



Association President's Message:

August, 2017

Dear AC-119 Associates:

Greetings from NJ. As I write this, we are only several weeks away from Reunion XVIII, in Dayton. Your AC-119 Board has been meeting by teleconference every month to keep a focus on reunion preparations, & other current or special events. I'm psyched; this upcoming reunion is going to be memorable. Hope to see so many of you there.

Many of our members do have, & use, an on-line bill payment service called PayPal. The Association has a PayPal account & we are now using it to help reunion attendees register. It is likely that this tool may be available to help our Annual Members renew their membership each year. More to come on this as we consider options.

You all are very quiet out there!! Feedback from you to your Association's Board is rare. Does that mean we are doing a good job, or you find the Association's *Firing Circle* uninteresting. I sincerely trust it is the former. Nevertheless, if you have something to ask, something to share, something to talk about, please reach out to your POCs, or any Board Member. We are here for you.

Do you find this Firing Circle of value? My efforts here are diluted by a few other responsibilities, esp. that as Association Pres, & I hope it does not show here. Therefore, my plea returns with vigor. Your Association can benefit from a computer-experienced person to take on the **Newsletter (Firing Circle) Editor's** function. As I said before, most of the content comes from other Board members, so the basic task is pasting it together. Fortunately, the distribution is shared as it goes out via the POCs. Please step up if you can do it.

As we get closer to the Dayton, OH reunion, I am planning for the usual Sat. morning business meetings. Part of that agenda is elections of Board members for next year. So far, we all have been blessed with a dedicated & hardworking team to keep our Association moving forward effectively. If you want to be a part of this effort, let me know. We love to have some new blood (fresh ideas & insights) on the Board.

You all know where Reunion XIX (2018) is located, right? Tucson is correct. Do you know where Reunion XX (2019) will be? **UNKNOWN at this time**...it will be up to us all to find an energetic volunteer to form & lead a team to organize & coordinate Reunion XX.

One last item: The AC-119 Gunship Association has set clear goals, & we have set policy & procedures to guide the Board. Nevertheless, with political items going volatile on all the social media outlets, we must be cautious, not to allow the Association to appear involved in politically controversial matters.

Be well my brothers - enjoy the remainder of summer 2017.

Mike Drzyzga, Association President

Updated News – Dayton, OH, Reunion XVIII – 2017

1. **Hotel Reservations** - Please make your hotel reservations ASAP. Tell them you are with the AC-119 Gunship Reunion). There are very few, if any, rooms left at the Holiday Inn (937-426-7800). We have arranged for overflow at the Homewood Suites (937-429-0600) located next door. The Homewood rate is \$129+ 12.75% Tax (two night minimum). This Homewood price/block is good only through 28 Aug 2017. **STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A HOTEL ROOM PRIOR TO BOOKING AIR FARE.** As it turns out, numerous military reunions have popped up on our weekend. Close-in hotel rooms are at a premium. If you run into real problems, please contact Ron 937-546-3219 – AC.119.2017@gmail.com .

2. **Hotel – Airport shuttle.** We have a discounted roundtrip price. Please contact Kimberly Peterson at the Holiday Inn. kimberly.peterson@hidaytonfairborn.com 937-431-4613

3. **Silent Auction.** Due to time & NMUSAF policy constraints, WE WILL ONLY HAVE THE SILENT AUCTION this year. If you have something to donate to the auction, please contact Jim Alvis shadow1969@indy.rr.com & include a photo if you can. We can still do unique, special home-made, high-value items, possibly placing a minimum bid value on those. (*Editor: It will not be as much fun!*)

