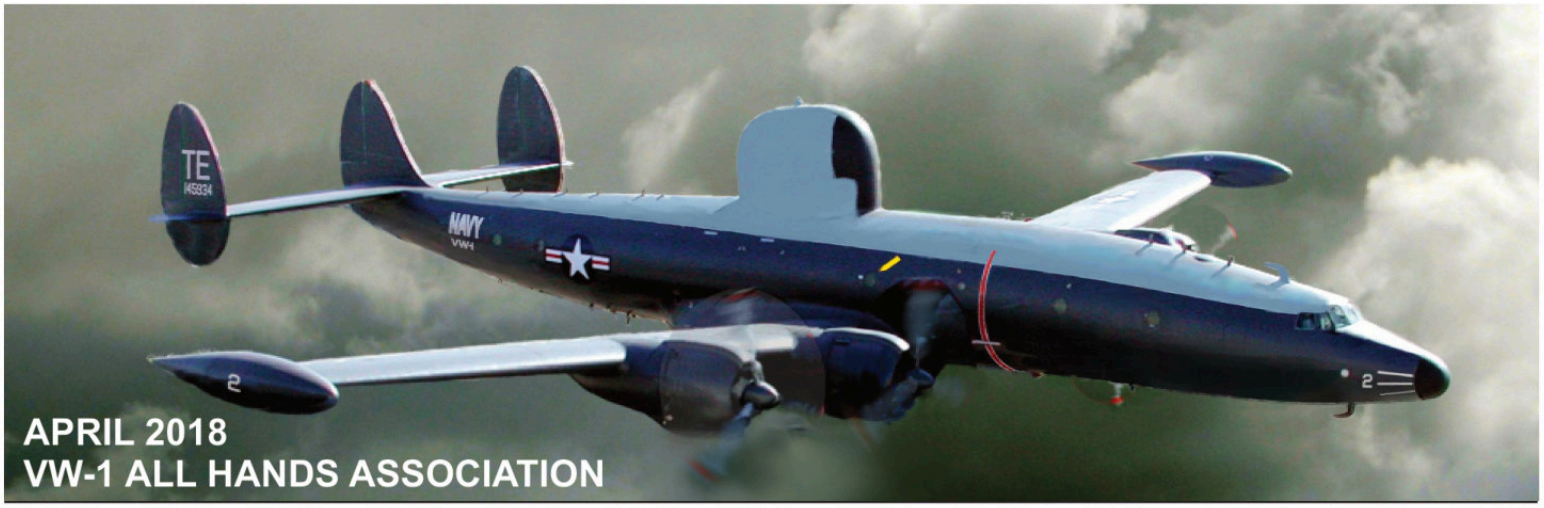


APRIL 2018
VW-1 ALL HANDS ASSOCIATION

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

The SCUTTLEBUTT from your PRESIDENT

Greetings Shipmates,

It's been a long winter here in central Illinois, hope you had a better one. Jane and I did get away for some of the bad weather. We spent mid-March to mid-April traveling down south, Memphis to see Pete Wasmund, Texas to visit the Stott's and Florida to visit the Oulman's and Davis's. Also, three weeks in Pompano Beach playing golf. Not quite a pity party.

The 2019 Reunion has been delayed one day due to allowing folks to attend the Easter Holiday with family and friends. If you have already made your advance reservations, contact the Clarion Hotel and update your reservation. The Clarion phone number is 800-725-2236 or 417-334-7666. The revised Reunion dates are April 23rd thru 28th. We're sorry for the confusion, Sally and I discussed the change and thought this was the best way to proceed. Sally has put together a great reunion with very good hotel rates, so please forgive the confusion and plan on a wonderful time in Branson.

