

MAIL CALL



2013 Mail bag

"Mail Call" replaced our guest book

To post a MAIL CALL entry email the webmaster at Stinger04atymail.com

Put Gunship Mail Call in the subject line or it may look like spam to me. If you want your e-mail address posted so members can contact you please put it after your name & location. **Your message will be reviewed & posted as soon as possible. Please Take Note: To help cut down on harvesting of email addresses I will use the word at instead of the @ sign in e-mail addresses. Remember to change the at to @ when sending an email to someone you want to correspond with.**

2013 Mail Call

Dec 24 - **Dear AC-119 Gunship Brothers & Families,**

It has come to my attention that an inexcusable misstatement was made in my book, *Charlie Chasers*. Writing about the downing of Stinger 41 on page 270, lines 15/16, I wrote, "*The Stinger's pilot, copilot, & flight engineer went down with the gunship.*" The sentence should have read, "*The Stinger's pilot, navigator, & illuminator operator went down with the gunship.*"

My sincere apology for this error goes to the families of Stinger 41 pilot, Terence Courtney, Stinger 41 navigator, David Slagle & Stinger 41 illuminator operator, Ken Brown & to the surviving crewmembers of Stinger 41. I also apologize to those who purchased my book for a word published cannot be recalled.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larry Elton Fletcher

Dec 10 - **A note from the webmaster...**I look back over our Mail Call activity for this year & I'm troubled. Too many of us are now passing from this world, having health problems or experiencing other life trials. I'm reminded that the time between Thanksgiving & Christmas can be a frantic one, & I for one have been guilty of getting caught up in my own problems & activities that I sometimes lose sight of what is happening to my brothers & their families.

The hustle & bustle in stores, nasty traffic, & numerous doctor appointments can make for a holiday headache that many of us would like to avoid.

It's always important to slow down & remember that this is, in fact, a special season of giving. It's more than presents under the tree. It's more than making cookies, cakes, & other delectable treats â€” although that's certainly fun! For me anyway...I like to eat.

Sometimes the real spirit of giving just might be a giving one of our brothers a simple phone call, or an email to a longtime friend or ground crew or air crew mate just to say hi & let them know you're thinking of them. This alone can be an emotional & spiritual uplift that is often hard to put in words... but the feeling is oh so wonderful. And wouldn't it be nice to look in our Mail Call & read some good news for a change!

As a gunship group we have a special & strong bond. Often times our Mail Call is a hopeful sign that the spirit of giving, either in prayer or positive thought is alive & well amongst us.

During this Christmas season, Hanukah season, or Holiday season, whatever you want to call it... (or anytime of the year), If you know of any AC-119 gunship brother, their family member (or as my priest will say in Mass...are their others?) who need our good thoughts &/or prayers... the Mail Call is a place for us to do it. All you need to do is let an Association officer know & they can pass it on. Just look at the names listed in the Mail Call entries below & you'll have, what I think, is just a sample of what I'm talking about. We know there are more. Keep them all in your thoughts & prayers... this season & always.

Being a Catholic kid, who was born in Ireland, I take the liberty of presenting, to all of you, the gift of an Irish Christmas blessing:

"May you be blessed

With the spirit of the season, which is peace,

The gladness of the season, which is hope,

And the heart of the season, which is love."

YITB (Yours in the Brotherhood)

Your webmaster.

Nov 13 - Please keep our fellow gunship brother **Phil Wheatley** & his wife **Lourie** in your hearts & prayers. He is going through some very trying times, healthwise.

Oct 15 - Let's all say a prayer for **Bob Hamorsky's wife Cindy**, they were on vacation when Cindy felt a lump & she made an appointment at the Doctors office for when they got home.... they found out it was cancer. She will be starting radiation soon. Bob is going out of his mind & he needs our prayers & thoughts to be with him! Bob is my best friend of all time & we talk all the time, even though we live on opposite ends of the world, he lives in Pennsylvania & I live in Washington State. We love them both very much! Bob & I were on the same crew at Da Nang on Capt. Ben Collins & Lt. Terry Botts crew & we were 2 of the 3 gunners. We are giving Bob & Cindy all the support we possibly can. They are in our prayer every second of everyday. We Love you Brother, & Cindy.

