



PATRON SIX

BLUE SHARKS ASSOCIATION

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"SUBCONSCIOUS" (1924 - 1993)

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President's Opening

"Flight" to "ALL Stations"

Aloha Blue Sharks,

Here is another newsletter, brought to you by Pam Silbaugh, your Newsletter Editor. Only about two months remain until we will meet again in Hawaii for our next Patron Six Blue Shark Association annual reunion. For most of us, this is where it all began. Cathy and I are very much looking forward to being in Hawaii with our Blue Shark friends. It will be especially exciting for us, as she has never been to Hawaii before. "Bo" Miller has done quite a bit of work to ensure that this reunion will be another notable occasion for all of us. All of the info concerning the reunion is on our website (VP-6.org). If something you need is not there, please call someone, so that we can direct you to the right person. **IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE YOUR TRAVEL, LODGING, and PSBSA (Patron Six Blue Shark Association) EVENTS REGISTRATION, YOU NEED TO DO SO VERY SOON!**

Remember to bring or send ahead something for our auction!

See you soon!

Hank Herbig

Vice-President's Section

ALL Engines Ahead FULL

Regards,

Terry Snyder AW1 (NAC/AW) USN Ret.

VP-6 Association Vice-President

VP-6 Era November 1982 - February 1987

Treasurer's Section

The Bucks Stop here

Greetings Fellow Blue Sharks

We are just 9 weeks out from our - Return to Hawaii 2016 Reunion! We currently have 27 Blue

Sharks and a total of 47 (Sharks and guests) registered to meet up 13-16 October at the Hale Koa and Luana Waikiki Hotel and Suites for good times, good food and good friendships - reuniting on our old stomping grounds.

If you aren't already signed up, I hope you'll make that decision soon and make the trip. If you know a Blue Shark who isn't a member of the association, please get the word out to them to visit www.vp-6.org for Reunion Information/Registration...we don't want anyone to be left out!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Hawaii!

Bo

Webmaster's Section

Get Your Geek On

As you are going through the registration process, if you have any issues or suggestions for improvement to the process or the site, email the webmaster at WebMaster@vp-6.org. Make sure to log in to the website and update your profile while you are registering.

Webmaster,
Randy Silbaugh

Membership Section

Gam o' Sharks

The Patron six blue Shark Association current has 187 members.

Obit Section

RIP: Fair Winds and Following Seas

- John Magraw passed on January 22, 2014 from Parkinson's (Agent Orange related). He was in VP-6 in 1970's.
- Master Chief John Frick (Ret.) passed away 4/05/2016. He was in the VP-6 from 72-75. He served in the Navy for 26 yrs and 1 day.
- Frank Conery
- Jack Acord passed away Saturday 23 July 2016. He had just turned 80 on that Wednesday the 20th. He fought cancer for 5-1/2 years and was still doing ok up until a terrible 106 degree fever came out of nowhere on the evening of July 16th. He steadily declined from there and passed the following Saturday. All the family were with him that week, so he was

surrounded by love, singing, prayer and hugs. My mom Gail was beside him early that Saturday morning when he breathed his last breath and went peacefully to be with his Lord and kin. He was such a special guy as all of you know! More than just a husband, a father, a friend, a mentor, an advisor, an inspiration to us all. April of 2015 was the last time he was able to get back to the Islands that he loved so much. I was able to get him back out on the water for an easy paddle up the Haleiwa River. As soon as he got in his boat we were blessed with the most incredible Rainbow! I grabbed my phone and got some pictures I will treasure the rest of my days (see below). We still can't believe he is gone. It hurts so bad at times. The sorrow just floods in like waves. We will be having a celebration of his life get together to share memories, photos, and stories.



Newsletter Editor's Section

GIGO

Aloha Blue Sharks (BS),

- If you have a story to share (now that you've hopefully sobered up enough to remember the details), send it my way.
- If you uncovered a squadron related pix that you just dug out of your dusty old attic while looking for garage sale items, send it my way.

Seriously though, many of you have saved old passes, chits, and other cool documents from back in the day. First, hide any sensitive information to protect the innocent or you, and then scan the paperwork and email it to me. If it is interesting to you, it will be interesting to the rest of us. Any suggestions of topics to add - you got it - send it my way. send to Newsletter@vp-6.org

Newsletter Editor
pamisl

Ship's Store Report

Woody's Walmart

If you find yourself asking "How can I get some VP-6 gear?" The answer is to visit the website and check out the ships store, then email Woody at patron6store@vp-6.org Tell him what you want, send him a check (we are still kicking it old school) and he will mail your gear to you. The top row are patches, as well as, the red one in the second row. The 2nd row left and right items are stickers and there is also a coin, covers, and the license plate.



