

PRESIDENTS NOTES

Since our last reunion (May 2012) the BOD has been involved in numerous MCARA activities. All of them support Article 2 (Purpose) of MCARA's constitution or in organizing the forthcoming reunion. The BOD emphasis has been and will continue to be on things that will enhance MCARA membership and appeal while increasing its visibility. Articles within this logbook provide insight into those activities.

2014's reunion: The reunion location has previously been announced as Tucson. We were fortunate to have two Committee Members that live in Tucson (Paul Kuras and Michael Wystrach). Their thoughts and personal research has been more than appreciated. After much massaging and staffing the Tucson proposed itinerary was forwarded to MRP, our Reunion Agent. The hotel info and the reunion itinerary can be found within this logbook (including a link to Hotel reservations). There soon will be a link on our web site (MCARA.us) to MRP's web which will contain the reunion details including a means to select and sign up for itinerary events. For those who do not use the internet, another publication will be mailed by 1 November, 2013 to effect the same.

Everything points to a great reunion in Tucson. MCARA is responsible for delivering a minimum number of attendees and is therefore held to a computed cost minimum. Early knowledge of members planning to attend would help the Secretary and I to forecast and subdue any cost concerns. Members who expect to attend and have not already done so, please indicate same via email to: lenandcarolyn@comcast.net or other available methods.

2016's Reunion: The BOD has decided to get all members more involved in selecting reunion sites and to know the outcome earlier in the process. We hope to do that by asking all members to forward suggested sites between now and 1 April 2014. We will consolidate all the suggested sites to create a single list, that will be used for voting during the member meeting (2014 reunion). That list will include the top 2 sites that failed to be selected during the voting for the 2014 site. The results will be sorted according to the number of votes received (highest to lowest) and announced prior to the departure of attendees on Sunday, last day of the reunion. The top three sites will then be researched by the BOD (next reunion committee) to select the final site. The goal is to always use the site receiving the most votes. In some incidences however, the top site may present problems or increased costs we wish to forgo and therefore, we will drop its priority. Please forward 2016 Reunion Site suggestions to:

Paul Melcher: Email: melch12@msn.com
Address: 136 Land of Lakes Cir
Lexington, SC 29073

THIS AND THAT – ODDS AND ENDS FROM THE SEC/TREAS

Membership and finance report: As of 20 July we have 339 members (129 annuals and 210 lifers). The treasury has \$27,700 in 3 accounts. I provide a detailed financial report to the Board of Directors each month as well as a Membership Report.

MCARA has its funds in 3 separate accounts, i.e. checking, savings and a CD. The total funds at the moment are noted above. I conduct an internal AUDIT (self-audit) at year end. All the ins and outs currently balance and the reports for June have been presented to the BOD for review. Our banking is online and the BOD can access the accounts at any time. A budget for 2013 is in the hands of the BOD for review and comment as well as a just completed 10 year plan/projected budget. We anticipate living within our means this year. The out years are somewhat speculative but the plan is based on averages incurred over the last several years. We project a total account value at the end on 10 years of almost \$25,000. Anyone that wants a copy send me an E. I plan to provide copies to all attendees at the Tucson Reunion in May.

In 2013 our MCARA website at www.mcara.us has recorded approximately 400 visitors per month. The web site is under a regular update cycle and we try to keep it current. The Membership Directory has just been updated and a new posting will occur in early August. It is password protected. Please contact me by phone or Email if you have
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any trouble accessing the Directory. The WEB SITE and our MCARA name and Domain are under US control now and we have an "as needed" Maintenance company.

The web could always use improvements and we are soliciting requests for beneficial changes. Flash Whitten has a number of ideas and requests which we hope to present to the Membership via E mail as we approach the next Reunion.

Jack Metrock digitized several CRUISE Books and they have been uploaded to the web site. There are links to years 1959 up through the 70s. Please enjoy. The reunion link has been also added and reservations for Tucson can be made using the info presented .

The Honor Roll has just been updated and In Memoriam donations are in process. Our donations go to the Semper Fi (Injured Marine) Fund.

The Recon Log Book is the member's newsletter and is open to everyone. If you have something you would like to say or share, contact me or Jimmy Carter or Meek Kiker to get it in print. Allow the rest of us to enjoy it. Meek continues to act as our LOGBOOK creator and monitor .

