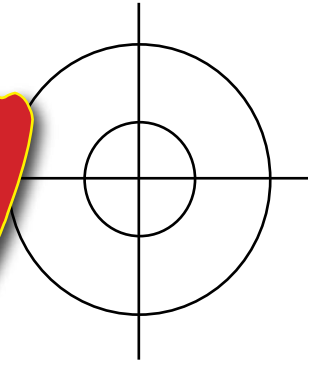


# Firing Circle



Winter 2005/2006

A Newsletter of the AC-119 Gunship Association

## Reunion VI In a Word...Wow!



**Commando One**—Legendary Air Commando, Brigadier General, Heinie Aderholdt Addresses the AC-119 Gunship Association during their 2005 Reunion banquet at the Elks Lodge in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

### Reunion Wrapup

**WOW!** What a fantastic reunion **Gus & Norm** put together between hurricanes! Briefly, here are some highlights. During the business meeting, the wife's and significant others got together for their own meeting during a patio breakfast. You'll be hearing more on that but I'm assured all that attended were glad they were there.

Our association meeting made some much needed changes to ensure our organization will continue to grow. While both of those meetings were taking place, two volunteers, **Tim Gautreau** and **Joseph Fortune** were busy scanning some of our SEA pictures into our history data base. There is lots more to do but this is a step in the right direction.

Then it was a trip to Hurlburt Air Park for a brief memorial service where we honored our KIA as well as some of the attending family members of our KIAs. They included; **Barbara Barker**, widow of Capt. Rod Slagle, **Kirstin Giroux**, daughter of Capt. Tommy Hamman, and **Lee Jordan**, daughter of Maj. Meridith Anderson. Afterwards, we dedicated the absolutely beautiful AC-119K monument in what has to be the best

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## 2006 Officers

### President

Wayne Laessig

### Vice-President

Vern Hansen

### Secretary & Circulation Manager

Jim Alvis

### Treasurer

Doug Wohlgamuth

### Immediate-Past President

Craig Corbett

## Appointees

### Newsletter Editor

Rogers Stevens

### Webmaster

Bill Petrie

### Chaplain

Larry Hunter

### Next-of-Kin Locator

Jim Terry

### 2006 Albuquerque Reunion

#### VII Coordinator & Awards & Decorations

Steve "Mac" Mac Isaac

### 71st SOS Coordinator

Jim Alvis

### 17th SOS Coordinator

Chuck James

### 18th SOS Coordinator

Everett Sprous

# Reunion Wrapup

*(Continued from page 1)*

site in the park. As dedication speaker, **Bill Petrie** shared his own poem, *Lady of the Night*.

That evening, at the banquet, we were honored to have as our guest speaker, **Brigadier General (ret.) Harry "Heine" Aderholt**, perhaps better known as *Air Commando One*. As the president, I had the pleasure of sitting next to him and hearing first hand some of his stories and his very frank opinions. He shared with me that he has not enjoyed himself at an event like ours in a very long time but he was really enjoying being among us. He said it was obvious that we knew how to enjoy ourselves and that we were a tight knit group. As I reviewed his bio, I wondered why he spent so many years in SEA. (Almost from beginning to end) Well, he answered that question in his speech, turns out he has always been outspoken and continued to be fired will stateside. He talked about what happened to our AC-119s that made it to Thailand and how they ended up being smelted down. So, our only Lady of the Night is now on a big beautiful piece of granite in the Hurlburt Field Air park. From the feedback, I think all of us enjoyed General Aderholt's down to earth, no holds barred frank view and stories.

Sunday, we had Veterans Administration representative **Mary Chestnut** come and talk to our members who chose to be there about VA Vietnam Era Veteran updates. I was there and I tell you her advice and insight will positively affect more than a few of our members.

Lastly, in this year's welcome packets, each attending member received a **Round Metal Object (RMO)**, or Association "challenge" coin along with the rules on utilizing the RMO. If you don't have one, I suggest you order one from our Association BX. You just might be challenged to produce your RMO at the next reunion.

