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Rustic News



www.rustic.org



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President Johnny Drury thanking our banquet speaker Col Sarady Tan, son of Nady Tan.



Johnny and Laura Drury

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS. This is our FINAL RUSTIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER.

As we close down the official Rustic FAC Association, your Board of Directors (BOD) and Committee Chairmen recently conducted our last official BOD meeting to tie up loose ends and decide the final disposition of funds and artifacts per our original Charter. All of these final actions have been accomplished or are currently in progress. Many of these final actions are discussed later in this Newsletter.

As we publish this last Newsletter, I can't help thinking about our rich history and the continued camaraderie over the years. It has been almost 56 years since that first Rustic mission was flown in support of Kompong Thom. The Rustic mission lasted only a little over three years but its legacy will remain forever as an unusual and important part of American aerial combat operations. As we all know, the rustic mission was successful due the combined efforts all members: pilots, interpreters, intelligence, maintenance, ordnance, operational techs, and administrative...and let's not forget the families who waited for all to return.

Just as important as our few years of mission accomplishments is the Rustic FAC Association which has successfully recorded and preserved our heritage for over 28 years. There are too many Rustics to name and thank here. But, I personally offer my gratitude to Claude Newland, Lendy Edwards, Doug Aitken, and Jim Reese (and many others) who initially did the heavy work to launch this organization and keep it going strong over the years.

Thanks to all Rustics for letting me be a part of the Rustic story, albeit minor. Laura and I wish all good health and fortune in the future. Although the Rustic organization is no longer an official group, I hope all of us continue to stay in touch with suggestions discussed below.

I cannot close my comments without offering a "Slow Hand Salute" to those Rustics lost in action and those lost since.
Vr, **Johnny Drury, Rustic 04**

LAST WORDS FROM OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR. Hmm... just maybe... just maybe...you might want to save a copy of this historic document for future reference.

Lendy Edwards and I, along with our former local Ft. Walton Beach newsletter mailing team (**Bill Sleight and Don Echelberger**) want to say what a pleasure it's been hearing from all of you and putting out our newsletters over the past 28 years. Remember when you got that first snail mail letter in 1996 announcing we "might" have a reunion? That letter, and our first reunion in 1997 changed the lives of many. It certainly changed mine. For that I'm thankful.

Remember this? In September 1997, about 170 Rustics and friends showed up at Ft Walton Beach for our first Rustic reunion. Many of us didn't know what to fully expect, but there was definitely some electricity in the air. Many of our night-flying O-2A Rustics from Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam's Menopause Manor were there. A large contingent of our Bien Hoa Air Base and Ubon, Thailand Air Base OV-10 Rustics showed up, plus a host of our USAF French-speaking interpreters and support personnel. Amazingly, almost all of our former Rustic commanders were there too. Our honored guests included Col Lieou Phin Oum (Hotel 302/303 formerly from Kompong Thom), and Lt Col Kohn Om, (Cambodian Mig-15 and Fouga Magister fighter pilot extraordinaire) who came to Bien Hoa AB to fly with us for one month early in the conflict as one of our interpreters.

Most noteworthy, at that reunion we already had a fledgling "draft" of a new book we hoped to publish. As a result, the floodgates opened and many others lit their hair on fire and decided to contribute.

Lest we forget, we owe a big debt of gratitude to **Jim Reese** who chaired our overall book writing efforts, and to the many who diligently worked on the book committee. Most importantly, we are especially grateful to all of you who shared your memories and helped tell our story. What a magnificent effort!

In closing, I believe we all can take pride in the many accomplishments of our association. We have been shepard'd by strong leaders and nurtured by a caring membership of brothers. It's been a great team effort and a great ride. Thank you one and all for making this happen. Signing off. The pen and quill are at rest. Til we meet again, **Claude Newland, Rustic 19**

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE RUSTIC FAC ASSOCIATION IS OFFICIAL. After 28 years, many of us are finding it hard to believe we have come to this inevitable crossroads. At our 2025 final reunion in Ft Walton Beach, the membership voted officially to dissolve our association. We filed the requisite Dissolution Report with the State of Florida making the dissolution effective 30 Jan 2026.

Our association may have dissolved, but we are not going away. We are a band of brothers.

THE KEY TO STAYING IN TOUCH. HERE'S THE CHALLENGE. The best way to ensure we can stay in touch with one another is to be sure your "contact" information on our website's "ROSTER" page is kept up-to-date. Have you looked at our website lately? Please check your information.

Our "Rustic Roster" and "Next-of-Kin Roster" are password protected. A link enables you access both if you have the password.

To get the password, contact **Lendy Edwards** (rustic20@cox.net or 850-585-3375). This is a simple process. Most importantly, updated your personal information so we know you are still around.

Lastly, leave instructions for your family to contact our webmaster at www.rustic.org when you have taken your final flight. We shall not forget our Rustic brothers. For now, keep your Mach up and stay in touch with your buds.

RUSTIC WEBSITE TO BE MAINTAINED UNTIL 12 DEC 2041. Some good news. The Rustic Board has funded our website out to December 2041. Our webmaster, **John Charlton** (jtcspc@gmail.com), will continue to monitor the website and make updates as long as he is able. Since we are in the process of closing our tent, John has been very busy adding a number of additions and upgrades.

Recent website changes include: (Be sure to check them out!)

