

The Ugly Angel

Memorial Foundation Newsletter

Vol III, Issue 4 July 1998

Special Report

The HMM-362 maintenance department, headed by Willie Sproule and Burt Palmer, checked in from thirty years leave to once again demonstrate that they are still the best in the business. Looking a tad heavier and a lot grayer, Marc Sohm, Bob Case, Bob Skinder, Sherard Dukes, Frenchy LaFontaine, and Tom Hewes turned to at 0800 on Friday morning the 12th of June under the gentle guidance of Willie and Burt and never looked back. Working alongside them were two sons, Butch Sproule and Jonathan LaFontaine, who distinguished themselves by quickly demonstrating the truth of the old adage, "the apple doesn't fall very far from the tree". These guys can work!

After a full days work, and a honey cured ham and biscuit noon meal provided by the "confidential corporal", a well deserved R&R was taken Saturday night. Dressed in handsome "YL 42 crew" golf shirts donated by Frenchy, the crew attended a cookout at Bob & Janice Sheehans in Gulf Breeze. It was simply fantastic. The years and wrinkles melted away, war stories issued from grinning faces; ribs, potato salad, and beer (some skills are never lost) disappeared at an alarming rate; and the laughter was loud and continuous. All agreed that it was the best time they have had since Bangkok. Tuesday afternoon we received a Care package, complete with yummy MREs, from our West Coast Det. (Lew Barnes, Ken Logue, and Tim Wilson). It came just in time to carry us through a second consecutive long tiring day.

Fellow Uglies, from 0800 Friday the 11th to 1700 Wednesday the 17th these guys worked their asses off under extraordinarily difficult field conditions – around 95° every day with the heat index pegged at 100, and constant winds of 10 to 25 mph. After a grueling 14 hour Monday & Tuesday, it's an honor to report to you that YL 42 has partially risen from the bitter ashes of the Vietnam War. She sits in the restoration hangar of the National Museum of Naval Aviation, garbed in field green paint and camouflage hatchback, awaiting only the black tactical lettering and the Ugly Angel glaring defiantly from her tail pylon.

The spirits of thirty-two dead Angels, and Mike Carley who died in YL 42, hover overhead warmed by the knowledge that their "brothers" have not forgotten them or their sacrifice.

The engine RPM and the rotor RPM must both be kept in the "green". Failure to heed this commandment can affect the morale of the crew

The Count

If everyone who says they are attending shows up, it looks as though the Uglies are going to break the Las Vegas reunion attendance record of 68. As of this instant, 76 Angels have committed to attend, 19 say they will try, and 15 just can't get away. An up to date Status Board displaying who's doing what is in on page 4.

The Ugly Angel Memorial

Thus far I have received only two inputs about where to place our permanent Ugly Angel Memorial. Since Santa Ana, the original home base of the Angels, is now a subdivision, some candidates for the site of the memorial include: New River, Pensacola, Miramar, and Pendleton. If you have a strong feelings about where the memorial should be located, please send them in. The meeting following our Friday night reunion dinner will be decision time.

Reunion Dinner Plan – Again

Place: New World Landing, 600 S. Palafox St. in Pensacola. That's within walking distance of the reunion bus service stop at Seville Square. Happy Hour starts at 1730 (5:30 PM) and dinner promptly at 1900 (7:00 PM). Dress anything but naked. There will be a cash bar @ \$2.50 per drink.

Menu Choices: Each of which comes with Small New Potatoes and a Vegetable Medley

- (A) Stuffed Shrimp w Crab meat Dressing..... \$17.75
- (B) Roast Prime Rib of Beef, Au Jus, 8–10 oz..... \$15.75
- (C) Champagne Chicken w Cream Sauce and Toasted Almonds..... \$15.25

Each entree includes a salad of Hearts of Romaine Caesar, rolls & butter, and a selection of non-alcoholic beverages. You may select your own dessert from the special Dessert Table donated by our gracious hostess/manager, Janice Sheehan. All dinner prices include gratuity and local taxes. Wines may be purchased separately at \$9.95 a carafe (about 5 glasses), tax included. Chow down!

