



GOLDEN EAGLES CONTINUING HISTORY 2012

Engineer/Historian/Compiler –CAPT John F. Manning, Jr USN (Ret.)

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

This continuing historical summary covers the period from after the Golden Eagles Reunion in Pensacola, Florida 1 May to 3 May 2011 until the completion of the Golden Eagles Reunion in Orlando, Florida 25 April to 29 April 2012.

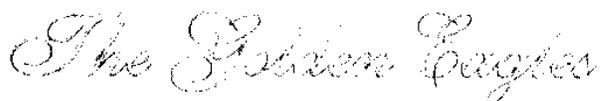
Golden Eagle Flight Activities

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 presented the Tommy Tomlinson Award to the Test Pilot of the year for 2011, of an engraved wrist watch, in absentia to LCDR Daniel J. Radocaj, USN from VX-23. The awards ceremony was at The River’s Edge at NAS Patuxent River, MD, on February 9, 2012. LCDR Radocaj had been transferred to an F-18 squadron aboard the USS George Washington (CVN-73) in Japan. The watch was presented to his former Commanding Officer who will forward the award to LCDR Radocaj.

Southeast Flight: Members of Southeast Flight and the 2012 Golden Eagles Reunion Committee led by Col. Gary Vangysel, USMC (Ret.) were busy throughout the year making preparations for the Golden Eagles 2012 Reunion in Orlando, Florida.

GOLDEN EAGLES 2012 REUNION

The 2012 Golden Eagles Reunion headquarters was the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. One hundred thirty six Golden Eagles registered to attend. The Flight Schedule for the Reunion Events was as follows.



REUNION 2012

ORLANDO, FL

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 25 April

- 1630 - 2400 Ready Room – Manned and open
- 1500 - 1800 **Reunion Registration Open**
- 1700 - 1900 Happy Hour with appetizers for early birds in RR

Thursday, 26 April

- 0800 - 1700 Ready Room Open
- 0800 - 1100 Membership Selection Committee Meeting
- 0830 - 1100 **Reunion Registration open**
- 1330 - 1530 Golden Eagle Board of Governors Meeting
- 1400 - 1800 **Reunion Registration Open**
- 1830 - 2100 Welcome Aboard Reception
- 2100 - 2400 Ready Room Open

Friday, 27 April

- 0730 - 2400 Ready Room Open; **Reunion Registration will be in Ready Room**
- 0800 - **Shot gun start**; Arnold Palmer, Lake Buena Vista Golf Course
- 0800 - 1700 KENNEDY SPACE CENTER TOUR (*description on back of this page*)
All Others: Free day to explore on your own

Saturday, 28 April

- 0800 - 1300 Ready Room Open
- 0830 - 1030 General Membership Meeting & Photos by Flight
- 1315 - Shuttles to Memorial Service begin (POV/Rental car encouraged)
- 1400 - 1530 Memorial Service (Christ the King Lutheran Church)
- 1800 - 1900 Reception Cocktails
- 1900 - 2100 Banquet Dinner
- 2100 - 2400 Ready Room Open

Sunday, 29 April

Farewells and Departures. See you next year!

Welcome Aboard Reception

The welcome aboard reception was held in the Lakeview Restaurant of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort. Approximately 240 Eagles and guests attended.



