

The Firing Circle

Dedicated to all AC-119 & AC-47 Gunship Aircrew, Maintenance, & Support Personnel

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Secretary & Circulation Manager: Jim Alvis – Member-at-Large: Larry Fletcher**

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Next-of-Kin Locator: Wayne Laessig
Newsletter Editor: Tony Pakutinski
Reunion XI Coordinator: Wayne Laessig
Webmaster: Bill Petrie

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17th SOS Point of Contact: John Morrow
18th SOS Point of Contact: Everett Sprou
18th SOS Point of Contact: Bill Reffner, Jr.
AC-47 Point of Contact: Al Sproul
AC-47 Point of Contact: Sam Tollett
“The Maintainers” POC: Bob Farmer

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On March 25, 2010, I presented a History Book, Association Gold Coin, and Shadow & Stinger Lithographs, to Lt. General Wurster at AFSOC Headquarters. Lt. Col Landreth of the 18th FLTS, accompanied me. General Wurster was very happy to receive them, and said they will be put in the 'Air Commando's' Display. During the presentation, he asked about the originals, I told him they were presented to the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson. He said they usually put them in an environmentally controlled room, unless there are on display. He is going to try and get them moved to AFSOC where he said they belong. I also gave him a Bronze Coin for himself. I explained the story behind 850, and he turned to Col Landreth, and said to get with the AFSOC Ambassador to see what they can do for us. More to follow.

One of the things our AC-119 Gunship Association tries to help with is Awards and Decorations and benefits due to our members based on their combat service. Sometimes the guys who could help us are just no longer here and we hit a wall. In those cases, we turn to you with requests like this one. On 11 August 1972, on a mission about 10 clicks South of DaNang AB, the Stinger began firing and received heavy ground fire from enemy ground troops. The aircraft commander ordered all mini guns on-line, but #3 gun had jammed. Frank Bartlett informed the aircraft commander and electrically removed the jammed gun to off-line status. While attempting to clear the jam, a round that had not fully chambered exploded, resulting in powder burns to his left eye. Dan McDuffie (Deceased) came to his immediate aid. The aircraft commander declared an emergency and returned to DaNang. The 18th SOS, Det 1 commander, Lt Col Teal, met the aircraft, and escorted Frank to the emergency room for treatment. If you were on that crew, know who was on the crew, or can corroborate any of the events described above, contact Mac MacIsaac at colmacmac@mac.com.

All information on deceased members or anyone associated with the Gunships will be verified by Wayne Laessig. Wayne contact Jim Alvis and Ron Julian to verify the deceased, what Squadron he was in, and any information about when and where the funeral is and any donation or flowers are to be sent. Wayne will notify The Board, and C/C Tony, Bill, for information update, and Doug to verify donation eligibility.

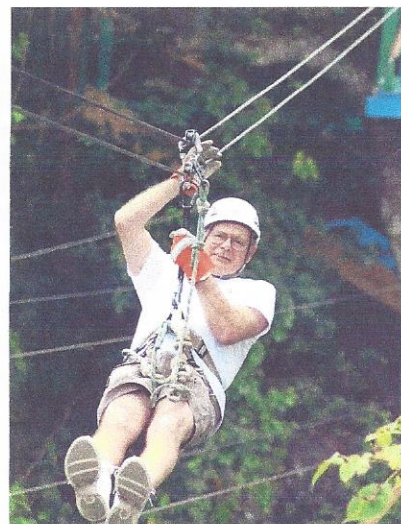
Mark your calendar now, **September 17-21, 2010**, for Reunion XI. Your Hotel Reservations must be completed **NLT NLT August 14th**! Plan to reunite with fellow warriors, buddies both old, new, ground, and flight crews who share the common bonds of the Gunship Brotherhood. **I look forward to seeing you all in September.**

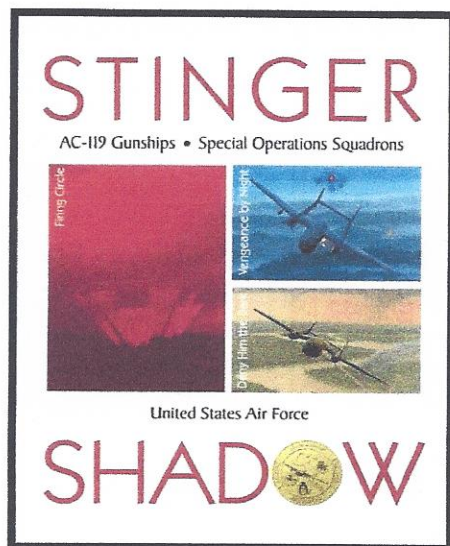
New Section of The President's Letter!

If you've got an off-the-wall photo of our members, please send it to pakman03@gmail.com. Photo identification and Caption suggestions appreciated. Let's try it out and see if we get feedback. **"Here we go"** into the April edition of **The Firing Circle**.

Note* Due to file size limitations, Colonel Teal's Memoirs will be included in our next editions of this Newsletter.

Gus Sininger,
AC-119 Gunship Association, President

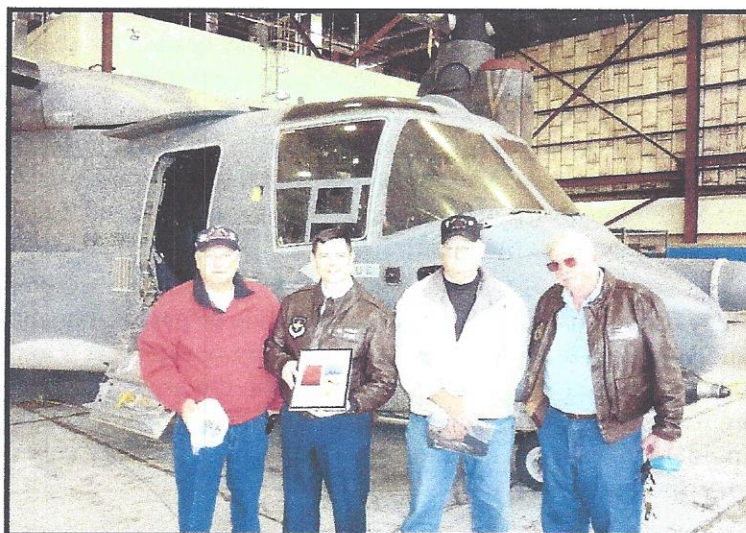




Jeff Duford, NMUSAF; Al Heuss, 71st SOS; Terry Aitken, NMUSAF; & Ron Julian, 18th SOS. The AC-119 History Book was presented to the National Museum of the United States Air Force on 01/08, 2010.

