

C-7A CARIBOU ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE 10

Tucson Reunion - 1999

The 10th C-7A Caribou Association Reunion in Tucson was a smash hit. A beautiful vacation city, gorgeous weather, super hotel accommodations. What more could we have asked for. Wayne Delawter did an outstanding job in selecting the Double Tree Hotel, arranging all the tours, scheduling activities, and all the other elements that make for a truly successful reunion. We had a good turnout: 139 members and guests. From all reports our wives and friends truly enjoyed themselves.

Our banquet dinner was delicious and the background music provided the harpist created a mellow atmosphere for visiting and dinning. Bob Davis, our Association Chaplain, opened the after dinner ceremonies with a very stirring presentation entitled "Veterans - They Were There," in recognition of Veterans Day, November 11, 1999. ("Veterans - They Were There" is presented in its entirety elsewhere in the newsletter.)

Col. Paul Mascot presented a very interesting and entertaining account of the origination and organization of the 483 TAC Wing at Cam Rahn Bay in October, 1966.

General Abbott Greenleaf narrated a slide presentation of "Operation Santa Bou," the C-7 Caribou Christmas program that so many of us participated in and which we are all very proud.

Chaplain Davis closed the dinner ceremonies with a tribute to our fallen comrades.

After dinner we retired to the hospitality suite and once again began sharing old (really old!) war stories with anyone who would listen. We renewed old acquaintances, met new friends, and promised we would all get together again in 2000. The evening grew late very quickly. We all said our adieu's and wandered off to find our rooms.

Hope we see everyone at the 2000 Reunion in the Baltimore/Washington D.C. area. Till then . . .



Kelley Elected Association President

Steve Kelley was elected Association President at the annual business meeting in Tucson.

Steve was born in St. Louis, Mo. in May 1947. Upon graduating from high school in 1966 he enlisted in the Air Force and took his basic training at Amarillo, Tx. His first assignment was aircraft maintenance tech school in Wichita Falls, Tx. He worked on EC-121 D's at McCoy AFB. In January 1968 he received his orders to the 536th TAS, at Vung Tau. That was Steve's first encounter with the "Caribou." Shortly after settling in at Vung Tau, TET 1968 happened. He was reassigned to Can Tho and worked with the Special Forces camps pulling maintenance on all types of aircraft, fueling and loading and flying missions. Steve was on flying status for five months and flew nearly 300 missions, being shot at in the air by day, and rocketed and mortared at night.

Following his tour in Nam he returned to Scott AFB and received his discharge in March 1970. Once again in civilian life, Steve went back to College while working as a mechanic for a bus company. He switched from college to carpentry and worked for the Veterans Administration for 25 years as a journeymen carpenter.

Steve joined the Naval Reserves in 1985 and was called to active duty during Desert Storm. He served in the Gulf War at Al Jubail, KSA and Kuwait City, Kuwait. Steve was returned to Kuwait in 1993 as an advisor to a Kuwait Navy unit.

Steve was injured during the Gulf War and was unable

See Kelley, pg 9.

The Association Web Site

The Association has its own domain! What's a domain? That's geek-speak for a unique name that is associated with our web site. The Board approved the expenditure of money necessary to allow this to be done at the November meeting. What does it mean to you? Simple, the Association web site is now found at www.C-7ACaribou.com. (Note that I have used upper and lower case letters in the address, but the name itself is case-insensitive – type it in any way you want.)

See Web Site, pg 6.

C-7A Caribou Ass'n Cash Flow Report

1/1/99 Through 12/31/99

INFLOWS

Advance Reunion 99	4,770.00
Dues	3,853.00
Interest Income	642.89
Other Income	20.00
Refunds from Reunion	225.00
Reunion Receipts	1,493.11
TOTAL INFLOWS	11,004.00

OUTFLOWS

Administrative:	
Prior Treasurer Reimbursement	1,520.83
TOTAL Administrative	1,520.83
Administrative Supplies	119.17
Bank Charge	39.91
Postage and Delivery	479.41
Printing & Reproduction	2,185.80
Refunds to Members	379.00
Reunion Expenses	6,242.46
Special Orders	162.00
Uncategorized Outflows	0.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	11,128.58
OVERALL TOTAL	-124.58

C-7A Caribou Association Assets

As of 12/31/99

Assets

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Hancock Association Act	2,268.36
Money Market - USAA	15,642.89
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	17,911.25
Other Assets	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	17,911.25

LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities	
Member Over-Payments	15.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	15.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	15.00
OVERALL TOTAL	17,896.25

C7-A Caribou Reunion 99 Report

1/1/99 Through 12/31/99

INFLOWS

Advance Reunion 99	4,770.00
Refunds from Reunion	225.00
Reunion Receipts	1493.11
TOTAL INFLOWS	6,488.11

OUTFLOWS

Refunds to Members	379.00
Reunion Expense	6,242.46
Special Orders	162.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	6,783.46
OVERALL REUNION EXPENSE	-295.35

Past Chairman of the Board Report

To recap the past year without being too redundant with what is in the Tucson business meeting minutes, I'll be brief. First of all, I feel that it was a very productive time in our association's existence. The board spent a lot of effort in putting together an infrastructure that would do two basic things. First, it put into place a management system that delegates the workload, provides accountability and incorporates written guidance based upon business principles. Second, it provides a system that takes into consideration the desires of a good cross-section of the membership.

