

# 80<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER SQUADRON HEADHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



## HEADHUNTER HEADLINES



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"AUDENTES FORTUNA JUVAT"

1 May 2010

Greetings, Fellow **HEADHUNTERS!**

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

### MEMORIAL MARKER FOR "PORKY" CRAGG AT ARLINGTON

**E**-Mail received 13 March: "Good Afternoon Jay, Last year I learned that when MIA/KIAs are only memorialized at an overseas cemetery, next of kin can request a memorial marker be placed on US soil. I requested a memorial marker for Porky to be placed in Arlington. It was placed in Section K, plot 203, on the side of the cemetery next to the Iwo Jima Memorial. If you go in the foot gate by Iwo Jima, turn right at the roadway, and go up the hill, Section K is on the left when the road gets steep. I have attached two photographs - one of the memorial, and one of his grand nephew, 2LT Steven Cragg, 82nd Airborne, saluting the marker. You may use as you see fit. [signed Edward E. Cragg, III] Ed" [Ed note] *Ed is "Porky's" nephew and an LTM of our Association. Thanks, Ed—beautiful.*



## FORMER 80<sup>TH</sup> CC NOW 80 FTW CC

**E-Mail received 5 March:** “Jaybird, Just wanted to give you a quick update from Sheppard AFB. We have a number of Juvats here in the 80 FTW and all are doing well. The mission of the 80 FTW/Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) program centers around multi-national pilot training, as well as the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) program. It has been non-stop busy since I arrived in July (I don't think it is going to let up any time soon), and I am enjoying every minute of it. It is a thrill to see young officers go from pedestrians to pilots and we're instilling the fighter pilot mentality in the next generation every day. We are building a cross-country plan for the reunion -- should be an outstanding time. V/r Gumby KEVIN B. SCHNEIDER, Colonel, USAF Commander, 80th Flying Training Wing (ENJJPT) -- and Juvat Lead 2003-2004.”



(L to R): Maj TJ “Blitz” Kreutzer, Capt Cheryl “Score” Buehn, CMSgt Norm Thierolf, Capt Josh “Shanq” King, Capt Brian “Jolt” Scott, Maj James “Judge” Schmehl, Lt Col Tyler “Split” Nelson, Capt “Kobi” Drummond, Maj Bryan “Jaws” Griffith, Col Kevin “Gumby” Schneider. All are from the Headhunters!

Many thanks to Gumby for sending this in—looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion on the 13<sup>th</sup>!

## THE MAIL BAG

**E**-Mail received 2 February: “Hello Jay, hope this finds you and Bonnie well. Attached please find a photo of RUFF-STUFF taken at Oshkosh in 2009. Wanted to inform you and the 80th members that we will have the P-38 brought in for the Eau Claire, WI June 5th and 6th air show. The Blue Angels will also be at the show. We would like to extend to any and all members of the 80th to join us for the air show. We will have a corporate chalet on the flight line. Best regards, Mark Ruff” [Ed note] *Mark is the son of Norb Ruff, who passed away 28 November 2007. RUFF STUFF was Norb’s 80<sup>th</sup> Squadron P-38 in WWII, and this beautiful bird, owned by Ron Fagen, proudly shows Norb’s original Headhunter paint scheme. It’s one of only four or five flying P-38s in the world, so if you’re in the area, don’t miss this beauty.*



**E**-mail received 16 February: “Jaybird, sorry this is late but I just read the [*Headhunter Headlines*] Feb Issue and saw the article on page 3...ref our wounded warriors. It is true...when I left the Air Staff in 2007 the visit by our Wounded Warriors was a monthly affair. They would arrive about 10:00, enter as described on the corridor 3 entrance and come in to the A-Ring, then go to Corridor 1 and head out to the Concourse. I was told the Senior Staff met them there? But I was always one of the hundreds/thousands that lined the corridors and applauded their service and sacrifice. It was very solemn. I always attended solo and arrived early. I would take my place along the first open spot along the corridors, joining total strangers. I usually spoke a few words of greeting/introduction, then waited somewhat silently/apprehensively to see the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and

Marines with all forms of injuries. Some were able to walk, some used crutches, many were in wheel chairs. All had family/friends along to support them as they were honored at the Pentagon. The clapping and the tears were ubiquitous!

The article mentions a weekly review...when I was in the Building it was monthly...the article also alludes to the Army corridor. While that is true, it was filled with all military/civilians from all branches. Regardless, there couldn't have been a more solemn and simultaneously motivating event for a staff officer/contractor/gov't worker! [signed] Bob "The Dude" Peterman" [Ed note] *Many thanks for the feedback, Bob. Good to hear the story was indeed true.*

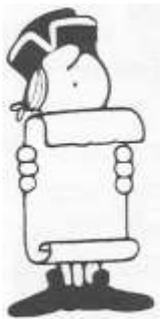
**E**-mail received 17 March: "Dear Jay: I have a lot of memories of Hugh Hatfield the most recent of which was on a visit some ten years ago to Knoxville, TN when Bill Gallivan my cousin and a local MD set up a surprise dinner where the surprise was a very sophisticated Hugh Hatfield. But it was the New Guinea memories particularly when Hugh stepped into the ring to take on the Ausie challenger. This was in Nadzab and enormous sums were bet on both sides. Hugh (a former Golden Glover) showed his experience for a round and a half, but then he ran out of gas and his opponent caught him with a roundhouse. Hugh managed to finish the three rounds, albeit on rubber legs. He was deeply apologetic for having let us all down, but we felt proud of him despite the loss. Though we met only once after the war and didn't communicate at all, our common experiences in the 80th formed a bond as it did with dozens of other Headhunters. [Signed] Pete Sheehan" [Ed note] *Please see the Headhunters at Rest section on page 11 for details.*

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

**I**t gives us great pleasure to welcome these **1 new member** to our ranks for the **first time** (in the order of "signing up" since 1 February). **Equally rewarding** are the **many** members, not shown here, who have **re-joined** after 1, 2, 3, up to 17 years absence! **Welcome to all!** At press time we have 280 Yearly, plus 719 LifeTime Members (LTMs)—**999 Total!**

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

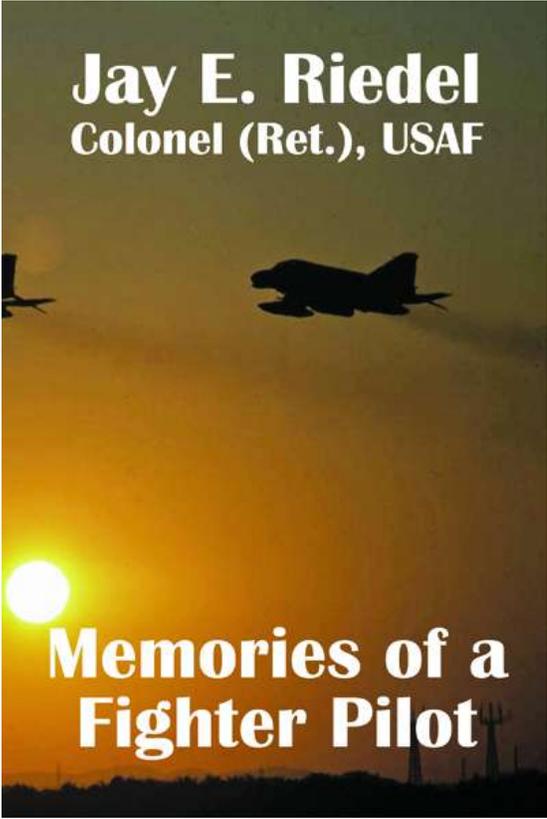
MSgt Patrick Joe Stegman (89 – 90)



**F**riends 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 13-16 May in Colorado Springs!** 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—your first year is FREE!! Thank you!**

**HEADHUNTER HAS NEW BOOK**



JayBird has published a book. *Memories of a Fighter Pilot* is a collection of as many of my personal recollections as I can remember that would be of a significant interest to most readers. They are as accurate as I remember them. Many will make you laugh, some will water your eyes and some will have you gripping your chair with white knuckles. I have experienced many of life's ups and downs, and I hope all who read of these episodes will be entertained, yet glean some information that may be of use in their own lives. It was quite a ride.

Jay E. Riedel was born 19 November 1939 in Freeport, Long Island, New York, and received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics from the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, and his commission as a Second Lieutenant through AFROTC in July 1961. He also received an MBA from Auburn University in 1974. Col Riedel retired 1 April 1992 after thirty years of active service to his country. His last assignment was Senior Air Force Representative to the United States Army Infantry, Ft. Benning, Georgia. A command pilot, he has logged more than 4,000 flying hours in the F-4D, A-7D, F-100, KC-135, AT-33, T-33, T-37 with stick time in the F-16. He has also logged more than 500 combat flying hours and 323 missions in three different aircraft in South-

east Asia between 1964 and 1973.

