



MORT ECKHOUSE      DAVE JOHNSON  
(President)          (Treasurer)  
  
JAY THOMAS  
(VP & Editor)



**PATRON FOUR FIVE ASSOC.  
NEWSLETTER #7, MARCH '91**

Dear Shipmates, Spouses, & Widows Of Former Shipmates,

Seems a long time since our last newsletter and you have only me to blame. At one time I was actually hoping to have this out before Christmas, then New Years, and now here we are pushing Easter. I'll have to admit that beyond all other motivators, conflict in the Persian Gulf stood head and shoulders above all others.

**REUNION IN REVIEW**

Our first reunion is now history and what a "great" time it was for all who attended. I chose the term "great" not just from my own personal point of view, but from the stacks of cards, letters, phone calls, and notes that have been received by Mort, Dave, and I. We are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of an event that brought so much joy to a mass of "ole" friends.

Mort did such an excellent job of providing an account of the reunion, with his permission, we'll now take sojourn back through the "good ole times".

The great weekend is now history. Patrol Squadron Forty-Five met in reunion October 26-28, 1990 in the "Cradle of Naval Aviation", Pensacola, Florida. Reunion headquarters was the Pensacola Hilton with 92 of us staying there. Some stayed with old friends and shipmates as well as other hotels/motels. All told, there were one hundred sixty-four of us accompanied by 144 companions gathered for the weekend. The Hilton provided us with two complementary adjoining rooms that were very suitably used for hospitality purposes. We rapidly turned the rooms into our "Ready Room" and appropriately renamed them thusly. The "ready room" was suitably decorated with all kinds of memorabilia. The TV set ran a marvelous continuous tape of Patron Four Five experiences provided by many of you, assembled and produced by our own Bill Myers, Bill Bryan, and Miller Carmichael. Needless to say, the "ready room" jumped with people, sea stories, and very hot air the whole weekend.

While I'm on the subject, Bill Smith organized and ran the "ready room" operation. Bill and his crew consisting of George Newman, Ken Cory, Poncho Perez, Joe Rascoe, Bill Holtzclaw, Bill Barthel, J.J. Rollins, and Blair Laughlin, deserve and get kudos galore.

Friday morning saw the registration crew start to work. Ken Cory honchoed this evolution with the willing and able assistance of his wife Vivian. Every registrant received a "survival kit" full of goodies. (Vivian must have opened and closed those 200 bags about thirty times each time we came up with a new item for the kit). Each registrant was also presented with a very handsome cap complete with the Squadron Pelican Patch on the front. Ken and his crew consisting of Vivian, Norm and Noni Brady, Al Jansen, Dave Johnson, Murray Gordon, Don and Maxine Braddy, Al and Jane Lee, and last but not least, Joyce Beebe set the tone with their cheerful greetings and enthusiasm. Ken's artistic bent provided many of the marvelous signs and displays that decorated the lobby and "ready room".

The newly expanded National Museum of Naval Aviation provided the ultimately appropriate background for our Friday evening welcome aboard "Cocktail Party". The party started at 1800 and the staff had to push us out. The Officer's Club provided a sumptuous buffet and we provided all the rest. We circulated, met new shipmates from other eras, enjoyed talking to our own old friends and in general became one cohesive group. During the welcome aboard ceremonies which Mort Eckhouse MC'd, we paid homage to those of us who are now serving Higher Authority. We remembered specifically: Les Duffield whose widow Diane and son Leslie, Chuck Wann, Scottie Florance, and Chuck Shaw whose widows Fran, Gloria, and Nancy were with us. We were strengthened by their presence and really appreciated their thoughtfulness in coming.

Saturday, until the banquet, we were on our own which suited us to a "T". Some played "remember when" by touring Pensacola, some went charter boat fishing, many went back to the museum, and some just rested. It turned out to be a very pleasant day.

Saturday evening at 1800 we met in the Hilton's Main Ballroom Gallery for cocktails, more conversation, and companionship. (Our attitudes did not need adjusting). Promptly at 1900 we sat down to feast on Prime Rib or Fillet of Grouper dinners. The house did a superb job of preparing and serving the banquet and all hands seemed to enjoy. We got some administrative details out of the way prior to serving the main course. Mort had the MC chores again. We recognized Jay Thomas, co-chairman; Dave Johnson, our treasurer, and paid particular recognition to Ken Cory and Bill Smith and their cohorts. Mort, Jay, and Dave were unanimously taken up on their offer to keep the "Ops., Admin., and Supply" jobs until the next reunion. We decided to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Squadron, which is 1 November 1992, with a reunion in Jacksonville on or close to that date subject to the squadron being at home port. We were honored to recognize Rear Admiral William T. "Bill" Pendley and Rear Admiral Byron E. "Jake" Tobin who are still on active duty. We were further honored to recognize the following VP-45 Commanding Officers who were present: Tommy Thomas, April '58 - March '59; Al Lee, March '61 - March '62; John Chappell, March '63 - Dec. '63; John Collins, Dec. '63 - Dec. '64; Dave Hume, Dec. '64 - Dec. '65; Jim Chapman, Dec. '65 - Nov. '66; Harley Wilbur, Nov. '67 - Oct. '68; Bill Pendley, June '75 - June '76; and Bill Rodriguez, June '78 - June '79. Mort then asked all who were Commanding Officers to stand. There were many!!! Quite a record from one squadron. Likewise, we found out that we had attendees who were in the squadron from 1943 through 1989. We dedicated the banquet to the memory of Captain Carl H. "Bon" Amme, USN (Ret), the first CO of our namesake squadron, the "original" VP-45. Bon had requested a party in lieu of a memorial service. His wife gave him one and we gave him another.

