



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 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:

First of all, we'd like to welcome several new members to the ANA Patriot Squadron: Lisa and Robert Clark, Robert Horsch, Dan and Mary Beth Pierce, Amy and Dan Smith, and Liz and Peter Worden. All of these people appear to be friends or relatives of founding member Bill Horsch. We've also added Brittany Besler as an honorary member so she'll start getting our Squadron communications. More about her later... Lastly, David Ayres recently joined us all the way from Plano, TX. David is a retired USN CDR who originally joined the Naval Air Reserve at NAS Squantum in 1953. He was later commissioned and became a naval aviator via the NAVCAD program. If any of you would like to correspond with David, contact your newsletter editor and I'll provide you with his e-mail address.

Although the Shea Naval Aviation Museum remains closed as of this writing due to the continuing situation at Union Point, we still manage to find things for Squadron members to do. For example, over Memorial Day weekend members Charlie Collins, Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, Robert Michaelski, and Bill Sargent repainted all the signs at the Shea Memorial Grove park. With the museum closed the Shea Memorial Grove is the only tangible reminder to visitors and residents at

Union Point that the site was once Naval Air Station South Weymouth. The signage at the park was previously a light blue with white lettering. It is now a more appropriate Navy blue with gold lettering.

One of the attendees at member Marc Frattasio's presentation on the history of NAS South Weymouth at the Fairing Way over-55 community in May (reported in the previous newsletter) was Brittany Besler of the Southfield Redevelopment Authority and the Union Point Neighborhood Association. As a result of her exposure to the Patriot Squadron at the presentation, Ms. Besler invited our organization to set up an informational and sales table at the Union Point Neighborhood Association's annual BBQ on Sunday June 9th. Members Donald Canaday, Faith Frattasio, and Marc Frattasio tended the Patriot Squadron's table at the BBQ, where they answered residents' questions about the old base, distributed membership flyers, and sold NAS South Weymouth related souvenirs to benefit the museum.

On Saturday June 29th members Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, and Bill Sargent planted a red Japanese maple tree at the Shea Memorial Grove as the first step in our plans to honor local Medal of Honor recipient Jared Monti. This tree was generously purchased by member Peter Crone. It is worth noting that Peter Crone is twice a patriot in the sense that he's a descendent of a patriot who fought under General George Washington in the American Revolutionary War and is also an active member of the ANA Patriot Squadron. More information about the SFC Monti memorial is provided in the "Coming Up" section of this newsletter.

Brittany Besler, as mentioned above, is a Union Point resident and a member of the Southfield Redevelopment Authority's board of directors. She graciously agreed to come to our regular monthly meeting on Saturday July 27th to talk to members about the situation at Union Point with respect to the new master developer selection effort and the museum situation. To summarize, a request for proposal (RFP) process is supposed to kick-off in the August/September timeframe. Depending upon how this goes, it could take at least another six months to a year for all the proposals to be reviewed and for a new master developer to be selected. The bottom line is, we're most likely going to have to wait at least that long before we're able to start to talk to another master developer about the future of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. In the meantime, Ms. Besler has agreed to watch out for our interests at the Southfield Redevelopment Authority when possible, will make arrangements to invite Patriot Squadron representatives to attend SRA meetings when appropriate, and has agreed to come to our meetings from time- to-time in order to fill us in on what's going on at Union Point.

Member John Galluzzo says that he got an advance copy of "Dogfight Over Tokyo: The Final Air Battle of the Pacific and the Last Four Men to Die in World War II" by John Wukovitz. He says that aside from being a pretty good read, it has about a two-page section on Air Group 88 (VF-88, VT-88 and VB-88) training on Martha's Vineyard and on Otis mid-1944. The unit never gets up to SoWey or Squantum, but was still close enough to be of interest.

COMING UP:

We are on target to dedicate a memorial to local Medal of Honor recipient Jared Monti at the Shea Memorial Grove on Veteran's Day weekend in November. At this time we are planning to hold a public dedication ceremony at the park from approximately 11 AM to noon on Sunday November 10th. We hope that many of you will be able to come to this event. As you should know, US Army SFC Jared Monti, who was born in Abington, was killed in action in Afghanistan in a heroic attempt to rescue a wounded member of his squad. Monti's story is told in Len Sandler's inspirational book, "See You on the High Ground", which we highly recommend you read. We hope to have author Len Sandler, members of the Monti family, local politicians, and media representatives attend the dedication ceremony for the memorial. The next step in the process will be to place a stone base in

the ground. Member Allan Gillman is working on getting the stone base and a bronze memorial plaque. These were both ordered in late July. The stone base will be provided free of charge, courtesy of Allan's friend, and Peter Crone has generously offered to pay for the bronze plaque.

