



**2022 TACAMO Rennon  
IN Pax River  
& Reasons to Celebrate**

*"Commissioning of the TACAMO  
Room in Pax River Museum"* *"Celebrating 85 Years of  
TACAMO Association"*

**Commissioning of the  
TACAMO Gallery**

**PAX & TACAMO**  
Community Veterans Association  
Celebrating Our 25th Anniversary

**May 26 to 30th**

**RIVER NAVAL AIR MUSEUM**

**Page 2**

**NEW!**

**Page 9**

**ACCESS TO TACAMO  
WEBSITE AND FB**

**ON SALE NOW**

**Great gift from Santa to the family!**  
Don't forget teachers,  
neighbors and friends!!

TCVA is proud to offer a  
treasured collection of family  
recipes. If your original VQ-3 or  
VQ-4 cookbook is tattered and  
torn, you are going to want this  
cookbook.

The TACAMO Heritage  
Cookbook recipes are  
compiled from the VQ-4  
Officers Wives Club, VQ-4 All  
Wives Club, VQ-3 Officers  
Wives Club, and TACAMO  
family recipes from Guam,  
Hawaii, Paluxent River, and  
Oklahoma.

REEL TACAMO CHOW (RTC)  
shares recipes from Reel  
Operators and other crew  
positions who cooked and fed  
their crews inflight and in the  
hooch. We are grateful for their  
contributions to the crews' well-  
being and the recipes in this  
cookbook. Spoiler Alert: there  
are honest Sea Stories  
scattered throughout the book.

Over 200 pages of appetizers,  
soups, salads, side dishes,  
main dishes, desserts, gravy  
and sauces. The Reel  
TACAMO Chow features  
recipes for the 16-20 person  
crews, suitable for large  
gatherings.

**Two (2)  
Cookbooks  
combined  
as One (1)**

**TACAMO HERITAGE  
COOKBOOK**

**only \$25**  
includes shipping  
within USA, APOs  
& FPOs  
Outside USA  
addresses email  
TCVA @  
tacamocommunity  
@gmail.com

**A Perfect Holiday Gift!**  
Order before DEC 15th to arrive before Christmas

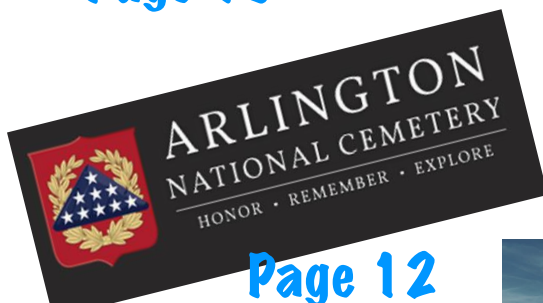
**Page 4, 5 & 6**



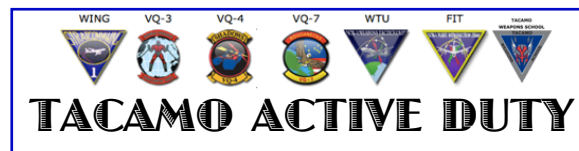
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**Team TACAMO Room Set-up**

**Page 7**

**Page 3**  
*Season's Greetings*

# 2022 TACAMO Reunion Hotels

## Fairfield Inn

**Room Types:**  
1 King Bed or  
2 Double Beds

### Fairfield Inn

Our beautifully renovated hotel is nestled in Historic St. Mary's County located across from the Patuxent Naval Air Station. Every room includes free Wi-Fi. While staying at the Fairfield Inn Lexington Park Patuxent River Naval Air Station, guest rooms provide cable TV with HBO. The rooms are also furnished with a microwave and a refrigerator. Guests can use the gym at the hotel along with the laundry facilities.

**Room Types:** 1 King  
Bed or  
2 Double Beds

**Fairfield Inn  
Reservation  
Link**

## Home2 Suites Inn

**Room Type:**  
Queen Bed Studio

### Home2 Suites Inn

Home2 Suites is a spirited, innovative hotel for savvy, cost-conscious travelers staying a few months or a few nights. From studio and one-bedroom Suites to complimentary bonuses, like the continental breakfast, Spin2 Cycle combined fitness facility with complimentary guest laundry, wired & wireless HSLA, inviting outdoor lounge area with 2 gas grills, and underground garage parking, Home2™ is just your style.

