



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

**PO Box 30**

**Pembroke, Massachusetts 02359**

**[inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org](mailto:inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org)**

**[www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org)**

**Like Us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SheaNavalAviationMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/SheaNavalAviationMuseum)**

**Issue #26**

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

**DEC 2019**

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:**

We'd like to thank member Leon Lombard, who lives in Florida, for his generous financial donations to the Patriot Squadron in recent months. With the Shea Naval Aviation Museum closed for the past two years or so fund-raising has been extremely difficult for us. So, every bit helps. Thanks Leon, we really appreciate it!

Member Doug Folsom, who is a former USMC reservist who served with VMA-322 at NAS South Weymouth during the base's final years, donated a professional speaker system and microphone to the Patriot Squadron. These devices were used for the very first time during the recent Jared Monti memorial dedication ceremony. They will come in handy for public events of all kinds, especially after we get the Shea Naval Aviation Museum back in operation.

Members Charlie Collins, Mark Danckert, Doug Folsom, Faith Frattasio, and John Margie attended the annual lobster bake hosted by the Boston chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation Area in Marshfield on Saturday September 7th. Everybody who went had a good time and \$244 was raised for the museum through the sale of ball caps, t-shirts, pins, and

other memorabilia at this event. This is an annual event, and if you haven't gone, we highly recommend that you consider going next year. The food is great and it's a very good time. You don't have to be a Marine to go!

The Patriot Squadron also had a museum sales table at the VP Association annual reunion at the Sons of Italy hall in East Weymouth on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>. Patriot Squadron members Kevin Cahill, Donald Canaday, George Driscoll, Al Firmrohr, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Bill Hanigan, Arthur Hapenny, Paul Lapinski, Bob Mandeville, Joe McCann, Joe Mortland, Bob O'Brien, and Susan Zimmerman attended this event. Unfortunately, attendance was low. Although we normally bring in a few hundred dollars for the museum at this event, we only sold \$67 worth of memorabilia this year.



Member Susan Zimmerman was an Aviation Storekeeper in VP-92 at NAS South Weymouth. She is also a talented artist. For example, Susan painted this acrylic picture of a VP-92 P-3C Orion, which she sold at the VP Association reunion. Susan takes commissions, and if you would like her to paint an aircraft just for you, contact her directly at [birdlady650@gmail.com](mailto:birdlady650@gmail.com).

The Southfield Redevelopment Authority released a Request for Proposals on September 25<sup>th</sup> as part of the process to select a new master developer to replace LStar Ventures at Union Point. They expect to have all responses in hand by the end of October and select a winner by the end of January. The good news for us is that the SRA put statements in the RFP indicating that the Shea

Naval Aviation museum is a pre-existing obligation that the master developer will need to satisfy. Our friend on the SRA board of directors, Brittany Besler, came to our regular monthly meeting on Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> and we were able to thank her personally for her efforts on our behalf. We also sent a thank-you note to Jim Young of the SRA on the Patriot Squadron's letterhead.

Peter Jardim suggested that we organize a committee to come up with a list of "taking points" to use when we get a chance to meet with the new master developer for Union Point sometime early next year. At this time this committee is composed of Charlie Collins, Peter Harrington, Peter Jardim, and Joseph Muise. The committee will meet as required, most likely on Wednesdays or Thursdays. If you would like to be a part of this committee contact Peter Jardim directly at [zorak36@hotmail.com](mailto:zorak36@hotmail.com).

Member Michael Wendelin, who was in VR-62 at NAS South Weymouth during the base's last few years, is an extremely talented writer and photographer. He had an article published in the Fall 2019 issue of the Association of Naval Aviation's "Wings of Gold" magazine about the recent retirement of the Blue Angels' famous Lockheed C-130T Hercules support aircraft, which was named "Fat Albert". As you should know, the ANA Patriot Squadron is the Boston area affiliate of the national Association of Naval Aviation. Although we do not require all Patriot Squadron members to join the national organization (certain board members have to), we highly encourage you to do so. Membership in the national organization brings you four issues of "Wings of Gold" magazine, one issue per quarter. It's a terrific magazine in its own right and provides great insight into current events in naval aviation as well as interesting articles of a historical nature. To join, go to <http://www.anahq.org> on the Internet.

On Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> members Marc and Faith Frattasio gave a presentation to Sea Cadet Squadron Seven Zulu at the Naval Operational Support Center in Quincy. This Sea Cadet unit was formed at NAS South Weymouth in 1964. They were named after the base's old aircraft identification code, "7Z", which was painted on the tails of all aircraft that were assigned directly to the base (as opposed to squadrons or other units). The presentation covered the origin of the base identification code and how it came to be associated with the Sea Cadets.



We recently depleted our old stock of NAS South Weymouth challenge coins. The last of these were presented to Monti family members and relatives, military members, Sea Cadets, sheriff's deputies, and other VIPs at the Jared Monti memorial dedication ceremony (see section below for details) to serve as mementos of the event. We placed a new challenge coin order immediately afterwards and these arrived very quickly as so much of the design elements were already on file with the vendor. We kept the same basic design as previous orders, but made a few adaptations. The previous batches were gold overall. The new batch are much more colorful, as you can see here. We made the rims on both sides blue and also put gull gray around the "7Z" on the back to make it look like more the marking on the tail of the A-4B Skyhawk jet at the Shea Memorial Grove. We also added NAS South Weymouth's old FAA location identifier, "NZW", on the side with the base insignia. We will have the coins available at the upcoming holiday luncheon, if anybody is interested in purchasing some there. They'd make great Christmas or Hanukkah presents! If you can't make it to the holiday luncheon, you can order challenge coins for \$10 each plus \$7.65 for shipping. Please note that we can fit pretty much as many of these coins as you want in a single \$7.65 flat rate USPS mailer. To order, contact Marc Frattasio at [marc\\_frattasio@yahoo.com](mailto:marc_frattasio@yahoo.com).

### **THE JARED MONTI MEMORIAL:**

After many years of procrastination while waiting for the master developer at Union Point to take action, we decided over the summer to take matters into our own hands and establish a memorial for local Medal of Honor recipient SFC Jared Monti of the US Army at the Shea Memorial Grove.

Member Peter Crone generously volunteered to pay for a tree and a plaque while member Allan Gilman, who has family members in the memorial business, made arrangements with them to have a stone base donated at no cost to us and have a bronze plaque cast. A suitable tree was acquired by Peter and was planted in a highly visible location at the park by Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, and Bill Sargent in June. Bill and Marc made sure that the tree was kept watered throughout the summer.

In early October we were pleasantly surprised to hear that Allan's cousin, Lori Maver of Maver Memorials in Brockton ([www.mavermemorials.com](http://www.mavermemorials.com)), had decided to donate both the stone base and the bronze plaque. And, if that wasn't generous enough, Lori sent people from her company to the Shea Memorial Grove to prepare the ground for it. If we hadn't decided to hold off on putting the stone in the ground until the day of the dedication ceremony, she would have taken care of this too!

On Sunday October 6<sup>th</sup> members Donald Canaday, Marc and Faith Frattasio, Gerti Gillen, Allan Gilman, and Bill Sargent replaced two memorial trees that were somehow lost over the years, repainted and polished up all the existing memorial plaques, and put dark brown mulch down around the plaques and trees to tidy things up at the Shea Memorial Grove.

On morning of Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> we put the Jared Monti memorial plaque in the ground and covered it with a piece of US Army digital camouflage cloth. Many members including Charlie Collins, Doug Folsom, Faith Frattasio, Bill Sargent, Gene Sich, and Frank Ward came early to set up chairs (generously loaned by the Weymouth Historical Society), the speakers' podium, the sound system, blow away leaves, etc. Steve Cohn took photos. Frank and one of his Seabee friends parked cars.

The ceremony began a little after noon and lasted for about an hour. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a large square of Army camouflage cloth was pulled away to reveal the new memorial plaque to the public for the first time.

This even was extremely well publicized. In fact, it was a national story that was reported in newspapers from as far away as California. It was even reported in the Army Times. Several

hundred people came to the dedication ceremony. The parking of the hundreds of cars was managed by member Frank Ward and some of his Seabee friends from the Naval Operational Support Center in Quincy.

Among the VIPs who came to the event were Jared Monti's father Paul and several dozen Monti family members, relatives, and friends. Weymouth Mayor Robert Hedlund and State Senator Patrick O'Connor were there too. Mayor Hedlund, Senator O'Connor, and Paul Monti all addressed the crowd in turn. That's Paul Monti at the microphone below. He brought the famous pickup truck from the hit song "I Drive Your Truck".



