

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2008



www.fac-assoc.org

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Dennis Crouch

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dennis Crouch FAC Association Pres.
NAIL 23 NKP 70-71 & 504 TASG 71

In this brisk time in Ohio, I wish warm greetings to the entire FAC family. Can't believe that it's only 10 months before our next FAC Association reunion in the great city of Colorado Springs, the Pikes Peak region, and our own Air Force Academy. Details are still unfolding but I can hardly

wait to see the Air Force Academy take on the Naval Academy, and I'm looking forward to renewing old friendships and making some new ones. The FACeros, our own warrior brothers, are on the musical entertainment agenda. Lots of other information is in this newsletter on the planned memorial dedication and other aspects of the reunion as it currently stands. The plans are still coming together, and Colorado Springs will be a great time for all. Put it down on your calendar right now, from October 1-5. The memorial will be dedicated on Friday, October 3. Importantly, donations are still needed for this first class memorial. Whatever you can give is much appreciated and needed. Start your planning to attend now and put those \$\$ aside for a great time! More details will be made available soon, and registration packets should be out in the March timeframe.

Reunions are among the most important things that we do. They require a lot of planning, and a committed group to make it happen. We all have been blessed by the past reunions and I'm confident that the same will be true of those in the future. Your Board of Directors would like to look out a little farther than we have in the past. In the past, our "all membership" Business Meeting at the reunion considered and voted on the next reunion location, normally two years away. In Dayton, we had two future location reunion briefings, one by the Colorado Springs group and the other by the Fort Worth group. You selected Colorado Springs for 2008. In the future, we'd like to gain commitments for the next **two** reunion locations. I hope we can do that. Each location needs an individual to grab the bull by the horns and organize members in the area. Certainly Fort Worth is a potential future location. So is the Ft Walton Beach area, the roots of the association. It's been said by many that we need to go back to our home every few years. Well, it's been 7 years since we've been there. Also, Phoenix was a location in which many expressed interest. And, how about Washington D.C.? A great area for a get together. What is needed is someone to step forward in these or other communities. Give your location serious consideration. If you don't know the members in your area, **Ken Blutt**, our Membership Database Manager, can provide a listing of those in your community. Get together with them and talk about it. But first and foremost, someone needs to step forward and get it going. Would you be that person? Please consider it.

Recently, **Darrel Whitcomb**, FACA Historian, and **yours truly** got together with our Archivist, **Al Matheson** at his abode in Cedar City UT. The purpose was to review archival efforts, organize the data, and decide on a way forward. **Al Matheson**, **Jim Roper** and I had worked to capture a great deal of FAC historical data from Air University and its archives. This historical data is now organized in 3 CDs. It consists of Unit histories, aircraft and system files, and Operational history of battles/engagements. All paid-up members of the

association can request one copy of the CDs from our Archivist, to be provided free of charge. The over 2 GB of historical data is an excellent research tool. As Al Matheson obtains other data, other CDs will be prepared and made available to members. The only cost to paid-up members will be a shipping charge of \$5 per mailing. Later, we expect to offer the information to non-members at a price to be determined. Other actions are on-going and Al Matheson will continue to store "hard copy" documents at Southern Utah University. Al is working an agreement letter with SUU to ensure the availability and access to the archived materials, and their disposition and/or return to the FAC Association. Al will be reporting through future newsletters any update on continued historical data collection efforts. We owe a debt of gratitude to Al Matheson for all his efforts to bring this together. Thanks again Al.

Good news on another front. The FAC CD History Book is a great treasure that all of the members have. New members continue to receive a free copy when they join. An effort is underway to take the FAC CD History Book, reformat it, and publish it as a Table Top Book so that your friends, family and neighbors can more readily have access to it. It's planned that the book will contain most of the stories from the CD and, to a lesser extent, the pictures. The architect of this very substantial effort is **Peter Condon**, Tamale 15/Sidewinder 23, Helensvale, Australia. Several things remain to be worked out yet, and **Darrel Whitcomb** and **H. Ownby** are lending their support to the effort. It's hoped that the book will be available around October 2008. Thanks, Peter.

