

# The 2022 VP-45 Association Reunion

Jacksonville, Florida 17 – 21 August, 2022

The Reunion Story in  
Photographs

# Our Headquarters: Double Tree by Hilton Riverfront Hotel



The Official 2022 Reunion Logo is below.



During the development of the official logo, these other two alternative designs above were created...and used in some of the videos shown during the reunion.

Beautiful downtown Jacksonville viewed from our hotel



Photography by Bill Hobgood and other  
VP-45 Association members.



*Once upon a time there was this great squadron and they had reunions. They ate, drank and had lots of fun telling lies about how wonderful they use to be. Life was good!*



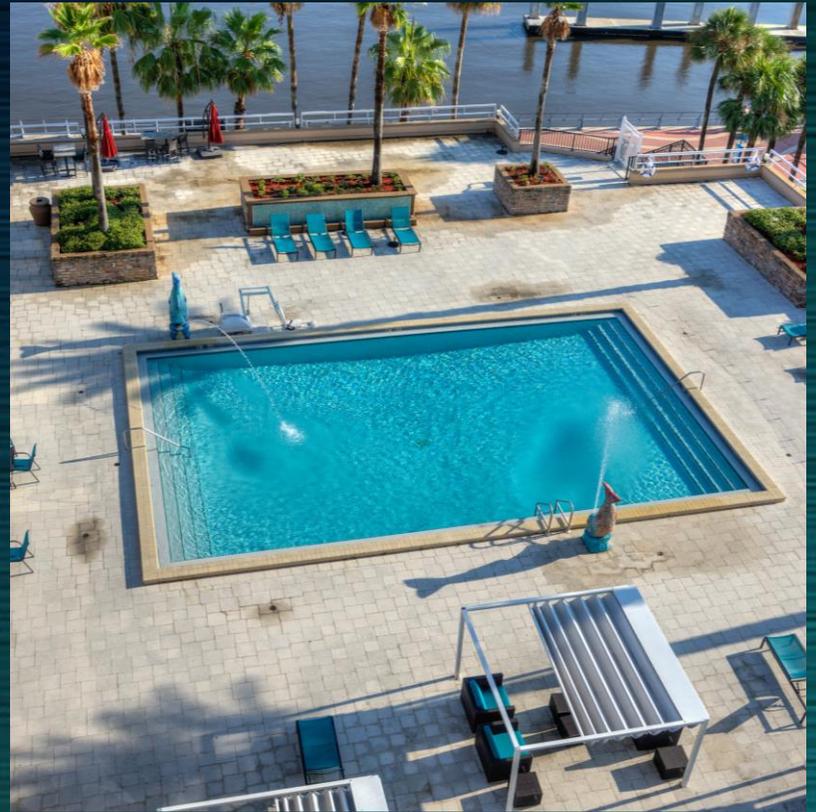


WHAT JOE JUST SAID, THAT NEVER HAPPENED!

HE'S A LEGEND IN HIS OWN MIND.

*"A wonderful bird is the pelican. His beak can hold more than his belly can. He can hold in his beak enough food for a week. But I'll be damned if I can see how the helican."*