How to Order – Again

If you plan to attend the dinner you must order and pay no later than 15 August. A no–shit cut off date is necessary to insure that I survive until the next reunion, and Janice has sufficient time to order supplies. To order simply write down your names & choices (Kitty A and Sam B, or Bill C, etc.) plus a check for the total of the one/two/three dinners made out to Tom Hewes and mail it to me at the address on the bottom of the last page. If you don't get your canceled check back right away, don't worry. I'm depositing in batches every couple of weeks.

So far I have received only 9 dinner checks which means we will probably hold the Ugly Angel dinner at one table

Having all your body parts intact and functioning at the end of the day beats the alternative

Fund Drive Status

Thus far 60+ Angels have contributed a total of \$3868. The basket is not quite full so if you want to contribute, there is still time. If you can't afford to send anything, don't sweat it. You will always be Ugly whether you contribute or not.

On the other hand, one of our guys, who will remain safely anonymous, wrote, "After paying my divorce attorney and my ex-wife and her attorney I discovered I had a little left over. I figure I better send it to you before they find out." OooRah!

Contributions in excess of funds needed for the paint job will be held in the Foundation account for future use. Remember, we also have a memorial to fund. Make your checks payable to the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation and mail them to the Sachs Law Office, P.O. Box 1360, Norwich, VT 05055 (attn: UAF). Save your canceled checks, Marines. We now have an IRS number, and by year's end all your 1998 contributions will be tax deductible.

Prayer may not help, but it can't hurt

Ready Room

This time around we had planned to decorate the ready room with large 20"x 30" posters of Ugly Angel scenes from our years in Vietnam in addition to other interesting stuff – but the initial response to our request for pictures (one submission so far) sucks so bad Ben now has hickies on the bottom of his feet.

If you have a favorite picture of Angels at war, send it (along with the negative if you have one) to our Ready Room guru, Ben Cascio, 684 Route 208, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 Tel: (201) 848-7811/fax: (201) 848-9174. E-mail previews of your pics to <bencascio@aol.com>. August 1st is the cutoff date, so send your pics ASAP. This is coming out of Ben's pocket (can't use UAMF money) so if you can spare it, send him the fare. Remember, we can afford to hang only ten pictures!

Reunion Frag Order 1–98

At H hour on D–day, HMM – 362 (–) (reinforced) will conduct a helicopter assault on LZ Beachside with the mission of seizing and occupying two employees of Sikorsky Aircraft. Subject employees, hereinafter known as mission essential targets (METs), can be identified by tags bearing the names John Hax and "Pogy" Pogany. Upon their seizure, the METs will be plied with copious quantities of strong drink. The squadron mission will not be considered complete until every Ugly Angel has bought each of the targets at least one drink apiece. Every crewmember will submit an after action report to GySgt. Skinder (call sign: Fire Ant) upon completion of his mission.

Correction

Last months medevac story, excerpted from "Red Clay" a pub of the Khe Sanh Veterans, Inc., erroneously listed the incorrect first names for the gunner and crew chief. The story should have shown our two stalwarts as Jim Villarreal and Jesse Mena.

Casualty Update

We have received information from Al Barbour, the Association Historian, which suggests that the mid air collision in which Capt. Steven Wayne Martin and his crew were killed may have been a medevac with a Corpsman named Ivan Louis Heller on board. If you any information that would corroborate this report please contact me.

The Association plans to publish a complete listing of all helicopter Marines killed in Vietnam, including those on the ground or as passengers. If you have any information about anyone killed in this manner, please let me know the names and as many details as you can remember as soon as possible.

The further away you are from your friends, the less likely it is that they can help you
when you really need them the most

Lost & Found

We neglected to mention in the June edition that suddenly appearing out of the mists of time after thirty years absence was Sherard Dukes, aka Confidential Corporal. According to our southern correspondent and chief libratarian, "Fire Ant" Skinder, Dukes has really been hiding in the CIA for the past thirty years.