PS OUR Prayers are with Bill & Karen Petrie & the Mike Davis Family.

Dan Jensen

18th SOS Gunner 70-71

Oct 13 - **Shadows Lose a fellow warrior** - On Thursday, 10 October, we lost a dear friend & fellow warrior **Don Fraker**. Don is now with the lord. He was a devout Christian & a gentle warrior.

Funeral services: Oct 18 @ 2pm

Cross Luthern Church

2171 Common St.

New Braunfels, TX 78130

Wife Pat says he is at peace. He will be missed by all who knew him, & especially by his Shadow Buddies.

Oct 12 - **Another Stinger brother leaves us**. The AC-119 Association lost a great friend & brother with the passing of **Al Nash**. Al's wife, Wilhelmina Nash, wanted us to know that the funeral ceremony for Al will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on November 7, 2013 at 15:00 hours. Contact Wayne Laessig if you need additional information. Hopefully some of us can attend. Al will be sorely missed & our thoughts & prayers go out to Wilhelmina & the family.

Oct 12 - Association member **Bill Petrie** informed us his wife **Karen** was diagnosed with Cancer. She underwent a radical hysterectomy & will start radiation treatments in a few weeks. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts & prayers.

Oct 12 - **Vern Hansen's wife Becky** informed us that Vern had surgery Friday to remove another malignant tumor from his bladder. A biopsy will also be taken on the lining of the bladder. Prayers will be appreciated.

Oct 10 - Stinger brother **Mike Davis** tells us that his wife **Cathie's** cancer is back & she started her chemo In just the past few days... Let's all please keep her & Mike in our thoughts prayers.

Received from Shirley Bartlett - Sept. 18, 2013 - Frank had an angiogram to his brain this am & was flat on his back for two hours afterward. Is now home & resting from the sedation they gave him. Please let the group know. As of now we still plan to go to San Antonio if he doesn't have any complications from the angio-seal they put in his groin. God willing he won't. Please keep Frank & Shirley in your thoughts & prayers. we hope to see him healthy enough to be at the Reunion in San Antonio.

September 12, 2013 - **Al Heuss needs thoughts & prayers**. Al will not make it to the San Antonio reunion due to a medical problem that needs immediate attention. We wish Al a speedy recovery.

June 6, 2013 - **MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY" a 71st SOS HERO NEEDS YOUR HELP!!**

TSgt. Paul E. Evens was a gunner with the 71st SOS from Jan 22 to May 1969 (also worked as Your Mail Room Clerk!). He is trying to get his 'ducks' in Order - *Not for him, but for his Family & Grand Kids*.

He has an 7th AF document, sent to him at Altus AFB, OK, indicating HE was awarded the AIR MEDAL for his service with the 71st SOS, BUT he has No Medal, No Orders, No Citation?

Does ANY 71st SOS SHADOW remember Paul E. Evans? does HIS Name appear anywhere on ANY of Your Documents? If so, please get back to Me ASAP at colmacmacatmac.com

Also, please CC shadow119atwildblue.net
Thanks! Luck & Cheers - Col Mac (colmacmacatmac.com)

PS: This brings Up a Bigger Concern. Being probably the 'youngest' Member of the 'last STINGERS', I am getting OLD!!!

I have Great affection/concern for those who went before: the 71st SOS & the 17th SOS, Were it Not for YOU I would not be alive today, having said the Truth, It is past time to get 'Your-Shit-Together'. YOU may not CARE, but Your Family & Grand Kids DO CARE, 'fix' Your paper-work NOW! All of it. ***Not for You, but For The Ones You Love!***

THAT IS AN ORDER - COL Mac

June 6, 2013 - Reunion coordinator Jerry Hester notes he talked to **Paul Campbell** & his wife a couple months ago. Paul has been bed ridden & in a wheelchair. Also, he doesn't drive anymore.