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWABLE

MCARA annual memberships expire on July 31 and if you are annual and have not renewed ,please let me know that the check is in the mail. If you have forgotten your update date for those that go the 3 year choice, please E me and I will confirm your status for you. All renewals are gratefully accepted whenever you can send them to me. Contact me if you have any questions about your status or need web info. lenandcarolyn@comcast.net.

Welcome Aboard

Some years ago the jobs of Secretary and Treasurer were merged since some overlap exists between the two areas of responsibility. Bill Gordon and Terry Miner made it work well.

Fortunately for me, Jimmy Carter has volunteered to help and is providing his IT skills to the job of creating a Master Database out of which comes sorting and spreadsheets, the web directory, etc. Please notify either of us with phone, address, contact data, etc. as changes occur or when you finally realize that no one is calling you any more .

We are trying to make the data in the database as accurate as possible. If any of you detect errors, please send the correction to me or Jimmy (jimmycarterusmc@gmail.com). We hope to distribute the Logbook via E mail whenever possible as a cost saving measure. Jimmy is currently distributing periodic updates, summaries of issues under BOD discussion, topics of general interest, memorials, etc. via this database, SO ... Please check your own data as well as any other you are certain of and send us the corrections. Thanks

In calendar year 2013 so far we have added 11 new members. They are:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Douglas Guare | Saunder Schaevitz | Stewart Haas | Richard Harris (Life) |
| David Hallin (Life) | John Switzer | Nedson Robison (Life) | Steven Schidler (Life) |
| Richard Hazlett | John Pugh | Gregory Rath | |

The complete info on each is in the Membership Directory posted at the web site.

Also, we have the following 7 Life Member conversions so far in 2013:

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| David McNally | George Cohen | Michael Taylor | Phillip Montroy |
| William Steinberg | Terry Miner | Thomas Koger | |

See the Directory for amplifying data.





MCARA
Marine Corps Aviation
Reconnaissance Association



148618 - Prototype Electric Intruder

**COMMEMORATING
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
EA-6A ELECTRIC INTRUDER
FIRST FLIGHT**



Aerodynamic Prototype "EA6A" (A2F-1H#2) 147865-Feb. 1963



26 APRIL 2013 - MCAS CHERRY POINT

THIRD MCAS CHERRY PT MINI-REUNION

On 26 April MCARA hosted the 3rd Biennial MCAS Cherry Pt. Mini-Reunion at the Miller's Landing club on base. The date coincided with the actual 50th anniversary of the first flight of the Grumman EA-6A Electric Intruder. Lead planner and local director Danny Walsh said this was the best attended mini-reunion yet as it attracted members from as far away as Colorado given its historical significance. Past President Flash Whitten and director Jack Metrock joined MCARA president Paul Melcher in welcoming Lt. Col. Kudelko, the CO of VMAQ-2 along with several of his officers and SNCOs as honored guests at the dinner. Earlier, the attendees joined retired Col. Tom Murphree, the CO of VMCI-2 who accepted the first EA-6A in 1965, for a group photo alongside the oldest EA-6A nicknamed "Methuselah". Many of the out of town members also participated in a photo op with the first Marine EA-6B Prowler, bureau number 160432 which was recently readied for static display in a prominent spot as you enter the base.

I want to tell every one what a great time we had at this year's mini-reunion. It has been my pleasure to put these on for MCARA. The feeling of family was in the air! I had the pleasure of meeting many of you for the first time and it's easy to see why our squadrons were so great. It's the people that make events like this happen and we all should be proud of our VMCI family that is the heart of MCARA. Many of the attendees contributed to making this historical reunion a success and enjoyable for all. Not many groups have the honor of having the people we do.

It was special for me to have Col. Murphree, Sgt. Maj. Romano and six of us that went to Grumman Bethpage in 1965 for the first EA-6A tech training. Not many know that Col. Murphree was a rifleman in the Pacific in WW II, always a gentleman and great leader.

S/F Danny Walsh Havelock Director

OLDTIMER SPOTLIGHT

For those that don't know him, Reece Woodard is one of MCARA's remaining four elders who served in the big war ... no WW II not Korea or Vietnam but in his case and the others that served there too. He is currently residing in a senior care facility in the Ft. Myers area. Thanks to his son Jim we have been provided a batch of pictures and flightlog book data from his long career dating back to his days as an attack pilot in the Pacific. In the post-war years he came back on active service as an avionics officer, AIO and one of our earliest Electronic Counter Measures Officers flying the AD-2Qs in Korea. He was there as a plank owner in VMC-1 in 1952, returned to fly with VMCI-2 and VMCI-3 before heading off to England for a RAF exchange tour as an AIO. We plan to post some of the documents Jim has provided on his dad on the website later on.

