

The Ugly Angel

Memorial Foundation Newsletter

Vol IV, Issue 2 July 1999

Special Referendum Edition

This edition of the newsletter is primarily dedicated to finding out where **you** want the permanent Ugly Angel Memorial to be located.

In early May, the President of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation sent letters to four Marine Corps installations (MCAS Miramar, MCB Camp Pendleton, MCB Quantico, and MCAS New River) asking each of their commanders if it would be possible to place the memorial aboard their base and whether they would welcome having it there. Miramar and New River have both enthusiastically said they want the memorial. Campen said yes, provided the design meets their approval and environmental concerns. Quantico also said yes, but would temporarily locate the memorial at the Basic School until the Marine Corps Heritage Center Memorial Walk is completed in the year 2004 or later.

To refresh your memory, the following describes some basic information about each of the four sites:

MCAS Miramar, which lies just to the north of San Diego, is the major Marine Corps Air Station on the west coast now that El Toro is closed. It is home to both some fixed wing and helos of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing, the wing to which HMM-362 was assigned when it deployed to Vietnam in 1965. As the major MCAS on the west coast, Miramar is unlikely to close as long as there is Marine aviation.

MCB Camp Pendleton, which is roughly midway between Los Angeles and San Diego, is the home of the First Marine Division and MAG-16, which is located at the Marine Corps Air Facility. HMM-362 was a unit of MAG-16 when it deployed to Nam in 1965 from Santa Ana. Campen (and presumably the MCAF) is unlikely to close as long as there is a Marine Corps.

MCB Quantico, which is about 35 miles south of Washington, DC is known as the "Crossroads of the Corps". It is the home of the Basic School, located at Camp Barrett, where all 2dLts receive their initial Marine Corps schooling, and of HMX-1, the presidential helicopter squadron. Quantico is also unlikely to close as long as there is a Marine Corps.

MCAS New River, which is adjacent to Camp Lejuene, was for many years the home of the Ugly Angels after they left Vietnam and transitioned to CH 53s. HMH-362 has since moved to MCAS Kaneohe Bay. New River is the only helo base on the east coast and is similarly unlikely to close.

In making your choice you may want to consider such factors as permanence of the base, proximity to Helo Association reunion sites, squadron historical connection to the base/unit, proximity to popular vacation areas, and similar factors.

You have the choices. Now it's your turn to tell us which one of the four sites you prefer. You have a dog in this fight so let us know which you think should become home to the memorial to our fallen brothers. Semper Fidelis also means that those of us who survived owe it to the thirty-three Angels who gave their lives in Vietnam to see to it they are not forgotten.

To record your vote, just fill out a post card, or write an e-mail, with your first and second choices (For example: 1. MCAS ..., 2. MCB...) and send it to me at the following snail/e-mail address: Tom Hewes, 384 Hartland Blvd. E. Hartland, CT 06027. e-mail <thewes@snet.net> If you're feeling particularly lazy, pick up the EE-8 and call me at (860) 653-4436.

It's that easy, so please do it today. Balloting closes on 15 August so don't delay.

I ask guys why they have deer heads on their walls. They always say because it's such a beautiful animal.

There you go! I think my mother is beautiful, but I only have photographs of her.

The Echo of Taps

*For tho' from out the bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar*

Crossing the Bar : Tennyson

We regret to report that since our last newsletter we have had two more deaths in the Angel family .

Veva Marcine Cline, beloved wife of former CO, Lt Col. Dick Cline, USMC, (ret.), passed away Wednesday, March 31st at her home in Ventura, CA following a short illness. Koochie, as she was known, was born August 6, 1923 to Elvis DeWitt Milam and Nellie Katheryn Bush Milam of Bolivar, MO. In the mid 1930s the Milam family moved to Santa Paula, CA. In 1945, Koochie married her neighbor, Dick Cline, a career Marine officer and aviator veteran of WWII in the Pacific. It was a loving marriage that endured three wars and forty-four years. Koochie is survived by three fine sons, Rick, Tom, and Tim; five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. She was laid to rest on Tuesday, April 6th at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park.

Many of you will remember Koochie, a delightful lady, from the 1996 Las Vegas reunion which she attended with the Skipper. Bally's certainly will as she reduced their profit margin a bunch.

Former Ugly Angel CO, Colonel Nick J. Kapetan, USMC (ret.), died suddenly Friday morning, May 28 of an apparent heart attack. According to his son Jon, that morning Nick was driving from the gym to the office when he suddenly felt ill. He wisely pulled over, called for help, and was rushed to the hospital. While there he lost consciousness and could not be revived. Funeral services were held on Wednesday, June 2 at Saint George's Greek Orthodox Church, Fresno, CA.