**1 QUEEN BED STUDIO**

**Home2  
Suites Inn  
Reservation  
Link**

## 2 Hotels in Pax River

Rate is Good for:

5/25 to 6/1

**Book by: Wednesday 5/14/22**

Both prices at **\$96** per night plus taxes

Includes free breakfast, Wifi and parking

**Friday**

**The two Hotels  
are a 5 minute  
walk away  
from each other**



**Sunday**

**Saturday**

**2022 Reunion Click Here**





Greetings from TCVA Board of Directors

**Vern Lochausen**

President

**Dennis “Coach” Warren**

Executive Vice President

**Mike Vos**

Executive Director

**Cheryl Vos**

Vice President (Administrative)

**Jim Meppelink**

Vice President (Fleet Outreach)

**Mike Neri**

Vice President (Veteran Outreach)

**Cathy Neri**

Time in TACAMO Database Builder

**John Alger**

Vice President (Merchandising)

**Joan Alger**

Reunion Planner’s Assistant

**Joe Caruso**

Treasurer

**John “Mom” Burgoon**

Secretary

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



*Season's Greetings*

# 2020 TACAMO Hall of Fame

## Peg Klein – TACAMO Sailor

### Service

- VQ3: 83-87- JO, 91-94 - Dept Head, 99-01 - XO/CO
- TACAMO Detailer 88- 90
- Wing ONE Commodore 2003-4

### Contributions

- EC-130 NAV/ACO/MC Instructor- Flight Officer in OPS
- E-6A/B MC/ACO-Evaluator and Instructor- Maint Dept Head
- Key person in VQ3 Homeport Change to OKC
- CO that truly led mission change to ABNCP
- As Detailer, prepared well for manpower buildup for the E-6A transition

### Leadership (Key Jobs)

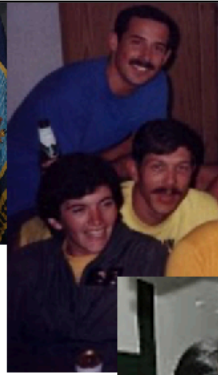
- Led by EXAMPLE- took deployments and relieved crewmembers during holidays
- Totally in touch with Sailors and issues they faced
- Chief of Staff, Carrier Strike Group 8 onboard The USS Eisenhower
- First female Commandant of the United States Naval Academy
- Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 5 during Operation Odyssey Dawn in Libya
- Senior Military Advisor to the Secretary of Defense for Professionalism and Ethics.
- Current Dean of Leadership and Ethics, Naval War College.

### Community Service

- St Marks and Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School in Norman and Oklahoma City.
- Honored Speaker at many events including the Oklahoma Women in Aviation Hall of Fame and KU Commissioning ceremony.
- Board of Directors for her high school, Notre Dame Academy in Hingham Massachusetts.
- Member , Board of Directors New England Center and Home for Veterans.

### Peer recognition

- Fleet leadership, fellow Admirals, Chiefs' Community, many Sailors she has mentored
- Navy selected her for deep draft command and admiral, one of 5 TACAMO admirals



## Bud Biddle – TACAMO Sailor

### Service

- VQ4 - Late 70s/early 80s
- VQ-3 – Late 80s to 91
- STRATCOMWING ONE Maintenance Officer (1991 - retirement)
- Rockwell Collins Field Service Team – '95 -2000

### Contributions

- Established an effective Naval aviation maintenance department at a newly established home port location
- Liaison between the wing, squadrons, contractor logistics, and the Air Force.
- Formed a network of working relationships that resulted in an efficient maintenance operation across the Fleet

### Leadership (Key Jobs)

- VQ-4 Aircraft Division Officer and Maintenance Control during high OPTEMPO ops
- VQ-3 Assistant Maintenance Officer during Herc to Merc transition and homeport change
- Wing's first Maintenance Officer at standup at Tinker and creation of structure supporting squadrons
  - Provisioned for Field Service Reps imbedded with squadrons, immediate assistance for Fleet needs
  - Blended squadron support such as I level and sourced support from Tinker AFB and ALC
  - Co-creator of Enhanced Phased Maintenance program, reducing out of service for depot work
  - Mobile maintenance team initial organizer and director
  - Directed team to strip, reconfigure, and create static display of TACAMO EC-130Q beside Wing
- Overall pioneer of an effective/efficient lasting TACAMO maintenance operation at Tinker AFB

