

Why I'm a Member of ANA

As we encourage new members to join the Association of Naval Aviation, Wings of Gold presents personal reflections from long-time ANA members as to why they joined our organization.

I was raised in a Naval Aviation family and was indirectly introduced to Naval Aviation through my father's career. My first direct contact with Naval Aviation came in 1973. I remember to this day every detail of my first ride in a TA-4J out of NAS Kingsville as a 2nd Class Midshipman. It was then that my desire to fly aircraft, especially jets, was injected into my DNA. That fateful day, riding in that Skyhawk, set into motion a journey that took me through a 34-year career flying U.S. Navy aircraft.

As I reflect on my career the most impactful Naval Aviation experiences came through my warfare communities -- Light Attack (A-7 Corsair II) and Strike Fighter (F/A-18 Hornet). Having been commissioned at the end of the Vietnam War enabled personal interaction with many veterans from my communities, and I was blessed to have been friends with several former Vietnam War Prisoners of War (POWs). The relationships that evolved from those friendships instilled in me a sense of patriotism and commitment I had not felt before.

I looked upon those former POWs as individuals who had committed themselves to something much greater than just a commission or flight school service obligation. They opened my eyes to the depth of commitment some make to our country, their Navy and their squadron mates. Comprehending their personal sacrifice was life changing for me. And getting to know them fundamentally changed me as a person. So it is with their example that I committed myself to supporting Naval Aviation through the ANA.

Much has changed since 1973, for both the ANA and our society. In the early days, the ANA membership was made up of many WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans. They created the ANA to appropriately represent the interests of Naval Aviation, and they wanted ANA representatives to be

engaged and making known the issues and challenges our profession faced. This need has not changed. There is a continuing need for an organization that looks out for Naval Aviation, its people, and its causes. There is a need for the current generation of Naval Aviation come onboard ANA and to join in the effort.

My decision to actively support ANA throughout the years has been based on my desire to be involved in an organization that directly supports and inspires those in my chosen profession. I chose to stay engaged through the ANA and hope my efforts assist in keeping Naval Aviation on the right track, providing the Navy and our nation with a war fighting capability second to none.

I believe the Association of Naval Aviation continues to have this important purpose and mission. I'm a proud life member and look forward to other joining me in their support of our Naval Aviation through their membership in the Association of Naval Aviation.



Best Regards,

Rear Admiral Matt Moffit, USN (Ret)
Member, ANA Board of Directors

Our mission as members of the Association of Naval Aviation:

"...to educate and encourage an interest among the general public as to the importance of Naval Aviation in the defense of the United States and its allies..."

