



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

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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 the 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:**

Its our sad duty to report that long-time member Grant Southward passed away in early January. Grant was a blimp pilot who served with ZP-11 at NAS South Weymouth during the Second World War. During the post-war era he served at Squantum and South Weymouth with reserve squadron ZP-911 for a time.

Member Bill Hanigan is still recovering from his recent stroke and is still in Skilled Care Unit Room 7 at Wingate at Silver Lake, 17 Chipman Way, Kingston, MA 02364. You can send e-mail messages to Bill at [billhanagan@icloud.com](mailto:billhanagan@icloud.com). He will read and understand them but will be unable to respond. Bill would really appreciate a visit if you can get there to see him. Your newsletter editor has been going to see him several times per week since he's been there. He really does appreciate the company and despite his limitations he does a pretty good job communicating. Books, magazines, and DVDs are appreciated as well.

On November 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Patriot Squadron members Marc Frattasio, Peter Jardim, Bill Sargent, and Frank Ward helped sort clothing and other articles donated to the New England Shelter for

Homeless Veterans in Boston. These items were donated through the efforts of Frank Ward. With the kindness of our friends at the SouthField real estate development we were able to store the donated items temporarily in the Shea Fitness Center until the shelter could send a truck to get them.

Local historian and author John Galluzzo came to the ANA Patriot Squadron's Shea Naval Aviation Museum on November 29<sup>th</sup> seeking information about the Shea Memorial Grove, which is a park dedicated to local Medal of Honor recipients that the Patriot Squadron helps the SouthField real estate developers maintain. Mr. Galluzzo is working on an article about the Grove for an upcoming issue of South Shore Living magazine.

A total of 24 Patriot Squadron members and their guests met at the Abington Ale House restaurant for a holiday luncheon on December 13<sup>th</sup>. This venue has become an annual tradition for us over the past few years. This year, the holiday luncheon was held immediately after the first scheduled open house at the museum for December.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> the museum hosted a guest speaker. Many of us were biting our nails for several days on account of the snowstorms earlier that week and on the morning of the event itself, but with the help of John Edwards, Lorraine Edwards, and our good friends George and Ken from SouthField management who plowed and shoveled out the snowbound parking lot and entrances to the museum literally at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, we were able to proceed with the presentation as planned.

Our guest speaker was USN Captain Richard LaBranche, who gave a presentation comparing and contrasting the application of naval air power during the Second World War to its use in more recent years. CAPT LaBranche is presently the Director of the Maritime Advanced Warfighting School (MAWS) at the Naval War College. He is a naval aviator who in previous assignments served as the commanding officer of the last F-14 Tomcat squadron and as the CAG on board the USS Carl Vinson. Despite the poor road conditions, CAPT LaBranche's presentation was well attended by more than fifty Patriot Squadron members and visitors. He's a long-time member of the national ANA and will be retiring from active duty in a few years, hopefully to a civilian job at the Naval War College like his predecessor Robert "Barney" Rubel. He sent a check to become a three-year member of our group a few days after his presentation at the museum. We hope we'll see more of CAPT LaBranche in the future.

Due to the recent heavy snowfall we were forced to cancel the open houses at the museum that were scheduled for February 14<sup>th</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> as well as the monthly meeting. Throughout the entire month the old base was used by towns across the area as a "snow farm" to dump snow collected from the streets. The parking lot adjacent to the museum was occupied by snow-fighting equipment on the 14<sup>th</sup> and on the 28<sup>th</sup> heavy snowdrifts blocked the fire exits.

We've picked up a few interesting items for the museum in recent months. Among the new acquisitions are a wartime Thanksgiving dinner menu from the galleys at NAS Squantum and its auxiliary fields, a security guard's badge from NAS South Weymouth, a copy of the "Weymouth Blimp" WW2 base newsletter (thank you Dan Haff), an award plaque featuring a 3D metal replica of the older style shield-shaped NAS South Weymouth base insignia, an NAS South Weymouth matchbook advertising the USNR, and a small photo album filled with photos of an event held inside old LTA Hangar One and a NADU "Skyhook" type balloon being prepared for flight. You can check these things out and more at the museum during any of our scheduled open houses. If you have any old NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth related photos or other memorabilia cluttering up your house, consider donating it to the museum. We're a 501c3 non-profit educational organization so the value of whatever you donate can be deducted from your income taxes.

