

The Ugly Angel

Memorial Foundation Newsletter

Vol VII Issue 2 Dec 2001



Tis the Season...

Perhaps it seems out of place to express the traditional Christmas greeting, "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Man", now that we are a nation at war. But what better way to remember the sacrifice of those we left behind – and to honor the present generation of warriors – than to call forth mankind's oldest hope. And hopefully their war will be shorter and more successful than ours, and we can know peace once again.

In the meantime, the President and Board of Directors of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation, and yours truly, wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Greetings from the Prez

Dear Ugliers:

The Holiday Season – with replica angels on every storefront – reminds us of who we are. We are the Ugly Angels, who shared the defining event of our generation. For that period we were together on the cutting edge of history. As we prepare for holidays with family, let us think also of the Marines in Central Asia doing their duty so that we can stay safe at home. Let us bear in mind that they are forming the same bonds that we forged with each other. And let us remember those Ugly Angels always with us, although no longer at our sides.

Merry Christmas to each of you, and may the New Year bring richness to your life.

GySax

Who's Too Old?

Received the following from a retired general office buddy who, like most of us, wants to fight the Taliban.

I called HQMC towards the end of last week and told them I was ready to return to active duty. After asking me a few questions about my age, former assignments, etc., the Major I was speaking with told me that I was classified, " 8-I."

Having never heard of that classification before, I asked the Major what it meant.

He replied that when the enemy reached 8th and I streets in DC they would call me!

2002 = OooRah!

It's time to start squirreling away your MPC 'cause Reunion 2002 will be upon us before you know it. As is the case every other reunion year, this USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association reunion is once again being held at the scene of many former crimes, Pensacola Beach. The reunion is scheduled for 3 to 6 October, dates which hopefully will see us out of the tropical storm/hurricane window.

The HMM-362 Coordinator for Reunion 2002 is Mark Stanton. Mark didn't let any grass grow and has already reserved the New World Landing in downtown Pensacola for our Friday night squadron dinner. As those of you who attended the 1998 reunion will happily remember, our cocktails and a dinner there were simply magnificent. Four great menu selections and wonderful food for a very, very reasonable price.

Those of you eager to make your hotel or condo reservations early can take your packs off. The Helo Association has instructed participating hotels not to release rooms until the word is published in an upcoming "Pop A Smoke" newsletter. Be that as it may, we'll get the S-2 Section working on the problem so sit back and relax. As soon as we dig up anything, those of you on the Internet will get a Flash-Priority message.

According to the kids, Love is...

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different.
You know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy - age 4

Listen Up!

In the past there has been much confusion and resulting embarrassment because some folks didn't understand the relationship between the USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association and all the member squadrons, including HMM-362.

The Helo Association is the umbrella organization that sponsors Reunion 2002 (and all other biennial reunions). They do the site recon, line up hotels, check out caterers, audition entertainment, order the freebies, and sign the necessary contracts to pay for it all. In short, they are the MFWIC.

To attend any Reunion 2002 function (i.e. Thursday happy hour & chow, the Saturday night dinner & show, and Sunday morning brunch) you must be a paid up member of the Helo Association. Why? Because it's your dues that fund all the many activities associated with organizing the reunion and all of us must share the cost.

The only thing the Ugly Angels sponsor is the Friday night dinner for which you pay separately.

In short, prior to the reunion you'll be forking over MPC to:

- The Helo Association to register for the reunion and to attend the functions of your choosing.
- To Mark Stanton to attend the Friday night Ugly Angel squadron dinner.

If you have a problem remembering this, get it tattooed on your arm in large red letters.

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl - age 5

History Project

Unless you've been burrowing under a rock with Osama bin Hiden, you know that the HMM-362 History Project headed by Bob Skinder has fully matured. Several fascinating history newsletters have been published, all of which have met with enthusiastic approval by former Angels. Want more? Well, get off your butt and contribute your recollections of our war. Don't like to write? Send Bob an audio cassette or video tape. The important thing is to tell your story. A couple of stories explain a humorous incident, a death, or an operation. A bunch of stories make a complete history – a history you can share with your grandchildren and posterity.

