

Volume 18, Issue 1

30 June 2014



Rustic News



www.rustic.org

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NEXT RUSTIC REUNION. Jack Thompson and Bill McAdams and their wives are planning a great 2015 Rustic reunion in "Cowtown", Ft Worth, Texas. The dates are not firm but they are looking at 7-11 October 2015. Some of the events may include:

Tour of Lockheed F-35 production line

Golf

Tour and lunch at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum and FAC Museum

Tour of downtown & the historic stockyards

If you have any inputs for the reunion committee, contact **Jack Thompson** at: 817-571-4425 or jackov10@earthlink.net.

REUNION CARRYOVER FUNDS. After all the bills were paid for the 2013 Rustic reunion, the following funds remain in our reunion carryover checking account:

Carryover from previous 6 reunions	\$1,277.73
Carry over from 2013 reunion	236.15
Carryover Kohn Om Reunion Fund	<u>1,227.88</u>
	\$2,741.76

These funds are maintained in a separate "Reunion" checking account maintained by our reunion Treasurer, **Lendy Edwards**. Our intention is not "make money" off our reunions, so we will do everything possible in 2015 to put these funds to work to reduce the costs for our 2015 reunion events.

2013 REUNION PHOTOS. Jim Seibold requests you send him any reunion photos you may have taken at our 2013 reunion. Send them to Jim at: Seiboldjim@aol.com or mail them to him at 4680 E Blue Spruce Lane, Gilbert, AZ 85298. He will create a 2013 reunion DVD photo album for the Rustic Archives.

ROSTER UPDATES: Please note the following database updates received since our last newsletter:

Normand Falcon 12502 W Butterfield Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375
Shad Kimbell 38543 N. Dave St., San Tan Valley, AZ 85140. Phone: 417- 207-2777.

Robert Schwein 599 Main Street, Athol MA 01331-1818, 978-709-1640, Robert.Athol.Mass@Gmail.com

Jim Frick* 11610 Grenelefe Ave N, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, JMIF26@aol.com, 651-492-6990. Wife: Carolyn
* Newfound Rustic Radio Operator

CONGRESSMAN DUFFY AND SENATOR RUBIO RESOLUTION GIVES RECOGNITION TO KHMER FREEDOM FIGHTERS. Washington D.C. - U.S. Congressman Sean Duffy (WI-07) and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced in their respective Houses on 22 May 2014 a resolution recognizing the service of Khmer and Hmong "Freedom Fighters who fought alongside, supported, and defended U.S. Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. Upon introduction of the resolution, Rep. Duffy offered:

"Khmer and Hmong fought shoulder to shoulder with U.S. troops during the Vietnam War. These Veterans rescued United States pilots shot down in enemy controlled territory and returned them to safety, provided intelligence, captured and destroyed supply lines, and provided food and shelter to U.S. Armed Forces.

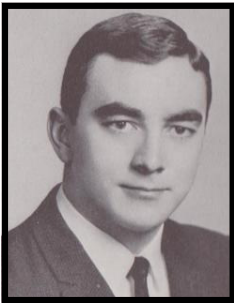
"Though many have immigrated to the United States, the Khmer and Hmong "Freedom Fighters" are still subject to intimidation, ridicule, discrimination, and death if identified in Cambodia and Laos today.

"These men deserve the grateful thanks of our nation, and this resolution awards them the recognition that they've long deserved." Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District is home to nearly 10,000 Hmong Americans.

*Editor's Note: We are standing by to see if the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Senate will approve the resolution. **Claude Newland** and **Hank Keese** wrote letters of support for the resolution on behalf of the Rustic.*

FOUR RUSTIC FINAL FLIGHTS: So far, 2014 has not been kind to the Rustics. You never know when a Rustic reunion may be your last. That makes each reunion all the more special. Slow hand salute to our Rustic Brothers.

1) **Bob Andrews, Rustic 07.** Gale Andrews reported **Bob "Slick" Andrews** passed away at home on Jan 2, 2014 at 8:30 p.m. "Thanks for all the prayers for him and our family." Bob was with the Rustics from Sep 1971-Sep 1972 so he flew missions from both Bien Hoa and Ubon. Gale Andrews may be reached at: 208-323-0246.



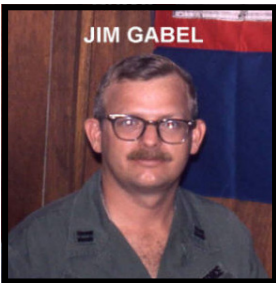
2) **Lou Currier, Rustic 09**, passed away Saturday evening, March 8, of an Aorta Aneurism. He will be interred at the Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, June 25, at 0900. Guest are asked to arrive at the Reception Center NLT 0830. Rustics **Jon Safley** and **Ron Dandeneau** have indicated they plan to attend. If you would like to attend the interment, please contact **Claude Newland** for details, 850-654-2955 or rustic19@cox.net. All are invited.

Lou was a former Issue FAC who was recruited as one of the seven original OV-10 Rustics at Bien Hoa. He was fluent in French so he gave practically all of the early OV-10 Rustics their "Dollar Ride" in the Rustic Area of Operations.

3) **John Cary, Rustic 01**, passed away on May 5th. A memorial service was held May 12th and he was interred in the Logan Cemetery in Ft. Collins, CO. Rustics Don and Mary Haller attended the Memorial Service. Don said, "John and I flew together many years in F-106s in the 71st FIS. He was truly one of the good guys." John served as the Rustic OV-10 commander at Bien Hoa for two months in Nov-Dec 1971.



