

JOE FOSS INSTITUTE

General Joe Foss—Marine Corps ace, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and former Governor of South Dakota—suffered a stroke in fall 2002 and passed away in January. Prior to his stroke, the WW II aviator set for himself another challenging mission. Foss was determined to enlist fellow veterans in a nationwide effort to teach young people about our history, the military, patriotism and sacrifice through classroom encounters, school assemblies and special programs. To that end, Joe and his wife Didi founded the Joe Foss Institute.

Friends and associates in the military, public life, broadcasting and aviation have rallied to support the campaign. The institute is spearheaded by Didi Foss and Joe's close friend Gus Grant, who founded the telecommunications giant Sprint. The institute's goal of having veterans meet with students to talk about military experiences and the world situation has touched chords at the Pentagon and organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign



Naval Aviation mourns the passing of Marine Corps ace Joe Foss, shown here as a captain in 1943.

Wars and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

"He is in many ways the quintessential WW II hero," fellow South Dakotan Tom Brokaw said in lending his name to the Joe Foss Institute.

For information on the institute, contact Gus Grant at 480-348-0316; fossinstitute@aol.com.

"Hornet High"

Steve Leahy's F/A-18 Hornet painting (Nov-Dec 02, p. 28) prompted this question from a former Marine, "If the aircraft belongs to a Navy squadron, as indicated on the side, why does it say 'Marines?'" Good question. VFA-106 is the East Coast Hornet fleet readiness squadron, which trains both Navy and Marine Corps personnel, so its aircraft have "Navy" on one side and "Marines" on the other. The artist recalled a comment from one Marine who saw a print of the painting at an air show, "Look, you painted the right side!"

Whirlybirds in Korea

I read with interest your article "Whirlybirds Over Korea" by Hill Goodspeed (Nov-Dec 02). In November 1951, as an Air Force captain flying an F-80, I ejected over Wonsan harbor. Don Whittaker and

his crewman, Bill Moore, had me out of the water in minutes during foul weather. We landed on an LST and they stuck me in a hot shower. The next day I was transferred to *Manchester* (CL 83) for a checkup, clothing and a berth with Roger Gill.

During the day, *Missouri* (BB 63) arrived for an evening shelling exercise against enemy batteries ashore. Later, the skipper invited me for an evening meal. Then the bombardment began, and to this day I still say, "Thanks, Navy!"

In 1955, the Navy again fished me out of the Pacific, in an F-86 this time. The star of the show was Dan McKinnon off *Kearsarge* (CVA 33) and we're still friends.

Bill Yoakley
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Reunions

Tarawa (CV/CVA/ CVS 40/LHA 1), 2-6 APR, Myrtle Beach, SC.

POC: Chas Huck, 812-612-4219; ashuck@evansville.net.

CVWR-20/CVWR-30, 10-13 APR, San Antonio, TX. POC: Jerry Spaulding, 253-435-4277; jspaulding@yahoo.com.

VJ-3/VU-3/VC-3, 11-13 APR, New Orleans, LA. POC: Gordon Roberts, 270-522-5597; goroberts@cadizky.com.

VF-143 50-year reunion, 3 MAY, Virginia Beach, VA. POC: LCdr. Jack Freeman, 757-433-5322; freemanjd@vf143.navy.mil.

Bataan (CVL 29/LHD 5), 4-9 MAY, Laughlin, NV. POC: Larry Ankwicz, 815-722-0292; shirlank@worldnet.att.net.

PBM Mariner/P5M Marlin Assn., 7-11 MAY, Cape Canaveral, FL. POC: Grabe Harman, 321-631-8648; gbharman@webtv.net.

Lexington (CV 2), 7-10 MAY, Buena Park, CA. POC: Lyle Wood, 530-872-0573; lyledoris@aol.com.

ANA PHOTO CONTEST



Above, PH1 Jim Hampshire won the 2002 annual contest with this stunning shot of a Special Purpose Insertion/Extraction team being lifted from the deck of *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) during a 2002 exercise. Right, Vernon Pugh won the last bimonthly contest with this dynamic image of an F/A-18 Hornet of VX-23 releasing Mk 83 bombs during Advanced Targeting Forward Looking Infrared adjacent stores separation testing over the Atlantic Range at NAS Patuxent River, Md.

The Association of Naval Aviation's (ANA) photo contest is open to everyone except the staffs of ANA, *Wings of Gold* magazine and *Naval Aviation News*. The subject matter MUST pertain to Naval Aviation. Submissions can be in black and white or color, slides or prints, or electronic images. Please include the photographer's name and address, and PHOTO CAPTION.

For details call 703-960-2490. Mail photos to ANA, 2550 Huntington Ave., Suite 201, Alexandria, VA 22303-1499; email zip@anahq.org.

Cash Awards: Bimonthly—\$100. Annual—First, \$350; Second, \$250; Third, \$150.

