WRAPing up the year â€“ 2011: Breakfast with history

Description



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The year (last one, that is) finished with the annual picture of the assorted old guys and â€œguestsâ€• after we had breakfast, a week before Christmas. One from last year was unable to join us, having passed away this year after fighting against MRSA.â€•

Protecting privacy, and making it more fun, this photo includes the restaurantâ€™s owner, a solid supporter of vets, and always thankful we come around. The waitress for the day, and who normally is our regular one lately. There are three ex-â€œShoes,â€• a Navy Cross wearing A-6 pilot, the high time pilot, with the most traps, also, in the venerable F7U Cutlass (began as a PBM tail gunner in WWII and subsequently became an enlisted pilot), an NFO who knew the thrill of flying over an already bombed target(s) to gather BDA photos in RA-5s, thre retired USMC colonels, who began flying in WWII, one F4Us and later became a USAF Fighter Squadron Commander while on an exchange tour), one in PBYs and one in PBJs. Rounding out the scoundrels that morning were two P-2/-3 pilots, one of which was the USNA roommate of my second CO, during my XO tour. The USA representative spent his Vietnam years making sure the Office in Sigonella was efficiently run. Not pictured of the regulars is a VN era heavy equipment operator, who also is a very suitable professional Santa, so he was absent, and the 4 hours short of the most combat hours guy in a yearâ€™s tour in Vietnam flying â€œSlicks.â€•

If you canâ€™t find a great unique story any given any other Saturday around the table with this group, you need your hearing checkedâ€¦.

So, the invitation for those of you passing through the Tampa/St Pete area on weekends is this: Youâ€™re welcome to come and sit and hear a few stories, tell a few, and meet some who made history, but donâ€™t make a big deal out of itâ€¦.just email me or a leave a comment and Iâ€™ll get your the â€œevery otherâ€• Saturday schedule.

Category

1. "Sea Stories"
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1. Cold War
2. History
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