

The Ugly Angel
Memorial Foundation Newsletter
Volume 11, No.1, February 2006



Counting Down to Fort Worth!

The Prez Sez :

First, Pop A Smoke Reunion 2006 is coming up this August 10-13 in Fort Worth. Two of our bravest Texans, Bill McNair & Romy Myszka, are serving as PAS's reunion coordinators. I'll be handling the squadron coordinator job, including planning and collecting for the traditional Friday night squadron dinner.

In order for me to get a head start on dinner planning, please either e-mail me at <hewes@cox.net> or send a post card to me at 21 Turtle Creek Way, Fredericksburg, VA 22406 with one of the following answers to the question:

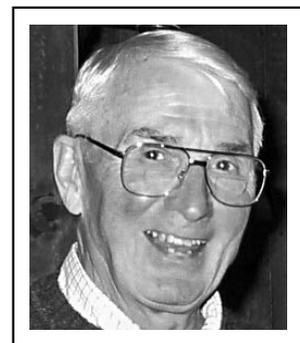
Are you planning to attend Pop A Smoke 2006 in Fort Worth?

- (1) Yes (with total number of attendees including self)
- (2) No
- (3) Maybe

As of this writing, 79 Angels have responded to our inquiries requesting a response, with a total of 59 planning to attend including wives. Not too bad – for a start!!

Second, past President Lew Barnes has, as some of you may know, bought a UH 34D which he and Angel Bill Newton are in the process of restoring. I had occasion to visit Lew this fall, and got to see the old girl. She was down to the bare aluminum and about ready for priming and painting – pretty amazing considering there are only two of them to do the work.

They could use some help, so if any of you Angels from the northwest would like to pitch in, you can contact Lew at 503-702-1595 C, 503-647-0776 H, and 503-649-2033 x 7 W or via e-mail at <hmm362@aol.com>.



Lew has applied to the IRS for 501c tax exempt status under the name, HMM-362 Marine Corps Veterans Association. Though Lew's association will be independent of the UAMF, we intend to assist brother Lew in any way we can. I've already sent him a check, and you may want to also. The image of another beautiful YL flying around out there should inspire and benefit us all.

Semper Fi,

Tom

Report from the Heavies

From HMH-362: After an extremely successful deployment to Japan, the Ugly Angels have returned home to Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay. While in Japan, HMH-362 led the way for Heavy Lift Assault Support in the Far East. Supporting the 31st MEU and the ground units on Okinawa, the CH-53D and the Marines that maintain them, validated the necessity of the aircraft. Near the end of the deployment, the Squadron also supported the President and HMX-1's mission to the Mainland of Japan. Again the venerable CH-53D proved that it is still a valuable heavy lift asset to the Marine Corps. With a month set aside to get reacquainted with families during Christmas leave period, the Ugly Angels have again turned to and are looking forward to focusing on Combat Readiness. However, just this week, HMX-1 again made the call for Presidential support and HMH-362 will answer that call. The Marines worked into the weekend to break down 5 aircraft for the C-5 transport that will take us to far off lands. Another big event for us will be completing our Heritage Room that will commemorate the great history of the Squadron. The centerpiece of the room will be the UH-34 blade that was graciously donated to the Squadron by Lew Barnes and the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation. The event dates are to be held this summer with more concrete dates to follow. The Squadron is planning on a "meet and greet" BBQ for our Vietnam Era Uglies and the current Squadron members. A simulator/preflight day is planned as well as a dinner at the Kaneohe Bay Officers Club. The main event, of course, will be the dedication of the Heritage Room. The goal of the Heritage Room is to display pictures, memorabilia, paintings and artifacts to educate the current Squadron members on the rich history of this unit. We are all very excited to have this event and we will be making this a priority, to ensure a great time.

Take care and Semper Malus

1st LT Nicholas Turner

Sick Call

Update on Muddy Waters.

One of my favorite movies is Little Big Man. One of the characters in the movie keeps losing body parts and either he or Dustin Hoffman refers to getting “whittled down.” Such appears to be the case with one of our most popular pilots, Bill “Muddy” Waters. First report was that he would lose two toes and a hunk of foot. Then we learned that the foot had been completely removed. The next message from Beth casually mentioned a BKA or “Below the Knee Amputation.” The whittling is the result of Muddy’s battle with diabetes. Since the surgery on January 9th, he has spent a couple of weeks in the hospital doing rehab and learning to walk with the prosthesis. In the meantime, he will be using a temporary limb to learn how to cope with the prosthesis. The above photo is of him going home but I think that there are daily visits still. As of this weekend, he was waiting for a temporary limb. His Beth said that he would love to hear from you all. E-mail address is muddyh2os@earthlink.net or he can be reached on his cell phone at 719-821-1595.



