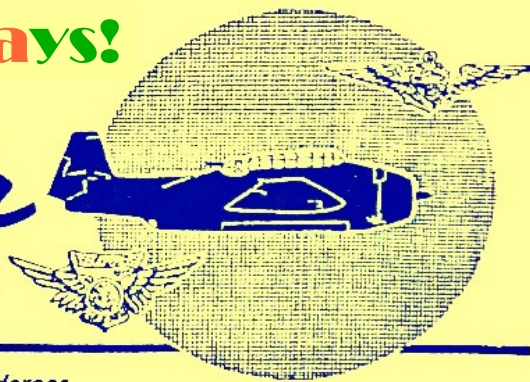


Happy Holidays!

# The Avenger

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION - FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA  
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Educating . Preserving . Remembering the Heroes

Newsletter of the NAS Fort Lauderdale Museum

November – December 2011

Website: [www.nasflmuseum.com](http://www.nasflmuseum.com)

E-mail: [nasftlauderdalemuseum@netscape.com](mailto:nasftlauderdalemuseum@netscape.com)



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**ATTENTION: IT IS TIME FOR 2012 Member DUES**

## September 2011 Luncheon



From left to right: Deputy Donald Prichard, Craig Chapter and Richard Jones

Our September Luncheon was hosted at the Broward Sheriff's Office. Guest Speakers were Donald Prichard and Richard Jones.

Donald Prichard, is the Executive Officer to the Sheriff. He spoke about his experiences as a soldier in the Army during the Iraq Gulf War, and about how he became involved at our Museum.

Richard Jones was in the Navy for 4 years, serving aboard the USS George Washington CVN-73 as a Master at Arms. He then enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the Calvary for 4 more years, and served in Iraq. He is now attending college.

Both Donald Prichard and Richard Jones are members and gracious volunteers of the NASFL Museum.

Photo by Bob Morris

# September Luncheon - Broward Sheriff's Office

Photos by Bob Morris



Donald Prichard, Veronika Thorne & Richard Jones



Helen Landers & Sue Presley



Shirley Uricho, Anthony Atwood & Dorothy Raiser



Karl Bork and Mai with Ron Lowther



David Epstein & George Lord



Craig Chapter, Mr & Mrs McGee & standing is Richard Jones



Mr & Mrs White with R. L. Landers



Prichard, McElhiney, Bradley, Jones & Morris

# November 2011 Luncheon - Fort Lauderdale Yacht Club

Photos by Minerva Bloom



*"Raising the American Flag over the Rhine River"*

March 26, 1945 - Oberwessel / St Goar, on the Rhine River, Germany  
Line drawing by Architect Paul Bradley

Our November Luncheon was hosted at the Fort Lauderdale Yacht Club. We had guests from the Fort Lauderdale Alumnae Panhellenic Association, and also in attendance was the entertaining comedian, actor and TV personality, Robert "Woody" Woodbury— a guest of NASFL Director Karl Bork.

Architect Paul Bradley, a WWII Army veteran donated his latest line drawing which depicts a scene of two Regiments raising the flag: The 353 and 354 of the US Army's 89<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

Our guest Speaker was Capt. Peter Husta, USN Fourth Fleet Liaison Officer at US Southern Command.



Toni Kissel organized the Panhellenic group to attend Luncheon



Woody Woodbury & Karl Bork



The group with Mr. Woodbury, Bob Morris, Mr. Bradley & Allan



Bob Morris, Maddie Husta, Allan & Pete Husta

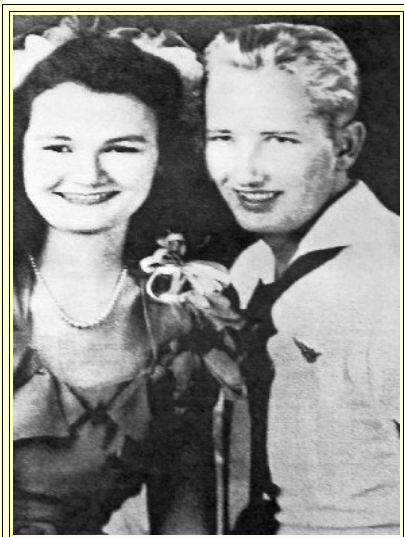


Karl Bork & Mai



Bob Morris, Maddie Husta, Allan, Shirley & Pete Husta

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### ARM3/C George L. Lord, Jr., USNR

Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale - Gunnery Instructor from August 1944 to July 1945. George is pictured at left with his wife "Bubbles" on their wedding day.



