ISSUE 57 VW-1 TRACKER AUGUST 2014

The End of an Era .....

All Things in Their Time

I am so blessed to have so many dear friends in the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association! That is what I want you to remember most as I officially announce that I need to pass on some duties to others in the group.

Since Ed and I had this wonderful idea in 1999 to start a VW-1 reunion group, it has gone far, far better than we could have ever imagined. We automatically took on all the tasks and loved every moment of the opportunity to bring us all together at reunion after reunion. As I have said before, it truly was a "labor of love".

After Ed's death I was eager to continue and you all were gracious enough to let me do so. Now I find that it is just not nearly as much fun without Ed by my side. My life has moved into a whole new area and it is harder and harder to devote the time and effort to the multiple tasks I have. I am just wearing too many hats!

A few reunions back, Martha and Lee Thompson took over the history/album job. At the last reunion, Jim Geiger and his wife volunteered to take over ship's store. Two hats gone. There are four remaining: Tracker editor, Secretary, Treasurer and Reunion Planner.

There has been some talk in the past about the Tracker going out via e-mail to save on postage; with snail mail only to those who were not on line. I do not have the computer expertise to make that happen. Between the printing and postage, each newsletter runs the group about $ 450.00 per issue. Someone out there probably could do it much better than I and do it efficiently in 21st century technology. Think about it and contact our President, Ralph Link, and discuss your interest in becoming the new editor. I will be doing the November issue after the Williamsburg reunion and then be ready to retire my Editor hat.

The jobs of secretary/treasurer have always been combined with me, but that does not necessarily need to be the case. These two are rather self-explanatory. It was always convenient to combine them since the membership information and money came in together and having everything under one roof simplified things. How these jobs fit in with membership will be worked out by the current board. The bottom line is that if you feel you can contribute in anyone of these fields, let Ralph know. There goes another two hats.

Reunion planner .... Ahhh! The job of my dreams. I want to hang onto this if you will allow me to do so. Kathy Green has stepped up to assist and when we were in Williamsburg a year ago

(Continued on Page 4)

-- - News from Cyberspace & Mail Call –

Floyd Orsini (5/16) Email Removed "Once again you and everyone else have done a great job planning for events for the reunion. Looking forward to being there. I also agree with Pete Wasmund as far as others joining our group. Letting our grandparent squadron in would be an honor, I think. They were the Trailblazers and VW-1 learned from them to become the great and respected unit that we were."

Jim & Peggy LaPosta (5/22) "Effective June 1 our new address will be Address Removed Saratoga Springs, Address Removed Phone: Phone Removed

Phil & Kathy Rivera (5/26) Email Removed "We have been enjoying the newsletter. I have to regretfully tell you that we will not be able to make Williamsburg this time. Phil's health is just not that good right now and he just got put on the transplant list at UC Davis so we need to stay close to home in case they call. We are so disappointed that we will miss all of you and we were so looking forward to seeing such an historic place. We will do our best to get to the next one."

Dick & Jo Lee (5/28) Email Removed "Just want to let you know what's going on in our life since moving to Arkansas. The last week of March I had a stroke that left my right hand weak and some numbness in my right foot. I start therapy June 2nd and we don't know how long that will last. Jo is doing fine. Our correct address is Address Removed Lincoln. Address Removed My cell phone is Phone Removed We were planning to come to the reunion, but at this time, are not sure."

George Dean (6/7) Email Removed "I have been unable to attend but one reunion in the past, and send my regrets again. With my wife in assisted living (dementia), I cannot/will not leave the area. But every one that I have been able to attend, no matter which reunion group, it has been a great time and I believe all hands felt the same."

Richard & Leticia Hall (6/7) Snail mail "Richard is now legally blind. Communication is best via telephone. His phone number is Phone Removed

Tom & Barbara Bates (6/25) "I want to let you know that we are not able to attend the reunion this year. We have our house up for sale and want to buy another one about 150 miles from us. Things are up in the air right now and we just need to hang tight and, hopefully, we can get this done in a minimum of time. Hopefully, we can make the next reunion, wherever it may be. I'm sure everyone will have a great time in Williamsburg."

Pat O'Donnell (6/30) Snail Mail " I'm getting over a broken arm and leg. Slipped on the ice late in February. My wife, Judy, just had a partial knee replacement. No fun getting old. Hi to everyone."