Shipmates Contribution

Continuation of the Cooper Story

Recognition for Edward P. Cooper on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall

By LCDR Douglas D. Hoople

Lieutenant Junior Grade Edward (Ned) Pillow Cooper was killed in the crash of PC-6, a P-3A, Bureau Number 152181, on the morning of December 5, 1971 at Naval Air Station Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines. The cause of the crash was complete engine failure due to the servicing of the water alcohol injection system with water and dry cleaning fluids. Our mission that day was to fly

the first Market-time Patrol Mission off the south east Vietnam coast from Cubi Point as part of the Navy "Vietnamizing the war." I was the Tactical Coordinator on that flight.

In 1982 when the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was dedicated it did not display Ned's name. I had the opportunity to visit the Wall in Washington, DC in 1984 and his name was still not there. I spoke with the park staff and they stated names were still being added and eventually he could be memorialized there.

In May 2000 I visited a copy of the Wall, one of the scale models of the Wall which travel around the country, while it was in Kansas City for Memorial Day. Again I found that his name was not represented in the registry of names. I decided it was time to correct the situation and get his name added to the monument.

The Vietnam War National Monument is part of the National Park System. But to add a name you must have the associated branch of service to request the action. For the Navy the contact point is the Casualty Assistance Branch of the Naval Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee. I did not have all of the necessary information to write a letter to the Navy so I undertook a trip to Texas.

I knew Ned was from the Pharr/McAllen area. Arriving in Texas, I stopped in Corpus Christi to check the local newspaper archives for his obituary from back in 1971, no luck. I drove to McAllen to search there.

My original plan was to call funeral homes and find the one that handled his burial. A look at the yellow pages proved this was not a good idea; there were too many pages of local funeral homes. I changed to hunting down cemeteries, there were fewer. And being a Tacco, I decided I would start a "square search" starting from the motel where I was staying.

The first call was to the Roselawn Cemetery. The lady who answered the phone said "Oh I know Mr. Cooper." Ned's burial was the first one she coordinated when she was hired by the cemetery back in 1971. What astonishing luck, I drove two blocks and received a personal guided tour to his grave site. In 1971, the family had bought four grave sites for the family. Ned, his Brother and Father were buried there. There was one marker remaining for his Mother, which didn't have a date of death. I asked if she was still alive. The kind lady informed me that the graves were regularly decorated with flowers, so somebody was caring for them.

Back to the yellow pages to find the Mother, there was only one Mrs. Ruffin Cooper in the book. I called her but no answer. I found her house but she wasn't home. A neighbor was mowing his lawn across the street and I explained my quest to him. He did say that she had a son who was killed in the Vietnam War. I left a note in her mailbox and hoped that she would contact me.

Later I found out she initially didn't want to talk to me because she felt the Navy didn't do a good job of explaining the accident and support for the burial. She spoke to some ladies at her church and changed her mind. Two days later she called me and we had a good visit. She gave me a copy of Ned's Report of Casualty which had most of the information I needed to draft a letter to the Navy. She also gave me copies of several letters the family had sent to their congressional representatives asking to add Ned's name to the Wall. There were all unsuccessful.

In August 2000 I drafted a letter providing information on Ned, our flight plan, copies of my flight log book showing our flight as one to Vietnam and other pertinent documents to request his name being added to the Wall.

As the Casualty Assistance Branch reviewed the materials, the USS Cole incident happened in the Middle East and the review process stopped for several months. I received many phone calls requesting additional information about our Market-Time flights, operations and bases. In February 2001 the Navy sent a letter to the Park Service recommending Ned's name be added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. On Memorial Day 2001, I had the privilege to join Mrs. Cooper in Washington, DC, as they officially added his name to the Wall. Ned is located on Panel 4W Line 26.

A side note: Our crew patch for this 1971 deployment was a lightning bolt and the words "Astonishing Luck." It was chosen by the crew after we were struck by lightning during an earlier flight. On that fateful day in December 1971 we had astonishing luck in that there was only one fatality with sixteen people aboard. I had astonishing luck in Texas; finding Ned's grave site, finding his family and obtaining the needed information on Ned. And the fact it took less than a year to get his name approved while other have worked for years to get approval was extremely lucky.

Featured Photo of the Quarter

