



HAL-3 SEAWOLF ASSOCIATION-TOM OLBY.

June 6, 1994

Office Of The President
HAL-3 Seawolf Association
President Con Jaburg

Dear Con:

First of all I want to congratulate you on being elected as the new **President** of the **HAL-3 Seawolf Association**. I also want to take this time to thank you for contributing and being supportive, loyal and candid with me during my tenure. Those traits are rare these days and I want you to know your loyalty and support will always be appreciated and remembered.

I was not sure whether I was going to seek reelection until the morning of our business meeting and consequently, the changing of the guard was not as smooth as you or I would of preferred. I have been a very active part of our Association since the early 80's when the dream first started at a meeting with Don Thompson and myself. I have worn a variety of hats including Vice President and Quartermaster etc.. Now is the time for me to practice what I preach, let some of the other members get involved.

The Association was founded and functions as a volunteer organization. The Association was always meant to be a brotherhood and not a good old boys club or bureaucracy. Membership was based on the principle that every member is unique regardless of past rank or rate while attached to or associated with the Seawolves. Since the history of our squadron was over 5 years in length, each members experience was unique and important. I am quite certain that membership in the HAL-3 Seawolf Association has helped members come to grip with their Vietnam experience. This was another primary reason for creating our Association and having periodic re

I tried to operate under the KISS principle (keep it simple, stupid). Focusing on a few realistic objectives to accomplish and giving our officers and coordinators the latitude

needed for them to accomplish the goals of the Association stated in our bylaws and business meetings. I learned long ago that there is no I in team. I always believed that if I trusted members of the Seawolf Association with my life in Vietnam I should be able to trust them to accomplish the goals of the Seawolf Association. I have not been disappointed.

Historically, the President of the Seawolf Association has overall responsibility for the state of our Association. The President has overall responsibility for all Association monies spent etc.. In the past, the Association has paid for expenses relating to Association business to include the printing of the newsletter etc.. Since 1991 the Association has provided Officers and Coordinators with telephone credit cards for Association business. Use of these cards is a privilege and they should not be abused. The Association has also provided donations to various Vietnam Veteran organizations, Vietnam memorials, POW organizations and a variety of other efforts. Our Treasurer, Dan Calvert should be able to provide you with historical data on how Association monies have been spent. During my tenure, I always thought it would be appropriate to spend Association funds wisely, as if the monies were coming out of my own pocket.

The Wolfgram has been published for the most part, quarterly. The software that I used to publish the Wolfgram was Microsoft Publisher. It was always my position that our newsletter belonged to the membership. I never once edited a article that was submitted for publication, even though I may not have agreed with the authors point of view or topic. I tried at times to correct a few obvious spelling errors. Your next newsletter should be easy. It can recap the reunion, awards, scholarships, etc.. Sometimes it is like pulling teeth to get members to contribute to our newsletter. That is when the fun starts.

Our business meeting was a little surprising as far as new business was concerned. Apparently, the members who attended were happy with our direction. The proposed changes in the bylaws were never addressed. You may find it more appropriate to advertise in the next newsletter coordinators for the tasks of Quartermaster, Chaplin and a V.A. representative. In my opinion these vacancies were a real shortcoming to our Association. I always felt that changes in the bylaws were a last resort. Our bylaws clearly allow you to appoint coordinators for these or other positions that you feel that the Association needs. The people I chose to fill some positions were chosen for abilities rather than past rank or the fact that they would be "yes" people. I think that if you reach out far enough you will get the help the Association needs.

I have a couple of form letters that I used for new members and new family members. These letters were well received and with a few modifications they can still be used. I will send you and our new Secretary, Jim Boyles copies of these form letters as well as a computer data entry sheet for new members.

The equipment that seemed to help me the most was a computer with a fax modem. A answering machine and telephone credit card provided by Dan Calvert and a automatic stapler for the newsletter. Please advise me where to send the answering machine, the telephone credit card and the automatic stapler. The stapler was paid for by Association funds and can be used by the next newsletter editor and publisher. I also

have several envelopes with the Seawolf logo and Dan Calvert's return address. Let me know who to send these to. If I have any stamps left from Seawolf Association funds I will send them directly to you. If there is any other equipment that I should have please bring these items to my attention and tell me where to send it.

