

The Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association

“The Golden Eagles®”



GOLDEN EAGLE CONTINUING HISTORY 2009

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This continuing historical summary covers the period from after the Golden Eagle Reunion at New Bern, North Carolina on 27 April 2008 until the completion of the San Diego reunion held 23-26 April 2009.

Golden Eagle Flights participated in several functions during the past year.

Northeast Flight: The NE Golden Eagles met for a mini-reunion at 1130 on 21 October at the Cold War Museum at the historic Washington Navy Yard. The event included about 30 persons nine of which were wives. The bottom line, it was a very informative experience that was enjoyed by all.

Southeast Flight: Bill Huffcut and the SE flight held a mini reunion from 28 to 30 October at the Orlando site of the 2012 annual reunion.

Central Flight: Skip Furlong and the Central flight had their quarterly Pensacola area luncheon August 27 to discuss various issues including a planning start on the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation on May 8th, 2011 and the associated GE reunion. They also had a mini-reunion at the Beau Rivage Resort Casino in Biloxi, MS. Sep 24-26. The Beau Rivage is a beautiful, first class complex.

West Flight: Bob Arnold and the West flight had a luncheon in early October. In addition, in December San Diego hosted a 40th anniversary celebration of the successful Apollo 8 mission. Bill Knutson provided the following description of the event: GEs Neil Armstrong, Gene Cernan, Jim Lovell and I were in attendance. It was a tribute to the calculated risk NASA took to beat the Russians to fly a man to the moon and back. Apollo 8 was the key to the lunar landing as it was the first to: Escape earth's gravitation force; navigate to another body in space; enter orbit around the moon; see the back side of the moon; escape the moon's gravitational force; navigate back to earth; and finally to enter the earth's atmosphere going over twice the speed of orbital flight. Neil put all of those things into perspective, which allowed his mission to land on the moon. Lovell, Borman and Anders held a panel discussion of the mission, problems, challenges and admitted to the fact that Anders took the famous picture of Earth rising over the lunar surface.

Golden Eagles Recognized: Stan Arthur, ADM USN (Ret.), Robert Rasmussen, CAPT USN (Ret.) and James D. Ramage, RADM USN (Ret.) were inducted into the National Naval Aviation Museum Hall of Honor. A fitting, well deserved tribute to Stan, Ras and Jig Dog.

A wonderful tribute to one of our Golden Eagles– U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) congratulated Admiral Jeremiah Denton for being named by the United States National Archives as one of the top 25 most influential persons in United States history.

“Admiral Denton, an exceptional leader, has spent his life fighting for freedom,” Sessions said. “He served in the Navy for 34 years, and he spent seven years in prison camps in North Vietnam. He became the first U.S. captive to spend four years in solitary confinement, during which he reflected the highest standards of the American military. When the communists tried to use him for war propaganda, Admiral Denton remained courageous and steadfast saying that he believed in his government and would continue to support it as long as he lived. No one can forget the dramatic moment when he, as the first prisoner of war to walk off the airplane, thanked his President and his country for his release and said, ‘God bless America.’ He is a true patriot. It is appropriate and fitting that the National Archives has recognized his contribution to our nation’s history.”

The Tailhook association presented the Life Time Achievement Awards to ADM Wesley L. McDonald, USN and RADM J. Lloyd "Doc" Abbot, USN. They join 19 other Golden Eagles who have previously been given Tailhook Life Time Achievement Awards.

ANN ARBOR, MI – The Thomas More Law Center and the American Legion, Department of California, honored Vietnam War hero, retired Admiral and former U.S. Senator, Jeremiah Denton, with a plaque dedication ceremony atop Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in La Jolla, CA, *Sept. 19, 2008.*



Golden Eagle Admiral Joseph W. Prueher was one of five U.S. Naval Academy Alumni chosen by the Naval Academy Alumni Association as the 2009 recipients of the Distinguished Graduate Award.

The USNS Wally Schirra, T-AKE, was christened and launched March 8, 2009. The USNS Wally Schirra is a cargo and ammunitions ship built by General Dynamics, NASSCO in San Diego. Jo Schirra, wife of Astronaut and Golden Eagle CAPT Wally Schirra was the sponsor and broke the Champaign bottle at the bow to christen the ship. In attendance for the Launching were Golden Eagles, CAPT James Lovell, ADM Bud Edney, RADM Don Shelton, CAPT Hap Chandler and CAPT Bill Knutson.

GOLDEN EAGLES 2009 REUNION

Dates 23-26 April, 2009.

Location Crowne Plaza Hotel Mission Valley, San Diego, CA

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, 1800, Welcome Aboard Reception in the Pool Area. Casual attire.

