



# VPB-111/VP-21 VAGABOND NEWS

www.VP-21.org, and www.VPB-111.org

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**John G. Esposito, Editor**

**SUMMER EDITION 2011**

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## **A MESSAGE FROM THE LEFT SEAT:**

Summer time is a period of rest and relaxation (not counting gardening, lawn mowing, house painting and repairs, etc.) and not much else. As a result, there's a dearth of news regarding our Association.

One thing of note is that Tiny Ledford, with the able help of his wife, Mary, has officially taken over as our Association's Treasurer.

Bill Kearney is getting things going regarding the 2013 Reunion that will be held in Virginia Beach. I'll provide more news about that as it develops.

It appears that the Brunswick Naval Museum, planned for the former NASB, may actually reach fruition. At our reunion business meeting it was decided that if development of the museum is successful, our Association will contribute our collection of squadron artifacts to the facility. Funds will be needed to get the Museum up and running. A contribution of \$60+ will make you a "Member." A contribution of \$160+ will make you a "Founding Member" and will get your name on the Museum's web site ([www.brunswicknavalmuseum.org](http://www.brunswicknavalmuseum.org)) and on a permanent marker at the Museum. Contributions are tax deductible and should be sent to:

Brunswick Naval Museum and Memorial Gardens  
P.O. Box 943  
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Keep safe.

Bill

## **DONATIONS RECEIVED:**

No donations were reported during this quarter.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association charges no dues. Our operations are totally supported by the generous contributions of our membership, and by the sale of our squadron products. The association comes under section 501(C) 19, of the Internal Revenue Code as a "Not for Profit" organization. As such, contributions are legitimate tax deductions. Please make your contribution checks payable to the "VPB-111/VP-21 Veterans Association" and forward them to the Treasurer, Leland Ledford, 127 Pete St., Waterloo, SC, 29384-4647.

## **TAPS:**

It is with deep regret that I make mention of the passing of our following shipmates:

- Stephan Armstrong, CMDR. Passed away on 25 January, 2011. Cause of death was stroke. Served in VP 21 from 62' to 64'.
- Ronald Tewars, age 79. Served in the Korean War from '51 to '55. Passed away on 19 May, 2011. No other details are available.
- Ralph Handley. Served in the US Navy for 24 years. Passed away at the age of 73 on 2 April, 2011.
- Melvin Tracy. Served in VPB 111 from '44 to '45. He was a second class Radioman. He died of complication from diabetes.
- Henry J. Rosler, age 92. Passed away on Monday, Feb.7, 2011. He was a proud Navy Veteran in WWII. No other details are available.
- John Carvito. Served in VP21 from '57 to '61. Other details are unknown.
- George DeMatteis of Winston, GA. George passed away on May 3, 2011. Other details are unknown.
- Frank W. Higgins. Served in VP 21 from '55 to '57. Believed to have passed away 6 Feb 2006.
- Tom Dickson. Served in VP 21 from '50 to '54. He also served in the US Marines during WWII. He passed away 10 July, 2011. He is survived by his wife Jean. Tom was buried with full military honors in the Washington Crossing Cemetery in PA.

May they rest in peace.

## **WELCOME (BACK) ABOARD:**

- James Joslin, LTJG, served in VP 21 from '60 to '62.  
He commented that "If anyone is in the Boston, New York, or Bath-Brunswick area, he would like an opportunity to latch-up".  
His home address is: 145 Forest St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481-6811  
Phone: 617 210-6700 • Email: [jl.joslin@comcast.net](mailto:jl.joslin@comcast.net)
- LCDR Bruce Ford. No other details are known.
- Chris Jorgensen, AW3. Served in VP21 from 1966-1969. He now resides in Dahlenega, Georgia

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE WEBMASTER:**

This Independence Day marks the one year anniversary of my assumption of the roll of Webmaster. Frank Balogh created and brought the website online in the Fall of 2002, and he maintained it until his passing in September, 2009. We are eternally grateful for Frank's achievement and the website remains as a memorial to him.

