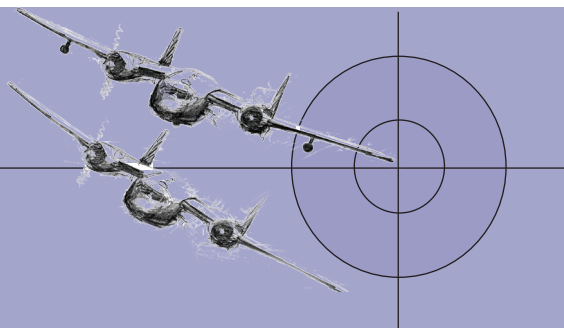


Firing Circle

Summer 2013

A Newsletter of the AC-119 Gunship Association



EL TROPICANO RIVERWALK HOTEL



HOTEL RESERVATION

HOTEL registration! Click on or type in the link below to go to the AC-119 Gunship reunion

HOTEL booking page.

AC-119 Gun Ship Association Hotel Room

Reservation page

<http://booking.ihotelier.com/istay/istay.jsp?groupID=668470&hotelID=75553>

Or call the Reservations Desk: 1-888-253-1628

(BE SURE TO TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH THE AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION)

110 Lexington Avenue, San Antonio, TX - 78205

Some Handy Links for Reunion Attendees

- Need a San Antonio Weather forecast? View one at www.underground.com.
- Want news about the San Antonio area? Read the San Antonio News at www.mysanantonio.com.
- For general information on San Antonio, check out www.sanantonio.com.
- For more information about San Antonio attractions, go to <http://www.visitsanantonio.com/index.aspx>
- Need a car rental or airline tickets? Visit www.travelocity.com.
- Driving to San Antonio? See www.mapquest.com for directions.
- Need info on Joint Base San Antonio (includes Lackland, Randolph, and Fort Sam Houston) visit <http://www.jbsa.af.mil/>



Hotel reservation above is separate from the reunion registration. See page 4 for reunion registration form and information.

Especially Important Near Reunion Time

If you change your contact information, email or postal mail address, please remember to contact the Association Secretary, Mike Drzyzga, at Drzyzga513@hotmail.com or call (973) 208-2385 with your updates. Also, snail mailings are increasing. If you are getting the Newsletter by postal mail, and are also able to read it on a computer, please tell the Secretary to change the distribution list from postal to email. *Thanks for your help.*

This publication is issued by the AC-119 Gunship Association. Any use of the material in this newsletter is strictly prohibited without the expressed permission of the AC-119 Gunship Association.

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Jim Alvis

17th SOS Coordinator

Mike Drzyzga

18th SOS Coordinator

Everett Sprou

Maintenance Coordinator (All Sqdns)

Robert "Andy" Bright



SAN ANTONIO REUNION SNIPPETS

You can STILL win a beautiful AR15, AND you don't need to be present to win! Ron Soderquist has again created a superb rifle and collectable that reminds all who see it how ***All Gave Some and Some Gave All***. Call Doug at 813-781-5728 to reserve your tickets!



You can win this customized one-of-a-kind semi-automatic rifle, complete with a custom wood display case, plaque with the "lady of the Night" poem and the 71st, d 18th SOS squadrons listed.

One (1) Ticket for \$10, Six (6) Tickets for \$50, Thirteen (13) Tickets for \$100. Send your Check to: Doug Wohlgamuth 504 Shea Place, Sun City Center, FL. 33543-5726.... or purchase at the reunion.

Doc Fletcher's new book *Charlie Chasers* will be available, plus *Shadows of Saigon* and *The Shadow Spirit!* in paperback and hardcover books, and he wants Stingers to know that they too are in the book at various times (more info on page 5)

Reunion Polo Shirts: ever frustrated when the size you need wasn't available? If you want to make sure you'll be able to get the shirt(s) in the size(s) you need, contact Jerry or Ellen Hester at 210-663-3159 or jhester7.satx@gmail.com and they'll hold your shirts until you pick up your name tag. The shirts are white pocketed polo shirts with a Stinger and a Shadow in the foreground and the Alamo and Tower of the Americas in the background (*see the design on the last page*).