I received an email from an old friend I served with in VW-11 Newfoundland about the Willy Victor Reunion at Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, Mich. August 24th & 25th, 2018. They will have an informal dress, buffet dinner and get together at the Wayne County Fairgrounds 108710 Quirk Rd., Belleville, Mich. from 5:30 PM until 9:00 PM Friday evening the 24th. On Saturday Aug.25, the reunion will move to the Willow Run Airport for the Thunder Over Michigan Airshow. Airshow opens at 9:00 AM until 5:30 PM. They have a tent for all to get together and interact. The WV2, 141311 will also be there giving tours all day. They will have a farewell get together around 5:00 PM at the WV2 – 311 to closeout the reunion. There is nothing reunion related for Sunday. (The Willy Victor Reunion Update and Registration Form will be attached at the end of the newsletter) it should also be on our website.

The 2018 VW-1 Vanguard Reunion is scheduled to be held in Portland, Oregon, with the alternate being Colorado Springs. Dates and hotel accommodations are still being worked out. I will keep you posted with updates in the next Tracker.

Last but not least, I would like all hands to give a shout out to Robert "Bob" Stephenson for taking over publishing our VW-1 Tracker Newsletter. This will be Bob's first installment with many more to come. On behalf of the Association, Thanks Bob.

Ralph Link

*** 2019 Reunion Date Change
--- SEE PAGE 2 ---

Willy Victor Reunion 2018..... Page 2
Another Connie saved.....Page 4
2019 Branson Reunion.....Page 6
Medicare Card Update .....Page 8
Guam Agent Orange Review...Page 10
VA Corner .....Page 11
News from Cyberspace.....Page 12
VW-1 Shirts Order Forms.....Page 14

2018 WILLY VICTOR REUNION

Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, Mich.

August 24 - 25, 2018 YPSILANTI, MI

Here is the reunion information. We currently have 92 shipmates that have expressed an interest in attending the reunion, that does not include spouses or guests. I hope everyone can make it. I also have 2 that I will have to send this packet to as they have no email.

1. The Willy Victor Reunion will be held over 2 days. Friday 8/24/2018 from 5:30 PM to 9 PM in the evening and Saturday 8/25/2018 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

1a. Friday night, an informal dress buffet dinner and get together at The Wayne County Fairgrounds, 10871 Quirk Rd., Belleville, MI 48111, from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

1b. On Sat. 8/25, the reunion will move to the WILLOW RUN AIRPORT YPSILANTI, MI. for the Thunder Over Michigan Air Show. The reunion and Air Show opens at 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. We will have a tent for all of us to get together and interact. WV2 tail 311 will also be there giving tours all day. If you want to share some of your experiences in the Willy Victors you can go onboard and tell them as part of the tour. After a day of interacting with out fellow Willy Victor shipmates and WV2 - 141311, we will have a farewell get together around 5:00 PM at WV2 - 311 to close out the reunion.

1c. There is nothing, reunion related, planned for Sunday.

2. The tent is capable of seating 100+ people, located on the flight line. Soft drinks, water and a lunch will be available in the tent. You will need an arm band to access the tent area.

3. The reunion cost per person will be $100. That will include:

3a. Friday night dinner. The menu will be your choice of Beef Tenderloin slices or Florentine Stuffed Chicken Breasts, Over Roasted Redskin Potatoes, Garden Salad, Choice of Ranch or Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressing, Croutons, Rolls Soft Drinks, Coffee and water. If you have any food issues, please note them on the Registration Form. There will be a cash bar available. We will pass out the Arm Bands and Parking Passes and entry tickets to the Air Show on Sat. and only Sat at the Friday night event.

3b. Parking and entry into the Air Show. Again the arm band is needed for entry into the Reunion tent.

3c. An extended golf cart to aid in getting around the facilities for those of us that have mobility issues is being provided by the museum. We will have to provide our own driver.

3d. A seat in the reunion tent

3e. All day Soft drinks in the tent

3f. A lunch, TBD

3g. A reunion patch, Access to WV2 tail number 141311.

