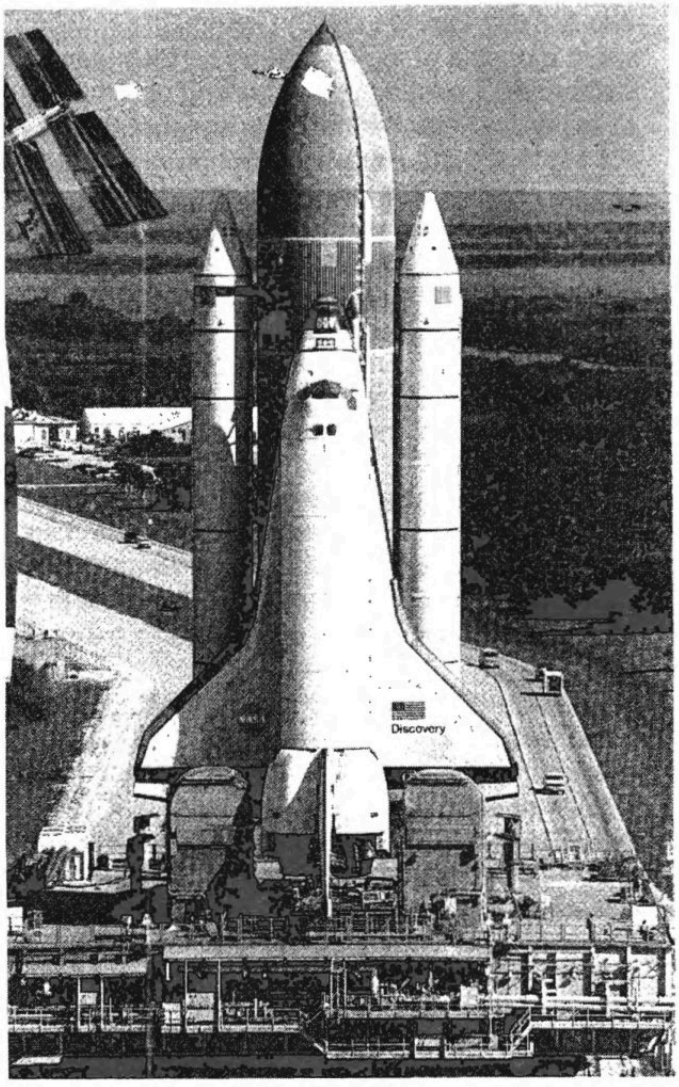
KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

A #1 Must on our Orlando Experience

Decisions are coming slowly on the 2010 reunion, but one things stands out as a "MUST DO" while in the Orlando area. It will definitely be a day trip. If you have not yet seen it, we envy you your first time experience.

We will, of course, be taking both the guided tours available. "NASA Up Close" tours the Launch area with an expert guide. Stops include the closest viewing location of the space shuttle launch pads, the shuttle landing facility, a panoramic view of all launch pads from NASA Causeway and a stop outside the Vehicle Assembly Building. The "Then and Now" tour visits the launch sites from the 1960's, visits the Air Force Space and Missile Museum and includes today's active unmanned rocket program.

There is an interesting new addition to the program that is entitled 'Lunch with an Astronaut". You get to eat a delicious lunch, have a live space program briefing from a NASA Astronaut and receive an autographed souvenir. What do you think:?



I regret to say that we do not yet have a host hotel or specific dates for the 2010 reunion. When we sent out our requests for a proposal, many of the hotels came back to us a said that we were too far out with our dates for them to give us a quote.

The Orlando Visitors Bureau will be resending out our proposal request again in a week or two and we should have better response this time since we are in 2009 rather than 2008. Of the few hotels that did respond to us on our initial attempt, they were not competitive in their pricing.

We will get dates to you in the April newsletter, along with hotel information. We are confident it can be accomplished by that time.

News from Cyberspace, Etc.

Email Removed VW-1 Web Page: http://vw1assoc.tripod.com/

George Dean (10/25) Email Removed "Re: BuNo 145934: This bird was TE-2 during my stint on Guam from 1962 to 1964. I confirmed by looking up a Lockheed site. It was transferred to the Air Force after I left in April 1962. LCDR Harry Hoch and crew put in many hours between Sangley, Atsugi, and Naha, not to mention those exciting "synoptic tracks" from Agana to Agana (2000 miles enroute) as well as "junk patrols" in the South China Sea."