It was an adventure serving as president this past year. Please continue to support your AC-119 Gunship Association.

*Craig Corbett, President (outgoing)*  
*AC-119 Gunship Association*

## Association Women Enjoy Breakfast Gathering

**Lynette Laessig** and **Karen Graves** planned and hosted a breakfast get-together of the wives and 'significant others' of the guys. They met separately on Saturday morning during the Association annual meeting. The gals had a great visit and came up with many good ideas and suggestions for things they can do at future reunions.

**Nancy MacIsaac** spoke about sights and activities in her home town of Albuquerque. When the gals heard the guys had voted to have **Reunion VII** there was a unanimous "Hooray!" We'll include more on things to do in Albuquerque in the next Newsletter and on the web site.



Karen Graves gathered a list of e-mail and regular addresses of the ladies who attended. By the way, the ones that provided their addresses wanted to receive copies of the newsletter (they should get this one). It seems some of them did not always have an opportunity to see and read it. If you want to get a Newsletter e-mailed directly to you, contact Rogers Stevens at [Rogac119@aol.com](mailto:Rogac119@aol.com) – Of course you can always view it on the Association's website.

The ladies enjoyed getting together and came up with some great ideas. We plan to have another "breakfast get together" at next year's reunion as well. Also, anyone can join the Association as an Associate Member and several wives have done that. There's information on how to do that in the Newsletter. *See you in October in ABQ!*

## Mark Your Calendars

### Reunion VII, Albuquerque, NM

September 29 - October 1, 2006

More Information can be found at:

[www.ac-119gunships.com/association/reunion/reunioninfo.htm](http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/reunion/reunioninfo.htm)

**Make your plans now!**

## Moved or changed your e-mail address?

When you move to a different residence or change your e-mail address, please let us know right away. By doing so, you will avoid delays and missed issues of the Firing Circle and other important communications. This is especially true for LIFE members who do not renew annually.

You can help us keep the AC-119 Gunship Association membership roster up-to-date by keeping us informed.

To update your information write to:

Jim Alvis

AC-119 Gunship Association

3110 Maqua Court

Carmel, IN 46033-4136

Or E-mail Jim at:

[Shadow1969@indy.rr.com](mailto:Shadow1969@indy.rr.com)

## Newsletter Changes

You have no doubt recognized a format change in our newsletter. With **Ev Sprous** moving up to the position of 18th SOS Personnel Coordinator, I will attempt to fill some very big shoes. I appreciate Ev's work and dedication for the past four years as our Newsletter Editor.

*The plan is to have four newsletters per year:*

**1st** – Past reunion wrap-up and Annual Business Meeting Minutes

**2nd** – Next Year's Reunion Information and Association Personality Profile

**3rd** – Additional Reunion Information and available Merchandise for purchase

*(Continued on page 5)*

# President's Message

Two short words sum up last year and our Reunion in Fort Walton Beach. *Thank you!*

If you weren't there, you missed out on a helluva Reunion and we missed you! Most of us didn't think Gus could do better than he's done so many times before, but he did. The Friday social and Sunday BBQ were great, and the banquet at the Elk's Lodge – damn it was a good one! **Gus Sininger** and **Stormin' Norman Evans**, thank you.

Several family members of brothers we lost in SEA were our special guests for the weekend. They met the men who flew with their father or husband; men who had never forgotten their loved one, men who never stopped honoring them. Kirstin, Lee, Barbara, and their families now know their loved one was, is, and always will be part of a larger family. I'll never lose the lump in my throat when the Honor Guard plays Taps and does a 21 gun salute. Being able to meet and talk to the families was something beyond words. There were plenty of emotions, including the joy, when we finally got to meet and talk and hug a little bit as we wiped away tears. **Gus Sininger** and **Jim Terry**, thank you.