VT-41 Insignia

US Navy Anti-submarine Warfare Unit

**George L. Lord, Jr.**, enlisted in the Navy at Springfield Illinois on January 19, 1944— 11 days before his 18th birthday. George went to boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois until about May, at which time he was transferred to Millington, Tennessee for Radar/Radio school. Upon completion, he was transferred to Gunnery School in Miami, Florida. He was given choice for either naval base at Norman Oklahoma, or Miami Florida. George chose Florida as he thought it would be warmer, not knowing he would be working in TBF's. When he completed gunnery school, he was awarded Third Class Petty Officer. Next, he transferred to the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale. While waiting for the next operational school to start, he was assigned to Pilot's torpedo training at this base. As George recalls from his days at NASFL: *"We had small battery carts with a small torpedo under it. We also had a battery operated model ship that was started across a concrete pad where pilots steered the cart and dropped torpedoes to try to hit the ship. Our practice area was attached to the Link Trainer Building, currently the NASFL Museum. After we finished operational training I was offered a position on the Beach-Range target practice, on the thirty-caliber range. We had both .30 and .50 calibers. The 30's were mounted on wooden tripods on the beach sand. The 50's were mounted in turrets on raised stands, also on the beach sand. A TBF would fly out to sea, then turn back west, towing a sleeve target. When the plane passed overhead, the students were to open fire. I recall one time when the cable was shot apart, less than 30 feet behind an airplane. As I remember, the pilot was a little put out about this close call."*

In July 1945, George was transferred to North Island in San Diego, CA, to be part of the *Squadron Xray - VT41*, which was formed of all instructors. He then moved to Oxnard CA, for advanced operational training. In August 1945, he transferred back to North Island to load aboard the USS Ranger for Pearl Harbor. As he recalls: *"The war ended prior to leaving, so we were transferred once more to an old converted Army base at Fort Emery, which the Navy called Coronado Heights. Those of us with enough points for close discharge, were sent to Shore Patrol in the city of Chicago. The others, were sent out to fleet. We rode trains from Chicago in all directions."* On March 3, 1946, he was given his discharge at Great Lakes, Illinois. George currently resides with his wife, in Plantation Florida.



The .50 caliber machine guns were mounted in turrets, the same as on an airplane.



Target practice at the Fort Lauderdale beach. Beach Firing Range with the .30 caliber range machine guns. The pods were mounted on wooden tripods on the beach sand.



Sleeve target hooked to an Avenger. It trailed about 200 feet behind the airplane.

You can also read about George Lord in the Member Spotlight of our website: [nasflmuseum.com/member-spotlight.html](https://nasflmuseum.com/member-spotlight.html)

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Ray Rivera, USNR WWII USS Bunker Hill - Frogman Trainee and Korean Veteran

Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum  
Maintenance Volunteer

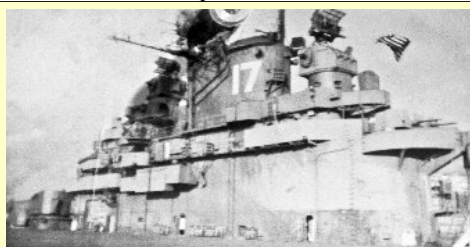
To see more images from Ray's *USS Bunker Hill*  
please check the Member Spotlight on our website:  
[nasflmuseum.com/member-spotlight.html](http://nasflmuseum.com/member-spotlight.html)



