

Jones

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paign up Red River to capture the city to force Texas out of the Civil War.

"Back in time when I was a youngster there, I was a Civil War history buff," he said. "I knew a lot about the Red River Campaign and the War Between the States. But long since then I became interested in more current events.

That would be the Vietnam War, in which he served three combat tours, flying 190 combat missions. Carriers he served on, including tours as commander of a carrier air squadron and later an air wing, included the Oriskany, Kitty Hawk and Saratoga.

Command of an air wing is "like owning the candy store if you like flying," he said.

Jones also commanded the USS Shreveport, the city's now-decommissioned namesake warship, from 1981 to 1983.

The significant part of that tour was I took the Marines to Beirut, Lebanon, in 1982 and 1983 when when we put a peacekeeping force ashore to keep the Israelis and the Syrians separated," he said.

The year 1983 was a bad one for Marines, when terrorists bombed their barracks that October, killing 241 U.S. military personnel.

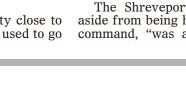
"We put an amphibious task force ashore and the Shreveport was the flagship of that task force. We put our Marines ashore



USS Shreveport

and took care of them for four months," Jones said. We pulled them out and the next group that arrived to relieve us put their Marines ashore, and they were the ones who got blown up.

"I was pretty close to my Marines. I used to go



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ashore and spend time with them. They were the guys I hauled around. I celebrated the Marine Corps birthday with those guys ashore in Lebanon in 1982."

The Shreveport tour, aside from being his last command, "was a ship-

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board tour. I was an aviator on all my others so it was a change for me. To be in command of a major warship was interesting. I don't think I would change a thing that I did in the 29 years I was on active duty."

Jones and his wife, fellow Shreveporter and Byrd graduate Janet nee Strong, have three grown children, seven grandchildren and three greatgrandchildren, none of whom live in Shreveport. His parents, the late Leo and Pansy Jones, are buried in Forest Park Cemetery on St. Vincent Avenue.

At Byrd, Jones was colonel in the ROTC and was commander of all ROTC units in the city his senior year.

His decorations include a Distinguished Flying Cross, 20 Air Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy Achievement Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and Silver Star.

He left the Navy in 1985 but he didn't leave the sky. He lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and he's still flying, though it's as partnerowner of an aviation ser-

MORE

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Keith Jones is profiled at the National Naval Aviation Museum. To learn more about him, visit the site

http://www.navalaviation foundation.org/ways-to-give /national-flight-log/national -flight-log-entry/?id=1080.

TAKE PART:

Navy Week will be observed for the first time in Shreveport April 27-May 3. Public events include:

Navy Day at Bossier Parish Community College, 9:15 -10:45 a.m. April 28. Rear Admiral (lower half) Keith Jones (not the Keith Jones in the profile feature), a native of Ferriday and an LSU graduate, will meet with local military veterans in the Chancellor's conference room. Event is open to all area military veterans — no formal invitation required. Jones, the veterans, and BPCC students will then watch the Navy Leapfrogs parachute team jump into the field in front of the college along East Texas Street at 10:15 am. Following the jump, students and veterans will have an opportunity to interact with the Leapfrogs, all of whom are Navy SEALs. **Navy Night at Airline High**

School, 7-9 p.m., April 28. Events include a jump by the U.S. Navy Leapfrogs; remarks by Shreveport Mayor Ollie Tyler, Bossier City Mayor Lorenz Walker, and Rear Admiral Keith Jones; presentation of a joint Navy Week proclamation, a new recruit swearing-in ceremony, and a performance by U.S. Navy Band Southwest. **Navy Band Southwest** performances on May 1-2. The band will perform in Bossier City at the Louisiana Boardwalk May 1 and in Shreveport May 2 during "Free Fridays Under the Bridge." Concerts are free and open to the public.

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For drawings held on Friday, April 10, 2015

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POWERBALL: NO DRAWING

6-11-32-46-68 9 Texas PICK 3/DAY: 0-6-9 PICK 3/NIGHT: 2-0-4 DAILY 4/DAY: 2-2-7-8 DAILY 4/NIGHT: 2-3-8-3 CASH 5: 1-6-16-19-37 TWO STEP: NO DRAWING

MEGA MILLIONS:

LOTTO: NO DRAWING

vices company, EJet500.

"I fly more than I really need to," he said. "My wife has been a real good trouper and I need to be very careful. In the Navy I spent a lot of time separated and here at my age I should be spending more time at home, but she lets me go out and fly.

When he left the Navy he had 6,500 flight hours. Now he's up to almost 13,000 hours.

His Navy service also included 845 carrier landings,

"Í remember every one of them," he said. Carrier landings, especially at night, are among the most dangerous activities, and the old flight joke that Job. 1 is to make sure your number of takeoffs and landings al-

ways match isn't a joke with naval aviators. Putting an airplane in the drink or having to eject is not unusual.

"The important thing is I brought them all back in one piece," he said.



An article Friday about Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, whose visit to Shreveport was introduced by Shreveport Regional Art Council executive director Pam Atchison, should have stated the event was hosted by Friends of Jay Dardenne.