## **COMING UP:**

As you should know, we try to host guest speakers at the museum three times per year on the last Saturdays in January, April, and September. Although we are normally taxing the limits of our ingenuity to bring you guest speakers on this schedule, we already have guest speakers lined up to present at the museum through January 2016. All three are local authors who have written military history related books that should be of great interest to you.

First up on April 25<sup>th</sup> will be Len Sandler, who wrote “See You on the High Ground” about Medal of Honor recipient Sergeant First Class Jared C. Monti. SFC Monti was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2006 while trying to rescue a wounded comrade. He was born in Abington and raised in Raynham. He was the first Massachusetts resident given the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War. He was also the inspiration for Lee Brice’s #1 country hit song “I Drive Your Truck”. The ANA Patriot Squadron plans to plant a tree and put down a memorial plaque and brick at the Shea Memorial Grove to honor SFC Monti sometime later this year. There will be more information about this later. Go to [www.seeyouonthehighground.com](http://www.seeyouonthehighground.com) for more information about Mr. Sandler’s book.

Next up on September 26<sup>th</sup> will be author Tommy H. Thomason, who expects to have his new book about the Grumman S-2 Tracker in print by that time. Various types of Trackers were flown from NAS South Weymouth from the late 1950s through the late 1970s so Mr. Thomason’s presentation should be of great interest to all of us. Keep checking [www.ginterbooks.com](http://www.ginterbooks.com) and eventually you’ll see Mr. Thomason’s new book appear on their new books listing. It is supposed to be available by summer.

Lastly, on January 30<sup>th</sup> of next year we expect to have a presentation from Donald J. Cann and John J. Galluzzo. co-authors of “Camp Edwards and Otis Air Force Base”. Perhaps you didn’t know it, but during the Second World War what we know today as Otis AFB or the Massachusetts Military Reservation was actually a Navy base, NAAF Otis Field, which was an auxiliary for NAS Quonset Point. Go to [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com) to learn more about the Camp Edwards book and the one that the authors wrote about NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth, which was the subject of Mr. Galluzzo’s previous presentation at the museum some months ago.

All three authors will present a lecture pertaining to the subject matter of their books and will autograph copies brought to the museum or purchased from them at the museum. Although we’ve done very well in lining up guest speakers for this year, we’re always looking for recommendations for future engagements. If you know somebody who’d like to give a public lecture at the museum on a Navy/Marine Corps aviation or local military history related subject contact Marc Frattasio at [inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org](mailto:inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org). If the topic is relevant to the purposes of the museum and it complies with the stand-up lecture format that we’ve been using, we’d be happy to slot it in.

If you were associated with HML-771 or its predecessor or affiliated units at NAS South Weymouth (HMR-771, HMM-771, Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment, MAG-49 Detachment A, etc.) it may interest you to know that a reunion is going to be held in honor of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this USMCR helicopter squadron’s deactivation. The HML-771 reunion will be held at on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 7 PM to midnight at the Regency Room at Lombardo’s restaurant at 6 Billings Street in Randolph, Massachusetts. There will be dinner and at least one guest speaker. We’re also going to have the museum open on that afternoon to help support this event, which as it so happens is being held on the same day as the Patrol Squadron Association’s annual reunion (we’ll have the museum open in the morning for the VP Association people). If you are interested in attending the HML-771 reunion contact Richard Gallagher, 988 Bifrost Way, Linden VA 22642, 703-568-2539, [richard.gallagher61@yahoo.com](mailto:richard.gallagher61@yahoo.com). Tickets need to be obtained in advance. No walk-ins will be

accepted. If you have access to Facebook, they've established a Facebook page that you should check out.

Stay tuned for an announcement in our next newsletter about a special event that the museum will hold in cooperation with the K1USN radio club ([www.k1usn.com](http://www.k1usn.com)). Steve Cohn and Henry Piel are members of this local HAM radio operator's club as well as members of the ANA Patriot Squadron. They intend to operate a radio station at the museum on a Saturday during the late summer or early fall and will make live radio broadcasts, demonstrate the radio equipment, etc. More information and a schedule of activities will be provided as the date of this event approaches.

We are presently holding on to three memorial brick orders. As you should know, we have to order these things from the vendor in minimum batches of ten. Thus, we need at least seven more memorial brick orders to proceed. If you'd like to have a memorial brick at the Shea Memorial Grove now would be a good time to order one. There's an order form for you to fill out and mail to us that you can download and print off from our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org). Alternatively, you can get an order form at the museum during one of our scheduled open houses.

