



Vanguard Eagle

San Diego Chapter  **TWA**  **U-S AIR** August 2019

Annual Membership Donation (per single or couple - includes newsletter subscription) ----- \$ 20.00

Please submit membership donations to Kay Bays, Vanguard Treasurer, 5038 September Street, SD, CA 92110

---The July 2nd Vanguard Meeting---

When we arrived at the Air and Space Museum we saw a crew working to trim down a very tall Melaleuca tree on the left side of the museum entrance. Even closer to the parking lot was the upturned roots of a fallen tree with all its stems and branches already cleared away. It had been blown down and into the Starlight Bowl, damaging that theater.

Irene opened our meeting and mentioned that Bruce Hunter, retired A/C mechanic who has moved to Oregon and had been diagnosed with Lou Gehrigs disease. Mary Price had to travel to Kentucky to help her 92 year old brother move into a care facility. While she was there he had a fall and needed surgery, so Mary had to stay a lot longer than planned to help her brother. Irene mentioned we should keep both Bruce and Mary's brother in our prayers. Irene mentioned our coming Picnic in August. At the end of the meeting Brad Davis won the birthday drawing and Walli Stebel won the 50/50 drawing.

The guest speaker at the July 2nd meeting was **Dudley Oatman**, Major (US Army, retired) who is now a Docent at the Air and Space Museum. Brad Davis and Louise Oliverio asked Dudley to give us all the story of his extensive aviation career. During his 20 year Army career he saw lots of action as he flew the AH-1 Cobra, the UH-1 Huey and the OH-6 Loach helicopters during his two combat tours in Vietnam. He also became a test pilot on the AH-1 series of Cobra helicopters, finding its flaws and developing improvements to make it a much better assault helicopter. Retiring from the Army Dudley hired on with Atlantic Southeast Airlines (a Delta Connection carrier) for 10 years as a First Officer, Captain, Flight Instructor, Check Airman and Manager of Pilot Training and Standardization.

In 1997 Dudley hired on with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an aviation Safety Inspector and a Boeing 727/737 Aircrew Program Manager for Continental, American and American Eagle Airlines. While there he helped with the development of the FAA's Air Transportation Oversight System (ATOS) and the National Aviation Safety Management System (SMS)

Dudley gave us a review of his actual experiences in the military and in the FAA. One of his stories was about finding a loose "Jesus" nut that had been missed by the crew chief and maintenance staff. This nut keeps the rotors on the helicopter and has to be torqued to a high tension or the rotor could separate from the shaft and fuselage. Had he not found the loose nut, it would almost certainly have resulted in a crash, and fatalities. All those who missed this important item on the precheck were summoned for a dressing down and most likely never repeated the error again. While flying a T28 trainer close to a C141, in order for a photographer to take a picture of a parachutist exiting from a side door, Dudley applied the speed brake, and his aircraft rose upward and flipped over the tail of the large cargo plane. The photographer thought this was a great maneuver but Dudley was grateful just to be alive.

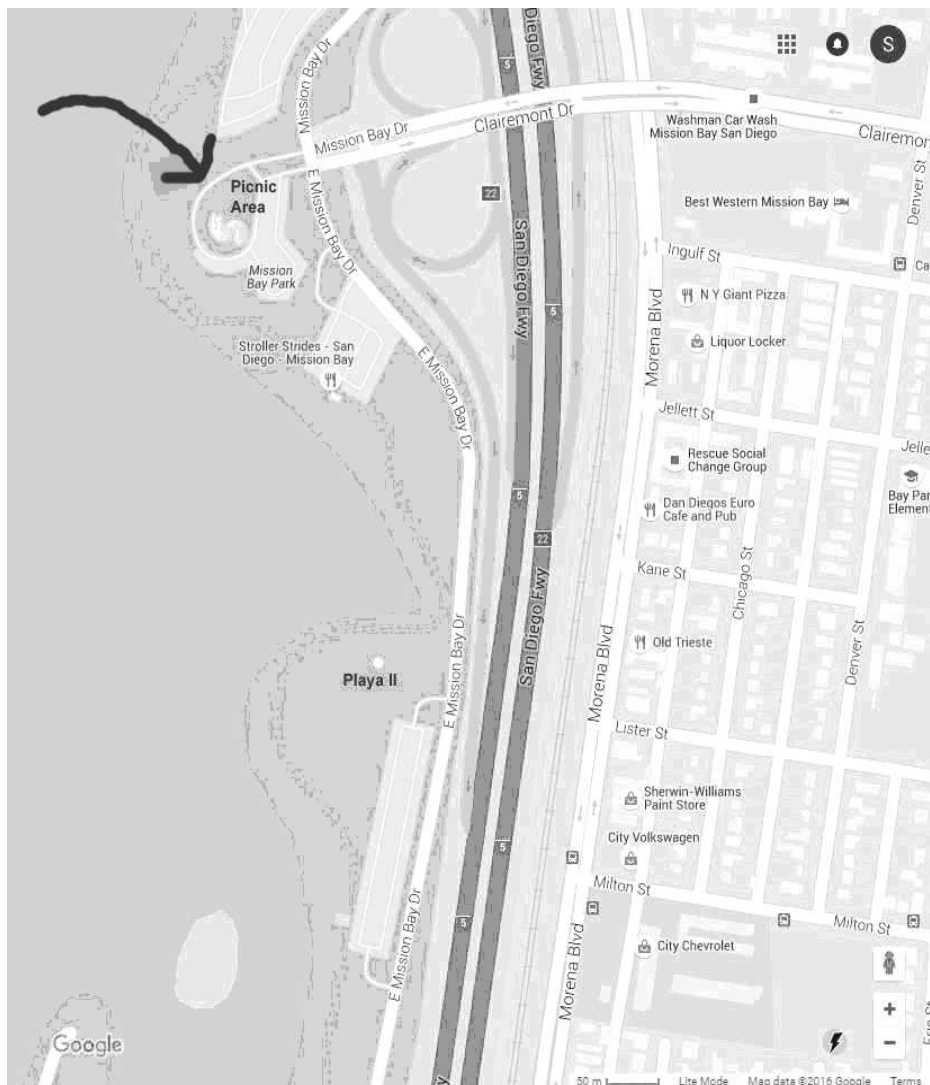
---August 6th Picnic directions are on the next page---Hope to see you there

