

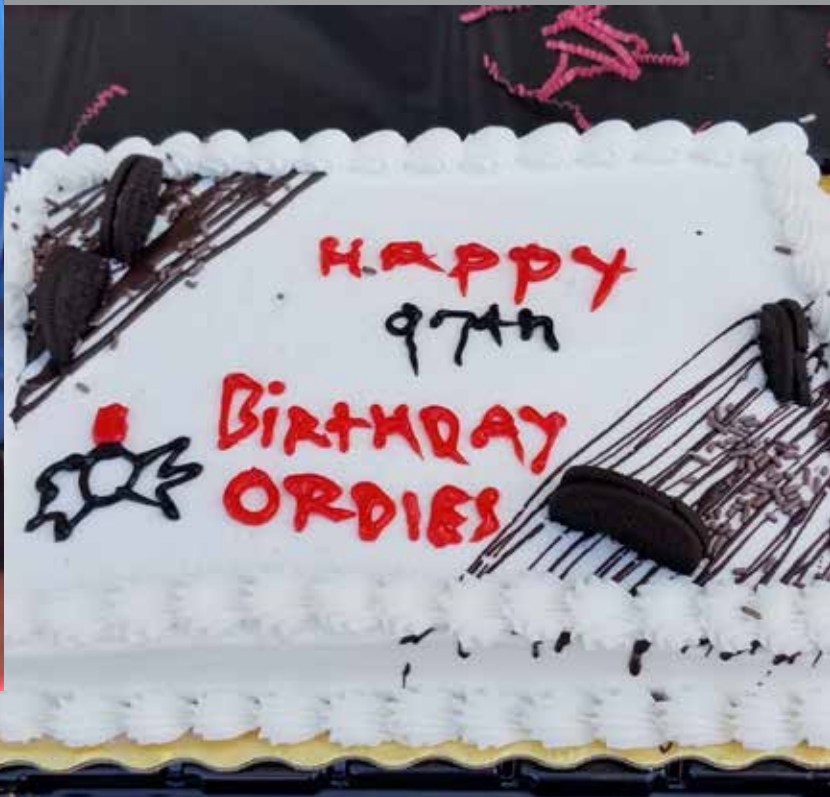
RED SHIRT 151

MAY 2023
NEWSLETTER

THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN



[HTTP://REDSHIRTNATION.COM](http://redshirtnation.com)



Page 4

NATIONAL AAO
LEADER NOTES

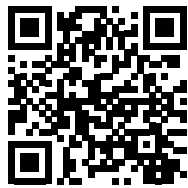
PRESIDENT
CAPT Matt Arnold, USN
nationalaaopres@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT
AOCS Tim Zimmer, USN(Ret)
nationalaaovp@gmail.com

SECRETARY
AOCM John 'JJ' LaMaitre,
USN (Ret)
nationalaaosec@gmail.com

TREASURER
CWO4 Todd Pendleton, USN (Ret)
nationalaaotreas@gmail.com

QR CODE:



REDSHIRTNATION.COM

FYSA

When submitting
articles **DO NOT** submit
photos embeded in the
document. On **ONE**
email send your article,
and then attach photos
on to that email.



CHAPLAIN
Steven Varga, USN (Ret)

- Board of Directors
- Amber L. Roth- nationalaaobod1@gmail.com
 - Steve Kashuba- nationalaaobod2@gmail.com
 - Dion Edon- nationalaaobod3@gmail.com
 - Angela Sobieski- nationalaaobod4@gmail.com
 - Jeff Sassone- nationalaaobod5@gmail.com
 - Al Dean- nationalaaobod6@gmail.com

REDSHIRT
redshirtditor@gmail.com

Web Site
redshirtnation.com
nationalaaowebmaster@gmail.com

2023 AAO CONVENTION

24-27 JULY 2023 CONTINUUM

27-30 July 2023 AAO CONVENTION

SILVER LEGACY RESORT & CASINO RENO NV

GET YOUR HOTEL AND COMPLETE YOUR
REGISTRATION ALL FROM OUR WEBSITE!

<https://www.redshirtnation.com/convention-information>

27 July – 30 July

A dedicated website is now available for
booking your rooms please use the following
link

<https://book.passkey.com/go/AAO23>

In the event you would still like to call the hotel
for booking

800-687-8733

Book Code: AAO23

Must Make Reservations By 2 July

Rates are good from 21 July thru 31 July

Sunday – Thursday Standard Room - \$82

Friday & Saturday Standard Room - \$107

Resort FEE included

Deluxe Spa Suites Are Available

Free Airport Shuttle

For Convention Information, Call:

Kirk Brado 619-962-6158 or email: kbrado1@hotmail.com

Make your Reservations Early

Auxiliary of the Association of
Aviation Ordnancemen(AAAO) **8**

Taps **9**

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2023 AAO CONVENTION
INFORMATION **21**



AOM2c Kazmierski - aboard USS
Essex CV9 in WW2

**AAO NATIONAL PRESIDENT
CAPTAIN MATT ARNOLD**

Greeting Ordies,

I hope this issue finds everyone safe and healthy. I am happy to report that, as of this writing, the preparations for the 2023 convention are progressing well. Your elected officers and the arrangement committee members are diligently working to ensure you have an enjoyable experience during the convention. All the traditional convention events are scheduled to occur as normal and all of the standing committees will conduct their work in person at the convention. All activities associated with the convention will continue to be conducted in a manner which is both safe and in compliance with all the applicable health regulation much like last year. Information concerning the convention can be viewed on our website, www.redshirtnation.com.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Chapter 21 in Fallon, Nevada during my travels. I received a very warm welcome and I want to thank the members of that chapter for their hospitality. I really enjoyed the chance to talk with all of the members both individually and as a group. As I talk to our members and read the articles submitted by our chapters to Redshirt, I am struck by the depth and breadth of our organization's efforts to better our rate, our Navy and Marine Corps, and our community. I ask the leadership of our chapters to continue to look for ways to be of service and to have a positive impact on the communities around them. Please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated and that they serve to enhance the reputation of our organization within the community.

