



ANA **GRAMPAW PETTIBONE**
SQUADRON INC.
1 DECEMBER 2015



www.gpsana.org

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The Grampaw Pettibone Squadron is a non-profit organization (IRS Sect. 501(C)(4) which, through meetings, discussions, speaker programs, and periodic field trips, serves to educate squadron members and the general public on the requirements of an adequate national defense, especially maritime aviation, which is essential to a free society, and to support the military professionals (active and reserve) responsible for many aspects of national defense. GPS also seeks to foster the strong pride, esprit, and fraternal bonds which exist among those associated with Naval Aviation

THE GPS LUNCHEON MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2015

AT THE

GARDEN GROVE ELKS LODGE

LOCATED AT 11551 TRASK Ave., GARDEN GROVE

Hangar doors open at 1130, Luncheon is at 1200, secure at 1330.

Please make reservations before 9 PM on Monday 7 December 2015

COST IS \$15.00. FOR RESERVATIONS Please E-mail

RayLeCompte34@Gmail/com or by Phone: 562-287-4846

About our speaker's topic:



WINGS OF GOLD

A Photographic Journey

About our speaker:

FRANK B. MORMILLO
PHOTO JOURNALIST

When a minor eyesight problem prevented Frank B. Mormillo from entry into Navy flight training, his disappointment quickly changed to hope. Instead of becoming a pilot, he got the next best thing. Frank combined his love of aviation with his exceptional talents in the photographic arts, and his new career was quickly established.

As a photojournalist, Mormillo did get to fly in a wide variety of military aircraft with the United States Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Coast Guard, as well as with the British Royal Air Force. He even sailed on Navy and Coast Guard ships, and operated in the field with Army and Marine Corps ground forces, during realistic training exercises.



For over 35 years, Mormillo has also covered all sorts of motor sports events, and was the official track photographer at both the Riverside International raceway and the Ontario Motor Speedway in California. For decades, he has also lectured on photography and photojournalism, as well as

operating photo lab facilities as a staff member at the community college and university level.

Well known in the civilian warbird community, Mormillo has also served with the Planes of Fame Air Museum (now located at the Chino Airport, California) since 1957. Starting as a college intern in public relations, he has since 1980 been the museum's media relations coordinator, in which capacity he also serves as photographer and historian.

Over the years, his keen artist's eye and broad technical knowledge have earned him the privilege of flying in a wide range of military and civilian aircraft, from the Curtiss JN-4D Jenny biplane of 1917 to the supersonic McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom, earning him worldwide recognition as one of the leading practitioners in the field of aviation photojournalism.



Maj Derek Abbey

THE BENT PROP PROJECT FOR OUR VETERANS

By Dick Fields
GPS PAO

Gramps was delighted to have Major Derek Abbey USMC (Ret) as our speaker for November. Major Abbey is a retired F-18 pilot with modern combat flight time exceeding his peaceful flight time. His current occupation is the

recovery of our WW-II veterans whose bodies and aircraft have not yet been found through the Bent Prop Project. Their primary current site is the Island Country of Palau in the western Pacific. Palau was an island owned by the Germans that was taken by Japan in WW-I. It consists of 250 islands. During WW-II it was heavily occupied by the Japanese, and many conflicts with the United States forces took place there.

The Country is now an independent nation, released by the United States in 1994 and now a presidential republic with close ties to the United States. The Bent Prop Project has coordinated with the President of Palau and the tribal chiefs. There has been good cooperation. The U.S. is involved with notifications through the Navy Historic Center, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the Department of Defense.

Hundreds of our aircraft and their crews were lost during the battles. Included was the search for the trawler that George H. W. Bush sank that was armed. In one area, there are about 200 downed aircraft inside the barrier reef: so far 35 U.S. and 35 Japanese aircraft have been found with another 70 discoverable. The challenge includes the fact that the landscape is brutal and the weather often runs around 110 ° and there are



Maj Abbey is thanked by C.O. Tim Brown for his work for the MIAs

heavy rains. The island had tunnels and defense sites in the densely grown mangrove jungle. In one event a B-24 was downed off New Guinea with eleven crewmen: eight died and three survived to be executed. The group dug up bodies of American captives who had been buried by the Japanese. They recovered a Japanese "Norm" aircraft of which only very few were made with only one in existence now.

Currently there is participation by students from colleges who help in the searches who participate as volunteers. Their protocol is to not notify families until sure of the identities so as not to give false hope and disappointment to family. When a U.S. body was found, the Palau citizens insisted on honoring the remains before it was loaded onto an aircraft for transport home.

We are grateful to Major Abbey for his work in this field. It brings closure to the families who are still unsure of the fate of their loved ones.



