

The Ugly Angel

Memorial Foundation Newsletter

Volume 11, No.4, June 2006



Fort Worth; Angels Inbound!

But first a word from The Big Island

To All Squadron Personnel:

The Heritage Room dedication was a resounding success. It was a 3 day affair beginning on Thursday, with a "History session" at the base theater, Friday the actual dedication and concluding Saturday evening with dinner at the "O Club" then retiring to the Heritage room for *milk and cookies*.

Thursday: Present from HMM-362 were Larry Turner, Bill Waters, Frenchy LaFontaine and myself, Lew Barnes. The session began with a well prepared film by you guessed it, Nick, going back to the Vietnam era and concluding with footage from today. Following the film, Frenchy, Bill and Larry spoke to the group about some of their experiences in Vietnam. We were also fortunate to have with us Col. Ray (Frenchy) L'Heureux C.O. HMX-1 and previous C.O. of HMH-362. He had the distinction of being introduced by Nick as a **legacy** himself. I believe he thought he was going to come out of this unscathed! *(Editors Note: I don't have my list with me but I do believe 362 has had at least two other pilots become CO of HMX. I think that two were Jim Perryman and Dave Pirnie. If I am wrong, I am sure I'll know right soon. Bob)*

The work put into preparing the room, predominately by Nick, was far beyond what anyone could have imagined. As would have been expected, however, Lt. Col. Scott Minaldi did just a superb job at presenting to the squadron and other distinguished guests the "Blade" which resides in the ready room. A brass plaque was attached to the blade indicating that it was given to the squadron by HMM-362 Marine Corps Veterans Association and the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation. Following this ceremony we relocated to the Heritage room itself. Lt. Col. Minaldi articulated to the audience a bit of history as to how and when the idea of actually bringing into existence the room itself took shape. Specifically when they received the blade, a year or so ago, he and Nick looked at the blade as a bridge from the past to the future. That is when the concept of creating a room was born. A fair amount to pictures and other memorabilia was donated by former and current Ugly's which will permanently reside in the room. A memorial, almost identical to the one Gerald Hail has, resides centered on one of the walls. Lt. Col. Minaldi spoke to the purpose of the room which is to insure that the legacy of the past

and that which will be formed in the future not become just a distant memory. This was definitely a very dignified and moving ceremony. Saturday evening we had a Hawaiian



style buffet dinner at the "O Club." After dinner Lt. Col. Minaldi spoke to the support given by spouses of his Marines and awards presented to a select few women who spearhead the actual helping of families of Marines who have deployed. In addition plaques were given to "the old guys" commemorating their participation in this once in a life time event.

In summary this is one if not the most memorable events I personally have had the honor of attending. I only wish more HMM Marines could have been in attendance.

SemperFi

Lew

The Reunion – August 10th to 13th

So I guess the above was a challenge from today's Ugly Angels, to see if us old guys can have a better time than they all did for their Heritage Weekend. Well as of this writing, we have a pretty good shot at it. From looking at JD's lists, it looks as if us Angels are safely in the lead with only one serious challenger. Personally I like the feeling that we're the best.

It also looks as if we are well represented in every year that we all served over there. I only wish I could figure out the magic formula to get us some massive attendance. Glancing at the chart it looks as if about 85 Archie's and Ugliers have indicated that they would be there. It looks as if about 80% have made a financial commitment paying either Pop A Smoke (P) or the Friday night Dinner (D) or both P/D. That in and of itself is great news but the even better news is that there is still time to sign up. You have until

the 30th of June to get straight with Pop A Smoke and probably even more leeway with Bill McNair to get the money in for the dinner.

In case you haven't been to one of these deals, here's a rough layout of the plan. Find your hotel and get checked in and then head for the Convention Center and get signed in. Thursday afternoon and evening you just stand around and hug everyone or their wives until and then after the dinner. Usually there are plenty of vendors to sell you anything you could ever want. Each squadron will also have its own hootch where you can hang out or catch a breather. This might be the place to bring things that you want to share with other folks like pictures of yourself in tigerstripes or with hair.

I am not too sure what's going on in the daytime Friday but there will be ample time for you to sight see or shop. In the evening will be our big time. Romy and Bill have outdone themselves with the arrangements. Somehow they beat out almost 20 other outfits to procure the Stagecoach Dance Hall for our major squadron get together, the famous Friday Night Tex-Mex Dinner and Dance and AUCTION. There will even be dance lessons and hopefully our Guests of Honor, Gerald and Lilly Hail and the rest of the YL 37crew. I did invite them but have yet to get an answer. So who could possibly ask for more than great food in the best dance hall in all of Texas with some of the best friends you ever had in your life plus the opportunity to get rid of some of those tax rebates you've all been getting on genuine USMC and genuine Vietnam goodies at the auction?

Chris Sauro, who as far as I know is the only member of HMM 362 to have a best seller in his recently released The TWINS PLATOON; an epic story of young Marines at war in Vietnam has graciously agreed to be our after dinner speaker.

