

The AC-119 Gunship Association

January 2015 News Flash

Association President's Message:

January 14, 2015

Happy New Year! If you are like me, I am looking forward to the day when our New Website is up and running on the internet. Our Information Technology (IT) Team is working hard to make sure they get it right the first time. Lessons learned and the availability of IT Team members to work on programs and formatting has affected their progress. Thus, it will be a while longer before the New Website is up and running. Anything worth having is worth waiting for. Patience is a virtue.

The St. Louis 2015 Reunion Registration Form and Crowne Plaza Hotel Information is included in this FLASH. It's not too early to send your completed registration form & money to Doug Wohlgamuth and to make your room reservation with the hotel.

NOTE: The AC-119 Board voted to discontinue annual reunion shirts and replace them with our official AC-119 Association Shirt. Orders for shirts will be taken by Gus Sininger. Deadline for orders to insure shirts will be ready for the reunion is August 15. Order form BELOW!

v/r
Larry Fletcher

Reminder from the Secretary

IF YOU RECEIVE THIS BY U. S. POSAL MAIL DELIVERY, AND YOU DO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, let me know if you want future Newsletters and FLASHES sent via email. It will SAVE us a lot in "office expenses"! Contact Association Secretary: drzyzga513@hotmail.com

FINAL FLIGHT addendum – May they rest in peace (Thank you Wayne Laessig for excellent records):

Don Balish, April 9 2014, 18th SOS Navigator 1970-71
John Hypes, September 28 2014, Shadow Maintenance
Gerald "Mingo" Marsland, December 11 2014, 18th SOS Gunner 1970
Robert Mathews, October 9 2014, Col (Ret), 18th SOS Commander 1972
Squire Riley, September 29 2014, 17th SOS FE 1968-69
Mike Traynor, March 21 2014, 18th SOS Gunner, 1970-71
Phillips Wheatley, August 29 2014, 71st SOS Maintenance 1969

Welcome to New Association Members:

1. Marjorie T. Hansen, 18th SOS, Surviving spouse, Book Author, LIFE #396
 2. Perry Martens, 18th SOS Gunner, LIFE # 397
 3. Anthony L. Eberhardt, 18th SOS, DaNang, NKP, '71, LIFE # 398.
 4. Also note: 17th SOS gunner Ralph Flak converted to LIFE # 395, and Kurt Henning, PRAFB Maintainer, re-joining as LIFE # 399.
-

Are you interested in some AC-119 historical facts, current events, and interesting dialogue and stories about AC-119s?

If you have Internet (web-www) access on your computer, then you have to browse to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/>

Join the Facebook group, which now has **over 282** interesting FB members!!

AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion XVI

St Louis, MO, Sept. 16 – Sept. 20, 2015. "Meet Us in St Louis" is hosted by Ev Sprouss and Wade Dunn in the "Gateway to the West".

Now is the time to start making your plans to join us in St Louis, MO for another great reunion. Our reunion begins on Wednesday, the 16th, where you can sit down with old and new friends in the Hootch and share your memorabilia and photos (we'll scan your documents for posterity and our historical archives). You will also be able to do a videotape session or remake an old one about your time with the AC-119 gunships for your family and our AC-119 history.

The reunion, and the St Louis area, has much to offer... along with that we have plenty of activities lined up for you. Please check the agenda below for all the activities and any changes or additions as we get closer to reunion time.

Ev & Thui Sprouss, Wade Dunn, Ralph and Joyce Lefarth, Larry "Doc" and Sue Fletcher, Ron and Patty Gilbert look forward to seeing you in St Lou!

NOTE: There will be "goodie bags", provided to the reunion attendees, containing a lot of information about sight seeing and attractions in the St. Louis area.

Reunion Shirts: Order your Association "T-shirt" using the shirt order form BELOW. Your shirts will be in your Welcome Bag at the Reunion Registration Desk when you arrive. These are high-quality Golf Style Jerseys, with collar, in either Black or Grey. Help your Association save money by ordering shirts early so we know exactly how many we need and avoid trying to sell leftovers.

Early orders will also assure a shirt is available when you arrive. ORDER FORM BELOW!

Print them out, fill them out and mail them with your Registration.