“On January 8, 2010, I had the distinct honor and pleasure of accompanying Col (Ret.) Al Heuss to present the book, on behalf of the Association, to Mr. Terry Aiken, the Senior Curator at the Museum. Jeff Duford and Jane Leach of the Museum, and Helen Heuss (Al's wife) were also in attendance. Mr. Aiken's kind remarks included numerous accolades for the Association for taking on this truly significant project”. **(Ron Julian)**

Bob LaRosa, John Morrow, and Mac MacIsaac also presented a History Book to Lt. Col Gary Riddick, the 71st SOS Commander, on February 22, 2010.



Pictured left to right - Bob LaRosa (18th); Lt. Col Gary Riddick; John Morrow (17th); & Mac MacIsaac (18th).

Pass-It-On

Do You Want to Donate a History Book to a Library? Here are some of the places that the Association and individuals have donated books as well as some lessons we learned.

- 17th SOS active duty squadron, Kadena AB, Japan – John Morrow contacted, & sent a History Book
- 18th FLTS active duty squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL – presented by Gus Sininger
- 71st SOS active duty squadron, Kirtland AFB, NM - from our Association & presented by Al Heuss
- Atterbury/Bakalar Museum (original home of the 71st) - donated & presented by Jim Alvis
- Lake St Charles Senior Living Community Library, MO - donated & presented by Ralph Lefarth
- Magnolia Township Library, NJ - donated & presented by Wayne Laessig
- Missouri Historical Society, MO - donated & presented by Ralph Lefarth
- National Museum of the Air Force, Dayton, OH - presented by Ron Julian & Al Heuss
- Solano County Libraries in Fairfield and Vacaville, CA - donated & presented by Wayne Laessig
- St Louis County Library History section, MO - donated & presented by Ralph Lefarth
- St Louis City Library, History Reference Section, MO - donated & presented by Ralph Lefarth
- Travis AFB Library, CA - donated & presented by Wayne Laessig
- Vietnam Center at Vietnam Archive, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409 - sent by Gus Sininger
- Air Force Operations Command – from the Association, presented to Lieutenant General Wurster by Gus Sininger and Lt. Col Jim Landreth
- Hurlburt Field AFB Library – donated and presented by Gus Sininger

Lessons learned:

- Try your local Air Force Base Library (or Army, Marines, or Navy Base). For School, City, County, State, or other Libraries, it seems best to provide limited but accurate info when offering a donation. Tell the Librarian it is a History Book of the men from the three Air Force Units that supported and flew the AC-119 Gunship in Vietnam. That worked in one library, while another initially declined the donation because the book did not have a publisher (they stated they did not accept books privately published). Lesson: if a library wants to know who published it, the answer is “Our AC-119 Gunship Association, a certified 501c Non-Profit organization” versus privately published by an individual. If the Librarian wants more info, show them the book.
- One Librarian stated they did not usually accept donations due to processing and cataloging costs. We explained that the book covered a historical aspect of Vietnam not in most Vietnam histories; added a plug for the large number of military presence and families in the area, briefly went through the book with the Librarian, and referred to all the other libraries who had accepted it. The Librarian accepted our donated book. Bottom line: you may need to do some talking and the only way is in person. If after all you do, they say no - try another Library.

Chuck Lunsford sent us the following notice of the 60th Troop Carrier Group and Squadrons Reunion. "Gentlemen, we have invited the 317th, and the Dreux Alumni Association, which includes the 433rd and the 465th. We'd like to see you there. Please do me a favor and spread the word among all the old C-119 troops you know".



*60th Troop Carrier Group 1950-1961 Rhein/Main and Dreux
10th, 11th, 12th Squadrons and Honored Guests*

Reunion 2010 at Music City, U.S.A.



We arrive at Fiddler's Inn in Nashville, TN on Wednesday, September 8th. Our Banquet dinner (no, not formal) is Thursday evening at nearby Nashville Palace.

➤ *Friday we see a dinner show also at the Nashville Palace Theatre building. This show is early in case anyone wants to attend a later show elsewhere.*

➤ *Saturday we attend the Grand Ole Opry which is also near (less than one mile).*

Our planned activities are all located near enough that a car is not necessary for everyone. The Cracker Barrel restaurant is just across the parking lot from our hotel. You will need to make your own hotel reservation in advance. Please tell them that you are with the 60th Troop Carrier Group. The phone number is 877-223-7621. Our rooms are \$69 plus local tax (approximately \$73.)

You will need to fund me (your personal check is okay) by August 15th for your dinner and shows. The Banquet Thursday is \$27, Friday's Dinner Show is \$33, and the Grand Ole Opry is \$38 (per person). \$98 each person for all three.

Please help me be sure that all our 10th, 11th, 12th, Base Flight, and 60th Group (and Wing) folks are invited as well as the 317th or other Troop Carrier Vets of our era. We have been assured of a good time by all concerned. See you in September!



