

Association President's Message – October 2019

Greetings from TX!! Having only been on the Board for a year as the Association's Vice President, my election came as quite a surprise! I may have been a bit reluctant to accept the position, but with the support of the Association Board and the entire membership, I'm sure we can keep the Association moving forward in our efforts to promote the history and legacy of the AC-119 Program. Although I have only been on the Board for the past year, I've been with the Association since the very first Reunion. I admit I missed one of the reunions, but I feel like I made up for it by hosting our 2013 Reunion in San Antonio (*with a lot of assistance from our family*). I hope the attendees all enjoyed our TX hospitality!

For those who were unable to attend this year's Reunion in Salt Lake City, UT, you missed some special moments in our Association's history. This reunion was special, because we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of our Association, as well as the 50th Anniversary of the AC-119 Gunships' arrival in Southeast Asia. Although the turnout was a bit less than expected (159 attendees), we may have set a record for "first timers" (27 attendees). Another first for this Reunion was our new Sponsorship Program that raised almost \$3,000 to help defray some of the costs for the Reunion (see the Sponsorship article in this newsletter for more information).

The most significant change this year was the Regular Members voting to give our Associate Members the right to vote and to hold office. After Mike Drzyzga stepped down as President (replacing Larry Fletcher as the Board's Past-President) and I was elected President, we needed a new Vice President, so Roy Davis was elected to be our VP. Two other Board members stepped down for personal reasons, so Andrea Drzyzga was elected to replace Ralph Lefarth as Secretary, and Jenna Laird was elected to replace Cash McCall as Member-at-Large. This made Andrea and Jenna our first Associate Members to join the Board. Our remaining Board Members (Treasurer – Doug Wohlgamuth and Members-at-Large Jim Dunn and John Wolff) remained in their same positions.

The Reunion also had a special personal memory for me during our optional visit to the Hill AFB Aerospace Museum. One of their display aircraft was my C-7A Caribou (tail number 63-9757) that I was crew chief on in 1969 when I was assigned to the 537th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Phu Cat AB, Vietnam (before I joined the Gunships). After extensive advance coordination, the Museum Curator got permission to open the aircraft so I could show it to my daughters and grandchildren who were at the Reunion (my wife decided it was a bit too crowded, so she waited outside).

Finally, I'd like to give a great big **THANK YOU** to:

- Chuck Williams, our Reunion XX Coordinator at Salt Lake City, UT, for all of the time and effort it took to put this Reunion together (having done this before, we know how much work takes).
- All the Regular and Associate Members who helped with various key aspects for the Reunion, including the on-line registration/payments, the Park City Tour, the live auction at the banquet, the silent auction in the Hooch, the Golf Tournament (sorry if I forgot anyone here).
- The Little America hotel and catering staff for the exceptional support they provided.
- The Utah Military Academy for providing cadets to serve as our color guard and National Anthem singer at the banquet and to assist in the Hooch throughout the Reunion.
- And a special **THANKS** to everyone who helped create the "**Our Story**" video shown at the banquet (a link to an extended version is available on our Association website).

I'd also like to wish the best for the hosts for our next two reunions: Gus Sininger (2020 at Fort Walton Beach, FL) and Jerry McDonald (2021 at Branson, MO). Both of them have done this before, so I'm sure the reunions will be terrific!!

Respectfully,
Jerry Hester, President



Outgoing President's Message – October 2019

My three-year term as Association President ended with the Salt Lake City, 20th anniversary reunion. It has been fun, at times stressful, but most of all it has been “rewarding”. I’m so proud to be part of the Association, and to have had your faith and encouragement to keep it going. And that we did!