Visit Pat McGillis' table at the Reunion for hand-crafted, *wooden display cases of a plated 20mm round* inscribed with your personal info. Pat started doing these as a memorabilia item honoring the history of "Stinger" gunships, intending the shell to be a lasting tribute for all gunship members. A "Shadow" version with two 7.62 rounds in one box is also available. These are a great gift and family heirloom. (*More info in Pat's Brochure on pages 8 and 9.*)

Bummer: *Col Ron Terry will not be speaking at our Banquet.* He was telling his family how excited he was, and after a whispering session, they told Ron "We wanted to surprise you, but we have a HUGE 80th Birthday Party planned then, and all the kids and family are flying in from 4 or 5 states." Ron reluctantly had to bow out as our speaker. We hope to see him at a future reunion! But, the Air Force Band ensemble will perform during Dessert!

If you want to go on the Thurs Hill Country Day Tour, the Thurs evening informal dinner at one of San Antonio's excellent Mexican Restaurants, or the Friday morning's Mission Tour, complete that part of the Registration Form and send it in with your check! Or, contact Jerry or Ellen Hester direct at 210-663-3159, 210-663-9245 or jhester7.satx@gmail.com to reserve a spot on those.

REUNION AGENDA

Wednesday, Sept 25th

- **12 PM: Hootch opens** & stays open till 6 PM Sunday night in Trinidad Room of the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. Soda, Beer, and Snacks **FREE** to Reunion Attendees, except “during” Friday Meet & Greet, Saturday Banquet, and Sunday BBQ. Bring your albums & memorabilia to share – we’ll scan pictures and documents for inclusion in our AC-119 Historical Archives. Videotape sessions (sign-up in the Hootch) all weekend – tell your stories about AC-119s for our kids, your family, friends, & history.

Thursday, Sept 26th

- **8:30 AM – 4 PM: Hill Country Tour (Optional).** Deep in the heart of Texas, the tour will focus on [Fredericksburg](#), a quaint historical German Community, where you’ll be free to have lunch (on your own) at any of the restaurants in Fredericksburg. During your visit, you can also enjoy shopping and browsing at quaint antique shops and gift boutiques on [main street](#), sample a variety of [Hill Country wines](#) (tasting fees apply), or visit the [National Museum of the Pacific War](#), which includes The Admiral Nimitz Museum, George Bush Gallery of the Pacific War, Plaza of the Presidents, Japanese Garden of Peace, Memorial Walk, and the Pacific Combat Zone. From Fredericksburg, you’ll travel to the LBJ Ranch, where [National](#) and [State](#) Historic Parks tell the story of our 36th President – from his ancestors to his final resting place. You’ll also have a chance to tour [LBJ’s Texas White House](#). **Basic Tour Fee: \$35.** *Additional Admission Fees for the National Museum (\$8) and LBJ’s Texas White House (\$3).*
- **7:00 PM: Informal Dinner at one of San Antonio’s Excellent Mexican Restaurants** (*Sign-up sheet is in the Hootch*)

Friday, Sept 27th

- **8:30 AM – 12:30 PM: San Antonio Tour (Optional).** Visit two historic Spanish Missions along the San Antonio River – [Mission Conception](#) (the oldest un-restored stone church in the USA) and [Mission San Jose](#) (“Queen of the Missions” is the largest San Antonio mission, and has been almost fully restored). Also see the [San Fernando Cathedral](#) (the oldest standing church building in Texas). The final stop will be at [Market Square](#) (or El Mercado) which features working artists and the largest Mexican market north of the Rio Grande. **Tour Fee: \$25.**
- **6 PM – 10 PM: Meet & Greet** in the El Tropicano Coronado Room. Buffet Style. Fee \$29. Dress casual or Party Suits; Pay as You go Bars; with Mariachis during the first hour.

Saturday, Sept 28th

- **8:30 AM – 10:00 AM: Membership Meeting** in El Tropicano La Habana Room.
- **9:00 AM – 10:00 AM: Spouses’ Meeting** in the El Tropicano Trinidad Room (Hootch).
- **6 PM – Happy Hour** in El Tropicano Coronado Room. Dress up a bit or wear your Party Suit; Pay as You go bars
- **7 PM – Banquet Dinner** in El Tropicano Coronado Room.
- **8 PM** – enjoy a quartet and vocalist from the USAF Band of the West at Lackland.
- **8:30 PM – Association Awards**
- **9 PM – Raffles** (please consider bringing and bidding on raffle items; they help keep us solvent!)

