

# ATKRON 12 NEWSLETTER

## VA-12

Vol. IX, Issue 2  
August 2010

PUBLISHED BY THE  
VA-12 REUNION ASSOCIATION

## ATTACK SQUADRON TWELVE VA-12

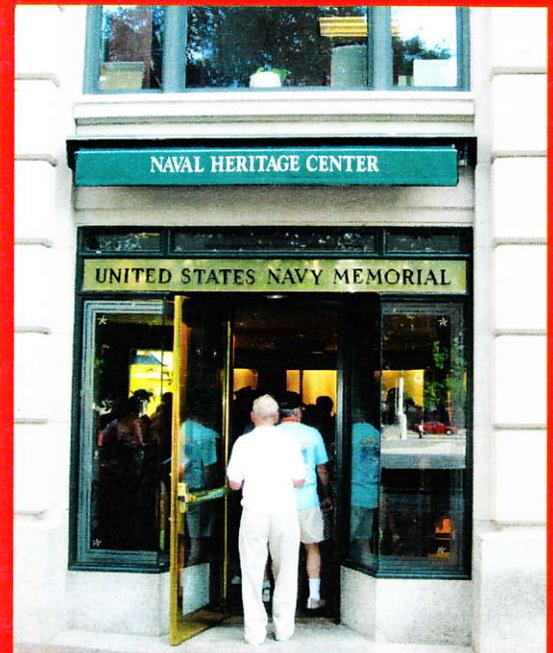


DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO SERVED  
IN THIS WORLD FAMOUS SQUADRON.  
BONDS FORMED HERE.  
TIME CAN NEVER ERASE  
"UBANGI" • "UBETCHA"

Presented 2010 • Attack Squadron Twelve Reunion Association



United States Navy  
Memorial  
Washington, D.C.  
June 26, 2010



WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT THE **WORLD FAMOUS FLYING UBANGIS** ON THE INTERNET AT [WWW.VA12.COM](http://WWW.VA12.COM)

*"Hard pressed on my right. My center is yielding. Impossible to maneuver. Situation excellent. I am attacking."*

Ferdinand Foch  
Battle of the Marne, September 1914



### UBANGI?

### UBETCHA!

HAVE YOU VOTED FOR  
THE 2012 REUNION SITE  
OF YOUR CHOICE?

*Details Within*



**AT THE UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL, JUNE 26 2010.**

The VA-12 Flying Ubangis who were in attendance were (Left to Right):

**Front Row:** Jack Kennerly, Terry Nies, John Gynan, Bill Heck, Marty McCormick

**Second Row:** James Renfro, Eric Harvie, Joe McFadden, Joe Kyle, Ed Lewitz, Barry Smith, Bob Runnell

**Top Row:** Bob Smith, Bob Fossum, JD Rodgers, Frank Giaccone, Rich Kichline, Jon Sutherland, John Larch, Ed Thomas, Johnny Miller, Bob Kaplan, Eddie Annibale

The Ubangis above, plus a number of their wives also in attendance, were present for the awarding of the memorial plaque shown on the front cover. After arriving a bit early and familiarizing ourselves with the Navy Memorial, a brief ceremony was conducted in the Memorial Auditorium and the Plaque was dedicated and mounted. Additionally, the names of VA-12 officer and enlisted personnel who have departed the mortal realm were read off, accompanied by a ring from the Navy Memorial Bell.

## 2010 REUNION NEWS

So, another VA12 Reunion has come and gone. From all reports it was a successful endeavor. Personally, it was my favorite one so far. It was very hot, but that did not seem to dull our spirits. Many of you pitched in and helped out above and below the scenes. Thanks to all that contributed and attended in making the event worth our time and expense. I am thankful for Rich Kichline's article that you will read shortly. He captured the details of our events in his excellent style. By the way, the submission in this Newsletter is exactly what John and I like to receive, and need more of, if we are to continue it. Thanks to all.

## 2012 REUNION

Now that we have done DC it is time to move on to our next location. The nominating committee (2010 Reunion attendees) selected many excellent sites for us to consider for next time. We voted on Saturday evening at the banquet and narrowed the field to the two most popular places. San Diego, CA and Charleston, SC. For those of you that have not voted you will find your ballot enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter. If your ballot is not enclosed it means that you are not currently paid up on your 2010 dues. You will be permitted to vote once you are current on your dues. Please mail me your ballot by the end of this year, the sooner the better. You may also pay your 2011 dues at that time if you wish.