Your Officers and Board met in Fort Worth during the October 2007 FACtoberfest hosted by the OV-10 Bronco Association. It was an excellent meeting that most of the BOD attended. The FAC Association is working to improve its business practices and to correct mistakes that have gone unattended since the beginning. With the invaluable assistance of our legal advisor, **H. Ownby**, and others, we are now successfully re-instated as a Corporation in the State of Florida. I have personally talked to nearly a dozen CPA firms and have met with four of them for the purpose of selecting a CPA firm to support our efforts with the IRS. This work will ensure that we are properly recognized as a 501 (C) 19 Veteran's Organization by the IRS, and correct past mistakes. Your elected officers and BOD are moving forward to do the right things for your association. These needed actions allow us to remain the viable and strong FAC association that we are.

An important thought: Sometimes we don't hear about our brothers who depart this earth until long after the fact. I talked at length about this in the last newsletter which outlined our planned actions in the future. Learning of a loss is not easy. Please, keep your eyes and ears open for the loss of a brother. We want to say a proper farewell, but we can't if we don't know about it. Get the word to the FAC Association points of contact as soon as you can. Our POCs are: Primary; **Bob Green (C3B)**, VP FAC Association, numba1cc@crosslinks.net and Secondary; **Fred Pumroy**, former VP, fmapumroy@aol.com. Thanks for your help. (Con't pg 5)

TREASURER'S REPORT

FAC Association Treasurer
Bob Gorman



1 January, 2008

The transition from our past financial management team to the current team has been completed. With the exception of a small bank account in Dayton, I am managing all of the Association's financial resources here in California.

As of 1 Dec. '07 the Life Membership deposits were (\$23,745) and annual dues were (\$8,140). The investments we've made (four CDs and a money market account) have returned \$2104. We spent \$2788 on Newsletter production and delivery, \$2000 was donated to the FACM, and we sent \$576 to the Florida Secretary of State to reinstate our "non profit corporation" status in Florida.

After all of the above activity, our "bottom line" is now \$98,482

A Word of Caution

While the Association has been reinstated as a "non profit" corporation in the state of Florida, you should not assume that the IRS will recognize this status at the Federal level. Be sure to check with your "tax guy" before taking any deductions on your 2007 tax return.

Check with **Ken Blutt** to get the straight skinny on how to handle your contributions to the 2008 Forward Air Controller's Colorado Memorial Committee Fund. SEE PAGE FOUR (ed.)

Site of 2008
FAC memorial,
Colorado Springs,
Co.



I'm in the process of putting together a long range "budget plan" that takes into account the life longevity we may expect if all goes well. The way I see it right now is that \$98,482 ought to carry the Association thru the year 2023 and still have a nickel left to "throw on the grass". I'll take you through my thinking when we meet in Colorado.

Bob Gorman, Jake 44



IN MEMORIAM

“To fly west, my friend, is a flight we all must take for a final check.” — *Author unknown*

Harry J. Lehr, Jr.	30Oct2006
Richard “Dick” Davis	25March 2007
Paul G. Power	05Sep 2007
Larry Meredith	13Oct 2004
Ed Lewis	08Nov 2007
Harold L. Allen	2004

Howie Pierson New Chaplain

From Dennis Crouch

As we all know, the Chaplain position of the FAC Association has been open since the departure of Charlie Jones.

With the authority of the By-Laws, Article IV, Paragraph 5, to fill vacant positions by appointment, I have asked that Howie Pierson serve in the FAC Association Chaplain’s position. I am very pleased to report that Howie has agreed to be our Chaplain. He was humbled to be asked to serve and readily accepted the position during a recent telecom we had. His health is good and he is regaining his strength from the long regimen of radiation treatments. Praise the Lord.!