### Community Service

- Member of Military Officers Association,
- Contributor to Rochester NY Food Link, other charities

### Peer recognition

- Fleet and NAVAIR leaders and Chiefs Community





# 2020 TACAMO Hall of Fame

## Ken Gray – TACAMO Government Support - Posthumous

### Service

- U.S. Navy Active Duty: 1950s to 1970s
- Chief Petty Officer- Flight Engineer/Maintainer P-2s to F-14s
- NAVAIR: '78-'98 (20 years, 9 months)
  - F-14 Program and VF/VA engines logistics manager
  - TACAMO Assistant Program Manager, Logistics for the E-6 (10 years)
  - Logistic Contractor support to TACAMO.

### Contributions

- Pioneered E-6 sustainment that underwrote Fleet readiness and endurance
- Co-creator of Enhanced Phase Maintenance program, spreading depot work and avoiding long down times
- Hands on management of E-6 spares, repair and supply chains, and contractor support
- Influenced NAVAIR leadership to support his innovations, delivering unprecedented MC rates
- Continued as contractor support team member, mentoring leaders, and ensuring continued success
- Established TACAMO OEM support, spares, equipment that ensured deployed aircraft readiness

### Leadership (Key Jobs)

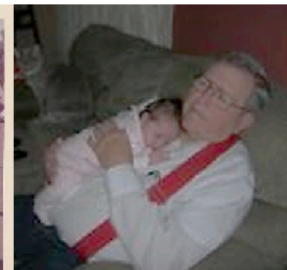
- 10 years as E-6 sustainment manager in NAVAIR
- Mentor to TACAMO leadership, NAVAIR and Fleet as contractor

### Community Service

- Boy Scouts – Cub Master – Cub Scout Pack #845, Stafford, VA
- Boy Scouts – Webelos Leader
- Recreational soccer coach for many years in Stafford, VA

### Peer recognition

- E-6 Program Managers, NAVAIR peers and leaders, squadron COs and MOs, Chiefs Community, industry partners



## Dwight "Shep" Shepherd – TACAMO Sailor

### Service

- VQ3: 88-91- JO 95-98 - Maintenance Dept Head 01-03 - XO/CO
- TACAMO Detailer 91-95
- NTSU NATOPS Evaluator & Plans 95
- STRATCOM 98-01, ABNCP/TACAMO CURRENT OPS OFFICER
- Wing ONE Commodore 2007-2010

### Contributions

- Initial NFO Cadre of E-6 NAV/ACO later trained initial ABNCP mission crews
- Detailer Responsible for Homeport Change of VQ-4 to Tinker
- Established Mission Requirements for E-6A Convoy Support During OEF
- Tinker O-6 Breakfast Issues working group

### Leadership (Key Jobs)

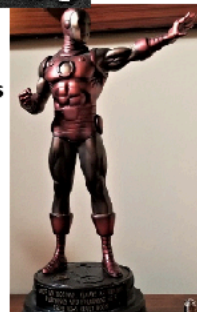
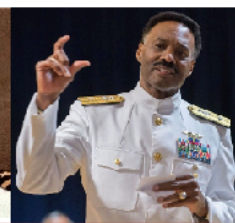
- CO VQ-3 – Battle E, Safety S, Maintenance Excellence
- Shore, USSTRATCOM ABNCP/TACAMO Current Ops Officer 98-01
- Commo On Kitty Hawk Carrier Battle Group
- SECNAV senior advisor, CNO Director Strategic Comms
- Joint Staff, J6 Director For Command, Control Systems
- NORAD J6 Director Of Cyberspace

### Community Service

- Adopted the Veterans Home in Norman as CO, led Sailors in supporting.
- National Navy Officer Association mentoring and tutoring young men and women
- Committee for Black Engineers promoting STEM and mentoring programs.
- Board of Directors for NPOWER providing CYBER certifications free of cost to Veterans and spouses.