Golden Eagles and guests enjoy the 2012 Reunion Welcome Reception

Golden Eagle Golf

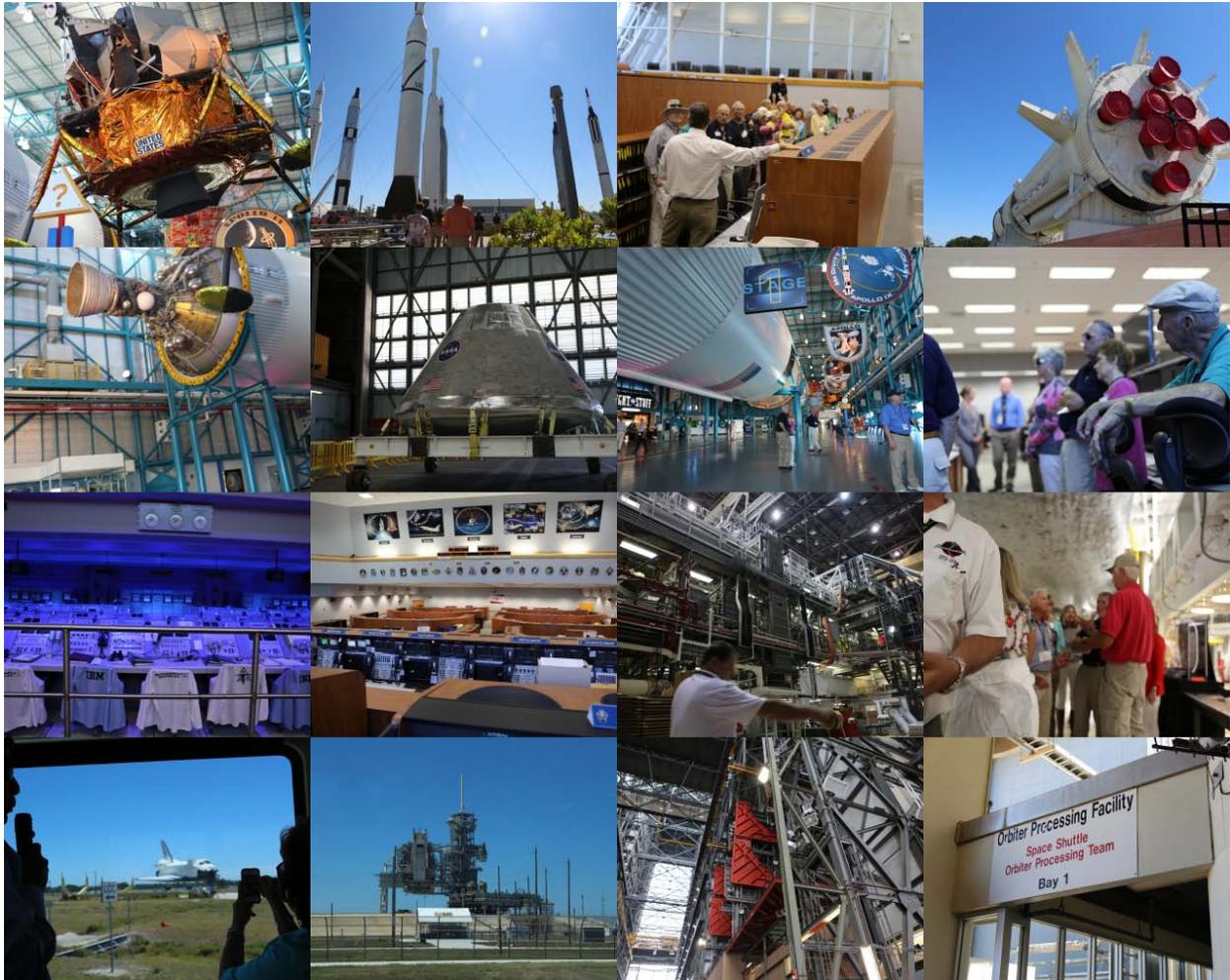
The Golden Eagle golf outing was played at the premier Arnold Palmer Lake Buena Vista Golf Course on Friday 27 April 2012. The golf venue was outstanding and enjoyed by forty one golfers, Golden Eagles and their guests.

Kennedy Space Center Tour

The highlight of the 2012 Golden Eagles Reunion was a tour of the Kennedy Space Center that was arranged by Golden Eagle Astronauts. The tour included lunch, a panel presentation and question and answer session by Golden Eagle Astronauts. The tour was enjoyed by one hundred Golden Eagles and their guests.



Golden Eagles Astronaut Panel: MajGen. Charles F. Bolden, Jr USMC (Ret), the current NASA Administrator, Vice Adm. Richard H. Truly, USN (Ret), a former NASA Administrator and first Commander of the Naval Space Command, Mr. Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, and Capt. Robert L. Crippen, USN (Ret) answer questions during the Kennedy Space Center Tour



Highlights from the Kennedy Space Center Tour

The Memorial Service

The Golden Eagles Memorial Service attended by approximately 160 Eagles and guests was held at Christ the King Lutheran Church Orlando, Florida. Seventeen departed Golden Eagles were eulogized during the moving memorial service. LtCol Carl Dubac provided the In Remembrance video presentation for the memorial service. The Reverend Dr. Gerald N. Schultz Pastor officiated, and Billie Cash, wife of Golden Eagle Roy Cash was the soloist.



