

C-7A CARIBOU ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Airmen Remembered At Dyess AFB

The C-7 Caribou Association had its finest hour on Sunday, March 10, 2002 at Dyess AFB in Abilene, Texas. On that date a C-7 Memorial was dedicated to thirty-eight Air Force C-7 crewmembers who were killed in Vietnam from 1966 - 1972.

Initiated, planned and executed by Bob Dugan, the event was attended by 180 association members, guests, and family members of our fallen heroes. Attendees traveled from throughout the country, including the nineteen family members who were honorees.

That Sunday morning was sunny and bright with a slight breeze. We enjoyed a delicious brunch at the Dyess Heritage Club and the atmosphere was leisurely and friendly. There was ample time for visiting before the buses arrived to take us to the Air Park for the dedication services in front of the C-7 Caribou on display there.

The Linear Air Park, developed by the Texas Museum of Military History, was officially opened in 1991. It is now home to thirty warplanes on outdoor display from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. These aircraft represent much of the Air Force's proud history and the sacrifices of so many men who fought for love of country and freedom. Our C-7 Caribou stands proudly amongst these mighty war birds.

Our C-7 arrived at Linear Air Park ten years ago, in May 1992. Lieutenant General Abbott Greenleaf, former 483rd Caribou Wing Commander in Vietnam, spoke at the 1992 dedication ceremony, and a significant number of our

Association members were on hand for the ceremony. General Greenleaf and several of the original members were also on hand again at the March 10th ceremonies.

The buses offloaded members and guests near the "Bou" in the Air Park. As we walked towards the beautifully primped and polished Caribou, a gorgeous wreath of flowers immediately in front of the nose gear greeted us. There was evidence of fresh paint on the "Bou", and it was a little surprising how big and dignified she looked. On the grass in front of the Caribou were near perfect rows of 200 chairs for the ceremony. In front of the chairs was the speaker's podium and to their left was the "Bou," which had a large pedestal, draped in a blue cloth, before it. Beneath the cloth was the bronze plaque that contained the names of our thirty-eight comrades.

Bob Dugan was master of ceremonies. Bob visualized the concept of the bronze plaque and this memorial service back in the spring of 2001. At that time he took it upon himself to explore the possibility of creating a memorial at Dyess AFB. After many months of Bob's tireless efforts this memorial has become a reality. The idea to establish a Caribou memorial at the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB, were first put forward in 1992, but never materialized.

Bob Dugan commenced the ceremonies by requesting the posting of the colors by the Dyess AFB Honor Guard. Bob Davis, C-7A Caribou Association Chaplin, then led the group in the following prayer:

INVOCATION

Dear Lord- It is with humble hearts that we gather here today to dedicate this Shrine to our 38 comrades who had their lives taken from them in the service of this great Nation. Let this monument forever be a reminder to those who visit this place that these men were patriots. Patriots who loved this land, loved the flag of this Country and died in the support of the United States foreign policy and ideals of democracy.

Father in Heaven, each of us here today fully acknowledge that but for your Grace it could have been any one of us being memorialized. We, the survivors, must rededicate ourselves to the preservation of those treasured ideals. We, the survivors, recognize a moral and spiritual obligation to these 38 colleagues and to those now silent Squadrons marching before you. The thunderous roar of their silent tread is deafening to our very souls.

Bless this gathering of military veterans, their families and a special blessing, Dear Lord, to those families who's loved ones we honor here today. We ask that the actions we take, in your name, be acceptable and receive your blessing.

AMEN

The National Anthem was beautifully sung a cappella by a Chief Master Sergeant from Dyess AFB. Then we all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob Davis began reading the names of our thirty-eight fallen brothers as Steve Kelly performed a traditional Naval two-bell ceremony as each name was read. Bob Markham and Jim Collier started unveiling the memorial plaque. As Bob finished reading the names, and the plaque was fully

unveiled, Don "Tiny" Malm led a three-ship flyover of Vintage WWII aircraft in the traditional missing man formation.

General Eugene Habiger, former Commander in Chief, US Strategic Command, who spent a year in Vietnam flying the Caribou, took the podium and presented us with the following moving address:

C-7A MEMORIAL DEDICATION

This is a very important day in the proud history of the dedicated, professional aviators who flew and maintained the C-7A Caribou. Few, if any, will remember what we say here today, but many, over the years to come, will see the memorial we will dedicate here today. Our purpose is quite simple...to pay our respects to 38 of our brothers who gave the ultimate sacrifice...their lives...for their country on that battleground so far away...so long ago.

Our Caribou family is relatively small. I did a little back-of-the-envelope calculations and figured that in the 7-year span we served collectively in Vietnam, about 7,000 of us can lay claim to being part of the Caribou clan. Our clan was composed of many World War II and Korean War Vets. We were populated by many crusty...old Lieutenant Colonels and Majors...lots of Lieutenants. Our enlisted force was more balanced with top-notch Senior Non Commissioned Officers and Senior Airmen.

We had our share of "individualists" who ignored the pleas of our senior officers not to stop in at Phan Thiet for a no-notice taxi back to pick up a load of fresh lobsters or to exercise our right of passage to levy a Bou tax on a shipment of T-bone steaks. Of course, our antics during the Christmas holidays by painting some of our planes with Rudolph red noses and eyes to become "Santa Bous" was quickly recognized as an attribute of a group of caring, professionals with a sense of humor and compassion.

At any given time, we had about 100 aircraft on the ramps. Of course, our elite maintenance troops were in a class by themselves. Here are some of the 781 maintenance corrective actions that our surly crew chiefs have allegedly entered into the forms.