One of the most “interesting” events for me this past year, was during the two-hour Membership Business Meeting on Sat. morning in SLC. We had the “spouses” join the “guys” – we were all in one room. The Board had talked since last year about changing the Association By-laws so that Associate Members (spouses and immediate family) can hold Board positions and vote. After I discussed this situation at the meeting, we had a vote. It was not unanimous, but a vast majority agreed. Our Associate members are now able to take direct action to help the Association thrive. Near the end of the meeting, we had to elect new Board members to fill-in the now open President, Secretary and one Member-at-Large positions. Not unexpected, V.P. Jerry Hester stepped up to President (now opening the V.P. position), and TWO Associate Members were voted in: Andrea Drzyzga as Secretary and Jenna Laird (Jerry’s daughter) as Member-at-Large. Without forgetting the V.P. position, Roy Davis accepted the nomination and was voted in. We have a full and well-staffed Board of Directors. Whew! I ended the meeting feeling really good. I’m still on the Board, now as “Prior President” (letting Larry Fletcher off the hook) and will continue to aid the well being of the Association.

We did some special things this year at the Sat. evening Awards Banquet: One was a special “Toast” offered by former Stinger NOS/NAV and author Larry Barbee to our family members who are veterans and/or currently serving, and to our Associates Members who support our efforts. The other special event was a 15-minute video presentation put together by Coordinator Chuck Williams and new V.P. Roy Davis. It was awesome, our history and mission and a memorial to our brothers lost in combat. There was not a dry-eye in the audience! Yet, one of the most difficult tasks I had arrived at the Awards Banquet. I presented this year’s “Above & Beyond Award”, posthumously, to a dear friend and hard-working Life Member, Robert LaRosa. Bob had died this past summer quite unexpectedly. I only hoped that his son, Tony LaRosa, was able to join us and accept his dad’s award, yet he could not. But, as good fortune still shines, Jerry Hester will deliver the Award to Tony in Arkansas as the Hester’s travel across that state.

One last noteworthy: Many attending this reunion took the 25 min drive to visit the Hill AFB Air Museum. It is a well-run, well-staffed, and apparently adequately funded facility. Many unique and detailed displays. YET, from some of us who voiced an opinion, they missed the mark. The AC-119s were NOT represented at all, and the story of the side-fining gunships was missing. I heard from Craig Corbett, former Stinger Gunner, that he talked with the museum curator and explained who we are and what we believe is missing in the facility. Well, the following day during my visit, I found the “Authorized Personnel Only” door and kind-of barged in on the museum director. After some minutes of explaining our story, he said something like “you guys are very serious, I had another bunch here yesterday (Craig’s group) saying the same stuff you are.” I left him my Association Business card, and wrote a two-page letter on Association letterhead to follow up. I’m pushing one of our Association’s goals: to better mark the place of the AC-119s in the history of the Vietnam War.

Carry on brothers Hope to see you all in Fort Walton Beach in 2020!

