

Some "POOP" from the Front Office August 12, 2018

Greetings from NJ, the Garden State.

Hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer 2018. Many are not, and our thoughts and prayers go out to victims of flood, fire storms, and other nasty events.

This message is "not a president's message", as usual. The info intended for an opening paragraph originally flowed out and into the computer from both the President's and Firing Circle editor's seat. As the summer races along, the Association's Board is working on the final details for the Tucson, AZ reunion. We are solid! The reunion registrations for Tucson are increasing quickly. As we track registration numbers, this sure looks like it will be very well attended. I'm happy to say that a good number of "first-timers" have registered. See the "Who's Coming" list later in the *Firing Circle*.

We are also working with reunion coordinator Chuck Williams, who has begun planning for a super Reunion XX in Salt Lake City in Sept. 2019.

One of our Points-of-Contact for the 16th SOS at Canon AFB, Steve "Col Mac" Mac Isaac, attended a Change-of-Command Ceremony – also reported-on in this issue. Also, there is a story of Marshall Mullins' Trike, donated to a Patriot Guard Rider. And this issue also contains important information and updates for reunion attendees. Hope you enjoy this issue of the *Firing Circle*. The format is unchanged from the recent past newsletters -- hoping it is not getting stale for you. It would be wonderful to have a new *Firing Circle* editor to refresh its look and feel! Be safe out there: be seeing many of you in Tucson for a fun reunion.

Mike Drzyzga, Pres. 2016 – 2018 and *Firing Circle* editor

Updated News

Stinger IIs, 16th SOS, Cannon AFB. As you may recall from a story in the previous *Firing Circle*, our Points-of-Contact (POCs) for the 16th SOS, Robert La Rosa and Steve (Col Mac) Mac Isaac, spent a day visiting with them in April. They did some fact-finding, and firmed up our relationship.

At that time, they were invited to return to the Squadron on June 22, 2018 to attend a Change-of-Command ceremony. Col Mac did attend and enjoyed the event, further strengthening our relationship with the "youngsters" flying the AC-130W Stinger II. Col Mac reports that they do spend time "over there" and their Battle Damage Assessments are note-worthy!

Col Mac presented Lt Col Michael S. Burton an Association 18th Coin and his Honorary Life Member Certificate. THANK YOU Col Mac for a job well done. We salute you also. Here's three picts



1. LC Burton holding his 18th coin.

1. Col Mac presenting Honorary Life Certificate

2. Col Mac gets a well-deserved Salute

AC-119 Gunship History – getting our stories “out there.”

In the recent June *Firing Circle*, we reported the National Museum of the USAF's has a Foundation that publishes a *Journal*, helping fund its budget. The Journal's editor is interested in adding some stories of the AC-119's role in the Vietnam War. One of our Past-Presidents, Larry Fletcher, had worked to help publish our History Book in 2003-2004. He has an article written by Stinger Pilot Larry Juday, which never made it into our History Book. Therefore, the article was slightly rewritten to adhere to publication guidelines we received from the Foundation. The article was submitted with high hopes that one of our stories will be published. It describes what kind of coordination it takes for an AC-119 crew to function effectively, and successfully complete the mission. We will work to add more stories in their Journal going forward. Of course, we will provide more info to you as this task unfolds.

New News

A heart-warming story of courage and a dream come true.

Marshall Mullins was an AC-119 reunion attendee, former AC-119 Maintainer, and a Harley SuperGlide “Trike” rider. He rode his Commemorative Trike to veteran’s events and a few of our reunions. His Trike had a beautiful custom paint with depictions, images, and hardware reflecting the AC-119. After Marshall’s death in 2015, preceded by a courageous fight against Prostate Cancer, his wife Marilyn hoped to keep his dream alive, of the Trike continuing to ride in honor of the AC-119.

