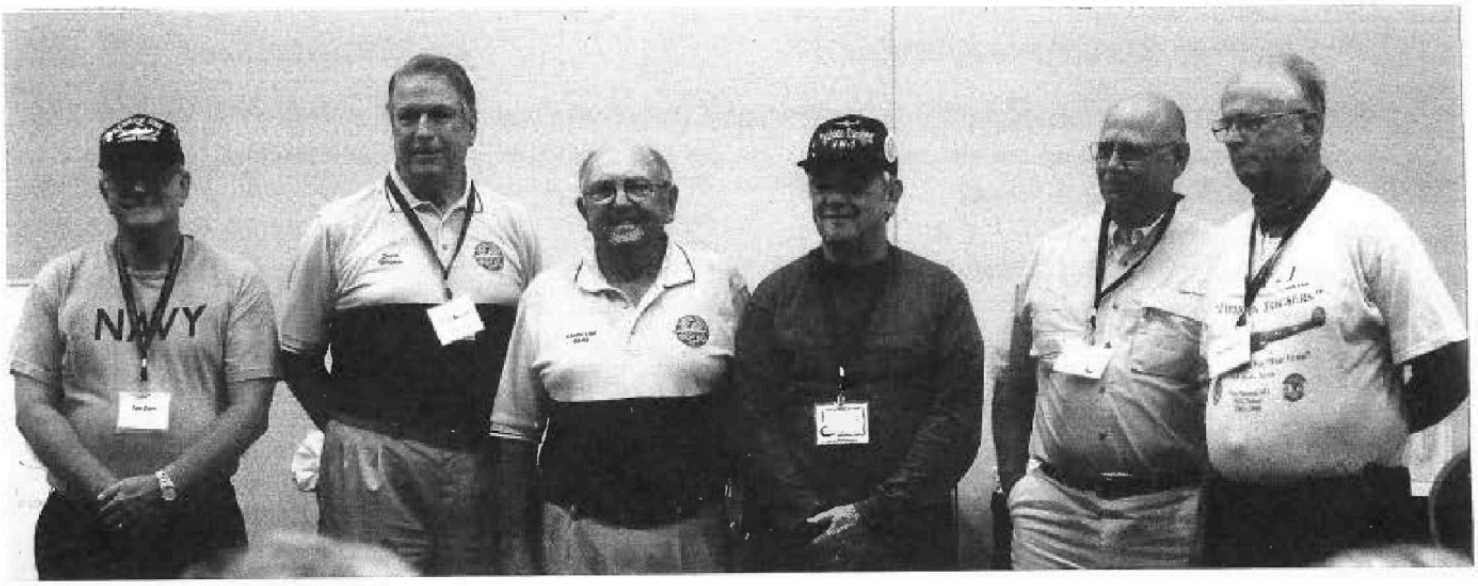
ISSUE 58 **VW-1 TRACKER** NOV. 2014



MEET YOUR NEW OFFICERS ..... (L to R) Tom Dunn, Chaplin; Scott Wagner, VP; Ralph Link, President, Steve Davis, Sec/Treas/Membership; Christopher Seal, Tracker Editor; and Pete Wasmund, Webmaster. A big round of applause in appreciation of these gentlemen for volunteering to serve the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association in their respective jobs. THANK YOU

Williamsburg Now A Memory

Reunions come and go and #11 is now in the record book. We had a total of 84 in attendance, Our largest reunion was Branson with a grand total of 131.

For only the second time the weather was not cooperative, the other being Myrtle Beach. There were two trips planned on the water and the one to the Norfolk Naval Base was a wet and rainy ride! The one on the Tall Ships fared a bit better since it was cool and damp but we did not actually get rained on. Also, it happened to be the day Vice President Biden was visiting the Museum which was part of our tour and Secret Service had large areas blocked off and inaccessible to our group. As one would expect from our remarkable troop, participants took it in stride and made the best of it.

That being said, let me immediately add that the reunion was, as usual, a big success in spite of those minor details. It is all about the chance to get together and the opportunities for that were abundant, resulting in lots of sea stories and reconnecting with other VW-1ers.