We now have one heck of a Stinger monument at the Hurlburt Air Park that got nursed from concept to concrete and granite, along with a lot of sweat and hard work. As the monument was lowered into place the day before the dedication Gus was like an expectant father (or is that grandfather...); talk about down to the wire. But Gus came through; again. The text on the monument came from Bill's head and heart; and his dedication was more than words. Bill read his poem called *Our Lady of Night*, and it told our story. Make sure you read the monument article to understand more about Gus and Bill's labor of love. **Gus Sininger** and **Bill Petrie**, thank you.

We had one heck of a guest speaker at our banquet. His opening words were (and I quote), "*Good evening,.....and I usually say 'assholes' here....*" and it got even better after that! We learned what it was like trying to battle politics and fight a war at the same time. "**Air Commando One**" **General Heinie Aderholt** gave us the straight skinny and a memorable evening. To coordinator **Norm Evans**, thank you.

There were VA briefings, **Craig Corbett**, thank you; Challenge coins and key chains for everyone, Bud Buchanon, thank you. Then our ladies got together, and found they liked it, and had a few ideas of their own; **Lynette Laessig**, **Karen Graves**, and **Nancy Mac Isaac**, thank you.

It's been one helluva year. **Craig Corbett**, **Bud Buchanan**, **Doug Wohlgamuth**, **Jim Alvis**, **Rogers Stevens**, **Gus Sininger**, **Bill Petrie**, **Ev Sprous**, **Norm Evans**, **Jim Terry**, and others, thank you.

So what could be left for this year? Well, there are a few things.

Albuquerque here we come, with our **2006 Reunion** there the week before the big balloon races. We'll include a visit with the reactivated 71st SOS to see their aircraft and talk about our mutual heritage! We're already starting to work with the Squadron Commander and he's really enthused!

We're expanding our History project; read the article about it by **Larry Fletcher**. We also now have a Squadron Coordinator for each Squadron and our Maintenance/Support folks as well as some "regional" POCs to help us contact and find lost and prospective new members. We have 800 or so brothers we haven't made contact with, including the huge number of maintainers and others who kept us flying.

Our goal is to get as many as we can to join us to do the three things we exist for:



**1. Renew old friendships**

**2. Make new friendships**

**3. Let the world know – we existed.** We flew and maintained AC-119 gunships and we were damn good.

Our plans are already in progress for a joint AC-119, AC-47, and AC-130 reunion in 2007. Spookys, Shadows, Stingers, and Spectres all at one time will be fun. And yes, we definitely will maintain our AC-119 focus, activities, and history at that reunion. It's a chance to find our common ground and how we might work together in the future. We're not getting any younger you know.

**Location, location, location:** We have a new process for identifying and deciding reunion locations. Start working it for your area if you're interested. The biggest criteria is: only bring us a nomination if you have a volunteer Coordinator (hopefully local) who will honcho all the stuff like **Gus, Norm Evans, Ron Julian, Jim Bennes, Bill Petrie** and **Steve Mac Isaac** did and are doing for the last seven years. Read the Association minutes for more on this.

Jim Terry is continuing to find more family members of the brothers we lost in SEA and we expect several new ones as well as some returnees at Albuquerque. What a great thing for both them and us!

So, from the new Prez, two short words - not enough, but from the heart. *THANK YOU!*

Let's keep it going!

Wayne Laessig, *President*

## *Newsletter Changes continued from page 3*

### **4th** – Last Minute Reunion Information, Schedules, and Preparations

The Winter 2006 newsletter will be posted on the Association's website as a PDF file for members and visitors to access. Association members with e-mail capability will be notified by e-mail when the newsletter is available on the website. A direct link to the newsletter will be included in the e-mail so it should be easy for members to open, read, and print. Adobe Reader will need to be installed on your computer to open the newsletter. Be sure you provide the Association Secretary Jim Alvis with your current e-mail address. Jim can be contacted at [Shadow1969@indy.rr.com](mailto:Shadow1969@indy.rr.com).