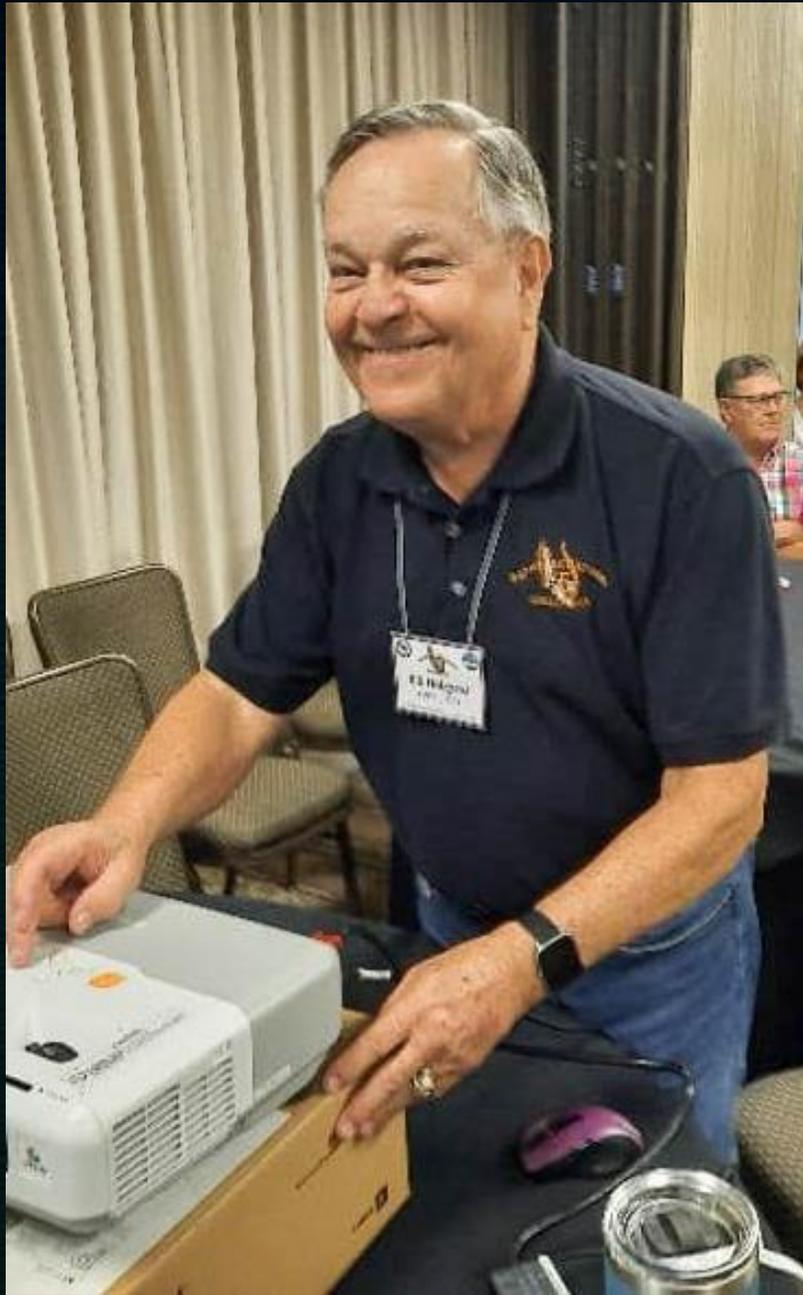






Some of the tours were cancelled due to COVID but that didn't eliminate lots of smiles and good times!







Members and guests gathered in the ballroom to prepare for dining.









Ken Gold (right) flew VP-45 seaplanes in the 50s. He is one of our oldest and longest members.

The current squadron XO and bride are bottom right.







Skipper Bruner with Doug Mitchell



After dinner there were numerous recognitions including the oldest and youngest attendees: CAPT Sam Hembree and a young sailor from the squadron.





Bill Hobgood presented Doug Mitchell, the outgoing President, a framed certificate outlining his 30+ year Navy career.



At each reunion, we take group pictures of our members attending from each decade. Until recently, we had members from the 1940s who were able to make it...alas, no more.



Here, on the right are our four attending members from the 1950s. From left to right we have:

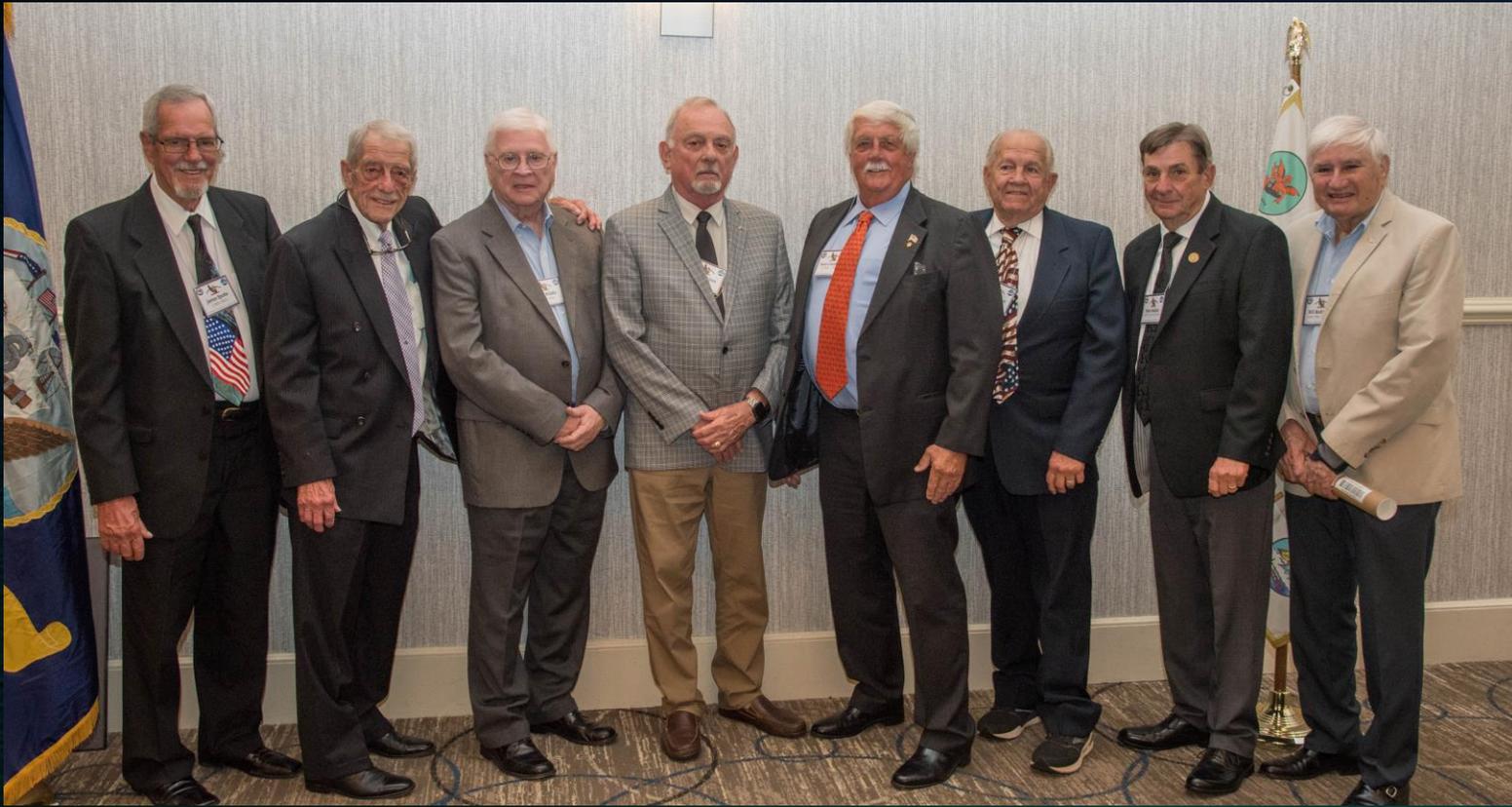
Jay Thomas (One of our founding members - Aircrew)

Sam Hembree (Pilot)

Ken Gold (Aircrew)

Charley Caldwell (Pilot)





Above, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left are PJ Imhof and Steve Riddle. Both served over ten years as Association officers. PJ as Treasurer and Steve as the first WebMaster.

The 1960s! The last decade of the Seaplane and the first of the venerable P-3A Orion.





Attending members from  
the great decade of the  
1970s!  
These people did the disco!





Our members from the 1980s had big shoes to fill after the previous decade. And do so, they did!

Their reunion attendance numbers are starting to compete well with the 1970's Pelicans.





Membership beyond the 1980s is something we are working on. Here (above) we have attendees from the 1990s and (right) our sole attending 2010s member, CAPT T. J. "Catfish" Grady, USN (ret); former VP-45 CO.

We are always thrilled when the active squadron can participate in our reunions.

This year the Skipper and XO both came and brought with them a lively group of officers and sailors.

