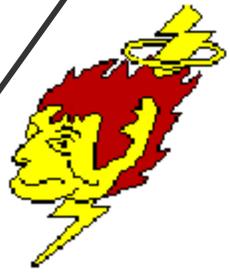


# The Ugly Angel

Memorial Foundation Newsletter  
Volume 10, No.3, June, 2005



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## New Era Begins -- Semper Fee!!!

**The Dues have it.** By more than a 2 to 1 margin (41 to 20), those members who voted chose to adopt a voluntary dues system rather than a voluntary pledge system to develop a little cash flow and fund some projects such as the Scholarship Fund and eventually get our own UH-34 to take to a few airshows and other educational events. Lew actually has the helicopter but can only give it to the Association when we have enough money to rebuild, support and maintain it. The idea, of course, is that once we get ahold of it, our championship fund raisers will be able to interest some corporations and foundations in backing this project. For now, we need to look like we are at least trying to hold our end up. If you took the trouble to read the Strategic Plan, you would have noticed mention of such a plan.

Remember, this is voluntary but we need as many of you who can voluntarily spare a few bucks to volunteer to do so. Incidentally many of you who voted for dues - or for pledges -, pledged quite a few bucks. In fact 25 people out of about 64 pledged darn close to \$4,800 so we are off to a fine start.

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**Ft. Worth reunion.** Planning for the 06 reunion is now officially under way with Bill McNair and Romy Myszka both volunteering as Co-Chairs. For you Atlantitians who have noticed a peaceful lull, yup, Romy has gone to be a Texan. Reach Bill at [YL3cc@lycos.com](mailto:YL3cc@lycos.com) and Romy at [romymouse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:romymouse@sbcglobal.net) , which happens to be a brand new address so change your book.

### Latest Ft. Worth Info

DATES: AUG 10-13, 2006

PLACE: FT. WORTH CONVENTION CENTER

HOTELS: AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH

1. PARK CENTRAL HOTEL
2. FT. WORTH PLAZA HOTEL
3. RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL

The hotels have been instructed, and have agreed not to accept reservations until they are told to do so. As in the past, we will wait until the reservation packages are sent out before we allow the hotels to accept reservations. This will take place sometime after the new year. **Remember**, No Reservation Packets unless you are a paid-up Pop A Smoke Member!!!!!!!

Associated links:

<http://ci.fort-worth.tx.us/>

<http://fortworth.areaconnect.com/>

<http://fortworth.areaconnect.com/restaurants/>

[http://www.10best.com/Fort\\_Worth/](http://www.10best.com/Fort_Worth/)

<http://fortworth.tx.mypages.com/>

If you have any questions, feel free to fire away:

[popasmoke@earthlink.net](mailto:popasmoke@earthlink.net)

To get ready for this, we divide the squadron into two groups. SALTS are those who have attended two or more or intend to attend two or more. FNGs are those who have yet to attend one of our reunions.

SALTS, your job is to let me know what you didn't like about any of the past ones and identify one or more old pals who has never come and start working on them now.

FNGs, your job is to decide why you have never come and to get in touch with a SALT and talk it over with them.



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**Lew's new old Uh-34J and local "New Breed"**

### **Marine Corps Museum and THE WING**

As many of you know, the Marine Corps Museum is now in the process of getting itself built. One way to finance this project is by selling commemorative bricks, engraved with names of donors or those of folks you might want to remember.

Since the original scheme for our HMM-362 memorial, THE WING, was to move it to the museum when it is finished, Curt Gray came up with the idea of any Ugly or Archie's Angel who wanted to get a brick could all put them together around THE WING. However to do this, the Museum has requested that he coordinate the effort so before you send in your \$300.00 contact Curt at: [UGLYANGEL@peoplepc.com](mailto:UGLYANGEL@peoplepc.com)

**Scholarship fund:** Several of the retired Master Gunnies noted that Tom Hewe's challenge letter mentioned the scholarship fund but checking the Strategic Plan found no mention of such a fund. For clarification our archivist / president dug out the following:

"1) When we first made contact with the USMC Scholarship Fund, the deposit requirement was \$10K, but it has now risen to \$25K. This is the amount required to establish a named endowment (i.e. the Ugly Angel Scholarship Fund) All funds are pooled and reinvested by the USMC SF. When I spoke most recently with BGen. Wholley, the Exec Director (and a classmate from Harvard), he promised that we would be grandfathered in at \$10K as long as we pledged to augment our gift to \$25K at some indefinite time in the future.