Write-up: left main landing gear tire almost needs replacement

Corrective action: almost replaced left main landing gear tire

Write-up: "something loose in cockpit"

Corrective action: "something tightened in cockpit"

And the ultimate slam that, I think we can all relate to:

Write-up: "dead bugs on windshield"

Corrective action: "live bugs on order"

Ours was not a pretty airplane...ours was not a particularly glamorous mission. The C-7A has been described as a "light tactical transport designed for operations in the most primitive of conditions." I think most of us here today would say..."Amen" to that!

We flew into some of the worst of ground firetraps...like Duc Lap, Ben Het, Dang Seang and a host of others.

While the world and the threats to our national security have changed dramatically since our Caribou days in Vietnam, one thing has not changed, and that is the confidence in our military...to be ready to fight any time...anywhere...against any enemy.

Since September 11 and the resulting deployment of our forces into Afghanistan and a number of other countries around the world...our warriors continue to do whatever is asked to defend our great nation.

What sets us apart...in my view most importantly...everyone who has worn or wears the uniform of the greatest nation on earth...raises his or her hand and each takes a most solemn oath. To preserve and protect the constitution of the United States against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. This is what I call the unlimited liability clause...no other profession can make that claim.

One of the basic givens of the profession of arms is the total and absolute commitment to lay down one's life...and everything in between to protect our great nation and what we stand for. That is why we are here today to honor those 38 of our clan who made the ultimate sacrifice. This memorial will stand for many generations to come as tribute to what our profession of arms is all about...but, most importantly, to memorialize 38 great Americans who willingly paid the ultimate price for freedom.

There is a piece of scripture that puts, most importantly, into perspective what we and our 38 brothers were all about in that far away place... a long time ago. It comes from the 2nd Book of Timothy.

I have fought a good fight

I have finished my course

I have kept the faith

God bless their souls and...God bless America."

At the close of General Habiger's address Bob Davis ended the formal ceremony with an equally moving closing benediction:

BENEDICTION

Our Father, which art in Heaven, Hallowed is Thy name. We thank you for the many freedoms that we have served to protect for this great nation.

As we pay homage to these 38 Air Force colleagues we offer up a prayer for all of those comrades-in-arms who have passed away and are now resting in the shelter of your arms.

As you bless this gathering, Dear Lord, we ask that you provide divine guidance to the leaders of this, our homeland, under whose national emblem we have so proudly served. We ask that you watch over each of us as we return to our homes, scattered all over this proud country, the greatest nation in the history of the world.

Lord, we offer up a prayer of compassion for all the Armed Forces, especially those who are in harms way. We remember the POW and MIA and ask that you hold them in the hollow of your hand. Give them and their loved ones solace and peace of mind.

LEST WE FORGET—LEST WE FORGET

We may forgive, as a Christian Nation should, But, We will never Forget.

Be gracious unto us and bless us. As we depart from this bastion of Democracy, stretch forth Thy protection, guard our country that we being devoted to Thy service, may ever be defended by Thy Grace.

AMEN

The honor guard retired the Colors and the dedication services were ended with the playing of Taps.

After the ceremonies were over we inspected the bronze plaque and we traced our fingers over some of the names. We inspected the pedestal that held it. We milled around and visited and took swarms of pictures. The honorees were gathered in front of the aircraft for a group photo. Then the entire group was rounded up in front of the Caribou, from wing tip to wing tip, for one last grand picture.

After the ceremony Msgt (Ret) "Doc" Warner, curator of the Linear Air Park, opened the Caribou up for all to tour the inside. For so many of the people there today, this was

their first sight and experience of the C-7A Caribou. And for many of the crewmembers, it had been thirty plus years since they climbed aboard the old bird. There were lots of poignant memories. And after all, this old lady was in a way a focal point of what today was all about.

After a while the buses arrived to take us back to the Heritage Club where we had an opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude to the people who made this memorial possible. Small groups gathered for some last sharing of thoughts and saying goodbyes. It was time to get in our cars and start heading home.



Larry Gill and Don "Tiny" Malm discussed having this wreath placed in front of the aircraft, but when they went to Baack's Florist in Abilene, Dan Harwell, the owner, would not take their money. We can all thank Dan Harwell and Baack's Florist for this beautiful tribute.



Bob Davis, Association Chaplain delivering the invocation. This is the second C-7 Caribou memorial service that Bob has officiated, the first being at the Patrick Jeager memorial services in Atlanta, GA, in April, 2001.



A general view of the aircraft and the seating for the attendees.



A Chief Master Sergeant from Dyess sings the National Anthem. We appreciated the beautiful job he did for us. Bob Dugan is at the podium directing this portion of the ceremony.



The attendees beginning to take their seats for the commencement of ceremonies.



With Bob Davis at the podium reading the names, Jim Collier and Bob Markham slowly remove the blue drape.



Uniformed personnel rendering honors as the colors are posted.



With Jim Collier and Bob Markham still holding the blue drape, we get our first look at the new memorial plaque.



As appropriate for the ceremony, Don "Tiny" Malm and four of his friends fly a Missing Man formation in their Confederate Air Force aircraft. In this shot, the center aircraft is just breaking out of the formation.

The lead aircraft is flown by Willie Walker (83 years young). Back seat is Charles Screws (80 years — younger). These two gentlemen spent 8.5 years rebuilding this beautiful T-6 after its not being in the air for 47 years. Both are WWII pilots and retired from the USAF. Number two aircraft is flown by Don "Tiny" Malm. This aircraft is also rebuilt from three other ones and just repainted and flown home on 6 Mar 2002. Back seat is Captain Anthony Deguchi. He is one of the ground crew that maintains our C-7 in the Air Park. The number three aircraft is flown by Bob Snyder. Bob is a rancher and oil drilling CEO from 60 miles north of Abilene. He owns and flies this T-6. He flew in just for the flyover and returned to Albany, TX after the mission.

