



American Military Heritage Foundation

**Dedicated to preserving, in flying condition, a Vintage PV-2 Harpoon
in memory of all who fought on behalf of the United States of America**

“If you wait, all that happens is that you get older.”

Larry McMurtry, writer, screenwriter, bookseller1936-2021

July 2021

There is no doubt in my mind that summer is here and doesn't plan on relinquishing her time with us. The D-check is still proceeding and as of this date we have not found anything that would cause any concern. Naturally, that is the

reason we are very particular with our maintenance. The work crew always works on the premise that there is only one way to do the job and that is the right way. Each year when we put the plane back in service, we know we have followed the inspection procedure and each thing we do is checked by a second individual. The check is naturally moving slower than we would like for it to move. However, as of this date we haven't been able to do anything about the weather or the number of members that can show up on any given workday.

The BOD met on June 21, and they have scheduled two open house weekends like we had last year. The first is July 10 and 11 the second July 17 and 18. The hours will be from 9:00 to 4:00 on Saturday and 12:00 to 4:00 on Sunday both weekends. It will be at the same place as last year on the taxi way north of the McClure hangar. We will be prepping the plane the week before to reposition it for the open house. If you would be able to help, please let someone on the BOD know so we can plan our coverage of the plane making sure that we greet all our guests with a smile, answer their questions, and thank them for coming.

The other important discussion at the meeting involved our WEB presence and how we could better market the organization. Now I am so high tech that I carry a flip phone. Because I don't understand all the language used by these techies doesn't mean that I am against it. Just show me what it is going to do and how it works. All the directors are extremely excited about the new possibilities presented to them. Especially since it is two of our members Mr. & Mrs. Blake Shipp that are doing the work.

“Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.”

JOHN WOODEN

On May 25, 2021, Mr. Roy Pellegrin flew west for the last time. He was born May 19, 1944, in Houma, Louisiana. He and his wife Barbara were together for 56 years.



I do not know how other people think when someone totally different crosses their path, one never knows who they might meet next. In my life this has happened to me on several occasions. Roy happened to be one of these individuals and I will never forget some of the stories he told and the knowledge that he shared with us at the AMHF.

When I bought my first CNC turning center we ended up with some problems and needed help. I was put in touch with a Mr. Greg Greer. He came down to my shop, worked some dark magic with the electrons, and had the machine running. I was impressed with his abilities and asked if he would be interested in helping on the Harpoon, we could sure use a good electrical person. A couple of weeks later Greg showed up at the Harpoon with Roy. Greg said, "this is the guy you need." That is how I met Roy. From then on, he was our go to person for anything electrical on the Harpoon. We were at one airshow out of state, and we had a problem. One of the crew gave Roy a call and he helped diagnose the problem and got us going over the phone.

Roy was one of those individuals that was very hard not to like. It didn't make any difference if you were talking about a Cajun pirogue boat or the B-58 Hustler. I believe he really enjoyed filling us in about growing up in Louisiana. Snakes, alligators, and big turtles that took a chunk out of his dad's new pirogue boat are not high on my list of favorite things. However, that didn't keep Roy from telling us the stories, especially catching crawfish to boil. My wife and I even met Barb

and Roy at a Cajun restaurant in Mooresville where he tried to introduce us to all the fine dining Cajun style. I will have to give him credit, some of it was tasty.

When Roy first started with us, he was still able to maneuver with a walker. However, as his MS took more control, he worked from his motorized wheelchair. At one of the Indy air shows we were having trouble with a starter relay, and I was on the wing looking in the J-box behind the engine. I look over and here is Roy standing on the top step of our work stairs. Roy! What are you doing up here? I wanted to see what %\$#@* you were doing.

The group named one of his inventions "Crankinstine". At that time, we were having issues getting power to the plane to start it. So, Roy designed this box that we could plug into 115vac. This would then produce 24 volts DC. Next, he turned one of his wheelchairs into a battery cart that would start the plane. It was always fun for one of us to ride out in a wheelchair then start the plane. We did get some strange looks! With Roy around there were not many dull moments.

Roy was in the Air Force for seven years and there were many hangar stories from that era of his life. He flew on board the B-52 when operation Chrome Dome was in effect. However, I believe his best story was about the B-58. I don't know how many of you are familiar with the B-58 Hustler. According to Roy it had many problems, but it was fast, and they were always setting some new speed record with it. So, the mechanics decided to paint a naked lady on the nose with high temperature paint then painted her clothes on with standard enamel. I think you see where this is going. If the plane were being used for a speed run the lady would no doubt lose her clothes.

I am glad that I met Roy and our paths crossed. I learned many things from him, he was a great help to the AMHF, and he will be missed. I would also like to thank Barb for sharing him with us. Roy's heart was full when he was interacting with family and friends. It was always the highlight of his day . There were numerous

times that his knowledge and experience pulled us through. I am closing this with the quote below. I really think this fits all of us, especially Roy and Barb.

“I think that everybody needs four things in life. Everybody needs something to do regardless of age. Everybody needs someone to love. Everybody needs something to hope for, and, of course, everybody needs someone to believe in.”

LOU HOLTZ