

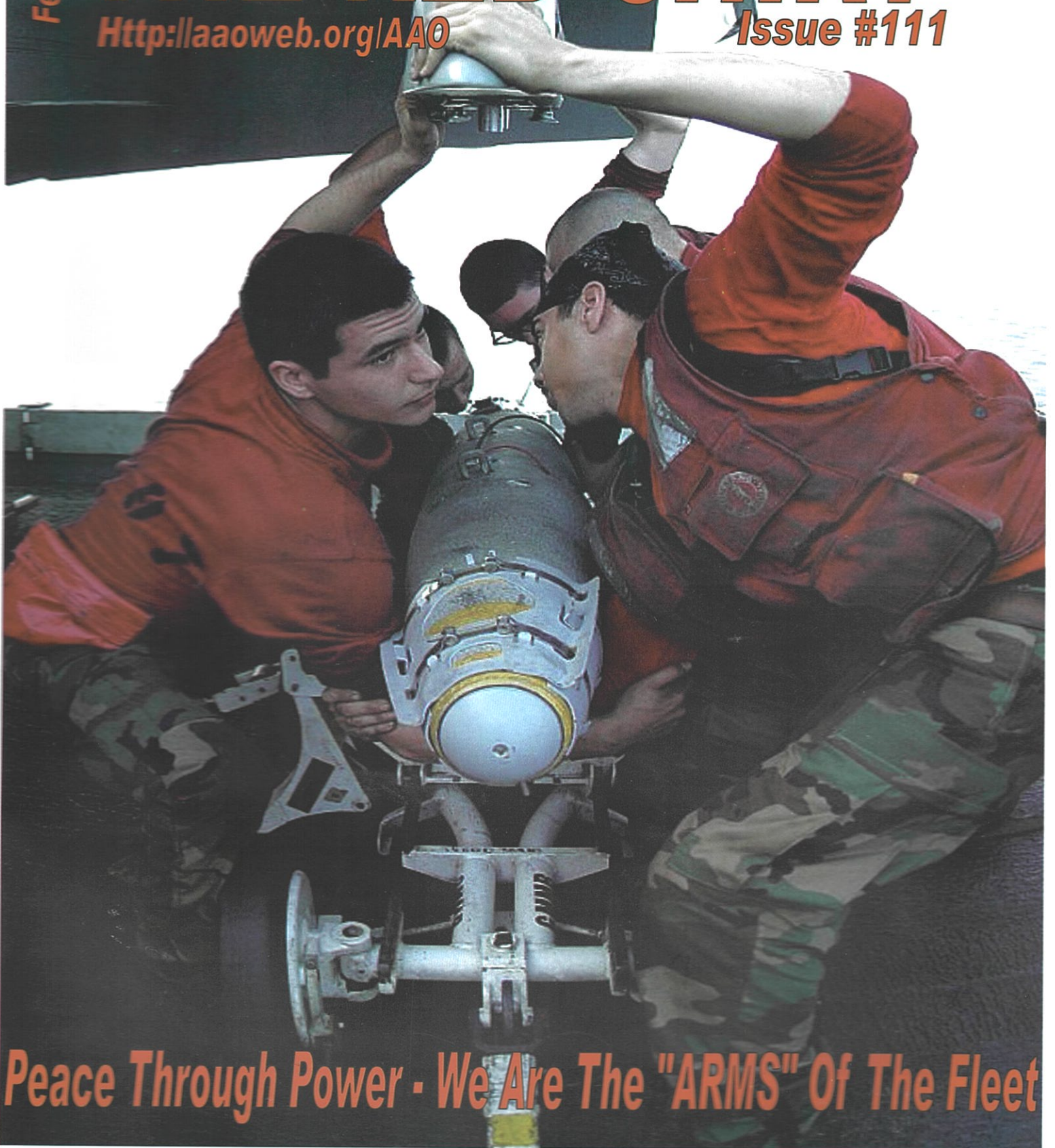
February 2010

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen

THE RED SHIRT

[Http://laaoweb.org/AAO](http://laaoweb.org/AAO)

Issue #111



Peace Through Power - We Are The "ARMS" Of The Fleet



**AAO
Chapter
22
Adopt
-A-
Highway
Walk
October
31
2009**



Virginia Beach Chapter 4

**ON THE
COVER**

091214-N-7939W-050 NORTH ARABIAN SEA (Dec. 14, 2009) Aviations Ordnancemen assigned to the Warhawks of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 97 load ordnance onto an F/A-18C Hornet on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). The Nimitz Carrier Strike Group is on a routine deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Nichelle Noelle Whitfield/Released)



**The Association of
Aviation Ordnancemen
Http://aaoweb.org/AAO**

PRESIDENT

CAPT David H. Lepard
2977 Myrtlewood Dr
Dumfries, VA 22026
(H) 703.221.7330
AAOPresident@aaoweb.org
LDOORD@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT

LCDR Larry "Joe" Manley, USN/Ret.
2099 Thomas Court
Fallon NV 89406-8703
(H) 775.423.9205
AAOVP@aaoweb.org

SECRETARY

AOCM Dennis Costa, USN/Ret.
722 E. Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
(H) 619.450.9768
(W) 619.545.8492
Fax (H) 619.435.3757 on demand
Fax (W) 619.545.8505
AAOSecretary@aaoweb.org

TREASURER

AOCM J.J. LaMaitre, USN/Ret.
9691 Bundy Drive
Santee, CA 92071-2771
(H) 619.562.8492
(W) 619.545.2585
AAOTreasurer@aaoweb.org

CHAPLAIN

Mart Vance, USN/Ret
421 Whitaker Lane
Fallon, NV 89406
(H) 775.423.3696
(C) 775.427.3740
mart@phonewave.net
AAOChaplain@aaoweb.org

MOVING?

Your Change of
Address is
Important . . . Please submit
one to the
national treasurer



CHAPTER MEETINGS - PLACES - TIMES - DATES

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA
President: LCDR Gerry Gladders
559-998-3535
Fleet Reserve, Lemoore
3rd Monday, 1730

Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA
President: AO1 Dustin "Roy" Edsall
Dustin.edsall@navy.mil
360-257-2077
VFW Post 7392 (Whidbey)
2nd Wednesday, 1730

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA
President: AOC Mike Hayden
757-433-2339
Moose Lodge, VA Beach
3rd Wednesday, 1630

Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA
President: AOC Robert Vergara
760-939-9971
VFW 4084, 117 N. Alvord
2nd Flex Thursday, 1830

Chapter 7 - Naval Base Ventura County, CA
President: Don Travis
805-385-7222
Weapons Dept. Conf Room Bldg. 68, NBVC
1st Wednesday, 1130

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA
President: AO1 Nanise M. Schroeder
619-545-6221
Fleet Reserve, Chula Vista
1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL
President: AOC Daniel Pratt
daniel.pratt@navy.mil
904-542-8541
Fleet Reserve, Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, HI
President: AO1 Dow
808-839-2226 ????
Call for Meeting Time and Place

Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV
President: AO1 T. Hixson
775-217-3457
American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.
1st Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 22 - Patuxent River
President: AOC(AW/SW) Christian Saxon
301-997-0036
VFW, Post 2632 California, MD
3rd Wednesday, 1900

Chapter 39 "Dude Gilbert" - Beaufort, SC
President: Del Tingley
843-228-7827
Delroy.d.tingley@usmc.mil

Chapter 65 - USS Enterprise
CVN 65 President: AO1 Julius Carter
On Board

Chapter 68 - USS Nimitz
CVN 68 President: AO1 Luis Nergon
Luis.Negron@cvn68.navy.mil
On Board