The treasury, thanks to your generosity and the good stewardship of your co-chairman and treasurer, was reported to be in excellent shape. So much so, that you voted to donate \$1000.00 to the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation. We still have over \$4000.00 left for seed money for '92. This was followed by reading the following comments we received from Commander James R. Cannon, present CO of VP-45:

"Our squadron is currently deployed split-site to Rota, Spain and Lajes in the Portuguese Azores. If you are keeping up with current events I am sure you know that we are bust over here. Operation "Desert Shield" is in full swing and we are supporting the Maritime Enforcement of economic sanctions against Iraq. As a former Pelican I hope you can appreciate our mission. You and your fellow shipmates can be proud of the job we are doing. The squadron is in fine shape and will continue to do the job. Please accept my appreciation for what you and your group are doing. We will be with you in spirit as you come together to recall memories of an organization which remains the very best in the business".

Believe it or not all that only took 15 minuees. However, finally, following the asking of the blessing by Jay, we ate.

Following dinner, Jake Tobin, who was then, Commander, Patrol Wings, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, gave us the "straight word" on today's Patrol Navy. He was upbeat and very enthusiastic. His remarks were well and gratefully received. Our main speaker, Captain Dick Knott was introduced by Jay Thomas. Dick, one of our own, a Naval Aviator, P5 and P3 qualified, negotiator, historian, writer, and former editor of Naval Aviation News spoke on the early days "When Naval Aviation Had A Wet Bottom". His talk was the highlight of the evening. If you weren't there you missed a truly informative, interesting, and well received presentation. Following dinner Dick had copies of two of his books available for those who wished to own one. Dick promised to donate his profits to our association. I am pleased to say that he sweetened our treasury by \$571.99. Back to the "ready-room".

Sunday morning and the end had to arrive. Following a great private brunch in the ballroom, we bid our farewells and vows of meeting in JAX in '92. See you there.

Kennedy Snow rates a special section of his own for his contribution to our association. Those 200 some who responded to his questionnaire found themselves listed in a truly magnificent document that was distributed to all attendees. Kennedy did this work at his own cost.

## ATTENDEES AT THE 1990 PATRON FOUR FIVE PENCACOLA REUNION

Agnew, Frank & Anne	Gilliland, James & Mary	O'Sullivan, Jim
Anderson, Charles & Jewel	Gillham, Don & Alice	Pattie, Phil & Sara
Ashcraft, Bob & Judith	Gorman, Hank & Peggy	Pavlick, John & Vi
Ashley, Emory & Pat	Griggs, Lester & Ruth	Pendley, Bill
Awbrey, Roy & Phillis	Groark, Jim & Barbara Morris	Perez, Poncho & Ellen
Babins, Sturat	Haselden, Wilson & Clyde	Poffenberger, Rick & Ginger
Baker, Howard & June	Hausler, Carl & Yvette	Porter, Don & Ann
Barry, John & Joyce	Hembree, Sam	Reiske, Ski & Mary
Barthel, Bill & Margaret	Hickman, Chester & Marilyn	Richards, Diane (Duffield) & Jerry
Baxter, Walter & Barbara	Hill, Don & Vesta	Rickman, Jim
Beebe, Bruce & Joyce	Hilliard, Alex & Marion	Ritterbeck, John & Lily
Bernal, Rich	Hinden, Harry and Florence	Roberts, Sam & Helen
Bestul, Jim & Nancy	Hofer, Frank & Dotti	Rodriquez, Bill & Carolyn
Braddy, Don & Maxine	Holtzclaw, Bill & Mary	Rollins, J.J. & Bobby
Brady, Norm & Noni	Hotton, Randy & Lou	Roper, "Steve" & Maxie
Brantly, Earl & Mary	Holvek, Arthur & Jackie	Roycroft, Rodney & Elizabeth
Butler, Ray & Marie	Hoyt, John & Bernice	Rubeck, Fred & Ruth
Caldwell, Chuck & Joan	Hume, Dave & Dink	Rutherford, Harold & Virginia
Carlson, William	Jansen, Alan	Ryder, Everett & Cindy
Carmichael, Miller & Jan	Johnson, Dave & Marcie	Sabol, David & Pat
Carpenter, Lloyd & Grem Barnes	Johnson, Mike & Carolyn	Sadler, "Sandy"
Carroll, Jim & June	Johnstone, Jim	Sanderson, Dave & Jane
Chapman, Jim & Jeane	Keller, Harry & Jean	Shaffer, Bud & Sally
Chappell, John & Billie	Kelly, William & Lou	Sherrouse, Jim & Phyllis
Chism, Charles & Alma	Keylon, Harold & Carolyn	Smith, Bill & Betty Ann
Christensen, Steve & Pat	King, Bill & Diane Rowan	Snow, Kennedy & Pam
Cimino, Leo & Randi	Knott, Richard & Eleanor	Spousta, Allen & Barbara Quadrini
Clem, John & Margaret	Kolda, Frank & Martha	Stark, George & Vanna
Coates, Meredith	Kordek, Walter & Amy	Stein, Joe & Ruthe
Coates, Sam & Grace	Lansden, Baylor & Helen	Stewart, Jerry & Margaret
Cobean, Sam & Bernice	Laughlin, Blair & Hope	Stone, Gene
Collins, John & Dorothy	Lee, Alan & Jane	Stoner, James & Kathleen
Comeau, Charles & Suzanne	Locey, Robert	Stout, John & Flo
Cooper, Jim & Pat	MacMurphy, David & Mildred	Testa, Tony & Frances
Cornelius, "Corney" & Arlene	Maher, Charles & Barbara	Thomas, Gil & Susan
Cory, Ken & Vivian	Mahoney, Jim & Jessie	Thomas, Jay & Shirley
Creamer, George	Marlatt, George & Janet	Thomas, Ralph & Ardis
Davis, Charles(Boats) & Gloria	Marquardt, Otto & Jane	Thomas, "Tommy" & Dorothy
Davis, Ed	Matherson, George & Linda	Tipton, James & Annette
Dubay, Harvey & Carol	Maxey, Harold & Elaine	Tobin, "Jake" & Sally
Easter, Fred	McCandless, John & Barrett	Tully, Roger & Xenia
Eckhouse, Mort	McDade, Spade & Peg	Tyler, Jim & Gloria
Farren, Rich	McKay, Don & Betty	Van Pelt, Richard & Betty
Farrington, Delden & Linda	Mendenhall, Frank & Nancy	Wakeman, Curt & Velma
Ferrullo, Robert & Ruthie	Meyne, Fritz	Wann, Fran
Fisher, Ed & Barbara	Meriwether, Gordon & Lovie	Wiggins, Glenn & Mimi
Fortson, Malcolm & Kathryn	Murray, Gordon & Phyllis	Wilbur, Harley & Althea
French, Bob & Mina	Myers, William	Willen, Gloria (Florance) & Jim
Fulghum, Jud & Dottie	Navarre, Tony	Winko, Wendell & Ovida
Fulstone, Lawrence & Dorothy	Nelson, Roger & Susan	Womeldorf, Charles & Maggie
Fussell, Ray & Rosa	Newman, George & Susie	Wood, Glenda & Buzz
Gailey, Lonnie & Mary	Oberlander, Cliff & Marilyn	Vinkovich, Ivan & Flo
Gibbons, Tom & Marilyn	Olson, Mort & Marilyn	Yosway, Phil & Fran
Gilbert, George & Hazel	O'Toole, Bill & Earline Sabota	Young, Bob & Nancy
	Pate, Les & Jackie	Shaw, Nancy (Mrs. Charles)



