

## Intruder Tribute at the National Naval Aviation Museum, NAS Pensacola, FL



The Intruder Tribute is a 3' X 3' X 7' black granite obelisk with laser images crafted by Laser Image & Design Inc. (<http://www.imageinstone.com/>) displaying Intruder photographs, graphics and write-ups. The Tribute educates museum visitors of the Intruders and Intruder Community thus "**Preserving the Legend of the Intruder**". The Intruder Tribute is an Intruder Association Program with the goal of providing the history and legacy of the venerable A-6 Intruder, primarily at museums with an Intruder on display. The initial prototype Tribute was dedicated at the 2014 Intruder Reunion at the National Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola, FL. Since the dedication, a replacement Tribute with better viewing of all the donor names is now on display next to the Intruder A-6 in Pensacola Museum's Hangar One.

The four Tribute panels include :

- Every Navy & Marine Intruder Squadron Logo,
- Intruder Aircraft Operations,
- A-6 photos & graphics, airborne & carrier based with launch & maintenance personnel,
- Navy/Marine Corp Pilot, Bombardier-Navigator, Aircrew and Enlisted Warfare wings,
- A-6 Intruder data of interest and education for the general public, including A-6 performance specs, periods of operation/wars supported, bomb loads, 'over-the-shoulder' cockpit view and cockpit carrier approach view.
- Names of all donors of \$500 and above and \$1000 and above.



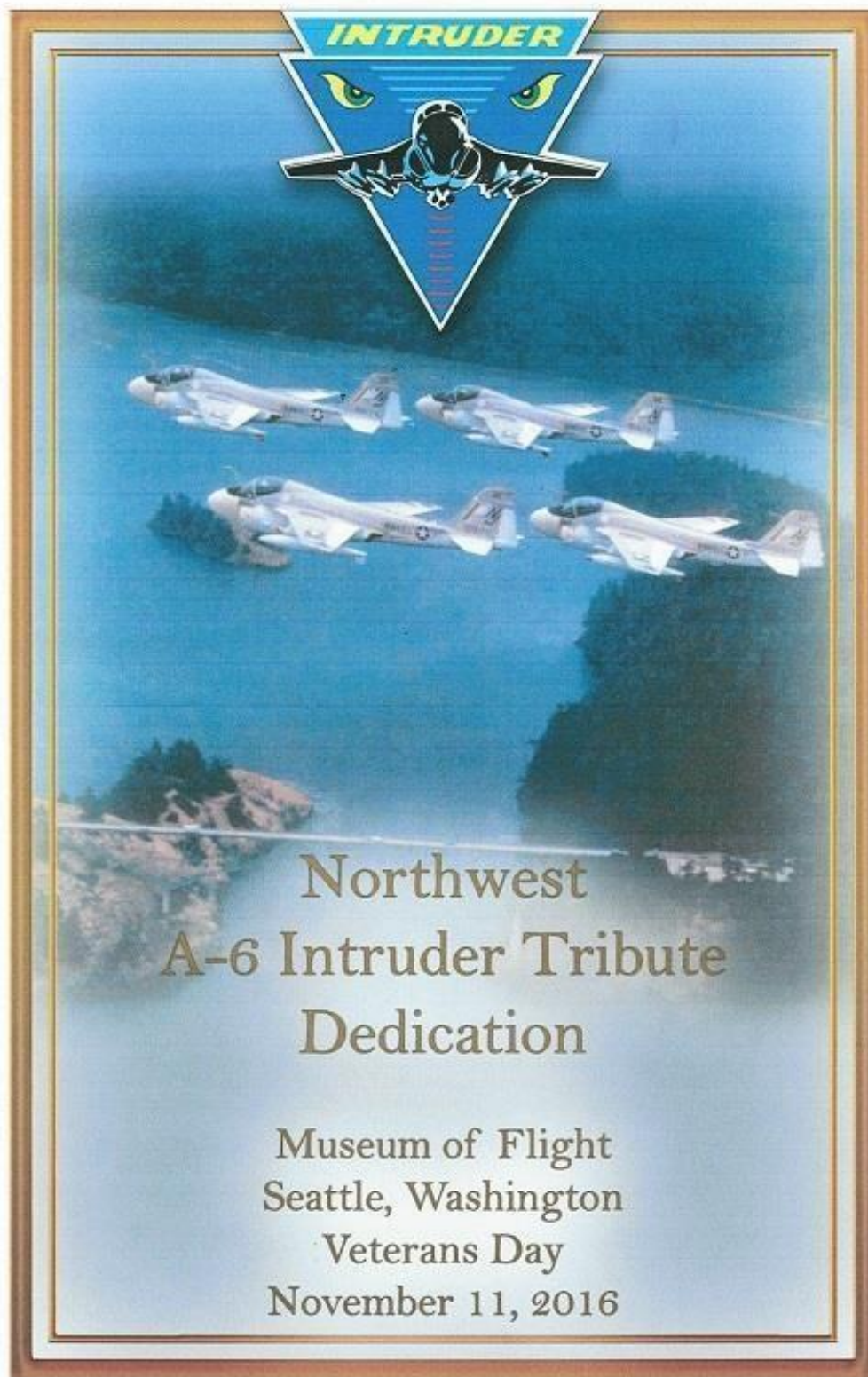
Tax deductible donations can still be made to the Intruder Association treasurer payable to the "Intruder Association" with note line 'Intruder Tribute' forwarded to:

Geoff Swanberg 9859 Conde Rd Marshall, VA 20115

# INTRUDER TRIBUTE FOUR PANEL COLLAGE







**Northwest Intruder Tribute Dedication at  
Seattle's Museum of Flight**



The Northwest Intruder Tribute was dedicated in style at Seattle's Museum of Flight on a beautiful and warm Veterans Day, 11 November 2016. The day's events began with a concert by the Boeing Band and a Veterans Day ceremony for all in attendance at the museum. Intruder events began at 1400, with a symposium showcasing the Intruder's role in both Vietnam and Desert Storm. The symposium panel was moderated by past President Larry Yarham. The Vietnam segment was presented by Greg Wood and Steve Coonts for Navy operations, and Bruce "Gator" Byrum presenting the war from the Marine

Corps perspective. "Desert Storm – First 72 Hours" was presented by Butch Bailey, who was directly involved in the planning and execution of the air war.

Following the symposium, approximately 400 enthusiastic attendees assembled in the Museum of Flight's new Aviation Pavilion for the program dedicating the Intruder Tribute. The Tribute stands adjacent to the museum's display A-6 aircraft bearing the markings of Whidbey-based VA-52, with the side number 502. On each side of the canopy appear the names of LT Roger Lester, pilot, and his bombardier/navigator LT Harry Mossman, who were lost on a mission in Vietnam in August 1972, flying an aircraft with the call sign Viceroy 502. Appropriately, Viceroy 502 stands the watch alongside the Northwest Intruder Tribute as perpetual monuments to the "Intruder Legend," to all who built, flew and maintained the A-6 Intruder, and especially to all who made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the A-6 community.

The color guard for the ceremony was provided by the Oak Harbor High School NJROTC, and Oak Harbor's Daybreak Trio performed the National Anthem and "America the Beautiful". The invocation and benediction were rendered by the incomparable David Lura, who is chaplain for Oak Harbor Area Council, Navy League. Larry Yarham served as Master of Ceremonies. The first speaker was Mr. Chuck Spielman, of "Only Yesterday Classic Autos" and Hall of Heroes fame, and who hosted tours for our San Diego reunion in April. Mr. Spielman is a true patriot and a strong friend of the Intruder community, who was a schoolmate of Harry Mossman. Next came the formal presentation of the Intruder Tribute memorial to the Museum of Flight, with Larry Yarham representing the Association and Mr. Doug King, President and CEO representing the museum. The Tribute was unveiled by Mr. Bill Moore and Harrison Moore, LT Mossman's son and grandson, Mr. King, Mr. Spielman and museum curator Doug Hagedorn. The unveiling was followed by Mr. King's remarks, in which he was abundantly clear in his appreciation for the Tribute and his admiration for the spirit, emotion and heart he saw that day from our community. Guest speaker for the event was our own Steve Coonts, who once again was eloquent and accurate in his characterization of the Tribute as a memorial not only to an aircraft, but to the people of our community as well. Following his heartfelt and emotional remarks about the "Intruder Legend" and all who lived it, Mr. Coonts concluded with the following: "When the world