FACA Supports OV-10 Bronco Ass’n/Museum

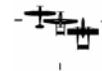


The FAC Association President, Denny Crouch, presents a \$2000 check to Terry Tabor, FAC Museum, during a

banquet celebrating FACtoberfest at Fort Worth, Texas in October. During the celebration an O-2A, beautifully restored by Jerry Stephan, two OV-10s, an F-14 and an F-4 were dedicated. The museum was applauded for their continued advancement and numerous successes. Your FAC Association continues to support the museum in their substantial and aggressive efforts to expand the museum. Efforts continue to increase the stable of aircraft. Other aircraft in the planning phase include the F-111 Aardvark, TF-102 Delta Dagger, A-7 Corsair II and an RF-8G Crusader. **Flash Alert—Breaking News! Help Save-a-Tweet.** This just in: OBA locates T-37 for display. If not claimed by Feb. 2008 it will be shredded with all the rest. \$2,000 is needed to save #57-2261. You may have flown it. Help save your heritage. More info from “Boomer” at jbloomberg@aim.com. If you’d like to support the museum directly, you can send your contributions to the OBA Treasurer at: **OV-10 Bronco Association Attn: Tom Kemp, 505 NW 38th Street Suite 33S, Ft. Worth, TX 76133**



Toby Rushforth, Trail 67 & Covey 152/252, commissioned a painting that memorializes a mission he has long remembered; an ambush while hunting the enemy. The O-2A painting above was put on canvas by artist **Andy Whyte** who resides in Connecticut. It will be dedicated at the National Museum of the United States Air Force on 11 Jan 2008. If you are in the Dayton, Ohio, area please join us in the dedication. Toby expects that framed prints may be given to the FAC Museum in Fort Worth, Texas and to the “Pacific Air Museum on Ford Island, Hawaii. If there is sufficient interest in a copy of the painting and the cost is reasonable for volume production, Toby may have additional prints made. Costs for volume prints are unknown currently. Let Toby know of your interest in having a print of the O-2A painting by dropping him an e-mail at rushforth@aol.com.



History Snippets of Aussie OV-10

By Darrel Whitcomb, historian

Next April, numerous of us will be traveling to Australia to celebrate ANZAC Day with our Aussie brothers. While there we will also visit their War Museum, and stand in proud witness as they add OV-10 67-14639 to their historical collection. She will repose in proud remembrance with so many other mementos from the battlefields and war zones which trace the Australian military heritage. She will be dedicated in memory of those 36 select Aussie officers who served as FACs with allied forces in Vietnam from 1966 to 1971. (*She is not yet renovated. See picture in last issue. Ed.*)

This aircraft was flown by several of them, and richly deserves this honor. Built in Ohio in 1968, she was the 101st of 271 OV-10s built for U.S. and allied service. She subsequently was sent to South Vietnam, where she flew combat out of numerous airfields throughout that nation. In late 1971 she was transferred to U.S. bases in Thailand where she flew missions over Laos and Cambodia. 639 and the men who flew her saw many hours of hard combat. In 1974 she was transferred to Germany where she flew with U.S. forces. Subsequently, she was reassigned to units in the U.S. and Korea, before being released to the Philippine Air Force. In 2006 they gave her to Australia for enshrinement in their War Museum.

Proud Bronco—Hand Salute

67-14639 brand new in 1968
Photo from Darrel Whitcomb



2008 FAC Reunion & Memorial



The 2008 FAC Association Reunion is scheduled for 1-5 October in Colorado Springs, Colorado. As part of the reunion, a FAC Memorial will be dedicated on 3 October at Memorial Park in Colorado Springs. The memorial will focus on the history of the Forward Air Controllers who served our country in this unique mission. Although the memorial will parallel the Hurlburt and Dayton memorials by recognizing those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country, it will be unique in design and incorporate some of the rich history of the FAC mission. The Memorial committee will provide specific details on the FAC Website at <http://www.fac-assoc.org/ColoradoSprings.htm> as the final Memorial design is completed.

The FAC Memorial at Memorial Park will be available to many thousands of people per year. Memorial Park is a large park located at the foot of Pikes Peak and draws more than 500,000 visitors a year. One corner of the Park is the home of the International Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial, another has the US Olympic Training Center Velodrome, and a third section has over 15 military memorials situated around a large bell tower. The park also hosts an annual hot air balloon festival and 4th of July celebration. It will be a fitting location to recognize the role that the Forward Air Controller played in all our recent conflicts.

