

Whiting Tower

Seventy-two Years of Aviation Training News

Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Milton, Fla.
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Forging Wings for the Fleet
May 25, 2016

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Gold Star Widow of Vietnam War Helicopter Pilot Recognized at NASWF South Field



Carolyn Suhr, wife of Lt. j.g. Alfred Suhr receives Gold Star Award and is presented with a flag by Retired Navy Captain and former Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Dick Catone. U.S. Navy Photo by Jay Cope

By: Jay Cope, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

A 46 year-old honor was finally bestowed Wednesday, May 18 to the widow of a Vietnam War helicopter pilot by members of the squadron with which he served. The Seawolves Association, a group of Vietnam-era helicopter pilots, presented the Gold Star to Carolyn Suhr, wife of Lt. j.g. Alfred Suhr, in the Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT wardroom to honor the sacrifices of her and her family following his death in Vietnam. The Gold Star tradition originated during World War I when homes, businesses and schools hung white banners bordered in red with a blue star for each active service member and a gold star for each service member who passed away during the conflict. The tradition has continued through WWII, Korea and on through today, and has been formalized with the military presenting gold stars to the family members to pay tribute to their sacrifice and honor the fallen heroes. Bud Barnes, the Seawolves president, worked with the Commander Navy Region Southeast Gold Star Coordinator Rufus Bundrige to arrange for the presentation materials

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Cover Photo: NAS Whiting Field Security Dept member fires at the base firing range last week as part of regular training as part of required firearms qualification. U.S. Navy photo by Jamie Link

The Whiting Tower

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Military Appreciation Picnic held onboard NAS Whiting Field May 13

By: Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs

The air was filled with the joyous squeals of children and the mouth-watering smells of tasty treats onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field as Santa Rosa County community sponsored it's annual Military Appreciation Picnic on May 13.

Over 1,000 participants attended the picnic that included active duty, reservist, military dependents, DOD civilians and contractors. The community hosted the event as part of their Military Appreciation Month festivities.

Tracy Allen, The Military Appreciation Month Coordinator thinks it is vital to hold events like these, "We appreciate what they do every day for us, when you think about what they do on a daily basis, I don't think they get told thank you enough."

This year's picnic featured a human gyroscope ride

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U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine Issues Current Zika Virus Infection Guidance

By: U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (NNS) -- Navy Medicine released Zika Virus Infection guidance in NAVADMIN 032/16, Feb. 10, communicating force health protection measures and travel precautions to Navy and Marine Corps personnel

"Our first priority is to ensure we offer the best possible care to any Navy Medicine patient in the safest way possible," said Cmdr. Eric Deussing, head, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) public health, emergency preparedness and response.

BUMED has instructed Navy Medicine providers to follow guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In addition, Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center issued an information sheet and trifold pamphlet on their public website for Navy and Marine Corps personnel.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and collaborating with our public health partners to protect our patients and our communities," said Deussing.

Zika is a viral infection spread by mosquitoes.



U.S. Navy PhotoFile

The virus is spread by a bite from an infected mosquito or possibly by a mother to her fetus during pregnancy. According to the CDC, spread of the virus through blood transfusion and sexual contact has also been reported. Typical symptoms include fever, conjunctivitis, muscle pain, rash, headache, and joint pain.

Recently, Zika virus infections in pregnant women have been linked to infants born with birth defects. Zika virus transmission is predominantly occurring in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Navy and Marine Corps personnel are at risk when

- (Cont. on Page 8)

This Day in Naval History

May 25

1985 - USS Alabama (SN 731) is commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London, Conn.

May 26

1952 - The feasibility of the angled-deck concept is demonstrated in tests conducted on a simulated deck by Naval Air Test Center and Atlantic Fleet pilots using both jet and prop aircraft on board USS Midway (CVB 41).

May 27

1995 - USS Paul Hamilton (DDG 60) is commissioned at Charleston, S.C. before sailing to her homeport of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Paul Hamilton, named for the third Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton, is the 10th in a class of ship that continues to serve the fleet.

May 30

1864 - During the Civil War, the side-wheel steamship USS Keystone State and the iron screw steamship USS Massachusetts capture British blockade-runner Caledonia south of Cape Fear, N.C.

