

CHAPTER 8

Greetings from Chapter 8, San Diego, "The Chapter Where It All Started."

Since May 2018 our Chapter membership has continued to grow as we added 5 new Chapter 8 Life Time Members and had 18 AOs who attended their first Chapter 8 meeting.

On Saturday, 19 May, the Chapter held its annual picnic. Committee Chair Diane McQueen-Gipson did an outstanding job coordinating all the details. The whole Chapter rallied around to support with the set-up, cooking, clean-up, buying supplies, etc. The unofficial attendance was about 100 members, family, and invited guests. Even Chapter 1 from Lemoore was well represented. This was the first year in recent memory that the Chapter brought in more money than expenses thanks to the great ticket sales and generous donations of members who donated cash, paid for the jumpy, ice, beverages and food items.

On 30 May, AAO Founding Father and active AAO Chapter 8 member Jim Thompson passed away due to a lengthy illness. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jim and his family.

On 7 June, the Chapter President, John Holdman, announced that AO1 Michael Sheppard was our first Chapter 8 Aviation Ordnance man of the Quarter. Congratulations to Michael and thank you for all the hard work and support provided to Chapter 8.

On 4 July, nine Chapter 8 members partnered up with (the small but mighty) Marine Corps League 1207 and participated in the annual Coronado 4th of July Parade.

On 5 July, Chapter 8 President, John Holdman was re-elected as the Chapter's President for a two-year term. BZ John and thank you for your awesome leadership!!!

On 8 July several Chapter 8 members took a guided tour of the USS JOHN FINN that was set up by member Diane McQueen-Gipson. After the tour, members Jim and Caroline Thomas treated everyone to a brunch at Aunt Emma's restaurant. A great and memorable time was had by all.

The week of 23 -28 July was the AAO Continuum and Convention and was well represented by Chapter 8. Besides the \$250 the Chapter donated to the AAO Scholarship, the Chapter, under the coordination of Tom Lord, raised \$2,000 in order to have a scholarship presented in honor of LCDR James E. Thompson. The winner of the scholarship was awarded to one of the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. CAPT (Sel) Matt Arnold. Additionally, Tess LaMaitre coordinated the construction of two flag boxes in which each contained a burial flag and challenge coins that had once belonged to John Finn. At the Friday Night Social and AAO Auction each of these flag boxes brought in over \$500 each. BZ to Tess for all her hard work!!!

On 4 August, the Chapter held its 3rd Highway Walk of 2018. Besides a great showing, this was the first time participants had an opportunity to wear the safety vests that were recently screen print-

ed with the AO logo and Chapter 8 identification. What a great way to show our Ordie Pride.

Until next time, keep it safe out there and IYAOYAS!!!

V/r

CWO3(Ret) Barry Stemler

Chapter 8 Secretary/Treasurer



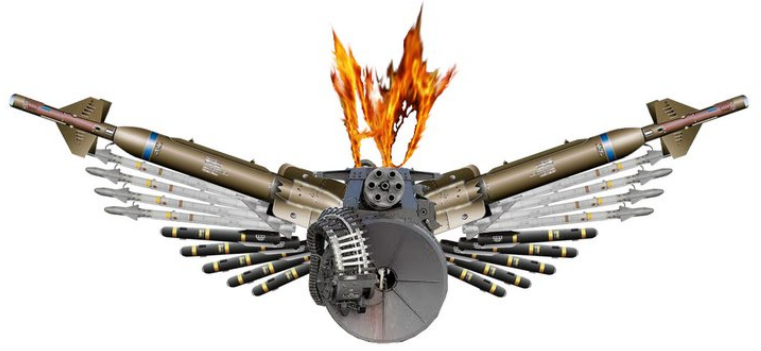
CHAPTER 21

CHAPTER 21, Fallon NV.
"WELCOME TO BOOM-TOWN U.S.A."

Awesome Support at the AAO CONVENTION!!!! HOO-YAH RED NATION!!! While supporting daily operations for CVW-2, CVW-7, TOP GUN Class, NAWDC Special "SHOUT-OUT" to all the Squadrons that supported us with the purchasing of "ORDIE-SWAG". The Reed back on the NEW Coin Design was AWESOME.

"CONGRATULATIONS" to the following Ordies AO1 (AW/SW) Orlando Diaz, AO1 (AW/SW) Eric Lano, and AO2 (AW/SW) Henry Schmidt on continuing Naval SERVICE. Special shout out to our outstanding Sailors of the Quarter from NMC Detachment Fallon. #IYAOYAS # ORDIESWAG
NMC Fallon 3rd Quarter SSOQ AO1 (AW/SW) Carlos Guerro, JSOQ AO2 (AW) Samuel Otero

AAO Chapter 21 President
AO1 (AW/SW) Michael A. Anderson
Vice President AO1 (AW/SW) Carlos Guerro
Treasurer AO1 (AW/SW) Orlando Diaz
Secretary AO2 (AW/SW) Crystal Kontny





Kevin Meagher, Chris Ham and Rick Sherman. The Spring Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally in Panama City Beach, FL. Saw a US Navy patch on Chris's vest. We got to talking and found out he was an AO, and AOCS retired in fact. We new quite a few mutual Ordies!

