

VC-12 VOICE

Volume 4 Issue 4

August 2002

Special Points of Interest

- *A message from your chairman on page one brings up some points to ponder before the reunion.*
- *WELCOME MAT begins on page two and has thirty-one newly located shipmates! Much improved since the last issue.*
- *MAIL CALL begins on page three. There are several letters requesting to hear from fellow shipmates. Hope you can respond to them.*
- *Also in MAILCALL are some facts to combat the rash of e-mail stories that are not based on truth. How many of them have you heard?*
- *Did you know Captain Kangaroo was a Korean War hero? Read the letter from Bob Marvin on page four.*
- *Although too late for Memorial Day 2002, you may want to keep the poem that begins on page five for reading on Memorial Day 2003.*
- *Information on how to obtain the new handbook of Veteran Benefits is on page six.*
- *On the lighter side, page six has some truths for different stages of life. Can you relate?*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Shipmates,

There is still time to join us in **Newport 19-22 September** for our next Reunion. Contact Military Locator Reunion Services (MLRS) and select which package suits you. We will be just across the Narragansett Bay from our old squadron at NAS Quonset Point. Some of us plan to go over to the old Officers Club at Quonset on Friday night to join the other group for their reunion dinner.

During the past two years, I have served as VC-12/VAW-12 chairman; I have had both positive and negative experiences. I will only dwell only on the positive experiences.

MLRS makes the chair's job easier because they update our roster, publish our newsletter, promote and arrange our Reunions. For this, I am thankful. Hardly a week goes by that I receive several phone calls, e-mails, or "snail mails" responses from former VC-12/VAW-12 shipmates. Military Locators submits articles in military and civilian publications all over the US throughout the year. I am able to steer our shipmates to the MLRS Website to roster register so they will receive our next newsletter, as well as read the squadron information on the MLRS Website.

Two years ago, when you first selected me as your chair, I sensed that we needed a two-year vision plan to help us focus on the 5 things I heard you discussing at our meetings in Norfolk 2000. Those 5 action items were:

1. Contact Military Locators to inform them of our 2001 Reunion

plans for Charleston, SC to see if we have their support.

2. Urge present rostered members to help build the mailing and email list to our goal of 400 rostered members.

3. Build a VC-12/VAW-12 Website to promote our activities, stories, pictures, Memorabilia, and Reunions.

4. Contact the Quonset Point Group to inform them of our attentions to promote and attend their 2002 Reunion.

5. Feature our upcoming Reunion for the 2001 Charleston, SC and their September 20, 2002 Quonset Point Reunion in our newsletter.

I believe we will soon have completed all of the actions items except for the VC-12/VAW-12 Webster. The Webster takes more financial resources that we have in our treasury. Some might have noticed that we sometimes run with a negative balance in our treasury as published in our quarterly newsletter (VC-12 Voice). As you begin to prepare for the September Reunion in Newport, think of where you want our group to be in the future years. We will have an opportunity to discuss your concerns and select a new chair at our Reunion meetings in Newport. Who will lead you and where do you want to go? Our west coast sister squadron, VC-13/VAW-13, also holds Reunions and might entertain holding a combined Reunion with us in the future.

Ed Seykowski, CWO4, USNR Ret
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STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The VC-12 VOICE is the official publication of the VC-12/VAW-12 Association. From now on it will be published quarterly in February, May, August and November, *subject to receiving sufficient funding*. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. All members are encouraged to support the voice of the VC-12/VAW-12. A financial statement appears in each issue of the newsletter.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another shipmate will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations and grammar.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

SEE WHAT YOU STILL CAN DO!

American artist "Grandma" Moses didn't start painting full time until she was over 70 years old. Still, before her death, she completed 1,600 paintings.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON LINE

The Newsletter for the VC-12/VAW-12 reunion is available to download from the Military Locator & Reunion Service Inc web site.

Please visit our web site at www.mlrsinc.com, then follow the link labeled Reunions, then scroll down until you see the listing for the VC-12/VAW-12. Click on the button labeled Newsletters, and in a few minutes the newsletter should appear on your screen. This will only work if you have Adobe Reader 4.0 or higher. You can also download this viewer for free from our web site.

