

President's Message

Getting together with the Spectres and Spookys for our 8th Reunion in Sandestin Florida was unique (we even made the AC-47 folks eligible to join our Association). Now, on with our AC-119 Association Reunions, with our 9th Reunion in Branson coming together nicely under Jerry MacDonald as Reunion Coordinator.

I want to give you some highlights from our Association over the years plus some idea on what we've been working and spending our time and your money on.

First, some things that have been done or being worked on:

- ◆ Our Master List has over 1200 names of members of the 71st, 17th, 18th SOS, and now AC-47 members.
- ◆ Over the years we've placed a Brass Memorial Plaque for the lost comrades in SEA and Stinger Monument in the Hurlburt Air Park near the Shadow Gunship to keep our heritage visible and complete.
- ◆ We have one-of-a-kind Stinger and Shadow Paintings and Lithographs.
- ◆ We have many pictures, mission tapes, and other things to supplement our histories.
- ◆ We have POCs and Newsletters to help spread the word and keep the communication lines open.
- ◆ Take a short walk through the Website's Links and pages and add it to your "Favorites" list. You can even post messages on Mail Call.
- ◆ We have T-shirts-T-shirts-T-shirts! Plus, Hats, Patches, Pins, Mission CDs and actual Shadow and Stringer Videos, lithographs of our AC-119s, Coins, and Golf Shirts.

Next, one of our primary reasons for existing: we plan our Reunions to give you time to visit with old friends and hopefully make some new ones while you "hootch it" and enjoy the local areas. We've had reunions in Fort Walton, Dayton, Albuquerque, Sandestin, and our next one is in Branson (each one has had Friday socials, Saturday Banquets, and Sunday BBQs).

One of our other primary reasons for existing is to get our AC-119 back into the history books. Dr Larry Fletcher and Ralph LeFarth put together the beginnings of a comprehensive history book with historical info about our squadrons, missions, and our air and ground crew stories and bios. See the article on that for the next phase in creating that history book.

Check out the minutes from our last Association meeting to bring you up to date on our latest decisions and plans.

Lastly, be sure to register for the Branson Reunion AND the Radisson Hotel on September 11-14, 2008. For details, read Jerry McDonald's message as the Branson Reunion Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Vern C. Hansen

President AC-119 Gunship Association