

Bruce R. Lake



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DEAR MIKE,

THANKS FOR YOUR LAST LETTER TO FRED, GERRY, MARION & ME & A BIG THANKYOU FOR THE LETTER/ARTICLE IN THE MOST RECENT VHPA NEWSLETTER. FRED PRATT IS PROUD OF THAT MISSION & RIGHTFULLY SO - I'M GLAD THAT OTHERS WILL NOW LEARN OF THE TYPE OF MISSIONS HE FLEW. I REALLY APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT YOU INCLUDED INFORMATION ABOUT MY BOOK, TOO.

HOPE YOUR MOVE TO COLORADO IS GOING SUCCESSFULLY.

STILL WORKING ON AN H-34 STORY - A FRIEND IN FLORIDA PROMISED ONE FOR YOU ABOUT A NIGHT MEDICAL MISSION HE WAS ON IN 1968. I'M SENDING HIM ANOTHER REMINDER THIS WEEK. I DID GET A SHORT ONE - HUMAN INTEREST TYPE, BUT THE PERSON WHO SENT IT TO ME ISN'T QUITE READY TO RELEASE IT. THE ATTORNEY WHO SENT ME THE STORY FLEW H-34'S & SEEMS TO HAVE DONE A LOT TO HELP OTHER VETERANS. HE EVEN TOOK A FORMER CREW CHIEF TO CALIFORNIA TO MEET THE FAMILY OF ONE OF HIS PILOTS WHO WAS KILLED ON A MISSION IN VIETNAM, ETC. I'M SENDING HIM COPIES OF VHPA NEWSLETTERS TO URGE HIM TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE.

THE HAM-265 REUNION IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER & I'LL GET TO VISIT FRED PRATT FOR THE 1ST TIME IN 25 YEARS - THANKS TO VHPA'S DIRECTORY. I'LL TALK TO OTHERS ABOUT H-34 ARTICLES FOR YOUR VHPA NEWSLETTER & WILL SEE, TOO, IF WE CAN FIND SOME FORMER "DUNCE" PILOTS.

DON'T GET FRUSTRATED BECAUSE THIS PROCESS IS TAKING SUCH A LONG TIME - I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ANY ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN ARTICLES FOR YOU - IT JUST TAKES A WHILE BECAUSE OF MY SCHEDULE. I'M STILL ON THE ROAD 90% OF THE TIME. I CAN TELL YOU THAT I'M DAMN TIRED OF LIVING OUT OF A SUIT CASE IN HOTELS SO OFTEN - I AVERAGE 160 TO 180 NIGHTS ON THE ROAD EVERY YEAR & WEAR OUT CARS EVERY COUPLE YEARS BY PUTTING

ABOUT 35,000 PLUS MILES PER YEAR ON THE FAMILY CAR. AFTER BEING GONE FOR THE WEEK I GET HOME & FEEL THAT I HAVE A WEEK'S WORTH OF WORK TO DO IN THE YARD & AROUND THE HOUSE. THEN I'M UP AT 0430 MONDAY & OFF TO AUDIT ANOTHER COUNTY OFFICE. FLYING OVERSEAS WAS A WHOLE LOT MORE EXCITING THAN THIS, NOT AS FRUSTRATING.

WELL ENOUGH OF MY COMPLAINING — KEEP THE FAITH — I'LL CONTINUE TO TRY TO GET SOME ARTICLES TO YOU. WHEN TIME PERMITS I ALSO HOPE TO START GOING THROUGH SOME OLD LETTERS TO EXTRACT THE NAMES OF CREW MEMBERS (CREW CHIEFS & GUNNERS) WHO DIED ON HHM-265 MISSIONS IN 1968 & 1969. SOMEWHERE I'VE STARTED A LIST FOR GARY ROUSH. IT'S A LENGTHY LIST OF FORMER VIETNAM HELO PILOTS WHO DIED SINCE VIETNAM. MAYBE I CAN GET MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ITEMS FOR GARY IF THE TIME SEEMS RIGHT AT THE REUNIONS I PLAN TO ATTEND THIS YEAR.

BEST OF LUCK AT WORK & WITH YOUR MOVE & A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE, & CONTINUE TO DO, TO LET PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT UHPTA.

SINCERELY,

Bruce