If this works for you and you would like to receive all future mailings from us in this method, please send me an e-mail requesting to subscribe to the VC-12/VAW-12 E-mail Roster. Each time something new is available, we will send you an e-mail informing you something new is available on the web site. **Please let us know if your e-mail address changes so you don't miss any important information.**

To subscribe to the VC-12/VAW-12 E-mail Roster please send an e-mail to SubscribeMLRS@aol.com, put the phrase SUBSCRIBE VC-12/VAW-12 in the Subject line and type your name and e-mail address in the body of your e-mail. You will be placed in the e-mail roster.

Your name and postal mailing address will remain in our computers and will appear on all mailing lists, etc distributed to other members of your group.

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Our Reunions Work So You Don't Have To

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance after 05/02 issue

\$84.66

Funds received since 05/02 issue

\$285.00

Total available for 08/02 issue

\$369.66

Expended for 08/02 issue

\$219.58

Balance for 11/02 issue

\$150.08

Funds will be needed for the next issue.

WELCOME MAT



The following shipmates were just located. Welcome aboard. If we missed anyone, please accept our apology. Let us know and you'll be listed in the next issue. We want to urge you to become a contributing member of the group and hope to see you at the 2002 Reunion in Newport.

Harold Davidson (1950-51) AL3

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(Continued on page 3)

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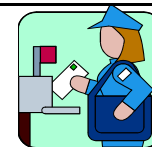


TAPS

The Voice has learned of the following shipmates' deaths since the last newsletter. Not all deaths are recent, but they were just learned of. Our deepest sympathy goes to the families and friends of the deceased. Anyone who knows or learns of a shipmate's death, you are requested to notify the newsletter so that person can be listed in TAPS.

Jack Phillippi
Died October 21, 2000

Charles Crabill (CO 1957-60)
Died April 2000



MAIL CALL

Ahoy Mate,

I just got VC-12 Voice. The whole story about the newsletter is well done. Several years ago, when I first started the group, there were only about 12 to 15 members. Everyone was happy to have me run the show, but I made two decisions—one, the attending members would select the place for the next year's reunion and the other was that ML&RS would handle all arrangements for the reunions. The people could fill out a critic sheet and hand them in at the end or mail them to the ML&RS for follow-up. After we had a reunion, we had an idea to write a newsletter. Now I could not do it and no one volunteered, so we asked ML&RS to do it. Of course, they had to be reimbursed for the efforts. At first some of the members

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gave money to help. Now we are having problems with this procedure. I have a couple of suggestions—sell subscriptions or organize the group and collect dues (these things can be discussed at the Newport Reunion).

You can send this to the newsletter and they can post, or if you want to hold it for Newport, it's OK with me.

See you in Sept.

Bob Marvin

Dina,

Thank you for the registration info, but will not be able to attend due to my wife's health.

If possible, I would appreciate a note in the newsletter to the effect—"Would like to hear from any VC-12 person that went to Korea on the Boxer during the summer of 1950 or knew any of the crew that did."

Robert Hokkanen
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Thank you. Always look forward to reading the newsletters.

Sincerely,
Bob Hokkanen

Dear Bob:

Are there many plank owners that attend these reunions? I would like to be kept informed of the Squadron reunion plans. My phone number is 850-837-3725. I don't answer blocked calls and unfortunately that probably includes cell phone calls, but if anyone remembers me and wishes to contact me, I would be happy to respond.

Best wishes for a successful reunion. Let all the Old Timers know that I responded. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Clifford Barnes, ATCS-Ret

Gentlemen,

Enclosed is a check to support your publication. It brings back many fond memories. My VC-12 days ran from 5/49 through 4/52, including two Med. cruises.

Ed Seydowski and John Lovric's letters created a wave of nostalgia. I located my flight log book. I have managed to maintain contact with a few of our shipmates. In fact, Jesse Saxon lived with us for two years after his discharge.

I married a Providence girl, Mary Lou McHugh, in June of '51. We celebrated our 50th last year.

