

Gunship Brothers

It is my honor to serve as your President of our AC-119 Gunship Association. Many thanks to the past Gunship Association Officers and a special thanks to the Vice President Larry Fletcher for stepping in for President Dutch Payne who had gotten very ill. Let's pray that Dutch gets well and will be able to make the next reunion. Please send your prayers for health to him and Bill Petrie who also was very ill.

You know it takes dreams and dreamers to make things happen. A special thanks to our 1st four life members: Bill Petrie, Jim Bennes, Norm Evans and my very close friend Fred Graves for his dream has come true. Thanks guys very much.

What's next: more communication and more info through out the year!

- We want to see more Gunshippers at the 2003 Reunion, which will once again will be held in Fort Walton Beach, Florida on Oct 3-4-5. Our headquarters for the 2003 Reunion will remain the Sheraton Four Points Hotel, located at 1325 Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Telephone number 800-874-8104. When making your reservation, be sure to tell them you are attending the AC-119 Gunship Reunion.
- We will have S.E.A. videos of the 17th and 18th SOS on sale for a donation. More on that in the Newsletter.

A few highlights from our membership meeting at the 2002 Reunion:

- The Association approved a Brass Memorial plaque for Hurlburt Air Park in front of the AC-119 of all that died in combat in Vietnam.
- We created a new board member - the Association Editor position filled by Everett Dale Sprous, and we're looking for an association Chaplain position to serve as our own Chaplain. So if anyone is interested please let me know.
- One of the big questions was do we want to form a USAF Gunship Association? This will be checked on and information given at the next membership meeting.
- We are looking to have the 2004 Reunion at Wright-Patterson AFB. We will vote on this at the next full membership meeting during our 2003 Reunion. We have two members, Roger Stevens and Ron Julian, living in or near Wright-Patt who are checking things out and will be able to give a brief to the all of us.

Be sure to mark your calendar once again for OCT 3-4-5 of 2003, and we all will be reunited once again.

God Bless One and All

Gus Sininger