November 2015
NOVEMBER 2015
VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association
VW-1 TRACKER
TE00 - TE1 - TE2 - TE3 - TE4 - TE5 - TE6 - TE7 - TE8 - TE9 - TE10 - TE11 - TE12
NAS BARBERS POINT, HAWAII NAS AGANA, GUAM, NS SANGLEY POINT, PHILIPPINES NAS ATSUGI, JAPAN OKINAWA, JAPAN, CHU LAI, VIETNAM

Unique Production in Store
Notes on the Branson Reunion

by Sally Metzger



Wednesday evening, May 11, is a special evening for the Typhoon Trackers since we will be attending the Sight and Sound Theater for the production of “Moses”. When in Branson I went to see the Passion Play “Jonah” and was in awe of the majestic production with special effects second to none.

Passion plays were never high on my agenda, but the Sight and Sound Theater had outstanding reviews and I felt it deserved a close look in providing something very different for the group. The theater itself is almost “castlelike” in its size and decor. The sets are so authentic – and huge – that you feel transported back to the time and place of these biblical stories.

The size of the stage is somewhat overwhelming. In Jonah – at various times - it accommodated a fleet of boats, a giant storm-tossed ship, a growing plant and, of course, an enormous whale. The engineers developed new technology that could move these massive sets effortlessly around the stage. The 50-foot-long ship that sailed across the stage was said to weigh over 30,000 pounds! The actual scene of Jonah trying to survive in the drowning waters and then being swallowed by the whale was truly remarkable.

I am excited about seeing how they are going to show Moses part the sea, among so many other visuals that I’m sure will be included. The tickets are in the $ 50.00 range and the bus expense still needs to be computed and factored in, but it is worth it. I chose our seats carefully while there and promise you a good view because they are handpicked and reserved. When making your plans with me next year for the Branson reunion I strongly suggest you check the box for this remarkable production.

Ralph, your president, and I had a conversation about the religious connection and whether there was a chance of offending any of our members. We both agreed it should not be a problem. Most everyone of any religion is acquainted with the biblical stories such as Jonah and Moses and to see them illustrated with such authenticity is truly amazing. I am really looking forward to spending another evening in the Sight and Sound Theater.

I am still working on some other details for the reunion, but will keep you informed. A mailing will be going out to all members in late January with the reunion registration and the final details. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone. Stay well and stay in touch……

SCUTTLEBUTT
from your PRESIDENT

Greeting Shipmates,

I hope all is well with all of you; fall is upon us and soon winter. But don't despair; we can look forward to another great reunion with our VW-1 family in Branson May 9th to the 13th 2016. Complete information will be available in the first quarter newsletter and on the website after the first of the year.

Before Jane and I attended the VW-1 Vanguard Reunion in September at San Antonio, Texas, we stopped off in Memphis to visit and stay with our very good friend, Pete Wasmund and his dog Happy. We were able to get one game of golf in before the rain kept us from the second fun day. Thanks Pete for all your wonderful hospitality!

The location for the VW-1 Vanguard Reunion was the beautiful old Menger hotel across the street from the Alamo and the River walk. The Menger is touted as the oldest continuous operating hotel in North America. Leader Dan Ragan and his group really made us welcome and part of the Vanguard family. We had a great time making new friends and re-acquainting with old ones. I plan attending their next year reunion at Dayton, Ohio. I will have a chance to scout this as a possible location for a future reunion for us.