gets to be too much with you, come back here, visit this stone tribute, and renew your faith in your fellow Americans.” The text of his remarks is available on the IA web site, and it is recommended reading.

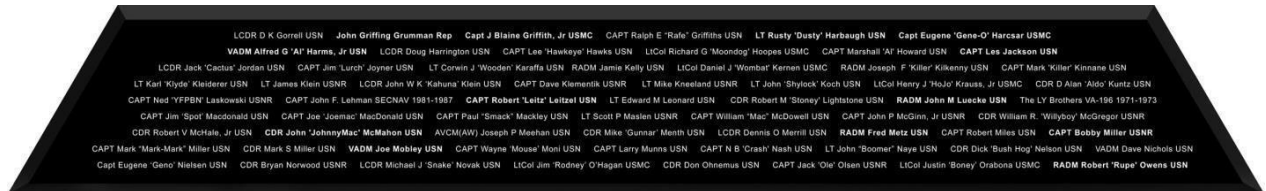
Participating in the event were Oak Harbor’s Mayor Bob Severns and his wife Rhonda, CAPT and Mrs. Geoff Moore, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, CAPT and Mrs. Scott Farr, Commander Electronic Attack Wing, Pacific, RDML and Mrs. Gary Mayes, Commander Navy Region Northwest, RDML Marcus Hitchcock, Commander Carrier Strike Group THREE, and Senator Barbara Bailey and husband CAPT Butch Bailey, USN (Ret.)

Also in the audience were Ms. Rocky Harvey, widow of LT Mossman, her son Bill Moore, and LT Mossman’s grandson, Harrison Moore, along with 14 attendees from the town of Morton, WA, where LT Lester grew up.

A reception followed the dedication ceremony in the Museum of Flight’s Skyline Room which was decorated with Intruder aircraft and squadron memorabilia and filled with Intruder flight jackets, many of which seem to have shrunk in the years since they were retired from active service.

All in all, 11 November 2016 was a Veterans Day which will long live in the memories of all of those in the Intruder family who were privileged to share this most memorable Intruder Tribute dedication. The Association and the Intruder community owe much appreciation to the Intruder event planning team led by Dave Williams, Paul Bloch, Greg Wood, Dave Papenhausen and John Griffing for their months of planning and hard work. They truly did us proud.

Larry Yarham presents the official Intruder Tribute transfer documentation to Doug King, President and CEO of Seattle’s Museum of Flight.



**Donations of \$500.00 or more will have Name, Call  
Sign, Rank and Service listed on all future Tributes.**





National Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola FL.



Cradle of Aviation, Long Island, NY



Seattle's Museum of Flight, Boeing Field



Virginia Beach, VA

All tributes have one panel dedicated to "In Memory Of".

## THE INTRUDER TRIBUTE

The tribute idea originated to augment the typical small museum aircraft display plaques that do not tell an adequate story of the aircraft, the history or the community. The Tribute goal is to better educate museum visitors and the general public of the history and legacy of the A-6 aircraft, mission and Community. The Intruder has a strong history in Naval & Marine Aviation, most of which is not known by the general public. Few know the A-6 was the Navy's backbone carrier-based strike aircraft of the Viet Nam war, delivering more ordinance than the legendary B-52's. Missions included visual weapon delivery, all-weather low-level single aircraft strike, iron hand fleet support, mining, air-to-air refueling and electronic warfare.