It has been a challenging, but enjoyable learning experience, and I plan to continue the good work that Frank started.

All hands are encouraged to visit the website regularly at [www.VP-21.org](http://www.VP-21.org) to stay up to date between Vagabond editions.

I welcome any suggestions and ideas which could improve the website. It is my intention and charter to make the site useful and enjoyable for all of our members. Please contact me at my

email address Webmaster@VP-21.org.

“Fair Winds and Following Seas” to all.

Herm “Smitty” Schmidt • 3404 Red Tailed Hawk Dr. • Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952 • 772-621-4503

**From the Storekeeper:** Carter Nute has nothing to report for this quarter.

**From the Online Coordinator:**

Taking the membership from the “”snail mail roster””, and arraying that data by state, I found that we currently have 1,132 members living in 47 states, and two provinces of Canada. Not represented as having any former VPB-111’ers or VP-21’ers are the states of Hawaii, North and South Dakota where, I guess, it’s just too darn cold or hot (I’ve been to both North and South Dakota, and they are really quite nice).

Alabama	15	Nebraska	8
Alaska	3	Nevada	12
Arizona	17	New Brunswick, Canada	1
Arkansas	9	New Hampshire	23
California	59	New Jersey	25
Colorado	17	New Mexico	2
Connecticut	22	New York	41
Delaware	4	North Carolina	34
District of Columbia	1	North Dakota	0
Florida	183	Ohio	44
Georgia	25	Oklahoma	8
Hawaii	0	Oregon	11
Idaho	1	Pennsylvania	69
Illinois	33	Quebec Canada	1
Indiana	17	Rhode Island	7
Iowa	7	South Carolina	14
Kansas	9	South Dakota	0
Kentucky	8	Tennessee	25
Louisiana	1	Texas	46
Maine	82	Utah	6
Maryland	25	Vermont	1
Massachusetts	26	Virginia	59
Michigan	29	Washington	14
Minnesota	22	West Virginia	10
Mississippi	14	Wisconsin	19
Missouri	17	Wyoming	3
Montana	3	TOTAL	1132

Dan Dwyer

**VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION**  
255 Mere Point Rd.  
Brunswick, ME 04011

**Non-profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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**Permit #61**  
**Southampton, PA**

**Return Service Requested**

## **SUMMER 2011**

### **VPB-111/VP-21 VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

*A non-profit, fraternal, and historical association devoted to the reestablishment of contact with shipmates of the past, to strengthen the camaraderie among its members, to record and preserve the memories and incidents of the Association, to preserve the memory of departed shipmates, and to promote the comfort and welfare of its members and survivors. No dues are assessed!*

*Directors:*

- *Dunlap, Harry, Director, 55427 Pine Grove Ave., Norfolk, VA 32502*
- *Dwyer, Dan, Online Coordinator, Director, #6 Sarah Liberty Lane, Scarborough, ME 04074*
- *Esposito John G., Editor/Director, 862 Central Ave., Southampton, PA 18966*
- *La Fontaine, Edward, Museum Director, 161 Jackson Dr., Frankfort, KY 40601*
- *Locke, William Chairman, 255 Mere Point Rd., Brunswick, ME 04011*
- *Nelson Robert, Special Projects, 49 Woodland Drive, Tequesta FL 33469*
- *Novay , Ron, Director, 7775 Lake Hardeman Rd., Saulsburry, TN 38067*
- *Nute, Carter, Storekeeper/Director, 7605 NW 50th ST., Gainesville, FL 32653-1137*
- *Ledford, Leland, Treasurer/Director, 127 Pete St., Waterloo, SC 29384-4647*
- *Schuster, Fred, Dir/Historian/Director, 2713Cabin Creek Rd., Edwardsville, IL,62025*
- *Schmidt, Herman, Webmaster/Director,3404 Red Tailed Hawk Dr., Port Saint Lucie, FL34952*
- *Webb, Richard, Director, 219 Montoya Dr., Lady Lake, FL 32159-8642*
- *Woods, Dale, Director, 5480 W. Arrowhead Lake Dr. Glendale, AZ 85306*

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