

The AC-119 Gunship Association

FLASH

May 20, 2026

THE STORY OF THE PHOENIX BIRD

In the spirit of the mythical phoenix, the legacy of the Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcar lives on through generations of transformation and renewal. Rising in 1949 as the silver-winged C-119, the aircraft served proudly for nearly twenty-five years before fading from active service in 1974. Yet from those same Flying Boxcars, fifty-two aircraft rose again in 1968 to become the legendary AC-119 Shadows and Stingers—gunships forged for combat and remembered for courage. Though the Shadows and Stingers passed into history in 1975, the spirit endured. In 1988, one Shadow rose once more, preserved as a permanent memorial at Hurlburt Field Air Park, standing as a tribute to the aircrews, maintainers, and warriors who carried the mission into history. Now, at the 26th AC-119 Gunship Reunion in Phoenix, the phoenix rises again—symbolizing remembrance, brotherhood, and the enduring spirit of Shadows and Stingers.

To order t-shirts, click on the link at the bottom of this page.

2026 REUNION T-SHIRT



[REUNION T-SHIRT ORDER FORM](#) (Closes June 15)

Available in men, women, and youth short sleeve styles and long sleeve and sweatshirt styles