Let's Set the Record Straight

It has recently been brought to my attention by Lou Stefan that the late CWO Sam Chastain was originally recommended for a heroism award which a senior squadron officer declined to forward. The incident in question involved the extraction of a pilot along the Ben Hai River in 1968 under extremely hazardous conditions. The mission co-pilot was P. T. Nemetz and the Corpsman Jim Fisher. If any of you other Angels have first hand knowledge of this action, please contact me. Provided we can collect the necessary statements, we will attempt to see that Sam gets an appropriate posthumous award.

FNGs Reporting In

The following Angels have checked back into the squadron in recent weeks: Jim Barr, Gene Caldwell, Jon Gidley, Walt McLeroy, Ed Tatman, Curt Gray, Bill McCluskey, Clay Canfield, and Bill Walker.

A newsletters was also sent to Noel Logan, but returned because of no forwarding address or an unknown at this address. If you know Noel, tell him to send me a good address.

Squadron Status Board

Manning Aircraft (76)

Rabon Adler	Charlie Appleton	Greg/Nancy Armstrong	Steve Atell
Lew/Jean Barnes	Denny Beckman	Tom Bong	Al Cain
Gene/Marcia Camp	Mike/Barbara Carley	Ben/Ailene Cascio	Bob/Virginia
Case Cal Christensen	Archie Clapp*	C. J. Cormier	Ken Davis
Norb Derylak	Adam Deveny	Jerry Dooley	Bill/Carol
Duffy Sherard Dukes	Jim/Diane Fisher	Ron/Gerry Fix	Frank Flagg
Sandy Gideonse	Jim Gordon	Butch Gorman	Oramel/Sharon Hall
Ron/Lynn Harkless	Garett Hatcher	Ron Heald	Tom/Joanne
Hewes Dick Houghton	Steve Hucal	Ed/Linda Hunneyman	Ron Ice
Bobby Johns	"Doc" Jones	Nick Kapetan*	Bill Kelly
Pete King	Dick Koepp	Jerry/Turmi Kottkamp	D. J. Leighton
Chuck/Linda Linn	Jack/Cindy Lodge	Ken/Raeann Logue	Terry Mann
Bill McCluskey	Curt/Renette McCraney	Tom McKnight	Dave/Amelia
Moore Romy Myszka	Smokey Norton	Bob O'Neil	Jim Perryman
"Robbie" Robertson	E. V. Rose	"Gunny"/Marlene Sachs	Bob/Janice Sheehan
B. J./Mary Sigman	Bob/Madilyn Skinder	Marc Sohm	Ron Sorensen
Ed Southworth	Willie/Esta Sproule	Lou Stefan	Wayne/Becky
Sutter Al Thomas	Tom/Anita Thurber	Phil/Judy Turner	Bill/Ruth
Waters Bill Willey	Tim/Karen Wilson	"Wimpy" Wimpler	Mike Zacker

(If you don't see your lady's name listed, send it in and I'll add it.)

Milling Around the Ready Room (19)

"Beetle" Bailey	Bo Beaumer	Alan Bower	Pat Bray
Gary Doss	Don Flick	Bill Green	Steve Hill
Brad Jealous	Al Kerst	John Longdin	"Mush" Melin
Bob Nickens	Donn Proven	Charlie Upshaw	Jim Villarreal
Carl Wheeler	Billy Wilkison	Carl Yung	

Grounded (15)

Alan Bloomer
Ed Creamer
Merle Hill
“Pete” Petersen

Bob Bracy
Steve Eck
Ed Langley
Bill Spicer

John Burns
Jim Ferrier
Bill Lelash
Joe Vignere

Dick Cline*
Tom Gillan
Burt Palmer

* former COs

Ugly Angel Shirts

Next newsletter we will publish information on how to purchase a Foundation golf shirt. The Outer Banks shirt is black forest green with red facings, and has the Ugly Angel logo and Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation embroidered over the left breast. The cost, a modest \$35.00 of which 28.5% goes to the Memorial Foundation. Stay tuned!

Words of wisdom courtesy of “ Everything I ever needed to know about life, I learned as a helicopter crewman in Vietnam” by an unidentified Corpsman and the “Pop A Smoke” web site

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