

DESERT SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Greetings again and happy belated holidays from the Desert South West Chapter AO Association. We hope you guys had a wonderful start to the New Year. The Fall and Winter season kept us busy with plenty of volunteering opportunities. We started off the Fall Season with a Haunted House at a local school by setting up and breaking down as well as dressing up and participating inside the haunted house. We Also got together with a local church to help with their trunk or treat. In December, we participated in the Annual Christmas Parade Float. We were shining bright this year with Charlie Brown and some of his friends including Snoopy, Woodstock, and Sally. Once again we were able to help the "Taste of Home" foundation by donating care packages to the USS Harry S Truman (CVN 75) for the most recent holiday season. On top of all the community involvement we participated in the 9/11 stair walk back in September in remembrance to the ones who have fallen. To end things off we recently had our command holiday party. There was a lot of laughter, presents and good food. We even had some old fashion fun at the dunk tank. We are looking forward to seeing what this new year has in store for our desert chapter.

Until next time my fellow ordies..... IYAOYAS!!

Very Respectfully,
AO2(AW/SW) Meghan E. Bean
Desert South West Chapter Secretary



P.S: New Coins have arrived. If You are interested in purchasing one Please reach out to our Treasurer Marvin Masolo at marvin.masolo@navy.mil or (760) 339-2648



CHAPTER 3

We finally had a chance to take a picture of Chapter 3 in Oak Harbor, WA. The attached picture is from our 2018 Holiday Party. We were able to gain 6 new members and a National Member during this event.

Here in Oak Harbor we're the hub of Electronic Attack. On our small island, we have 23 squadrons, NMC, and FRCNW!

We would like to give a huge shout out to our board members, retirees, and all of our members for helping our Chapter stay together. From one Ordie to another IYAOYAS!

Very Respectfully
AO1 Garrett, Shawn
Chapter 3 President



CHAPTER 9



Happy 2019 from Chapter Nine.

I trust this year will be even better and safer than ever for all you "Ordies". The chapter concluded the year by cleaning two miles of highway, continuing to assist local high school JROTC Units, volunteering at the annual "Blue Angels" Air Show, and the yearly tradition of donating \$450 in commissary gift cards to aid local

Ordies and their families over the holidays.

Our meetings average 25 or more representing every era from World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, Desert Storm, and Operation Enduring Freedom. The oldest living members were born in 1920's, the youngest have less than six months active duty. We try to be relevant to each one. Some of the stories are very interesting.

We wish a happy 94th birthday to our oldest member, LCDR Jack Purtee USN(Ret) of Orange Park, FL, Gunner Purtee volunteered for the Navy in early 1942 along with his boyhood pal, LT Robert Bohnstengel, USN(Ret) also a member of Chapter Nine. Both served in the Pacific during WWII, then Korea, and finally Viet Nam; before finishing their careers at NAS Jax Weapons Department. We look forward to hearing their stories.

I wish to highlight another valuable member of Chapter Nine; CWO2

John Printy, USN(Ret), joined the Navy as an undesignated striker just before the Korean conflict and choose to become an AO to fly as aircrewman. He served many years as the AAO9 Treasurer and continues to serve on our Board of Directors. Ties to past history are great, we don't realize how good we have things today.

AO2 Webster of VP-30 was selected our AO of the Quarter for the third quarter 2018.

An interesting thing happened to me during a trip to Williamsburg, Jamestown and Yorktown, VA area in December. While visiting the replica ships near Jamestown, one of the characters dressed in period costume noticed my AO hoodie and greeted me with "IYAOYAS". After the usual questions, turns out he was an AE and we both cruised on the Saratoga in 1987. The moral of this story is what a privilege it is to represent our heritage as AOs and you never know who is watching.

Keep retired AOC Tony "speedy" Gonzalez, USN(Ret) in your prayers. Tony worked many years at NAS Cecil Field Weapons Department after retiring and had an impact on many of us. His health continues to keep him housebound.

2019 promises to be a great year. Continue to work safe and smart, always look out for each other. IYAOYAS.

AOCM Richard Wyman USN(Ret)



CHAPTER 8

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

Since September 2018 our Chapter membership has continued to grow as we added three new Chapter 8 Life Time Members and had 10 personnel show up to their first Chapter meeting.