We are all members of the CAF (Commemorative Air Force) with HQ in Midland, Texas. Our mission is to maintain and fly these WWII aircraft to let everyone know how our Freedom was won so many years ago. We thank all members and families of the C-7 Caribou Association for allowing us to Honor our HEROES.

Colonel Don "Tiny" Malm,
Chief of Staff, CAF
God Bless

The honor was ours for you to give up being at the ceremony to provide the traditional Air Force tribute of a Missing Man formation in memory of our fallen brothers.



General Habiger delivering his address. As a former Caribou pilot with the 457th, he was the perfect candidate to give the speech honoring those who didn't come home.



The dedication services ended with the playing of Taps.



After the ceremony, many of us took the opportunity to view both plaques and come to grips with our emotions.



Getting some close-up shots of the plaque.



The entire group of honorees



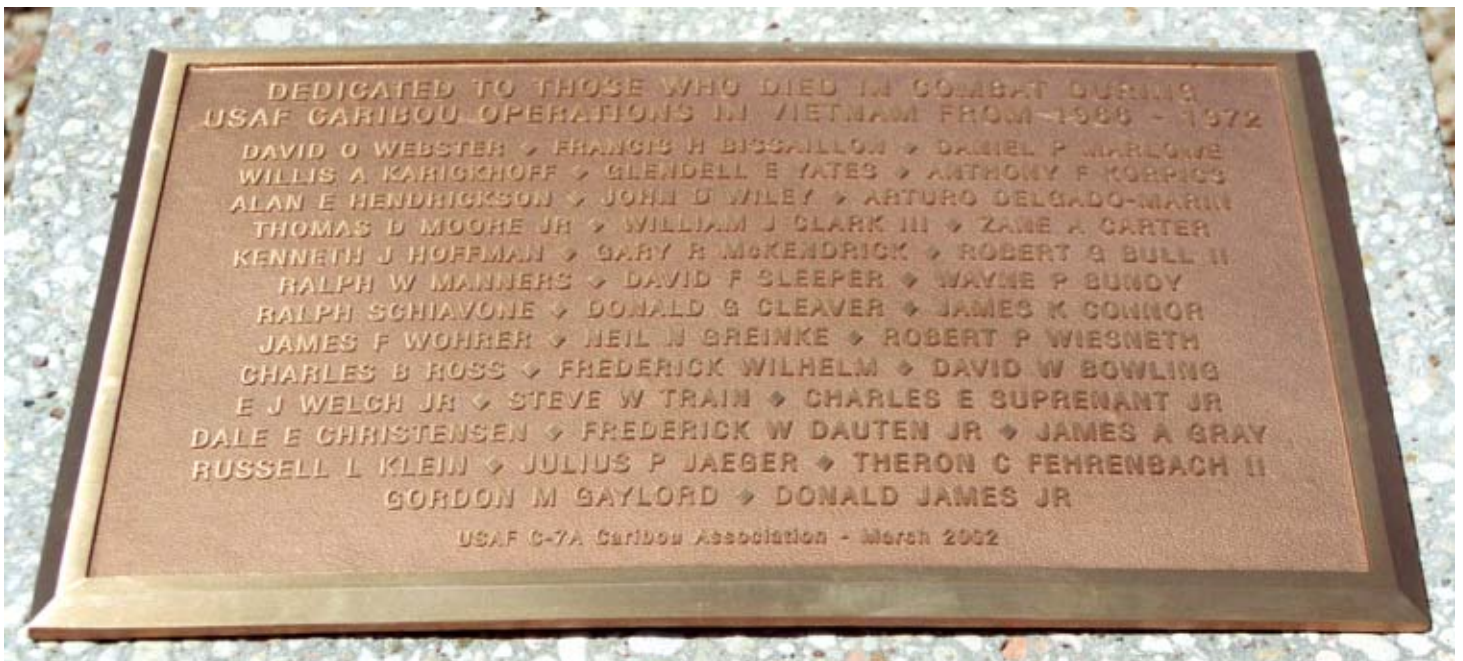
There were 19 Honorees at the dedication. (Not listed in order)

Barbara P. Moore, wife of MAJ. Thomas D. Moore Jr.
 Barbara J. Dowski, daughter of MAJ. Thomas D. Moore Jr.
 Kris Dauten, daughter of MAJ. Frederick W. Dauten Jr.
 Jennifer Nichols, daughter of MAJ. Frederick W. Dauten Jr.
 Jeanne Williams, wife of 1LT Theron C. Fehrenbach II
 Phillip Schiavone, brother of 1LT. Ralph Schiavone
 Sally FitzGerald, sister of 1LT Robert P. Wiesneth
 Donna Schultz, wife of 1LT Robert P. Wiesneth
 Donna Ruple, sister of 1LT. Steven W. Train

Doug Ruple, nephew of 1Lt Steven W. Train
 Michael Ruple, grand nephew of 1LT Steven W. Train
 Betty Illingworth, wife of MSG Russell L. Klein
 Paul Klein, son of MSG Russell L. Klein
 Andrew Klein, grandson of MSG Russell L. Klein
 Makayla Klein, granddaughter of MSG Russell L. Klein
 Mark Klein, son of MSG Russell L. Klein
 Lonnie Klein, grandson of MSG Russell L. Klein
 Joe Klein, grandson of MSG. Russell L. Klein
 Angela Wagner, daughter of TSG Gordon M. Gaylord



This is nearly everyone who attended the ceremony posed in front of the aircraft with the new memorial plaque in the right foreground. It was quite a group and larger than any reunion to date. This is a great tribute to both the men we honored and to Bob Dugan, Jim Collier, and Bob Markham, who worked so hard to make this day a reality.



Dedication

In remembrance of the 38 combat personnel who gave their lives in support of the C-7A Caribou mission. This plaque is presented 10 March 2002 at Dyess A.F.B. Abilene Texas by the C-7A Caribou Association

A close-up view of the memorial plaque. A complete listing of the names from official records may be found in the Caribou Association Honor Roll on page 9.