### **HELP WANTED:**

We hate to sound like a broken record about this, newsletter after newsletter, but we really need to get more of you actively involved with this organization. Right now just about everything is being done by a small handful of people. This is not sustainable over the long run. We aren't in crisis yet, but we do need help. If you'd like to take a more active role in this organization please talk to one of the directors at one of our monthly meetings. A few suggestions follow:

There are certain administrative functions within this organization that need to be done. For example, maintaining a database of member information, financial accounting, publicity, filing our non-profit paperwork on an annual basis, processing membership applications, processing mail orders, taking notes at the monthly meeting and publishing the minutes, writing quarterly articles for Wings of Gold magazine, writing the quarterly newsletter, maintaining the group's official history, obtaining guest speakers, maintaining the web site, monitoring the condition of the Shea Memorial Grove, etc. As indicated above, all of this work is presently being done by just a small handful of members. We'd like to get more people involved going forward. If there's something that you'd like to do, and can off-load the work from somebody else, that would be much appreciated. Also, if you think you'd like to take on one of the leadership positions at some point, talk to a director and we'll see what we can do to get you ready to take on a leadership role. This may involve setting you up as an assistant and developing you to take on more responsibility over time. Be aware that some leadership roles within this organization would require you to be a member of the national Association of Naval Aviation as well as a member of the ANA Patriot Squadron.

We can always use volunteers to help tend the museum during the open houses, which are scheduled from 9 AM to noon on the second Saturday of the month and from 9 to 11 AM on the last Saturday of the month. Volunteers help clean the museum, put things out for display, watch visitors, answer questions, records sales, take out the trash, and then close the place up afterwards. You can do whatever you feel comfortable doing, stay for as long or as little as you like, and help with all or some of the tasks. We're not very demanding. Local members meet from 11 AM to noon at the museum on the last Saturday of the month and then go out to eat at the nearby Warren's Place restaurant. All members and guests are welcome to attend the meetings and go out to lunch with us. You don't need to help out at the museum to join us for lunch!

We need help with occasional work parties at the museum and also at the Shea Memorial Grove. These events are generally announced during the monthly meetings or via e-mail. Sometimes they come up with very little notice, as happened very recently when we needed some volunteers within a few hours to help shovel a huge accumulation of snow away from the front and back entrances to the museum. If you'd like to help in any way we'd be happy to have you with us. Once again, approach one of the directors at a monthly meeting and we'll put your name on our contact list for such things.

As indicated in the previous issue of the newsletter, we have started setting up a booth or table at various public events such as the Weymouth Farmer's Market, Pumpkin Festival, Whole Foods Fall Festival, etc. Most of these events take place on Saturdays. If you'd like to help staff the ANA Patriot Squadron's table at such events or know of an event that would be an appropriate venue for us to have a booth or table at, please speak to a director at the monthly meeting.

We can always use donations of military artifacts (cruisebooks, squadron patches, command ball caps, photographs, films, command coffee mugs, uniform items, geedunk of any kind featuring command or base insignias, etc.) pertaining to NAS Squantum or NAS South Weymouth for display in the museum. Photos, slides, and films can be copied and returned to you if you don't want to give them up. We desperately need display torsos and full body male manikins for use in displaying uniform jackets and complete uniforms. Glass front display cases are also most welcome. If you see a clothing store or department store going out of business it would not hurt to ask. We can also use an 8 foot "Ez-Up" type tent for the various public events that we are now trying to set up at. Remember, the ANA Patriot Squadron is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization so the cash value of anything that is donated to the museum may be tax-deductible.

We are always looking for new members and for help in getting them. We can also use help in publicizing the ANA Patriot Squadron and Shea Naval Aviation Museum. A link to a flyer that you can download, print, and post on public bulletin boards is presented on our web site in PDF format. Good places to post these flyers include your post offices, libraries, grocery stores, VFWs, American Legion halls, and civil airports. These places normally have a public bulletin board where you can tack a flyer up.