I also tried to answer every letter that was sent to me. I copied letters to Association Officers and Coordinators when appropriate so that we could all be on the same page. It always seemed to me that if we could not communicate with ourselves, how could we communicate with the membership. I also tried to reward, in some small way, those Officers, Coordinators, Members etc. who accomplished the goals of the Association. This was done without past differences or favoritism. I attempted to delegate responsibility but tried to be there when that call came in the middle of the night or that unexpected letter came from a distressed member. I always tried to be a good listener and provide compassion and a possible direction. I always considered this a very important part of my responsibility as did past President Tom Thalmann. Not all of our members are as successful or well adjusted as other members. We as a Association cannot change that but we can provide some type of empathy and moral support.

I have received substantial input on the Pensacola reunion. I would like to thank you again for doing such a great job. This was appears to be even better than your 1989 efforts. Your selection for guest speaker was a great one. Admiral Delaney gave us a great speech and was extremely well received. From a personal standpoint, in my short naval career I tried at all costs to avoid admirals and ended up sitting next to one at the banquet. My family enjoyed his company and conversation and will never forget the honor of sitting next to the Admiral. Thank you!

I was very proud of your efforts and those of Dan Calvert before and during the reunion. You both did a remarkable job and I commend you both.

I was also proud of the efforts of Don Thompson, Dennis Caldwell and Jack Harrington with our KIA family members. It was a privilege to observe these men behind the scenes. Most of these family members had absolutely no information on how their loved ones died. Don, Dennis and Jack provided our family members some answers that were honest, straight forward and compassionate. Our KIA family members were really moved to be honored with our challenge coin and recognized at the banquet. Take this to the bank, they will never forget being recognized! I truly hope that Dennis and Jack will find our remaining family members. In my opinion, our Association will never be whole until the last KIA family is located. Hopefully, you noticed the little extra's that were provided by Dennis and Jack to our KIA family's during their presentation. Dennis and Jack have planned to provide KIA family members, who could not attend this reunion, a challenge coin. If possible they will have a Seawolf in their area present the coin rather than just send them a coin via U.S. mail. If new KIA family members are found prior to the next reunion, I suggest the same type of presentation.

Our scholarship presentation was also well received by those members attending. I personally received much positive feedback on Richard Lambert's presentation and the quality of the essays. I am glad that Richard read the winning essays because I don't believe I could of.

Ron La Sota was especially helpful during the reunion. He helped me with the awards at the business meeting and with video and 35 mm photography. I know there were others that helped you and Dan and you may want to thank them in the next newsletter.

Your wife Terri was truly impressive! She really worked hard at the reunion and her efforts were noticed by many of the members. You are very lucky to have a "better half" with such charm and personality.

I have left a message for Lt. Tully to contact me. Hopefully, he will still talk to me. I invited him to the reunion but was dismayed not to see him or his staff at the banquet. I believe that he will give us a fair shake and do a great job telling our story on video. Personally, if he made a million dollars telling our story, more power to him. Sometimes you can't have both ways. If Jim Watson has someone else who will tell our story on video, so much the better. Two video productions are better than none. If I can make telephone contact with Lt. Tully, I will have him contact you directly. The membership at our business meeting, clearly endorsed having Lt. Tully tell our story on video and left the details to the Officers of the Association. Lt. Tully stated he was flexible and would do whatever we wanted.

Also, at our reunion, Don Thompson had the opportunity to converse with Jim Watson regarding publishing a book on the Seawolf story. Initially, Don stated it sounded promising. Please follow up with Don on this.

I also had a chance to personally visit Jim Watson at the UDT-SEAL museum in Fort Pierce, FL. There were two model Seawolf gunships at the museum with plans for a real Seawolf gunship in the future. Roland Habicht's picture was also displayed. Jim stated that he would bring to your attention plans for a Seawolf dedication ceremony at the museum. Jim stated that the Seawolves may be allowed to have some displays at the museum provided we meet their criteria. Don Thompson may want to follow up on this proposal.

I know that the old Seawolf Officers and Coordinators will serve the Association well. I have heard from members, that I trust and respect, that our new Vice President Dick Catone and Secretary Jim Boyles will give it everything they have.

Hopefully, during my tenure as President, the Association was left a little better than it was before. I charge that you will leave our Association a little better than you received it and will keep our founding principles at the forefront. Our Association is your responsibility now and you have my support and loyalty. I left you a strong and sound Association. If I can ever provide any advise, don't hesitate to contact me. Lastly thank you for the award. It was very much appreciated!

Respectfully,

Tom

CC: Seawolf Association Officers and Coordinators