

Association President's Message:

May, 2016

Dear Fellow-Members,

I hope this May edition of the Firing Circle finds you & your loved-ones in good health & spirit. There are a couple of things I want to bring to your attention.

First, our new website is very, very close to activation as the official website of the AC-119 Gunship Association. But, until various tweaks are successfully completed, the new website is not yet ready for "Prime Time" on the Internet. We all have patiently waited for the past two years for our new website to become reality. It is well to remember, patience is a virtue. AC-119 Gunship maintenance crews & support personnel should relate to this situation in getting our aircraft combat ready (CR)!

Secondly, we need your help in registering for this year's reunion in Fort Walton Beach. Our most faithful & trustworthy Association Treasurer the past 14 years, Doug Wohlgamuth & I request that you use the reunion registration form in this newsletter to register. Three brothers have used the new "unofficial" website & Pay Pal to pay registration fees. PROBLEM: Registrations were made, but Doug had to call those who used the new "unofficial" website to find out detailed information on the registration, like Numbers & Choice of Meals, etc. That is just one tweak that must & will be made to the new website before official activation.

Until the next edition of the Firing Circle, be safe & enjoy life as best you can.

Larry Fletcher, President

News & Reminders

1. We do very much want to keep in contact with you. Therefore, PLEASE remember to contact your group POC or the Association Secretary when you change contact information, especially your email address
2. IF YOU RECEIVE THIS Newsletter by US POSTAL MAIL DELIVERY & YOU DO HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, let me or your unit POC know if you want future Newsletters & FLASHES sent via email. You can \$AVE us a lot in "office expenses!" Contact Secretary Mike Drzyzga at: drzyzga513@hotmail.com, or 973-409-4861
3. **Awards & Decoration's** coordinator Steve "Col" Mac Issac has new orders for you. **If** you are coming to the reunion, **AND** you have a collection of ORDERS (stashed in a memorabilia box), **AND** those orders have names of fellow Shadows & Stingers, **then** PLEASE make copies & BRING THOSE with you the Ft. Walton Beach. Questions: Contact Col Mac at email colmacmac@mac.com, or MST Cell phone: 302-249-1499
4. Are you interested in some AC-119 historical facts, current events, & interesting dialogue, photos & stories about AC-119s? If you have Internet (web-www) access on your computer, then you have to browse to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/> You can join the **Facebook group**, which now has **over 350** interesting members!! Also, there are FB Pages dedicated to "Air Force Gunners", "Air Force 462 Weapons", & "US Military Veterans - News you can use" – very interesting pictures, history, & valuable info.
5. The Spectre Association is putting forth a history book project: "50-yrs. of Gunship History". Anyone who served with fixed-wing, side-firing gunships may contribute a biography, pictures, & other info. For more info & to obtain a "biography form", contact former Spooky, Shadow, Stinger, Stallion & Spectre gunner, Norman Evans at normeans873@cox.net

FINAL FLIGHT addendum – May they rest in peace

1. Hugh Matheson, April 17, 2016 18th SOS Pilot
2. William (Bill) Korte, April 30, 2016 18th SOS I.O.
3. William (Bill) Burress, March 31, 2016 18th SOS Pilot
4. Royce (Roy) D. Price, Feb. 16, 2016 18th SOS Gunner

You may find more details in obituaries posted in the **Mail Call** section of the Association's existing web site: <http://ac-119gunships.com/association/mailcall.htm> (Thank you Bill Petrie for updates)

Welcome to New Association Members:

1. Edsel Heath, Associate Annual Member, General Dynamics employee at US Army Post
2. Brent C. Obrien, Annual Member, Pilot, 18th SOS, PhanRang/PhuCat/Udon, 69-70
3. Ronald G. Morrison, LIFE No. 429, 18th SOS, IO, 8/70 - 8/71, 9/72 - 4/73
4. Richard Hall, LIFE No. 430, 71St (68-69)/17th (70-71), IO, NaTrang, PhanRang, TSN
5. Richard Horvat, Annual Member, 17th SOS, PropMech, TSN, 69 - 70
6. Alwyn Smith, LIFE No. 431, 18th SOS, Pilot, NKP, DaNang, BienHoa, 4/72 - 2/73
7. Gordon L. Williams, LIFE No. 432, 18th SOS Gunner, DaNang, NKP, 6/70 – 6/71

SPECIAL AC-119 ASSOCIATION HAND-GUN RAFFLE

REMINGTON .45 ACP, Model 1911 R1 Autoloading pistol donated by **CHEROKEE FIREARMS**
Owner & Gunsmith Ron Soderquist.