FRIDAY, 0700, Check in at Admiral Baker Golf Course for a 0800 Tee Off

FRIDAY, Morning, Tours available

FRIDAY, 1600, Memorial Service at NTC Chapel. Coat and tie. Bus transportation (if desired) leaves hotel at 1515. POV and Carpooling are encouraged.

SATURDAY, 0900 – Membership Meeting/Group Photo – casual attire.

SATURDAY about 1030 those wanting to tour the USS MIDWAY depart

SATURDAY, 1830 Reception and 1930 Banquet in Pavilion – coat and tie.

The San Diego reunion was a resounding success due to the tremendous planning and work of Roger Box and the West flight. The reunion was attended by 151 Eagles, reception 262 people, and the banquet 265.

Welcome Aboard Reception

The Welcome Aboard Reception was held in the center court yard of the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Under clear skies and a cool temperature a good time was had by all.









The **Golden Eagle Golf outing** was played at Adm Baker North Course on Friday AM, Apr 24. 48 Golfers were signed up. The winners were as follows:

First Place: Mike Ryan - Dutch Schoultz - Neil Armstrong

Second: Lonny McClung - Joe Prueher - Paul Fratarangelo - Marjorie Abbot

Third: Corky Lenox - Jay Campbell - Louise Forsythe - Jack Monger

Individual Meadilst : Men ---Corky Lenox, Women --- Nellie Woods

Closest to the Pin: Men ---John Mazach, Women ---- Nadine Wisely

Prizes were awarded over lunch at the club house.

The Memorial Service

The memorial service was held at the beautiful NTC chapel where we honored 18 of our members that had made their last takeoff since the last reunion as well as 10 spouses. Our Golden Eagles filled the chapel for the moving service.



General Membership Meeting

One of the most discussed topics at the general membership meeting was the need for an increase in the number of naval aviators submitted for membership in the Golden Eagles. Last year we had 6 names added to the list of candidates but with the selection of 12 for 2009 and the deletion of 10 that had been considered by five boards but not selected we have reached a point that we may not be able to maintain our 200 limit without lowering the entrance criteria. The consensus

from the meeting was to not lower the bar but to energize the membership to find those aviators that are the best sticks we know but for some reason have not been nominated. The quality of our organization is based on the reputation of the members so please do your part. Don Shelton is available to guide those writing up the nomination form so that all pertinent information is included.



Future Reunions:

The site selection committee reported that the 2010 reunion will be held in Annapolis from 28 April to 1 May; 2011 will be in Pensacola in early May to coordinate with the Naval Aviation Centennial celebration and 2012 will be in Orlando.

Committees:

The appropriate committees met, reported to the Board of Governors and the results were approved by the Golden Eagles attending the membership meeting. The following is a list of key actions:

Flight Deck:

Chief Pilot RADM W. H. Harris
Pilot LtGen H. W. Blot
Copilot RADM W. A. Gureck
Navigator RADM F. L. Lewis
Radio Officer RADM R. S. Owens
Engineer CAPT J. F. Manning
MSC Secretary RADM D. B. Shelton

Board of Governors:

RADM R. E. Box MajGen P. A. Fratarangelo
CAPT F. H. Hauck CAPT J. B. Houston
ADM J. L. Johnson Col M. A. Rietsch
CAPT K. Wallace CAPT J. M. Zacharias

Flight Leaders:

Northeast: CAPT R. E. Tucker **West:** CAPT R. J. Cavicke
Southeast: Col W. H. Huffcut **Central:** VADM J. L. Unruh

The Membership Selection Committee selected twelve applicants who were added to the five remaining from last year's list.

Don Boecker reported that we awarded the Tomlinson award to Maj. Kevin Michael Erker, USMC for his work on the T-45. His name will be added to the list of past recipients.

Members Information since last update:

Friday, 22 May 2009, Marine Corps Air Facility Kaneohe Bay will be redesignated as Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay and commemoratively named in honor of late Golden Eagle, Major General Marion E. Carl.



Our Host's For the San Diego Reunion - West Flight



North East Flight



South East Flight



Central Flight



Blue Angel Golden Eagles

Navigator's Report 23 April 2009

Membership in the Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association (The Golden Eagles) is as follows:

Regular	200
Emeritus	52
Honorary	10
Total	262

Members accepted into the Golden Eagles, in order of acceptance, since Navigator's Report of 26 April, 2008:

1. ADM James Busey, USN 05/09/08

2.	CAPT Paul Hollandsworth, USN	06/07/08
3.	LtGen Michael P. Delong, USMC	06/18/08
4.	RADM Robert H. Shumaker, USN	07/01/08
5.	RADM David N. Rogers, USN	07/08/08
6.	LtGen Earl B. Hailston, USMC	09/03/08
7.	CAPT Kurt C. Schroeder, USNR	09/11/08
8.	RADM H. Denny Wisely, USN	09/15/08
9.	Col Gary R. VanGysel, USMC	09/16/08
10.	CAPT David C. Brandenstein, USN	10/15/08
11.	CAPT John Allen, USN	01/05/09
12.	Col Harry W. Steadman, USMC	03/09/09
13.	LCDR Fred Dungan, USN	03/20/09
14.	CAPT Richard J. Schulte, USN	03/21/09
15.	Maj Joseph P. Donovan, USMCR	03/24/09
16.	RADM Jack Calvert, USN	04/20/09

Members transferred to Emeritus status:

1. Col Joel E. Bonner, USMC
2. CAPT Roger Bos, USN
3. Gen George E. Dooley, USMC
4. RADM Whitey Feightner, USN
5. CAPT Don Gordon, USN
6. CAPT James Homyak, USN
7. ADM George E. R. Kinnear, USN
8. Col Ross Mickey, USMC
9. CAPT A. G. Russell, USN
10. VADM Frederick C. Turner, USN

Members who made their final take-offs:

1.	LtGen Hugh M. Elwood, USMC (E)	04/18/08
2.	BGen Homer G. Hutchinson, USMC (E)	04/24/08
3.	CAPT Hugh Winters, USN (E)	04/25/08
4.	RADM John S. Christiansen, USN	04/30/08
5.	CAPT Robert B. Wood, USN	04/09/08
6.	CAPT Jack S. Kenyon, USN	06/25/08
7.	CAPT Robert Temme, USN (E)	07/28/08
8.	RADM V. G. Lambert, USN (E)	08/25/08
9.	RADM Robert C. Mandeville, USN	08/25/08
10.	CAPT Robert M. Elder, USN (E)	09/12/08
11.	RADM Leroy V. Swanson, USN (E)	10/12/08
12.	MajGen Frank C. Lang, USMC	12/29/08
13.	Col James E. Swett, USMC (E)	01/18/09
14.	ADM Wesley L. McDonald, USN (E)	02/08/09
15.	CDR John M. Wesolowski, USN (E)	02/08/09
16.	RADM George Cassell, USN (E)	03/19/09
17.	RADM Moe Wittman, USN (E)	03/21/09
18.	RADM James B. Linder, USN (E)	04/07/09

Radio Officer's Financial Report

1 April 2008 Ending 31 March 2009

**Beginning Cash (All Accounts 1 April
2008)**

\$19,561.58

Receipts

Chronolog Sales		\$15.00
Contributions		120.00
Membership Dues/Fees	\$4,615	
Less: Refunds	100	4,515.00
Wing Sales		100.00
Reunion Net 2008		1,517.00
Interest Money Mkt		122.28
Interest NFCU		44.99
Total Receipts		\$6,434.27

Disbursements

Annual Naval Aviation Museum		\$1,500.00
Annual Tomlinson Award (2)		620.00
ChronoLog Expenses		452.33
GE Web Site		129.39
Legal Fees		885.00
Postage & Delivery		314.94
Printing & Reproduction		1,487.75
Reunion Advances		2,000.00
Supplies & Materials		21.17

	Total Disbursements	7,410.58	
Net Change in Operating Funds			-976.31
	Ending Operating Funds (31 March 2009)		\$18,585.27
Assets			
NFCU Svgs/Ckg	\$7,468.05		
Raymond James	11,117.22		
Cash on Hand		\$18,585.27	
NE 2009 Flight Loan		2,000.00	
NE 2010 Flight Loan		500.00	
Wings (6)		156.00	
Total Assets			\$21,241.27
Liabilities			0.00
Net Worth			\$21,241.27

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ENGINEER/HISTORIAN REPORT FOR 2008-2009

25 April 2009

- **ATTENDANCE**

154 Regular Members attended the Golden Eagle 2009 Reunion at San Diego, CA 23 April to 26 April 2009. All mandatory attendees were present for the 2009 reunion. Three Regular Members have missed the last three reunions and their attendance at the 2010 reunion at Annapolis is considered mandatory barring any extraordinary circumstances preventing them from attending.

They are: Carlson, Swede

Lewis, Robert W.

Nine Regular Members have missed the last two reunions and their attendance at the 2010 reunion at Annapolis is highly encouraged to prevent their becoming mandatory in 2011.

They are: Coats, Robert

Eggert, L.F.

Gray, Scott

Lair, James A.

Lundin, Herb

Mackey, William

Rasmussen, Robert

Reusser, Ken

Shawcross, Bill



The Pilot LtGen Harry Blot USMC (Ret) introduces New Golden Eagles



New Eagles 2009 San Diego Reunion



