



80th FIGHTER SQUADRON

HEADHUNTER HEADLINES



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Vol. XV, No. 58

"AUDENTES FORTUNA JUVAT"

May 1, 2005

Greetings, Fellow **HEADHUNTERS!**

Bonnie & I hope this newsletter finds all of you in the very best of health and happiness!

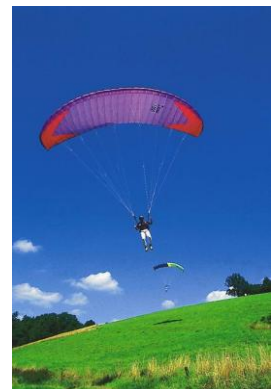
MISSING HEADHUNTER FOUND



The remains of Lt Col Ron Rosepink, 46, Juvat '83-'84, missing since 2003, were found March 16th by a hiker up in the mountains, down a steep ravine, under some trees, still in his harness and chute. He disappeared while paragliding from an area known as the Tehachapi Bowl in California. Search and Rescue crews found the remains over a hill and in a canyon described as very deep and in an area very hard to reach. "The terrain is very steep and treacherous, and the side of the hill that he was actually on is 60 to 70 percent slope,"

said Michael Rogers from the Kern County Search and Rescue.

"On June 28, 2003, Ronald Keith Rosepink went to the area of the Tehachapi Bowl located north of Highway 202 and Cummings Valley Road to fly his paraglider. On July 1, Deborah Rosepink, the wife of Ronald Rosepink, reported him missing after not hearing from him for several days. Tehachapi deputies located Rosepink's vehicle at the Tehachapi Bowl paraglider launch site on July 1, 2003. Deputies were unable to locate Mr. Rosepink in the immediate area and requested Kern County Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue. At the same time, deputies assigned to the Tehachapi Substation began conducting a missing person's investigation. He had been last seen in the air, flying about 100 feet above the tree line about one mile away from the launch site. Search teams consisting of K-9 and ground resources searched an area of approximately four to five miles from where Rosepink was last seen. Civil Air Patrol also searched an area of approximately 25 miles radius from where Rosepink was last seen. He was not located. After seven days of searching, the fulltime operation was scaled back to a limited continuous search status.



Over the past 20 months, the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit has conducted approximately six smaller scale searches in the area Rosepink was last seen. Again they were unable to

locate information that would have led to his whereabouts. Also, three civilian search teams from back East conducted separate searches in the designated search area with negative results. On March 14, 2005, a resident of Tehachapi reported locating a human skull approximately one-third to one-half mile away from where Rosepink's vehicle was found. Search teams located what is believed to be human remains as well as a large synthetic material object believed to be a paraglider wing. The remains and personal effects were turned over to the Sheriff's Coroner Division.

Ronald Rosepink was a reserve lieutenant colonel with the Air Force. He was assigned to the 411 Flight Test Squadron out of Edwards Air Force Base at the time he was reported missing. Rosepink's family was hit hard financially by his disappearance, which meant no life insurance because there was no body. 'His wife, Deborah, and children plan to drive out from Colorado to see the spot where he died,' friend Al Wallace said. Deborah said, 'I feel peace because I know now where he is.' 'She means he's with God,' Wallace said Tuesday from Colorado. Wallace suspects Rosepink ended up under the oak trees because he broke his back or legs in the impact and slid under the trees for shelter, but succumbed to heat and lack of water.

An Air Force Academy graduate, Rosepink not only flew jet fighters and paragliders, but hot-air balloons, friends said. While a student at the Air Force Academy, Rosepink had been on its parachuting team. He had made more than 80 paragliding flights before the June 28, 2003 flight. Paragliding is similar to hang gliding, but paragliders use a device similar to a parachute, guided by a system of handles. Paragliders can glide for up to 10 miles."

Information from Bill Curtis, <<http://www.bakersfieldonline.us/news/read/2/22983>> and Charles F. Bostwick, <chuck.bostwick@dailynews.com>

REUNION REGISTRATION INFORMATION!!

Reunion Registration made easy!!

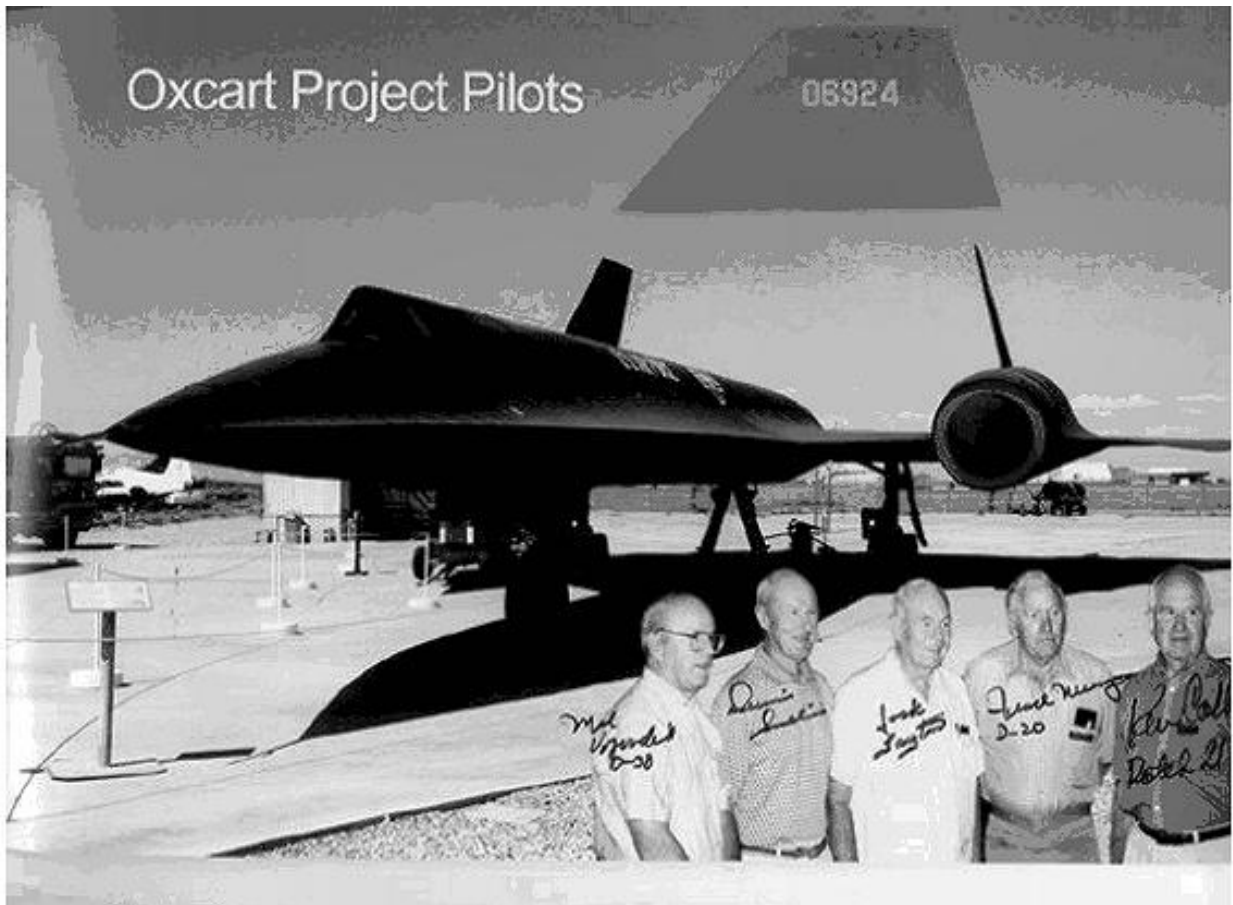
- Carefully fill out and mail in the **Reunion Registration Form** on page 11. Please be sure to include your check for the full amount for all the activities you have picked. **SUSPENSE: 5 September**
- Please call the **Alexis Park Resort** hotel now at **(800) 453-8000** to make your reservations. Be sure to tell them you're with the *80th Fighter Squadron* Reunion 6-9 October to receive the group rate of only \$129 per night, plus tax, which is WELL below their going rate. (Rate good +/- 3 days of reunion, based on availability) **SUSPENSE: 5 September** Hotel reservations may be cancelled without penalty up to 3 October, so don't delay—make yours now!!
- Free parking is provided at the hotel for us. Also, there is a free shuttle to and from the Strip! Other hotel information is available from their web site: <http://www.alexispark.com>

*Call your friends
group—see you*

DID YOU KNOW?

*and come as a
there!!!*

Did you know that one of our own LTMs, Brig Gen Dennis B. Sullivan, was one of the original eleven CIA Project OXCART A-12 pilots. Some very brief information is below, but for additional, very extraordinary information, photos, timelines, and video clips, please visit < <http://area51specialprojects.com/index.html> > and its many links!



The five remaining Agency A-12 Pilots (Code-named "Drivers") (L-R) Mele Vojvodich, Denny Sullivan, Jack Layton, Frank Murray, Ken Collins. Photo courtesy of Roadrunner Mike Schmitz



“**P**roject OXCART had to be of quite extraordinary competence, not only because of the unprecedented performance of the aircraft itself, but also because of the particular qualities needed in men who were to fly intelligence missions. Pilots had to be qualified in the latest high performance fighters, emotionally stable, and well motivated. They were to be between 25 and 40 years of age, and the size of the A-12 cockpit prescribed that they be under six feet tall and under 175 pounds in weight. Surviving the screening of Air Force files, psychological assessments, physical examinations and refinement of criteria, the pilots were selected to undergo intensive security and medical scrutiny by the Agency before being approached to take employment with the Agency on a highly classified project involving a very advanced aircraft. When the final screening was complete, the pilots selected for the program were William L.

Skliar, Kenneth S. Collins, Walter Ray, Alonzo Walter, Mele Vojvodich, Jack W. Weeks, Ron "Jack" Layton, Dennis B. Sullivan, David P. Young, Francis Murray, and Russell Scott. In November 1961, commitments were obtained from the group and arrangements made with the Air Force to effect appropriate transfers and assignments to cover their training and to lay the basis for their transition from military to civilian status. Of the original eleven CIA pilots:

* Alonzo Walter, David P. Young, and Russell Scott left the program prior to Oxcart becoming operational as Black Shield.

* William L. Skliar pursued the YF-12 portion of the Oxcart program and did not transfer to Black Shield for A-12 operations.

* Walter Ray was killed during testing of the A-12 at Groom Lake.”

(Information above by CIA Pilot Ken Collins and photo on <http://www.roadrunnersinternationale.com/drivers.html>
Both web sites © 2005 by T. D. Barnes)

Gen Sullivan flew F-80s in our 80th Fighter Bomber Squadron during the Korean War. He and his wife, Rose Marie, currently reside in Colorado Springs. Our thanks to Gen Sullivan for permission to print this article.

HEADHUNTER Songs CD ORDERS!!

Our Headhunter Songs CD is coming along on schedule and it's racking up many pre-orders! Fellow Headhunter and Balladeer, Dick Jonas, is still looking at a June or July release. Advanced orders are still being accepted for this unique Squadron treasure. Please see the last newsletters for more details. The cost for the professional quality CD of 13 songs, under Dick's Erosonic Label and recorded by our own Juvat Boys' Choir (JBC) Alumni, is only **\$15 plus \$2 postage**. Order now, and be the first on your block to own one of these gems! Please send your order & check to **Headhunters; 905 Arapaho Ct; Columbus, GA 31904-1242**. E-mail orders can also be sent to <JayBirdOne@mindspring.com> Checks will not be deposited until CD's are available; however, these pre-orders are important, as it gives us a number required for our initial inventory.

*** Please order today! ***

SQUADRON HISTORY DVD

This project is also progressing well. Photos and video are still being processed. We're also looking at mid-summer for this Squadron History DVD to be finalized. It will be superb! Please watch the newsletters for further progress on this great project!

LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

He who angers you, controls you!

Our highly reliable sources in strategically placed key positions around the globe have informed us that the following message was intercepted on 17 March:



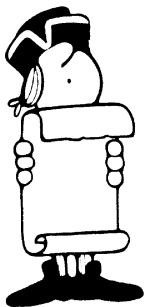
SUBJECT: SENIOR OFFICER ASSIGNMENT FOR COL BRIAN T. BISHOP
FROM: CHIEF, FLIGHT OPERATIONS DIVISION, HQ ACC, LANGLEY AFB VA
TO: COMMANDER, 8TH FIGHTER WING, KUNSAN AB, KOREA WITH CHANGE OF COMMAND 0900 31 MAY 05.

Congratulations from all of us to our own Col Bishop on becoming the “Wolf” of the world famous 8th Fighter Wing “Wolf Pack”!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

It gives us great pleasure to welcome these **10 new members** to our ranks for the **first time** (in the order of “signing up” since 1 February). **Equally rewarding** are the **many** members who have **rejoined** after 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or even 11 years absence! **Welcome to all!** At press time we have **377** Yearly, plus **598** LifeTime Members (LTMs)—**975** Total!!

Here is the roll call of our new members—with their time in the 80th:



- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| SSgt Michael E. Kraft (67 – 69) | Capt Jason E. Bailey (03 – Present) |
| 1Lt Nick R. Ihde (04 – Present) | Amn Donald J. Peterson (55 – 57) |
| 1Lt Daniel W. Daehler (03 – 04) | Capt David L. Pittner (Juvat) |
| Capt Dale Flick (Juvat) | SSgt David C. Abbitt (81 – 82) |
| Fowler W. Cary, Jr. (Honorary) | Maj Danny E. Palubeckis (04 – Present) |

Friends of yours? You bet!! Look 'em up in your new Master Roster Change and/or Master E-mail & Fax List Change (enclosed), give 'em a call, write 'em a letter, or beam an e-mail message over to them. Or better yet, ask them to meet you at the **next reunion in Las Vegas 6 – 9 October!** Great to have you all in formation—and what a super one it is!! Do you have **Headhunter** friends that aren't members? If so, please let me have their addresses, and I'll send a “Please Join Us” letter to them. **How about all of our active duty JUVATS in the 80th today? Cleared to join up, Y'all!** See your **SNACKO** for **Member Information Forms** and **mailing envelopes**, or **contact me directly—Thank you!**

“To get the full value of joy, you must have people to divide it with.”

-- Mark Twain

THE MAIL BAG

E-mail received 10 March: “Jaybird, I am proud to announce that I have been selected as the next Juvat Lead! My change of command is 8 July 05. I am honored with this privilege of carrying on the heritage of the greatest fighter squadron in the world! *Audentes Fortuna Juvat* [signed] JR **Steve "JR" Langford, Lt Col, USAF**” [Ed note] *Welcome to the Headhunters, JR! We're looking forward to having you with us and carry on our rich heritage!*



E-mail received 29 March: “Hi everybody. I am trying to trace any surviving personnel from the 8th Fighter Group in general, and the 80th Fighter Squadron in particular, who served during the same time as George S. Welch in 1942/43 and may have memories of the man they would be willing to share with me for a planned magazine article. Hope to hear from you soon. Adam Cotton” E-mail: acotton294@btinternet.com

E-mail received 11 April: “Jaybird, If you weren't aware, we moved into our permanent house in Lynn Haven, Florida stationed at Tyndall AFB, FL. I am now the DO of the 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron which conducts COMBAT ARCHER exercises, firing live air-to-air missiles holding the contractor's feet to the fire. It's a blast and almost as good as Nellis because all the buds stop thru here sooner or later (and there's lot's of fishin!). Cheers to all! Al "Chops" Wimmer (now known as Jethro)”

E-mail received 15 April: “JAY, You might be interested to know that our Grandson graduated from Pilot training March 11 at Columbus, Miss. He is now at Moody AFB, GA going through Introduction to Fighter Tactics. He then goes to Luke AFB for 8 months of F-16 training. Then back to the DCANG at Andrews AFB MD. I would appreciate it if you would put it in the newsletter. Respectfully, [Bob Railey] RAMROD”

E-mail received 16 April: “What a great website! I just wanted to say what a great website you guys have. My only exposure to the Headhunters and the Headhunter tradition was in 2000, I believe, at the Headhunter reunion at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. I was the NCOIC of an Army crew doing electrical maintenance at the Medical Center. Our rooms were on the same floor of the Guest House as they were. We were walking by one day and were invited in. We took a little ribbing by those guys for being in the Army, but it was all good natured, especially after I told them my dad was retired Air Force. I had a great time listening to the guys telling their stories. When we finally excused ourselves, we had to go to work after all, I was given a hat by Sol Harpe (sp). It remains one of my most cherished possessions (I collect hats). Keep up the good work!” MSG Gerald Dunham; US Army

E-mail received 23 April: “Gentlemen, Unfortunately, my time has come to depart Kunsan. While making it a longer tour at 20 months, my request to stay here through Hollandia 2005 was knocked down by the powers that be across the ocean. It has been an absolute pleasure working with heroes like you in preparation for this year's event. It will be, undoubtedly, the best Hollandia Kunsan has ever had. The primary reason is your willingness to make the trek here, and we are forever thankful. "Flint" Miner and "Mount" Gordon have put together an awesome plan, and they, along with "Rub" Burdick, "Deuce" Paulus and "Stifler" Kilroy will make sure it goes off without a hitch. I have no doubt it will be a blast. Stifler (CC block) will be your POC for all of the items we have been coordinating up to this point. And, oh by the way, there is a squadron full of Juvats here that are fired up. I wish I could join you and look forward to hearing the stories. What Is Good?!!, HASH Capt Jason E. Bailey; A Flight Commander; 80

FS JUVATS" [Ed HASH for his help to Kunsan this the future, as he joined us as an LTM back on 5 Feb! Reunion 6-9 Oct?!

HEADHUNTERS BACK TO KUNSAN!

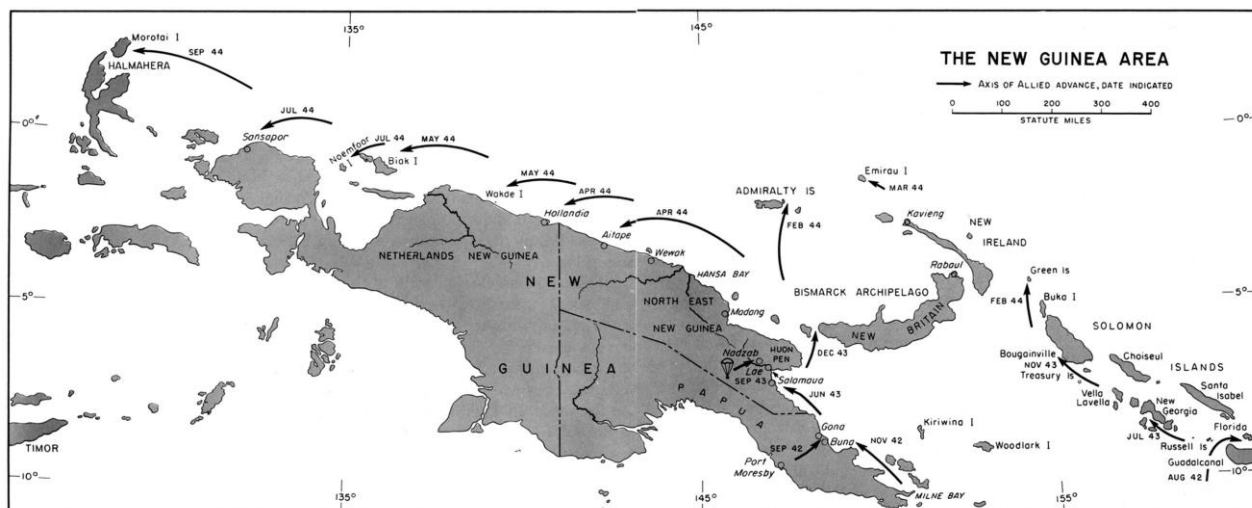
note] Our many thanks to and work to set up our visit year. We'll see him soon in

As this newsletter "hits the street," 11 of us are packing our bags and getting ready to travel over to Kunsan, Korea, to visit our active Squadron from 10-17 May. Each year our Squadron celebrates the outstanding accomplishments of our WWII men during four days of Hollandia raids in 1944. Superb training takes place during each spring when dissimilar aircraft from other squadrons, usually Navy or



Marines, are invited to pick up the gauntlet for intensive air-to-air & air-to-ground competition. This year 11 of us, from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the 70s and 80s will be there to cheer our Squadron on to yet another successful "Hollandia Week" celebration.

On the 30th of March, 1944, the 80th, in support of General Douglas MacArthur's ground offensive, participated in a great turkey shoot over the Japanese Base at Hollandia, destroying over 33 enemy aircraft in 4 days without a single loss to themselves—a Pacific Theater record. On the 12th of April, the 80th became the first US fighter squadron ever to shoot down over 200 enemy aircraft, and on that same day, while flying with the 80th, Maj Dick Bong scored his 26th, 27th, and 28th victories, surpassing Eddie Rickenbacker's old record from WWI, making him the new American "Ace-of-Aces"—the title he holds to this day as he completed his WWII tour with 40 confirmed victories.



The large Japanese base at Hollandia was on the north central coast of New Guinea, just west of the vertical boundary. Most of the maps used by our pilots were National Geographic maps, and, except for a few villages on the coast, had “Unexplored” for most of the interior. The island was full of primitive tribes—Headhunters!

If God is your Copilot - swap seats!

HEADHUNTER STORE!

Are you running low on Squadron items? Well, now is the time to stock up! Wear/use them proudly—not just at the reunions, but wherever you go! It’s a great way to find other **HEADHUNTERS**, too! Unless purchased at a reunion, a small fee of **\$4 should be added** for postage to all orders (unless otherwise noted)—I’ll take care of the “handling!”

Curious to see what these items look like? Check them out on our Web Site STORE Page!

Blazer Emblem (men’s or ladies)	\$35	Golf Shirt (specify size)	\$30
Squadron Unique Silk Tie	\$39	T Shirt (specify size)	\$17
Ladies Floppy Bow (matches tie)	\$20	Squadron F-16 Litho Print	\$10
Sq “Nickel” Coin or Keychain	\$ 5	White & Green Trim Hat	\$12
*Personalized Sq coffee mug	\$20	All White Hat (new!)	\$12
*Personalized Sq beer stein	\$23	Black Hat	\$12
*Mug & Stein set as above	\$40	Korean-era Sq Patch	\$ 5
Squadron Logo Golf Balls (sleeve of 3)	\$10	Vietnam-era Sq Patch	\$ 5
**Personalized etched Sq beer mug	\$25	Current Squadron Patch	\$ 5
Headhunter Tattoos (fun!) 2 for a \$ 1		Lapel Pin/Tie Tack	\$ 3

<<< **CD of Headhunter Songs by the JBC.....\$15 + \$2 postage** >>>

* Please include **name and/or callsign** desired on your mug/stein (up to 20 letters), and **right/left** handed with your order. **Unless otherwise stated**, the Squadron logo & your first name in Old English will be on the front (handle left for right-handed drinker), and an F-16 will be on the back.

** Large 25oz mug is beautiful **etched glass**. Please indicate **Squadron logo** or our **Association logo** desired, choice of **P-39, P-38, P-51, F-80, F-86, F-84, F-100, F-105, F-4, or F-16**, and include **name and/or callsign in “HEADHUNTER” or standard bold font**, and **right/left** handed, with your order. **Personal markings** (tail number/markings, aerial victories, etc.) available. Other aircraft may be available. Please call for quote.

Please send check to **“The Headhunters”; 905 Arapaho Ct; Columbus, GA 31904-1242**. Please don’t forget **\$4 postage** on all orders (accept patches, coins, tattoos, & lapel pin—please send \$1 postage.)

Fighter pilot songs (Rated PG) on professional CDs and/or tapes are available from World-renowned military songwriter and balladeer, and fellow **HEADHUNTER**, Dick Jonas. Contact him at: Erosonic; 2001 Mountain View Glen; Ft Mojave, AZ 86426-8833, or his web site at <http://www.erosonic.com>

Beautiful mahogany **model planes**, of just about any kind, can be ordered through fellow **Headhunter** Tom Slee at (253) 584-1223. Some may be able to be painted with your personal markings. Contact Tom directly for details.

head headhunter corner



It's dues time again for all our Yearly Members! ☺ "Your Dues Are Due" letters for all Members who need to renew are enclosed with this newsletter. If you are an LTM, no problem—your dues-paying days are over! If you are a Yearly Member, and you didn't get the enclosed nag letter, relax—you're paid ahead one or more years! However, if you're one of the lucky ones to be blessed with one of these gems, PLEASE send in your dues now in the enclosed envelope to save a lot of time and money on 2nd notices. Thanks!!