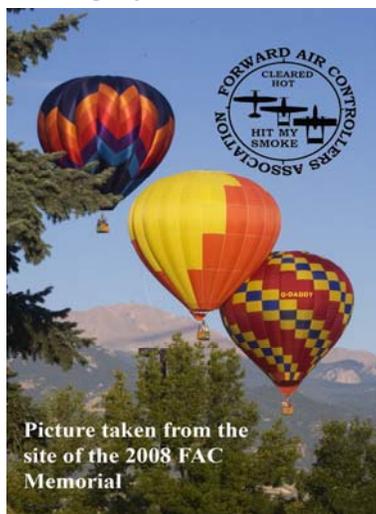
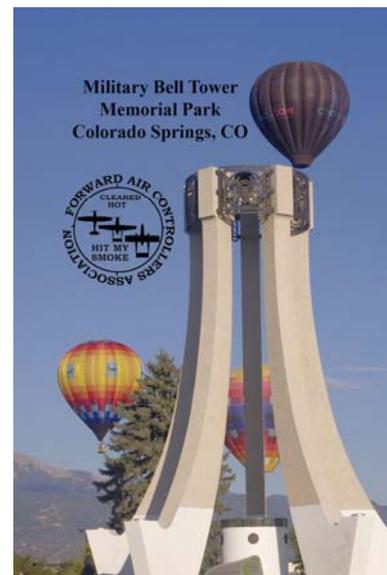
The projected FAC Memorial budget is slightly over \$50,000. This will cover the cost of the monument and the dedication ceremony. We have had a good response to our initial donation-request mailings, which has allowed us to make a substantial down payment for the Memorial. However, we have not yet met our budgeted goal. We still need your donations for this important 2008 FAC Memorial. Following are our donation Medalists.

Diamond Level Donors (\$10,000 or more) Clarence Gianarelli, Ideal Concrete	Silver Level Donors (\$500 or more) Wilson P (Pat) Hurley Thomas M (Tom) Petitmermet Lanis (Lanny) Pinchuk Bertram J. Woodside Gene A. Langenbach Dennis E (Denny) Crouch Ralph H (Randy) Thurman EAPLS (RAVENS) Charles L (Charlie) Pocock 1st Wisconsin Brigade US Volunteers – A
Gold Level Donors (\$1,000 or more) Howard J (Howie) Pierson Ray E. Noftsinger	

Please use our online donation process at:
<http://www.ppcf.org/giving.php?fundid=111>

Or send your Tax Deductible contribution to:
 FAC Memorial Fund, 19985 Thunder Road East, Colorado Springs, CO 80908-1137.
 Please include your email address and phone number.

The Reunion will be hosted at the Crowne Plaza. The Group Rate of \$95/night, will be good from 29-Sep-08 to 8-Oct-08. To make reservations, go on line to www.crowneplaza.com/coloradospring, enter your requested dates, enter our Group Code **F01 (F Zero One)** then click Check Availability. Additional information, including the Reunion Schedule, will be put out on the Website at <http://www.fac-assoc.org/ColoradoSprings.htm>.



Picture taken from the site of the 2008 FAC Memorial

We request **your assistance!** If you have information on having the **squadron patches put into bronze** – or if anyone has already done so, we need help. Please phone or email any info you have to Jim Palmer: 719-592-0607, jop01@comcast.net.

Editors Note:

Can it get any prettier than this? Make plans now! I look forward to seeing you there. Our reunions are always a highlight and this one will be very special. We'll even get to watch Air Force beat Navy in football. Be sure to check the websites above as the year progresses.



(President's Corner, con't.)

A final thought: Our military men and women of today continue to fight the vitally important Global War on Terrorism. We share a common bond with them through our heritage of service to country. They are the heroes of today, protecting our freedoms, as we have done in the past. Our prayers and our support remain with them and their families. I thank you for your service and the costs borne by you and your family. God Bless you all.

Happy New Year!!
Denny Crouch



For anyone looking for a great belated Christmas gift, birthday gift, next Christmas...? consider the following:

FACBOOK on CD....Great for family, friends, donations.... (still) \$10.00 ea

"Beyond the Call of Duty," by Bernie Fisher MOH flight/history \$20.00 ea

"Viper 7", by our own Charlie Pocock... Great FAC book \$20.00 ea

"7th AF In-country Tactical Operations Handbook" (how to do it) \$10.00 ea

"Night Training Manual, 23 TASS" \$10.00 ea
\$5.00 postage and handling per order: payment by check, Pay Pal, money order, cash or first born.... All items are new/unopened, all receipts and proceeds go to the FAC Association. Quantities are limited.