THE FIGHT TO SAVE AVIATION EW

In keeping with MCARA's goal to "preserve the past and protect the future" of aviation electronic warfare and reconnaissance several members have taken up the fight to save EW; the sixth function of Marine Aviation. Some years ago the Marine Corps decided to go away from dedicated manned EW aircraft to a combination of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) with EW payloads, pods on fixed and rotary wing aircraft and the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter which has some inherent EW capabilities. So the plan is to phase-out the EA-6B Prowlers starting in 2016, with last of the four VMAQ squadrons to be retired in 2019. Our greybeard group has serious doubts about that approach but more importantly found that the Prowlers will be phased out long before the planned functional replacements are operational which creates an untenable capability gap. So over the past 6 months we have been engaged in a campaign of sorts to educate our senators and congressman on the defense committees on the problem and seek their help to keep the Marine aviation EW function viable in the future.

In recognition of the impact the loss of the VMAQ squadrons will have on MCAS Cherry Pt and the eastern NC economy, we also have been assisting Danny Walsh our local MCARA director in getting the word out to the community and to the NC congressional delegation. Ricky Johnson and John Olkowski, two of our Prowler veterans who reside in the area, also have been instrumental in this cause. For more info and word on how you might help contact me at hwwhitten@aol.com.

ONCE A MARINE ALWAYS A MARINE



MARINE CORPS AVIATION RECON ASSOCIATION 2014 REUNION Tucson, AZ ~ May 1-5, 2014

Welcome to Tucson

Located in Southern Arizona, Tucson is one of the oldest continually inhabited areas in North America. Hohokam Indians lived and farmed here for 4,000 years before Spanish missionaries and soldiers arrived in the late 1600s. In the 1700s, these "newcomers" established the Presidio San Agustín del Tucson and the Mission San Xavier del Bac - the two most iconic and historic structures in the region. "The Old Pueblo," as the adobe-walled Tucson Presidio became known, is Tucson's nickname to this day. The MCARA reunion program will give you the opportunity to experience some of the area's top attractions such as the Pima Air & Space Museum, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Old Tucson Studios.

Hotel Information

Our reunion officially runs Thursday, May 1 to Monday, May 5. We will be staying at the Doubletree Tucson-Reid Park. Surrounded by the Sonora Desert, the hotel is across the street from Reid Park, which features a zoo and golf courses.

The room rate is just \$99.00 plus tax per night, based on single or double occupancy and includes a discounted Breakfast Buffet rate of \$8 plus tax and gratuity in the Cactus Rose Restaurant during the reunion dates. For those who choose to extend their stay, the group rate is available up to 3 days before and after official reunion dates, based on availability. Make your hotel reservations now by calling hotel reservations at **520-881-4200**. Mention that you are **with the Marine Corp Aviation Recon Association (booking code MCA)** to assure you are associated with your group. It is always best to make your reservation directly with the hotel and not a central hotel-chain "call center". MRP has negotiated numerous amenities for you that the call centers may not be aware of. (Note: only those booking under the reunion group code are eligible for amenities that may include free breakfast, reduced parking, internet, etc. Booking through another channel like reunionhotels.com disqualifies you and your party from group amenities). Once tour & event arrangements have been finalized you will be able to make hotel and event reservations online at **www.MilitaryReunionPlanners.com** using passcode: **MRP&MCARA**

Make your reservations as soon as possible, rooms may sell out! You may cancel up to 48 hours prior to arrival without penalty. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or April 8, 2014, whichever comes first. Don't delay! If you have any trouble getting rooms at the group rate even if they say the hotel is sold out, or have questions on the program call MRP @ 817-251-3551 or email: Eileen@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com

Transportation & Directions

For those of you flying to the reunion, the closest airport is Tucson International (TUS). The hotel offers a paid airport shuttle service at \$15 one way. Once in baggage claim, call the hotel at 520-881-4200 and they will dispatch the shuttle for you.

