

## President's Report:

WOW! AC-119 "Operation Legacy" Reunion at Albuquerque was a resounding success. The reunion was action-packed from arrival to departure. My compliments for mission accomplished to Steve and Nancy Mac Isaac. On behalf of the Association, I sincerely thank them for a Great Reunion.

We had ten brothers attend their first AC-119 reunion this year. We missed all of you who could not attend. A total of 250 brothers and guests attended the reunion. The "Party Hootch" opened at noon on Wednesday and there were many brothers there to help. Showers kept most of us indoors during "hump day," but the next day and the following days of the reunion were gorgeous weather.

Military Friday at Kirtland AFB was excellent; weather perfect. USAF busses transported our group to tour aircraft on the base flightline, have lunch prepared/served by active duty personnel (even officers) of the 56<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Group which includes the 71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron (Legacy Squadron). One hundred twenty-five of our group attended an hour-long briefing conducted by two pilots (Captains) and a flight engineer (now called an "Aviation Systems Specialist").

Prior to the Meet & Greet activity on Friday evening, an unforgettable, unique memorial service was held in honor of our brothers lost in Vietnam. Families of lost brothers and surviving crew members of lost aircraft were honored in the ceremony conducted by the Administrators of our Facebook Page. Four custom-brewed ales with dedicated "Call Signs" of the four aircraft lost were ceremoniously presented and adorned with individual "dog tags" as each name of lost brothers was read.

Saturday morning started at 0900 hours with the Association business meeting that lasted two hours. Highlights of the meeting were:

- The Board-approved recommendation of the IT (Information Technology) Team to contract with True World Enterprise (TWE) for a new AC-119 Gunship Website was presented to the membership. The new website will have the same website address, i.e. [www.ac-119gunships.com](http://www.ac-119gunships.com).
- For additional funds needed to launch a comprehensive website (above & way beyond our present website) as soon as possible, members were asked for donations to the Association. Shadow Gunner John Morrow gave the first donation of \$1,000.00 and challenged all AC-119 Shadow & Stinger Generals, Colonels, and Chief Master Sergeants to match his donation. Ron Hinton challenged all Life members to donate \$119.00 to match their original life membership dues. The CHALLENGES for "new website" donations are established. Any donations to the Association for the new website by annual members/associate or honorary members will be appreciated and recognized. Send your donation to Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth. Donations are TAX-Deductible!
- The 2014 Board of Directors was re-elected to serve in 2015. Anyone interested in serving on the Board after the 2015 Reunion in St. Louis is welcome to contact a current Board member. FNG's on the Board are wanted but need to be trained for combat missions.
- Reunion XVI will be held in St. Louis at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on September 15-22, 2015. Reunion Coordinators are Wade Dunn and Ev Sprous.
- Reunion XVII will be held at "Homebase" Fort Walton Beach, Florida in 2016.
- Reunion XVIII will be held at Wright-Patterson AFB; Dayton, Ohio in 2017.

The Reunion Banquet on Saturday evening included a delicious dinner and a great guest speaker. Colonel Dwight Davis, Commander of the 58<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 58<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing provided a most informative speech about current special operations, tying the fact that we AC-119 Shadows & Stingers established gunship guidelines and tactics that are still used today in USAF Gunship Special Operations. Colonel Davis was inspiring, most certainly proud of our Legacy. Members of our 71<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Squadron attending were honored to be in the presence of their successors.

Immediately following the Banquet, Association past-board president, quartermaster, and auctioneer Gus Sininger reported silent auction results and conducted our first open-auction for donated items not assigned to the silent auction. The auction format was a success. ?? \$\$\$ was raised for the Association.

Our Fare-Well dinner on Sunday evening featured delicious Brisket and terrific Pecan pies that melted in your mouth. Everyone signed the "Uncle Sam" hat for our brother / true patriot Paul Campbell who is very ill and unable to attend reunions. Thank you, Jerry Hester for organizing this tribute to Paul.

Until we meet for Reunion XVI in 2015, blessings to all brothers and their families.

Meet me in St Louie,  
Larry Fletcher