Here is a happy ending as his story and the Trike’s journey continues. His Commemorative Trike honoring our AC-119K Stinger KIA is now officially owned & ridden by Matt Robeck, a USAF Veteran, an American Legionnaire (Post 88), and Patriot Guard Rider from Nashville, Tennessee. Marshall's wife Marilyn made the Title transfer happen to honor and continue Marshall's story and dream. This is a win-win-win! – Marilyn made Marshall Dream come true, The Association help a tricky task to successful completion, and the Trike rides on to show and tell of the AC-119. The following came from Marilyn Mullins on Monday, July 23, 2018, and was posted on the Association’s Facebook Page: *Matt and Annette finally switched the Trike’s registration to their name. I was starting to get a bit worried. I think they were waiting for a paycheck in case they had to pay any taxes. Anyway, sales tax was waived — yay! — and they only had to pay \$14.50 registration fee. They actually had the young lady at the DMV office crying over the story. It is kind of neat that the transfer occurred at this third anniversary of Marshall’s death. Thanks again, and give my thanks to Wayne Laessig the rest of the AC-119ers who helped. There is another neat side effect to all of this - something I didn’t think about. I got a message from an old friend, Kris, who said she was in South Carolina last week and came across a function that was accompanied by Patriot Guard riders. She said she immediately thought of Marshall and his bike. So his memory will live on through things like this. It is awesome. Hugs, Marilyn Marshall.*

Wayne Laessig intends to create a special “story page” on the Association web site, with more details and additional pictures. Here some pictures of the AC-119 Commemorative Trike:



Marilyn Mullins, Annette Robeck, Tia McConnell & Matt Robeck celebrate the transfer of Marshall's trike, Sunday, July 1, 2018 in Colorado Springs, CO



The Trike



The local Newspaper in Tennessee took some video and did interviews!



A wonderful view of Marshall on the Trike.



Look at Matt and compare to Marshall in the picture to the left. Uncanny!

Agent Orange

An Inquiry: exposure and glioblastoma brain tumors?

One of our Associates, Tom Armour, died at age 57 of this type cancer. His widow, Janet Armour, has discovered that there is a closed group on Facebook, of those Vietnam veteran's widows, whose spouses died of the same, always fatal, illness. Jane learned that this cancer is not yet recognized by the VA as related to Agent Orange – and while the VA addresses claims so related individually, responds with mixed results. Some claimants receive benefits, some are denied, and some are just ignore! So this is a simple request to you: IF you know of a veteran, who has, or is, dealing with Glioblastoma Brain Tumor, contact me (Mike Drzyzga – drzyzga513@hotmail.com). I'll attempt to compile information that may be useful for Jane.

Tucson, Oct 10-14, 2018, **Reunion Updates and Information**

1. See below a list of those already registered and planning for an awesome time in Tucson. IF you recently registered on-line, and your name is not on the lists below, we update the list weekly, and you just missed the cut-off for this Firing Circle.
2. The Double-Tree is already filled with our reserved block of rooms. Ev Sprous is working with the Sales Manager to add more rooms for us. Nevertheless, at this time, the reunion overflow hotel is the La Quinta Inn & Suites (520-573-3333), which is next door to the Double Tree. A recent email to reach my desk indicated that the La Quinta may have a slightly better room rate.
3. For returning reunion attendees, PLEASE remember to pack your AC-119 lanyard used to hold your name/info tag. They are costly to replace, so we really need you to re-use them.
4. UPDATES regarding TOUR: The Friday tours of the Davis-Monthan AFB "military aircraft boneyard" (with the Pima Air Museum), and the Mini-Museum, and the Sunday tour of Sabino Canyon are well attended. See below for a list of names to see who is going.
5. The auctions for the Sat. night awards Banquet: We fully intend to have the live and silent auctions as we usually do at the Banquet. It is always lots of fun, and a source of revenue for the Association. Two points: a.) please plan to bring something interesting to be auctioned, and b.) Andrea Drzyzga is expecting help from attendees who helped in the past, to organizing and implementing the auctions...please contact her at email andreadrzy@optonline.net or cell 973-223-0186, to lend a hand.
6. Quartermaster's Notice: The Quartermaster's entire inventory **will not** be hauled to Tucson. Therefore, if you want to obtain Association shirts, coins, hats, mugs, or other items, PLEASE order them though the Association's web site – AT LEAST two weeks prior to the reunion. **Browse to: www.ac119gunships.com, then click on "Quartermaster's" drop down menu, and click on "Store". It's ALL there!**

