

The Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association

“The Golden Eagles®”



GOLDEN EAGLES CONTINUING HISTORY 2011

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Photos by RADM John R. “Smoke” Wilson Jr. USN (Ret)

This continuing historical summary covers the period from after the Golden Eagles Reunion at Annapolis, MD 27 April to 2 May 2010 until the completion of the Golden Eagles Reunion in Pensacola, Florida 1 May to 3 May 2011.

Golden Eagle Flight Activities

Northeast Flight: Coordinated by Northeast Flight Leader VADM Tony Less, Golden Eagles served as honorary pallbearers at Arlington National Cemetery for several Golden Eagles who had made their final Take-off. In another Northeast Flight activity RADM Don Boecker is shown presenting the Golden Eagle “Tommy Tomlinson” Award for the Outstanding Test Pilot to LT Kimberly J. Riddle, USN at the Annual Awards Luncheon at NAS Patuxent River, MD.



Southeast Flight: Initiated planning for the 2012 Reunion in Orlando, Florida.

Central Flight: Members of Central Flight and the 2011 Golden Eagle Reunion Committee led by VADM Jerry Unruh were busy throughout the year making preparations for the Golden Eagles 2011 Reunion in Pensacola, Florida

GOLDEN EAGLES 2011 REUNION

In the year of the Centennial Celebration of Naval Aviation the Golden Eagles gathered in Pensacola, Florida, the cradle of Naval Aviation for their Annual Reunion.



The 2011 Golden Eagle Reunion headquarters was the Crowne Plaza Pensacola Grand Hotel. One hundred sixty-one Golden Eagles registered to attend and many Golden Eagles remained in Pensacola after the reunion to participate in the National Naval Aviation Museum 100th Anniversary Symposium Events.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, APRIL 30 - MAY 3, 2011

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

1500 - 2400 Hospitality Suite - manned/open
Registration and Information Packets

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011

0730 - 1700 Hospitality Suite - manned/open
2100 - 2400 Hospitality Suite - manned/open; Registration and Information Packets
0800 Check in the Pensacola Grand Hotel
0800 Membership Selection Committee Meeting, Board Room, Grand Hotel
1400 Board of Governors Meeting, Board Room, Grand Hotel
1800 Welcome Reception, Grand Ballroom in Grand Hotel

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011

0730 - 1530 Hospitality Suite - manned/open
1900 - 2400 Hospitality Suite - manned/open; Registration and Information Packets
0800 Golf at Pensacola Country Club - 0830 shotgun start
0900 - 1430 Tour- Town of Fairhope, AL; Lunch @ Pt Clear Grand; Bus departs at 0900
1300 National Flight Academy Tour; Bus leaves Hotel 1430
1615 Busses leave for National Naval Aviation Museum
1700 Memorial Service – Atrium, National Naval Aviation Museum
1830 Busses start cycling to Grand Hotel

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011

0730 - 1530 Hospitality Suite - manned/open
2200 - 2400 Hospitality Suite - manned/open
0830 Golden Eagles Meeting -- Grand Hotel
1015 Group Photo of members --- Grand Hotel
1030 - 1500 Historic Pensacola Tour & Lunch/Golf/Shopping/Museum; Bus departs at 1030
1100 - 1600 Bus service from/to Hotel; Lunch in Cubi Bar Cafe optional
1300 National Flight Academy Tour; Bus leaves Hotel 1430
1700 Busses leave for National Naval Aviation Museum
1800 Reception - Museum Quarterdeck
1850 Banquet - Museum Atrium
2130 Busses start cycling to Grand Hotel

Banquet Table

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY, MAY 4 - MAY 6, 2011

NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM 100th Anniversary Symposium Events

Welcome Aboard Reception

The welcome aboard reception was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Pensacola Crowne Plaza Grand Hotel. Approximately 295 Eagles and guests attended.





Golden Eagle Golf

The Golden Eagle golf outing was played at The Pensacola Country Club on Monday May 2 2011. The Course was rebuilt after hurricane Ivan and the redesigned course was an outstanding venue that was thoroughly enjoyed by all 48 golfers.