---Vanguard Picnic, 6 August 2019---

If you are setting up, plan on coming about 10 am, all others can join us at 11:30 am. Don't forget to bring a dish to share with your fellow Vanguards.



Our annual August Picnic will be held in Mission Bay, instead of the Air and Space Museum. Check the map below for the picnic area, which is just next to I-5. Our picnic is always a pot luck affair. Everyone brings something and everyone eats. Please call Irene Garrett or Kay Bays with your dish selection, so we can determine if we have enough entrees, sides and deserts. Irene's phone number is **619 464-1250** Kay's number is **619 276-7268**.



The map at left shows the planned location of our picnic area. It is located at the Playa II site and has parking located at the site of the lawn area. If you have a navigator you can type in the address for Playa II which is **2195 E. Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109**. That should bring you to very close to our location. Playa 2 is also known as **Information Cove South**, or **Playa Pacifica**. Playa 2 is located south of the Visitors Information Center and north of the Hilton Hotel on East Mission Bay Drive. There is a swimming area with a lifeguard on duty during the summer months. There is a tot lot, **a picnic shelter**, basketball courts, fire rings and a path for jogging or bike riding. **The picnic shelter is where we plan to picnic.**

Coming from North, take I-5 south and take Exit 22 to East Mission Bay Drive and head south to Playa II. If coming from south, take I-5 North and exit at East Mission Bay Drive and head south to 2195 East Mission Bay Drive. Coming from Clairemont, take Clairemont Drive to Mission Bay and turn south on E Mission Bay Drive. We hope to have a good turnout. See you there.

Happy Birthday **Vanguards**



August 2 - **Barbara Rizzo**

August 6 - **Nancy Day, William 'Bill' Billings**
Charles 'Chuck' Mottern,

August 7 - **Jack Stewart, Barbara Tucker,**
Ann Pentland

August 8 - **Rachel Evans,**

August 10 - **Chester Stewart**

August 11- **Charlotte Eastland**

August 12 - **Mildred Spanich, Bill Lake**

August 20 - **Larry Johnson**

August 22 - **Beckie Klikas, Mary Hunter**

August 23 - **Marjorie Johnson**

August 28 - **Norma Larson**

August 29 - **Ralph Butlin, John Dano**

August 30 - **Gerry Sherlock**



Vanguard Anniversaries

Aug 11 - **Paul and Ellie Kusiak** (1964)

Aug 12 - **George and Dudney O'Dell** (1973)

Aug 12 – **Richard and Alice McCormick** (1961)

---June Caldwell's 93rd Birthday---

Irene Garrett was informed that June was under hospice care in early June. So at our June 4th meeting she asked if some of the members would want to go to June's care facility at Lexington House to celebrate her 93rd birthday, which is on 7 June. Most of our members could not make that date but then settled on 13 June at 1 pm. June was happy to have company and was fully alert. We had 8 Vanguards visit the care facility. Bob and Irene Garrett, Bruce and Claudette Craig, Jim and Ruth Annunziata, Dick McCormick, and myself, Steve Jahn. We had a nice sunny day for the little party and June, who hails from southwest Illinois, where they were having extensive flooding, was happy to be in southern California. After conversing with the visiting Vanguards, we sang Happy Birthday for June and she got to open her gifts. Irene had brought a birthday cheesecake for June and all the guests had a piece. Although June looked very frail, her mind was sharp. That was also the case when Brad Davis and Louise Oliverio visited her in May to give her some photos taken of her at the April meeting at which she wore bunny ears to celebrate Easter.



