



VP 68 Hawk's Nest

Volume No. 5

VP68 Alumni Association

March 2001

In Memory Paul Randolph



Paul J. Randolph AWCS (NAC) USNR Retired.

Quoted from his obituary that appeared in the Daily Press on January 14, 2001.

"Paul J. Randolph crossed over Friday, Jan. 12, 2001, peacefully in his sleep, at home. Born in Bay St. Louis, Miss., on Oct. 15, 1950, he had been a Peninsula resident since 1963. Paul retired from the US Navy after 26 years of service."

As many of you know, Paul was elected to serve as president of the Alumni Association starting in January of this year. We were to have had an installation of officers on January 27th. Paul is a great loss to his community and us. He always had everyone else's needs in the forefront of his every effort. Paul served the association with the same enthusiasm and dedication that we all remember him for during his days in the squadron. We will remember his smile, kind words, and constant worry that his shipmates were taken care of. He represented us to the Chief Petty Officers Association, Fleet Reserve Association and our Alumni Association. Paul was a plank owner and Life Member of the Alumni Association and served as the first Vice President when it was formed. He was instrumental in having the Alumni Association banner made and procurement of the pins presented to the members during the recent reunion.

In accordance with our by-laws, the Vice President will serve in the absence of the President. Joe Odenthal was elected to serve as the Vice President during our business meeting held during the reunion in November. Joe has agreed to take on the responsibilities of the post and serve as President during the next two years.

Reunion

The reunion was held the weekend of 3 November – 5 November 2000. The turn out was great and the fun level was wide open all weekend.



George Kurtz won the drawing for the oil painting donated by Morgan Wilbur. The association sold raffle tickets to raise funds to offset the cost of the reunion and the lucky winner walked away with an original oil for his wall. The painting depicted one of our P-3s in-flight.

The lucky winner was really excited; he was one of the first to purchase tickets after he arrived at the reunion.

Carrie Blazek served as the Master of Ceremonies and introduced our guest speakers for the evening. Carrie made sure everyone enjoyed the speeches by keeping the speeches short and on track.



The long and short of the reunion sure came out as the evening progressed, as many attendees renewed old friendships and had a chance to socialize and dance.



Macarena instruction was provide for those of us that didn't know the steps and for some us that never learned.



Certificates of appreciation were presented to Lew Johnson and Harry Lee Smith for their co-chairing the reunion committee. The reunion could never have happened without there efforts. A special thanks to Lew Johnson for his extra hours spent getting the arrangements made, keeping everyone notified of the events and making all the plans.



Though Jim Rozycki was doing the presentations, without his efforts to collect the money, pay the bills and keep track of all the loose ends, none of us

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could have been enjoyed the reunion as much as we did. Jim made it look easy with his usual organization of all the details.



Captain Blackie Murdoch was one of the guest speakers that kept us on the edge of our chairs with his humor and memories of what it was like “Back Then”. He shared the honors as guest speaker with Commodore Bob Sinibaldi. Commodore Sinibaldi is the current Wing Commander for all the Reserve Patrol Squadrons and spoke on the “Now” of the VP community.



Many of the crews had their special tables where they could reminisce and discuss all the things that have gone on since their last gathering, seen here are the “Sky Pigs” enjoying the evening.

The Ready Room served as the focal point for the weekend’s activities.



Seen here are Dick Fickling and Jim Rozycki with the guest speakers, Commodore Sinibaldi and Captain Murdoch. Commodore Sinibaldi’s wife separates the guys.



The crowd in the Ready Room was always busy, socializing with old friends, looking at the great collection of memorabilia that everyone had brought. The BLACKHAWKS were there!

It is amazing what you can find in your garage if you look hard enough, the wooden boards from our Quarter Deck still survived. Just one of the many memorabilia displays that was in the Ready Room.



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For those that got up early enough on Saturday morning, swim quals were held under the watchful eye of our instructors. Kathy Wright and Marrilee Gilbert, with Paul Randolph and Ron Jones and Jim Rozycki and Dick Fickling being rescued. If it weren't for the 'bubble wrap', not sure some of us could have passed the float test! We will all treasure our "Rubber Ducky" swim cards.

Witness the Ready Room and the continuous activities that went on there. Sometimes we were afraid we might use up all the ice in the Hotel. Not to fear, the Colony South kept up with us and did an outstanding job with their end of the reunion. The banquet hall was perfect, good food, good friends and plenty of room to socialize and dance.