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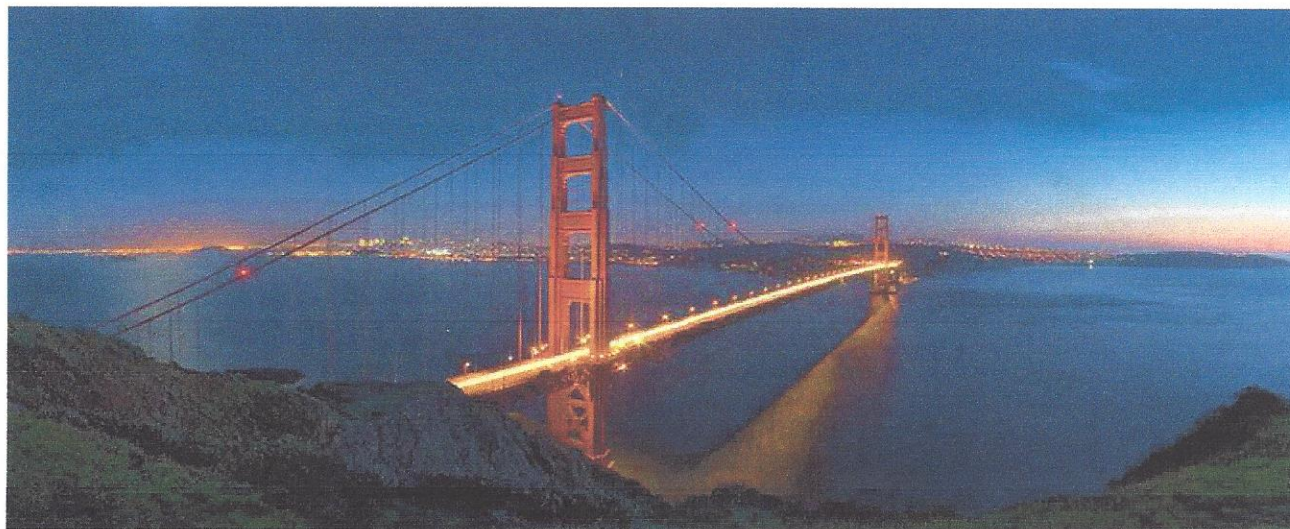
Welcome

Our newest 4th generation AC-119er, **Samantha (Reffner) McFarland**, weighing in at 7 pounds 7 ounces, and 20 inches; great-granddaughter of our own 18th SOS Gunner, Bill Reffner; grand-daughter of **Bill Reffner Jr.**, and daughter of **Catherine (Reffner) & Anthony McFarland**. Some of you may remember our Albuquerque Reunion Banquet where Anthony got down

on his knee and asked Catherine "Will you marry me" to the tune of many "a-h-h-hs" and "o-h-h-hs" from the folks there (causing a few glistening eyes). Catherine said "Yes". Samantha, welcome to the AC-119 family and congratulations to all the Reffners and McFarlands.



AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion XI



"Next Stop, Vietnam - Gateway to SEA"

Fairfield California - September 17-19, 2010

Reunion XI Information

Reunion Hotel Info: Hotel Reservations, call the Hilton Garden Inn Fairfield, at 1-707-426-6900, be sure to ask for the for the AC-119 Gunship Association Group Rate. The hotel is located just off Interstate 80 between San Francisco and Sacramento, at 2200 Gateway Court, Fairfield, CA 94533.

You can book to arrive as early as Sept 13th and stay as late as Sept 20th at the Reunion rate of \$114. To guarantee this rate, which includes free full buffet breakfasts, you need to make your hotel reservations **NLT August 14th**. After that, we cannot guarantee room availability. You can cancel up to 24 hours prior to your arrival date, without incurring fees or cancellation charges.

Reunion Room Rates: \$114 per night, with tax, the final room rate is \$127.68. There are a few adjoining rooms (first come first served). Our group rate includes full buffet breakfasts. Room amenities include Internet, fridge, coffee/maker, microwave, and use of the pool and fitness center.

• Airport options:

- San Francisco (SFO) airport is large, 45 miles south of Fairfield. Often, better rates. If you go through San Francisco, you might want to go over the Golden Gate Bridge, but expect to add 30-45 more minutes for the drive to Fairfield. (See Note)
- Oakland airport (OAK) is 45 miles south of Fairfield. Sometimes, better rates. Same as San Francisco.
- Sacramento (SMF) airport is 45 miles north of Fairfield. Commute traffic is usually not a factor, with about a 45-minute drive to the hotel anytime. Rates can be higher, but it's the easiest to get to-from Fairfield.
- Reno (RNO) airport is the farthest at about 145 miles northeast of Fairfield. If you plan Reno Casinos or shows, or Lake Tahoe, it's a good choice the drive is about 3 hours and the scenery is beautiful.

Fairfield, California AC-119 Gunship Reunion Update

We finally are ready to start registering folks for our Fairfield Reunion! The web version of the info will be posted soon but you can use the Reunion Registration Form in this Newsletter to register.

There is so much to do in the Sacramento-San Francisco area, WHERE DO I START!?!