Update on Curt Grey

Curt disappears and shows up on a fairly regular basis. Last we knew he was waiting for a kidney transplant. A week or so, he checked in to say that he had one kidney removed because of traces of cancer, so now he has to wait two more years for another one. Not to sure I understand that.

On the upside he has a new lady friend and, apparently, it is pretty serious as he is looking to buy her a flight jacket. You’ll note that he has signed up for the reunion.

Bobby Johns

Chances are Bobby and you served together. I think he might have been an Ugly longer than anyone and probably did so in more ranks. I think he was a Lance when I was and then shot all the way up to S/Sgt before they made him an Officer and Gentleman. He also a Board Member of the UAMF up until recently when he dropped out of sight.

Just when I was wondering how come there were no answers to my e-mail, we heard from his daughters that he was in serious trouble resulting from trying to drown his sorrow after losing his wife, Linda, to cancer 3 or 4 years ago. His daughters contacted Ben who sent out an all hands message last week. I saw that Frenchy La Fountaine was writing to someone in the VA and the next thing I saw was that he was in and seemingly better. I just spoke to him and he sounded as if there was a lot of room for improvement.

His present particulars are:

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center
12002 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, TX 77030

His room is: 3B – 128 and his phone is 713-794-8329

Please visit or call if you can or maybe donate a pint of blood in his name. Cards, prayers and good wishes are also acceptable.

FNGs - they keep showing up

John Perry 69 Avionics vivianabanana3@yahoo.com was captured by Romy and Billy McNair in Fort Worth.

Donald L. Kelley '67 dlkell@bellsouth.net avionics, a/g YL-46 dropped us a line.

Looking for Uglys

Al Weiss of HMM-361, who has restored a UH 34 (BuNo 150570) once operated by the Uglys as YL 23 in VN, is looking for information on the whereabouts of D. K.

McCallum, the birds crew chief & D.J. Harmon (1st Rag) in 1969. Al is planning on taking his 34, (YN-19), to Ft. Worth for the Pop A Smoke reunion and would like to recognize those who crewed it in Vietnam.

If you have any information on McCallum or Harmon, please contact Al at either ajweiss@abv.net or his cell phone, (631) 827-5526.

RTB

Earl V. Rose – an original Archie's Angel

"EV" passed away on Friday, February 19th. He was 69. After his tour with Archie's Angels, he did a tour with 262 at New River and then got into jets with F-8s at Beaufort and as an RIO instructor in the T39s. Like many another good Marine he then joined the reserves flying F-8s at NAS Dallas, eventually serving as XO and Co of VMJ-4 before retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

After leaving active duty he flew with Braniff, Piedmont and then USAir when they bought Piedmont. He retired as a 737-400 Captain in 1996.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Ruby and two children, David and Victoria and seven grandchildren.



1st. Lt. E.V. Rose
Materiel Officer

Nancy Pless – mother of Medal of Honor recipient

You may have seen Miss Nancy at Reno being pushed around in a wheel chair. Even though she was in poor health she insisted in being present because both the Gunner, Gunny Poulson, and the crewchief “Gordo Phelps” as well as the surviving soldier from her son, Steve’s rescue mission were going to be there.

I had lost contact with her shortly after the reunion and was thrilled to get a letter from her a few weeks ago. I responded to her letter but within days, received notice that she had passed away. Last Saturday, February 18th was the service and it was a fine mix of Baptist, Elvis and the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps League was in attendance as well as her Helo-Marine sons, including Brad Ryti and Mark Byrd of Scarface Gordo, the above mentioned VMO-6 crew chief, Charlie Maddox of Pop A Smoke, Frenchy La Fontaine of VMO-2 and supplier of all our Ultra Marine clothing needs, as well as Jim Bob Moriarty, the former owner –operator of YL 42.



Your editor and these Huey guys saluted her passing as best we could staying up way past “lights-out.” She was a grand friend!!

Reunion attendees.