In closing, I wish you and yours Fair Winds and Following Seas throughout the coming months. I ask that you keep our Sailors, Marines, and civilian employees, wherever they are stationed or deployed, in your thoughts and prayers. Please continue to support this organization, its members, and our Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Ordnance Team. I look forward to seeing you in Reno. Fly, Sail and Steam Safe.

IYAOYAS,

Matt



AAO NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT

AOCS(RET) TIM ZIMMER

Hey there fellow BB stackers!

I hope everyone is healthy, happy and prosperous. Being part of the best rate in the services, how can we not be, right!?!? We're all gearing up for convention, performing all of the "behind the curtain" efforts in order for all of us to get our business done, recognize and award our stellar performers, and most of all, HAVE A BLAST!

Speaking of convention, make sure you register early. Having accurate attendance numbers, early in the process, allows the Silver Legacy ample time to ensure everything is set up the way we need it. The more people that don't register until they get to Reno, the more work we have to do to update the hotel, which means they have to scramble to accommodate additional tables, chairs, food, etc.... Yes, things happen, but if you know you're going, register now. And remember, everything can be done on the website, redshirtnation.com. As for prices this year, as I stated in the last Redshirt, we were forced to increase costs again. Please understand, we do everything we can to keep costs at the bare minimum. Your Convention Committee Chairmen, Kirk Brado and (now) JJ LaMaitre, talk to the hotel constantly to find ways to reduce or remove costs. That being said, keep in mind, the Association does not pay a dime for any of the meeting spaces or registration room. That's because we've worked with them for so long, and they love seeing us come back every year. So, we could be paying a much higher registration fee (like, a lot) if it weren't for the Legacy showing they're appreciation for everything we do. As always, if there's a way to bring ticket prices down, we'll do it.

If your Chapter wants to set up a table in the registration room to sell your merch, send an email to the Convention Coordinators, Kirk Brado (kbrado1@hotmail.com). He will give you all of the information you need. Also, as with early registration, we need to know how many of you want to have a table BEFORE YOU GET TO RENO!!!! The room is only set up those chapters we know are coming. We even change the size of the room if needed. If you show up wanting a table and haven't talked to Kirk, there's a chance we might not be able to get you one. PLAN EARLY.

Officer Elections – There are (4) Officer positions up for election this year, Vice President, currently held by yours truly,

Secretary, currently held by JJ LaMaitre, and (2) Board of Directors, currently held by Dion Edon and Angela Sobieski. I received nominations for myself for VP, JJ for Secretary and Dion Edon, Angela Sobieski and Niomi Deppe (Chapter 8 President) to fill the (2) Board of Director positions. Anyone that is not going to be able to attend convention this year, and is a member in good standing, can submit an absentee ballot via the website. Again, only submit an absentee ballot if you are not going to attend the general business meeting during convention. If you do submit an absentee ballot, you must not vote for the same nominee for both Board of Director positions. For example, if you vote for Niomi Deppe for BOD #3, do not vote for her again for BOD #4. Any discrepancies noted with the absentee ballots will be cause for rejection. During the general business meeting, there will be a call for additional nominations from the floor. All nominees must be present and accept the nomination. If there are (2) or more nominations for a position, ballots will be cast. If there is only (1) nomination for a position, the requirement for voting is null and that nominee will be elected.

Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year (AOY)/Scholarship/Hall of Fame (HOF) Committees – All will be conducted on Friday, July 28th, during convention in Reno. Information about any of these committees can be found on the Association's website, redshirtnation.com. You can also contact the Committee Chairmen:

AOY – Tim Zimmer (nationalaaovp@gmail.com)

Scholarship – Rick Garza (rgarza511@gmail.com)

HOF – Jeff Sassone (nationalaaobod5@gmail.com)

I Y A O Y A S



Tim

**AAO NATIONAL SECRETARY
AOCM(RET) JJ LAMAITRE**

Greetings Shipmates and Marines – NOW is the time for you to get your reservations and plans ready for Convention 2023 July 27th – July 30th at the Silver Legacy Resort, in Reno, NV. Go to the website www.redshirtnation.com for one stop shopping, pay for your registration fees, Social and Award tickets on line. There is also a direct link to the Silver Legacy for hotel reservations using our Group Code.

We have elections coming up for 2 Board of Directors (BOD) currently held by Dion Edon and Angela Sobieski (Need one of those seats to be Active Duty to comply with our Bylaws), Vice President (Tim Zimmer) and Secretary (JJ LaMaitre). We have the absentee ballots available at the Web Site. If you vote online, you will NOT be able to vote at the General Business Meeting.

The BOD will be selecting Convention Sites this year for Convention 2025 (and possibly beyond). The National Leadership is always looking for the best bang for the buck which includes room rates, meeting spaces, food, and transportation to/ from the airport.

Chapters need to contact Kirk Brado or myself (POC info in this Red Shirt) to set up tables to sell merchandise. Years past we have had several Chapters show up with goodies to sell with NO tables were reserved. We were able to accommodate, however we cannot guarantee there will be room again this year.

Chapter Officers – The Association needs your reports. We are only as strong as

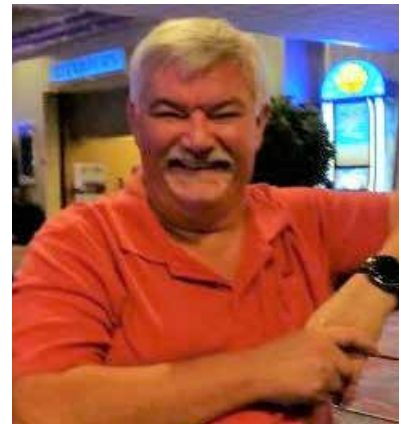
our Chapters. We have been out of COVID restrictions for two years now. You have seen my comments in the Red Shirts and the BOD has disestablished several Chapters over the past few years. This is an ongoing agenda item for the BOD at Convention. The following Chapters have had disestablishment procedures started on them and will be voted on by the Board of Directors (BOD) IAW the National By-Laws (Article IX):

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Last Minutes Received</u>
Chapter 11 K-Bay Hawaii	December 2021
Chapter 68 Nimitz	January 2021

Again, I need Chapter Reports submitted to me to me on a regular basis so we do not put your Chapter into an ‘Inactive’ status. Please forward the minutes, etc. to aaosec@cox.net.

