



## ANA PATRIOT SQUADRON - SHEA NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM QUARTERLY MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

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**A 501c3 Non-Profit Educational Organization**

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Welcome to the latest edition of the ANA Patriot Squadron and Shea Naval Aviation Museum Quarterly Members' Newsletter. This newsletter is distributed via e-mail on or about the first day of March, June, September, and December. The purpose of the newsletter is to help familiarize members who can't attend our monthly meetings with what's happening within the squadron and at the museum and perhaps inspire everyone to take a more active role in this organization.

### **RECENT NEWS:**

After more than two years of meeting remotely, and in recent months at the Weymouth Public Library and at the Fairing Way over-55 community at Union Point, the Southfield Redevelopment Authority gave us permission to start using their meeting room at Union Point again effective Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>. This was our traditional meeting place for many years. For the benefit of members who live outside the Weymouth area and for those persons who are for whatever reason unable to make it to the meetings, we will continue to try to "broadcast" the meetings using the Zoom Internet based virtual meeting service. However, going forward we will meet in person and use the Zoom service merely to allow those who can't make it in person to participate. After the meetings, members generally go out to lunch at Warren's Place, a restaurant near old Naval Air Station South Weymouth.

The two photos presented on the following page show Patriot Squadron members at our first in-person meeting at The Southfield Redevelopment Authority meeting room on Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> and the members who ended up going out to lunch at Warren's Place afterwards. The woman next to the laptop computer and display monitor is Bob Muise's daughter Ann, who has been very helpful for the past few months in making the virtual meetings possible from a technical perspective.







On Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> the Patriot Squadron held its annual holiday luncheon at the Abington Ale House restaurant on Route 18 in Abington, MA. This is the same place that we have been holding this event for the past ten years or so. Despite the snowy weather, 23 Patriot Squadron members and their guests attended this event, and everybody who came had a very good time.





Since our last newsletter we have raised a total of \$23,267.92 to put towards the A-4B Skyhawk aircraft and Shea Memorial Grove sign restoration projects. In recent months donations have slowed dramatically. Since our last report on fund-raising we received a single check for \$50 from Edwin and Diane Murray of Fairing Way at Union Point.

The image presented below, which shows the sign that faces out on Shea Memorial Drive, is representative of the generally poor condition of all the large blue signs positioned around the park and demonstrates why we need to get them restored or replaced. The large patches of peeling paint are obvious, but what you can't really see in this photo is that the wooden posts have deteriorated to such an extent that the sign is no longer perpendicular to the ground and is standing at an angle.



The RFP Committee has put together first draft RFPs covering the aircraft and the signs. These will be finalized soon and the objective is to get them out by the end of March and be in a position to pick vendors and get the work started as soon as the weather improves sufficiently to begin painting.

It is our hope to get the aircraft and the signs completed by the end of the summer. If we accomplish this, we intend to have a public rededication ceremony at the Shea Memorial Grove on Veteran's Day weekend. We'll invite the news media and local politicians and attempt to make an event out of it just like we did with the SFC Jared Monti memorial dedication ceremony we held a few years ago.

As you should know, the ANA Patriot Squadron is the Boston area affiliate of a much larger national group called the Association of Naval Aviation. That's where the "ANA" in ANA Patriot Squadron comes from. Although we do not require Patriot Squadron members to also join the national group, we highly encourage you to do so. One of the benefits of Association of Naval Aviation membership is their quarterly magazine, which is called "Wings of Gold". Our membership director, Wally Massenburg, is a retired Navy Vice Admiral. Among his many military achievements he was a P-3 Orion pilot and he commanded a VP squadron, Patrol Squadron Six. Wally was, at one time I believe, the president of the Association of Naval Aviation, and he still serves on their board of directors. He had a very interesting article printed in the Winter issue of Wings of Gold, under the "Board of Directors Spotlight" section, entitled, "Meaningful Teaming Works". Articles such as these are one of the main reasons why everybody should seriously consider joining the national group. For more information, go to [anahq.org](http://anahq.org) on the Internet.

### **COMING UP:**

The new director of the USS Salem museum recently contacted us. She offered to turn over many items that they have in storage that came from NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. We're going to hold our May member's meeting on board the USS Salem on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>. The meeting on the USS Salem will allow us to discuss this matter and other subjects that may be of mutual benefit to both organizations. It would be beneficial to have as many members as possible at this meeting. If you want to attend, and again we highly encourage you to do so, show up at the USS Salem between 10:30 and 11 AM and tell the people at the ticket booth that you are there for the Patriot Squadron meeting so you won't be charged the admission fee.