Bob adds:

If you have a few lines left over in the newsletter, you could mention that we have 2 slots on the POPASMOKE Visions of Vietnam pages. One is for squadron photos and the other is the HMM-362 History Project. I would hope to keep that one to illustrate the newsletter articles and would appreciate it if anyone wanted to use that one, they would check with me first, mainly so that I won't miss any important history.

Visions of Vietnam

Wally Beddoe, the gifted Helo Association webmeister, sends the following:

After being online for five months, your Visions of Vietnam section of the POPASMOKE website has nearly 900 photos. Thanks to all of you who have submitted your in-country photos which have contributed to our growing 'Visions' online archive. Can you believe there have been nearly 120,000 views already! Incredible!

Check it out by dialing up <<http://www.popasmoke.com/visions>>

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss." Emily - age 8

The Apple Doesn't Fall...

In a 10 August ceremony at MCB Quantico, the Marine Corps commissioned Nick Turner, the son of our own Judy and Larry Turner, a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps Reserve. In addition to his proud parents, Angel Roger Cook attended the ceremony. Nick has an aviation guarantee and will be reporting to Pensacola next spring after completing The Basic School. Larry says, "Finally got one to follow in Dad's footsteps. Hope he gets something decent to fly. It's going to be real hard to get the UH-34 out of his system, since he grew up with it." If the lad can fly half as well as his old man, he won't have a problem.

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby - age 5

HMH-362 Birthday Ball

In what can be only be described as an incredible act of faith, HMH-362 invited 1st Sgt Ken Logue, USMC (Ret) and Sgt Lew Barnes to attend their Birthday Ball in Hawaii.

Our West Coast Det (-1) arrived in Honolulu at approximately 1252 Tuesday, 30 Oct 2001 and were warmly greeted by the CO HMH-362, LtCol Carl Fosnaugh III, and Angel Sgt Maj, Rich Dorsey. They presented the customary Hawaiian Pikaki leis to Jean Barnes and Raeanne Logue.

After resting up cause they're old now, Ken and Lew were invited to the squadron on Thursday to spend the afternoon with the aircrews and the pilots. They arrived at the Squadron about 1430 and were escorted to the ready room by the XO, Major Conroy, where the pilots and aircrews were assembled. Introductions were made and Ken was the first to address the Ugliers. He talked about the squadron's proud history and rich legacy, and expressed confidence the present generation of Angels would write a bright new chapter. Then on behalf of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation, Lew presented them with a Vietnam era squadron photo that had been enlarged and reproduced. After a question and answer period, our boys toured the Maintenance areas and talked with some of the squadron members before heading back to their hotel.

At 1800 on Friday, 2 Nov Ken and Lew, looking 1968 sharp in their Dress Blue Alpha uniforms, joined the Aviation Support Element (ASE) at the Waikiki Hilton to honor and celebrate the 226th Birthday of the Marine Corps. The ASE (there's no longer a MAG at Kaneohe) consists of HMT-301, HMH-362, HMH-363, HMH-463, and supporting units. The officers & men of HMH-362, and their ladies, gave them a rousing welcome as did the Marines from other units. The young Marines were especially eager to talk to Ken and Lew – and equally eager to ply them with strong drink, a very generous gesture at \$4.50 a brew. The guest of honor was CG, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, MajGen Cartwright. As Ken and Lew put it in summing up their visit, "It was very good to observe these young Marines as they are exactly the same as we were when we marched in their shoes. The Corps we left is in excellent hands and under good leadership."

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca - age 8

Veterans Day at Branson

Once again the YL 37 Group Foundation headed by Gerald Hail has honored our service, and that of all veterans, by flying YL 37 to Branson, MO to participate in ceremonies for both Veterans Day and the Marine Corps Birthday. For the Veterans Day ceremony YL 37 flew into zones at both the Branson Veterans Museum and local Wal-Mart where enthusiastic crowds examined the old girl and expressed their thanks to the crew for their service.

On the 226th birthday of our Corps YL 37, including crewman Willie Sproule, landed adjacent to the Welk Theater where the traveling Vietnam Wall was set up to participate in ceremonies there. Among those greeting our veteran UH 34 was a small group of Ugly Angels, names unknown.