Nick served two tours with HMM-362; the first as XO of the original Archie's Angels under Archie Clapp in 1962 and the second as CO in 1967. As those of you who attended the 1996 Las Vegas and 1998 Pensacola reunions know, Nick was both passionate about and very proud of his service with the Angels. We are equally proud to have served with him - and will miss the Skipper's presence at future reunions.

As is our custom when a member of the Angel family crosses the bar, condolences have been expressed and floral arrangements sent to the Cline and Kapetan families on your behalf .

Statistics on sanity show that one of every four Americans is suffering from some form of mental illness.

Think of your three best friends. If they are OK, then it must be you.

Short Rounds

Ron Ice & Romy Myszka report that Ed Strawn, who served as an electrician with the Uglys in 1968, received a liver transplant last year and is doing well. Well wishers will find Ed at 11791 Conrad Road, Harrisbury, MO 65256-9648. Tel. 573-874-8163.

Charlie Upshaw, who served with the Ugly Angels in 1967-68 and later commanded the squadron at New River, has recently retired as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA.

Ed Tatman says that the May tornadoes, which devastated Oklahoma and Kansas killing forty people, missed the home of Ugly Angel Gary Doss of Midwest City by only two blocks but destroyed his church. Fortunately, Gary and his family were unharmed.

I'm informed that brother Bob Case has injured his leg. His good buddy, Swampy Skinder (who ratted him out without hesitation), claims a pallet of Bud, or Bud's wife, or somebody fell on his leg. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mark Stanton reports that Lyman Phillips, Ugly Angel flight equipment tech and gunner in 67-68, recently had a kidney removed. We also wish him a full recovery. If you want to tell him yourself, you can call or write: Lyman Phillips, 27 Oak St. Smithtown, NY 11787. Tel. (516) 366-3523

Lest We Forget

Rusty Sachs reports that, through a happy chain of coincidences, he was contacted by Mrs. Richard (Lynn) Harless, the daughter of Major Bob Cramer who was tragically killed on a night Medevac mission in early 1968. Lynn, who has never had any contact with Marines who served with her Dad, has been searching for information about him all her adult life. This, in turn, led to making contact with Bob's widow, Mrs. Carolyn Cramer.

Both Rusty and I have already written Lynn and Carolyn describing the efforts of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation to erect a permanent memorial to the thirty-three Angels who gave their lives in Vietnam. Copies of the post 96 and 98 reunion editions, the Eulogy and Grace, and most recent edition of the newsletter have been sent to them, and both have been added to the mailing list.

As I wrote Lynn about her father, "That he died trying to save some young Marine's life, a boy he didn't even know, personified Bob Cramer: he was a wonderful human being, an outstanding officer, and a warm friend". Since I know that those of you who knew Bob feel the same way and will want to contact either Lynn or Carolyn, their addresses are included below:

Mrs. Richard (Lynn) Harless
S. 14315 Serenity Lane
Valleyford, WA 99036
e-mail <paramajik@aol.com>

Mrs. Carolyn Cramer
104 West Conway Drive
Mobile, AL 36608
e-mail <RMCCFC@aol.com>

You have to stay in shape. My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 and we don't know where she is.

Fund Raising Report

Thanks to the exceptional fund raising efforts of former Ugly Mark Stanton (aka the Wall Street Wiz), the UAMF has received pledges of \$4200 from his many friends in the financial community. His goal is an extraordinary \$15,000.

Also thanks to Mark, his buddy Joe Litvack, the cruise book printing contractor, was so moved by our efforts to remember our fallen comrades that he donated the entire order of 50 books plus 50 more to the UAMF, free gratis. As a result, the cruise book project has brought in \$1050, with \$300 still owed by 8 Angels (let's send in those checks, guys!). When everyone pays up, the project will have netted a whopping \$1350, with a potential for more from unsold books.

The patch project honcho'd by Bobby Johns has netted the UAMF a more modest but welcome \$28. However, we have enough patches on hand to net an additional \$250. If you need one, and everybody does, send your check or money order

for \$5.00 along with your name and address to Bobby J. Johns, 7109 Mesa Dr., Austin, TX 78731. The order form is also posted on the HMM-362 web site at <<http://www.hmm-362.org/>>

Our current UAMF account balance is \$4179.37. When all the pledges are honored, all the patches sold, and all the cruise books paid for, our bank account will total nearly \$9000. After deducting flower fund expenses, newsletter cost share, and routine admin expenses, the bulk of this money will be available for completing and emplacing the Ugly Angel Memorial.

