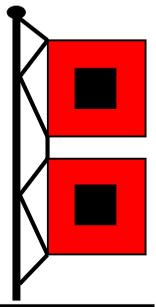


# HURRICANE HUNTERS NEWSLETTER



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## From the President's Desk

Now that the "Spooky Season" is over I would like to take this opportunity to wish all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May GOD bless each and all so that we may have a great and wonderful time with Friends and Loved Ones....

We had a great 2019 Reunion this year. 2019 was a good year for the squadron. We accomplished a lot of good stuff. I am most proud of our JAX team as they put together a monument that symbolized all that we have accomplished from the beginning in 1943 until our decommissioning in 1975. It was dedicated to all who have served in this great squadron and all of our great deeds and accomplishments. It was installed in the Static Display Area of NAS Jax, so that all who visit will be reminded for generations to come who we were and what we have done.

After a lot of discussion and a vote, it was decided that the 2020 Reunion will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on the Riverwalk in downtown Jacksonville, Florida. We had tried to have it in Pensacola, Florida, but due to all the new regulations installed at the Museum, it was ruled out. The biggest hurdle was everyone who wanted to attend the Banquet inside the museum would have to have been registered with a photo ID card, and we (the organization ) would be required to fund a background check for each and every one in attendance, and that all had to be done by July 15, 2020. It was too much to overcome.

It has been a sad year for me. As President, I have the sad duty to report the TAPS section. This past year I have or are about to post four of the members of the squadron who are now on Eternal Patrol. (YES, I did steal this line from the Submariner Creed, but I find it appropriate in this circumstance.) I knew them personally and flew with them and have known them for at least 55

Years. Two of the one's are people that have contributed so much to this organization. Captain Walter Reese, who was our Commanding Officer and the leader of the Pensacola detachment, and AESC William (Bill) Reynolds. For a very long time he was the one who ran the memorabilia section and was such a great friend to one and all.

Gentleman, we have a very important decision to make: Will the squadron and this organization continue past 2020? It is a decision that will be voted on at the All Hands Meeting at the 2020 Reunion. Does everyone want to go on even though our membership is now starting to decline at an alarming rate. I talked to the management of the Doubletree Hotel and advised them of our situation. Since we have been so loyal to them for the last six years or so, the manager of the contract department told me that they are willing to let us continue with the same benefits as we have now as long as we desire regardless of the number we have in attendance. They realize our predicament and are willing to proceed under our current contract with them.

2020 is also our time for the election of Board of Directors and Officers. It occurs every five years according to our bylaws. It is when the membership gets to vote on who they will be happy with running the organization for the next five years. So, start planning your trip to Jacksonville and think hard and thoughtfully about our upcoming election. I would like to see as many members as possible attending this reunion, as it is going to be crucial to the survival or dissolution of the organization. Your presence is vital, and so is your input.

Be Kind to one another and may GOD bless.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Ennis R. Eaton

President

US Navy Hurricane Hunters

## Hunters Monument At JAX Has Become A Reality



*Hurricane Hunters Monument in the Aircraft Static Display Park aboard Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida.*

Thanks to the guidance of our President E.R. Eaton and the year-long hard work and dedication of Vice President Juan Blanco, Secretary Arvid Nelson, and Director Gary Polletta, the Hurricane Hunters Monument described in the last edition of the Newsletter has become a reality.

The monument dedication presided over by President E.R. Eaton took place on Friday morning, October 12, 2019, during our annual reunion at the Aircraft Static Display Park aboard Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida. A number of Hunters were in attendance to hear NAS Jacksonville's Executive Officer CAPT Jeff Hill's informative and inspiring speech. Following the dedication ceremonies, CAPT Hill stayed on for quite some time fielding questions, asking questions of his own about flying into hurricanes, and in general swapping sea stories with fellow pilots and air crewmembers.