It has been a Privilege and Honor to serve as your Secretary for the past 10 years and I humbly ask for your vote to continue as the Secretary. If there is anything I can do to assist just give me a shout. Look forward to see and meet some of you all in Reno.

R,
JJ LaMaitre
AAO Secretary



**AAO NATIONAL TREASURER
CWO4(RET) TODD PENDLETON**

Convention Registration for AAO23 is now in full swing. The website is working as advertised and the print out and mail in Registration Form is available as well.

Chapter Officers, take a look at your members and encourage all that are not National members to join National. It is very easy now, go to www.redshirtnation.com and join via the website. If you are an inactive member, please contact me via email and get current on your annual dues or consider becoming a Life member. We want you to stay involved and contribute what you can; knowledge, time, expertise or donations. Remember, all Chapter Officers are required to be National members in good standing to hold their office.

The Annual Financial Reports are due at the General Business Meeting in Reno. If your Chapter has yet to submit their annual financial report, please do so after the end of May 2023. Those reports are part of our income tax filing and are necessary. Treasurer's, if you need the Form for annual report, email me as soon as possible and I will send you the format.

Convention 2023 information: As most know, the cost of everything has and is still going up. The planning committee has determined that we will need to raise the cost of attending the Convention in order to pay for the event and stay in the black/even for costs. Therefore, the costs are now as follows: Registration \$65 (Late \$75), Social Dinner \$75 (Late \$85), Awards Banquet \$85 (Late \$95), AAAO Luncheon \$35 (Late \$45) plus PayPal fees. Late amounts listed will be in effect as of

14 July 2023. Register as soon as possible on the website, www.redshirtnation.com, or print the registration form and mail.

Have you had a promotion, change of status (recently retired) or contact info change? If so, go to the website, print out the membership form, fill out all the information on the form, scan or take a photo of the form, and email to me with a note on the form "Contact Info Update Only." Address changes are still a problem. I need your changes as soon as you know you are moving. When I get a Renewal Notice or Red Shirt returned to me, I am removing that person from the Red Shirt list until I have a current mailing address. If you see someone's name on the locator list, let them know. Sign up to get yours electronically via the "Contact Info Update Only" method!! You can make the updates via filling out a membership form from the web site (www.redshirtnation.com) and note "Contact Info Update Only" and you can e-mail them to me at nationalaaotreas@gmail.com. If you see your name on the Locator list, please send an email with your updated address in order to get you the next Red Shirt. If you see somebody you know on the Locator, it means I don't have their current mailing address or email address and can't send them updated materials.

IYAOYAS!

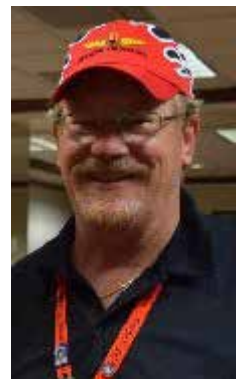
Thanks,

M. Todd Pendleton

(360) 632-7828

nationalaaotreas@gmail.com

National AAO Treasurer



AAAO PRESIDENT
TERESA ZIMMER

Hello to all of our auxiliary members,

First thing I got to say I can't wait to see ya'll in July at convention. I always look forward to our events. We have some great things planned for convention this year. We hope you all can join us in Reno.

We have a few new items that the Auxiliary will be selling this year. We will also be hosting some raffles as well. We are always striving to raise more money for the Scholarship fund.

I hope you all are doing well and enjoying the Spring air and preparing for the summer months. I know I am loving our San Diego weather lately. Although we are getting ready to get into our June Gloom.... LOL

for election this year.

Vice President, Treasurer and 3 Bods' please feel free to reach our if you have any questions, I would love to assist you.

As always please let me know if you have any items that you or your Chapter are planning to bring to the Convention this year for our Friday night Auction. We certainly appreciate all of the donations.

My email is treasz@sbcglobal.net. I know of a few items already that are going to be AWESOME!

Teresa Zimmer
 AAAO President



We will have the following positions up

MEMORABILIA MARKET PLACE

Please fill out the below form with a check or money order made payable to "AAAO", and send to Teresa Zimmer, PO BOX 121387 Chula Vista CA 91912.

You can also email Teresa at Treasz@sbcglobal.net to let her know that you are ordering.



MEMORABILIA ORDER FORM			
ITEM	UNIT PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Duffle Bag	12.00		
Bear w/Red Shirt	10.50		
Car Sunshade	10.00		
Red Grocery Tote	4.00		
Red Ruby Lanyard	8.00		
Stadium Blanket	15.00		
			*20% S&H
TOTAL ORDER			



NAME _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SHIP TO: _____

CITY: _____ ST _____ ZIP: _____

ATTENTION TO ORDERS:

FROM: SUPREME COMMANDER

TO: ORDNANCEMEN WHO SERVED AND THOSE THAT SUPPORTED

SUBJ: PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION FOR THE FOLLOWING:

AOC EUGENE D. O'NEILL***

CWO4 JOHN E. "JACK" ALLRED***

AOCM WILLIAM C. "WILD BILL" HARRISON***

AO1 NOEL GONZALES***

AO1 EDWIN E. FONT CRUZ***

1. YOU STAND DETACHED FROM YOUR CURRENT ASSIGNMENT AT 1ST CIVAIRWING AND DIRECTED TO REPORT TO COMMANDING OFFICER, AT BARRACKS HEAVEN, AVIATION ORDNANCE DETACHMENT FOR DUTY.

2. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED 0 DAYS DELAY AND 0 DAYS PROCEED ENROUTE TO YOUR NEW DUTY STATION. LEAVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ORDERS IS NOT AUTHORIZED.