The Memorial Service

The Golden Eagles Memorial Service attended by approximately 290 Eagles and guests was held in the Atrium of the National Naval Aviation Museum. Nineteen departed Golden Eagles were eulogized during the moving memorial service. Jerry Zacharias once again provided a video presentation for the memorial service. The Reverend C. Neal Goldsborough, Rector Christ Church Officiated, and Pam Arnold, wife of Golden Eagle Bob Arnold was the soloist.



Rev. C. Neal Goldsborough and The Pilot, RADM Bill Gureck prior to the commencement of the Golden Eagle Memorial Service.





Golden Eagles eulogized at the 2011 Golden Eagle Memorial Service

Blue Angels Performance

An added treat for the 2011 Golden Eagles Reunion was Blue Angels Performance conducted along the seawall at NAS Pensacola. Many Golden Eagles and guests attended the show.

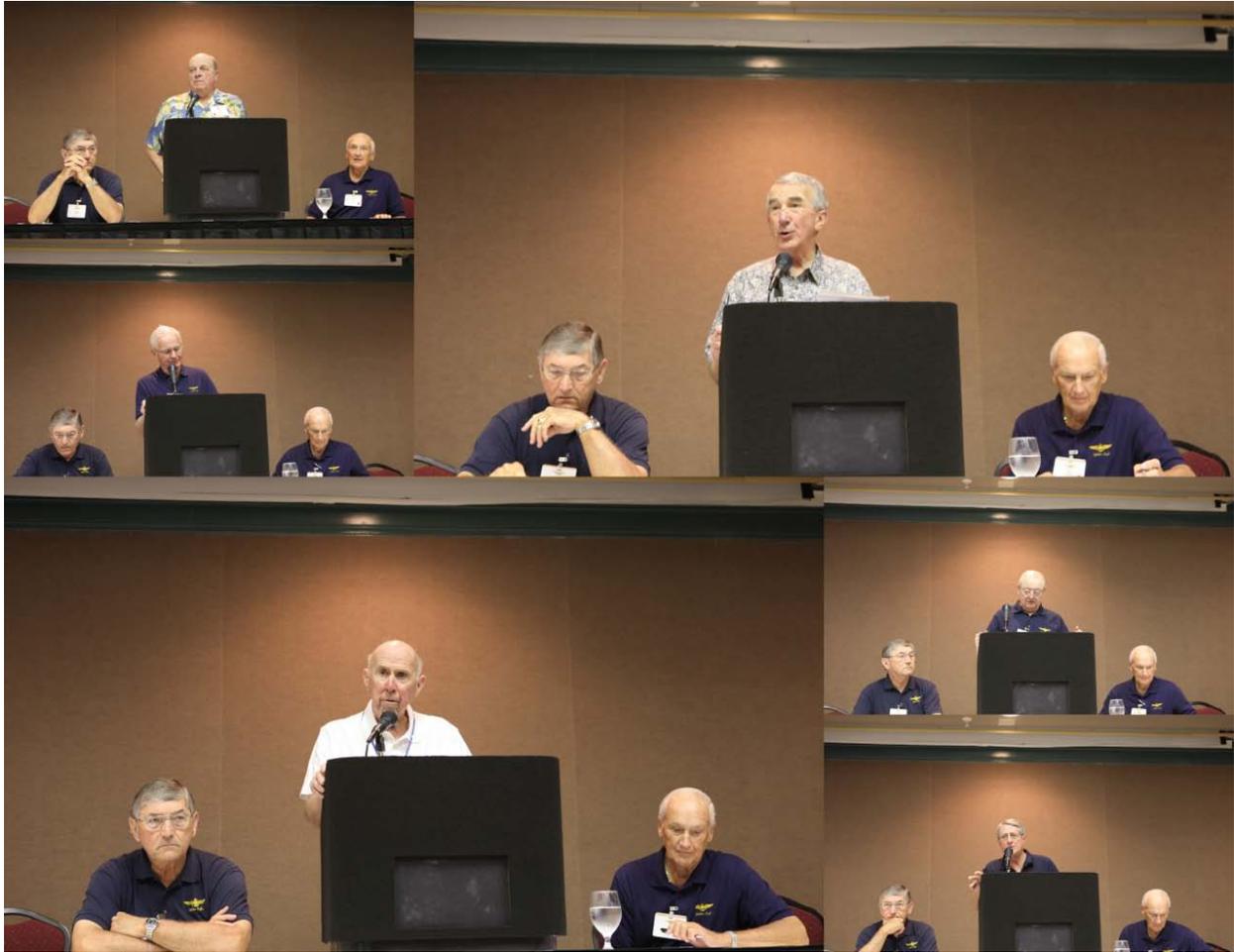


General Membership Meeting



The Pilot, RADM Bill Gureck, welcomes Golden Eagles to the 2011 General Membership Meeting.





Future Reunions: Dick Cavicke reported the results for the site selection committee. The schedule for future reunions is: 2012 Orlando, FL, Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort 26 to 28 April 2012; 2013 Scottsdale, AZ, Hilton-Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort 15 to 19 May 2013; 2014 Tidewater Area of VA, site selection in process; 2015 New Orleans, LA site selection in process.

Nominating Committee: Paul Speer reported the results of the nominating committee. The line-up for the Flight Deck, Board of Governors and Flight leaders for the coming year follows.

Flight Deck:

Chief Pilot LtGen W. H. Fitch

Pilot RADM W.A. Gureck

Navigator's Report: The Navigator reported that the Golden Eagle trademark was renewed this year and his complete annual report follows.

Membership in the Early Pioneer Naval Aviator's Association (The Golden Eagles) is as Follows:

Regular.....	200
Emeritus.....	50
Honorary.....	6
Total.....	256

Members accepted into The Golden Eagles, in order of acceptance, since Navigator's Report of 01 May 2010:

VADM Timothy W. Wright, USN, (Ret)	15 May 2010
CAPT Robert A. Johnson, USN, (Ret)	17 May 2010
CAPT Robert Pearl, USN, (Ret)	19 Aug 2010
Col William D. Bauer, USMC, (Ret)	29 Aug 2010
CAPT Thomas J. Hudner, USN, (Ret)	30 Aug 2010
VADM Gerald L. Hoewing, USN, (Ret)	07 Oct 2010
RADM William E. Terry, USN, (Ret)	16 Oct 2010
LtGen Bruce B. Knutson, USMC, (Ret)	01 Nov 2010
CAPT Maurice D. Fitzgerald, USN, (Ret)	22 Nov 2010
CAPT James D. Joyner, USN, (Ret)	16 Dec 2010
CAPT Roy Cash, USN, (Ret)	25 Feb 2011
Col Ernest C. Cunningham, USMC, (Ret)	07 Mar 2011
CAPT Robert Gibson, USN, (Ret)	15 Apr 2011

CAPT Larry L. Ernst, USN, (Ret)	16 Apr 2011
RADM P. W. Parcells, USN, (Ret)	20 Apr 2011

Members who made their final Take-offs:

CAPT William A. Mackey, USN, (Ret)	04 May 2010
LCDR William Paul Thayer, USN, (Ret)	06 May 2010
MajGen Victor A. Armstrong, USMC, (Ret) (E)	20 May 2010
CAPT Michael S. Alexatos, USN, (Ret) (E)	18 Jun 2010
CAPT Vernon L. Micheel, USN, (Ret) (E)	29 Jul 2010
CAPT William C. Hartung, USN, (Ret)	05 Aug 2010
VADM James R. Sanderson, USN, (Ret)	10 Aug 2010
CAPT John E. Lacouture, USN, (Ret)	16 Aug 2010
CAPT William R. Westerman, USN, (Ret)	03 Oct 2010
CAPT Dean E. Cramer, USN, (Ret)	15 Oct 2010
Bgen Henry W. Hise, USMC, (Ret) (E)	15 Oct 2010
LtGen Robert P. Keller, USMC, (Ret) (E)	13 Nov 2010
CAPT Christopher T. Wilson, USN, (Ret)	04 Dec 2010
CAPT James A. Homyak, USN, (Ret) (E)	17 Dec 2010
CAPT Roger C. Bos, USN, (Ret) (E)	19 Dec 2010
CAPT Simpson Evans, USN, (Ret) (E)	27 Dec 2010
CAPT Gordon L. Murray, USN, (Ret)	19 Feb 2011
LtCol Harold A. Langstaff, USMC, (Ret)	08 Apr 2011
CAPT Frank H. Austin, USN, MC, (Ret), (H)	22 June 2010