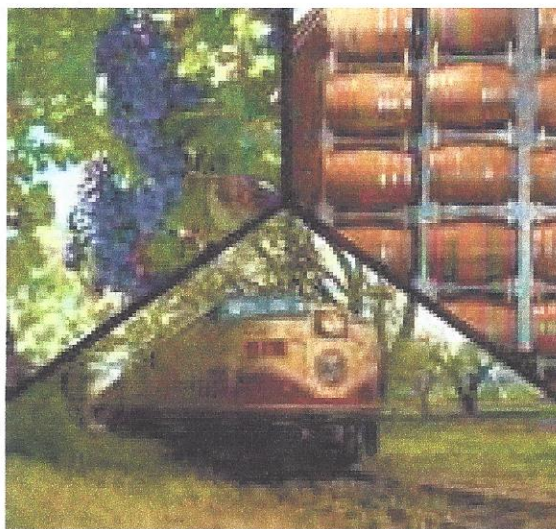
1. First, the hotel Hootch is (as always) the central gathering place for friends to meet and visit, with the Hootch open from Wednesday afternoon until Sunday night with free beverages (beer, soda, wine, water), lots a munchies, Reunion T-shirts, lithos, History Books, Challenge Coins, Pins, and scrapbooks, pictures, and other memorabilia you bring.
 - a. Thursday is now our fantastic San Francisco Tour day. We've scheduled a reunion group San Francisco tour for those who want to see as much of the "city by the bay" as they can in a day, without the hassle of driving, parking, bridge tolls, etc. For 35 bucks we transport you in a super deluxe touring coach with a tour guide telling you about the sights along the way! We'll load up and leave Fairfield at 9:00 am on Thursday, September 16th, cross the Carquinez Straits, go past Berkeley, and over the Bay Bridge with a great view of the San Francisco skyline. In the city, you'll see Chinatown, Union Square, Twin Peaks (the highest point in the city with great views), old Victorian houses and hilly streets, get a chance to walk down the crookedest street in the world (yep, the bus picks you up at the bottom of the 1 block downhill walk), and get to spend a couple hours at Fisherman's Wharf and Ghirardelli Square including lunch on your own (but with lots of suggestions and a map to find your way), then more San Francisco sights including a stop at Crissy Field or Fort Meyers for Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco Bay photo ops from under the bridge, and a last stop once we cross the bridge for photo ops and views of the bridge, city, and bay (usually with lots of sailboats in it). Finally, relax and ride home in comfort past Sausalito, San Quentin Prison, the North Bay salt marshes, Mare Island, and you'll be back at the hotel about 6:00 pm. You can't find a better deal and fun day than this!
 - b. Friday night Meet & Greet is to introduce new reunion attendees, meet old friends, and make some new ones, with enough heavy hors d'oeuvres to fill your belly. Pay as you go Open Bar available.
 - c. Saturday morning is our Association Membership Meeting with a simultaneous Ladies Session. Saturday night is our sit-down Banquet with the Air Force Band of the Golden West for some entertainment, then lots of fun raffles plus a few awards. Two bottles of locally produced wine are included at every table. Pay as you go Open Bar also available.
 - d. Sunday morning is the Golf Tournament, then a Sunday night BBQ to wrap up the Reunion activities. Pay as you go Open Bar available.



NOTE: The Hootch, Friday Meet & Greet, Saturday meetings and Banquet, and Sunday BBQ are all in the hotel!

SO WHAT CAN I DO ENROUTE OR WITH SOME OF MY FREE TIME?

1. First, scenic San Francisco is definitely worth a visit! Take the Reunion Tour on Thursday, or if you want the adventure of a do-it-yourselfer instead, tailor a day-trip to include whatever you want.
 - a. Eat fresh clam chowder served in a freshly baked San Francisco Sourdough bread bowl; relax and watch locals flying kites on the bay front while you munch on a Dungeness Crab cocktail at Fisherman's Wharf; walk around Ghirardelli Square's shops and sample their outstanding chocolate; take a San Francisco cable car to China Town and Union Square; check out the Golden Gate from several viewing opportunities; and much more!
 - b. You can take a two hour double Decker tour bus ride in the City, include a side trip to Muir Woods and walk through an ancient Redwoods grove. The City is 45 miles (but travel time varies due to commuters) from Fairfield, and we'll have maps and links posted on the web site for anything you might want to include, such as the double Decker tours and Muir Woods at www.SanFranciscoSightseeing.com or 888-428-6937.
 - c. Another fun way to visit San Francisco is to take the passenger Ferry; the terminal is located in Vallejo, about 15 miles from Fairfield, with parking for your car at the terminal. The trip takes you through San Pablo Bay, San Rafael Bay, and finally San Francisco Bay. The ferries are modern, with both inside and outside seating, snack bars and rest rooms. The view of the City, the bridges, and even a lighthouse, is a different and quite beautiful perspective from the water. The ferry terminal in San Francisco is about 1½ miles from Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf. It's about another ½ mile to Ghirardelli Square. Or, you can board one of the fabled San Francisco cable cars near the Ferry building, which can take you to the Ghirardelli Square/Fisherman's Wharf area, or even on to Chinatown and Union Square. Cable car and ferry info and schedule links are posted at www.sfcablecar.com (No phone #), and the web site at www.baylinkferry.com or 877-643-3779 has links to related web links for everything San Francisco; site has schedule and fare information, and a description of the postcard views of popular bay attractions.
 - d. If you want a tour from the "bayside" (i.e. from a boat) go to www.blueandgoldfleet.com 415-773-1188 to reserve a 1 hour narrated cruise tour (\$24 adult, \$20 Seniors 62+, save \$2 by buying tickets online) or www.redandwhite.com 415-673-2900 for a 1 or 2 hour cruise (\$24 adult).
 - e. Just dying to get into Alcatraz? Visit www.alcatrazcruises.com or 415-581-7625. (\$26 Adult)
2. Wineries! Sorry, the Poker Run is on hold; we'll send everyone an update if we're able to pull it off.
 - a. Napa is too popular for us to do a dedicated Reunion Tour for less than \$125 per person, and some of the commercial tours can get you to Napa for much less. Napa is one of the premier wine producing areas in the United States, and if you do a tour (commercial or do-it-yourself), most of the Napa major wineries are located on Route 29, approximately 30 miles (45-60 minutes or more, depending on traffic) from Fairfield. Grapes will be nearing harvest, or "crush" – a beautiful time to be in the Napa Valley. There are many fine restaurants located in the area. Be prepared for the possibility of large crowds. Many wineries in the Napa area charge a tasting fee.