May 31

1919 - Curtiss flying boat NC 4 lands at Plymouth, England, concluding the first transatlantic flight.

Angled flight deck-1952

Allows simultaneous launch and recovery operations



USS Midway
CVB 41



USS Antietam
CVA 36

First angled-deck mock up

America's first angled-deck carrier

A new beginning for ships, A new era for efficiency and a day in history

Angled flight decks allow simultaneous launch and recovery operations as the USS Midway demonstrated tests for the angled deck in 1952. U.S. Navy file graphic

Gold Star award widow recognized

- (Cont. from Page 2)

and coordinated the event to coincide with Carolyn's trip to Pensacola, Fla. to visit her daughters. He also asked for volunteers from the squadron to make the trip in honor of their shipmate's memory. Former Navy Seawolf aviators Bill Barnes, Dick Catone, Richard Barr, John Mann, C. M.

"Pete" Peterson and Mike Louy attended in addition to Bud after more than 45 years, Carolyn just appreciated that Suhr's service was not forgotten.

"It was thrilling that so many people cared enough to come out," she said. "He loved flying and if he had to go, at least he died doing what he loved. I miss him still, and I am so very thankful that people remember him."

The Seawolves, Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron THREE, is the most decorated squadron in Naval aviation history, accumulating more than 120,000 sorties in support of the Vietnam War "Brown Water" Navy. The all-volunteer gunship squadron primarily provided close air support to riverine craft patrolling the rivers of the Mekong Delta including Navy Special Warfare operations. The unit was also regularly called on to perform medical evacuations.

The achievements came at a heavy cost though, with 44 members' ultimate sacrifice memorialized on a bronze plaque at Patriot's Point in Charleston, S.C. By the decommissioning of the unit in 1972, HAL-3 had earned Presidential Unit Citations for (Extraordinary Heroism), six Navy Unit Citations, two Detachments received the Merito-

Picnic

- (Cont. from Page 2)

the Cow-Tow ride, a wood working craft, prize give-a-ways, corn hole games, toss and checker games, food and bounce houses.

Cmdr. Mark Nagel of VT-3 and his daughter Sierra Nagel (6) recalled attending the base picnics in the years past and were glad to be a part of this year's event as well.

"My favorite part so far is the cow ride, this has been lots of fun," Sierra said, as she enjoyed a snow cone with her sister Mina.

The picnic featured the entertaining sounds of local favorite, musical duo Segars and Shumate which played a wide range of music from classic rock to contemporary country music like songs from Tom Petty, Jimi Hendrix and Otis Redding.

"This is a great event and our first time we've been to the picnic. I'm glad we decided to come, and glad there's stuff for the kids to play on and do, we missed not being able to come last year," said parent Gina Gonzalez.

rious Unit Citations, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (MUC) Palm, the Vietnam Civil Action (Honor) with Palm, and several of the detachments received the Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation.

Only a few of the members had met Suhr. Bud Barnes, though, arrived in theater with him but the two officers were sent to different detachments. Catone served in a collocated detachment at the time of the fatal mortar attack. However, all the attending Seawolves were familiar with the events surrounding Suhr's loss.

"I knew Al Suhr as we arrived in the squadron at Vung Tau the same week in March 1969. We rode the same helicopter from Vung Tau to Dong Tam, where Al deplaned for Det-6. The only difference between a lot of us was two minutes or two inches," Bud stated, emphasizing the dividing line between living and dying during the war.

Suhr had only been with the squadron for two weeks when the Dong Tam Base, south of Saigon, where he was stationed was attacked March 26, 1969. He had scrambled to his helicopter when the ammunition depot was struck with a mortar round. According to news reports, the attack blew up more than 500 tons of ammunition, and the resulting explosion damaged the aircraft and sent it crashing into the ground.