Itinerary & Registration Form

2018 Willy Victor reunion

WV2 tail 311 will also be there giving tours all day. If you want to share some of your experiences in the Willy Victors you can go onboard and tell them as part of the tour.





Registration Form

Willy Victor Reunion

August 24 - 25, 2018

First Name_____Last Name_____

Spouses Name _____

Guests Names_____

Address_____City_____

State_____Zip _____Home Phone_____

Cell Phone_____Email_____

Please list any food limitations or requirements you may have

_____

WV Squadron Affiliation_____

Years Of Service_____Rate/Rank_____

Registration Fee per Person is $100 - Number of Attendees = ___

This will be the number of Arm Bands and Box Lunches you will receive.

Total amount due $100 X Number of attendees = $_____

Make Checks or money orders out to Willy Victor Group for the Total Amount Post Marked No later then May 30, 2018.



Helena's EC-121 “Warning Star" is moving to an air museum

By Dennis Carlson - MTN News

HELENA, MT - A long-standing fixture at Helena Regional Airport is about to get a new home.

The Lockheed EC-121 “Warning Star,” a Cold War-era early warning radar aircraft, has been housed at the airport since 1981.

It was part of the Helena College airframe and power plant mechanics program.

The Warning Star was built on the airframe of the well-known Lockheed Super Constellation passenger plane, which flew passengers just before the advent of jet air travel.

Both the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy flew the Constellations in their EC-121 roles. The last aircraft was retired from service in 1982.

Now a crew from Nebraska is preparing to disassemble the Constellation and ship it to Atwater, Calif.

Once there, this unique piece of aviation history will be restored and join a fleet of military aircraft on static display at a museum located near the former Castle Air Force Base.

“All of the radar stations and all of the stuff inside the aircraft is as complete as the day it was operational,” said Jeff Wadekamper, Helena Regional Airport director. “There's even still spare parts back in the back of the airplane. So that's the unique ability of this aircraft, that it's so complete.”

Batura says disassembling and loading will take his team about two weeks.

It'll take a caravan of big rigs and trailers to haul the Constellation to California.'
Click here to visit the Castle Air Museum website.

Over the weekend, the Castle Air Museum in Atwater, California welcomed their newly acquired Lockheed EC-121 “Warning Star”.s previously reported, the aircraft, military variant of the Lockheed L-1049 Super Constellation, was a fixture at the Helena Regional Airport in Montana since 1981, when the USAF donated it to Helena College for use in their airframe and powerplant mechanics program. The EC-121 was reportedly turned back over to the government several years ago and was acquired by Castle in 2014.

Worldwide Aircraft Recovery of Bellevue, Nebraska began disassembly of the airframe in August and transported the components aboard flatbed trucks. The machine's distinctive triple tail arrived in late September followed by the wings and the massive fuselage, which made up a load spanning 150′.



The Warning Star, which is said to be "as complete as the day it was operational", will now be restored for static display. Click below to check out photos of the machine's transport and arrival.