- i. Commercial Napa Wine tours are mostly out of San Francisco: www.SanFranciscoSightseeing.com or 415-434-8687 (\$60 Adult), or www.GuideYou.com 415-775-1200 for a ½ day tour of several Sonoma and Napa wineries for about \$45 or a full day tour of three Napa wineries for about \$60; or www.-winecountrylimos.com or 800-578-0115 for a full day tour for \$89.
 - ii. You can also ride the Napa Valley Wine Train, which takes you on a 3 hour journey through the Napa Valley and features winery tours and a gourmet lunch. Reservations are required at www.winetrain.com/winery-tours, or 800-427-4124.
 - b. The “Other Wine Country” out here includes **many very fine** wineries located outside of the Napa Valley, with hundreds of award winning wineries in Yolo, Sacramento, El Dorado, and Amador counties to the North-Northeast; Sonoma County (next to Napa) to the Southwest; San Joaquin and Calaveras counties to the South, and Solano County right in the Fairfield area. Many of these wineries are like Napa Valley wineries used to be “back in the day!” Most don’t charge for tasting, and often provide entertainment and snacks for their visitors. Wayne and Lynette visit Solano, Amador, and El Dorado wineries regularly.
 - i. Solano County wineries are within 10 miles of the hotel, and well worth the visit.
 - ii. Lodi (remember Credence Clearwater) has some great wines about an hour east.
 - iii. Sonoma is just below Napa, has great wines, and is a little less pricey than Napa.
 - iv. Amador and El Dorado wineries are 80 miles (1½ hours) from Fairfield, to the West of Sacramento.
 - v. We’ll have maps handy for those who wish to go wine tasting in these areas.
 - vi. There are also several locations where you can taste wines from multiple regions. In San Francisco, the Winery Collective has 50 wines from Napa, Sonoma, & other areas. www.winerycollective.com or 415-929-9463. For a more laid back tasting, the Suisun Valley Wine Collective is about 10 minutes from our hotel, with 15 wines from 4 local wineries at www.suisunvalleywines.com or 707-864-3135.
 - c. **Tell us on your registration form if you want to visit a winery (or do a day of wine-tasting) at someplace other than Napa and we’ll work to hook up folks who want to go to the same place(s) for car-pooling and possibly mini-busses for transport (so you won’t need a designated driver).**
3. To help with your planning, we created a map showing some of the places you can visit, with relative distances and travel times from Fairfield. The circles on the map give you a perspective on what to include in your travels, with the first circle being “within a ½ hour of Fairfield” (one way travel time), the 2nd circle about 1 hour one way, the 3rd circle 1½ hours, etc. This map will only be on the web (or we can mail you one - contact Wayne). Many of the following places to visit will be marked on the map to help you plan a day on your own or with a smaller group of friends!
- a. **Within a ½ hour (one way)**
 - i. Jelly Belly Factory offers free tours daily 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Jelly Belly Candy Company, home of the more than 150 flavors of “designer” jelly beans. Located about 3½ miles from the hotel, not far from the brewery. www.JellyBelly.com or 1-800-522-3267.
 - ii. Sepay Groves Olive Oil – California produced olive oil, olives, and balsamics at their finest. Located about 3½ miles from the hotel, not far from Jelly Belly and the brewery. www.sepayoliveoil.com or 707-434-8222.
 - iii. The Anheuser-Busch Fairfield Brewery, located 3 miles from the hotel, offers tours Tuesday–Saturday. In addition to their complimentary tour, which includes beer tasting, you can enjoy the



Beermaster Tour, a unique opportunity to experience a behind-the-scenes look at the brewing of Budweiser with a visit to the Brew House and Finishing Cellar, plus sampling directly from a Finishing Tank, Lager Cellar, and Packaging Facility. Beermaster Tour reservations must be made in advance. Tour fee is \$25.00. www.budweisertours.com or 707-429-7595.

- iv. Solano County wineries (over ½ a dozen) www.suisunvalleywines.com or 707-864-3135.
- v. Travis AFB RV Park, BX, Commissary, and Museum
- vi. Western Railroad Museum, Rio Vista (see the info in paragraph 6).

b. Within 1 hour (one way)

- i. San Francisco City, Bridge, and Bay and Alcatraz Island (see the info in paragraph 1).
- ii. Muir Woods National Monument is a majestic Redwood tree grove near San Francisco at www.nps.gov/muwo/planyourvisit/directions.htm or 415-388-2596.
- iii. Napa, Lodi, and Sonoma Wineries (see the local area map)
- iv. Thunder Valley and Cache Creek Casinos (see the info in paragraph 8)

c. Within 1½ hours (one way)

- i. Amador and El Dorado Wineries (see the local area map)
- ii. North Coast: Pt. Reyes National Seashore (Tomaes Bay) at www.tomaesbay.net and Bodega Bay at www.bodegabay.com

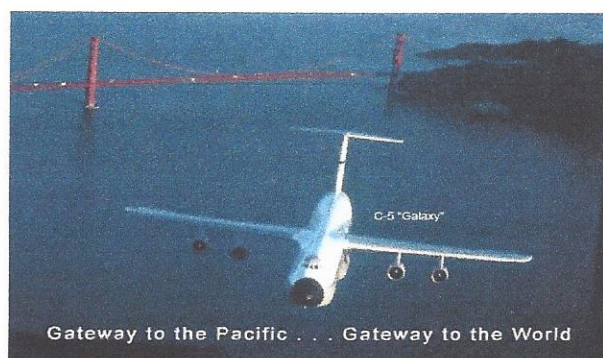
d. Overnight trips or enroute to Fairfield

- i. About 2½ to 3 hours south: Big Sur, Carmel, and Monterey Bay (wharf, Aquarium) at www.bigsurcalifornia.org, www.carmelcalifornia.com, www.monterey.org
- ii. About 2½ to 3 hours north: Lake Tahoe and the Sierra Nevada Mountains are beautiful, with casinos and shows at South and North shores! Reno Nevada is the Biggest Little City in the USA with casinos and shows galore. See the Reno info in paragraph 8 and Tahoe info in paragraph 10.
- iii. About 3½ hours southeast: Yosemite National Park is Mother Nature at her grandest