A special thanks to several people. Steve Davis and Tom Dunn both generously donated t-shirts that they brought for sale in our ship's store. That helped tremendously in netting over $ 1,000 to the VW-1 treasury from our ship's store sales. Peggie LaPosta stepped up to handle the Yorktown trip and would not take reimbursement for one additional ticket we needed. I under-

(Continued on Page 3)

News From Cyberspace and Mail Call

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

Scott Wagner (8/4) Email Removed "It has been brought to my attention that we haven't told anyone that we are moving to Rapid City, SD. Marie plans to become a professional grandmother/nanny."

Flo O'Reilly (8/5) Email Removed "Thank you for your personal note in the Tracker. Unfortunately, we are unable to attend this reunion due to health problems. Bob had a knee replacement in January which refused to heal. Turned out he had a staph infection so the doctor had to take out the replacement and put in a "spacer" and a block of antibiotics in Bob's knee. He could not move or bend the knee and was hospitalized for six weeks to receive IV antibiotics three times a day. Then home for six more weeks. Finally a new knee about three weeks ago. This one seems to be healing OK and he is walking with a cane but has a lot of physical therapy ahead of him. This caused him to put his little side job (saw sharpening) on hold so he has not made any extra money for six months or so. Financially, it is kind of impossible for us to afford a vacation for awhile. I had 1/3 or my right lung removed last September (cancer). The doctors says they got it all and I didn't need any chemo or radiation but, as the doctor says, it takes five years before you can claim to be "cancer free". Anyway, that is our tale of woe. We hope and pray we can attend the next reunion. Give our best to all the attendees this year."

LeRoy White (8/10) Email Removed "On this day – 8/9/2014 – I reached my 90 year mark. Health is still fair with the usual losses in vision, mainly my right eye and glaucoma; and reduced hearing due to the 98 decibel level at the FE station. I have taken some falls on uneven ground outside, due to vision depth problem, but came out of most of them unhurt. Still able to move around without assistance, no cane or wheelchair yet. I'm sorry Ruby and I will not be able to make this years reunion. Just too much on top of us at this time. I know that those who are able to go will have a good one."

Don & Connie Martin (8/28) Snail Mail "Sorry we're unable to make the reunion. Hello to everyone. Our new address is Address Removed Ocala, Address Removed

Pete Wasmund (9/12) Email Removed "I have cancelled my home phoe. Please use my cell from now on at Phone Removed

George Dean (30/30) "A new set of administrators have taken over the Assisted Living center (Brookdale) where my wife has been for 11 months. They have been making a lot of changes. When they made it almost impossible for me to feed her, I hit the overhead. Two days later they came around and told me that according to state law she no longer qualifies for assisted living. The law requires she be able to get up by herself, get in a wheelchair and propel herself to the door. In case of a fire, so they say. My response was "hells bells", you knew she couldn't do that when you took her in! She cannot use her left arm and has no control over her left leg, so even IF she could get in a wheelchair, she could

(Continued on Page 8)

Williamsburg (Continued from Page 1)

stand she commandeered the group very well. I personally also got an upfront view of her capabilities when she dressed down a hotel employee for her incompetence! That is a ladies' sea story of our own to tell at future reunions! Steve Davis also brought a quantity of great pens to be given out to the group.

Kathy Green stepped up and oversaw two trips and lazy Sally stayed at the hotel and relaxed. All reports were that she did an excellent job and that has to, in fact, be true since she returned to the hotel without losing anyone along the way. Anyone who has ever handled bus trips knows that is a major fear. Good job, Kathy.

Any of you who have attended a reunion know full well that the most important thing is the fellowship and the comraderie that abounds when we all get together. The auction netted us another $2,125 and several hand-made items by our members were included. Pat Orsini had donated another personalized VW-1 quilt for the auction with the statue of liberty as the central figure. Each year they get more and more impressive. John Chitwood won the quilt bid for
$ 775.00 and plans to give it to family members.

The big question of "Where to next" came at the end of the business meeting on Thursday. The answer to that question is .....