After the ceremony, everyone gathered around the aircraft and newly-dedicated memorial to talk and take a last look.



Makayla Klein, granddaughter of MSG Russell L. Klein

C-7 Caribou Honor Roll

DAVID O'NEIL WEBSTER

CPT - Married - PHOENIX, ARIZONA
Served 16 years
Born Aug 12, 1932 Died Oct 04, 1966
BINH DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM

FRANCIS HENRY BISSAILLON

CPT - Married - WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS
Served 3 years
Born May 23, 1938 Died Oct 04, 1966
BINH DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM

DANIEL PAUL MARLOWE

SSG - Married - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
Served 14 years
Born Aug 14, 1928 Died Oct 04, 1966
BINH DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM

WILLIS ARNOLD KARICKHOFF

AIC - Single - ELKVIEW, WEST VIRGINIA
Served 8 years
Born Aug 06, 1938 Died Oct 28, 1966
BINH DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM

GLENDELL EUGENE YATES

TSG - Married - HARRISBURG, ILLINOIS
Served 12 years
Born Feb 04, 1933 Died Nov 20, 1966
PHU YEN, SOUTH VIETNAM

ANTHONY FRANCIS KORPICS

CPT - Single - BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA
Served 18 years
Born May 04, 1931 Died Nov 20, 1966
PHU YEN, SOUTH VIETNAM

ALAN EUGENE HENDRICKSON

CPT - Married - ARCATA, CALIFORNIA
Served 10 years
Born Dec 17, 1935 Died Oct 30, 1966
QUANG NGAI, SOUTH VIETNAM

JOHN DUDLEY WILEY

CPT - Married - CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
Served 10 years
Born May 28, 1936 Died Aug 03, 1967
QUANG NGAI, SOUTH VIETNAM

ZANE AUBRY CARTER

TSG - Married - WEST PEMBROKE, MAINE
Served 18 years
Born on Dec 25, 1930 Died Oct 27, 1966
QUANG NGAI, SOUTH VIETNAM

THOMAS DEWEY MOORE JR

MAJ - Married - DEL RIO, TEXAS
Served 14 years
Born Jul 04, 1929 Died Nov 30, 1967
BINH DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM

WILLIAM JEROME CLARK III

MAJ - Married - LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS
Served 14 years
Born Jan 01, 1932 Died Nov 30, 1967
BINH DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM

ARTURO DELGADO-MARIN

SSG - Married - COLUMBUS, OHIO
Served 12 years
Born Mar 17, 1936 Died Nov 30, 1967
His tour of duty began on Jul 07, 1967
BINH DINH, SOUTH VIETNAM

KENNETH JAMES HOFFMAN

CPT - Married - EAST NORTHPORT, NEW YORK
Served 4 years
Born Feb 10, 1942 Died Jul 25, 1968
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

GARY RAYMOND MC KENDRICK

AI C - Married - HALLANDALE, FLORIDA
Served 2 years
Born Jun 21, 1947 Died JUL 25, 1968
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

ROBERT GEORGE BULL II

CPT - Married - MARLBORO, NEW YORK
Served 6 years
Born May 17, 1939 Died Aug 26, 1968
LONG KHANH, SOUTH VIETNAM

RALPH WILLIAM MANNERS

1 LT - Married - NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK
Served 1 year
Born Oct 12, 1944 Died Aug 26, 1968
LONG KHANH, SOUTH VIETNAM

DAVID FREDERICK SLEEPER

SGT - Married - FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETT
Served 8 years
Born Sep 23, 1939 Died Aug 26, 1968
LONG KHANH, SOUTH VIETNAM

WAYNE PHILIP BUNDY

CPT - Married - CANANDAIGUA, NEW YORK
Served 6 year
Born Apr 14, 1939 Died Oct 03, 1968
QUANG TRI, SOUTH VIETNAM

RALPH SCHIAVONE

1 LT - Single - HICKSVILLE, NEW YORK
Served 2 years
Born Mar 30, 1943 Died Oct 03, 1968
QUANG TRI, SOUTH VIETNAM

DONALD GENE CLEAVER

SSG - Married - JOPLIN, MISSOURI
Served 14 years
Born on Jul 30, 1931 Died Oct 03, 1968
QUANG TRI, SOUTH VIETNAM

JAMES KENNETH CONNOR

SSG - Married - PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA
Served 4 years
Born Jun 05, 1940 Died Oct 03, 1968
QUANG TRI, SOUTH VIETNAM

JAMES FIELDING WOHRER

1LT - Single - GENEVA, ILLINOIS
Served 2 years
Born on Apr 05, 1944 Died Jul 26 1969
PHUOC TUY, SOUTH VIETNAM

NEIL NORMAN GREINKE

1 LT - Single - FRANKLIN, WISCONSIN
Served 2 years
Born Aug 30, 1945 Died Sep 11, 1969
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

ROBERT PAUL WIESNETH

1 LT - Married - LOUISVILLE, NEBRASKA
Served 2 years
Born Sep 09, 1942 Died Sep 11, 1969
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

CHARLES BRENT ROSS

1 LT - Married - BRAZIL, INDIANA
Served 1 year
Born on Apr 05, 1945 Died Sept 11, 1969
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

FREDERICK WILHELM

SSG - Single - CINCINNATI, OHIO
Seared 14 years
Born Mar 30, 1937 Died Sept 11, 1969
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

DAVID BICKNEL BOWLING

1 LT - Married - LA PLATA, MARYLAND
Served 2 years
Born Jul 28, 1945 Died Dec 26, 1969
QUANG TIN, SOUTH VIETNAM

E J WELCH JR

TSG - Single - HARRISVILLE, MISSISSIPPI
Served 14 years
Born Nov 21, 1936 Died Dec 26, 1969
QUANG TIN, SOUTH VIETNAM