- 1) **Rustic Legacies.** An entirely new "Rustic Legacies" section has been added which chronicles the significant events and accomplishments of our 28-year-old association. Some of these entries might surprise you. Also, included are many "Rustic Remembrances" which includes "What Being a Rustic Has Meant to Me", plus much more. This document was created as a wrap up for our final 2025 reunion.
- 2) **Rustic Obits.** On the "Roster" page, **John Charlton** has added a blue link next to the names of each Rustic who has taken their final flight. The link will take you to their obituary if John has found one. So far, he has found 30 of about 64. He is looking for the others. If you can provide a missing obit, or provide general information, please pass it along to John at jtcspc@gmail.com. Lest they be forgotten.
- 3) **Rustic Videos.** A number of Rustic videos have been added in different locations – Go find them. These will bring back a lot of memories. Besides, they make us all look so young again. **Doug Aitken** has provided a colorful video that covering the highlights of our 1997-2009 reunions.
- 4) **Rustic Newsletters.** Several missing newsletters have been added with **Lendy Edwards** assistance.

RUSTIC FACEBOOK STAYS ALIVE. **Roger Hamann, Rustic Y**, created our Rustic FACEBOOK page several years ago and will continue to serve as it's monitor. Currently, the group has 80 members.

To join, contact Roger at rusticyankee@aol.com and answer one simple question, "What is your connection to the Rustic FACS?" You have to be on Facebook in order to join.

Here is the [link: https://www.facebook.com/groups/702300539793648](https://www.facebook.com/groups/702300539793648)

WHAT'S THE CHAIN OF COMMAND? FAC MUSEUM vs BRONCO FEST vs THE FORT WORTH AVIATION MUSEUM? **Jim Hodgson**, Executive Director of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum (former Marine OV-10 pilot who provided the leadership to started this whole business), provides the answer:

Way back in 1998, when we started the OV-10 Bronco Association, Inc (OBA), all of our 501(c)(3) IRS docs and State registrations were through the OBA. In 2014, we made the corporate decision to rebrand as the Fort Worth Aviation Museum to better attract local visitors and organizations, so we registered as a dba of Fort Worth Aviation Museum, Inc. Both names are governed by the OBA BOD since it is all one organization.

Technically, most aircraft loans are with the OBA, and this was intentional. If we wanted to establish a new museum, we couldn't just transfer the airplanes; they would go back to the Navy, AF, or whoever, with no assurance we would get them back. This was intentional to ensure that the Bronco and FAC heritage would always be connected to the museum here.

Two years ago, we established the Fort Worth Aviation Museum Foundation. That group, with many of the same BOD members, is solely responsible for raising funds for the museum expansion but has no control over the aircraft. So, in essence, as long as the museum survives, so will the Bronco Association and the FAC Museum.

WHAT'S OUR FUTURE? Many of us are probably wondering if we will ever get together again. That remains to be seen. But, if I were a betting man, I'd say some will make it happen. The question is: Where? When? A cruise? Or a small gathering? Or will it be in Fort Worth, Texas at the Semi-Annual Bronco Fest? Will you be the one to suggest or put it together?

Here's why the 2027 Broncofest might be the best solution. The date has not been set yet, but it is usually in early November each year. Hotel rates are cheaper then. We could easily hitchhike on their Broncofest event or any one of the many other annual events sponsored by the Ft. Worth Aviation Museum which is home to "The Most Touchable Warbirds in North Texas". They have both the venerable O-2A and an OV-10, plus a growing number of donated aircraft and aviation artifacts. They are located at Meacham Field, Fort Worth.

Years ago, **Jerry Dufresne**, Rustic I (one of our first French—speaking interpreters) was honored to have his name inscribed on the rear canopy rail of their OV-10. Jerry was selected to represent and honor the many crewmembers who flew in the OV-10's backseat. Check out their website: www.ftworthaviation.com. **Here's a possible solution.** We could easily hitchhike on one of the many annual events sponsored by the Ft. Worth Aviation Museum which is also home to our FAC Museum. They have "The Most Touchable Warbirds in North Texas" which includes a venerable O-2A and OV-10, plus a growing number of donated aircraft and aviation artifacts. They are located at Meacham Field, Fort Worth.

Years ago, **Jerry Dufresne**, Rustic I (one of our first French—speaking interpreters) was honored to have his name inscribed on one of the rear canopy rails of their OV-10. Jerry was selected to represent and honor the many crewmembers who flew in the OV-10's backseat. Check out their website: www.ftworthaviation.com.

SHORT BURSTS.

1) Rustic Memorabilia Donations. The Rustics have recently made the following memorabilia donations:

a. To the FAC Museum at Meacham Field, Ft. Worth, TX went two copies of our Rustic history book and one of our Rustic 3' x 6' reunion banners. **Claude Newland** is safe-keeping our second banner anticipating we will need it someday for future get togethers.

b. To the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), Hurlbert Field, FL. went one copy of our history book and our Ubon Rustic brass bell. The bell was last rung at the end of our final reunion banquet in Ft. Walton Beach on 8 November, 2025. By acclamation, **Claude Newland** and **Lendy Edwards** were asked to ring the bell in recognition of their 28- years of service as our newsletter editor and formatter.

2) Final Cambodian Charity Contributions. One of the last actions taken to close our tent will be to close our association's bank account. Before we do that, our treasurer, **Jim Nuber**, will send our recent 2025 reunion Cambodian Charity contributions to our good friends at Sunrise Interchange in Kompong Cham, Cambodia which we have been supporting for years under various name changes.

