

Midway Roundtable Update #3
(Sent by email to all registered subscribers)

1 February 2026

To fans and followers of the Battle of Midway Roundtable, www.midway42.org:

Topics in this update:

1. Update bulletins now in Archives
2. Bill Vickrey logs number 100
3. *A Glorious Page In Our History*--what you missed
4. New book review: *Standby, Mark*

1. Update bulletins now in Archives

When we retired our monthly newsletter in October, we explained that you'd still receive an occasional email bulletin (like this one) when we had something of substance to announce. In order to capture that substance for future reference, you can now find these bulletins in the Roundtable's archive files, same as the newsletters. Click *Archives* on the top toolbar of our home page (above) and you'll see the new bulletins there, starting with the first one in November 2025. The most recent bulletin is also linked in the home page main menu, at the lower left.

2. Bill Vickrey logs number 100

Here's a very special *Happy Birthday* wish for one of our founding members: Bill Vickrey became a centenarian on December 29th. He was among the Roundtable's originators in the early 1990s, along with Bill Price, Frank DeLorenzo, Howard Ady, Jr. (the BOM PBV pilot), and Howard's son, Howard Ady III. If you've been with us for a while, especially if your tenure goes back to our early days, you know of Bill Vickrey's many contributions to the Roundtable over three decades. For more on that, see our October 2024 newsletter--click *Archives* at the top of our home page (above) then *Forum Back Issues*. We're very pleased to be able to send Bill a special birthday salute at this time.

3. *A Glorious Page In Our History*--what you missed

Speaking of our early days, one of the Roundtable's top recommendations in our library has always been *A Glorious Page In Our History* (1990), by Robert Cressman and a distinguished co-author team. I have repeatedly cited it on our website and in our newsletters as the best, most thorough single volume reference on the battle, and that's still true.

I, and probably many of you have used *Glorious Page* extensively to research a fact about the battle or one of its participants, but interestingly, in the 25 years I've owned the book, I had never read *the whole thing*, cover to cover. That opportunity arose recently when I had a long stretch of down time, so I picked it up and started reading from beginning to end, including all the photo captions. It was an unexpected revelation--there's so much more in there that you miss by only using the book as an occasional reference. If you're like me and have relied on *Glorious Page* as a resource rather than a book that you'd read like a novel, I can strongly recommend that you do just that.

That said, there are a couple of quibbles to overcome. One, the book was written long before the publication of *Shattered Sword*, which did away with the myth of Kido Butai's flight decks crowded with strike aircraft ready to launch just as the SBDs appeared. So when you read of Vals and Kates about to take off at the last critical moment--or see it on the front cover--just let it pass.

Then there's the authors' practice of avoiding keyword duplication in a passage; a basic requirement of professional writing. For example, if mentioning a Japanese torpedo plane two or three times in the same paragraph, you'll see it named various ways, i.e. as a "Nakajima," a "Kanko," or maybe a "Type 97." If you're not totally familiar with Japanese aircraft nomenclature or their manufacturers, it can leave you puzzled. Avoid the puzzle by placing a bookmark in the glossary (page *ix*), where all of those terms are nicely defined. You'll be going there frequently.

Bottom line: if *Glorious Page* is on your bookshelf but you've never read all of it, I recommend that you start. (And if it *isn't* on your bookshelf, you know what to do.)

--RR

4, New book review: *Standby, Mark*

Barrett Tillman referred me to the above book and its incredibly bad front cover (see the link below)--an artist's version of a Midway-era Navy aircraft that's simply too ridiculous to even bother correcting. But after reading the sample pages on Amazon, I began to suspect that this might be a decent book for which the cover, like some others we've seen, was the publisher's choice, not the author's.

That turns out to be the case, for *Standby, Mark* is an excellent read; highly recommended to the Roundtable. It's the wartime autobiography of an SBD veteran that we've known about for years, aviation radioman Lynn Forshee, who flew behind LTjg Carl Horenberger in 5-B-13 in the renamed "VS-5" squadron on *Yorktown*.

The book isn't at all like the usual BOM histories--instead, it's Forshee's own narrative of what he personally experienced through boot camp, ARM school, Coral Sea, Midway, and eventual pilot training as an NAP. It's a gritty, first-person tale of life as a sailor in those times, from gunfights with Zeros to escapades on liberty and everything in between. If you want to compare it to something, think of Barrett's real-time novel *Dauntless*, or *The Silver Waterfall* by Miller, except this one isn't fiction. It should appeal to anyone with an interest in what it took to become an SBD R/G and then go about actually doing it, in and out of combat.

As for the book itself, it's 6 x 9 inches, 195 pages, and generously illustrated with a mix of familiar BOM photos plus many more from the author's private collection. There

are also aircrew rosters (pilot and R/G) for most of the sorties Forshee flew off *Yorktown* and *Enterprise*, from the early South Pacific raids to *Mogami-Mikuma*. My copy was only \$10 from Amazon and it's another of those instant-print productions, like the one reviewed in our November email bulletin--the book arrived just a few days after its publication date printed on the last page: "15 January 2026."

By the way, the title refers to a key moment in the SBD's dive as the R/G calls out altimeter readings--"mark" is the point of bomb release. Here's the book on Amazon; you won't be disappointed:

https://www.amazon.com/Standby-Mark-Aviators-Yorktown-Pacific/dp/B0FVQGHDPDV/ref=sr_1_3?dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.zeP87cH66PovSDtTvaE7Mg.-PdCe6LGnHX0nacXu-X3YaLEiNNnB4OMTBKK-VBIQE&dib_tag=se&qid=1767210468&refinements=p_27%3ALynn+R.+Forshee&s=books&sr=1-3&text=Lynn+R.+Forshee

--RR

Your comments on this bulletin or anything related to the Battle of Midway or our website are always welcome, and anything you send will get a response. Click *Reply* on this message or draft a new one to midwayroundtable@gmail.com.

Best regards,
--Thom Walla, webmaster
--Ron Russell, bulletin editor

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