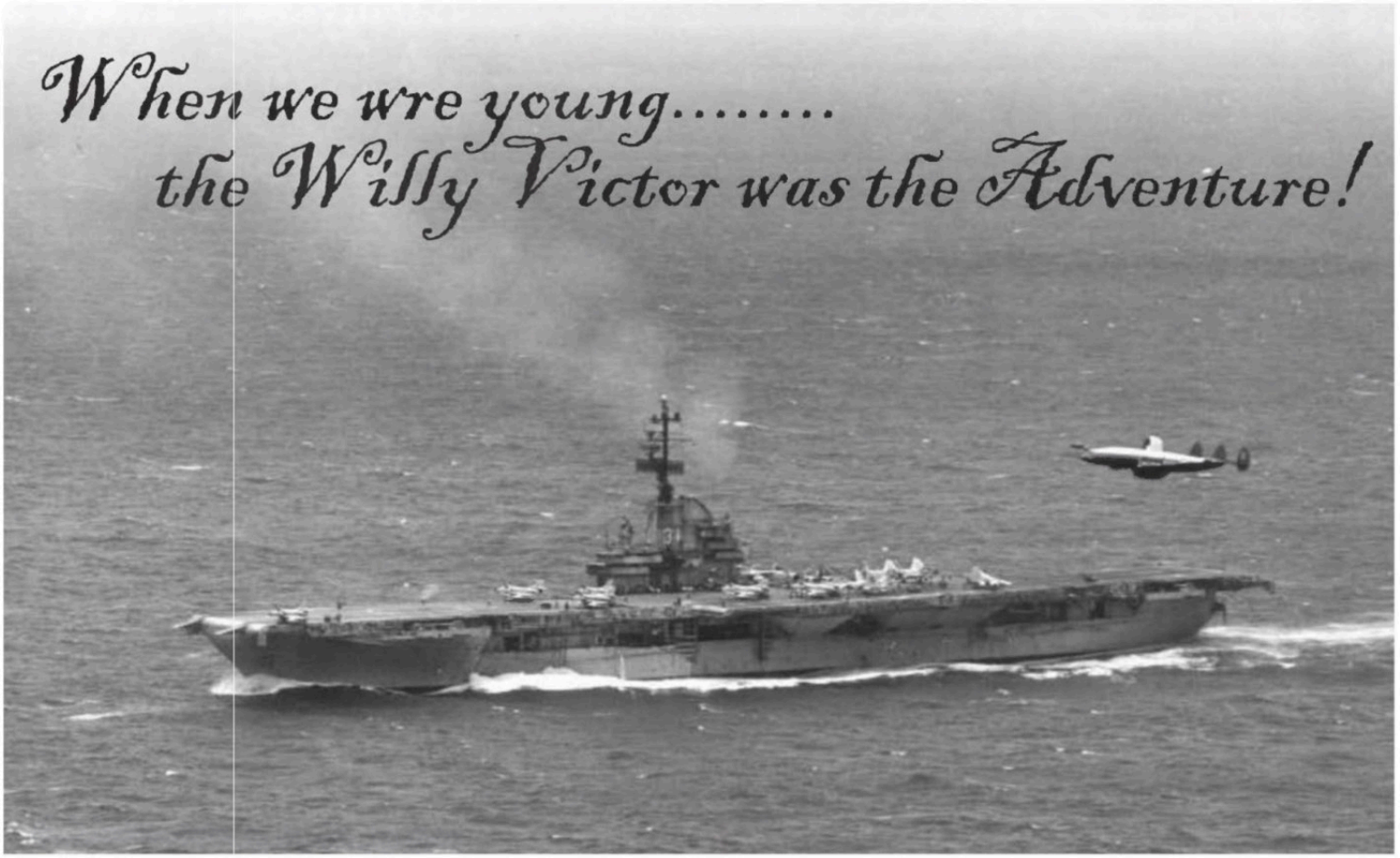
Sally has been working hard on finalizing reunion plans and taking over ship stores. She has ordered hats, pins and other assorted items restocking ship stores. We've been working on availability of VW-1 golf shirts like the former ones. We will be asking for volunteers to take over ship store responsibility at our reunion in Branson. Jim Geiger had to relinquish these duties due to health reasons. We wish Jim a speedy recovery.

I'm compelled to respond to a complaint by one of our members. I was made aware of an email that this member sent to several people complaining about the decision to distribute the newsletter by email and make available by download from our website. The context of this email was downright derogatory and totally out of line. An apology is in order from this member to Chris. The newsletter; as was indicated by the editor was still available by snail mail and that option was published in this summer's newsletter. Your fifteen dollar dues only covers part of the association expenses, anonymous donations and donated items from members attending the reunion auction and extravagantly biding makes up the short fall. Accepting the newsletter by email or website will assist keeping annual dues at fifteen dollars. All the offices of the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Assoc. are strictly voluntary and are voted on during the Reunion meeting. There is no compensation or perks for anyone, just the sheer joy serving our fellow shipmates. If there is anyone who would like to serve or think they could do a better job, I sure all of my fellow officers and myself included would gladly step aside. Chris Seal, our newsletter editor does an outstanding job and has introduced innovative and new features including color to the newsletter. I am grateful for Chris's and all the officers service to the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Assoc.

Best wishes for good health and happiness,

Ralph

When we wre young.....
the Willy Victor was the Adventure!