The 340-page paperback book with many photos, with the Foreword by Gen Chuck Horner, can be ordered directly from JayBird by writing to him at 905 Arapaho Ct; Columbus, GA 31904-1242, or by sending an email to: JayBird@80FSHeadhunters.org. It can also be purchased from Lulu.com online at: <http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/memories-of-a-fighter-pilot/8000768> and on our Headhunters website at: <http://www.80fsheadhunters.org/HH%20Book%20List.htm>

*CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED*

If you would like to make a tax deductible contribution to one of your favorite organizations, our own **80<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron Headhunters' Association, Inc.** qualifies. Now is the time for your 2010 tax year. Just mail to our address on the front cover, and you'll receive a receipt for your tax records if required. Thank you.

<i>FROM</i>	<i>FOR, OR IN MEMORY OF</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>
Roy E. Trask (friend of Kirby's son)	In Honor of M.F. Kirby	\$100

## LATEST INTELLIGENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**O**ur highly reliable sources in strategically placed key positions around the globe have informed us that Col Adrian "Kermit" Pone, Juvat from '91 – '92, died in an automobile accident in Ferrara, Italy on January 20th, 2010. He returned to Italy to work at CAOC5. Col Pone leaves his wife Cheryl and two sons, approx ages of nine and six.



**O**ur deep undercover moles in clandestine positions in highly sensitive areas have also reported to us that the flying gods have smiled on Lt Col Dan "Red" and Susie Tippett yet again this year. Our audio surveillance equipment picked up the following transmission by Red: "Somehow I got promoted to O-6 and, more importantly, selected to command the 57th Adversary Tactics Group at Nellis AFB, NV. We'll be leaving DC later this summer with a CoC date of mid-Aug. Needless to say, I'm ecstatic to be flying the Viper again (even if it is as a MiG flying red air!)."

## DD-214S ARE NOW ONLINE

**O**ur military records, especially the DD-214 after we leave the service, are very important documents that all of us, or our families, some time or another, will need. In the past, a quite lengthy process was required by regular mail to apply for and finally receive these documents. That process has now been streamlined and can be done online. The following article was emailed to us on 15 February by Col Bob McCormick, one of our Juvat LTMs:

It's official. DD-214s are now online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/> This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the website. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information by standard mail will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center mailroom and processing time.

If you don't have a hard-copy of your DD-214 in your house/safety deposit box, now is the time for us retired people to get it. It's fast and easy. Thanks to "Giant" McCormick for sending in this article.

## HEADHUNTER STORE!

**N**ow is the time to get your favorite **HEADHUNTER** that special gift he or she has been wanting! Tired of looking? If so, consider some of these beautiful items from our **HEADHUNTER** Store! Get some today, and 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 **\$5 Priority Mail for single items or \$7 for two or more items should be added** for shipping to all orders (unless otherwise noted)—we’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)	\$35
Squadron Unique Silk Tie	\$39	T Shirt (specify size)	\$19
Ladies Floppy Bow (matches tie)	\$20	Squadron F-16 Litho Print	\$10
Sq “Nickel” Coin or Keychain	\$ 7	White & Green Trim Hat	\$15
*Personalized Sq coffee mug	\$23	All White Hat	\$15
*Personalized Sq beer stein	\$26	Black Hat	\$15
*Mug & Stein set as above	\$45	Korean-era Sq Patch	\$ 7
Headhunter Tattoos (fun!)      4 for a	\$ 1	Vietnam-era Sq Patch	\$ 7
Lapel Pin/Tie Tack	\$ 4	WWII/Current Sq Patch	\$ 7

<<< **CD of Headhunter Songs by the JBC.....\$20 (postage included)** >>>  
 <<< **80th Squadron History DVD & CD set...\$20 (postage included)** >>>  
 <<< **Passing the Flame CD.....\$20 (postage included)** >>>

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

Please send check to “**The Headhunters**”; **7723 Villa Andrade Ave; Las Vegas, NV 89131-1686** or **e-mail orders to Tom & Shannon Reichert at < TSReichert@aol.com >**. Please don’t forget postage of **\$5 for single items or \$7 for two or more items should be added** on all orders (except patches, coins, tattoos, & lapel pin—please send \$1 postage.)