### Peer recognition

- Fleet leadership, fellow Admirals, Chiefs' Community, many Sailors he has mentored
- Navy selected him as first TACAMO male admiral



# 2020 TACAMO Hall of Fame

## Kermit Ayres – TACAMO Sailor/Industry Partner

### Service

- VQ-4: 72-76- JO, 79-81- Super JO, 83-85- Admin and OPS Dept Head, 87-89 XO/CO
- Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (C3I) -89-94
- Commodore- 94-96 then National Security Research, 97-2006

### Contributions

- First ever TACAMO Aviator to qualify as Mission Commander as a LTJG.
- Evaluated and certified final 50% of VQ-4 crews TACAMO III to TACAMO IV weapons system
- Created model for crew deployments and financial accounting of classified itineraries
- Golden Anchor and Battle "E" during beginning of the end of VQ-4 Herc Ops in CO tour
- Powerful influencer in Pentagon maintaining support for TACAMO mission as Cold War 'ended'
- Co-defender of TACAMO priority in Navy and DoD and at Tinker as Commodore during BRAC
- Key author of 1990/1991 Strategic C3 Review, resulting in TACAMO becoming THE Airborne Command Post
- Consultant to DoD and key to mission and budget defense to Congress and unsupportive Administration

### Leadership (Key Jobs)

- NATOPS Evaluator, Assistant Aircraft Maintenance Officer
- Operations Officer, Administrative Department Head
- TACAMO Mission Commander as JG, LT, LCDR, CDR
- Executive Officer, Commanding Officer
- Wing Commander, Task Force Commander
- SECDEF key staffer in uniform and later as consultant

### Community Service

- Lifelong member of the South Montrose Community Church .MOAA, American Legion, NRA, Penn State Alumni Association
- Recognized by Penn State for philanthropic scholarship efforts on behalf of Penn State engineering students with prior military service.

### Peer recognition

- SECDEF, Joint Staff, Strategic Command leadership, Fleet and NAVAIR leadership
- Fellow Junior Officers, Department Heads, as well as Chiefs
- Fellow Commodores: "Quietly, behind the scenes, probably contributed more to the TACAMO Community survivability than any others."



**Nominations are being accepted for  
Future TACAMO Hall of Fame Inductees**

**SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS**

**+SUBMIT LINK**

**WORD DOC CLICK HERE**



**2019, 2020 & 2021 TACAMO  
Hall of Fame Inductees  
Ceremonies will be held at  
the 2022 TACAMO Reunion  
on May 28th between 10AM  
to 5PM in the Pax Museum**



## Team TACAMO Room Set-up



### Four days, Fast & Furious!

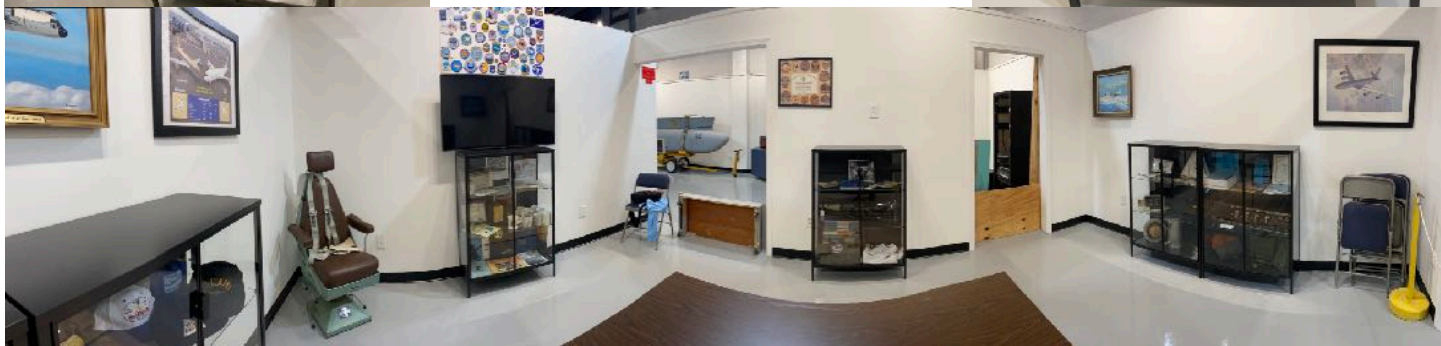
Vern Lochausen, John "Mom" Burgoon, and Mike & Cheryl Vos teamed up with the Pax Museum archivist Pam, Dan and Jane to log, photograph and place items in room or store back in the boxes for future display.

