

## Gramps Promoted?

I seldom write fan letters, but your November–December 1997 issue just arrived and it is a classic. Having “been there” [as Head, Aviation Periodicals Section, Bureau of Aeronautics, in the 1950s], I know that the whole staff is to be commended, and I’m just as sure that Art Director Morgan Wilbur had a big role in the production. Also, thank artist Ted Wilbur for turning out Gramps [p. 18] in full color and for promoting him from captain to rear admiral (lower half, of course).

Capt. Matt Portz, USN (Ret.)  
30734 Rue de la Pierre

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

**Ed’s note: After reading the above remarks on Gramps’ apparent promotion, Ted Wilbur stated, “Omigawd, far be it from me to ever diminish Gramps’ usefulness! It was my paltry, but sincere effort to render him as an acting ‘commodore’—a poetic rank to which he has always aspired—that was**

**betrayed by a pen paw as shaky as the sage’s. Rejoice, he is still a noble captain!”**

## Corrections

**Sep–Oct 97:** A-6 squadrons listing, p. 16: VAQ-309 flew the EA-6A and

EA-6B; VX-9 had A-6E, now only EA-6B; and VMAQ-2 never flew the A-6E.

**Jan–Feb 98:** Lt. Tedman E. Getschman wrote “VQ-1: Coming Out of the Shadows,” p. 10. We apologize for inadvertently omitting the byline.

## 1998 Naval Aviation Ball

**T**he 25th annual Washington-area Naval Aviation Ball, sponsored by the Director, Air Warfare, RAdm. Dennis V. McGinn, in conjunction with the Association of Naval Aviation, will be held on Saturday, 16 May, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Va. The Silver Anniversary celebrates “Naval Aviation: The Force of Choice.”

This formal gathering is open to all active duty and retired Navy and Marine Corps aviators, Naval Flight Officers and other aviation-related officers, as well as supporting corporate personnel. The evening will commence with a reception at 1830. Dinner will be followed by dancing and entertainment. The cost is \$110 per couple or \$1,100 per corporate table. The attire is Navy: Dinner Dress White; USMC: Evening Dress “B” or Blue-White Dress “A” and Civilian: Evening Dress (Black Tie).

For information, contact Cdr. Albert Gallardo, N889F, DSN 664-7763 or 703-604-7763; fax 703-604-6969; e-mail: gallardo.albert@hq.navy.mil. Reservations can be made by mailing a check (payable to “Naval Aviation Ball”) to: Naval Aviation Ball, P.O. Box 46196, Washington, DC 20050-6196. Include your name, address, phone number and names/status (active, retired or corporate) of the people included in the reservation.

## Reunions, etc.

**CVWR-30 (1970–1994) proposed reunion**, New Orleans, LA. POC: M. L. Roberts, 3138 Stevely Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808-4439, 562-420-9514.

**Assn. of Naval Aviation convention**, 29 APR–2 MAY, Norfolk, VA. POC: ANA ‘98, POB 4339, Virginia Beach, VA 23454, 757-491-6454.

**America (CV 66)**, 13–17 MAY, San Diego, CA. POC: Jack Palmer, 829 Cornish Dr., San Diego, CA

92107, 800-900-7790.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVB/CVA/CV 42)**, 13–14 MAY, Minneapolis. POC: David Van Kirk, 1259 Willow Ln. SW, Rochester, MN 55902, 800-437-0869.

**Tarawa (CV/CVA/CVS 40)**, 14–17 MAY, Omaha, NE. POC: Charlie Huck, RR 1, New Harmony, IN 47631, 812-682-4219.

**Ticonderoga (CV/CVA/CVS 14)**, 14–17 MAY, Hampton, VA. POC: Chuck Large, 31 Lowe Ave., Stoughton, MA 02072, 617-344-3461.

**Enterprise (CV 6)**, 23–25 MAY, Bakersfield, CA. POC: George Smith, 22800 Fast Ct., Bakersfield, CA 93308, 805-589-8421.

**VR-22**, 28–31 MAY, Pensacola, FL. POC: Russ Riley, PO Box 129, Commercial Point, OH 43116, 740-983-9835.

**Berlin Airlift Commemorative Tour**, a historical tour focusing on Berlin’s pivotal role in the Cold War, 22 JUN–5 JUL. For reservations: IMM Tours, 3846 Whitman Rd., Annandale, VA 22003-2217, 800-250-4988.

