

The Ugly Angel's

Reunion Newsletter

Vol II, Issue 2 Winter 1997

Seasons Greetings

A warm Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all you Ugly Angels and your families from frosty Connecticut. As is the custom in our family, Joanne and I write in the sincere hope this holiday season finds you and your loved ones healthy and happy.

The Good News

Thanks to some very active Angels and the Association (yes, the name has been changed) web site, seventeen former Uglys, most unheard of since the war, have checked in. To help you find their phone numbers in case you want to renew a friendship, I'm listing their home towns along with their names.

Dick (Radar) Koeppe, Sequim, WA	Jim Fisher, Brooklyn Park, MN	Rabon Adler, Elizabethtown, KY
Bob Case, Atlanta, GA	Tim Wilson, Sandy, OR	C. J. Cormier, Abbeville, LA
Bob Skinder, Hopkins, SC	Don Flick, St. Petersburg, FL	Adam Deveney, Valley Forge, PA
Ron Ice, Aurora, CO	Charlie Appleton, Remsen, NY	Gene Camp, Preston, IA
Steve Hill, Oceanside, CA	Frank Flagg, Norfolk, MA	Bob Rehders, Corsicana, TX
Bob Nickens, Henderson, NV		Wayne Sutter, W. Palm Beach, FL

Welcome to another tour with the Ugly Angels. You'll enjoy this one, no rockets or smelly shitters. The skinny on the newsletters is one every six months until April, then one each month until the reunion after-action report is published in Oct. Recommendation - If you haven't joined the USMC/Vietnam Helicopter Association yet, please do. The address: 11151 Alejo Place, San Diego, CA 92124-1521. For only \$30/year, it's a good deal.

Excerpts from the fitness reports of some of our officers

"His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity".

"In my opinion, this pilot should not be allowed to fly below 250 feet".

"Technically sound, but socially impossible"

"This officer is not much of a has-been as he is a definitely won't-be".

"This officer is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot".

Well Done

As you may have read in the Pop-A-Smoke, it is hardly surprising to learn that the last UH-34D crew chief on active duty in the Marine Corps just happens to be an Ugly Angel. The fresh faced youngster many of you remember as BJ grew up to become Master Gunnery Sergeant Berle John Sigman, USMC. We are all proud to have served with you BJ, and wish you all the best on your forthcoming retirement. Oorah!

The Bad News

Steve Hucal, Jim Villarreal, Dave Watkins, and Ken Logue contacted me about the loss of the Cpl. Boyd mentioned in the summer edition. They confirm, in various detail, that Corporal Thomas Massie Boyd III died when his H-34 crashed into the water in Apr/May 1968, and he was unable to free himself from his gunner's belt. Dave also reminded me about two other Ugly Angel KIAs I had forgotten to include: Corporal Kenneth Richard Yantis and Sergeant Daniel Pesimer (0311), who were lost on 31 Mar 1968. Both names are on the wall.

Shortly after the summer edition was published, we were notified by his son that Lt. Col. Jack Barry, USMC, (ret.) had died. Jack, who many of you may remember as our S-3 during the Ky Ha - Phu Bai days, was diagnosed of terminal cancer on 3 July and died on the 20th. Our condolences were passed to Jack's family.

As though the preceding is not sad enough, there are a number of other Angels who have also died since the war: They include: Biff Steadman (illness), Gary Connolly (helo crash), Ernie Noll (illness), and Joe Moody (heart attack). If you know of any others, please let me know. We owe it to them to remember them all!

Our Man in Pensacola

Though its still to early to tell what kind of turnout we will have, it is our good fortune to have the irrepressible Bob Sheehan, class of 66/67, volunteer to be our advance man in Pensacola. Bob has already reserved an excellent restaurant for Friday evening, the night set aside for squadron functions. While nothing is written in stone yet, we are considering a dinner/party. Holler if you have any thoughts or ideas.

Requests for Info

Jim (Doc) Fisher - looking for information on a Crew chief named J.P.(?) Kennedy and/or a Warrant Officer pilot named Chastain concerning a hairy-hairy mission up on the DMZ in August of 1969.

Dave Watkins - information on the whereabouts of George Zuniga, U/A class of 66-67?

Burt Palmer - information on the whereabouts of Frank Brown, U/A line Chief in 65-66.

The Veteran (contributed by Willie Sproule)

It is the veteran, not a reporter who guarantees freedom of the press.
It is the veteran, not a politician who guarantees freedom of speech.
It is the veteran, not a activist who guarantees freedom of assembly.
It is the veteran who salutes the flag, who risks all for the flag,
and who is buried neath the flag.

Mystery Marines

Bob Nickens asks if anyone remembers the name of a young trooper who was KIA on a night medevac in 1966. The lad was an orphan who joined the Angels in the second draft in 66.