4) **Jim Gabel, Rustic Bravo**, passed away 17 April of a cardiac arrest. Sally said he went with his "boots on" at home and that is how he wanted it. Jim will be interred at the Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, 7 August, at 0900. Guests should arrive at the Arlington Reception Center NLT 0830. If you would like to attend the interment, please contact Sally for details, (c) 605-786-2448 or jagabel@aol.com. After the interment the family plans to go the "Lebanese Taverna" restaurant at the Westover Shopping Center on Washington Blvd in Arlington for lunch. Rustics are invited to join them.



Jim was the Rustic's Chief of Intelligence at Bien Hoa when the Rustics first organized in June 1970. He has been the Rustic FAC Assoc.'s Historian since our inception in 1997. Jim also served as one of the editors of our Rustic History books and was a major contributor. His intel expertise, great corporate memory, and critical eye for detail as an editor helped ensure we kept our facts straight in our book

WINGMAN SUPPORT. From **Roger Hamann. Marcel Morneau, Rustic Victor**, took a bad fall while vacationing in Florida in April. His daughter, **Renee**, reported Marcel was in ICU on 13 April in Florida with a head bleed. He fell and hit the back of his head on the tile floor. He had a brain bleed described as worse than a bad concussion but not a bad bleed. "He is confused and very tired. After three days his condition was improving but he was still not recalling many things, but he recognizes his family and can follow commands. He'll have to go to a rehab facility until he is cleared to go home. Not sure how long that will be. Thanks for all the prayers and words of encouragement!" **Renee**

Update: After about a week of rehab treatments Marcel was cleared to return home. On 1 May Marcel's son drove Marcel and Denise from Florida back to their home in Ohio. After a month of rehab treatments Marcel says he is making good progress. Head injuries can be serious and initially he couldn't walk. He is now able to walk and is getting better each day. He hopes to be cleared to start driving again within a couple weeks. Marcel he can be reached at 513-360-0136 or rusticv@juno.com (preferably in the afternoon as he has PT in the morning).

RUSTIC O-2 ACCIDENT AT BIEN HOA, 1971 (David Aviles, zantax2000@yahoo.com). I was a crew chief on OV's in Nam. On Sep 9, 1971 I was on the flight line at Bien Hoa. I saw a C-130 coming in and right behind him an O-2. The O-2 banked in right behind the 130, flipped over and crashed. I was on the flight line and jumped on a tug to reach the crew. The O-2 was on the opposite side of the runway from the revetments. When I got there the aircraft was upside down and both men were unconscious. The plane was leaking fuel and was in jeopardy of exploding, or so I believed. I pulled open the cockpit door and pulled both the pilot and observer out of the aircraft. I laid them both on the side of an incline away from the aircraft. They were still unconscious a few minutes later when the fire crew came out. I left and I resumed my duties as crew chief on my aircraft. I haven't shared this with anyone, however I was wondering if these two Rustics are still wondering to this day who pulled them out. If you tell the story, they'll know who they are. It happened in 1971 in Bien Hoa. Mystery solved!

Editor's note: The O-2 pilot was Capt Jesse Moon. Details of this incident are chronicled on page 156 of the revised Rustic Book, "THE RUSTICS - A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia."

RUSTIC SEA PHOTO DVD PROJECT (Ned Helm): I'm still soliciting SEA Rustic photos for our Rustic Photo DVD project. If you have any photos to contribute, please send them to me at: ned@wingset.com or 515 Trailhead Lane, Jamestown, TN 38556. All photos will be returned.

KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND ORPHANAGE. (Lendy Edwards): The second quarter report from Sunrise Ministries has been posted to our website.

SHORT BURSTS.

1. Another Dandeneau Retires. Congratulations go to **Ron Dandeneau, Rustic F**, who reports his son will be retiring from the USAF at Seymour Johnson AFB on 27 June. "Some of you met my son at one of the Rustic Reunions in Destin, FL a few years ago."

Ron Dandeneau

2. Golf Outing, Rustics Jack Otis, Don Ellis, and Tom Cantor found time for a round of golf together at the Whispering Pines (Myrtle Beach?) golf course on 3 April. Isn't retired life grand?!

NADY TAN UPDATE (Doug Aitken), *Editor's Note: Nady Tan's story is in our Rustic book. He escaped with most of his family just prior to the fall of Cambodia to the Khmer Rouge. Doug Aitken sponsored Nady and his family and helped them get started in the United States. Nady later returned to Cambodia, where he still lives, and has served at the government's chief civil servant. Doug Reports:*

On 26 Feb I received a phone call from **Nady Tan**. He was in Portland, OR. Here is a brief summary of what we talked about:

His daughter died of cancer and that is why he was in Portland. He planned on staying a month. His wife, Sara, has remained in Portland due to, I think, kidney problems (know she is a diabetic), as she visits the hospital every two days. Their son, **Sarady Tan**, COL, USAF, is the Hospital Commander at Mt. Home AFB, Idaho. He has 18 years in, and is committed to 24, and "maybe longer." He sounds just great on the phone and we agreed his story is a perfect example of American opportunity.

Nady sounded so much stronger than he did about six months ago when I talked to him. He said other two sons are doing well. He told me what they were doing, but I could not get all of it. It is obvious that he has not been using his English. We talked about the situation in Cambodia and he said the Military Police were the ones who shot the strikers. Then he said something about the Premier which I could not follow. Sarady came on the line and said Nady thought the one who was killed had done something threatening to the police.

All in all, we had a wonderful conversation. He is still going in to work in Phnom Penh. I urged him to come and remain in Portland with his family as we ain't getting any younger, but I don't think he is gonna do that.

