



VQ ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

FROM the PRESIDENT: Bob Claytor

2021 has passed and another year with Covid is complete. Hopefully, Covid concerns may be waning in the future. I hope and pray that all our members, their families and friends remain healthy and active through 2022. For 2021 the Associations' big undertaking was the Reunion in Rhode Island. We had a little over sixty attendees. All indicated they had a wonderful time.

This Newsletter has an article from Frances Cottrell providing most of the reunion activities along with some pictures. I hope you all enjoy her article. Since she is new to the VQ community, she does not know everyone, so the pictures are not annotated with people's names.

Clint has also given his view of the reunion. As our first reunion using an event planner, we had many lessons learned. Most importantly, there is still a lot of coordination, support activities and everyday chores that must be accomplished to make sure everything goes as smoothly as possible.

Board members and other members came together in Rhode Island to make it all happen but working "on the fly" is difficult on each of us. We are asking that any member who wishes to assist with these reunion activities volunteer by contacting either myself, Clint, or our Secretary, Ron Jarabak, by text or e-mail before the reunion. Volunteer efforts include, sign-in of attendees, bar setup and restocking, plus staffing of an Association Representative station in the hotel at a central location to assist members are all some of the opportunities available.

Clint has been working hard to get the contracts in place for the 2022 Reunion to be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I believe many of you heard our first location was sold and we were left without a reunion venue. As soon as we heard of the cancellation, Clint and Geoffrey Nichols went to work on another venue location.

In this newsletter you will find information about our upcoming 2022 reunion. Additionally, Clint and Geoffrey are now working with our event coordinator (Military Reunion Planner) planning for our reunion in 2023.

Ron Jarabak has worked diligently to get a new Roster Book out this year. Many of you may have received correspondence from Ron so we can have up to date information. Look in your current Roster Book information and make sure your info is up to date. If not, get the changes to Ron ASAP.

Thanks to Patti Brosh for her work getting this Newsletter out to our members. Thanks also to the contributors.

Hope this finds you all comfortable, healthy, and ready to go "On the Road Again" to our reunion 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. We hope to see you at The Embassy Suites in September.

FROM the BACK SEAT: Clint Epley

2021 was certainly interesting what with mandates, masks, and vaccines we had a successful reunion in Rhode Island as many members braved all the restrictions and enjoyed the Northeast US. Turnout was less than normal but better than expected with some fresh faces and ones we have not seen in some time including Adm. Gallotta. The tours turned out to be well received again despite restrictions and the ice cream social was a special treat. Thanks to Frances Cottrell for being the 2022 reunion photographer and incorporating a few pictures into this newsletter. We always say we are going to take pictures, but it seems not to happen.

We are planning our 2022 reunion in Colorado Springs, CO to which, the delays in this newsletter can be attributed to the sale of our contracted hotel and ensuing cancellation of our contract. That in turn left us struggling to find a replacement at a late date. That problem has been solved and we are pressing forward with planning for activities. More about the hotel later in this newsletter. The dates for the reunion were driven by availability of the hotel but turned out better than we thought and scheduled right after Labor Day. Make your reservations early to ensure availability and make sure you ask for the VQ Association Block room rate of \$139.

Finally, I will be passing the duties as our Association reunion planner to Geoffrey Nichols who has stepped up and volunteered to perform this important effort. He will be working closely with our Military Reunion Planner (MRP) in the many tasks that are necessary to ensure an enjoyable time for all members in attendance.

RHODE ISLAND 2021 REUNION NEWS: Submitted by Frances Cottrell

The first ones to arrive checked in to the hotel on Saturday, Oct.3 and started greeting each other right away. Several more arrived Sunday and the party was started!

Monday brought a little rainy weather and several more people! In all we had 62 in attendance; the group was smaller than usual, but it was found that a small group interacted more, reminiscing, and getting to know each other better.

Monday afternoon a Board Meeting was held, and in the evening, a "welcome dinner" was enjoyed by all.