Per our association's by-laws, we will donate and "send all residual funds to support a Cambodian Charity." The Board will ensure this will be done on your behalf. It looks like this total amount will be about \$9,700.

Again, thanks to all who have been faithful givers and supporters over the years.

3) Two OV-10 Broncos Coming to Texas. Jim Hodgson reports **Tony De Buryun** will soon be moving from Belgium to Texas and bringing his two Demo OV-10s with him. He's going to settle in Athens, TX, southeast of Dallas near Tyler.

Tony says he's had enough of Belgium (politics and immigration issues, etc.). You can bet he will be at future Bronco Fests. His two former Luftwaffe OV-10s were once painted green, but they are now painted gray.



Tony De Buryun and his two Demo OV-10s.

4) Jerry Dufresne, Rustic I, reports he has been selected by the Puget Sound Honor Flight for a veteran's trip to Washington DC in May. His daughter, Julie, submitted his name over 3 years ago and she will be his guardian. *Way to go Julie! Congratulations Jerry.*

5) Wingman Support. On Wednesday, March 18, **Doug Aitken** got a text from **Marcia Siebert** saying her daughter Kim's husband, **Tom Scott**, passed away March 17. He had been fighting cancer for five years. Marcia is a good friend of Rustic **Nancy Sleigh**. Both have attended numerous Rustic reunions since **Bill Sleigh** passed and were there to help us celebrate our final reunion last November.

2025 REUNION PHOTOS. Our photographers were Rustic Alpha Leon Cardiff and his son, **Shawn**. They can be reached at heyblue77@gmail.com.

Below is a reprint from our Dec 2025 newsletter.

Thanks to **John Charlton** for finding this free Mega site for us to share reunion photos. Go to www.Mega.nz. Click on "Log in" (upper right-hand corner).

Log in page. Your email address is: Rustics7073@gmail.com. Password is: RUSTICFAC.

To upload pictures top left corner to find a black box with an UP arrow. Click on it and note the "upload file" option. Click on that and just find the photo you want to upload on your computer. (I find it is easier to drag those photos to my desktop rather than hunt through my photo files.) Try to upload photos with titles to identify the picture.

When first signing in and accessing the site you will see **Three folders**. For pictures that **Shawn** took during the several days of the reunion - **Double click on the far right folder - SLICK Final Edit**.

Within this folder are **four** separate folders. Each folder contains the pictures taken at/during the: Crab Trap Dinner, Sunset Cruise, Hurlburt Field and the Rustic Fac Banquet.

The Rustic Fac Banquet folder contains other folders such as: Family group photos, Rustic Ladies, Rustic FAC's & Interpreters and other photos from the evening.

To download a picture, double click on the photo you want and it will expand. Look to the top left to see a DOWN arrow. Click on that arrow and your picture will go to your downloads folder. (You can open it from there and move it to your photo files.) Then click on the X at the upper right of the picture to return to the page with all the pictures.

When finished, be sure to Log out. Click on the Rustics crossed flags logo in Upper right, corner and note the LOG OUT bar. Click on it and you should exit.

Thanks John, Leon and Shawn for making this happen!

HOW TO MAKE DONATIONS TO THE FAC MUSEUM. Do you need to unload some of your stuff? The FAC Museum at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum would be delighted to receive some of your memorabilia for our FAC Museum. If now not, consider leaving some instructions in your will or trust.

1) Items they would like to receive: patches, photos, gear, flight and party suits, flight used maps, mission info, art, and scrapbooks.

2) Things we don't need: domestic flight maps, AF blue uniforms, plastic models or kits, and plain white helmets.

3) Who to Contact: For now, if you have questions or are not sure what to send, contact the museum's Collection Manager **Ben Guttery**, at 817-614-56 or benguttery@sbcglobal.net.

Mail items to **Ben Guttery**, P.O. Box 161966, Ft. Worth, TX 76161.

If necessary, contact the Fort Worth Aviation Museum (parent organization of the FAC Museum) at 855-733-8627 or www.ftworthaviationmuseum.com.

OUR FUTURE -- WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT THE FORT WORTH AVIATION MUSEUM'S CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN. In addition to being a great museum, they are working diligently to preserve our FAC Heritage. They are the host of our magnificent USAF FAC Museum at their facility and it's the only one of its kind in the world. The museum's Executive Director, **Jim Hodgson**, reports they are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and they have already established a FAC research area in their archives.

The Rustic Board encourages everyone to send a donation which is tax deductible.
THIS WILL BECOME ONE OF YOUR LASTING LEGASIES. CLEARED HOT ON THE TARGET!

Send your contribution to:
Fort Worth Aviation Museum Foundation
4600 Mark IV Pkwy #161966
Fort Worth, TX 76161

A MESSAGE FROM JIM HODGSON, FORT WORTH AVIATION MUSEUM. We are currently in the process of making major improvements and additions to our complex to solve a critical need for environmental storage for local aviation and FAC heritage treasures. The museum continues to receive donated items relating to our aviation history to the point of overflowing their storage facilities. Your support can help preserve and protect our many FAC treasures for years to come. Will you help us make this happen? Contributions are tax deductible.

Aviation has profoundly influenced everything we do and who we are in North Texas, and its impact resonates globally. It is the duty and honor of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum to preserve the history of these remarkable advancements in aviation technology.

In addition to preserving this history, we are committed to educating our community and inspiring young people to follow in the footsteps of those who uphold the proud tradition of aviation in our region.