Thought you guys might be interested in that conversation. Cheers, **Doug**

PRIVATELY OWNED AND FLYABLE OV-10. Don Mercer reports he has found a privately owned flyable OV-10. It is owned by **Rick Clemens**, Founder and President of The Cactus Air Force. He is also CEO and President of Specline, a company in Carson City, NV that manufactures ball bearings for numerous aircraft. Clemens' chief pilot is **Lee Griffin** who retired after 21 years as a Naval aviator having flown off a carrier on Yankee Station in F-4s, and who then flew 17 years with Federal Express.

Don began this search because a family member of one of our Rustic Backseater's expressed an interest in trying to get his former Rustic brother another flight in an OV-10. **Rick Clements** was contacted and said the flight was a "go" but subsequently the backseater advised that he would not be able to fly out to partake of the flight at this time. Rick then kindly extended an open invitation to the backseater to come whenever he can. We'll see what the future holds... *Our thanks go to Don Mercer for his efforts!*

OV-10s IN FLORIDA (Roger Hamann). **Roger** was vacationing in Florida in January (...a good time to escape from Maine) when he saw a black OV-10 on the ramp at the Lakeland Airport. Seems this bird had landed to refuel. It is used as a mosquito sprayer out of Ft Myers, FL. He also learned there is an OV-10G at the Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum in Titusville, FL. This Bronco was declared excess by the government, obtained through GSA, and was recently "towed" some 33 miles from Patrick AFB in 5 plus

hours. This aircraft was last used by the Department of State in an illicit crop irradiation program. This warbird served in Vietnam with the USMC in VMO 2 and the OV-10 was used by the USAF, Navy and USMC



OV-10 mosquito sprayer at Lakeland Airport, FL



OV-10G at Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum, Titusville, FL

during its service in a variety of missions; primarily as a Forward Air Control aircraft.

0-2A FUND RAISER. The Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum in Oregon is raising money to restore O-2A aircraft 67-21395. It is one of the birds that took part in the Bat-21 rescue and was kept from being tossed for that reason. The Evergreen Museum is one of the best aviation museums in the country and is the home of the Spruce Goose. Anyone who would like to help, please send your contribution to: (*I have sent an email to the museum and will give you their answer soonest*).



O-2A at Ft Worth FAC Museum. File photo.

CALENDAR:

- 1) **2014 All FAC Reunion.** Ft Walton Beach, FL, Oct 22-26, 2014
- 2) **2014 Raven Reunion,** San Antonio, Oct 9-12, 2014
- 3) **2015 Rustic FAC Reunion,** Ft Worth ,TX; (Dates TBA; possibly 7-11 Oct 2015)
- 4) **2016 All FAC Reunion,** Williamsburg, VA (Dates TBA)

LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS:

From Kohn Om (Dec 2013)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It was as wonderful Rustic reunion at Colorado Springs. Thanks again for every Rustic and warrior! **Kohn Om**

From Frank Sovich, fmsovich@gmail.com

Hey Claude- - eat your heart out! Looks like the OV-10 is still flying. Here's pictures of my son, **Christopher**, in Meridian NAS Miss where he is an instructor in a Navy Jet- - their basic fighter/trainer/lead-in airplane- - built by the Brits. I don't remember the designation.

Apparently this OV-10'G' "relic" is going around and working with the Marines- - a Navy Project (with a LT CMDR in charge) to do the same thing as we did 35 years ago with newer equipment. Chris tells me it has even been to Afghanistan. The Navy thinks that the F-35 will be too expensive to do the job and they are looking for alternatives -- so the story goes! I Don't quite remember the instruments looking like this though!



OV-10G Cockpit....quite different from our SEA versions

From Bill Voss, marthvoss@hotmail.com

Jim Gabel was the best intelligence officer and finest boss I had the privilege to work with and for during my time in the USAF. What he did in support of the Rustic operation was phenomenal. I didn't see any work in support of any other mission during my time on duty that compared with his. It was a privilege to serve with him. I got a chance to visit him and Sally at their home near Rapid City, SD, in September 2007 while traveling around the US in an RV. I'm so glad I did. **Bill Voss**, Rustic Phantom

From Scott Walker, Director, KhmerVeteransProject, callwalker@gmail.com

Rustics, I am pleased to announce that on Monday, April 28, the Khmer Veterans Resolution is slated to be introduced into both the United States House of Representatives by Congressman Sean Duffy and in the United States Senate by Senator Marco Rubio (*Note: The resolution was introduced on 22 May 2014*).

The Khmer Veterans have worked tirelessly since the original resolution was passed in Minnesota on April 5, 2012. They have studied the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and have learned how law is passed in the United States. They have visited many legislators in their communities and are now passing this knowledge to their family and friends in Cambodia.

The accounts you recorded in your book "The Rustics, A Top Secret Air War in Cambodia" has influenced our representatives to introduce this historic resolution and have given our veterans the will to pursue its passage.

Your contribution to this effort, small as it may seem to you, has given these Veterans the courage and determination to teach others the American way of life. The resolution is far from being passed and I do not want to presume it will be. But getting to this point is an accomplishment no Khmer ever foresaw. Thank you so much for your contribution.

Correspondence from Claude Newland to Mark Berent, Papa Wolf, May 2014

Mark, I just got a call from Cambodian **Truong Danh** who said he worked with the Rustics some in 1972. He said he "Hotel Airborne" based south of PP at that time and called in air strikes for Cambodian forces. He remembers you... "Papa Wolf." He was a former Mike Force soldier in Vietnam who became a combat interpreter for the 25th infantry Div. at Cu Chi AB Vietnam in 1968-69. By 1970 he was a 2 Lt in Cambodia and by 1972 he was assisting with airstrikes requests in the field.