3. ORDNANCEMEN REPORTING FOR DUTY DURING WORKING HOURS SHALL BE IN SERVICE DRESS UNIFORM.

4. SNM SHALL FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH INTERIOR GUARD MANUAL PRIOR TO REPORTING FOR DUTY.

5. UPON REPORTING TO THE STAFF DUTY OFFICER, SNM SHALL STATE: "... ONE MORE ORDNANCEMEN REPORTING SIR"

GOD'S SPEED OUR FRIENDS. IYAOYAS. YOU WILL BE MISSED.

TILL VALHALLA.

* INFO FROM FRA TODAY NEWSLETTER/** INFO FROM VFW MAGAZINE/**OTHER



NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AO2 Apiffany E. Caldwell	AOC Kyle R. Musicant
Sgt Franklin E. Inman	AO2 Preston E. Davis
AOCS Robin K. Sherman	AO1 Donovan L. Leavens
AO1 Bryan R. Jordan	GySgt Kaleb W. Bellamy
MGySgt Tiffany M. Guillory	AO2 Michael B. Neville
AO1 Herbert A. Babin	AO1 Kasey A Denison
Sgt Chris M. Hooper	AO1 Carmenta D. Meza
AO1 Andrew S. Walker	AO2 James C. Berecka
AO1 John T. Huffman	AOC JoseRobert C. Figueroa
WTCM Steven E. Sottile	AO1 Maggie L. DeSpain
AO1 Sarah M. Minnick	CWO3 David E. Long

NEW MEMBERS

SSgt Robert D. King	AO2 Lamar McNair
AOC Saltearia G. Robinson	Ms. Meredith A. Newton (AM)
AO1 Andrew J. Russell	CWO3 David K. Miller, USMC
AO1 Jordan M. Wescott	AO2 Scott J. Davis
AO1 Kasey A Denison	AOC JoseRobert C. Figueroa
AO1 Maggie L. DeSpain	AO1 Adrienne M. Anderson

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

AOCS Gerald W Taccolini	A1C James R. Manion, USAF
AO1 John T. Huffman	AO1 Carmenta D. Meza
AO1 Frankie E Danridge	AOC Jeffery E. Shaw

LOCATOR

Can you help? Know where any of these members can be located? Let them know to go to redshirtnation.com, fill out the membership form to update contact info and if you have a mailing address or phone number, please contact the AAO Treasurer, Todd Pendleton at nationalaaotreas@gmail.com, snail mail or give him a call.

Notes: (RN) =Renewal Notice Return / (RS) = Red Shirt Return / (NC) = 2 years no contact

AO1 Desmond A. Murff (RN)	AO3 Symone A. Gay (RN)
AO1 Mathew Matautia (RN)	AOC Michael D. Vitanza (RN)
AO3 Symone A. Gay (RN)	AO2 Whittney R. Porcher (RN)
AOAN Kristin J. Buchanan (RN)	

A Proclamation of The City of Ridgecrest, California AVIATION ORDNANCE DAY

WHEREAS, on a date lost in history, a young marine handed a grenade to a pilot who subsequently deployed it during a combat mission in the First World War; and,

WHEREAS, a Chief Gunners Mate, a Chief Turret Captain, and several Mechanics were sent forth to pioneer the Navy's first Advanced Aircraft Armament and Ordnance System in Pensacola, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, The California Grand Jury is an arm of the Superior Court; and,

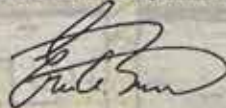
WHEREAS, on the 2nd day of March, 1926 the United States Navy declared the establishment of the Aviation Ordnance Rating and all four petty officer grades of Chief, First, Second, and Third Class and the Aviation Ordnance specialty mark, a winged flaming spherical shell, was incorporated into the Uniform Regulations in January 1927; and,

WHEREAS, the establishment of the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen in 1976 leading to the first annual convention in San Diego, CA. formally opening membership to all Navy and Marine Corps ordnanceman past, present, and future.; and,

WHEREAS, transferred to the United States Navy in November 1943 by the United States Army Air Forces, at the conclusion of the search for an adequate ordnance testing facility by Charles C. Lauritsen and Sherman E. Burroughs. Naval Ordnance Test Station was founded. Leading to the development of an array of airworthy conventional rockets and missiles to include the AIM-9, SLAM-ER, Tiny Tim Rocket Unit, and much more, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake has been "the home of ordnance".

Now, Therefore, The Ridgecrest City Council Hereby Proclaims the day of March 2, 2023 as "AVIATION ORDNANCE DAY" and asks all citizens of Ridgecrest to join with the Association of Aviation Ordnanceman's 5th Chapter in carrying the message and recognition of the tasks and hardships carried out and endured by naval ordnance men and women, ordnance handlers, engineers and scientists aboard NAWS China Lake, Air Test & Evaluation Squadron Nine, Air Test & Evaluation Squadron Thirty One, NAWS China Lake Weapons Department, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachments and other associated military and civilian components, that have led to the progression and advancement of conventional weapons testing capabilities, ordnance and armament systems, procedures, training, and tactics for the fleet.

Proclaimed this 1st Day of March 2023



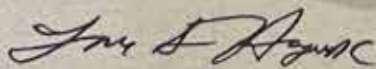
Eric A. Bruen
Mayor



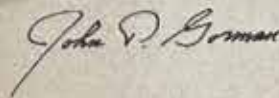
Kyle Blades
Vice Mayor



Solomon P. Rajaratnam
Mayor Pro Tem



L. Scott Hayman
Council Member



John 'Skip' Gorman
Council Member

CHAPTER

FIND YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER OR START ONE IN YOUR AREA.

Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA

President-AO1 Cindy Valdivia
Vice-President-Bionica Boyd
Secretary-Chris Hathaway
Treasurer-Johnny Wheat
Fleet Reserve Club, D Street,
Lemoore
3rd Friday, 1730

Chapter 3 - NO ARTICLE

Whidbey Island, WA

VFW Post 3037
Fourth Wed of the month, 1130

Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA

President- AOC Jason Young
VP- AO2 Chancellor Ellis
Treasurer- AO1 Maggie DeSpain
Secretary- AO2 Ryan Davies
VA Beach VFW #392,
2408 Bowland Pkwy
3rd Wednesday of the Month @ 1800

Chapter 5 - NO ARTICLE

China Lake, CA
President: AO2 Ortiz
VP: AO2 Liedel
Secretary: AO3 Varona
Treasurer: AO2 King
PAO: AO3 Clark
ao2ortiz@gmail.com
VFW Ship 4080, 117 N. Alvord
Every Third Thursday of Month,
1800

Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA

President-AO1 Chris Geschwender
Vice-President AO1 Laura Jamerson
Secretary-AO1 Deppe, Niomi
Treasurer- CWO3(ret)Barry Stemler
American Legion Post 255, National
City, 1st Thursday, 1900

Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL

President- AO1 James Simmons
Vice President- AO1 Mallory Burton
Secretary- AOCS(ret) Dennis
Patterson
Treasurer- AOCM (ret) Rick Wyman
Board Of Directors
AOC Dani Tilbury, AO1 John
Mcminn

AO3 Chase Spingett, AO1 Patrick
Williams, AO1 Kayla Stinger, AOC
(ret) Bill Taylor, AOCS (ret) Tracy
Townsend, AOC (ret) Ed Murphy
Fleet Reserve, Collins Road
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter 11 - NO ARTICLE

Kaneohe Bay, HI
President-AO1 Wilson Leiva
Wing 2 Bldg, (John Finn Bldg)
1st Friday, 1600

Chapter 21 - NO ARTICLE

Fallon, NV
President-AO1 Juan Pelayo
Vice President- AO2 Jordan Buckner
Treasure-AO2 Timothy Mathews
Secretary- AO2 Michael Durby
American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.
1st Wednesday, 1830

Chapter 22 - NO ARTICLE

Patuxent River
President: AO2 Brian Spaccarelli
Vice President: AO1 Jayson Pressley
Treasurer: Rob Pavel
Secretary: AO2 Stephanie Sandria
VFW, Post 2632 California, MD
3rd Wednesday, 1800

Chapter 34 - NO ARTICLE

Pensacola, FL
Social Coordinator-SSgt Marion
O'riley's Irish Pub downtown
321 S Palafox St, Pensacola, FL
1st Wednesday, 1830

Chapter 35 - DISESTABLISHED

Chapter 39 - "Dude" Gilbert

Beaufort, SC
President-Rob Farmer
Vice-President-Chris Hooper
hoop9777@gmail.com
Treasurer-Del Tingley
Secretary-Jason Grayson
After Burners Staff NCO Lounge
1st Thursday 1645 When permitted
with COVID restrictions

Chapter 671 - NO ARTICLE

Guam
President- AO1 Nathan Gibson
Vice President- AO2 Glenn Novak
Secretary- AO2 Kendal Scott
Treasurer- AT1 Travis Hermesen
Molly McGee's onboard
Naval Base Guam
3rd Thursday, 1900

Chapter Desert Southwest -

El Centro, CA.
President- AO2 Ahumada
geenah90@gmail.com)
Vice President- AO2 Heinrich
Secretary- AO1 Upchurch
Treasurer- AO1 Squires
Meetings held every 4th Tuesday of
the month at 0900 at NMC El Centro
Bldg. 529

RED SHIRT ARTICLES are due **20 JANUARY, 01 MAY,**

LISTING

GO TO WWW.REDSHIRTNATION.COM/ FOR THE APPROPRIATE GUIDLINES.

Chapter Southernmost- NO ARTICLE

Key West, Fl

President- AO2 Brandon Hurd
 Vice President- AO3 NiccaRizelle VidalPreze
 Treasure- AO2 Juan ColonaRosa
 Secretary- Ann Anderson
 Sunset Lounge, at Sigsbee ANNEX
 1st Wednesday, 1730

Chapter Spartan - DISESTABLISHED

Chapter LHD 1 -NO ARTICLE

USS Wasp
 President-AO1 Niko Batres
 On Board

Chapter LHD 4-NO ARTICLE

Gator Chapter
 President-AO1 Trenton Hagley
 On Board

Chapter LHD 7- NO ARTICLE

USS Iwo Jima
DISESTABLISHED

Chapter LHD 8 - USS Makin Island

President-AO1 Phillips
 Vice-President-AO2 Torres
 Treasurer-GM2 Gonzalez
 Secretary-AO2 Crane
 MA- AO2 Nunez-Morales
 Event Coordinator- AO2 Dyer
 BOD- AOCS Hodor & GMC Montgomery
 On Board

Chapter CVN 68 - NO ARTICLE

USS Nimitz
 President- AO1 Leiva
 Vice-President- AO2 Navarro
 Secretary- AO2 Barber
 PAO- AO2 Nicolet

Treasurer
 Ao1 Reimund
 Master-At-Arms
 Ao3 Doolin
 On Board

Chapter CVN 69 - NO ARTICLE

USS Dwight D Eisenhower
 President-AO1 Cory McIntyre
 On Board

Chapter CVN 70 -

USS Carl Vinson
 Vice-President: AO1 Danner, Kyle
 Treasurer: AO2 Cramer, Benjamin
 Secretary: AO2 Vancil, Rachel
 Master-at-Arms: AO3 Rankin, Layne
 On Board

Chapter CVN 71 -NO ARTICLE

USS Theodore Roosevelt
 President-AO1 Jose Pando
 On Board

Chapter CVN 72 - NO ARTICLE

USS Abraham Lincoln
 President-AO1 Roden
 On Board

Chapter CVN 73 - NO ARTICLE

USS George Washington
 President-AO1 Thurman McDowell
 On-Board

Chapter CVN 74 - NO ARTICLE

USS John C. Stennis
 President-AO1 Benjamin Llewellyn
 On Board

Chapter CVN 75 - NO ARTICLE

USS Harry S. Truman
 President-AO1 Dixon
 Vice President-AO1 Flowers
 Master at Arms-AO1 Everett
 PAO-AO3 Nichols
 Secretary-AO3 Bates
 Treasurer-AO2 Crider
 On Board

Chapter CVN 76 - NO ARTICLE

USS Ronald Reagan
 President-AO1 Justin Fallone
 On Board

Chapter CVN 77 - NO ARTICLE

USS George H.W. Bush
 President-AO1 Rebecca Wright
 On Board

Chapter CVN 78 - NO ARTICLE

USS Gerald Ford
 President-AO1 Marbury
 VP-AO1 Campbell
 Secretary- AO2 Fetty
 Treasurer- AO2 Soberg
 VFW Post 3160 111 A View, Norfolk, VA
 last Thursday of every month, 1400

Editor notes:

HELLO RED!