The altar and beautiful stained glass window of Christ the King Lutheran Church



Golden Eagles and guests at Christ the King Lutheran Church



Left: Pilot RADM Bill Gureck welcomes Eagles and guests. Right: Rev Dr Gerald N Schultz, Pastor delivers the invocation for the Memorial Service



Golden Eagles eulogized at the 2012 Golden Eagle Memorial Service

General Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting was called to order on Saturday morning 28 April 2012. The Pilot and Co-Pilot welcomed the Golden Eagles and provided opening remarks. Annual reports were provided by the Navigator, the Radio Officer, the Engineer Officer/ Historian, the Membership Selection Committee Secretary, the Site Selection Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Membership Selection Committee. During the meeting the members approved an increase in annual dues to \$50.00.



The Pilot RADM Bill Gureck welcomes Golden Eagles to the 2012 Membership Meeting. Left to Right: JR Davis, webmaster, RADM Rupe Owens, Radio Officer, RADM Fred Lewis, Co-pilot, RADM Gureck, RADM Don Becker, Navigator, and RADM Jack Monger, Membership Selection Committee Secretary

The Navigator's Report

Navigator's Report April 26, 2012

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

Regular.....	200
Emeritus.....	45
Honorary.....	5
Total.....	250

Members accepted into The Golden Eagles, in order of acceptance, since Navigator's Report of May 1, 2011:

Col Robert Hickerson, USMC, (Ret)

24 Jun, 2011

RADM J. Michael Johnson, USN, (Ret)	05 Aug, 2011
CAPT Robair F. Mohrhardt, USN, (Ret)	12 Aug, 2011
VADM Paul F. McCarthy, USN, (Ret)	05 Oct, 2011
CAPT Paul D. Stephenson, USN, (Ret)	11 Oct, 2011
CAPT Stanley F. Bloyer, USN, (Ret)	01 Mar, 2012
VADM Michael D. Malone, USN, (Ret)	02 Mar, 2012
Maj George B. Herlihy, USMC, (Ret)	12 Mar, 2012
RADM Ernest E. Christensen, USN, (Ret)	17 Mar, 2012
CAPT John P. Gay, USN, (Ret)	23 Mar, 2012
ADM Timothy J. Keating, USN, (Ret)	26 Mar, 2012

Members who have made their final Take-offs:

Mr. Corwin Meyer, "H"	01 Jun, 2011
Col Eugene R. Brady, USMC, (Ret)	09 Jun, 2011
CAPT Harold P. Streeper, USN, (Ret) "E"	23 Jun, 2011
LtGen William G. Thrash, USMC, (Ret) "E"	04 Jul, 2011
CAPT Robert C. Coats, USN, (Ret) "E"	07 Jul, 2011
RADM Taylor Brown, USN, (Ret)	11 Jul, 2011
ADM Noel A. M. Gayler, USN, (Ret) "E"	14 Jul, 2011
CAPT Robair F. Mohrhardt, USN, (Ret)	12 Aug, 2011
Col Robert W. Lewis Jr., USMC, (Ret) "E"	15 Aug, 2011
LtGen George C. Axtell, USMC, (Ret) "E"	20 Aug, 2011
Col Robert E. Howard, USMC, (Ret)	21 Sep, 2011
VADM Paul F. McCarthy, USN, (Ret)	05 Oct, 2011
VADM Joseph B. Wilkinson Jr., USN, (Ret) "E"	16 Oct, 2011
CAPT Theron Jack Taylor, USN, (Ret) "E"	16 Jan, 2012
VADM William D. Houser, USN, (Ret) "E"	05 Feb, 2012
CAPT William M. Russell, USN, (Ret) "E"	22 Feb, 2012
CAPT Stanley F. Bloyer, USN, (Ret)	15 Mar, 2012

Members transferred to Emeritus status:

RADM L. F. Eggert, USN, (Ret)	03 Feb, 2012
CAPT Morris E. Haller, USN, (Ret)	03 Feb, 2012
Col Herbert V. Lundin, USMC, (Ret)	03 Mar, 2012
Col Frederick T. Watts, USMC, (Ret)	03 Mar, 2012
LCDR Fred L. Dungan, USN, (Ret)	10 Mar, 2012

The Golden Eagles Ladies who have passed away:

Ruthie Box, wife of RADM Roger E. Box, USN, (Ret)	26 Aug, 2011
Helen Gibbons Vita, widow of CAPT Harold E. Vita, USN, (Ret)	
LTO, 04/15/98 -----	28 Sep, 2011
Barbara Lewis, widow of Col Robert W. Lewis Jr., USMC, (Ret)	
LTO, 08/15/11 -----	07 Jan, 2012

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.

The Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association

“The Golden Eagles®”



Radio Officer's Financial Report

1 April 2011 Ending 31 March 2012

Beginning Funds (All Accounts 1 April 2011)		\$ 34,297.45
Less CD		(15,132.09)
Receipts		
Chronolog Sales	\$ 645.00	
Contributions	\$ 10.00	
Contractor Donations	8,000.00	
Reunion 2011	2,751.01	
Paveknife Shipping	300.00	11,061.01
Membership Dues/Fees	4,606.00	
Wing Sales	342.00	
Interest CD	101.99	
Interest NFCU	43.35	5,093.34
Total Receipts	\$ 16,799.35	

Disbursements

Annual Naval Aviation Museum	5,000.00	
Annual Tomlinson Award	297.00	
ChronoLog Expenses	13.29	
GE Web Site	119.40	
Legal (Trademark)	500.00	
Postage & Delivery	475.08	
Printing & Reproduction	1,598.94	
Reunion Advance 2011	1,791.20	
Reunion 2012	5,000.00	
Paveknife Shipping	2,179.53	
Supplies & Materials	4,519.26	
Total Disbursements	21,493.70	
Net Change in Operating Funds		(4,694.35)
Ending Operating Funds (31 March 2012)		\$ 14,471.01
Assets		
Ready Cash on Hand	\$ 14,471.01	
NFCU CD	15,238.77	
Total Funds		\$ 29,709.78
95 Wings (@\$42.90 each)		4,075.50
Total Assets		\$ 33,785.28

Engineer Officer/Historian Report: John Manning could not attend the Membership Meeting. The Co-Pilot reported that approximately 136 Golden Eagles attended the 2012 Reunion and there was only one mandatory attendee who did not make the reunion. The Complete Annual Engineer/Historian Report follows.

ENGINEER/HISTORIAN REPORT FOR 2011-2012

28 April 2012

- **ATTENDANCE**

145 Regular Members registered to attend the Golden Eagles 2012 Reunion at Orlando, Florida 26 to 28 April 2012. There is one mandatory attendee that is not registered to attend the reunion. He is

DeLong, Michael P.

Twelve Regular Members have missed the last two reunions and are not registered to attend the 2012 Reunion. Their attendance at the 2013 reunion at Scottsdale, AZ is considered mandatory barring any extraordinary circumstances preventing them from attending. They are:

Bright, Ray	Laird, Dean
Busey, Jim	Schulte, Dick
Garrison, Marvin	Staples, Murray
Gillcrist, Paul	Vincent, Hal
Knutson, Bill	Weir, Ken
Bobby Butcher	Young, John

- **CONTINUING HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN EAGLES**

The Continuing History of the Golden Eagles 1956 through 2011 is complete and posted in the historical section of the Golden Eagles Web Site.

The Continuing History of the Golden Eagles for 2011-2012 will be compiled after the completion of 2012 reunion and then posted on the Golden Eagles Web Site.

- **CHRONOLOG BIOS**

There are approximately 611 bios published in the Golden Eagle Chronolog and posted on the Golden Eagles Web Site. Biographies of current members missing from the current edition of the Chronolog are:

Regular Members (4)

Ernie Christensen

Phil Gay

Tim Keating

Mike Malone

Emeritus Members (0)

Honorary Members (0)

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

Registration forms for the Orlando Reunion permitted ordering and prepaying for the 2012 Chronolog CD. One hundred one CDs were ordered as of 4-06-12.