Mike Drzyzga, Past President

2019-09-07 AC-119 Gunship Association Membership Meeting Minutes

- 1 The meeting was called to order at 9:03 MDT by MD. Both Members and Associate Members in attendance. MD used a PowerPoint presentation to show information.
- 2 Introduction and welcome of new members and 1st time reunion attendees.
- 3 By-Laws change: A motion was made to change the by-laws to state that Associate Members can vote and hold Board positions. It was seconded and passed by the voting existing membership almost unanimously.
- 4 Membership Report: ES - We have 431 Life members, 37 Annual members, and 19 Honorary members. Total membership is 487. Our outreach effort this past year was successful and we are finding new members.
- 5 Treasurer Report: DW - We have \$33,847.22 in account #8815, \$3,727.98 in account #1106 (Quartermaster's), for a total of \$37,575.20. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented by the membership. Recurring expenses are approximately \$2,473 per year and \$100 per Final Flight donations.
- 6 Quartermaster Report: Things ordered from our on-line store will go out in a week.
- 7 Website: The contractor Earl from TWE has bailed out leaving obsolete / unsupported sub programs which had to be replaced. Liz has really helped with making the website updated and workable. If you cannot use the website to register for a reunion, call the Treasurer and he will handle the registration.
- 8 Active Duty Legacy Squadron -- POCs
 - 18th SOTS Hurlburt AFB - Gus Sininger
 - 71st SOS Kirtland, CV-22 Osprey – Jim Alvis
 - 17th SOS Kadena, OK, MC-130J Commando II -- Don Craig
 - 16th SOS Cannon, AC-130W Stinger II --Steve Maclsaac
 - 73rd SOS Hurlburt AFB, AC-130J Shadow -- Norm EvansThe POCs present gave updates to us on their Legacy Squadrons.
- 8 Association Points of Contacts (POCs) were introduced and recognized:
 - a. 71st SOS – Jim Alvis
 - b. 17th SOS – David Voisey
 - c. 18th SOS – Everett Sprou
 - d. Maintenance Personnel – Robert “Andy” Bright
 - e. KIA Families / Outreach / Honorary – Wayne Laessig
- 9 Facebook: We have over 600 members. We had to take down a political post. Jim Mattison introduced and recognized those FB admins present.
10. Col Mac provided his Awards and Decoration presentation, as usual encouraging everyone to get on the AO registry, and fix your errors in DD214s. MD recognized Steve for his super effort in Houston TX to recognize a VFW Service Officer for helping Stinger NAV Keith Underwood get into the VA system.
- 11 Ft. Walton Beach Reunion XXI, Nov 2020: GS - "Back Home Again" at the Four Points was selected for the theme. Reunion will be from Oct 28 - Nov 1. Prices appear to be \$119, \$139, or \$174 including breakfast and taxes (NOTE: Gus updated the lodging costs later; corrected prices – with tax & without breakfasts - are in his article). GS is working on two tours. GS is continuing working on next year's reunion with Larry Hunter. Some offset monies from the general treasury may be available. The banquet will be across the street at the Conference Center. Hotel registration code is AC119.
12. FUTURE PROPOSALS – Reunion XXII was approved by vote, for Branson, Missouri in August 2021.

Jerry MacDonald is the coordinator, and we will be at the Radisson Hotel again. All the hotels there are booked solid for Sept. and Oct. that year already.

13. New or continuing Board members as elected or appointed by the membership.

Jerry Hester was elected President.

Roy Davis was elected Vice President.

Andrea Drzyzga was elected Secretary.

Membership: Everett Sprous

Treasurer: Doug Wohlgamuth

Prior Pres: Mike Drzyzga

Members-at-Large: Jim Dunn and John Wolff

Jenna Laird was elected Member at Large. (Jerry and Ellen's daughter)

14. Adjournment at 11:03

Prepared by R. Lefarth

Reviewed by M. Drzyzga 10/8/19

Future Caretakers of the AC-119 Gunships Legacy

Hi all! Some of you might know me and some might not. Those of you who don't know me probably at least know or would recognize my kiddos. My name is Jenna Laird and I am Jerry Hester's oldest daughter. My children and I have been regularly attending the AC-119 reunions for the last 5 years, along with my sisters when they are able. These weekends are a favorite in our family, because they give us the opportunity to spend time with one another as well as granting us a small glimpse into formative experiences of my father's, which have made him the man he is today.

Over the years I've often wished that the younger generations had more of a presence at the reunion. I've been happy to see that each year, more and more of you are inviting your children and even your grandchildren to attend. I speak from personal experience when I say that these reunions give your children a chance to know you in ways we otherwise wouldn't. It has truly been a blessing to have this time with all of you - to hear the stories and see the friendships that have grown over the years.

I would like to challenge each of you to do two things right now:

First of all, if you haven't already been doing so, please encourage your families to attend these reunions. Your children are your legacy and if they haven't been to these meetings then they are missing out on knowing a big piece of who you are and where you've come from. That trickles down and becomes a big piece of who they are, even if they don't realize it.

Second, give us a job. Tell us how we can help you. I know that the gun-shippers have your meetings and the wives have theirs. Each of you fills a role in the organization. Give us a chance to do the same. This will serve two goals - (1) it gives your children a chance to connect and form friendships that will carry on through the years and (2) it gives us a sense of purpose. It allows us a small feeling of ownership in the organization too. We want to help. We want to participate. Give us the chance and we will not let you down.

If any of you have any questions for me (or even if any of your children have questions), I am always available. My number is 405-410-1721. I have some exciting ideas for ways to integrate the younger generations into the organization but I need your help in order to do so. I can't wait to see you all in Salt Lake City!