The monument, manufactured by the Southern Monument Company and pictured above, is a two feet by four feet slab of granite that tapers in thickness from four inches at the bottom to six inches at the top. Engraved into the smooth, gray granite face is "U. S. Navy Hurricane Hunters" on one line and "1943 - 1975" below that. On the left side is a cast bronze disk depicting the five different planes flown by the Hurricane Hunters over the lifetime of the squadron. On the right side is a rectangular cast bronze plaque roughly twelve

inches by eighteen inches bearing the following inscription:

"Hurricane Hunters"

There is much that can be said about the aircraft which the hurricane hunter's aircrews flew into storms where others "feared to venture." The men who designed and built them as well as the men who maintained them must share in the credit for ensuring the successful completion of every mission these intrepid aircrews were asked to fly.

These U.S. Navy Personnel performed their mission from 1943 until decommissioning in 1975. They leave behind a legacy which will probably never be equaled or surpassed. Bravo Zulu (well done) Hurricane Hunters

VPB-14, VPW-3, VPM-3, VPHL-3,  
VP-23, VX-4, VJ-2, VW-4

The Hurricane Hunters Monument is an everlasting tribute to the men and women who flew into harms way and the men and women whose dedicated efforts ensured their safe return. We all can be justly proud of our monument and all it represents.

### HURRICANE HUNTERS, INC.

A non-profit Florida corporation 501.c.19

#### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	E.R. Eaton
VICE PRESIDENT	Juan Blanco
SECRETARY	Arvid Nelson
TREASURER	Byron Biddle
DIRECTOR	Gary Polletta
DIRECTOR	J.D. Manion
DIRECTOR	Paul Tilson

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Paul Tilson

Newsletter is published three times annually. Association dues are \$25.00 annually payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> or thereafter.

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## TAPS

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Hurricane Hunters who have joined fellow shipmates on the Eternal Patrol.

LCDR Gerald (Jerry) W. Dorn passed on September 14, 2019. He was a Patrol Plane Commander (PPC) in VW-4 1964 – 1966.

LCDR Ralph Peter Gutzler passed on January 8, 2018. Lt. Gutzler flew as a CICO 1961 – 1964.

ADRC Hanson. Reported by his wife with no further details.

ADRC James P. Hatfield passed in May, 2011. Reported by his wife Judy Hatfield

Walter S. Jones passed in December, 2018. Walt served on Willy Victor Crews with VW-4 and VW-2 from 1951 – 1955. He attended several past Hurricane Hunter Reunions. Reported by “Woody” Weidemeyer.

Sandra Joy Nailor, former wife of Kerwin Nailor, passed on April 23, 2019.

Capt. Walter (Walt) Reese passed on September 12, 2019. He was Commanding Officer of VW-4 1965 – 1966. Reported by his son, Chuck Reese, CAPT MC USN (Ret)

AESC William (Bill) Reynolds passed on June 18 2019. Bill served two tours in VW-4, 1962 – 1964 and 1970 – 1973.

CDR Paul Lloyd Siverly passed on June 24, 2019. He was Commanding Officer of VW-4 1071 – 1972.

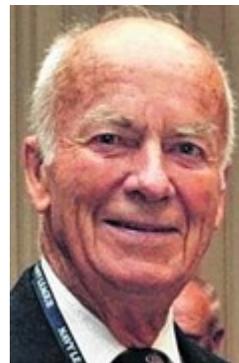
## Hurricane Hunters 2020 Reunion May Be The Last

Attendees at the 2020 Hurricane Hunters Reunion will be tasked with continuing the organization and reunions beyond the year 2020 or dissolving Hurricane Hunters, Incorporated. If the

membership’s decision is to continue the organization and reunions, the second decision for the membership is whether to continue with the present leadership or to replace one or more of the Officers and Directors.

As our President urged in his column on Page One, please give deep thought to the decisions facing the membership at the 2020 reunion. All Hunters are encouraged to attend this important event.

## Walter H. Reese, Former CO, Dead At 94



CAPT Walter H Reese, USN (Ret), long-time resident of Milton, Florida, passed away peacefully on the 12th of September, four days after his 94th birthday.