Tuesday brought a bus trip to Boston! Boston is a large city with lots of history and places to see. We hit



many of them in the time we had. We were lucky the rain cleared up and it was pleasant weather for New England sight-seeing. We were able to have a tour through the South End and then get out at Paul Revere's house and walk a short distance to the famous Old North Church. Back on the bus we saw Faneuil Hall and the Public Gardens. We passed by the Boston State House, with the gold dome, and heard that it was painted black in WWII so it would not stand out as a target. We were able to spend one and a half hours at the USS Constitution. Old Ironsides, as it is called, turned 225 yrs. old

in the weeks following our visit - and she is still a commissioned Navy ship! Living history! There were young sailors on board to answer our questions and to show their appreciation of the "older folks." There was also a visitor center and a large museum to enjoy.

Tuesday evening, we had an Ice Cream Sundae party in the Ready Room. Most of us were surprised and very pleased to have such a fun time with ice cream and all the fixings.

Wednesday was a beautiful crisp Fall Day. We had a 4-some of very dedicated golfers who went to Quonset Point Golf Course in North Kingston to have fun. A group of us got on the bus again and headed to Newport, RI to see the homes of the rich and famous! While most of the houses have large trees and bushes impeding one's view of the estate, we heard several outlandish stories of the people who built these massive houses, to be used only 2 months of the year! We also took a short tour of Fort Adams (a former US Army post) and had some free time in downtown Newport. The US Navy War College was pointed out, sitting right on the water. (Editor Note: The photo shown here is Newport Beach harbor, which we were told is the finish line for the America's Cup Yacht race).

Wednesday Evening brought a nice dinner and a VQ Association meeting. Items of discussion were 1) a memorial donation of \$1,000 to the Gary Sinise Foundation in honor of Allan "Putt" Prevette and 2) the use of an organization that plans the future reunions and 3) the location of the next reunion, which will be in Colorado Springs, Colorado in September 2022. A few reunion photos are displayed below with additional photos taken by Frances posted on the VQ website (vqassociation.org) under the Reunion pulldown menu.

VQ ASSOCIATION DUES: Ron Jarabak

Membership dues are our only source of income to keep the Association expenses and affairs in order. Our due's structure is set at \$20.00 (1) year or \$30.00 (2) years. If your payment is delinquent we do not look back for payment, just renew using the VQ Association Renewal Form. Payment of dues entitles USPS mailing of our Roster Book and other USPS Newsletter mailings along with email correspondence.

Currently our association has 108 members delinquent with reminders emailed and USPS mailings to those who have no email address on file. If you have any questions, contact your Association Secretary: Ron Jarabak; VQ Association-Secretary: broken3@outlook.com or 813-390-3790.



VQ Association October 2021 Reunion Providence RI pictures taken by Frances Cottrell

Naval News March 2021 Navy Forces Maritime Defense Industry

United States approves the sale of five P-8A Naval Patrol Aircraft to Germany

The Government of Germany has requested to buy five (5) P-8A Patrol Aircraft; nine (9) Multifunctional Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems 5 (MIDS JTRS 5); and twelve (12) LN-251 with Embedded Global Positioning Systems (GPS)/ Inertial Navigations Systems (INS).

The contract also includes commercial engines; Tactical Open Mission Software (TOMS); Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared MX-20HD; AN/ AAQ-2(V) I Acoustic System; AN/APY-10 radar; ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures; NexGen Missile Warning Sensors; AN/PRC- 11 7G Manpack radios include MPE-S type II with SAASM 3.7; Global Positioning Systems (GPS) 524D Precise Positioning System (PPS) for APY-10 Radar; AN/ALQ-213 Electronic Counter Measures; AN/ALE-47 Counter Measures Dispensing Systems; AN/UPX IFF Interrogators; APX- I 23A(C) IFF Digital Transponders; KIV-78 IFF Mode 5 Cryptographic Appliques; CCM-701A Cryptographic Core Modules; KY-100M, KY-58, KYV-5 for HF-121C radios; AN/ PYQ-10 V3 Simple Key Loaders (SKL) with KOY-21 Cryptographic Appliques; aircraft spares; spare engine; support equipment; operational support systems; training; training devices; maintenance trainer/classrooms; publications; software; engineering technical assistance (ETA); logistics technical assistance (LTA); Country Liaison Officer (CLO) support; Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS); repair and return (RoR); transportation; aircraft ferry; and other associated training and support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