I am happy, as I think most members are, of the way that our association has matured and progressed. The input regarding the Tucson reunion and the organization setup has been positive and supportive. It was gratifying to recently learn that, even with some one-time start-up costs like a voice mini-recorder to be used in our business meetings, our fund balance of about \$18,000 remained nearly unchanged.

The effort of last year's association's officers and board members is quite apparent to me. Those who attended the Tucson reunion probably would agree that we are being well served by a few members who are doing a great job. Nick Evanish was a great source of information and was helpful in helping planning the reunion. John Soper provided superb guidance as vice-president when Nick wasn't available. Jim Collier has done an incredible job as secretary — he probably puts in more time with association business than anyone else. As treasurer, Earl Reynolds served ably as both an accountant and as legal counsel. The board members-at-large collectively served in various capacities. Bill Avon was our recruiter/advertiser man. Steve Kelley, our insignia developer, provided historical information. Milt Golart's business acumen was evident with his help in developing organizational infrastructure. I thank you officers and board members for the super job you have done. It was great working with you.

Wayne DeLawter

Attendees at Caribou '99

Max & Shirley **Allison**, Appleton, WI, 537,69; Francisco & Marcella **Archibeque**, Bay St. Louis, MS, 4449, 67; Don & Eleanor **Becher**, LeMesa, CA, 459, 67; Dick **Besley**, Columbia Cross Rds, PA, 535; Bob & Evelyn **Bowers**, Laguna Hills, CA; Don **Buckner**, N. Las Vegas, NV, 483, 70; Dick **Bunting**, San Diego, CA 537,68; Gary & Elain **Clark**, West Linn, OR, 459, 69; Jim & Betty **Collier**, Fair Oaks, CA, 537,67; Bob **Cooper**, Ft. Worth,

See Attendees, pg 3.

Reunion 1999 Demographics. . .

The Association roster contains 1451 names of people who were associated with the C-7A operation since its inception in the USAF. Of course not all of the names are association members, and the accuracy of the roster might be questioned. However, of the 1451 names on the roster, there were 84 members who attended the reunion in Tucson, November, 1999.

Some interesting numbers have emerged from the registration at the reunion:

Total number of members and guests - 139

Members	84
Guests	55

Members by organization:

4449---3	458---14	483---7	536---12
457---20	459---12	535---4	537---9

Members by year in country:

1966---26	1968---11	1970---6	1972---1
1967---15	1969---16	1971---2	

(Some members did not indicate their YIC)

Members by State:

AL---1	GA---5	LA---4	MS-- 2	OK---4	UT---2
AZ---5	HI---12	MA--2	NJ---1	OR---4	VA---4
CA--27	IL---5	MD---2	NM---3	PA---6	WA---6
CO---2	IN---1	MN---2	NV---3	SC---4	WI---6
FL---7	KS---2	MO---2	NY---2	TX--22	WY---2

It appears that John and Pat Mood (457, '69) traveled the furthest to attend the reunion. They came from Haleiwa, Hawaii.

We don't know who has attended the most reunions or who was the oldest or youngest to attend. Maybe we will have those figures after our Reunion 2000. It is evident that a larger number of members came from the early years. The 457th had the most members, 20, and there were more members from the year 1966.

This should give the recruiting committee a good place to start to build attendance for future reunions.

Attendees from pg 2.

TX, 458, 67; Bill & Georgia **Crane**, Syracuse, UT, 457, 69; Bob & Georgia **Davis**, Odessa, FL, 457, 69; Wayne & Patty **DeLawter**, Holicong, PA, 458th, 66; Bob & Pat **Dugan**, Brownwood, TX, 457, 68; James **Elder**, Butler, WI, 483; Steve & Sue **Elsasser**, Olathe, KS, 458, 71; Ralph & Ellie **Erchinger**, Austin, TX, 536,71; Jim & Joanne **Fairweather**, Bayport, MN, 457, 66; Frank & Mimi **Felix**, Maimi, FL, 458, 66; Tom & Pat **Finnelli**, East North Port, NY, 457, 69; Don & Muriel **Foster**, Spokane, WA, 536, 67; Denny **Fox**, Chicago, IL, 458, 66; NaDeane **Fulcomer**, Ft. Worth, TX; Jim **Furlong**, Tacoma, WA, 536, 66; Ira **Godwin**, Tucson, AZ, 457,

Your Board at Work

The following is a summary of the actions that are being addressed by the Association Board.

The Association has started the process of detailing and finalizing our official logo for all of our affairs. Steve Kelley has been working on this project and he hopes to have it finished by Reunion 2000.