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BUILDING A NATIONAL TREASURE

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November 20, 1990

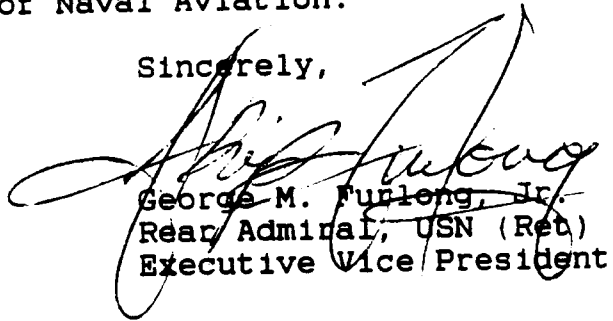
Dear Commander Eckhouse,

The Naval Aviation Museum Foundation acknowledges with appreciation the recent gift from the VP-45 Association.

This gift has been deposited in the Capital Fund for Phase IIIA. Your gift will be beneficial in attaining our goals for the continued improvement and the expansion of this already outstanding museum. This is a special museum, the focus of which is the preservation of the history, tradition, and heritage of Naval Aviation. You can take great pride in your part in helping to make this museum the finest of its kind.

Once again, thank you for your contribution and for sharing our enthusiasm for the future of the National Museum of Naval Aviation.