By the time you get this, you should have heard from Pop A Smoke with registration and reservation info. If you haven’t, check the members database at <http://www.popasmoke.com> and see if you are paid up. You need to be to be a Pop A Smoke member to attend

Planning to be there (62) as of 2-27-06

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|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Art Barker & Terri Tomlinson | Lyman & Lee Cokely | Darold & Brenda Cooper |
| John Donnelly | Joe Eke | Gary Doss |
| Don & Dee Ferguson | Ron & Anna Gall | John Gonneville |
| Curt Gray & Guest | Tom Hewes | Pete King |
| Jerry & Turmi Kottkamp | Jack and Cindy Lodge | Bob & Patsy Nickens |
| Al & Alexis Nitchman | Don Martin | Tom & Carol McKnight |
| Bill & Nita McNair | Romy & Linda Myszka | Bill & Carol McCluskey |
| Jerry & Allie Ostapowicz | Larry Pringle | Burt Palmer |
| Carlos Puente | Paul Sheehan | Bob & Madilyn Skinder |
| Jim & June Street | Kenny & Shirl Thomas | Larry & Judy or Nick Turner |

Darrell Tygart
Ed. Wato Sr. and Lilly
Gene Camp

Frank Walters (2)
Del and Debby York

Bill Waters & Beth Fischer
Mike and Lynn Zacker
Dan and Joan Dain

May Attend (18)

Bill & Carol Duffy
Bill & Dianne Keller
Dick Moser
Bill & Ronda Willey

Phil Jackson
Lansford Lilly
Jim & Fran Perryman
Dave and Mary Davidson

Dave & Diana Jones
Dave & Jill Luhrsen
Larry Fraser
Jim & Betsy Paetznick

Regrets (5)

Charlie Upshaw

Norm Derylak
Marc Sohm

Ben & Ailene Cascio

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Could this be you?

From: jdmusgrave@earthlink.net <jdmusgrave@earthlink.net>
Date: Feb 4, 2006 9:34 PM
Subject: POPASMOKE Web Mail

Message:

Hello, I need the help of your organization. I am trying to find a crew member who was instrumental in helping to save my life the last time I was wounded in Vietnam and being medevaced from the battle zone to the hospital.

The date was 7 November 1967, in the morning, Delta Co. 1/9, northwest of Con Thien in a search and destroy mission part of Operation Kentucky. I received gunshot wounds to the chest. There were so many casualties the corpsman would not waste time on me. The company was being assaulted by overwhelming numbers of NVA. One helicopter against orders braved the enemy fire to pick up our wounded. It was an H-34. I was tossed on board without a medevac tag along with many other seriously wounded Marines. The corpsman on board looked at my wounds, decided there was nothing he could do, and pushed me beneath the feet of the portside gunner. I was lying on my side and he tried to push me down on my back. I pointed to the holes in my chest and he understood that I needed to lie on the side of my wounds or I would drown in my own blood. He took my hand and held it as he fired his machine gun at the NVA. I remember seeing the bullet holes appear in the side of the helicopter as it was being hit. As they flew us to Delta Med at Dong Ha, he continued holding my hand. Every time I began to fade he would squeeze my hand hard to keep me conscious. By the time the helicopter landed, I believed if I let go of his hand, I would die. When they took me off the helicopter, he climbed out with me and did not let go of my hand until I was on the

stretcher. I believe I owe my life to this man and the rest of the crew.

All these years I have thought of him and that crew and wished that there was some way I could let them know they had saved my life. I just found out about your organization yesterday. If there is any way you could help me find that gunner or any member of that crew, I would be forever in your debt. I thought this might be the best place to start.

I know there are thousands of Marines like me who are alive today because of the courage of the members of your organization.

Even if I never find "my" crew, I would like to be able to thank all of you.

With my love and respect,
Just Another Wounded Grunt--John D. Musgrave

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Letters to the editor

Re: 65-65 History

I'm presuming that an officer wrote or dictated that "baloney" concerning the landing and subsequent erection of the tents, showers and mess facilities. They, the officers, had those "perks" the enlisted folks had "C's", the showers were a drop tank over a frame and cold water. Hot meals? - - maybe July Green roast beef! I had a good laugh out of this one. That Marston matting is a bitch too! One other thing; the grunts did come but '362 was in support and finally we had the job completely which prove to many that we are all Infantry folks. (smile) Zacker should get a giggle out of this too.