Lexington House staff brings out June, who is welcomed by Irene Garrett.



From left: Jim Annunziata, Bruce Craig, Claudette Craig, and Ruth Annunziata.



From left: Dick McCormick, Jim Annunziata, Bruce Craig and Claudette Craig.



From left: Bob Garrett, Irene Garrett and our birthday girl June Caldwell. Gifts on rear table.



Birthday Cheese Cake with four different flavors.

---This article appeared on the front page of the San Diego Union-Tribune on Fathers Day, 16 June 2019. Dale is the son of our long time Vanguard member George Griffin who passed away 29 Sep 2016.

“What do we want to do to enhance the world, or at least enhance something? You just get to the point where you want to do something more meaningful in life” --- Dale Griffin

Dale Griffin has learned a thing or two — or 22 — about fatherhood



Dale Griffin and his wife, Ana, have been the foster parents to 22 children. He's seen here with their adopted son, Zachary .
(K.C. Alfred/ The San Diego Union-Tribune)

Since 2008, the El Cajon man and his wife, Ana, have been foster parents to 22 children. All had been taken from their biological parents or legal guardians because of fears for the child's health or safety.

By **PETER ROWE**
JUNE 16, 2019

For the past 11 years, Dale Griffin has been taking lessons in fatherhood. He's learned about 2 a.m. feedings. How and when to change diapers. Bath time. Story time. Tummy time. And the time it takes to wean a heroin-addicted infant off methadone. "You have to gradually step down the dose," Griffin said. "And when you step it down, that baby knows it."

Uncommon fatherly advice, perhaps, but Griffin is an uncommon father. Since 2008, the El Cajon man and his wife, Ana, have been foster parents to 22 children. The youngest was less than a day old; none was more than five years old. All had been taken from their biological parents or legal guardians because of fears for the child's health or safety.

"One of our babies was so physically abused, all the ribs were broken in her body," Dale said. "In fact, they had been healed and then re-broken." Every infant they've taken has been suffering from trauma, if only from the fright and confusion of being removed from familiar surroundings. Others are afflicted by even greater levels of pain and anxiety, withdrawing from drugs or coping with fetal alcohol syndrome. "They have to cry it out," Ana said. "It's not fun watching that. It's heartbreaking."

Yet, the Griffins insist, foster parenthood is a joyful experience. Today, Dale and Ana will celebrate Father's Day with their latest foster child, J.J., a 15-month-old boy; adopted son, Zachary, 6, who came to them as their 13th foster child; and Sergio, 11, their first foster child. Reunited with his birth mother nearly a decade ago, Sergio still spends every other weekend with the Griffins.

“The kids are fun babies,” Dale said. “At first, they are naturally cute. And it doesn’t take too long before they exhibit their personalities. You watch those develop — you see these kids discover something, Like their toes!”

When they married 27 years ago, Dale and Ana had planned to become parents. Biology decreed otherwise. Unable to conceive, the couple focused on each other — they enjoy travel, theater, hikes — and work. Dale, now 60, recently retired from the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, where he spent 26 years as an accountant. Yet both felt that something was lacking in their lives. “What do we want to do to enhance the world, or at least enhance something?” Dale wondered. “You just get to the point where you want to do something more meaningful in life.”

As they expected, these foster parents have helped needy children and their struggling parents. But there was an unexpected wrinkle: these temporary placements have permanently changed the Griffins. “Fostering is a wonderful thing,” Ana said, “but you have to be willing to let your heart be broken over and over and over again.”

Trusting the universe

Dale and Ana grew up a world apart, but both enjoyed strong family bonds. Born in Torrance, Dale was raised in Clairemont with an older brother. “A typical two-parent family,” he said. The youngest of three children, Ana Naidoo was born to Indian parents in South Africa. Living in Durban and Johannesburg, she found that the country’s racist apartheid policies blocked many avenues for her future. Still, her family remained close and supportive. “Every weekend,” she said, “we would all get together with our cousins.”

The couple were introduced through mutual friends and then, living in the pre-Internet era, courted by letter. Dale, who took anthropology and archaeology classes while earning a business degree from San Diego State University, was fascinated by Ana. Letters were succeeded by weekly phone calls and then, before they had laid eyes on each other, he proposed. Ana accepted. In April 1992, she flew to San Diego. Days later, the couple married. “I basically left everything behind, my whole way of life, my family,” she said. “I decided that I just have to trust in the universe that this would work out.”