On 6 September, Chapter President John Holdman presented AO2 Elizabeth Loyd with the LCDR James E. Thompson Aviation Ordnance man of the Quarter, second quarter with a citation and \$100. The presentation was attended by LCDR J. E. Thompson's family.

During our October meeting several attendees brought in items to support the AAAO Taste of Home project. All items were packaged up by Carolyn Thomas and shipped to the USS Harry Truman.

November was a busy month for the Chapter as we kicked off our annual AOCS Jason P. May Thanksgiving Holiday Hand-up and concluded it by giving out \$1,500.00 in commissary Gift Cards to 15 Aviation Ordnance families. We'd like to acknowledge Chapter members Diane McQueen-Gipson and Lester Gipson for coordinating this event and the generosity of the AOCS Jason May Family for their continued donations which helped make this highly successful event possible.

On 10 November, member Misty Beck coordinated an Ordie Get-Together at the Naval Base San Diego Bowling Alley. Several Chapter members showed up and had a great time.

In November, we also had a huge showing of volunteers from the Chapter who participated in the 17th annual Veterans 6K/4 Mile Run/Walk, the Marine Corps League (1207) Veteran's Day Event, Susan G. Komen San Diego, Race for the Cure, and our quarterly Adopt-A-Highway Walk.

December also proved to be a busy month as we focused on our annual AOCS Jason P. May Christmas Holiday Hand-up and again concluded it by giving out \$700 in Gift Cards to seven Aviation Ordnance families. Members Diane McQueen-Gipson and Lester Gipson again donated their time to coordinate this event.

In December we also had several volunteers participate in the Toys for Tots working party at MCAS Miramar under the superb coordination of Chapter member Jim Thomas.

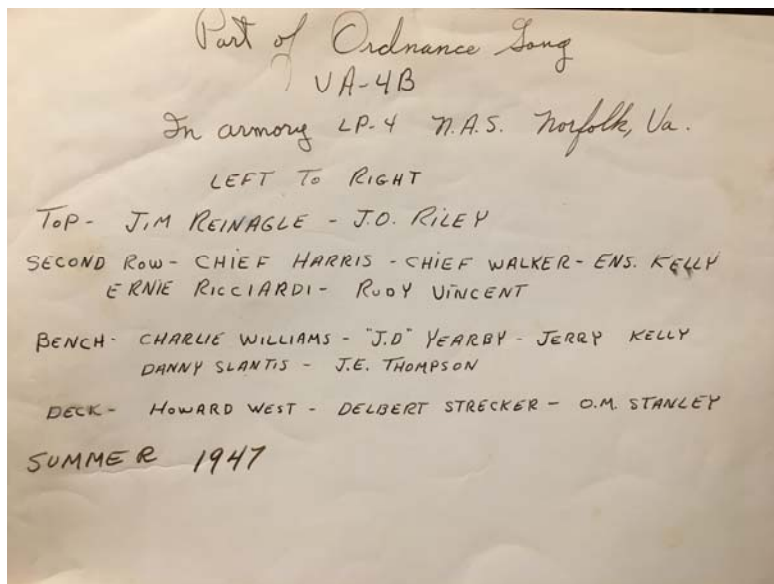
On Saturday, 6 December, the Chapter held its annual Holiday/Christmas Potluck. The food selections were fantastic, we had a great time with a White Elephant Gift Exchange, and we were able to bring in some extra funds through a raffle and a 50/50 drawing. We'd like to thank Tess LaMaitre for the raffle donations as well as a herself and Carolyn Thomas for their take charge support in setting the event up.

In December, President Holdman took time to present several end of the year recognition awards to the following personnel who regularly attended AAO Chapter 8 meetings, participated in volunteer events, and contributed their leadership skills to better the Chapter throughout the year: Lester Gipson and Diane McQueen-Gipson, John (JJ) and Tess LaMaitre, Jim and Carolyn Thomas, John Holdman, Leonard Eu-

gene, Elizabeth Loyd, Tom Lord, and Al Ten Eyck.

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

V/r
CWO3(Ret) Barry Stemler
Chapter 8 Secretary/Treasurer



The above picture is of AAO Plank Owner Jim Thompson courtesy of AOCSM(Ret) Diane McQueen-Gipson.