Where are other survivors: www.conniesurvivors.com

Make a donation @ https://www.castleairmuseum.org

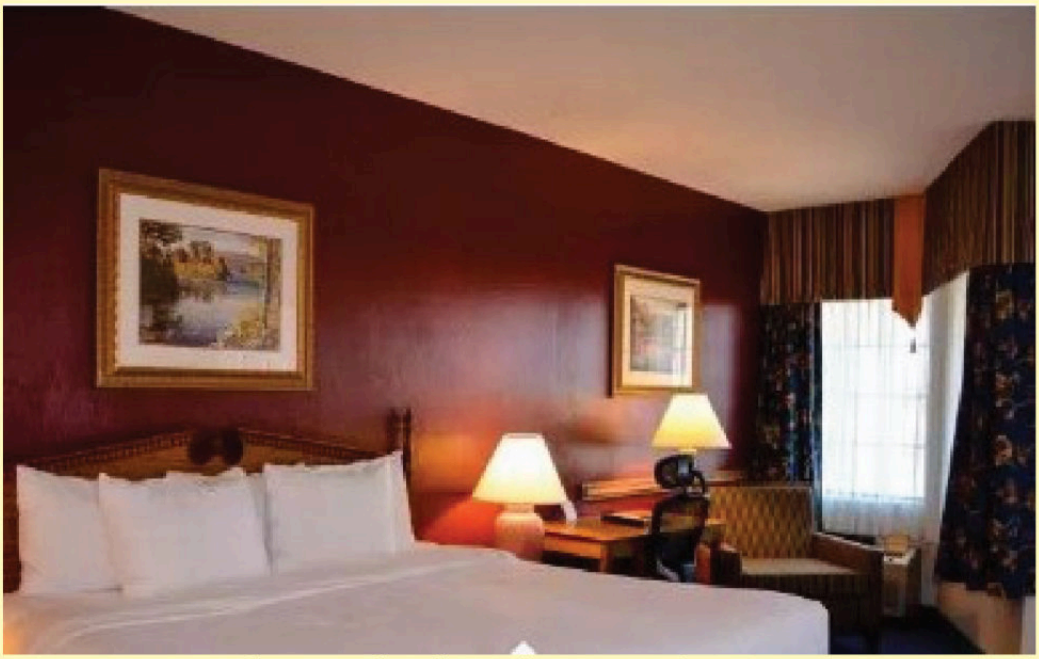
Get Onboard For April 23- 28, 2019 Branson

CLARION HOTEL

Reserve Your Room

800-725-2236 417-334-7666.
https://clarionhotelbranson.com/





Clarion Video: https://vimeo.com/208329537

The quoted base rate for a single or double is $ 69.00, including a continental breakfast. The only difference from our visit there in 2016 is that the breakfast will not be in our meeting room but in the restaurant adjoining it, which is plenty large enough to accommodate us comfortably. More good news .... Joe Cuna, the food/beverage manager, is still there and that automatically guarantees us the very best in dining. Joe goes over the top to keep his military friends happy.

We are confirmed under the name VW-1 All Hands - make sure you mention that when you make your reservation. Their number is 800-725-2236 or 417-334-7666. If you have any problem with the desk, ask for Kathy Richardson, our group sales contact. Singles or doubles are $ 69.00 & Quads are $79.00. The rate is guaranteed for 3 days prior and 3 days following the reunion dates, but does not include the buffet breakfast for those days. We will have the large meeting room that we had before.

Since many of you are familiar with Branson, I would appreciate your suggestions on things to do there. I won't be starting the activities planning for several months yet and your input would be appreciated. My thinking at the moment is to do the Memphis Queen Cruise lunch or dinner cruise. I would like to go back to the Passion Play ... I have now been to a few of them and the scenery and special effects always overwhelm me. Branson is the one place where there is such a variety of shows to see that it is difficult to determine what to select!

We are confirmed under the name VW-1 All Hands - make sure you mention that when you make your reservation. Their number is 800-725-2236 or 417-334-7666. If you have any problem with the desk, ask for Kathy Richardson, our group sales contact. Triples are con-tracted for at$ 79.00; Quads at$ 89.00. The rate is guaranteed for 3 days prior and 3 days following the reunion dates, but does not include the buffet breakfast for those days. We will have the large meeting room that we had before.

Since many of you are familiar with Branson, I would appreciate your suggestions on things to do there. I won't be starting the activities planning for several months yet and your input would be appreciated. My thinking at the moment is to do the Memphis Queen Cruise lunch or dinner cruise. I would like to go back to the Passion Play ... I have now been to a few of them and the scenery and special effects always overwhelm me. Branson is the one place where there is such a variety of shows to see that it is difficult to determine what to select!

Need more reasons to attend? See all the activities available in the area here: https://www.explorebranson.com











You're getting a new Medicare card!