CO's COLUMN

Tim Brown

As we approach the end of another year, I want to thank you all for attending our luncheons and donating money to the cause. Without your support we could not carry on with the awards program for the Sailors of the Quarter. Remember, your annual membership dues go to the Association

of Naval Aviation and Gramps gets nothing in the way of money from ANA. We do however, enjoy the name recognition of being associated with ANA and all members receive an awesome magazine, Wings of Gold. That being said, we will accept your extra donations to Gramps at anytime! We also are looking for volunteers to take over staff positions for those of us who have served for so many years...Hal for more than 25 years!

Thank You to the GPS staff members who continue to serve the needs of the group. Thanks to Fran and Paula, Dolores, Dick and Carol, Vince, Ray, Doc Helton, Hal and Anna, Chaplain Bill, Cindy Macha and, ever active, Sel Ramsay. Also I want to say "Thanks" to those friends who are not staff members but who consistently serve GPS in their own ways: Andy Benjock, Ed Mason, Lorraine Dadamo, and Bob Cashman. A special thanks to Bob Olds and Marv Garrison for their sage advice, guidance and volunteerism to go along with their always positive "can do" attitude! It has been an interesting year and I appreciate your efforts on behalf of Gramps.

I am looking forward to another great year as your "leader", although I feel that I am really just "herding cats" at times. Our conversations may be short but I appreciate all of your input and suggestions. Please keep them coming and, if possible, we try to put those ideas into action. Also, send money donations to Hal McDonnell or give your check to Dolores when you pay for lunch. All of the best to you and your families in the coming years.

SAILORS OF THE QUARTER

By Tim Brown



MAC Ronnie Ray reads SOQ Citations

At our last meeting we honored the four SOQs from Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach and Naval Munitions Command. Only three could be present. The Senior SOQ from NMC, MN1(SCW) Mark Yancy, was on duty that day and could not attend. The program was run splendidly by MAC(SW) Ronnie Ray (HOU LCPO, Command CMEQ, and Command CACO Coordinator) who stood in for CMDCM(AW) Jeff Reeder, the base Command Master Chief, who had other Navy duties to perform. Also present was the Executive Officer of NWSSB, CDR Erik Franzen. As always, gifts from local restaurants were given to the sailors plus a recognition certificate from Gramps and a plaque from USAA. Thank you to Crab Cooker, Beachwood BBQ, O'Malley's on

Main, The Hangout, Yucatan Grill, Athens West, and Hennessy's Tavern for helping reward the performances of these outstanding sailors. An excellent job was performed by MAC Ray and congratulations to the SOQs.

We have changed things a bit relative to the SOQ Awards Program. We will continue to honor the SOQs at our luncheons in February, May, August and November. Because the Weapons Station has gotten back on schedule relative to selection of the Sailors of the Year, we will have a separate program to honor the SOYs at the December meetings. Please try your best to make that meeting so that we have a larger than normal crowd to participate in the relatively short awards program.



Naval Weapon Station Seal Beach 4th Quarter 2015 Junior and Senior Sailors of the Quarter. Names from left to right- MAC Ronnie Ray, MAC Jay Knox (sponsor) MA1 Jason Bott (SOQ) MA2 Brandon McKnight (JSOQ), LS1 Robert Walker (SOQ), GMC Brad Stiner, Tim Brown.

The GREAT GUYS

Here are some of the Great Guys who have made contributions to Gramps in November. These guys and the members who attend the monthly luncheons are the ones who make possible Gramps' Sailor of the Quarter program and the Mailing of the OP-Plan. Gramps and his staff thank them all and hope to see your name here. Members who do not attend the monthly luncheons should consider a contribution to cover the monthly 61 cent cost for each OP-Plan mailed to you. You can save Gramps money by getting the OP-Plan via email.

**Bob Bell, Tim Brown,
Vince van den Brink, Ray LeCompte
Cynthia Macha, Bob Olds,
and Don Rosen**



MEMBERSHIP

By Fran Pieri,

Our next luncheon will be Thursday, December 10th. Remember, it's the second Thursday. December is the Christmas Month, so if you know of anyone who has no family here in our area, I'm sure they would like to join us for some good food and fellowship. We still are in need of new members. This past year, some

of our members have either passed away or moved out of our area. If you know of any new people who have just moved into our area and might be interested in joining the ANA and Gramps Sqdn. bring them along with you when you come. Carpooling is a must for those of us who cannot drive. Be sure to come early to get a good seat and table. The food is always good and the price is right. Fran



GRAMPS' MEMBERS CELEBRATE MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY BY SINGING THE MARINE CORPS ANTHEM



L to R: Lorraine Dadamo, Andrew Benjock, Dolores Hardy & Jim Faulkner.