Sincerely,

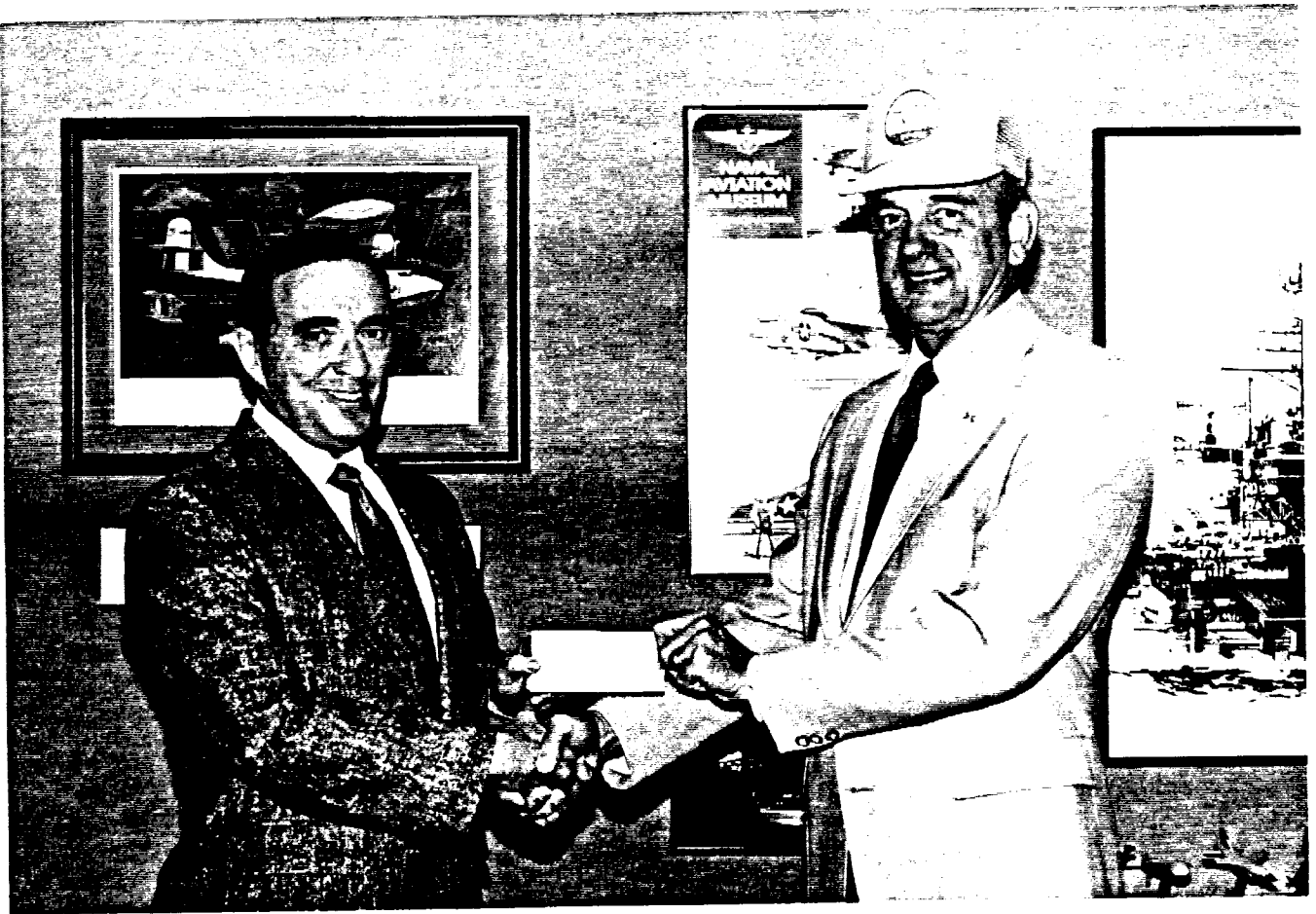


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VP-45 Association  
4207 Rosebud Ct.  
Pensacola, FL 32504



Mort Eckhouse presenting RADM. Skip Furlong our \$1000.00 donation to the National Museum of Naval Aviation

After most of the "hugs", "so-longs", and "good-bys" had been exchanged, the Cory's and the Smith's along with their respective crews began the task of returning the "ready-room" to normal. As a result, Mort has a sizable quantity of memorabilia that was unclaimed. Anyone who did not claim their memorabilia that was on display in the "ready-room", please write Mort and give a description of the material and he will mail it to you.

I have spent literally many hours in retrospect trying to pinpoint the reason for the "great" success of this reunion. I remain steadfast in my first conclusion. It was each and everyone of you that are a part of our group. There have been so many personal contributions including financial donations, photos, videos, letters, names and addresses, time, and general concerns of sharing, it would take volumes to elaborate. You are a great bunch of people and have given so heartily of yourselves and assets. Many thanks to all of you.



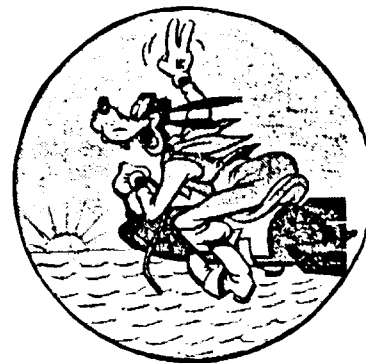
# THE PELICAN POST

Newsletter/Reader #8

Patron Four Five Assoc.

October 1991

Mort Eckhouse  
(President)  
Jay Thomas  
(Vice Pres.)  
Dave Johnson  
(Treasurer)  
Chuck Caldwell  
(Editor)



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Greetings: Shipmates, Spouses, and Widows of Former Shipmates,

It's been half a year since our last communication and time for an update. Volumes could and will be written concerning world events this past six months; but, believe we'll stick a bit closer to home and provide information concerning VP-45, past, present, and future.

\* \* \* PRESIDENTS COLUMN - MORT SEZ \* \* \*

I still haven't come down from my high resulting from our great reunion in Pensacola and here the next reunion is just around the corner, or so it seems. We are making plans and lining up things already. First of all, and most important, my thanks to Bill Rodriquez who volunteered to "honcho" things in JAX for us. He has been quite active already. Last Spring, as a result of his scouting, I signed a contract with the Jacksonville hotel for October 22 thru 25, 1992. This hotel is situated across the scenic St. Johns river from downtown JAX and offers not only great views in all directions but is in easy walking distance of sightseeing and shopping. (All for \$55.00 per night, plus tax). I just came back from my second visit to JAX and this time I met with Cdr. Bob Brannon (who will be 45's C.O. during our reunion) and MCPO Gus Hager (Command Master Chief Petty Officer). They were both very enthusiastic about the squadron taking part in our activities. Matter of fact, they will plan an All-Hands-Picnic for Thursday afternoon, October 22 aboard NAS in celebration of our reunion. They want as many of us there as possible, as honored guests. We discussed the possibility of our group becoming a viable part of the squadron through sponsoring a "Sailor Of The Year Award" and offer monetary assistance to one of the enlisted personnel who take college courses part time. Navy tuition assistance is available but books are expensive. I tentatively proposed two awards of \$250.00 per year. They liked the idea and will work up award procedures for us to consider. There are some real hustlers in that outfit. They offer all kinds of squadron memorabilia and merchandise, from shirts to caps to decals to you name it. We'll have a table set up in the registration area where you can look/buy to your delight, and not incidentally, augment their slush fund I expect. I must tell you that I came away from there totally impressed by the officer and enlisted personnel I met. Our country and our Navy is in good hands.