A native of Mexico, Mo. and a graduate of the University of Missouri on a NROTC scholarship, Suhr was in Naval Cadet training in Pensacola when he first met Carolyn around Easter in 1966. They sang in the church choir together and were married Dec. 31, 1966 – just three days



The annual Military Appreciation Picnic was held May 13 in conjunction with Military Appreciation Month. NAS Whiting Field Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau and event coordinator Tracy Allen address the crowd with a word of thanks. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link

Military Appreciation Picnic held onboard NAS Whiting Field

- (Cont. from Page 4)

The majority of the activities, resources and food were provided by The Santa Rosa County community and made the picnic a success. Vendors from across the county contributed to the event's success including: Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff's Office, Boogie Inc., Buffalo Rock, Event Designs, Pensacola Tent Rental, Henry Company Homes, Whataburger, Southern Sno, Firehouse Subs, Chick-Fil-A, Sweet Season Farms, Emerald Coast Hospice, Navy League Santa Rosa Council, Santa Rosa Medical Center, Hall's Hardware, and Walmart Supercenter.

The annual appreciation picnic was cancelled last year due to a Navy-wide increase in security posture, and both the Chamber and the NAS Community were excited to renew this long-standing tradition.

"The Northwest Florida and Southeast Alabama communities support the military more than any other community I've experienced and we're proud to serve in this area of the country," Commanding Officer Capt. Todd Bahlau said.



The annual Military Appreciation Picnic was held May 13 in conjunction with Military Appreciation Month. Derrick (11 years old) enjoys a ride while Lenny Nordman operates the controls. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.



Games, Food, bounce houses and giveaways were among the many activities where more than 1,000 base personnel came out to part take in the Annual Military Appreciation Picnic. The event was sponsored by the local community of Santa Rosa County. U.S. Navy Photo by Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.



Important Base Message

Memorial Weekend Utility Outages

Utility outages are scheduled for holiday weekends to affect as few people as possible. There are two scheduled outages planned to accommodate various repairs of our utility systems during the Memorial Holiday weekend.

- There will be a water outage on **Saturday 28 May from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Buildings 2975, 2994, 3005 and 3125** to enable fire hydrant repairs.

- There will also be a base-wide power outage on **Sunday 29 May from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.** in order to perform energy security enhancements. During the electrical outage, you **MUST** call 911 to report emergencies such as fire alarms.

Thanks for your understanding.

News & Notes

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

The ASIST workshop will be held from June 14-15 in NAS-WF Chapel. This training is for anyone who wants to feel more comfortable, confident and competent in helping to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Participation is required for both full days. To RSVP, call 850-623-7211 prior to June 9.

Free School-Age Camp

Ebonwood Community Center, operated by Santa Rosa County, will be holding a FREE camp for school-age kids M-F from May 31 through August 5. The camp will run from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Michael C. Harbison is a Firefighter at NAS Corpus Christi. He is under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program and is in urgent need of annual leave donations. If anyone wishes to donate annual leave, fill out the following forms:

OPM 630-A Inside Agency (DON)

OPM 630-B Outside Agency (Other than DON)

You may fax completed forms along with your most recent LES to CNIC SLDCADA at 1-855-615-2310. If you have any questions, contact Kathleen McGuire at 305-293-2783.

NAS Whiting Field Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is open from 2 May until 1 October. Pool hours are as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Updated Zika Information

The below links will lead you to the updated Navy Zika info sheet and trifold for Sailors, Marines and their families:

Info sheet:

<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Documents/program-and-policy-support/Navy-Zika-InfoSheet.pdf>

Trifold:

<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Documents/program-and-policy-support/Navy-Zika-Trifold.pdf>

Transition, Goal, Plans Success Workshop

Transition Goals, Plans, Success (GPS) is the Navy's transition program - redesigned to ensure you and your family are better prepared for your transition from military to civilian life. Workshop will be held 13-17 June, from 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day. Contact NCC Thurman Winkler at 850-623-7761 or thurman.l.winkler1@navy.mil.

Pace Patriot Pride Crossfit Murph Hero WOD

On Saturday, May 28 at 7 a.m. Pace Patriot Pride Crossfit will hold their annual Murph Hero WOD (Workout of the Day) to honor Lt. Michael P. Murphy. We are an official host and have invited any interested community members to join us. Participation will cost \$10. To learn more about



NAS Whiting Field Fire Dept presents a custom built flag from retired fire hoses to the NAS Whiting Field Security Dept. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Benjamin Ziemski, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

the event and the Foundation you can go to the official website at: <http://themurphchallenge.com/>. For more information, please call 360-929-0603.