The Crown Plaza Airport Hotel Information

The Crown Plaza St Louis Airport Hotel and Conference Center is the Official site of Reunion XVI.

The Crown Plaza is located near the Lambert St Louis Airport. The reunion hotel is close to all tourist attractions, Convention Center, and Downtown.

Check this:

<http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/bridgeton/stlap/hoteldetail/local-guide-whats-nearby>

St Louis Airport Crown Plaza

11228 Lone Eagle Drive

Bridgeton, MO 63044

Tel: (314) 291-6700

Call Toll Free: 1-800-2CROWNE (1-800-227-6963)

Web: www.cphotelstlouis.com for on-line reservations

Signing up For Reunion XVI

Important! Hotel reservations are not part of the Reunion Registration Form! You must make your Hotel Reservation separately. Don't delay making your room Reservations.....with the St Louis Balloon Festival going on this weekend, rooms will go fast.

The Crown Plaza St Louis Airport is located near Lambert St Louis Airport, just off of 1-70 at 11228 Lone Eagle Dr., Bridgeton, MO. The hotel is minutes from all local attractions and downtown St. Louis.

ROOM RATE is \$99 per night, PLUS fees/taxes **total \$115.31**, for single or double occupancy.

Reunion Group Rates is available for 3 days pre/post reunion, based on hotel availability.

ROOM Rates include;

- Complimentary Full Hot Breakfast.
- FREE SHUTTLE to/from the Airport.
- FREE SHUTTLE within a 5-mile radius of the HOTEL, that includes Old Town St. Charles, Metro Link light rail.

Cut-OFF DATE: 25 August, 2015. After that date, you will have to go one-on-one with the HOTEL for availability!!

FIRST complete your hotel registration. THEN print out, fill-out, and mail in your Reunion Registration Form, including a check or money order (and shirt order form) TO Association Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth. His address is on the Reunion Registration Form.

Agenda -- September 16 through September 20, 2014

Wednesday, Sept 16th

12 PM: Hootch opens at NOON & stays open till 6 PM Sunday night

Soda, Beer, & Snacks FREE to Reunion Attendees, except "during" Friday Meet & Greet, Saturday Banquet & Sunday BBQ.

Bring your pictures & memorabilia to share – Staff will scan pictures & documents for inclusion in our AC-119 Historical Archives. If you have not completed your videotape, or wish to make an up-dated one, sign-up in the HOOCH all weekend; tell your stories about the AC-119 for your kids, your family, friends & our AC-119 History!

Thursday, Sept 17th

All Day: Day at leisure!

6:00 PM - Special Complimentary Wine & Cheese tasting in the Hootch.

Friday, Sept 18th

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM - Tour – "Discovering St Louis" – Cost is \$33.00 per person (Minimum of 25 persons). Bus(s) will board the tour attendees at the hotel at 9:00 AM.

6 PM - 9 PM HOTEL – Meet & Greet Meet old friends and make new ones

Cash BAR

\$29 per-person; Swedish meat balls, Wings, Toasted Beef Ravioli, Cheese and Mini Pizzas.

Saturday, Sept 19th

9 AM – 11 AM: Association Business Meeting & Spouses Meeting. Check your welcome bag for details.

11 AM - 5 PM: At Your Leisure.....

6 PM - 9 PM – Banquet Dinner, \$37 per person, all inclusive choose one.

- Beef Stroganoff or • Stuffed Chicken or • Baked Cod

All meals include: Garden Salad w/ranch or Italian dressing, Green Beans W/bacon, baked potato, Rolls & Butter, Fresh Brewed Coffee, Ice Tea, and Water Service. DESERT: Strawberry Swirl Cheese Cake

Sunday, Sept 20th

9 AM -5 PM- Day at Leisure for non-golfers. Do whatever you didn't get to do on Thursday & Saturday.

9:30 AM - Golf Tournament – LIMITED to 28 players ONLY!! - \$40 Green Fee, \$10 prize money = \$50 very special PGA Course – details to follow – REMEMBER, First-Come-First-Served!

5:00 PM – 9:00 PM – Farewell BBQ Fee \$30.

