



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

PO Box 30

Pembroke, Massachusetts 02359

inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org

www.anapatriotsquadron.org

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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 are still waiting for R. J. McAuliffe to begin painting the A-4B Skyhawk at the Shea Memorial Grove. We made a down payment and he's been ready to start since June, but the weather has been problematic. It has been too wet, too humid, or too hot. He needs at least eight consecutive days of good weather in the forecast. We are hopeful that he'll be able to start soon, but if the weather continues to be unfavorable the repainting effort will have to be pushed out to next year. If the work is completed in time, we will have a re-dedication ceremony at the park over Veterans Day weekend in November. Otherwise, we will have the ceremony on the closest holiday weekend.

Brian Ash, a shop teacher at the Weymouth middle school, has begun preliminary work to restore the large blue and gold wooden signs at the Shea Memorial Grove. Work was suspended when school ended for the summer but will start again after classes recommence in September. As is the case with the aircraft, we are hopeful that the signs will be completed in time for Veterans Day weekend.

We may have good news to announce soon regarding the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. The museum committee has been talking to the SRA about using the former "Coast Guard building" on

the old base. Member Steve Cohn had the building inspected and the report was favorable. The inspectors said that the building is in good condition and needs little work. Members Charlie Collins, Bill Sargent, and Frank Ward recently tested the heating system and it worked fine. Things are looking good. The SRA has expressed interest in a lease at favorable terms. Please note that if we go forward with the Coast Guard building, we will have to build an organization committed to doing whatever is required to set the museum up and operate it. If you'd like to be part of this effort please reach out to Bill Sargent or Steve Cohn. We'll need people to help renovate the building, relocate the collection from storage and set up displays, tend the museum and help maintain the building, and manage fund-raising efforts. Remember, this will only work if members turn out to support the effort.



During the week of August 5th Patriot Squadron member Mary Ready, who lives in Michigan, visited the Boston area to attend the dedication ceremony for the "Lone Sailor" memorial at the Quincy Navy Park at Marina Bay in Quincy. The memorial honors all men and women from the City of Quincy who served in the Navy, were stationed at NAS Squantum, or worked at the Victory Plant or the Quincy Shipyard. As you should know, the Quincy Navy Park is located on the site of former NAS Squantum, which was the direct predecessor of NAS South Weymouth. Mary drove all the way from her home in Michigan to Massachusetts with her friend Sheila O'Connor. While they were in Massachusetts, they joined members Faith and Marc Frattasio for dinner at the Lobster Hut on the Plymouth waterfront on Tuesday August 6th. In the photo presented above, shown clockwise from the bottom left, are Sheila O'Connor, Mary Ready, Faith Frattasio, and Marc Frattasio.



On Friday August 9th the “Lone Sailor” memorial was dedicated at the Quincy Navy Park, as described in the section above. There are now nineteen “Lone Sailor” statues at locations significant to naval history around the country. Members Marc Frattasio and Mary Ready (and others) attended