Sunday, Sept 29th

- **9 AM – Golf Tournament:** Entry Fee \$10 (**plus** Greens Fees) see Doug Wohlgamuth or Col Mac
- **5 PM – 9 PM – Farewell Tex-Mex BBQ** in El Tropicano Coronado Room. Buffet Style. Fee \$28. Dress casual; Pay as You Go bar.

2013 AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION XIV REGISTRATION
SEPTEMBER 25 - 29, 2013 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
Back To Basics

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__ Do you have a DOD ID Card Yes__ No__ Your Guest(s)? Yes__ No__
REUNION FEE.....# attending ____ X \$25 = \$ _____

YES! I / We will attend:

- Thursday Hill Country Tour (*enter # attending for each of the following and compute the total cost*):
Basic Tour ____ X \$35 Pacific Museum Option * ____ X \$8 LBJ TX White House Option ____ X \$3 = \$ ____
(* will be refunded if we don't get 20 people for the group rate; on-site admission fees vary; WWII vets free)
- Thursday Mexican Restaurant (Informal gathering; order off the menu).... # attending ____
- Friday Half-Day San Antonio Tour (2 Missions, Cathedral, Market Square) # attending ____ X \$25 = \$ ____
- Friday Night Meet & Greet (see web or Newsletter for menu)..... # attending ____ X \$29 = \$ ____
- Saturday Night Banquet
 - ▶ Pecan Crusted Chicken Breast w/Serrano Cream Sauce..... # of meals ____ X \$34 = \$ ____
 - ▶ Beef Tenderloin w/Demi-Glaze..... # of meals ____ X \$36 = \$ ____
 - ▶ Roasted Salmon w/White Wine Sauce..... # of meals ____ X \$35 = \$ ____
- Sunday Morning Golf Tournament (Green Fees separate)..... # playing ____ X \$10 = \$ ____
- Sunday Tex-Mex BBQ Dinner (see web or Newsletter for menu) # attending ____ X \$28 = \$ ____

Check # ____ Total Payment \$ ____

NOTE: For gluten-free, vegetarian, or other special meal needs, contact Jerry & Ellen Hester at 210-663-3159 or jhester7.satx@gmail.com. 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

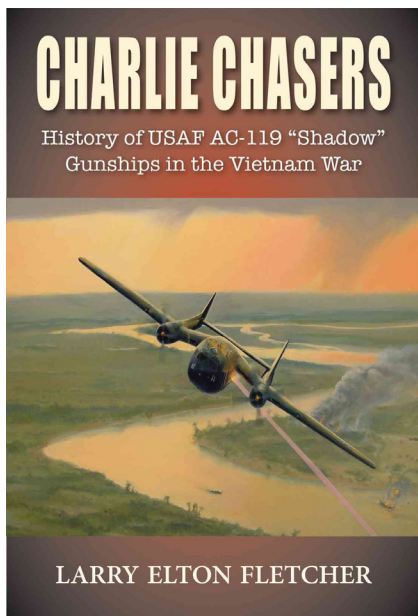
Mailing this page with your payment completes your **Reunion registration**; **you still need to contact the hotel direct for your Hotel registration!** Use this link for the hotel: [AC-119 Gun Ship Association](http://www.ac-119gunships.com) or go to the Newsletter or web for details. You can get our Reunion rate up to 3 days before or after the Reunion!

Questions? Check the web at <http://www.ac-119gunships.com>; contact Doug at 813-938-1886 or 813-781-5728 or Busch791@tampabay.rr.com; or Jerry & Ellen Hester at 210-663-3159 or jhester7.satx@gmail.com.

See You in San Antonio, Texas

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 the minimum **72 hour notification**, you **will** be charged for one day.



“Doc” Fletcher will have a Special Book Signing session in the Party Hootch

CHARLIE CHASERS is a nonfiction documented history of the little-known USAF 71st and 17th Special Operations Squadrons during the Vietnam War. The squadrons flew fixed-wing, propeller-driven twin-engine, side-firing Attack C-119G “Shadow” gunships from 1968 to 1971. The primary mission of Shadows was to provide close air support for American and Allied ground forces in battle with enemy forces. This is the first published book solely dedicated to telling the full story of AC-119 Shadow gunship squadrons.