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Have a terrific day!

Jenna Laird

AC119 Association Membership Updates

We give a warm welcome to our new Life Members:

- Gerald Heuer Life #502, 18th SOS Navigator
- Gene Caruso Life #503, 18th SOS Gunner, Birthday Gift from his wife
- Casey Martin Life #504, 18th SOS Engines
- John Martin Life #505, 71st SOS Navigator
- James May, Jr Life #506, 18th SOS Phase Dock
- Kenny Preston Life #513, 18th SOS Gunner
- Daniel O'Leary Life #514, 18th SOS Navigator, Won drawing for life membership
- Laura Wolff Associate Life #507, Wife of John Wolff
- Rebecca Hester Associate Life #508, Daughter of Jerry Hester
- Becky Renfroe Associate Life #509, Wife of George Renfroe
- Ellen Hester Associate Life #510, Wife of Jerry Hester
- Kelly Felker Associate Life #511, Daughter of George Renfroe
- Jenna Laird Associate Life #512, Daughter of Jerry Hester
- Paula Pascoe Associate Life #515, Wife of Roy Davis

Final Flight

We remember our human frailty, and the strength of our brotherhood, in the loss of these who joined our Final Flight. Please remember their families in your prayers. R.I.P., Brothers all:

- Clarence Black, 17th SOS Nav, passed on 23 May 2016.
- Bruce K. Brown, 17th SOS Shadow Pilot, passed on August 23, 2019.
- Eugene D. Miller, 18th SOS Stinger Nav, passed on April 10, 2013.
- Robert "Bob" Stough, 18th SOS Stinger FE, passed on October 7, 2019.
- Dennis Vincent, 17th SOS Shadow Gunner,, passed on August 5, 2019.
- Ronald E. Wheeler, 71st SOS Shadow FE, passed on September 23, 2019.
- Rudy L. Wilson, 71st SOS Shadow Phase Dock, passed on July 23, 2019.
- Also, Lisa Murray informed us of the passing of her Mom, Pam Seiferd on September 19, 2019. Pam was the sister of 17th SOS Shadow Pilot Tommy Lubbers, Shadow 78 KIA in April 1970.

Additional details are on our Association Mail Call site <https://www.ac119gunships.com/mail-call/mail-call/> and our Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726>

Lastly, please visit <https://www.ac119gunships.com/membership-contact-information/alpha-roster> and add any missing names or contacts you have – we can still reach many IF we know who they are!

Future Reunions

2020 *Back Home Again* AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion XXI

Our 2020 Reunion is October the 28th - November 1st at the 4 Points by Sheraton on Miracle Strip Parkway, Fort Walton Beach Florida. The Friday M&G and the Sunday BBQ are at the Hotel on the North side of the Pool. The Golf tournament is Sunday morning at the Golf course Eglin AFB. The Saturday Banquet is in the new Conference Center across the street from the Hotel. More to come, including Tour info, and getting up with the 18th & 73rd Picnic and a static display hoping, as we get closer so keep your eyes out for a Flash message from President Jerry Hester with more information. You can reserve your room now by calling the Four Points at 850-243-8116 or via their website WWW.fourpointsdestinfortwaltonbeach.com. Tell them you're with the AC-119 Gunship Association's ***Back Home Again*** Reunion. The 3 room options, breakfasts not included, are: 1) Courtyard with King bed & no courtyard view at \$110.39; 2) Courtyard with 2 Queen beds & Garden View at \$132.69, or 3) Tower with 2 Queen Beds & Beach View at \$171.71

2021 AC-119 Gunship Association Reunion XXII

Reunion XXII was approved by vote for Branson, Missouri in August 2021. Jerry MacDonald is the coordinator, and we will be at the Radisson Hotel again. All the hotels there are already booked solid for Sept & Oct.