I'm planning a short business meeting Saturday morning to discuss such items as future reunions, nomination/election of officers, sailor of the year tuition assistance; and, etc. I solicit your input to the agenda.

I'd also appreciate your input on the following:

1. Do you think you can make the picnic? What do you think of the idea?
2. What about the time and location of our follow on reunion? If you can offer a location, can you also recommend a local coordinator?
3. I've had a great idea proposed -- a few days in BDA-- either before or after the reunion. If enough of us are interested, I'll see what I can set up.
4. What about changing our name to "Patron Four Five Alumni Assoc."?

I'd like to get your comments on all of the above and anything else pertaining to my responsibilities, (keep it clean), you'd like to comment on. There's no deadline, but I would appreciate comments by the first of the year. I do have to work pretty far ahead.

Now, I have good news and good news. The first is that Chuck Caldwell is aboard as Jay's editorial relief. He comes well recommended and I look forward to working with him. Jay covers this further on. The second is that with some arm twisting, Jay has agreed to stay on as V/P. I'm delighted!! Working with Jay and Shirley these past years has been my privilege and pleasure. I'd say more, but Jay has put a limit on me. See you in Jacksonville in '92.

\* \* \* 1990 COMMAND HISTORY \* \* \*

(The following is a condensed rewrite of material given to Mort by the squadron command)

The Pelicans began 1990 with intensive aircrew and maintenance training, paving the way for their superb accomplishments.

The squadron maintained an impressive aircrew readiness while having no less than five Alpha crews. Operational cycle commitments in support of drug interdiction and numerous inspections/predeployment-evaluations were all met with outstanding results with a grass roots focus on the preeminence of safety.

From 22 June to 31 December, the Pelicans were involved in the highly successful record setting deployment to Rota/Lajes. The Pelicans were the first Update III squadron to deploy to the Mediterranean to exploit the full-scale ASW capability of the Update III platform. This was accomplished with fewer assets than any previous Rota/Lajes squadron, (8 vs 9 aircraft).

Around-the-clock ready alert support for Operation Sharp Edge commenced in July and inevitably turned into around-the-clock airborne duty in support of Operation Desert Shield.

The maintenance pace was punishing, working 12 hour shifts for long periods with no relief. Aircrews repeatedly flew in harms way near potentially hazardous littoral standoffs, and were subjected to an increasingly hostile terrorist threat in Souda Bay. Nevertheless, despite significant stresses, every member of the team put SAFETY FIRST, on and off duty. Note by way of illustration that the Pelicans suffered only two lost workdays due to injuries during this highly tasked and lengthy deployment, and that for a single sports injury.

At the conclusion of CY 1990, Patrol Squadron FORTY-FIVE completed its twenty first consecutive year of Class A mishap-free operations, during which the squadron exceeded 145,000 mishap-free flight hours.

By any measure of effectiveness this deployment has been a record setter: Mission capability rate (84.8%), sorties (931) and sortie completion rate (99%), ASW effectiveness "Hook Em" Award; (150% improvement over Update II Rota sector performance); and, detachments (869 crew days). With international tensions running high, home leave cancelled, assets stretched thin and demanding operational tasking, the Pelicans never missed a step. We proudly met every challenge with great success. Every task, every flight, every duty day and every off-duty activity was completed safely. A squadron commander could hope for no greater accomplishment.

\* \* \* AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY \* \* \*

Patrol Squadron FORTY-FIVE (VP-45) and Green Cove Springs Elementary (GCSE) School participate in the "Clay County Partners in Education" program. This dynamic partnership was first established in September 1988 and continues to expand each year. It is strongly supported by the local school board and school officials who have recognized the squadron's contributions on numerous occasions. The VP-45/GCSE partnership received national attention in December 1989 as President George Bush's Eighth Point of Light as delineated in the following correspondence received from The White House, Office of National Service.

**"A Thousand Points of Light: The First One Hundred"**

Adopt-A-School, Orange Park, FL  
Monday, December 4, 1989

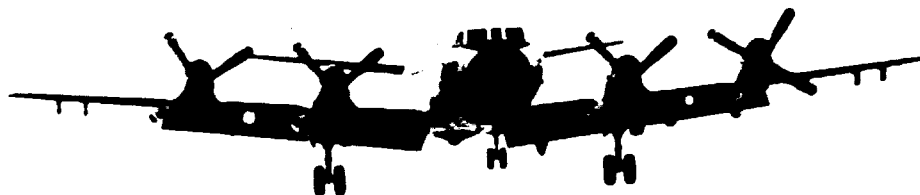
"The Adopt-A-School program of Orange Park, Florida is a partnership between Navy Patrol Squadron 45 and the Penney Farms Retirement community. Together, they have adopted the students of Green Cove Elementary School.

This partnership supplements the education of the students and involves the squadron and the retirement community in the education of local youth. The men and women serve as tutors, supervise field trips, and provide inspirational talks. The students reciprocate by corresponding with members of the patrol squadron stationed at sea. The experiences of the senior citizens and the dedication of the Navy personnel greatly enhance the learning process of the Green Cove students". Also a part of this statement is the following quote by VP-45 Unit Command Master Chief Gus Hager, "It [Adopt-A-School] is a win-win situation - it's good for the kids, and it's good for us".