TICKETS: 13 for \$100, 6 for \$50, or 1 for \$10 Send your donation to **Doug Wohlgamuth 504 Shea Place, Sun City Center, FL. 33573-5726** The pistol is stainless steel-plated with Bill Petrie's "Brothers" on both sides of the grip. Comes with two 7 round clips in a plastic green carrying case, plus gun lock. Get your tickets now until the Reunion! We'll raffle this one-of-a-kind gun at the FWB Reunion. Tickets will be held by Doug Wohlgamuth. Be sure to keep your end of the ticket, AND, to make sure your tickets are included in the drawing, send a confirmation email of your ticket purchase to Doug at busch791@tampabay.rr.com



Quartermaster's Updates

Gus Sininger reminds all that we voted to discontinue the costly creation of specific reunion shirts & instead, now offer a nice selection of golf-style shirts. Please contact Gus at stinger7172@live.com phone 850-863-9649 or go to <http://ac-119gunships.com/association/merchandise/merchandise.htm>



AC-119 GUNSHIP ASSOCIATION / REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

Golf/Polo Style Shirts without a pocket are available in S–M–L–XL Sizes at stated prices. Sizes XXL & larger cost \$2 more. Shirts are 65% polyester/35% cotton, weight 5.6 & are available in: Black (B), Gray (G), White (W), Navy Blue (NB), Royal Blue (RB), River Blue (RB), Med Blue (MB), Red (R), Dark Green (DG), Emerald Green (EG), Dusty Purple (DP), Chocolate (C), & Pink (P).

Golf/Polo Style Shirts **with a pocket** are available in S–M–L–XL Sizes at stated prices. **Size XXL & larger cost \$2 more.** Shirts are 100% cotton, weight 6.5, & are only available in: Black (B), Iron Gray (IG), White (W), Cobalt Blue (CB), Navy Blue (NB), Moonlight Blue (MB), Maroon (M), Oyster (O), Red (R), Yellow (Y), Brown (BN), & Orange (O). **BOTH** Shirts have a collar, the AC-119 Association Patch & your name/call sign/etc. embroidered on the front & American Flag on left Sleeve. Both shirts with or without a pocket can also be ordered with Bill Petrie's **"BROTHERS"** logo of the **Shadow & Stinger gunships imprinted on the back of your shirt for an additional cost of \$5.**

<u>SHIRTS WITHOUT A POCKET</u>				Donation	With "Brothers"	Donation
Qty	Size	Color	Name on Front	Price	Add \$5	Total Price
1	L	RB	Shadow	\$40.00 +	\$5	= \$45 (Sample)
_____	_____	_____	_____	\$40 +	\$_____	= \$_____

<u>SHIRTS WITH A POCKET:</u>				Donation	With "Brothers"	Donation
Qty	Size	Color	Name on Front	Price	Add \$5	Total Price
1	XXL	IG	Gus	\$42 +	\$5	= \$47 (Sample)
_____	_____	_____	_____	\$40 +	\$_____	= \$_____

GRAND TOTAL = \$_____

Don't forget to add-on \$2 for each XXL or larger shirts. If you are coming to this year's reunion, complete this page & return it with your completed Reunion Registration Form to Doug Wohlgamuth. Otherwise, complete this page & mail to **Gus Sininger, 321 Woodrow St SE, Apt # 1, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 32547.** Make your check or money order payable to AC-119 Gunship Association. Donation Prices include Shipping & Handling if needed.