Chapter 70 - USS Vinson
CVN 70 President: Ryan P. Burton
On Board

Chapter 72 - USS Lincoln
CVN 72 President: AO1 Anthony Diego
On Board

Chapter 74 - USS Stennis
CVN 74 President: CWO4 Eric Richmond
On Board

Chapter 75 - USS Truman
CVN 75 President: AO1 Wes Thompson
On Board

Chapter 76 - USS Ronald Reagan
CVN-76 President: AO1 Gregory Johnson
On Board

Chapter 77 - USS George HW Bush
CVN-77 President: AO1 Ronald W Lee
On Board leerw@cvn77.navy.mil

Chapter Key West,
Southern Most President: AO2 Ryan Smith
305-293-2420
Southernmost VFW Post 3911
1st Thursday, 1700

Chapter Pensacola - Pensacola, FL
President: AO1 James Mackie
James.mackie@navy.mil
850-452-7385 ext 4183
Kooter Browns
1st Wednesday, 1830

Chapter Desert/Southwest - El Centro, CA.
President: John G. Cleary Jr.
760-337-4986
Call for Meeting Time and Place

Chapter CVW 5 - Deployed
President: AO1 Corey Hester
Forward Deployed



Letters To The Editor

Editor,

My Name is Ian I. Rodriguez. I was enlisted in the Navy from 2002-2006 aboard the good ol' Chucky V, I too was an AO. I'm here hoping to find a shipmate of mine. AO1 Harris, Lance. I'm sure he's made Chief by now. AO1 Harris helped me out allot and was a role model to me. I lost all his contact info since and I figured I would give this a shot. If you can help me out at all I'd appreciate it.

If anyone can connect these two together just shoot me an E-mail and I'll get them in touch.
Kevin

Kevin,

I would like to say thank you to all of those that have sent e-mail's, letters, flowers and well wishes since my wife, Tamma, was diagnosed with cancer over a year ago. It has been a true challenge for our family. With the support of Aviation Ordnancemen all over the United States it has been a relief knowing that all that support is behind us. Tamma sends a great big hug and thank you for all the continued support.

Very respectfully,
Bill

CDR Bill Bindel
Gun Boss
PEO Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons

Bill, The picture you attached from Virginia Beach Chapter 4 is on pg 2

To all chapters,

Please review your information on the Chapter Meetings - Places - Times - Dates section on page 3. E-mail your changes to me and Dennis Costa. I know some of the phone numbers don't match up and I also need a few E-mail addresses. I get the occasional call from AO's inquiring about a meeting in a certain area and its nice to give them up to date information. If you don't see your chapter on here let me know that also please.

Thanks for the help, Editor

2010 CONVENTION BUSINESS

ANY CHAPTER WANTING TO SELL THEIR AO ITEMS AT THE 2010 JOINT USN/USMC ORDNANCE SYMPOSIUM AND AAO CONVENTION 9 AUG THRU 14 AUG 2010,"MUST" CONTACT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE FOR A SPACE AND/OR TABLE(S) BY 1 JUNE 2010. THE COMMITTEE "MUST" APPROVE MEMORABILIA SALES IN ADVANCE. SALES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED EXCEPT IN ASSIGNED AREAS.

PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS: JOE MANLEY @ 775-423-9205; CHUCK ONKEN @ 559-924-2503/559-998-3568 OR JIM THOMAS @ 619-421-3991/ 800-783-8646

Hello!

My name is Bekki Walker. My husband AO2(AW) Daniel Walker I believe was once stationed with someone that I found on your lifetime members list. AO1(AW) Justin L. Darnell. I have pictures that I have found of the 2 of them on the USS Kitty Hawk & USS Carl Vinson that I would like to somehow send to him. It would be great if I could either get his email or if you could forward my email on to him.

Over the 5 years I have been with my husband I have seen many of his friends come and go with Navy life. My husband still talks of Darnell & the good times they had both at work & on the weekends riding dirt bikes & hanging out. He was one of the good people my husband looked up to most as an AO in his 1st command. It would be nice to be able to let my husband know how he is doing & also let Darnell know where we are stationed. In case he might wonder this way sometime again in his journey of life.

Thank you so much!



EDITOR

AOC Kevin P. Meagher, USN/Ret.

21 Wedgewood Lane NE

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

(H) 850.243.0237

(W) 850.883.0187

kevin.meagher@eglin.af.mil



Kevin:

We were so happy to get your call regarding our request for two copies of the most recent Red Shirt magazine publication featuring a cover story on our close friend, John Finn. We are very grateful to you for sending us these copies.

We attended the two largest of John's 100th birthday parties and are now in the process of putting together two large albums of pictures and news articles regarding those events. We were on the phone with John and Frances last week when she mentioned they had received a copy of this magazine and what a beautiful job you guys did on the story. So, we are very excited to be able to include this beautiful cover and story in our albums.

Kevin, we want to express our deepest appreciation to you and your staff for honoring John on his 100th birthday in such a significant and meaningful way. He is a great guy and very proud of being Aviation Ordnance.

Thanks again for the magazines. We really appreciate your help. Please mail the magazines to us at the following address:

Joe and Lil Larkin

Dear AO Scholarship Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in awarding me with a Robert L. Crow scholarship. This money is very much appreciated right now, as I will begin student teaching in the spring. My university prohibits students from working during the student teaching semester, under penalty of being expelled from the program. This scholarship will help ease my financial burden (and that of my parents) as I finish my education.

Thank you again for your support this year and in years previous. I am very grateful for the part the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen has played in furthering my education.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Parmley

Dear AO Association Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express my sincerest thanks upon having received the Northrop/Grumman Shipbuilding Division, Newport News Award. This is both an honor and a tremendous help as I have recently embarked upon my freshmen year of college at Middle Tennessee State University. This scholarship has given me greater means to pursue a degree

in education, a desire I have had for some time now. Thank you all so much!

Sincerely,

Audra M. Parmley

Kevin,

AO1 Severrio Marshatelli USN Ret.
11444 137th St. Apt 110B
Largo, FL 33774

Shipmate is looking for copies of the Posters on Page 7 (Sailor with the sea bag) and Page 11 of the 5 Sullivan Brothers in RS 109. The Sailor also appears in RS 110 pg 10.

AO1 Marshatelli is willing to pay for the posters. Any help or assistance will be appreciated.

JJ

Does anyone know where these particular posters can be purchased at? I have a metal sign that I bought years ago of the Sailor going up the brow which I bought at a flea market. If anyone knows of any place please contact Severrio.

Thanks

Editor of the finest magazine printed,

I read the Red Shirt from cover to cover, word for word I like many men live the articles you write. Twenty years of adventure I had always something new to look forward to. At one time I was able to say that I had been aboard every active aircraft carrier the Navy had, that was due to the fact that I was with a "Operational Ready Group" out of Hawaii and then went back to the east coast and did the same with COMLATWING ONE out of Cecil Field. I could go on and on but enough about me and for the real reason I'm writing this letter..

Each Ordnanceman has a story to tell and don't get me wrong, my hat is off and I respect John Finn for his shoes we try to fill but when I read the enclosed article I thought it should be brought to the Red Shirts attention and it surprised me that there was an Aviation Ordnanceman aboard a battleship. I don't know if Chief Wentzlaff is a member of our association or not but I believe he is due a tip of the hat.

Sincerely
Calvin G Abers USN Ret

Article starting on pg 13. Thanks Calvin!



AAO President

Hello Ordies.

Well its that time again to wish you all well and hoping that you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great New Years celebration , not to mention a break from the work schedule. I've now transferred from the OPNAV N411 staff and have once again landed in San Diego as the Commander, Naval Air Forces, Gun Boss. I will admit that the grind back in D.C. was just that, a grind, but I was supported and worked with one of the finest groups of Ordnance folks you could ever wish for and I truly miss them. Thanks N411 Staff you are the best of the best, and you were always looking out for the Shore and Sea Sailors and Marines.

The January pre-convention meeting has occurred in Laughlin NV, and all aspects of the August Convention are on track. Once again it surely looks like we will have another record breaking, and professional event.