Walt was born Buchanan, Michigan. He met his future wife, Mary Margaret McNeal, in 1942 when they were seniors at Buchanan High School. Shortly after Walt received his Navy wings, he and Mary were married in Buchanan. They were married for almost 72 years when she passed away in April, 2018.

Walt and Mary had three boys, Steve, Chuck and Bob. Walt shared with his boys and larger family his love of God, love of the outdoors, and his commitment to caring for every community that they lived in because of their many Navy moves.

Captain Reese was a 30-year career Naval Aviator with 12,600 hours of flight time. During 1965 and 1966 he served as Commanding Officer of the U.S. Navy’s Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Four (VW-4). Following his retirement from the Navy, he devoted eleven years teaching as the Senior Naval Science instructor at the Milton High School NJROTC unit. He was active in the Navy League, holding offices at local and national levels, advocating on behalf of the maritime services to members of government at all levels- local, regional and national.

*(See “Walter H. Reese, Former CO, Dead At 94” on Page Four)*

## Walter H. Reese, Former CO, Dead At 94

*(Continued from Page Three)*

He was an active elder, teacher, choir member, and youth advisor in the Presbyterian Church.

Captain Reese spent countless volunteer hours with among other organizations the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce where he was twice honored as their "Man of the Year."

He is survived by his sister, Joyce Stombaugh, his three sons and their wives, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

## "Mr. Memorabilia" AESC Bill Reynolds Passes At 84



AESC William I. "Bill" Reynolds passed away on June 18, 2019. He was an early member of the Hurricane Hunters organization, but he is best remembered as Mr. Memorabilia.

Bill designed, had manufactured, and sold for many years at fair prices at Hurricane Hunters reunions hats, coffee mugs, shirts, jackets, license plate frames, pins, patches, and other items bearing VW-4 insignia or Hurricane Hunters logos

He is also remembered for his pet parrot that he brought along to every reunions. Senior Chief Reynolds served two tours in VW-4, the first from 1962 to 1964 and the second from 1970 to 1973.

Following his 30-year Navy career, he retired to crescent City, Florida, where he was an active member of Masonic Lake Lodge #72, a member of the Crescent City Moose Lodge, and a life member of the Morocco Shrine Club. Bill was very active in the Lake Como Community Association, attended Lake Como Community of Hope and supported the NRA and Fleet Reserve.

Bill is survived by son Rick Reynolds, daughter Helen Reynolds Sullivan, and son-in-law Phil Sullivan, all of Jacksonville, Florida, and granddaughter Emily Fox of Wilmington, North Carolina.

## Former CO Paul Siverly Dies In Pensacola At 86



Retired Naval Aviator Paul Lloyd Siverly, 86, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" on Monday, June 24, 2019.

Commander Siverly was born in Martinsville, Illinois, and reared just down the road in Marshall. As a farm boy, his greatest joy was to lie in the fields and watch military planes overhead.

As a teen, he met his wife-to-be, Cecelia Ann Spencer, of Chicago, who ironically loved to watch planes take off and land at O'Hare Airport, and married her on Valentine's Day in 1952. Ann then joined Paul at Eastern Illinois University, where he studied physics, and she worked in the business office.

Upon graduation, Paul joined the Navy where he received his Wings of Gold in Pensacola in 1956. In his Navy career, he flew 26 different aircraft and amassed over 10,000 flight hours. During that career, he served as Commanding Officer of the U.S. Navy's Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Four (VW-4).

He volunteered his time with Lutheran Blind Mission and served homeless breakfast at Immanuel Lutheran Church. Paul shared his military knowledge as a tour guide at the National Naval Aviation Museum where he could be counted on to recall the most minute facts on a variety of aircraft.

Paul is survived by five children: Cheryl Hodaba of Poughkeepsie, New York; Kevin Siverly of Daphne, Alabama; and Brian Siverly, Lani Suchcicki, Michael Siverly, all of Pensacola, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.