For Association members without Internet capability, the newsletter will be delivered by regular mail. Again, be sure Jim Alvis has your correct mailing address. His mailing address is: 3110 Maqua Court Carmel, IN 46033-4136

While each paid Association Member will receive the quarterly newsletter, I also plan to send an informational newsletter to all non-member former "Gunshippers" to keep them apprised of our activities and use it as a recruiting tool. If you know someone who was a former "Gunshipper", please encourage them to join our Association. Also, provide Jim Alvis with their address, so we may keep in touch with them.

This is *your* newsletter. Any information you wish to have included in the Newsletter should be sent to my attention at: P.O. Box 369 Clarksburg, WV 26302-0369 or via internet at: [www.rogac119@aol.com](mailto:www.rogac119@aol.com).

Thank you for your interest and suggestions for OUR newsletter!

*Rogers Stevens, Editor*

*Firing Circle 5*

# Stinger Monument Brings Gunship Home

AC-119 Gunship Association president, retired Chief Master Sergeant Craig Corbett, and a host of air and ground crew members joined more than 100 family, friends, and other attendees in dedicating the AC-119K Stinger Gunship monument located in Hurlburt Field's Commando Air Park, in Ft Walton Beach, FL. The dedication took place during the Association's Sixth Annual Reunion on October 2, 2005. Keynote speaker was former 18th Special Operations Squadron (SOS) aircrew member, retired Chief Master Sergeant Bill Petrie of Oklahoma City.

The focus of the memorial project was to bring the gunship to a final resting place via a monument. The AC-119K Memorial features an 8-foot high, three-foot wide, mirror finish, black granite stone capturing the Stinger gunship in combat over the Republic of Laos. The image of the gunship emerges from the black granite, much like it did in battle, like a ghost in the night with guns blazing amid anti-aircraft fire. The front of the Memorial is engraved with a brief history of the AC-119K gunship. The 18th Special Operations Squadron's logo is engraved below the text.

Former 18th SOS flight engineer, retired Senior Master Sergeant Gus Sininger, guided the memorial project to fruition. The AC-119 Gunship Association set aside \$10,000 to create a lasting monument to an aircraft that "never made it home."

The hunter/killer prowess of the AC-119K gunship over the famed Ho Chi Minh Trail, even while barraged by heavy anti-aircraft artillery, was evident in the hundreds of burned-out Soviet-built trucks littered across Indochina's landscape and the countless allied lives saved by the gunship and her

gallant crews. Unfortunately, all of the AC-119s were either shot down, crashed, or scrapped after the evacuation of Vietnam, and for these varied reasons, no AC-119K gunship made it back to the United States after the Vietnam War. For many who involved with this illustrious gunship a part of them always remained missing. That fact prompted Chief Petrie to write a poem entitled *Our Lady of Night* which he read at the dedication. You can read the Poem on page 11.

In praising the maintenance and aircrews who kept the Stinger gunship flying and fighting Chief Petrie said "The memories of courage, commitment, and dedication of those we served with, coupled with the dedication of those who serve this association created this monument and enabled us to bring home our gunship.



Bill Petrie, along with Kirstin Giroux, daughter of Captain Thomas "Tommy" Hammond KIA, help Barbara Barker, widow of Captain Rod Slagle, KIA; and Project Coordinator Gus Sininger, unveil the AC-119K Stinger Monument at Hurlburt Field's Commando Air Park in Ft. Walton Beach FL.

Petrie added "May this memorial forever stand both as a tribute to the AC-119K air and ground crews who fought for freedom in Vietnam and as an enduring symbol of an aircraft that served us and the Air Force well. Finally, the courage and sacrifice of so many and the contributions of a proud old bird will forever stand tall in Hurlburt Field's Memorial Air Park."

Project officer, Gus Sininger, stated "The generosity and continued support from Association members, and family members of those we lost, have truly made this important day a reality;" He added the AC-119K Gunship Association is still accepting donations to recoup costs associated with the monument's construction.

