2011 Marks the 100th year of Naval Aviation. Of the 3,454 recipients of the Medal of Honor, 44 of them have come from the Navy and Marine Corp Aviation community.

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CDR William A. Moffett USN
SF1 Patrick McGunigal USN
ENS Charles H. Hammann USN
CMM(A) Francis Ormsbee Jr. USN
2ndLt Ralph Talbot USMC
GSGT Robert G. Robinson USMC
LCDR William M. Corry USN
LCDR Richard E. Byrd USN
CWO Floyd Bennett USN
1stLt Christian F. Schilt USMC
LT Carlton B. Hutchins USN
Chief John W. Finn USN
Capt Henry T. Elrod USMC
LT Edward H. O’Hare USN
LT Richard N. Antrim USN
LT John J. Powers USN
LTG William E. Hall USN
LT Milton E. Ricketts USN
Capt Richard E. Fleming USMC
Maj Robert E. Galer USMC
Maj John L. Smith USMC

Col Merritt A. Edson USMC
LtCol Harold W. Bauer USMC
Capt Joseph J. Foss USMC
Capt Jefferson J. DeBlanc USMC
1stLt James E. Sweet USMC
LCDR Bruce Van Voorhis USN
1stLt Kenneth A. Walsh USMC
Maj Gregory Boyington USMC
LT Nathan G. Gordon USN
CDR David McCampbell USN
1stLt Robert M. Hanson USMC

1 Nov 1943 & 24 Jun 1944
LTG Donald A. Gary USN
LCDR Joseph T. O’Callahan USN
2ndLt Henry A. Commiskey USMC
LTG Thomas J. Hunder Jr. USN
LCDR Michael J. Estocin USN
Capt Stephen W. Pless USMC
LTG Clyde E. Lassen USN
CAPT James B. Stockdale USN
PFC Raymond M. Clausen USMC

National Museum of Naval Aviation
NAS Pensacola, FL
25, March 2011
FORCM (AW) J. R. "Randy" Kafka, USN-ret

Master of Ceremonies


Graduating from Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois in December 1970, he transferred to Journalist Class "A" school at Fort Harrison, Indiana, graduating 2 of 20 with a class average of 95.

In March 1971, JOSN Kafka reported to his first duty station, USS ORISKANY (CVA-34), home ported in Alameda, California. Due to needs of the Navy, and his NEC of 3221, he was soon transferred to a Navy Broadcaster billet attached to Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MAC-V) with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. Advanced to JO3 while attached to MAC-V, JO3 Kafka completed numerous tours in country Vietnam and was returned when the plane he was in was shot down at Da Nang, RVN. After a brief tour with HS-1 in Quonset Point, RI, JO2 Kafka was then assigned to the Navy Broadcasting Detachment in Keflavik, Iceland. a brief tour as the Public Affairs Office for the Navy Recruiting District in Newark, NJ, a one year tour on Diego Garcia, followed by a six year tour in Navy Recruiting Area ONE, in Scotia, NY. Due to his expertise in Broadcasting he was closed looped detailed to Navy Broadcasting Detachments in Sigonella, Sicily, TAD to Beirut, Lebanon, Argentia, Newfoundland, Bermuda and then to Bahrain to serve as the Geographical Commander for all Armed Forces Radio and Television in the Middle East.

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Master Chief Kafka has six children, Eric...Command Master Chief of the USS CARTER HALL, Mike....a Public Affairs Officer on the Staff of Fleet Forces Command, Kiel living in Pensacola, Kerner, a Marine Corps reservist living in Pensacola, and Ben and Chris of Pensacola.

Master Chief Kafka wears the following top three awards: Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal (4) and the Navy Commendation Medal (4).

Master Chief holds a Baccalaureate degree in Journalism from Ball State University, Muncie, IN and Master degree in Communications from Oklahoma University, Norman, OK.

Sequence of Events

Welcome & Opening
FORCM (AW) J. R. "Randy" Kafka, USN-ret

Arrive of Official Party

Presentation of Colors
CoNA Color Guard

National Anthem
NATTC Choir

Retire the Colors

CoNA Medal of Honor Video

Invocation
Lieutenant Robins, CHC, USN

Welcome and Introduction of Guest Speakers
Captain Christopher W. Plummer, USN

Remarks
Vice Admiral Gerald L. Hoewing

Remarks
Congressman Jeff Miller

Proclamations

Benediction
Lieutenant Robins CHC, USN
The Medal of Honor, the highest distinction that can be awarded to a member of the Armed Forces, is awarded by the President, in the name of the Congress, to members of the Armed Forces who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty. The Nation will forever be in debt to the recipients of the Medal of Honor for their bravery and sacrifice in times of war or armed conflict. The first Medal of Honor awards were presented to six men on March 25, 1863, by the Secretary of War and since then only 3,454 individuals out of the millions of men and women who have served the Nation in war, military operations, or other armed conflicts have been presented the Medal of Honor.