The 'web page' is better than ever, thanks to Peter Bird (2,407 hits as of 3/11/00).

Our unit's history is beginning to unfold and with everyone's input we can consolidate our efforts. Please forward any comments, suggestions, articles or pictures to: The editor.

Work is progressing on a project toward perpetual awareness of our association at the Wright Patterson Museum in Dayton Ohio. We hope to have a presentation to offer the membership at the 2000 reunion.

The contract is signed for our 2000 reunion, thanks to Paul Williams and others on the east coast. There will be detailed information presented in the next newsletter to be published shortly before Reunion 2000.

Plans are being formalized to create an award dedi-

See Board, pg 6.

Attendees

66; Milton & Margie **Golart**, Hillsboro, OR, 457, 66; Abbott **Greenleaf**, Falls Church, VA, 483, 69; Don & Sue **Griffin**, Plano, TX, 536, 66; Gus & Tina **Gustafson**, Palatka, FL, 458, 66; Julius **Gutierrez**, Bothell, WA, 536, 68; Bob & Marilyn **Hannah**, San Antonio, TX, 457, 66; Norm **Hansen**, Indianapolis, IN, 536, 70; Steve & Carol **Hassett**, San Diego, CA, 4449; Gloria **Herren**, Riverside, CA; Bob & Eula Mae **Hopkins**, Warner Robins, GA, 458, 66; Hork **Horky**, Hazen, NV, 459, 66; Dave & Jill **Hutchens**, Owasso, OK, 459, 69; Gary & Arlene **Ingwerson**, Cathedral City, CA, 537, 67; Roger & Margaret **Jarvanpaa**, Scottsdale, AZ, 535, 68; Steve **Kelley**, Fenton, MO, 536, 68; Odette **Cunningham**, St. Louis, MO; Stephan **King**, La Mesa, CA, 483, 70; Howard **LaFever**, El Cajon, CA, 536, 66; Ralph & Dottie **Lowe**, Simpsonville, SC, 537, 69; Bob & Noni **Markham**, Redlands, CA, 459, 69; Juan & Bonnie **Martinez**, Midwest City, OK, 483; Paul & Virginia **Mascot**, Austin, TX, 483, 66; Butch **McKenna**, Malden, MA, 457, 66; Stan & Renee **Metcalf**, Grandbury, TX, 536, 67; Phil **Molohosky**, Conroe, TX, 459, 67; John & Pat **Mood**, Haleiwa, HI, 457, 69; Lee & Joy **Mott**, Alexandria, LA, 457, 68; Mike & Bobbie **Nassr**, Rosewell, GA, 459, 69; Bob & Iola **Neumayer**, Englewood, CO, 459, 69; Tom & Cheryl **Neutzling**, Cameron Park, CA, 458, 69; Nick **Nicklas**, Silver Creek, GA, 459, 68; Bob & Yong **Payne**, Austin, TX 458, 67; William **Perry**, Las Vegas, NV, 536, 66; Paul

Minutes of the 1999 C-7A Caribou Association Business Meeting

(These minutes have not been approved by the membership.)

1. CALL TO ORDER. Tucson, Arizona, November 13, 1999.

President Nick Evanish was not present and the meeting was called to order by Vice President John Soper. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM. Secretary Jim Collier advised that there were 360 paid members and that according to the bylaws, 10% or 36 members would be required for a quorum. 58 members were present.

3. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. A motion was made to accept the Dayton Reunion Minutes, 29 August 1998, as posted in the Newsletter in lieu of reading the minutes. The motion was passed.

4. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD. Vice President John Soper welcomed the members present at the meeting. He explained the Board of Directors duties. He extended compliments to Wayne Delawter for his outstanding efforts in sponsoring the 1999 Reunion and publishing the Newsletter.

Secretary Jim Collier reported that we had 42 new members and 154 Tax renewing members in 1999.

Treasurer Earl Reynold's report is found on page 2.

Chairman of the Board Wayne Delawter presented the following comments:

"The quality of an organization and a reunion is a reflection of the involvement of the many members who have contributed to its success. The number of people contributing to the organization and the quality of their work leading up to this reunion was great.

"Beginning a couple years ago we began to formulate a plan that would help better organize the Association. Throughout the last two years a tremendous amount of effort was made by the following individuals to bring this Caribou Association to where it is today. By communicating primarily via the Internet, sometimes daily, Steve Kelley from Missouri, Bill Avon from Ohio, John Soper from Texas, Earl Reynolds from Louisiana, Jim Collier from California and Milt Golart from all over the world but primarily from Hawaii and Oregon, Nick Evanish from Mississippi and me in Pennsylvania — we've put together an infrastructure that brings membership representation to a manageable operation.

"The main thrust of our effort was to provide

direction to the Association based upon good membership representation. As in all groups there was not always agreement on all issues, but we agreed that we would go with whatever the majority decided. We acted in accordance with our own "Dayton Accord" (last year's reunion's business meeting decision) — to establish staff or officer positions to spread the administrative work to provide a manageable program that had a high degree of accountability. The bylaws put on paper are what we believe to be a good guide from which to operate. The membership vote showed an overwhelming approval of these bylaws.

"The distribution of the Association's work could not have come at a better time. Nick has had very little time to devote to the Association in the past year. He has spent an inordinate amount of time repairing his house that was damaged by a hurricane.

"Nick's passive involvement with the Association put emphasis on developing a structure to distribute the work. John Soper stepped up to become the vice president. Jim Collier has done a fantastic job as our secretary. Earl Reynolds, a tax attorney, has served as our treasurer in addition to providing legal guidance. These association officers also served as board members.

"The following board members (members-at-large) each contributed in different ways:

"Bill Avon's main effort beyond providing an input to the board on business issues was with recruiting. His main thrust was to advertise the reunion in veteran's magazines. Most of our newly gained members were the result of Bill's efforts.

"Steve Kelley, one of the youngest age-wise, but longest active members of the Association provided extensive historical input. Steve also has developed an Association patch for our identity.

"Milt Golart, also a long Association active member, and an international businessman drew upon his background to provide excellent suggestions from which much of our progress is to his credit.

"My job as the chairman of the board has been to facilitate the processes and issues as they came up.

"The board has taken action on many issues that we felt were appropriate. We spent an inordinate effort in developing the bylaws. This was well worth the effort; however, as we learned last night during our first "live" board meeting. With the guidance of our bylaws, we were able to work through some issues that will improve our meeting today and in the future. One issue that we considered dealt with how the Association would take appropriate action on behalf of the organiza-

Continued next page.

tion when notified of a fellow member's "Last flight West." It was decided that appropriate memorial items will be funded by the Association's reserve fund. We ask each of your assistance on this matter by relaying to any board member information about a fellow member's passing.

"Additionally, the board decided to get a website. After trying to develop a site myself and realizing that I was a real novice at it, I was lucky to find a member who is in the computer business. Pete Bird, who you've read about in the newsletter, has done a marvelous job in building our super website.

"During the year, Bob Dugan kept the board honest by providing his perspective through his emails. Others, like Dave Hutchens, worked with Jim Collier on the membership database.

"To wrap this up, I want to say that I've enjoyed the coordination and association with so many of you. The hard work of developing the bylaws will assure membership representation and provide guidelines for the future. I'm confident in the future and the growth of this organization."

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Results of voting by mail on the by-laws:

The Secretary reported that there were 358 members with Tax dates of T98-T06 who were eligible to vote plus those that sent in Tax with their vote.

The voting results were 159 for 1 Against and 1 Abstain. The bylaws were passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS.

A. REUNION FREQUENCY (Wayne DeLawter, Milt Golart and Ralph Erchinger.)

Whereas there was a mail-in vote taken in 1998 to determine the desired interval between reunions, and Whereas the results of the mail-in vote on the interval between reunions indicated a preference of the interval being greater than an annual basis with over 50% voting for a two year interval, with the percentage of those voting for a 3 year interval exceeding the one year interval, and

Whereas because this issue was tabled by the members attending the last reunion meeting,

I move that the future interval between reunions be at approximately two year intervals to be in compliance of that vote or that we now determine this issue by a vote after appropriate discussion.

A passionate amendment to the motion was presented by Milt Golart to the effect that the reunion should be planned each year and held each year if a sponsor volunteered.

An additional amendment was presented by Ralph

Erchinger:

Whereas quality of the reunion event is of equal concern and interest as is frequency, and Whereas interest, willingness, and volunteering of a sponsoring "Host" individual or group are necessary for a successful event, and

Whereas it is desirable to have a date and location for the next reunion determined by a majority vote of those members present at the business meeting of the prior (last or present) reunion, but the reality is that this may often not be achieved;

Therefore, I move that future reunion events, if not scheduled by vote of the membership in attendance at the reunion business meeting, be scheduled by a majority vote of the Board, and only after a sponsoring party and a reunion location has been identified. Vice President Soper condensed the motion to the following:

The reunion will be planned for every year, the conduct of the reunion will be dependent on the availability of a sponsoring host committee.

Motion was passed.

B. DETERMINATION OF DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT REUNION AND FORMATION OF REUNION COMMITTEE (John Soper)

After all the discussion about frequency of reunions, John Soper asked for sponsors for Reunion 2000 and Paul Phillips volunteered, with Wayne DeLawter, Abbott Greenleaf, Tom Finnilli and Jim Elder assisting. The reunion will be held in the fall in the Washington-Baltimore area.

Being on a roll, John asked for Reunion 2001 sponsors and Steve Hassett volunteered to host the reunion in San Diego, with Howard Lafever assisting..

Never giving up on a good thing, John secured a pledge for Reunion 2002 from Steve Kelley for St Louis.

If any of you would like to assist in the above efforts, the email addresses of the hosts are on the web page at www.c-7acaribou.com. We are also taking offers to host Reunion 2003.

C. HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS (Wayne DeLawter)

In the past there was an honorary membership status designated without established criteria, and there have been individuals identified in this honorary membership status without known qualification.

I therefore move that the honorary designation be eliminated for anyone except for the following: John Davis and Nick Evanish, the recognized founders of the association, each will be honorary members for

Web Site from pg 1.

I have tried to put some information of general interest in the site. You will find a searchable roster of members or, if you wish, just a complete list all in one page to look for people. The newsletter is posted, along with an archive of all PW (post-web site) newsletters. Reunion news, both of past and upcoming events is posted. There is a short history of the Association if you are curious as to how it came to be. I have started a photo album section and could use some member's help here. I have a large collection of 'Bou photos, but mine are already all posted on my own web site. It sure would be nice if we could get some contributions from other people. I can accept almost any known digital graphic format or I can scan either slides or prints. If you have the color negatives for the prints, I can also scan those and they provide better quality than the print itself. I have also started a patch collection, but only my old squadron, the 535th, is represented. I could use some help there also. By the way, I will treat any material submitted for scanning with the utmost care and return it promptly. If you have photos or unit patches you think would be of interest, just drop me a line at webmaster@C-7ACaribou.com and we can discuss specifics.

There is also a **Forum** section on the web site. This is an interactive thing where you can post a question or make a statement and then sit back and watch the responses or jump back in and add more.

One thing I would ask of everyone who visits the site is to check the information in the roster. We have very few email addresses and many people do not have units shown. It makes it easier to find and contact people with those extra bits of information. Changes should be sent to Jim Collier (jcollier@dgweb.com), because he maintains the master list. He sends me periodic updates with new information in the form of a database I modify somewhat and then post. The only way we can ever keep track of things is to have one person in charge of the master list.

I am open to any suggestions as to other suggestions you would like to see on the site or changes to make it easier to use. Just send me an email and tell me what you think.
Peter Bird, Webmaster (once upon a time) 535th TAS

Board from pg 3.

cated to Nick Evanish for his outstanding service to our association. If you are not aware, Nick has been honored with the official title of President Emeritus. A plaque, to be named the Nick Evanish Award, will be created to honor other dedicated members who have made significant contributions of countless hours in the support of our association. With the help of many outstanding individuals our association will move forward with each passing year.

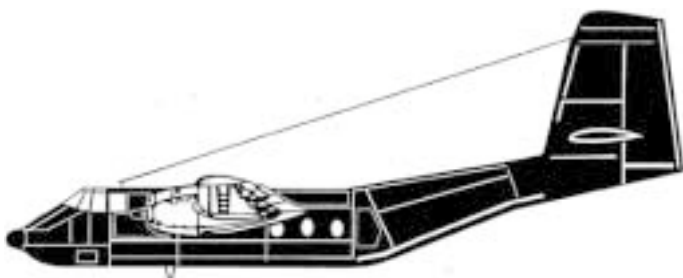
Please try to "reach out" and get someone you know to help make our association stronger.

Everyone's help is greatly appreciated. More information will be available in the next newsletter. In the meantime be sure and check out the new web site www.c-7acaribou.com.

THE BOARD: Paul Whelan, Steve Kelley, Jim Collier, Earl Reynolds, Milt Golart, Dave Hutchens, Bill Avon, Bob Davis, Peter Bird.

Reunion 2000

Paul Phillips reports that plans are looking great for the Association's Reunion 2000, to be held in College Park, Maryland. It is planned for the week of 4 - 9 September, 2000, so better mark that week down on your calendar. The Washington D.C. area should be beautiful in September. Paul reports that the hotel and accommodations are looking great, and there is plenty to see and do around the Maryland/Washington D.C. area. Paul has plenty of activities lined up for us before, during and after. Be sure to call your buddies and encourage them to attend. It would be terrific if each of us could bring a new member to this reunion. Detailed information will be furnished in our next newsletter. In the meantime check out all of the reunion details on our web page at www.C-7ACaribou.com



VETERANS (They Were There)

This presentation, given at the tenth Caribou Association Convention, 11 – 14 November, 1999 by Robert A. Davis, our Association Chaplain, was adapted from an article in a Scottish Rite Bulletin authored by J.G. Fulmer, Sr.

In 1776 at Concord Bridge and when Washington crossed the Delaware, they were there!

When Frances Scott Key was held as a prisoner of war, he penned the words "O Say Can You See," and they were there!

When the cannons blared at Gettysburg, Bull Run, Antietam, Chickamauga, Atlanta, and Savannah, they were there.

Flowers now grow on Flanders Field, where many fell because they were over there!

From the rocky cliffs on Normandy on to the death-strewn march to Berlin, they were there!

During the "Day of Infamy" on Pearl Harbor's shore, the Bataan death march, and triumphant raising of "Old Glory" on Iwo Jima, they were there!

In Korea, a place we knew so little about, but fought there for freedom's cause, they were there!

In Vietnam, conflict or war, depending on which side of the ocean you were on, politics or economics aside, they were there and some still are!

In Desert Storm, a stark sandy desert, a war fought like none before, the cold of night, the blistering heat of day, to put down another tyrant, they were there!

In Kosovo, peace negotiations by day, to no avail, aircraft sorties and rocket attacks by night, trying to stop the slaughter of innocent lives and protect another people's homeland, miraculously only three were taken prisoner, but thanks to God, they came out alive. So once again, men and women standing shoulder to shoulder, maneuvering ships at sea and Stealth bombers and Apache helicopters in the air, and our ground troops ready to maintain the fragile peace accord, they were there. They? The men and women, the young and old, from every walk of life who proudly served their country, and lost their youth and innocence, and gave their lives. We thank God for those who have fought and died and for the ones who are with us still.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country just lean over and say "Thank you". That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they were awarded.

**Two little words that mean a lot, "Thank You".
Remember, November 11th is Veterans Day.**

One fine man probably summarized it best...in part:

Chaplain Denis Edward O'Brien, USMC, quotes:

"It is the Veteran, not the reporter, who has given us the freedom of the press.

It is the veteran, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the veteran not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the veteran, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag."

On this Veteran's Day, 11th November 1999, we take the final opportunity of this century to give thanks to all of the men and women who have been called to their countries service in defense of freedom and democracy.

Please stand for a moment of silence in honor of all the Armed Forces.

**Lest we forget - Lest we forget - we may forgive - as a Christian Nation should - But we will never forget!!!
Amen**

Minutes from pg 5.

life. Peter Bird, in recognition for the outstanding effort put forth in establishing the web page will be an honorary member for as long as he is webmaster. I further move that the criteria for this honorary membership status shall only include the waiver of their annual membership fees "Tax." Honorary members will incur all costs of reunion attendance.

Motion was passed.

D. ESTABLISHING A WEB PAGE. (Wayne Delawter)

Wayne secured the gracious services of Peter Bird to establish the current web page at www.petester.com/caribou. Wayne proposed that the Board be authorized to expend funds to establish our own web page. The motion was passed.

E. ASSOCIATION NAME CHANGE (Bill Avon)
There are other "Caribou Associations", and that the name is not available as a web site. The US Army operated the Caribou as the CV2 and has the Army Otter/Caribou Association. The USAF redesignated the Caribou as the C7A, and to better define our organization with the USAF's designation, I make a motion that our official organizational title be the "C-7A Caribou Association."

The motion by Bill Avon to change the name to C-7A Caribou Association was passed.

F. Association Patch (Steve Kelley)

Steve presented a proposal to develop an association logo which could be customized as to unit and other distinguishing features.

Motion was passed.

G. APPRECIATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING (Wayne DeLawter)

Whereas the Association's membership has increased significantly, and,

Whereas the increase of members were the result of an untiring effort of our membership chairman, Bill Avon, and,

Whereas the reunion attendee of the tenth reunion in Tucson wish to make their appreciation known, I move to have the record show our collective gratitude to Bill Avon for the superb result of his effort.

The motion was passed.

F. APPRECIATION FOR WEBSITE (Wayne DeLawter)

Whereas the Association has benefited from the additional communication provided by the creation of an Association website, and,

Whereas the development and maintenance of the website would not be possible if not for the effort and expertise of Pete Bird, and;

Whereas the reunion attendees of the tenth reunion in Tucson wish to make their appreciation known, I move to have the record show our collective gratitude to Pete Bird for the superb result of his effort. The motion was passed

F. SQUADRON REPRESENTATIVES (EARL REYNOLDS)

Earl presented a proposal to establish squadron representatives to reach out and contact members and prospective members. The squadron reps would recruit a member from each year group to assist them. In addition to recruiting, the squadron reps would develop informative or historical information for the newsletter. The following members volunteered:
Paul Mascot 483th/66 paulj77@aol.com
Stan Metcalf 4449th stan_metcalf@email.msn.com
James Fairweather 135th Twooons@uswest.net
Mike Scott 310th/72 mikeabq@aol.com
John Mood, Jr. 457th/69 moodj001@hawaii.rr.com
Wayne DeLawter 458th/66 WDeLawter@aol.com
Bob Markham 459th/69 markhambob@juno.com
Roger Jarvanpaa 535th/68 beenther2@aol.com
Don Griffin 536th/66 donindfw@ix.netcom.com
Jim Collier 537th/67 jcollier@dgweb.com

F. Election of officers and board members.

The following is the nomination and election results for the Officers and Board for 2000:

President	Nick Evanish	
	Steve Kelley	Elected
Vice President	Paul Whelan	Elected
Treasurer	Earl Reynolds	Elected
Secretary	Jim Collier	Elected
Board	Bill Avon	Elected
	Milt Golart	Elected
	Steve Kelley	
	Dave Hutchens	Elected
	Paul Whelan	

7. ADJOURN (Vice President John Soper)

James L. Collier

Secretary, C-7A Caribou Association

C.O. Pilots Caribou to Happy Landing

From *Stars and Strips*, Feb. 1969

Phu Cat, Vietnam (Special)

How does a pilot land a C7A Caribou loaded with passengers and supplies when the plane's nose wheel won't come down?

Lt. Col. John Kozey Jr., 47, Corning, N.Y., commander of the 459th Tactical Airlift Squadron at Phu Cat AB and his co-pilot 1st Lt. Bernard F. Bick Jr., 24,

See Kozey next page

Cross-talk

A few days ago I talked with Bob Dugan and asked for some information for the newsletter. He responded with the following e-mail and it is printed with his permission. If any one is interested in exchanging information or ideas via this newsletter, just e-mail, fax, or mail the information to me and I will get it in the next edition. Ed.

Bob reports. . .

“Actually, I do have a couple of things.

In the last 2 weeks, I have talked with Robert A Evalenko, who is the son of Bill Evalenko, who was in the 537th back in 1968. Robert is an IP up at Sheppard AFB, and is doing this as a Reservist, and is hoping to get on with Northwest Airlines. He wanted to know all about Bill, including my observations, good or bad about Bill. We had a nice talk for 15 minutes or so over the phone. I had left two messages for him on his recorder when I spent a couple of nights up at Sheppard in the VOQ.

Bill Evalenko died back some years ago, about 1974 if I recall, (and that ain't cast in concrete) of a heart attack. He retired as a Major after 28 years active duty and he was said to be quite bitter at the AF over not making LTC. His son appears to be a real personable type.

“Also talked with Al Shanahan, who was a 1st Lt back in the 537th in '68. He is now Captain with Delta flying 1011s intercontinentally to Europe. Got a few years to go to retire.

“Found out James Poland, who was another 1st Lt in the 537th back in '69 has passed away - Don't know any details.

“Also talked with Link Spann, who was supposed to be with the 537th according to the roster, but was actually in the 459th.

“FYI, all of the guys mentioned above seem to be interested in coming to the reunion in MD ...Some times it takes a bit of doing to find these guys in the woodwork, but I am trying from time to time to find one more peckerwood...and letting him know there is an organization out there.”

Kozey

Pittsburgh, were recently confronted with this problem.

The pilot, flying a supply mission to Da Nang AB, were preparing to land when they noticed that the nose wheel indicator light didn't come on, Kozy radioed the Da Nang tower and was advised to return to Phu Cat.

Returning to Phu Cat, Kozy declared an emergency

sounding TAPS

Brisco, Donald L.,	458th, 67	May 10, 1999
Diekman, John D.,	459th, 69	1999
Hackney, Hunter F.,	458th,	Oct 17, 1999
Hink, Henry T.,	458th, 66	Nov 16, 1998
Hodges, Robert J.,	536th,	Nov 27, 1998
Isaacson, Wayne G.	459th, 69	Dec 9, 1999
Pentz, James L.,	537th, 66	Dec 1, 1998
Rogers, Dave M.,	458th, 67	Aug 12, 1999
Thomas, William F.,	536th, 67	Apr 25, 1999
Tucker, Leland C.	459th, 66	Jan 26, 1999

Kelley from pg 1.

to continue his civilian or military duties. He retired from the VA and the Naval Reserves in 1997 with 16 years military service and numerous military awards.

Since retiring from his official duties he has been actively involved in many organizations: American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and the Veteran Consortium of St. Louis. He has served on numerous committees and boards to assist homeless veterans and their families. He also volunteers many hours in community services with disadvantaged and displaced persons. His hobbies include working on and restoring old cars, refurbishing old houses, traveling, a little fishing, and most of all cruising in his 1968 *Big Block* Corvette Convertible. Steve is one of the Association's youngest – age wise - but oldest active members.

Congratulations, Steve. We welcome you as our new president.

Kozey

and crash equipment was scrambled. Fire trucks began foaming the runway while the Caribou flew over the base to burn up excess fuel.

While all necessary preparations were being made on the ground, the Caribou crew made every attempt possible to lower the nose gear. “The flight engineer tried to lower the gear manually from inside the plane but couldn't do it,” Bick said.

“With the emergency crews ready for us we began our landing approach,” he related. “The Colonel slowed the aircraft to minimum flying speed to bring the plane in as slow as possible so it wouldn't slide on the ground for a long distance. He landed the aircraft on the main gear, immediately ordered me to shut down the engines and slowly settled the nose in the foam.”

After the Caribou was safely on the ground, maintenance crews noted that the nose gear door and the panel were only slightly damaged.

Hutch on Intercom

Nineteen Ninety-nine was a very good year. While the nation was preparing for year 2000 the C-7A Caribou Association was undergoing growing pains preparing for our annual reunion in Tucson.

Two years ago in Biloxi, the first seeds for forming a formal organization were sown. An ad hoc steering committee was appointed, and it later grew into an informal slate of officers and board members. Then the seeds began to take root. In the next 12 months a lot of action took place in developing a framework for conducting the Association's business. At first it seemed like we personified the old expression - all speed and no direction. The massive flow of e-mis-sives (better know as e-mail) probably caused the world wide web to bog down a little. But after many ideas were offered, and many were shot down, an actual framework for organization emerged; Proposed By-Laws.

The seeds had taken hold and were starting to sprout. The proposed by-laws were overwhelmingly adopted by Association members, and in Tucson a formal slate of officers and board members were elected. While extensive by-law development was taking place, Wayne DeLawter was methodically stalking the Tucson area to secure the best deals and exciting activities for our November reunion. Needless to say, Wayne did an *outstanding* job.

Now that the paper work is completed and the seeds have started bearing fruit, we members should concentrate on locating new members and encouraging older members to join us at the next reunion. Locating new younger members who left the Air Force for civilian livelihoods shortly after Viet Nam, may be difficult. But they certainly are the ones most needed to grow and perpetuate our Association. We older, grey-haired members who have been the heart and soul of the group, well, our days are kind of numbered. If each of us could locate just **ONE** new member, the impact on our membership rolls would be enormous. A good place to start is to look over old photos or orders you might have, and/or call some old friends or acquaintances from 'Nam. Then you might contact the squadron representative for your old squadron. (See list of representatives and e-mail addresses elsewhere in this newsletter.)

And volunteers. We need volunteers. Volunteer work can be truly gratifying. You can meet and enjoy the company of interesting people with whom you already have a rare, common bond. I'm sure Paul

Phillips would love to hear from you if you can offer him some help with Reunion 2000. And the Association itself can use volunteers in a number of areas. Just ask any board member or officer and I'm sure he can find an area for you to contribute.

So, we have had a good 1999. I'm looking forward to great 2000. The Association is alive and healthy, and I'm sure it will continue to grow. Hopefully, we will have an even larger turnout at Reunion 2000. Looking forward to seeing you there.

483rd Tactical Airlift Wing

Organized at Cam Ranh Bay AB, RVN, 15 October 1966, as 483d Troop Carrier Wing.
Inactivated May 1972.

Wing Commanders

Col. Paul J. Mascot	4 Nov 1967-7 Oct 1967
Col. William H. Mason	8 Oct 1967-29 Sep 1968
Col. Wilbert Turk	30 Sep 1968-3 Sep 1969
Col. Keith L. Christensen	4 Sep 1969-22 Mar 1970
Col. Abbott C. Greenleaf	23 Mar 1970-10 Apr 1971
Col. Rodney H. Newbold	11 Apr 1971-24 Feb 1972
Col. Duane H. Erickson	25 Feb 1972-15 May 1972

Some Military Humor...

Airman Jones was assigned to the induction center, where he advised new recruits about their government benefits, especially their GI insurance. It wasn't long before Captain Smith noticed that Airman Jones had almost a 100% record for insurance sales, which had never happened before.

Rather than ask about this, the Captain stood in the back of the room and listened to Jones's sales pitch. Jones explained the basics of the GI Insurance to the new recruits, and then said: "If you have GI Insurance and go into battle and are killed, the government has to pay \$200,000 to your beneficiaries. If you don't have GI insurance, and you go into battle and get killed, the government only has to pay a maximum of \$6000.

"Now," he concluded, "which bunch do you think they are going to send into battle first?"

FIVE BILLION DOLLARS LEFT IN VIETNAM!

Aircraft

113	A/37 Dragonfly
22	F/5E Freedom Fighter
51	F/5A Freedom Fighter
36	A/1 Observation
40	C7 Caribou
36	C/47 Dakota (DC 7 & 8)
40	C/119 Flying Boxcar
10	C/130A Hercules
159	O/1/0/2 Birdog
22	T/41 Observation

Ammunition

130,000 Tons All Types

Arms - Small

90,00045 Caliber Pistols
791,000	M16 Rifles
857,000	Rifles (other)
50,000	M60 Machine Guns
47,000	M79 Grenade Launchers
12,000	Mortars (All Types)
63,000	M72 Laws

Artillery

1,000	105MM Towed Howitzers
80	107MM (M107)
250	155MM Howitzers (Towed/Self Propelled)

Helicopters

36	CH/47 Chinook
430	UH/1 Hueys

Tanks/APCS

300	M41/A3 (Medium)
250	M48/A3 (Medium)
1,200	M113 & M113/A1 (APCS)

Trucks

42,000 All Types

Radios

48,000 All Types

Ships

940 All Types



Please indicate your interest in purchasing Caps, T-shirts, Coffee Mugs, etc. to be sold at the next reunion as a means of raising revenue for the Association. If there is enough interest they will be available at Reunion 2000. Please indicate your choices below and mail to:

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

Caps

T-Shirts

Coffee Mugs

Other? _____

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

TAX YEAR SQUADRON ARRIVAL YR. RANK AREA CODE TELEPHONE NBR.

LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL

STREET ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE PLUS 4 E-MAIL ADDRESS



ASSOCIATION

VIETNAM

17916 E. 96th St. N
 Owasso, OK 74055
 Phone: 918-272-3518
 Prinhtut@aol.com

Address Service Requested