**Fighter pilot songs** (Rated PG-13) on professional CDs and/or tapes are available at \$20 each (including S&H) from World-renowned military songwriter and balladeer, and fellow **HEADHUNTER**, Dick Jonas. Contact him at: *Erosonic*; PO Box 1226; Chino Valley, AZ 86323-1226, or from his web site at [www.erosonic.com](http://www.erosonic.com)

NOTICE: In the near future, we will be finishing the “Books by the Headhunters” Page on our web site. It will list as many of our books as possible with a thumbnail of the cover and ordering information.



80<sup>th</sup> FS P-38 Ace, Cornelius "Corky" Smith. Dottie was his wife.



Some of our Squadron pilots in New Guinea. Danny Roberts on the left.

## HEAD HEADHUNTER CORNER



Well, it comes a time in all Head Hunter's lives when we must pass the guidon to someone and step down. That time has come for me. Kirby, Lt Gen Jay T. Robbins, and Norb Ruff had started our Headhunters group in 1969, and Kirby put together the first reunion back in 1970. He held the reins for twenty years—setting up reunions and building our extensive Master Roster. Kirby asked me to take over for him at the Phoenix reunion in September 1989 and host the following reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC in April, 1991. Bonnie and I did that, and have been your Head Hunter ever since. We have come a long way. We started dues of \$10 a year and LifeTime Memberships based on age—less than any other organization of its kind. We incorporated to give ourselves legitimacy and status. We began a regular quarterly newsletter and incorporated quarterly changes to the Master Roster—all only in black & white to save thousands of dollars per issue. In 1992, Maj Harry Christman, 80<sup>th</sup> /CC 1948-49, reunion regular and good friend, told me that we should start a list of members with email addresses. I didn't have a clue what that was, but quickly learned it was the future in personal correspondence. It came to pass, and we now have about 800 in our Master Email List and keep it current with quarterly changes with the newsletters. Lt Col Jeff Collins (where are you Jeff?), one of our Juvat LTMs and PhD in computer science, offered to build our first website shortly thereafter. This came to pass. In 1999, the web site was expanded. A few years ago, we got our own 80FSHeadhunters.org domain on the Internet, and we now have almost unlimited website potential.

To our active Squadron in Korea: our 80<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron has an extremely proud and successful history, and I wish every new member coming into our Squadron at Kunsan to be proud of it, and continue its outstanding and rich heritage. The one year you spend in the 80<sup>th</sup> will be one of the highlights of your military careers. You will meet and work with some of the most outstanding people you'll ever have the privilege of meeting in your life—in one of the most critical locations on the planet. I did, and I'm proud and thankful for it. You are now known throughout the fighter community around the world as the Juvats, but please remember you are first and foremost the Headhunters. Both are names to be proud of. You are our source of continued membership in our *Association*, so I urge you to join up and be a part of us. Your first year is free, and the \$10 a year after that, if you decide to renew, will be the best 83-cents a month you'll ever spend on camaraderie — guaranteed.

Lt Col James "Tex" Ritter (Primary: [Tex@80FSHeadhunters.org](mailto:Tex@80FSHeadhunters.org) Personal: [jjet01@charter.net](mailto:jjet01@charter.net) Headhunters; 1030 E Hwy 377 Suite 110; PMB 174; Granbury, Texas 76048 Home: 817-776-4254 Mobile: 817-229-5124) has volunteered to be the new Head Hunter, and will handle Membership, Newsletter and Reunions. Lt Col Tom "Nogas" Reichert ([TSReichert@aol.com](mailto:TSReichert@aol.com)) has also volunteered, and will continue to hold down the Store and take over the Website and Treasurer functions. Please contact them and give them your support.

It has been a great twenty-plus years for Bonnie and me. I have enjoyed building on Kirby's foundation and wish our outstanding *Association* continued growth. Kirby and I call each other weekly and continue our outstanding 23-year friendship. Thanks, Kirby, for finding me in 1987 and for this great organization—without you, there would be no *Headhunters Association*. Take care, may God bless you all, and may God bless America.