He was in the States for training at Ft Benning in 1974. He remained in the U.S. and graduated from college in Ill in 1980 in Computer Science. He now lives in Carrollton, Texas. His phone: 214-680-9353. Perhaps you remember him. **Claude**

From new-found Rustic Jim Frick, Rustic Control, May 71-Sep 71, JMJE26@aol.com

Claude, Lendy, and the Rustics...

I found the Rustic website a few years ago but after attending an event honoring vets last night sponsored by 7th graders that included one of my grandsons, I just decided it might be fun to sign up.

I served with 19TASS out of Bien Hoa from late Nov 70 through Oct 71. Sometime in Spring of 1971 (can't remember the exact date) I was assigned to the Rustics. I worked as a radio operator at Rustic Control and then made the rotations up to Nui Ba Den (Rustic Alpha). I can remember some of the pilots, **Otto Walinski**, **Dave Dekoker**, and the Intel Officer **Richard Doyle**, who was a John Denver fan. I was one of the "older" first term enlisted guys as I was 24 in June 1971, engineer from Iowa State, married with a 2 1/2 year old son and a daughter who was born on August 11, 1971 while I was up on the mountain.

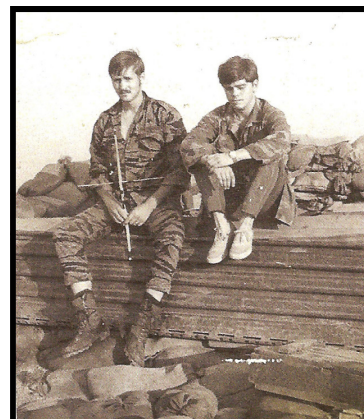
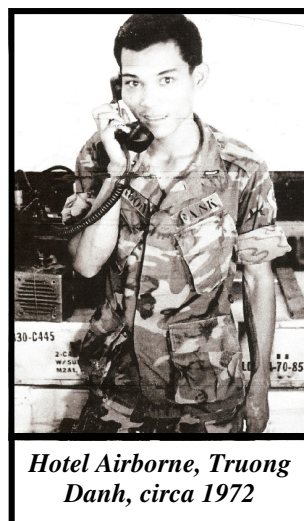
I made Sgt while I was in Vietnam and then made SSgt in about 3/12 years stationed at Mountain Home AFB, ID. I was in just one 4 year term.

Claude, we probably overlapped a bit at Bien Hoa before you left in May 1971. My memory is not what it used to be so I am not sure I would remember you if I saw you again.

I got a nice note from **Dick Doyle** and just wrote him back. I guess Memorial Day is a perfect time to reconnect. **Lendy**, I have filled out the online form for Assn. membership and will send in a donation to the Cambodian Charity fund.

Unfortunately, I do not have any contact information on Rustic radio operator **Tom Wolford**. I have got to believe that **Dave DeKoker** or **Otto Walinski** might remember him as he did 2 tours in RVN. I do know that he loved being up on Rustic Alpha and it was hard to get him off. I think he was from Tennessee or Kentucky if memory serves correct.

I have a couple of pictures somewhere. I do have one of me and an Army fellow named **Pat** sitting on a bunker on top of Nui Ba Den mountain (See photo on right). We have the first "prototype" of a kite frame that we ended up flying off the mountain top. Used dental floss for



string. Also had an interpreter put some "words of wisdom" on it for our friends on the sides of the mountain. We were well into our 18th 100 yard roll of dental floss when it got shot down...that is as airborne as we got!!

What happened to me? Well, after one last duty station in Idaho, I went back to RD at General Mill Chemicals in Minneapolis and also went back to school for 4 more years--this time in business. In 1977 I got out of RD and into food ingredient sales to large consumer goods companies working with their RD groups. Then moved into sales and marketing management and finished my last 15 years or so in senior management positions in running sales, marketing, and RD groups with a couple of food ingredient companies. I retired Feb 2012 about 4 months from being 65. Love retirement!! Changed companies a few times but never relocated out of White Bear Lake, MN.....did log way too many hours flying to meetings as a result of not relocating but that is done now.

All 4 of our children live within 8 miles of us as do all of the 8 grandkids plus one coming in October. I attend sporting events and entertainment events as all the grandkids are very active. My wife and I had our 46th anniversary yesterday.

Love golfing, hunting, and fishing--especially saltwater fishing. Claude, I finally made it to Destin, FL in January 2014 after years of hearing how great it was from many folks that worked for me over the years. My wife and I absolutely loved it and we will be back as Destin has great fishing. We ate at Dewey Destin's place on the water and had a trigger fish sandwich that was out of this world. What a great place to vacation and the people was very friendly. We do travel, especially given our Minnesota winters!!

It was an honor to be associated with such a great group of guys. I do plan to order some of the information on the Rustics. Carolyn and I want to wish you and your families all the best on this Memorial Day. **Jim**

Jim, welcome aboard!

Rustic FAC Association
4033 Indian Trail Drive
Destin, FL 32541

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Rustic SEA Photo CD: Ned Helms, rusticfac15@gmail.com
Reunion Photo CD: Jim Seibold, seiboldjim@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Doc Thomas, shialary@msn.com

NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

Jim Frick 11610 Grenelefe Ave. N., White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Sally Gabel 120 Gause Drive, Venice, FL 34293, 605-786-2448

Sally asked us to share her address and telephone number with the Rustics. She would like to keep in touch with everyone. She looks forward to attending the 2015 Rustic Reunion next year.

NEW FOUND RUSTIC. Doyle Crawford, , Rustic Alpha j2horse@yahoo.com. See Letters to the Rustics.

