

February 2016

The Association of Aviation Ordnancemen

Issue #129



# THE RED SHIRT

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

**The Association of  
Aviation Ordnancemen**  
[Http://aaoweb.org/AAO](http://aaoweb.org/AAO)

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**21 Wedgewood Lane NE**  
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**(H) 850.499.0024**  
**(W) 850.883.3982**  
**kevin.meagher.2@us.af.mil**

**Chapter 1 - Lemoore, CA**  
**President: AOC Laura Colby**  
559-998-9320  
*Fleet Reserve Club, D Street, Lemoore*  
*3rd Friday, 1730*

**Chapter 3 - Whidbey Island, WA**  
**President: AOC Allen**

*Meeting Place Bakerview Restaurant (CPO Club)*  
*Fourth Wed of the month, 1130*

**Chapter 4 - Virginia Beach, VA**  
**President: AOC Amber Roth**  
Amber.roth@navy.mil  
757-433-9047  
*VA Beach VFW #392, 2408 Bowland Pkwy*  
*3rd Wednesday, 1800*

**Chapter 5 - China Lake, CA**  
**President: AO1 Carrillo**  
760-939-6271  
*VFW 4080, 117 N. Alvord*  
*Last Flex Thursday of Month, 1800*

**Chapter 8 - San Diego, CA**  
**President: AOC (AW/SW) Misty Beck,**  
619-545-9392  
*American Legion Post 434, Chula Vista*  
*1st Thursday, 1900*

**Chapter 9 - Jacksonville, FL**  
**President: CWO5 Rod Wiggins**  
*Fleet Reserve, Collins Road*  
*3rd Thursday, 1900*

**Chapter 11 - Kaneohe Bay, HI**  
**President:**  
*Wing 2 Bldg, (John Finn Bldg) 1st Friday, 1600*

**Chapter 21 - Fallon, NV**  
**President: AO2(AW/SW) Robert West**  
Robert.m.west2@navy.mil  
*American Legion Post 16 Fallon, NV.*  
*1st Wednesday, 1830*

**Chapter 22 - Patuxent River**  
**President: AO1 Willard Riffe**  
*VFW, Post 2632 California, MD*  
*3rd Wednesday, 1900*

**Chapter LHD-4 Gator Chapter**  
**President: AO1 Christopher Flores**  
*On Board*

**Chapter LHD-8 - USS Makin Island**  
**President AO1 (AW) Terrance Dukes**  
dukestt@lhd8.navy.mil  
*On Board*

**Chapter 671 - Guam**  
**President: AO1(AW/SW) Timothy Fennell**  
671-488-6277 fennell145@yahoo.com  
*American Legion Mid-Pacific Post 1 in Tamuning,*  
*Guam, 3rd Thursday, 1900*

**Chapter 39 "Dude Gilbert" - Beaufort, SC**  
**President: Del Tingley**  
843-228-2827  
Delroy.d.tingley@usmc.mil  
*Hard Corps Café Dude Gilbert Room*  
*1st Thursday 1645*

**Chapter 68 - USS Nimitz**  
**CVN 68 President: AO1(AW/SW) Marc Merrill**  
*On Board*

**Chapter 69- USS Dwight D Eisenhower**  
**CVN 68 President: AO1 (AW/SW) Justin Sims**  
*On Board*

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

**Chapter 71- USS Theodore Roosevelt**  
**CVN 71 President: AO1(AW/SW) Charles Hart**  
*On Board*

**Chapter 72 - USS Lincoln**  
**CVN 72 President:**  
**AO1 (AW/SW) Donnie Dowell**  
*On Board*

**Chapter 73 - USS George Washington**  
**President: AO1 Thurman McDowell**  
*Forward Deployed*

**Chapter 74 - USS Stennis**  
**CVN 74 President: AO1(AW) Loran R. Kennedy**  
*On Board: loran.kennedy@cvn74.navy.mil*

**Chapter 75 - USS Truman**  
**CVN 75 President: AO1(AW/SW) Kirk Godair**  
*On Board : mailto:godairkl@cvn75.navy.mil*

**Chapter 76 - USS Ronald Reagan**  
**CVN-76 President: AO1 Sheila Brown**  
*On Board*

**Chapter 77 - USS George HW Bush**  
**CVN-77 President: AO1(AW) Jeremy Reed**  
*On Board : reedjm@cvn77.navy.mil*

**Chapter 78 - USS Gerald Ford**  
**CVN-78 President: AO1 Chris Tysor**  
*On Board : Chris.Tysor@cvn78.navy.mil*

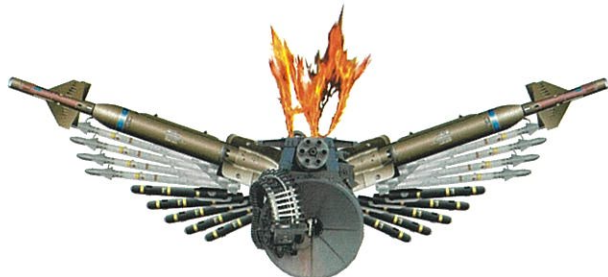
**Chapter Key West,**  
**Southern Most President:**  
**AO1(AW/SW) Rodriguez Diaz**  
305-294-2892  
*Navigator Bar and grill*  
*2nd Friday 1300*