AL Matheson
8847 West 2200
Cedar City, Utah 84720

Present-Day Coveys

VMFA 121
Coveys



As you recall, these warriors honored us by choosing the Covey call sign before they deployed to combat in 2007. Returning home in October, they honored us again by inviting us to their coming home party. A few Coveys were lucky enough to attend. Unfortunately, a report from the squadron did not arrive by press time, but the party picture



did! Thanks for including us, guys. And thank you for your service. **Welcome Home!**

*These steely-eyed FACs are:
L—R Bob Denison, Covey 236, Chub (John Passant), Gary Beard, Covey 276, J. Ross Leonard, Covey 281, Rudy Rickner*

Cowtown Warbird Round-up 2007

The third Cowtown Warbird Roundup (CWR) and BroncoFest VI is history. The CWR, sponsored by the OV-10 Bronco Association, Forward Air Controllers Museum and the Vintage Flying Museum was held October 24-26, 2007 at Meacham Airport, Ft. Worth, TX.

Groups having reunions during CWR included the 20th TASS, 23rd TASS, 27th TASS, 704th TASS, VMFA-333 Trip Treys, and the F-4 Phantom Society. In addition the FAC Association and the OBA both held Board of Directors meetings.

20 current military aircraft were on hand for static displays. The Air Force aircraft included 2 A-10's, T-6 Texan II, T-38, F-16, and a UH-1H. The Navy provided two F/A-18F FAC birds, F-18A+, T-39, T-6 Texan II and T-45A. The Coast Guard Station Corpus Christi provided an H-65C Dauphin and an HU-25 Falcon. The Marines sent two AH-1 Cobras as well as an F-18A, EA-6B an F-5E and a KC-130.

Friday afternoon a number of attendees enjoyed a tour of the Lockheed-Martin plant at JRB (*old Carswell AFB*). Festivities started off on Friday evening with the dedication of 5 aircraft that are part of the Fort Worth Veterans Memorial Air Park. The black O-2 was presented by Jerry Stephan. Honored guests for the Air Force Bronco dedication, which was in memory of Medal of Honor winner Steve Bennett, were Steve's daughter Angela Bennett and her son Jake. Also honored was Steve's back seat observer on the MOH flight, former Marine Captain Mike Brown.

The Marine Bronco was dedicated to the Marine enlisted maintenance crews which kept them flying. Also introduced were Col. KP Rice and Major Bill Beckett, both USMC retired. They originated the concept of the L2VMA, or the Light Light Attack aircraft in 1960 that became the OV-10 in 1965.

The next aircraft was the F-14D, better known as "CHRISTINE". The Tomcat was dedicated by Admiral Jim Lair. Several former crew members who had flown her in combat as a FAC aircraft in Bosnia and Iraq were also present.

Last but not least was the F-4S which flew combat missions as an F-4J with the Trip Trey's of VMFA-333 on board the USS America in 1972. The Phantom was dedicated by members of the squadron in honor of Major Lee "Bear" Lassiter and his RIO Captain "Little" John Cummings.

OBA President Jim Hodgson presented the Golden Wrench awards to Johnnie Eller and Glen Hill who did much of the work to make presentable the aircraft that were dedicated.

After the dedications all enjoyed the FACtoberfest German dinner which included some great food plus real imported German beer. Later that evening the Nails had their own dedication of the replica Nail Hole bar in the FACM.

Saturday saw the arrival if a number of civilian aircraft including a couple of O-2's, five O-1's flown in by members of the Bird Dog Association, an A-26, L-5/OY-2, U-17, ZERO and a number of CJ-6 and YAK-52's.

Saturday presentations in the OBA ready room included Knox Bishop on the history of reconnaissance aircraft, a joint briefing on Navy FAC operations in the Gulf, and a presentation by KP Rice and Bill Beckett on the process that took their original brainchild to what we know as the OV-10 Bronco. (*These briefings alone were worth the price of admission. Ed.*)

Saturday evening's dinner ended with presentation of appreciation plaques and Bronco Association awards. KP Rice and Bill Beckett were very deservedly inducted into the OV-10 Bronco Hall of Fame.