Rick Hall (6/19) Email Removed "I am Rick's oldest daughter, Karen. I am now reviewing Dad's e-mail because he is unable to see the computer screen. I tried getting him set up with Apple products so they could read his e-mail and documents, but Dad had a rough time getting used to it. I don't normally do the reply, but I just wanted to thank you for your service to our country. I am sure my Dad would appreciate a call from any of you that want to talk about the old days and the Connie or what you have done since your time with her. His number is Phone Removed I grew up hearing about how much he loved his time in the U.S. Navy and stories from his days with the Connie. Please, if you have the tine and desire to talk a bit about those things (or anything really since Dad loves to talk) give him a call. Not being able to see and communicate via e-mail has been very difficult for him and taking a break from the TV would do him a lot of good. On a side note, if any of you have stories you would like to share about my Dad, I would love to hear them! I am working on making digital copies of all the slides Dad has from the '50's through the '70's and having stories to go into a scrapbook would be so amazing! I check Dad's e-mail regularly and pass along any information that comes in. Thank you and God bless!"

Jim Galinsky (6/20) Email Removed "Just got of thje phone with Chief Hall – had a wonderful chat. He asked that I get in touch with those of youwho might remember having served with him and to pass the word along about his vision problems. He would truly enjoy receiving a phoe call, knowing from

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Scuttlebutt from Your President

Greetings, Shipmates,

How time flys! Our 2014 reunion will take place next month in Williamsburg, VA. Sally Metzger tells me we only have a modest registration of members. I know it is hard for some due to health, finances or distance to attend. However, please make every effort to join us in Wiliamsburg. Sally has put together a list of fun and interesting programs. We will take up the membership question about expanding our requirements to include shipmates outside our immediate VW-1 family.

Also, Sally will be stepping down from some of her many duties. We will need folks to step up to fill those responsibilities. She is relinquishing her position as secretary, treasurer, and newsletter editor. Election of officers and a decision on the location of our next reunion site is also on the agenda. We will be selecting a site in the middle of the country.

Speaking of Sally Metzger, for the past two years she has been the glue that holds our association together. Two-and-a-half years ago, she lost the love of her life and our co-founder, Ed Metzger. Since that time she has put together two great reunions, maintained her duties as secretary/treasurer and put out the quarterly newsletter while maintaining the membership roster. There will be a mighty big pair of shoes to fill as she steps down. On behalf of the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association, a well deserved big THANK YOU, Sally.

On a more sobering note, the Association lost two great supporters this past year, Anthony (Joe) Vilsack and Dottie Wasmund. Condolences to both Marilyn Vilsack and Pete Wasmund. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

This past winter I worked with Carl Vonasch and Congressman Peter Visclosky putting together a letter to be read into the Congressional Record the mission of Airborne Early Warning One (VW-1). Copies of this letter will be available at the reunion in Williamsburg. A great deal of credit goes to Carl Vonasch and Congressman Visclosky's aide, Gregory Gulvas for helping draft the letter for the record. In this letter reference is made to operating out of The Republic of Vietnam from 1964 thru1971. Hopefully, this official document will assist shipmates in getting their VA benefits.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Williamsburg.

Ralph Scott

(Note: If you are interested in any of the positions that need filling and will not be attending the Williamsburg reunion, please let one of the officers listed on Page 4 of this Tracker know.)

All Things in Their Time (Continued from Page 1)

we talked about how we could work together. The idea of having someone for back-up only makes sense and I think she and I could make an effective team and fill this job slot.

That puts me down to one-half hat and I think I can still handle that. I am not in any way, shape or form trying to disassociate myself from the VW-1 Alumni Group. I just have come to realize that at 77 I cannot manage to keep all the balls in the air that I once could. My love and commitment to the group and its continued success is very important to me.

This is not a spur of the moment decision. It has been two-and-a-half years since Ed's death and I have known for some time that I would not be able to keep it going alone. It was so much easier as a team and if any of you couples want to approach it in that manner I can tell you first hand that it is a blast and I can highly recommend it.

Those able to attend the Williamsburg reunion meeting have some very important decisions to make. You all know about the need to define specifically what other military groups are going to be allowed to join our VW-1 Association. This was tabled from the Arizona reunion so we could try to get a consensus from our membership. Also, now there will not be a pat slate that can just be voted in automatically. We need people to step up and take over these tasks. If you are going to be able to attend the reunion, let it be known to anyone on the board that you are interested in wearing one or more of the hats available. If you are not going to be able to attend the reunion, let any of us on the board know beforehand and we will enter your name on the slate to be voted upon.