Jerry said Paul may show up at the S.A. reunion. If not, maybe next year in N.M. Jerry says he'll be in Las Vegas again in August & will try & update us then.

All of us in the AC-119 Gunship Association miss "Uncle Sam" & his bride at the reunions. Give Paul a shout when you can.

June 6, 2013 - We have received word that gunship brother **Vern Hansen** just underwent his second bladder cancer surgery. The update is, so far, he is doing fine. They removed a large tumor last week & had to remove several smaller ones during the second surgery. In his surgeon's words "he was a challenge." At one point Dr. Santecroce thought he would have to remove his bladder, but this proved to be unnecessary. He is expected home in a few days.

Vern & wife Becky appreciate all your e-mails, prayers, & phone calls.

Can't say enough nice things about the superb treatment he received at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo, Ohio. Please keep Vern in your thoughts & prayers



June 6, 2013 -Gunship brother **Paul R. Stumbaugh, Jr.**, 74, Minot, ND, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, June 2, 2013, at his home in Minot. Paul was born April 30, 1939, the son of Paul R. Stumbaugh, Sr. & May Sylvia (Duval) Stumbaugh, in Lenox Dale, Massachusetts. When Paul was a young child, his father passed away. His father's brother & sister-in-law, George & Agnes Stumbaugh then raised Paul in Lee, Massachusetts where he graduated from Lee High School in 1959.

Paul enlisted in the United States Air Force in March 1960. He proudly served his country during the Vietnam War. Paul married Linda K. Powell on December 10, 1961, in Topeka, Kansas. They made their home on various Air Force Bases in the following states & provinces: Kansas, Puerto Rico, Missouri, Goose Bay Labrador, Canada & Ohio. In 1971, they moved to the Minot Air Force Base until his retirement on February 1, 1988. They then moved into the city of Minot where Paul worked as a site manager for the helicopter unit at the AFB for 16 years. He retired from the workforce in 2002.

He was a member of Minot American Legion Post #26, the Dakota Cruisers, & the Gunners Gunship Club.

He loved the outdoors, camping, fishing & hunting; working & tinkering on vehicles as well as his 1970 classic

convertible mustang. He enjoyed watching classic western movies & was an avid Boston Red Sox fan. Paul was a loving husband, father, grandfather, & great-grandfather, who was committed to his family. He also was a friend to many during his career in the USAF. Many of his troops loved & respected him & he was a great role model to many. Paul received the best in Strategic Air Command (SAC) for his career field as well as earned a welding degree while serving his country. He was an honest & honorable man & he will be missed by many. His loving family includes: wife of 51 years, Linda, Minot; two daughters, Paula Booth, Tampa, Florida, & Lisa Roettger, Fenton, Missouri; two grandsons, Josh Pettit & Dylan Short; a great-granddaughter, Avrianna Pettit; brother, George Stumbaugh, Conn., sister, Colista Theodore, Mass., Helen Manion, Mass., & Margaret Stumbaugh, FL; & numerous nieces, nephews & cousins.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; son, Kevin; brothers, Dick & Jimmy; & sister, Jenny.

Memorial Service: Friday, June 7th, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at Thompson-Larson Funeral Home Chapel, Minot.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Souris Valley Humane Society.

March 7, 2013 - **Looking for Information on my Grandfather** I am looking for anyone who might know how & why my grandfather Mahlon "Dale" Henness received his DFC. Looking for anyone that may also have pictures with him in them or know what his roll in the 17th SOS Shadows was. Please let me know anything you may know. Trying to learn as much as possible about his role in the USAF.

