



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

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

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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.

### **2015 ANA PATRIOT SQUADRON MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYABLE BY DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>:**

As you should know, membership in the ANA Patriot Squadron runs on a calendar year basis from January through December. Dues for 2015 are due by the end of December 31<sup>st</sup>. You can renew your membership for one year for \$15 or, new starting now, for three years at the discounted rate of \$40. Please send a check for either \$15 for a one year renewal or \$40 for a three year renewal to ANA Patriot Squadron, 495 Shea Memorial Drive, South Weymouth MA 02190. You can also pay in person at the museum or at the holiday party. Your dues help us operate and maintain the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. We encourage every ANA Patriot Squadron member to also consider joining the national Association of Naval Aviation, of which we are an affiliate. For more information about the national group see [www.anahq.org](http://www.anahq.org).

### **RECENT NEWS:**

Member Bill Hanigan, who was formerly in VP-911, VP-63Z1, and VP-92 at NAS South Weymouth and retired as an AOC just before the base shut down, suffered a severe stroke at the end of October. He is at Wingate at Silver Lake, 17 Chipman Way, Kingston, MA 02364. Visitors should

note that he is in Room 7 in the Skilled Care Unit. If you visit Bill, and we strongly encourage you to do so, please be aware that he is paralyzed on one side and has aphasia. He is making good progress, is alert and trying very hard to communicate, and it is obvious that he appreciates visitors. Please go see him if you can. Also, you can send e-mail messages to [billhanagan@icloud.com](mailto:billhanagan@icloud.com).

A special visitor showed up at the museum on Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup>, John "Jackie" Shea Jr., son of CDR John J. Shea of NAS Squantum and "Letter to Jackie" fame. CDR Shea was XO of NAS Squantum throughout most of the 1930s. He was called up for active duty just before the country entered WW2 and was killed in action when the aircraft carrier USS Wasp (CV-7) was sunk by a Japanese submarine in 1942. An inspirational letter that CDR Shea wrote to his then five year old son, the so-called "Letter to Jackie", was widely publicized after his death. The airfield at NAS Squantum was named for CDR Shea in 1946 and after NAS Squantum was closed and the reserve program relocated to NAS South Weymouth in late 1953 the airfield at NAS South Weymouth and the main road through the base were also both named for him. Today, our Shea Naval Aviation Museum and the Shea Memorial Grove help continue to preserve the memory of CDR John J. Shea on old NAS South Weymouth. John Shea Jr. joined the ANA Patriot Squadron and purchased two memorial bricks for the Shea Memorial Grove in his father's honor. We're pleased to have him as a member.

On four occasions in September and October ANA Patriot Squadron members operated informational booths or tables at local events to help spread the word about the ANA Patriot Squadron and the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. On Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup> Faith Frattasio, Mary Jeane Hicky, and Susan Zimmerman operated a booth in conjunction with "Weymouth Day" at the Weymouth Farmer's Market. Later that same day Marc Frattasio had a table at the Marine Corps Aviation Association Boston Squadron's Annual Lobster Bake at the Fourth Cliff military recreation area in Scituate, MA. On Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, and Susan Zimmerman had a booth at the Weymouth Pumpkin Festival. ANA Patriot Squadron member Robert Michaelski, who was there for Weymouth Emergency Management, helped set the table up. The Pumpkin Festival is an annual fund-raiser for non-profit organizations in the town of Weymouth. Anyone who gives a donation to any of the groups that are set up at the Pumpkin Festival are presented with a ticket that can be redeemed for a Halloween pumpkin. Lastly, on Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> Faith Frattasio, Marc Frattasio, and Susan Zimmerman had a booth at the Fall Festival hosted by the Weymouth Whole Foods store.

On Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> the Shea Naval Aviation Museum was opened for members of the VP Association attending their annual reunion in Weymouth that day. The VP Association is a group composed primarily (but not exclusively) of former members of the Naval Air Reserve patrol squadrons that were based at NAS Squantum, NAS South Weymouth, and NAS Brunswick. See [www.vpassociation.org](http://www.vpassociation.org) for details. More than a dozen members of the VP Association stopped by the museum before going to their reunion, which was held at the Weymouth Elks Hall. Two visitors, Don Jacob and Steve Jacobs, bought artifacts from their time on NAS South Weymouth to donate to the museum. Don brought an HSL-74 line crewman's helmet and Steve brought a framed cut-away diagram of a diesel-electric submarine. Both items are welcome additions to the museum.

During our regular monthly meeting in the museum on Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> Paul Monti, the father of local Medal of Honor recipient Army SSGT Jared Monti (killed in action in Afghanistan), gave a brief talk about his heroic son and the charitable activities he's involved with in his honor. Mr. Monti presented the museum with a framed photograph of his son and his Medal of Honor citation. We intend to honor SSGT Monti with a tree, plaque, and memorial brick at the Shea Memorial Grove sometime in the spring of 2015.