3rd. Annual Spring Fling

The Third Annual SPRING FLING will be held at NAS Patuxent River, Maryland on May 5, 2001. Family, Friends and Squadron Mates are invited to what has become the 'event to be seen at' on the Patuxent River. We have reserved the Beach House again this year and there will be plenty of Food, Drink and 'ole timer' gatherings. Lou Abbott has agreed to be the committee chairperson once again and really needs some local help getting things set up. Please contact Lou if you can help in any way. Lou can be reached via e-mail at Louabbot@ameritel.net - Lou says, "that the only thing I would add is to emphasize the "Spring

Fling" and the requirement to have a list of names to me for base access well in advance. Names should be provided even if only a "slight" chance of attendance. More is better. You just reminded me to also ask for extra coolers for the day. Could use 3 or 4 spares in case I can't find any."

President's Corner

Joe Odenthal

Those that know me will vouch for the fact that I am very seldom at a loss for words. Well mark your calendars; I was not prepared to be writing this message. For those of you who are not on the E-Mail broadcast list, Paul Randolph passed away January 12th.; details elsewhere in the newsletter. At the November reunion, Paul and I discussed why we believed people are motivated to participate in organizations such as ours, we believed camaraderie to be the major reason. Let's make 2001 the year of camaraderie. We have two social events tentatively planned for this year. First is the annual "Spring Fling", our May picnic at PAX. Second is a November event, traditionally at NAF Washington. The biggest requirement for camaraderie is attendance. The best team contribution to camaraderie is to bring a "dormant" Blackhawk with you. A positive byproduct of us each bringing a "dormant" Blackhawk with us to events is that new "Sea Stories" will be disseminated. Personally, I'd like to hear a new "Sea Story", I'd LOVE to hear a "Sea Story" that I can believe. See you in May.

Happenings

Kathy Wright was a key part of George W. Bush's inauguration providing the Navy watchful eye to the Joint Service Honor Guard.

Newsletter Inputs

Your inputs for the newsletter should be sent to Dick Fickling, p3css1@aol.com for inclusion in the quarterly mailing. The cutoff for the next addition is May 31, 2001. Need items of interest, retirements and other Alumni news.

Official Business

If there is a high lighted "A" next to your name on the address label, your 2001 dues are due by 30, April 2001. Consider renewing as a Life member, show your support. If you are truly one of the "Old Timers" from the alumni, see the changes to the Alumni By-laws.

Reminder about the upcoming "Spring Fling" – if you plan to attend and Do NOT have a base sticker, you must inform our host, Lou Abbott, no later than April 15th 2001 to gain base access.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Lou. Send an e-mail or note to Lou stating the number of folks that are coming so appropriate amounts of food can be purchased. We can only purchase for those that respond by April 30th. Lou can be reached via e-mail at Louabbot@ameritel.net or snail mail:
Lou Abbott
23480 Lous Way
California, MD 20619

Bring the whole family for an enjoyable day with your alumni friends. Bring a new member!

NOTICE of By-law Changes

There were several changes to the by-laws proposed, voted on and approved during the business meeting held during the recent reunion. The main points were:

1. Alumni over the age of 70 can join the alumni association for a single life membership payment of \$ 25.00
2. Membership annual dues received after November 1 of any year will cover the following full year (maximum of 14 months)
3. The category of Honorary Associate Life Membership was added.
4. An appropriation limit was imposed allowing no one to incur expenses in the name of the association without prior approval of 60% of the elected officers.
5. Annual membership remained at \$10 for 2001.

Final Reminder

If there is an "A" next to your name on the address label, your 2001 dues of \$10.00 are due now. Please don't hesitate, put a check in the mail today, so you don't miss any of the future newsletters, alumni events or just being part of the association. Consider sending \$100 and becoming a life member or if in accordance with our new by-laws and truly an old timer, \$25! (See above notice of changes.) The association is here to stay and we need your support. Mail checks to:

VP-68 Alumni Association
2414 Rolling Farms Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Contact your officers:

President: Joe Odenthal - odenthal@erols.com
Treasurer: Jim Rozycki – Rozyckijim@aol.com
Secretary: Kathy Wright – wright_Kathleen@bah.com
Historian: Ed Stanfield – estanfield@opf.com

Find us on the web:

<http://www.vp68.org>
<http://www.vpnavy.org>

The complete e-mail list is available through our home page as-well-as how to add your name to the "glue" list. Please keep us informed of changes and let the webmaster at www.vp68.org know also.

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