On Saturday busses will take us to the airfield where there will be a MEGA airshow, just for us with all kinds of aircraft hoped for including the new Osprey. Saturday night will be the grand dinner and I really have no idea what that might entail but there'll be a lot of folks there.

Sunday is wind down and most folks start heading on out to go back to dull civilian life.

The point is, if you haven't signed up, please do it now. I need to talk to you anyway.

What to wear?

Good question. First, Bill McNair, half the driving force behind this whole thing asked me to remind you that Texas Two –step dancing is not done in sneakers or flannel shirts. You need to slide out there and not overheat. He recommends a good Sgt Grit Tee shirt and I suppose a \$600 pair of Tony Lama boots. He thinks he can arrange for some dance lessons before dinner.

The other question reminds us of when you show up at the stockholders meetings just a tad over or underdressed. You don't want that to happen nor do you want folks guessing

with whom you served in your younger days. You want to dress appropriately and to do that you need to contact Frenchy and Johnnie at comprisetv3@aol.com or 850-957-4846.

The basics that you might want to start off with might be the Ugly Angel Cap with the emblem or embroidery. The original Archie's Angels cap is simply a green cap with 362 on it—very understated and I am not sure where they came from. There are also numerous golf shirts available but most folks start off with the forest green Ugly one. Either Frenchy or Johnnie can advise you. I think the cap is less than \$20 and the shirt around \$30. You can probably get what you want at the vendors area but why take chances at this point? Actually it is far more important that you be there than how you are attired.

Suited Up and Ready to Launch

Rabond Adler	P	Tom Hammack	P	Dave Pirnie	P
Len Altano	P/D	Rich Houghton	P/D	Larry Pringle	
Art Barker and Terri		Dan Houglum	P	Carlos Puente	P
Jack Bartlett	P	Ron Ice	P/D	Hugh Rothweiler (2)	P
Rick Bartlett (2)	P/D	Steve Jenkins (2)	P/D	Christy Sauro	P
Richard Beck (2)	P/D	Rick Kersey (2)		Jerry Scanlon (2)	P/D
Bob Bringham (2)	D	Pete King		Paul Sheehan	
Tom Brownfield (2)		Jerry & Terri Kottcamp	P/D	Dan Sharr	P
Allan Cain	P/D	Ed Langley (2)	P	Bob & Madilyn Skinder	P/D
Gene Camp		Chuck & Linda Linn	P/D	Early Spiars	P
Calvin Cormier (4)	P/D	Jack & Cindy Lodge	P/D	Willie Sproule	P/D
Lyman Cokely (2)		Harrison Makeever	P	Lou Stefan	P
Darold Cooper (2)		Phil Marnin	P	Jim & June Street	P
Dan Dain (2)	P/D	Don Martin (2)	P/D	Ed and Pat Tatman	P/D
Richard Davidson (2)	P/D	Henry Mattia (2)	P/D	Kenny & Shirl Thomas	
John Donnelly		Frank Matucheski	P	Nick Turner (2)	
Gary Doss	P/D	Bill & Carol McCluskey	P	Darrell Tygart	
Albert Dumas	P	Tom & Carol McKnight		Arturo Vasquez	P
Joe Eke		Bill & Nita McNair	P	Wilbert Waldrige (2)	P/D
Bob Feeney (2)	P	Bill & Judy McNair	P/D	Frank & Donna Walters	P/D
Don & Dee Ferguson	P	Tom Murley		Bill Waters & Beth	P
Archie Fleming	P/D	Romy & Linda Myszka	P/D	Ed & Lilly Wato	
John Ford	P/D	Roy Newman	P/D	Joe Williams (2)	P
Ron & Anna Gall	P/D	Bob & Patsy Nickens	P/D	Tim Wilson (3)	P/D
Richard Gehweiler	P	Al & Alexis Nitchman		Wimpy & Julia Wimmmler	P/D
Pete Gligor	P	Jim Paetznick	P/D	Carl Yung	P
Jean Gonneville	P/D	Burt Palmer	P	Del & Deborah York	P/D
Jim Gordon		Jim Perryman	P	Mike & Lynn Zacker	P/D
Curt Gray (2)	P	Lyman Phillips	P	George Zamora	

As of this writing 6-27-06, these are the folks who indicated by word or by check that they were coming. P means they have paid Pop A Smoke. D means that they have paid for our Friday night dinner. If you have not yet paid for dinner, please send a \$25.00 check **RIGHT NOW-IMMEDIATELY** for each person in your party to:

Bill McNair

6208 Dovensire Ter.

Fort Worth, TX 76112

E-mail Bill at: y13cc@yahoo.com

Obituaries

Col. Ronald E. Fix, USMC (ret.) passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, June 3, 2006.

A memorial service was held Saturday, June 10, 2006, at 3:00 PM at Bluebonnet Hills Funeral Home & Memorial Park in Colleyville. A burial service was held at Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery at a later date.