7. Here's a daily activity schedule for the reunion week (Thanks Ev)

Wednesday – Friday, Registration in the hotel lobby
Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018, 0800 Hootch Bar Opens
Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018, 1800, Pinnacle Peak Restaurant limited to 100 people.
Friday, Oct. 12, 2018, 0830, Bus begins loading for the Boneyard Tour
Friday, Oct. 12, 2018, 0850, Bus begins loading for the Miniature Tour
Friday, Oct. 12, 2018, 1800, Meet & Greet – Pool Side
Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, 0900, Men's Business meeting
Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, 0900, Lady's Information meeting
Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018, 1800, Banquet, Awards, Auctions
Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018, 1130, Buses load for Sabino Canyon Tour
Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018, 1800, Farewell BBQ, Poolside

AC-119 Association Membership Updates

This is the first *Firing Circle* in recent times where the Membership Coordinator, Ev Sprous, has no new members to report. Nevertheless, the Association appreciates very much those "annual" members who respond promptly to the regular request to renewal your membership. It helps us keep going!

Final Flight

We remember our human frailty, and the strength of our brotherhood, in the loss of these who joined our Final Flight. Please remember their families in your prayers. R.I.P., Brothers all:

Edward (Larry) Cobb, 18th SOS Gunner, Nov 27, 2013
Robert C Fretz Sr, 18th SOS IO, June 5, 2018. Life member 26
Justin (Dan) Hughes, 18th SOS Gunner, March 25, 2018
Jerry Jones, 18th SOS Pilot, July 31, 2018
Johnnie I. Louderback, 18th SOS Nav, Dec 2, 2015
Robert W. Meals Jr, 18th SOS Pilot, July 22, 2017
Randy (Bobby) Poarch, 18th SOS IO, June 30, 2018
David L. Rennels, 18th SOS Maintenance (Electrical), March 26, 2017
Robert (Larry) Rice Sr, 18th SOS FE, May 24, 2018
Jimmy L. Ward, 18th SOS Maintenance (Jet Engines), March 7, 2018. Life member 334

We also note with sadness, the passing of Mary McCall, Wife of 18th SOS NAV Cash McCall, July 2, 2018.

Additional details are on our Association Mail Call site <https://www.ac119gunships.com/mail-call/> & our Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726>

Administrative Updates & Reminders

1. PLEASE remember to contact your group POC, the Membership Coordinator (Ev Sprous), or the Association Secretary (Ralph Lefarth) when you **change contact information, especially your email address**. We do very much want to keep in contact with you.
2. If you receive the *Firing Circle* by walking to the mail box after its postal delivery, AND you do have and use an EMAIL ADDRESS, TELL me, or your unit POC, or our Secretary NOW if you want future Newsletters & FLASHES sent via email. You can \$AVE us a lot by avoiding postage, printer paper, envelopes, ink cartridges, etc. Contact Association Secretary Ralph Lefarth ralph-l@sbcglobal.net or call (314) 846-1009.
3. Are you interested in some AC-119 Gunship historical facts, current events, interesting dialogue, photos & stories about AC-119s? If you have Internet access on your computer, then you have to join the Association's **Facebook page**. It now has **over 520 members** – not just directly related AC119ers, but also history buffs, AC-130 folk (including some new 73rd SOS Shadows), model makers, etc. Just browse to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/>

