



THE BROWN SHOES WEBSITE

The Brown Shoes project is established as an interactive website and includes new additions plus the previously collected and compiled information--histories and narratives, photographs, anecdotes, essays, and poems, of Naval Aviators of the 1945-1975 generation, with additional sections containing other historical information.

It is an open-end two-way project both providing and soliciting historical documents and comments. We need your suggestions.

Articles will be primary-source—"First Person," with occasional secondary- and tertiary- source material to be used as background or a bridge between articles, or as guidelines for several related articles.

All subject matter pertaining to the over-all theme is welcome. Navy Wardroom Rules will adhere: "No discourses of Religion, Politics, or Sex" unless it is pertinent to the story and based on historical fact.

All articles will be related to Naval Aviators designated between — 1945-1950— and those who flew with, served with, or supported them. White Hat stories are welcome (after all, they did the hard work while we sat in air-conditioned seats and looked out the window).

The success of *The Brown Shoes Project* on hardcopy, CDs, and the Turner Publishing Company coffee table book was a start. Twenty-seven binders of the hardcopy were sent to the Pensacola Museum Library, and 350 copies of the double CD set were sent to several libraries and to those who contributed articles or donations to the project.

However, this distribution limited public access to this information by historians, scholars and the general public. The answer is *The Brown Shoes Website* — a website with a home page and several historical categories with narratives, anecdotes, diaries, photographs and documents. Additional categories, more stories from the troops, and comments where appropriate will be added as necessary or recommended.

The Website will:

- be interactive so that all — worldwide — who desire to review, comment on, or add to the historical topics and information will be able to do so.
- be a permanent project — for many years of continuing interest and utilization — through succession of management.
- be open to new ideas and suggestions.

We have contracted with a local ISP who will provide web hosting and domain registration services and found a local web site developer who will assist on our website [<http://thebrownshoes.org>].

We are carrying forward from earlier activities a flattened learning curve and a cadre of interested individuals — at UVA, at various journals and organizations, and the flying midshipmen.

The website will contain both text and photos at the present time. The capability of including audio and video material will be included later.

With much assistance, we will have a first-rate history website to present all aspects of those great guys who were Naval Aviators of the 1945 – 1975 generation with emphasis on the Flying Midshipmen and those who trained and served with them.

To all who wish your stories, photos, and letters home to be recorded for posterity, send them to Lou Ives at 1109 Fox Ridge, Earlysville, VA 22936. Original photos (copies don't reproduce well) will be returned. [Earlysville is named after a 1700's landowner, a contemporary of Peter Jefferson, not the Confederate general].

The Brown Shoes Project operates under the aegis of the §501(c)(3) tax-exempt Alumni Association Fund of the University of Virginia. [Lou Ives is an alum — MBA 1967—The Great Class.] It is funded by the support of those interested in the collection and categorization of these resources. Links to several of these supporting organizations are provided.



Royce Williams and Ed Bethel, both of VF-781, in front of the F9F-5 on the USS Midway in San Diego Harbor, 2005. The F9 is painted in the colors of Royce's F9 when he shot down 3 MiG-15s 40 miles from Vladivostok 18 November 1952. [His story is on the website.]

Tax-exempt donations may be made through:

Brown Shoes Fund
University of Virginia Fund
Attention: Melissa Gorme
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Send comments to Lou Ives;:
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[The Brown Shoes Project is not associated with the Flying Midshipmen Association (FMA), however, you may visit the FMA website: <http://flyingmidshipmen.org>].

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