Author and former Air Force Captain Dr. Larry Elton Fletcher flew 177 combat missions in Vietnam as a pilot in AC-119 Shadow gunships. After five years of active military service he returned to teaching and public school administration, and earned a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He retired from public education in 1997 to pursue a writing career. Larry and his wife reside at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

Book Info: **CHARLIE CHASERS** ISBNs: 978-1-55571-731-5 (Paperback); 978-1-55571-732-2 (E-book); 328 pages • 6 x 9 • \$24.95 For General Audience; available through most major bookstores, and online booksellers.

73rd SOS Embraces Its Gunship Heritage



The 73rd SOS at Cannon AFB, flying the AC-130W “Stinger II”, has embraced their Stinger Heritage with pride!

Col “Mac” MacIsaac and Bob LaRosa recently visited the 73rd and the message Bob sent to his hosts says it all:



Captain Jena DeSmet and Lt. Colonel Derrick Barton, I want to thank you for all of your help with Col Mac Isaac and my visit with the men and woman of the of the **73rd SOS Stinger II squadron** on August 9th 2013. To say that myself and Col Mac Isaac were impressed with how professional, and knowledgeable all of the members of our legacy squadron are would be an understatement to say the least.

There is no doubt in my mind that the legacy of the original AC-119K Stinger squadron, the 18th SOS of the Vietnam era, is in the most capable hands of the members 73rd SOS Stinger II squadron. The Air Force gunship that you fly on today is a quantum leap forward, from the ones Col Mac Isaac and I flew on during the days of Vietnam.

The tour of your squadron’s training facilities was extremely informative as to just what the AC-130 Whiskey can do. I am both impressed as well as jealous, that I can’t fly on the Whiskey model. As one of the POCs (point of contact) for the 73rd SOS I look forward to future visits to your squadron.

Lt Col Derrick Barton was a most gracious host to Col Mac Isaac and myself, and the great troops of the 16th SOS as well. It was my pleasure to have been the one to present a membership certificate, and

(Stinger Heritage from page 5)

membership card from the AC-119 Gunship Association, and a Stinger challenge coin to Lt Col Barton for your Commander, Lt Col Dooly. I want to thank Lt Col Dooly for our having the privilege of visiting with his outstanding squadron, the 73rd SOS Stinger II.

Many thanks also go out to CMSgt Robert Dinsmore, Capt Spencer McMahon, Capt Andrew Talbert, and SSgt Joseph Connell who helped make this an informative and pleasant visit with our legacy squadron, the 73rd SOS Stinger II. Please forward my email to Lt Col Dooly for me. May all of you stay stay safe when flying next. Signed Bob La Rosa, Vice President, AC-119 Gunship Association.

As a further example of the 73rd's pride in its Stinger heritage, they recently requested permission to nominate several of our Stinger KIAs as candidates for Squadron Briefing Room names. We expect final decisions shortly, but the feedback from the 73rd is they will name several Squadron Briefing Rooms for our honored AC-119K Stinger heroes lost in Southeast Asia. More in the next Newsletter on this!

18th SOS flag finds home at 18th Flight Test Squadron

Last year's association president, Gus Sininger, presented the original 18th Special Operations Squadron flag that hung in the Commander's office in Da Nang to Col Pope, Commander of the 18th Flight Test Squadron. Col Tom Teal brought that flag back with him & gave it to the Air Commando Association before we had started our AC-119 Gunship Association. Col Teal gave Gus permission to ask for it back & the Air Commando Association allowed Tony Pakutinski to dig through their stuff to find it and return it to us



Thanks to Gus, Tony, Col Teal, & the ACA, that historical Flag is now part of the 18th FLTS's heritage room.

18th FLTS says "Thank You!"

The 18th FLTS, on its own, decided they liked what Ronnie Soderquist did when he built & donated several guns for our Reunion raffles.

They sent him a small token of their appreciation, an autographed photo, as their way of saying "Thank You".

That's legacy and heritage



Message from your Prez,

The names below are 55 guys coming to the reunion who have not (yet) done a video session with J.P. Mac Isaac to tell their story (s) for our historical Collection.

