



The Ugly Angel Memorial Foundation Newsletter

December 2010

Volume 15 Number 6



Seasons Greetings

Those of us involved in the management of this somewhat dubious enterprise wish all of you Angels, represented by the three famous patches on the left, a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year. That goes double for you Uglys in Afghanistan.



Ugly Angels Deploy

As noted above, the Uglys of HMH-362 are again off to Afghanistan to take the war to the barbarous enemy. The squadron departed MCAS Kaneohe Bay in mid September and will be gone for six months.

Those of us who served in Vietnam know too well how hard it is for you to say goodbye to your loved ones and how much your loved ones worry about you. We worry too about you too! I'm confident that I speak for all Angels in wishing you a productive, incident free, and safe tour.

Presidents Message

Recruits needed for UAMF officer slots – Our newly elected directors (Dick Moser, K. D. Logue, and Walt Smith) need your input in regard to UAMF officer candidates. If you want to volunteer again, please let them know you are interested in serving as president, vice-president, treasurer, or recording secretary. Our by-laws spell out the duties of each position and can be obtained by sending an email to <romymouse@sbcglobal.net>. Contact the directors via email. You'll find Dick Moser at <dmoser@fwdassoc.com>, K. D. Logue at <kdlogue@embarqmail.com>, and Walt Smith at <walter_dianne@wildblue.net>.

The YL-18 progress report on page 3 reminds me that our organization contributed a considerable amount of cash (around \$4,000) to get Lew Barnes' helo to Cavanaugh Flight Museum in Texas. Well done, Ugliers!

Many thanks to all who participated in activities leading up to the Pop A Smoke reunion in Reno. Special thanks to June and Jim Street, Loretta and Tim Wilson, and Pat and Ed Tatman for taking care of the hooch, selling UA gear, and a hundred other details. They are probably looking forward to 2012 in Florida and doing it over again!

As you will note, our President Emeritus, editor, and ever faithful inspirational leader, is retiring again. Tom deserves a standing ovation, very loud Semper Fi's, and all the best in his next career (you know he isn't done volunteering).
(Wanna bet? - editor)

Romy Myszka
Tweet 68-69

All the News That's Fit to Print (actually, it's the only news there is)

- It is with regret that we report the passing of LtCol Peter C. Scaglione, Jr. USMC (Ret) on 18 July 2010. Pete was one of Archie's Angels, served a second tour in Vietnam, and went on to conclude a distinguished 28 year career as XO of MCAS Beaufort. He is survived by his wife Calla, a daughter and two sons.
- GySgt Garnett Hyter's grandson belatedly informed Pop A Smoke that the Gunny, whose picture appears in the 66-67 cruise book, died in February 2004. Sound the bell.
- Another long deceased Ugly Angel is GySgt William Kohler. His son, J. E. Kohler <jek1010@aol.com>, submitted the following via Pop A Smoke.

My father's name is GySgt William R. Kohler Sr. and was a member of the Ugly Angels in Vietnam HMM-362, by the photo of his patch. Have a patch in a frame presented to him when he retired in 1970 with his name and rank also thanking him for his service in the squadron. Please send me any pics or info that you might have on my father. He passed away in 1994. His grandson is proudly serving in Afghanistan as I type, and idolizes his grandfather.
- We also mourn the passing of LtCol A. Michael Leahy III, USMCR (Ret). Mike, who was a noted Marine Corps combat artist, died on October 15, 2010, in Cary, NC. He was 77 years old. Mike, who was also a helo pilot, served two periods of extended active duty and flew three presidents: Eisenhower, Kennedy and Nixon. At the time of his death, he was painting commissions full-time at the Leahy Studio & Gallery in Cary. Many of you will remember Mike whose art displays were featured at Pop A Smoke reunions.

- Welcome home Bill Wiedower. Bill, who lives in Collinsville, IL joined Pop A Smoke in November. If any of you would like to contact Bill, his email is <bw1948@gmail.com>.
- Speaking of those qualified to fly the President, among them is our own Capt. Nick Turner of HMX-1. Nick was H2P during an October Presidential mission. He reports the man came up to the cockpit to shake his hand.
- Also in the category of news is the report, since verified, that on 24 September K. D. Logue retired from government service, again. As you may know, K. D. was a career Marine who retired as a 1stSgt (amazing), worked for the USPS, (he loved it there) and then for the MCAS Cherry Point O&R (that's what we called it in the old Corps). Those of us who know and love him can expect no rest from here on.

YL 18 Progress Report (courtesy of W. W. "Top" Houston, MFWIC)

The "Transpaddy Airways" nose art has been applied. The artist, Bill Greenman rode all the way from the California to Texas on his chopper (a Harley, you think?) and devoted two days to the artistic endeavor. Now that is what I call dedication. Semper Fidelis, Bill!

