



~FIRST IN~LAST OUT

WITH THE UH-34~

The Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation Newsletter

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The Reunion – Thursday & Friday Morning by Tom Hewes

Your temporary editor is hard put to describe what a smashing success Reunion 2008 turned out to be for the Ugly Angels. Once again we led the pack with 94 Angels and 57 family or friends attending for a total of 151 happy campers. From the moment it opened on Thursday, our Ready Room was packed with Angels, good will, great stories, and enough refreshment to bring out the Revenuers. Contributions from the “band of brothers,” though voluntary, were so great the UAMF made an unexpected profit. The room proved to be so popular that the last dog was not hung until 0200 Friday morning when the remaining holdouts hit the rack.

Friday's activities, which were equally well attended, kicked off with the 0830 rededication of the newly refurbished Ugly Angel Memorial in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park. As requested by President Bob Skinder, Tom Hewes recited the speech given at the original dedication on 8 July 2000. Once again images of our lost Angels came to the fore and tears were unashamedly shed as we remembered them and the events that led to their untimely passing.

Following some serious picture taking, we all trooped down hill to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps. If you haven't yet visited the museum, you must go! It has set the standard for all future military museums. It's not only a fantastic museum, it's a proud monument to all Marines, past, present, and future.

The luncheon at the Clubs at Quantico also turned out to be a huge success with 150 Angels and special guests attending. The latter included Col. Ray “Frenchy” L'Heureux, CO of HMX-1 and Lt. Col. Minardi, both former COs of HMM-362, and a number of former Ugly Angels officers and Marines now serving with HMX, including Marine Aviator of the Year, Capt. William Heiken.

The featured speaker was Col. L'Heureux who spoke movingly about the tradition of excellence started by Archie's Angels and handed down by all the Ugly Angels that have followed since 1962. A tradition, he noted, that lives on today in the members of HMX who are veterans of 362. These Angels, who visibly exemplified that proud tradition, were introduced to a great round of applause. An equally great round followed the announcement that HMM-362 has won four of the Marine Corps Aviation Association's most prestigious awards, including Marine Aviator of the Year.

The luncheon then took a surprise turn with a roast honoring a totally stunned and befuddled Tom Hewes. Tom was lightly sautéed by various Angels led by emcee, Rusty Sachs. In fairness to Tom, however, it must be reported that Rusty's memory of events long ago bore no resemblance to historical fact.

Among those who also spoke were Tom's daughter, Elizabeth Zarone; MGen. Dennis Murphy, former CG, 2D MARDIV; and Col. Don Heim, former CO, MAG-26. When the victim was judged to be medium rare he



Myszka, McNair & Sproule



was called forth to receive a beautifully inscribed Ugly Angel plaque commending his years of service to the squadron.

At the conclusion of the luncheon President Bob Skinder, who has been ill with a rare blood disease for the past few months, announced his resignation, effective on the spot. Unfortunately, time did not permit an acknowledgement of Bob's contribution to the UAMF. That will have to await another day. Suffice it to say that Bob has been there since the UAMF was formed.

An election, perhaps the speediest on record, was then held to elect a new President and Vice President of the Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation. Elected

by acclamation were two of our finest, Romy Myszka, President, and Billy J. McNair, Vice President. Their exceptional performance as members of the Board of Directors augurs well for the future of the UAMF.

The luncheon was followed by a guided tour of HMX-1 which I did not attend, being overwhelmed by a serious hangover and the honors heaped upon me.

The Reunion – Friday at HMX by Bob Skinder

Originally, I was one of the naysayers, thinking that we wouldn't have enough time to squeeze in a visit to the squadron after the luncheon and still make it back in time to catch a ride to 8th and Eye for the Sunset Parade. I was wrong, and it turned out to be a trip well worth taking. Not only because we got to see part of the Presidential Fleet, but also to see and meet the fine Marines who are taking our place 40 years after we wore something that sort of resembled their gear and flew something that sort of resembled what they fly, but not quite.

We were obviously there to see the presidential aircraft which are certainly impressive but there were plenty of other items of interest ranging from the spotless aircraft and maintenance spaces to the great people who were doing what we once did, just in a slightly cleaner way. The group that we were with were most interested in the VH-3D which we had all seen on TV any number of times. The squadron also maintains and flies VH-60s, VH-53s and VH-46s.

Historically, HMX was the first Marine helicopter squadron, albeit experimental, and many Archie's and Ugly Angels have served in the squadron since. Two of Archie's pilots, Jim Perryman and Dave Pirnie, were later CO's of HMX. Colonel L'Heureux had told me earlier that six of those present at a recent HMX reunion had also been Angel COs. We are indeed, one family.

These HMX Marines are certainly cleaner and better dressed than we were 40 odd years ago, but are just as proud and motivated as we were. We were delighted to have three of them at our table for lunch, and they are great examples of today's Marines. The one big difference that I noticed was the number of WM officers who are pilots. I think that change was the one that made me feel as though Vietnam really was a long, long time ago. Other than that, not too much has changed.

The Reunion – The Saturday Night Do by Bob Skinder

When we walked in to the Grand Ballroom, it seemed hard to imagine that this many Marines were in the helo family in any given year in the Republic of Far Away. The place was packed! It was a big crowd and an older crowd, but definitely all family. Since I always seem to be a bit late, Madilyn and I wound up dead center, front row with some pretty fine Ugly Angels.

The chow was definitely banquet fare and served PDQ once everyone was settled in. As a result of us being a TV addicted based nation, it seems the organizers felt a responsibility to keep us amused with a continuous slide show of Vietnam photos during dinner. Personally I would have been a lot happier talking to my fellow



diners and their wives but I guess that part of the world has gone by. In addition to the slide show, we listened to a lot of Pop A Smoke business, raised several thousand dollars for a scholarship fund, and had a genuine Freedom Hill stage show, or at least a 2/40ths of one.

