



THE GHOST RIDER NEWS

189th Assault Helicopter Company

Association

November 2009

Greetings: GhostRiders, Avengers, Caretakers, friends and family members. Halloween has come and gone. It's now time to get in the holiday spirit as we get ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

189th AHC Reunion 2009: The 189th AHC reunion was held October 8-11, 2009 at the Hilton-Atlanta Airport with 131 people attending. No this was not the largest group we have had but a very good turn out. We started Thursday night off with everyone joining together in the hospitality room and a welcome to all. Friday a group headed out to the Georgia Aquarium and World of Coke Cola after a delay with the lift on the bus not working, but determined Ghostriders lifted Harry Fisher (81st Trans Co.) and his wheelchair aboard the little bus. Friday night was our Towne Hall meeting where the next reunion location of Tucson, AZ was selected. Saturday morning the group went to fly Hueys at the home of Sky Soldiers. Our own George Meeker, Skip McAtee and Don Torres were the crewchiefs. The ladies remarked that it was fun. They did not have to pull maintenance on them like many of us did. Saturday brought us to photos, the banquet and dance. The entertainment was outstanding. I think the group should quit their day job and go professional. Sunday was for saying goodbye's and hugs until the 2011 reunion. This year we had many new faces who attended the reunion. Their comments were "I am glad we

came", I wont miss another one", I got to get so and so here for the next reunion". That is the way it is after every reunion. So if you have been planning to attend, but never have you have 23 more months to make your plans to attend. We thank all of you who have continued to attend each reunion. The 2011 reunion will be In Tucson, AZ. We need your help in planning this reunion. So let me know what you would like to do.

Pilot's Perch (by Steve Schmidt) For those of you who know me, you know that I sorely missed the reunion in Atlanta - and the men of the 189th AHC. I know Gerry and Bobbye Sandlin provided us with another reunion to remember. On my side, the good news is that Beth's chest-tummy pains have finally been diagnosed and she is going to have her gall bladder removed. We seek your prayers that all go well with her thru the operation and thru the recovery. As for myself, I was able to participate in "Greet the Troops" at DFW Airport on Thursday, October 29th. Wow! What a memory stimulator. Standing there cheering those military men and women fresh out of Iraq and Afghanistan was simply wonderful. That is how troops should be welcomed home. I came home in May 1968 and there was no crowd to greet me (thank God!) as it would have been a much different crowd. Today I join you in supporting our troops any way we can.

Regards, Steve

Trip to Vietnam - Side Trip to Hong Kong - China: By Pat Leary: At the reunion in Atlanta I "volunteered" to organize a trip to Pleiku. I am not a travel agent, but I do have travel experience. Here is a recap of what is possible. The trip would be Dutch, which means you would need to make and pay for your own travel arrangements. We would want to travel together so I can do the following. Give you a list of flights you need to book, make hotel reservations for you. Make arrangements for ground transportation and tour guide. You will need to pay all expenses out of your pocket, nothing will pass through me. I estimate roughly that expenses will be as follows.

San Francisco to Vietnam and back to San Francisco \$2,300 includes 6 nights 7 days Airfare to and from San Francisco, Lodging, Food, Ground transportation, and a local tour guide. If anybody is interested in a side trip to Hong Kong and China add \$1,100. Four (4) nights and five (5) days. Same inclusions as above. I recommend we depart 15 March 2010. If you are interested I will send you more details about my estimate. You can adjust plus or minus from that. In order to get us all on the same plane to Vietnam we need to have a headcount and commitment by January 8, 2010. Contact me leary_patrick@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP: We thank those who continue to support the 189th Assault Helicopter Company Association with your donations. Your donation help defray the cost of the newsletter expenses. We now have 11 Life Members, and 90 regular members. We now can track the membership dues as they come in and post the dates with a expiration date. You will notice on the mailing labels date of expiration. If your information differs from what I have please let me know.

Let's Get Our Bricks Together: At the reunion Pat Leary and I volunteered to coordinate getting our bricks together at Mineral Wells or Fort Rucker or both. Here are the details of the program. Send your checks to Ron. That way we can send our requests at one time and have the bricks for the 189th in one location. Ron's address is: Ron Fish, 303 Liberty Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. E-mail: rjstc@mac.com The price is \$100 for each brick at Mineral Wells. The price is \$50 for each Memorial Plaque at Ft. Rucker. You can subscribe to one or both. Make your checks out as follows: Ft Rucker: US Army Aviation Museum Foundation. Mineral Wells: The National Vietnam War Museum. Note both are tax deductible. The deadline to get your checks to Ron is December 31, 2009. Make sure to include the inscription you want. 3 lines 15 characters each line, spaces count as a character. A special thanks to Bill Fraker who is contributing the funds for a memorial stone at Mineral Wells to honor each of the 3 platoons.

Get your bricks together. Ron Fish and Pat Leary

Gerry's Travels: *Bobbye and I had a long trip this year. We departed Yuma on June 11th and headed for California to visit her Mother, Dad, Sister and Brother and their families and then we headed for Oregon. We first went to Eugene where I saw some great doctors, after that we headed for our favorite waterhole in Scottsburg where we stayed for two months. We visited with our son Brian and his family in Coos Bay. In mid August we headed for Alabama where I was honored with a reunion dinner with some of my first grade classmates. What a joy that was to see them after so many years. The principle was there and no I did not get a spanking. We spent time talking about our school years days and life afterwards. I also had a first cousins reunion and a family reunion. Then we were off to Atlanta to make final checks before the reunion where we got caught up in the traffic of the aftermath of the flood. Three weeks later we were back for the reunion. After the reunion, both Bobbye and I were sick and exhausted so we headed to one of our best friends and after taking one look at us she put us to bed in separate bed rooms for two day and nights feeding us soup and nursing us back to life. We left there Wednesday morning in the rain and it rained on us until we got into Texas. We made a stop at Mineral Wells to check on the Camp Holloway Memorial Wall and placement for the bricks. We then headed home to Yuma where it was warm and dry. Our trip was a little over six thousand miles for our summer trip. Next summer we are staying closer to home. Make your plans to go back to Pleiku and put October 2011 on your calendar for the next 189th AHC reunion.*
Brothers forever

Gerry Sandlin





**189th ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: _____

SPOUSE: _____

Street/Post Office Box: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ @ _____

Dates in: 189th _____ 604th _____ 6th Signal _____
519th: _____

Crew/Work Position? _____

Call Sign: _____

Other units assigned in Vietnam: _____

Do you wish to donate \$25.00 toward the Ghost Rider News to defray the cost of printing,
Postage and supplies? Yes _____ No _____

Total: \$ _____ .00

Please make check payable to 189th AHC and mail to:
Gerry Sandlin
9559 E. 38th Lane
Yuma, AZ 85365.