I greatly appreciate those that READ my email or the last RS.

THANK YOU so mcuh for sending your articles in a word document and photos in PDF or JPEG. In the future you can attach all in ONE email if parameters permit, of course.

I hope everyone enjoys this years convention, I expect it will be as memoribilla as always. Don't forget to send me photos!!

IYAOYAS!!!

~Amber

& 20 SEPTEMBER send to redshirteditor@gmail.com

CHAPTER ONE

Greetings from Chapter ONE in Lemoore, California.

To everyone in VFA-22, VFA-94, and VFA-137, we continue to wish you the very best on your deployment, it's never easy but stay true and keep your head on a swivel! We are looking forward to seeing everyone come back safe and sound.

The Chapter held elections in February, Chris Hathaway relieved AOC Cindy Valdivia as President and she took a position as Board of Director. Thank you Cindy for all your hard work and dedication to the Chapter. We would also like to welcome aboard AO3 Evet Gutierrez as the new Secretary along with LT Chris Wilson and AOC Michelle Toth as new Board of Directors.

Right before the New Year, we lost two of our own from VFA-14 in a fatal car crash. A very sincere thank all the Chapters who donated to help our Brothers and Sisters in VFA-14 provide support for services to the families affected. It was inspiring to see so many people come together for such a worthy cause. The Top Hatters send a big thank you!

The Sidewinders of VFA-86 are starting their transition from the F-18 Hornet to the F-35C Lightning II. Good luck and best wishes to them as they begin the process. Remember to ask questions and we know the Rough Raiders of VFA-125 will teach them the right way!

A hearty welcome home to VFA-86 and VFA-136 from their successful return from deployment. Thanks for the sacrifices and keeping us safe at home.

Congratulations to NAS Lemoore on earning a "Satisfactory" grade during the recent Explosive Safety Inspection. Your hard work and continuous compliance to ordnance safety is reflected in a job well done.

The Chapter ONE annual picnic is right around the corner on the 26th of August at the Fleet Reserve Association in Lemoore. So, if you catch yourself in our neck of the woods at that time, please stop by for a drink and some good old AO camaraderie. We hope to see some familiar faces this summer!

Cheers,

Chris Hathaway

Chapter ONE President



CHAPTER FOUR

What is up RED NATION!!!

First off, let us all welcome home CAG-7, the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN) 77 our very own Squadrons (VFA-143, VFA-103 and HSC-5) from a very, very successful deployment!

Second, let us all congratulate AOC Chris Johnson (VFA-83) on an amazing and successful 21 years of service! He retired back on March 24th, 2023! We all hope you are enjoying your well-deserved retirement! Fair winds and following seas Brother!

Chapter 4 has been very busy the last few months, holding our Monthly meetings, Park Clean-ups, various volunteer events and between deployments, TSTA, and numerous detachments to Fallon, Key West and El Centro! We have been slingin' swag left and right and spending buku dollars on making more to gear up for the convention in July! Can't wait to see you all there!

IYAOYAS!

R/,

AOC Jason Young (President CH.4)





assistance with the highway clean-up. Also, in February, we'd like to congratulate AO1 Quentin Tabb, NMC Det North Island, who was selected as our Aviation Ordnanceman of the 4th Quarter 2022.

In March, the Chapter coordinated two separate events to celebrate the 97th Birthday of the Aviation Ordnance rate. At the NMC CW Det North Island compound, AOC Holdman, AOC Casey, and AOCM (Ret.) Diane Gibson shared some ordnance stories and why the Aviation Ordnance rating is so special to them. The second event was held at the Chapter's meeting where we had a cake cutting ceremony with the oldest and youngest AO present cutting the cake. A special thank you goes out to the Chapter President, Vice President, and Secretary for coordinating both events and providing the cake, plates, and utensils.

In March, we also celebrated the grand opening of the John Finn Conference Room located at the NMC Det North Island admin building. There was a fantastic turnout, with lots of food and fun. Chapter 8 personnel played a major part in preparing the room by painting it, obtaining some funding, donating items, and procuring and hanging up various photos of John Finn.

Lastly, in March, we completed our planning for the annual Chapter 8 May Family Day Picnic, which is always a fun, family-friendly event hosting some cash prizes, tons of food, and a great chance to meet new friends.

In April, we congratulated all the First-Class Petty Officers who made board for Chief/Commissioning programs. All active-duty members were encouraged to keep studying and to utilize the chapter's diverse experience if any help was needed!

At the April meeting, Lester Gipson and Diane Mcqueen-Gibson showcased their brand-new AO bracelets that they made with all proceeds to be donated to the Robert L. Crow scholarship fund.

Until next time. Putting warheads on foreheads since 1926! IYAOYAS!!!

V/R,

AO1 (AW/SW) Bodiford, Willie

Chapter 8 Secretary

CHAPTER EIGHT

Greetings from San Diego's Chapter 8, also known as "The Chapter Where It All Started." We are thrilled to share the latest happenings and updates from our chapter with you. Since January of 2023, our chapter has continued to grow, and we are proud to have added nine new Chapter 8 Lifetime Members and welcomed fourteen AO's who attended their first meeting.

In January, the chapter voted to donate \$500 to Chapter 1 in Lemoore, to support VFA-14's efforts to fund Pallbearers to escort the bodies of AO's Dominic Deross and Maxwell Atkins back to their homes. The Chapter sends our thoughts and prayers to their families.

In January, our chapter leadership had a significant presence at the 2023 Continuum and Convention planning meeting in Laughlin, NV by providing valuable input towards the prizes and food for the 2023 AAO Convention in Reno, NV.