Sunday saw the departures of people and aircraft. The next CWR is planned for May 2008. The final date will be announced after the first of the year. Chuck "IGOR" Burin, Chairman - OBA

Literary Corner

Add these titles to your reading list from previous issues:

TITLE AUTHOR ISBN

The Fighter Pilot's Wife Gilberta Pierson

Our own Howie Pierson's wife tells a military family's story
www.fighterpilotswife.com

Korea, A Lieutenant's Story Robert C. Mathis 1-4257-0547-2 (softcover) or -0 (hardcover)

Retired 4-star tells a good story of Mosquito and ground FAC adventures. "War is very personal."



Good Times at FACtoberfest



Have you ever seen such a collection of rusty Nails?

Veterans Encouraged to Wear Medals on Memorial Day: Show Pride, Teach Younger Generations

VA Press Release - To show their pride in military service and teach younger generations about the value of serving our nation, **Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson** urged veterans across the country to pin on their military medals on Memorial Day, May 28.

"Wearing their medals demonstrates the deep pride our veterans have in their military service," said Nicholson. "It also reminds all American citizens -- especially the young -- about the sacrifices our veterans have made for their freedom."

He encouraged veterans to display their medals no matter what they are doing on Memorial Day, but especially when attending public events. Nicholson said he believes the movement will become a tradition. Nicholson first urged veterans to wear their military decorations last Veterans Day under a program called "Veterans Pride Initiative."

About 24 million living Americans have served in the armed forces, with nearly 18 million wearing the uniforms of the U.S. military during times of war and conflict.

Nicholson said he hopes veterans will wear their medals on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Veterans Day, and when attending other patriotic events. Major U.S. veterans organizations have endorsed the Veterans Pride Initiative.

Additional information about the initiative is featured at VA's Web site at http://www.va.gov/veteran_spride/, where veterans can also learn how to replace mislaid medals or confirm the decorations to which they are entitled.

RAVEN JOHN CARROLL RETURNS

On Tuesday, 13 Nov07, Maj. John Carroll, USAFA '62 and RAVEN FAC was laid to rest at the Air Force Academy, 35 years and six days after being shot down and killed on the PDJ in northern Laos. Rescue efforts with two helicopters were unsuccessful, and he was killed by NVA troops in the area.

The ceremony at the Cadet Catholic Chapel and burial at the Cadet Cemetery were attended by family, friends, Academy classmates, and FAC compatriots. Several Nails and Coveys who flew with him were there, as were the following RAVENS: Chuck Hightower, Chuck Hines Spike Milam, Terry Pfaff, Steve Neal, Jim Roper, H. Ownby, Darrel Whitcomb.

The entire group was escorted by the local chapter of the Patriot Guard Riders who lined the cemetery entrance with a wall of American flags. Great bunch; very moving.

The family met with several RAVENS in two sessions. They wanted to know what happened to John with no information withheld. They got the whole story from the guys who were there. It was not pretty, and yes, the tears did flow -- from all of us. Steve and Terry, in particular, shared some very painful memories. They did it with great class and compassion. They were on scene that day and tried to mount the rescue operation. It failed; too many enemy troops, too little time. John was a consummate RAVEN and combat aviator. He gave his life in service to his country. John Carroll is on my short list of heroes. Hand salute. Darrel Whitcomb RAVEN 25 1972-73



L—R Ravens
H. Ownby, Darrel
Whitcomb, Steve Neal,
Terry Pfaff

Photo courtesy of Darrel
Whitcomb

Welcome home, John Carroll



NEWS BREAK

30Nov07 Pilots Missing from the Vietnam war identified

Two Covey FACs, lost on 26June68 have been identified and brought home for burial. They are Major Robert F. Woods and Captain Johnny C. Cornelius. Major Woods was buried with full military honors 10Nov07 in Moore, TX. Captain Cornelius' rites are being decided by his family at press time. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command teams have worked relentlessly from 1988 to the present to find and return these fallen heroes. Our gratitude goes to those devoted searchers. The O2A crashed in a remote mountainous area of Quang Binh Province. May our bothers **RIP**. Perhaps more details next issue.