the dedication ceremony. The topmost photo presented above shows Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch speaking during the dedication ceremony. The photo presented at lower left shows Marc Frattasio posing with the “Lone Sailor” statue. As you should know, your newsletter editor wrote a book about NAS Squantum, which is shown in the photo. For the occasion, he wore a blue Navy utility cap of the type issued between the 1940s and 1960s along with the late Francis MacIntire’s old Navy flight jacket with NAS Squantum insignia patch. Francis MacIntire, who was a good friend of your newsletter editor, served as an active-duty station keeper at NAS Squantum between 1946 and 1953. He was a crew chief on transport aircraft and a flight engineer on patrol aircraft. He had a commercial pilot’s rating and after he left the USNR in the mid-1950s went on to have a second career flying corporate aircraft. The photo presented at lower right shows Mary Ready posed with the memorial to her late husband Jack at the park. Jack Ready, who was born and raised in Quincy, was a Vice Admiral who served as Commander Naval Air Forces Atlantic Fleet. As a young boy he delivered newspapers on NAS Squantum. The service men there treated him kindly and inspired him to join the Navy and become a fighter pilot. After he retired from the Navy, he worked for Lockheed Martin where he was the program manager for the F-35 Lightning II jet. There is a memorial at the Quincy Navy Park to CDR John J. Shea too, namesake of the Shea Memorial Grove, Shea Memorial Drive, Shea Naval Aviation Museum, etc. For reasons unknown, no member of the Shea family was invited to attend the dedication ceremony. This was an unfortunate oversight since there are many members of the Shea family in the Quincy area and we have a few in the Patriot Squadron. To prevent this from happening in the future your newsletter editor reached out to Mayor Koch and sent him a copy of the book he wrote about NAS Squantum. We encourage Patriot Squadron members to visit the Quincy Navy Park. You can view a video of the dedication ceremony by going to YouTube at www.youtube.com and searching for “Lone Sailor Statue Dedication at Marina Bay”.

Please note that member Gerti Gillen recently agreed to take on the role of administrative assistant. This is a job that has been performed for many years by Robert Muise.

COMING UP:

The Boston area chapter of the Marine Corps Aviation Association will hold their annual lobster bake at the 4th Cliff Military Recreation Area in Marshfield, MA on Saturday September 7th. This is a terrific event that’s a lot of fun to attend. There will be many people there who served in the various USMCR units that were based at NAS Squantum and NAS South Weymouth. All Patriot Squadron members are welcome to go. For more details and to make reservations reach out to Joe Mahoney at jhmahoney@verizon.net. Please note that if you want to go you need to contact Joe before the end of the day on September 2nd. The lobster bake costs \$90 per person and they provide a great meal!

The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum will host an NAS Brunswick base reunion over Friday and Saturday September 13th and 14th. Go to <https://bnamuseum.org> for details. VP-8 will bring a P-8A Poseidon, VXS-1 will bring a P-3C Orion, and one of the training squadrons will bring a T-44A Pegasus for static display out on the old NAS Brunswick airfield on Saturday. The Navy has just three commands, VXS-1, VX-30, and VQ-1, operating about a half-dozen P-3s as of this writing. Only VXS-1 is on the east coast. The other two are on the west coast. VQ-1 will be disestablished next year and the remaining two units are rumored to be disestablishing in 2026. Thus, the NAS Brunswick base reunion could end up being your final opportunity to see and possibly come aboard a real-live US Navy P-3 Orion. Don’t miss this opportunity! The last day to make reservations for the reunion banquet is Saturday August 31st but if you just want to show up for the reunion and see the aircraft you can purchase admission at the gate. Go to <https://bnamuseum.org> for more details about the reunion or to make banquet reservations.

HELP WANTED:

In addition to needing people willing to help out with the museum as described on the second page of this newsletter, 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. Remember, this organization will exist only for as long as there are people willing to do the work necessary to keep it going.

DID YOU KNOW?



NAS Squantum formed a helicopter flight demonstration team called "The Three Whirleybirds" for the Armed Forces Day air show held on the base on Saturday May 16th and Sunday May 17th 1953. Team members LCDR Eli Barufaldi, LT Paul Berkmore, and LT Walter Crocker from Naval Air Reserve helicopter utility squadron HU-911 performed a demonstration routine with Hiller HTE-2 helicopters. Unfortunately, this proved to be the last air show held at NAS Squantum. The Navy and Marine reserve commands were relocated from NAS Squantum to NAS South Weymouth in

December 1953 and the historic base, which is the place where the Naval Air Reserve training program was established in 1922, was closed in January 1954.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



The ground controlled approach (GCA) radar installation at NAS South Weymouth, seen here in later years, was apparently the very last of its kind in active service. After the airfield was closed on September 30, 1996 these GCA trailers were brought to the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, FL.