ANNUAL RUSTIC NEWSLETTER - ROSTER/PERSONNEL UPDATES: This newsletter is our annual issue which goes out to every Rustic, regardless of membership status. We do this in hopes that everyone will attempt to stay in touch with their Rustic buds. Please keep us informed of any changes to your mailing address, email, or phone number. Attached is the 2014 Rustic Personnel Roster. Feel free to send in any communication as we want to hear about what each of you have been doing lately. Send inputs to rustic19@cox.net.

WINGMAN SUPPORT. Lunchbox **George Larsen**, Rustic U, had to cancel out of the All-FAC reunion in October due to medical issues. You might want to give him a call to let him know you are thinking of him, 407-277-8502.

RUSTIC SEA PHOTO ALBUM INPUTS REQUESTED (Ned Helm): We have had a number of new-found Rustics this past year or two. If any of you have any SEA photos of yourself, or your work areas, etc. please send them to me via email at: rusticfac15@gmail.com. I'll add them to our comprehensive digital Rustic Photo album.

Marcel Morneau, do you still have some did 35mm SEA slides to be scanned?

DISPOSITION OF ORIGINAL RUSTIC BOOKS. We have about 6 original hardcover Rustic books still available for distribution to museums or other organizations that might benefit from a copy. Do you have any suggestions? Send inputs to rustic 19@cox.net or call 850-654-2955. A copy has been sent to the Perrin Air Force Base Historical Museum, Denison, TX and to the FAC Museum in Fort Worth, TX. Any other inputs?

All-FAC REUNION REPORT. Approximately 400 FACs and their guests attended the "Second Mother of All FAC Reunions" in Ft Walton Beach, FL, 22-26 Oct 2014. The weather was perfect the entire week and camaraderie, fellowship, and old war stories abounded.

The week's activities began with a pre-party BBQ at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort on Tuesday evening that was attended by about 130 early arrivals. Registration began on Wednesday and continued throughout Thursday. Official activities began Wednesday afternoon with a poolside "Homecoming" cookout followed by a "Welcome" party and Authors Book signing table event. The FAC hooch that night (and every night) was a lively place as old friends reconnected and new friend were made.

The following Rustics were in attendance: **Zot & Judy Barrazotto, Don Brooks, Tom & Vicki Calvanelli, Bob & Dorte Clifford, Roger Dodd & Margaret Hakun, Don Echelberger, Lendy & Sue Edwards, Phil & Beth Frischmuth, Bill & Sylvia Healey, Rowdy Hetherington, Claude & Tona Newland, Jack & Anne Thompson, Dave Van Dyke, and Tom & Theresa Wolford (Rustic Alpha).**

Thursday's main event was a charter bus tour to the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL. One of the highlights of this visit was a presentation on the new National Flight Academy and the summer camp programs being offered to young people to introduce them to aviation. The Academy is billed as America's number aviation-themed learning adventure for 7-12 graders. The camp's entire week's training is based on the premise that you are living on an aircraft carrier. A tour of their brand new facilities followed. Information on the Flight Academy can be found at: www.nationalflightacademy.com.

Thursday evening was a chance to enjoy the beauty of the Florida gulf coast with a dinner at the nearby Crab Trap Restaurant.

Friday morning was filled with a number of optional events that offered something for just about everyone. About 80 attendees went 40 miles north to the beautiful Sky Ranch Airport where everyone, including wives, were treated to a short flight in the 0-1 aircraft and lunch, compliments of the local chapter of the international Birddog Assoc. The birddogs also provide a four-ship flyby for the FAC memorial service on Saturday at Hurlburt Field.

Other Friday AM events included a golf tournament at the Gator Lakes course at Hurlburt, deep sea fishing from the nearby Destin harbor (the fish were biting!), and a tour of the Destin History and Fishing Museum followed by a visit to the Silver Sands Shopping Outlet Mall. The main event that afternoon was a Dolphin/Sunset cruise from the scenic Destin harbor on three different vessels (over 300 in attendance) and a seafood dinner at the newly opened Jimmy Buffet Margaritaville restaurant on the waterfront.

Saturday's events were clearly the highlight of the entire reunion. The day began with a bus tour of Hurlburt Field (it was amazing to see how much the base has grown), a Command Briefing on the missions of the AF Special Operations Command, and an excellent update briefing by the 23 Special Tactics Squadron on how our modern-day Joint Tactical Air Controllers (JTACs) are carrying on the FAC legacy.

Everyone gathered at the Hurlburt Air Park on an absolutely beautiful sunny day for a FAC memorial ceremony honoring our FAC brethren who Gave All. In addition to the 22 Honor Family members present, we were also blessed to have Dorie Day (wife of MOH recipient Bud Day, deceased) as a special guest. The Emerald Coast Pipes and Drum Corps provided music before and during the ceremony and the Gloryland men's chorus led everyone in a stirring rendition of the national anthem.

The ceremony began with a few Hurlburt Reflections by Claude Newland and Col Dave Hill, FAC Assoc. Chaplain, provided a wonderful eulogy and a brief recap of the FAC mission (which many would like to see posted on the FAC website.) Following the Roll Call of names, the Hurlburt Honor Guard played taps and the four-ship 0-1 flyby occurred right on cue as the bagpipers played Amazing Grace. At the end of the ceremony a memorial wreath was place at the FAC memorial by the Honor Families and a number of group photos were taken with the various FAC Aircraft. The Hurlburt visit concluded with a buffet lunch at the Hurlburt Sound-side Club which was followed by an afternoon business meeting at the Ramada.

A full house FAC Banquet was held Saturday night. Entertainment before and after the banquet was provided by a master of musical revelry, Roger Dodd, and his Seiko Watch Tool Band. Special guests for the evening included our six FAC Aussie mates from Down under and their wives. Following the Australian and US national anthems, the effervescent Ken Semmler led everyone in singing the unofficial Australian national anthem, Waltzing Matilda.

