

NHVA Newsletter Feb. 2011

Naval Centennial 1911-2011

During the twentieth century, commonly called “The American Century” few military organizations played a more crucial role than Naval Aviation. In war at sea, eclipsing the battleship as the decisive weapon, aircraft carriers projected their powerful air wings over vast expanses of water, striking with surprise as enemy fleets and land bases, then disappearing with equal swiftness. In times of peace, the carrier and her battle group provided American political leaders a flexible, always ready and potent way to respond to regional crises wherever and whenever American vital interest were threatened. **“Where are the carriers?”** has been the first question asked by American presidents since the end of World War II.

On May 8th, 1911, Captain Washington Chambers prepared the requisition form for the Navy’s first aircraft, the Curtiss A-1 Triad. That day is now celebrated as the official birthday of U.S. Navy Aviation.

The A-1 Triad was the first seaplane to fly in this country, the first amphibious aircraft and the first U.S. Naval aircraft. It earned **Glen Curtiss** the title of **“The Father of Naval Aviation.”** The Triad was developed and test flown by Glenn Curtiss on Feb. 25th, 1911. The name Triad named by its builder, stands for three: Land, Air, and Sea.

The Navy’s flight program has grown to become a guardian of freedom for America and its allies. It has succeeded because of the hard work and dedication of men and women who are willing to continually challenge themselves and if necessary sacrifice their lives for their **country**.

National Naval Aviation Museum

Naval Aviation has also been at the cutting edge of aerospace expeditions, from the first successful crossing of the Atlantic by an aircraft, explorations of the Arctic, Antarctic and journeys of discovery into outer space. The common denominator for those who participated in this exciting history was their training in a sleeping little Southern city on the Gulf of Mexico: **Pensacola, FL.**, the site of the first naval air station.

Since 1914 it was here that the fledglings tested their mettle against the demands of flying machines. They learned the unique skills required to fly from ships at sea, find distant targets and return to their moving, rolling, and pitching “airfield,” often in bad weather and frequently at night. It makes perfect sense that Pensacola has a world-class museum to commemorate its place and that of Naval Aviation, in history.

On June 8th, 1963, the museum opened its doors. With a mere 8500 square feet and housed in a wood frame building, the museum displayed and rotated eight aircraft.

After many expansion phases and fund raisers, the museum’s space totals 291,000 square feet. The museum houses 150 restored aircraft along with several rare war birds. Including the only surviving Vought SB2U Vindicator and more than 4000 artifacts representing Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Aviation. The latest addition is the seven story, 534 seat IMAX theater.

CUBI BAR

The CUBI (Construction Unit Battalion One) Bar Cafe is not only a restaurant but a popular museum exhibit. The CUBI Bar was originally located at Subic Bay in the Philippines. The CUBI Bar was about tradition, camaraderie and a proud place to come during a hellish time. The bar was closed after Mt. Pinatubo erupted in 1991. A place so dear to many Navy Squadrons could not be left behind. The bar was dismantled and reconstructed exactly as it had been. “There’s a lot of naval history in this bar. If the walls could talk, you would have one hell of a story.”

Awe Inspiring Blue Angels Show

The Blue Angels mission is to enhance Navy and Marine Corps recruiting efforts and to represent the naval service to the United States, its elected leadership and foreign nations. The Blue Angels serve as positive role models and goodwill ambassadors for the Navy and Marine Corps. A Blue Angels flight demonstration exhibits choreographed refinements of skills possessed by all naval aviators.

U.S.S. Iwo Jimo (LHD7)

U.S. S. Iwo Jima is the 7th Wasp-class Amphibious Assault Ship and the second ship in the navy to bear the name. The large deck expeditionary aircraft carrier was commissioned in Pensacola in 2001.

Pensacola Beach Gulf Pier

1471 feet, the longest pier on the Gulf of Mexico, open 24 hours a day/7 days a week. From the pier you can see many kinds of marine life, dolphins, manatees, brown and cow rays, sharks and crabs. The pier also has rental rod, bait, tackle. Prices for observers \$1.25, fishing \$6.50.