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum is planning another base reunion at old NAS Brunswick, ME over the weekend of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> in 2023. There will be activities planned every day with a schedule to be announced early next year. The main events, including a new England lobster bake, will be on Saturday. The last NAS Brunswick reunion in September 2021 was very successful, with nearly 1,000 attendees. The museum is expecting the 2023 event to be even more successful, in part because it may be the very last time you will be able to see and possibly get aboard an operational P-3 Orion at old NAS Brunswick, ME. The Navy recently retired the last P-3s in patrol squadron service and the only MPA configured P-3s are used for training with VP-30 at NAS Jacksonville, FL. These are being retained to help train foreign crews and will be retired within the next couple of years. The BNAS people had support from the Navy for the last reunion and hope to get a P-3 Orion, P-8 Poseidon, and CP-140 Aurora too. For those who do not know what a CP-140 is, it's the Canadian version of the P-3 Orion. Technically, CP-140s are not P-3s, but they do look the same (from the outside at least) and sound the same! In the interest of full disclosure, your newsletter editor is a member of the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum and is on the base reunion committee. He will be organizing a squadron "mini reunion" for all VP-MAU Brunswick and VP-92 personnel that go to the base reunion. As was the case with the last base reunion, there will most likely be some kind of free gift presented to every VP-MAU and VP-92 member who goes, while the supply lasts. More information will be provided as the date approaches.

### **HELP WANTED:**

We are always looking for members to take an active role in the administration of the ANA Patriot Squadron. If you would like to become more active in this organization, please reach out to one of the directors at any of our monthly meetings.

Our March meeting, which will be held on Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Southfield Redevelopment Authority meeting room at Union Point, will include the annual meeting. This is a requirement to



maintain our 501c3 non-profit educational corporation status. During this year's annual meeting all director positions will come up for a vote. If you are interested in taking a director position, by all means please nominate yourself during the annual meeting. The three director positions that expire this year are:

- Commanding Officer
- Comptroller
- Operations Officer

All director positions have a three-year term.

Please note that the following positions are presently open. In other words, nobody is presently filling these positions:

- Executive Officer
- Operations Officer

The Operations Officer position is also a director, which means that whoever takes that position has to be a member of the Association of Naval Aviation as well as a member of the Patriot Squadron.

The two people who are presently filling the Comptroller and Public Affairs Officer positions intend to step down from these roles at the end of the calendar year. The people presently filling these positions have been in them for twelve and six years, respectively, and they need a break. We'd like somebody to step forward and take over these roles. The incumbents are willing to provide nine months notice to provide instruction and conduct an orderly transition. Please note that the Comptroller position is also a director, and so this person needs to be a member of the Association of Naval Aviation as well as the Patriot Squadron.

We need somebody to assume these roles. If you would like to do so, send an e-mail to [inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org](mailto:inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org) or speak up during the annual meeting and we can discuss what they do.

This organization will not survive if its members are unwilling or unable to assume leadership positions. That's a basic fact. If you consider the long run, there has been very little turnover in leadership positions over the years, other than in the case of death, and this is a problem. We need to get more people involved in the management of this organization. It is reasonable to expect that we will not be able to succeed in our goal to organize and manage a museum if nobody is willing to step forward and assume responsibility for leadership roles within the Patriot Squadron organization.

## DID YOU KNOW?



The bronze CDR John Shea memorial plaque at the Shea Memorial Grove was originally at NAS Squantum. It was relocated to NAS South Weymouth on October 14, 1954 after NAS Squantum was closed. At that time the airfield at NAS South Weymouth was named Shea Field and the main road through the base, which was originally named Rounds Drive after a naval officer who perished in an airship accident, was renamed Shea Memorial Drive.

The plaque was originally located at NAS South Weymouth near the flagpole at the front of the base administration building. Just before the base closed in 1997, it was relocated again to the Shea Memorial Grove park to a place of honor near the base of the flagpole. The image presented above shows John Shea Jr (left of center) and his wife Claudette (right of center) and local military/civilian VIPs laying a wreath at the CDR Shea memorial plaque at NAS South Weymouth on a Memorial Day sometime in the early to mid 1960s. Claudette is a member of the ANA Patriot Squadron.

## A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



The earliest A-4B Skyhawks assigned to the reserve aircraft pool at NAS South Weymouth, like this one, had florescent orange applied, as shown here, to make them more easily seen and help prevent mid-air collisions. The special florescent “day-glo” paint did not hold up well and had to be re-applied on a regular basis. The high-visibility markings were abolished as the U.S. ramped up its involvement in Vietnam since aircraft painted this way could not be immediately deployed to the war zone.