STEVE WARREN TRAIN

1 LT - Married - LINDSBORG, KANSAS
Born Oct 31, 1945 Died Apr 02, 1970
KONTUM, SOUTH VIETNAM

CHARLES E SUPRENANT JR

1 LT - Single - TAMPA, FLORIDA
Born on Sep 08, 1946 Died Apr 02, 1970
KONTUM, SOUTH VIETNAM

DALE ELLING CHRISTENSEN

MSG - Married - MURRAY, UTAH
Born Mar 09, 1934 Died Apr 02, 1970
KONTUM, SOUTH VIETNAM

FREDERICK W DAUTEN JR

MAJ - Married - GUILFORD, CONNETICUT
Born Jun 02, 1934 Died Apr 04, 1970
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

RUSSELL LEO KLEIN

MSG - Married - MARENGO, IOWA
Born Sep 26, 1938 Died Apr 04, 1970
PLIEKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

ANTHONY GRAY

CPT - Single - NEW YORK, NEW YORK
Born Nov 04, 1943 Died Apr 04, 1970
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

JULIUS PATRICK JAEGER

CPT - Married - ATLANTA, GEORGIA
Served 8 years
Born Jan 04, 1940 Died Apr 06, 1970
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

Honor Roll, Cont'd.**THERON CARL FEHRENBACH II**

1 LT - Married - LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA
Born Oct 09, 1945 Died Apr 06, 1970
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

GORDON MANSON GAYLORD

TSG - Married - WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS
Served 16 years
Born Mar 09, 1933 Died Apr 06, 1970
PLEIKU, SOUTH VIETNAM

DONALD JAMES JR

SSG - Married - White Pidgeon, Michigan
Served 20 Years
Born Sep 05, 1930 Died Aug 17, 1969
KHANH HOA, SOUTH VIETNAM

Remarks from Family & Members

Bob Markham was truly the driving force behind locating family members and relatives of the 38 men we honored in the memorial services at Dyess AFB. He, and others, spent countless hours on the phone and on the internet, going through archives, documents, and web sites picking up pieces of information so that we could contact as many relatives and friends as possible.

After the services Bob sent a dedication booklet and information on the postings on the web site to each of the families that could not attend the services.

The following remarks were delivered through Bob Markham to our Association in a show of appreciation for the memorial services and plaque presented at the Dyess Memorial Services.

Mr. R.W. Markham.

I have just viewed your wonderful pictures and report of the memorial for the 38 men who were lost in this section of the Air Force.

I was unable to attend but must tell you I was so moved by the presentation material. My brother 1LT Robert P. Wiesneth was killed in action in 1969. He was an only son of the family and gave his life willingly for his country. I know that he was looking down and appreciating all of the hard work and dedication that you all have put forth to make this possible.

As a family member I want to thank you for remembering those that were so special to all of the families. You are indeed wonderful men making all of us feel the loss of our loved ones will be remembered.

Tearfully!

Marge Addleman (Sister of 1LT Robert P. Wiesneth)

Thank you for sending info on the website! We are re-
spectful of all the efforts you and the others have
made to bring this event together. And we hope to be able to
reunite everyone sometime in the not too distant future.

Bob

Dear Bob,

Thanks ever so much for sharing the photos of the ser-
vice last weekend. It sure helped me be a part of the event
even if I wasn't there personally. I have printed each one off
for my scrapbook.

Marge Addleman (Sister of 1LT Robert P. Wiesneth)

Bob,

Thank you so much for the pamphlet from the Dyess
ceremony. The more info I receive and the more I look at
the website, I sure wish I'd made a stronger attempt to get
there. However, because of this info, I feel like I was!

Thanks again for everything...you've made this very
special!

Brian L. Klein (Son of MSG Russell L. Klein)

Bob

Thanks for sending Brian the booklet. He had seen the
pictures on the website before I even returned home. He
thought they were wonderful and had sent a message to the
webmaster! We certainly enjoyed meeting you and Noni.
Our "guests" enjoyed it, too! I will write more later.

Betty Illingsworth (Mother of Brian & wife of MSG
Russell L. Klein)

Many thanks for forwarding this, really appreciated see-
ing all the news. Had things been different we would have
been there without a doubt.

You put a lot of hours and hard work into it, and, by the
look of the pictures you must be very content with the re-
sults. All the very best to you and yours,

Margaret Pronier (Wife of COL Guy Pronier)

I just got back home and at my computer for the first
time, after 16 days and 5,498 miles. I cannot thank you
enough for tracking down the next of kin and inviting us to
attend the Memorial. I was proud to represent my family
and to stand along side my brother's fellow Airmen in dedi-
cating this memorial.

In reading the News Letter and watching the Associa-
tion Officers and Board Members during the weekend I re-
alize this was not an easy undertaking. Planning the dedica-
tion, putting up with the red tape and last minute changes
and setbacks could easily deter the less determined. My
brother's loss will always remain a missing piece in my life,
but I can now take comfort in knowing the caliber of men he
served with.

There is a phrase we use in New York to describe people
that go above and beyond to do the right thing, in my eyes
you are all "real standup guys."

Bob, Will you please express my thanks to everyone
involved.

Thank You
Philip Schiavone

March 15

Dear Bob and Board Members

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you and everyone else who made my weekend in Abilene such a memorable and special occasion.

Memories of Tex will be In my heart forever as will your efforts to dedicate such a beautiful and lasting memorial to him and the other crewmen whose lives were lost in the Vietnam conflict. It was humbling to experience the appreciation expressed to me by so many members.

I cannot begin to tell you the comfort that gave me. Again thank you for all your efforts and kindness.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Williams (Wife of 1LT Theron Carl Fehrenbach II)

Hi Bob,

Thank you very much for letting me know about the events that took place in Texas. I received the package you mailed to me yesterday. I appreciate everything you have done to include me and am saddened that my work schedule prevented me from being at the dedication.