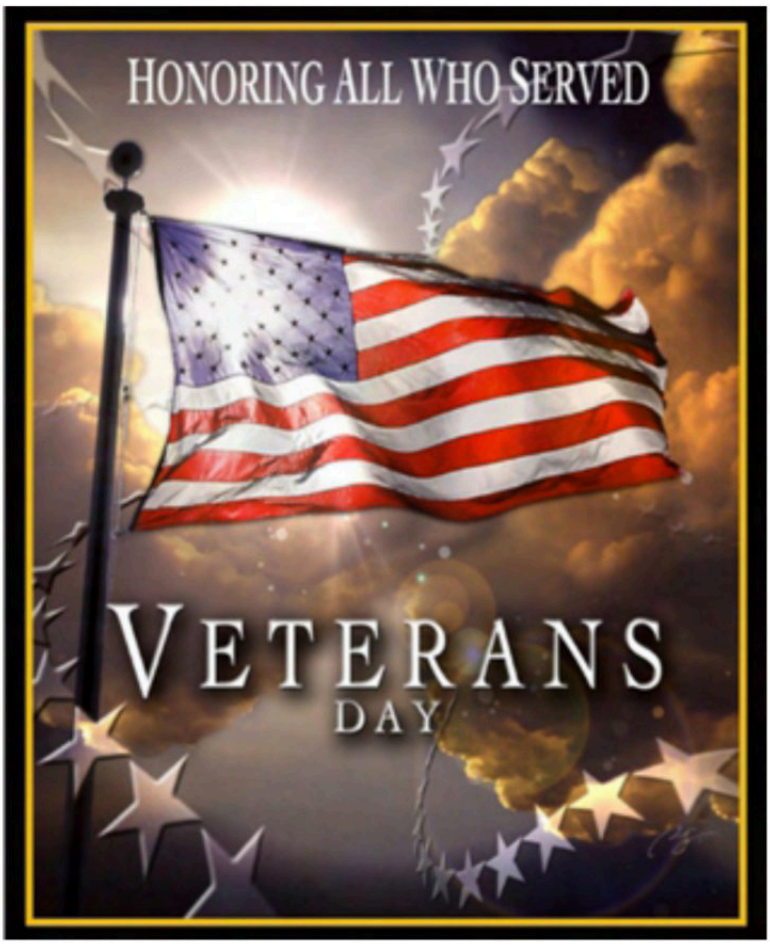












History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations…"

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

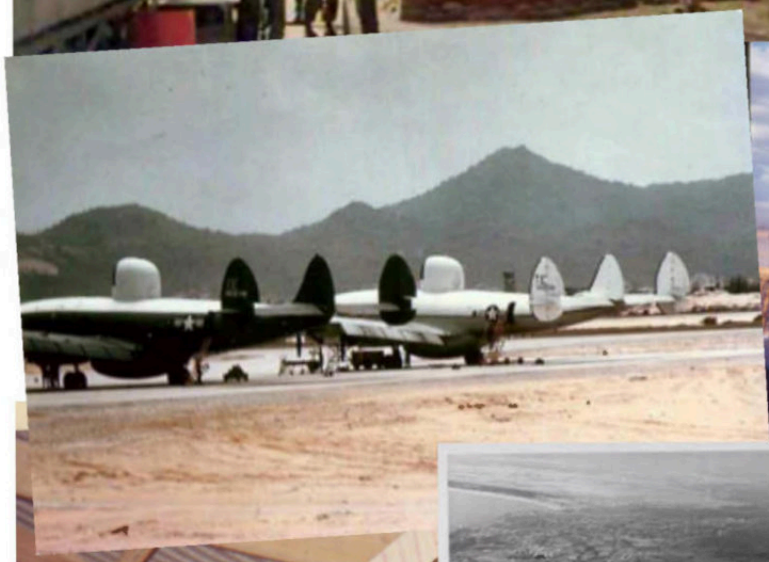
Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Vietnam Det Charlie











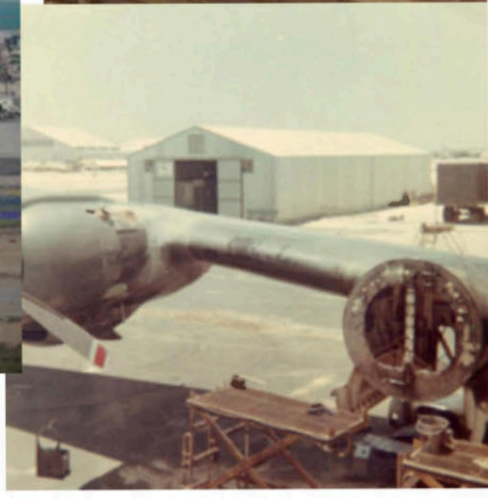













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What's wrong with this picture?



I was told that this was taken at Singapore and I love the berets.



Once a Year at 11:11 am the sun shines perfectly on this Memorial at precisely 11:11 a.m. each Veterans Day (Nov. 11), the sun 's rays pass through the ellipses of the five Armed Services pillars to form a perfect solar spotlight over a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States.

The Anthem Veterans Memorial, located in Anthem, Arizona, is a monument dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States armed forces. The pillar provides a place of honor and reflection for veterans, their family and friends, and those who want to show their respects to those service men and women who have and continue to courageously serve the United States.