Members transferred to Emeritus status:

CAPT Wynn Foster, USN, (Ret)	30 Sep 2010
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CAPT Theron J. Taylor, USN, (Ret)	15 Nov 2010
VADM Joseph B. Wilkinson, USN, (Ret)	15 Feb 2011
CAPT Timothy R. O'Neil, USN, (Ret)	06 Apr 2011
Col Henry W. Steadman, USMC, (Ret)	09 Apr 2011

Golden Eagle's Ladies who have passed away:

Phyllis R. Gureck, wife of our Pilot, RADM William A. Gureck	06 Sep 2010
Margaret Abbot, wife of RADM J. Lloyd Abbot	21 Dec 2010
Louise Hawkins, wife of CAPT Ray Hawkins (LTO 03/21/04)	21 Apr 2011

Radio Officer's Report: Rupe Owens reported that Golden Eagle finances remain strong in large part to the good financial performance of recent Golden Eagle Reunions. The Radio Officer's complete annual report follows.

Radio Officer's Financial Report

1 April 2010 Ending 31 March 2011

Beginning Operating Funds (All Accounts 1 April 2010) \$ 27,509.33

Receipts

Chronolog Sales		\$	50.00
Contributions (Members)			10.00
Contractor Reunion Support	\$	4,000	
Reunion 2010		3,009	
Paveknife		1,900	8,909.15
Membership Dues/Fees		<u>4,694</u>	

Less: Refunds	80	4,614.00	
Wing Sales		152.00	
Reunion Advance		4,500.00	
Interest		184.09	
Total Receipts		18,419.24	
Disbursements			
Annual Naval Aviation Museum		\$ 1,500.00	
Annual Tomlinson Award		200.00	
ChronoLog Expenses		28.14	
GE Web Site		128.40	
Printing & Postage		1744.79	
Reunion Advance		8,000.00	
Paveknife Pass Thru		1,900.00	
Supplies & Materials		29.79	
Total Disbursements		13,531.12	
Net Change in Operating Funds			4,888.12
Ending Operating Funds (31 March 2011)			\$ 32,397.45
Assets			
NFCU Svgs/Ckg		\$ 19,165.36	
Outstanding Checks		(1,900.00)	
Cash on Hand		17,265.36	
NFCU CD		15,132.09	
Operating Funds			\$ 32,397.45
Reunion Flight Loans		\$ 6,000.00	
Wings (@\$32 Cost, each)	18	576.00	6,576.00
Total Assets			\$ 38,973.45
Liabilities			
			0.00
Net Worth			\$ 38,973.45

Engineer Officer/Historian Report: John Manning reported that approximately 160 Golden Eagles attended the 2011 Reunion in Pensacola and there was only one mandatory attendee who did not make the reunion. The Complete Annual Engineer/Historian Report follows.

ENGINEER/HISTORIAN REPORT FOR 2010-2011

1 May 2011

- **ATTENDANCE**

160 Regular Members attended the Golden Eagle 2011 Reunion at Pensacola, Florida 1 to 3 May 2011. There is one mandatory attendee for the 2011 reunion. He is:

Lundin, Herb

Three Regular Members have missed the last two reunions and their attendance at the 2012 reunion at Orlando, FL is considered mandatory barring any extraordinary circumstances preventing them from attending. They are:

DeLong, Michael P.

Dungan, Fred

Watts, Frederic T.

- **CONTINUING HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN EAGLES**

The Continuing History of the Golden Eagles 1956 through 2010 is complete and posted in the historical section of the Golden Eagle Web Site.

The Continuing History of the Golden Eagles for 2010-11 will be compiled after the completion of 2011 reunion and posted in the historical section of the Golden Eagle Web Site.

- **CHRONOLOG BIOS**

There are approximately 606 bios published in the Golden Eagle Chronolog and posted on the Golden Eagle Web Site. Biographies of current members missing from the current edition of the Chronolog are:

Regular Members (3)

MajGen Charles Bolden, USMC (Ret.)

CAPT Thomas J. Hudner, USN (Ret.)

VADM Gerald L. Hoewing, USN (Ret.)