Future Reunions: Gary Vangysel presented the results for the site selection committee. Future reunions will be: 2013 Scottsdale, AZ, Hilton-Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort 22 to 25 May 2013; 2014 Tidewater Area of VA, site selection in process; 2015 Pensacola, Florida site selection in process; and 2016 site to be determined.

Nominating Committee: LtGen Blot 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 RADM Paul Speer



Southeast Flight Hosts for the 2012 Golden Eagles Orlando Reunion

R1: Dick Hamon, Mike Ryan, John Lockard, Jerry Johnson, Snuffy Smith, Gary Vangysel, Paul Fratarangelo, Bob Crippen, Jim Flatley; R2: Howie Thorsen, By Fuller, Harry Blot, Mike Johnson, Stan Arthur, Gus Gustafson, Bill Huffcut, Roger Sheets, Walt Ledbetter



Northeast Flight

R1: Rupe Owens, Zeb Knott, Ed Waller, John Allen, Fred Lewis, Rick Hauck, Phil Gay, Don Boecker, Gene Tucker, Jim Joyner; R2: Bill Span, Dave Morris, Dave Rogers, Joe Prueher, Ed Clepton, Bob Dunn, Roger Carlquist, Jack Dantone, Joe Anderson, Ned Shuman; R3: Larry Adkinson, Wick Parcells, Sam Hubbard, Joe Barth, Mel Sautter, Hap Simpson, Jim Dorsey, Jim Seely, Carl Dubac; R4: Tim Wright, Tom Hudner, Jack Dailey, Jim Service, Bob Shumaker, Mike Malone, Ned Hogan



Central Flight

R1: Doc Mitchell, Roy Cash, Bob C. Johnson, Ernie Cunningham, Pat Donovan, Howard DeCastro, Jerry Unruh; 2: Bill Bauer, Jerry Breast, John Paganelli, Jake Ward, Ken Wallace, Jimmy Taylor, Skip Furlong, Jim Maslowski, Red McDaniel; R3: Bryon Compton, Fred McCorkle, Bill Ramsey, Dan Brandenstein, Bob Hickerson



West Flight

R1: J Monger, D Schoultz, M Kurth, T Cassidy, D Wisely, J Batzler, Jug Herlihy, Mo Fitzgerald, J Hudson, P Speer; R2: E Beauchamp, D Shelton, R Trout, J Campbell, J Calvert, M Peele, G Rud, G Aitcheson, B Bowes, B Hickey; R3: P Wood, L Ernst, L McClung, R Zlatopher, T Brown, B Johnson, J Pearson, D Truly. R Box; R4: D Edge, B Edney, R Moore, C Dose, L Chatham, B Terry, B Knutson, B Pearl, JR Davis

2012 Golden Eagles Reunion Reception and Banquet

The Golden Eagle Reunion Reception and Banquet was held in the Ballroom of the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort. Two hundred and sixty Golden Eagles and guests attended the banquet. One of the highlights of the evening was a presentation of “The Ragged Old Flag” by Golden Eagle Roy Cash.



Mrs. Billie Cash sings the National Anthem during the presentation of the colors



Presentation of the Colors to commence the Golden Eagles Reunion Banquet



Gary Vangysel congratulates and thanks Roy Cash for his presentation of “The Ragged Old Flag” while the Golden Eagles provide a standing ovation.



Golden Eagles and Guests during the 2012 Reception and Banquet



The Pilot Introduces the New Golden Eagles selected since May 2011



RADM Fred Lewis relieves RADM Bill Gureck as the Golden Eagles Pilot

By all accounts the 2012 Golden Eagle Reunion in Orlando, Florida was a huge success thanks to the detailed planning and hard work of Col Gary Vangysel and his team from The Golden Eagles Southeast Flight. Committee Chairs for the Reunion were Stan Arthur (Memorial Service), Jim Flatley (Banquet), Walt Ledbetter (Ready Room), Bob Crippen (KSC tour), Paul Fratarangelo (Golf), Roger Sheets (Registration). Golden Eagles will gather next in Scottsdale, Arizona for the 2013 Golden Eagle Reunion.