# Featured Photo



In this **Featured photo** submitted by **J. Driscoll**, a Shadow Gunship sits at the ready on the ramp at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. You can see more photos on our website at [www.ac-119gunships.com](http://www.ac-119gunships.com)

## AC-119 Awards and Decorations Recovery Program

The AC-119 Association officers formed an association board whose sole purpose is



to help AC-119 Association members in their quest to set their Military Records correct with respect to lost, missing, or expected Awards & Decorations for their service in combat during their tour in Southeast Asia.

The Association has appointed a Review Board of experienced AC-119 personnel, including Maintenance, who will review and assist Association members who request help or support.

There is a section on the AC-119 Association website where a member can go to get help or advice. Click on the DFC on the welcome page

You may also contact **Steve 'Mac' Mac Isaac** by email at [colmacmac@mac.com](mailto:colmacmac@mac.com) or write to him at 6449 Coventry Hills Dr, NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87114.

## Join the Association

### AC-119 Association Membership/Renewal Application

**Note:** If renewing, it is not necessary to fill out all information, unless there are changes.

**Regular Membership** (Annual and Life) is open to any air or ground personnel assigned to or in direct support of the AC-119 Gunship program, either in Southeast Asia or Stateside.

**Associate Membership** may be conferred upon persons, not qualified for Regular Membership, but deserving of recognition through rendering service, whether military or civilian, in the establishment, development, training, or support of AC-119 squadrons.

#### Please Print

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby renew, or apply for, membership in the AC-119 Gunship Association and agree to abide with Association By-laws.

My Date of birth is (mm/dd/yy) \_\_\_\_\_

I, or my spouse, (no charge to surviving spouse) or parent served with (circle one)

71st SOS, 17th SOS, 18th SOS from \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_ as (air or ground crew position) \_\_\_\_\_

Or, I am applying for Associate Membership (annual only) based upon the following:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

• Enclose a check or money order in the amount of \$20 for your annual membership or \$119 for a lifetime membership (Available only to regular members).

**Please make check or money order payable to:** AC-119 Gunship Association as a donation for Annual/Life membership dues and **mail to:** Jim Alvis, Secretary, AC-119 Gunship Association, 3110 Maqua Ct, Carmel, IN 46033-4130

**Association Website**

[www.ac-119gunships.com](http://www.ac-119gunships.com)

## Annual Meeting Minutes

On Saturday, October 1, 2005, the Association meeting was called to order at 0805 hours by President **Craig Corbett** with the Invocation given by Association Chaplain **Larry Hunter**

Association Treasurer **Doug Wohlgamuth** presented his annual report. A nomination was presented and seconded, and the report approved as read.

Association Secretary **Jim Alvis** presented the annual report on membership statistics. A nomination was presented, seconded, and approved as read.

**Ron Julian** presented a report on the Master Contact List (MCL). Ron is seeking updated information about current and lost or deceased members.

President Corbett reported the 'Final Flight' of deceased association members since the last reunion.

Corbett also recognized the year-in and year-out hard work of six dedicated members. They are **Wayne Laessig, Bill Petrie, Everett Sprous, Doug Wohlgamuth, Gus Sininger,** and **Norm Evans**. The six were presented with special challenge coins at the Saturday evening banquet.

One member suggested a swap of coin numbers to match the member's LIFE membership number. This will be done among members.

A motion was presented to have the official AC-119 Gunship Association record changed to reflect that **Larry Fletcher** be recognized as a past president of the 2001-02 term. Larry filled in for the elected president during his absence and effectively led the organization during the entire term. A nomination was presented, seconded, and accepted.

Discussion ensued about changing the bylaws to recognize the *newsletter editor* and *webmaster* as non-voting board positions rather than voting positions. The Board, consisting of five elected positions, will be the only official voting members. This was also Approved.

President Corbett then offered a proposal that Larry Hunter be nominated to be the Association's

designated Chaplain. The nomination was voted and accepted.

Corbett then proposed the establishment of coordinators for each squadron (3) plus all maintenance/support people (a total of four coordinators). The purpose of the coordinators is to assist in contacting and finding lost members and perspective members. That proposal was approved.

The establishment of a Quartermaster to oversee the purchase and sale of assoc. merchandise was proposed by President Corbett. This was approved.