**Chapter 34 - Pensacola, FL**  
**President: AO1 (AW/SW) Kyle Wagner**  
850-377-9196  
Chapter34ordie@gmail.com  
Alexanna.williams@navy.mil  
*Beef O Brady's*  
*1st Wednesday, 1830*

**Chapter Desert/Southwest - El Centro, CA.**  
**President: Unknown**  
760-337-4986  
*Call for Meeting Time and Place*



**Moving? PCS?**  
 Your Change of Address is  
 Important . . . Please submit one to the  
 national treasurer



**AO HALL OF FAME INFORMATION**

INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING INDIVIDUAL(S) FOR THE AAO HALL OF FAME CAN BE FOUND ON THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN WEBSITE <http://aaoweb.org/AAO>. THE GUIDELINE FORMAT HAS BEEN UPDATED AND THERE IS A SAMPLE NOMINATION PACKAGE TO FOLLOW.

INFORMATION REQUESTED IN GUIDELINES "MUST" BE WITH PACKAGE OR IT "WILL" BE RETURNED. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO WORK ON PACKAGES, GET STARTED "NOW" AO HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN,

Jeff Sassone (H) 301-757-7307, ( C ) 240-925-6848  
 E-mail [jeffrey.sassone1@navy.mil](mailto:jeffrey.sassone1@navy.mil)

ASSOCIATION OF AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
<http://www.aaoweb.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: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ cell: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 RATE/RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH OF SERVICE \_\_\_\_\_ Active ( ) Retired ( )  
 DATES SERVED: \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 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 Thomas Lord USN Ret.  
 2888 Iris Ave., #122  
 San Diego, CA 92154

September 2011

**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.

*Does anyone know who the oldest  
 Ordie is in our ranks? That is the  
 question for the next few issues.  
 Please forward names and ages of  
 those you think may fit the bill*

- **MISSION**  
 The Arleigh Burke class Destroyer is a guided missile destroyer designed to counter threats from the air and from the sea, from aircraft, ships, and submarines. USS John Finn will be capable of executing a wide variety of both peacetime and warfighting missions.
- **FEATURES**  
 USS John Finn is one of the U.S. Navy's most advanced, state-of-the-art warships in the fleet. Its extensive array of weapons will include the world famous AEGIS system, which is second to none in engaging multiple enemy targets simultaneously, and it will be equipped by two sophisticated Lamson 308 DII helicopters.
- **ARMAMENT**  
 Standard 5-inch gun, Standard missile, Mk41 VLS, 1 or 2 Mk15 Phalanx CIWS, 1 Mk45 5-inch/54-caliber gun, 1 Mk41 5-inch/52-caliber gun, Mk32 dual VVT launchers.
- **PROPULSION**  
 Four General Electric LM 2500-50 gas turbines; two shafts, (110,000 total shaft horsepower)
- **AIRCRAFT**  
 Two Sikorski Seahawk helicopters.
- **MISCELLANEOUS**  
 Complement of 325 crew (1,042 berths); crew food load  
 Crew Stor - 23 Officers and 380 Personnel  
 Length - 504.5 feet  
 Height - 98 feet  
 Speed - 30+ knots.

**USS John Finn (DDG 113)**

# Red Shirt

## Articles

are due

20 JAN 17

1 MAY 16

20 SEP 16

Please submit via e-mail when possible



## ON THE COVER

Kevin - Please go ahead and use my painting of John Finn "The Warriors of Kaneohe" on the cover of your newsletter.

If you could please note on the cover, inside cover, or somewhere on inside pages "Painting by Jim Laurier - www.jimlaurier.com.

If not to much trouble, pleased send me one copy. Thank you

Jim Laurier  
P.O. Box 1118  
Keene, NH 03431

## BACK PAGE

VFA-142

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



## TAPS



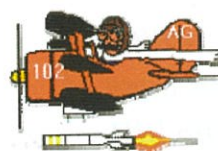
AOCS Michael "Mike" Blair, USN Ret  
CWO4 Jerry Mitchell, USN Ret  
LCDR Gary D. Sumner USN Ret  
AOC Clovis O. Ash Jr. USN Ret  
AOC Elmer C. Fiore USN Ret\*  
AOC Victor Miranda USN Ret\*  
AOCS Rios Rinaldo USN Ret\*  
AOC Cecil H. Russell USN Ret\*  
AOC John Hensley USN Ret  
DR Gerald "Jerry" Friedman USN Ret  
AO1 Joe W. Childress USN Ret\*  
AOC Wayne J. Oliveira USN Ret\*  
AOC Fred J. Hochmuth USN Ret\*  
AO1 James M. Miller USN Ret  
AOC Kenneth R. Gifford USN Ret\*  
AOAN Vian S. Irving II

\* Info from FRA Today Newsletter \*\* Info from VFW Magazine  
\*\*\*Other



# Man the GUNS

Join the NAVY



IYAOYAS!!