2. The amounts vary according to need. Since total scholarships last year totaled more than a million bucks to 981 recipients, they average somewhere more than \$1,000 per year. The grants are always renewable as long as the student performs well in school.

3. Grants are made to sons and daughters of Marines and former Marines, with particular attention given to each child whose parent was killed or wounded in action.

4. Eligibility is set forth on the website (below) and based on need. Scholarships are targeted at families with a max AGI of \$54K plus \$10K per additional child applying.

5. These can be best determined by reference to the website for the USMC SF which is [www.marine-scholars.org](http://www.marine-scholars.org)."

As previously stated this issue was adopted by the board. We then articulated this to the membership at large and have been receiving donations specifically earmarked toward achieving this goal. In that we have made this commitment I believe we need to see it through. Lew

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**Turner Family Matters** – from Larry

Yes, Nick has been selected to the rank of Captain. However, he will not be promoted for at least another 3 months. They are only promoting 150 a month and his number is 832 so he has some time to go. I'm sorry that I have not kept

very well abreast of things lately. They (HMH-362) are being deployed to Okinawa (MCAF Futema) the 24th of May and will be gone for at least 6 months. I guess there is even a possibility he could end up in Iraq. The next thing is Lew Barnes sent HMH-362 a refurbished H-34 main rotor blade with all the Patches on it from the last 40 years. Nick said the skipper about wet his britches. The whole squadron was there when it was unpacked. Lew out did himself again. Thanks Lew . Nick has been building a Heritage room at the hanger. This blade will be main focus of the room as it goes together. There is wild talk of a reunion to dedicate this room some time in March. Anybody want to go to Kaneoae Bay HI in March?



Oh! If anybody has any memorabilia they would like to leave with the squadron, send it to Nick or better yet; bring it to the dedication of the room in March. I talked to Kitty Aldworth last week - she wanted to hear all about Nick's adventures. She said that Jim would really have enjoyed being able to stay in touch with Nick. Having somebody in today's USMC that flies helicopters keeps the door open.

S/F

Larry Turner

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### **Memorial Day**

I guess a lot of us were thinking of the same thing as Memorial Day rolled around again and it wasn't about sales at the mall. I guess there is something important about having family and comrades to miss, to remember and, more importantly, to wish were still with us. I received several notes looking for information as well as more details about specific incidents. I even found out at least one thing that I wish I hadn't learned.

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### **Dan Pessimer, KIA 680331**

I have been on Pop-a-Smoke and more web sites for a while now trying to find anyone who knew my uncle Daniel. No luck yet. I would like to hear stories or see pictures if anyone has any (who served with him). If you can help me I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you for your sacrifice. [chrisntif@aol.com](mailto:chrisntif@aol.com)

Tiffany Vannatter

**James Harvey Post: KIA 680117** I'm not positive, but I think this happened while working for the SpclForces. If I remember correctly, they (SpclForces) ran a hunter killer op out of Khe Sanh, S or SW. They were pulling the team out. Noel Debord was the HAC and on his first run into the zone Post was killed. They said on arriving back at Khe Sanh, Debord carried Post into the Med and then flew back out in case he was needed.

Please get some corroboration for the above if you can.

Take care,  
John Burns, Personnel Officer

### **Bob Cramer and Denny Colburn Crash**

Bob:

The Ugliers had been flying night medevac since we got in country. I am not sure what 46 squadron came to Phu Bai, but the MAG CO told 362 it was time for the 46's to stand up and be counted.

I had two crews already picked and on standby until the CO called and let us off the hook. I released all crews to go to chow and stand down including the Corpsman.

No sooner did I let the crews go, MAG called and said the 46's were down because of some type of mechanical problems and that we would now have to fly that night.

The first person across the tarmac to the Ready Room was Major Cramer. I asked if he would take section lead since I explained the situation we were in and the quick change that took place. He agreed! I told him I would call up to the Hooch Area and get other crews. Called the Hooch area and contacted Noel DeBord. Noel agreed to pilot the second aircraft.