#### Photos:

- Top Left: Vern standing at the entrance to the new TACAMO Room
- Top Center: Team Room Set-up Front Row: Vern, Cheryl, Dan, Jane, Pam Back Row: Mike & "Mom"
- Top Right: Mike & "Mom" Burgoon with their first Ikea cabinet build
- Other Photos: Room displays

Description Boards and more displays coming soon.

**Room Commissioning - May 28, 2022**





## Support



Ramon Purcell, Honorary TACAMO Sailor & Video Producer of the VQ-3 TACAMOPAC Crew 4 Memorial Video, has introduced a C-130 Boneyard Safari sticker and TACAMO C-130 photos. Click [SHOP](#) to purchase yours today.

Check out the photos of TACAMO's C-130s for sale on the website. Click on Link: [Purchase Photos](#).



## DOCENTS NEEDED

The TCVA's Patuxent River Naval Air Museum (PRNAM) TACAMO Room Docent program, aka the "TACAMO Ground Crew", is designed to enhance our visitors' experience by providing cheerful on-site exhibit information, tours, and discussions about the TACAMO room.

- "TACAMO Ground Crew" will staff the TACAMO room during the museum's normal operating hours and "plus up" for special events and other high-volume activities throughout the year.
- The "TACAMO Ground Crew" will assist the PRNAM's Docent Cadre in hosting a youth docent program for students that are rising 9th graders and up who participate along with us on non-school days.
- A "TACAMO Ground Crew" may also assist the PRNAM's Docent Cadre as the visitor count continues to grow, so do our manpower requirements for the Cadre.

Enthusiasm is the only prerequisite. Backgrounds in any and all aspects of TACAMO, Naval and other military aviation and engineering are a plus.....come fly with us!!!

Looking to be a Docent? Click on the link and fill out the form <https://www.tacamo.org/docents-pax>

LINKS - [TACAMO.ORG](#) - [LINKED-IN](#) - [PAX RIVER TESTER](#) - [NAVYTIMES.COM](#)



# Time in TACAMO

## Member Registration & Time in TACAMO

TACAMO Shipmates, Family Members, Industry Members & Civil Service Members who support(ed) TACAMO

First Name	Last Name	Maiden Name
First Name	Last Name	Duty Status *
Email Address		Family Member related to
Email address	Duty Status	

### Military Service

Squadron *		
Commander Naval Air Forces Pac...	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	Who did you serve with?
Command		
Squadron		
Command	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	Who did you serve with?
Squadron		
Command	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	Who did you serve with?
Squadron		
Command	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	Who did you serve with?
Squadron		
Command	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	Who did you serve with?
Squadron		
Command	Years in this Command i.e. 1970-72	Who did you serve with?

### Industry Partners

IndustryPartner	
Industry Partners	Years worked i.e.1990-2007
IndustryPartner	
Industry Partners	Years worked i.e.1990-2007
IndustryPartner	
Industry Partners	Years worked i.e.1990-2007

### Civil Service

Civil Service	Years worked i.e.1990-2007
Civil Service	Years worked i.e.1990-2007

Comments

Submit

## ACCESS TO TACAMO WEBSITE AND FB

Access to TACAMO Website and FB - New members will need to fill out the Time in TACAMO form to get access. TCVA will accomplish two objectives: Collect TACAMO service history & restrict unauthorized people out.

**Link**  
to Member Registration

## Are you on the list?

Go to Time in TACAMO List to view names submitted.