Also on September 27<sup>th</sup> the Shea Naval Aviation Museum hosted a lecture by local historian and author John Galluzzo, who together with Donald Cann, put together a book for Arcadia Publishing

entitled "Squantum and South Weymouth Naval Air Stations". This book has proved to be very popular, has gone through several printings, and is still available today. Mr. Galluzzo presented a lecture about the history of both bases to an audience composed of about 40 ANA Patriot Squadron members and visitors to the museum. The presentation was supposed to have included a book signing. However, Mr. Galluzzo's co-author, Mr Cann, could not make it and he had all the books!

On Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> the Bay Colony chapter of the International Plastic Modeler's Society (IPMS) held a meeting at the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. This is the third time that this group has met at the museum. The meeting began at noon after the scheduled open house that day and it ran until 4 PM. The Bay Colony IPMS is composed of people who build plastic scale model aircraft, ships, etc. Patriot Squadron members Peter Jardim, Hal Marshman, and Joe Ravino are also members of the Bay Colony IPMS. For more information about this group contact these three men or see the group's web site at [www.ipmsbaycolony.com](http://www.ipmsbaycolony.com).

Please note that though the museum's scheduled hours are 9 AM to noon on the second Saturday of the month and 9 to 11 AM on the last Saturday of the month, it can be opened on other occasions (as was done for the VP Association and Bay Colony IPMS) on request. If you are associated with a group that would like to visit the museum on an off day, speak to a director at the monthly meeting or send an e-mail request to [inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org](mailto:inquiries@anapatriotsquadron.org). We will accommodate you if possible.

ANA Patriot Squadron member Francis Creney passed away on Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with lung cancer. Fran was a retired Master Chief Petty Officer who served as a part-time reservist and full-time stationkeeper or TAR at NAS South Weymouth during the 1950s and 1960s. Fran was a good friend of the Shea Naval Aviation Museum who attended many of our public lectures and donated a number of artifacts over the years.

On Friday October 17<sup>th</sup> members Marc Frattasio, Peter Jardim, Bill Sargent, and Frank Ward (a reservist assigned to Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 27 Detachment 22 from Naval Reserve Center Quincy) recovered an old sign from NAS South Weymouth's main entrance from where it had been stored on the partially demolished hangar deck of Hangar Two and brought it to the museum.

We installed several more memorial bricks at the Shea Memorial Grove since the last newsletter was distributed and are still encouraging people to purchase them. As of this writing we still have space for about 70 more bricks along the right hand side of the main pathway into the Grove. The memorial bricks cost \$50 each and can be engraved with up to four lines of text. Order forms are available at the museum during open houses or you can download an order form from the ANA Patriot Squadron's web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org). Please note that bricks ordered over the next few months will not be placed into the ground until the ground thaws in the late spring.

### **COMING UP:**

We will hold our annual holiday luncheon at the Abington Ale House on Route 18 in Abington on Saturday December 13<sup>th</sup>. The holiday luncheon will start at noon after the open house at the museum that day. If you want to attend the holiday luncheon just show up at the restaurant on or about noon. No RSVP is required. We've made arrangements to have several tables reserved for us. As in previous years plan to order your meal off the restaurant's menu. Please note that the 13<sup>th</sup> will be the last open house at the museum before Christmas. Our NAS South Weymouth ball caps, pint glasses, t-shirts, etc., make excellent holiday gifts. Stop by and get them before its too late!

If the weather is favorable USN CAPT Richard LaBranche of the Naval War College will present a lecture at the museum on Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. At this time we do not know what CAPT



LaBranche will present, but we're confident that whatever he presents will be very interesting. CAPT LaBranche is the Director of the Naval War College's Maritime Advanced Warfighting School (MAWS). He's also a former F-14, F-18, and A-6 pilot (he was the C.O. of the last Tomcat squadron), carrier air group commander, combat veteran, and a member of the Association of Naval Aviation.

Looking out even further, it looks like popular aviation author Tommy H. Thomason will be coming back to the museum to conduct a book signing and lecture on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Mr. Thomason has presented at the museum twice before. By April he expects to have a new book about the Grumman S2F Tracker in print. S2Fs were based at NAS South Weymouth from the mid 1950s up through the late 1970s, at first for use by NADU and the various USNR VS squadrons and then later as a utility aircraft. His lecture will either be about ASW or the S2F.

The museum is actively working with member Steve Cohn, who also belongs to the K1USN ham radio club. Steve and his ham radio operator friends want to have some kind of live radio broadcast event at the museum sometime during the latter half of 2015. We'll provide more information in future issues of the newsletter as plans for this event develop further.