S/F

Bob Nickens Sergeant, metal shop

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Stupid Editor

Read your Newsletter. a few corrections needed! I am Darold COOPER USMC Retired. not Campbell.I was in HMM-362 from December 1966 to August 1967. I was a SSgt at the time. I would like to find the Marines I flew with on the day the pilot nicknamed (Smokey)(Norton, Ed.)was hit by a round in the chest plate of his flackjacket. I didn't get to sign it for him. I can still see the smile on his face as he pointed to the hole that was almost through the plateing. Those two pilots saved all our asses that time.

Semper Fi, Darold E. Cooper, GySgt USMC Retired

Ribbons on Pop A Smoke Web Site

Thank you for the newsletter! I enjoyed it very much.

To answer your question about, “my question” (in the last issue) is something that I can do. I wanted to know why the AFEM was not shown with the others on the Popasmoke Web Site. That is the one that was created for our unit, the Archie’s Angels of ‘62 and Uglies till Aug 4 1964. It was expanded to other units and locations later as a catch all for combat action by others as well. The DMZ in Korea for example. The Vietnam Era did not begin until Aug 4 1964. After that time troops in Vietnam were awarded the VSM.

So to sum it up, Angels and Uglies till that time are not represented by the ribbons shown on the Popasmoke .

Semper Fi,
Ron Legendre, Archie’s Angels

Ed. Note: We got in touch with Wally, the Webmaster, and in minutes he had fixed the problem. *Mucho Gras* from all concerned.

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Jefferson, FL Correctional Institute

I got a real nice note from Marc Sohm, tinbender 67-68, just for sending him a Christmas card. If you ever knew him, drop him a line at Marc Sohm V22133, C-2, Jefferson Correctional Institution, 1050 Big Joe Rd. Monticello, FL 32344. Just remember, it could have been one of us if the breaks had just gone the other way.

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Checks received since last edition

Alan Bloomer, Ben Cascio, Adam Deveney, Tom Hewes, Dave Jones, Romy Myszka, BobSkinder and Charlie Upshaw

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Never forget

We all tend to think, I guess, of what this organization means to us as individuals. Once in awhile it occurs to me, that we are not the sole proprietors of this operation. A year or so, I was contacted by a young lance corporal named Jack Stephenson stationed in Japan and is now in Iraq. He was looking for information about his uncle, John Harrington, one of our guys who was killed in the dual mid-air in February of 69, certainly our worst accident – and within 6 months of our standing down. As we communicated, I suggested that his mother might want to know about the Memorial at Quantico. He



thought she would and I sent her the film. A few months ago, another woman contacted me. She was Dottie Fletcher, Jack's aunt and one of "Johnnie's" eight sisters. He was the only son. She had a heap of questions and at some point I told her that I had loaned out my last copy of the film but if she'd give me her address, I'd see if I could get her a copy. Well she did and it turned out to be in Oklahoma.

Pretty quickly I put her in touch with Gary Doss and within a week she and her husband were checking out YL 37 with Gary, Don Martin and Larry Pringle.

Next in the chain of events, Tom mentioned that he would be visiting Quantico so I asked if he would look into some copies of the film. By now, as you all know, film is pretty obsolete so it looks like we are about to go into the DVD business and Dottie got the first one. What follows is her response:

Hi Bob & Gary.....I rec. the DVD of the Memorial Service..WOW....The first time I watched I didn't assimilate much as it was too emotional.....I watched it several times since then and the greatest emotion I have felt is one of gratitude toward the Uglies who funded and built the Memorial. The Esprit De Corps that is demonstrated by and towards all Uglies is amazing and I am so proud my brother belonged to this

elite group of men. It was such a comfort to know Johnnie was not forgotten and to see him memorialized in all of this has brought much needed comfort to his family.....We thought we 'lost" our only brother, but to our amazement, we now have an unlimited supply of Marine Brothers. How neat is that!!.....S/F.....Dottie
Pretty neat, huh??

If you knew “Johnnie,” drop Dottie a line at pacificcoast777@yahoo.com

What to wear?

If you are thinking of going to Fort Worth or a daughter is getting married, you need to look “right.” I have begged Frenchy for a price list but here are some ballpark figures:

Ugly Angel cap - about \$15 to \$20

Gunner or pilot’s belt buckle - about \$30

Green UA golf shirt – about \$30; other colors are probably about the same.

Drop him an order or a line at COMPRISETV3@aol.com

Talk to you around the end of April.

Bob Skinder
20 Claytor Rd.
Hopkins, SC 29061
803-783-3019
rskinder@att.net