**Link**

## Cookbook on SALE



# ON SALE NOW

**Great gift from Santa to the family!**

**Don't forget teachers,  
neighbors and friends!!**

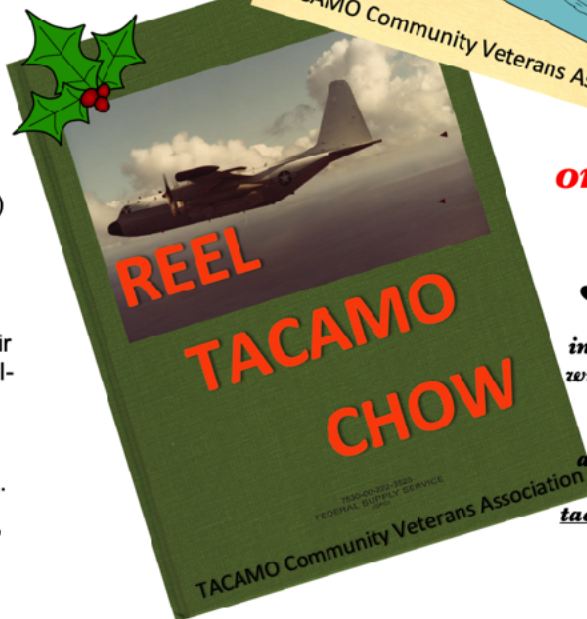
TCVA is proud to offer a treasured collection of family recipes. If your original VQ-3 or VQ-4 cookbook is tattered and torn, you are going to want this cookbook.

The TACAMO Heritage Cookbook recipes are compiled from the VQ-4 Officers Wives Club, VQ-4 All Wives Club, VQ-3 Officers Wives Club, and TACAMO family recipes from Guam, Hawaii, Patuxent River, and Oklahoma.

REEL TACAMO CHOW (RTC) shares recipes from Reel Operators and other crew positions who cooked and fed their crews in flight and in the hooch. We are grateful for their contributions to the crews' well-being and the recipes in this cookbook. Spoiler Alert, there are honest Sea Stories scattered throughout the book.

Over 200 pages of appetizers, soups, salads, side dishes, main dishes, desserts, gravy and sauces. The Reel TACAMO Chow features recipes for the 16-20 person crews, suitable for large gatherings.

***Two (2)  
Cookbooks  
combined  
as One (1)***



TACAMO Community Veterans Association

**only**  
**\$25**

*includes shipping  
within USA, APOs  
& FPOs*

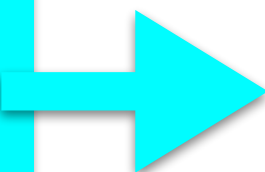
*Outside USA  
addresses email  
TCVA @*

*tacamocommunity  
@gmail.com*

## A Perfect Holiday Gift!

**Order before DEC 15th to arrive before Christmas**

**"Get yours now,  
they are going  
FAST!!"**



**BUY NOW**



# TACAMO Heritage Cookbook & Reel TACAMO Chow



**John “Mom” Burgoon, for  
sharing six years of time  
and talents in making  
Two Cookbooks  
become One Cookbook!**

REEL TACAMO CHOW (RTC) Cookbook history came from Steve Bug Malavolti proposed the cookbook idea in December 2009, over 11 years. Then in 2015 at the OKC VQ-3 Crew 4 family gathering John announced his commitment to the cookbooks; later in October 2021, cookbook fruition. The Reel TACAMO Chow features recipes for the 16-20 person crews, suitable for large gatherings.

“Mom” commented: If the RTC cookbook were an aircraft, it would qualify as a Hangar Queen and a Special Interest Aircraft (SPINTAC) – not flown in 60 days, 60 months, or even 120 months!

“Mom” compiled recipes from the VQ-4 Officers Wives Club, VQ-4 All Wives Club, VQ-3 Officers Wives Club, and TACAMO family recipes from Guam, Hawaii, Patuxent River, and Oklahoma to make the TACAMO Heritage Cookbook. Over 200 pages of appetizers, soups, salads, side dishes, main dishes, desserts, gravy and sauces.

Without his efforts, these cookbooks would still be tattered, torn, and scattered across the TACAMO world. The original cookbook artwork was retained to the best of TCVA’s abilities with some artistic license employed.