You have some time to think about it and decide how you will be able to contribute. I'm sure most of you know who your officers are, but for ease in contacting any of us, I'll list them:

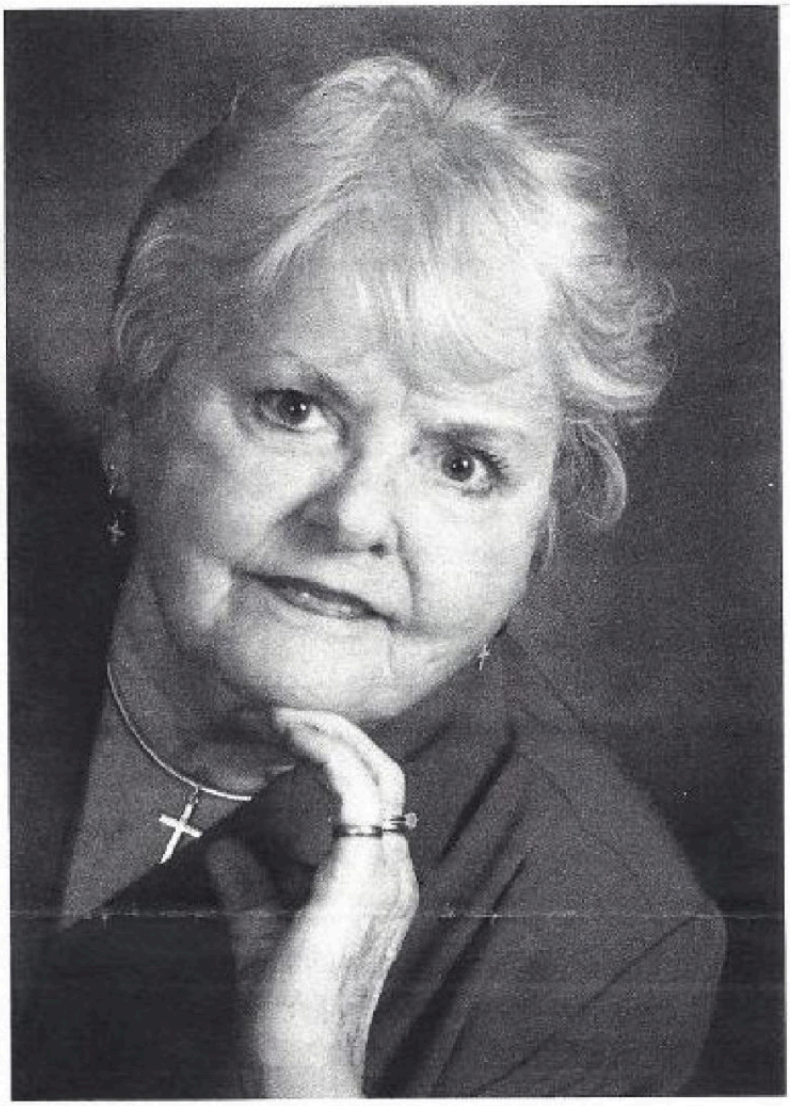
Ralph Link	President	Phone Removed	Email Removed
Scott Wagner	Vice President	Phone Removed	Email Removed
Sally Metzger	Sec/Treasurer	Phone Removed	Email Removed
Pete Wasmund	Computer	Phone Removed	Email Removed

In some respects I know I will miss doing the above tasks. Pete Wasmund likes to say that I am a "control freak" and I cannot take it as an insult because I know it to be true. To have my hands in all the pots fed my control urges. Yet, I know in my heart that I have entered a softer, calmer period of my life. I am growing increasingly selfish and find my primary goal seems to be having a good time and spending time with the growing number of local friends who need my time and attention. I have found that there is a whole subculture of widow-widowers and, just like my VW-1 family, I have found another family with them. I want to have time for both.

Thank you for all the love and support you have always given to me. I love you all.

Dorothea "Dottie" Wasmund

June 3, 1940 - Jan. 30, 2014



Dottie was an integral part of the VW-1 group, always there and being supportive of Pete as he created and managed the association web site. In spite of her need for oxygen and her medical difficulties, she continued to come to the reunions and always lit up the room with her smile.

Dottie passed away at the St. Francis Hospital in Bartlett, TN on January 30th. She is survived by husband, Pete; and children Henry "Butch"; Deborah "Debbie" Doss; Kevin Thomas and Allen Edward "Eddie".

Pete and Dottie were blessed with nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

We were privileged to know Dottie and know she will be missed (but remembered) by all of us.

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

Those who know him fromhis engineer days flying the Connies. I had no problem contacting him at the number listed – Phone Removed

New Address: Harry and Vicki Gowenlock
Address Removed
Portsmouth, Address Removed

New E-Mails Numbers:

Scott Bates	rainproof Email Removed (Note an underline between f and 4)
Chuck Citrano	Email Removed
Christine (Winchester) Clark	Email Removed
Rocki Kaiser	Email Removed
Phil Toops	Email Removed

(This article was submitted to us by Dave Keeton with the following note: 'Attached article was in the newspaper recently discussing turning Sangley Point into an international airport for Manila. May be something interesting for the troops. I remember taking the navy launch across Manila Bay and touring the San Miguel brewery.")

New Airport: DOTC Eyes Sangley Point

By Lawrence Agcaoili (The Philippine Star) (Updated 3/3/204)

Manila, Philippines – The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is looking at Sangley Point in Cavite and Laguna de Bay as a possible site of a new international gateway that would replace the congested Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City.