# John Finn Memorial/Pearl Harbor Remembrance - December 7, 2015

## NEW MEMBERS

AO2 Brenton C. Rush AOC Donald R. Campbell USN Ret ENS Ronald G. Fawson AOAN Francisco G. Tolentino AO1 Sabas Curiel AO1 Michael R. Guidinger AOAN Claire E. Logan AO3 Stephanie N. Putman AOAN Donald D. Woods Ms. Crystal Y. Jackson MSgt Robert W. Garland AO2	Tiffany M. Tribble AOC Manuel A. Penas AO1 Ryan Heeneey AOAN Edgar Cisneros LT Kenneth M. Davis, Jr. AO1 Trenton J. Hagley AOAN Julian Lopez AO2 Joshua E. Todd AO3 Victoria N. Kipp GySgt Samantha A. Garland CW05 Timothy Morehead USMC Ret
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## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

AOCS Feagaiga "Tee" Tuisamatatele USN Ret AOC Tiana M. Poellinetz AOC Gene H. Hamm USN Ret AO1 Shevette L. Maulsby USN Ret AOCS Ivan Dominguez, Jr. USN Ret	AO1 James E. Brad
---	-------------------

## SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTORS

AOCS Robert & Nancy Tyson USN Ret Maj James & Carolyn Thomas USMC Ret MSgt Dennis Colbert USMC Ret Gene & Kiyoko Vickers USMC Ret	AO1 Michael D. Rogers USN Ret AAO Auxiliary AOCS John Cataldi, Jr. USN Ret AOCS William G. Foote USN Ret
--	---

## LOCATOR

Can you help? Know where any of these members can be located?  
 If you have a mailing address or phone number, please contact me  
 at [aaotreas2011@cox.net](mailto:aaotreas2011@cox.net), snail mail or give me a call.

AO1 Robert L. Meadows (RN) AOC Terry Van Kampen (RS128) Ms. Jane G. Stasen (RS128) LCDR James L. Willett (RS128) LTJG Todd E. Covington (RS128) Mr. Lee R. Hurd (RS128) AO3 Tyler J. Simpson (RS128) AOCS Richard E. Terrell III (RS128) AO1 John J. Lysic USN Ret (RS128) AO1 Ignacio J. Padilla USN Ret (RS128) AOCS Christopher S. Miller (RS128) AO1 William E. Shaw USN Ret (RS128) Ms. Susan Holt (RS128) AO1 Derek D. Bratton (RS128) AO2 Michael R. Becker (RN) LT Frederick L. Huss NC (RS128) AO2 Justin J. Jacob	RADM Vincent Farrell USN Ret (RS128) Mr. Michael DiMarcantonio (RS128) GySgt Eddie Parker USMC Ret (RS128) Ms. Doris A. Irving (RS128) Ms. Pheobe Baker (AAAO)(RS128) AOC Tina A. Calahan (RS128) AO1 Russel L. Zachary (RS128) AO2 Ernest Heierle USN Ret (RS128) AOC James E. Shaw (RS128) AOC Donald Campbell USN Ret (RS128) AOC Rick R. Sievers USN Ret (RS128) AO1 Richard J. Stratmeyer (RS128) CDR George R. Aguilar (RS128) AOC James L. Irwin (RS128) AO1 Sean C. Bray (RN) AO3 Nicholas J. Baxter
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Notes: (RN) =Renewal Notice Return / (RS128) = Red Shirt Return



**2016 CONVENTION RESERVATION APPLICATION**

**ADVANCE ORDER FORM**

**DEADLINE IS 15 July 2016**

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

- 28Jul (Thu) Board of Directors Meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 Jul (Fri) AO of The Year Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 29Jul (Fri) Scholarship Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 Jul (Fri) AAO Hall of Fame Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 Jul (Fri) Membership Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 Jul (Fri) By-Laws Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 29 Jul (Fri) Nominations Committee \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 Jul (Sat) General Business Meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 Jul (Sat) Board of Directors Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

**AUXILIARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
AVIATION ORDNANCEMEN**

- 28 Jul (Thu) Board of Directors Meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 Jul (Sat) General Business Meeting \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 Jul (Sat) 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. If interested in more than one committee, annotate priority by numbers 1-6.

**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 FRIDAY **15 JULY 2016**. ORDERS & MONEY RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE RETURNED OR MUST HAVE LATE FEE'S INCLUDED. (See order form )

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  
Thomas Lord  
2888 Iris Ave., #122  
San Diego, CA 92154

Registration Fees (choose appropriate category):

1. Member \$25.00 (\$30.00 after 15 Jul 16)  
Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)
2. Non-Member \$40.00 (\$45.00 after 15 Jul 16)  
(Not including guest or spouse)  
Name of Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)
3. Spouse/Guests 18 and over \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of Guests \_\_\_\_\_  
(Spouse) (please print)

Advance Social & Awards Banquet ticket prices:

- Friday AAO Social \$40.00 each (\$45.00 after 15 Jul 16) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Sat Awards Banquet \$40.00 each (\$45.00 after 15 Jul 16) \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Credit Card Fee \$10.00 (if applicable) Non-Refundable \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name exactly as it appears on credit card \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Master Card/ Visa # \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Billing ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card payees may also use the registration form on the AO Web Site. If you use this form, the above credit card information does not need to be filled in. Once you send the form, I will receive an e-mail and will, in turn, send you an invoice with the payment requirements. NOTE: This process will not work for military e-mail addresses.

