

80th FIGHTER SQUADRON HEADHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



HEADHUNTER HEADLINES



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"AUDENTIS FORTUNA JUVAT"

1 May 2015

BETWEEN THE WARS HEADHUNTERS

(LTM) **Jerry Pattison** says: <http://80fsheadhunters.org/2011/12/25/between-the-wars-btw/#comments> 7 January 2015 at 18:38 I was a flight line technician with the 80th. I worked the UHF radio and on the ECM receiver (threat warning) in these F-100's (see the antenna bump in the rear of the vertical stabilizer). Some pilots thought they were a nuisance! Chuckle!! At the time I had a BSA motorcycle, one of only two BSA's on the base, the other belonging to a pilot. He crashed that motorcycle into a drainage ditch and was killed in the accident, in late '56 or in '57. Sad day at Itazuke.

HEADHUNTERS DOWN

Thank you for the invitation. I regret to inform you, that my father, **Larry Eckhoff**, died in October of 2012. I enjoyed hearing my fathers' stories of events that took place in a time when rules were meant to be broken. I think it is great that you guys can still get together and wish I could be there, myself, so I can call bullsh-- on the old man. Thank you for your service and have fun! Lee Eckhoff

Dear Headhunters, Sadly, the heavenly pilots swept down and carried my husband, **Col John W. Rushfeldt**, to his heavenly landing on 8 January 2015. Please let his earthly Headhunters know that he was looking forward to the reunion in Colorado Springs. Here is his published obituary: www.sunsetnwfuneralhome.com. Thanks, **Shirley**
(it's also on the website: <http://80fsheadhunters.org/2015/03/26/colonel-john-william-rushfeldt/>)

Read in the Las Vegas Review Journal that **Walter "Wally" Carson** has died on the 16th of March 2015. Funeral is Thursday. **Stroker**

It is with deep regret that I inform you of **Dale Rook's** passing. He died on June 17th 2014. He is very much missed by family and friends. I am sure that he will be at the Reunion in spirt. **Bonnie Rook** beachfrontrentals@cox.net

PLEASE TAKE THE FOLLOWING MEMBER OFF YOUR MAILING LIST AS HE IS DECEASED AS OF DECEMBER 2, 2012: **SIDNEY L. CRANK** 320 FLAG STREET METAMORA, IL 61548 THANK YOU. ROBERT CRANK

This is to advise
you of the death of
Jesse E. Lloyd Lt/col
Retired. My husband
served in the AF for
26 years retiring
in 1969. Early in
his career he was a
member of the 80th
Fighter Sqdn.
I've enjoyed get-
ting your newsletter
and was proud of
his service in the
USAF. Sincerely
Gleason E. Lloyd



The family of
JESSE EARL LLOYD
acknowledges with deep
appreciation your kind
expression of sympathy.

FROM THE REUNION

Our host, "Driver Mac" McNeese did another outstanding job. The Elegante Hotel is an excellent venue.

THANK YOU, DRIVER!

On Friday, thanks to the efforts of Tootsie Roll, Mary Jonas and our 80th Liaison Officer Lt. "Notch" Foote we had a live video hookup for a sing along with the JBC led by JL#108 Lt Col Robert "Trip" Trip Raymond (of *Dos Gringos* fame) who sang a song he'd written especially for the program about the Squadron Mascot, "Woody" Juvat.

The Saturday night banquet was held at the National Museum of WWII Aviation. Our docent-led tour, while cut a bit short so we could get to the eating and drinking, was informative and awe-inspiring. Needless to say, Robbie Robbins was especially thrilled to see one particular P-38 that Westpac is restoring (wink, wink). The meal consisted of very heavy *hors de oeuvres*. Coupled with the free bar, it was a huge success. Many thanks to the Musuem and it's staff of volunteers!

At the banquet, Driver Mac (who is also your Association Historian) spoke about his efforts to catalogue and sort the thousands of pictures, memoirs and memorabilia we've accumulated over the last 40 or so years. He's entered us into a mutually-beneficial relationship with the Museum which has agreed to store and display our Squadron history items as part of their multi-million dollar expansion. Good on you, Driver.

Led by "Hulio" Houle, the Saturday golf program went very well. While I've forgotten who won the tournament, I do remember that Saul Nova one of our WWII Lightning drivers won the prize for closest to the pin- proving that age and treachery will triumph over youth and skill every time.