OV-10 675, Hill AFB MUSEUM SITREP

What a beautiful restoration! Randy Roberts reports that much remains to be done, but it's a far cry from the trailer load of parts a year ago, July. A nice touch from the two retired crew chiefs helping Randy, MSGT. Don Pince and MSGT Steve Hatch: The armament panel



reads, **DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO FLEW, FOUGHT, AND DIED IN VIETNAM** Well done, guys. Randy Roberts was honored to be named as pilot, and Rocky Brown as crew chief. Both go way back with this aircraft. "Rocky Brown earned the respect of all the pilots. He was one of the finest NCOs on the flight line; he could and did it all..... Hand Salute to a comrade passed." *Randy Roberts*

ONLY THE FACs FAC Membership by Ken Blutt

My wife tells me I spend way too much time with the FACs, and maybe I do. There just isn't enough time to do everything that should be done, so let me share with you some of the FAC Membership data that I do try to keep up to date.

Currently, the FAC Association has about 400 Life Members, 307 Paid-up Members, and 580 non-paid-up Members. The total newsletter mailing is about 3,800. This does not count the 1000 FACs we have not tracked down or have gone "Lost" since we organized, or the 814 deceased FACs.

For the last couple of years, I have been adding "Dues" status information to your name label. Check your label. If it indicates "08 Pd", then you are current through 2008. If you have questions about your status, please email me at kblutt@earthlink.net, or call me at 719-351-8284 (cell) or 719-559-0557 (home).

Starting in 2007 we are encouraging the electronic newsletter, to save postage costs. If you have not been given the option yet and would like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of by snail mail, please email me at the address shown above and I will get you hooked up.

Last thing I want to mention; I had 131 July newsletters returned. Some were temporarily away, some were returned with no forwarding address, but most were returned with forwarding addresses. For your information, our newsletters are sent bulk rate with "return service" to keep up with changes. We have to pay First class rates on all returns, so even if you are a non-member, please send me your new address so we can save this avoidable expense to your Association. *Your editor just took a hit on the dues issue. Guilty as charged. Life membership coming forthwith. The label thingy works!*

THEN, NOW, and a little PHILOSOPHY at no extra charge

One of the advantages of being the newsletter editor is getting to select articles and people to feature. Upon recently learning that one of my old Covey friends had passed away some three years ago, without any of us knowing, I began to think. It was painful and dangerous, but I thought anyway.

My friend, Jimmie, who was a WWII infantryman, told me just two weeks before succumbing to cancer, "Tim, it's okay. I've had 60 years that I didn't expect to have. It's a gift, and that's pretty good."

As we honor our brothers who gave their lives at a young age, as well we should, we might also reflect on the gift of life that we who survived have enjoyed in the ensuing years. I would hope that we have invested that gift in helping this old world to be a little better place by the time we take our final flight. Larry Meredith's infectious smile near the end of his gift of life makes me think he made his world a lot better. May we all be so successful.



Larry Meredith being presented an air medal by Lt. Col. McGraw, 1970 (Check out that party suit!)

Photo courtesy of Pat Meredith



Larry Meredith circa 2004

Photo courtesy of Pat Meredith

Allow me a quote from his dear wife, Pat,

Larry didn't talk about Viet Nam very much. He only began to speak of it in the last year before he died. I hear this from a lot of people. I think it is because of the war that is going on now and how the military guys are all treated like heroes. He resented the way you all were treated after returning from Viet Nam but kept it to himself till then. It must have been a very special hurt he carried in his heart. I felt that it was because of you guys that the modern warriors are getting such praise and you all should take the credit for that. Maybe that's what you were fighting for all along.

Indeed, Pat. Thank you for sharing. I know that we all see some of ourselves in the life and death of yet another of our number. He reminds us that we are blessed, and that we are so very mortal. Young or old, we won't get out of here alive, but we can make a difference while we still have this gift of life. **RIP, Larry Meredith.** We're all in close trail formation. *Tim Eby*

Please mail in your dues to Treasurer Bob Gorman today. Use the form on page 8 of this issue of the FAC Newsletter.

FAC Association

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