



ADM Robert Willard has accepted our request to speak at the 2008 Tailhook Association Symposium Banquet. ADM Willard is a Los Angeles native and a 1973 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He possesses a master's degree in engineering management from Old Dominion University and is a Massachusetts Institute of Technology seminar XXI alumnus.

An F-14 aviator, ADM Willard served in a variety of fighter squadrons and aircraft carriers. He was operations officer and executive officer of Navy Fighter Weapons School (*Topgun*) and commanded the VF-51 *Screaming Eagles*. Following nuclear power training, ADM Willard commanded the amphibious flagship USS *Tripoli* (LPH-10) and the aircraft carrier *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72).

As a flag officer, ADM Willard served twice on the Joint Staff, as deputy and chief of staff of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and commanded *Carrier Group Five* embarked in *Kitty Hawk* (CV-63) and the *U.S. 7th Fleet* in Yokosuka, Japan. In March 2005, ADM Willard became the 34th vice chief of naval operations. He assumed command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in May 2007.

## From the Executive Director: Reunion Update

Now is the time to make your reservation at the Nugget. We expect more than 3,000 members to attend. If you're on active duty, make sure to let the reservation desk know that you qualify for the active-duty rate. Late registrations will be accommodated at the Silver Legacy. Depending on the total members registered at the Silver Legacy, there will be a shuttle to and from the Nugget each day. Visit the link on the Tailhook Association Web page to the Silver Legacy.

Reunion 2008 logo shirts are also available through the Tailhook Association home page: <http://www.tailhook.net> or directly from the Tailhook store: <https://www.tailhook.net/Merchant2/merchant.mvc>.



The shirts are from Outer Banks, 100 percent Egyptian cotton polo with high stitch density for a smoother feel. They feature no-curl collar, dyed-to-match twill tape in neck and side, natural color locker patch and three-button placket. Men's sizes (Med-XL) are \$38.95 and XXL are \$40.95. Women's sizes (Small-XL) are \$38.95.

With every reunion we make changes based on your recommendations. The biggest change this year will occur at the "Bug" Roach mixer. We will add additional food and refreshment serving stations in the Pavilion area while keeping the Rose Ballroom stations in place. This should help reduce the lines and make refreshments more accessible. We also eliminated the food tickets and will use hotel security and wristbands to control access to the refreshments. The drink ticket will be valid for three hours.

### Sequence of Events

The enclosed reservation form includes two new events. We added a wine tour and a free shuttle to the balloon races. We expect a great turnout to see the scenery in and around Reno/Sparks, Nev.

We are looking for a "PowerPoint ranger" and a camera person to work at this year's event. If you are interested in volunteering your help, please contact our reunion coordinator, Marc Ostertag (800) 322-4665.

### Tailhook Piggyback Reunion Groups

VMFAT-101 — 1stLt. "Not So" Strong, [michael.strong@usmc.mil](mailto:michael.strong@usmc.mil), DSN 267, (858) 577-1739

Skyhawk Association, [rancho@bacavalley.com](mailto:rancho@bacavalley.com)

Intruder Association, [rupeowens@msn.com](mailto:rupeowens@msn.com)

VF-96 (1957-1975) — J.T. Wilson, [jtwt@jeffreywilson.com](mailto:jtwt@jeffreywilson.com), (858) 673-5504

VT-23 — Bill McVey, [bmcvey@gvtc.com](mailto:bmcvey@gvtc.com); Jim Walters, [jamwalt07@aol.com](mailto:jamwalt07@aol.com); Donna Sherman, [donnasherman@aol.com](mailto:donnasherman@aol.com)

VX-4/5/9 — Jim Hinline, [tomcatdriver@cox.net](mailto:tomcatdriver@cox.net); Bill Chubb, [bill.chubb@verizon.net](mailto:bill.chubb@verizon.net)

VF/VFA-154 — LT Harry Evans, USN, [harry.c.evans@navy.mil](mailto:harry.c.evans@navy.mil)

VFC-111 *Sundowners* — Kemo Percival, [f5driver@yahoo.com](mailto:f5driver@yahoo.com), (505) 620-9353

Registration has been available online since 1 May, by mail or by calling the Tailhook office at (800) 322-4665. Plan to be there, enjoy yourselves and learn about the achievements and future of our Navy. We'll see you in Reno!

### Tailhook Life Membership

Our Life membership endowment is healthy and growing with more than 2,250 Life members and the number continues to grow. Many choose to become Life members to show their support for the Tailhook Association and to ensure the future of our organization. They appreciate knowing that they are part of a core of individuals whose support of carrier aviation is clearly evident, and they take pride in an organization that is at the forefront of ensuring that carrier aviation remains a vital part of our nation's defensive capability.

The cost to become a Life member for those younger than age 60 is \$795. Part of your payment will be invested for the future, and part of the payment goes into a general operating fund. Payments can be made over 15 months. Active-duty members can pay over four years. For members over age 60, we have established a reduced price and payment schedule. If you are over 85 and have been a member in good standing for the past three years, we offer a complimentary Life membership. Please check the Web site [www.tailhook.net](http://www.tailhook.net) or call Patty at (800) 322-4665 for details.



CAPT J.R. Davis

### New Wine Labels Take Flight!

Recently, Garretson Wine Company joined the Tailhook Association as a corporate sponsor. Mat Garretson originally became a member of the Association in 1981, and recently determined a way the winery could help support the Tailhook Educational Foundation in their worthy efforts. Mat decided to create a series of wine labels entitled, "Great Aircraft of Naval Aviation."

Each year Mat will release four new labels paying tribute to historically important aircraft. Each label will be available on the sauvignon blanc and merlot he produces under the Francis Berwyn Wineworks label. This year's releases feature the F6F *Hellcat*, S-3 *Viking*, F-14 *Tomcat* and A-4 *Skyhawk*.

One dollar from the sale of each bottle will be donated to the Tailhook Educational Foundation. A tax-exempt 501(c)(3) entity, the Tailhook Educational Foundation provides educational scholarships to children and grandchildren of present and former United States Navy carrier aviation personnel.

To order any of these wines, please go to the Garretson Wine Co. Shopping Cart — <http://www.garretsonwines.com/shopping.fsp> or click on the Garretson Wine link on the Tailhook Association home page. We invite you to join us in supporting this very worthy cause.



*J.R. Davis*  
CAPT J.R. Davis, USN(Ret)

Executive Director, The Tailhook Association

 (858) 689-9223 (800) 322-HOOK	 (858) 689-9227 JOURNAL OF CAREER AVIATION	 TAILHOOK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC. (800) 269-8267 CFC #10251
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