Cards will be mailed between April 2018 – April 2019

You asked, and we listened. You're getting a new Medicare card! Between April 2018 and April 2019, we'll be removing Social Security numbers from Medicare cards and mailing each person a new card. This will help keep your information more secure and help protect your identity.

You'll get a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, and it will only be used for your Medicare coverage. The new card won't change your coverage or benefits. You'll get more information from Medicare when your new card is mailed.

The mailing schedule:

-Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia: April-June 2018
-Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon: April-June 2018
-Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin: After June 2018
-Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont: After June 2018
-Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina: After June 2018
-Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming: After June 2018
-Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands: After June 2018

- Make sure your mailing address is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at ssa.gov/myaccount or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778.
- Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. Medicare will never ask you to give them personal or private information to get your new Medicare Number and card.



Medicare Scam Information

Provided by Pete Wasmund

This is pretty important to get to people with Medicare, their families and friends or adult kids who help parents with Medicare. Here is what you need to know to protect yourself., family and friends throughout the U.S.

Starting 4/1/18 Medicare will start a year long project to replace all current Medicare cards for beneficiaries to convert to alphanumeric ID numbers. Currently the ID number is your social security number. This is starting to hit the media. Scammers are opportunistic. First of all, the new Medicare card will come to you in the mail. You don't need to request it or do anything. It will show up!

What's the scam? Somebody supposedly from "MEDICARE" will call to tell you you are getting a new Medicare card. But until it comes you need a temporary card. The fee for this card is between $ 5 – 50.00. They want personal information, bank account or credit card so they can process your temporary card.

Things to Remember: Medicare will never call you unless you ask them to. Medicare does all communications by mail unless you ask them to call. Ditto for anybody saying they "work with Medicare to make sure you get everything your entitled to".

How to Protect Yourself from the Scam? First of all, spread the word. Feel free to share these notes. Use your answering machine to screen calls or just don't even answer a number you don't recognize. If it has happened to you or your friend or loved ones, and personal information has been given out (happens considerably more than you think, so don't feel bad or stupid) - take action immediately to protect yourself against identity theft.

For more information to this government site:

http://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources / your-medicare-card.html

GAO's Agent Orange investigation underway on Guam

Vietnam-era veterans and island residents will have to wait a little longer before learning what the Government Accountability Office has learned in its investigation of Agent Orange use on Guam.

A final report was anticipated to be submitted to Congress in May but has now been delayed to July 2018. Certain veterans who served in Guam and now reside in the mainland contacted GAO officials after learning of the investigation through various social media and traditional media outlets.

The Department of Defense has maintained that Agent Orange was never present or transited through Guam regardless of testimony from Foster and many other veterans. A separate soil testing effort between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Guam Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense is also underway. The plan of action for the project is being finalized.

New Bill in Congress
H.R. 809, the FOSTER Act. 115th Congress (2017-2018)

If approved this bill would provide presumptive service connection to herbicide exposure, for purposes of eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs health benefits, for veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa during the Vietnam War and who show symptoms of medical conditions associated with such exposure.

Guam has high rates of cancers and other diseases that can be attributed to Agent Orange, say veterans who were stationed their during Viet Nam era. Members of the GAO team were on island last year to speak with veterans about possible Agent Orange locations but more needs to be done to get input from non-military residents who may also have witnessed or handled the material, according to all three rally organizers. It is alleged that Agent Orange was sprayed on Anderson Air Force Base as well as the Naval Air station.