Turner Publishing is offering to produce and sell a book about the AC-119 gunship program. Larry Fletcher is the coordinator on this project. This would be a hardcover book, about 129 pages. Much discussion ensued about the value of the publication. Several Gunship Association members who are/were Air Commando Association members stated they were quite disappointed in the final product of their book. A few members also supported the product. At this time, the Association will not pursue the book. Instead, we will attempt to collect before and after information for the 2006 reunion and then decide if we are to go forward. The requirements will be posted in the newsletter and on the website seeking member's input. This vote was tabled until next year.

Carryover elected positions for 2005-06 will be Treasurer Doug Wohlgamuth and Secretary Jim Alvis.

Wayne Laessig was nominated for President. **Vern Hansen** nominated for Vice President. Nominations were seconded and accepted for President and VP.

A nomination was made for current President Craig Corbett to fill the Past President position. The nomination was presented, seconded, and approved.

In other business, President Corbett proposed a bylaw change to reflect that members attending the annual association business meeting would vote for the reunion location two years forward instead of one. A nomination was presented, seconded, and approved to change the by-laws to make the reunion location be determined two years ahead instead of one.

*(Continued on next page)*



A hand-count indicated members would like to have a reunion in DC as well as out west. To move the reunion to other locations, a local reunion coordinator is absolutely necessary. The concern about having reunions at FWB for four more reunions is taxing on Gus and Norm.

**Steve Mac Isaac** volunteered to be the reunion coordinator for **Reunion VII at Albuquerque, NM**, home of the recently reactivated 71st SOS. The available dates are Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1, 2006. A nomination was made and seconded to hold Reunion VII at ABQ, and was unanimously approved.

Regarding Reunion 2007, a nomination was made to have Gus and Norm be the reunion coordinators, with assistance from other FWB members. The date would likely be Columbus Day weekend in October. This may be a combined reunion with the Spectre Association. The hotel location may also change.

Wayne Laessig noted we need Points of Contact (POC's) for each of the squadrons. Also, the association wants to continue the DVD project next year. Members are encouraged to buy the DVD set from Reunion V at Dayton, Ohio.

Steve Mac Isaac offered this message to all members – *“be sure to check out the Awards and Decorations web page”*. Mac has seven cases pending to acquire awards. One case is nearing successful completion. Awards were made based on crew-awards rather than an individual basis. For any questions about awards and decorations, contact Steve at [colmacmac@mac.com](mailto:colmacmac@mac.com).

Anybody with mission tapes are asked to please forward them to Larry Fletcher. Larry will be the focal point to collect and document AC-119 historical items.

Everett Sprouss is stepping down as newsletter editor, and Rogers Stevens will be his replacement. Everett has volunteered to be the Squadron Coordinator for the 18th SOS.

The 2005 annual business meeting was adjourned at 1043 hours by President Craig Corbett.

Respectfully Submitted,



James R. Alvis, Secretary  
AC-119 Gunship Association  
October 7, 2005

## Association RMO's Now Available

Craig Corbett had the pleasure of introducing the AC-119 Gunship Association's **Round Metal Objects** (RMOs), known to many of us as "Challenge" Coins. Newly minted at the Northwest Territorial Mint in Seattle, Washington, the coins were a coordinated effort of project coordinator **Bud Buchanan, Craig Corbett** and **Bill Petrie**.

Bud and Craig coordinated the design of the coin with drawings and input from Bill. When all was said and done, they produced a coin that every Association member will be proud to own. Of course, when you come to the reunions you'll want to make sure you are not caught without one. After all, they are "Challenge" Coins.

Coins are \$10 each and are numbered. For those of you not familiar with challenge coins, Rules for using the coin will be posted on the Association's web site.

You can order your coins on our web site at [www.ac-119gunships.com](http://www.ac-119gunships.com) or by contacting Gus Siningar at :

206 Tooke Street  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547  
Phone (850) 863-9649

Or you can e-mail him at [g.siningar@seii.net](mailto:g.siningar@seii.net).