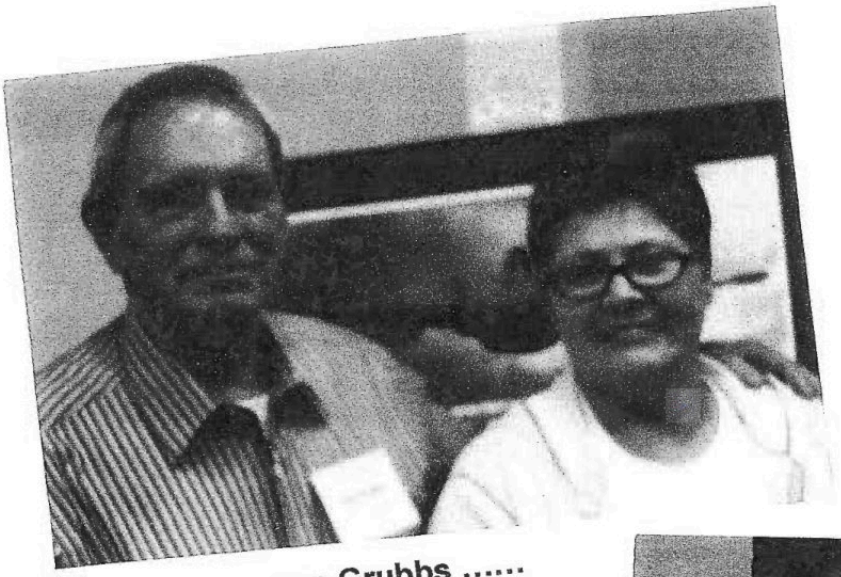


BRAVEHEART PETE WASMUND..... put his head "on the block" and agreed to test out the guillotine for "William the Conjurer" at the hotel Tuesday evening. He seemed to be all for it until the moment came to actually lay his head in the hole and have the upper board lowered. But ..... too late. We shoved him in anyway. All is well that ends well and he is back at home in Tennessee, all attached!