We have a 26 year development plan which will expand our facilities to protect valuable icons of our aviation heritage. This expansion will include a science center to enhance learning, meeting spaces, and an archive to support our mission.

With your support, we can create a dedicated place to honor "the proud people" who drive achievements in the "Aviation Heartland," producing the aircraft that are "flying for our nation." This initiative will also highlight the ongoing social and economic changes that, in the words of Gov. Greg Abbott, make Fort Worth the "Aviation Capitol of Texas" with North Texas as a global leader in aviation and aerospace development.

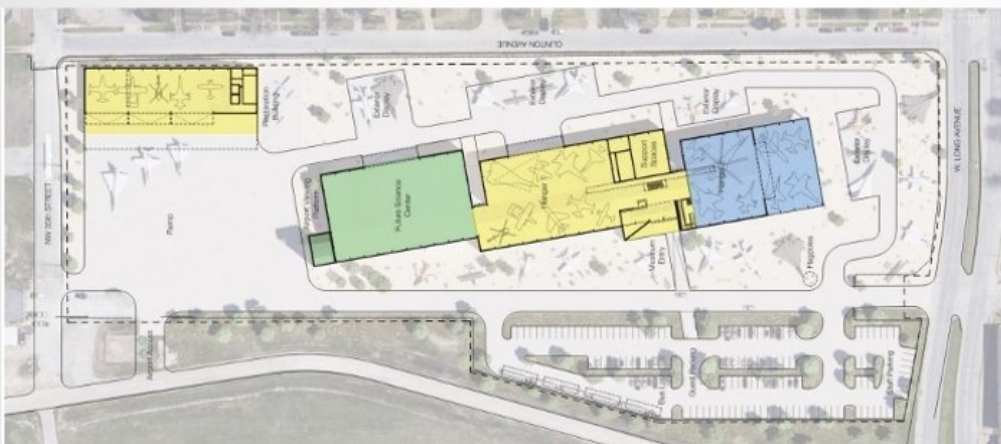
Together, we can make this vision a reality. **Jim Hodgson**, Executive Director





**Ft Worth Aviation Museum, “The Most Touchable Warbirds in North Texas.”
Future Expansion of the Fort Worth Aviation Museum**

Expansion in Three Phases



3 Phases – 100,000 sqft.

Phase 1

FWAM
37,000 Sqft.

Restoration Hangar
20,000 Sqft.

Phase 2

FAC Museum
28,000 Sqft.

Phase 3

STEM Science Center
27,000 Sqft.

FWAM Campus Expansion



Proposed Expansion,
approximately 11 acres
total

Current Lease,
approximately 4.5 acres



1,500 sq ft Archive building example.

With your help, we can acquire a used, portable classroom to provide environmentally controlled space to store and preserve artifacts and prepare new exhibits.

A 1,500 square foot building similar to the one picture above will cost approximately \$40,000 to acquire, move, and install.

Through the generous support of local individuals, we have accumulated a challenge grant of \$15,000 toward the cost of the new archive building. With the challenge grant, every dollar you donate (up to \$15,000) will be matched, essentially doubling your gift.

Tax deductible contributions can be made at info@ftwaviation.com or mailed to:

Fort Worth Aviation Museum
4600 Mark IV Pkwy #161966
Fort Worth, Tex 76161

Make checks payable to "Ft Worth Aviation Museum " with "Storage Building", "FAC Museum" or "Capital Fund: in the byline.



DON BROOKS, RUSTIC 02 TAKES FINAL FLIGHT January 11, 2026

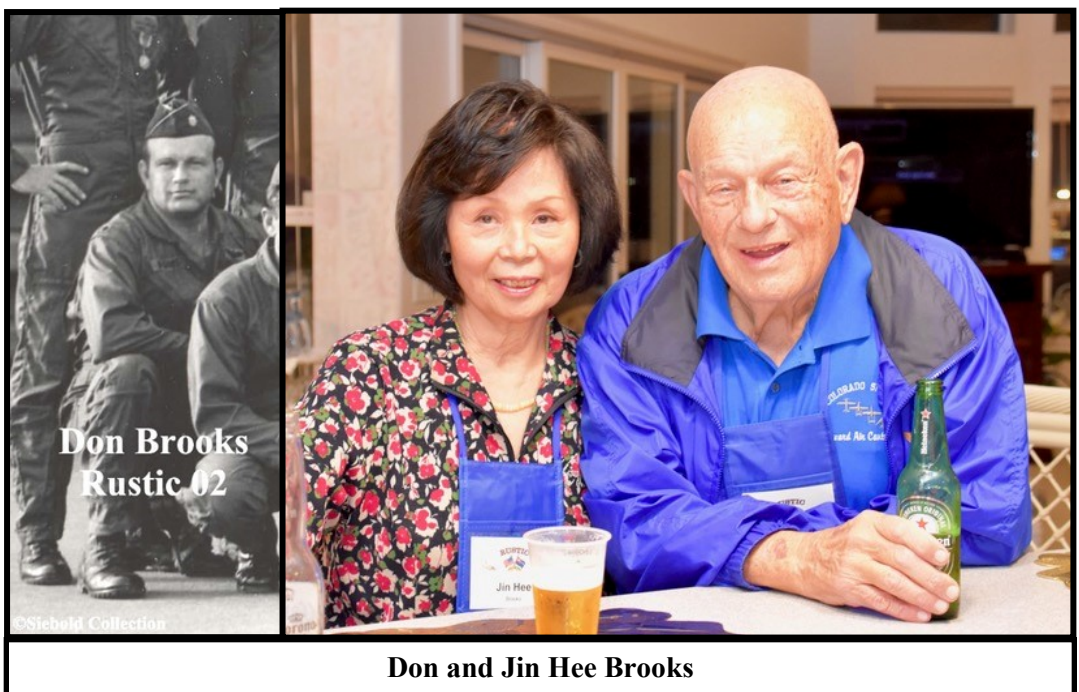
Don was a proud member of the inaugural United States Air Force Academy Class of 1959—known as the “First falcons”. Following graduation he served twenty-eight years in the Air Force, flying the B-47 and B-52 in the Strategic Air Command.