Col Ed Hubbard, SEA POW and author of, "Escape From The Box, The Wonder of Human Potential" was the featured speaker. He recounted how he survived his POW experience, but more importantly how his lessons learned have taught him, and thousands of others, how to never have another Bad Day. His book is one that should be read by everyone. It may change your life!

The evening concluded with the FAC Association recognizing the leadership efforts of Charlie Pocock, Bob Gorman, and Peter Condon who were all instrumental in getting our FAC history Books, Cleared Hot, Vol. I and Vol. II, into print. The outgoing officers of the Assoc and the new officers were also recognized. The next FAC Association reunion will be held in Williamsburg, VA in 2015. Hope to see you there.

KOMPONG CHAM CHARITIES AND ORPHANAGE (Lendy Edwards): I continue to receive the quarterly reports from Darany Hang at Sunrise Ministries. All reports are posted on the web page under Inner-change News. There has been no information on the orphanage in quite some time so I have no updates. It may be time to make another donation to the charities.

2015 RUSTIC REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT. (Jack Thompson & Bill McAdams): The 2015 Rustic reunion in Fort Worth is set for Thursday, Oct 8 through Sunday morning, Oct 11. We have rooms reserved at the Radisson hotel located at I-35 and Meacham Blvd. The rate is \$109 per room which includes breakfast. We are looking at the following events:

- Tour of the F-35 production line
- Golf outing
- Dinner in the stock yards and a rodeo
- Visit to the Fort Worth Aviation Museum and our FAC Museum
- Banquet

More details to come. Start making plans now to come join us.

HOLY LAND TRIP PLANNED. (Doug Aiken). Attention Rustic travelers. Last Jan-Feb, Carol and I joined Jim and Diane Seibold for a 10-day trip with their Church to the Holy Land. I was so impressed that I urged my own Church in Southern Pines, Our Savior Lutheran Church, to take the same trip. The dates for the trip are Oct 26-Nov 6, 2015. It will be led by our Pastor, Todd Rauscher, and the tour company is Faith Journeys out of Tempe, Arizona. While it is later in the same month as the Rustic Reunion in Dallas, perhaps some of you would like to join us. We found this to be a wonderful experience from historical, current event, and religious viewpoints. If you are interested, email me at daitken@nc.rr.com and I will be glad to send you the pdf brochure with all the details. There is also an optional 3-day extension into Jordan,

Author's note: Claude and Tona Newland have signed up for the trip and 3 day extension.

RUSTIC DAVE PARSONS RETRIEVES ISSUE FAC BAR BELL. Dave Parson, Rustic 08, was one of the original seven Rustic OV-10 pilots at Bien Hoa. Prior to becoming a Rustic he served as an Issue FAC at CuChi in III Corps. Dave has been the keeper of the Issue FAC bar bell all these years and he has decided to donate it to the FAC Museum at Meachem Field, Fort Worth, Tx. Here's Dave's message:

Hi Claude, the Issue FAC Bar Bell is "in the mail" and will arrive Wednesday. I send it with great reservation. It has been one of my personal treasures. I struggle with my war memories because some are horrible but some are very fulfilling because of the lives we saved. The bell brings so many memories alive. I had wonderful friends in my flying career and giving away the bell is like a final goodbye.

I am asked constantly if I miss surgery. The answer is no but I really do miss flying! Not a day goes by that I am not inverted and pulling Gs in my mind. Say Hi to the guys and thank you for all you do! David Parsons, MD ><>

OV-10 UPDATE AND "WELCOME HOME" Jim Hodgson. Mar 1, 2014. 46 years ago today the Marine Corps introduced the OV-10 Bronco into active service in SEA. The Air Force would follow closely behind. A total of 360 Broncos were produced. The airplane is still in active service with CAL Fire, SOCOM, The Philippines, Colombia, Indonesia and Venezuela. Civilian operators include Tony de Bruyn in Belgium, one in

France, Rick Clemens in Nevada and one in Florida. There are others on display around the world including our three. Next year we will celebrate the 50th year of the Bronco at BroncoFest X in October of 2015. Congratulations all!

"Welcome Home" is a new series which tells the story of Vietnam Veterans, from all branches of the service, in their own words. It is scheduled for release in 2015, the 40th anniversary year of the end of the War. It is a thank you -- and a welcome home that is long, long, overdue. For updates on the series visit: www.sleepingdogtv.com or info@sleepingdogtv.com.

From August of 1964--when the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution gave President Lyndon Baines Johnson license to prosecute the Vietnam War using American blood and treasure--until April of 1975, when Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese, some 2.7 million Americans served in Southeast Asia. Fifty-eight thousand of them never returned. Those that did return found themselves in a country very different from the one that sent them off to war. Vietnam veterans came home to a nation that did not wholly comprehend where they had been or why, nor what they had seen and done.

But, there, "in country", as they say, they found something else: The brotherhood. That was one thing on which they soon learned they could bet their lives: The sacred bond Vietnam Veterans had with each other. It is a bond that never has been, and never will be, broken. So, when they returned home to a nation that was, at best indifferent, and at worst, contemptuous of them, they relied on that bond. Vietnam Veterans adopted the heart-rending custom of greeting each other with a simple, "Welcome Home". It is a custom they practice to this day.

Chey yo!!!!!! Xay sa na !!!!!

UNITED STATES SENATE PASSES KHMER RESOLUTION, Scott Walker, IKA.

Team members, it is with great pleasure to announce to you that your hard work has paid off. Below is confirmation that **United States Senate Resolution 462** was passed unanimously by the US Senate on July 24, 2014. This marks the very first time the United States of America has formally recognized the Khmer, Lao/Hmong soldier, past and present, and the people of Cambodia and Laos for supporting US forces and defending freedom and democracy in Southeast Asia.