Navy Helicopter Veterans

Logo caps and tote bags have been ordered. Members attending the reunion will receive theirs at that time. We will have extra capos and tote bags at the reunion that can be purchased for \$12.00 each.

Reunion Information

Dates: Monday May 2nd, 2011, through Friday May 6th, 2011 (checkout)

Location:

**Hampton Inn
Two Via Deluna
Pensacola Beach, FL 32561**

**850-932-6800
800-320-8108 Direct toll-free hotel
Sound side rate \$139.00
Gulf front rate: \$149.0
Our group code is NHV**

The hotel offers our group discount rates 3 days prior and 3 days after reunion.

**Weekend rates Sound side rate \$169.00
Gulf front rate \$189.00**

If you have not made reservations with Hampton Inn **please do so immediately.** The hotel only holds 40 rooms for us and this is going to be a busy week. You may **cancel** anytime up to 24 hours out. The hotel is located on Pensacola's famous white sand beach at the center of all the island attractions. We'll enjoy spectacular views overlooking miles of sugar white sand and the emerald waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, features include gulf front rooms with private balconies, complimentary deluxe hot breakfast buffet; in room microwave, mini-refrigerator, coffee-maker, complimentary wireless internet in rooms and public areas.

Reunion Itinerary

Monday.....	Registration
Dinner.....	Sidelines Sports Bar and Restaurant ***
Tuesday.....	Naval Aviation Museum (lunch at CUBI Bar)
Dinner.....	Grabs, We Got'Em***
Wednesday.....	Blue Angels Air Show, PBY Demonstration Good Morning America broadcast (Lunch at CUBI Bar) visit Veterans Memorial Park
Dinner	Flounders Seafood Restaurant****
Thursday.....	U.S.S. Iwo Jima tour, return by lunch
Dinner.....	Hemmingway's Island Grille (Reunion Banquet) transportation provided
Friday.....	Check-out 11:00 a.m.

*****Reserved seating at these restaurants, very close walking distance, varied menu, casual dress, dinner dutch treat.

Hemmingway's Island Grille Menu

Filet Oscar: Char grilled filet of beef tenderloin served over garlic smashed potatoes topped with lump crab meat drizzled with homemade hollandaise sauce garnished with fresh steamed asparagus.

Trigger Vera Cruz: Grilled fresh trigger fish over island rice covered with sauteed gulf shrimp with peppers, onions and tomatoes. Drizzled with vanilla rum butter sauce.

Airport transportation provided by Beach Bum Trolley...1-888-462-1026.

Website: www.beachbumtrolley.com/navycopters.htm check it out.

State gift exchange \$20.00 or less for those participating.

Join us at the NHV 2011 reunion as we proudly celebrate 100 years of courage, sacrifice and achievement.

May 2nd through May 6th, 2011

Navy Helicopter Veterans Reunion Registration 2011

Name(s) _____

Registration Fee

\$80.00/person members/guest staying at hotel\$80.00 X___=_____

\$85.00/person members/guests not staying at hotel___\$85.00X___=_____

Please indicate your choice: Hemingway's Island Grille

Filet Oscar #_____

Trigger Vera Cruz #_____

Chicken Plantaino #_____

Brownie #_____ or Key Lime Pie #_____

Tuesday.....Navy Aviation Museum _____\$37.00___X___=_____

Wednesday....Blue Angels Air Show _____\$33.00___X___=_____

Thursday.....LHD7.....U.S.S.Iwo Jima___\$22.00___X___=_____

Grand Total Remitted for Reunion_____ \$_____

Payable to NVHA:

Barbara Hoffay, Treasurer

938 Satsuma Circle

St. Johns, FL 32259

I am unable to attend the reunion but would like to submit my annual dues \$20.00 for 2011 Mine._____Spouse_____Total dues \$_____

Additional cap.....\$12.00 ea_____X_____ \$_____

Additional tote bag.....\$12.00ea_____X_____ \$_____

Flat rate shipping.....\$11.00 (includes all items shipped)_____ \$11.00

Total remitted for additional items \$_____