Ray Rivera at the NASFL Museum

**Ray Rivera** was born in Bronx, New York. As part of his ancestry of seafaring peoples from the French region of Corsica, it was perhaps that Ray was interested in the Navy ever since he can remember. At 13, he joined the group *American Blue Jackets* as a way to prepare for a career in the Navy. At 16, he was finally a member of the US Navy and on his way to the South Pacific on the *USS Bunker Hill*— where he celebrated his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. He became a 2<sup>nd</sup> class Petty Officer. Ray recalls that he was aboard the aircraft carrier on May 1945, when it got attacked by Japanese kamikaze pilots. He was below deck on his way to the galley, when the first plane hit the ship. He was immediately assigned to “*damage control.*” The fires raged on deck, and heavy smoke infiltrated into the decks below, killing many men. The crew of the *Bunker Hill* suffered from the loss of 346 sailors and airmen killed, 43 more missing (and never found), and 264 wounded. The damaged ship returned to Pearl Harbor, and then onto Bremerton WA, for repairs. When the war ended, the *Bunker Hill* became a “*Magic Carpet*” taking troops back and forth, throughout the South Pacific. Ray then got transferred to Little Creek VA, to become part of the Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT), also known as Frogmen. The UDT were an elite special-purpose force established by the United States Navy during World War II. Their primary function was to reconnoiter and destroy enemy defensive obstacles on beaches prior to amphibious landings. They were the precursor to the present-day SEALs.

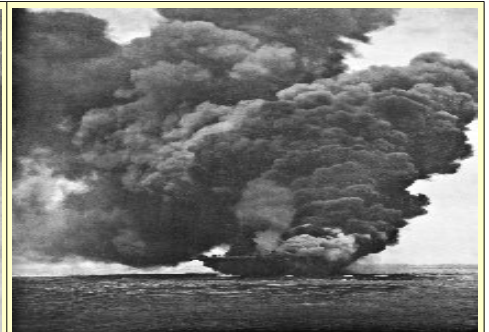
Ray was discharged from the Navy in 1947 and joined the reserves. In 1950 when the Korean war started, he was called to active duty. He was assigned to the *USS Grand Canyon AD-28*, a destroyer tender (a ship designed to provide maintenance support to a flotilla of destroyers or other small warships). He was also on a tour of duty in the Mediterranean. Ray was awarded several medals: American Defense, Asiatic-Pacific-Campaign two battle stars, Victory medal, Liberation of Philippines, the Presidential Unit citation, as well as other Korean ribbons. Ray got discharged in 1953, and moved to Florida. He then joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and became Commander for 9 years; then District Commander for 2 ½ years in Hialeah, FL. Ray is married to Alice and they both live in Pembroke Pines. They have three children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Ray Rivera has been one of the most active members and helpful volunteers of the NASFL Museum since 2006.



*USS Bunker Hill* was one of 24 *Essex*-class aircraft carriers built during WWII for the US Navy. She was commissioned in May 1943, and served in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater of Operations, earning eleven battle stars and a Presidential Unit Citation. The ship was named for the *Battle of Bunker Hill*. It was the second US Navy ship to bear the name.



Smoke rising from the attack, resembling a dragon's head. The ship became one of the most heavily damaged carriers to survive the war.



During the remaining months of WWII, the ship fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima; the 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet raids against Honshū, the Nansei Shoto and the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleet raids in support of the Battle of Okinawa.

*"Our citizens can now rejoice that a momentous victory is in the making. Perhaps we will be forgiven if we claim we are about midway to our objective." —Admiral Chester Nimitz – June 1942*

## MUSEUM NEWS

Lots of important and interesting things have happened at the Museum since our last Newsletter!

### NAS FORT LAUDERDALE WWII - CITY HALL EXHIBIT

The Museum has an annual exhibition at City Hall, in the month of November: *"History of NAS Fort Lauderdale during and after WWII."* The Museum exhibited 9 large poster boards, a display of mannequins dressed in WWII regalia, and vintage flags. Brochures & cards were available. Many people commented on how interesting the exhibit was. Thank you to Vince Schiano from City Hall and to Donald Prichard for their assistance! You can now see the boards at our Museum.