Returning from a head call, I stopped to check out the seating chart and was astounded to see how many of us were there and what a proportion of the total group were Archie's or Ugly Angels. We might not have had the highest overall attendance (Tom says we did), but I am sure that we had it wrapped up for the final dinner and no one got thrown out or arrested. Wasn't that something?



In my opinion, this was the best reunion of the five or six that I have been to, but there was one downside to the overall experience – there was hardly any downtime at all. For some, that might not be such a big deal since DC is such a great place to visit, but I sure missed talking to old buddies for hours on end. At Pensacola, it seemed as if there were days on end when we just sat around and jawed about the years since we'd seen one another, kids, careers, etc. This time, that was not so easy and I kinda missed it, but there were new folks to meet and interesting things to talk about.

You know, these reunions are definitely a lot better than getting shot at!



Also present – in our thoughts



Success Has Many Fathers

If you are among the many that view Reunion 2008 as a smashing success, you can attribute it to the efforts of the Ugly Angels working behind the scenes. Bob Skinder, as always, provided the initial planning guidance but the heavy lifting was done by our two reunion coordinators Jim Gordon and B. J. Sigman. It was they who arranged the transportation and set up the luncheon, among a myriad of other details.

The Ready Room which also turned an unexpected \$268 profit was the baby of Romy Myszka, our newly elected President. The coin project, which also turned a tidy profit for the UAMF, was created and carried out by Billy Ray McNair, our new Vice President. Honorable mention goes to Archie Fleming who, in what has become a tradition, supplied a portion of the liquid refreshment that kept many of us up past bedtime. Ben Cascio merits thanks for arranging the HMX-1 tour.

Additional praise goes to Billy Ray for searching out the website on which he posted 500 MB of really fine pictures taken during the reunion. These can be viewed at <http://s290.photobucket.com/albums/l1268/yl3cc/Ugly%20Angels/> where you can also post your own.

And so it goes, with Ugly Angels once again leading the pack!



Presidents Myszka & Skinder



Col L'Heureux & VP McNair



Stanton, Sachs, Cascio, Hewes, & McKnight



USMC War Memorial



Madilyn & Bob Skinder



BJ & Wow!

The Luncheon



Judy McNair & Marine One



Houghton, Camp, Altano, & Houghlum

The New Breed



Here is the list of the happy campers

Len Altano & Anna	Marty & Kim Guyer	Hugh Rothweiler
Charlie Appleton & Lady	Garrett Hatcher	Rob & Shirley Roy
Abe Attell	Tom Hewes	Rusty Sachs
Dick Bartlett & Lady	Dick Houghton	Jerry & Marlene Scanlan
Rich Beck & Lady	Dan Houglum	Mike Severson
Doug Blowers	David Jones	Bob & Janice Sheehan
John & Grace Bowman	Ralph Jones	B. J. & Mary Sigman
Bob Brigham	Pete King	Bob & Madilyn Skinder
Tom Brownfield	Jerry & Turmi Kottcamp	Doug Snipes
Smeds Butler	Erick Kuleski & Family	Willie Sproule
Gene & Marcia Camp	D. J. Leighton	Mark & Sharry Stanton
Ben & Ailene Cascio	Bill & Rebecca Linebaugh	Lou Stefan
Bob Case	Jack Lodge	Jim & June Street
Jerry Clark & Lady	K. D. & Raeanne Logue	Ed Tatman
Bill Cowperthwait & Lady	Dave & Jill Luhrsen	Al Thomas
Dan & Joan Dain	Don Martin	Chuck Travis
Rich Davidson & Lady	Frank & Holly Matucheski	Darrell Tygart & Deidre
Ken Davis & Lady	Bill McCluskey	Denny & Carolyn Van Liew
Adam & Lee Deveney	Tom McKnight	Wally & Becky Waldrath
Cliff Dewitt	Louisiana Bill & Nita McNair	Wally Waldrige & Lady
Joe Donnelly	Texas Bill & Judy McNair	Frank & Donna Walters
Joe Eke	Jay Morely	Tom Warning
Feds Fedrow	Romy Myszka	Bill Waters & Beth Fisher
Don Ferguson & Lady	Art Nash	Dennis & Kathy Westlin
Archie Fleming & Daughters	Roy Newman & Lady	Bob Whaley
John Ford	Bob & Patsy Nickens	Joe Williams
Larry Fraser & Tong	Jim & Betsy Paetznick	Wimpy Wimpler
James D. Funk	Jim & Fran Perryman	Del & Debbie York
Ron & Anna Gall	Lyman Phillips & Buddy	Carl & Adele Yung
Jean Gonneville	Mike Purcell	Mike Zacker & Simmie
Jim Gordon	Paul & Carol Putman	
Frank Green	Jim & Jeanette Richmond	

Were you there?

18 August 1969 -- Operational standdown. A squadron flyover accounted for 16.9 hours, 18 sorties and 17 tasks. HMM-362 conducted ceremonies for the termination of flight operations in the Republic of Vietnam. There was an assembly of squadron personnel followed by a sixteen plane flyover and simultaneous shutdown of all aircraft. Historical notes were read and a precision blade folding team demonstration followed. The squadron colors were cased, delivered and retired.

Excerpt from the HMM-362 Command Chronology, 1 August 1969 to 21 August 1969

Did You Notice?

18 August 2009 will mark the fortieth anniversary of the squadron's final departure from the Republic of Vietnam – and an occasion ready made for a celebration.

Would you like to make it a mini reunion?

~FIRST IN~LAST OUT

WITH THE UH-34~

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Lest We Forget