Since arriving in San Diego, I've been able to attend two Chapter meetings with the Chapter Eight members and accomplished the East county Highway walk, and was honored to visit with John Finn, speaking of John he's doing pretty good for a 100 year old guy, keep him in your prayers and that he continues to be strong and full of sea stories.

Our membership continues to grow, and I need each of you to continue to show the strength and enthusiasm of the Aviation Ordnance profession. For us active duty folks we need to continue to make sure that we present that, we are utmost professional rate in the US Navy and Marine Corps. Our profession has been around as long as Naval Aviation has, and we are the best. We need to make sure that we present that in the best of ways at all times, yes we are a profession that works as a team, but first and foremost we represent the Navy and Marine Corps team. Don't let your guard down at any time and slip into doing something that would embarrass your Navy and Marine Corps. **Always remember your core values. You're a Sailor and Marine First!**

As always I look forward to seeing you all, if you're in San Diego stop by the office, and if I'm in your area I'll most likely stop in and see you. Pat and I look forward to seeing you in Reno, so make your plans now to attend.

We will once again have the Symposium prior to the Convention and I'm sure you won't want to miss the Exhibitor and Vendor displays as well as the full week of professional presentations that will be given.

See ya'all soon,

Very respectfully,
CAPT Dave Lepard

AAO Vice President

Greetings to all,

I can't believe it but we just finished holding the pre convention meeting and are in full swing of getting things going for the 09-15 August, 2010 symposium/convention in Reno, NV at the Silver Legacy Resort and Casino.

We have four offices open for election this year. They are Vice President (Joe Manley), Secretary (Dennis Costa) and two Board of Directors (Chuck Onken & Mike Price). If you have any one you would like to nominate for one of these offices please write up a nomination and get it to me before **1 MAY 2010**. You can either e-mail (ljmanley@charter.net) or mail (**2099 Thomas Ct. Fallon, NV 89406**) to me. Ensure that the person you nominate is willing to except it by including an exception letter from that person. Also, the candidate should be present at the annual convention to ensure an orderly turnover of the office. If the nominee can not be present than in accordance with the By Laws," absence of a candidate from the General Business meeting requires approval of the Board of Directors for that candidate to be eligible for election." The nomination package shall include a short synopsis of the nominee's background and a statement indicating why the nominee should be a candidate for office. After the candidate's membership status has been verified and eligibility to run for office established their name would be included on an absentee ballot which then will be published in Red Shirt prior to the convention/symposium. Remember that the publication of nominees on an absentee ballot in the Red Shirt **does not** preclude the acceptance of nominations from the floor during the annual General Business meeting. All above requirements still remain a requirement when nominating from the floor, i.e. their consent and a verbal short synopsis of background and why the nominee should be a candidate. If nominated from the floor only the people in attendance of the General Business meeting will have an opportunity to vote for that nominee.

Hope to see you at this years Convention. God Bless our Troops.

IYAOYAS
PRESS ON

Joe Manley
AAO VP





AAO CONVENTION

11-15 AUGUST 2010

SILVERLEGACY

RESORT CASINO RENO

For Reservations:

BOOK GROUP CODE: AAO10

800/687-8733

or

www.silverlegacyreno.com

SUNDAY - THURSDAY

STANDARD - \$69

SPA SUITE - \$114

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

STANDARD - \$94

SPA SUITE - \$134

MAKE RESERVATIONS BY 18 JULY

FREE AIRPORT SHUTTLE



FOR CONVENTION INFORMATION, CALL:

Jim Thomas

619/421-3991

email: plwt@cox.net



AAO Treasurer

CONVENTION – Start making plans NOW for Convention 2010 at the Silver Legacy. Registration forms are located elsewhere in this Red Shirt.

Have you had a promotion, change of status (recently retired) or phone number change? If so give me a shout at the contact info below so I can update your record.

Address changes have gotten better, BUT are still costing your Association. Sign up to get yours electronically!!! All you have to do is go to the web site, and download the Red Shirt. If you move or have a PCS coming up get those address changes to me prior to the move. You can make them via the web site, via snail mail; phone (619)562-8492; or (preferred) you can e-mail them to me at aootreas@cox.net.

FYI the US Postal Service has an on-line Change of Address section, see it at www.usps.com.

Until next time IYAOYAS.

JJ LaMaitre
AAO Treasurer

AAO Secretary

Greetings Ordies,

Our convention is getting close and it looks to be another great event so get your reservations in. As a reminder to all Chapters please get your monthly minutes to me. I do pass them to the President so he can keep abreast of your activities. Hey Chapter Secretary.... Please e-mail me at my work e-mail address so I can keep you up to date of up coming issues...

Dennis Costa
AAO Secretary
722 E Ave
Coronado Ca 92118
aocm@aol.com
dennis.costa@navy.mil
619-540-9768
619-545-8492
619-545-8505

Home
Work
Home
Work
Fax



TAPS

- *AOCM Francis R. Luczycki USN Ret.
- *AOC T. L. Schrimsher
- *AOC Merton K. Williams
- *AO1 Martin F. Poe
- AOC Don Travis USN Ret.
- *AOCS William M. McBroom
- *AOC Jack S. Reed
- AO1 Glen Holt USN Ret.
- *AOC Martin J. Willis Jr.

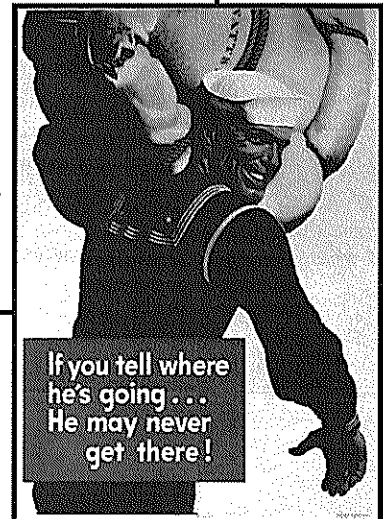
* Info from FRA Today Newsletter

Red Shirt Articles

are due

20 JAN 11
20 MAY 10
20 SEP 10

Please submit via
e-mail
when possible





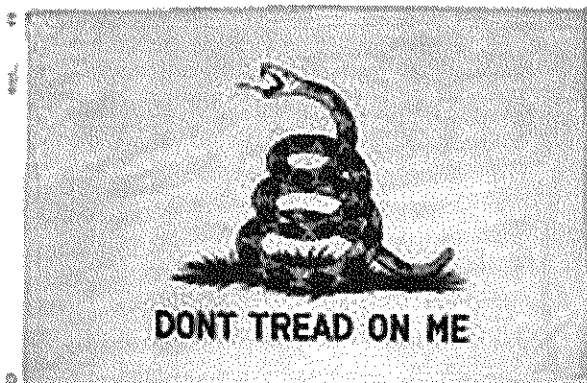
Chapter 9



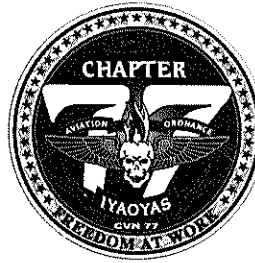
Greetings to all from Chapter 9 sunny Jacksonville, Florida. Chapter 9 has been busy, busy! On behalf of our Chapter, CDR Michael Gramolini conducted an Annual Military Inspection for the NJROTC at Orange Park High School on