I wanted to personally inform you of the passage before it was made public. We will discuss our future plans with regard to H. Res 596 at our bi-weekly teleconference. Congratulations!

The IKA will be sending a press release out shortly informing all news media in the United States as well as in Southeast Asia of our accomplishment. Congressman Duffy and Senator Rubio will be doing the same.

Rep. Sean Duffy (R-WI) has introduced a companion resolution, H. Res. 596, in the **U.S. House of Representatives**. Congressman **Dana Rohrabacher** has agreed to co-sponsor the resolution.

A similar resolution was passed in Minnesota in 2012. Full text of the resolution is below:

RUBIO, KLOBUCHAR RESOLUTION HONORING VIETNAM WAR FREEDOM FIGHTERS PASSES SENATE

Washington, D.C., 28 July 2014 – U.S. Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) today announced the Senate passage of their bipartisan resolution to honor the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters for their brave support of the United States during the Vietnam War.

The resolution recognizes the Freedom Fighters for their heroic efforts to support and defend the United States during the conflict in Southeast Asia, and acknowledges that Freedom Fighters remain subject to intimidation, discrimination, and even death if identified in Cambodia or Laos.

"The contributions made by these courageous freedom fighters are immeasurable," Rubio said. "Their support and loyalty to the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam conflict was heroic and should never be forgotten. I'm pleased the Senate passed this measure to finally give them the official recognition they deserve, which has been long overdue."

"The Freedom Fighters not only provided food and shelter to U.S. soldiers, but they fought and died with them," Klobuchar said. "While these men deserve recognition for the sacrifices they made then, they also de-

serve recognition for the sacrifices they continue to make today as many still face persecution. Although overdue, this resolution rightfully claims them as our heroic veterans and thanks them for their service.”

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters of Cambodia and Laos for supporting and defending the United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia and for their continued support and defense of the United States.

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters (also known as the `Khmer and Lao/Hmong veterans') fought and died with United States Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters rescued United States pilots shot down in enemy-controlled territory and returned the pilots to safety;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters retrieved and prevented from falling into enemy hands secret and sensitive information, technology, and equipment;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters captured and destroyed enemy supplies and prevented enemy forces from using the supplies to kill members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters gathered and provided to the United States Armed Forces intelligence about enemy troop positions, movement, and strength;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters provided food, shelter, and support to the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters facilitated the evacuation of the United States Embassy in Phnom Penh on April 12, 1975, by continuing to fight Khmer Rouge forces as the forces advanced upon the capital;

Whereas, in 2014, the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters are still subject to intimidation, ridicule, discrimination, and death if identified in Cambodia or Laos;

Whereas veterans of the Khmer Mobile Guerrilla Forces, the Lao/Hmong Special Guerrilla Units, and the Khmer Republic Armed Forces defended human rights, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of representation and association; and

Whereas the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters have not yet received official recognition from the United States Government for their heroic efforts and support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate affirms and recognizes the Khmer and Lao/Hmong Freedom Fighters and the people of Cambodia and Laos for their support and defense of the United States Armed Forces and freedom of democracy in Southeast Asia.

SHORT BURSTS:

1. World Travelers. Jim and Diane Seibold went on a 28-day trip to Australia and New Zealand, 14 Oct-11 Nov, and Jim and Lynn Nuber spent 10 days in Thailand in Aug.

2. Change of address. Dick Roberds is selling his Florida house and moving to Tennessee. His new address: 105 Stagecoach Pass, Tullahoma, TN 37388.

3. Congratulations. Gil Bellefeuille reports, “My bride made Lt. Colonel. She will pin the silver leafs on in December 2014. She is a nurse assigned to MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL

4. 2015 Birddog Unit Reunion. All FACs are invited to attend the 2015 ALL Birddog Military Unit reunion which will be held at the Wyndham Bay Palm Resort in Panama City, FL, October 8-11, 2015. There will be a hospitality rooms for each unit. Details can be found at: www.L19Birddog.com

RUSTICS ATTEND INTERMENT OF JIM GABEL, RUSTIC BRAVO. Doug Aitken and Jon Safley attended **Jim Gabel's** internment at the Arlington National Cemetery. Here's Doug's report:

Claude and Lendy, as usual, **Jon and Kathy [Safley]** were great hosts, getting us to Arlington right on time. We met with **Sally Gabel** and family and then, as usual, the Arlington folks got things started. We queued up in the cars and proceeded towards the gravesite, which was very close to Jim's parents' grave. Half way there we met the caisson, the band, and the honor guard.

The AF men and women did a wonderful job. A very moving time, as it always is. At the gravesite, there was no service, as Jim was not religious, but friends read a letter he had written about "Que Sera, Sera" and it was pretty dang spiritual to me. And then these same friends sang that song. Very nice.

Sally was glad to see the Rustics there and she filled us in on where she is at the present. She has bought a house in Venice FL and is living there. She will return to S. Dakota at some point in the future to clean out the house. Her niece told me that the house is filled from top to bottom, as Jim was quite the packrat.

I took pictures and video. I will send along some of the pics....high quality so will send a couple at a time. Saving the video and will send it to Sally once she gives me her new address. We will have to send Johnny Drury up there when she makes that trek.

We also need to have a full discussion on what to do with all our memorabilia and Jon is ready to assist in that discussion. He is now a docent at the Air and Space in DC and has some contacts with good advice.

It was a beautiful day, as you can tell by the pictures. Jon, Kathy, Carol and I were glad we could be there for Jim and Sally. **Doug**



Jim Gabel's interment, Arlington National Cemetery.