Check out our Expedia travel widget (on the right side of web landing page) for rental car prices or if you need a hotel enroute. For those of you driving to the reunion, hotel parking is complimentary. Call the hotel directly for driving instructions.

Travel safely and we will ...



See you in Tucson!



MCARA 2014 REUNION ITINERARY

Tucson, AZ ~ May 1 – 5, 2014

THURSDAY, MAY 1

- Arrival & Registration in the Ready Room
- 1800 *Welcome Aboard Reception*

FRIDAY, MAY 2

- 0800 Reunion registration opens in the *Ready Room*.
- 0900 Bus departs hotel for *Pima Air & Space Museum*. (Event A)
- 1200 Lunch at the Flight Grill Restaurant on your own
- Davis-Monthan AFB Tour
- 1600 Return to hotel
- 1800 Bus departs for Dinner at Li'l Abner's Steakhouse (Event B)

SATURDAY, MAY 3

- 0730 Board of Directors business meeting in the *Ready Room*
- 0900 Bus departs for *Old Tucson Studios* (Event C)
- Lunch on your own
- 1400 Board the bus to return to the hotel
- 1500 Raytheon Missile Brief in the *Ready Room*
- 1800 Dinner at Pinnacle Peak Restaurant (time to be confirmed) (Event D)

SUNDAY, MAY 4

- 0900 Bus departs for *Sonora Desert Museum* (Event E)
- 0900 Bus departs for Tubac Shopping Excursion (Native American culture) (Event F)
- 1400 Return to hotel.
- 1400 WTI Command Brief
- 1500 Membership Meeting
- 1800 Social hour and cocktails with cash bar
- 1900 MCARA banquet dinner

MONDAY, MAY 5

- 0700 Sayonara breakfast in the hotel restaurant
- 1100 Hotel Check out time

Thanks for coming! We wish you good health and safe travels!!
Visit us at www.MilitaryReunionPlanners.com



Agent Orange and Colonel Ralph “Swede” Thuesen’s Induction to the In Memory Program

The “In Memory Program” at the Vietnam Memorial Wall is for veterans and civilians who died as a result of their involvement in the war, but not as a direct result of combat wounds.

Col. Thuesen and his family’s story that lead up to the induction is as follows:

Col. Thuesen enlisted in the USMC right out of high school, following WWII. He served in Tiensts in China from 1946-1949 with the 5th Marines CID unit.

Following discharge from active duty, he continued his service as an active member of the MC Reserve. He was recalled to active duty in 1950 and was assigned to 5th Marines in Korea (Chos in Reservoir) until his selection to Officer's Candidate School.

In 1954 he was designated a Naval Aviator, a pilot with VM CJ-2 at Cherry Point NC. He continued his career in various squadrons, VM CJ-3 and VM CJ-1's XO in Iwakuni.

After serving as VM CJ-4's CO in 1966-1968 in New Orleans, he was transferred into helicopters. In 1968-1969 he was CO of H&MS-36 and HMM-265, MAG 36 1st MAW, Vietnam. Also, in 1969 he was XO of MAG 36, Vietnam. During this time he flew heavy helicopters and in this function, was involved with spraying Agent Orange. Of Vietnam interest, Col. Thuesen was the CO of the MAG 24, Hawaii, that was involved in the evacuation of Vietnam.

During his career he and his wife, Barbara, had a daughter, Nancy, and a son, Michael. Col. Thuesen retired in 1977. Col. Thuesen, age 55, died in the VA hospital in Bath, NY, after a battle with brain cancer, due to his exposure to Agent Orange.

The only option for the Thuesen’s family in 1984 was to join the 1984 Agent Orange class action suit against the companies that manufactured the poisonous defoliant sprayed in Vietnam. Mrs. Thuesen received \$1,700 from this suit, which did not even cover her legal fees. But for the efforts of the Thuesen family and the other plaintiffs in the 1984 class action suit, they established the link of exposure to Agent Orange and the myriad health problems caused by this exposure.

From the date of settlement of the suit until recently, many Korean and Vietnam era veterans (now to include veterans from our conflicts in the Middle East) have struggled, like Col. Thuesen, to gain recognition and assistance from the VA for their non non-combat yet service connected health issues. As a consequence of delay and negative support, many have given up trying while others never start. To be sure, some never start simply because they don’t recognize the connection themselves or because they feel their situation doesn’t measure up to Purple Heart qualifications.

Now, thanks to Col. Thuesen and a few others with courage to demand a second look, his condition and several other afflictions have been the “Presumptive” consequence of service in selected locations. Here is a synopsis of the applicable law (“Breaks” inserted to delete wordy nonessentials):

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors

Chapter 2 Service-Connected Disabilities

Disability Compensation

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service-connected.

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Monthly disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of a Veteran's dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation. The benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

The payment of military retirement pay, disability severance pay and separation incentive payments, known as Special Separation Benefits (SSB) and Voluntary Separation Incentives (VSI) affects the amount of VA compensation paid to disabled Veterans.

To be eligible, the service of the Veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions other than dishonorable. For additional details, visit www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/.

Presumptive Conditions for Disability Compensation

Certain chronic and tropical diseases (for example, multiple sclerosis, diabetes mellitus, and arthritis) may be service connected if the disease manifests to a compensable degree (i.e., rated 10-percent disabling or greater) within the applicable time limit following service (either one year, three years, or seven years, depending on the disease). For a comprehensive list of these chronic diseases, see 38 CFR 3.309; for applicable time limits, see 38 CFR 3.307.

All Veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, at any time after separation from service may be eligible for compensation for that disability.

Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange and Other Herbicides: A Veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, is presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations.

Fourteen illnesses are presumed by VA to be service-connected for such Veterans: AL amyloidosis, chloracne or other acneform disease similar to chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma), Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, trachea), non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, diabetes mellitus (Type 2), all chronic B-cell leukemias (including, but not limited to, hairy-cell leukemia and chronic lymphocytic leukemia), Parkinson's disease, and ischemic heart disease.

Veterans Exposed to Radiation: For Veterans who participated in "radiation risk activities" as defined in VA regulations while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, the following conditions are presumed to be service-connected: all forms of leukemia (except for chronic lymphocytic leukemia); cancer of the thyroid, breast, pharynx, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, salivary gland, urinary tract (renal pelvis, ureter, urinary bladder and urethra), brain, bone, lung, colon, and ovary; bronchiolo-alveolar carcinoma; multiple myeloma; lymphomas (other than Hodgkin's disease), and primary liver cancer (except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated).

To determine service connection for other conditions or exposures not eligible for presumptive service connection, VA considers factors such as the amount of radiation exposure, duration of exposure, elapsed time between exposure and onset of the disease, gender and family history, age at time of exposure, the extent to which a non service-related exposure could contribute to disease, and the relative sensitivity of exposed tissue.

Gulf War Veterans with Chronic Disabilities may receive disability compensation for chronic disabilities resulting from undiagnosed illnesses and/or medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illnesses defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms. A disability is considered chronic if it has existed for at least six months.

The undiagnosed illnesses must have appeared either during active service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War period of Aug. 2, 1990, to July 31, 1991, or to a degree of at least 10 percent at any time since then through Dec. 31, 2016. This theater of operations includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone
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between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

Examples of symptoms of an undiagnosed illness and medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illness defined by a cluster of signs and symptoms include: **chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, functional gastrointestinal disorders, fatigue, signs or symptoms involving the skin, skin disorders, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, neurological signs or symptoms, neuropsychological signs or symptoms, signs or symptoms involving the respiratory system (upper or lower), sleep disturbances, gastrointestinal signs or symptoms, cardiovascular signs or symptoms, abnormal weight loss, and menstrual disorders.**

Here's a list of Agent Orange Presumptive Disabilities conditions (from a routine Yahoo Search):