December 10, 2009. We completed our quarterly ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY FOD walk-down on October 17th followed by our Cook-Out of "sliders, rollers, and a drink or two". The next ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY FOD walk-down is scheduled for January 23, 2010. AO2 (AW) Lindsey Smack was selected as Chapter 9 3rd Quarter Aviation Ordnanceman of the Quarter. She was presented a certificate and letter that was signed by the Chapter President at the November meeting. Way to GO Lindsey! We also sponsored a "Hand-Up" for local AO's in the area for Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets. The Chapter gave out one Thanksgiving Basket and three Christmas Baskets. AO2 (AW) Adrian Romero, our Training PO, provided an excellent Training Lecture on the AGM-84, SLAM-ER missile and associated components at our November Meeting. The presentation was well received by the membership. Thanks Petty Officer Romero for your time and effort. Until next time, remember Chapter 9 meets every 3rd Thursday at 1900 at The Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 91 5391 Collins Road Jacksonville, Florida. **Bring a friend or two and start the New Year out right.**

This is not a club...
...It's a brotherhood!
IYAOYAS!
Very Respectfully,
AOC (AW) Daniel J. Pratt
President, Chapter 9
www.aao9.com
Daniel.pratt@navy.mil



Chapter 77



Greetings From Chapter 77, we finally have our AO Chapter off and running and would like to send many thanks to those who supported us along the way. especially Mr. Dennis Costa. We are currently getting the Navy's newest carrier out of the very long shipyard period and are looking forward to taking

the fight to the enemy overseas! We have a lot of young eager AO's on our ship and bringing them a taste of what we as AO's are all about is fun and challenging all in itself. We have recently completed our fist COMREL project with the Boys and Girls club of Newport News, and look forward to doing many more great things as we all give back to our community.

If you are ever in Hampton Roads, feel free to contact us for more information on our Chapter!

AO1(AW/SW) RONALD W. LEE
USS G. H. W. BUSH CVN-77
AAO CHAPTER 77 PRESIDENT

Chapter 22

On October 31, 2009, Chapter 22 AO Association held its Adopt-a-Highway clean up on Rt 235 in California, MD. A total of 22 people, including members of the Leonardtown H.S. Honor Society, braved the elements to make our stretch of highway just a bit cleaner. Twelve bags of trash and one mattress were collected to make this a successful day. Chapter 22 recently changed routes and is waiting for a new sign to be erected in this high visible area. In the meantime, some participants did their best to cover the existing sign. Plans are being made to schedule the next Adopt-a-Highway walk. Thank you to all the participants who made this day a great success.





At the 2010 Convention, during the first Association Board of Directors meeting, the AAO's Board of Directors will hold elections for a number of Officer Positions in the AA-OEF. I as Foundation President am soliciting advance nominations for the following offices:

Office	Incumbent
Vice President	CDR Mike Gramolini
Secretary	Dennis Costa <i>(has indicated will not seek reelection)</i>
Board of Director	Larry Cowell
Board of Director-Auxiliary Representative	Shannon N. Mullins

Eligibility requirements for these offices and the duties of the office are in the AAOEF Bylaws, which you can find by going to: <http://aaoweb.org/AAO> then clicking on Scholarship Information then scroll down to and click on the By-laws section. All individuals seeking election should familiarize themselves with this information and then have a Regular Member of the Association nominate them. All are reminded of scholarship application or sponsor restrictions imposed to all officers within IRS directives.

I, as President of the Foundation, will be accepting advance nominations by U.S. Mail or E-Mail for collection and presentation to the Associations President. The deadline for submitting advance nominations is 30 days prior to the first AAO Board Meeting. To make a nomination you must be a Regular Member of the Association and a written acceptance by your nominee must accompany your nomination. All nominations of individuals received will be verified as current Regular Members of the Association; if applicable, Auxiliary through the National Treasurer or Auxiliary Treasurer.

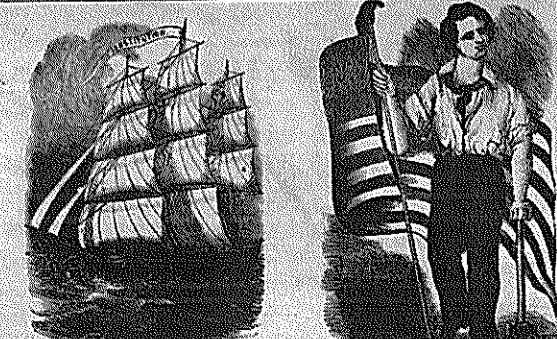
Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the first meeting of the Association's Board of Directors. All are reminded of scholarship application or sponsor restrictions imposed to all officers within IRS directives.

Mail advance nominations to: 35 Palmyra Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32164-7517 or E-Mail them to: egunner@lightspeed.net.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (386) 445-0968 (H)/ (386) 405-6940 (Cell).

Edward C. Scott
AAOEF President

JACK TARS, AHoy!!
Let us Open the Potomac!

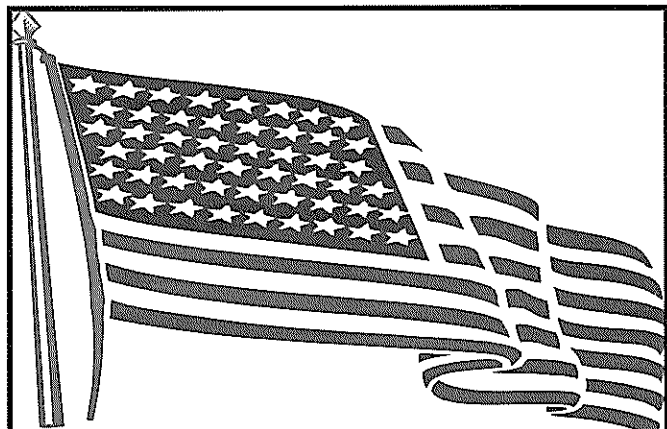


WANTED IMMEDIATELY
FOR CO. I, 5th REGIMENT,
EXCELSIOR BRIGADE,
50 ABLE-BODIED SEAMEN

TO COMPLETE THE COMPANY.
The Regiment is now at the Seat of War, and is commanded by Col. CHAS. E. GRAY, once a "Reef" and Capt. ARTHUR WILKINSON, of Co. I, was once a "Skipper" in the Merchant service. The Company is intended to operate in the Inlets of the Chesapeake, and on the Potomac, and will see a full share of active service and glorious adventure.
All Sailors who prefer Active Service and Fresh Beef to midnight watches and salt junk, are invited to join.

APPLY AT 17 BROADWAY, IN BASEMENT,
Or at Office of Excelsior Brigade, Staten Island Ferry, New York.

Baker & Gideon, Printers, Printing-Block Square, Opposite City Hall New York.





NEW MEMBERS

Stephen E. Repaz
 AOAN Lemar Williams
 AO3 Ren M. Beavin
 AO3 Quiyon S. Young
 AO2 Darren A. Fender
 AO2 Linhha T. Nguyen
 AO1 Jason G. Reynolds
 AOC(AW/SW) Porfirio C. Macalma
 AO3 John C. Chenowith
 AO3 Leroy Ridgeway
 AO2(AW) Steven S. Doremus
 AO1 Gary J. Evans
 AO1 Andrew J. Pletzke
 AO3 Nadja V. Coe
 AO3 Vincent J. San Nicolas
 AO1 Matthew M. Muravez
 AO1 Bryan S. Wilcox
 AO3 Gaylon A. Lucas
 AO2 Kevin D. Bell
 AO1 Philippe J. Lilavious
 AO1 Luis D. Negron
 AO1 Donnell L. Lewis
 AOAN John P. Walowich
 Franklin E. McDaniel
 AOC Curtis R. Wilburn USN Ret.
 Joseph B. Keiser
 AO2 Jason C. Marks
 AO1 Erik P. Kugen
 AO1 Joseph W. Green
 AOCS(AW) James P. Vigil
 AO3 Kevin J. Cooper
 AOCS Trivell M. Jordan
 AOCM Lamberto A. Loyola
 AO1(AW/SW) Mark S. Kellogg
 Bill Kamm (Former AO WWII)
 Melissa L. Vaughn
 AOAN Mark Mills
 AO2 Jason H. Searce
 AO1 Kenneth R. Canfield
 AO3 Heather N. Graham
 AO3 Cheryl A. Hryb
 AO2 Renee L. Duhaime
 AO2 Jonathan C. Garibay
 AO2 Brian M. Hopkins
 AO2 Jose M. Perez
 AO1 John C. Duffy II
 AO1 Gerry N. Menor
 AO1 John C. Grunalt