Georgia Aquarium

For a limited time, FREE General Admission each Monday for active military members. Discount tickets for family members, retirees, & DoD available at the MWR Community Recreation Ticket Office 850-665-6250.

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band will perform a benefit concert on June 18, 2016 at 8:30 pm at Pemberton Place, located between Georgia Aquarium and World of Coca-Cola. Gates open at 6:30 pm. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Big Kahuna's Water Park

Big Kahuna's Water Park Destin tickets available at MWR Ticket & Travel office. Adults \$35.75 and under 4' \$30.50. Opens May 14. Call 850-665-6250 for more information.

Carnival Cruise Line Military Appreciation Mo.

Great Military rates, \$25 non-refundable onboard credit per person, \$50 non-refundable onboard credit per stateroom and 2 category upgrade AND, bring up to two additional cabins at the same Military rates (extra cabins must sail on the same sailing as military guest). Booking window: May 2 - May 31. Sailing window is Aug. 1, 2016 - Apr. 30, 2018.

50% Off Busch Gardens for Veterans

Waves of Honor SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment is offering 50% off regular ticket prices through May 31, 2016 at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. Includes active, retired, and honorably separated servicemembers. Limited to 6 per.

Whiting Field News

Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN Receives CNATRA Training Excellence Awards

By: Jamie Link, NAS Whiting Field, Public Affairs Office

Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHTEEN received the 2015 CNATRA Training Excellence Unit Award for Advanced Squadron and Flight Instructor of the year, presented by Chief of Naval Air Training Rear Adm. Dell Bull at National Museum of Naval Aviation on May 5.

HT-18 Commanding Officer Cmdr. Brian Sanderson emphasized that receiving the awards served as a testament to the hard work and dedication among the instructors and civilian employees of The Vigilant Eagles.

"They are the center of gravity of a great organization and have a vested interest in taking that raw material and forging it into a professional officer and aviator that is prepared to meet the challenges that await them in the fleet. I am very proud of all of them," Sanderson said. During the timeframe of eligibility, The Vigilant Eagles accomplished 25,493 total flight hours flown with 13,103 sorties flown with no class A or class B mishaps.

Class A mishaps are those with total damages amounting to \$1,000,000 or greater in which an aircraft is destroyed or missing. Class B mishaps have a total cost of \$200,000 or more, but less than \$1,000,000 with possible permanent-partial disability and/or the hospitalization of five or more personnel.

The second award (an individual award) earned from HT-18 was the Flight Instructor of the year. Lt. Richard D. Hill III, assigned to The Vigilant Eagles, received the CNATRA Flight Instructor of the year for top flight instructor in the Naval Air Training command (NATRACOM). Hill has since returned to the Fleet with HSC-3, NAS North Island, CA.

According to CNATRA, selection is based on all-around performance and effectiveness as an instructor, contributions to safety, leadership, strength



HT-18 receives award at The National Museum of Naval Aviation on May 5. The Vigilant Eagles were presented the CNATRA Training Excellence Unit Award for Advanced Squadron and the Flight Instructor of the year by Rear Adm. Dell Bull. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Benjamin Ziemski of character and personality, and civic involvement.

"Lt. Hill is a great example of a true cockpit leader with an unbridled passion for flying and teaching. That, combined with his unique ability to breakdown complex subjects into easy to grasp concepts was the reason why he was our nominee for this award. He simply made flying challenging and fun at the same time," Sanderson said.

Coming Soon...

**NAS Whiting Field
Photo Contest.**

(Submit photos through;

**Instagram with the
hashtag: #whitingfieldpics**

or facebook!)

Winners' photo will be published in the NASWF Whiting Tower!