It did. Not only did the couple forge a successful, loving relationship, Ana was embraced by her in-laws, George and Mary Lee Griffin. “They were very welcoming,” Ana said. “I added a bit of color to their all-white family. They went with the flow.” Mary Lee died before Dale and Ana became foster parents, but George Griffin lived until 2016, long enough to meet and cherish many of his foster grandchildren. “My father was thrilled by the babies, he loved babies,” Dale said. “He just loved our little ones and would hold them.”



Dale and Ana Griffin have been the foster parents to 22 children, shown here with their adopted son Zachary, and JJ, left, who they are fostering at their El Cajon home on June 9, 2019.

(K.C. Alfred / The San Diego Union-Tribune)

---American Extends 737 MAX Cancellations---

10 Jun 2019

Airwise

American Airlines has extended the cancellation of its Boeing 737 MAX flight operations to the beginning of September. The airline had previously cancelled MAX flights until August 19, but in a statement extended the date. "By extending the cancellations, our customers and team members can more reliably plan their upcoming travel on American," the airline said. Around 115 flights will be cancelled daily during the latest change.

American said it remains confident that "impending software updates to the Boeing 737 MAX, along with the new training elements Boeing is developing in coordination with our union partners, will lead to recertification of the aircraft soon." Boeing said last month that it had completed software updates and associated simulator testing for the 737 MAX and is working with the FAA to provide additional information the regulator has requested.

The software updates come as a result of two fatal 737 MAX crashes in five months. A total of 346 people were killed in the crashes off Indonesia and in Ethiopia. The other US operators of MAX aircraft, Southwest and United, have removed the aircraft from their schedules until August. Southwest is the largest US operator of the type with 34 737 MAX 8s in its fleet, American has 24 MAX 8s, and United 14 MAX 9s.

---Airbus Delivers First A350 to Japan Airlines---

13 June 2019

Airwise

Airbus has delivered its first ever aircraft to Japan Airlines, an A350-900 which will go into service on the Haneda-Fukuoka domestic route. JAL, a long time Boeing customer, ordered 31 A350s in 2013 for a list-price total of \$9.5 billion dollars. The 18 A350-900s will initially operate on high frequency domestic routes, while the 13 larger A350-1000s will fly on the carrier's long haul international network.

The first aircraft will start commercial service in early September. Airbus said the A350's ferry flight to Tokyo will operate with a blend of conventional and synthetic fuel to reduce CO2 emissions. JAL has configured the newly delivered A350-900 in a three class layout, with 12 seats in first, 94 in business and 263 in economy. By the end of May, Airbus had received firm orders for 893 A350 family aircraft from 51 airlines and lessors worldwide. Additional A350 orders are expected to be announced at the Paris Air Show which starts on Monday.

---IAG Gives Boeing a 200-plane 737 MAX Boost---

18 June 2019

Airwise

Boeing had a better day at the Paris Air Show on Tuesday with a couple of medium size deals and a bumper one from airline group IAG. Korean Air and Air Lease Corporation announced commitments for 787 Dreamliners, but late in the day, International Airlines Group (IAG) announced that it had signed a letter of intent to order 200 737 MAX jets. The LOI is a major boost to Boeing after aviation regulators grounded the worldwide 737 MAX fleet after two fatal crashes. IAG's is the first tentative order since the aircraft was grounded.

Earlier in the day, Korean Air and Air Lease Corporation announced the airline's plans to add 30 787 Dreamliners - 10 787-9s and 10 -10s. The agreement includes the lease of a further 10 787-10s from Air Lease. The 20-aircraft order is valued at \$6.3 billion dollars at list prices. Korean Air will introduce the larger 787-10s to augment its current long-haul fleet of 787-9s and 777s.

Air Lease separately announced a commitment to purchase five 787-9s valued at \$1.5 billion dollars at list prices. IAG's commitment for the 200 737s, a mix of MAX 8s and the larger MAX 10s, is a strong vote of confidence in Boeing from one of the world's biggest airline groups. "We're very pleased to sign this letter of intent with Boeing and are certain that these aircraft will be a great addition to IAG's short-haul fleet," IAG chief executive Willie Walsh said. "We have every confidence in Boeing and expect that the aircraft will make a successful return to service in the coming months having received approval from the regulators," Walsh added.

IAG has chosen a combination of the 178-seat MAX 8 and the 230-seat MAX 10, the largest member of the 737 family. The company didn't disclose the number of each aircraft it will order, nor the airlines that will use them, but Vueling, LEVEL and British Airways have been mentioned as possible operators. A 200 plane order would be valued at more than \$24 billion dollars when finally agreed.

**San Diego Vanguards
c/o Kay Bays
5038 September Street
San Diego, California 92110**



Vanguard

Picnic

6 August 2019, 11:30 AM

**Mission Bay Park,
Playa II, Picnic Shelter**