You never know who you'll run into wherever you are in the country!



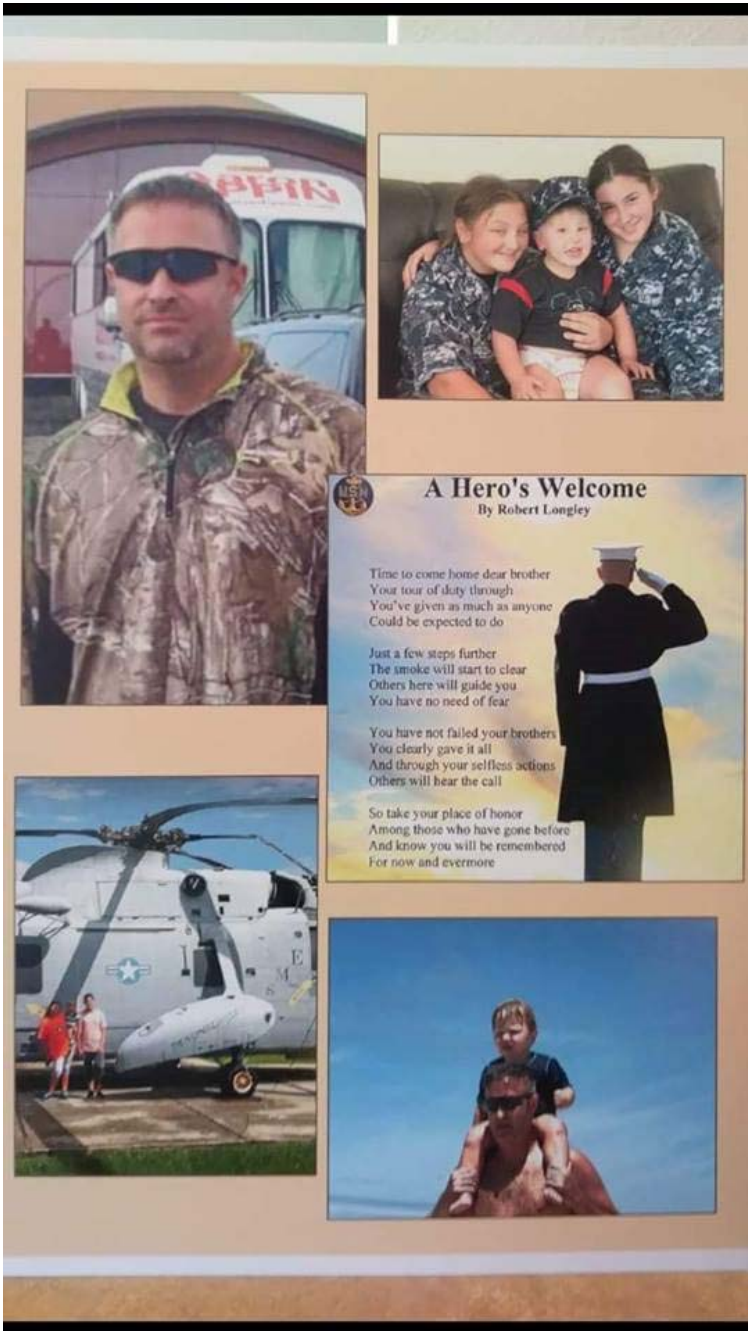
Kevin Meagher, James "Tommy" Forrester, Mitch, "Ike" Ireton in Stephens, GA visiting Bill Gilberts family and camping on Memorial Day. Tommy lives in the area and stopped over one afternoon to see Mitch and myself. We were all SUNLINER Ordies along with Bill Gilbert back around 1982-1986. Great seeing both of these guys!



AOCS Tommy Robinson, Sid Dwyer, Anthony "Ant" Ferraro, Kevin Meagher at the Bollywood Tavern in Leonardtown, MD while having dinner with AOCS's and my soon to be retired Skipper, PMA-259's CAPT Jim "Stoney" Stoneman. AOCS Robinson has since transferred to VP-8 in Jacksonville, FL



Some VALION Pride right there!! Tom Brouwer, Brian "Duck" Jordan and Kevin Meagher. Three old Valions telling lies at the 2018 Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Continuum/Convention. 20 years later and we still run into each other while performing our civilian duties.



