

John “Mom” Burgoon

Secretary

Navy Career – John, aka “Mom” joined the Navy in December 1966, attending Boot Camp at Great Lakes, IL. He attended Aviation Electricians ‘A’ School, NATTC Jacksonville, FL, then reported to VT-5, NAS Saufley Field, Pensacola, FL in November 1967. In November 1969, he then reported to VA-174 FFT to VA-83. Reenlisting in 1970 for “B” school, Mom attended Aviation Electricians ‘B’ School, NATTC Jacksonville, FL in April 1971 and volunteered for “Duty Involving Flying.” The result was orders to VQ-3, NAS Agana, Guam by way of TACAMO Reel Operator (RO) training, Patuxent River, MD. He reported to VQ-3 in January 1972 as an RO. Leaving VQ-3 in August 1974, he reported to the Naval Research Laboratory Flight Support Detachment, NAS Patuxent River, MD where he flew with Ron Carlson. In November 1977, Mom reported to VQ-4, by way of TAC IV RO training; he qualified as First Reel and NATOPS RO evaluator. John got tagged with the “Mom” moniker during a deployment for taking care of the crew. After VQ-4, Mom reported to VQ-3 in February 1981 where he qualified as First Reel and NATOPS RO evaluator. In December 1984, he left the TACAMO community and reported to Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, VA as a Leadership, Management, Education, and Training instructor. Mom retired from the Navy August 1988.

Post Navy – After retirement John worked as an Instructional Systems Developer for a plethora of alphabet-soup government contractors during a span of 30-years. These projects included developing training for USAF Special Operations aircrew, USN E-2C and A-6 aircrew and EA-6B maintenance personnel, the Joint Warfighting Center CAPSTONE, Joint Operations Module, a three-day course for newly selected general and flag officers, and the F/EA-18 and Electronic Warfare Training Systems and the Air Combat Training System Curriculum Revision and Maintenance programs, which oddly enough included the TACAMO Weapons Training Unit at Tinker.

TVCA – Mom’s involvement with TCVA began in 2015. He attended the Tucson Boneyard Safari and the Oklahoma Crew Four gathering. At the Crew Four gathering, Mike Vos mentioned that TCVA would like to put together a Reel TACAMO Chow cookbook and Mom, thinking that will be easy, said “I would like to take that on.” Over the next six years, the cookbook project developed a case of mission creep and expanded from the original one cookbook to five cookbooks (VQ-4 OWC, and All Wives Club cookbooks, VQ-3 OWC cookbook, TACAMO heritage family recipes, and the starter, TACAMO Reel Chow cookbook). Cheryl Vos and I spent many hours begging for recipes and formatting those recipes into the final product. During this same time, Mom became TCVA’s newsletter proofreader. In September 2021, I was honored by being asked to be on the TCVA Board of Directors as the Secretary.

John and his wife of 50+ years, Linda live in Virginia Beach, VA. We have two adult children, Bill and Patty.