- 4. Shopping: our Reunion Hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn in Fairfield; located about a block from the Westfield Mall. Anchor stores include J. C. Penney, Macy's, and Sears. The Mall includes many smaller stores, shops, restaurants and a cinema. There is also a "strip mall" that surrounds two sides of the Mall that has various shops and restaurants. Approximately 10 miles east on I-80, the Vacaville Premium Outlet stores include several of the same outlet stores many of us visited in San Destin, Florida. And for those who have never been, there is an IKEA store in West Sacramento, about a 45 minute drive east on I-80. Also, just about every one of the sights you can visit has shopping opportunities.
- 5. Restaurants: The Hilton Garden Inn features a good restaurant with a delicious luncheon menu, and you automatically get the free "full-breakfast" with your room registration. There are many other well-known eateries within a few blocks: Chevy's and Chipotle (Mexican food), Mimi's Café, Red Lobster, Marie Calendar's, Fresh Choice (salads plus), and others. There are also quick stops like Chick-fil-A, Taco Bell, Red Robin in the Mall, and in the strip mall area. There are many very good Mexican, Thai, Chinese, and Italian restaurants on Texas Street and N. Texas Street in Fairfield, and in Vacaville. We'll have a list of those posted in the Hootch.

6. Aircraft, Railway, and Auto Museums:

- a. Jimmy Doolittle Air and Space Museum, Travis AFB – Home of a C-119 aircraft and many more vintage and historical aircraft. The museum contains memorabilia from several wars, including some of our AC-119 stuff, many indoor and outdoor exhibits, and a small gift shop. The museum is open from 0900 to 1600, Tuesday – Saturday; check www.travisairmuseum.org or 707-424-5605.
- b. McClellan AFB's Aerospace Museum of California is about an hour north of Fairfield; check www.aerospacemuseumofcalifornia.org or 916-643-0389
- c. The Western Railway Museum is located less than a ½ hour from the hotel on Highway 12 between Fairfield and Rio Vista. Take a 10-mile train ride through the peaceful, picturesque Montezuma Hills. Admission fee: Adults \$10, Seniors (65+) \$9 at www.wrm.org or 707-374-2978.
- d. The California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento is America's most popular railroad museum; just under an hour north of our hotel in the Old Sacramento State Historic Park. You can ride trains, and enjoy a complex of historic facilities and unique attractions. Admission fee is Adults \$9 at www.csrmf.org or 916-445-6645 for 24-hour information.
- e. The California Automobile Museum, Sacramento is located near Old Town Sacramento. An exciting collection of over 150 classic, race, and muscle cars, plus hot rods. Admission fee is Adult \$8, Seniors \$7 at www.toweautomuseum.org or 916-442- 6802.



7. Golf Courses:

- a. In Fairfield, Rancho Solano (707-429-4653) and Paradise Valley (707-426-1600)
- b. In Vacaville, Green Tree Golf Club (9 holes) – (707-448-1420)
- c. Cypress Lakes Golf Course (Travis AFB) – (707-448-7186)

8. Casinos:

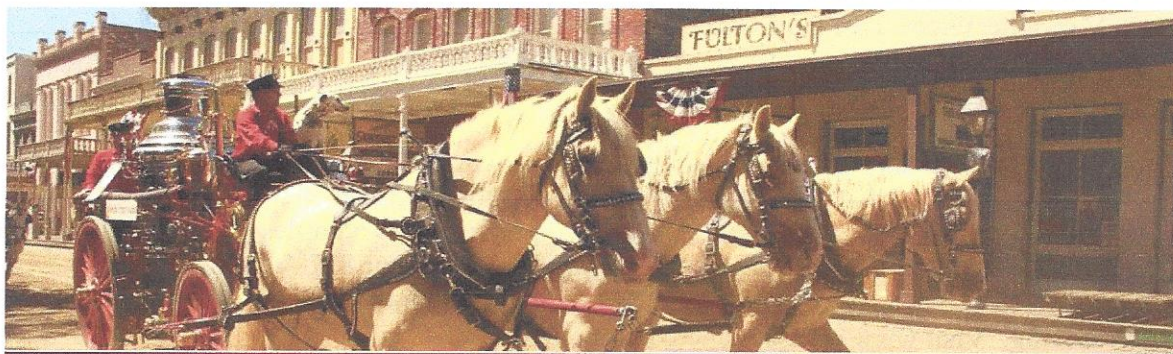
- a. Cache Creek Casino Resort is located near Brooks, approximately 46 miles (1 hour) from Fairfield. Partly freeway driving. Visit www.cachecreek.com or 530-796-3118.
 - b. Thunder Valley Casino Resort is located in Lincoln, approximately 58 miles (1¼ hours) from Fairfield on I-80, just north of Sacramento. www.thundervalleyresort.com or 877-468-8777.
 - c. Colusa Casino Resort is located near Colusa, approximately 82 miles (1½ hours) from Fairfield. Mostly freeway driving. Visit www.colusacasino.com or 530-458-8844.
 - d. Reno, Nevada is located approximately 150 miles (3 hours) from Fairfield via I-80. You'll travel through the Sacramento Valley and the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Gaming, shows, shopping and many fine restaurants await you in the "Biggest Little City" in the West.
9. Suisun City Waterfront District: Lovely waterfront area feature unique restaurants, shops, and a Public Promenade. Suisun City "adjoins" Fairfield, and is walking distance from downtown Fairfield.
10. **Airports:** Sacramento, San Francisco and Oakland (check out the info on the web).
11. **Rail Service:** Amtrak goes right to the Suisun City Station which is 5 minutes from our reunion hotel in Fairfield. Visit www.Amtrak.com or 800-872-7245.