**TICKETS WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED TO ATTENDEES. ALL TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE EVERY DAY. IF YOU DESIRE NOTIFICATION OF RECEIPT OF PAYMENT, INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE OR POST CARD OR YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS.**



## Do Not Miss the 2016 Convention

Celebrating the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the AO Rate, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association + 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Auxiliary!

28 July – 31 July



800/687-8733

or online at

[www.silverlegacyreno.com](http://www.silverlegacyreno.com)

Book Code: AAO16

Make Reservations By 4 July

Sunday – Thursday

Friday & Saturday

Luxury Room - \$67

Luxury Room - \$91

Deluxe Spa Suites Are Available  
Daily Resort Fee is WAIVED

**Free Airport Shuttle**

For Convention Information, Call:

**Kirk Brado**

619-962-6158 or email: [kbrado1@hotmail.com](mailto:kbrado1@hotmail.com)

The 2015 AAO Convention Reunion Book has been mailed out, if you ordered one and have not received, contact Dunning Company, Inc. P.O. Box 10, Gautier, MS. 39553 or Phone 251-653-7486/ www.dunningcompany.com

Or you can contact Beverly Onken at 559-924-2503, email onkenc@sbcglobal.net

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL 2016 CONVENTION TO SAY YOU DID NOT RECEIVE A BOOK.

TO LATE !!!!!!!

V/R Beverly Onken

Good evening Kevin,

First let me introduce myself. I am John Connelley a retired Marine AO. I am one of those life members that has never made it to a convention but sits on the edge of the flight line and watches all the work that you guys are doing and it is great work. I saw your request for the oldest ordie in our ranks. I have a nominee who may not be the oldest living ordie but it is an interesting story.

This AO attended AO "A" school in Norman Oklahoma in 1944. He served from 1944 until 1948. He still rides and drives in Veteran Parades and proudly displays his AO2 rank on the side of his vehicle. His son joined the Marine Corps in 1968 and only knew that his father had served in WWII and did some flying as a gunner. Shortly before boot camp graduation, that son was told by the DI that he was going to be an Aviation Ordnanceman. The son had no idea what the DI was talking about. The son still has the notes from his father's AO "A" school complete with "doodlings" of his father's girlfriend who became his wife and my mother!! As mentioned this was purely coincidental. The scary part is that the AO"A" curriculum and weapons had not changed a lot from 1944 till 1968.

My father is now 89, born on Dec. 7, 1926 and celebrated his 15th birthday "on the day that will live in infamy". He still shoots, kayaks, takes his raider out into the sand dunes of the Oregon coast. He is very proud of his ordnance and Navy service.

Just thought that I would share an interesting story.

Keep up the GREAT work.

John

Great story John!

Nominations for the upcoming elections for the Vice President and Secretary positions and 2 Board of Director positions are due no later than 1 April 2016 to Rob Walecki via email (deeanrob@prodigy.net) or at the below address. Please include the candidates acceptance of the nomination.

Robert Walecki  
698 Woodridge Court  
Lemoore, CA 93245

*Check us out on Facebook.....  
"The Red Shirt"*

Kevin,

Good morning from Pax River and PMA-259. I've been meaning to send these pictures to you since Christmas but time got the better of me.

Attached please find a couple pictures of the mock AIM-9M lamp which we at the program office were fortunate to have for a couple days in December prior to it being turned over to Chapter-22. Mr. Gary Howorka has graciously donated the Lamp to the Chapter and it will be auctioned this month with proceeds going to the National Scholarship fund.

The attached pictures are of Captain Stoneman (PMA-259 PM) and Connie Wells (PMA-259 PSM). Request, if space permits, the picture(s) are included in the next edition of the Red Shirt.

God Bless and Stay safe!

IYAOYAS

Steve Miller, NAVAIR CTR

PMA- 259 (USN 9X) Senior Logistics Analyst

Work: (301) 757-7481





**PREZ** Happy New Year Ordie Family!

I pray all is well with you and yours to date and hope you had the opportunity to enjoy some quality time with your family and friends throughout the holidays and new year. MLK day has passed as I write. Valentine's day is approaching and I hope you did not forget to take care of those special to you. President's day will follow with Easter here before you know it. Enjoy them all as you prep to attend this year's annual convention and as always, we pray for the best in mission execution and safe return for our deployed service members.

If you have not heard it yet, our AOoY for 2015, then AO1 (AW/SW) Misty Beck, was selected and is now "deservingly" wearing the esteemed Anchors of an Aviation Ordnanceman Chief Petty Officer. Congratulations to her and all others recently advanced and promoted.