*Exhibit prepared by Allan McElhiney & Minerva Bloom*



Our **Open House** on Sunday 4 December, was a success! Thank you to all that attended. We tried to include everyone in the area, but some of your e-mails or addresses came back. Please, [write to us](#) and update your contacts. See ya next year!

## OUR THANKS TO

- Thank you to Mrs. Veronika Thorne for the donation of her husband's medals (George Thorne) to the Museum.
- To John Casey for fixing the air conditioner in the main Exhibit room.
- To Broward County Aviation Director of Maintenance, Robert Pence.
- To Broward County Aviation Department: thank you, our fire sprinkler system is now operational.
- To Frank Dailey, for especially flying from Georgia to be one of our Speakers at the Flight19 Ceremony.
- To Mr. John Ray Jr, from [Sonitrol Security Systems](#) for donating and installing the alarm system.

## 66<sup>th</sup> FLIGHT 19 MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On 5 December, 2011 the **66<sup>th</sup> Flight 19 Memorial** Ceremony was conducted this year, at the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum Building. The ceremony is a tribute to the 95 servicemen who died while training at NASFL, including those of Flight 19 and NAS Banana River. About 130 people attended, including Jack Seiler Mayor of Fort Lauderdale, Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti with several of his officers, Donald Prichard Executive Officer to the Sheriff, County Commissioner Chip LaMarca, Ismael Bonilla Deputy Director of Broward County Aviation, Jim Naugle former Mayor of Fort Lauderdale, Chief Warrant Anthony Atwood USNR and Capt. Peter Husta USN 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet Liaison Officer at US Southern Command.

Also in attendance were Captain Frank Dailey, Chaplain Jay Walrond, Mike McGee NASFL Director, Navy League President Commander Tom Melville USN (ret), Sgt. Major Don Bennett USMC (ret) with his Stranahan High School MJROTC Color Guard, Jahida Jorganes vocalist, Bugler Robert Young, Florist Jay Walsh, WWII Veterans such as Johnny Johnson, George Lord, William Warneke and Jack Bellow, as well as Veterans from other wars and members of the Press.



Bugler Robert Young calling the Assembly



Mayor Jack Seiler



Commissioner Chip La Marca



Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti



Ismael Bonilla, Deputy Director of Broward County Aviation



Donald Prichard Executive Officer to the Sheriff



Presentation of Colors Stranahan High School MJROTC Color Guard



Sgt. Major Don Bennett USMC (ret) with his Stranahan High School MJROTC Color Guard



Colleen Lockwood Major Gifts Officer, FL Sheriffs Youth Ranches



Left: Angela Piraino with the Ceremony's singer Jahida Jorganes



Left: Merchant Marines historian with WWII NASFL Personnel: Jack Bellow & George Lord

Photos by Minerva Bloom

Our thanks to Ken Kay from the Sun-Sentinel for his news article, which helped with a large turnout. Thank you all for attending, in remembrance of the brave men and women who have served in the defense of our beloved United States of America. May their sacrifice be always remembered. Click on the icons below, to view video or articles from the press.





## 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PIONEER DAY EVENT

On 3 December 2011, Allan McElhiney was inducted as a *Broward County Pioneer* by the Broward County Historical Commission. Allan, who is President and founder of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum still holds the visionary spirit of preservation. It was because of his efforts that this Museum was established. By doing so, he safeguarded an important piece of our past, to allow us to take a close and personal look at Broward County's history. Pioneers leave a legacy for us to remember and cherish. Congressman Allen B. West sent McElhiney a personal letter with his regards and congratulations.



Broward County Commissioner Chip La Marca and Commissioner Bloom with Allan

**CONGRATULATIONS ALLAN!**

### LT. DAVID WHITE INTERVIEWED BY BBC RADIO



You can [Download this episode \(mp3\)](#)  
or go to the *Witness Series* website at:  
[www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/witness](http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/witness)

David White was interviewed by Louise Hidalgo from the BBC World Service. She is Senior Producer for the Series *Witness*, a radio program.

Lieutenant White, a Senior Flight Instructor at NASFL during WWII, talks about his experience with the search for Flight 19.