12. Other Optional Adventures:

- a. Old Sacramento is actually a State Historic Park that allows you to experience a lot of California History packed into a couple of blocks! Noteworthy Gold Rush sites, including the western terminus of the Pony Express! Many fine restaurants are located nearby, including Joe's Crab Shack. Also, several museums are in Old Sacramento, including the California State Railroad Museum, Sacramento History Museum, Old Sacramento State Historic Park, Schoolhouse Museum, Wells Fargo History Museum, and the California Military Museum. This park is located approximately 40 miles (45 minutes) from Fairfield on I-80. Visit www.oldsacramento.com or 916-442-7644.
- b. Lake Tahoe – Located approximately 120 miles (2 ½ hours) from Fairfield. Take I-80 to Route 89S out of Truckee, which passes the world-class ski areas of Alpine Meadows and Squaw Valley. Lake Tahoe can be seen from Tahoe City. You can make a driving loop by continuing on Route 89S, which winds around the west side of the lake, affording stunning views of the lake and Sierra Nevada Mountains. Once you reach South Lake Tahoe, you can visit the casinos in Stateline, NV, or return to Fairfield via Route 50 to Sacramento, which connects with I-80 to take you back to Fairfield. Check out www.visitinglaketahoe.com.
- c. Yosemite is located approximately 200 miles (4 hours) from Fairfield; the way there takes you through the San Joaquin Valley to this Grand National Park with giant Sequoias, and beautiful waterfalls. If you have time while you're here or can stop enroute, we highly recommend this adventure opportunity, with 2 hour to full day tours available at www.YosemitePark.com or 209-372-4386. You can also use www.nps.gov/Yose/planyourvisit, or 209-372-0200, press 3, press 5.
- d.

13. "So how do I register for the Reunion?"

Fill in the Registration Form on the next page and send it in!!"



PLEASE NOTE: Cancellation Policies

- Reunion Registration cancellations on or before September 1st = refund or donation as requested
- Reunion Registration cancellations after September 1st = we have to pay hotel "guarantees", so no refunds (but talk to us if there are special circumstances like family emergencies or losses)
- Hotel Registration: if you cancel after their minimum 24 hour notification, you may still be charged

Note: If using SFO or OAK, be advised of weekday commute times, 0700 to 0830 & 1600 to 1800. The traffic turns a 45-minute drive – into a 2 hour journey.

2010 AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION REGISTRATION

AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION XI

SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2010, FAIRFIELD, CA

This is Not your Hotel Registration (this is your Reunion Registration Only!)

Name: (First, Middle Initial, Last) _____

Are you an AC-119 Gunship Association member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Years Served with Gunships: 19__ to 19__ ; 19__ to 19__

Squadron: __71st; __17th; __18th; __3rd or 4th ACS; __other (____); Crew Position/Role: _____

Address: (include Zip 4) _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Spouse/Guest Name: (First, Middle Initial, Last) _____

Additional Guests: (#) _____ Name(s) _____

REUNION FEE.....# attending ____ X \$20 = \$ ____

YES! I / We will attend:

• Thursday San Francisco Tour.....# attending ____ X \$35 = \$ ____

• Friday Night Meet & Greet (See web or Newsletter for menu)....# attending ____ X \$28 = \$ ____

• Saturday Night Banquet

▶ Sliced Filet w/Jack Daniels peppercorn sauce.....# of meals ____ X \$35 = \$ ____

▶ Chicken Picatta w/lemon & wine sauce.....# of meals ____ X \$35 = \$ ____

▶ Grilled Salmon w/orange soy sauce.....# of meals ____ X \$35 = \$ ____

• Sunday Morning Golf Tournament (Green Fees separate).....# playing ____ X \$10 = \$ ____

• Sunday Afternoon BBQ (See web or Newsletter for menu).....# attending ____ X \$30 = \$ ____

Check # ____ Total Payment \$ ____

If you are interested in some wine-tasting on Friday, we're trying to work something. Just put down how many might be interested and we'll get back to you once we see how many folks are interested ☐ Yes I'm interested and ☐ would go if you can schedule it.

NOTE: For special meal needs, contact Wayne Laessig at 707-592-4492 or Qadvocate@sbcglobal.net

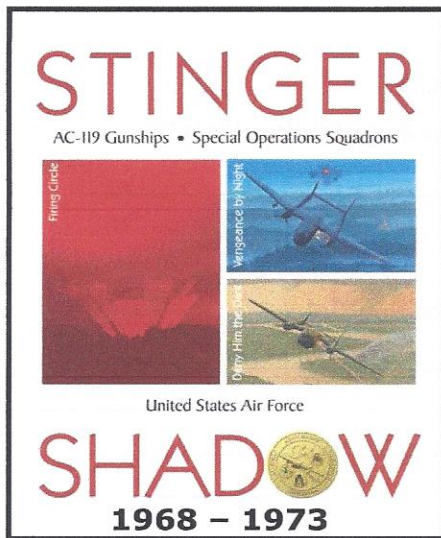
After filling-in this page mail it (if you use the web version, print it first since it will not save your info) with your payment (make check payable to AC-119 Gunship Association) to:

Doug Wohlgamuth (AC-119)
504 Shea Place
Sun City Center, FL 33573-5726

Mailing this page with your payment completes your **Reunion registration**; you still need to contact the hotel direct for your **Hotel registration**! See the Newsletter or web for details.

Questions? Check the web at <http://www.ac-119gunships.com>; call Doug at 813-938-7176 or 813-781-5728 e-mail Busch791@tampabar.rr.com; or Wayne at 707-592-4492 e-mail Qadvocate@sbcglobal.net

See You in California!