Promptly at 1200, a proud Marine in Dress Blues who looked very much like Chesty Puller drew his NCO sword to cut the birthday cake. That Marine was our own MGySgt William D. Sproule, USMC (Ret). TV personality and former Marine aviator, Col Ed McMann, USMCR (Ret), made appropriate remarks in honor of our Corps and shared a piece of the cake.

After the cake cutting, the attendees, led by Ed Tatman and Gary Doss carrying a memorial wreath, proceeded to the ceremony at the Vietnam Wall. Stopping just short of the center of the memorial, Willie stepped out to read a short poem then joined the sister of Maj Bob Cramer to place the wreath. Jack Lodge read the roll call of departed Angels. Gary Doss closed the ceremony with a benediction.

"During my piano recital, I was on a stage and scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn't scared anymore." Cindy - age 8

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

Tennyson

ennys

Esta Sproule, beloved wife of MGySgt Willie Sproule, USMC (Ret), passed away on 28 July 2001 after a long debilitating illness.

Esta grew up in Texas but met Willie later through her sister who was dating another Marine, MSgt Herman P. Boyd, USMC (Ret). Esta and Willie were married in 1955 and the ensuing years saw them stationed at virtually every helicopter air station during which they raised three strapping sons, James, Carl, and Butch. Following Willie's retirement at Camp Pendleton in 1975, Esta, Willie, and son Carl moved to Herman's boyhood home, Choudrant, LA, where they bought an adjacent plot of land and formed a family compound on which the brothers-in-law raised cattle and small crops. The years rolled happily along, brightened by three grandchildren, until Esta fell ill in the early nineties.

Esta was interred on 30 July surrounded by family and loved ones – and honored by Willie in his Dress Blues because, as he said, “ she was a Marine Corps wife and raised the kids so he could play Marine.”

Karen Wilson, beloved wife of Tim Wilson passed away on 14 October 2001 after a long struggle with cancer.

Karen Forgey was born on 1 August 1946 in Oregon where she later attended John Marshall High School. It was there she met and became good friends with Tim Wilson. After graduation in 1964, both joined the service: Karen the Air Force and Tim the Marines. Karen served two years and returned home to Portland. Tim served nearly five years in the Corps, including two tours in Vietnam, before returning to Portland to work for the U. S. Postal Service. They were married in March 1970 and moved to Sandy, Oregon where they raised three daughters.

Karen was a devoted wife and mother. Active in the Girl Scouts, she was also an excellent gardener and enjoyed crafting. Those of us who knew her will sorely miss her warmth and wonderful sense of humor.

Her husband Tim, daughters Penny, Joyclyn, and Marie, two granddaughters, Hanna May Schoolcraft 13 months, and Bella Wilson 3 weeks survive her.

Ralph Aye passed away on 28 June after enduring a long illness with cancer.

Dave Veazey writes, “Ralph, Pat Patridge, and I, whom I like to refer to as ‘the three original air wing Gypsies’, were together for our entire Nam tour through 4 squadrons and a H&MS-16 subunit, with whom we flew H-34s as HACs and H2Ps and on gunships with VMO-6 as H2Ps. Our last squadron was the Ugly Angels in Mar - Apr 69 on the USS Okinawa I believe. We have all tried to stay in touch, and Ralph and I have visited several times at length over the years”. Ralph is survived by his wife Joann.

Future Editions

Since 2002 is a reunion year, I'll be initiating the reunion year newsletter schedule starting in April. Unless I run out of steam, money, and ideas – or all three – that means an Ugly Angel Newsletter every month from April through September.

These editions will contain important information on all Helo Association and Ugly Angel activities planned for Reunion 2002 so stay tuned. You don't want to be one of the ten percent!

Those of you on the internet will receive yours via an e-mail attachment while the rest of you will get yours from the postal service. So if you want the latest scoop, please keep me informed of your e-mail or postal address changes. If you'll check six, you will find my addresses.

The official newsletter of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation
Publisher: Tom Hewes 384 Hartland Blvd. E. Hartland, CT 06027
(860) 653-4436 e-mail: thewes@earthlink.net