John & Karen Martin (10/28) Email Removed "We arrived here just north of Yuma on the Long Term Visitor Area a week ago today and are both back into the dental stuff again. It is going to be a long winter for me ... need six crowns and a couple of fillings. Doesn't that sound like fun? We finally got to play tourist in Colorado Springs in mid-September and saw some interesting stuff. Drove to the top of Pike's Peak (37 degrees, not counting the chill factor that day); saw a lot of gold in the hills ... all the Quaking Aspen was responding to the chill in the air."

Jim & Ruth Tandy (11/05) Email Removed "Doug and Fran Stevens (Crew 4) spent a couple of nights with us on their way home to Georgia after a trip to Southern California. It sure was fun catching up on a few of the happenings of the last 41 years since we last saw them. Two days just wasn't enough time. Stevens and I graduated in the same A School class in Memphis (summer 1965). Upon arrival on Guam we bought shares in an old car along with Waterworth and Strand (deceased). It was $ 25 .00 each as I remember it. I was honored to be the best man at Doug and Fran's wedding in 1967. I shared many other experiences with Doug. It is amazing to find that he isn't the same young sailor he was back then. Our paths had nearly crossed many times on assignments that our respective jobs sent us on. He worked for the Army and I worked for the Air Force. Fran is rapidly recovering from a couple of surgeries for brain tumors and has a beautiful view of life. When we were in Greenville, TX we visited the Audie Murphy Museum and refreshed our memories of some of the outstanding heroes of our country's past. We stayed up very late reminiscing and telling a few old sea stories. Stevens tells me he received a membership package from you and now that Fran seems to be recovering he intends to join our VW-1 association. I had just finished reading my copy of the October Tracker and it was still lying on the dining room table when he arrived. He asked about some of the other guys and I wasn't able to answer, but assured him some of the other VW-'1ers would enjoy telling him."

Jim Geiger (12/06) Email Removed "Where do I start .... first of all, I'm still alive. I'm currently going through my 3rd bout with the cancer thing. Start another chemo treatment series in January. These treatments are pretty mild, one six hour treatment once a week for four weeks. Then a six month break. Then another four week treatment. The process will continue for another two years and then the series will extend to one series of treatments once a year for at least five more years. Of course, this all began in January of 2000 with a tumor about the size of a grapefruit on the side of my liver. I was not expected to live beyond ninety days. That was attacked aggressively with chemotherapy and to everyone's surprise I pulled through. Then in Oct. of 2003 I was diagnosed with cancer of the throat. I started eighteen weeks of radiation treatments in late October of 2003. Although the radiation was successful, it

(Continued to Page 6)

New Members

John Pattenaude **AN**
Address Removed 11/62-11/63
Address Removed Phone Removed
Monson, Address Removed
Wife: Gloria Email Removed

Assigned to Supply Shop

Ignacio (Rod) Rodriguez **ADR3**
Address Removed late'66-10/68
Dyer, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Joyce Email Removed

A/C Mechanic and Crew Chief of Crew 6

Arthur Calvin Smith **AE-2**
Address Removed 9/58-5/60
Sun City West, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Merlene Email Removed

1st Electrician on TE-7



Robert Welch **ACW3**
Address Removed 4/58-10/59
Leesburg, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jean Email Removed

Flew on Crews 7 and 8.

Now and Then

Recently we heard a suggestion from Gay Oulman that sounded like a great idea.

She suggested that we ask all our members to send us a photo of themselves when they were in VW-1. These photos could be displayed at the reunion and also used in the Tracker on occasion. There is no doubt that our minds can use a little help and a "then" picture would surely do that. If your so inclined, you could send along a bio of what you have done in your life since your VW-1 days. We have had a couple of members featured in the newsletter under a "Getting to Know You" article. We could do more of those. If your not inclined to send a bio, then send the picture anyway. We would like to get a full photo gallery of all of our members.

What do you think? If your onboard with this, look through those old photo albums, etc. and send your picture to us at::

Ed or Sally Metzger
VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association
Address Removed
Inverness, Address Removed

You are, of course, then giving us permission to display and use this photograph at our discretion, so if you have any outstanding issues from the past, better by careful. But then, we know that ALL our members are wonderful upstanding citizens and veterans, so not to worry!

We look forward to getting some pictures.