4. **Golf Outing.** Please contact Vern Hansen vchansen@woh.rr.com after 25 August for outing details.
5. **Veterans Affairs.** Al Heuss 53foxtrot@gmail.com has VA representatives at our business meeting & at the Ladies Business meeting. If you have any topics of special interest, please send a short note to Al, soon.
6. **Special meals.** contact Ron Julian ac.119.2017@gmail.com with any special meal requests (gluten free, etc).
7. **Tours.** The NMUSAF tour & the Dayton Historical tours are filling fast. Instructions are on the website. <https://www.ac119gunships.com/reunion/upcoming-reunion/> Your NMUSAF tour reservation must be *in Ron's hands by 12 Sept.* Suggest you mail it NLT 8 Sept & let Ron know its coming ac.119.2017@gmail.com
8. **Bus for Memorial Service.** We will have one 56-passenger bus available to transport folks to/from the memorial service on Friday afternoon. Since we have a number of folks who are NOT driving to Dayton, we respectfully ask those with cars to save the bus seats for those without vehicles. You do NOT need a military ID to get in the Museum for the memorial service. Leave all your knives in your car. No backpacks or large purses/bags are permitted in the NMUSAF.
9. **Important dates:**
 - o 26 August 2017 – Last day to cancel Reunion Registration for refund. Any Reunion registrations after this date will be non-refundable.
 - o 28 August 2017 – Last day for room blocks & special room price at Homewood Suites
 - o 9 September 2017 – Last day to register for the Reunion.
 - o 12 September 2017 – NMUSAF Tour Reservation **must be received** by Ron Julian
 - o 28 September 2017 – 1 October 2017 – Reunion XVIII

News & Reminders

1. PLEASE remember to contact your group POC, Membership Chairman, or Association Secretary when you **change contact info**, especially your email address. We do very much want to keep in contact with you.
2. If you receive the *Firing Circle* by walking to the mail box after its postal delivery, AND 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 by avoiding stamps, printer paper, envelopes, ink cartridges, etc. Contact Association Secretary Ralph Lefarth at ralph-l@sbcglobal.net, or 314-846-1009.
3. **Awards & Decorations** coordinator Steve "Col" Mac Issac continues to aid us in fixing incorrect DD214s. He has helped many get on the trail to receiving decorations they earned. 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 to Dayton in Sept. Questions & comments: 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 join the Association's **Facebook page**. It now has **over 445 members** – not just directly related 119ers, but history buffs, AC-130 folk, model makers, etc. Just browse to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/>
5. Also, there are Facebook Pages dedicated to "Air Force Gunners", "Air Force 462 Weapons", "Happy Valley – Phan Rang", & "U.S. Military Veterans - News you can use" – very interesting pictures & history, current news, & valuable information.
6. **Annual Members – Listen-up!! When you receive notification that it is time to renew your annual membership, please reply promptly lest you forget.**

Future Reunions

SAVE THE DATES: Oct 11 – Oct 14, 2018 Reunion XIX in Tucson, Arizona

Ev Sprouss has done it again! When he was Reunion Coordinator for our St Louis Reunion it was awesome! Now Ev is our Reunion Coordinator for Tucson in 2018!!! Please go to the NEW WEB site for addition details: <https://www.ac119gunships.com>

2019 – Reunion XX, What-town USA

We need a volunteer to be a coordinator – It is “up-in-the-air” now. For our Association members to enjoy all the camaraderie gathering as family, we need a solid proposal ready for the Association’s business meeting, on Sat. morning, Sept. 30, in Dayton.

Who’s coming to the Dayton Reunion XVIII (as of Aug 22, 2017)