From 1969-1970 he served in Vietnam as a Forward Air Controller in the OV-10 Bronco. After his aircraft was struck by enemy fire while supporting Cambodian ground forces, he and his interpreter, Gil Bellefeuille, Rustic T, ejected and were rescued by a medevac crew. They were safely home that night at the Rustic bar telling their story. For Don’s heroism, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Purple Heart, and thirteen Air Medals.

After military retirement he flew for Eastern and Northwest Airlines, logging more than 7,000 hours. A captivating storyteller and author of three books, he will be remembered for his humor, kindness, and unwavering Catholic faith. Interred at USAFA?

“YOU’VE NEVER LIVED UNTIL YOU’VE ALMOST DIED. FOR THOSE WHO FIGHT FOR IT, LIFE HAS A FLAVOR THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW.”

*Unknown U.S. soldier,
Vietnam ‘68*



HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR VA CLAIM? From Gil Bellefeuille, Rustic T. If any of you are having trouble with your veteran disability claim(s), text me, or give me a call at 386-589-5404. Perhaps I can share some information that might be helpful.

In September 2025, I was approved for a 50% disability claim, citing PTSD. Additionally, I successfully overcame Esophageal cancer in 2024/2025 and might see an additional disability for agent orange exposure, which those of us in Vietnam flew into, probably numerous times, since the USA/USAF never gave any warnings about when and where agent orange would be dispersed.

A legal firm called OUTREACH LEGAL (outreachlegal.com) assisted me. They are only law firm that did not charge you a fee for a first-time claim. They are paid by the VA. If your first claim is disallowed by the VA and OUTREACH submits a rebuttal and is successful, then OUTREACH will take the money from the back end of any successful claim. So, essentially, no out-of-pocket money from the plaintiff.

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NEW FAC BOOK PENDING BY SCOTT MCGAUGH, April 14, 2026. Hello Claude & Lendy, I thought I would circle back to you with a SITREP on my forward air controller book project, (*Find the Enemy, Airborne Valor from World War II to Today*).

Over the weekend, I submitted the book premise and proposal to my literary agent in NYC and editor (Osprey Publishing) in London. It will be several weeks before I hear back. I am optimistic...as this is the final sentence of the premise:

Scott McGaugh

Akin to *Brotherhood of the Flying Coffin* and *Into the Firestorm*, the forward air controllers' untold story in *Find the Enemy* is collectively shared in their voices for the first time. The completion of a long overdue, unique trilogy of combat valor in the air.

- If accepted, a long road ahead: the contract, then many months (end of year or longer?) before the manuscript's submission is due. Meanwhile, I am pressing ahead.

- Current thinking is four Vietnam chapters (and then on to JTACs of today).

- o More generalized buildup to 1964

- o **Then a chapter each, framed initially on three distinct groups (Ravens, Misty, Rustics)**

Timeline flows, 1965-1973

Each a springboard to tell the more complete FAC story (first-person accounts); Laos, both Vietnams, Cambodia; flexibility for the CAS and HCMT interdiction legacy; from 01- to OV-10 to F-100 experience, etc.

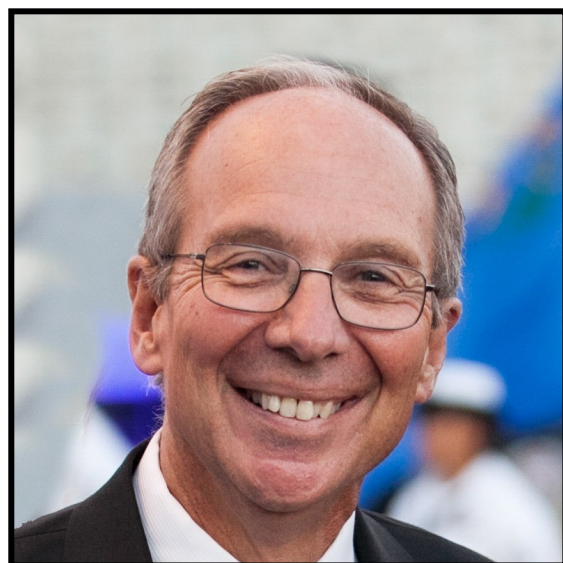
Editor's Note: Scott McGaugh had been researching this book for some time. He has a copy of the Rustic's revised history book and has perused the Rustic website for additional information. You may want to track his website (Author@scottmccaugh.com) and follow this book to its final publication.

LETTER TO THE RUSTICS.

From Bill McAdams, Rustic 21

Thanks so much Claude and Lendy for all you have done for the Rustics for all these years. You and Lendy and your wives have been the life blood of all our reunions there in the Ft Walton area. So fitting for this area, for this is where all our FAC careers began. It's only fitting that the "end be where it all began."

What a wonderful last official meeting of the Rustics! I was so proud reading the report of the wonderful things the Rustic FAC Association has accomplished since its inception. Wow!! Best to you all! Merry Christmas and the BEST in 2026. Bill and Cathy



From Jerry McClellan, Rustic 14

Hi Lendy (*Edwards*), Claude (*Newland*), and Doug (*Aitken*). I have been planning to write this general thank you and note recognizing all you have done for all of us Rustics, notably for the reunion...then I read through the "final" newsletter, which wowed me once again as to the professional detail and celebratory notes you gave to all of us.

The reunion was in a word *fantastic*...not just in the unseen planning and execution, but especially in the *ad hoc* jink-ing you all had to do to ensure total success and elation for the attendees.

I congratulate you on your careers, and I bow down to all the years you have spent devoted to our tradition and our legacy...that which I am very proud to be part of. I am equally proud to call you my good friends.

Many thanks and applause to all of you and all the others who played a part.

Respectfully, Jerry McClellan, Col, USAF (Ret.)

From Narith P. Lieou, Son of Col. Lieou Phin Oum

Mr. Newland, our hearts are still filled with warmth and gratitude after being part of the Rustic final reunion. We genuinely appreciate the delightful buffet lunch and the dolphin watching experience. Your wonderful wife, Tona, made everyone feel so welcome as she recounted the rich history of her family's ties to Fort Walton—a place of special significance to all.

For me, meeting all the Rustic families and finally putting faces to your sacrifices was incredibly special. Thank you for the Rustic newsletter. We will always keep the Rustic family in our thoughts and prayers.

From all of our families to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year in 2026.

If you ever find yourself in Texas, we'd love to extend some genuine Texas hospitality and invite you to relax in my home with a refreshing glass of sweet tea, whether it's a hot summer day or any time of the year. Warm Regards,

Narith Lieou, 469-422-8731

From Doc Thomas, Rustic X-ray

Over the years, I've been attached to a lot of flying groups. But this was the most memorable and the one I kept up with. We've had a lot of great times together, and I hope I didn't get anyone in trouble. Until we meet again!

From Jim Reese, Rustic 57

As many of us have observed, my time with the Rustics was arguably the most impactful of my entire life. Being able to relive through association with the RFA made it all that more significant. Thanks to each and every one of you!

From Don Ellis, Rustic 17

Yes, it has been a wonderful time. And just to think that I almost missed it by the flip of a coin. There has been so much that has been forgotten about our time in 'Nam. A few years ago, I read the letters that I had sent home to Helene while there. I shared with her that I had lost a coin toss with a fellow Rash FAC and would be transferring to a new unit call Rustic. What a blessing came from losing that coin toss.

From Lendy Edwards, Rustic 20

Yes, I agree with all of you. It has been a great ride and I have thoroughly enjoyed the trip. Thanks to Claude's drive and leadership, we had many great reunions and an unforgettable return trip to Cambodia. It was a trip of a lifetime and one to be remembered. Thanks to all for participating in our events. They allowed us to continue the camaraderie we had during war. What a wonderful ride. Thank you, brothers and sisters.

From Roger Hamann, Rustic Y

Hand Salute to you all, my Rustic brothers!

From Doug Aitken, Rustic 16

It has been a great ride Gentlemen!

SARADY TAN, OUR FINAL REUNION BANQUET SPEAKER, IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CAMBODIA. Below is a report received from Col. Sarady Tan who is the son of Lt Col Nady Tan, the former Deputy Wing and Air Base Commander of Battambang Air Base in April 1975 when the Khmer Rouge overran Cambodia. Years later expatriot Nady Tan returned to Cambodia and was appointed Secretary General of the Cambodian government following the May 1993 UN sponsored elections.

From Col. Sarady Tan, USAF Flight Surgeon

Johnny (Drury), it was an honor for Say and I to participate in the Rustic's final reunion. We had a great time and felt bad that we did not join you all earlier.

I will retire from the USAF on 8 May 2026 at the Pentagon and relocate back to Oregon or Washington, depending on where I land a job.

In the meantime, Say and I will be heading to Cambodia next month (6 -16 Feb 2026) to take part in a humanitarian medical mission with the Cambodian Health Professional Association of America (CHPAA.org). This is their 14th Mission Trip.

The CHPAA is a non-profit organization that conducts annual medical, surgical, and dental missions to Cambodia to provide free care to underserved, rural populations. These missions, which have treated over 54,000 patients to date, involve a team of volunteer professionals—including doctors, nurses, and dentists—who provide services such as general medicine, specialized surgery, dental care, and health education.



Col. & Mrs. Sarady Tan (Say).

Hello from Kampot

Say and I, along with our kids and nephew, joined this year's CHPAA humanitarian medical Mission to Cambodia's Kampot Province which is southwest of Phnom Penh near the Gulf of Thailand.

Our CHPAA mission clinics were from 9 Feb-14 Feb 2026. We had over 200 personnel from the USA including over 50 physicians and providers (primary care, ophthalmology, general surgery, ob/gyn, plastic surgery, pain medicine, acupuncturist, chiropractor, and pain medicine physician), dentists, pharmacists) and many other volunteers. We also had over 100 local Cambodian students (pharmacy, dental, medical and nursing students).



L-R: Collin Tan (eldest son), Courtney Tan (Collin's wife), Caleb Wong (nephew), Say, and Sarady.



Phnom Penh hotel before their CHPAA USA mission team departed for Kampot.

During the 5 1/2 days our team delivered medical, surgical, and dental cares to over 7,200 patients. I had the privilege to care for a woman designated as the poorest person in the province by the government. She was entitled to some basic sustenance, health care, and housing.

If anyone would like to return to Cambodia and participate in Mission 15, (January 27 - Feb 8 2027) or learn more about the trip, please contact Claude Newland, rustic19@cox.net or 850-420-2740.

Sarady offered the following information about joining the 2027 Mission Team 15.

Non-medical volunteers will most likely serve as logistic team members that include registration, triaging (taking blood pressure, write



Sarady and his team tending to the oldest lady in the province of Kampot



Primary Care team members in front of Primary Care Clinic tent.

down weight, etc.), help escort patients to their next activity station, or transport supplies to different work areas.

You can do independent exploring, but must not interfere with the mission. That is, if you're there for the mission, it is expected that you will show up every day at assigned duty hour because the team leads have to fill duties with available volunteers. Normally, volunteers explore after clinic hours or before/after the completion of the mission on Saturday/Sunday.



Cambodian Health Professionals Association of America

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Mission 14 – Kampot Province

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Volunteers from USA: 192



Volunteers from Cambodia: 128

Total number of patients: 7217		
Kampot Referral Hospital 5013	Kampong Trach Referral Hospital 1100	Chhouk Referral Hospital 1104

Surgery (General, Gyn, Plastic)	Dentistry
Major operations: 48 patients Minor operations: 71 patients Total number of treated patients: 119	Exam only: 272 Preventative treatment: 442 Fillings/SDF: 454 Number of teeth extracted: 1325 Total number of patients: 1317
Ophthalmology	Pain management
Refraction exam: 894 patients Clinical consults: 341 patients Cataract surgery: 43 patients Total number of patients: 1278	Joint injection Chiropractic treatment Acupuncture Massage therapy Total number of treated patients: 1567
Reading and sunglasses: 7400 pairs	

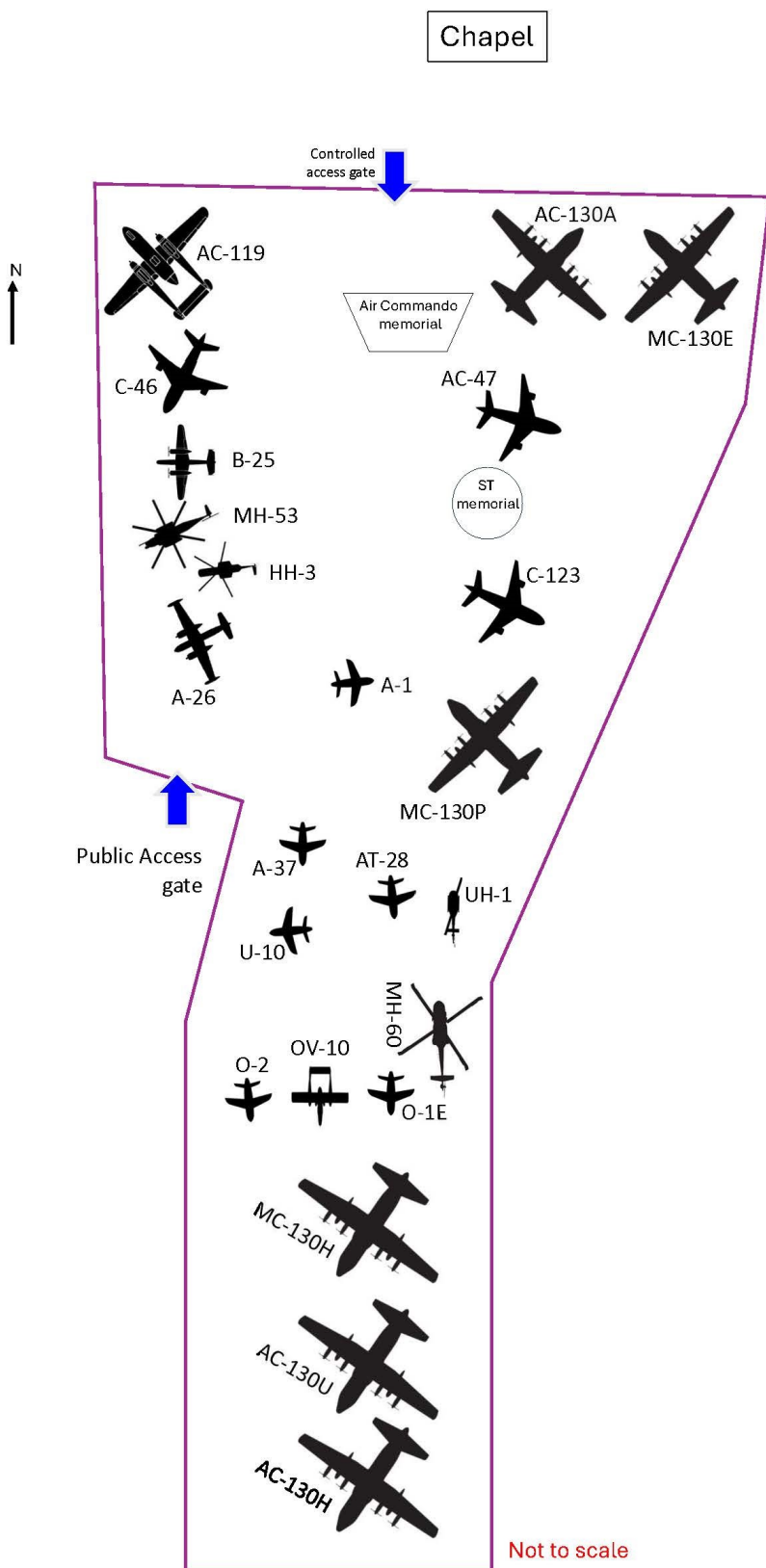
Airpark's New Configuration

The Hurlburt Field Airpark is home to 24 historic aircraft.
The FAC aircraft and FAC memorial are now located in the southern part of the airpark.