Pat and I had the opportunity to attend our National planning meeting in Laughlin, NV. I'd like thank national and auxiliary officers, and members who traveled to Laughlin to support preparations for our 2016 Annual Convention. Your continued support and guidance is invaluable and worthy of our member's continued gratitude. Thank you all!

The planning meeting did uncover some additional task that were distributed to our eager group of volunteering officers. This was my first planning meeting so I spent sufficient time listening to our seasoned officers whose guidance is greatly appreciated. A few numbers worth remembering this year are 90/40/25. The aforementioned numbers apply because 2016 marks the 90th year anniversary of our professional Aviation Ordnanceman Rating. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of our National Association of Aviation Ordnancemen. Last, 2016 marks the 25th year of one of the best Auxiliary's in the world! Thank you for all you do to support our association officers, members, and active duty Sailors and Marines.

Recently I was contacted and made aware of a project that members of the Naval Order were planning and I want to share that exceptional news with you.

The Naval Order plans to commission a sculpture to represent past, present and future Navy Chief Petty Officers. The sculptured statue is to be placed on Ford Island in Hawaii. The Naval Order membership has made the decision to commission a sculpture of our dearly beloved, LT John W. Finn, to represent the CPO community.

The original plan was to have only one statue of John Finn sculpted and placed in Hawaii on Ford Island in proximity of the existing Admiral Chester Nimitz statue. Due to planning, logistics, and timing challenges, the Naval Order decided to allow the USS MIDWAY (CV 61) Museum in San Diego to display the statue until plans were congealed for placement in Hawaii. Long story

short (which I know I am not good at) is the plan to allow MIDWAY Museum to hold the statue eventually led to a decision to honor a request from the MIDWAY Museum and allow them to keep that statue. This led to a second decision by the Naval Order membership to commission a second statue destined for Ford Island in 2017.

At this time, the unveiling of the first statue is schedule at the MIDWAY Museum on December 7th 2016 if all goes well. Mark your calendars now and plan to be there, especially if you are in the San Diego area. Tom, thanks for finding the WWII era jacket to be used on this project. I'll notify all if anything changes. In the meantime, make your arrangements to attend our annual convention. It always worth the investment. IYAOYAS!!!

Dion

**VP** Happy 2016 Ordies!

I hope this edition of the Redshirt finds you all in good health and spirits. By the time you read this article we will have already conducted the Pre-Convention meeting in Laughlin NV over MLK day, I'm sure it will have been a productive meeting as usual. It's part of the business end of the Association and I would like to thank all that attended this year and in years past for your support to the AAO. Only about 5 months left before we hold this year's Symposium and Convention at the Silver Legacy in Reno NV. For those of you that have never attended one, you are missing out on some valuable information, as well as seeing old friends, making new ones and meeting Ordies that you might not know and have only heard their names before. I cannot stress enough to everyone, please get involved, it's YOUR Association, and you'll enjoy yourself as well! In addition, it is time to start thinking about your inputs to the various Committees that will be meeting in July, such as the John W. Finn Aviation Ordnanceman of the Year, Hall of Fame, and the numerous scholarships that are available. Please don't procrastinate in submitting your packages, there are deadlines and you have plenty of time to meet them.

We will also be voting on National Officers during our Saturday General Business meeting. The Offices of Vice President and Secretary, as well as 2 Board of Directors positions will be open to nominations. As per our By-Laws, if you are going to nominate someone for any of these positions, remember, prior consent of the candidate is required before the name is placed in nomination. Candidates must be present at the General Business meeting unless previously approved by the Board of Directors. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the Business meeting, the above requirement still applies. Absentee ballots will be included in the next Redshirt prior to the Convention. Nominations for the above mentioned offices have a submission deadline date of 1 April 2016 so the candidate's names can be placed in the Redshirt prior to the convention for absentee balloting purposes.

Finally, I hope to see you all in July, it'll be a great time as always and I am looking forward to seeing a lot of new faces along with the old ones! I'm confident that if you're attending your first convention, it won't be your last one! Stay safe out there, especially those of you who are in harm's way and IYAOYAS!

**SECRETARY** Greetings Shipmates and Marines –

Hope you all had a safe Holiday Season. Was good seeing some new faces in Laughlin for the Convention Planning Meeting over the Martin Luther King weekend, a good time was had by all. Start NOW to make your plans for Continuum 2016 July 24th – 28th and Convention 2016 July 27th – July 31st at the Silver Legacy Resort. Our numbers are trending up this year with folks staying

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)  
over from the Continuum.

Chapter Officers – You need to get into the National By-Laws (Article IX) to see what your responsibilities are. I need the Chapter Reports forwarded 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](mailto:aaosec@cox.net).

The following Chapters have not been heard from in the past year: Chapter 11; Chapter 39, Chapter 70; Chapter 76; and Chapter Desert/ Southwest. If your Chapter is listed, please get a hold of National to so we know you are still alive. I have been nominated and have accepted to continue my tour as Secretary of the Association. It has been a privilege to serve as your Secretary for the past year plus, thank you for your confidence.