We especially need help promoting our guest speakers in January, April, and September. We will send event flyers out to all members with e-mail addresses in PDF format a few weeks before these events and also put a link to the flyer on our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org). If you have the ability to do so, please print a few flyers after they appear via e-mail or on the web site and post them locally where people can see them. Local civilian airports, libraries, grocery stores, and post offices typically have public bulletin boards. Places that veterans go such as the VFW or American Legion are good places too.

Another thing that might be useful would be for somebody to start a letter writing campaign to Navy and Marine Corps squadrons, training commands, and O&R facilities seeking objects such as aircraft instruments, control wheels, crew seats, etc. for the museum. Ideally, we'd be after things that were of relevance to NAS South Weymouth. For example, the Navy is in the process of phasing out the Lockheed P-3C Orion. These aircraft were based at NAS South Weymouth for many years. It may be possible to obtain spare parts for Orions directly from former P-3 squadrons. We'll never know if this is possible unless we try.

As always, don't assume that people know about the ANA Patriot Squadron or the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. If you have friends who were Navy or Marine Corps veterans associated with either NAS South Weymouth or NAS Squantum or know anybody who is interested in military history or aviation please tell them about us. In order for this group to continue we need to attract new

members, especially those with the interest and ability to take an active role. If you've been away from the ANA Patriot Squadron for a while, come visit the museum during one of our open houses and check out what we've been doing while you've been away. You might be pleasantly surprised with what we've accomplished recently. A few months ago we had business cards printed up with the museum's hours of operation and our web site's URL. Stick a few in your wallet and hand them out when the opportunity presents itself. Remember, this is OUR group. Its up to all of us collectively to make it what we want it to be.

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

The Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment was a tenant command responsible for administering the Marine Air Reserve squadrons and other USMCR units on NAS South Weymouth from 1953 to 1980. The MARTD was composed of members of the USMCR on continuous active duty orders. They were just like the stationkeepers or TARs who administered the Naval Air Reserve training program on the base. The MARTD started at NAS Squantum in July 1946 and moved to NAS South Weymouth in December 1953. It was replaced by Marine Air Group 49 Detachment Alpha (MAG-49 DET A) in 1980. Both were elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Air Wing (4<sup>th</sup> MAW). The Shea Naval Aviation Museum stocks limited quantities of authentic MARTD, MAG-49 DET A, and 4<sup>th</sup> MAW patches for \$6 each. Consider buying one of each for your shadow box or jacket at the museum's next open house.



A friendly reminder that there is a local chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association (<http://www.flymcaa.org>) that holds a surf and turf BBQ at the USAF's Fourth Cliff Family Recreation Area in Hummarock, Massachusetts every summer. For more information about this fine group contact John Margie at [jomargie@comcast.net](mailto:jomargie@comcast.net).

We also want to remind you that the ANA Patriot Squadron is an affiliate of the national Association of Naval Aviation. Your \$15 annual dues makes you a member of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum support group only, which is fine, but we highly encourage our members to also join the national ANA group. Like the ANA Patriot Squadron, the national ANA group is a 501c3 non-profit educational corporation. Therefore your \$40 national ANA membership fee, like your \$15 ANA Patriot Squadron membership fee, is tax-deductible. Membership in the national ANA includes a subscription to their "Wings of Gold" magazine, which is a very interesting publication. Remember, certain officer positions within the ANA Patriot Squadron can only be held by national ANA members. For more information about the national ANA or to join go to [www.anahq.org](http://www.anahq.org).

**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left:** Frank Ward, Bill Sargent, and Peter Jardim sorting donated articles for homeless veterans. **Top Right:** Author John Galluzzo doing research at the museum. **Middle Left:** The holiday luncheon. **Middle Right:** Lorraine Edwards helping to shovel out the museum after the big blizzard. **Bottom Left:** Guest speaker CAPT Richard LaBranche. **Bottom Right:** Crowd at the museum to hear CAPT LaBranche's presentation.

## A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



VMA-217 and VMA-322 operated North American FJ Fury jets from NAS South Weymouth between 1959 and 1963. These aircraft were navalized versions of the better-known USAF F-86 Sabre, which became famous dogfighting Communist MIG-15s over Korea. Notice the bright “Day-Glo” orange panels. These were mandated for all military aircraft based in the continental United States that were used for training and other non-tactical purposes after a USAF jet collided with an airliner in the late 1950s. The bright orange markings were used until camouflage color schemes were reintroduced for the Vietnam War. ANA Patriot Squadron, Shea Naval Aviation Museum collection.