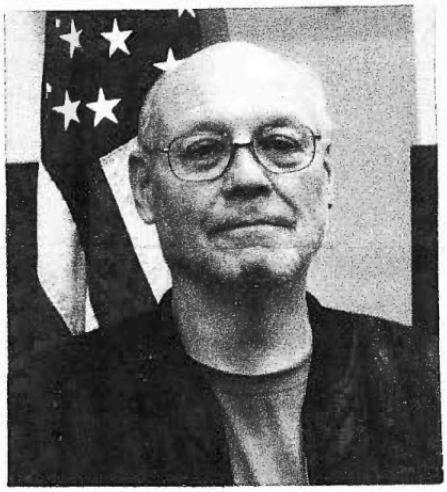
San Antonia, Texas

Spring of 2016

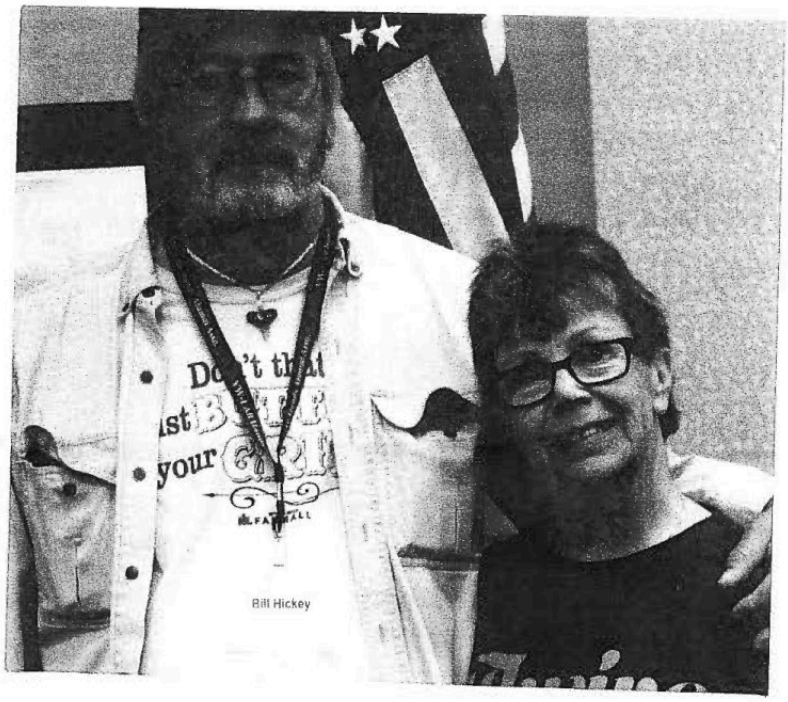
NEW at VW-1



Ryan & Ramona Grubbs .....
Virginia Beach, VA
ATW3 1963-1964, Crew 3



Glen Babbitt .....
Lansing, IL
AT3 1969 – 1971



Bill & Pam Hickey .....
Merrill, MI AE2 1966 - 1968



Dean & Polly Marchione ..... Norfolk, VA ADR2 1963 – 1965

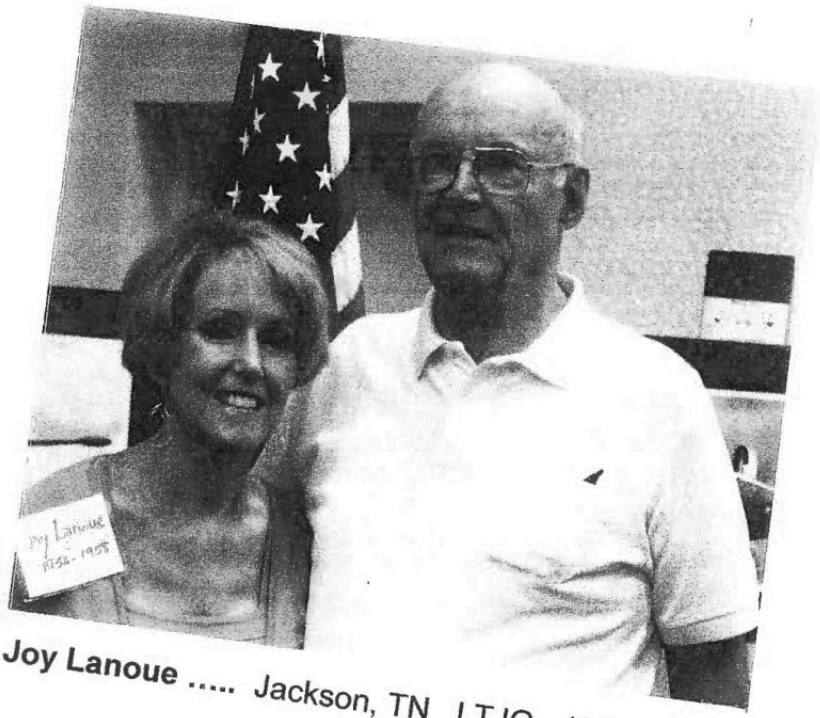
It's Been Fun!!

First Tracker Edition
December 1999

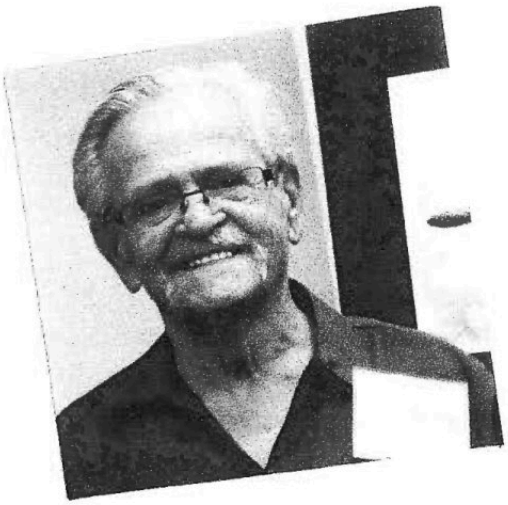
58th Tracker Edition
November 2014

Both editions announced the next Reunion in San Antonio, Texas!!