The Boeing P-8A Poseidon is an American-made maritime patrol aircraft developed and produced by Boeing Defense based on a modified civilian aircraft 737-800ERX bringing together a reliable airframe and high-bypass turbofan jet engine with a fully connected, state-of-the-art open architecture mission system. Boeing was awarded the contract to develop the P-8A on June 14, 2004. The P-8 is deployed in two variants including the P-81, in service with the Indian Navy, and the P-8A Poseidon used by the U.S. Navy, the Royal Australian Air Force, and the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force. The P-8A operates in anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASUW), and shipping interdiction roles. It is armed with torpedoes, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and other weapons, can drop and monitor sonobuoys, and can operate in conjunction with other assets, including the Northrop GrummanMQ-4CTriton maritime surveillance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The P-8 Poseidon has a crew of two and five operators including two naval flight officers plus three enlisted Aviation Warfare Operators/naval aircrewman. The P-8 can fly higher (up to 41,000 ft - 12,496 m) and get to the fight faster (490 knots - 907 km/h).

(Editor Note: This article is letter for letter just as in the magazine.)

And now for some humor

Newspaper Lies: “The lies the dadblamed newspapers publish about us,” said one politician to another, “are enough to drive a man to drink.” “Yes, that’s so,” replied the other, “but still we have no cause for complaint. “Why not?” asked the first, in surprise. “Well, it could be much worse,” came the reply. “They might publish the truth.”

Good Question: An important educator once visited a primary school and proceeded to examine and question the pupils. After the pupils had answered a great many questions, he asked, “Now, is there anyone here who would like to ask me a question?” No one replied, so he asked the question again. Finally, one little hand went up. “Yes, what is it?” he asked indulgently. “Please, sir,” came a tired little voice, “what time does your train leave?”

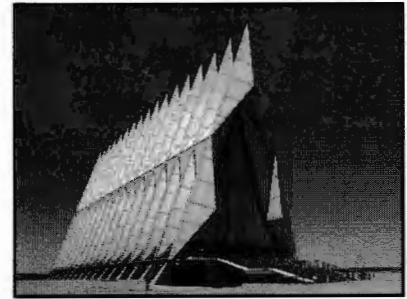


VQ ASSOCIATION 2022 REUNION

September 6-9, 2022 | Colorado Springs, CO

Welcome to Colorado Springs - the Home of the U.S. Air Force Academy

The "Springs" is located at the eastern foot of the Rocky Mountains. It lies near glacier-carved Pikes Peak, a national landmark featuring a cog railway leading to its 14,115 foot summit. The city's Garden of the Gods Park features iconic red-sandstone formations and mountain views. It is also home to venerable Air Force Academy. Get out of the late summer heat and join us for what is sure to be a terrific time in cool Colorado Springs.



Hotel Information

We will be staying at the newly renovated, and refreshed, **Embassy Suites** located at 7290 Commerce Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. The hotel room rate is just **\$139** plus tax per night. The room rate includes a hot breakfast buffet, served daily and 2 free drinks nightly, during reunion dates.



For those of you who choose to arrive early or stay late, the same room rate is available three days prior and three days after, based on availability. Make your hotel reservations NOW to insure the best availability. You may cancel without penalty up to 72 hours in advance.