Upper photo looking South. Lower photo looking North.
This First ALL-FAC Memorial was dedicated in conjunction with the 2000 ALL- FAC Reunion
in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

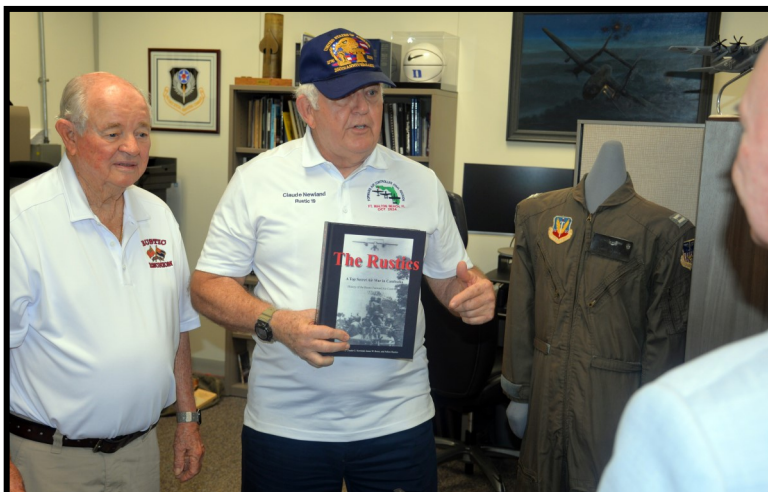
HURLBURT FIELD'S MEMORIAL AIRPARK RENOVATIONS ARE COMPLETE. A major effort was put forth this past year to expand and reconfigure the Hurlburt Memorial Airpark so the general public can access the airpark without having to go on the base proper. What a great improvement. There is now a small 12 space parking lot and entrance gate at the south end of the airpark that allows folks free, unfettered access. No ID required.



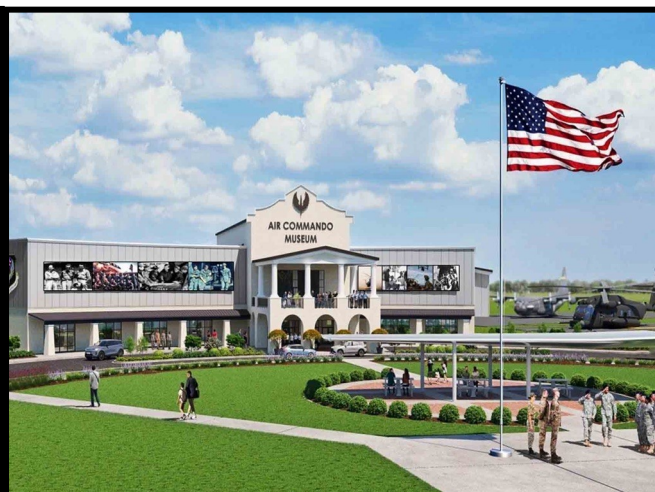
AFSOC DONATIONS. ONE OF OUR FINAL ASSOCIATION ACTS. On April 28, on behalf of the members of the Rustic FAC Association, **Lendy Edwards** and **Claude Newland** presented a copy of our Rustic history book and the Rustic Ubon bar bell to the Air Force Special Operations Command at the AFSOC History office at Hurlburt Field. Someday, we hope to see these items on display at the new Air Commando Museum that is being planned for the future at the Hurlburt Field Memorial Airpark .



L-R: , Mr. James Gildea, Air Force Special Operations Command History director; Lendy Edwards, Rustic 20; Claude Newland, Rustic 19; and Mr. William Clifton, deputy command historian, with the Rustic Association bell and compilation book. The bell and book were presented to AFSOC April 28, 2026, for permanent preservation with Airmen at Hurlburt Field, Florida. (Air Force photo by Stuart Camp)



Claude Newland, Rustic 19, and Lendy Edwards, Rustic 20, giving a brief history of the Rustic book to AFSOC's Historians -- book facts, lore, and statistics. (Air Force photo by Stuart Camp.)



**Future Air Commando Museum
To be located in the Air Park.**

RUSTIC FACs



**Keep your mach up until we meet again.
Hand Salute and Signing Off.**



Standing L-R: Leon Cardif, Doc Thomas, Jack Thompson, John Charlton, Tom Calvanelli, Phil Frischmuth, Jerry McClellan, Tom Capps, Bob Schwein, Wendell Pells, Roger Dodd, Shad Kimbell, Ron Van Kirk, Bill McAdams, Bill Rember

Sitting L-R: Jim Reese, Deke Decabooter, Don Brooks, Doug Aitkin, Johnny Drury, Claude Newland, Jim Nuber, Don Ellis, Mike Wilson, Bob Ryals, Jean Claude Gestas

Kneeling L-R: Lendy Edwards, Zot Barrazotto Roger Hamann