A Hero's Welcome
By Robert Longley

Time to come home dear brother
Your tour of duty through
You've given as much as anyone
Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further
The smoke will start to clear
Others here will guide you
You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers
You clearly gave it all
And through your selfless actions
Others will hear the call

So take your place of honor
Among those who have gone before
And know you will be remembered
For now and evermore

AO1 Jacob Spangler RIP



Leland K. 'Lee' Conner

March 22, 1919 - August 17, 2018

EDMOND, OK — Leland K. "Lee" Conner, 99, was born March 22, 1919, in Dushore, PA. He passed from this life at home in Edmond, OK, on August 17, 2018. Lee retired from the US Navy after having served as an aviation ordnanceman in World War II. He then worked for The US Postal Service, first in Warwick, RI, and later in San Diego, CA. After retiring from the USPS, he was a community volunteer, dedicating his time to maintaining a



high school baseball field. Lee was preceded in death by his parents,

Kemerly & Edna Conner; wife, Mildred; former wife, June; and three brothers. He is survived by his sisters, Iona and Alice; sons, Leland W.C. "Lee" Conner (Joan) and Kemerly Conner (VanNita); grandchildren: Kimerlee Conner (Carl Lindquist), Ryan Conner (Darcy), Matthew Conner (Jessica), Ashley Conner, Kemerley "K.C." Conner-Brunner, and Zachary Conner; 13 great-grandchildren; and many other family members and friends.

A short viewing will begin at 1:00 pm at El Camino Park, San Diego, followed by a graveside service at 2 pm, Saturday, August 25, 2018. El Camino Memorial Park - Sorrento Valley, 5600 Carroll Canyon Road, San Diego, CA 92121. Memorial donations may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Please sign the Guest Book online obituaries.sandiegouniontribune.com

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Paul Milam, 92

On Sunday, May 27, 2018, Paul Milam passed away in his residence at Bozeman Lodge with his son and daughter-in-law by his side, along with wonderful nursing staff from the Lodge.

Paul was born March 23, 1926, to Glover and Albertina Milam in Green River, Wyoming. He attended elementary school in Hanna, Wyoming. In 1936 his family moved to Bozeman and established the Milam Floral where he finished his education at Hawthorne and Emerson Junior High School.

During his senior year at Gallatin High School he enlisted in the Marines during World War II, taking his Basic Training in San Diego and advanced Aircraft Ordnance School in Norman, Oklahoma. Paul was sent to the island of Saipan for the conversion of a B-25 Bomber Squadron from a radar guided bombing unit to the new radar guided "Tiny Tim" rockets. He received the Asiatic Pacific ribbon with two battle stars for landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He also received Commendation for Expert Rifleman, Good Conduct, Navy Unit Commendation and the Occupation of Japan ribbon. He was honorably discharged from the Marines in June, 1946.

Paul graduated from Montana State College with a teaching degree in physical sciences. While in college he played on the 1947-1948 Bobcat Basketball team coached by the legendary "Golden Bobcat" Max Worthington.

In 1949, on St. Patrick's Day, he married Bernice Myse. In this union they had two boys, Craig and Gary. His first teaching and coaching position was in Eureka for two years. He accepted a high school teaching and coaching position in Bigfork, where he taught for 28 years and later became the principal at Bigfork High School. While at Bigfork, he started the first eight-man football program, and the first girls' basketball



along with their two sons, bought part of the S.O. Myse Ranch (Cherry Creek Sheep Company) and created the Milam Basin Creek Ranch, which is currently being operated today by his grandson Russell Milam and father Gary Milam. Paul worked at the Yellow Bay Station on Flathead Lake studying water quality on Flathead and Swan rivers and their tributaries and co-authored a book called "The Stonelies of Montana" where he has a stonely named after him "Capnia milam." He loved to restore old cars and was a proud owner of a Model T and a Model A Ford.

After 28 years in the education field he retired and moved to Bozeman to enjoy the area where he grew up and to be closer to the family ranch in eastern Montana. Since his retirement Paul and his son Gary were able to take part in the Montana Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to visit the nation's memo-

and track programs. He had over 900 wins as the head boys' basketball coach at Bigfork High School. In 1984 Paul and Bernice, of Bozeman, grandson Russell (Susie) Milam of Cohagen, Montana, and three great-grandchildren, Hannah, Addison and Chase; grandson Brad (Ana) Milam of Winnemucca, Nevada, and five great-grandchildren, Alexia, Adajah, Ariana, Jayson and Jayden; a sister, Eileen (Cliff) Rhoades, of Webster City, Iowa; and several nieces and nephews.

No services are planned. A private service will be held in the fall at the family ranch where his ashes will be spread over a monument

Russell has erected on a hilltop next to his wife and his dog Spear.

Memorials may be made to Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital Foundation, 931 Highland Boulevard, Suite 3200, Bozeman, MT 59715; or to the Vietnam Veterans of America, Southwest Montana Chapter 788, P.O. Box 7226 Bozeman, MT, 59711.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at www.dahl-cares.com



Saw this in our local Rag. Interesting I thought. Just maybe someone remembers him.

Billy Earl



The Red Shirt

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