****More details will be released on facebook and Instagram next week!**

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/naswhitingfield

Follow us on Twitter

@naswf

Follow us on Instagram

@naswhitingfield

Congratulations to TRAWING 5 Wingers



Top Row: Lt. Col. Cory DeKraai, USMC, CO HT-28; ENS Alden Marton, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. Reilly Costello, USMC, HT-8; LTJG Marco Tinari, USCG, HT-8; ENS Richard Selby, USN, HT-8; LTJG Robert Becerra, USN, HT-8; ENS Jake Reid, USN, HT-18; 1st Lt. Richard Viehdorfer, USMC, HT-28; ENS Victor Nguyen, USN, HT-18; ENS Cameron Little, USN, HT-8; LTJG Abdulaziz Almogiani, RSNE, HT-18; Col. Damien Marsh, USMC, Director of Inspections, Inspector General of the Marine Corps (Guest Speaker) Middle Row: CDR John McBryde, USN, CO HT-8; ENS Christopher Burns, USN, HT-18; ENS Brandon Cespedes, USN, HT-28; ENS Donna Jones, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. Christopher Fox, USMC, HT-28; LTJG Anders Manley, USCG, HT-28; LTJG Lucas Taylor, USCG, HT-28; LTJG Khaled Alasiri, RSNE, HT-18; ENS Amanda De Armand, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. Steven Kempa, USMC, HT-28; LTJG Benjamin Wolhaupter, USCG, HT-28 Bottom Row: CDR Brian Sanderson, USN, CO HT-18; ENS Kristina Byrne, USN, HT-8; 1st Lt. Bryan Frazier, USMC, HT-8; LTJG Frank Conenna, USN, HT-28; LTJG Anthony Monteforte, USCG, HT-8; ENS Austin Gallegos, USN, HT-8; ENS Erika Pedersen, USN, HT-8; ENS Julia Zook, USN, HT-18; ENS Joseph Mangano, USN, HT-18; ENS Maria Sabatino, USN, HT-18; CAPT Mark Murray, USN, Commodore Training Wing 5 U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Benjamin Ziemski, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

Zika Virus

- (Cont. from Page 3)

travelling to areas experiencing ongoing Zika virus transmission. Infection risk is reduced by taking measures to avoid mosquito bites.

“Prevention amongst the Navy and Marine Corps personnel is paramount,” Deussing said. “The most effective way to prevent infection is avoiding unnecessary travel to Zika affected areas. If traveling to Zika affected areas, avoid mosquito bites.”

No vaccine or drug is currently available to prevent Zika virus infection, and there is currently no specific anti-viral treatment for the disease. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid mosquito bites while in areas of

ongoing transmission. Mosquitoes that spread Zika virus bite mostly during the daytime, but bites should be avoided day and night.

Until more is known, and out of an abundance of caution, the CDC recommends pregnant women consider postponing travel to any area where Zika virus transmission is occurring -- currently in the Western Hemisphere. Pregnant women, or women trying to become pregnant, who do travel to these areas should talk to their health care provider first, and they should take strict steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip.

The following steps are recommended for those

Zika Virus

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traveling to an area with ongoing Zika virus transmission:
*Choose a hotel or lodging with air conditioning or with screens on windows and doors.

*Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are outside or in a room that is not well screened.

*Cover exposed skin by wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

*Use EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or IR3535. These are safe for pregnant women when used as directed.

*Use permethrin-treated clothing and equipment.

“If you or someone you know develops sudden fever, rash, joint aches, or red, irritated eyes within two weeks of travelling to an area of ongoing Zika virus transmission, see your Navy Medicine health care provider immediately, and report your symptoms and travel history,” Deussing said.

Navy Medicine is a global health care network of 63,000 personnel that provide health care support to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, their families and veterans in high operational tempo environments, at expeditionary medical facilities, medical treatment facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospital ships and research units around the world.



Kids leap off to a strong start on a beautiful morning during America's Armed Forces Kids Run for 2016. The event aims to promote an active lifestyle at an early age. Each military child participant received a Fun Run T-shirt and a string bag filled with fitness-related “goodies.” The event included a choice of a 2 mile, 1 mile or half mile run. Parents were encouraged to run with their kids and to help set an example of physical fitness. U.S. Navy Photo by Lt. j.g. Benjamin Ziemski, NAS Whiting Field Public Affairs.

NBHC Holds Change of Charge Ceremony

Lt. Cmdr. Douglas Schweikhart was relieved of charge of Naval Branch Health Clinic (NBHC) onboard Naval Air Station Whiting Field by Lt. Cmdr. Maria Edusada. Schweikhart took charge of NBHC NASWF in 2013, and upheld NBHC NASWF's reputation for excellence in medical care. Fair winds and following seas to Lt. Cmdr. Schweikhart as he leaves to serve in Charleston, South Carolina. Chaplain Roy Fondren gave the invocation for the event held May 20.