The most reliable way to make hotel reservation is to type this link into your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/4zw8fd5t>

Enter your travel dates and follow the prompts. The second-best way to make a reservation is to call the hotel at (719) 599-9100 and **press "0"** to reach the front desk. For best results, try to assure you are speaking with the front desk of the hotel and not some central reservations office in Manila, by pressing "0". Always request the VQ Association group rate of \$139/night. All rooms are Suites. Mountain View Rooms are an extra \$40/night. Reservations are due by August 6th.

Airport Transportation & Parking

Colorado Springs (COS) is the closest to the hotel. You may also consider Denver which is a little further away. You will need to make arrangements for a ride to the hotel, from either airport. Uber is probably your best bet. For those of you driving, the hotel offers plenty of free parking. If you need specific directions call the hotel's front desk (719) 599-9100 for assistance.

Travel safely and we will See you in The Springs!





VQ ASSOCIATION

- ☐ NEW MEMBER APPLICATION
- ☐ MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
- ☐ CONTACT UPDATE
 - ☐ Address Change
 - ☐ Email Change
 - ☐ Phone Change

1. Contact Information:

Member Name: _____ Spouse/Significant Other: _____
 Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Tel. (H): _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____
 (Emails address is not shared outside of group)

Total dues enclosed (CIRCLE DOLLAR AMOUNT): \$20.00 \$30.00 Other Amount: \$ _____

(VQ Association new/renewal membership dues are \$20/year or \$30/two years or other increments thereof)

CHECK PAYABLE to: VQ Association

2. Service Information for New Membership Application ONLY: Complete below.

Last Military Rank/Rate: _____

Circle Present Work Status: _____ Active Duty Retired Civilian

Squadron Service (VQ1, 2, 5, 6, NSG) briefly describes duties: (i.e., VQ2 1979-83, Guam, Rota, Atsugi, Cubi Point, Whidbey Island, Misawa, Kadena, Cecil Field, Personnel Officer, A-3 Navigator, Airframe, WC210 CPO, Power Plants, etc.)

Squadron: _____ Years: _____ Base: _____ Duties: _____

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Squadron: _____ Years: _____ Base: _____ Duties: _____

New Member/Renewal/Updates submit above information and/or include check payable to:

VQ Association

Mail form and/or check to:

Ron Jarabak - VQ Association Secretary
 3331 NW 28th PL
 Gainesville, FL 32605

NOTE: We do not look back to long lost members who are renewing their membership. Simply pay current membership (\$20.00 (1) year or \$30.00 (2) years) and you are good to go and current. You will receive newsletters and a roster book as published. Your dues are our only source of income to keep the VQ Association expenses and affairs in order. We do not send notices for dues payment. We rely on the honor system with dues normally paid each Sept/Oct but anytime is acceptable.

VQ ASSOCIATION 2022 REUNION EVENTS

GROUP WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE HOTEL

Tuesday September 6 (Starting at 6:00pm)

Welcome to *The Springs*! Join all your friends and kick-off this years' reunion with a nice buffet dinner of London Broil and Chicken Chardonnay, in the comfort of your hotel. *You need to eat* so come, catch up on all the scuttlebutt and enjoy dinner with your mates. Meet at 1800 in the hotel Atrium for *complimentary drinks* before dinner at 1900 in the ballroom.

PIKE'S PEAK COG RAIL EXCURSION

Wednesday, September 7 (8:30am-2:30pm)

Hop our motorcoach with a local guide and head for majestic Pike's Peak where we will board the exciting *Cog Rail Train* up to the Peak. This is the world's highest and longest cog railroad. You may spot elk, bighorn sheep, coyotes and more on your 9-mile, 70-minute journey to the top of this 14,115-foot National Historic Landmark. More than just a mountain, *Pike's Peak* is emotionally moving; this is the place that inspired "America the Beautiful," written by Katharine Lee Bates. Her experience in 1893 on top of Pikes Peak moved her to pen the poem that became one of the most patriotic songs honoring America. Pikes Peak is a must see but be mindful of the height if you have any difficulty with breathing (check with your Doc) and you will need a warm coat as its cold up there. There are restrooms, snack bar and of course a gift shop at the peak. The Pikes Peak Cog Railway just re-opened after many years and is one of the most unique experiences in the country – don't miss it! Lunch will be on your own in eclectic Manitou Springs with a variety of shops and restaurants for your pleasure. Don't miss it!



