***Robert V. Henshall, Lt. Col., USMCR***

**Robert V. Henshall , of Paterson, New Jersey, the *Squadron Commander of VMA-131,* was killed on 24 July 1963 while land-in at *Cherry Point, MCAS, North Carolina*. Lt. Col. Henshall was flying a *VMA-131,* Floyd Bennett based A4 *Skyhawk* when the accident occurred.**

**Lt. Col. Henshall served as a Marine pilot in the *Pacific Theater* until the end of the World War II. At the conclusion of World War II, then Captain Henshall separated from active Marine Corps service and became a member Marine *Reserve Fighter Squadron VMF-212* at *Floyd Bennett Field.* At that time *VMF-212* was equipped with the *F4U Corsair.***

**In June of 1950 the *Korean War* began. *VMF-212* and *VF-831* and *VF-837*, Naval *Air Reserve* squadrons at Floyd Bennett Field, transitioned to the *Grumman F9F-2 Panther Jet* and went aboard the *USS Princeton* and later, aboard the *USS Antietam* for service in Korea.**

**The squadrons attacked troop concentrations, rail, bridge, and industrial targets in North and South Korea and provided close air support for the *USMC*, *U.S. Army* and *United Nations* troops fighting the ground war.**

**At the conclusion of the Korean War Captain Henshall returned to the *Marine Air Reserve* at *Floyd Bennett. Lt. Col.*  *Henshall* flew the *A4 Skyhawk at Floyd Bennett.* In June, 1962 he was designated *Squadron Commander* of VMA*-131.***

**At the time of the accident Lt. Col. Henshall was a captain with TWA.**

**Lt. Col. Hen’s hall’s decorations include two *Distinguished Flying Crosses*, three *Air Medals*, a *Presidential Unit Citation*, the *American Campaign Meda*l, the *National Defense Service Medal*, the *Korean Service Medal*, and the *United Nations Service Medal*, the *Korean Presidential Unit Citation* the *Marine Corps Reserve Medal*, the *Navy Occupation Service Medal* and the *China Service Medal.***

This A4B Skyhawk,

Bureau Number 142829, served with the U.S Navy and Marine Corps from the early 1950s through its retirement from service in the late 1980s. Its compact size eliminated the need for folding its wings about carriers thereby enabling the Navy to deploy additional Skyhawk’s for service with fleet.

The “A” designation indicates that the A4 is an attack aircraft, that is, delivery of bombs, napalm, etc.

From nose to tail, the markings on this Skyhawk are

The modex number, in this case 500, is assigned within each squadron.

Beneath the canopy:

- Instructions pertaining to the care and maintenance of the Plexiglas canopy

- Rescue indicators should ground personnel need to render emergency assistance to the pilot

- Ejection seat warning indicators / Engine intake warnings

- USS John F. Kennedy: During the USS Pueblo crisis of 1968 VA-831 was called to active service a

Repositioned in May port, Florida

- Number 2829: these are the last four digits of the plane’s six digit Bureau Number. The six digit number is never changed.

The designation 7R on the vertical stabilizer is the code that Navy Department has assigned to Floyd Bennett Naval Air Station New York. All Navy / Marine aircraft assigned to NAS New York are marked 7R. Navy Marine markings over and on the plane’s dive brakes signify that Naval and Marine Reserve units jointly use the plane

All Navy /. Marine reserve units are marked with the number 7 which is followed by a unique letter code F

Robert V. Henshall, Lt.Col, USMC, the commanding officer of VMA-131 during 1963. He perished while landing a VMA-131 Skyhawk in North Carolina.

On the left side is the name of John E. Tylunas, Lt Cmdr. who died in 1987while flying a VA-831 Skyhawk to Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts