

DRAGONFLIGHT

30 OCT 03

52d CAB.com

Let me tell you about our Website. It has been up and running now for well over a year. If you have never entered it you are missing a very valuable experience. There are hundreds of messages, photos, reunion information, and links to other like-minded websites. When we find out someone has done something, or they are ill or if they have passed away, we post the information in what we call the "morning report" so you can send congratulations or condolences whichever is appropriate. If you see that someone you know is ill and in the hospital please drop them a line, call them, and keep them in your thoughts and prayers. So that is what your website is all about. It is YOUR WEBSITE, so please enjoy it and keep us informed.

REUNION 2004

Let's talk about next October. I've been worried about next year since our reunion in 2002 ended. That gathering by the way, was as usual a great success. Close to 50 members plus wives attended and a good time was had by all. But.....

Next year we are going to do things a little differently. The fees are up a little, the insurance, cost of goodies etc., have gone up and like last year, we are no longer looking for donations in the hospitality suite. The food, beverages etc are free. Also we are asking you to make your reservations as soon as you even think there is a 50/50 chance that you are coming.. That does not cost you anything and gives us a little more pull at the hotel.

So call the hotel, tell them you are attending the 52d Combat Aviation Bn. Reunion 7 to 10 Oct 2004 and you want to reserve a room. If September roles around and a emergency comes up, you can always cancel the reservation, and it costs you nothing. Please read the back sheet of this newsletter. See the tours offered and let me know if you want to attend one or the other or both. I need this information early, last time I had to cancel the boat cruise/dinner because not enough showed interest until you arrived. The tour folks want their money up front and in advance. Multiply 30+ people times \$25 to \$35 each and see why I hate writing nonreturnable checks in August for tours no one has signed up for. Then send in your registration form and a check for everything you're signing up for. Registration and dinner fees will be fully refundable up to the week of the reunion. The dinner fees will not be refundable after that time. Tour fees will not be refundable unless the tour is canceled, in which case they will be fully refundable.

This is going to be a fun reunion. This last year has been a terrible one and I want to break loose, kick up my heels and have some fun. I hope you are feeling that way to. We know there are some good speakers joke tellers, singers and dancers. We need you to come forward.

We also need a host. I need some one beside me to send out the invitations and do some personal contacting of folks we want to attend.

LETTERS TO THE 52D

Did you ever wonder who turned off the lights and closed the door the last time, at Holloway, well read on

Vern, my name is Walt Moss and I served as the 17th GP S4 until the flag was lowered. Me and a SP-4 lowered and folded the flag for Camp Holloway, walked to the hot spot, got on the last UH1, and flew to NaTrang.

I still have the flag and the 15 burn slips for the groups property books. I will have to dig to find the names of the officers who did the real property turn over. I did all the unit property and equipment. There was a Major who took care of the real property which included all the historic stuff I think. Several of us sat at Na Trang for a few days with UH1's and equipment ready to pick up POW's if released, in II Corps area.. None were, so we were ordered to fly to Ton Sa Nut. We pulled in the revetments, turned the log books over, went to Camp Alpha. I was on a C141 at 23:30 on 28 Mar Walt Moss

Letters

Hi Vernon

I am writing you to inform you of the death of Thomas (Tom) Hallet. Tom died after fighting cancer for the past year. Tom served in the 81st Trans, Co. and then the 119th Av. Co.-Airmobile(Light) from 1963 thru 1964. He was a excellent Crew Chief and Door Gunner. We attended the Aviation Mechanics School at Ft Rucker in late 62 and early 63 together and shipped out to RVN in April 1963.

Tom was a fierce competitor for grades, promotions and in his efforts to win one of the Crew Chief slots for th "B" model Hueys received by the 119th. Tom always attributed his intensity to his Onadoga Indian Heritage and was a very proud Native American who served his country well. Tom had left the service for a while but eventually re-enlisted and made a career of the army. Tom was a good soldier and he was a "Happy Warrior." He was what his country needed when it called. To those of us who served with him and new him he was a highly intelligent, loyal and as quick with his sence of humor as he was with his fists.

We salute Thomas (Tom) b Hallet

Finis

Dave Braum

AMEN

DRAGON 11

As you know my husband (Don Summers) was told he has only a short time to live because of the cancer he has. Well today they informed us that he only had another 2 weeks to live. I will loose the love of my life and he wanted you guys to know that he really loved being a part of the Bikinis and has always remembered them fondly. He is just upset that he will not be able to make the reunion in September. He tried but mother nature is not on our side on this one and we could not pull it off and

that has made us very unhappy. For those of you he will not be able to see one last time- You were one hell of a bunch of brave men. Thank you for everything. I will continue to keep up with everything I can and hope that I can do one third of what my husband did. Love you guys.

Hope Summers

This e-mail was received in the end of August and Don passed away a little over a month later. May he be at peace.

Dragon 11

Vernon

Walter Hurt passed away Friday Oct. 17th, please place this information in the next news letter.

Dick Singer

Walter was one of our Pathfinders and had attended several reunions. He like all the pathfinders were first in and last out and really great folks to know. For such a small group they sure did make a lot of noise. May he rest in peace. Dragon 11

Vernon

Bill (Bill Trimble) passed away. I just talked to his mom and he died yesterday.

Skip McAtee

I received this several weeks ago. So another old friend has left us behind. Bill was a great friend to many of us and did nothing to deserve the last year of hell he went through. First that terrible accident and then the cancer. GOOD BYE OLD FRIEND, WE WILL MISS YOU

VERN

Vern I am interested in coming to the reunion, could you mail me the information Dick Singer

Dick check the front and back page of this news letter. Dragon 11

I am looking for the date the 88th S&S was overrun in January 67. I think it was January 7th but I am not sure. I would

appreciate any help. There is not a day that goes buy that I don't think of my friends who were killed in that attack.

Robert Looney

Robert I think you are right it was either the 7th or 9th of January. I too cannot forget that early morning. There we satchel charges being flung everywhere, mortars going off and bullets flying and the powder pads blew up it was quite a mess and some good folks died. Can some one come up with the exact date of that attack against Holloway. That was in the days when had the 88th S&S, MP,s and all those supplies still located at Holloway, CP Schmidt was just in its planning stages.

Dragon 11

Hi Vern

Need some help and your expertise.

Mike Taylor was a U.S. Navey Historian, and he spent two weeks riding with the 170th from Kontum. He has talked with most of the Bikinis and is getting their input on the Dak Seang. He is looking for any and all information he could get from those who participated in the battle.

Contact Him at: [REDACTED]

Understand you had a great fishing trip in MO. we will see you in October 2004 in St Louis

George

George you should join us some time, and for all of you in on the story of our fishing trips once again Dorothy put all of us to shame, she caught more fish than the rest of us combined. George you and you wife stay well and we will gather in St Louis to remember old friends and celebrate once the joining together of the greatest group of men I have ever known. Dragon 11

I'm looking for Robert Schmidt and Steve Layton both of 179th, 66-67 I was in the 179th, 6 months in the flight Plt and 6 months in the Maint Plt and crew chief on #7970 Mike Purcell



I know a lot of you have met Bill Trimble. You may not know the name but if you have ever attended a reunion, you remember Bill. He is the guy who sat in the doorway for hours getting you registered. He has a smile for everyone, if you needed something, you asked Bill. If you had a question, you asked Bill. Most of you probably did not get to know him well, but he lives at home with his mother. He has a management position with a newspaper delivery firm, and his favorite pastime is bowling. When we were young, Bill supported us by working in the battalion motor pool. He is the kind of guy you need to accomplish the mission and/or get the job done.

Over the years I've gotten to know him quite well. He has kept in touch between reunions, always looking for something to do and asking to help. He has attended all of the St Louis Reunions and one of the fishing trips. He has become a good friend to many of us.

Things have not gone well for Bill beginning around the last reunion, it was noted Bill was having a hard time eating. Not good for a youngster like Bill who likes his food. Then late last year, he was on his way to a early morning business meeting, and an oncoming driver lost control of his car, crossed over the center line and smashed head on into Bills car. He received a crushed, ankle, knee and hip, almost lost his life. He still uses a walker or crutches. Now it turns out that the eating problem is more than that, he has a cancerous growth, they have been treating it with chemo and radiation, and now it looks like it's time for a operation.

He is as upbeat as he can be about this. He fought this battle with cancer once before and beat it. Talk to him now and he says the same thing. He'll beat it.

Bill is one of us. A brother warrior, getting a little older and feeling his age. If you have the time please drop him a line. Wish him well, a card, note, letter, phone call, if you live near him and could drop in to see him, I am sure he would appreciate it.

Bill Trimble

Hospital phone 412-359-3131

Allegheny General Hosp

Well you all take care and we will talk again in about a month

Bill is being operated on, on either the 17th or 18th June and will have to stay in the hospital 5 to 7 days after the operation.