



The Tiger Gazette

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From the Editor's Desk

We are just recovering from our reunion in Williamsburg, and what a great reunion it was. I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help with things like the registration desk, selling raffle tickets, restocking the food and drinks, and all of the other hard work without which these reunions could not take place. The Woodlands did their best, which was very good, to be helpful in every way. Friends of Buck Matthews, Pat and Hank Amann arranged for Aaron's loan us a refrigerator for the hospitality room so we always had a supply of cold drinks in the coolers and food ready to replace what was eaten from our array on the tables. We were able to visit with more people this year, but not everyone, which I truly regret. Every reunion that I attend is marked by another friend connected with and another story learned about. I have been attending these reunions since the first one in 2002. I think I have only missed two of them and regret missing those. Of course, with as many Tigers and Vikings as attend, there is a lot of BS to be shoveled out of the hospitality room every day! I wish we could have recorded every conversation that took place and archived all of the stories about when we ran out of airspeed, altitude and ideas simultaneously, or about the incidents at the stage field while we were waiting for the ARVNs to complete their sweep (and get their quota of chickens). Many of us took the opportunity to visit Historic Williamsburg, as well as Yorktown and Norfolk. On Friday some of us took a tour of Ft. Eustis which trained many of us. At our banquet the guest speaker was Debbie Alexander Moore, who at the tender age of 21 was the Army Special Services Representative at Soc Trang in 1969. Her stories about her time there were eye opening to say the least.

A drawback to having the reunion in Williamsburg was that you can't get there from here. OK, I am exaggerating, but it is more difficult to get to than many places. Fortunately, we do not anticipate any such problems with our next reunion. After considering several sites, it has been decided that next year's reunion will be in Kansas City. That means good access by air and interstate and is located in the middle of the country so that the drive will be less arduous for our Western comrades. Also, KC has some great BBQ. See you there.

Don Jackson

The Wife's viewpoint

Hello everyone, Wow, this convention was so historic and yet laid back. The food was delicious and most of all it was great to see friends that have developed over the years. I have attended most of the meetings except the year of my copperhead snake bite. I could say the snake died but that is my story. Williamsburg was a delight and as we toured the Colonial portion we learned much about gunsmithing which made Don happy and I was on a research project for the herbs that grew during that time. The flowers were beautiful

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and the hotel was friendly and made sure we were comfortable. It felt so good to see the turnout and know that everyone enjoyed getting together once more. I look forward to next year and hope you are too and once again see all of my dear friends. The support the wives give their Vietnam soldiers is marvelous and so good to see.

Jeanie Jackson

12th Annual Reunion – Secretary’s Report

It hardly seems possible, but our 12th Annual Reunion is behind us. As they say, “time flies when you are having fun”. The past 12 years have flown by rapidly, indeed!

It was apparent that those who attended the reunion this year in Williamsburg had a great time. Williamsburg has a lot of history and tourist attractions and many of us took advantage of the sites. There were a couple highlights of the reunion that bear mentioning. The first was our raffles and an auction of a couple of donated items the proceeds of which go for scholarships for our grandchildren. Through everyone’s generosity we generated enough money for our Financial Assistance Program (Scholarship Fund) to help more of our grandchildren with their education this year. For those who stayed over and joined us for the excursion to Ft. Eustis, I am sure you saw a “little” change in the training process compared to what some of us had in the 60’s. The last time I was at Ft. Eustis, the “museum” was mostly in a field and a shed housing some aircraft. Today it covers a huge outdoor area and a first class indoor museum. Both of these things fall under the category of progress. It makes one proud of our military, today.

I’d like to say “THANK YOU” again to all those that pitched in to help make this reunion such a success. Those that helped out in the hospitality room, doing the shopping for our beverages and snacks, making sure the drinks were cold and peddling our raffle tickets and filling in for my wife, Julie and me so we could grab a bite to eat. All were a tremendous help.

The membership voted on the location for our 2019 (13th Annual) reunion. We will be going to Kansas City next year. One of the reasons Kansas City was chosen is its location, right in the middle of the country and easily accessible from almost anywhere. That is one of the big considerations when choosing a location since we have members all over the US. (Tim McCullough travelled 17 hours from Alaska to attend the reunion.) It will take a few months to be able to set up an exact date and location and get our contract in place. As soon as we have that done, we will send out a notice via email, and the date will be posted on the web site (<http://121avn.org/>) and on the Yahoo Group site (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/121stAHC/>). The information will also be in the next issue of the Tiger Gazette.

I have already contacted the KC Convention and Visitors Center and it looks like it will be a great place for a reunion. They will be assisting us with hotel proposals and information on attractions that I will check out when go to KC to look over the hotel facilities, later this year.

I’ll try to keep everyone up to date on the next reunion as information becomes available. Hope to see you in KC!

John Schmied, Secretary

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Financial Assistance (Scholarship) Program

Just a reminder, applications for our 2018 scholarships are due by June 30, 2018. Due to the generosity of those who attended our 2018 reunion, purchased raffle tickets and made donations to the fund, we are prepared for this year. It is “free money” for your grandkids, but it does take some effort to make the application and supply all the supporting documents in a timely manner.

Eligibility also requires that the sponsoring person must be a paid up member of the 121st Avn Association.

The application and instructions are available on the association web site:

<http://121avn.org/> - just click on the Scholarship Instructions tab on the menu on the left to download the instructions and application.

While our standard annual scholarship is one award of \$1,000 each year, for 2017 the Board of Trustees approved awarding \$1,000 scholarships to three of our members' grandchildren.

Let's give our grandkids a little help to further their education. Get the applications in as soon as possible.

John Kennedy
Financial Assistance Program

Finding Lost Friends

Rick Weimar, who has done so much to find comrades that we did not have addresses for, is asking for your help. If you have any orders or other information on our people please send it to him. Also, if your contact information changes, please let Rick or any of the other trustees know. We can't get the Gazette to you, or send you any other information if we don't know how to contact you. This is very important, so if your email, phone number home address changes please tell us.

Thanks,
Don Jackson

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Reunion Pictures



Our Brave Aviators



Our Gracious Ladies

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A Huey at Ft. Eustis



Reliving old times, Larry?

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Warren Wollen, Bill Wilson and Rick Weimar enjoying old memories



Did you ever notice how helicopter pilots are always surrounded by pretty women?

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A good time was had by all.

See you next year.

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