Jack Bastin	Don Cooling	Jerry Hester	Mike Newmeyer	Ken Stearn
Bill Benzi	Dennis Davis	Johnny Higgins	Marty Noonan	Larry Stegall
Bob Bokern	Bob Derr	Gale Jones	Russ Pontinen	Gene Van Over
Tom Brander	Phil Diehl	Mike Kraus	Vern Raveling	Dave Voisey
Don Brogan	Mike Drzyzga	Ralph LeFarth	Jim Ray	Donnie Williams
Bill Brown	Fred Eggert	Guy Macey	Dave Rios	Doug Wohlgamuth
Buck Buchanan	Norm Evans	Dan Mages	Ray Savera	Robert Wojcik
Pete Chaimberlain	Larry Fletcher	Pat McGillis	Jim Shope	Lee Wolf
Ernie Cole	Karen Graves	Jim Montgomery	Ron Soderquist	John Zebley
Bob Connolly	Bill Hansen	Marshall Mullins	Al Sproul	Virgil Zins

Some of you are in our History Book, so what's the big deal; why do a video session? Simple; I want folks to get it right about AC-119s....in Vietnam....with my crewmates.

Some of you tell me "I don't like to blow my own horn, or I just don't talk about some things." Fine. Don't. Some guys ask, "What do I have that's worth telling?" *Everyone has a story in them* so how about telling how (or why) you got into AC-119s, or a special mission you were on, or why friendships among SEA crewmates are forever, or things you did around the hootch, or a special occasion during your tour, or what the countries we lived or flew in were like, or what the people were like, or samlar racing downtown, or unique things you got to see, or something funny that happened, or something sad that happened, or how you got your SEA or AC-119 nick-name, or what it meant to be part of "your" crew, or the influence of SEA & AC-119s on you & your life.....*or whatever you want*.....for 3 or 4 minutes....or 30 or more (some of us have a lot of stories). It might even be fun to do a crew video.

Before we started reuniting our story was pretty much untold. Let's leave a few of "our" stories for our children, friends, Legacy Squadrons, & history. That will help make sure they get it right. Maybe they'll understand Vietnam, the AC-119s, and us a little better. Our History Book is one of the best things we've done. These videos complement it, and for the guys not in our History Book, help complete the story of us and our AC-119s. You went to 'Nam, and elsewhere, and survived.....you can do THIS.

There are 109 of your crewmates who already did a video session. You can get any of the videos on a DVD – see Ev or JP at the Reunion, or contact Ev by e-mail. You might even notice a few spouses' names on the list. Yep, they did a session, and it tells another aspect of it all. Spouses, please sign up for a session! I'd also like to extend a special invitation to the families of our honored KIA who are coming to the Reunion. Please consider doing a video session. Your story is so important to us, to history, and to the active duty men and women of our Legacy Squadrons.

So, it's crap or get off the pot time. We are the only ones who can tell our story right and get our history straight.

Please email or call JP (MacIsaac@mac.com or 302-373-7269) with your request for a video "slot" on Thursday evening, or between 11:00 am and 6:00 pm Friday, Saturday, or Sunday – he'll schedule you ahead of time so you know when it will be and how long. He'll be set up to do sessions privately, in one of the rooms separate from the Hootch. You can also visit JP and EV at their table in the Hootch, to see some of the videos we already have, or to get a DVD made, or to do a walk-in session. But, scheduling a session ahead of time will help speed sessions along.

Thanks in advance for your contrubution to our History! Wayne Laessig, Association Prez

p.s. We plan to set up the AC-119 Simulator in the Hootch near JP & Ev; come by & try your hand!!

A Gift of a Lifetime

Visit Pat McGillis' 20mm booth in the Hootch



The reason for this project was to establish a memorabilia item to remember the honorable history of the "Stinger" gunships, whose mission was certainly heroic and truly historic to the Vietnam War. My name is Patrick McGillis, and I flew as an aircraft commander of the AC-119K Stinger gunship during the year 1971. Having been stationed at both NKP Thailand and DaNang AB, Vietnam I was subjected to the entire war waged against the Ho Chi Minh Trail in both northern and southern Laos. This shell will be a lasting tribute for all gunship crew members.



