

July 2022 President's Message — Greetings from NJ to AC-119 Gunshippers, friends, and family! I hope summertime 2022 is treating everyone well.

1. Branson, MO, Reunion XXII, Sept 28 – Oct 2, 2022: Take a look at the Who's Coming list and see all of the AC-119ers attending this year – I'm excited, we're expecting a great turn-out. I am hopeful the trend will continue to see more of our younger family members attend. The reunion flyer and registration forms are on the Association's website. Also, V.P. Roy Davis sent out an email FLASH message so you can easily order various reunion T-Shirts. GREAT SELECTION, get 'em now! Here's the link: [Custom Ink Group Orders – GUNSHIP REUNION](#). This is a cost-effective way to reduce our inventory and eliminate hauling shirts across the USA. Thank you again, Roy! **NOTE:** For many of you planning to attend this reunion, IF you have an AC-119 neck lanyard from a previous reunion to hold your name tag, PLEASE remember to BRING IT with you to Branson. If you want a new "Neck Wallet" from the Branson Chamber of Commerce, contact Jerry McDonald, reunion coordinator at: jmshadow6869@yahoo.com.
2. Stinger-41, 50th-anniversary reunion: On May 2, 2022, 50 years after the tragic loss of Stinger-41, the survivors and those involved with the recovery of our heroic brothers, along with special friends and family members, gathered at Davis-Monthan AFB to engage in a special reunion. A heart-felt thank you to Yami Sledzinski and Roy Davis to make this awesome event a reality. Roy did a great video capturing the event, which you can get to on the Associations Web Site, but here's a direct link: [Stinger 41 Reunion – YouTube](#).
3. Stinger Gunner JD Hughes: In the previous *Firing Circle*, I requested for any info' from those of you who knew JD Hughes. I received no reply. Yes, I was disappointed to tell the 1st SOW Wing historian at Hurlburt that we could not provide any personal info of JD. I suppose JD's flight suit will be on display somewhat missing personal info about JD.
4. AC-130W Stinger-II farewell at Cannon – see a summary in the *Firing Circle*. Board member Terry Sarul was invited to join AC-47 and AC-130 crew members to speak about Gunship history and operations in SEA. His presentation was June 16, 2022, at the EAA Museum in Oshkosh, WI, during the full-week air show called Air Venture. This is a very huge and prestigious annual event. They only gave each presenter 20 min, and I am sure Terry was challenged to fit the AC-119 story, our history and accomplishments, into such a short time. He put an impressive PowerPoint slide presentation together. They also did an audio podcast that you can listen to at [EAA's The Green Dot — U.S. Air Force Gunships Panel – Hangar Flying](#).
5. "Guns-Hot SCOOP #1" – From our Quartermaster Gus Sininger: **The Web store DOES NOT HAVE ANY MORE Wooden 119 Models in stock. THEY ARE ALL SOLD!** Due to a change of vendor owners, we cannot order any more at the old price of \$130. If you want to buy a wooden K Model, you can try EBAY, TAILWINGS, or AIRCRAFTSPACE. Unfortunately, they are much higher \$\$ than when we had them. Please do not try to order one from our Web Site; we do not carry them any longer. Thank You.
6. "Guns-Hot SCOOP #2" – Shadow IO, Allen Chandler, published a book covering his USAF career. It is available at Amazon as a Kindle file or as a paperback. Congratulations Allen, great work, and a shout-out to Roy Davis for helping Allen with the process. It is awesome to become an author! Here's a link: [Amazon.com: My Walk Home: 21 Years in the United States Air Force eBook: Chandler, Allen: Kindle Store](#).
7. Lastly, I must give another special recognition to Wayne and Liz for keeping the Association's web site fresh and current, and to our Facebook team for posting a lot of interesting current events! Your Association continues successfully due to many individuals donating time and energy.

OK now, onward to Branson! Hope to see many of you there. Continue to have a safe and healthy Summer 2022!! Be smart, be kind, be courageous, and be yourself.

Mike Drzyzga, President (2015-2022)