The Norfolk County Sheriff's Department and Sea Cadet Squadron Seven Zulu both provided color guards. The sheriff's deputies provided a static color guard, which was positioned near the speakers' podium, while the Sea Cadets paraded the colors. The Army National Guard sent a delegation from the 51<sup>st</sup> Troop Command and the 101<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion. The Army provided music for parading the colors and taps when the cloth was pulled away to debut the memorial. It truly made for a special Veteran's Day weekend and was a solemn event for Union Point and the local community.

Many local TV, radio, and print reporters covered the ceremony. There was TV coverage by NECN and Boston news channels 7 and 10. There were articles in the Boston Globe, Patriot Ledger, and many local town newspapers (Weymouth News, etc.). All Patriot Squadron members should be

proud of what we accomplished by setting up the memorial and organizing the public dedication ceremony. Not only did this provide us with a lot of good publicity, but it also demonstrated that we can make a positive difference in the local community.

For those of you who have access to the Internet, there are many photos that were taken at this event by Steve Cohen and others up on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). Please check them out.

### **COMING UP:**

We will hold our annual holiday luncheon on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Abington Ale House restaurant from noon to approximately 3 PM. This is the same place we have held this event for the past few years. The Abington Ale House is on Route 18 about a mile south of old NAS South Weymouth. You can't miss it. All members, guests, and friends are welcome. If you want to come, just show up at noon and be prepared to order off the restaurant's menu.

As indicated above, we will bring some of the new NAS South Weymouth challenge coins to the upcoming holiday luncheon. They will be \$10 each there, if you want any. All proceeds go to the ANA Patriot Squadron.

Also, Patriot Squadron annual dues for 2020 are now due for those of you who pay on a yearly basis. Dues are \$15 per year or \$40 if you pay for three years. If your dues are due, you can pay up at the upcoming holiday luncheon if you like. Just see Marc Frattasio or Russ Monaghan at this event.

A friendly reminder that the Patriot Squadron is actually the Boston area chapter of a national organization called the Association of Naval Aviation organization. The "ANA" in ANA Patriot Squadron stands for the Association of Naval Aviation. Although we do not force anybody other than certain directors to join the national group, we certainly encourage you to do so if you are so interested. It's a great organization that publishes a very nice quarterly magazine called "Wings of Gold". Go to [www.anahq.org](http://www.anahq.org) for more details about this fine group.

### **HELP WANTED:**

If anybody out there is interested in taking a more active role in the ANA Patriot Squadron, please reach out to a director at one of our monthly meetings. There is plenty that needs to be done, and most of it is presently being done by the same small pool of people. If you want to help, talk to us and we'll find something for you to do.

### **DID YOU KNOW?:**

For a time during late 1944 and early 1945 the US military was concerned that the Germans were going to send submarines across the Atlantic to launch V-1 or V-2 missiles at large coastal cities including Boston and New York. This information came from a pair of spies, American traitor William Colepaugh and German national Erich Gimpel, who were landed by the submarine U-1230 on the coast of Maine near Hancock Point on November 29, 1944 and who were soon captured in New York City. Because of this information, blimps from NAS South Weymouth's ZP-11 were sent out on so-called "rocket bomb patrols" in an effort to find the alleged missile-firing subs. Fortunately, although the Germans had done some testing, no U-boat was ever used operationally in this manner.

**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left:** Mark Danckert & Faith Frattasio at lobster bake. **To Right:** Joe Mortland, Kevin Cahill, & Joe McCann at museum table tended by Susan Zimmerman at VP reunion. **Middle Left:** Joe Mortland, George Driscoll, Bob & Bernadette O'Brien, Maureen & Al Firnrrohr, & Bill Hanigan at VP reunion. **Middle Right:** Lori Maver with Monti plaque. **Bottom Left:** Bill Sargent, Gerti Gillen, Faith Frattasio, & Alan Gilman take lunch break at Grove. **Bottom Right:** Faith Frattasio with Sea Cadets.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



This Beech UC-12 Huron light transport was the last aircraft assigned to NAS South Weymouth. It was transferred to the “boneyard” at Davis Monthan AFB in Arizona just before the airfield was closed in 1996 and was eventually scrapped there. All aircraft that were assigned directly to NAS South Weymouth after the base was reopened by the Naval Air Reserve Training Command in 1953 were marked with the base identification code, which was first “Z” and then in the late 1950s became “7Z”.

