

The Cryer



The Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum reunion included a ceremonial groundbreaking on Saturday, September 18th, that also kicked off the museum's capital campaign. Doing the honors were right to left: Sean Liedman, Retired Navy Captain and Museum board president; Retired Admiral Bill Moran, former Vice Chief of Naval Operations and museum capital campaign co-chair; Jim Howard, local community developer and capital campaign co-chair; William Locke, retired Commander and P-2 Neptune pilot with VP-21 and museum board member; Suzanne Bushnell, long-time caretaker for the Memorial Gardens and past-President of the Harpswell Garden Club; John Briley, Past President of the museum board and current Executive Director. [Rick Barletta Photo]

A Day to Remember by Charles Crosby



Brunswick Police Department officers posted the colors. [Charles Crosby Photo]

On Saturday, September 11 it was sunny, with bright blue skies just like I remember it was two decades ago when our freedom was attacked and a national tragedy unfolded before the eyes of millions of Americans. To remember the souls lost that day the Brunswick Downtown Association (BDA) teamed up with the George T. Files American Legion Post 20 to mark the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 with a remembrance ceremony at 10

a.m. followed by live music, food, and an opportunity to visit with fellow community members. Local First Responders including fire fighters, police officers, and health care providers attended the ceremony and were welcomed by Jim Oikle, Post 20 member to the Brunswick Mall ceremony. The Brunswick Police Department posted the colors followed by the National Anthem sung by Post member Armand LaRoche. **Cont. on pages 28**

Large Navy Reunion and Ground Breaking Kicks-Off the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum Capital Campaign by John James

BRUNSWICK, ME - The 10th anniversary of the closing of the former Naval Air Station Brunswick was celebrated on September 18th by over 820 former flight crew members and other guests attending a large reunion honoring the legacy of the squadrons and aircrews that flew from the base for seven decades. The two-day reunion included a ground-breaking ceremony for the new Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum, which will soon feature interactive exhibits, exciting multi-media presentations and important aircraft artifacts that preserve the history of submarine-hunting and maritime patrol and reconnaissance world-wide.



The active-duty crew of Patrol Squadron 8 that flew up from NAS Jacksonville to honor their fallen squadron mates. Retired Senior Chief Ed Rohr, third from right, joined in. [Rick Barletta Photo]

On Friday, September 17th, over 400 people attended the dedication of the P-3 "Orion" located on Admiral Fitch Avenue aboard Brunswick Landing. It was recently-painted in the exact colors and markings of the Patrol Squadron 8 (VP-8) aircraft that crashed in Poland Spring on September 22, 1978 with eight crewmen aboard. Fifteen active-duty personnel from VP-8 flew up from NAS Jacksonville in a new P-8 "Poseidon" and participated in the dedication ceremony.

The familiar, quiet, humming sound of the four-engine P-3 "Orion" patrol plane was heard over Maine, perhaps for the last time, as one of the last seven operational P-3 aircraft in the U.S. Navy made a historic visit to one of its former home bases. Flown by Patrol Squadron 62 (VP-62) from NAS Jacksonville, it has been used for submarine-hunting, reconnaissance and surveillance. The remaining P-3 aircraft will be completely retired in 2022.

On Saturday afternoon, September 18th, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to kick-off construction for the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum's new

glass façade and entrance. It also marked the beginning of the public portion of the museum's \$3.3 million capital campaign that will create the exhibits, install large artifacts, including a full-sized P-3 "Orion" aircraft cockpit and three sections of the Berlin Wall, new heating and air conditioning, handicapped bathrooms, new electrical service and fire sprinkler systems.

Reunion attendees were still gathering to remember old times on Sunday and everyone is eager to return for the "2023 Reunion" at the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum.

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Friday's dedication of the P-3 on Admiral Fitch Avenue, newly painted in the colors and markings of the Patrol Squadron 8 (VP-8) aircraft that crashed in Poland Spring on September 22, 1978, claimed the lives of eight aircrew. [Rick Barletta Photo]

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Large Navy Reunion and Ground Breaking Kicks-Off the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum Capital Campaign

Photos by Rick Barletta

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Mr. Jack Holder, 99, was a flight engineer with Patrol Squadron 23 (VP-23) when its PBY "Catalina" amphibious seaplanes were attacked at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He went on to serve in the WWII Pacific Campaign, earning two Distinguished Flying Crosses and nine Air Medals. VP-23 later moved to NAS Brunswick in 1952 and was dis-established in 1995. Mr. Holder gave two moving and fascinating presentations on Saturday to hundreds of reunion attendees and held book signings all weekend. [Rick Barletta Photo]



One of the last three submarine-hunting P-3 "Orions" on the east coast, belonging to Patrol Squadron SIXTY-TWO (VP-62), arrives from NAS Jacksonville, Florida on Friday. Four similar aircraft are in a west coast squadron. All seven will be retired in the next 24 months. [Rick Barletta Photo]



Jack Holder walked out in front of NAS Brunswick's old Air Operations building and tower to watch the historic arrival of the last P-3 "Orion" to fly into Brunswick Landing on Friday afternoon. [Rick Barletta Photo]



Retired four-star Admiral Bill Moran, the former Vice Chief of Naval Operations, spoke to reunion attendees after the Lobster Bake Banquet on many topics of interest, including his first flying tour in P-3's in Brunswick in the mid-1980's. [Rick Barletta Photo]



Alumni from Patrol Squadron 8 (VP-8) from around the country include photographer Rick Barletta of Florida (fourth from right) and Brunswick residents John and Pauline Gallagher (center couple). [Rick Barletta Photo]



The reunion included a Lobster Bake Banquet on Saturday evening that served a banquet meal for 577 reunion diners. Many retirees wore flight suits, and several well-known maritime patrol community speakers kept everyone entertained with sea stories. [Rick Barletta Photo]



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Large Navy Reunion and Ground Breaking Kicks-Off the Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum Capital Campaign

Captions by John James

Continued from page 18



Jen and Nick Charboneau, owners of Cooks Lobster & Ale House on Baily Island, were invited up to the stage by museum board President Sean Liedman (right) for a huge round of applause. They served a record 577 banquet dinners in 45 minutes (including more than 700 pounds of lobster!) and were invited back for the 2023 reunion. [Rick Barletta Photo]



The familiar, quiet, humming sound of the four-engine P-3 "Orion" patrol plane was heard over Maine, perhaps for the last time, as one of the last seven operational P-3 "Orion" aircraft in the U.S. Navy made a historic visit to one of its former home bases. [Rick Barletta Photo]

Museum exhibit architect Jay Paulus of the Paulus Design Group, gives a presentation outlining his firm's exhibit design process. They have designed three exhibits for the Smithsonian Institution, the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum and the Mercedes Benz auto museum in Stuttgart, Germany. He has been working with the BNAM board of directors for over year. [M. James Photo]



This is an inside view, looking forward, of one of the last P-3 "Orions" in the U.S. Navy. The sights, sounds and smells were familiar to many reunion retirees as it brought back memories from their experiences deploying overseas for months at a time. [Rick Barletta Photo]



This picture of Patrol Squadron 62's P-3 "Orion" cockpit looks like the aircraft is in good condition. It is, especially when you consider that it came off Lockheed's production line and entered service in December of 1977, making the aircraft 44 years old. It has had several updates, new wings and service life extensions. [Rick Barletta Photo]



Immediately following the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Brunswick Naval Aviation Museum, capital campaign co-chairs Jim Howard (checked shirt) and Admiral Bill Moran congratulate each other. Board president Sean Liedman thanks others in the background. Fundraising and front entrance construction will begin soon. [Rick Barletta Photo]

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