Here is where it get weird! I contacted Denny Colburn in the area to fly. He flipped a coin with Miller(?) and loss the toss. Thus he had to fly. Charlie Bowers had already agreed to fly so we now had all four pilots. One small problem. Noel and Denny were not getting along too well so Charlie and Denny decided to flip co-pilot jobs. Crews were now Major Cramer and Denny Colburn and Noel and Charlie Bowers.

In addition, the Navy Corpsman was released initially when the 46's were supposed to fly. I called up to the Med Area and told a corpsman that we needed to fly medevac tonight. He came to the ready room. However, he forgot his night sleeping gear and asked one of his buddies to standby until he picked up his night gear.

All of the new crews and the standby corpsman were in the Ready Room. I left for chow and am not sure who stood by until I got back, It might of been Robbie Robertson. When I got back from chow the crews had already launched on a medevac.

In the Ready Room we were following the flight by the radio and speaker on the wall. Some of the conversation was getting kind of tense from the lead aircraft because of the night conditions and location of the medevac pickup. When the intensity increased Robbie Robertson turned on his reel-to-reel tape recorder and began taping the situation on the radio.

The lead aircraft communication suddenly stopped. The chase tried to contact lead. We tried to contact the lead from the Ready Room. After about 30-45 minutes, and communications with the CO and the MAG, we had to recall the chase aircraft. Recovery took place the next day as everyone was aware.

Bob: The reason I remember this so well is when I stopped worrying when my turn might be to go to the Big Ready Room in the Sky. God had plans for them by putting them in the cockpit of the lead aircraft. Smedley has a bigger and more grand mission for them in Heaven. What is funny, when Denny and I were going through Santa Ana together, his favorite saying was, "You can't wear medals on a Madras Sport Coat!"

I hope this sheds some light on the incident!

SEMPER FI!

Henryhawk / Adam Deveney

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### **Donnie Darrow, Tony Kisucky, George Bird and Bill Hays Disappearance**

In regard to Donnie Darrow and Tony Kisucky and their crew: I believe it was in February, 1970 while en route to NAS Lake Hurst I stopped at MCAS Quantico. While there, I saw Lt.Col. Walt Shauer who was with HMX-1 at the time. I believe that Lt.Col. Shauer told me that Donnie and Tony had recently been found (late '69?). I believe that I was told that the aircraft had been found in the jungle, not far from highway #1, up near Hi-van Pass, just north of Danang Harbor; that the aircraft was pretty well intact and that everyone's remains were found in the aircraft.

Warm regards,  
Chuck Bowers

## Tribute to Frank Visconti



Frank Visconti

(Regarding your request for names of the 65-66 Uglies), Frank (Francis?) Visconti did not come over with us. He was in a squadron that was already there and came in as one of the experienced pilots to help us get started. In fact, he (and the experience he had) likely saved my life: We had taken a Company or Battalion Commander into a place where his troops were operating and were setting there waiting for him to re-board. Unbeknownst to us, a bad guy was laying in a cain break or brush patch about 10 or 15 yards from the left side of the helicopter (where I was setting as co pilot). The bad guy opened up on us with an automatic weapon -- likely aiming at me as there were bullet holes all

around me. I heard noise and felt something (bullet and aircraft pieces, in retrospect) hitting me, but I did not quickly comprehend what was going on -- luckily, Frank was wrapping on turns and pulling pitch from the first second. Consequently, I am living proof of the folly of spraying a single target with full automatic -- if he has just drawn a bead on me and squeezed the trigger I'd likely have been a gonner. Also, if Frank had not instantly realized the danger and got me out of there, I would likely have eventually taken a few hits.

Best regards,

Larry Fraser

p.s.

I don't see Ellis Latalia on the master list (I'd be interested to know where he is now).

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## Hail receives award for helicopter restoration

Gordy Renfield sent us notice of a nice article about the YL 37 Group.