## SURVIVING SPOUSES

Some time back I established the practice of sending our Newsletters out to those surviving spouses when the Association member passed away. Dues are not expected from these widows, however, if you do not wish to receive our Newsletters, please send me a note or email and let me know. Thank you

**Joe Kyle 66-69**

## TREASURY REPORT

Previous Balance 3/31/10	<b>2474.36</b>
Dues/Donations & Reunion Fees	48.00 1628.77
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>4151.13</b>
Ink Cartage	24.43
Stamps	89.25
Envelopes	19.04
Printing	225.60
Tour Bus Tickets	1683.00
Banquet	1200.27
Mugs	490.36
Misc. Expense	74.55
<b>CURRENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>3881.05</b>
<b>NEW BALANCE</b>	<b>270.08</b>

## NEW VA12 ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Here are the names of the newest members joining our ranks since the last newsletter.

Marty McCormick	54-56
Richard Hindy	61-64
Stuart Vigneux	61-64
Barry Smith	66-69

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## REUNION REPORT – RICH KICHLINE

The 2010 VA-12 reunion in Washington, D.C. is over. Now I start to save my loose change for the next reunion in 2012. Carol and I had a great time meeting up with our friends from the 2008 reunion and also meeting VA-12 vets who were first time attendees. Everyone had a tale to tell about their time spent in VA-12. It was just so exciting for me to be there with the VA-12 family.

My stay in Washington, D.C. was great though it could have been a little cooler. Visiting the Wall was a solemn and sad affair. I had a high school friend whose name is engraved on the Wall. He was a great guy who is sorely missed. Seeing the Korean and WWII memorials also brought a tear to my eye. The ceremony at the Naval Memorial was wonderful. To have a plaque on the wall honoring VA-12 is a great honor for me and all the VA-12 veterans. I guess going to Arlington was the toughest for me. Seeing all those graves of men and women who gave their lives to defend America made me sad but also proud to be an American and a veteran.

During our stay in D.C., I was relaxing in the hotel room. While flipping through TV channels, I came upon a series which I have watched more than once. As I sat there watching the program, I thought to myself this is us, we are these men. We are a band of brothers. For those of us who attend the reunions as well as those who do not, this is what we are. A group of people spread out over decades but with one thing in common, we are Attack Squadron 12 veterans. We will forever be bound in this way.

I hope that in 2012 there will be many more VA-12 veterans at the reunion. It will be a time of telling old sea

stories plus seeing what we have done with our lives after VA-12.

Remember, we are a Band of Brothers. We are VA-12.  
**AZ3 Rich "Kicker" Kichline 67-70**

## **BIO – ADJ2 BARRY SMITH**

Well gentlemen here it is in a nutshell.....  
All in all life has been very good to me.

After leaving VA-12, as FM mentioned, I did marry a girl from Pennsylvania and headed off into the sunset with high hopes of expanding my skills of beer drinking and finding some direction. After a disastrous 6 month stint at junior college in California I moved to Arizona and discovered construction (appropriate for the afore mentioned beer drinking skills development) and after several years with her, and having a beautiful daughter named Jenny, she came home one day and informed me that "I was having way too much fun" for her and that she wanted a divorce.

That being accomplished I took bumbling around to an art form and focused on off road racing and sand buggies in the deserts of So. Cal. and in Mexico. Some time passed with little interest in romance until I was introduced to my lovely wife Christy. After a very brief courtship we decided that this was what both of us had been looking for and we have been married 33 years now. We have a son named Cody. I gave up the off road and sand buggy stuff when right after we got Cody I flipped a car end over end several times about 85 miles an hour. I walked away unscathed physically (the car was totaled) however it was clear that if I was going to be a serious dad and husband I better make a change.

My dad instilled in me the work ethic and I took that pretty seriously. From 1970 to 1980 I went from an apprentice level carpenter to vice president of a construction company with about 150 employees. Christy and I had been married for about three years by now and we decided to created our own company. We developed our new company from 1980 to 1990 with offices in both Phoenix and Las Vegas and built millions of square feet of high end residential, multifamily, industrial, and commercial space.

In 1990 I persuaded her to take another direction and focus on only high end residential and some commercial buildings. The high end residential came quickly into view as the most profitable and the highest potential and that has been our main stay up to this day. As a full design and build company (I do all of the designs) we have been blessed with sharing the lives of people such as the chairman of AT&T (he invented and owns "On Star"), movie producers, high level restaurateurs, and

scads of entrepreneurs of every form.

All of this time Christy has been my life long married partner and business partner. In fact she is president of the company and has a very impressive resume of her own. Among many other successes she is Chair of the Board of Southwest Business Financing. She graduated Cum Laude from ASU with a degree in engineering and I have always wondered what she see's in an old sailor like me.

