual scholarships totaling \$1250. It will help the students pay for books to continue their studies.

**THANKS!**

### A thank you from two of our scholarship recipients

Dear Patrol Squadron Two Association,

Thank you so much for affording me the opportunity to study at Hillsdale College possible! My family (2 kids, with one on the way!) are also so grateful for this opportunity.

I'm currently in my sophomore year with an intended degree of economics. The economics classes which I have taken have helped me better understand the world around me and have aided my decision making.

While raising a family and going to Hillsdale College as a full-time student has its challenges, we are so blessed to be here. We love being immersed in the community and taking advantage of all the College has to offer - great speakers, a thriving community, and events our whole family can attend.

Thank you for supporting me and my education at Hillsdale College!

Sincerely,  
Andrew Dick

October 31, 2018

Hello,

I am writing to thank you all for donating to my MOAA scholarship this year. I cannot express how much I appreciate your generous donation! Currently, I am in my Senior year at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA, studying Public Health and Art History. While I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to pursue higher education, the journey can be discouraging at times. It inspires me to continue to work hard, knowing that there are strangers who would support my education. Thank you so much for supporting me and encouraging me on my journey!

Warm regards,  
Perri Nelson  
WM '19



## A Skipper Gone West by Greg Kelley

One of our skippers passed away after our last newsletter



Commander Homer C. Ragsdale, Jr was born October 31, 1923 and passed September 1, 2018, in Redlands Ca, just shy of his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. Commander Ragsdale began his navy career in February 1942 as a NAVCAD. He reported to Patrol Squadron TWO as Executive Officer on April 4, 1965 and served as Commanding Officer from January 1966 until relieved by CDR Bruce

Campbell in January 1967. He served as Commanding Officer during the second deployment that included service in Vietnam.

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See you in Jacksonville in 2020.

Dates in the June Newsletter.



## Treasurer's Notes

By Bob Behrend

A big thanks to all of you that have kept your dues current, or in many cases paid in advance. Because of this, the Association treasury has once again reached a level that will allow us to establish two additional scholarships.

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.

[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.



There are times we need to lighten up.. The editorial staff hopes the following will help you.

Where there is a will I want to be in it.

Knowledge is knowing tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

I didn't say it was your fault. I said I was blaming you.

You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

You are never too old to learn something stupid.

We never really grow up—we only learn how to act in public.

Since light travels faster than sound,, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now,

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify\_\_\_", I answered "a doctor".





## Informational update

We saw an introduction to the P8 at Whidbey. Hopefully we will have an update in Jacksonville.. This is a report from NAVAIRSYSCOM.



### Mission

The P-8A Poseidon is quickly becoming a leader in long-range anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), as the replacement aircraft for the P-3C Orion.

### Description

The P-8A Poseidon, the U.S. Navy's maritime patrol aircraft, is capable of broad-area, maritime and littoral operations, and is also successful at search and rescue.

Operating with a smaller crew, yet delivering an extended global reach, greater payload capacity, higher operating altitude, open-systems architecture and significant growth potential, the P-8A provides more combat capability. .

With state of the art technology, developed specifically for the Poseidon, such as synthetic aperture radar, an electro and optical infrared sensor turret, and increased acoustic capability, the aircraft conducts concurrent passive and active processing.

In addition to aircraft procurement, the program office, NAVAIR's PMA-290, is also focused on depot-level maintenance, which is currently on-going at U.S.-based airframe maintenance facilities. Additionally, training systems infrastructure improvements are ongoing, along with the continued integration and fleet delivery of preplanned incremental capability upgrades.

Equipped with state of the art radars, sensors and a new air-to-air refuel capability, the P-8A is scheduled to receive periodic future enhancements to keep pace with the ASW threat.

The P-8A Poseidon is responsive and interoperable with traditional manned forces and evolving unmanned sensors.