It sounds like everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks again for all your help.

Mike Bissailon (Son of 1LT Francis Bissailon)

Bob,

Thank you for the information you sent me (pictures and e-mails) about the dedication at Dyess. I am sorry that I was unable to attend; I really wanted to but was simply unable. I would like to attend the next reunion, however. I will go online now for the details. It would be better if it were close. I will be moving to Atlanta, GA this summer.

I received an e-mail from Mike Bissailon this morning. His father sat next to my father (Capt. David Webster) on the C-7A on 10/4/66. This is the first contact I have had with the families of any other crewmembers. It is difficult but very good.

Thank you very much for your work. It is through your efforts that I have come to finally know the circumstances of my father's death, which were hidden from me for the last 35 years.

I hope to thank you in person one day soon.

Chris Webster (Son of CPT David O. Webster)

Dear Mr. Markham,

Thanks very much for the info. I was very sorry to miss the ceremony, but thought about you all. I've been TDY to Langley AFB the past 2 weeks, and couldn't get out there for the dedication. I'm looking forward to seeing the pictures.

Thanks again for keeping us all in the loop. I look forward to getting to one of the reunions in the future - hopefully soon.

All the best - God bless.

Gordy Hendrickson (Son of CPT Allen Hendrickson)

Bob Dugan
Bob Markham
Jim Collier

I want to make a special thank you, and congratulate you, on creating such a truly fine tribute to our fellow airmen and their families. The entire affair was outstanding and done with great style and taste. It makes me proud to be a member of our organization.

It was really great to see everyone again and very gratifying that the turnout was so good. The entire two-day event appeared to move flawlessly and was greatly appreciated by all. But the smoothness of the events belies the behind the scene work that the three of you performed. We all appreciate the huge amount of effort you put forward to achieve these results.

Congratulations and Thank You.

Dave Hutchens (*Editor*)

First Lady of the C-7Caribous

Margaret Mary Schuermann Patterson became the first lady of the C-7A Caribou Association while attending the Memorial Services at Dyess AFB on March 10, 2002.

Margaret approached Jim Collier, our association secretary, and told him that she wanted to pay her dues and become a member. Jim explained that she was already an honorary member and she didn't have to pay any dues. After explaining to Jim that she didn't want to be an honorary or associate member she paid her dues for the next five years.

Margaret lives in Dallas, Texas. She attended the memorial services with her son, Rick Patterson, who is a board member of the Caribou Association. Rick said "I am honored to have Mom selected to be the 'First Lady of the C-7A' and think she exemplifies all that this airplane accomplished in its service life."

Margaret said she thought the people were wonderful, the goal to keep the C-7A alive is admirable, and she wants to help the Association. She knows how difficult it is to raise money and wants to help.

Jim hasn't figured out if there will be any quirks in Margaret's membership status, but he has until the year 2007 to figure it out, and Margaret will be only 88 before her dues become delinquent

Welcome aboard, Margaret. We are really happy to have you as a new member.



C-7A Caribou Association 13th Annual Reunion October 6 - 12, 2002

The 2002 Annual C-7A Caribou Reunion is being held at the Best Western Westport Park, in Maryland Heights, MO. The dates are Sunday, October 6, 2002 through Saturday, October 12, 2002. All the plans are shaping up, and we can expect to have another great time come the 6th of October. The Best Western Westport Park is approximately 10 minutes from Lambert International Airport, and close to St. Charles Old Town Village shopping areas, casinos, and many restaurants. It is an established hotel with all of the amenities. What a great place for us to get together once again to renew old acquaintances, meet new friends and rehash some really amazing stories. So, go ahead and send in your reunion registration to Christine Phillips, and make your hotel reservations as soon as possible! This would be an ideal time and place to bring a new association member, or just some old friends.

Travel Plans

Now is a good time to start making your travel plans. For those who will be flying, advance reservations are usually much less expensive. You can also make your hotel reservations now. Advance reunion registrations are a great help to the reunion planners because they need the input to finalize room requirements, tours, food, and the many other activities involved with our annual bash. Early input makes their job much easier. So please register for your hotel rooms, then complete and mail your registration form to Christine Phillips, at P.O. Box 143 Folcroft, PA 19032, or contact by phone at (610) 522-5981, or e-mail at chtistielee52@yahoo.com

Hotel Reservations

The hotel rates are \$59.00 plus tax per night during the entire week of the reunion. *When making reservations be sure to tell the hotel you are attending the Caribou Association Reunion.* It is important that you register under the Caribou Association Reunion Agreement because our room rates are based on an agreed upon number of occupancies. We must achieve that number of rooms. The latest date to make reservations is September 24, 2002.

Telephone numbers for the Best Western Hotel are (800) 299-3787, (314) 291-8700, or fax at (314) 291-2891. Room types and smoking preferences are based on availability; the hotel will do its best to accommodate your requests upon your arrival. Hotel check-in time begins at 3:00pm, and check-out time is 11:00am.

Airport Shuttles/Bus Service

Complimentary van service will be provided from 7am until 10pm daily to transport guests to and from the airport and the Westport area.

Hotel Information

Best Western Westport Park
2434 Old Dorsett Road
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Phone: (800) 299-3787
(314) 291-8700
Fax: (314) 291-2891

Conveniently located off Interstate 270 at Dorsett Road, and 15 miles from Downtown St. Louis.