I want to thank all who supported the Association by attending. Thanks to Driver Mac, Hulio and Tootsie for their hard work. I'd like to especially thank Dick and Mary Jonas who provided the music. That they can take time out of their very busy schedules to attend and perform for us says volumes about their level of support for the Headhunters- that they do it for free says even more!!



Taken by Debi Klaers (our Hostess) at the Welcome Briefing in the National Museum of WWII Aviation.



Slam Smith and Jaybird



JBC led by JL#108 Trip Raymond-
Live from the Kun



Juvat Lead “Trip” Raymond singing a tribute to “Woody” Juvat written especially for the reunion



Denson Ware’s flag (donated by his widow Frances) given to each Jap soldier by his Emperor urging him to fight for the Empire



Part of the 80th's display at the Museum. The Squadron History, copy of The Sign, Peanut Nevil’s jacket and Kirby wearing the jacket

FROM THE WEBSITE

On 2/24/2015 6:38 PM, Greg Haines wrote: Hi Tex, My wife's grandfather flew a P51/F51 for the 8th Fighter Group / 36th Fighter Squadron in occupation Japan in the late 1940s. Would you happen to have color photos of their aircraft during that time frame (or renderings). We have a few black and whites, but no color. I'm thinking of having a painting done of his aircraft, and would love to know the colors of the numbers, tail stripe, etc. Unfortunately, her grandfather passed away several years back, so we aren't able to ask him. Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Greg Haines <mailto:greghaines1975@aol.com>

FROM AROUND THE WORLD

On 4/20/2015 5:36 PM, **EDWARD MCHALE** wrote: Unable to attend health problems prevent travel. Wishing all Juvats the best. **Ed McHale**, Col. USAF, Ret

Tex, Sorry I can't make it. I have a heavy conflicting commitment. My high school class of octogenarians are reuniting for the last time. The Roosevelt high school, HNL HI class of '50 have 65 or so ambulatory members who can attend. As of today, 190 of 304 graduates are gone. Have to celebrate with these great folks one more time. Sincerely, **Bob Kan Juvat72**

Hi Tex! Not set in stone yet, but it sounds like we'll PCS this spring/summer. I don't think I can get there from here -- to the reunion, that is. Bummer, cuz I know C-Springs will be awesome. Hope to be part of the next one. W.i.g.?! **NATO (Hegvet, err, Hegvbedt, err...I give up-Tex)**

On 1/28/2015 6:00 PM, T.R. wrote:

Tex, If there are any Headhunters from the '69>'70 Yokota "Wild Weasels", tell them "Hi" from "T.R.". Sorry I can't be there in person. **T.R. Marino**

Hey Tex, I'll have to be there in Spirit as that week is the time I will be pinning on my daughter as a 2Lt. as she receives her commissioning. Maybe next one. Tell **Ed Houle** I said Hey! Blessings, **Rock Hobbs**, Pastor, Encourager & Friend . Transformation Ministries, P.O. Box 282, Chelsea, AL 35043 (205)470-3830 rock@TRMinistries.org

Hi Tex,

It's so good to hear from you! **Cyclone (Davis)** has had some issues which make it pretty difficult to travel these days but, all in all, for having just turned 96, he's not doing too bad. His mind is still pretty sharp and I have been working on his book. I've finished around six hundred pages and have 160,000 words written. It's been slow: I still have my medical practice and helping take care of my folks has taken a lot of time. We lost my little Mom last month and that was pretty tough on Dad (on all of us, actually).

A medicine Dad was taking for his type 2 diabetes apparently affected his kidneys and Dad has been on dialysis twice a week for the last year and a half. He used to do just fine only getting oxygen at night, but he now needs it during the day as well. However, he is doing quite a bit better than he was and, overall, has improved these last several weeks. He still tells his stories, he still is funny, and he still enjoys his grandkids and great grand kids.

I'm so glad I brought him to that reunion in Colorado Springs. We both enjoyed seeing all the Headhunters a lot! I've put quite a few Headhunter stories in my book. Dad's 35th Squadron and the 80th were together at 3-Mile for months, so Dad and the Headhunters got to know each other pretty well. Those friendships continued after Dad took over the group. While group CO, Dad frequently flew with the 80th.