**To Linda:**

*TCVA is so thankful for  
sharing “Mom” during  
the produce this  
wonderful cookbook!*



## Need to Know!!

### Hearing Loss & Tinnitus Among Veterans



Survey amongst our TACAMO membership regarding hearing loss and tinnitus!

More information in the Executive Directors Message on Page 17

SAY WHAT?



## Raffle

Postponed due to Covid variant Omicron



WIN 2 Round-Trip Tickets on Southwest Airline



### TCVA WANTS YOUR TACAMO MEMORABILIA

Don't throw them away, throw them our way. If you have TACAMO artifacts, please consider donating them to TCVA. [Click Here to donate TACAMO Memorabilia](#)

William F. Crouch

Just got today. New Cubs holder P.O.O.

[Link to all submitted plates...Click Here](#)





## ARLINGTON CEMETERY VISIT



Joe Caruso and Mike & Cheryl Vos honored Veterans Day and the next day at the Arlington Cemetery, placing roses on TACAMO Veterans graves. They also visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, celebrating its 100th anniversary.





# TACAMO ACTIVE DUTY

## Oklahoma City remembers attack on Pearl Harbor at USS Oklahoma Memorial by Zach Rael, Anchor/Reporter

**On Tuesday December 7, 2021, events were held across the country to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor.**

Oklahoma City remembers the attack on Pearl Harbor at the USS Oklahoma Memorial.

On Tuesday, the events were held across the country to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor. A ceremony was held at the USS Oklahoma Memorial so that Oklahoma could honor the lives lost on Dec. 7, 1941.

A lone trumpet played as members of Oklahoma's Fleet Reserve Association, along with armed forces from both past and present, gathered to honor the lives lost eight decades ago. The shocking attacks on Pearl Harbor changed the course of the nation and the world forever.

"The battle of Pearl Harbor was a defining moment in our nation's history. It really made our military into what it is today," said Captain Cedrick Jessup, Commodore, Strategic Command Wing ONE and Task Group 114.2.

The ceremony took place at the USS Oklahoma Memorial in the Veteran's War Memorial Park outside of the Capitol complex. Captain Jessup was one of the speakers who paid tribute to those killed, including the

429 sailors who died aboard the USS Oklahoma battleship.

"We will never forget what happened that day," Jessup said.

The attack launched the United States into World War II.

On the 80th anniversary, Captain Jessup says this day serves as a reminder of the reality of war.

"No one wants to go to war. We always want to find other ways to go to war. But if it does come to that, we want to be always ready," Jessup said.

As another year passes since the attack, Jessup said it is more important than ever to never forget.

"You have to know your history, so you don't repeat it. That is an important piece," Jessup said.

Article link <https://www.koco.com/article/oklahoma-city-remembers-attack-on-pearl-harbor-at-uss-oklahoma-memorial/38453119>





## Paraloft - Print on-Demand Items

Order these items and they are delivered to you!

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- Short Sleeve Tee
- Long Sleeve Tee
- Polos
- Coffee Mugs
- Masks
- Bucket Hats
- Beanies
- Stickers
- Laptop Covers
- Draw String Bags
- Water Bottles
- Travel Bags
- Spiral Notebooks
- More coming soon!



**Shop NOW Link**

**ON SALE NOW**

**Great gift for the family!**

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**TACAMO  
HERITAGE  
COOKBOOK**

**Two (2)  
Cookbooks  
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**only**

**\$25**

includes shipping  
within USA, APOs  
& FPOs  
Outside USA  
addresses email  
TCVA @  
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@gmail.com

**only \$25**

**includes shipping within USA, APOs & FPOs**

**Outside USA addresses email TCVA @  
[tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)**

**BUY NOW**

## Paraloft Specials

**Purchase Patch**

**LINK**

**\$8 each**





# Back by Popular Demand!!

## MODELS



Click on the Link to place your order a Custom model with Island Enterprises  
 Webpage: <https://www.tacamo.org/paraloft-specials>

### EC-130Q

- TAC II (1 Drogue/NO Wingtip pods)
- TAC III (1 Drogue/NO Wingtip pods)
- TAC IV (2 Drogues/NO Wingtip pods)
- TAC IV/TIP 1 (2 Drogues/NO Wingtip pods)
- TIP II (2 Drogues/Wingtip pods)