4. Also, there are Facebook Pages dedicated to “Air Force Gunners”, “Air Force 462 Weapons”, “Happy Valley – Phan Rang” (almost 1400 members), & “U.S. Military Veterans - News you can use” – very interesting pictures & history, current news, & other valuable information.
5. **Awards & Decorations** coordinator Steve “Col” Mac Isaac continues to aid us in fixing incorrect DD214s. He has helped many get on the trail to receiving decorations they earned. If you are coming to the reunion, AND you have a collection of ORDERS (stashed in a memorabilia box), AND those orders have names of fellow Shadows and Stingers, then PLEASE make copies and BRING THOSE with you to Tucson in October. Questions and comments: Contact Col Mac at email: colmacmac@mac.com, or (MST) Cell phone: (302) 249-1499.

Who's COMING to Tucson (as of 8/6/2018)

Alfaro, Mario.	Dorazio Ron	Hinton Ron
Alfaro, Thelma	Drzyzga Andrea	Hoover, Bill
Alvis, Jim	Drzyzga Mike	Hoover, Theresa
Alvis, Judi	Dydo Bob	Hunter Larry
Anderson, Dale Son of Meredith	Dydo Janet	Hunter Soncy
Anderson, KIA Shadow 78	Farmer, Bob	Jordan Lee, Daughter of Meredith
Artis, Bruce Brother of Elaine	Farmer, Connie	Anderson, KIA Shadow 78
Montgomery	Farrell, Jim	Jordan Tim
Artis, Cheryl Sister of Elaine	Farrell, Tina	Knight Andrew, Family of Col Al Brow
Montgomery	Frahm, LeRoy	Knight Barbara
Artis, Marlene	Frahm, Rose	Knight Christian
Barnett, Chris Nephew of Steve Meleen	Frederick, Robert	Knight James
Blum, Claude	Friel, Mike Son of IO Mike Friel	Knight Julie
Boles, Christopher	Friel, Amber	Knight Liz
Boyd, Jim	Friel Sean Son of IO Mike Friel	Knight Talon
Boyd, Scott Son of Jim Boyd	Gallo Debby	Krauss Mike
Bright, Andy	Gallo Sam	Krueger, Bob
Bunton, Windell	George Bill	La Rosa Bob
Bunton, Bernadette	Gilbert, Ron	Laessig Lynette
Buttrey, Maria Friend of Bunton's	Goryl Janis	Laessig Wayne
Byrd, Bruce	Goryl Joe	LeFarth Joyce
Byrd, Jo Anna	Gourley, Garry	LeFarth Ralph
Caruso, Gene	Gourley, Wanda	Luke Don
Caruso, Karen	Graves Karen	Lyle, Bob
Chandler, Allen	Greenberg Irv	Lyle, Cheryl
Chandler, Barbara	Greenberg Mary	Mac Isaac JP Son of Col Mac
Conner, Don	Gregory Dawn Cleary Friend of Corbett's	Mac Isaac Nancy
Conner, Susan Baily	Gregory Sheldon Friend of Corbett's	Mac Isaac Steve
Connolly, Cathy Henry	Greisamer, Tom	Martin Dale
Connolly, Robert	Greisamer, Melan	Martin Jeanette
Corbett Craig	Grimsley Rich.	Mason, Cleo
Corbett Jan	Grimsley Patricia	Mason, Joyce
Craig, Don	Hall Jeannie	Mattison, Jim
Craig, Peggy	Hall Richard	Mattison, Lynn
Davis Dennis	Hansen, Vern	McDonald Jerry
Davis Judy	Hansen, Becky	McDonald Karen
Deleon, Michael	Hester Ellen	Meleen Steve
Diehl, Phil.	Hester Jerry	Meleen Todd Son of Steve
Diehl, Mary Lois	Heuss, Al	(Continued next page)
Doll Dale	Heuss, Helen	
Doll Mary	Hinton Carol	

