

Garry posted this on Mail Call. Since then, both lithos were framed with a plaque explaining each one's missions included and donated to the AFEV. LTC Jon Peck, Gus, and Garry participated in the dedication and we got 1st page coverage in the base paper (Eglin Flyer) with front and back page pictures).

Hello to all 17th/18th Gunshipers: Some news of interest to all Association folks.

My wife and I have moved into the Air Force Enlisted Village Ft Walton Beach Florida in Sept last year after a combination of health concerns of both of us dictated that we should sell our house in Corpus Christi Texas. By the way, if any of you have not seen the AFEV you ought to take the time at our reunion in 09 to visit. If you need transportation and a tour of the facility just contact me. You would not believe how great living here is. I recommend to all enlisted folks to check it out and at least get on the waiting list.

Anyway, while here in the village , I have noticed that there are different photos of Viet Nam era aircraft hanging in the village rec building and didn't see any of our AC-119 Gunships. I contacted the village director and asked if it would be possible to hang one of the lithograph photos of the G-model 119 and I would donate it.

While the director thought it over, I called Jim Terry in California and asked his opinion to my thoughts. He said it was such a good idea that he suggested that I call Wayne Laessig and see if the Association would donate the lithograph. Much to my surprise, after contacting other Association Officers, Wayne said the Association would donate the lithograph of the G-model Gunship with one requirement—we need to, if possible, have a lithograph of a K-model Gunship to hang along the side of the G-model. Without thinking I knew that it should have been that way in the beginning. Since my conversation with Wayne, and further contacts with the Director of the Air Force Enlisted Villages, we are now going to have a big presentation to the Villages with dignitaries such as the Commander of the 18th FTS Lt Col. Jon Peck assigned at Hurlburt Field here in Ft. Walton Beach and other local dignitaries with news coverage. This will go a long way with PR for both our organization and the Air Force Enlisted Villages. I feel that where ever we can get a chance to educate/promote to the public our history, especially to our own young Airmen of our Air Force, we should take that opportunity. As I travel around the local area, Eglin AFB and Hurlburt Fld, it is amazing how few people knew of our existence. Anyway, God Bless All and see you at Branson MO for the 08 reunion.

Garry Gourley

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