CALENDAR:

- 1)2015 Rustic FAC Reunion, Ft Worth, TX, Oct 8-11, 2015
 - 2)2015 BroncoFest X, Ft Worth, TX, 7 Oct 7-11, 2015
 - 3)2015 All Birddog Military Combat Unit Reunion, Panama City, FL Oct 10-14, 2015
 - 4)2016 All FAC Reunion, Williamsburg, VA (Dates TBA)
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LETTERS TO THE RUSTICS

From Doyle Crawford, Rustic Alpha, Aug 2, 2014

Lendy Edwards, I just found the Rustic Website The newsletter shows you as a keeper of the database, so hope I am contacting the right person.

I was the NCOIC of Rustic Control and Rustic Alpha Radio Operations from October 1970 to September 1971. **Lt Col Adams** and **Lt Col Lester** were the unit commanders during my tenure, and my immediate supervisor was **Major Bob Clifford**, Rustic 03.

If possible, I would like to have my name added to the Locator file of previous Rustic members. If you have any questions or require any additional information, you can reach me at j2horse@yahoo.com.

Doyle Crawford, SMSgt, Retired

From: Don Mercer

Claude, Another superb job on our June 2104 Newsletter! It is always nice to catch up on what some are doing and the fact that a few folks are still "finding" us.

Of course, it is sad to read the obits, as was particularly the case with that of Jim Gabel. I have such great respect for him, both from his commitment to the good fight when at Bien Hoa and to all that he contributed to our Rustic FAC Association. I so enjoyed working with him on co-editing Bill Sleigh's book.

Hope that you and your family are doing well. I am spending quite a bit of time in an attempt to improve my photography. Just returned a few weeks ago from a trip to Bedford, VA, to photograph the D-Day memorial there and then on to Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio. I'm flying to Jackson, WY, next week for a "Nightscape" workshop in the Tetons; and then a buddy of mine and I are going up to Yellowstone for four days to seek out some wildlife and landscapes to shoot. **Don**

From Lonthol Srun

Hi, I was wondering if LT **Lansford E Trapp**, **SSgt G Bellefeuille**, and Maj **Don Brooks** are still alive. Their planes were shot down in my Provence Kampong Cham. As a young child, I saw these planes flying over me, shooting/dropping bombs with other planes. I just wanted to meet them and if possible ask some questions. Thanks. **Lonthol Sru**, LT, USN, AD

Editor's note; This message was forwarded to Trapp, Bellefeuille, and Brooks.

From Bob Crothers, 1 June 2014

Hi Claude, I'm heading back to New England to visit with family and while home I am donating several of the Rustics book to my old high school library and town library.

Also, we have a local radio station that will talk about the wars and I'm going to give them one of the books in hope the talk show host reads it. The host is a local attorney, about our age, and supports the military with many stories and tributes on his radio show. Not expecting anything from it. I think he'll enjoy the book as I have. My niece even enjoyed reading the book. She in her mid-thirties now. Just wanted to let you know. No response is required. **Bob**

From Jim Hodgson, Fort Worth Aviation Museum

We reported last month that it is time for our Air Force OV-10 #825 to get a much needed facelift. The last time this Bronco was refurbished was in 2009. The Texas sun has taken a toll on the paint and now its old Bureau of Land Management stripes are peeking through on the wings and most of the markings are fading away. Our plan is to have a fresh livery on this combat veteran for BroncoFest X in October of 2015. Next year will also mark the 50th anniversary of the first flight of the OV-10 Bronco.

From Jim Nuber, Aug. 6, 2014

Claude, I'm coordinating a reunion of my pilot training class for September 2014. I was wondering who or what did you use to make name tags for the Rustic reunions?

Hope your summer went well. Ours has been a little slow/tough, as I had major back surgery on 30 June. I

now have 2 new disks, 2 titanium rods, 6 screws and a bone graft. It took the doc 5+ hours, and full recovery will 6 months to 1 year. I'll be fine, but bored to tears, since I do nothing but walk. Our best to you and Tona, Nubes, Rustic 05

*Editor's Note: **Lendy Edwards** provided Jim the requested info on ordering name tags.*

From Bob Harris, Rustic Redeye, July 25, 2014

To all my family, friends and new acquaintances: It's been some time since I've corresponded and here is the explanation. For the last nine months I have been dealing with a debilitating gastric condition. I won't bore you with the details but it was no fun. Lots of potentially embarrassing situations and depression. Bottom line is I am feeling better than I have felt in almost a year. It all stems back to the cancer surgery I had four and a half years ago. I was told that the surgeon probably saved my life but the way he put me back together was totally unorthodox. Oh well, at least I am around to tell the story.

Just so you know (and you may not), I am not retiring July 31st. That was the plan since January but ten days ago I decided that the timing was not right. You know I bought a house in southern Oklahoma and it will be a great place to retire, but not now. So, I extended my current employment for another six months that just might turn into another year or longer. Really depends on how my health continues to improve. Plus, it's getting exciting again with what I have the opportunity to deal with. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can be an unusual organization to be a part of. Never quite sure what to expect. Not that what I do is that important but it is like being a fly on the wall.

I do have some travel plans that will take me hopefully to San Antonio mid-September then in October I will attend my 50th Borger High School Reunion, Borger, TX. Will be nice to get acquainted again. Would really like to get back down to Florida before too long.

Only other major plan is to get my left knee replaced. Probably do that in November, if I can work it into my schedule.

I promise not to be so anti-social. Just didn't feel like sharing my challenges. Let me hear from you when you have a chance. Love Ya, **Bob "Redeye"**