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Acute and Sub-acute Peripheral Neuropathy | 23. Lymphangiosarcoma |
| 2. Angiosarcoma | 24. Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma |
| 3. Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma | 25. Malignant Ganglioneuroma |
| 4. Adult Fibrosarcoma | 26. Malignant Giant Cell Tumor of the Tendon Sheath |
| 5. B-Cell Leukemias | 27. Malignant Glandular Schwannoma |
| 6. Bone Pain | 28. Malignant Granular Cell Tumor |
| 7. Chloracne | 29. Malignant Hemangiopericytoma |
| 8. Clear Cell Sarcoma of Aponeuroses | 30. Malignant Leiomyoblastoma |
| 9. Clear Cell Sarcoma of Tendons and Aponeuroses | 31. Malignant Mesenchymoma |
| 10. Congenital Fibrosarcoma | 32. Malignant Schwannoma with Rhabdomyoblastic Differentiation |
| 11. Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans | 33. Malignant Synovioma |
| 12. Ectomesenchymoma | 34. Multiple Myeloma |
| 13. Epithelioid Malignant Leiomyosarcoma | 35. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma |
| 14. Epithelioid and Granular Malignant Schwannomas | 36. Parkinson's Disease |
| 15. Epithelioid Sarcoma | 37. Porphyria Cutanea Tarda |
| 16. Extraskeletal Ewing's Sarcoma | 38. Proliferating (systemic) Angiendotheliomatosis |
| 17. Hemangiosarcoma | 39. Prostate Cancer |
| 18. Hodgkin's Disease | 40. Respiratory Cancer |
| 19. Infantile Fibrosarcoma | 41. Rhabdomyosarcoma |
| 20. Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD) | 42. Synovial Sarcoma |
| 21. Leiomyosarcoma | 43. Type II Diabetes |
| 22. Liposarcoma | |

There are many publications out there, to include the actual law passed by Congress and synopses / "how to's" prepared by the VA, that one can scrutinize but the best of them will always admonish supplicants to understand:

- The VA isn't a culprit or a barrier to successful claims. The VA is a huge bureaucracy trying to comply with laws passed by Congress to protect taxpayers from unlawful or fraudulent claims.
- The VA has a huge backlog at a time when it is concurrently trying to reconfigure from a paper-based institution to a internet/computer based institution and when it is simultaneously trying to absorb a whole new generation of combat vets.
- The best way to insure proper and timely response to a claim for support is first to enlist the support of a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) such as: VFW, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Amvets, etc. or the various Veterans Service Officers of the States and Counties where you live. They know the programs and forms and will help an applicant complete a Fully Developed Claim ("FDC" is the new favored acronym).

For those who don't recognize in yourself an affliction that might justify filing a claim with the VA, it may still make very good sense to approach your nearest Veterans Administration Medical Center's (VAMC) eligibility desk concerning enrollment as a patient. There are a great many benefits in addition to great health care (efficiently priced!) but that's a good place to start. And, a DD214 showing that an honorably discharged vet set foot in the

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conflict is pretty sufficient to justify enrollment.

For reference, see Code of Federal Regulations – Title 38: Pensions, Bonuses, and Veterans’ Relief (2010)

- 38 CFR 3.307 - Presumptive service connection for chronic, tropical or prisoner-of-war related disease, or disease associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents; wartime and service on or after January 1, 1947
- 38 CFR 3.309 - Disease Subject to presumptive service connection

Fifteenth Annual “In Memory Day Observance”

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Friday, June 14, 2013

The “In Memory Program” honors those that died as a result of the Vietnam War but whose deaths do not fit the Department of Defense parameters for inclusion upon The Wall. Many thousands of service members and civilians died as a result of their involvement in the war, but not as a direct result of combat wounds, as is dictated for inscription on The Wall. The ceremony is held every Flag Day and this year 121 men were recognized for their contributions to ensure the cause of freedom and liberty. Their names will be added to the “In Memory Honor Roll”.

If you know of anyone whose death was related to involvement in the Vietnam War and would like to have that person included in the “In Memory Program”, contact VVMF at (202) 393-0090 or visit the website for details and to download the “In Memory” application: www.vvmf.org/InMemoryProgram.

In 2014 construction plans for an Education Center that will be a technologically-innovative learning facility to be built on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans and Lincoln Memorials. Visitors will better understand the profound impact that the Vietnam War and other wars had on their friends and family members. The Center will feature the faces and stories of the more than 58,000 men and women on the Wall and those who fought and returned home to fall later due to their time in country, as well as the friends and families of all who served. Learn more about the Education Center at The Wall by visiting www.vvmf.org or by calling 866-990-WALL.