<u>Agent Orange Survivors of Guam rally in support of H.R. 809 and 299 held 3/30/18</u>
March 30, 2018 By Clynt Ridgell Pacific News Center
Guam – A group of veterans and activists held a veteran's day agent orange and toxic chemical rally in Agana on March 30th. There are numerous claims that the toxic chemical was stored and even used on Guam at Andersen air force base to clear the runway of vegetation. The rally was held in front of Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo's office in support of HR 809 and HR 299. HR 809 or the "Fighting For Orange-Stricken Territories in The Eastern Region Act" was introduced by Florida Congressman Dennis Ross in February of 2017. The measure includes Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands as potential places where agent orange was used. HR 299 or the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017" is a bill that extends the Republic of Vietnam definition with regards to the exposure to certain toxins to include the surrounding seas of the country. In January of 2017, Bordallo met with DOD officials who "asserted that agent orange was not used on, stored or transshipped through Guam during the Vietnam war," according to the Congresswoman's official website. Then in April of 2017 the Congresswoman wrote a letter to the Government Accountability Office in Washington D.C. asking them to look into whether or not agent orange was used, transshipped or stored on Guam. Stay tuned for the final decision on this important topic.





VA Corner

Latest VA news

Veterans Choice Program (VCP)

The Veterans Choice Program is one of several programs through which a Veteran can receive care from a community provider, paid for by VA. For example, if a Veteran needs an appointment for a specific type of care, and VA cannot provide the care in a timely manner or the nearest VA medical facility is too far away or too difficult to get to, then a Veteran may be eligible for care through the Veterans Choice Program.

To use the Veterans Choice Program, Veterans must receive prior authorization from VA to receive care from a provider that is part of VA's VCP network of community providers. The authorization is based on specific eligibility requirements and discussions with the Veteran's VA provider. VA must authorize care that is needed beyond the scope of the first authorization.

Eligibility

Veterans may be eligible to receive care through the Veterans Choice Program based on one or more of the following conditions:

- **VA can't provide the services the Veteran needs**
- **VA can't make an appointment for the Veteran at the nearest VA medical facility within 30 days of the clinically indicated date (the date the Veteran and their VA provider agree should be the next date the Veteran is seen for care)—or, if VA can't determine this date—the date the Veteran prefers to be seen next Veteran lives more than 40 miles (driving distance) from the nearest VA medical facility with a full-time primary care physician**
- **Veteran has to travel by air, boat, or ferry to get to the nearest VA medical facility**
- **Veteran faces an excessive burden in traveling to the nearest VA medical facility (such as geographic challenges, environmental factors, or a health problem that makes it hard for you to travel)**
  VA will work with the Veteran to determine eligibility based on the above conditions and the Veteran's specific circumstances.
- **Check your eligibility: https://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apps/choice/**

VA and U.S. Digital Service Launch New Web Tool to Help Veterans Track their Benefits Appeals - WASHINGTON — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S Digital Service announced their launch of an improved Appeals Status tool to increase transparency and enable Veterans to track the progress of their benefits claims appeals. (3/23/18)



"VA News" is a video program designed to provide timely news and information about the Department of Veterans Affairs. The weekly 15-minute newscast is co-produced by the VA Learning University and the Office of Public Affairs in partnership with the Employee Education System and other headquarters and field offices.
View Video - https://www.va.gov/opa/feature/vanews/index.asp

LOOKING FOR Crew Orders



Your submission could make a big difference

A recent outstanding effort by James Prusa and Vic Cook in supplying crew orders and other documentation that certainly was instrumental in one of our ship mates getting approved for treatment and a disability associated with agent orange. .Both of these men and it show that all we have to do is get involved. If you have in your files crew orders that show deployments to Chu Lai, they could be the difference in a person getting approved or not with the VA.

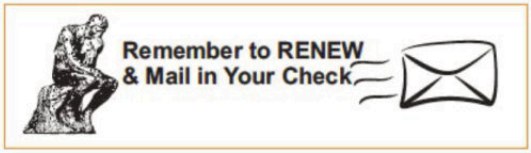
Jim and Vic have set the standard and we need your help. We need to place on the VW-1 web site all Crew Orders that place a crew in Vietnam. If you have any, take a look at our current page of submission @ http://vw1assoc.org/logs-index.html. If you have crew orders that do not appear on that page we need you to take the next step and submit them to Pet Wasmund so that they can be added to our website.

So get off your duff and scour your old Navy papers for those orders, have them scanned and send them to Pete Wasmund, if you can't get them scanned send them to me and I will scan them and send them back (include return envelope), I promise.

Pete's email is Email Removed

My address is:
Bob Stephenson Crew 7 AE
CO-Editor VW-1 All Hands Newsletter
Address Removed
Arnoldsville, Address Removed

Dues Reminder



Not yet, but the month (May) of paying your dues is getting close and this will be the last Tracker until July. On May 31 we will send notices to all unpaid members, but since we are always interested in saving a nickel … or more precisely, 50 cents… we are reminding you just a bit early.

If you wish to save us that stamp in May, just write a check prior to May 20 or $ 20.00, payable to:

Sally Metzger, VW-1 Treasurer
Address Removed
Hernando, Address Removed

Then don't forget to drop it in the mail.

Many of you have already paid in advance. If your not sure of your status, just drop me an email at: Email Removed and I will check it and get back to you.

Thanks for your cooperation..... Sally

Odds & Ends

FYI - did you know that the VA now issues Veteran ID cards for anyone honorably discharged from the military? The purpose of the card is to simply provide a veteran with an easy way to demonstrate service for promotional discounts from various stores. For example, both Home Depot and Lowe's offer veterans a 10% discount on most items. Debbie and I have saved many dollars on carpet, appliances and hardwood floors at HD with this discount. HD will take your DD-214 as proof of service, but this card is easier to carry with you. (They also take VA health cards and retired military ID) More info on the attached link.
https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=3979
Mike Webber

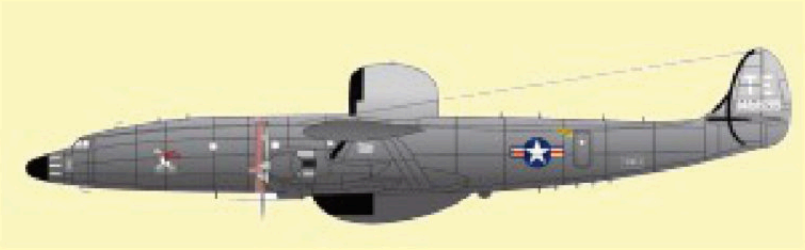
George Dean (4/16) Email Removed "I got a new computer and have been having "troubles" with it. Guess there was a short term license - like 30 days! Additionally, I'm considering selling and moving into an adult community where I have a number of friends. BUT... had 3,800 miles on the car when Christina died, now have 28,000 and several more trips planned.

Went to PA three times last year; to Memphis for a friend's funeral (saw Pete Wasmund there); to Charleston; to Raleigh and took things to a group of nuns who often gave my wife a break for a hairdo, etc., as she cared for our son for 2 years, in Charlotte, as he was dying.

Meanwhile, I also go to an assisted living center twice a month and sing for the residents. Some often sing along with me. Seems to help them and doesn't do me any harm."

Andy Dunn (4/8): Andy informed me that Laraine Myers passed away recently. She was a welcome addition to our reunions and came on a regular basis with Thurman (Bud) Hummel.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bud during this difficult time. His contact Address Removed Address Removed Haysville, Address Removed Ph: Phone Removed





ORDER FORM FOR VW-1 SHIRT

Basic Shirt is $35
$5 for Name and tour years
Extra size cost (XXL -$2, XXXL - $4 & XXXXL $6 Extra)
Style: **MB**-*Mens Blue,* **MG**- *Mens Gold* **WB**-*Womens Blue*, and **WG**-*Womens Gold*

Note: Shirt run a little snug suggest you order one size larger

VW-1 Members Name _____
Please Print

Name on Shirt	Years Served	Style	Size	Qty	Shirt Cost

Sub Total
9% Tax
Total

Mail to:
Ralph Link
Address Removed
Bloomington, Illinois

Make check out to Ralph Link