You can check it out at:

<http://www.claremoreprogress.com/archive/article.php?op=Print&sid=12114>

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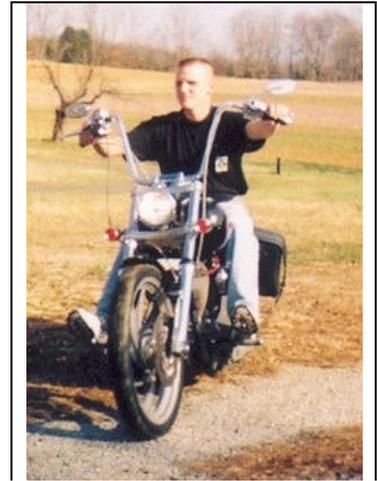
## Bravo Zulu to Mike Zacker

The Marine Press Corps documented the anniversary of The Fall of Saigon with a nice story about then Gunny Mike Zacker who, at the time, was functioning as a crew chief of the CH-53. You can read it at what might be the longest url in history:

<http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/ac95bc775efc34c685256ab50049d458/63cd39d2d54d05b285256ff0007c6790?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,zacker>

## **And to the Sigman's**

We got some nice pictures from BJ of his son, Staff Sergeant Jack who lost his leg in Iraq due to an RPG. It seems like only last week when we saw the first photos of him at Bethesda getting the Purple Heart from the Assistant CMC.



The latest set shows him loading up the truck with his bike and heading off to California to reunite with his unit, Weapons Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. They hadn't seen each other since he was Medevac'd in October '04. He met Governor Arnold Swartzenger at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center on Thanksgiving Day '04. He's doing well and looking forward to returning to duty!

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## **And the not-so-good news**

### **Sort of lousy:**

We have just learned that Hollywood is still up to its old tricks and this time it will effect at least one of us. As many of you know, Greg Lee was the HAC who picked up Dickey Chapelle when she was mortally wounded in November of 65. She was the photojournalist who made us famous by writing and photographing the National Geographic story of the original Archie's Angels operating in Vietnam. A movie is now being made about her life. In order to best immortalize the photojournalist who always insisted on the truth and honoring the military, the story will now have Archie as the HAC who made the pickup, 3 years after he went home. I wonder if they will have them fall in love just to add a little spice to the story. There is no shame in Hollywood.

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### **And flat-out tragic**

I'm not sure if Marc Sohm worked for me or replaced me but we were both Ugly tin-benders. We re-met on the big job at Pensacola when about 10 of us painted the old Navy H-34 to look like one of our birds. Willy Sproule and Tom Hewes were the honchos on that job.

Through Willy, we have learned that Marc is now incarcerated in Florida for a very long time. Basically it involves Marc and his brother getting into a family fight. Unfortunately, guns were involved and though, not used, impacted heavily on the sentencing, namely a release date of 2012. If you knew Marc, please drop him a line at Marc Sohm V22133, C1, Jefferson Correctional Institution, 1050 Big Joe Rd., Monticello, FL 32344 OR, if you are within driving distance, see if you can visit him. I guess you ought to call first AND add him to your Christmas card list.

Membership Form for the HMRL, HMM, HMH-362

**Ugly Angel Association**  
(A Not-for-Profit Association?)

This information will be included in the Published Roster on the Ugly Angel web page (<http://hmm362.org>); only names, dates of service and unit information will be published. For security, your home, work information, including phone numbers and email address, etc...will not be listed. This information will only be made available through the Roster Manager of the Association unless you initial here for this information to be passed out upon request\_\_\_\_\_. We ask for a nickname if applicable because it does make it easier for those of us that are memory challenged, some of us can only remember a person by "Dumbo" or "Magnet Ass" or even worse.