FACES Reunion



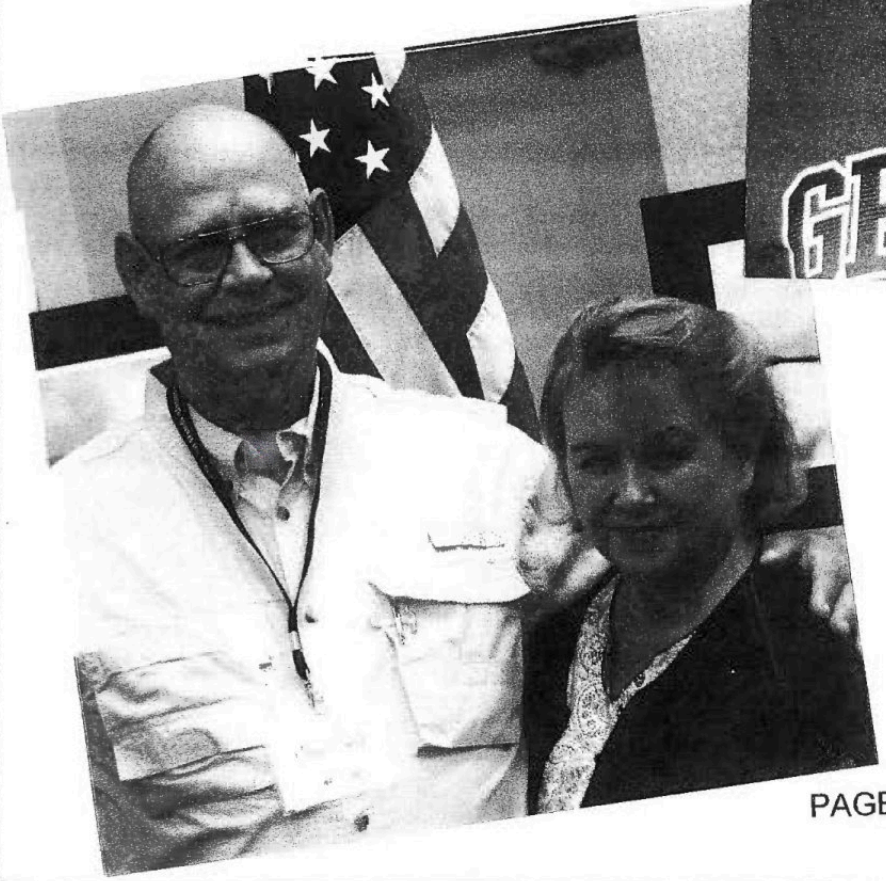
Don & Joy Lanoue ..... Jackson, TN LTJG 1956 -1958 Crew 3



Harry Gowenlock .....
Portsmouth, VA
AE1 1968 – 1971 Crew 5 & 7



Walter & Deborah Umphrey
Winter Springs, FL
ATR2 1966 – 1968



Chris & Debbi Seal .....
Cape Coral, WA
ATR2 1966 – 1968 Crews 2 & 9

Minutes of Williamsburg, VA Reunion / Sept. 22-26, 2014

The meeting opened at 6 p.m., Sept. 25th by President Ralph Link with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer. He recognized those we lost since the last reunion: Joe Vilsack, John Kemp & Dottie Wasmund.

Carl Vonach was recognized for the suggestion and implementation of the project of getting VW-1 and their contributions read into the Congressional Record by Representative Visclosky. Copies are available for each shipmate after the meeting. Carl worked with Ralph to get the proper wording for the document and it should be helpful in getting the benefits earned by shipmates.
Pres. Link asked members to contact their Representatives and encourage them to vote for the Naval Veterans Act (#543) that is coming up for a vote soon. This also would be helpful to getting approval of benefits for Navy veterans, especially those subjected to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.
The minutes were approved as read and Pete Wasmund gave an update of the web site.

The unfinished business from the Tucson meeting was in regard to who would be allowed to join the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association. After a lengthy discussion by several members, the following two motions were seconded and voted on in the affirmative:

1. All children of members are invited to join and become full members.
2. When others who did not serve in VW-1 apply for membership, their application will be reviewed and ruled on by the Board of Directors on an individual basis.

The election of officers who comprise the Board resulted in the following:

President	Ralph Link	Email Removed	Phone Removed
Vice President	Scott Wagner	Email Removed	Phone Removed
Sec/Treas/Membership	Steve Davis	Email Removed	Phone Removed
Webmaster	Pete Wasmund	Email Removed	Phone Removed

Sally Metzger will remain as Reunion Planner with Kathy Green assisting. Christopher Seal volunteered to take responsibility for the Newsletter. Please help Chris with the next Newsletter due in January by providing pictures and articles of interest to him at Phone Removed / Email Removed Address Removed Address Removed Address Removed Andy Dunn will be our chaplain. If you know of members who are sick or lost loved ones, please contact him so he can send a card to them. His contact info is Address Removed Address Removed Address Removed / Email Removed Phone Removed

President Link opened the floor to suggestions for the reunion scheduled in the Spring of 2016, reminding the group that it should be in the central area of the country. Cities in Oklahoma, Nebraska and Texas were in the top three, with San Antonio, TX winning by a large margin. Baldy Gabaldon suggested we run an article in the Newsletter encouraging members to do small "state" reunions between our regular reunions to get acquainted with others belonging to our VW-1 Association who live nearby. The Tennessee folks have been successfully doing just that for several years.
The new officers were introduced to the group. The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m.