Barbara Thuesen attended the In Memory Day Observance

HOHOR ROLL

Ralph (Swede) Thuesen	Apr-84	John D. Dunlop	Feb-03	Ann Conroy	Apr-09
Paul K. Wheeler	?	Maxine "Marty" Robinson	May-04	Marcy Opeka	Aug-09
Russell E. Jeanes	?	E. Jane Dunlop	Jul-04	Paul 'Skip' Manning	Sep-09
Jerome "Jerry" Foote	?	Patterson C. Wurthman	Dec-04	James E. Whitacre	Nov-09
Walter Brownell	?	F. Thomas Johnson	May-05	F.C. Opeka	Dec-09
Robert P. Brunck	?	Emil F. Naschinsky	Apr-05	Robert G. Maine	Feb-10
Elmer Leader	?	John W. Flecksteiner	Jun-05	Al Powell	Mar-10
R. Forest Persons	?	Marjorie Corman	Sep-05	Edward M. Guell	Apr-10
Gail William Sublett	Feb-95	Mickey Conroy	Sep-05	Robert Kimley	May-10
Samuel Figueroa	Sep-95	Thomas D. Reynolds	Jan-06	Betty F. Strandberg	Jun-10
Ector "EC" Johnson	Sep-95	Gary W. Hintz	Apr-06	Eleanor Holloway	Jul-10
Robert Taylor	Feb-96	Ronald Kreckman	May-06	Benjamin B. Skinner	Nov-10
Jack Holloway	May-97	William H. Wood	Jun-06	Preston 'Pete' Marques	Dec-10
Dale Young	Oct-97	Roy E. Simolin	Jun-06	John 'Walt' Quist	Dec-10
George Dopkosky	Nov-97	Carolyn Brown	Aug-06	Robert E. Wiseman	Jan-11
Bill Borgman	Dec-97	Jack R. Harmon	Aug-06	Roger W. Peard	Mar-11
D.W. Hendrix	May-98	Charles B. Schwarzweller	Dec-06	Margaret Wood	Apr-11
Robert Weeks	Jun-98	Betty G. Gill	Jan-07	Betty G. Borgman	May-11
Calvin C. Duke	? - 98	Thomas P. Kelly	Mar-07	William 'Duke' Steinken	May-11
Richard J. Eley	Feb-99	Cecil J. Amparan	Apr-07	John M. "Jack" Casey	Sep-11
Louis Ghuzman	Feb-99	Barbara Fritschi	Jul-07	Norman F. Charboneau	Sep-11
Clay Janson	May-99	Dayton Robinson	Aug-07	Jerry O'Brien	Aug-12
Pat Dayson	Jun-99	Mildred Wiseman	Oct-07	Sandy Obermiller	Sep-12
Barney Miller	Jul-99	Carol C. Vaughn	Feb-08	James T. Blake	Oct-12
Charles C. Chisholm	Oct-99	Thomas F. Gay	Mar-08		
William J. Smith	Oct-99	Laurel Offerie	Apr-08		
Walter Nieman	Feb-00	Robert C. Davis	Jun-08		
Robert Davis	Mar-00	Rudolfo (Rudy) Martinez	Aug-08		
Sam Gill	Sep-00	Howard Meskin	Nov-08		
Richard Heubner	Aug-01	Rush Morgan	Mar-09		
Chet A. Folk	? - 03	Ron B. Luther	Mar-09		

HONORARY MEMBERS LOST IN COMBAT

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Conflict</u>
Capt	Darl Bloom	KIA	13 Nov 64	Vietnam
1Lt	Milton Mc Nulty	KIA	31 Jul 65	Vietnam
CWO	Vernard Small	KIA	31 Jul 65	Vietnam
Maj	Brent Davis	KIA	18 Mar 66	Vietnam
Maj	Everett McPherson	KIA	18 Mar 66	Vietnam
Capt	Joseph Murphy	KIA	24 Mar 67	Vietnam
2Lt	Walter Albright	KIA	24 Mar 67	Vietnam
LTC	Richard Hawthorne	KIA	12 Sep 67	Vietnam
Maj	Richard Kane	KIA	12 Sep 67	Vietnam
1Lt	Thomas Grud	KIA	25 Dec 67	Vietnam
Maj	William Moreland	KIA	16 Jan 68	Vietnam
Capt	Paul Gee	KIA	16 Jan 68	Vietnam
Sgt	Michael Charley	KIA	05 May 68	Vietnam
Maj	Ariel Cross	KIA	17 Jul 68	Vietnam
Maj	Lionel Para, Jr.	KIA	17 Jul 68	Vietnam
LCpl	Jack Silliman	KIA	03 Jun 69	Vietnam
Capt	John Christensen	KIA	13 Apr 72	Vietnam
Capt	David Leet	KIA	13 Apr 72	Vietnam

Karen Moody

Reprinted from the Pensacola, FL Naval Aviation Museum where Karen is a volunteer.