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ Work #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname known by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code + 4: \_\_\_\_\_ --  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rank: current/separation \_\_\_\_\_ Present status: Separated \_\_\_\_\_ Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_  
Period of Service with HMRL/HMM/HMH-362: (From)\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (To)\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Location of Squadron during service : \_\_\_\_\_  
Personal  
Awards/Decorations: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\* Optional Information\*\*\*\*\*

Name of Spouse or Significant other

: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names:

\_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ College: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Current Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies/Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

(Books, Articles, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

(Civil Service) \_\_\_\_\_

(Notable Feats) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues will help support administrative expenses, with surplus being deposited in the UAMF, & are strictly voluntary & considered as a donation. If there are circumstances that you cannot afford the dues, or if you wish to help other members by donating to our dues fund, please contact the current Association President at: [HMM362.com](http://HMM362.com)

\*\*\*\*\* Dues Information\*\*\*\*\*

**Note: Print this form and mail it with your check.**

**No information will be released to anyone outside the Association under any circumstances.**

**Life Membership dues can be paid in 3 installments over a time period not to exceed one year.**

**Annual Membership runs from January 1st through December 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Membership class (check one):**

**Regular:** \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 donation to "Ugly Angel Association")

**Active Duty:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Free)

Life: \_\_\_\_\_

(250.00, may be paid in three installments)

**\*\*\*\*\*Pledges & Donations\*\*\*\*\***

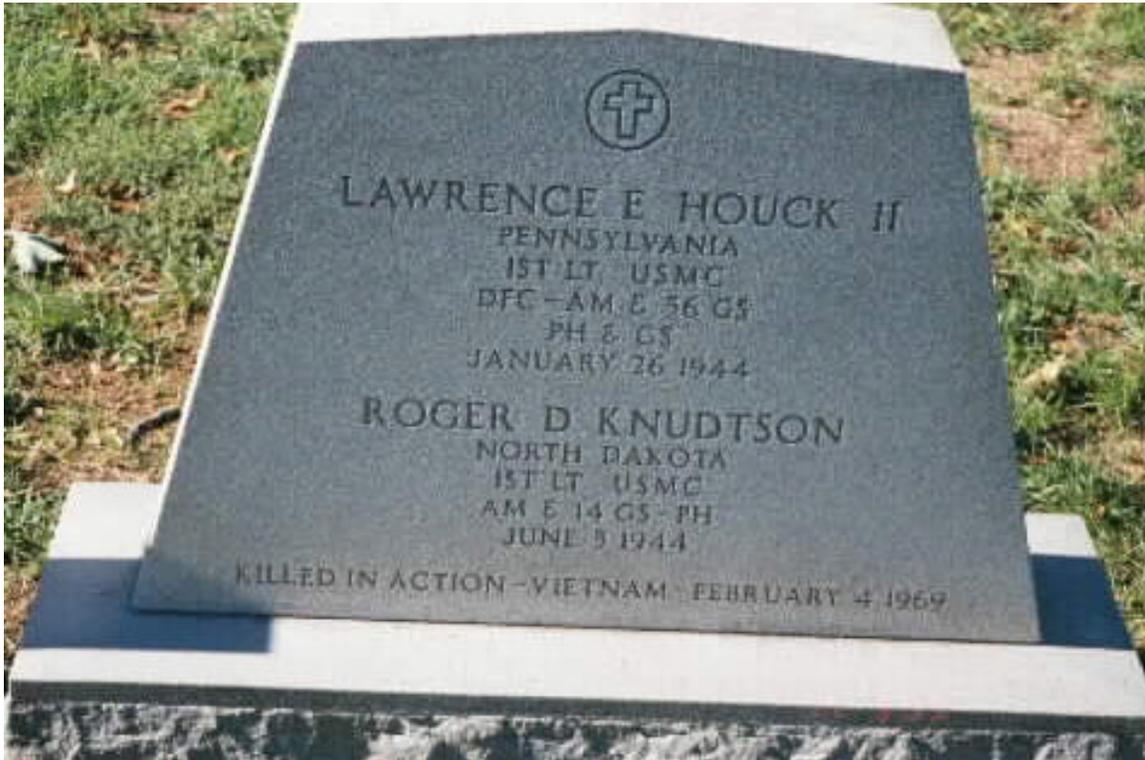
**Make Checks or Money Orders payable to:**

**"Ugly Angel Association" or "Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation,"  
as appropriate & Send to:**

John Burns, 2585 St. Nick Drive, New Orleans LA 70131  
504-394-0633, [jburns4@cox.net](mailto:jburns4@cox.net)

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Thanks to Allen Bloomer, Bravo Thomas, Mike Zacker and Charlie Appleton for checks received



Two of our brothers  
Arlington National Cemetery

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The next newsletter should be delivered in September.

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