The shell is a dummy inert 20mm shell which at one point has been fired. The bullet is nothing more than a practice round. The brass shell is plated in 24K gold and the bullets have been chromed with the tip being copper plated. The bullet tip can also be plated in 24K gold. I think you will be pleased with the results.

~COST~

\$390 without name engraved in shell casing

\$420 with name engraved in shell casing



All of the boxes are made of exotic hardwoods as these woods polish to a high sheen and have a distinct weighty feel due to the wood density. The boxes and the inside "coffin" are done with close tolerances, giving the boxes a very elegant, refined appearance. The two halves enclose and protect the bullet with a glove like fit. The hinges are internal and the halves are held together magnetically.

At the box top is an informational wood inlay. It will include your name, rank (at time of retirement), the title "Vulcan Cannon 20mm" and a picture of the "Stinger" gunship. Also included will be a laser engraved photo of you from Vietnam.

(Must be a frontal face picture to accomplish the engraving)



Bury Me With Soldiers.

I've played a lot of roles in life; I've met a lot of men,
I've done a lot of things I'd like to think I wouldn't do again.
And though quite naive, I'm old enough to know someday I'll die,
and to think about what lies beyond, beside whom I would lie.

Perhaps it doesn't matter much; still if I had my choice,
I'd want a grave among Soldiers when at last death quells my voice.

I'm sick of the hypocrisy; of lectures of the wise.
I'll take the man, with all the flaws, who goes, though scared, and dies.

The troops I knew were commonplace; they didn't want the war.
They fought because their fathers and their fathers had before.

(Continued on page 9)

Ordering Instructions Via Email or USPS:

1. Select Wood Type
2. Choose With or Without
Name engraving on shell
casing
3. Name & Rank
4. Picture
5. Contact information including,
Full Name, Mailing address &
contact telephone number

~This information then can be~
emailed to:

jpmcl41@bresnan.net
or mailed to:

94 Rosemoss Rd, Deer Lodge, MT
59722

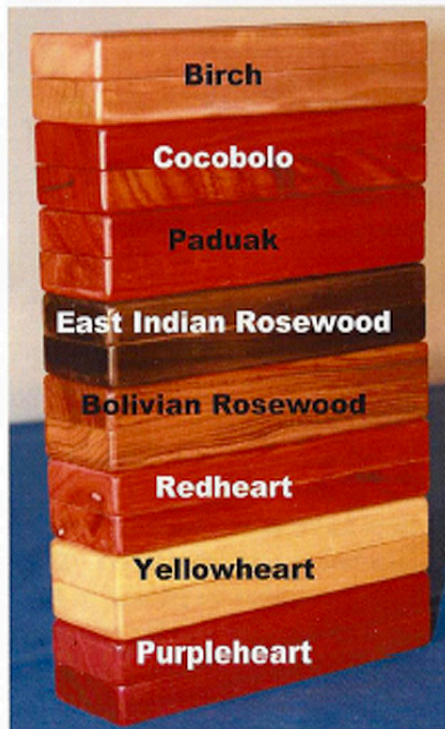
Once you send your information
please then visit www.paypal.com and
send amount due to

jpmcl41@bresnan.net

We require 50% down to begin
production of your order. Upon
completion of your order we will
contact you to again visit our PayPal
site and send the remaining 50% of
your payment due. Once final
payment is received your order will
be shipped. Please expect up to a 4
week production time.

Questions Please Call (406) 544-5265

Wood Choices:



BIRCH - Light colored with fine grain

COCOBOLO - Very dense and finishes to a gorgeous polish

PADUAK - Has a beautiful subtle orange color

E. INDIAN ROSEWOOD - Dark wood with violet streaks

BOLIVIAN ROSEWOOD - Beautiful deep natural wood grain

REDHEART - Unique red color with deep undertones

YELLOW HEART - Color of corn taking a high polish

PURPLEHEART - Brilliant deep purple color

Own a 20mm Round
with your name on it!



(Continued from page 8)

They cursed and killed and wept. God knows they're easy to deride.
But bury me with men like these; they faced the guns and died.

It's strange, when you think of it, the way we got along.
We'd come from different worlds to live in one where no one belongs.

I didn't even like them all; I'm sure they'd all agree.

Yet I would give my life for them, I know some did for me.

So bury me with soldiers, please, though much maligned they be.

Yes, bury me with soldiers, for I miss their company.