We have some housekeeping work to perform at the Shea Memorial Grove, which ideally will happen before November 10th. We have to purchase and plant two trees to replace trees that were somehow lost over the years, we should probably place some mulch around the trees and the memorial stones, and we should also probably repaint the memorial plaques and sand the raised areas to polish them and make them stand out. We'll probably replace the missing trees sometime in the early fall and will try to put down the mulch and do the repainting of the plaques as close to November 10th as possible so it all looks nice and fresh for the SFC Jared Monti memorial dedication ceremony. If you'd like to be involved in these efforts please reach out to any of the directors at one of our monthly meetings.

We encourage all members to consider attending two upcoming veteran's reunion events that will be held in the local area in coming weeks. The Marine Corps Aviation Association will hold their annual lobster bake at the Fourth Cliff Military Recreation Area in Marshfield on Saturday September 7th. This event is primarily a reunion for former Marine Air Reservists who were associated with NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. The VP Association, which is composed primarily of veterans who served with the Navy Reserve patrol squadrons based at NAS Squantum, NAS South Weymouth, and NAS Brunswick, will hold its annual reunion banquet at the Sons of Italy Hall in East Weymouth on Saturday September 21st. Any Patriot Squadron member, military or civilian, is welcome to share in the food and camaraderie at these events. Several Patriot Squadron members will attend, so if you want to go, you'll know somebody there. We'll have an informational and sales table at both events and can use help tending it. Reservations are required in advance. For the USMC event contact member John Margie at jomargie@comcast.net. For the VP Association event's reservation form go to www.vpassociation.org.

HELP WANTED:

At this stage of the game we do not know how long it will take for things to stabilize at Union Point to such an extent that we can start talking to the new master developer about getting the Shea Naval Aviation Museum back into a building. We have to start thinking in terms of contingency plans. One idea might be to try to do an end-run around the master developer and approach one of the Union Point building owners directly. For example, there's retail space in at least one of the larger high-rise residential units at Union Point that does not appear to have ever been occupied. Perhaps the owner might allow us to use this space for the museum. It can't hurt to ask, but we've got to ensure a long-term arrangement. It would not make sense to move our collection out of storage for just a few months, only to have to put everything back again. If any member out there has the time and interest to investigate such a thing for us, reach out to any director at one of our monthly meetings.

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 set something up for you to do. For example, a few members have suggested that we try to get guest speakers to come to our monthly meetings on a regular basis. To do this, we'd need to have somebody, or more than one person ideally, commit to seek out potential guest speakers and make arrangements to have them come to our meetings. That's one of the many things that we can use some help doing.

DID YOU KNOW?:

NAS Squantum, which was located on the site of present-day Marina Bay in Quincy, was either the first or the second naval air station established after NAS Pensacola, FL. Some say that NAS Anacostia in Washington DC was #2 while others say that it was NAS Squantum. Part of the controversy is that NAS Squantum was originally established as an aviation training base by the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia before it was taken over by the Navy. Regardless, NAS Squantum was one of the earliest naval air stations established and it was NAS South Weymouth's predecessor.



View looking down from the observation tower on the roof of the original seaplane hangar at NAS Squantum at a Burgess-Dunne type BD floatplane and two Curtis N-9 floatplanes sometime during the summer of 1917.

SOME RECENT PHOTOS:



Top Left: Bill Sargent and Faith Frattasio sanding old paint. **Top Right:** Charlie Collins applies a fresh coat of Navy blue. **Middle Left:** Marc and Faith Frattasio lettering. **Middle Right:** Donald Canaday and Faith Frattasio tending the Patriot Squadron's table at the Union Point Neighborhood Association annual BBQ. **Bottom Left:** Peter Crone with the tree that he generously donated for the SFC Jared Monti memorial. **Bottom Right:** SRA board member Brittany Besler at our July meeting.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



Marine honor guard assembled in front of the administration building and control tower at NAS Squantum on May 10th 1948 to welcome USMC Brigadier General Christian F. Schildt, the Commandant of the Marine Air Reserve, for an official inspection of the base's Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment. There is no evidence at Marina Bay today that the site was once a naval air station. If you don't want this to happen at Union Point, please support the ANA Patriot Squadron...

