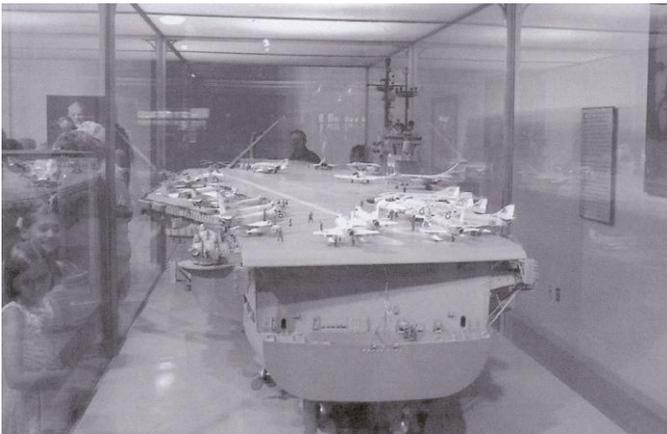


## Washington, D.C. Area — 1 August 2009

On 1 August 2009, 100+ people met at the new Cold War Wing of the Navy Museum in the Washington, D.C. Navy Yard. Of the total number in attendance, about 75 people were from the USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59) and RVAH-11 communities. The purpose of the event was to dedicate a model of an RVAH-11 RA-5C *Vigilante*. The aircraft's markings, Bureau Number, etc. were identical to those of one of the aircraft lost 42 years earlier aboard *Forrestal* on 29 July 1967. The model had been commissioned for donation to the Cold War Wing by the current Commander of U.S. Naval Air Forces, VADM Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr., USN, and his sister, Mrs. Mary Kilcline Novak. In 1967 their father, then-CDR Thomas J. Kilcline, Sr., USN, was the Commanding Officer (CO) of RVAH-11 aboard *Forrestal*. CDR Kilcline's Reconnaissance Attack Navigator (RAN) was then-LCDR Vincent D. Monroe, USN. LCDR Monroe was later lost over North Vietnam on 18 May 1968 when RVAH-11 was back in Tonkin Gulf, Vietnam, operating off USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63). Both of their names appear on the RA-5C's Canopy Rails.

Following the Dedication and Reception, many of the attendees moved on to the Vietnam Wall for a memorial service and wreath placement at Panel 24 East which has the names of our 134 Shipmates who died on 29 July 1967. Respects were also paid at Panel 62 East which contains the name of RVAH-11's LCDR Vincent D. Monroe, USN, who was shot down by AAA and KIA on 18 May 1968.

Finally, the group moved to Arlington National Cemetery for short memorial services at the USS *Forrestal*'s mass grave (in Section 46) of 18 of the 134 men who died on 29 July 1967 and at the grave (in Section 11) of CAPT (then-LCDR) Vincent D. Monroe, USN, who was KIA 18 May 1968.



When entering the U.S. Navy Museum's new Cold War Wing, the first thing seen is this huge model of USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59). The model was produced by Newport News Shipbuilding during the construction of the ship. The aircraft models on the flight deck were produced and placed there in later years.



CAPT Bob Novak, USN (Ret.), served us well as the event's emcee. CAPT Novak is the husband of Mrs. Mary Kilcline Novak and, therefore, VADM Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr.'s brother-in-law.



Commander of U.S. Naval Air Forces, VADM Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr., USN, spoke about his childhood memories of his father, then-CDR Thomas J. Kilcline, Sr., USN, when he was the CO of RVAH-11 in Sanford, Florida and aboard USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59) in 1967. VADM Kilcline also spoke of how our Navy's electronic aerial reconnaissance capability has evolved from its beginnings with the RA-5C *Vigilante* to today.



Brad Jones (RVAH-11/USS Forrestal/USS Kitty Hawk) spoke about RVAH-11's activities from 1966-1968 at NAS Sanford, Florida; aboard USS Forrestal (CVA-59) in Vietnam in 1967; and aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) in Vietnam in 1967-1968.



Left-to-right: Mrs. Suzanne Monroe; VADM Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr.; and Mrs. Mary Kilcline Novak have just unveiled the model of an RVAH-11 "Checkertails" RA-5C Vigilante that has accurate markings for its time aboard USS Forrestal (CVA-59) on 29 July 1967.



Ken Killmeyer (1967 *Forrestal* Shipmate and USS Forrestal Association's Historian) spoke about USS Forrestal (CVA-59) in Vietnam in 1967 and the USS Forrestal Association's ongoing activities and memorial services.



Left-to-right: VADM Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr.; Mr. Michael McLeod; and Mrs. Mary Kilcline Novak. At the request of the Kilclines, Michael McLeod produced the model of the RVAH-11 RA-5C Vigilante that he is holding. All markings are as they were in 1967. The Bureau Number (149305) is that of a Vigilante lost in the *Forrestal* fire on 29 July 1967 and the Nose Number (606) is that of LCDR Monroe's RVAH-11 RA-5C Vigilante lost to AAA over North Vietnam in 1968.





VADM Thomas J. Kilcline, Jr. “flies” the model of his father’s RA-5C Vigilante. Looking on is LCDR Vincent D. Monroe’s son, James Vincent Monroe, and LCDR Monroe’s wife, Mrs. Suzanne Monroe. The model of USS Forrestal (CVA-59) can be seen in the background.



Some of the attendees at the dedication of the RVAH-11 “Checkertails” RA-5C Vigilante at the Navy Museum’s Cold War Wing in Washington, D.C.



A reception was enjoyed following the dedication of the RVAH-11 “Checkertails” RA-5C Vigilante at the Navy Museum’s Cold War Wing in Washington, D.C.



A wreath was placed at the Vietnam Wall Panel containing the names of our 134 shipmates who died on 29 July 1967 aboard USS Forrestal (CVA-59). The wreath was placed by shipmates Jerry Poleski (left, VF-74/USS Forrestal) and Col. Emmett O’Hare, USA (right, RVAH-11/USS Forrestal). Both were aboard in 1967.



An envelope containing photos and other records of CAPT Vincent Duncan Monroe, USN, was left at his Vietnam Wall Panel by his daughter, Mrs. Anne Monroe King. In 1967, then-LCDR Monroe was the RAN for RVAH-11’s CO, CDR Kilcline aboard USS Forrestal (CVA-59). After the fire, RVAH-11 regrouped and quickly returned to Vietnam aboard USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63). On 18 May 1968, then-LCDR Monroe’s RA-5C Vigilante was lost to AAA over North Vietnam. His remains were recovered in 1978 and buried in Arlington.



At Arlington National Cemetery, Brad Jones (RVAH-11/USS Forrester) placed a U.S. Flag at the mass grave of 18 of the 134 *Forrester* shipmates who gave their lives in Vietnam on 29 July 1967.



At Arlington National Cemetery, a U.S. Flag was placed at the grave of RVAH-11's CAPT Vincent Duncan Monroe. Then-LCDR Monroe was lost in North Vietnam on 18 May 1968.



At Arlington National Cemetery, Brad Jones (RVAH-11/USS Forrester/USS Kitty Hawk) spoke at the grave of RVAH-11's then-LCDR Vincent D. Monroe who was lost to AAA fire over North Vietnam on 18 May 1968 while operating off USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) on Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf.



At Arlington National Cemetery, Joel D. May (USS Forrester 1966-1970) spoke at the mass grave of 18 of the 134 *Forrester* shipmates who gave their lives in Vietnam on 29 July 1967.