We'll not soon see their likes again; we've had our fill of war.

But bury me with men like them till someone else does more.

Here is Who Is Coming (at print time.) Join these old friends and make some new ones!

* Barbara Barker (Rod Slagle's Wife)
Frank & Shirley Bartlett
Jack & Carolyn Bastin
Carl Benedict
Bill Benzi
Dodie (Blum) Giovannini & Max Giovannini
Bob Bokern & Phyllis Barnett
Tom Brander
Andy & Linda Bright
Don & Alice Brogan
Bill & Dawn Brown
* Mike Brown, Pam & Randy (Ken Brown's family)
Buck Buchanan
Bruce & Joanna Byrd
Pete Chamberlain
John & Melinda Coates
Gen & Diane Coco
Ernie Cole
Bob Connolly & Cathy Henry
Don & Marilyn Cooling
Don & Peggy Craig
Dennis & Judy Davis
Bob & Jerrilyn Derr
Denise Desantis
Phil & Lois Diehl
Mike & Andrea Drzyzga
Jim & Janet Dunn
Bob Dydo
Fred & Dee Eggert with Daughter Bernadine
Harrison & Guest Rhonda Jones
Allan & Judith Evans
Norm Evans & Shirley Hagan
Jeanette Feezor
Larry & Sue Fletcher
Ron & Pat Gilbert
Joe & Jan Goryl
Karen Graves
Bill Hanson
George Hardy
Jerry & Ellen Hester with 8 more Hester Family!
Johnny & Anita Higgins
Ron & Carol Hinton
Baby Huey & Soncy Hunter
Dick & Jan Iverson
Gale Jones & Karen Brown
Ron Julian
Mike Kraus
Bob Krueger
Lee Kyser
Wayne & Lynette Laessig
Bob LaRosa
Jesse Lau
McBlan Lee

Ralph & Joyce Lefarth
Col Mac, Nancy, & JP Mac Isaac
Guy & Randy (Son) Macey
Dan Mages
Jim & Lynn Mattison
Cash & Mary McCall
Pat & Carol McGillis with 6 more McGillis Family!
Jim & Karen Montgomery with Guest Cheryl Artis
Jim & Cathy Moore with Daughters Karen Johnson, Lorraine McElrath, & Helen Nelly
John Morgan
Mike & Theresa Mullen
Marshall & Marilyn Mullins
Larry & Loretta Nelson
Mike Newmyer
Marty & Sandy Noonan
Bill & Karen Petrie
Russ & Spouse Pontinen
Bill & Cindy Posey with Guests Greg & Denise Stachowski
Vern & Betty Raveling with Son Dan & Wife Maria, & Granddaughter Danielle
Jim Ray
Dave & Maria Rios
* John "O'Neal" Rucker's Family:
Mother Mae Rucker (
Brother Billy & Mary Rucker
Sister Margie & Roger Manning
Sister Marsha & Travis Bradford
Daughter Tia McConnell & Jack Whittier with Guest Robin Kyle
Ray (Gus) Savera & Ken Howard
John Schumann
Jim & Christine Shope with Guests Sandra & Urlaca Petilo
Gus Sininger
Bernie & Judy Smith
Jerry & Diane Snyder
Ron & Venita Soderquist
Al Sproul
Ev Sproul
Ken & Ronnie Stearn
Larry & Barbara Stegall
Rogers & Cathi Stevens
Neil & Murel Taylor
Andy Turlington
Gene & Cindy Van Over
Dave & Mary Voisey
Chuck Williams
Donnie Williams
Doug Wohlgamuth
Robert & Craig (Son) Wojcik
Lee Wolf
John & Gwendolyne Zebley with Son John
Virgil & Donna Zins



Message from your Final Flight POC

During the last 4 months we've had a team of **Outreach Volunteers** trying to find contact information on the hundreds of AC-119 air and ground crew who we know existed but do not have any contact with. They're not making more of us, so our intent is to grow the existing contacts and reach everyone we still can. While we have a long way to go on making a full contact list a reality, our Volunteers did wonders, with **Margaret Scott** finding over 300 contact updates (including many of you who forgot to tell us your e-mail, phone, and/or address changed....