Raymond Williams **AN**
Address Removed 3/59–11/60
Memphis, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Betty Email Removed

In March of 59 I reported to VW-3 and was Assigned to Material as an aviation storekeeper. I deployed as detachment storekeeper to Naha, Atsugi and Tachi Kawa. When VW-3 decommissioned, I went to VW-1 Material Control.

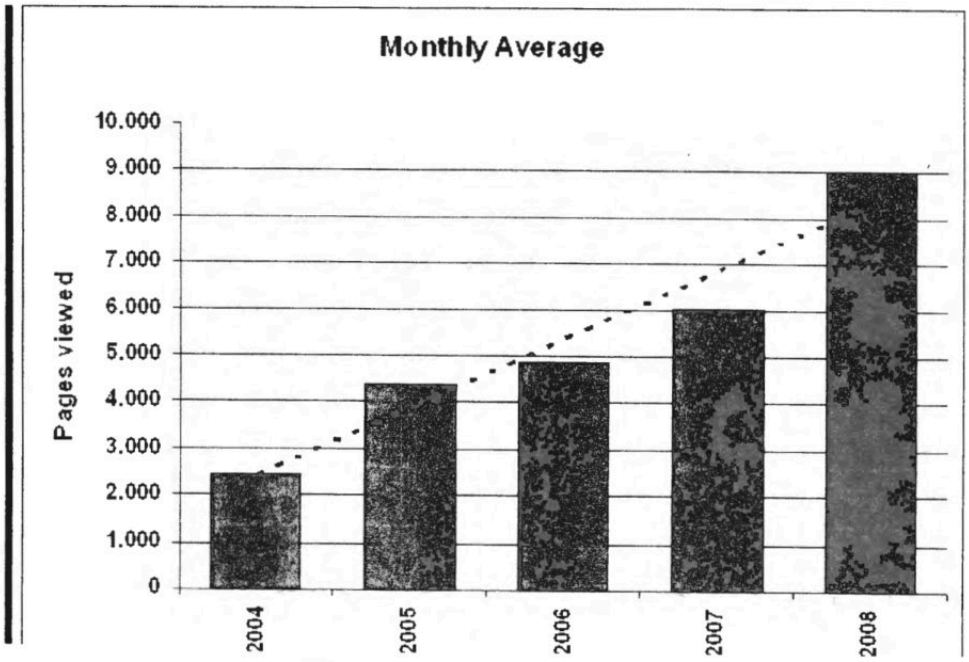
VW-1 All Hands Alumni Web Site Statistics Impressive

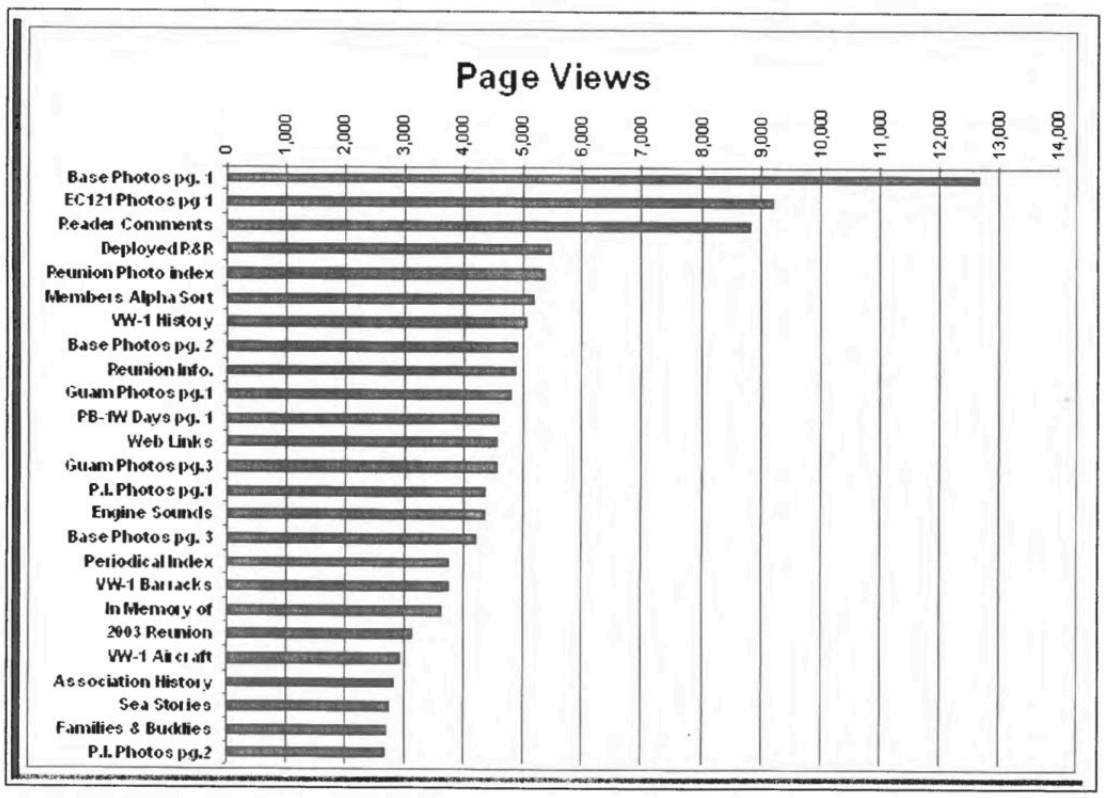
The following graphs tell a story of the success of the VW-1 All Hands Website. Over 11,000 pages were viewed during the month of August 2008. From January 2004 through Dec. 2008, more than 320,000 pages have been displayed to site visitors and over the past five years, the site has averaged over 5,300 pages viewed per month.