Emeritus Members (0)

Honorary Members (0)

Their biographies will be added as they become available.

All Chronolog bios are now posted and published when completed and approved by the Engineer/Historian on the Golden Eagle Web Site and stored on CDs.

Registration forms for the Pensacola reunion permitted ordering and prepaying for the 2011 Chronolog CD. One hundred twenty six CDs were ordered as of 4-26-11.

Central Flight -Host for the Pensacola Reunion



Row1: Gene Cernan, Neil Armstrong, Jim Lovell, Doc Abbot, John Paganelli, Jerry Houston, Howard DeCastro, Don Beaufait, Jake Ward, Jimmie Taylor, Gene Cunningham; Row2: Roy Cash, Jerry Breast, Bill Pickavance, Robert Howard, Bill Gureck, Bill Ramsey, Bill Bauer, Fred McCorkle, Pat Donovan, Dave Denton, Dave Vest; Row3: Skip Furlong, Jerry Unruh, Mike Bowman, Bob Johnson, Dan Brandenstein

Northeast Flight



Row1: Don Boecker, John Mazach, Gil Rud, Gene Tucker, John Manning, Gene Sizemore, John Lockard, Earl Hailston, Joe Anderson, Rupe Owens, Bill Shawcross; Row2: Tom Hudner, Zeb Knott, Jack Dewenter, Holly Hollandsworth, John Tierney, Jerry Zacharias, John Cox, Paul German, Rick Hauck, Jim Seely, Ned Shuman; Row3: Jerry Tuttle, Dave Rogers, Mel Sautter, Hap Simpson, Roger Carlquist, Larry Adkinson, John Allen, Red McDaniel, Wick Parcels, Bob Dunn; Row4: Ed Waller, Ed Clextton, Bob Shumaker, Tony Less, Carl Dubac, Jim Joyner, Tim Wright, Fred Lewis, Joe Barth, Paul Engel

Southeast Flight



Row1: Mike Sullivan, By Fuller, Seb Haller, Gary Vangysel, Joe Coleman, Paul Fratarangelo, Howie Thorsen, Jim Flatley, Possum Terrell; Row2: Walt Ledbetter, Bill Huffcut, Gus Gustafson, Harry Blot, Stan Arthur, Roger Sheets, Bob Crippen, Dick Hamon, Snuffy Smith, Jerry Johnson

West Flight



Row1: Tom Brown, Zap Zlatoper, Jack Batzler, Denny Wisely, Dutch Schoultz, Smoke Wilson, Don Shelton, Roc Trout, Fitz Fitzgerald, Cal Swanson, Bud Edney; Row 2: Bob Arnold, Bill Bowes, Bob Johnson, Ernie Beauchamp, Bob Pearl, Riley Mixson, Manfred Rietsch, Ray Powell, Bruce Bremner, Jack Monger, Corky Lenox; Row3: Paul Speer, JR Davis, Jack Calvert, Rabbit Campbell, Lew Chatham, Moose Myers, Don Edge, Bob Aumack, TR Swartz, E.R. Brady; Row4: Mo Peele, Dick Cavicke, Bob Hickey, Kurt Schroeder, Lonny McClung, Larry Ernst, Ned Hogan, Bill Terry, Royal Moore, Snake Morris

2011 Golden Eagles Reunion Reception and Banquet

The Golden Eagle Reunion Reception and Banquet was held in the Atrium of the National Naval Aviation Museum. Two hundred and ninety Golden Eagles and guests attended the banquet. One of the highlights of the evening was the entertainment provided by the Young Singers of the Pensacola Children's Chorus.



The Young Singers of the Pensacola Children's Chorus



A standing ovation for the Young Singers of the Pensacola Children's Chorus



The Pilot introduces New Golden Eagles selected since 1 May 2010.

By all accounts the 2011 Golden Eagle Reunion in Pensacola, Florida was a huge success thanks to the detailed planning and hard work of VADM Jerry Unruh and his team from The Golden Eagles Central Flight. At the conclusion of the reunion many Golden Eagles remained in Pensacola for another three days to participate in the National Naval Aviation Museum 100th Anniversary Symposium Events. Golden Eagles will gather again in Orlando, Florida for the 2012 Golden Eagle Reunion.