AOAN Jeremiah D. Kennedy
 AOAN Gza Ione V. Larican
 AO3 Ron L. Ellingson
 AO3 Gerold J. Mannall
 AO2 Eric W. Odiome
 AO1 Christopher A. Bolinger
 AO1 Ceazare M. Kemp
 AO2 Adrian Romero
 AOC(AW) Daniel J. Pratt
 AO3(AW) Hellen E. Vanegas
 AOAN Aaron R. Melia
 AOAN Azurdee M. Shelton
 AOAN Brittany S. Kapesi
 AOAN William C. Trask
 AO3 Tracy D. White
 AO1 Dave E. Liming
 AOC Hiram J. Alcalá
 AOAA Rachel N. Price
 AO3 Wilbert R. Mitchell
 AO1(AW/SW) Michael W. Drake
 AO1 Donta M. Willis
 LCPL Richard R. Gibson
 SGT Samantha A. McLemore
 AOC Joshua L. Hohbach
 AO1 Jermaine A. Chestnut
 AO3 Jed A. Christner
 AO3(AW) Jonathan A. Hilla
 AO2 Victor Gascot
 AO1 Jonathan M. Luna
 Michael L. Gobbell
 AO1 Michael D. Comrie
 AO1(AW) John E. Groves
 AO3 Hector Cubero
 AO2 Michael J. Washa
 AOAN Heather M. Brown
 Erik F. Nelson
 AO3 Raymond L. Bosly
 AO2 Ashley G. Sharp
 AOAN Carlos L. Bailey
 AO3 Timothy A. Flowers
 AO3 Jeremiah C. James
 AO2 Glenn A. Coleman
 AO2 Dusti R. Hall
 AO2 Earnest C. Hampton
 AO2 Edward G. Salsberry
 AO1 Jason E. Bailey
 AO1 Jon H. Solis
 AO1 Jeremy W. Logue

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

AOC Noel & Edwina Bankston USN Ret.
 John & Katie Drake
 Robert & Carol Elliot Jr.
 CWO3 George & Ann Lef-fel USN Ret.
 AOC Anthony L. Paxton

AOC John & Jane Kevin JR. USN Ret.
 Stephen & Dana Miller
 MSGT Dennis & Margaret Colbert USMC Ret.
 J. Ronald & Sue Brown
 Deborah Leach

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AOC John M. Kevin JR. USN Ret.
 Bill Kamm (Former AO WWII)
 AO2 Jeremy 'The Goat' Mendleson

AOC Curtis R. Wilburn USN Ret.
 LCDR Paul A. Dosen USN Ret.

LOCATOR

Can you help?.....Know where any of these members can be located? If so please contact me at aaot-reas@cox.net, snail mail or give me a call.

AO(AW/SW) Ronnie Caudle
 CWO3 Selena Richardson
 Jeffrey P. Tellechea
 AQ1 Joseph P. Doring USN Ret.
 LCPL Cannon K. Lord
 AE3(AW) Andrea E. Fontenot
 AO2 Stephanie A. Spade
 AOAA Billy J. Douglass

LCPL Nicholas J. Jones
 AO2 Michael P. Green
 AO1 Corey Lumpkins
 CPL Joseph B. Strother
 AO2(AW/SW) Ralph L. Jones
 AOAN Sharda J. Berry
 AO2 Trevor A. Simones
 AO2 Brett Hernandez

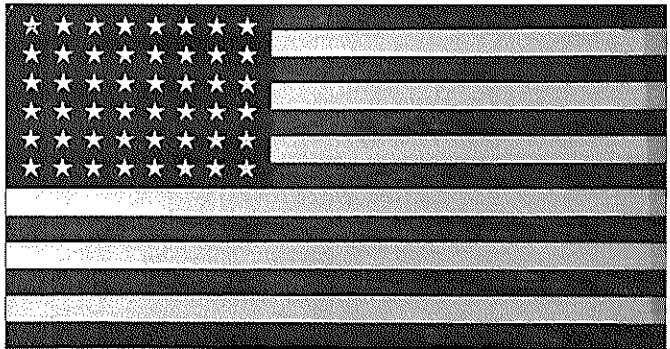


IYAOYAS!!

NOTICE: Looking for any kind of information/pictures on the following Association of Aviation Hall of Fame inductees. CDR Roy Asher, U.S.N., RET., AOCM Frank H. Parker, U.S.N., RET., LCDR Leslie H. Ovre, U.S.N., RET., AOCM Robert Branum, U.S.N., RET., and AOCS Richard A. Smith. Information can be mailed to Charles Onken, 291 W. Spruce Place, Lemoore, CA. 93245-1970 or e-mail to onkenc@sbcglobal.net. Phone: 559-924-2503
 THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ! Chuck Onken

Total GI Bill Benefit Now Hits Over \$49,000

As of October 1, 2009 the monthly GI Bill payment rate increased 3.6% to \$1,368. This money is not a loan, but a benefit you've earned to help pay for a degree or professional certificate.



GIVE IT YOUR BEST!



2009 CONVENTION RESERVATION APPLICATION

ADVANCE ORDER FORM

DEADLINE IS 1 AUGUST 2010

I plan to attend the following activities (please check appropriate ones):

- 12 Aug (Thu) Board of Directors Meeting
13 Aug (Fri) AO of The Year Committee
13 Aug (Fri) Scholarship Committee
13 Aug (Fri) AAO Hall of Fame Committee
13 Aug (Fri) Membership Committee
13 Aug (Fri) By-Laws Committee
13 Aug (Fri) Nominations Committee
13 Aug (Fri) AAO Social
14 Aug (Sat) General Business Meeting
14 Aug (Sat) Awards Banquet
15 Aug (Sun) Board of Directors Meeting

AUXILIARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN

- 12 Aug (Thu) Board of Directors Meeting
14 Aug (Sat) General Business Meeting
15 Aug (Sun) Board of Directors Meeting

NOTE

Committee Chairmen will require the assistance from the membership for the above listed committees. Please indicate committee or committees that you wish to participate in.

ADVANCED TICKET ORDERING INFORMATION

Payment of the Registration Fee is required to attend any meeting or convention function. Registration Fees must be paid prior to purchasing tickets for the Social and/or Awards Banquet. Registration Fees are not required for dependents 17 and under. However, they must purchase tickets to attend the Social and/or Awards Banquet.

For active duty E-4 and below:

1 year free membership in the Association is included in your registration fee. If you are already a member your membership will be extended one year. To qualify for this special registration package please include a completed application with your registration and or ticket order.

ORDERS & MONEY FOR ADVANCE REGISTRATION FEES, AAO SOCIAL AND AWARDS BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY 01 AUGUST 2010. ORDERS & MONEY RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE RETURNED OR MUST HAVE LATE FEE'S INCLUDED.

Visa/ MasterCard Credit Card Fee's are Non Refundable.

For Registration Fees, AAO Social and/or Awards Banquet send check, money order, or credit card info made payable to and mailed to:

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
J.J. LaMaitre
9691 Bundy Drive
Santee, CA 92071-2771

Registration Fees (choose appropriate category):

- 1. Member \$20.00 (\$25.00 after 1 Aug 10)
Name of Member (please print) \$
2. Non-Member \$30.00 (\$35.00 after 1 Aug 10)
(Name including guest or spouse)
Name of Non-Member (please print) \$
3. Additional Guests (Spouse) 18 and over \$10.00 \$
Names of Guests (Spouse) (please print)

Advance Social & Awards Banquet ticket prices:

- AAO Social \$25.00 each (\$30.00 after 1 Aug 10) \$
Awards Banquet \$35.00 each (\$40.00 after 1 Aug 10) \$
Credit Card Fee \$10.00 (if applicable) Non-Refundable \$
Total amount enclosed \$

Name exactly as it appears on credit card

Signature

Master Card/ Visa # Exp.