New Members

Glen Babbitt **AT3**
Address Removed 1969 – 1971
Lansing, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Ruth Email Removed

Avionics

Gamber, David L. **AMS3**
Address Removed 4/63 – 10/64
East Peoria, IL Phone Removed
Wife: Pamela Email Removed

Assigned to Airframes Shop as a E-3 Airman. They sent to mess cooking for six weeks at the same time I made E-4. I was the only E- that had to do mess cooking! About the last four or five months in VW-1 I was a flight crew member aboard TE-6.

Mancini, Ronald (VW-3) **AT2**
Address Removed 1958 – 1960
Bushnell, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Jane Email Removed

Started in electronic stores. Flight crew Tech on PM3. Electronics crew chief on PM6. Shipped out just befoe VW-3 was broken up and became Part of VW-1. went to radar school in Biloxi, MS with many shipmates that were In VW-1.

Larry McGarry **AMS**
Address Removed 1/68 – 1/69
Sun City West, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Marge Email Removed

Flew with Crew #1 as Flight Metalsmith

(Note: Larry was a member from 2000 to 2005. Some of you will remember him from Reno. Welcome back, Larry)

James (Jim) Scofield **ATN2**
Middleburg, Address Removed Phone Removed
Wife: Amy Email Removed

Radioman on TE-2

Williamsburg Reunion Financial Report

INCOME:

Reunion Registrations	$ 12,898.00
Ship's Store	1,009.00
Auction	2,125.00
Donations:	
Golf Players	60.00
Lloyd Turner	105.00
TOTAL:	$ 16,197.00

EXPENSES:

Fort Magruder	$ 9,130.96
Oleta Buses	2,594.10
Jamestown/Yorktown	1,076.50
Norfolk Victory Cruise	1,905.00
Tall Ships	1,114.00
Name Tags	115.67
Misc. Supplies	30.72
Snacks	183.00
Magician Entertainment	300.00
Tips	250.00
Refunds:	
Speas, Everett	410.00
Yates, Michael	130.00
Turner, Lloyd	105.00
TOTAL:	$ 17,344.95

Note: The deficit of $1,147.95 was paid for from the general operating fund. Our current balance as of 10/20 is $ 3,737.69.

E-Mail /Phone Changes

Dick Lee Home: Phone Removed
Cell: Phone Removed

Wayne & Kathleen Authement
Email Removed

News from Cyberspace (Continued from Page 2)

only go in circles. Why didn't you tell me this $ 60,000 ago? She has dementia/alzheimers and can be a bit erratic. I tell her she is just being a wife. So I have to give a 30-day notice and either put her in a nursing home, which I hesitate to do, OR get home health care. I'm opting for home. Have contacted two companies and am waiting a return call. I have to have someone on hand so that I can walk, work on the lawn, go shopping, to Dr. appointments, etc. Mighty frustrating, but I do what I have to do. I can get home health for a minimum of 3 hrs/day or up to 24. Since I took care of her for so long and have been doing a lot of the caring where she is now (helping her eat, cleanup, etc.), I figure I can continue a lot of that with home health. I have had an elderly lady in weekly for about 22 years, to do bedding, to vacuum, clean, etc. The home health folks will prepare food if desired and do the other necessary things I've been doing. But I only had about five days to investigate and decide, and two were weekend days. So wish me luck. I've only had time to answer a few e-mails recently as I'm tied up running in circles."

John & Judy Castle (10/03) "I thought I would drop you a line and let you know how much Judy and I enjoyed the reunion. If you could send me the name and particulars on the member who was elected Sec/Treasurer, I would like to contact him and offer my assistance on the membership portion of his duties. Until next time. Thank you again."

Russell & Mary Jane Weyers (10/6) "I wish to thank everyone for their help and love when Mary Jane fell during the reunion. The VW-1 Association is truly a family that cares for one another. She made it home in good shape and is slowly healing. We are already looking forward to San Antonio!"



JACKSONVILLE FL 320

03 NOV 2014 PM 3 L



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

Mailing Code Removed