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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 perhaps inspire everyone to take a more active role in this organization.

RECENT NEWS:

We normally don't report on deaths within the organization in the newsletter. The reason for this is 1) we don't want to dwell on sad events and 2) by the time you receive the newsletter everybody has already been informed. However, we have to mention something about the recent passing of member Robert Muise, if for no other reason than he was one of the few remaining founding members of the ANA Patriot Squadron and he participated in meetings and other activities until the end. Bob was a Navy pilot who served as a reservist in various squadrons and other commands at NAS South Weymouth and NAS Brunswick during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. He retired from the Naval Air Reserve as a captain. He served as the administrative assistant for the Patriot Squadron, a position that was recently taken over by my member Gerti Gillen. Bob has two children who are also active members of the Patriot Squadron, Joe Muise and Anne LaSalvia. He will be sorely missed.

Moving on from bad news, we now have some very good news to report. The R. J. McCauliffe Painting Company finished repainting the A-4B at the Shea Memorial Grove on Friday September 27th. As you can see from the photo presented on the top of the following page, they did a terrific job.



You can thank Charlie Collins, Bill Sargent, and Frank Ward for taking the lead and seeing this job through to completion. As you should know, we were originally planning to have a rededication ceremony at the park on Saturday November 9th in conjunction with Veteran's Day weekend. However, for a variety of reasons, we decided to postpone the ceremony until next year. We are tentatively planning on holding the ceremony on Flag Day, Saturday June 14th 2025. We'll provide more information about this event as it approaches. Its still in the early planning stages at this time.

Brian Ash and his Weymouth Middle School students are working hard on restoring the large blue and gold signs at the park and are working towards getting them ready for the Flag Day ceremony.



We have secured a lease on the old Coast Guard Building at Union Point. See photo presented above. This is one of the last surviving military structures on the old base. The leasing arrangement

allows us to occupy the building for \$1 per leasing period. Presently, the leasing period is for six months, but we believe that this will be expanded to one-year going forward. At this early juncture we are not sure what our reoccurring expenses will be to occupy the building, but we believe that we will be able to handle it. Our plan is to move the museum's collection from Building 140 to the storage area associated with the CG Building ASAP. We expect to spend Saturday mornings through the winter preparing the building for occupancy with the goal of getting the museum back in order by the time we are ready to have the rededication ceremony for the Shea Memorial Grove. It is our hope to be able to have the rededication ceremony at the park on Flag Day and be able to invite people to come to the museum afterwards. We need lots of help getting the CG Building in order. If you'd like to participate, reach out to Bill Sargent at sargetwoway@aol.com or Steve Cohn at w1od@arri.net. Charlie Collins, Steve Cohn, Bill Sargent, and Frank Ward get the credit for working with Jim Young of the Southfield Redevelopment Authority to put the Coast Guard Building deal together.

For the record Jim Young and the SRA have really bent over backwards for us, not only for the Coast Guard Building but also in smoothing the way at the Shea Memorial Grove for the A-4B and sign restoration projects. In recognition of his support of this group we voted to make Jim Young an honorary member of the ANA Patriot Squadron at the August meeting.



The image presented above shows Steve Cohn and Rita Cavanaugh working at the Coast Guard Building. Members are welcome to show up around 9 AM on Saturdays to help until further notice.

On Monday November 18th the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI hosted a presentation about the Second World War for staff members of this important Navy command. The NUWC is the Navy's research, development, test and evaluation, engineering and fleet support center for submarines, autonomous underwater systems, and offensive and defensive weapons systems associated with undersea warfare. The presentation, which was hosted in the NUWC's auditorium, was attended by several hundred military and civilian staff members of the NUWC. Your newsletter editor was invited to attend by one of the presenters, Christine Pitts, who is a Marshfield High School teacher, the granddaughter of CDR John J. Shea. Christine is also a member of the Patriot Squadron, as are several other local Shea family members including her mother Claudette Shea.



In the image presented above, member Christine Pitts is standing second from the right. Also shown, from left to right are Dr. Christopher Lehman (speaker - USN veteran and former special assistant to President Ronald Reagan), J. William Middendorf II (speaker - 100 year old WW2 USN veteran and former Secretary of the Navy), two NUWC officials, Edward Desmond (speaker - 99 year old WW2 USN veteran), and Stephen Waisgerber (speaker - history and social studies chairman for Marshfield High School).

As you all should know, CDR John J. Shea was an early member of the Naval Air Reserve training program who was closely associated with NAS Squantum during the 1920s and 1930s. He is largely

credited with expanding the base from a single wooden seaplane hangar on the Dorchester Bay shoreline left over from the First World War to a fully-fledged naval air station. As an aside, the complete story of NAS Squantum and CDR Shea's role in its development is told in the book that your newsletter put together a few years ago, "NAS Squantum: The First Naval Air Reserve Base", which you can find by going to www.lulu.com. CDR Shea was tragically killed in action when the aircraft carrier USS Wasp (CV-7) was sunk by a Japanese submarine in September 1942. When last seen, CDR Shea was heroically directing fire-fighting operations in an effort to save the ship. The airfields at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth, the main road through NAS South Weymouth and Union Point, the Shea Memorial Grove park, and of course our Shea Naval Aviation Museum are all named in his honor.