Circle One: Hold Tickets Or Mail My Tickets to:

Your name

Address

City, State, Zip

Area Code/Phone number





Surviving the USS Arizona

*Reprinted with permission from November 2009
Minnesota Legionnaire by Al Zdon*

Ed Wentzloff knows where he will be buried – with his comrades.

Of the 335 men who survived the sinking of the USS Arizona on December 7, 1941, only about 20 remain alive. Wentzloff, 92, of Milaca, is one of them.

"I've already made the arrangements. My ashes will be interred on the Arizona. It only makes sense. I was on board for three years before she was sunk. That's where all my friends are."

Edward Louis Wentzloff was born in Nicollet, Minnesota, in November of 1917, the third of nine children. His father owned the hotel and saloon in Nicollet.

Part of the family's income in the 1920s came from selling whiskey to the customers, despite the national Prohibition. "I remember saving my dad one time. I just happened to be out collecting for my paper route, when I saw this new, big car coming into town. It had three guys in it. I raced home on my bike and told my dad, 'They're coming.' They were able to get rid of everything they had behind the bar before the agents got there."

Wentzloff graduated from high school in Nicollet in the spring of 1935 and the next day he was working for the Great Northern Railroad in Walker. "I never had any trouble finding jobs because I always worked hard. I always believed in giving them their dollar's worth. The best job I had in those days was picking corn for \$6 a day. That was big money in the 1930s."

He did a variety of farm and labor jobs, but it was tough getting ahead during the Depression. "I got disgusted about always being poor. A friend of mine had joined the Navy earlier that year, and then another friend joined up. For some reason, I decided I would too."

On December 8, 1938, Wentzloff became an enlisted man in the U.S. Navy. He did his boot camp at Great Lakes, and then was sent off to San Diego to ordnance school – learning about Navy weapons.

In school, he became interested in torpedoes. "I put in for submarines, but, of course, this was the Navy, and they sent me to a battleship."

That ship was the USS Arizona, BB-39, built in 1916 and one of the largest ships in the fleet. Wentzloff, like all new men on board, first worked as a cook and pot scrubber on the mess decks for several months, and then became a

gun striker — an apprentice in a black powder magazine below the ship's decks.

He got lucky in mid-1939 as there was an opening for an ordnance man for the ship's three scout planes. "Everybody wanted to fly those planes." The float planes, OS2U Kingfishers, could be launched from the deck of the battleship on a short catapult and then recovered by a crane after they landed at sea.

Wentzloff soon made third class aviation ordnance mate with the help of an officer who had taken a liking to him. "When I was taking the test, he told me maybe I should go back and look at problems nine and 11 again."

The USS Arizona shifted its home port to Pearl Harbor over the next couple of years, and the ship spent a lot of time at sea, Wentzloff recalls. In port, there was time for some fun and recreation. "I had a lot of friends. The Arizona had good baseball teams, football teams, wrestling, you name it. The crew spent all of its time together."

Because it was a flagship, it also had a rear admiral on board, Isaac Kidd. "He was one of the orneriest admirals in the fleet. Everybody hated him. Our airplanes were on the quarterdeck, and the admiral considered the quarterdeck his territory. He made us do all our work in dress whites. You tell me -- how you change the oil on an airplane in your dress whites?"

Wentzloff rose steadily through the ranks and had passed the test for first class in September of 1941, but he had to wait because there were no first class slots available at that time. His job was mainly to oversee the armament on the Kingfishers, including the machine gun and bomb racks. He became an expert on synchronizing the machine guns so they wouldn't shoot off the plane's propeller. Wentzloff often flew as an air crewman in the planes, and he drew flight pay.

December 7th, 1941, began as a happy one for Wentzloff. His three-year enlistment was scheduled to end the next day. Two friends from Nicollet were coming over to visit him that day. He and one friend were planning on leaving the Navy and opening a resort in Wisconsin.

"It was a beautiful morning. As usual I got up early to take a shower while there was still hot water, so I was probably up a half hour before reveille. Just before 8 o'clock I was up on the forecastle waiting for the service to begin. I was Catholic, but they were having Lutheran service on our ship because our chaplain was Lutheran. They were just setting up the chairs. There were about 12 of us."

A couple of minutes before 8 a.m., Wentzloff looked out toward Hospital Point in Pearl Harbor and saw an airplane coming in. "I could see the red ball on its side. It was coming right down the line of ships and strafing as it came. When it got to us, the bullets were hitting the teak wood on deck, and the wood and splinters were flying all over.

"Someone told us to get below. There was kind of a rule in the Navy that a ship was bombproof if you got down to the third deck."

(Continued on page 14)



(Continued from page 13)

On his way down, Wentzlaff stuck his head into a compartment where several of his shipmates were lolling around, recovering from their recreation in Honolulu the night before. "I told them they should get below, but they said there wasn't really an attack, it was just the Army simulating an attack. The Army did that all the time. I told them to look out the porthole, and they'd see it wasn't a simulation."

Wentzlaff continued to follow the other men below, but when he got to the ladder that would take him to what was thought to be the impregnable part of the ship, he changed his mind. "I was the last one in the group, and they all went below and I didn't. Why I didn't follow them down there, I don't know. But my general quarters station was up on the quarterdeck. Damn, don't you know, I just turned around and went back up."

The decision to stay on the quarterdeck probably saved Wentzlaff's life.

"There were some fires on deck already, and the lieutenant commander told us to grab a fire hose. We got it out, and I told the other guy to stay at the valve until I was ready at the other end of the hose. When I had a good grip on it, I told him to hit the water, but nothing happened. I thought he might have opened the wrong valve, so we changed places and I tried to open the valve. But there was no water. We had already been torpedoed at that time."

As Wentzlaff was trying to open the valve, a Japanese plane dropped a bomb that sliced through the upper deck and set off a powder magazine in the forward part of the ship. History books would later call what resulted as a cataclysmic explosion. Much of the forward part of the ship literally disappeared in the horrific blast.

"I was protected a little bit, but it burned off all my hair, my eyebrows. I remember seeing the head of the Marine detail at that point. He was a huge man, and he had a chunk missing on his forehead, and another chunk missing on his cheek. He was yelling over and over again, 'We're going to get those SOB's.' And then he died.

"Someone was yelling to abandon ship, but when I looked over the side and saw all that oil burning, I didn't know if I wanted to jump into that. If I'd jumped, I don't think I would have made it to shore."

Instead, Wentzlaff and another sailor worked their way to the officer's gangway and down it to where the admiral's barge was tied up. The Arizona was sinking, very slowly, but it was sinking and the line holding the barge was taut and the great ship was taking the barge down with it.

"I said to the other guy, 'If you can get the engine going, I'll cut us loose.' I tried a knife on the three-inch rope, but that was useless. I went in the admiral's cabin and I found a flag staff the he used for official ceremonies. It had a metal device on the top of it, and I brought that out and started hacking at the line. I finally got it parted."

The other sailor, who had never operated a boat before, got them underway. "We went down the side of the ship, and there was a group of men, they were just black from head to foot. So many men were burned, and they

were burned all over because all they had on when the ship exploded was their shorts. We got them on board the barge, and brought them over to the hospital ship in the harbor, the USS Solace. If any of them lived, it had to be a miracle. They were just burned black."

The two then brought the barge back to Ford Island, and they were ordered aboard a launch there and spent some time going in and out of the burning ships on Battleship Row trying to pull survivors aboard.