Scheduled Events

Sunday, October 6th and Monday, October 7th are non-scheduled events days to allow personal touring. Maps and tourist information will be provided at the hotel. Scheduled events for Tuesday, October 8th through Saturday, October 12th will be posted in the lobby area, and informational flyers will be available. Wednesday morning we will take a charter bus to Grant's Farm, a historical tour of the Anheuser-Busch exotic animal farm and grounds. A luncheon will be planned on the grounds. Then, off to the Museum of Transportation to see antique trains, automobiles, and other modes of transportation of yesteryear. Thursday we will board a bus for the St. Louis Arch grounds and St. Louis Old Cathedral. Lunch will follow at St. Louis' Laclede's Landing.

Tuesday through Saturday evening the War Room will be open for show-and-tell, so be sure to bring your pictures, or other Vietnam memorabilia. This is a fun time to be shared by all.

Friday, a ladies' shopping and lunch activity is planned, with transportation provided by the hotel. A general business meeting is planned for Friday afternoon, check the bulletin-board for exact times. Later in the afternoon, we will gather for pictures and social hour, with the Reunion Banquet following at 1900 hours.

There is ample free time for just visiting, having fun, shopping, and visiting gambling boats.

MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND!

C-7A Caribou Association

13th Annual Reunion

Best Western Westport Park

Maryland Heights, MO

October 6th — October 12th, 2002

All Times will be posted in HQ area

Sunday — Open visiting/touring

Monday — Open visiting/touring

Tuesday — Open visiting/Butterfly House

Wednesday — Grant's Farm and Luncheon

Thursday — St. Louis Arch & Museum/lunch

Friday — Business Meeting, Ladies' Shopping, Reunion Banquet @ 1900 hours

Saturday - Shaw's Garden Tour. Bidding War Room Farewells

We'll See You In St. Louis in October!!

C-7A Caribou Association

13th REUNION
Maryland Heights, MO
OCTOBER 6 - 12, 2002

If you are unable to attend the reunion, please send your annual dues to:
 Jim Collier, 5607 Jolly Ct., Fair Oaks, CA
 95628-2707 (916) 966-4044
 (Please, only dues to Jim – all other funds for reunion purposes to Christine)

Registration Form

Mail to: ChristinePhillips
P.O. Box 143
Folcroft, PA 19032
(610) 522-5981
Christielee52@yahoo.com

To assist in planning and budgeting the reunion, we need the following information. Please return this registration form with your remittance ASAP, but no later than August 31, 2002. After August 31, 2002 call Steve Kelley at (636) 343-6969 to have a tentative Registration Form filled out with payment due at the reunion.
 Please make a copy of this form for you records

Name of Member:		Spouse/Guest Name:	
Mailing Address:		Is This Your First Reunion (Y/N)?	
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Phone: ()		E-mail Address:	
Squadron/Unit:	Vietnam Year:	Stationed At:	
Additional Guest Name:		Additional Guest Name:	

St. Louis Registration Fees:

Calculate your total Registration Fee below

Please Note: The registration fee is charged to ALL persons attending and is NON REFUNDABLE.

C-7A Member Reunion Registration Fee				\$20.00
Non Member Spouse/Guest	#	x	\$ 5.00=	\$.
C-7A Member Dues:			\$10.00=	\$.
Friday Night Banquet				
Prime Rib	#	x	\$ 23.00=	\$.
Roasted Chicken Breast	#	x	\$ 19.00=	\$.
Roast Pork Loin	#	x	\$ 19.00=	\$.
Wednesday Bus Tour	#	x	\$ 10.00=	\$.
Thursday Bus Tour	#	x	\$ 10.00=	\$.
Wednesday Night Caribou Reception	#	x	FREE	
Total Cost (Please Enclose Check)				\$.

I would like to volunteer to help out with registration, war room, message center, etc. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Please contact me.

Looking Forward to Seeing You in St. Louis in October

The C-7A Caribou Association Newsletter is the official publication of the C-7A Caribou Association.

Association Officers and Board Members

Steve Kelley - President/Board Member
536th 68

Tom Neutzling - Vice President/Board Member
458th 69

Earl Reynolds - Treasurer/Board Member/Reunion Advisor
537th 66

Jim Collier - Secretary/Board Member/Roster Chairman
537th 67

Bob Markham - Chairman of Board
459th 69

Bob Dugan - Board Member
537th 68

Rick Patterson - Board Member
459th 690

Bill Avon - Recruitment Chairman
537th 68

Dave Hutchens - Newsletter Editor
459th 69

Peter Bird - Webmaster
535th 71

Paul Phillips - Historian
459th 69

Bob Davis - Chaplain/Endowment Committee
457th 69

John Davis - Endowment Committee
457th 66

Steve Kelley - 2002 Reunion Chairman
536th 68

Wayne Delawter - Reunion Advisor/Past Chairman of the Board
458 66

Nick Evanish - Past President
457th 66

Christine Phillips - Reunion Coordinator

Please advise the Association of any change of address, phone number, or e-mail address. Send your changes to:

Jim Collier
5607 Jolly Ct.
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2707

Dues are payable annually. Either enclose your check with your registration form for the annual reunion or send your check to Jim Collier.

I would like to encourage members who might have a humorous incident, or an interesting anecdote, or an exciting story, to share it with all members of our association. If you will e-mail, snail mail, airmail, or pony express mail it to me, I will see that it gets published. Pictures are welcome. If specified, I will return the originals.

Dave Hutchens (918) 272-3518
17916 E. 96th Street North Printhat@aol.com
Owasso, OK 74055

Notice

In the future the C-7A Caribou Association newsletter will be mailed only to honorary members and active members whose dues are current.

I would like to explain the association's policy on printing and mailing the newsletter.

Generally there will be two newsletters published each year, the first normally about 60 days after the annual reunion, and the second approximately 60 – 90 days prior to the next reunion. A pre-reunion flyer will be published and mailed about four or five months prior to the next reunion. The purpose of the pre-reunion flyer is to advertise and announce the details for the upcoming reunion for members to use for planning purposes. A special purpose publication, such as this one, will be published from time to time as situations warrant.

