

September 2022 – President’s Message

Greetings from NJ to AC-119 Gunshippers, friends, and family! I hope that you are having a good experience with Summer 2022. Only a few more weeks left – but I dare not want to rush it!

1. Branson, MO, Reunion XXII, Sept 28 – Oct 2, 2022, some quick notes and reminders:
 - A) We will have an auction as we have done in the past, as part of the Sat. night banquet. Please bring something unique and/or interesting to donate to the auction.
 - B) We are fortunate to have our videographer, JP Mac Isaac again to capture YOUR oral history videos. If you have NOT done one yet, please seriously consider what a video would mean to your family members. We have many personal bios on our [Website](#) – you can look at what others have done. Tell your stories! It is not for you it is for them. Roy Davis will help JP get you signed up.
 - C) The Who’s Coming list grows almost daily. Take a look in the Firing Circle and see who’s going to enjoy a great time in Branson!!
 - D) If you plan to attend this reunion, AND you have an AC-119 neck lanyard from a previous reunion to hold your name tag, PLEASE remember to BRING IT with you. If you want a valuable “Neck Wallet” from the Branson Chamber of Commerce, contact Jerry McDonald, reunion coordinator at email: jmshadow6869@yahoo.com.
 - E) Our Wed. and Thur. social events are sold-out or close to it. Thank you, Wayne Laessig, for getting the word out and addressing the issue.
2. Plaque Project for the SEA Pavilion at the USAF Academy: I’m pleased to report that very many of you responded to Steve “Col Mac” Mac Isaac’s efforts to obtain donations. At this time, we are planning to move forward with due focus and take the necessary steps to mark our place in history, where it would have been otherwise missing. In terms of process, it seems the Association FLASH message gets folks’ attention. We will keep you well informed as we make progress.
3. Do you know that the Association has an agreement with The Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University (TTU) in Lubbock, TX? This had been established many years ago. The Center is accepting Vietnam-era memorabilia for archiving. Steve “Col Mac” Mac Isaac and Roy Davis have been in contact with key individuals there. If you are inclined to offer your “stuff” from VN to archive for historical keeping, you may want to investigate TTU’s facility. We have the info on our Website here: [Association Recommended Historical Repository – AC-119 Gunship Association \(ac119gunships.com\)](#).
4. Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act. The Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances, such as Agent Orange. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans, and their survivors, with the care and benefits. There are 20 new presumptive conditions added to the list. If you are not on the Agent Orange registry, YOU SHOULD BE! Hopefully, you are aware of this, but here a link to more info: [The PACT Act And Your VA Benefits | Veterans Affairs](#)
5. Do you realize that next year will be the 50th anniversary of the “cease-fire” ending the hostilities between North Vietnam and the US and its allies? The USAF is planning a documentary as a memorial to the war effort. It is too early to know much, but the Association expects to be involved in whatever the USAF is planning. More info to come as this project evolves. Thank you to Terry Sarul for taking the lead on this task.

Now, back to planning for Branson, Reunion XXII. My to-do list grows. I am so looking forward to seeing many of you there. Stay well and be safe!

Mike Drzyzga, President (2015-2022)