- Pulled BBQ Pork
- Barbecue Grilled Chicken
- Cole Slaw
- Fried Potato Wedges
- Baked Beans
- Corn
- Ice Tea, with Columbian Coffee available by request & assorted desserts.

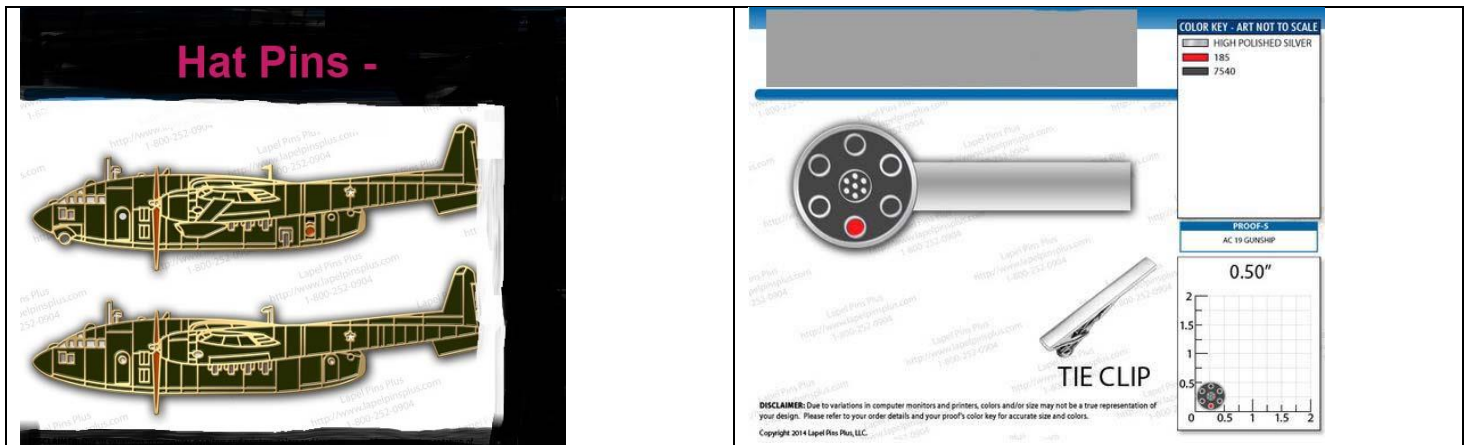
The Association's web site will be updated once a month with more details.

The important thing right now is...Get Your Hotel Reservations and Reunion Registration done NOW!

AC-119 Gunship Association - Merchandise

The Association Quartermaster, Gus Slinger, has many items to offer. As we have offered before, here is some MORE of what is available to you..

CONTACT GUS at: stinger7172@cox.net or tele home at (850) 863-9649



Each items is \$5.00, PLUS \$3.00 to ship = \$8.00.

Thank you to all the Annual Members, who respond promptly to the Secretary's request to renew membership every year, especially to those who are now using email (saves \$) !!! 😊

Continuing Reminder from the Secretary: if you change contact information PLEASE remember to notify the Secretary or your group POC, – it is important that we do not lose contact with you.

OFFICIAL Association Golf Shirt ORDER FORM –

REUNION XVI in St. Louis, MO –Shirt Oder DEADLINE = Aug. 15,2015

Golf-shirt are available in MOST SIZES and either grey or black.

Golf-shirt is made with Association logo and your name embroidered on the front

SIZES: Medium, Large, X-Large, XX-Large without pocket!

DONATION PRICING (Includes Shipping and Handling) = **\$40.00 (new price effective Jan. 2015)**

SIZE	QTY	COLOR	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL PRICE
------	-----	-------	------------	-------------

**MULTIPLY YOUR QUANTITY BY THE UNIT PRICE TO GET YOUR TOTAL PRICE." MAKE CHECK or MONEY ORDER
PAYABLE TO: AC-119 Gunship Association **INCLUDED with your registration payment!!**