Jim Alvis ✓ Judi Alvis	Sam Gallo ✓ Debbie Gallo	Jim Mattison ✓ Lynn Mattison	Gary Rubingh ✓ Becky Rubingh
Rich Baldwin ✓ Debra Baldwin	Ron Gilbert ✓ Patricia Gilbert	Cash McCall ✓ Mary McCall	Jim Russell ✓ Ann Russell
Jack Bastin ✓ Carolyn Bastin	Paul Goen ✓ Todd Goen	Doug McDaniel ✓ Janie McDaniel	✓ Jim Russell Jr
Larry Belt	Karen Graves	✓ Lily Chou	✓ Julie Gregory
Tad Berkebile ✓ Tricia Berkebile	Rich Grimsley ✓ Patty Grimsley	✓ Kelley Price	✓ Dave Gregory
Claude Blum	Chuck Hansen	Larry Mersek	Mike Ryan
Jim Boyd	Vern Hansen	Ed Metz	Terry Sarul ✓ Theresa Sarul
✓ Jim Boyd	✓ Becky Hansen	Pat Milacek	Richard Seth ✓ Chantorn Seth
Andy Bright ✓ Linda Bright	Dennis Harris ✓ Mary Harris	✓ Christine (Milacek) Kokojan	✓ Elaine Seth
Wendell Bunton ✓ Bernadette Bunton	Jerry Hester ✓ Ellen Hester	✓ Diane (Milacek) Pool	Jim Shope
Chuck Callahan ✓ Mary Ann Callahan	Herman (Al) Heuss ✓ Helen Heuss	Jimmy Montgomery ✓ Elaine Montgomery	Gus Sininger ✓ Lonnie Sininger
Gene Caruso ✓ Karen Caruso	Daniel Hightshue ✓ Mary Ann Hightshue	✓ Cheryl Artis-Huling	✓ Robert Dangler
Jay Collars ✓ Jan Collars	Ron Hinton ✓ Carol Hinton	John Morrow ✓ Lynn Morrow	✓ Charles Glickman
Robert Connolly ✓ Cathy Henry	Baby Huey Hunter ✓ Soncy Hunter	Mike Mullen ✓ Theresa Mullen	✓ Donna Glickman
Jim Cooper	Duane Huntington ✓ Peggy Huntington	Bruce Muller ✓ Mary Muller	Al Smith ✓ Carmel Smith
Craig Corbett	Lee Jordan ✓ Tim Jordan	Jerry Nailor	Jerry Snyder
Don Craig ✓ Peggy Craig	Ron Julian ✓ Kathy Julian	Wilhelmenia Nash ✓ Sharon Nash	Everett Sprous
Pres Davis ✓ Carole Davis	Mike Krauss	Larry Nelson ✓ Lorrie Nelson	Ken Stearn ✓ Veronika Stearn
Phil Diehl ✓ Mary Lois Diehl	Bob Krueger	Marty Noonan ✓ Sandy Noonan	Jerry Stout ✓ Kathryn Stout
Ron Dorazio	Bob La Rosa ✓ Viki Bullock	Dan O’Leary ✓ Geri O’Leary	Dan Thompson ✓ Larry Belt
Mike Drzyzga ✓ Andrea Drzyzga	✓ Clark Caldwell	Bill Petrie ✓ Karen Petrie	Bill Tobias ✓ Wilma Tyler
Jim Dunn ✓ Janet Dunn	Wayne Laessig ✓ Lynette Laessig	Bill Posey ✓ Cindy Posey	William Tyler
Wade Dunn	Jesse Lau ✓ Theresah De-Graft	Vernon Raveling ✓ Betty Raveling	Earl Wall ✓ Dixie Wall
Earl Farney	✓ Melvin Jackson	✓ Dale Doll	Darrell Weaver ✓ Gary Weaver
James Farrell	Ralph Lefarth ✓ Joyce Lefarth	✓ Mary Leah Doll	Tom Weisenfluh ✓ Marisa Weisenfluh
Ken Firestone ✓ Donna Firestone	Robert Lyall ✓ Cheryl Lyall	Jim Ray	Bob Wells
Larry Fletcher ✓ Sue Fletcher	Mac Mac Isaac ✓ Nancy Mac Isaac	Ollie Reid	Paul Werner ✓ Joyce Werner
Bruce Foster ✓ Robyn Foster	Don Main ✓ Marilyn Main	George Renfroe ✓ Becky Renfroe	Chuck Williams
LeRoy Frahm ✓ Rose Frahm	Daniel Manges	Frederick Rider ✓ Jean Rider	Doug Wohlgamuth
Bob Frederick ✓ Adam Hitt	Gale Martin	Tom Riggs ✓ Mary Jo Riggs	Cynthia Wood
✓ Ashley Littell-Hitt	Larry Mason ✓ Marilyn Mason	Dick Ring ✓ Rich Ring	John Wolff ✓ Laura Wolff
		Wayne Rodgers	Larry Wright ✓ Margie Wright
			Hans Wurfel ✓ Karen Wurfel
			William Zito