The Intruder Association took the lead for the entire Intruder Community on a project to increase the public and museum visitor's A-6 knowledge. This developed into a plan for a tribute to the legacy of the Intruder. Association leadership and RADM Fred Metz proceeded with the project design, funding and bringing in Laser Image & Design with their expertise, fabrication and previous involvement in National Naval Aircraft Carrier Monument at Virginia Beach.

The Intruder Tribute has two form factors, the original inside museum design and recently an outdoor design. Both are large granite oboist with four laser etched black granite panels depicting various A-6 pictures, graphics, capabilities, deployments, all Navy & Marine A-6 squadron logos and four panels with the names of those who contributed at least \$500.00 to the tribute program. The fourth panel has the names 'In Memory Of' of those who have 'gone West'.

The National Naval Aviation Museum was the goal for the initial, and possibly only, Intruder Tribute. The tribute plan was proposed to Captain Bob Rasmussen, then director of the NNAM. He endorsed the project, pending his approval of the design and graphics. Once Captain Rasmussen approved the design, he was pleased to accept the installation of the first tribute.

The Pensacola tribute was delivered in time for the National Intruder Reunion and Dedication spring of 2012. The tribute is adjacent to the display A-6 in the Hangar Bay One. The Cradle of Aviation in New York is home to the second tribute, positioned adjacent to the museum's A-6F. A third tribute is located in Virginia Beach adjacent to the Naval Aircraft Carrier Monument at Monument Park. Most recently, Veteran's Day 2016, the Northwest Intruder Tribute was dedicated at Seattle's Museum of Flight, Boeing Field. Presently we are working with the San Diego Port Commission for a tribute adjacent to the USS Midway Aircraft Carrier Museum and the existing San Diego Aircraft Carrier Memorial. We are also working with Marine Quantico Museum personnel for a 'Marine Tribute to be located on museum property.

Larry P. Yarham,  
Chairman, Intruder Tribute Program



## MCAS CHERRY POINT, NC

### LAUNCH THE WHIDBEY INTRUDER TRIBUTE MEMORIAL

The Whidbey Tribute is planned to be installed and dedicated THIS YEAR. Pictured is a representative photo of the Whidbey Tribute installation.

As with all Intruder Tributes, the obelisk has great Intruder pictures, graphics, every Intruder squadron logo and information about the Intruder and medals awarded to Intruder crew. Intended to memorialize the greatest carrier-based strike aircraft of the Viet Nam War and educate the general public of the Legacy of the Intruder, all Tributes are installed outside of the base gates and in public view. The Tribute also has four panels on the base with the names of Intruder Crew & Troops. One panel is devoted to "In Memory of". Additional names can be added to the existing names and will be on all future Intruder Tributes. Presently, The Intruder Association is planning new Tributes at Pacific Coast Aviation Museum in Santa Rosa, California and in San Diego CA adjacent to the USS Midway Museum, just voted THE BEST MUSEUM in the US. Names will be added to all the future Tributes with a donation of \$500.00 and for a larger & bold name for \$1000.00. The donations are what have supported the five existing Tributes, including one dedicated to the USMC Intruders.

As we say Adios to family Intruder Members, Shipmates, Squadron Mates, and Intruder friends, submitting their names is a great way of memorializing them. You can include their RANK, NAME, CALL SIGN AND USN OR USMC. Soon we will close out the names for the

Whidbey Tribute when we start manufacturing.....you still have time to memorialize family, friend, shipmates on the Whidbey Intruder Tribute....a form is on this website and the form and donation needs to be mailed in soon to: Geoff Swanberg, 9859 Conde Rd Marshall, VA 20115





# INTRUDER TRIBUTE FOUR PANEL COLLAGE





## NAVY SQUADRONS



## MARINE SQUADRONS