As one point, the launch brought a group of badly burned sailors to the Navy hospital at the harbor. "All those guys wanted were cigarettes. We hauled them over to the hospital, but there was no room inside, and we just had to put them on the lawn. The doctors would come around, but if you looked in bad shape, you'd had it. If you didn't look like you were going to make it, they just didn't bother."

Wentzlaff said a problem on the Arizona after the attack and for the rest of the day in Pearl Harbor was lack of leadership. On the Arizona, nearly all of the senior officers were killed in the blast including Kidd and the ship's captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh. Throughout the harbor, the chain of command just broke down. "We were all orphans out there. It was organized confusion. In fact, there was no command at all."

At one point during the long day, Wentzlaff was part of a group that went aboard the USS West Virginia, which had also been hit and was sinking. The Navy was trying to get the ship upright before it sank, so that it would sink straight up and down and make its salvage possible. The ship was later rebuilt and rejoined the war.

"I remember talking to one guy who served on the West Virginia. He was a friend of mine. He said that he had been ordered to flood some compartments, but he refused to do it because he knew some of his shipmates were in those compartments. They made him do it. He had to kill them. A month later, he was dead. He never recovered from that."

Later in the day, Wentzlaff joined groups of sailors and soldiers who dug gun pits. The Americans were apprehensive that the Japanese would either be coming back with another attack by air, or they would invade the island.

Wentzlaff and others were brought over to the shipyard to spend the night. They were assigned to a recreation building. "They gave us a rifle, some ammunition, a blanket, soup and a sandwich. We painted all the windows black."

Near sunset, a group of planes from an American aircraft carrier flew over the harbor. "We thought they were Japanese, and we were all firing at them with rifles and everything else we had. We shot five of them down. I was firing at two of them. I don't know if I helped shoot them down. Two of the pilots were killed. We felt terrible. But that's just how it was that day. For a while I was carrying two .45s in my belt. I looked like General Patton."

The next day, an officer saw Wentzlaff's ordnance man insignia on his sleeve and asked him if he could set fuses for a patrol boat's three-inch gun. Wentzlaff assured them that he could. "That was pretty good, all we did was run around

(Continued on page 17)



Auxiliary To The Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen



Happy New Year to all.

With the Holidays behind us, it's time to really get to work on generating raffle items and auction items for the upcoming convention. Remember this is where we obtain our scholarship money which is so very important to so many well deserving students. You may contact me

or Delores Manley if you have donations.

The Auxiliary is happy to welcome new **General Member Betsey Cremin** and new **Lifetime Member Catherine Hall**. Welcome to our family.

Thank You to **Deborah Leach** for donations for both the Scholarship and Taste of Home!

Our convention planning meeting in Laughlin went very well. It was great seeing so many of you attending. This upcoming convention will be another fun time bringing in scholarship funds. We will be back at the Silver Legacy in Reno to experience their first-class service to our organization. Please plan to attend. Bring along a guest or two so they can discover the purpose, fun and enjoyment of our convention.

I am putting a challenge out to every member. Bring in one - just one - new member to our organization. If each and every one of us do that, we can DOUBLE our membership! Every single member of the AO Association should have at least one person that wants to support them. So many would like to be a part of the support system if they knew we existed and that we want them. All we have to do is ask. Carolyn and I have been working on revamping our tri-fold and together have come up with one that we would be proud to distribute. Order a few and pass them on to the wives, daughters, sisters, Mothers, friends and all the family of each Ordie you know.

Chapter 21 NAS Fallon, NV, participated in the Christmas "Meals on Wheels" program conducted by American Legion Post 16. This program takes hot meals to the elderly and infirm that cannot get out or do not have the means to prepare their own food. They helped to load up the to-go containers with holiday food, cut and package pies, milk and even bundled a treat for the pets. Then it was off to deliver the goodies. It was fun and a wonderful chance for them to give to the community. Thank you to Chapter 21 AO's and all the Auxiliary members that participated.

Please let me or Carolyn Thomas know when your local Chapter has accomplishments. We want everyone to see **We Do Make A Difference**. It's not bragging, it's informing others of the good we do so that they can join us.

We are very pleased that the Taste of Home project is going strong with our new chairperson, **Ashley Crews**. Along with the help of Tasty Bakers **Deana Hinnant, Delores Manley, Mary Ann Laun, Dottie Michel, Linda Scott, Shannon Mullins and Carolyn Thomas**, she organized a mailing to the deployed **USS NIMITZ**. To be counted as a Tasty Baker in the future, please contact Ashley with your name and email address and she will notify you when she is planning another mailing. Her email address is: ashley-crews1@yahoo.com

You may send monetary donations for scholarships or Taste of Home to: Carolyn Thomas, AAAO Treasurer, 1394 Lilac Ave., Chula Vista, CA 91911. Remember, Scholarship checks should be made payable to the AAOEF. Taste of Home donations should be made payable to the AAAO.

Until next time, **Remember.....We Do Make A Difference!!**

WE SUPPORT THE ARMS OF THE FLEET!

Janice Clasen - AAAO President

National Auxiliary Officers 2009/2010

President : Janice Clasen
Vice-President: Beverly Jo Myhand
Secretary: Dorothy Michel
Treasurer: Carolyn Thomas
Chaplain: Linda Scott
Parliamentarian: Sally Vance

National Auxiliary Board of Directors

Marlene Grass Delores Manley
Cyndy Sassone Teresa Zimmer
Denise Walecki Julie Brado

National Committee Chairs

Audit: Julie Clayton
By-Laws: Pat Castro
Historian: Beverly Onken
Memorabilia: Dorothy Michel
Nominating: Teresa Zimmer
Raffle/Auction: Delores Manley
Taste of Home: Ashley Crews



Association Of Aviation Ordnancemen Educational Foundation



The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) has announced that it is now taking applications for its 2010 Scholarships for Military Children Program. If college is in your plans for next year, it's time to start looking at all the special scholarship opportunities that are available for military children, to include a special amendment to the Post-9-11 GI Bill.

DeCA scholarship applications are now available at www.militaryscholar.org. DeCA's 2010 scholarship program guarantees that a minimum of one \$1500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received, and more than one scholarship per commissary may be available based on response and funding. The scholarships are open to dependent unmarried children (under age 23) of active duty personnel, reserve/guard and retired military members, or survivors of service members who died while on active duty or survivors of individuals who died while receiving retired pay from the military. Applicants must be enrolled in DEERS in order to apply.

A special opportunity for children of active duty members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001 is the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, an amendment to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Those who are eligible (and you do not have to be single or under age 23, but you must be at least 18 years old) can receive the same benefits as an eligible veteran receives under the new Post-9/11 GI Bill: tuition and fees (up to the highest public, in-state undergraduate rate), a monthly living stipend and \$1,200 a year book stipend. Although the VA will not begin accepting applications for this benefit until May 1, 2010, and will not start issuing payments until August 10, 2010, those who were enrolled in college from August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010, can apply to receive retroactive payments for that time period. To learn more about the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, go to www.gibill.va.gov/documents/Fry_Scholarship.pdf.

(Continued on page 17)

Note:

The following information is provided for Official Use Only within the Foundation and NOT to be released without prior individual approval.