It may interest you to know that a local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) has a pancake breakfast and fly-in at Cranland Airport in Halifax, MA on the third Sunday of the month, weather permitting, from April through October. This starts at 8 AM and lasts until about 10. Breakfast costs \$7 per person and normally a large number of civilian aircraft stop by. There's also an active skydiving operation there and the management typically puts on a skydiving exhibition during the pancake breakfasts. Several ANA Patriot Squadron members usually go and meet there. Come join us if civilian aircraft interest you. Cranland Airport is located on Route 58 near the MBTA commuter rail crossing. Look for the airport sign.

There's going to be a reunion for HML-771 personnel on Saturday October 24, 2015 from 7 PM to midnight at Lombardo's on 6 Billings Street in Randolph, MA. This was the USMCR helicopter unit assigned to NAS South Weymouth under various designations from the late 1950s through the early 1990s. If you were in HML-771 or any of its predecessor units, the Marine Air Reserve Training Detachment, or the Marine Air Group 49 detachment at NAS South Weymouth you should consider going. If interested, contact Richard Gallagher at richard.gallagher61@yahoo.com for more details.

### **HELP WANTED:**

As always, we need volunteers to help tend the Shea Naval Aviation Museum during the open houses 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. Anybody who would like to help tend the museum during the open houses is welcome to come on by. Basically, the volunteer crew cleans the museum, puts things out for display, keeps an eye on visitors, answers questions, records sales, and then closes the place up. You can do whatever you feel comfortable doing. Stay as long or as little as you like and help with all or some of the tasks. The ANA Patriot Squadron meets from 11 AM to noon at the museum on the last Saturday of the month and then we normally 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.

We need help with occasional work parties at the museum and at the Shea Memorial Grove. These events are generally announced during the monthly meetings or via e-mail. If you'd like to help in any way we'd be happy to have you with us.

As you can see from some of the news presented in this newsletter, we are now trying to have a presence 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 might be an appropriate place for us to have a booth or table, please speak to a director at the monthly meeting.

We can use donations of any 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 Shea Naval Aviation Museum. Photos, slides, and films can be copied and returned to you if you don't want to give them up. We are especially interested in obtaining display torsos and full body male manikins for use in displaying uniform jackets and complete uniforms. The few display torsos that we have managed to acquire have made a big difference in the museum. Perhaps you can check with your local clothing stores to see if they have any display torsos or male manikins that they want to get rid of? We can also use an 8 foot "Ez-Up" type tent. Such a thing would be very useful at the various public events that we are now trying to set up at (we had to borrow one for the events that we set up at during September and October). The ANA Patriot Squadron is a 501c3 non-profit educational organization so donations to the Shea Naval Aviation Museum may be tax-deductible.

We are always looking for new members and 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 CAPT LaBranche's lecture scheduled for Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup>. There will be a link to the special flyer that we will put together for this event on our web site at [www.anapatriotsquadron.org](http://www.anapatriotsquadron.org) before the end of December. If you have the ability to do so, please print a few flyers and post them locally where people can see them.

As always, don't assume that people know about the ANA Patriot Squadron or the Shea Naval Aviation Museum. When we operated our tables at the Weymouth Farmer's Market, USMC lobster bake, and Pumpkin Festival most of the people we spoke to were unaware of 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 contact them and tell them about us. Likewise, if you know anybody who is interested in military history or aviation 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.

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

NAS Squantum was originally established by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in April 1917 as the Massachusetts School for Naval Air Service. The purpose of the school was to provide primary flight instruction and basic mechanical training to members of the Massachusetts Naval Militia, a state-run paramilitary organization similar in concept to the National Guard, in preparation for advanced training provided by the Navy at NAS Pensacola, FL. The school, which consisted of a small wooden seaplane hangar and a large number of tents, was operated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for only a few weeks. It was taken over by the Navy and commissioned U. S. Naval Air Station Squantum, Massachusetts on May 11, 1917.



**SOME RECENT PHOTOS:**



**Top Left:** Jackie Shea with museum director Marc Frattasio. **Top Right:** Mary Jean Hickey, Faith Frattasio, and Susan Zimmerman at the Weymouth Farmer's Market. **Middle Left:** VP Association visitors at the museum. **Middle Right:** Paul Monti presenting a framed photo of his heroic son to the museum. **Bottom Left:** Guest speaker John Galluzzo. **Bottom Right:** Pumpkin Festival table crew.

A WINDOW INTO THE PAST:



VP-92 Lockheed P-3A Orion parked near NAS South Weymouth's Hangar One sometime during the mid to late 1970s. The squadron transitioned from the Lockheed SP-2H Neptune to the P-3A during 1975 and flew various models of the aircraft (P-3As, P-3Bs, and P-3Cs) until it was decommissioned at NAS Brunswick, ME in 2007. Tom Cuddy photo.