**Challenge Coin  
Front**



**Challenge Coin  
Back**

## *Families and Friends* by Jim Terry

Another great reunion has come and gone.

We had special guests from the families of three of our brothers killed in Vietnam – **Kirstin Giroux** (Tommy Hamman's daughter), **Lee Jordan** (Meridith Anderson's daughter) with husband and kids, and **Barbara Barker** (Rod Slagle's wife) with her sister.

We lost seventeen of our brothers in Vietnam and to date have located twelve of their families.

I have been in contact with all twelve since the reunions of 2003 and 2005 and they are still in awe, and appreciation, of what our Association is about and what we do. Six of the families have attended reunions. The families that we currently have contact with are:

**Bob Knapic** (son of *Bernard Knapic*)

**Kevin Alves** (son of *Mo Alves*)

**Lee Jordan** (daughter of *Meridith Anderson*)

**Pamela Seiferd** (sister of *Thomas Lubbers*)

**Elizabeth Jeszeck** (wife of *Joseph Jeszeck*)

**Dewight Fage** (son of *Robert Fage*)

**James Vangelisti** (cousin of *Michael Vangelisti*)

**Barbara Barker** (wife of *Rod Slagle*)

**Thomas Reitz** (son of *Kenneth Brown*)

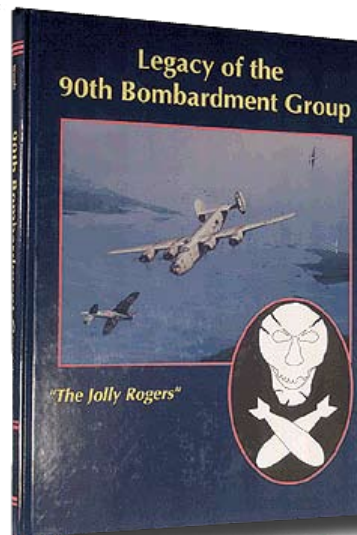
**Kirstin Giroux** (daughter of *Tommy Hamman*)

**Leon Knowles** (father of *Charles Knowles*)

**Jeffery Alloway** (son of *Clyde Alloway*)

**John and Mae Rucker** (parents of *John Rucker*)

We need anyone's help finding the whereabouts of the following families: John Hathaway, Jerome Rice, Abraham Moore, and Terence (Terry) Courtney; any help will be greatly appreciated. Send any information you have to me, Jim Terry, at [shadow70@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shadow70@sbcglobal.net)



## History Book

### Project for AC-119 Gunship Squadrons and Personnel

For those AC-119 Gunship air and ground personnel who were not in attendance at the Reunion VI business

meeting, our Association plans to publish a History Book if there is enough interest and participation shown by Shadows and Stingers. **Larry Fletcher** was designated coordinator for "Project History Book" **Ralph Lefarth** will handle graphics and photographs for the project.

*Do Not Be Humble In Writing Your Biography!*  
We want your complete story in the History Book along with your Vietnam Era photograph and a recent photograph if you so desire. Show pride in your military service record by telling about places and dates of assignments along with awards and decorations. There is no limit to the length of biographies. Fletcher will edit bio's for those who worry about grammar and spelling.

Submit your biography to Larry Fletcher at [umbra27@earthlink.net](mailto:umbra27@earthlink.net) or via snail-mail at 606 Racquet Club Drive; Lake Ozark, MO 65049.

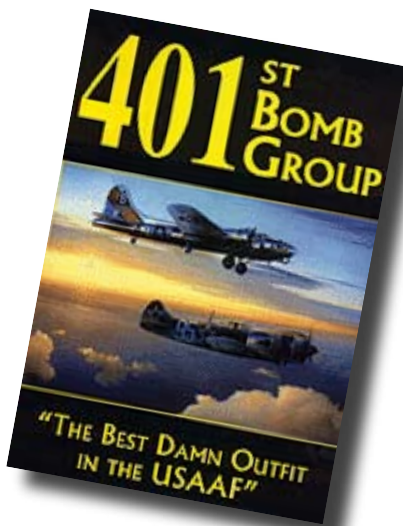
Pictures should be submitted to Ralph Lefarth at [ralph-l@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ralph-l@sbcglobal.net) (that's a lower case L, not number 1 in Ralph's address) or via snail-mail at 5754 Birch Hollow Drive; St. Louis, MO 63129-4236.