Hobbies wise I am into muscle cars and presently have a very nice bright yellow '67 Plymouth Barracuda convertible with about 468.5 HP that I took from a junk yard dog to a fully restored award winning car. I am a past leader of the Boy Scouts (11 plus years of that). I have been known to pick a little bluegrass banjo. I am also a volunteer in the Sentinels of Freedom national scholarship program for returning injured service men and women from the middle east war.

Health wise I am in great shape. I gave up cigarettes decades ago, drinking over 10 years ago, and love to run a local mountain trail that's about 4 miles long with about a 300 foot elevation change from start to finish out and back.

In short I have no regrets so far and I am planning to continue on in life creating things, making money, and making a difference in others lives until they put me in a pine box.

I am most proud of my Marine Corps son Cody who has just returned from another deployment to the Middle East. He's in a helicopter support squadron and has toured in Iraq and recently Afghanistan. He is a genuine, chest full of medals, American hero.

I cannot end this without some acknowledgements... The fabric of my life has been woven by the hearts and souls of those that have contributed to it. I stand and salute those of Attack Squadron VA-12 that have now passed on and those of you who are still here for the impact that you have had on my life. I am pleased that you have finally been able to once again be part of my life and I yours.

**ADJ2 Barry J. Smith 66-69**

### **AVIATOR WISDOM**

- If you push the stick forward, the houses get bigger. If you pull the stick back, they get smaller. If you keep pulling the stick all the way back, then they get bigger again.
- The propeller is just a big fan in front of the plane used to keep the pilot cool. When it stops, you can actually watch the pilot start sweating.
- Flaring for a landing is like squatting to pee.

## THE F7U-3 CUTLASS INCIDENT

The Cutlass was a wonderful plane to fly - with some issues: underpowered, a maintenance nightmare, justifiably known as the "Ensign Eliminator". A distinctive feature of the Cutlass was its nose wheel, about 20 feet high, and as a result the engine intakes were about the height of a basketball hoop.

Which leads us to our story.

One evening I had the Squadron duty and was about to go to sleep in the hanger spaces. I could hear running feet across the hanger area, climb the stairs and rush into the office space. "Mr. Doody, we just blew an engine during night check, there were rocks in the engine intake. I think it was sabotage, because we found rocks in 4 other planes".

"For heavens sake Garvey (not his name) this is 1956, we are in Florida, not at war, no one is shooting at us, it is not sabotage, just some idiot who thinks he is playing basketball". We secured night check so we could examine all the planes the next morning.

I then called our Skipper, Cmdr. Paul Durand, to report the incident. I foolishly added; "Garvey thinks it is sabotage". His reply floored me! "Damn right that is what it is. Doody, call Navy Intelligence at ComFairJax. I want a Lie Detector unit set up at Cecil Field tomorrow morning". "Get the names of all the people who were on or near the line of planes, set it up tonight."

The next day there was flurry of activity - Lcdr Godfrey was put in charge - our squadron had not had this much excitement in a long time. Names were compiled and schedules for the lie detector test set up.

I noticed one airman had been sent to the galley that morning. I called the galley and asked the Chief to send Airman Summers (not his name) to Building 5 to take a lie detector test. As I hung up I could hear the Chief shout "Summers you have to take a lie detector test."

I can only imagine Summers' anxiety as he headed for Building 5.

Once in the room and looking at the machine and all the serious faces, he confessed. "OK I did it, I stole the radios and the watches".

He confessed to the wrong thing.

Post script - we never did find out who threw the rocks in the intake of the engines.

I had a collateral duty as Squadron trial counsel and we held a Bad Conduct Discharge trial.

With the confession, Summers was convicted. However on Review the conviction was reversed on a technicality. Summers was discharged from the Navy, but not with an honorable discharge.

**Capt. Bill Doody**

## REUNION PICTURES & VIDEO

Anyone who has poked around our website at [www.va12.com](http://www.va12.com) knows that there is a button available called **REUNION INFO**. There is a host of information about past Reunions held in Roanoke, VA in 2000, Norfolk VA in 2002, Jacksonville Beach FL in 2004, Pensacola FL in 2006, and Chattanooga TN in 2008.

In there you will find folders full of pictures taken by VA-12 Ubangis and their wives and families who were in attendance. There are even some videos you can watch.

The same efforts are being made to document our most recent Reunion in Washington DC. At present, Webmaster Terry Nies has put a link to the latest 2010 Reunion efforts close to the bottom of the Main Page, at a spot where you see the phrase **INITIAL VIDEOS AND PHOTOS FROM THE REUNION**.

Inside that link you can find a wonderful video made by our resident videographer Eric Harvie. And there are at least two photo slideshows made by John Gynan. We expect that more will arrive in the near future. These efforts contain photographic evidence of our visits to some of the highlights around Washington DC.

We encourage you to consider sharing your own 2010 Reunion pictures of yourself and your family, your fellow VA-12 Ubangis and their families, and the sights of Washington DC, with the rest of us. Everyone taking pictures gets a unique perspective on people and the sights that we can all enjoy.

Serving as our "Reunion Association Chief Photographers Mate" is Bob Fossum who is working closely with webmaster Terry Nies on putting a photographic representation (from a large number of photos sent in from a great bunch of Ubangis) of our Washington Reunion - assembled in one place for all to see. Keep an eye on the Association's web site for these photos...

## NAME THE SQUIDS



Eric Harvie found this old photo, which looks to show an all-hands VA-12 muster from back in the day. Cdr. Austin O'Brien is addressing seven Ubangis wearing whites. From the left, 2<sup>nd</sup> man is Robert Bliss, 3<sup>rd</sup> man is Eric Harvie, 5<sup>th</sup> man is Woodfin Roberts.

***Who are the other four men in whites?***

Hummm...

1. The A-4 VA-12 birds behind the formation show CVW-2 markings.
2. Second sailor Robert Bliss was a PO2.
3. Third sailor Eric Harvie looks like he was an Airman E-3.
4. Fifth sailor Woodfin Roberts sports a 4-year hash mark.
5. Probably has to be at Cecil as well.



**AT THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL, JUNE 25 2010.**

The VA-12 Ubangis who served during the 1966-67 deployment to Vietnam (Left To Right):  
 Kneeling: Bob Kaplan, Ed Thomas, Bill Heck, Joe Kyle  
 Standing: Eric Harvie, Barry Smith, John Gynan, JD Rodgers, Jon Sutherland

The wall section behind them contains the engraved names of VA-12 aviators Cdr. Robert Frosio, Squadron CO and LT(jg) James Jones, who were killed November 12, 1966 in a mid-air collision while returning to CV-42 Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The entire Reunion party was present for this honorary remembrance.

**Attack Squadron Twelve**

2010 Reunion

Cdr. Robert Frosio

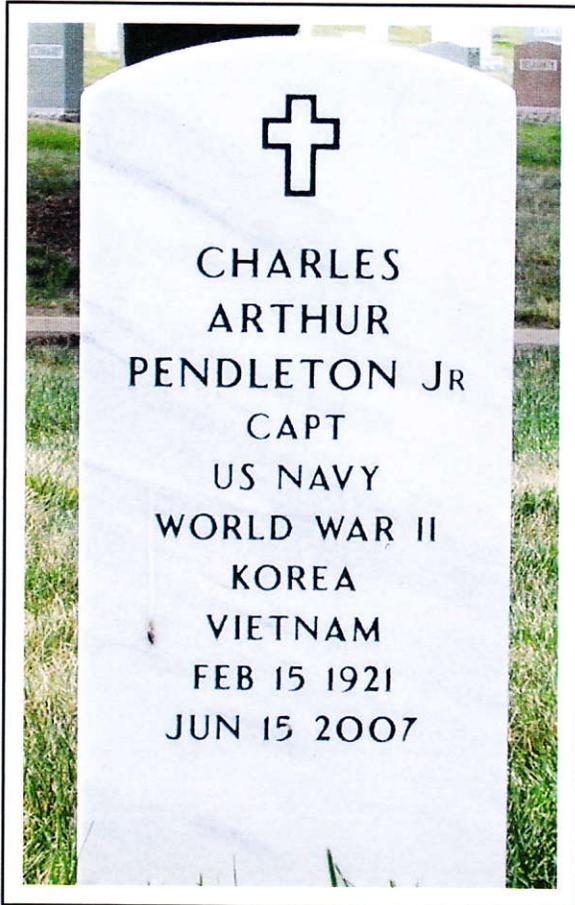
Ltjg. James Jones

Lost 12 November 1966



"Still In Our Thoughts And Our Hearts"

# AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, JUNE 2010



AMS3 Neal Russo served in VA-12 from 1966 to 1968. He passed away on Sept. 18 2003 at his home in West Virginia. "Finally found a bottom rack"

Then-Cdr. Pendleton served as the Commanding Officer of VA-12 from 10 Jan 1958 to 22 Jan 1959. He passed away at his home in Atlantic Beach, Florida on June 15, 2007 at the age of 85