Who's COMING to Tucson (as of 8/6/2018) - Continued

Mersek Larry	Reid Doug	Tholl Bernie
Mersek Susie Ryslinge	Reid Kristin	Tholl Rosie, Niece of Meredith Anderson, KIA Shadow 78
Middleton Larry	Renfroe Becky	Thompson Dan
Montgomery Elaine	Renfroe George	Totten Gary
Montgomery James	Rider Fred	Totten Kathy
Morrow John	Rider Jean	Tyler, William
Morrow Lynn	Rosecrans, Karen	Tyler, Wilma
Mullen, Michael	Rosecrans, Levi	Vath, Ken
Mullen, Theresa	Rubingh Becky	Vath, Nancy
Nelson, Larry	Rubingh Daisy	Wall, Dixie
Nelson, Lorrie	Rubingh Gary	Wall, Earl
New Bobby	Rubingh Jonathan	Weisenfluh Marisa
New Janet	Rubingh Matt	Weisenfluh Tom
Newbold Rose	Rubingh Sarah	Wheatley Lourie
Newbold Tom	Sarul Terry	Wheatley Melissa Tunc
Novak Sherlyn	Sarul Theresa	Whelan Bruce
Novak, Tom.	Schumann John	Williams, Alex
Petrie, Bill	Shope Christine	Chuck Williams Family
Petrie, Karen	Shope Jim	Williams, Charles
Posey Bill	Siedzikowski, Jeanie	Williams, Chuck
Posey, Cindy	Sininger Gus	Williams, Hannah
Radke, Don	Sledzinski Frank	Williams, James
Raveling Betty	Sledzinski Yamile	Williams, John
Raveling Cathy	Smith, Al	Williams, Kate
Raveling Dan	Smith, Carmel	Williams, Stefani
Raveling Kenneth	Smith, Don	Wohlgamuth Doug
Raveling Maria	Smith, Karen	Wolff John
Raveling Sterling	Snyder, Jerry	Wolff Laura
Raveling, Vern	Sprouss Ev	Zito, Bill
Raveling, Sandra Jo	Stearn Ken	Zito, Paula
Reid Howard	Stearn Ronnie	

Who's registered for Miniature Museum Tour (Fri.)

Artis, Marlene	Gourley, Wanda	Raveling, Betty
Bunton, Bernadette	Graves, Karen	Raveling, Maria
Buttrey, Maria	Hinton, Carol	Raveling, Sandra
Craig, Peggy	Huling, Cheryl-Artis	Renfroe, Becky
Doll, Mary	Laessig, Lynette	Sininger, Gus
Drzyzga, Andrea	Lefarth, Joyce	Wolff, Laura
Frahm, Rose	Montgomery, Elaine	Zito, Paula

Who's registered for Davis-Monthan "Bone-yard" Tour (Friday)

Alvis, James	Caruso, Karen	Drzyzga, Michael
Alvis, Judith	Chandler, Allen	Dydo, Janet
Anderson, Dale	Cleary, Dawn	Dydo, John
Artis, Bruce	Connolly, Robert	Farrell, Christina
Baily, Susan	Conner, Donald	Farrell, James
Barnett, Christopher	Craig, Donald	Frahm, LeRoy
Blum, Claude	Davis, Leslie	Frederick, Robert
Brander, Thomas	Deleon, Michael	Friel, Amber
Bright, Robert	Diehl, Phillip	Friel, Michael
Bunton, Windell	Diehl, Mary Lois	Friel, Sean
Byrd, Bruce	Doll, Dale	(Continued next page)
Caruso, Eugene	Dorazio, Ronald	