On Saturday, February 4th, we held our first quarterly Adopt-A-Highway Walk for 2023 with ten volunteers who helped to keep our communities clean. Special recognition goes out to the HSM-71 Ordies for rolling deep and providing their



CHAPTER EIGHT



CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE

Chapter 39 out of MCAS Beaufort South Carolina has a short story with pictures that we would like to submit to Red Shirt. We just felt that it was too cool of a story to not share it with the community. Not sure if you need anything further but if you do please reach out. Thank you.

"""""" The following is Just a short story to show how small our Ordnance community is and to also illustrate how strong the bond of that community is.

The evening of Thursday, 16 March 23, found me preparing my truck for a trip back home to Indiana, to attend a celebration of life, for my grandmother. I was changing my oil when I remembered I had received a sticker with my membership package for The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. I thought I might as well stick it on the back of my truck. So, I did just that.

The next morning my three boys and I started our trek, up to Indiana, from South Carolina. The drive was going smoothly until we neared the Pigeon Forge, Tennessee area, where we hit traffic. We were in bumper-to-bumper, stop and go traffic when, suddenly, someone in a black car pulled up behind me flashing their headlights and waving a hand signal like a gun immediately followed by the rock on signal.

At first, I was totally confused and asking myself, "How did I upset someone while being in traffic?" After about a minute or two of this going on, it all clicked. So, I leaned back towards the bed of my truck and pointed at the sticker on the back right corner of my window. Then, the driver started signaling with both hands the "rock on" signal. So, I naturally did it back to him. We leaned out of our windows and shouted, "IYAOYAS" at each other. We were still in bumper-to-bumper traffic, mind you, so, I am sure everyone around us was thinking we were completely crazy. I decide to put my truck in park, while still in traffic, and ran back to his window to hand him one of my business cards, so he would have my number. When I got to his window, he handed me a VMFA-224 CDI patch and we fist bump before I ran back to my truck, to not delay traffic any longer.

After what seemed like forever, we finally got out of traffic and moving again. While driving, I got in the right lane and signal for him to drive up next to me and when he did, I signaled him to call me since he had my number. He did and I

asked him if he'd like to pull over at the next rest area so we can chat for a minute and take a picture together. To my excitement, he agreed. I learned the young man making hand signals and flashing his lights at me was Corporal Mitchell Leslie, a Marine, who honorably separated from the Marine Corps, in 2020, after serving his time as a 6531 flightline Ordnanceman, with VMFA-224, at MCAS Beaufort, South Carolina. We chatted for a short period of time, took a couple of pictures and then went our separate ways.

I guess my advice is to put your stickers on your vehicles. You never know who is going to see it.

IYAOYAS!
Respectfully,
LunchBox
Vice President
Chapter 39 AAO
MCAS Beaufort
843-228-7603



SSgt King IV, Robert D. MOS' 6541, 0911 and 0916, Honorably discharged 20221218, 11 Years active duty, Secretary of Chapter 39, Dude Gilbert, AAO. """"""

CHAPTER SEVENTY

Here at Chapter 70 we have had a busy year so far. We kicked off the year with a major ammo on-load in January followed by work-ups in February and TSTA in March/April. During TSTA CVW 2 was able to accompany us with all of her squadrons including VFA-2, VFA-113, VFA-192, VFA-97, VAQ-136, HSC-4, and HSM-78. It was great having the air wing back on board after our long PIA in 2022.

During our time at sea we were also able to promote some well-deserved AO3's and one AO2 in our ranks. In April we welcomed twenty-five new members to our chapter. We also held elections and are proud to announce our new cabinet members:

Vice-President: AO1 Danner, Kyle

Treasurer: AO2 Cramer, Benjamin

Secretary: AO2 Vancil, Rachel

Master-at-Arms: AO3 Rankin, Layne

We are excited to continue getting our new sailors involved in the Chapter and planning for events this summer!!!



CHAPTER DESERT SOUTH WEST

Greetings from El Centro!

Just a quick update on what has been going down in this part's ordnance town. In January we worked on getting new chapter merchandise. To include patches, coins, and t-shirts. During our Annual Blue Angels Flight Festival in March we set up a "pop-up shop" which brought in good sales and allowed us to spread the word on what the AO Chapters are all about. Many people hadn't heard of the AO Chapters and weren't aware that we are all over the place! Pictured are: AO2 Aguilar (chapter president), AO2 Heinrich (chapter VP), and Chance Aguilar (chapter volunteer).

In the later part of March we also had the privilege to volunteer, again, at our local Imperial Valley Food Bank. We put boxes together and filled them with fresh fruits and vegetables to be readily available for those in need. IV Food Bank has been one location we have regularly volunteered at, as a command and as a chapter. Pictured are: AO1 Miller, AO2 Aguilar, AO2 Pitts, and AO2 Washington. Towards the end of March and into April we also held our 2nd "No Empty Bowls" animal rescue food donation drive to support our local animal rescue, Dee's Rescue. Thanks to all who participated we were able to donate plenty of cat food, dog food, and treats for the cute cats and dogs.

Before we go, we would like to take the opportunity to say thank you everyone who has supported our chapter in any way! Shout out to VFA-122, VFA-106, Training Air Wing Two in Kingsville, TX and Training Air Wing One in Meridian, MS for always passing through NMCPAC DET El Centro to show us some love.

Until next time... IYAOYAS!

Very Respectfully,

AO2 (AW/SW) Aguilar

President , AAO Desert Southwest Chapter



RED SHIRT



CHAPTER SIXTY EIGHT



CHAPTER TWENTY TWO



CHAPTER TWENTY ONE



CHAPTER MAKIN ISLAND LHD8

HELLO FROM THE MIGHTY MAKIN ISLAND!

Our Red Raiders Association is reenergized and ready to rock with a brand spanking new Cabinet, featuring AOCS Hodor and GMC Montgomery as the Board of Directors, AO1 Phillips as President, AO2 Torres as Vice President, AO2 Crane as Secretary, GM2 Gonzalez as Treasurer, AO2 Nunez-Morales as Master at Arms, and AO2 Dyer as Event Coordinator.