NAME: _____ **PHONE #:** _____ **ADDRESS:** _____

Reunion XVII, Ft. Walton Beach, FL....."Welcome Home"

DATE: October 26– 30, 2016

Ramada Plaza Beach Resort 1500 Miracle Strip Pkwy Se, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548 Tele: (850) 344-7941 Near the intersection of Miracle Strip Pkwy SE & Gulf National Sea Shore Dr.



Coordinators: Gus Sininger stinger7172@live.com & Larry Hunter lhunter40@cox.net Details for registration are attached below, & will be provided in future Newsletters AND on our current Web site. Preliminary activities includes a Halloween Party (on Sunday), & a wide range of boats for large or small fishing trips. Children's meals are ½ price. Carol Hinton & Andrea Drzyzga are planning a formal tour for Friday – see attached below. Gus is hopeful that the 18th FSTS at Hurlburt will arrange a visit for attendees, but we understand they are very busy & future deployments lead to scheduling issues. Yes, it can be awesome to visit the recently renovated Air Park at Hurlburt's Main Gate, the Weapons Museum at Eglin, &/or the NAS Museum in Pensacola (Home of the Navy's Blue Angles).

2016 Reunion MENU

Meet & Greet Friday, October 28th

Home Style (Dinner) Buffet
Fried Fish; Beef Tips w/Butter Noodles
Scalloped Potatoes; Banana Pudding; Coffee & Tea

Saturday Night Banquet, October 29th

Mixed Greens Salad w/ Croutons & Italian Dressing
Chicken Cordon Blue or 7oz NY Strip
Twice Baked Potato; Vegetable Medley
Peach Cobbler; Tea & Coffee

NOTE: Children ages 4-12 Banquet option: Chicken Tender Plate for \$12 (half price meal not available)

Sunday Night Halloween Buffet (Modified) Western BBQ October 30th

BBQ Baby Back Ribs
Corn on the Cob & Baked Beans
Fresh Cucumber & Tomato Salad plus Mixed Green Salad w/ 2 Dressings
Red Bliss Potato Salad; Texas Toast; Pecan Brownies; Coffee & Tea

NOTE: Children ages 4-12 Sunday BBQ alternatives: half price **or** Chicken Tender Plate with French Fries, Peaches, & Sprite for \$12 all inclusive

**2016 AC-119 GUNSHIP REUNION XVII REGISTRATION
OCTOBER 26TH - 30TH, FT. WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA**

“WELCOME HOME”

This is NOT your Hotel Registration (this is your Reunion Registration Only!)

Name (First, Middle Initial, Last) _____

Are you an AC-119 Gunship Association member? Yes_ No_ Years Served with Gunships: ___ - ___

Squadron: 71st ___ 17th ___ 18th ___ other (____) Crew Position/Role: _____

Address (include Zip+4) _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Spouse/Guest Name: (First, Middle Initial, Last) _____

Additional Guests (#) _____ Name(s) _____

Are you staying at the Reunion Hotel? Yes_ No_ If staying somewhere else, where? _____

Is this your 1st Reunion: Yes___ No___

REUNION FEE.....# attending ___ X \$25 = \$ _____

YES! I / We will attend:

• **Friday Meet & Greet Buffet (see web or Newsletter for menus)....# attending ___ X \$32 = \$ _____**

NOTE: Kids Ages 4-12 half price# attending ___ X \$16 = \$ _____

or Chicken Tender Plate for# attending ___ X \$12 = \$ _____

• **Saturday Night Banquet**

▶ NY Strip# of meals ___ X \$40 = \$ _____

▶ Cordon Blue Chicken# of meals ___ X \$40 = \$ _____

Note: Kids ages 4-12 Chicken Tenders, French Fries, Peaches, Sprite # attending ___ X \$12 = \$ _____

• **Sunday Morning Golf Tournament (Covers Green Fees & prizes)....# playing ___ X \$10 = \$ _____**

▶ **Golf Tournament is limited to 28 players ONLY.**

• **Sunday evening Halloween Buffet Dinner Please dress for Halloween** # attending ___ X \$35 = \$ _____