AC-119 Gunship Association Sponsors

For 20 years, donations helped fund the projects and events like the AC-119 Gunship KIA Memorial Plaque, AC-119 Paintings and Lithos, Stinger Monument, AC-119 History Book, Squadron Flags with Campaign Streamers, AC-119 Gunship Memorial Bench, new Website, Legacy Squadron Heritage Items, Memorial Ales, Outreach, personal videotaped sessions, and especially Reunions that include hosted KIA families. Those actions directly supported our **Association's Mission – Why We Exist:**

- To preserve our fixed-wing gunship heritage and history.
- To remember our fallen, and keep lit the flames of our camaraderie; old friendships and new ones.
- To educate historians and the public about the missions and the aircrew, groundcrew, and others associated with AC-119 gunships.

Our new Sponsorship program helps us achieve our Mission by making our Reunions more affordable, and by reaching out to more of our AC-119 Air and Ground Crew, and their families. The Sponsor Levels are:

Guns Hot \$100 **Rolling In \$250** **Troops In Contact \$500** **We Are AC-119s \$1,000**

We proudly recognize the following **AC-119 Gunship Association Sponsors** - Thank You all!!!

1. **We Are AC-119s Sponsor:** **\$1,500** MJDrzyzgaHPC.LLC - Mike Drzyzga
2. **Troops In Contact Sponsor:** **\$500** Fred 'Farkle' Graves - Karen Graves, Wayne Laessig
3. **Rolling In Sponsor:** **\$400** Honey Bees - Lynette Laessig, Karen Graves, Carol Hinton, Robin & Cathy Farkas (Wayne & Lynette's kids), Ev Sprous
4. **Guns Hot Sponsor:** **\$100** Jim Acquaviva - Mike Krauss
5. **Guns Hot Sponsor:** **\$159** Gunners - Ev Sprous, Mike Krauss, Terry Sarul
6. **Guns Hot Sponsor:** **\$150** Donnie Williams' Crew - Wayne Laessig, Gus Sininger
7. **Guns Hot Sponsor:** **\$150** Tommy Hamman - Wayne Laessig, Gus Sininger

Administrative Updates & Reminders

1. PLEASE remember to contact your group POC, the Membership Coordinator (Ev Sprous), or the Association Secretary (Andrea Drzyzga) when you **change contact information, 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 and use an EMAIL ADDRESS, TELL Jerry Hester, your unit POC, or our Membership Coordinator NOW if you want future Newsletters & FLASHES sent via email. You can **SAVE** us a lot by avoiding postage, printer paper, envelopes, ink cartridges, etc. Contact Association Membership Coordinator Ev Sprous, via email at ac119gunner@hotmail.com or call (520) 979-1130.
3. Are you interested in some AC-119 Gunship historical facts, current events, interesting dialogue, photos & stories about AC-119s? If you have Internet access on your computer, then you have to join the Association's **Facebook page**. It now has **over 632 members** – not just directly related AC119ers, but also history buffs, AC-130 folk (including some new 73rd SOS Shadows), model makers, etc. Just browse to: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195912423919726/>
4. Also, there are Facebook Pages dedicated to "Air Force Gunners", "Air Force 462 Weapons", "Happy Valley – Phan Rang" (almost 1400 members), & "U.S. Military Veterans - News you can use" – very interesting pictures & history, current news, & other valuable information.
5. **Awards & Decorations** coordinator Steve "Col" Mac Isaac continues to aid us in fixing incorrect DD214s. He has helped many get on the trail to receiving decorations they earned through research of documentation and orders shared by association members. Questions and comments: Contact Col Mac at email: colmacmac@mac.com, or (MST) Cell phone: (302) 249-1499.