David Bukowski Service Advisor AAA Arizona dbukowski"at"arizona.aaa.com 15439 N. 40th. Street Phx, AZ 85032 602-308-3044 Direct 602-493-4996 Fax

Feb 17, 2013 - **Follow up on Bruce Abbott's note about heart issues.** You need to apply as soon as you can. It took 2 years to get my claim approved. I have always had a hard time dealing with the VA Department & have found that I have better success working with the New York Veterans Department. I have an individual who has helped me at every turn of this long process. He has all the forms & knows which ones need to be filed. They also will hand carry the forms to the VA office in Buffalo. They know what needs to be done when the VA says they don't have enough information or asks for the same information you have already sent. I would check out your state Veterans Department before I would try & deal with the VA. I receive excellent care at the VA hospital in Buffalo but have never had much luck with dealing with the VA paperwork. It took 1 year to get my Diabetes claim approved & that is as simple a claim as you can have. 3 years total is a long time to wait especially if you need the money or access to medical care. Bottom line is get a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) from the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, or another organization to file your claims. Mike Traynor, 18th SOS, Association member

Feb 17, 2013 - **Ischemic Heart Disease** I wanted to pass along to my gunship brothers a recent ruling by the VA that links exposure from agent orange to coronary heart disease. What this means is that if you served in Viet Nam or at certain bases in Thailand (NKP is included) you are assumed to have been exposed... & if you have CAD you are probably entitled to VA disability payments. Go to the VA website & search "agent orange fast track application" to get started. Hope this helps someone out there. If you need more information you can give me a call a tabbottracing(at)att.net
Bruce Abbott, Association member

Feb 11, 2013 - **Donation in the name of Walker Cullop** The AC-119 Gunship Association has made a donation in Dale's name to the family's local Hospice. If you would like to make a Hospice donation in Dale's name, please send it to:

Delaware Hospice - *Kent County Office*

911 South DuPont Highway

Dover, DE 19901

Dale's family appreciates your support

Your Association Crew

Feb 6, 2013 - **Sad News on Walker Cullop** We are saddened to hear of the passing of our brother...**Walker "Dale" Cullop**. Dale's daughter Pam sent the group the following message:

Hi there,

I wanted to let everyone know that my father passed away yesterday. He was comfortable & passed peacefully. Thank you to everyone that sent him an email, I read them all to him & I thank you for your kind words & support.

His military burial will be held on Friday, February 15, 2013 @ 1 pm at the Veterans Cemetery in Millsboro, Delaware.

Pam Satterfield & family

Feb 2, 2013 - **2013 Reunion coordinator, Jerry Hester Stricken.** We received word that this year's reunion coordinator, Jerry Hester, suffered a series of mini heart attacks. We understand he is undergoing tests & we hope to have more information on him soon. Keep Jerry, & his wife Ellen, in your thoughts & prayers, as we pray for his speedy recovery. We'll update as we receive word. *Your Association Crew*

Update on Dale Cullop - Feb 2, 2013 - We received another note from Dale's daughter Pam:

"Dad is at this time is not able to communicate for any type calls. However if you would like to share my email address with the members I would be more than happy to read any emails sent to me to him. I'm sure he would love it.

Thank you so much for your kind words & encouragement. My family & I appreciate it so much!

Thanks, Pam"

A couple of our members have sent Dale an email via Pam. We know he would love words of encouragement from more of his friends. Dale was a Stinger IO/FE in 1972 at NKP & DaNang. So....If YOU knew Dale in any capacity, send his daughter an email with words of encouragement, memories about your time flying together, or getting together at our gunship reunions, or just to say hi I'm thinking of you.

You can send Dale an email through Pam at pandscandles@aol.com

If you have any idea who else might have known Dale or flew with him, PLEASE forward this to them.

Your Association Crew

Walker "Dale" Cullop needs our thoughts & prayers - February 1, 2013 - We have just received this message from the Cullop family:

"I am Walker Cullop's daughter Pam. I wanted to let the association & his friends from the reunions know that dad has cancer & has taken a turn for the worse. He is bedridden & can no longer communicate.

Please ask other members to pray for him.

Thank you,

Pam Cullop Satterfield"



Dale is a loyal member (Life Member #11) of the AC-119 Gunship Association & a faithful reunion attendee. Dale's presence is one of the bright spots of our reunions. He is well liked by all & is one of our favorite members. Please keep Dale, daughter Pam, & the family in your thoughts & prayers. We will post any updates as we receive them. *Your Association Crew*