R,  
JJ LaMaitre  
AAO Secretary

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**TREASURER** Convention 2016 is fast approaching,

Time to get your pre-registration forms to me. We just completed our planning meeting in Laughlin and it looks like prices will stay the same as last year. For you Ordies who are not members of the National and intend to come to the Convention, DON'T register as a non-member. Pay the member \$25.00 registration fee and add the \$20.00 for a membership. For you E-4 and below who plan on coming, you get one year membership with your registration fee. If you are a non-member, I will sign you up with your registration. Cut off for pre-reservation is 15 July 2016. Anything mailed after that may not get to me before I leave for Reno.

For everybody, please give me a current email address or phone number so I can contact you if there is a problem with the registration.

Internet registration for the convention worked well and will continue for future conventions.

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 are still a problem. I need your changes as soon as you know you are moving. The mailing costs associated with Red Shirt returns are getting out of hand. I try my best to make sure those entitled to a Red Shirt get it. But when I don't have an updated address, I have to pay the post office for its return. That said, in the future, 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!!! 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)575-1895; or (preferred) you can e-mail them to me at [aaotreas2011@cox.net](mailto:aaotreas2011@cox.net). Chapter officers, division LPO's, shipmates, if you know a member is transferring, talk to them about submitting an address change. If you see somebody you know on the Locator, it means I don't have their current mailing address and can't send them update materials. If you know their e-mail address, drop them a line to get in touch with me.

FYI the US Postal Service has an on-line Change of Address section, see it at [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

YAYOYAS!

R,  
Thomas Lord  
AAO Treasurer



CVN-75

AOCS Tommy Robinson and daughter Daicy Robinson. Daicy presented a report to her classmates in Crestview, FL on John Finn. GREAT JOB DAICY!!! And great looking uniform!!



# CHAPTER 8

AAO Chapter 8 Red Shirt Inputs for Oct 15-Jan 16

Greetings from Chapter 8, San Diego, "The Chapter Where It All Started." Since October 2015 our Chapter membership has continued to grow as we added 22 new Chapter 8 Life Time Members.

On October 3rd, we held our quarterly Highway Walk on the Coronado Strand. Afterwards several members headed out to the LT John Finn VFW Post 2080 for their annual Hog Wild Deep Pit BBQ event where we had a wonderful time and enjoyed a fantastic meal.

On 18 October, several Chapter members supported the San Diego Breast Cancer Walk by participating in the AO team, "Bombs for Boobs", coordinated by AO1 Nanise Schroeder. The team raised \$1,234.00, an impressive effort. BZ Nanise for you and your team.

In November we kicked off our annual AOCS Jason May Thanksgiving Holiday Hand-up and concluded it by giving out \$2,100.00 in Gift Cards to 21 Aviation Ordnance families. The generous donations from the AOCS Jason May Family, The Marine Corps League Col Mitchell Paige Det 1207, and other generous donations made this highly successful event possible.

December was a busy month as we focused on our annual Christmas Holiday Hand-up and again concluded it by giving out \$2,100 in Gift Cards to 21 Aviation Ordnance families. All the donations we received from private and anonymous donors made this event another huge success.

On 3 December, the Chapter President, Misty Beck, presented Theresa Caldwell, daughter of AOC Ken Foster, with an AAO Chapter 8 Life Time Member certificate in recognition of all the help and support she has provided over the past 25 years while coordinating all the kid activities at our annual Chapter picnic. Theresa was also presented with a \$100 VISA Gift Card and a Chapter 8 challenge coin.

On Saturday, 12 December, we held our annual Holiday/Christmas Potluck with 54 individuals in attendance. The food selections were fantastic and we would like to thank Scott Lagerquist for bringing in the Turkey and Tom Lord for the Ham. The Chapter also had a great time with a White Elephant Gift Exchange and was able to bring in some extra funds through a raffle and a 50/50 drawing. We would also like to give Tess LaMaitre a special thank you for her raffle donations as well as all her help and take charge support in setting the event up.

Until next time, keep it safe out there and IYAOYAS!!!

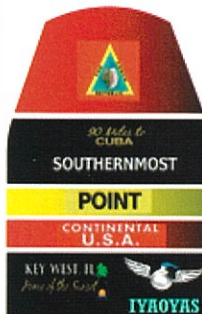
V/r

CWO3(Ret) Barry Stemler

Chapter 8 Secretary/Treasurer



# SOUTHERN MOST CHAPTER



Greetings to all our fellow ORDIES from the Southernmost chapter in Key West, Florida.

We are back in business.

On December 10, 2015 a group of extraordinary ordnancemen decided to spice things up a little and fuel up a candle that was never put out! Thanks to the help of a great friend most of you all know as "Gram", we are now happy to say back up and running down in Key West.

I would like to take a moment to thank our elected officials; AO2 Parenteau (Vice-President), AO2 Hurst (Secretary) and AO3 Funk (Treasurer). Also our great board of directors Michael Gramolini, CDR(ret) and Steven Folks, AOC(ret) who were that key ingredient to get us back in step.