Over the past several years there has been no policy regarding the mailing of the publications. In some instances everyone on the association roster received a mailing, and at other times a different criterion was used to select the mailings.

There are two extreme views on what the mailing policy should be. At one end there is the feeling that everything should be mailed to everyone. At the other end is the feeling that if one has not paid one's dues then they are not interested in the association and therefore should not receive any mailings. Somewhere in between lies reality.

First, in compliance with Articles 3 and 4 of the Association Bylaws, which mandate that the association continue to communicate with persons eligible to join the association, and to hold reunions for its members, all pre-reunion flyers will be mailed to every person on the association roster.

Second, the newsletters will be mailed to active and honorary members. To be an active member dues must be paid for the current or previous year. We assume that members interested in receiving the newsletter will keep their dues current. Delinquent members need only pay for the current year to become a member in good standing. This policy will insure that all interested members will receive the newsletter, and that the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters will not be spent on mailings to uninterested persons.

All members should feel assured that the C-7A Caribou Association is dedicated to getting the newsletter to everyone that has an interest in the association, and it is the goal of the association to recruit and enlist to membership everyone who has ever had an involvement with the C-7A Caribou.

Bob Markham, Chairman of the Board
C-7A Caribou Association

A Plea for your Caribou Tax

This article first appeared in the January 2002 edition of the newsletter. Because of the wide distribution of this edition of the newsletter, and the urgency of the following message, it is being rerun here.

A message and plea from the Treasurer. We need everyone's help now. Send in your Caribou Tax (annual dues) now. If your label does not have a date of T02 thru T08, your dues (tax) are due. Out of more than 1200 on the Caribou database, we only have 201 members currently paying dues. Some have never sent any dues. Nick Evanish had built a reserve in our treasury. However, with the dedication of the plaque at Dyess AFB on Mar 10, 2002, perpetuating the C-7A Caribou legacy and honoring the 38 C-7A Caribou men who were killed in Viet Nam, we will have to start using these reserves. The memorial plaque is the type of use

Volunteers Needed!

We need a few good men or women! The Caribou Association is entirely run with a very small volunteer labor force. We are in desperate need of some additional volunteers to take on some of the work load. Among other things, we need squadron reps to do what Bob Markham has been so successful with in his work with the 459th. Bob tracks down former 459th members, makes them aware of the Association, and convinces them to join. We have five other Squadrons plus the Wing and several other units that need the same advocacy. We also need people willing to scour through the forum articles and "Lost and Found" page to determine if the authors of the articles are current on dues or even members to begin with. The key to making the organization grow and prosper is simple hard work. Can't we find a few more people out there who are willing to contribute a few hours a week to help out? The pay is terrible, but the rewards are great! Just drop your friendly webmaster a note if you are willing to help and I will see that it gets to the right place. I personally spend 10 - 20 hours a week and I still have a full-time job. How about some of you retirees stepping up to the plate and helping out a little?

Reunion 2003 - Mark you Calendars

Tentative date is 3 - 5 October, 2003.

Plans for our 14th annual reunion will take us to the Dover Delaware area as Bill Hardie will host the event on, near or around Dover AFB. Bill is gearing up for what will be a really great event. We last reunited in the eastern part of the country in September 2000 at College Park/Beltsville, Md.

Many more details to follow in the next newsletter.

we want to spend our reserves on, not for administrative operations. From the member's annual dues, the Association attempts to provide administrative costs, special mail notices, sign-up forms, two newsletters per year, edited by Dave Hutchens 459th 69, and our own website. If you have not seen our wonderful web page, www.c-7acaribou.com developed and maintained by Peter Bird 535th 71, you should check it out. Every function of the association is performed by volunteers. With every member's participation and annual dues, we hope we can use our reserves for the legacy and not for the mundane. The Caribou Tax is \$10 a year. Multiple years are gladly accepted and if you want to make donations, those will be accepted as well. Identify and send payments payable to the Caribou Association, to:

James L. Collier
5607 Jolly Court
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2707

History Request

A number of us are trying to compile historical information on the USAF C-7A, C-7B, and its units (including training, AFRES, and ANG units). The results of some of that work is to be found in our pages devoted to Caribou units and aircraft squadron assignments. The information on public web sources is limited, but we have a huge wealth of it in people's heads. It sure would be nice if some of it could come this way. We are particularly interested in nailing down the location history of the Vietnam squadrons from 1 Jan 1967 and the aircraft tail numbers assigned to each squadron. Following that, information on the Wing and Squadron Commanders is needed. Until we can convince someone to take on the role of Official Historian, forward any information you have to your cantankerous Webmaster.

Nominating Committee

Bob Markham, after an appropriate vote of the Board of Directors of the C-7A Caribou Association, has appointed a nominating committee consisting of the following three individuals: Bob Dugan, Ralph Erchinger and Stoney Faubus.

Bob Dugan duganrh@bwoodtx.com
Ralph Erchinger erchinger@earthlink.net
Stoney Faubus stoneman@ccis.com

Any voting member of the C-7A Caribou Association wishing to place a member's name for nomination for any one of the elected offices, (**President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and 3 Board Positions**), should contact one of these three committee members. They will consolidate a list of all nominated people and develop a ballot for the Association election at the St. Louis reunion.



VITAL STATISTICS:

IF THE INFORMATION ON YOUR MAIL LABEL IS INCORRECT OR NOT CURRENT, PLEASE ENTER CORRECTIONS AND RETURN TO:

C-7A Caribou Association
 Attn: Jim Collier
 5607 Jolly Ct.
 Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2707

_____ TODAY'S DATE

TAX YEAR	SQUADRON	ARRIVAL YR.	RANK	AREA CODE	TELEPHONE
LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL			
STREET ADDRESS					
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE PLUS 4	E-MAIL ADDRESS		

May 2002



VIETNAM

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