When you see it in graph form, it is a great testimonial to the outstanding service that we enjoy from our webmaster, Pete Wasmund.

The graph below shows the most viewed pages of the VW-1 All Hands Assoc. web site.

Great Job, Pete!

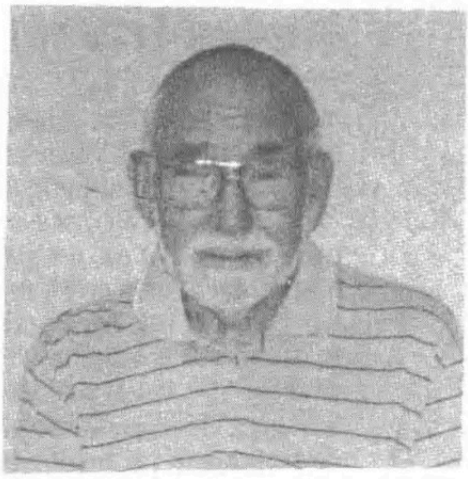




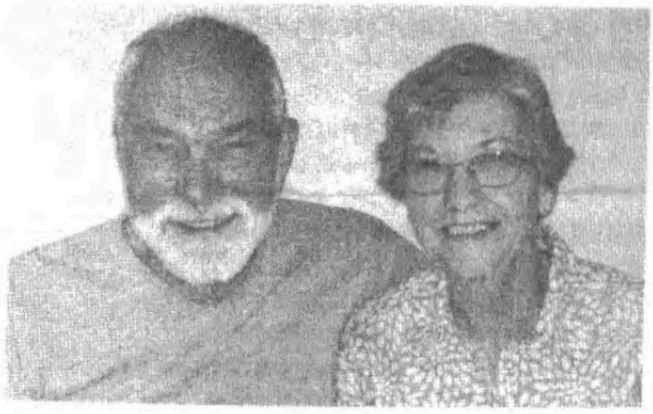
A Few of the Many 1st Time VW-1 Reunion Attendees in 2008



Letty & Rick Hall (ADR1) 9/68 – 3/71. Rick was a flight engineer on both TE-2 and TE-00. He had signed up for the Monday event only, but Letty was having such a good time that she put the pressure on and they wound up attending ALL of the reunion events. She pledged we would see her again in Orlando in 2010. Go, Letty!!



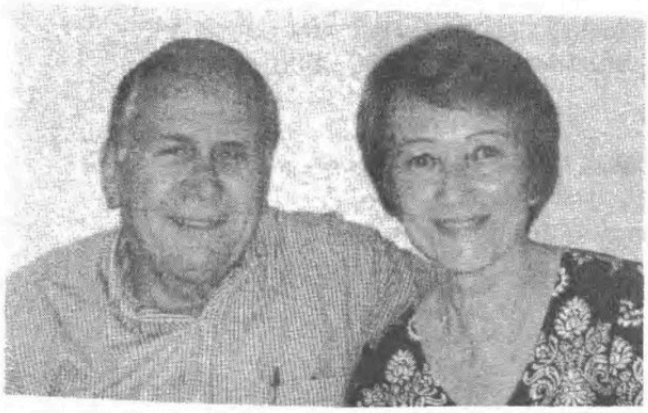
Carroll Walker hails from Lake Forest, CA. He was in VW-1 from 1/58 – 7/59 as AT3 on Crew 7. Hope to meet wife, Judy, next time.