Folks, the accomplishments of our active duty squadron mentioned above didn't just happen. They can only result from quality seed planting, lots of tender nurturing, and a tremendous quantity of sheer determination and dedication. It is no small wonder that Mort came away from his meetings with the squadron very impressed and further stating, "Our Country and our Navy is in good hands" Our heart felt thanks and appreciation is extended to all the men and women of VP-45 for their exemplary military and civil service and it is with great pleasure that we say, we're proud to be associated with you.

There will be information available in the ready-room during the reunion to further describe the award winning "Eighth Point of Light" plus a squadron cruise book of the Rota/Lajes deployment. Believe me, they are both very impressive.

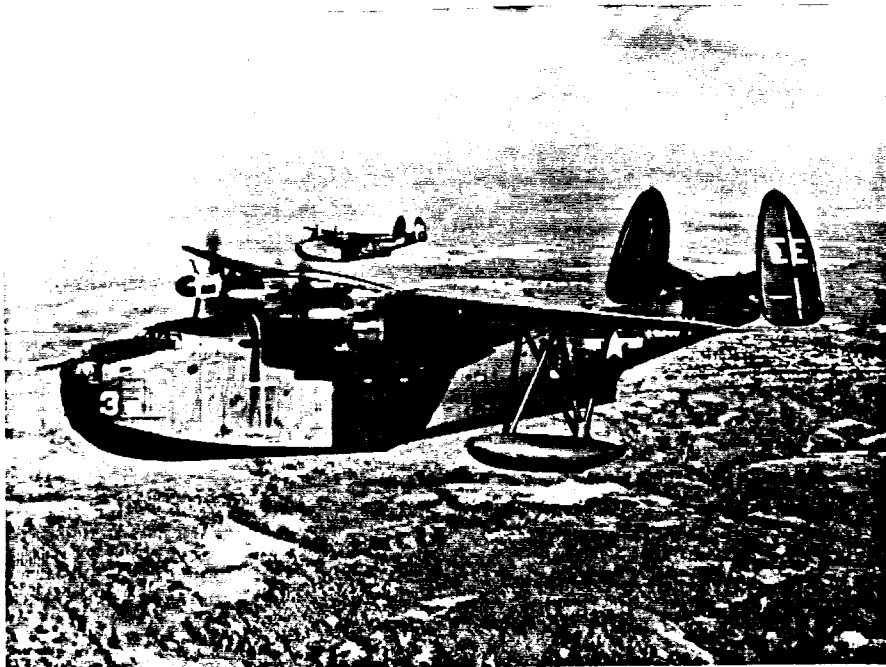


\* \* \* BACK TO REUNION PLANS \* \* \*

As noted above, our 1992 reunion is now scheduled to commence one week earlier than previously planned. Why? The following was taken from a column published in "The Florida Times-Union" 26 April 1991 by sports writer, Frank Fringe: "Picture this: 80,000 football fans, another 100,000 fairgoers and only 7,000 parking spots. Because of Southeastern Conference expansion and an amended football schedule starting in 1992, the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair and the Florida-Georgia game will go head to head. The football game has been moved up a week, in direct conflict with the fair's second Saturday, annually one of its biggest. There's no problem putting 180,000 at the events. Providing parking, however, is a monumental problem -- especially because more than 20 percent of the parking spaces normally available will be occupied by the fair's midway. The Florida-Georgia game, which has been played in Jacksonville since 1933 and usually takes place the weekend after the fair concludes, is scheduled for Oct. 31 in 1992. The fair, which always begins on the third Wednesday of October and runs 12 days, ends Nov. 1." Thanks for the wise forethought, Mort.

Mort has secured a block of 150 rooms at the Jacksonville hotel for the reunion. All room reservations will be on a first come basis. Complete reunion plans and arrangements will be included in the next newsletter, probably March or April, 1992.

Mark your calendars now for 22-25 October, 1992 and please take the time now to send your comments to Mort Eckhouse concerning the questions he asked in the "Presidents Column" above. Your response to the questions he has asked of each of us are vital to assist in providing the best reunion plans possible.



The photo at left is a copy of an 8X10 furnished by Mike Johnson. Two PBY's (EE-3 & EE-11) in formation over Coco-Solo, 1953.

The photo at bottom left of the following page is a copy of an 8X10 furnished by Leo Connolly. Head of the ramp 1950 at PNS L. to R.: ABC Bonner, Watling AB1, & Leo Connolly (far right)

"Tribute To One Ole Boat Pilot"

On 29 June, 1991, tragedy befell our close friend and fellow ex-VP-45 shipmate. Spade made his last flight glory while performing in an air show near Keystone Heights, Florida. Spade lost his life doing one of the things he loved, flying his Fuji with the "meat ball" on the side of the fuselage.

Commander Nolan H. "Spade" McDade, USN (Ret), inevitably described by one newspaperman as "The Ace Of Spades" had been having the time of his civilian life flying with comrades of The Valiant Air Command in his Fuji built, Super Niko.

Spade and his comrades put on a "colorful and always exciting exhibition before audiences who drank in the action like lemonade on a hot summer day".

Why did he do it ? Here is what he told one of the editors of "Wings Of Gold". "If I can motivate some youngsters to become Navy pilots, then I'm doing my job".

The inspiration Spade so earnestly provided may be too late for some of us; but, not too late for any of us to help pass on to future generations. Spade will be truly missed by all those fortunate to have known him and I'm personally grateful that his wife, Peggy, wishes to continue to be a part of our Assoc.

\* \* \* LOST SHIPMATE \* \* \*

The newsletter sent to Fred Harrington at 12540 S.E. 30th St., Bellevue, WA 98005 was returned to me in the spring as "not being deliverable". Any assistance you may provide in helping to relocate Mr. Harrington would be appreciated.