2019 SALT LAKE CITY REUNION ATTENDEES

Alfaro, Mario & Thelma, w/guests Tony & Jessica Perez	Mac Isaac, JP (John Paul)
Alvis, Jim & Judi	Martin, Dale & Jeanette
Baker, Jeff	Mason, Cleo & Joyce
Barbee, Larry & Debbie	Mattison, Jim
Bartlett, Frank & Shirley	May, Jim Jr, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Bastin, Jack & Carolyn .	McCall, Cash
Berkebile, Tad & Tricia	Mersek, Larry & Susie
Boyd, Jim	Milne, Bruce
Buss, Liz & Dan, Web Master, <i>1st Reunion</i>	Montgomery, Jim "Monty" & Elaine
Chamberlain, Pete & Dean (Brother)	Morrow, John & Lynn
Connolly, Bob (Robert)	Nelson, Larry & Lorrie
Corbett, Craig & Jan	O'Leary, Dan & Geri
Craig, Don & Peggy	Olson, Alan & Jacque, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Davis, Dennis & Judy, w/ Guests Daughter Sheri, SIL Brett, & Grandsons Nane & Ben	Preston, Ken & Judy, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Davis, Roy & Paula	Raveling, Vern & Betty
Drzyzga, Mike & Andrea	Reess, Robert "Bob" & Guest Terry Brandfass, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Dunn, Wade	Renfroe, George & Becky
Eramo, Dan & Kay, <i>1st Reunion</i>	Reynolds, Al
Evans, Allen & Judy	Rubingh, Gary & Becky
Farrell, Jim & Tina	Sarul, Terry
Fletcher, Larry & Sue	Schwartz, Ed, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Frahm, LeRoy & Rose	Shope, Jim & Chris
Froelich, Lloyd & Mary Ellen, <i>1st Reunion</i>	Simmons, Jay, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Funk, John & Victoria	Sininger, Gus
Gilbert, Ron & Patty	Sledzinski, Frank "Ski" & Yamile (Lust)
Graves, Karen	Sprous, Ev
Hall, Rich	Swanson, Larry, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Hansen, Vern & Chuck (Son)	Tarpley, Mark, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Hester, Jerry & Ellen, w/ Daughter's Becky Hester & Jenna Laird, & Grandkids Amber & Aubrey Laird & Landon Stout	Terral, Greg & Lois, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Heuss, Al & Helen	Tyler, Bill & Wilma & guests Pam & Steve Bachmann
Hinton, Ron & Carol	Van Duyn, Loren & Judi, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Hunter, Larry "Baby Huey"	Voisey, David & Mary
Keller, Jim	Williams, Chuck & Stefani & children
Krauss, Mike	Wohlgamuth, Doug
Laessig, Wayne & Lynette	Wolff, John & Laura
Leavitt, Adrein, Andy, & Scarlet - family of Von Leavitt	Wurfel, Hans & Karen
Lefarth, Ralph & Joyce	Yalch, Alex, <i>1st Reunion</i>
Luke, Donald	Zito, Bill & Paula
Mac Isaac, Col Mac & Nancy	Zolock, Steve, <i>1st Reunion</i>

2019 SALT LAKE CITY REUNION PHOTOS



Mike, Ev and Wayne - Data HQ



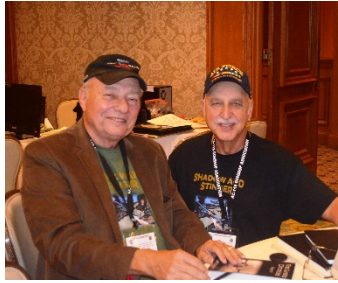
Wayne & Lynette Laessig



Jim Mattison, Roy Davis, Andrea Drzyzga, Terry Sarul, Ev Sprous



Jim Farrell, Jim Boyd, Greg Terral



Larry Barbee & Terry Sarul



AC-119 Family & Friends



Meet & Greet Buffet Line



Meet & Greet



Meet & Greet



Andrea, Gus Slinger, & Wayne



Andrea & Gus



Happy Auction Winner Jim Boyd



Jim Alvis at Kennecott Copper Mine Tour



Viewing The Open Pit Copper Mine



Dave & Mary Voisey, Mike and Andrea

2019 SALT LAKE CITY REUNION PHOTOS (Continued)



**Larry Mersek, Hans Wurfel,
Alex Yalch, Jim Baker**



AC-119 Banquet



Chuck Williams: Are you on the List?