We're trying something new for this upcoming reunion. The **Reunion Registration Form** is enclosed on page 11 of this newsletter—4 months before the deadline for sending it in! In the past, we have waited until 30 days prior to the deadline—maybe too pressed for time. The **Reunion Registration Form** will also be included with the next (1 August) newsletter for those who wait until the last minute. Please note the suspense of 5 September to send it in—30 days prior to the fabulous reunion in Las Vegas 6-9 October!! Don't miss this great time—call your friends, join them in beautiful Las Vegas, and celebrate our Squadron's reunion, as well as the 100th Anniversary of the city itself! It'll be a reunion to remember! See you all there!

<i>FROM</i>	<i>IN MEMORY OF</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
Patricia Hanover	Florence Kirby & Sue Murphey	\$25
Fowler W. Cary, Jr.	To Support the 80 th FS Headhunters	\$500

THE STORK CORNER!



We take great pride in announcing the birth of the world's youngest **HEADHUNTERS!**

E-mail received **28 February**: “Hi Jaybird, Thanks for doing such a fine job with the Headlines. Things are going well in Utah. The 419th Fighter Wing is in the process of being integrated into the active duty 388th Fighter Wing. We are all interested in seeing how that will work out. On the home front, I am flying for Southwest and loving it. The biggest news is the addition to our family; Dillon Connor was born on the 18th of January and is doing great. Cheers, John Reed / Rhino”

Congratulations to John & Shaunna on their new son!

HEADHUNTERS AT REST

Last, but certainly not least, we would like to take this opportunity to pass on to all members the names of those **HEADHUNTERS**, who we know of, that have made their last takeoff in this lifetime since our last newsletter.

<u>Headhunter</u>	<u>Time in 80th</u>	<u>Last Takeoff</u>
Lt Col Ronald K. Rosepink	Juvat 83 – 84	28 Jun 2003
Col Carl E. Taylor	WWII/LTM	24 Dec 2004
Lewis E. Brown	WWII/LTM	24 Feb 2005

E-mail received **6 February**: “It is with a great deal of sorrow that I must tell you Helen died Friday, February 4, 2005. She fought the battle with lymphoma courageously, but God decided He needed another Angel to watch over all of us. He took the best. Services are pending. God Bless Helen. [signed] Jerry Pattison”

E-mail received **12 March**: “I would like to report to you that Lewis E. Brown of 418 Whiskey Rd., Aiken, SC 29801 recently died. After a very short illness he died peacefully on February 24, 2005. He was so proud of his WW II service and enjoyed contact with the fewer & fewer WW II veterans who are surviving. I found your publication & thought I would report to you this sad news. [signed] Pamela B. Thornton, his daughter”

On behalf of the entire Squadron, we wish to officially pass on to these families our deepest sympathies and sincere gratitude for the outstanding contribution each of these individuals made to the Squadron and our Country. May they rest in Peace and forever soar with the Eagles.

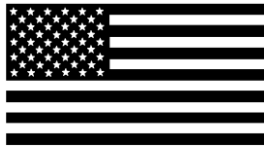
May God bless and keep them in His Flight forever.



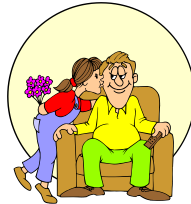
The next regular issue of the **HEADHUNTER HEADLINES** will be dated 1 August 2005. The *Headhunter Headlines* is the official newsletter of the 80th Fighter Squadron Headhunters Association, Inc., a non-profit, tax exempt, War Veterans' Organization.
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Mother's Day – 8 May



Memorial Day – 30 May



Father's Day – 19 June



Independence Day – 4 July

Las Vegas reunion—6-9 October!



Col Jay E. "JayBird" Riedel, USAF (Ret)
The "Head Hunter"





80th Fighter Squadron
"HEADHUNTERS"
905 Arapaho Ct
Columbus, GA 31904

**RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED**

FIRST CLASS