The Memorial

UAMF Director Lew Barnes reports that attaching the stainless steel face of the Ugly Angel Memorial to a stone or composite base may present an unsurmountable technical problem. As a consequence, we are currently exploring the possibility of replicating the same beautifully etched design in an all-stone or composite memorial. Lew is currently in the process of rounding up samples of base material and estimating costs to submit to the Board of Directors. Expect to hear more in the winter edition of the newsletter.

Anytime four New Yorkers get into a cab together without arguing,
a bank robbery has just taken place.

Hail YL 37 Dedication

Gerald Hail, the gentleman who heads the group which has restored YL 37 to its original Ugly Angel Vietnam color scheme, is planning a dedication ceremony on Saturday, 23 October to which all Ugly Angels and their families are cordially invited.

On Saturday, YL 37 is going to be introduced to the world prior to being flown to and displayed at air shows around the country. Your presence will insure that the press gets to meet the guys who actually flew and maintained this wonderful old bird and who can tell the real story of HMM-362 beginning at Soc Trang, through Ky Ha and Hue-Phu Bai, aboard the LPHs, and ending at Marble Mountain.

Since Gerald is generously hosting this event (that means it's a freebie), all you will be on the hook for is your transportation and lodging expenses. The Hail place is on US 412 about 20 minutes East of Tulsa International Airport in Inola, OK. For you flugemarines, it's listed as Dobies Airport/Heliport, and has a 1600' grass strip. The field will be open Friday and Sunday, but closed all day Saturday. He also has space (with water only) for parking campers and RVs.

The Embassy Suites, Tel (800) 362-2779/ <www.embassy-suites.com>, at 3332 S 79th E. Avenue, a few minutes south of the Tulsa airport, has offered us \$125 rooms for \$85. These are suites with living room, dining area, large separate bedroom, two TVs, telephones, a wet bar, and kitchen facilities. The price includes a complimentary breakfast, free cocktails, airport shuttle - and the promise of a place to gather and visit. Adjacent to the Embassy Suites are other motels ranging in price from \$49 to \$69. Among them are the Hampton Inn (800) 663-1000, Studio Plus (800) 664-1631, Super 8 Suites (800) 660-8080, Holiday Inn (800) 665-4242, and Courtyard by Marriott (800) 660-0646. Don't forget to dial 1 first.

Although the schedule is not yet etched in stone, Saturday's events will include rides in YL 37, band music, a dedication ceremony, and an Oklahoma style luncheon barbecue (that's a BBQ bigger than Texas) with free beer. If you want to crack a cool one before or after lunch, you may also bring your own.

Though Saturday is the big day, Friday evening will feature a no-host get together at the Embassy Suites for those arriving early. Sunday morning you are invited to stop by Gerald's for coffee and donuts before heading for home.

The coordinator and official Ugly Angel representative for the event is Ben Cascio (the 1&01i Ugly). Ben will be ably assisted by Ed Tatman who will coordinate the Oklahoma end of things. The Hail group may send written invitations with a request you RSVP. So, if you plan to attend (remember, families are invited too), don't forget to respond - and then back it up by contacting either Ben or Ed ASAP (but no later than 1 Sep) at the following :

Ben R. Cascio, 45 Lakeshore Dr. Oakland, NJ 07436 Tel (201) 337-6621/e-mail <bencascio@aol.com>

Ed Tatman, 605 N.E. 3rd St. Stigler, OK 74462 Tel (918) 967-2256/e-mail <etatman@kavts.tec.ok.us>

Senior citizens (old guys like me) are strongly encouraged to call, write, or e-mail now before you forget. Better yet, tell you wife who, if she's like mine, never forgets anything. Don't stuff it in the round file! This is the final newsletter of the year so there can't be any last minute reminders.

Late breaking information about the Hail -YL 37 Dedication will be posted on Chuck Linn's Ugly Angel website at <<http://www.hmm-362.org/>> as it becomes available. Stay tuned in!

Did you ever notice that when you blow in your dogs face he gets mad at you?
But when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window.

Random thoughts courtesy of John Burns

Down Memory Lane

If you want to revisit your misspent youth, Discovery Channel will air a documentary on Marine Helicopter operations in Vietnam on Monday, 26 July from 2000 to 2300 EDT. Many of the interviews to be aired on the show were filmed last September at the Helo Association reunion in Pensacola.

The official newsletter of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation
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