

Bob Solomon, AOC- 1965 – The man pictured is Bob Soloman LCDR, USN Retired. I took his picture last week while he and I were engaged in volunteer work on the **USS MIDWAY** Aircraft Carrier Museum. The second picture is Bob's work Place on the USS Midway July/August 1965 off Vietnam. A busy place to be sure. I met Bob while I was a monthly Continuing Education program titled "USS Midway and the Knox Affair". The title comes from the 1965 cruise book which contained two pages of pictures of Midway's rescue of 155 Frank Knox crewman from the bow of Frank Knox in front of the approaching Typhoon Gilda. The rescue was flown by helos from HC-1 commanded by LCDR "Wes" Wetzel. To build the lesson plan I interviewed LCDR Wetzel, CDR Lionel Price, Frank Knox Helo Officer and talked to CDR Bob Schottle of HC-1 who now runs the "SIM" or helo simulator training program at North Island Naval Air Station, San Diego. Under Bob's watchful eye and 120 others I talked about the rescue and the lack of recognition for the crews who flew. HC-1 pilots accomplished the following – rescued 155 crew, chiefs and officers from the grounded ship. Starting at 0751 they completed the operation according to the Frank Knox log at 1029. The rescue was complete in 158 minutes and totaled 155 Frank Knox officers, CPOs and crew. During the presentation Bob Soloman stood up and talked about some of the Frank Knox crew he saw after they landed on USS Midway. Toward the end of the flights the rush to get crewman off the Frank Knox was under the press of elevating winds and the approach Typhoon Gilda. Bob approached one CPO he saw and offered to take him to Chief's Quarters for a cup of coffee. As they talked about the ride over and the grounding of the ship. Bob noticed the chief had an unsteady hand spilling most of the coffee out of the cup. Slowly, the atmosphere aboard the carrier calmed the jangled nerves of the Chief and other survivors from the grounded Frank Knox.



BOB SOLOMON, AOC-1965



U.S.S. Midway
Bomb Replenishment
Yankee Station (off Vietnam coast)
1965

**BOB SOLOMAN'S WORK PLACE
USS MIDWAY, JULY 1965**

THE FLYING WETZELS – As related in the recently published book **“FRANKIE MARU – The True Story the Grounding of the USS Frank Knox DDR- 742 and the Aftermath”** 95 officers and crew remained aboard the ship to assist in repair and salvage operations. Had the mission been flown in the war zone speculation is that a number of awards and medals would have been considered for the aviators of HC-1 and their OIC LCDR Wetzel. And the crew of USS Frank Knox? There appears to be nothing in the records to reward their efforts during the time on the reef. Out of the war zone “peace-time missions” according to Naval Aviators on board USS Midway Museum are hard to come by. The book **Frankie Maru** is available on Amazon.com, Google: **lionelprice frankie maru**.

The Journey continues July 22, 1965 0000 - 2400