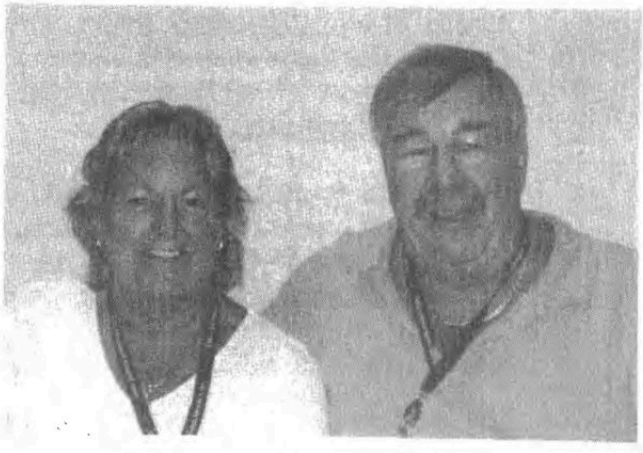
Harold (Hal) Cooper (Parthenon, AR) **AT2** with his guest, Sherrie Wilson. Hal was only 18 years old when in VW-1 from 7/58 – 6/60. He was 2nd radioman with Crew 4.



Marlene and "Baldy" Gabaldon (E3) Baldy was on the Line Crew in VW-1 from 2/66 to 7/67. Now lives in Denver, CO.



Bill (LT) and Lynn Turner, 1966 – 1968 Marengo, Illinois residents. Bill flew with Crews 3 and 7 while in VW-1.



Ron (ADR3) and Karla Tusing, Norwalk, OH Ron was in VW-1 from 3/65-9/66 and served as the Clerk for the CO/XO

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

did damage my vocal chords and my voice has never been the same. I can still talk, but it's just not me. Then sometime during June of 2007 we discovered I have non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in my chest and throat. That is what I'm currentlly being treated for. Along with all that I have been an insulin dependent diabetic for 25 years, hypertension, atrial fibrillation with a pacemaker installed. I'm old, fat and ugly. Other than that I'm in pretty good shape. Sure did intend to attend the reunion in Colorado Springs, but had my hands full trying to stay alive. I will keep the faith that I will be able to make it to a reunion one of these days. On the lighter side, after a four year battle with the VA, they have awarded me 100% disability as service connected with exposure to Agent Orange, as we all were. This has helped offset the fact that my career was ruined due to my health which led to losing my retirement and health coverage. Also, I want to let everyone know that belonging to the VW-1 Association has been a mental lifesaver during my difficult times. Thank you to all VW-1'ers for being part of my life."

NOTE: A reminder of Jim's contact information should you be so inclined:
Jim Geiger, Address Removed **Stirling City,** Address Removed **Phone:** Phone Removed

Rich Minter (12/13) Email Removed "Good news and bad in the current Willy Victor newsletter. For those who know Wes Mortensen, either personally or through his many contributions to the Willy Victor Group, I am sad to relay that he has been diagnosed with cancer. I haven't many details; only that it is a serious cancer. Wes is probably best known as the web master for the Willy Victor page web site, but that is only one of his contributions. He was instrumental in organizing the first Willy Victor reunion at Solomon's Island, MD in 1999, along with Sam Leach and Pete Lawrie. Even though that was a demanding task, he unselfishly volunteered to plan and execute the 2003 and 2005 reunions at Rantoul. Additionally, Wes initiated an effort in 1999 to raise money for a memorial plaque to commemorate the Pacific Barrier and to memorialize those who gave their lives in the effort. He arranged to have the plaque cast in bronze, personally traveled around the country to give WV members the opportunity to view the plaque, and then he and P J Menard traveled to Midway, where they presented the plaque to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service people managing Midway. The plaque was dedicated and hung in a place of honor in the Miami hangar at Midway. The entire Willy Victor community owe a great debt of gratitude to Wes for his major contributions. Wes, I am sure all of your Willy Victor shipmates will keep you and your family in their thoughts and prayers. For those who wish to offer a personal message to Wes, contact information is:
Wes Mortensen, Address Removed **Chaska,** Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

NOTE: The following e-mail arrived from Rich on 1/5/09. "It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I convey to you that a keystone of our Willy Victor Group, Wes Mortensen, lost his battle with cancer and passed away Saturday night, Jan. 3 at his Chaska, MN home. He will be sorely missed."