Sadly though, we also learned of many of our brothers who died before we knew how to contact them, and who we will not get to see at a Reunion. These losses are part of why we are doing our Outreach and asking for more accurate contact info from you. Yes, our 71st, 17th, 16th, and 73rd Legacy Squadrons' warriors will continue with the heritage we leave them, but it's sure seems better to show them that legacy while we can do it in person. I'd also like to see most of you a few more times (or for the first time) before I head west myself.

Our Brothers who have passed include these men. Our condolences and prayers go to their families and friends.

- Bernie Smith notified us that his close friend **Allen Blackburn**, Shadow Nav 1970-71 RVN, passed in Greenville, S.C. with his wife Iris and adult son David by his side. He will be missed.
- **Paul Buckley's** son Bob noticed our Last Flight website was missing his Dad's name. Bob told us of Paul's passing in May 2001. He was a WWII, Korea, and Vietnam pilot in the 71st and then C Flight with the 17th. An Army helicopter pilot himself, Bob remembers his Dad's pride in service and country. Bob will receive our Newsletters.
- **Vaiden Cox** passed away May 23, 2013. Vaiden was a Navigator and loved the 71st and his comrades and so enjoyed the reunions.
- **Bart H. Dye** passed away on June 29, 2013. Bart was a 71st Flight Engineer assigned to Tom Coughill's crew at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in south Vietnam.
- **Habucuc Garcia**, 18th FE passed away August 11, 2009; his wife Beatrice will receive our Newsletters.
- Pat Hyden reported the death of Major **Robert G. Hyden** on July 17, 2013. He had been at a memory care facility for the past 17 months and it was a blessing that he left this world. She has many treasured memories of her life with Bob for the past 32 years. Pat will receive our Newsletters.
- Janeen Kennedy informed us that her husband **Max Kennedy** died Feb 28th 2012 of his 5th type of cancer all stemming from Agent Orange in Viet Nam. He was a Nav/FLIR and Life Member 30.
- 71st **Larry McManus** passed away on May 31, 2013. Larry was a navigator on Charles Blake's crew at Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam and Association Life Member 174.
- 71st and 17th Pilot **Jack Morgan's** wife Gloria told us her husband passed away May 2012. Gloria will receive our Newsletters.
- Stinger Gunner **James Parker** passed away January 15th of 2013. Our Outreach volunteer learned that his wife, Lamy was having difficulty with a VA claim and we initiated a help team of our guys to assist Lamy. She will receive our Newsletters.
- **Buddy Pittman's** wife Lucille informed us he died December 7, 2012. Lucille will receive our Newsletters.
- 17th **Donald Whisman's** wife informed us he died August 2011.
- **Paul Stumbaugh's** daughter Lisa told us her dad Paul Stumbaugh passed away the morning of June 2nd. She knew how much he loved the Newsletter and even went to one of the reunions. Lisa thought that some of the members on here would want to know. The last time she got to see her father was when he went to the reunion in Branson Mo; he loved it. Lisa will receive our Newsletters.
- **Jimmie Thomason**, 18th SOS Nav, we learned from his wife Susan he died July 11, 2010.
- Stinger Maintainer **Devin Mathison** passed April 1, 2010 and Stinger **Harvey Watling's** wife informed us he died in 2008.
- **Walter White**, 18th Pilot, passed away January 8, 2012. His wife Marti will receive our Newsletters.
- Other deceased include 18th IO **Ted Atwood**, January 18, 2010; Stinger **Alvin Chandler** September 6, 2008; 17th Nav **Walter Howland** 2001; 71st Pilot **Loman Miller**, 1980; 71st Navs **Richard Jobe** and **Paul Kiminski**.

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**San Antonio, Texas
26-29 September 2013**

Reunion XIV T-Shirt Design

T-shirts are white pocketed polo shirts with a Stinger and a Shadow in the foreground and the Alamo and Tower of the Americas in the background.

To make sure you get your shirt(s) in the size(s) you want, contact Jerry or Ellen Hester at 210-663-3159 or jhester7.satx@gmail.com and they'll hold your shirts until you pick up your name tag.

See you in San Antonio!

Help Save Association Resources

If you receive multiple copies, or wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail, contact Association secretary Mike Drzyzga at drzyzga513@hotmail.com so we can update our mailing list.

AC-119 Gunship Association
38 Pecan Lane
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438



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