Ron was born September 1, 1942 in Elgin, Illinois to Carlton L. Fix and Lillian Scharrer Fix. He graduated from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan and received his Master of Science Degree from Troy State University.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. by the USMC on June 3, 1964. He served his country as a Marine Aviator with numerous duty stations, including two tours in Vietnam. Ron was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, three Purple Hearts, 63 Air Medals, and numerous other recognitions. He attended the Air Command and Staff College and was assigned to the U. S. Pentagon.

Following his retirement from the USMC June 1, 1991, Ron was employed as a stock broker and later became a pilot for a regional airline in California. He was employed by American Eagle Airlines as a First Officer in 1995 and became a flight instructor for Eagle in 1998. Later as a Captain, he was the Lead Embraer Regional Jet Ground School



Instructor until his death.

Ron is survived by his wife, Gerry Harrison Fix; his mother, Lillian Fix; his son, James R. Fix and family; his daughter, Kimberly Fix; and a brother, Carlton (Bud) Fix and his family. In lieu of flowers a donation to the OV-10 Bronco Assoc. is requested.

Ron Fix Memorial Fund
OV-10 Bronco Association (OBA)
505 NW 38th Street, Hangar 33 South
Fort Worth, TX 76106

The Bronco Association is a non-profit aviation museum founded by Ron Fix and friends.

If you didn't know, Ron was the driving force behind the air show that all reunion attendees will get to enjoy, the Saturday morning after our Squadron Dinner.

On a personal note, I didn't know or forgot until a few years ago that Ron and I had served both of our RVN tours together, first as Ugliers and then in 69 and 70 as Scarface pilot and tinbender. I am pretty sure that we both served in the UH-1 and AH-1G phases.

I had really looked forward to share reminisces with him in August. All the more reason to give these reunions a little more thought. Someone might need to tell you something.....

Vivian Kuleski

Just a short note to let you guys know, my wife, Vivian has passed into a better place. She's out pain and we were with her to the end.. We are doing fine. Lots of friends and family are with us. Guys, tell your wife you love her. I just wanted to let my Marine family know. God bless you all and maybe I can make a distance reunion.

Semper fi,

Erick " Ski" (tin bender 67-68)

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Frenchy Caouette – Very bad news

I just wanted to let everyone know that Roland has cancer and we don't expect him to live much longer. If anyone would like to contact him while he would still know them our number is 918-485-8010. His burial will be at Ft. Gibson National Cemetery. I will try to keep you updated.

Thanks,

Sue.

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Memorial Day, Moultonborough, New Hampshire

Bruce Garry, an army UH-1 crew chief contacted many of us in his search for information on Steve Martin, our pilot who died in the mid-air with the 46. Finally Bruce's mission was completed on Memorial Day. An abbreviated version of his report follows. (Ed.)

Mother Nature was kind to us for the parade and ceremony. The day was mostly overcast, cool, and just a couple of very brief drops of rain. During the ceremony the sun even broke out briefly. Not having the sun and the moderate temperature made it comfortable for all the activities. The rain came back by mid-afternoon.

I had the honor of putting the parade together. We sent out six invitations to the families we knew who had relatives on the Fallen Heroes monument. All accepted, and we had them driven in convertible cars. Mrs. Martin and her daughter Cathy came, and I had a former U.S. Marine Corps Captain from town, in full dress blues be their escort. I gave each family a rose, a bound book of all the names, information, and photos I put together, and a copy of the program I printed up.



Mother and sister of Captain Steve Martin. Rose is over his name, the only one in the R.H. row.



The ceremony went pretty well. We really didn't do any special speakers and let the stories of the 49 men be the focus of the ceremony. I wrote a synopsis on each of the men, and they were read by myself and two others on the Monument Committee. I started with the first ten, the other two split the names in the middle, and I did the last eleven names.

I took something from your ceremony at Quantico, with the ring of a bell. After each name was read, we rang a bell, then read the summary on each of them. Many told me that the bell brought a solemnity to the ceremony and to the person we were reading about.

My parents came up from Connecticut for the weekend to visit and attend the ceremony. My 79 year old father stood for the reading of all the names, holding his hat over his heart. I didn't know it until I saw the picture of him in the newspaper.

Bruce Garry, President

Moultonborough Historical Society

Book Review

I haven't done a book review in quite some time, and this time I am really cheating because I haven't actually finished **The Twins Platoon** by Ugly Angel Christy Sauros but I can tell you, it's darn good. His approach is very different because most war books are about a particular unit or battles. What he did was track the other guys who he enlisted with and wrote about them and the battles that they were in including Dai Do, Khe Sahn and several others. Get it and I promise that you'll be impressed. If you are coming to the reunion, bring your copy and he'll sign it for you. We had to go online to get our copy since it wasn't about the *War of Northern Aggression* but the dot-coms will be glad to help you out.

I am off to find Captain Joel out on the peaks at Glacier N.P. and I guess I probably won't talk to you until the Reunion or after if you aren't there.

Send any questions to my work e-mail as we are dumping AT&T after what they told the government about who I was sending newsletters to. It's rskinder@gwm.sc.edu

BTW, I fully realize that this issue is not up to what it could be but the technical difficulties clobbered me this time around. On the upside, its bound to get better.

Remember send Bill that check now !!!

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