Most recent news/requests:

- A. The AC-119 Gunship Association's STORE! Quartermaster's inventory, now easily obtainable on the new Web Site, is very well stocked. Gus Slinger & Assistant Lee Wolf offer 70 items, all related to our squadrons & AC-119s. If you would like hats, variety of shirts, coffee or beer mugs, patches & decals, pins, water bottles, mouse pads, OUR HISTORY BOOK, license plate brackets, lithographs & prints, & more, you should visit <https://www.ac119gunships.com/shop/store>
If you do not have access available to the World Wide Web, then contact Gus: 850-863-9649.
Here's our Patch, a License Plate Frame, & one example of many shirts.



- B. **Thank you Jim Alvis for providing this information:** Cable TV's PBS channel: Ken Burns & Lynn Novick's **ten-part, 18-hour** documentary series, THE VIETNAM WAR, tells the epic story of one of the most consequential, divisive, & controversial events in American history as it has never before been told on film. PBS has already aired a 1-hr. preview, & I hear that this is NOT the regular rehash of old "already heard" information. This is very interesting! <http://www.pbs.org/kenburns/the-vietnam-war/home/#module1>



- C. **Request from: Association "Media Manager" Ev Sprous:** If you have photos, slides, audio tapes, Base Newsletters, 7th AF News publications, mission tapes, & you are coming to Dayton, please remember to bring them with you. We can make copies for the Association's historical archive.

AC-119 Gunships History Book -- Addendum

To all members of the AC-119 Gunship Association: IF your bio & war stories were NOT included in the last History Book that was published, for whatever reason, this is your chance to be included on the next book or addendum. Publishing of a Vol. 2 History Book or an addendum to Vol. 1 will depend on the response we get & the number of forms returned. It is an expensive endeavor & requires time & effort. No one yet knows if we can proceed....but we are giving it a push now.

1. The blank bio form (below & on Association web site) needs to be filled out in its entirety & sent to Terry Sarul.

2. The portion of your bio that describes your bio info &/or war stories should be limited to 1500 words or less.
3. If you need more space to describe your story, feel free to attach a separate sheet of paper.
4. If you choose to do so, & are going to attend the next reunion...you can bring the form with you (someone will even assist you in filling it out if needed). We will have a table set up in the Hootch area at reunions, so you can sit down with someone who can assist you in filling it out.
5. A picture of yourself....then or now....or both will not only be accepted....but encouraged.

If you are unable to download or use the blank form, email Terry Sarul (see below), & he will send you one.

Terry Sarul

17841 Tollview Dr.

South Bend, IN 46635

Email: bluemax1965@comcast.net

Editor's Note: PLEASE contact Terry if you want to help out with this effort!

Blank Form (you can add another sheet if you need to)
AC-119 Gunship History Book
Biography Form (July 2017)

Name: (Last) (First) (Middle)

Street Address: City/State/Zip:

E-Mail Address Phone Number:

Date of Birth (M-D-Y): Place of Birth:

Parent's Name: Your Hometown:

High School / Grad. Date:

College / Location / Grad. Date;

AFROTC Graduate: Yes No

Date / Place You Joined the USAF:

Why you joined the USAF:

Date / Place Entered Active Duty:

OPTIONAL: In Chronological Order, give all your USAF assignments including training schools with approximate dates, starting with your completion of Basic Training, OTS, AFROTC, & AFA

REQUIRED:

Special Operations Squadron in Vietnam: 17th 18th 71st Other

Job: Pilot: Copilot: Nav: NOS: FLIR: FE IO Gunner Maintenance Other

Rank at time of Tour(s):

Dates of Tour(s):

Location(s) of Tour(s):

Location(s) of TDY(s) during Tour(s):

Most Exciting Event(s) in SEA:

Most Memorable Event(s) with AC-119s:

Most Memorable Person(s) in SEA:

Most Humorous Event(s) in SEA:

Decorations/Awards:

Date/Place of Separation/Retirement from USAF:

Rank at time of Separation/Retirement:

Married: Wife's Name: Children: Grandchildren:

Current Residence:

Current Occupation:
