



# The AC-119 Gunship Association

November 8, 2021

Lt.Col. Byron Batey  
Commander, 18<sup>th</sup> SOETS  
Hurlburt AFB, FL

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### Reunion Coordinator

**For 2022**

Jerry McDonald

*A non-profit Association  
Of AC-119 Gunship  
Air & Ground Crew  
Members*

Subject: Expression of Appreciation

Dear Sir:

The AC-119 Gunship Association held its 21<sup>st</sup> reunion, Oct. 5 -10, 2021 in Ft. Walton Beach. For us aging Vietnam Veterans, such reunions are important to rekindle our friendships that lasted more than 50 year, and help preserve our gunship history. It is a four day event full of special moments, including a memorial service for those AC-119ers who gave all, a fund-raising auction, and awards banquet. When our annual reunions are in close proximity to an AFSOC base, we really enjoy interacting with our legacy units. And happy for us, even under pandemic restrictions, we nailed it again last month.

Lt.Col. Nate Dillon, and his assistants Maj. C. Roush, MSgt C. Horton, and Mr. "Bones" Perez superbly enhanced our reunion. In my opinion, they went above and beyond for our benefit. Our social gathering/picnic/memorial service, which featured a wreath laying ceremony with our KIA family members, and a display of a 18<sup>th</sup> SOS memorial trike, was organized by the staff of the 18<sup>th</sup> SOETS. It was indeed a memorable day. Nate's group cooked up a great lunch! Further, the 18<sup>th</sup> SOETS provided "very special" items for the annual banquet that really made the auction a worthwhile event..

I hope you understand how much it means to the Association to have the 18<sup>th</sup> SOETS participate in our reunion.

We wish you and the 18<sup>th</sup> SOETS continued success.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Drzyzga  
President