Dale & Jeanette Martin



Paula Pascoe, Judy Alvis



Rose & Leroy Frahm



Lynette Laessig



Helen Heuss, Al Heuss, Leroy & Rose Frahm



Liz Buss and Mike Drzyzga



Dan Eramo & Roy Davis



Adrein Leavitt



Ev Sprous & Roy Bob Reess



Jim Boyd & Patty Gilbert



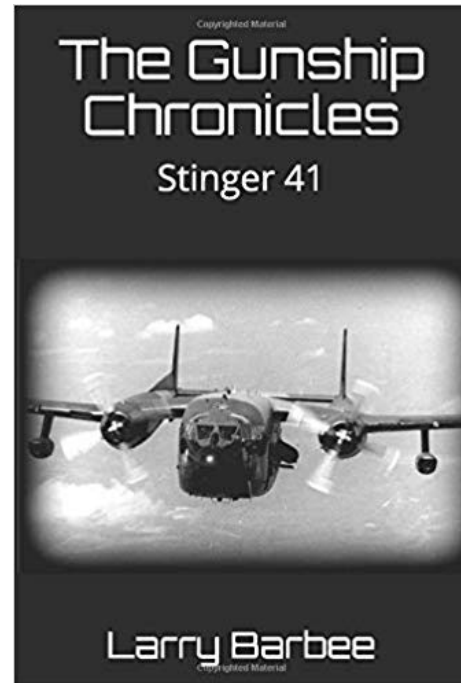
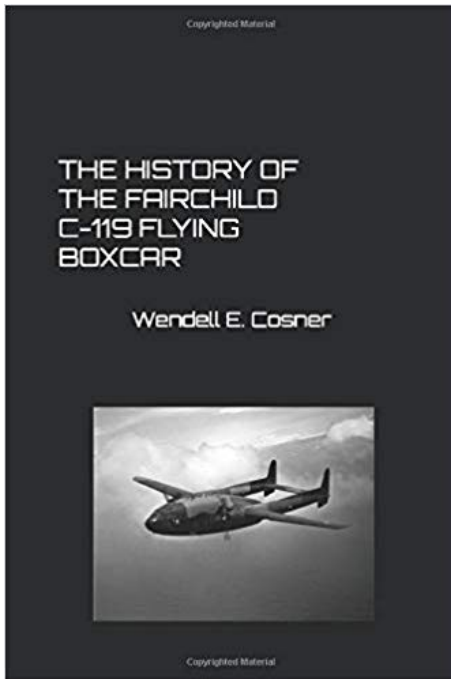
Cash McCall, Debbie & Larry Barbee



Bob Connolly & Cathy Henry

C-119 & AC-119 GUNSHIP HISTORY BOOKS

Below is a link to a book that was just published. The book's title is "**THE HISTORY OF THE FAIRCHILD C-119 FLYING BOXCAR**" and was written by one of our Association members, Col Wendell Cosner. Wendell was a pilot in the G-model at Phan Rang from 1970 to 1971 and passed away in February 2017. It took him over 15 years to complete the history of the C-119—most likely the only one written on this subject. It is a great read and covers the life of the C-119 from day one through its conversion to a gunship. You can purchase this book on Amazon using the following link <https://tinyurl.com/y6but2y6>



In 1994, Stinger Nav/NOS Larry Barbee decided to write about his AC-119K experience (including the May 2nd 1972 Shootdown of Stinger 41 where Larry was that mission's Nav/NOS) for his Master's Degree in Journalism and Mass Communications Project at the University of Oklahoma.

The professors who were on the graduate committee wanted him to submit it for publication but he never had the desire and didn't expect it to have any other viewers. Later in life, Larry shared his story with several of us and he learned how much it meant to us. We posted it on our web site and it tells what it was really like to be there, and what happened. Larry wrote in his book's Dedication; "If I have earned the right to dedicate a book about Vietnam to someone, it would be to Terry Courtney, who met his end, so that I and others could stop, and return.

Shadow and Stinger Pilot Roy Davis recently helped Larry publish his book on Amazon, titled "The Gunship Chronicles: Stinger 41". The cost is \$9.95 and Larry is donating all the profits from the sale of the book to the Association. To order your personal copy of Larry's story – that mirrors in many ways much of our own AC-119 stories – go to this link: <https://tinyurl.com/yylngpww>