

Association President's Message:

August 2016

Attention Shadows & Stingers:

Orders from AC-119 Headquarters! Register now for the 2016 AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion at Fort Walton Beach, Florida. This year will be our 17th Reunion since our first reunion in 2000. Reunion coordinators, Gus Sininger and Larry Hunter need to know ASAP how many people will be attending this year's reunion for obvious reasons.

Also, register now for the Pensacola Tour scheduled for Friday of the reunion. Tour coordinators Carol Hinton and Andrea Drzyzga need to know ASAP how many people will take the Tour for obvious reasons.

After you have registered for the Reunion and the Pensacola Tour, you definitely need to make reservations at our AC-119 Reunion Headquarters, the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort.

All information and registration forms for the reunion/tour/hotel are included in this Firing Circle newsletter, thanks to our Editor Michael Drzyzga.

Let's get back together once again to remember and celebrate our lives as living testaments of the Vietnam War. We are war veterans and don't you forget that!

God Bless You and Family,
Larry Fletcher, President

Routine & Recurring 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 MDT 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 [normevans873@cox.net](mailto:normeans873@cox.net)

Seeking Help

The continued success and longevity of the AC-119 Gunship Association will depend on volunteers to perform the routine tasks to run the organization. Your current Secretary, Newsletter Editor, IT Committee support, and Membership Chairperson is overwhelmed. Therefore, the Board is seeking help for Mike Drzyzga. Mike has been your Secretary and Membership Chair since 2010. The tasks become very manageable if separated. We are seeking for **TWO volunteers** to help keep us performing well. Here are "job descriptions":

Secretary: Attends the reunions, makes the minutes for the Member Business Meeting and the Board Meetings. Helps the Pres' coordinate monthly teleconference meetings, and makes minutes from the telecom recording.

Membership Chair: On a monthly basis, send out email and postal mail renewal notices, keep track of membership additions/deletes/renewals on a spreadsheet. Having a color printer and page scanner helps. Note that any expenses for mail/ink/paper/postal are reimbursed.

If you want to see the Association continue strongly, and you want to interact with a great group of team-players, contact:

Larry Fletcher, email: fletch12@charter.net Cell: 573-480-5977, or

Mike Drzyzga, email: drzyzga513@hotmail.com home: 973-409-4861

FINAL FLIGHT addendum – May they rest in peace

We're reminded of our human frailty, as well as our strength, in the loss of these brothers who joined our Final Flight. Please remember their families in your prayers. R.I.P., brothers.

Donald (Don) E. Brogan, 71st SOS Shadow IO 1968-69, of Crawfordsville passed away July 22, 2016.
James (Jim) S. Craig, 17th SOS Shadow Nav/NOS of Fighting C Flight 1970-71, passed Sept 19, 2015.
Harris (Donnie) Heirs Jr, 71st & 17th SOS Shadow Maintenance 1968-69, passed away May 12, 2016.
Robert (Bob) W. Johnson, 18th SOS Stinger FE/IO, passed away May 12, 2016.

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. Walter "Buck" McCants, LIFE No. 434, 18th SOS Pilot
2. Warney "Beau" Crosby, LIFE No. 435, 14th SOW/FMS (Prop' Shop)
3. Dennis C. Chamberlin, Annual, 18th SOS Gunner
4. Linh T Pham, Annual, 819th SOS, VNAF Pilot
5. Thanks to Jay A. Collars, 17th SOS FE, for conversion from Annual to LIFE No. 433

Note: Look at the last page to see "Who's Coming" to the Reunion and Tour.

Special Auction Items at FWB, Reunion XVII



17th SOS Shadow Clock:

Donated to AC-119 Gunship Association by William (Bill) J. Zito for auctioning off at 2016 Gunship Reunion @ FWB. Bill's youngest son, Joshua R. Zito crafted it from an oak barrel bottom and made the image using a computer controlled laser machine Josh had the opportunity to use.

It is AWESOME! It's about 22 inches wide. This is a really unique and a special memento for someone's "I Love Me" wall in their Man Cave!!