LCDR G.I. MAYS CELEBRATES WITH GRAND SON AND GREAT GRANDSON AT GRAMPS' LUNCHEON.



L to R: Jeff Purdy, LCDR G.I. Mays, Kellen Dawson.

Besides Andy Benjock, Wil Hardy and a couple of others, Gramps has a few more members who are older than 90 years. One of the others who does not attend every meeting like Andy, is ANA Life Member, LCDR

G.I. Mays, USNR (Ret) who attended our last meeting with his grandson, Jeff Purdy, and his great grandson, Kellen Dawson.

LCDR Mays went on active duty on July 2, 1942, soon after the beginning of the war. He flew PBYS ("Catalina") while stationed at Attu, conducting anti submarine patrols plus interdiction of enemy shipping. He was released from active duty on December 14, 1945. On July 16, 1948, at the beginning of the Korean War he was recalled to active duty. In the early days of that war he served as a flight instructor at Pensacola, FL. Later he was assigned to the USS Noble (APA-218) and participated in the Inchon landings, where LCDR Mays captained the lead boat in the Captain's gig, guiding the marines landing during the invasion. He was again released from active duty on October 21, 1954.

After leaving the active duty Navy, LCDR Mays joined the Navy Reserve at Naval Air Station, Los Alamitos, in January 1955. He was transferred to inactive reserve in June, 1968. He retired with a total of 26 years of Naval Service. Thank you, LCDR Mays for attending our meeting and bringing along your grandson and great grandson.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Bill Thompson

Whenever the Christmas Season is near, most of us begin to think about how we can spend time with family. Memories of past Christmases may be rekindled as we see the decorations and the live Christmas trees for sale in various areas of town. Let us pause to reflect that those in uniform may not be home for Christmas. A poem by *Joanna Fuchs* is a reminder for us:

A Soldier's Prayer

Lord, wrap Your arms around me
In this hostile, brutal place;
Let me draw peace and comfort
From Your restful, sweet embrace.

Help me do my duty
To uphold what is right;
Give me strength and courage
Each day and every night.

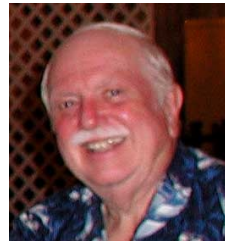
Lord, hear this soldier's prayer
To You in heaven above;
Protect me with Your power,
And sustain me with Your love. AMEN

LUNCHEON PICTURES

C. O. Tim Brown calls the numbers that help Gramps pay for the Sailors of the Quarter and mail the OP-plan.



THE SECOND CAKE. THIS ONE WAS CHOCOLATE!



From The FLIGHT SURGEON

Bob Helton MD

MACULAR DEGENERATION

Medical experts are not sure what causes age-related macular degeneration (AMD), but some factors may increase your risk of developing it.

.Risk factors 1. Age: One third of adults over 75 are affected by AMD

.Risk factors 2. Smoking increases a person's chance of developing AMD by 2 to 5 fold! Because the retina has a high rate of oxygen consumption, anything that affects oxygen delivery to the retina may affect vision. Smoking causes oxidative damage, which may contribute to the development and progression of this disease.

.Risk factors 3. Family History of AMD: A person is more likely to develop AMD if someone in his or her immediate family has had it.

.Risk factors 4. Gender: Females are more likely to develop AMD than males. Since they live longer this may be the cause .

.Risk factors 5. Race: Caucasians are more likely to develop AMD than other races. This factor may be related to differences in genetic background or pigmentation.

.Risk factors 6. Prolonged Sun Exposure: Some studies suggest an association between AMD and cumulative eye damage from UV and other light. This light may damage the retina and increase the risk of AMD.

.Risk factors 7. Diet: People with diets high in fat, cholesterol and sugar and low in antioxidants and green leafy vegetables may be more likely to develop AMD .

.Risk factors 8. Obesity: A person with a body mass Index over 30 is 2 ½ times more likely to develop AMD.

.Risk factors 9. High blood pressure: This leads to a constriction of the blood vessels that nourish the retina, restricting oxygen flow.

.Risk factors 10. Eye color: people with light-colored eyes are more likely to develop the dry type of AMD. This may be because light-pigmented eyes offer less protection from damaging UV light.

.Risk factors 11. Genes may play a role. TIPS for Prevention of AMD: Maintain a healthy weight. Don't smoke. Eat green leafy vegetables. Maintain normal blood pressure. Exercise regularly. Wear sunglasses and a hat when in the sun. Get regular eye exams, and consult your doctor if you notice vision changes.