Rich Minter's E-mail of 12/13 continued:

The good news I mentioned is that the Commemorative Plaque Wall at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC will soon have two WV-related additions: One commemorating the Willy Victory Barrier Operations and another dedicated to the crew of SH-16,

(Continued to Page 7)

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 6)

which crashed at Midway in Jan. 1961 with the loss of a six aircrew and three crash crew members. The dedication event is scheduled for the afternoon of Feb. 7, 2009. Dick Vie, a pilot on the crew, coordinated the plaques and the dedication with the Navy.

Memorial. If anyone wishes to attend, contact Lee Kalsch at Email Removed so that you can be included in any future notifications of the event."

Rich Minter's Quote for the day:

Cicero, 55 BC "The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance."

Eldon & Karen Eskew (12/20) Email Removed "I managed to get in touch with Terry Teague. His e-mail address is no good anymore. I got him by calling his phone number which is the only way to get in touch with him now. He is living with a friend as he was wiped out by the storm that hit Galveston this year. His is 80% disabled. Just had eye surgery because his eyelids drooped so far down he could not see. He has PAD, heart trouble, and diabetes. His phone number is Phone Removed

NOTE: Karen suggested it might help if Terry Teague received some phone calls. He is currently living with a friend and he said his daughter is going through a divorce. There are several grandchildren and, she thinks, one great grandchild.

Eldon & Karen Eskew (1/1/09) Email Removed "There is not much to report yet on Eldon. He had the capsule endoscope on Dec. 23rd and we have not heard any results yet. The VA did send him a letter to come in (Yuma) on two different dates in January. Don't know yet what that is about. He seems to be doing OK now. He is back to doing a few things during the day, like work on his Trackers and cutting tree limbs. We are just taking it one day at a time and waiting for some test results.

NOTE: Karen first advised us of Eldon's unexplained bleeding problems on 11/17 and, as you can see from her e-mail of 1/1/09, the medical wheels move slowly and they do not yet have any definitive answers. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Eskews.

(1/13) Actually we found out just what we thought we would find. Nothing. Camera showed a little blood in small intestine. So he is on hold. It may come back, it may never come back. I thought all along that they waited to long to do anything. He is feeling OK, but a little weak. He lost over 15 pounds. We read in the Reader's Digest that for every day spent in the hospital, it takes a week to recover. So this will be after 2/9/09."

Rocki Karl Kaiser (1/18) Email Removed "I was an AMH in VW-1 from 2/69 until it was absorbed by VQ-1. I would very much like to hear from anyone that was in the squadron at that time and may remember me. I now make my home in Sherman, TX at Address Removed Address Removed My phone number is Phone Removed

New E-Mail Address: **Harry Jaggard** Email Removed

New Ship's Store Shirts Personalization Available



Ship's Store has a great new design on their tee shirts. The Connie picture Is larger, more defined. The shirt can be ordered in the generic style, which means it will have only TE on the tail or, if you prefer, you can have it personalized, as Ed has done in the picture on the left. You may want to have a side number on the plane, along with the BuNo and TE on the tail. The area where Ed has his personal info can be left blank (generic) or have up to three lines with name, rate, and years in VW-1. The shirts sell for $ 15.00, except for the XXL, which is $ 17.00. Shipping and handling is $ 4.80. If you order more than one shirt, only send shipping charges for one. Please state size, color (blue, gray or white), specific aircraft & personal information, if desired, when you place your order.

CONNIE PINS

Help! The Connie pins were a popular item in our Ship's Store, but we are sorry to report that we can no longer find them. We once got them in a large batch by joining up with Wes Mortensen of the Willy Victory Group, but that source has dried up. We cannot seem to locate a supplier for them. Does anyone have any ideas or suggestions? If you know where they are available, please let us know so that we can continue to carry them in our ship's store.



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
Address Removed
Address Removed



Mailing Code Removed