Who's registered for Davis-Monthan "Bone-yard" Tour (Friday) - Continued

Gallo, Debby	Laessig, Wayne	Raveling, Kenneth
Gallo, Sam	La Rosa, Robert	Raveling, Sterling
George, William	Lefarth, Ralph	Raveling, Vernon
Gourley, Garretson	Mac Isaac, John Paul	Reid, Howard
Greenberg, Irving	Mac Isaac, Nancy	Renfroe, George
Greenberg, Mary	Mac Isaac, Steve	Rider, Frederick
Gregory, Ernest	Martin, Dale	Rosecrans, Karen
Grimsley, Patricia	Martin, Jeanette	Rosecrans, Levi
Grimsley, Richard	Mason, Cleopas	Ryslunge, Susie
Hall, Richard	Mason, Joyce	Sarul, Terrence
Henry, Cathy	Mattison, James	Shope, James
Hester, Jerry	McDonald, Jerry	Siedzikowski, Jeanie
Hester, Ellen	Meleen, Steve	Sledzinski, Francis
Heuss, Helen	Meleen, Todd	Sledzinski, Yamile
Heuss, Herman	Mersek, Lawrence	Lust- Smith, Alwyn
Hoover, Mary	Montgomery, James	Smith, Donald
Hoover, William	Mullen, Michael	Smith, Karen
Hunter, Larry	Nelson, Larry	Smith, Margaret
Jordan, Timothy	New, Bobby	Totten, Gary
Knight, Andrew	New, Janet	Wall, Dixie
Knight, Barbara	Newbold, Claude	Wall, Earl
Knight, Christian	Newbold, Rose	Weisenfluh, Marisa
Knight, James	Novak, Thomas	Weisenfluh, Thomas
Knight, Julie	Posey, Clara	Whelan, Bruce
Knight, Lizabeth	Posey, William	Williams, John
Knight, Talon	Raveling, Catherine	Wolff, John
Krauss, Michael	Raveling, Daniel	Zito, William

Who's registered for Sabino Canyon (Sunday) Tour (as of 8/6/18)

Alvis, Jim	Hall, Richard	Mullen, Mike	Rubingh, Gary
Alvis, Judi	Siedzikowski, Jeannie	Mullen, Theresa	Rubingh, Becky
Bunton, Windell	Hester, Jerry	Nelson, Larry	Rubingh, Matt
Bunton, Bernadette	Hester, Ellen	Nelson, Lourie	Rubingh, Sarah
Buttrey, Maria	Heuss, Al	Newbold, Tom	Rubingh, Jonathan
Chandler, Allen	Heuss, Helen	Newbold, Rose	Rubingh, Daisy
Chandler, Barbara	Hinton, Ron	Posey, Bill	Sininger, Gus
Connolly, Bob	Hinton, Carol	Posey, Cindy	Sledzinski, Frank
Henry, Cathy	Hunter, Larry	Raveling, Vern	Sledzinski, Yamile
Diehl, Phil	Hunter, Soncy	Raveling, Betty	Smith, Al
Diehl, Mary Lois	Krauss, Mike	Raveling, Ken	Smith, Carmel
Dydo, Janet	Laessig, Wayne	Raveling, Cathy	Thompson, Dan
Drzyzga, Mike	Laessig, Lynette	Raveling, Sterling	Totten, Gary
Drzyzga, Andrea	La Rosa, Bob	Raveling, Dan	Totten, Kathy
Frahm, LeRoy	Lefarth, Ralph	Raveling, Maria	Wall, Earl
Frahm, Rose	Lefarth, Joyce	Raveling, Sandra	Wall, Dixie
Gallo, Dan	Martin, Dale	Doll, Dale	Wheatley, Lourieann
Gallo, Debby	Martin, Jeanette	Doll, Mary	Wheatley, Melissa Tunc
Gourley, Garry	Middleton, Larry	Renfroe, George	Whelan, Bruce
Gourley, Wanda	Morrow, John	Renfroe, Becky	Williams, Chuck
Graves, Karen	Morrow, Lynn	Rosecrans, Levi	Zito, Bill
		Rosecrans, Karen	Zito, Paula