\* \* \* BALLOTS ARE IN - DID YOU NOTICE \* \* \*

Finally after four years of "no name", we now have one. There were seven separate responses to the request to "name our newsletter".

The following were received:

02/23/91 received "The Pelican Post" from Mort Eckhouse

03/22/91 received "Pelican News" from Chuck Caldwell

03/25/91 received "Pelican Post" from Bill Rodriquez

03/29/91 received "Pelican Post" from Delden Farrington

04/01/91 received "Pelican Post" from Don Porter

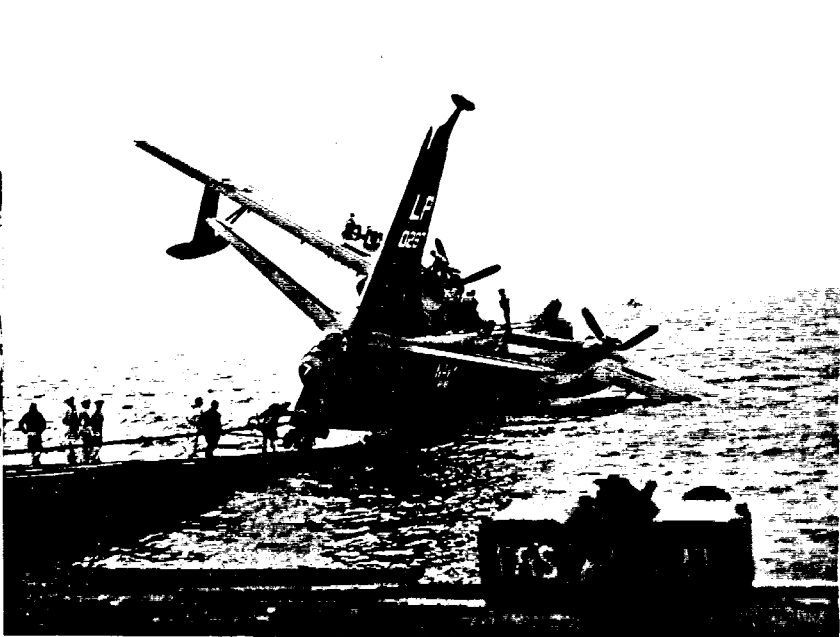
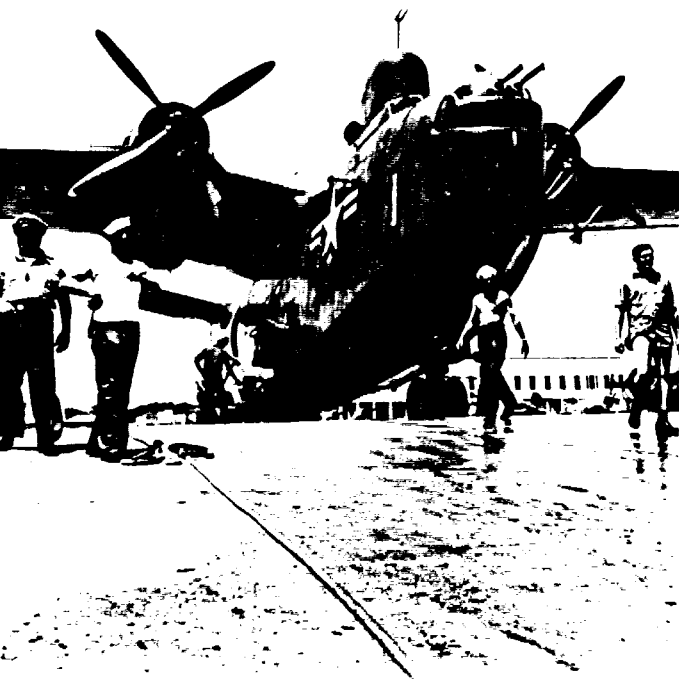
04/02/91 received "Pelican Postings" and "Pelican Poop" from

Bill Rodriquez

04/08/91 received "Pelican Patter", "45 Forcaster", "45 Informer", and "VP-45 Voice" from Sam and Grace Coates.

Straw vote was taken and "The Pelican Post" won. Bill, Delden, and Don, please note that Mort had a one month head start on all of you as a result of his receiving rough draft of the newsletter for his edification. I hope the three of you can get together and fix him up with an "appropriate" award. Many thanks to all of you that responded.

Photo below was furnished by Phil Pattie  
Sure hope Ens. Nugget took notes on how  
not to launch. We're lucky, LP on V. fin



There was one GIANT response to this offer from the last newsletter. If you look closely at the header on this newsletter, you will note that Chuck Caldwell stepped forward and volunteered to take charge of the newsletters and roster.

What started out with meeting one gentleman on the ramp at an Air Show in Topeka, KS four years ago turned into helping with the formation of our VP-45 Assoc. I was only looking for my ole LN-8 crew, but at the suggestion of Bill King, plans were diverted towards a full squadron reunion. This profound "suggestion" led to contact with Mort Eckhouse, Dave Johnson, and Dick Knott, all of whom provided incomparable help.

We are a healthy Assoc, today because of these men and the genuine personal concern and assistance of so many of you. I'm fortunate to have been afforded the pleasure of joining Bill, Dave, and Dick and the rest of you in helping Mort with the reunification of former shipmates, spouses, and widows of former shipmates; a task that Mort actually initiated in 1985. Aside from church and family, this has truly been one of the highlights of my life.