If you snail-mail photographs and want them returned, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Write your name on the back of each photograph. If you have other photographs from Vietnam that you think are history book-worthy, follow the same procedures.

Shadow and Stinger personnel who are not members of the Association are welcome to submit a biography and picture for the AC-119 Gunship Squadrons History Book.

Start submitting your biographies and pictures today. By Reunion VII in Albuquerque, we will know if you want to have a published History Book.

Turner Publishing Company of Paducah, Kentucky is willing and ready to work with us in producing a high quality, commemorative collector's edition, history book that includes the following: Smyth sewn binding, rounded and backed, head and foot bands (the gold standard of publishing) hard cover in quarter-bound, lexatone or leather options and dust cover. Check them out at [www.turnerpublishing.com](http://www.turnerpublishing.com)



*Firing Circle 11*

## Our lady of Night

Alone she sits on ramps now bare,  
Our lady of night, but who knows where?

Like a Phoenix she arose and was given new light,  
From cargo to troops, a 119 that could fight.

A twin-tailed dragon she was cursed and mated,  
With cannons and guns, a beast to be hated.

Ground troops below with a cry on their lips,  
Please, God, over, send me a gunship.

From the dark she would come with a growl to the fight,  
And the dragon would breathe and scream into the night.

Like a banshee she wailed at the enemy's might,  
To those on the ground she was a terrible fright

Her breath deadly hot as she boldly caressed,  
The souls of men obscenely obsessed.

Scarred and tattered, bruised and battered,  
Love for her crews were all that mattered.

One hell of a lady, though ugly as sin,  
Like a lover scorned we left her again.

Alone she sits on ramps now bare  
Our lady of night, but who knows where?

*Bill Petrie, CMSgt USAF, Ret.*

This poem has become very popular. You can download a copy of *Our Lady of Night* from our website at:

[www.ac-119gunships.com](http://www.ac-119gunships.com).

Copies of the "Brothers", as well as Stinger and Shadow drawings like the one at the left by Bill Petrie, are available on our merchandise page.

Check out all our AC-119 gunship merchandise at: [www.ac-119gunships.com/association/merchandise/merchandise.htm](http://www.ac-119gunships.com/association/merchandise/merchandise.htm)

# Gunship Chatter

It is always gratifying to see members support the Association with their life membership. **Welcome new Life Members :** *Rollin W. Gentes, Jerry W. Marples, Lee A. Jordan, Andrew Bright, Richard E. Ring, John Rucker, Thomas Reitz, Samuel P. Gallo, George S. Carter, Pamela Seiferd, Richard L. Seth, Elliott Williamson, Jr., Kirstin Giroux, Danny B. Thompson, Barbara J Barker, Jon D. "Jake" Jacobson, Richard E. Mahany, B/G Harry C. Aderholt, James L. Montgomery, Francis J. (Frank) Gerner, M/G Richard C. Marr, Frank A Bianco, David L. Voisey, Mario Alfaro*

**Signed Lithographs available through the Association.** If you haven't purchased your gunship lithographs they are on sale on the Association merchandise page on the web site. These extraordinary lithographs look beautiful matted and framed. All are signed and numbered by the artist. You can also order lithographs by contacting Ron Julian at [takitus@email.com](mailto:takitus@email.com)

**AC-119G  
"Shadow"**



**AC-119K  
"Stinger"**



## Help Save Association Resources

If you are receiving multiple copies, or wish to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please contact us so we can update our mailing list. E-mail Association secretary **Jim Alvis** at [Shadow1969@indy.rr.com](mailto:Shadow1969@indy.rr.com)

Place  
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*Firing Circle*

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