We think about you all and love hearing from you. The Headhunters are a very special group! Dad said to send you his very best! With warmest regards, **Tucker (Davis)**

Tex, thanks for getting back to me. Found my lifetime membership card right after I hit send. Thanks for all the great work! Can't believe the reunion is going to be in my old back yard the year after I moved away... Too late. Feeling old...**Goose (Gosnell)** *Goose, welcome to the club-Tex*

Help please. Anybody know who wrote "American Fighter Pilot"? Probably it was written in the mid to late 1980's.

AMERICAN FIGHTER PILOT (in part)

*"Look overhead and listen close
The sound of freedom roaring by.
Four mighty Falcons with their throttles fire-walled
Dominate the South Korean skies.
The Wolfpack and the Viper
In Korea now to stay
There's peace here now, and it's gonna stay that way."*

*"Day time or night time
Dark clouds or clear
We're ready to take to the sky.
Mk-82s or Mavericks, or Limas wall to wall,
If you plan to come to fight us, plan to die."*

*"In battle we may stumble,
But in the end we will prevail.
American fighter pilots
Will not fail."*

Dick Jonas needs the info for an upcoming project. Please contact him: dickjonas@cableone.net or drop a line to HH HQ: HH01@8ofsheadhunters.org.

FROM THE ORDERLY ROOM

HH HQ has moved. The (for now) Oct-May address is: 22830 S. Hulen, #174, Ft Worth, Texas 76109 Phone remains the same: 817-229-5124. May-Oct remains: Box 162, St. Marys, PA 15857. Note the new email address: HH01@8ofsheadhunters.org.

We were all a bit disappointed by the meager turnout. We had 27 (52 with wives and girlfriends) out of 894 Headhunters attend. This reflects a trend that started about the same time as the number of WWII guys attending – due to age and health reasons- began to drop off. Jaybird and I have tried various ways of improving attendance- this last one being free drinks for the entire weekend- to little avail, it seems. Therefore, at the business meeting I proposed we go to a three-year reunion cycle starting after our 75th Anniversary Reunion to be held in Ft Worth, Texas in early May of 2017. The reasoning is: 1. That with fewer reunions, they may become more special, affordable and noteworthy than with the current eighteen-month cycle and more will attend; 2. I simply cannot ask so many volunteers to put in so much time and effort for such low attendance every eighteen months.

That being said, I heartily appreciated each and every of you who took the time and money to show up and support your Association. JUVAT!

I'm waiting for more pictures, and will post them on the website as soon as I can. If you have any to share, please send them to me: HH01@8ofsheadhunters.org

BUSINESS MEETING SUMMARY

Membership

LTM: 646

R: 101 (registered and current annual dues payers)

Q: 147 (non-registered, non-current annual dues payers)
894 - down 106 as of last cos reunion

Finances

CD: \$13258

Checking: \$3677
\$16935

Does not include 2015 reunion expenses

Newsletter:

176 still mailed out: \$826/year

901 postcards mailed: \$482. (received 93 replies)

Display @ WWII aviation museum
\$1862

Website:

\$380 +/- cost per year

All public except for master roster and JBC sections

334 (annual and LTM) registered users

Reunions

Postcards sent to all+ personal letters sent to each CO HH

27 HH (with wives and guests total 50) attended

8 of 42 of Colorado members attended. There are 151 members in AZ,CO,NM,UT

Previous reunion attendance

2013 Chino: 40

2011 San Antone: 55+/-

2010 C Springs: 52

2008 Destin: 65

2007 Cowtown: 110

2005 Vegas: 90

2017 reunion 75th anniversary

May 2017

Cowtown (Ft Worth)

Host: Butch Byrd

Then, the 3 year cycle starts.

Also, we discussed how to get the active-duty Juvats interested in the Association. One of the suggested ways was for us to pair with the active-duty Squadron and co-sponsor the Korean orphanage that the Squadron has been funding since the 1970's. I will contact JL#108 and begin a dialogue.

We shall see.

Hoping we all have a healthy, happy and prosperous summer.

What is good?

Tex and Rita2

**80th Fighter Squadron
THE HEADHUNTERS
2830 S. Hulen, PMB 174
Ft Worth, Texas 76109**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



***“TWIN TAILED LIGHTNING WAS OUR WARPLANE, AS WE ROAM’D PACIFIC SKIES...
SEARCHING OUT, THE SONS OF NIPPON, SENDING THEM TO THEIR DEMISE.”***