It is appropriate to honor the heroic recipients of the Medal of Honor and to promote public awareness of its importance. On this day we recognize their heroism and sacrifice, recognizes the educational opportunities that the Medal of Honor Day presents to the American public, and supports the goals and ideals of the National Medal of Honor Day, to celebrate and honor the contributions of Medal of Honor recipients.

Captain Christopher W. Plummer, USN
Commanding Officer NAS Pensacola

The son of a career U.S. Army Officer, CAPT Plummer grew-up in the Middle East and Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1985 and earned his naval officer’s commission through Aviation Officer Candidate School, NAS Pensacola, FL in 1986.

He was designated a Naval Aviator at NAS Corpus Christie, TX in 1988 and reported to the E-2C/ C-2A Fleet Replacement Squadron at NAS Miramar, CA. Upon completion, he reported to his first operational flying assignment with VRC-50 at NAS Cubi Point, Republic of the Philippines, as a C-2A GREYHOUND pilot. While there, he participated in Operation DESERT SHIELD, onboard USS INDEPENDENCE and Operation DESERT STORM as Officer in Charge of a C-2A detachment embarked in USS RANGER. At the completion of this assignment in 1992, he returned to NAS Miramar, CA as a Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor Pilot, where he transitioned to the E-2C HAWKEYE. He subsequently reported to the VAW-117 WALLBANGERS in 1994 and deployed onboard USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN as the squadron’s Safety Officer.

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Returning for a third time, CAPT Plummer led the WALLBANGERS as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer from September 2001 through March 2004. During this period, VAW-117 deployed in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM aboard USS CARL VINSON and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM aboard USS NIMITZ. The WALLBANGERS earned both the Battle “E” and Safety “S” for 2003.

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CAPT Plummer’s personal awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), the Air Medal (2 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards, including one with the Combat Distinguishing Device/Combat “V”), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5 awards). He has accumulated 4,977 flight hours and 508 carrier landings.
Vice Admiral Gerald L. Hoewing, USN (Ret.)
President and CEO
Naval Aviation Museum Foundation
Guest Speaker

VADM Gerald L. Hoewing a native of Keokuk, Iowa was commissioned an ensign from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. He flew the A-7E Corsair II light attack aircraft on multiple deployments to the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) on USS Constellation (CV-64) and USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63), followed by multiple Mediterranean and Indian Ocean deployments on USS Independence (CV-62) and USS Forrestal (CV-59).

Vice Admiral Hoewing was the Operational Test Director for the F/A-18 Hornet aircraft during its initial operation evaluation and later commanded VFA-81 embarked in USS Saratoga (CV-60) during Operation Desert Shield. Additional sea duty commands included USS Seattle (AOE-3), USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) and Commander Carrier Group SEVEN/USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74) Battle Group.

His shore assignments include multiple tours of duty in the personnel domain ranging from Bureau of Naval Personnel to the Office of Secretary of Defense. Vice Admiral Hoewing’s final active duty assignment was as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower and Personnel, Training and Education)/Chief of Naval Personnel.

Admiral Hoewing’s current position is President and Chief Executive Officer, Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, the private fund raising arm of the National Museum of Naval Aviation and National Flight Academy.

Congressman Jeff Miller
United States Representative
Florida’s 1st District
Guest Speaker

United States Representative Jeff Miller was sworn in as the Congressman of the First Congressional District of Florida in October of 2001. In 2010, the people of Northwest Florida sent Congressman Miller back to Washington for a sixth term. Congressman Miller serves on the House Armed Services Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Since coming to Congress, Miller has established himself as one of the staunchest conservatives in the House. In 2011, Miller became the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is responsible for authorization and oversight of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA is the second largest department in the federal government with over 300,000 employees and a budget of over $119 billion.

He has championed numerous tax relief and veterans’ measures and fought for less government, less taxes, and more personal freedom.

Congressman Miller is married to the former Vicki Griswold. They are both active members of Chumuckla Community Church. They have two children and two grandchildren.
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3rd Annual
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