## HURTIN' HEADHUNTERS



**S**arah Robles, wife of Juvat member Lt Col Pete “Rosie” Robles of North Las Vegas, was admitted to Mountain View Hospital for symptoms similar to a stroke. As it turned out, Sarah has a brain tumor that she had surgery for Monday, 22 March to have removed. Pete continues, “The tumor is non-cancerous (good thing), but is fairly good-sized (bad thing). However, as her neurologist said, 'If you're going to have a tumor, this is the kind you want to have'. It's non-invasive to the brain and 'well-defined' which means it's treatable. The surgery is scheduled for around 11:00 AM local time at Sunrise Hospital (she was transferred Saturday afternoon) which has better neurological treatment facilities. Many of you are reading about this for the first time and I apologize for not getting the word out sooner. For those of you who have already called and sent messages, thank you very much for the thoughts and notes of support...they mean a lot. I'll send a follow-up note tomorrow afternoon/evening to let you know how the tumor removal procedure went. Please keep her in your prayers. She's in good spirits but apprehensive about this (normal). More to follow. Thanks very much. Cheers, Pete”

In his final update, Pete wrote, “Well, I think we finally got it right this time. Sarah came home yesterday from her third hospital visit in a month, this time for blood clots and pulmonary embolisms. She responded very well to the treatment and was released a day ahead of schedule. Now come the follow up medical visits and the second part of the brain tumor adventure, gamma knife treatments to take out the remaining five percent of the mass not removed during the original surgery. Regardless, she's feeling much, much better and we're both very glad she's home. As I said the last time, we'll keep everyone posted if something else comes up. For now, thank you all again for your prayers and support, and God bless all of you and your families. Cheers, Pete” [Ed note] *We all wish Sarah a speedy and full recovery.*

## THE STORK CORNER!



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

**E**mail received 22 March: “My wife Susie recently gave birth to our beautiful baby girl, Farrah Danielle. She delivered Farrah at 1812 on 28 Feb. She weighed-in at 7lb 2oz and 20 1/2 inches long. Both baby and momma are doing great. We're 3-weeks into parenthood and I must say it's awesome! [signed] Lt Col Dan ‘Red’ Tippett”

*Congratulations to Dan & Susie -- and Farrah!*

# HEADHUNTERS AT REST

**L**ast, 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>
Col Adrain C. Pone	Juvats	20 Jan 2010
Lt Col Hugh L. Hatfield	WWII/LTM	06 Mar 2010

**E-mail received 26 January:** “Jaybird, Just wanted to pass along the news of a fallen Juvat. Col Adrian "Kermit" Pone, Juvat '92, died in a car crash in Italy 20 Jan. Kermit was in the Juvats with me during my first tour at the Kun. <http://www.510fs.org/> Regards, Jeff "Assid" Neilson; Juvats 91-92, 95-96” [Ed note] *Although Col Pone never joined our Association, we all pass on our condolences to his family. RIP, Kermit.*

**E-mail received 15 March:** “Dear Mr. Riedel, I wanted to let you know that my father, Hugh L. Hatfield, died on March 6th. He often spoke about his memories of WW II, his fellow pilots from the 80th Headhunter Squadron, and his love of flying the P-38. He was given full military honors for his service. My mother, Verna Hatfield is doing well and living in Gatlinburg, TN. Thank You and God Bless, Scott Hatfield; Campus Pastor; 936.522.8942; 936.448.6900; [shatfield@woodsedge.org](mailto:shatfield@woodsedge.org) “ [Ed Reply] *Dear Scott, This is very sad news indeed. On behalf of the entire 80th Fighter Squadron Headhunters Association, Bonnie and I would like to pass on our condolences to you and your family on your loss. Unfortunately, I never met your Dad, but he is a legend and we all will miss him dearly. He is truly a member of our "Greatest Generation." May God bless him, and may he rest in peace and forever soar with the Eagles. I will get the word out to all our people, and put this information in our next (1 May) newsletter. Sincerely, Jay*

**C**n 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 for ever.*



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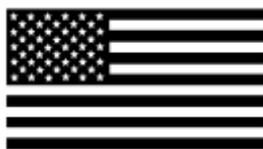
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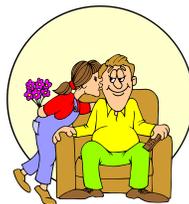
The next regular issue of the **HEADHUNTER HEADLINES** will be dated 1 August 2010.  
 The *Headhunter Headlines* is the official newsletter of the *80<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron Headhunters' Association, Inc.*,  
 a non-profit, tax exempt, War Veterans' Organization.  
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Mother's Day – 9 May



Memorial Day – 31 May



Father's Day – 20 June



Independence Day – 4 July

**SEE YOU IN "THE SPRINGS" IN TWO WEEKS!**



Col Jay E. "JayBird" Riedel, USAF (Ret)  
**THE "HEAD HUNTER"**