You folks provide Chuck and Joan Caldwell half the support you have given to Shirley and me and we'll not only grow bigger; but, better as well.

Before closing, it would be a tragedy if I failed to thank my top helper, my wife Shirley. She has been there helping with the typing, running errands to the printer, stuffing all those newsletters, and licking all those stamps and envelopes since day one. Without her help, I could not have done my part. Very shortly, Chuck and Joan, you will readily see how true these words are.

\* \* \* FINAL NOTES \* \* \*

We will still gladly accept financial donations to help defray costs associated with newsletters and to aid in the support of the tuition assistance program spoke of earlier.

Please direct all reunion information requests to Mort Eckhouse: 4207 Rosebud Ct., Pensacola, FL 32504 (904) 477-3661

Please direct all newsletter/roster information to Chuck Caldwell: 1061 Arnold Way, Alpine, CA 91901. (619) 445-5072.

Please send all donations and questions concerning finances to Dave Johnson: 7814 Bay Meadows Dr., Pensacola, FL 32507 (904) 456-8062

I'm sure Chuck would enjoy receiving some photographs for use in future newsletters. Within a month of this mailing, I will have returned all the photos sent to me, but Chuck will be starting with a clean slate. Please go through your memorabilia and see if you can help him build a file to select from.

Thanks Chuck not only for accepting this job but also for your preparation of the attached roster addendum and all the mailing labels you furnished.

\* \* \* FAREWELL FOR ONLY A SHORT TIME \* \* \*

Hope this finds all of you well and happy and am looking forward to seeing all of you at the October '92 JAX reunion. I intend to remain an active recruiter for our Assoc.

Respectfully,

*Jay*  
Jay Thomas

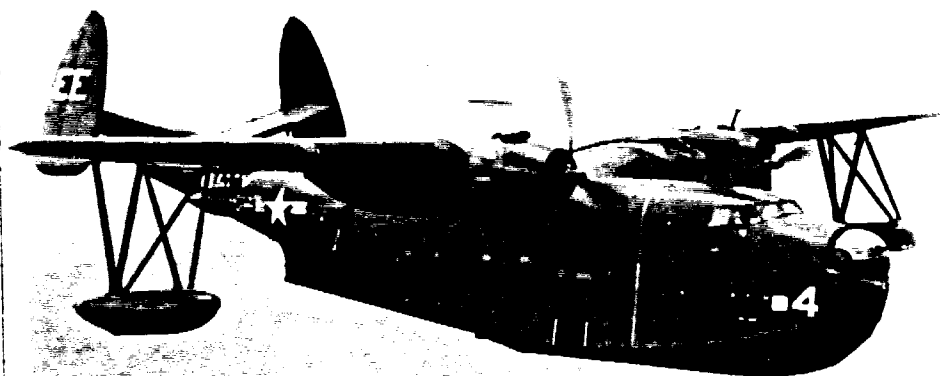


Photo at left is a copy of an PBV (EE-12) taken in flight in 1952 over Coco-Solo furnished by Bob Hoare.

## VIDEOS AVAILABLE

As stated in the reunion account, we had the pleasure of reliving the "good-ole" times by viewing videos prepared by Bill Myers, Bill Bryan, and Miller Carmichael.

Those interested in purchasing the VHS prepared by Bill Myers should write him a letter and let him know. His video contains footage from the time he spent in Panama and has now been updated to include some footage taken in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia areas during the Viet Nam era. The price of this video is \$30.00 which includes insured postage. See roster for address.

Those interested in the VHS video prepared by Bill Bryan should, likewise, drop him a line and let him know. His video spans the 1962-1964 time period and includes footage of both the P5M and the P3. The price of this video is \$25.00 which also includes insured postage. See roster for address.

Miller Carmichael had two VHS videos on display at the reunion, both of which are also available. "Patron Forty Five in Seaplanes": A nine and a half minute rapid moving video briefly describing the eight years that VP-45 flew seaplanes. It includes pictures from squadron members personal movie and slide collections, narration and Bermuda music. Price is \$26.15 (\$19.95 plus \$1.20 sales tax plus \$5.00 shipping). For those who contributed movies, slides, or photos there is a \$5.00 reduction. "Patron Forty Five Pot Pourri": A one hour collection of movies, slides, and photos contributed by squadron members randomly displaying aircraft, Bermuda, Trinidad, San Juan, Coco Solo, and Pillsbury Sound. Video has music of Bermuda sound track. Price is \$26.15 (\$19.95 plus \$1.20 Sales tax plus \$5.00 shipping). For those who contributed movies, slides, or photos, there is a \$5.00 reduction. "Both": If you wish to purchase both tapes there is a \$5.00 savings and again contributors get an additional \$5.00 discount. The price for both is \$42.49 (\$34.90 plus \$2.09 sales tax and \$5.50 for shipping). Contributors pay \$37.20 (\$29.95 plus \$1.80 sales tax and \$5.50 shipping). Those interested, please send response to Video Variants, 156 Second Street S.W., Winter Haven, FL 33880 to attn: Miller Carmichael.

I have been given a copy of all these videos and am extremely grateful to have each of them. Each has it's own theme and targets a specific era but all of them compliment the "Spirit of VP-45".

## NEXT REUNION

Due to the success thus far, preliminary plans have been made for the reunion to be held in Jacksonville, Florida in 1992. Mort has received commitment from one of our shipmates to be the host Reunion Chairman. Tentative plans are for the reunion to be held October 30 & 31, and Nov. 1, 1992. Additional information will be forthcoming.

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