Christine Shea was one of five guest speakers at this event. She presented a reading of the famous "Letter to Jackie" that was written by CDR Shea to Christine's father John J. Shea Jr., who was known as "Jackie" within the family. The "Letter to Jackie" ended up being widely publicized in newspapers and magazines across the country after the USS Wasp was sunk. It was used in War Bond drives and for many other purposes to help lift the morale of Americans on the home front. Christine also discussed how the "Letter to Jackie" has served as an inspiration for Shea family members up to the present day.

The "Letter to Jackie" is really a terrific thing that should never be forgotten and every member of the Patriot Squadron should be familiar with it. For this reason the "Letter to Jackie" is reproduced in its entirety below:

Dear Jackie,

This is the first letter that I've written directly to my little son, and I'm thrilled to know that you can read it all by yourself. If you miss some of the words, it's because I don't write very plainly. Mother will help you in that case, I'm very sure. I was certainly glad to hear your voice over the long-distance phone call. It sounded as if I was right in the living room, and it sounded as if you missed your daddy very much. I miss you too! More than anyone will ever know. It's too bad this war couldn't be delayed a few more years, so that I could grow up again with you, and do with you all the things I had planned to do with you when you were old enough to go to school. I thought how nice it would be for me to come home early in the afternoon to play ball with you. Go mountain climbing and see all the trees and brooks. To learn all about woodcraft, hunting, fishing, swimming, and things like that. I suppose we must be brave and put these things off for just a little while. When you are a little bigger, you'll know why your daddy is not home so much anymore.

You know we have a big country. We have ideals as to how people should live and enjoy the riches of it. How each is born with equal rights to life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, there are some people and countries in the world where they do not have these ideals. Where a boy can't grow up to be what he wants to be with no limits. On his opportunities to be a great man, and ways whether a great Priest, Statesmen, Doctor, Soldier, Businessman, etc. Because there are people and countries who want to change our Nation, it's ideals, forms of government, and ways of life, we must leave our homes, and families to fight. Fighting for the defense of our country, ideals, homes, and honor, it's an honor and a duty what your daddy must do before he can return home to settle with you and mother. When it is done, he's coming home to be with you always, and forever. So just wait a little while longer. I'm afraid it'll be a little longer than the two weeks you said on the phone. In the meantime, take good care of your mother. Be a good boy. Grow up to be a good young man. Study hard when you are in school. Be a leader in everything, in good, in life. Be a good Catholic, and you can't but being a good American. Play fair always. Strive to win, but if you must lose, lose like a Gentleman, and a good sportsman.

Don't ever be a quitter. Either in sports, your business, or your profession. Get all the education you can. Stay close to mother and always obey here. She'll never let you down or lead away from the right and honorable things in life. If I don't get back, you'll have to be mother's protector, because you will be the only one, she has. You'll have to grow up to take my place, and your own, in her life and heart. Love your grandmother and grandfather as long as they live. They too never let you down. Love your aunts and see them as often as you can. Last of all, don't ever forget your daddy. Pray for him to come back, but if it's God will, that he does not, be the kind of boy your daddy wants you to be. Thanks for the nice sweater and the handkerchiefs, and particularly, for the note and card. Write to me very often and tell me everything. Kiss mother for me every night. Goodbye for now. With all of my love and devotion for your mother and you, your daddy.

On Sunday November 10th the United States Marine Corps celebrated its 249th birthday. The photo presented below was taken at the Boston Semper Fi Birthday Luncheon that was held to commemorate this event. A number of Patriot Squadron members attended the Boston Semper Fi Birthday Luncheon, and a few of these people including John Margie, Doug Folsom, and Mark Danckert can be seen in this photo. Everybody in this photo served in Marine Corps Reserve units at NAS South Weymouth.



On Saturday September 14th Patriot Squadron members Allan Firnrohr, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Allan Gilman, and Joe McCann drove to old NAS Brunswick, Maine, located about two hours north of Boston, to participate in a base reunion hosted there by the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum. For those of you who are unaware of the Brunswick Naval Air Museum, they are a group

that is very similar in concept to the ANA Patriot Squadron that operates a small military heritage museum in the former base chapel at old NAS Brunswick. NAS Brunswick, like NAS South Weymouth, is in the process of being redeveloped for commercial and residential purposes. However, unlike at NAS South Weymouth the redevelopment plan for NAS Brunswick includes retention of the airfield as an active civilian airport.

Over 600 people attended the base reunion this year. The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum intends to have another reunion at the old base in September 2026. Hopefully some of you can go. It's a great time. The organizers will try to ensure that the Navy brings a P-8 and a P-3 to the next reunion. As of today there are only three USN P-3 operators left. One of these, VQ-1, will be disestablished in 2025. Although information has been contradictory, the Navy personnel who attended this year's base reunion indicated that VXS-1 and VX-30 are expected to continue operating P-3s for the next few years, at least. So, its looking like there will be two Navy P-3 operators remaining in 2026 for the next NAS Brunswick base reunion. The Navy P-3 situation has been shifting over the past few years and nobody seems to know for sure when they will stop operating P-3s. For this reason, you should consider any opportunity to see a US Navy P-3 Orion as potentially the last time. The organizers will also try to get VR-62 to bring a C-130 Hercules to the next reunion.