Transportation Secretary Joseph Emilio Abaya said in an interview that the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is initially looking at the former US Naval Base in Cavite as well as the country's largest lake as the possible site of the new airport.

"Our initial feedback is that they (JICA) are looking at Sangley because it is within the 20-minute parameter and is accessible. One could also be, I think, Laguna de Bay," Abaya said. He pointed out that both locations entail massive reclamation as the new international airport requires at least 2,000 hectares

"Maybe initially you can get 1,000 hectares but for 2,000 hectares that is 20 minutes away from Manila is impossible. It is very difficult to look for a place that big," he explained. Abaya said the project could be under the public-private partnership scheme as the government is veering away from unsolicited proposals.

JICA is conducting a site selection study for the new international airport that is a long-term development to be commenced and completed in 15 to 20 years. The DOTC wants to put into operation a new international airport by 2027 with the joint development of the congested NAIA in Manila and the Clark International Airport (CIA) in Pampanga.

A JICA study showed that the number of passengers in Greater Capital Region would hit 106.7 million by 2040, from 31.88 million in 2012. It expects passengers from the National Capital Region as well as Central Luzon and Calabarzon to rise steadily to 49.8 million in 2020, 75 million in 2030, and 106.7 million in 2040.

To meet these expected volumes, the government has identified two viable options that involve the expansion of CIA as well as the development of a new international airport roughly within 20 to 30 minutes of Metro Manila.

One option entails the closure and sale of NAIA by 2030, with the new international airport to be operational by 2027, which would provide 78 percent of the requied passenger terminal building while the CIA would handle 22 percent. The other option allows NAIA to co-exist alongside CIA and the new airport up to 2040 and beyond.

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Image from the Philippine Defense Forum website shows an undated aerial photo of Sangley Point in Cavite taken by an Air Force OV-10 Bronco pilot. Inset shows the ongoing rehabilitation work at the NAIA Terminal 1, which is expected to be completed in January 2015.

Rudy Santos

New Airport (Continued from Page 6)

Once the gateway airport roadmap to 2040 is identified, the DOTC would finalize its plans to execute the policy.

But even parallel to this, the DOTC has begun preparatory measures to boost expansion efforts at the CIA and to identify the site for the new international airport. A 6,000-square meter expansion of the passenger terminal building in Clark was recently completed. France's Aeroport de Paris has started preparing a master plan for a 45,000-square meter low-cost carrier terminal valued at P7 billion.

The P1.9 billion rehabilitation of NAIA Terminal 3 being undertaken by Takenaka Corp. of Japan is expected to be completed ahead of the August schedule, while the P1.3-billion of NAIA Terminal 1 being conducted by DM Consunji, Inc. is scheduled to be completed in January next year in time for the country's hosting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting.

Wall St. Cheat Sheet, a United States financial media Company, has ranked NAIA eighth among the 10 Worst Airports in the World, citing overcapacity issues in Terminals 1 and 3.

New Members

Wesley H. Durant, Jr. (Wes) LT
Address Removed 4/57 – 8/59
Berlin, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

1st LT Division Officer; flew with various crews. I joined VW-1 at Barbers Point in 1957. While out flying, the CO called a meeting of all single officers. As the only one missing, I was volunteered to go to Guam to rebuild the new squadron area. So I was the first VW-1 officer on Guam. I [illegible] month head start, which was how I became [illegible]ision Officer for the balance of my tour. What I learned from that position served me well during my lifetime. I also enjoyed navigation.

Rex Gray ATR2
Address Removed 5/68 – 11/70
Palmer, Address Removed Phone Removed
Email Removed

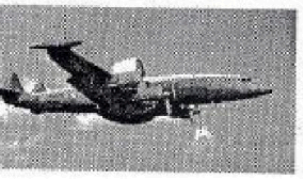
Remember [illegible]naLai and TDY Point Magu for PMR. Finished as enlisted CICO (Combat Info Control Officer)

Wayne M. Mikkola AMS2
Address Removed Address Removed 12/68 – 12/69
Ramsey, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Judy Email Removed

Flew as flight metalsmith on TE-5. My most memorable moment: Flew weather for return of Apollo (first manned moon landing) July 1969, from Johnston Atoll after spending ten days in Hawaii.

Shell Surgeon AD3
P.O. Box 2221
LaPine, OR 97739 Phone Removed

Power Plants / Transport. Went to WV prep school at Barber's Point. Serviced engines and props. Transport: 2nd Mech., preflight, clean, loaded and unloaded cargo. Two months on attachment at Naha, Okinawa. Temp. assignment taking plane to Litchfield Park, AZ.



VW-1 Association
c/o Ed & Sally Metzger
710 Edgewater Dr.
Address Removed

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