The memorial was designed by Anthem resident Renee Palmer-Jones. The five marble pillars represent the five branches of the United States military: *the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard.*

While looking for my father's squadrons at Korean War Project web site I found a VW-1 portion that I have responded to from my time in VW-1, 1966 to 1968. For those who go on the internet I urge you to visit the web site and just maybe you will recognize names and can be of help to those who have post there.
http://www.koreanwar.org/html/units/navy/vw1.htm

Here are a few I have responded to, guiding them to our web site:

Request EDWARD JOHNSON III wrote on May 6, 2015
Service or Relationship: FAMILY MEMBER
Comments: My father served with VW-1 Squadron 1 from 62-64 in Agana, Guam. His name is Ed Johnson AMS 3rd class. I am trying to find any photos of VW-1. Any photos you could email me would be great. I am trying to put a small memory book of my dad's time in the Navy for Father's Day and adding your photos would be awesome. Maybe you can ask your father if he remembers my father. One name my dad threw out a lot was Jim Maxson????
Keywords: Jim Maxson form Texas, Bill Gabler??, Beak Wildtrip???

Response From: Ed Johnson

Sent: Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 9:20 pmThank you for your response. And Thank you for your service! I have visited the website and think it's great. I showed my father and he was all over it. I would also appreciate the photos. It's great to hear my dad talk of his time with VW-1 and his time in the Navy.

Thank you Ed

ALMA MORRIS Requested ADR1 Macky (Mike) Morris information

I am looking for anyone that served or knows anyone that served with my husband, ADR1 Mackey (Mike) Morris, in VW-1, Agana, GU, Sep 1967-Aug 1968. I can use any information available. I know he was a Flight Engineer in the Super Connie and flew surveillance missions into Vietnam. I was told that his plane was once shot down during one of these missions but can found no information of a VW-1 aircraft ever going down. Please, ANY information will be greatly appreciated.

Response

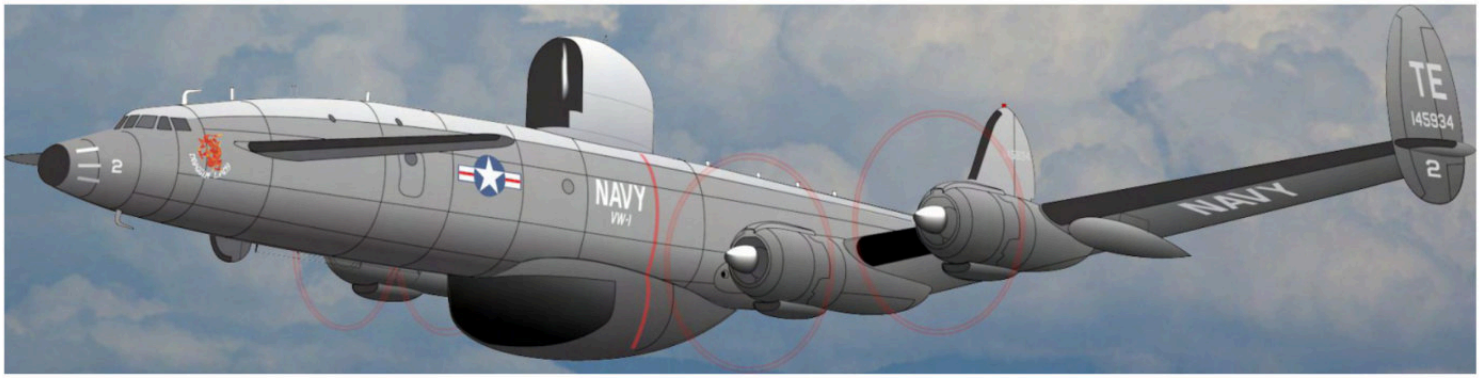
Thank you so much for contacting me. I'm very glad to hear from anyone that served in VW-1. Since posting the request on The Korean War Project Unit Page, I found out that my husband's plane did not crash (almost did) but did an emergency landing. I don't know where this landing took place. I was not married to Mackey during his time there or I would know more. He talked about the Connie a lot but he, like must Vietnam Vets I know, didn't talk much about that part of his tour. He did tell me a little about the missions because he still had shrapnel from one of those missions.

I am in contact with the folks at the VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association. I have heard from a few of their members but none that actually knew him. One person said, "I was assigned to Flight Crew 3 and flew on aircrew 3. In my crew book I see a crew member by the name of "Morris" but I did not know him." I sent him pictures to compare with his book but have had no response. They said they would published my request in VW-1 All Hands Alumni Association News Letter.



Fun Stuff

The Major League Aviation graphic was sent to me by Earls McCall, At1 and served in VW-11 and VW-1 Crew 9 CIC. Earls is a fantastic artist and had designed the “Draggin’ Lady” for Crew 2 and I’m pretty sure he put this together. I added the “VW-1 Typhoon Trackers.”
Love to see this on a black tee-shirt



If the Lockheed “Skunkworks” had designed the Willy Victor, by Chris Seal, USN Ret.





Lockheed XB-30 Constellation being attacked by two Kitsuka J9Y’s