Ed Regner, Lyle Greenman and Herb Brende are in our phone book.

Thanks to your publication, I located H. B. Sanders, before he passed away in January.

Years ago I worked with my former Skipper, Cmdr. Allan Shinn. He served as a trustee for one of our troubled companies. He had no reason to remember me, but VC-12 proved a real common bond.

If anyone has knowledge of where I might locate that "Big Swede" Carlson, let me know. He was a good friend and a member of our wedding party.

Looking forward to visiting with many old friends at the reunion.

Jim Clark AT2
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818-222-7905

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH VC-12/VAW-12

I reported to VC-12 in August, 1959. Got married in Sept, 1950. Was selected to go on the Med. cruise May, 1951, USS Oriskany. Came back and, not looking forward to the next long cruise, I saw an opportunity. The USS Midway was making a six-week North Sea cruise. The Navy was showing DOD that the air bases were not needed in Norway and Sweden to combat the Russians. We could do it from carriers. Well, in the autumn, the North Sea is not calm. I think that we flew three days during that period. OK, we returned and the skipper said, "Say

guys, you have operated on this ship and it is going on a seven month Med. cruise, so you will go." Exactly one month after returning to shore, we were boarding the Midway at Norfolk. The so-called buddies that I talked into that weren't very friendly after that. I stayed in the squadron until 1955, went to shore duty and B School, then returned in 1958. Made chief and was assigned a Det. which operated from the USS Independence. We made the "shakedown" cruise on that ship from Brooklyn Navy Yard to the Caribbean during which we had a murder and a riot on board. I was promoted to Ensign in June, 1960 and departed for Pensacola. This squadron was the best part of my 30-year career.

Ed Harmon
CDR, USN (Ret)
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THE REST OF THE STORY

A True Story submitted by Bob Marvin

Some people have been offended that Lee Marvin is buried in Arlington Cemetery with three and four star generals. His marker gives his name and rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else—only famous movie star.

Here is the amazing answer in dialog from a "Johnny Carson Show."

Johnny said, "Lee, I'll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima and earned the Navy Cross (only one higher was the Medal of Honor). How was it?"

He said, "I got shot square in the ass and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot half way up Suri-bachi. Johnny, at Iwo Jima I served with the bravest man I ever knew. We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap. The dumb bastard actually stood up on Red Beach directing troops. Sergeant

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and I have been life long friends. When they brought me off Suribachi, we passed Sergeant and he lit a smoke. Well, Bob, if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the out house. Johnny, I'm not lying... Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew.

...the world knows him as Captain Kangaroo.

RUMORS

Submitted by Bob Marvin

Fellow Shipmates:

It seems that when a rumor starts it snowballs all over the country. I belong to Tin Can Sailors and there was an article in their newspaper that I would like to share with you.

We receive so many e-mails spreading false stories that I thought it would be worthwhile to set the record straight. Here are some of the stories and the facts.

Story: The haunting melody we know as "Taps" was found in the pocket of a dying Confederate soldier by a Union officer who happened to be the dying soldier's father.

Fact: About the only part of the story that is true is that "Taps" was written in 1862. It was actually composed by Union Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield, probably basing it on a French melody called "Tattoo."

Story: During testimony before a congressional committee in 1987, Oliver North said he needed a home security system because his family was threatened by a terrorist named Osama bin Laden.

Fact: Oliver North named Abu Nidal as the terrorist who made threats against him.

Story: When the Gold Star Mothers came to Washington, only one senator refused to meet with them: Hillary Clinton.

Fact: American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., deeply regret the misunder-

standing about Senator Hillary Clinton. The two mothers who visited Washington did not have an appointment with the Senator and she was not in her office that day. We would appreciate it if the e-mails and the negative comments about Senator Clinton would cease.

Story: During Jane Fonda's infamous visit to Hanoi in 1972, American POWs gave her slips of paper with their social security numbers on them. She gave those to the North Vietnamese guards who beat several of the POWs to death.

Fact: "Hanoi Jane" did some bad things, but this story is total fiction.