A couple of photos taken of Patriot Squadron members at this event follow:



Above: Allan Firnrohr, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, and Allan Gillman in the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum's gift shop.



Above: Joe McCann and his wife Sara at the main entrance to the museum. **BELOW:** Here is a view of the USN flight line at Brunswick. The Navy sent a VP-8 P-8A Poseidon, a VXS-1 P-3C Orion, and a T-44A Pegasus from an advanced training squadron to support the base reunion.



On Saturday September 7th Patriot Squadron members Mark Danckert, Doug Folsom, Faith Frattasio, Marc 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, MA. The Marine Corps Aviation Association is an extremely similar organization to the Association of Naval Aviation, with similar goals and objectives, that is of course dedicated to Marine Corps aviation. Many of the members of the Boston chapter served in the various Marine Corps Reserve units that were based at NAS South Weymouth and/or NAS Squantum over the years such as HMR/HMM/HML-771, MALS-49, MARG-4, MASS-6, MGCIS/MACS-21, VMF/VMA-217, VMF/VMA-322, etc. Several members of the Boston chapter are also members of the Patriot Squadron, including Mark Danckert, Doug Folsom, and John Margie. A few photos taken at this event follow:



Above: Faith Frattasio, John Margie, Doug Folsom, and Mark Danckert at the MCAA's annual lobster bake. This event is always a very good time. The Fourth Cliff location, which is right on the ocean, is a terrific place to be.



Above: Patriot Squadron member Marc Frattasio (right) briefing Joe Mahoney of the MCAA (left) and other assembled members on the status of the A-4B Skyhawk repainting effort at the lobster bake. The Boston chapter and several individual members made generous donations towards this project.



Left: Patriot Squadron member Faith Frattasio about to dig in to her lobster dinner. The MCAA's lobster bake, which is held every September, is a fun event. All Patriot Squadron members are invited to attend regardless of whether you were in the Marines or not.

COMING UP:

We will hold our annual holiday luncheon at the Abington Ale House on Route 18 in Abington, MA on Saturday December 14th. This is the same venue where we have been holding this event for many years. No RSVP is required. If you want to come, just show up at noon on that date and be prepared to order something from the regular menu. We will have thirty to forty seats reserved for the group near the fireplace, as we have done in the past. When you arrive, tell the person at the entrance that you are with the ANA Patriot Squadron. We hope to see you all at the Abington Ale House restaurant on Saturday December 14th to have a nice lunch with friends and remember Pearl Harbor!

As we always do, we will not hold regular member's meetings in November or December for the holiday season. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday January 25th 2025. The location of this meeting is yet to be determined. It could be held at the SRA meeting room or possibly at the Coast Guard Building if that venue is ready by then. We'll let you know where the meeting will be held as soon as we have decided where it will be held.

Membership renewal season is upon us. If your membership will expire, Wally Massenburg will reach out to you soon. We are encouraging all members who need to renew to consider renewing in person at the holiday luncheon. Please note that at the August meeting the membership voted to increase the cost of dues from \$15 to \$20 annually and from \$45 to \$50 for a three-year term. The increase goes into effect in January. If you pay before the end of the year the current dues structure remains in place.

HELP WANTED:

If you'd like to help set up the old Coast Guard Building, there is normally somebody there between 9 AM and noon, and often later, on Saturdays. If you'd like to help, just show up and chances are that the building will be open and somebody will be there. To ensure that somebody will be there, you can reach out to Steve Cohn at w1od@arri.net or Bill Sargent at sargetwoway@aol.com.

Please note that after we reopen the Shea Naval Aviation Museum in the Coast Guard Building we will need members to commit to help staff and maintain it. We will also need people to organize and participate in fund-raising efforts. It is worth noting that we used to set up fund-raising sales tables at various events in the Weymouth area but have not done so for over a year. We will need people to continue doing this going forward.

In addition to needing people willing to help out with setting up the old Coast Guard Building and in fund raising, we still need somebody to step forward to take on the role of public relations officer. The incumbent PAO (your newsletter editor) has only agreed to continue on a temporary basis. He's been doing this for something on the order of fifteen years and its time for somebody else to step forward to take this on. If anybody out there is interested, please talk to one of the directors at one of our monthly meetings.

DID YOU KNOW?



During the Second World War members of the US Coast Guard patrolled the NAS South Weymouth base perimeter with guard dogs. Here, members of the Coast Guard “port watch” train some dogs to deal with trespassers in an area of the base behind the dispensary building.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Aerial view of Naval Reserve Air Base Squantum as it was during the late 1930s before major construction efforts commenced to expand the base to support Neutrality Patrol Missions during the run-up to American involvement in the Second World War. At far left are remnants of the fire-damaged Victory Plant Shipyard built to construct Clemson Class destroyers during the First World War. At this time there were no paved runways at Squantum, just a turf airfield surfaced with cinders.