In the last edition we asked for information on a Chuck Bowers, reported KIA by Both John Burns and Bart Jealous. In researching this I tapped into an extraordinary web page titled The Vietnam Casualty Search Page (URL: <http://www.no-quarter.org/>) which lists the names of everyone on the "Wall". The site contains an abbreviated casualty report on each KIA, listing all relevant information. The mystery arises because of the six Bowers listed, none is a Marine pilot.

For the 10%

For those of you who never rose above the rank of first Lieutenant or Corporal (and that has got to be a shitpot full), remember the next "Reunion" will be in Pensacola Beach on **17-20 September 1998**. Get it tattooed on your arm or wherever, and start planning & saving **NOW** so you won't have mumble the sorry ass excuse you didn't know...yada, yada, yada. Pensacola Beach is a great site. Plenty of beach, sun, and relaxation - and it isn't that expensive. Plan to be there.

Financial Report

Stop sending me money already. Through some strange quirk of fate, the Newsletter Fund remains at \$182.88. It should start going down in April when we begin publishing monthly. Somewhere around that time I will probably ask for contributions, but no more than \$2.00 - \$5.00 per Angel please. If everyone on the mailing list chips in, we should have more than enough to get us through the reunion.

Fast Eddy's Maxims (FEMs)

I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian.
I love warm, cuddly, defenseless animals – especially in gravy.

Mail Call

Ron Fix writes that he and Gerry have moved to Texas, “ their first tour outside CONUS”. He says that, “learning a new language was their greatest challenge” but “ the customs are similar to those we learned growing up” in the US. He’s flying ATR-42s for American Eagle. Planning to be in PNS. Also says to tell “Willie” that the most MAP he ever get out of one of his 1820s was 56-57 inches, and that was only because his crew was in a hurry to get back for beans and franks at the KY Ha diner”. (Ed. Note, probably technique)

Pete King called a few months back to say he and Ed Chenkus found a good friend and former Ugly named Bob Rehders they thought was lost, via the internet . Bob, who some of you may remember, later opted to take a Warrant commission in the Army.

Sick Bay

Marc Sohm, who is currently on a grand motoring tour of the southern US and latin America, is recovering nicely from serious back surgery. If he shows up at your house, for Gods sake don't bear hug him.

The California Highway Patrol's most wanted man, Willie Sproule, underwent a quadruple heart bypass (leave it to Willie to go for the whole enchilada) on 7 Sep. When he called in early Nov, he was getting ready to play golf. What else! Why the CHP wants him is another story.

Guess Who?

What Angel, later a SSGT, told a Navy Chief who had chased him (and his future wife) away from the Wave Barracks at NAS Memphis in 1960 to go shit in his hat as they happily boarded the bus to town?

What slippery tweet had a business card that read:’s NITETIME ELECTRONICS SHOP
Car Stereo's removed and repaired. After Hours A Specialty. 932-6969 Santa Ana.

What famous Ugly, while OIC of the H&MS 16 engine shop at Futema, had a “shrine” named after him in the village of Yonabaru?

More Fast Eddy's Maxims (FEMs)

The two most common elements in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.
Never wrestle with a pig. You both get dirty but only the pig enjoys it.

Newsletter Mailing List

As of today we have 140, count em, Ugliers on the mailing list, and I need the help of all 140 of you. Since some of you are apparently Recon Marines – swift, silent and invisible – what I need to know by the end of January is: (1) Do you want to continue to receive the newsletter. (2) Do you intend to attend the Pensacola reunion.

It's really important that you respond. I will be obliged to drop those who don't respond from the mailing list for lack of interest. That means no, practically free newsletters for April, May, June, July, August, September, October, and forever. This admittedly hard nosed approach is intended to trim the list to those who are really interested and save some money for more important causes like the one described below. Call, write, send me a post card, or e-mail me, but “I gots to know”.

Editorial

Every now and then someone comes up with an idea which is so beautiful and fitting that it stops you dead in your tracks. Such is the idea proposed by GySgt. Bob Skinder, USMCR (ret.) in an exchange of e-mail we had some time ago. After reading the memorial luncheon eulogy, Bob suggested that we consider erecting a permanent memorial to our fallen Angels somewhere. The memorial, which he suggests be shaped like a

fragment broken off the Vietnam Wall and made of similar material, would contain a suitable inscription and the names of each of our fallen Angels. The location of the monument will be decided later, perhaps after polling everyone on the newsletter mailing list. Although it would no doubt be expensive, I can think of no more fitting tribute to our fallen comrades. Accordingly, when you answer whether you want to remain on the mailing list and/or attend the reunion, let me know what you think. This one is important!

There is no deadline on the if, when, and where concerning the memorial. It's more important that we do it right than do it quickly. Again, it is important that you let me know what you think. As for myself, you may count me in for at least a \$100.00 contribution. Semper Fidelis.

Permit this old Ugly and his sweet lady to again express the hope that you awake Christmas morning to find your stocking filled with great happiness, loving family, warm friends, and good health. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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