AC-119 Gunship History Book Order Form

"Our book seems to cover every aspect of the AC-119 Vietnam experience. Personal accounts of guys, who flew gunship missions, and including those of maintenance and other support people, highlight the good, the bad and the ugly of operating has-been aircraft in less than desirable conditions while flying highly important missions. The little known history of AC-119 gunship operations, missions that provided an important tactical piece to the Vietnam puzzle, is fully exposed in our History Book. Our book will be immediately valued by those who served and will become more valued by those who inherit the book down through the ages". "Needless to say, I treasure my copy of our History Book".

Chuck James - 17th SOS  'A/C'

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone #: Land Line _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Ship To: Name & Address if Different from Above

AC-119 Gunship History Book - Number of Copies x Price per Copy = Total _____

Hard Cover	80% Sold	\$50.00	= \$ _____
Soft Cover / Spiral Bound	REDUCED	\$25.00	= \$ _____
Shipping & Handling per copy: _____		\$ 5.00	= \$ _____

(No Credit Cards Accepted)

GRAND TOTAL = \$ _____

Check Number: _____ Amount: _____ Cash or Money Order Amount: _____

Make checks or money orders payable to "AC-119 Gunship Association History Book Fund"

Gus Sininger
1300 Arial Court
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547-1191
stinger7172@cox.net
Phone (850) 863-9649



Last Flight

Frankie D. Hill Sr.
18th SOS 'Stinger' Gunner
January 24, 1936 – February 06, 2010

Frankie D. Hill Sr. passed away on 06 February, from lung cancer. He was a Stinger Gunner with the 18th SOS from 1969-1970. He's survived by his daughter Debra Betterton and two sons. Burial was at the VA National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, where he received Full Honor Guard Services. Frankie's family welcomes any AC-119 folks to the Memorial Service and Burial. "If there are any of his old buddies from the 18th SOS, or any one who knew him, and would like to meet the family, we would enjoy meeting them. Folks can contact the family via our POC Wayne Laessig at qadvocate@sbcglobal.net



Fredrick David March
18th SOS 'Stinger' Flight Engineer
July 12, 1940 – January 8, 2010

Fredrick David March, 69, of Fort Walton Beach passed away Friday, January 8, 2010 at his home. Fred was born July 12, 1940 in Oneida, New York. Fred retired from the United States Air Force as a Chief Master Sergeant where he served a bomb loader specialist, as well as serving two tours in Vietnam. MSgt Charles March remembers his Dad's pride as a Flight Mechanic/Engineer on AC-119Ks in the 18th SOS, as well as tours in AC-47s and AC-130s. He is survived by his wife of 42 years; Brenda Snow March of Fort Walton Beach, and 2 sons; MSgt Charles March of Fort Walton Beach, and Frederick March, II of Orlando.

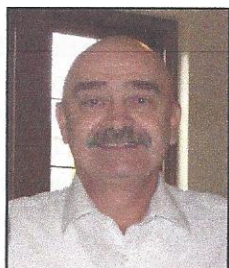


Jeffrey A. "Donkey" Winter
18th SOS 'Stinger' Gunner
April 1, 1949 - December 25, 2009

Jeffrey A. Winter, of West Bend, Wisconsin and formerly of Cedarburg, passed away on Christmas Day, December 25, 2009. He is survived by his wife Lynn, daughters Amy DiCristo and Tammy Ellison. Jeffrey was one of our Stinger Gunners who often flew with "Mingo" Marsland, and "Uncle Bill" Reffner. Catherine Reffner (McFarland), Uncle Bill's Granddaughter, tells us, "We can not let what he did in his life pass with him. He will be greatly missed by all of us. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Thank you to everyone for all that you have done over the years to keep us free." For anyone desiring to send messages to Jeff's family, please contact Catherine or Bill Reffner at cbscruffy@comcast.net.



Last Flight



Newell R. Lee, Jr.
17th SOS 'Shadow' Pilot
May 23, 1947 – December 20, 2009

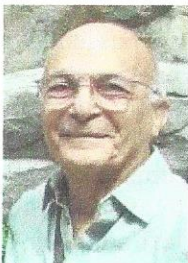
Newell Riley was born in Puyallup WA, May 23, 1947 to Newell R. Lee, Sr. and Stella (Mikus) Lee. He was an alumnus of Enumclaw High School ('64) and Central Washington University ('68) where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in education.

Newell was an officer and pilot for the United States Air Force serving two tours in the Vietnam War. During this time he flew AC-119s (earning the Distinguished Flying Cross) and C-130s. He completed his service to our country achieving the rank of Major. Upon leaving active duty in '77 he moved his family from Hampton VA back to the Enumclaw Plateau. He retired from the state of Washington DOT/Aviation Division ('09) where he and colleagues were charged with coordinating searches for pilots of downed aircrafts across the state. His was a life of service, family, and community.



Shelby D. Lucky
18th SOS 'Stinger' Illuminator Operator (IO)
May 9, 1941 – October 7, 2009

Stingers, I thought you should know that my dad, Shelby Lucky (18th SOS), left us on October 7, 2009. I'm his son, also a proud USAF veteran, and I think the other Stinger crewmen would be glad to know he went out as he lived, with honor and dignity befitting an Air Force NCO and Combat Aircrew. Dad's buried at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, and he's in good, honorable company there.



Dominick Romandetta
18th SOS 'Stinger' Flight Engineer
April 1, 1931 – October 20, 2009

Dominick Romandetta, passed away Tuesday October 20, 2009 at his home in Moreno Valley, California. He was born in Bronx, New York. He proudly served in the United States Air Force for over 24 years, working as a flight line mechanic and maintenance supervisor on B-52's & KC-135's. Dominick served a significant portion of his career as an Instructor Flight Engineer on the AC-119K Gunship. Dominick enjoyed watching Major League Baseball and he loved his New York Yankees. He is survived by his loving family; wife, Louise Romandetta; daughter, Rhonda Chavez and son, Rick Romandetta both of Moreno Valley, California. 4 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.