**EC-130Q Form**

### E-6

- E-6A
- E-6B

**E-6 Form**



# Letter from Executive Director

## Mission Statement

**The purpose of the Association is to provide fraternal, social and recreational activities for the members and guests and encourage and support the preservation of the history of TACAMO.**

Contact Info:

[tacamocommunity@gmail.com](mailto:tacamocommunity@gmail.com)

## Mailing Address:

TACAMO  
PO Box 6126  
Ocean View, HI 96737

**Vern Lochausen** President/  
Historian/Life Member &  
TACAMO Hall of Fame  
Inductee:  
[vernlochausen.tacamo@gmail.com](mailto:vernlochausen.tacamo@gmail.com)

**Mike Vos** Executive Director  
Webmaster [mvovhi@gmail.com](mailto:mvovhi@gmail.com)

**Dennis "Coach" Warren**  
Executive Vice-President  
[coachwarren.tacamo@gmail.com](mailto:coachwarren.tacamo@gmail.com)

**Cheryl Vos** Vice President  
(Administrative) Reunion/Event  
Planner  
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**Jim Meppelink** Vice President  
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Mike Vos

Aloha TACAMO shipmates,

I have been trying to get my hearing loss and tinnitus recognized by the VA in Hawaii for over 18 months now. They recognize that both conditions exist and also recognize that both my NEC's have a high probability for hearing loss and tinnitus. Yet, I have been denied

compensation or hearing aids because I have 'not established a nexus to my service time in the Navy'. I am currently appealing the denial based on the contradictory nature of the denial.

After a few casual conversations with other TACAMO shipmates, I found that they too have hearing loss and tinnitus. Some are compensated, provided hearing aids from the VA, and others are not. This inequity seems unfair. OUR common experience around the hazardous noise of the C-130 and somewhat less of E-6 is not recognized equally.

As a Veterans Association, it is within our charter and I believe that it is our responsibility to represent our membership and advocate for the equitable distribution of recognition for what appears to be a common ailment amongst our membership.

I propose that we begin with a survey, amongst our membership to:

- Identify those of us with tinnitus and hearing loss, diagnosed or not.
- Determine who has been compensated by the VA, been provided VA hearing aids or not.
- Promote our members, who were at an elevated risk, as defined by their NEC's to file a claim with the VA and pursue the compensation we are entitled to.
- Query members who are being compensated and/or received VA hearing aids and learn how they were successful in their claim and use that as a guide for other claimants.

Thanks for your support for this sort of endeavor by the TCVA. Show your support and concerns by participating in the upcoming survey, coming soon.

Let's TAKE Charge And Move Out !

Mike



## ***Fallen Shipmates***

### **I FLEW**

by *Brad Baker*

When the last checklist's run and the bag drag is done,  
I'll reminisce on the days I once knew,  
I won't remember the oh-three-hundred alerts,  
But only that I flew!

I will not remember the crew rest in tents,  
Nor recall how cold Arctic winds blew,  
And I'll try not to remember the times I got sick,  
But only that I flew!

I will never forget when nature became angry,  
To challenge my intrepid crew,  
I'll always remember the fear I felt,  
And the pride in knowing I flew.

I'll remember the sights my mortal eyes saw,  
All colored in multiple hues,  
Those beautiful lights on cold winter nights,  
Seen only by those who flew.



God was extremely good to me,  
He let me touch his face,  
He saw my crew through war and peace,  
And blessed us with His grace.

So when I stand at St. Peter's Gate,  
And tell him that I'm new,  
I know he'll smile and welcome me,  
Because he knows  
I FLEW!

**[LINK: TACAMO FALLEN LIST](#)**



TACAMO Community Veterans Association  
PO Box 6126  
Ocean View, HI 96736



## **TACAMO**

Active Duty, Veterans,  
Government civilians, Families,  
and Industry Partners



# Veterans Benefits



VA » Veterans Benefits Administration » Benefits A-Z

## Benefits A-Z

A-Z Index:    A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O  
                  P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

**All links to VA Benefits, Click Here:**

**<https://www.benefits.va.gov/atoz/>**