DINNER & WESTERN ENTERTAINMENT AT THE FLYING W RANCH

Wednesday, September 7 (5:00-9:30pm)

With its humble beginnings as a mountain cattle ranch in 1947, the *Flying W* is a living symbol of Western Heritage. What began with eleven guests in 1953, has grown to more than 1,400 nightly visitors, making the Flying W Ranch one of the most popular destinations in the state of Colorado. A western spread of smoked meats with all the "chuckwagon trimmings" is followed by a western stage show performed by the world-renowned Flying W Wranglers, the second longest-running western performance band in the world. Their three-part-harmonies of time-honored tunes of the open range, their superb instrumentation, and their clean bunkhouse humor have delighted over seven million people from around the world.



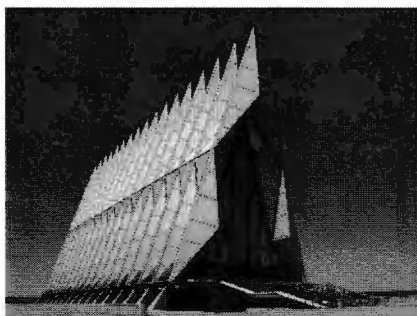
VQ ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 8 (TBD)

Join your friends for the VQ Association best-ball tourney. Please look for an email in the future from the Association with specific details on time, place, cost and POC information as soon as it becomes available. The Golf Courses are not ready to take reservations yet so we will let you know ASAP.

CITY TOUR, AIR FORCE ACADEMY and GARDEN of the GODS

Thursday, September 8 (0900-1400)



Set in a scenic region at the foot of the Rocky Mountains and situated at an altitude of 7,163-feet, stands the youngest of the four service academies. Among the features are a Scenic Overlook of the campus, a B-52 Bomber, a Visitor Center with a movie that shows the first year of a cadet, including a huge gift shop and exhibit area. Next, we take an incredible ride through the

famous Garden of the Gods. Imagine dramatic views, 300' towering sandstone rock formations against a backdrop of snow-capped Pikes Peak and brilliant blue skies. This is the most visited attraction in the region, and a National Landmark. Have your cameras ready as this is one of the most photographed natural wonders in the United States! Lunch will be on your own in the outdoor pavilion at the state's oldest and largest *Trading Post*. After lunch we finish the day with a narrated, City Tour including streets lined with Miner's mansions, a result of the late 1800's Gold Rush. Enjoy hearing and seeing the city's history now in its 150th year!



FAREWELL BANQUET DINNER AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, September 8 (Free Cocktails begin at 1800/ Dinner at 1900)

Join your friends for your Banquet Dinner at the Hotel. We will begin in the Atrium at 1800 for two complimentary drinks before dinner at 1900 followed by the annual meeting.

TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of tour & banquet expenses (less processing fee) up to midnight before the start of your reunion. Without cancellation insurance all money received is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the reunion.

ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY JULY 26, 2022

Late reservations will be accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 p.p. late fee. There is a \$15 p.p. surcharge for orders taken over the phone. Please make a copy of your order prior to mailing. Note tour times are subject to change. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday CST at 817-251-3551 or email us at info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com.

Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than the reservation due date. No refunds will be made after this date unless you have purchased Tour Cancellation Insurance. Note there is a \$15 per person processing fee plus any fees imposed by the credit card processing company, currently 3.5%, on all cancellations. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as proof of purchase.

For written confirmation of your reservation please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your cancellation request. A \$25 return check fee applies.

MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.

Event Reservation Process

1. Complete the **VQ ASSOCIATION REUNION RESERVATION FORM** on the next page.
2. Make check payable to **MRP**.
3. Mail completed form, enclose your check to: **MRP, Box 1588, Colleyville, TX 76034**.
4. Make a copy of your completed **VQ ASSOCIATION REUNION RESERVATION FORM**, your **check and retain for your records**.

VQ ASSOCIATION REUNION RESERVATION FORM

>>> Make check payable to MRP

>>> Mail this completed form with a check payable to MRP

MRP
Box 1588
Colleyville, TX 76034

DATE	TIME	EVENT	COST	QTY	TOTAL
		Reunion Registration Fee (non-refundable)	\$15 pp		
Tue 9/6	1900	Group Welcome Buffet Dinner at the Hotel	\$50 pp		
Wed 9/7	0830-1430	Pike's Peak Cog Railway Excursion	\$110 pp		
Wed 9/7	1700-2200	Flying W Ranch - Dinner and Entertainment	\$99 pp		
Thu 9/8	0930-1530	Air Force Academy & Garden of the Gods	\$61 pp		
Thu 9/8	1900	Farewell Banquet/General Membership Meeting:			
		Honey Garlic Salmon	\$50 pp		
		London Broil	\$50 pp		
		Pasta Primavera (Vegetarian)	\$50 pp		
		Non-refundable Late Reservation Fee (If registering after July 26, 2022)	\$15 pp		
		Tour Cancellation Insurance: Protect your \$\$ (Fee is non-refundable)	\$20 pp		
TOTAL					

>>> PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

NAME (As you want it to appear on badge): _____

SPOUSE: _____ GUEST(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

CELL: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

SQUADRON/UNIT: _____ YEARS WITH VQ: 19____ TO 19____

LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: (Dietary, mobility, etc.): _____

Do you need a hydraulic wheelchair lift to get on the bus to participate in the tours: Yes ☐ No ☐

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY JULY 26, 2022

SMALL STORES

Item	Qty	Description	Price	Total

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Email _____

All prices include shipping

Make check/ M.O. to:
VQ Association

Mail to:
Carl Hopkins
5525 Longfellow Dr
Santa Barbara, CA 93111
805-967-2943

Navy Pin –
Item # 127



Item	Description	Price
101	EA3B HAT (no eggs)	\$20.00
102	EA3B Hat (eggs)	\$21.00
103	EC121 Hat (no eggs)	\$20.00
104	EC121 Hat (eggs)	\$21.00
105	EP3E Hat (no eggs)	\$20.00
106	EP3E Hat (eggs)	\$21.00
107	P4M-1Q Hat (no eggs)	\$20.00
108	P4M-1Q Hat (eggs)	\$21.00
109	VQ Ground Pounder Hat(Bat)	\$17.00
110	VQ Ground Pounder Hat (Sandman)	\$17.00
111	VQ Assoc. Logo Hat (Shite/ Soft/Golf)	\$20.00
112		
113	VQ-1 Bat Patch	\$7.00
114	VQ-2 Bat Patch	\$7.00
115	VQ-2 Sandman Patch	\$7.00
116	A-3 Patch	\$7.00
117	EC-121 Patch	\$7.00
118	EP-3E Patch	\$7.00
119	Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club Patch	\$7.00
120	VQ-1 World Watchers patch	\$7.00
121	Decal VQ Assoc. Navy Air Recon	\$3.00
122	Pin A-3	\$11.00
123	Pin EP-3	\$11.00
124	Pin-EC-121	\$11.00
125	Patch Faireconron-1 Darkle	\$7.00
126	Patch Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club Orange	\$7.00
127	Navy Pin	\$5.00

VQ Association Website: vqassociation.org



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pbrosh123@gmail.com
817-262-3199
Editor

Your dues are paid Through: 2030

NEOPOST

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

04/14/2022

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