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INITIAL OFFICERS



President (2005-2011)

o Edward C. Scott
35 Palmyra Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32164
(386) 445-0968/ Cell (386) 405-6940
egunner@lightspeed.net

Vice President (2007-2010)

o CDR Mike Gramolini
CNATTU JAX XO BOX 60
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212-0060
(904) 542-5361 Ext 362
Michael.gramolini@navy.mil

Secretary (2007-2010)

o Dennis Costa
722 E. Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
(619) 540-9768
AOCM@aol.com
Dennis.Costa@Navy.mil

Treasurer (2005-2011)

o Richard Grass
613 Tennis Avenue
Ardley, PA 19038-1704
(215) 887-5009
ORD-LDO-RET@comcast.net

Board of Director (2009-2012)

o AOC James L Irwin
940 Bunch Lane
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
(360) 675-3536 Cell (360) 631-7608
ea6bao@verizon.net / james.l.irwin@navy.mil

Board of Director (2005-2010)

o Shannon N. Williams- Auxiliary
11620 Amos St
Eads, TN 38028
(252) 557-1732 (Cell)
shannonwilliams5767@hotmail.com

Board of Director (2005-2010)

o Larry Cowell
77 Shenandoah Drive
Davisville, W. V. 26142
(304) 485-1558
l.cowell@verizon.net

Board of Director (2005-2008)

o David Moore
525 Ash St
Lemoore, CA 93245
Cell (559) 381-1977
moored@inreach.com

Foundation CFC Chairman

o Larry "Joe" Manley
2099 Thomas Court
Fallon, NV 89406-8703
(775) 423-9205
AAOVF@aaoweb.org
lmanley@charter.net

Scholarship

Committee Chairman
CDR Rick Garza
P.O. Box 338
Patuxent River, MD 20670
(301) 757-5289 (Office)
rick.garza@navy.mil

Foundation Bylaws Committee Chairman

Kirk Brado
478 Allview Ct
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 656-1268
Kirk.brado@navy.mil



(Continued from page 16)

These scholarships are only two of the many that are available to military children. You can find more at the DoD Community Relations "America Supports You" scholarship page, but that's just a starting point. Don't forget the military aid societies, which all offer education funding: Army Emergency Relief, the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society, the Air Force Aid Society and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance. And many military installations have spouses' clubs or thrift shop funds that offer scholarships to children whose parents are assigned to that installation.

There are also military associations that offer scholarships for children of those who served in that unit or branch of service. Just a few examples would be the 82nd Airborne Division Educational Fund, the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, the Tailhook Education Foundation, the Air Force Sergeants Association and the Society of Daughters of the US Army.

(Continued from page 14)

the harbor all day."

After that, Wentzlaff joined a working party doing whatever needed to be done. The Arizona had burned for 30 hours, setting other ships afire, before the blaze was put out. Only the superstructure of the ship remained above the water. A total of 1,177 of Wentzlaff's shipmates had been killed.

"On the third day, they took a bunch of us over to the post office. We were allowed to send a post card saying, 'I am okay, and I will write later.' There was an officer with us to make sure that's all we wrote. My parents were first informed that I was missing in action, and that was the truth. Nobody knew where anybody was."

Not long afterwards, "They gathered up all us orphans and they made us into an anti-submarine squadron."

Wentzlaff spent the rest of the war at a variety of assignments, including temporary duty early on aboard the USS Yorktown, which was sunk at the Battle of Midway. He rose steadily through the ranks, and became a chief warrant officer by war's end. He had served eight and one-half years.

When the war was over, he came back to Minnesota. "For a year, I just relaxed and drank. We were all single, and we traveled around a lot. I remember seeing my first onion rings in Philadelphia."

Wentzlaff was admitted to Law School at the University of Minnesota, but the large classes and lack of personal help quickly turned him off to the institution. Instead, he went back to farming, a job he did for the next 38 years. "It was a great hobby until I ran out of money."

He lived in Butterfield where he was elected mayor for four years, and he also served for four years as a Watowan County commissioner.

He has lived for several years in Milaca in senior hous-

ing, near several members of his family. He had five children.

He likes to attend reunions of his shipmates, the few who are left. And he has done some traveling as part of an exhibition that included other World War II veterans.

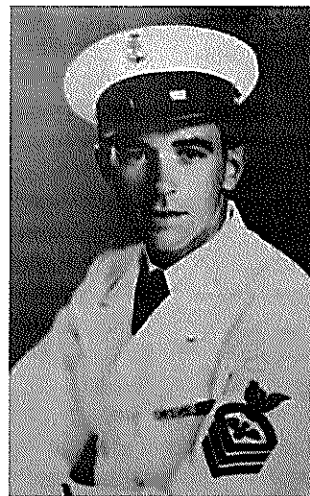
"There was one guy who was on the Indianapolis. They billed us as being on the first ship that was sunk and the last ship that was sunk during the war."

Wentzlaff has seen all the movies on Pearl Harbor, and he said "Tora, Tora, Tora" was very factual and realistic. The more recent movie with Ben Affleck "had all that romance in it."

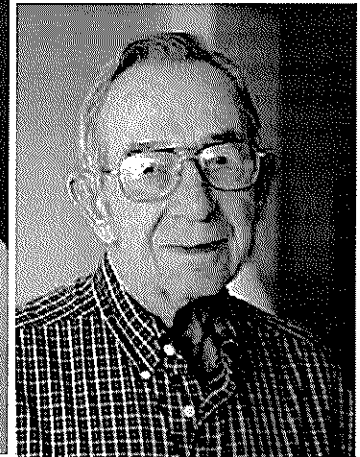
He has been to the Arizona Memorial in Pearl Harbor eight times since the war. "I just look at all the names. There were so many good friends of mine."

"I can't explain why I've lived so long. It's like the good Lord is saying, 'I'm going to keep him here until he gets it straightened out.'"

And, in the coming years, when Ed Wentzlaff finally gets it straightened out, he will be joining his 1,200 comrades in their place of immortality.



Ed Wentzlaff as a CPO in WWII



Ed Wentzlaff at home in Milaca

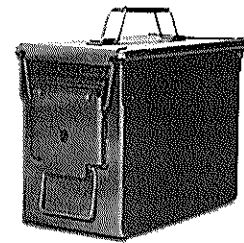


When the fire was out, the Arizona had settled to the bottom of the harbor. Over 1,100 had died.



YOUNG MEN WANTED FOR THE UNITED STATES NAVY

PAY \$16 TO \$70 PER MONTH - AGES 17 TO 35 YEARS



ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<http://www.aoweb.org/AAO/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

FIRST TIME MEMBERS \$20.00 PER YEAR OR \$30.00 FOR TWO YEARS

PREVIOUS MEMBERS AND ANNUAL RENEWALS \$20.00 PER YEAR

NAME: _____ SPOUSE: _____
 LAST FIRST MI

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: home: () _____ work: () _____

RATE/RANK: _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ Active () Retired ()

DATES SERVED: _____ TO _____ Last SSN: - _____

Marine Corp MOS: _____

Type of membership: Regular () Associate ()

SPONSOR: _____

I elect to receive my Red Shirt by downloading it from the Website only. () Please Initial.

I do / do not authorize release of my name, address and telephone number to other members or prospective members of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

MAIL TO: AOCM J.J. LaMaitre USN Ret.
 9691 Bundy Drive
 Santee, CA 92071-2771

March 2008

**GIVE THIS FORM TO A FELLOW ORDNANCEMAN
 SPECIAL !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

FIRST TIME RE-ENLISTEES SUBMIT THIS APPLICATION
 ALONG WITH A SIGNED COPY OF YOUR RE-ENLISTMENT
 CONTRACT FOR A ONE YEAR FREE MEMBERSHIP.

IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER YOUR EXPIRATION DATE WILL BE EXTENDED ONE YEAR.



Chapter 9 President presenting a Christmas Basket
Left to Right: AO2 (AW) Raymond Perry, AOC (AW) Daniel Pratt., and CDR Michael Gramolini

First weapon load on the P-8 Aircraft.
 Picture taken from AOC Pratt P-8 FIT Team.
 /r/
 Mike



Chapter 77 USS George H W Bush Association Officers Left to Right
 AO1 Dowell, Donnie - Vice President
 AO1 Davenport, William - Secretary
 AO1 Lee, Ronald - President
 AO1 Hasker, Keith - Treasurer



The Red Shirt

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN
9691 BUNDY DRIVE
SANTEE, CA 92071-2771

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ANDREWS BROS.
PRINTING
PERMIT NO. 38