### Specifications

**Primary Function:** Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-surface Warfare (ASuW), Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)

**Contractor:** Boeing Defense, Space and Security

**Propulsion:** 2 CFM 56-7B engines with 27,300 lbs. thrust each

**Length:** 129.5 feet (39.47 meters)

**Height:** 42.1 feet (12.83 meters)

**Wingspan:** 123.6 feet (37.64 meters)

**Maximum Gross Takeoff:** 189,200 pounds (85,820 kilograms)

**Airspeed:** 490 knots (564 mph) true air speed

**Ceiling:** 41,000 feet (12,496 meters)

**Range:** 1,200 nautical miles radius with four hours on station

**Crew:** Nine

**Armament:** Torpedoes, cruise missiles



## In Memoriam

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

James Anthony Moody (squadron 66-68)(Mar '17)

Peter Wolls (squadron 58-62)(Apr '18)

(May 18)William D. Smith (squadron 56-59)(Jul 18)

Richard Leon Gregory (squadron 57-58)(Jul 18)

\*\*\*Marie Hart (husband Frank) (squadron 59-62) (Jul 18)

\*\*\*Carol Crouse (wife of Dave Crouse) (squadron 57-61)(Aug 18)

Cdr. Homer Ragsdale (CO VP-2 '66-67)(Sep 18)

Jim Stackhouse (squadron 65-68)(Oct 18)

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel please advise by email to Bob Behrend at behrendr001@hawaii.rr.com

## Chaplain's Corner *by Doug Millar*

Many of you who are reading this have recently returned from our latest VP-2 Reunion in San Diego. It was a great reunion and the weather could not have been more beautiful. Sadly our numbers continue to decrease due to attrition and health issues, but for the 85 of us who were there it was a refreshing and encouraging time of reuniting with great friends and reliving times spent together in the past.

Following the reunion my wife and I went to Williamsburg, Virginia, which is the area where we both were raised. We try to get there annually, particularly in the fall when the colors in the trees are at their best, to visit with friends and family. While driving through the town in our rental car, we stopped at a pedestrian crossing to let a woman cross the street and immediately were "rear ended" by a SUV that violently knocked us through the crossing and to the curbside. Thankfully we did not hit anyone in the crosswalk. Within two or three seconds of the crash, a voice suddenly came booming into the car saying, "This is OnStar. We have your location pinpointed on Richmond Road. Is anyone seriously hurt in your car? We are dispatching the police and also a 911 ambulance to your location immediately."

For a moment I wondered who and where this voice was coming from, but then I responded to the question and within two minutes the police arrived on the scene - followed almost immediately by the ambulance. We were quickly helped into the ambulance where we were examined and observed for possible injuries. Fortunately we suffered nothing more than minor abrasions and some discomfort in our necks and backs. The driver who hit us also

was not injured, nor was her infant daughter who was strapped into a car seat in her vehicle. We have much for which to be thankful, and indeed we are.

It is always dangerous to try to compare any of our human inventions or actions to that of God, because these comparisons always fall ridiculously short of the greatness and ability of the Almighty. But I do see some similarities and contrasts between our OnStar experience and our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Like OnStar - God knows exactly where we are at any moment, and he is always standing beside us and willing to help us in any situation. Unlike OnStar - God understands totally our situation; our concerns; our frailties; our strengths; our needs; our wants; our eternal destiny; and he is able to supply what is needed for each. In fact, he has already provided the solution for our eternal destiny by sending his son, Jesus Christ, to live a perfect life, die, and be resurrected afterwards - which allowed Jesus to pay the penalty for each of our sins. But, unlike OnStar, God will not force himself into our situation. He waits patiently for us to call him in. He has said, **"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me."** (Revelation 3:20)

Have you ever invited Christ into your life? If not, I would urge you to do so today. The Bible tells us in 2nd Corinthians 6:2, **"Behold, now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation."**

Christmas is just around the corner. Make this the best reason ever to celebrate the birth of Christ.



## 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 cg601@comcast.net
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Jim Welch 8601 Terrell Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76182 817-788-2204 japwelch751@gmail.com
<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>	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Ct., Mankato, MN 56001 507-327-6761 floyd@palmerbusservice.com
<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)



**Whidbey Patron Squadron Memorial**

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



We're on the Web

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