We're currently deployed and loving life with the 13th MEU, VMM-362, VMFA-122 and HSC-21. Our port calls have taken us to some exciting locations like Hawaii, Singapore, and Thailand for some much needed liberty where our Red Raiders have been on our best behavior and performed exceptionally. Coupled with some much deserved R&R, our Red Raiders were out and about during Singapore's food bank drive, spreading the love and good vibes. Our Ordies and Gunner's Mates have been working hard, getting trained up, earning qualifications all while providing outstanding support for multi-lateral exercises in SEVENTH FLEET.

We would be remised if we didn't take a second to recognize our Sailor's recent accomplishments and awards. This quarter's Weaponeer of the Month winners were GM3 Jimenez, Anthony, and AOAN Zelenka, Joseph. Plus, we gotta give a shout-out to our BJOQ, AO3 Quintero, Jazlyn; Command JSOQ, AO2 Torres, Diego; and SSOQ, AO1 Sheley, Sean. And let's not forget about our six meritoriously advanced promotions: AO2 Torres, Diego, AO3 Brown, Byron, AO3 Handsbur, Lavazyon, AO3 Smith, William, AO3 ArgottaFreye, Albert, and AO3 Quintero, Jazlyn. It's been wild and crazy, but we wouldn't have it any other way!

First two photos attached are from the COMREL in Singapore. Third photo is a picture featuring the NEWLY promoted Petty Officers (middle 5 Sailors that are squatting).

GUNG HO!

Very Respectfully,

AO2 (AW) Crane, Courtney



WEB SITE ANNOUNCEMENT

The web site now houses ALL past Red Shirt Newsletters!

THANK YOU to everyone who assisted!

Check out the web site for all HOF, Scholarship,
and AOY board package requirements.

redshirtnation.com

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Packages by mail must be received by 15 July 2023 at the
following address:

AAO HOF

c/o Jeff Sassone

20812 Flour Mill Court

Great Mills, MD 20634

Hand carried Hall of Fame nominations will be accepted up
to Thursday 27 Jul 2023 at the

convention but you must have an original & three copies.

Hope to see you all at convention!

Committee Chair: Jeff Sassone

ROBERT L. CROW

2023 AAO EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

AAO RLC Scholarship applications must be postmarked

NO LATER THAN

15 JUNE 2023

Committee Chair: Rick Garza

Fellow Ordnancemen...

ONE IN A MILLION by Kieth C. Quimbach, USN, CWO3(ret)

What are the odds? Would you ever believe that someday your paths would cross and you might end up meeting a famous movie actor or singer? Well, that's precisely what has happened with Derek Hall.

Derek Hall has been a member of the Australian Society of Mayflower Descendants from the start. He is a Charter Member. When Derek joined our Australian Society he was the Head of Studios at Screen Queensland Studios in Brisbane, Australia, operating Australia's largest network of film studios.

Born in New Jersey; he spent his first six years living in Florida. His family came to Australia in the 90's, growing up in Sydney, NSW. He met his wife Laura in high school, the love of his life. He studied acting at the prestigious Nepean University in Sydney.

Even though Derek was living in Sydney, Australia, he enlisted in the US Navy at the age of 21. He attended Aviation Ordnance "A" school in Pensacola, Florida. He served aboard the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, CVN-73 deploying in the Global War on Terrorism. As an Aviation Ordnanceman (AO) Derek was trained to handle bombs and missiles and work on various weapon systems and small arms such as the .50 Cal. Machine gun.

Derek and Laura were married in 2007, just six months after his enlistment in the Navy ended. They now have four wonderful children.

His very diverse background, beside filmmaking; includes working for the US State Department at the US Consulate in Sydney, a member of the White House Advance Team, and has also been a humanitarian aid worker across the globe.

With his passion for the film industry reignited while living in Hawaii, he ended up running the largest network of studios across the island state. He helped make Jurassic World 1 & 2, Hobbs and Shaw, Jumanji and produced his own projects along the way. More recently while in Brisbane, helped make Young Rock, Joe Exotic, Love & Monsters, Elvis, Thor: Love & Thunder and plenty more.

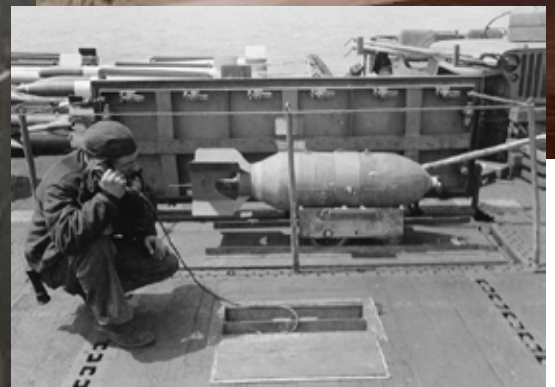
He's had the pleasure to work directly with Universal, Paramount, Marvel, Netflix and others long the way. So, who would have ever guessed that such a varied career path would lead to meeting and working with Tom Cruise? Derek says, "we talk about Top Gun: Maverick, a lot". What were the odds, a million to one? Derek and his family are currently living in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Derek commented, "the UAE is lovely and wonderful. It's a whole different world, but also very familiar". Derek also commented: "he is loving his new position". Derek is now Head of Studios, Twofour54, responsible for the design, building and operation of the largest film studio in the Middle East. Derek, quoted, "We were getting phone calls two or three times a week from Tom in relation to a stunt of epic proportions, the likes of which will never be seen again" for Tom's next motion picture "Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning 2. Details are certainly "classified".





Hello, my father was an AOM2c and served aboard USS Essex CV9 in WW2. He went aboard Essex at Ulithi Atoll on March 13th 1945. As a Task Unit of Task Force 58 the fleet sailed for the Japanese island of Kyushu and Okinawa where they experienced the biggest kamikaze attacks of the war. My father serviced CVG-83 F4U Corsairs. My father was very proud to be an AOM and told me lot of stories of his time in the Navy. He passed away in 2018 at the age of 94.....

Submitted by Steven Kazmierski



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