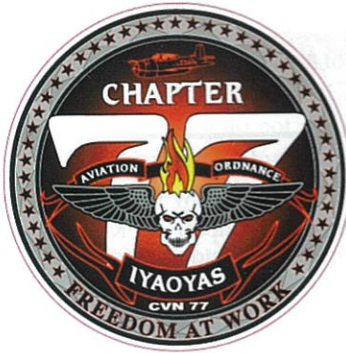
A lot of things are being thrown in the pot to get our brothers and sisters in RED name out there. Stay safe, stay building, stay humping... I.Y.A.O.Y.A.S!!!

Very Respectfully

AO1(AW/SW) Rodriguez Diaz, Elliot  
Southernmost Chapter President



## CHAPTER 77



IYAOYAS SHIPMATES!! Chapter 77 here, we would like to say hello to all our fellow Ordies out there scattered amongst the fleet. We hope that all is well!

Over here on the George H. W. Bush, we are working hard to get the ship ready to get back out to sea. I can honestly say that I would rather be out to sea, than be tied to the pier here in Norfolk Naval

Shipyard. For all of those that would rather be here in the shipyard, I will never understand you.

Although we are still in the yards, we continue to make a difference for our Navy. We were given the opportunity to send a Detachment of AO's to Tyndall, AFB in Florida to provide support for a few of our squadrons from CAG-7. There we were able to work in a joint environment with the Air Force. Getting to see the differences of our two services, it allowed us to be thankful for how we do things in the Navy!

We also sent two detachments to support various naval squadrons. One detachment went to Mountain Home, AFB in Mountain Home, Idaho. There we utilized a few of the Air Force's "luxury" equipment, allowing us to build 20 BLU-111's on one table. You don't get to see that on a ship! The second detachment was to Key West, FL. There we were able to train some of our junior AO's to build GBU-31s, GBU-32s, and GBU-12s along with an array of other weapons.

We had our annual Chapter picnic back August, which encompassed all of Weapons Department. We had over 200 attendance from members and their families to enjoy some great camaraderie, awesome food (The chicken was off the chain), some dunk-tank memories and a softball game that put E6 and above against E5 and below. Needless to say, the juniors need some practice!

For our community, we provided services to the local Fisher House located here in Portsmouth, VA. Our AO's were able to help clean up the landscaping and tidy up a few loose ends for the residents.

Only a few more months left (Hopefully) and we will be cutting through the waters of the open sea; and with that I leave you with this, continue to work hard, and play even harder!! This is how we AO's do it. IYAOYAS!

### AWARDS;

MAG RAT of the Month  
September 2015: AO3 Harvell  
October 2015: AOAN Ortiszalazar  
November 2015: AN Mims  
December 2015: AOAN Russo

AO of the Year  
AO1(AW/SW) Marks, Robin

AO1(AW) Jeremy M Reed  
Chapter 77 President

## CHAPTER 9



Greetings from Chapter 9 in Jacksonville, Florida. May you all have a Happy, Prosperous, and Safe New Year. Is it really 2016 already, where does the time go? The Chapter closed out 2015 in fine fashion with our annual "ALL AO" family picnic, volunteered at the October Air Show featuring the "Blue Angels",

donated \$450 to needy shipmates for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and recognized local active duty and veterans in November at a special dinner.

The "Veterans Day" dinner is an annual event hosted by an NJROTC Unit to honor all military and pay honor to some special guests. This year our own AOC (USN ret) Ed Murphy was recognized for his combined 50 years of continued service, all in Aviation Ordnance, B.Z! In the audience was a POW captured when Corregidor fell in 1942. He survived the "Bataan death march. Many thanks to Fleming Island High School NJROTC Unit for hosting such a great event each year.

Bravo Zulu to AO2 Lionell Harris of HSM-46, our latest AO of the Quarter and AOC Aponte-Ramos from the Weapons Loading School in Mayport, our newest "Gunner" as of January 29, 2016.

We want to single out LCDR (USN Ret) Steve "Pocket Gunner" Steve Cashat for the outstanding Chapter website; AAO9.COM, take a look and check out his "look back" pictures, you may even recognize someone.

Consider joining the FRA (Fleet Reserve Association) if you are not already a member. The FRA membership consist of active duty, retired and veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. This organization is one of our main voices in Washington lobbying Congressional Representatives to make changes to laws that affect us all.

Our Chapter goal each year is to donate \$2000.00 to AAO scholarships. We do this to honor CDR Floyd English. Floyd is a member of the AAO Hall of Fame and was a guiding influence in the AO field for many years.