Story: On sailing ships, cannon balls were stored on a holder called a "brass monkey." If it got really cold, the difference in the contraction rates of the metals would make the cannon balls fall off; thus it was "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey."

Fact: You can just about visualize a couple of guys and a couple of six packs producing this story! Actually, there never was a device for holding cannon balls by that name.

Story: One of the Blue Angels jets carried a donor liver for a little girl named Crystal. To this day that jet carries her name.

Fact: We checked with the Blue Angels. There's no truth to the story.

Story: Congressman Tony Schnell has introduced Bill 602P to allow the federal government to impose a 5 cent surcharge on every e-mail sent. The money would be turned over to the U.S. Postal Service.

Fact: There is no such proposal. There is no Congressman Schnell.

Story: The Marines assigned to the presidential helicopter salute President Bush differently than they did President Clinton; the implication being that they have more respect for Bush.

Fact: The United States Marine Corps is too classy an outfit to engage in such petty antics. The Marine Corps

spokesman we contacted said there is "no truth to it at all."

Story: Cindy Williams, who formally starred in "Laverne & Shirley" wrote a letter to the editor saying the members of our armed forces are overpaid.

Fact: A person named Cindy Williams did write a letter to a newspaper in which she was critical of a proposed military pay raise, however, it was **NOT** the Cindy Williams who was on the TV show.

Let's hope this column will at least reduce the frequency with which these stories are repeated.

KW Veterans,

I wish to share a poem titled "Memorial Day" with you written by a combat veteran of the Chosin Reservoir. This Marine received multiple wounds and lost one eye at the reservoir. With the vision of one eye, his poem asks those of us with two eyes if we see what he sees!

Veteran, if you have the opportunity at a cemetery, read this poem at that Memorial Day ceremony you will be attending next May.

Look around, look around, "What do you see?"

A sunny day with our flag flying free.

A sky of blue with the world at play, Spring is here, "It's a holiday!"

Look around, look around, "What do you see?"

An old man and child overlooking the sea.

They stroll on the beach in search of a shell,

"This old man has lived in his own private hell."

His heart is heavy as he stares at the ground, he ponders his life as he looks around.

"Grandpa! ...Grandpa! There's a tear in you eye."

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Yeah! You're right my son,...Let me tell you why."

Look around, look around, "What do you see?"
People at play and filled with glee.
Many years ago when I was young,
I walked with "Heroes" that died with their songs unsung.

Look around, look around, "What do you see?"
The graves of these men that made us free.
Look up there! At our flag unfurled,
"These men died to save our world!"

I look at you and what do I see?"
My youth in you, living life so free.
I think of the price that we had to pay
and my hopes for you till my dying day,
are that you and my family will never know,
"The taste of war or the wounds from a foe!"

They say goodbye as he climbs the stairs,
"He's resigned to the fact that nobody cares."
Look around, look around, "What do you see?"
"Those men that gave us liberty!"

Nah!! It's spring and time to play,
It seems everyone forgot.."It's MEMORIAL DAY."

Semper Fi,
Bob Holtzer

NEW VA HANDBOOK UPDATES VETERANS BENEFITS

The following are ways to get it :

Download free VA web site
<<http://www.va.gov/opa/feature/>>

Phone: 866-512-1800 (Cost \$5.00)
Order by mail:
Government Print Office
Superintendent of Documents
PO Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954
(Stock # 051-000-00225-3) \$5.00

Submitted by Bob Marvin

GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

1. No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
2. When your mother is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
3. If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
4. Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
5. You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
6. Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
7. Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
8. You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
9. Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
10. The best place to be when you're sad is Grandpa's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don't hurt.
3. Families are like fudge... mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4. Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
5. Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the joy.

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

1. Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
2. Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
3. When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
4. You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
5. It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
6. Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
7. Wisdom come with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

FOUR STAGES OF LIFE:

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success is...not peeing in your pants.

At age 12 success is...having friends.

At age 16 success is... having a driver's license.

At age 20 success is...having sex.

At age 35 success is...having money.

At age 50 success is ...having money.

At age 60 success is...having sex.

At age 70 success is...having a driver's license.

At age 75 success is...having friends.

At age 80 success is...not peeing in your pants.