Born in Atlanta, Karen grew up in Charlotte. Her father, working for the Frisco Railroad was transferred to Pensacola. Karen made the move south in 1969. Shortly after arriving she met a young Marine officer Dave Moody, who was attending Naval Flight Officer training. Dave earned his wings in 1971 and the newly married couple headed for Mather AFB for specialized electronic warfare training as he had been assigned as an Electronic Counter Measures Officer (ECMO) to VMCI-1 flying the EA-6A (two-seat) "Electric Intruder" from MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina. In 1973 the squadron left on a one-year WESTPAC deployment. Karen now expecting, returned to Pensacola.

During workups off Okinawa aboard Midway in October 1973, Dave, who was not on the flight schedule as his regularly assigned pilot was temporally medically grounded volunteered as a last minute fill-in for an ECMO tasked with briefing the embarked Admiral, launching on a night carrier landing qualification flight. In a bizarre and tragic series of events, Dave's "Intruder" lost both its communication and navigation radios. Another pilot in a single-seat A-7 hearing of their plight located and joined up with Dave's aircraft to lead them back to the ship. In circumstances that will never be fully understood, both planes were suddenly lost at sea with no distress call and no survivors. Adding to the tragedy, a rescue helicopter launched immediately when contact was lost with the two jets also flew into the water with only one survivor; a fateful night for naval aviation, for those involved and for their families. Treasuring a phone conversation she had with Dave just two days before his accident sharing the news of the recent birth of their son Josh, the grief-stricken Karen faced a life full of questions largely unanswered for the next thirty-eight years. For years she could not bring herself to even go aboard NAS as every young officer seen from behind in uniform reminded her of Dave who in her mind had simply disappeared.

When Josh turned three, Karen enrolled at Pensacola Junior College, finishing her degree in social work and psychology at the University of West Florida. She did her internship at the Pensacola Naval Hospital where she started a widow's support group. In her senior year at UWF she was chosen by the National Association of Social Workers as the Florida State Student Social Worker of the Year. Inspired by this success and the earlier sensitive counseling she had received in helping her to come to terms with her own grief, she packed up her young family and moved to Athens, Georgia earning her Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Georgia in 1982. For the next twenty-four years Karen worked in several rehabilitation and counseling centers in Pensacola eventually becoming licensed as Clinical Social Worker, opening her own practice. She ultimately retired from West Florida Behavioral Health in 2006.

Given her experiences as a Marine wife and her interest in history Karen came to the Museum in 2010. While attending a recent Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, she met and shared stories with Museum volunteer Gay Lynn O'Hara. Karen mentioning to Gay Lynn she so wanted to talk with those VMCI-1 Marines who could help her reclaim those last six months of Dave's life of which she felt she was not a part. Gay Lynn immediately spoke with another Museum volunteer Paul Siverly whom she knew had contacts in the Marine Air community. Suddenly in the early spring of 2012 Karen began receiving emails from several of Dave's former squadron mates, eager to share their recollections of Dave and the inevitable stories. It was a special day indeed when Karen heard from retired Marine Major Terry Smith, Dave's regularly assigned pilot who figured so prominently in the tragedy aboard Midway and whom she had never met. Karen travelled to Decatur, Alabama where Terry had retired with his wife. Their meeting was the final step in Karen resolving her grief carried for so long. Terry himself felt a deep sense of relief in having a chance to meet and speak with Karen since he had always felt responsible for Dave being on that ill-fated flight. Later Terry spoke at great length with Karen's son Josh, providing that link to the father he had never known.

Karen now enjoys her four Pensacola area grand children, dancing and painting. I have seen her exquisite portrait and detailed still-life work. She is very talented. In what must be the final catharsis, she would like to paint an EA-6A, perhaps in the markings of VMCI-1. A place in the Museum's collection would be great testimony to her sacrifice and strength, now come full circle due in large part to the Museum.



RM 11

John Sledge sez... The original of this painting is in my home office in Melissa Tx. The photo was taken in Dec '63 during our re-qual cruise on the USS Oriskany. I flew that aircraft on my first combat mission from the USS Kitty Hawk on Yankee Station. That was in Jun '64. The artist was Alex Dorr.





Col Tom Murphree and Wife at the 50th Anniversary Mini Reunion



And then there was Catfish, Jack, Danny and Uhhh...