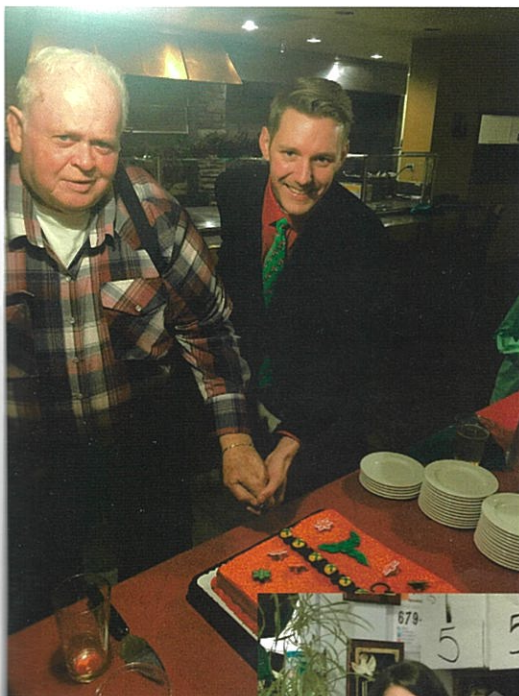
Remember all the "Ordies" to include the deployed and their families, as they project freedom to preserve our peace. Stay safe, follow the check list, and look out for each other. Until next time, IYAOYAS!!!

# CHAPTER 3

Fellow Ordies!!! Greeting's from Chapter 3

We had a great year, the annual Summer Picnic was a blast and fun for the whole family with lots of door prizes, nobody left empty handed. It was also a pleasure to have the FORCE Gun Boss and FORCE OHO come to September's meeting during their visit to Whidbey Island. VAQ-138 pro-loaded for them during their visit and they observed VP-40's CWTPI and both load teams rocked it!! We ended the year with our annual Holiday Party. It was fun for the whole family we had a white elephant gift exchange and a few raffles.

We would like to thank everyone that supported the Chapter this year. Chapter 3 completed 8 park clean ups for the Adopt-a-Park, 4 road side clean ups for the Adopt-a-Highway, 80 hours as fire and security watch at the Langley Fair and 10 hours at the Whidbey Island help house distributing food to families in need during the Holidays. We would like to say thank you to everyone that could not make it while deployed fighting the fight IYAOYAS.





Happy New Year,

I want to congratulate all of our new officers that were elected and sworn in at the last convention. I look forward to all of our endeavors and know that we will do a great job supporting our AO's. I also want to say a very big THANK YOU to past and present officers. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without each and every one of your efforts. It is so greatly appreciated.

I hope everyone had a nice holiday season. I can't believe it's already 2016. It feels like we were in Reno just yesterday. The time is just going to quickly these days.

We had our planning meeting this past weekend in Laughlin, Nevada and it was a great turn out. We took care of lots of business and still made time for some fun. One of the items we discussed definitely needs fanfare and a spotlight. Since the auxiliary started raising money for the Robert L Crow Scholarship, we have donated over \$125,000. For those of you that have ever purchased anything at auction, ever bought anything from our table, or ever played one of our games, We Salute You!

Thank you to all of you that support the Taste Of Home program. Dottie puts her heart into that program and our deployed sailors and marines love the fact that they are always in our thoughts.

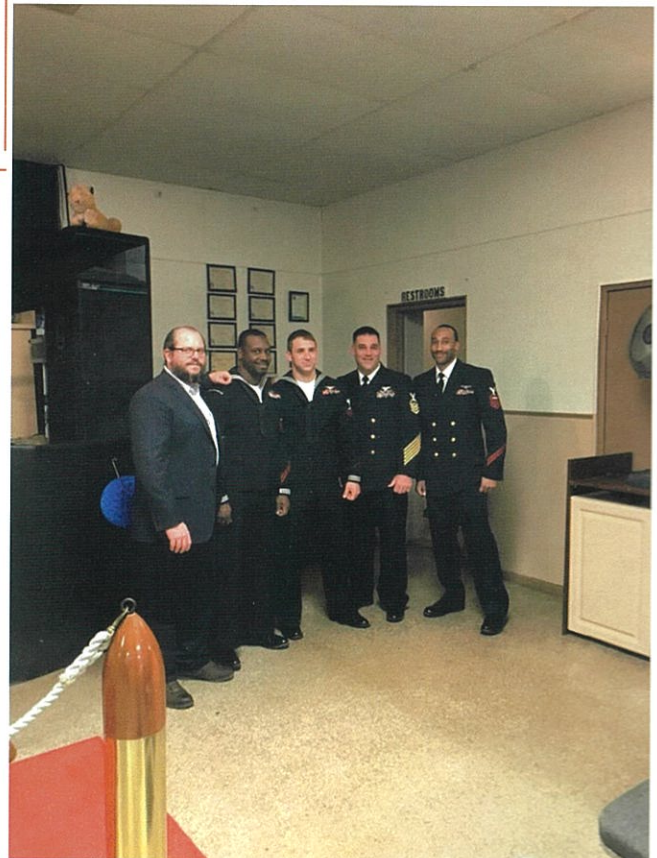
We will be celebrating the Auxiliary's 25th Anniversary this year at convention. And the Association will be celebrating their 40th. We have lots planned this year so please join us. I can pretty much guarantee you will have a great time. If you would like to donate something special to the Auction it would be much appreciated. We will have games again this year for you all to play and win lots of prizes so come join us and let's make a difference.

Teresa Zimmer  
AAAO President

**AOC (AW) Christopher Shawn Thompson's Retirement**



**CWO3 Rey Chevalier Retirement**



# The Red Shirt

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