The engine has been removed and is being prepared for either overhaul or exchange. In contrast, the tranny, rotor head, and blades will be sent out, but only for inspection. The new paint job is scheduled for late next spring or summer. Most of the current work on YL 18 is being done by Paul Johnson who also merits a Semper Fi. I Suspect Billy Ray is also involved in there somewhere.

Col. Tom McKnight, USMCR (Ret)

On 12 November we bid a final farewell to our friend and shipmate, Tom McKnight, at the Quantico National Military Cemetery. As you may recall, Tom tragically died on 20 December 2009 from injuries sustained in a fall at his home in Richmond.

Tom was laid to rest with full military honors, with the burial detail headed by LtCol Jim Schafer, USMC (Ret), former Ugly Angel and XO of HMX-1. As you would expect, the result was perfection. The service was conducted by a Navy Chaplain and a brief eulogy was delivered by Tom Hewes. One of Tom's Marine friends from his Reserve unit led the singing of the Navy Hymn.

There to say farewell along with Carol, Lauren, Guyon, Kim, Emily, and Tom's mother and brother were friends from Richmond. The Ugly Angels were represented by Ben and Ailene Cascio, Capt Nick Turner (in Blue Dress), and your editor.

The night before the ceremony, Carol invited everyone to the Globe & Laurel to celebrate Tom's life, which we did in the best Irish wake tradition. We gathered there after the ceremony for lunch, again at Carol's kind invitation.

Photo Gallery

The following photos came to us in March from the collection of Ugly Angel Jim Harmon. Your absent minded editor forget he had tucked them away until a few minutes ago. My apologies, Jim, they are great pictures!

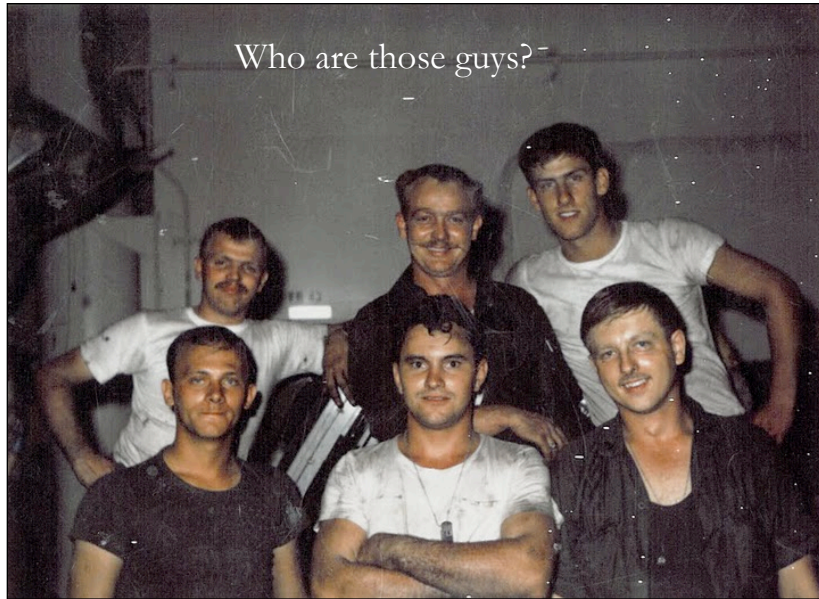
What we did



Who we were



Who are those guys?



Recon extract?



Crew chief & squids?





Beautiful Vietnam

The brave young



men we served

Is that you, Jim?



Curtain Call

I thought my role in the Ugly Angel saga ended in 2008 with the luncheon in Quantico that bid me farewell on my retirement. The kind words and plaque you gave me were and are deeply appreciated. Since then I have been trying to get off the stage but events, primarily the passing of Bob Skinder, delayed my departure. Now it's time to take a final bow and retire, this time for good. This will be the last issue of the newsletter that I will write and publish. I thank you all for your encouragement and support – and for keeping the Ugly Angel legacy alive.

Tom

Semper Fidelis

Wanted

Editor-Publisher for prestigious Vietnam veterans newsletter established in 1996. Applicant must be a former member of HMM-362 or HMMH-362, the famous Ugly Angels, with an honorable discharge or on active duty. The ability to deal with an odd assortment of colorful characters along with patience and a sense of humor is essential. Writing skills useful but not required since they have been seldom demonstrated in the past. Salary pitiful; psychic rewards priceless.

Tom Hewes, Former Editor & Whatever
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USS Okinawa LPH 3