Congratulations to the VT Solos

VT-6

2nd Lt. Andrea Occhipinti, USMC
Ensign Kashmeir Kirkpatrick, USN
2nd Lt. Mark Hammond, USMC
1st Lt. Alexander Wentz, USMC
Ensign Jake Dang, USN

VT-3

Ensign FNU Akshay, USN
Lt. j. g. mark Bonner USN
Lt. j. g. Conor Breckenridge, USN
Ensign Robert Brubaker, USN
2nd Lt. Joseph Clanton, USMC
2nd Lt. David Crotteau, USMC
Ensign Emily Dale, USN

Ensign Christopher Garcia, USN
Ensign Thomas Hart, USN
Ensign Cody Eager, USN
Ensign Ryan Griffin, USN
2nd Lt. Brandon Howard, USMC
Ensign Christian Klouda, USN
Ensign Sean Laughlin, USN
Lt. j. g. David Lee, USN
Ensign John Lobkowitz, USN
Ensign Cody McGowan, USN
2nd Lt. Louise Nowak, USMC
2nd Lt. Ian Penn, USMC
2nd Lt. Jarrod Vines, USMC
Ensign Richard Woodin, USN

Congratulations to TRAWING 5 Scholars



Congratulations to TRAWING-5's Academic Achievement Awards presented at the TRAWING-5 Headquarters building in May. Photo courtesy of Training Air Wing FIVE.

SECURITY CORNER



By: Stacy McFadden, NAS Whiting Field Security
CRIME PREVENTION

It's that time of year that is hot and muggy so we are off to the beach, park, fishing and other recreational activities. We dress for the weather by wearing shorts, t-shirts, flip flops, and clothing that doesn't have any pockets. We don't want to carry our wallets or purses while we are out and about because we are out having fun and don't want to lose them or other things we carry with us. Many of us leave these items in our vehicles, sometimes in plain sight. While you're out having fun, so are the criminals. If you choose to leave these items in your vehicle, don't leave them in plain sight. Lock them in the glove box, center console or trunk. Be aware who's around you when you leave items in your vehicle. When going shopping, we tend to leave our bags in our back seats and continue shopping at other stores; thinking that no one will bother our vehicle. Unfortunately, to our surprise, we come out to our vehicle which used to have a window and our bags are gone. When you're leaving one store and know you're going to another, take time to put your items in the trunk and again, be aware who's around you while doing this. So don't help criminals help themselves; plan ahead and be aware. Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Gold Star award

- (Cont. from Page 4)

after he earned his Wings as a helicopter pilot. Carolyn gave birth to their twin daughters Christine and Kimberly less than a year before Suhr headed to Vietnam. Both daughters attended the ceremony as did one grandson, Robert, and Son-in-Law Freddy Powell.

The event provided an opportunity for the family to meet other men like Suhr and to gain an understanding of the helicopter community.

"It was very enlightening to hear so many different people talking about AI and the type of work that they all did [in Vietnam]," Carolyn said. "I felt like they (Kimberly and Christine) needed to speak to the people that knew him. I wanted them to know what his life was like, and I think they were very wowed."

Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT was selected as the site for the ceremony as all the Seawolves went through a portion of their helicopter training with the unit – although it was then located at Ellyson Field in Pensacola. Surrounded by squadron members from HT-8, the family was welcomed by Capt. Mark Murray, Commodore Training Air Wing FIVE, who discussed the importance of young, future pilots to understand the legacy they carry forward.

"They (pilots) never know when they will be tested, but they will be. They have to rely on the training they learn here," he stated. "It is therefore, important to

remember our heritage and the people who came before. We can't forget where we came from, so thank you for helping us to know one of our own."

As he prepared to present a flag, flown above the original UH-1B Seawolf Gunship atop the Pensacola Vietnam Memorial, and the pins on behalf of his squadron mates to Carolyn, Retired Navy Captain and former Training Air Wing FIVE Commodore Dick Catone spoke about Suhr.

"He was a hero. He was a patriot," Catone stated. "That is the legacy he left behind. We just can't thank you enough for sharing AI with us."

Check out our new
Instagram Account
[@naswhitingfield](https://www.instagram.com/naswhitingfield)