## Flight 19 Documentary in the Works

A *Flight 19* Documentary is in the works: Ron Lowther, Audio, Video and Production technician for the Broward Sheriff's Office, who is also CEO, Producer & Director of Photography at [Flying Lobster Productions](#), said he will donate a documentary for a future interactive exhibit at the Museum. We are truly honored since Ron is an award winning Documentary Producer. Thank you Ron!

### LIST OF THINGS WE NEED

- We need help sanding and re-painting the outside railings of the Museum building.
- We still need volunteers to help finish the carpet installation. We have the materials.
- Restoration of the Guard House. A professional carpenter wants to volunteer. We need someone to help him.
- If you can volunteer contact the Museum: (954)359-4400 or e-mail: [nasft.lauderdalemuseum@netscape.com](mailto:nasft.lauderdalemuseum@netscape.com)

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*Honorary Members:*

Broward Sheriff **Al Lamberti**, Broward County Commissioner **Chip LaMarca** and Sgt. Major **Don Bennett** USMC (ret)

Thank you to member **David Epstein** for signing two new members for 2012: **Richard Montague** and **Irving Friedman**

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### A VISIT FROM MIKE GRADY from the FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE MUSEUM

Mike Grady came over to the NASFL Museum, with a sparkling, vintage red 1942 Pirsch Engine Pumper. Mike is a firefighter, historian, restorer and trustee at the Fort Lauderdale Fire Museum— an historical landmark which was established in 1927. This historic building, formerly home to the Fort Lauderdale Fire Station No. 3, has been restored to it's 1927 ambiance. The museum showcases the history, tradition, and service of the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department and its heroes. In addition to Saturday hours, tours are available on weekdays upon request. Admission is free. Donations are always welcome. To learn more about this Fire Museum and their amazing, restored engines and exhibits, please visit their interactive website at: [www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org](http://www.fortlauderdalefiremuseum.org)



1942 Pirsch Engine Pumper with WWII torpedoes.



Mike Grady aboard the vintage Pirsch fire truck.

## New Gifts from our Online Gift Shop



Choose your style, color & size!



100% quality guaranteed!



Customize with message in back!



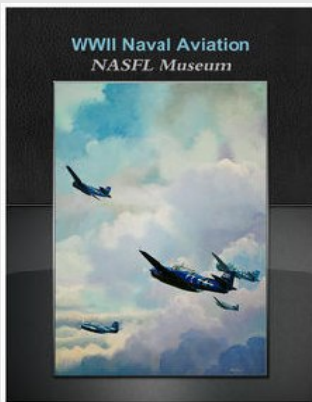
Men, Women & Kids Sizes!

**AS REQUESTED:** We added more [T-shirt designs](#) & the NASFL *Ensign George H.W. Bush* cartoon. Fully customizable!

Visit the NASFL Museum Giftshop: [zazzle.com/nasfortlauderdale](http://zazzle.com/nasfortlauderdale)

For our New Photo Calendars visit: [lulu.com/spotlight/nasflmuseum](http://lulu.com/spotlight/nasflmuseum)

**All proceeds benefit the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum**



**New! DELUXE EDITION** ([Click here to Buy](#))

**WWII Naval Aviation 2012 Calendar**

Premium Large 2012 Calendar (12 months). With 24 color and B&W images from WWII, with descriptions. Great gift for history buffs!



**New! Standard Calendar** ([Click here to Buy](#))

**WWII Naval Aviation 2012 Calendar**

Standard size 2012 Calendar (12 months). With 24 color and B&W images from WWII, with descriptions. Great gift for aviation aficionados!

## PHOTO GALLERY



Members of the Fort Lauderdale Alumnae Panhellenic Association



Theresa Jones from Tennessee, on a visit with Allan McElhiney



Members of the Fort Lauderdale Alumnae Panhellenic Association



Master Carpenter Joseph, his wife Judith, & their children visited with Allan. Check out their Blog which celebrates their [family's life journey](#).



Captain Peter Husta and his wife Maddie



Bob Morris, Captain Peter Husta, Maddie & Colonel Virginia Montalvo

**Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum**

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