Framed Brothers print with Names/Signatures.

Wayne Laessig won this at an earlier Reunion auction for \$250. His plan is to re-matt it to add room for more names around the edges, reframe it, have anyone sign it who hadn't already done so, & re-auction it off.

There are half a dozen folks who signed it that we've lost since. Hopefully, whoever wins it will bring it back in another 5 years to get more signatures & auction it again – that's up to them. Someday it belongs in a Museum (see last two pages of this Firing Circle).

REMINGTON .45 ACP, Model 1911 R1 Autoloading Pistol built for the AC-119 Gunship Association and donated by **CHEROKEE FIREARMS** Gunsmith & owner Ron Soderquist

TICKETS: 13 for \$100, 6 for \$50, or 1 for \$10

Send your donation to: Doug Wohlgamuth, 504 Shea Pl. Sun City Center, FL. 33573-5726

The pistol is stainless steel plated with the grip having the AC-119 Gunship Association's "Brothers" on both sides of the grip. It comes with two (2) 7 round clips in a plastic green carrying case and also has a gun lock. Get your tickets now for the raffle at the 2016 Reunion in Ft Walton. Tickets will be held by Doug Wohlgamuth. Be sure to keep your end of your tickets, AND, to make sure your tickets are included in the drawing, send a confirmation email 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 bus **Tour for Friday** – see attached below. Gus is talking with the 18th FSTS at Hurlburt and we are hopeful for 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 Sininger @ 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 Sininger @ 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 July 25, 2016)

Chamberlin	Dennis	1st Reunion
Diehl	Phillip	Spouse Mary Lois
Drzyzga	Mike	Spouse Andrea
Dunn	Jim	Spouse Janet
Evans	Allen	Spouse Judy
Fletcher	Larry	Spouse Sue
Gourly	Garry	Guest Nick Roberto
Graves	Karen	
Hanson	William	
Hardy	George	
Hiers	Mary	Son Harris D.III Wife of Don Hiers
Hinton	Ron	Spouse Carol & Guests Wes & Diane Lord
Hunter	Larry	Spouse Soncy
Isham	Bill	
Kalbert	John	Spouse Mary 1st Reunion
Krauss	Mike	
Krueger	Robert	
La Rosa	BOB	
Laessig	Wayne	Spouse Lynette
Lefarth	Ralph	Spouse Joyce
Lyll	Robert	Spouse Cheryl
Mac Isaac	Col Mac	Spouse Nancy
Mac Isaac	JP	Mac`s Son
Mack	Kay	1st Reunion
McCall	Cash	Spouse Mary
Montgomery	Jimmy	Spouse Elaine
Mullen	Michael	Spouse Theresa
Posey	Bill	Spouse Cindy & Son Bill Posey Jr. & Wife Robin Posey
Raveling	Veron	Spouse Betty, Son Daniel & DIL marie
Rider	Fred	Spouse Jean
Schultz	Marcus	Spouse Barbara
Sininger	Gus	Grandson Tyler Vaughn & Daughter LeAnn Whitaker & Husband Glenn
Sprou	Everett	Guest Thui Maddux & Sister Ruth Chapman & Husband Bill
Stearn	Ken	Spouse Veronika
Stout	Jerry	Daughter Kathy Stout
Wolf	Lee	Guest Rosie Bishop
Zolock	Steve	1st Reunion Meet & Greet only

Who's participating on the Pensacola Tour

Diehl	Phil	LaRosa	Bob
Diehl	Mary Lois	Lefarth	Ralph
Drzyzga	Mike	Lefarth	Joyce
Drzyzga	Andrea	Lord	Wes
Fletcher	Larry	Lord	Diane
Fletcher	Sue	Montgomery	Jim
Graves	Karen	Montgomery	Elaine
Hanson	Bill	Rider	Fred
Hinton	Ron	Rider	Jean
Hinton	Carol	Schultz	Marcus
Kalbert	John	Schultz	Barbara
Kalbert	Mary		
Krauss	Mike		