Note: Kids Ages 4-12 half price# attending ___ X \$ 17.50 = \$ _____

or Chicken Tender Plate for# attending ___ X \$ 12.00 = \$ _____

Check # _____ Total Payment \$ _____

NOTE: For special meal needs, contact Gus Slinger @ 850-865-2634 or stinger7172@cox.net

After filling-in this page mail it (if you use the web version, print it first since it will not save your info) with your payment (**make check payable to AC-119 Gunship Association**) to:

Doug Wohlgamuth (AC-119), 504 Shea Place, Sun City Center, FL 33573-5726

Mailing this page with your payment completes your Reunion registration; **you still need to contact the hotel direct for your Hotel registration!** The hotel toll-free number is: 800-874-8962. Tell them you are with the AC-119 Gunship Reunion. Visit the Newsletter or web for details. Your Reunion rate is good **up to 3 days** before or after the Reunion!

Questions? For more details visit <http://www.ac-119gunships.com/> or contact Doug at 813-938-7176 or 813-781-5728 or email: **Busch791@tampabay.rr.com** or Gus Slinger @ 850-865-2634 or stinger7172@live.net

See You in Ft. Walton Bch & "WELCOME HOME"

Reunion Registration cancellations on or before September 27th = refund or donation as requested. Reunion Registration cancellations after September 27th = we have to pay hotel “guarantees”, so no refunds. (But talk to us if there are special circumstances like family emergencies or losses).

Hotel Registration: If you cancel after the minimum **72 hour** notification, you will be charged for one day

Friday Group Activity



For those who are interested, Carol Hinton and Andrea Drzyzga put together a Pensacola Tour - a bus trip to Historic Pensacola Village, Lunch at an Irish Pub, Museums and the Veteran's Memorial Park:

Includes a tour of 3 historical homes (not handy-cap accessible) don't let this stop you because the trip will also include tours of:

1884 Museum of Industry - History of Pensacola industries and resource

1898 Museum of Commerce - Victorian downtown Pensacola

1907 T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum - Three floors of Pensacola and regional history

1912 Voices of Pensacola Multicultural Center - Pensacola's melting pot

We will also visit Veterans Memorial Park where they have a replica of the Viet Nam Memorial Wall.

Additionally (of course) you can do a little shopping.

Carol has also secured a private room at McGuire's Irish Pub where we will be able to have lunch at our own expense.

The cost for the bus trip, museums and historical house tours is \$26.00 per person. We will be leaving the Hotel on Friday, October 28th at 8:00 am and probably return mid- to late afternoon.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

We have a 50 seat bus for this activity; if there are more participants, we will add another bus.

Any further information, please contact

Andrea Drzyzga 973-409-4861 or email: andreadrzy@yahoo.com OR

Carol Hinton 478-922-0748 email: carhin2002@gmail.com



Send registration form along with your check or money order payable to:

AC-119 Gunship Association/Pensacola Tour

Mail to:

Doug Wohlgamuth (AC-119)

504 Shea Place

Sun City Center, Florida 33573-5726

Friday Group Activity – Historical Pensacola, Lunch, Veteran's Memorial.

Name: _____

_____ # of seats _____ x \$26.00 = \$ _____

Donation for Transportation \$ _____ Phone # _____

Who's Coming to the FWB Reunion (as of May 10, 2016)

Drzyzga, Mike, Andrea

Dunn, Jim, Janet

Evans, Allen & Judy

Fletcher, Larry & Sue

Gourley, Gary, Guest Nick Roberto

Graves, Karen

Isham, Bill

Krauss, Mike

Lafarth, Ralph, Joyce

Lyall, Robert, Cherly

McCall, Cash & Mary

Posey, Bill & Cindy & Son & DIL Bill Jr. & Robin

Rider, Fred & Jean

Schultz, Marcus & Barbara

Singer, Gus - Grandson Tyler Vaughn & Daughters

LeAnn & Glenn Clickman, Donna & Chuck Whitaker

Sprou, Ev & Thui, & Sister Ruth & Bill Chapman

Stearn, Ken & Veronika

Wolf, Lee & Guest Rosie Bishop

We also thought you'd enjoy this "pencil sketch rendering" of Stinger that Jim Mattison created & posted on Facebook