Discovering St Louis is more than just the Arch. It is seeing the city's neighborhoods and some of its major attractions on a driving tour narrated by an experienced guide. Your professional Discover St Louis guide will meet your group at the hotel and depart with you for your city tour. We begin with Laclede's Landing, a nine block historic area named for the founder of the city. Driving through the cobblestone streets will bring you to the riverfront and to a view of the 630 foot tall Gateway Arch. You will see the oldest cathedral west of the Mississippi, the Old Courthouse where the Dred Scott case began, and Busch Stadium. Enjoy a historic drive through Soulard, the oldest surviving residential neighborhood in the city. The neighborhood centers around an outdoor market that dates from the 1700's. Another beautiful neighborhood to enjoy is Lafayette Park, which boasts the largest concentration of Victorian-era architecture in the nation and is also named one of the "ten prettiest painted lady neighborhoods" in the country by Better Homes and Gardens and Architecture magazines. Enjoy a tour at Anheuser Busch InBev Brewery where you will see the stables, cellar and brew house and enjoy a complimentary sample. Lunch today will be on your own at Favazza's Restaurant ((314) 492-3262 www.favazzas.com . Located in the famed Italian neighborhood known as "The Hill," you'll enjoy an authentic Italian lunch. We round out our day with a tour to the Cathedral Basilica, home to 84,000 square feet of mosaic tiles. (Cathedral is available based around mass, Funeral and wedding schedules).

Cost for tour is \$33.00 per person based on a minimum of 25 people paid. Cost includes a luxury motor coach, a professional Discover St Louis tour guide, a tour at AB InBev Brewery, tour of Cathedral Basilica, and all arrangements and reservations. Lunch is on your own at Favazza's Restaurant. Gratuity to driver and guide is not included in the cost. Suggest a \$1 - \$2 per person for each guide and driver.

The bus will pick up the tour attendee's at 9:30 AM, at the hotel and drop back at the hotel at 2:30 PM

2015 AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION XVI REGISTRATION

SEPTEMBER 16 - 20, 2015 ST. LOUIS, MO

“Meet Us in St Louis”

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: ____ - ____
Squadron: 71st___ 17th___ 18th___ other (_____) Crew Position/Role: _____
Address (include Zip+4) _____
Phone _____ email _____
Spouse/Guest Name: (First, Middle Initial, Last) _____

Additional Guests (#) _____ Name(s) _____

Are you staying at the Reunion Hotel? Yes___ No___ If staying somewhere else, where? _____

Is this your 1st Reunion: Yes___ No___

REUNION FEE.....# attending ____ X \$25 = \$ _____

NOTE: Hootch opens 12:00 Wednesday

YES! / / We will attend:

Friday Tour St Louis (see web or Newsletter for details) (Min 25 People).....#attending ____ X \$33 = \$ _____

• Friday Night Meet & Greet (see web or Newsletter for menu)..... # attending ____ X \$29 = \$ _____

• Saturday Night Banquet

▶ Beef Stroganoff # of meals ____ X \$37 = \$ _____

▶ Stuffed Chicken # of meals ____ X \$37 = \$ _____

▶ Baked Cod # of meals ____ X \$37 = \$ _____

• Sunday Morning Golf Tournament # playing ____ X \$10 = \$ _____

• Sunday Evening Western Buffett Dinner..... # attending ____ X \$30 = \$ _____

Check # _____ Total Payment = \$ _____

NOTE: For special meal needs or questions, contact Ev Sprous 314-221-7385 (ac119gunner@hotmail.com) or Wade Dunn 314-429-7396.

Print this Registration Form **First** and then fill it out (since our current website version will not save your info) and snail-mail the registration form along with your check or money order 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. **BUT**, you still need to contact Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bridgeton, Missouri for room reservations at www.cphotelstlouis.com or call toll free 1-866-282-4643 – code is **GUN**. Tell them you are attending the AC-119 Gunship Reunion. Your Reunion rate is good for **3 days** before and after our Reunion Dates of September 16-20. More information about Reunion Tours will be posted on our Website www.ac-119gunships.com and in our Newsletter.

Questions about Registration? Contact Doug at Busch791@tampabay.rr.com or at 813-938-1886 or 813-781-5728.

Reunion Registration cancellations on or before August 25: Refund or Donation as requested.
Reunion Registration cancellations after September 1st: The Association has 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 the minimum **72 hour notification**, you will be charged for one day.

See You in St. Louis, Missouri