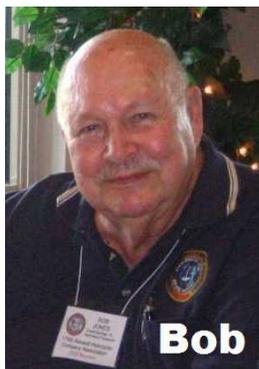




REUNION 2008 AFTER ACTION REPORT

This report was prepared by Bob Jones – 1965-67

Our reunion this year was blessed with outstanding weather. Ok, a glancing blow of high winds and a bit of rain on Saturday afternoon, but other than that, the weather was bright and sunny with warm days and cool nights.

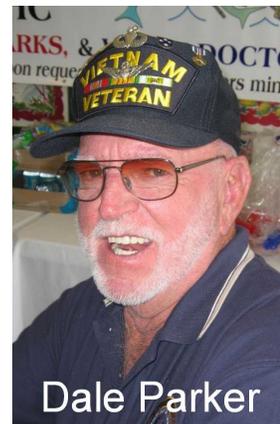


Several of our troops made appearances early on Wednesday so the Tiki Bar was well used as a meeting and getting reacquainted point. The fun started early and just kept building throughout the reunion. By Saturday we were at full strength with 93 people at the Business Meeting at Two Trees Restaurant. First, let me share more about Thursday and the rest of the week

We opened the doors to our Meeting Room on Thursday morning. Thanks to **Ted Saunders** and **Dale Parker**, with a little help by me, stacks of sodas, snacks and other goodies were purchased at the local Sam's store and stacked on tables in the Meeting room. I had arranged for iced tubs for the sodas and three kegs of beer iced down and prepared for consumption. By the time Mary and I left on Sunday, the sodas and water bottles were almost gone, the beer kegs were significantly lighter, and the snacks were in a much lower pile.



Thursday and Friday saw lots of arrivals and sign-in's for the reunion. Our Meeting room was beginning to look well used and the Tiki Bar continued to do a brisk business. The 174th AHC Assn. made



its presence known. It wasn't difficult to see that "enjoying yourself" was the order of the day.

The hotel staff, as always, welcomed each and every one “back home.” One of the reasons we enjoy our visits to The Best Western Beachfront Hotel in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, is the outstanding hospitality and service we receive from the staff.

Ellen Bragg (photo at right), General Manager, deserves a great deal of credit for that; however, the staff sincerely seems to enjoy our visits and go out of their way to make us comfortable. Ellen, by the way, is an Army wife, having been with her Infantry husband during his 27 years of service. She understands and appreciates what the men and women of our Association have survived and supports us as few hotel managers could or would. We continue to owe our thanks to you, Ellen.



The **Friday Evening Reception and Buffet** was held in our “Hospitality Room” or “Briefing Room.” The reception started at 4:30 p.m. with a seafood buffet starting



around 5:30 p.m. Tapped beer and light beverages plus other snacks were provided. The buffet menu has changed this year, due to a large number of requests, and featured: Chicken and Sausage Jambalaya, Spiced Shrimp Platters, Maryland Steamed Crabs, Boiled Corn, Potato Salad, Redskin Potatoes, Home-style Cole Slaw, and Fresh Fruit Trays. Inside and outside seating meant no one was crowded. While a show of hands at the Business Meeting on Saturday shows that the majority liked the seafood, it was noted that the steamed crabs were not as popular as the supplier thought and there were a lot of crabs left over. We will change the menu next year to be more suitable. On the other hand, a few of our members knew the drill and ate the crabs with gusto (like Jerry Simmons, photo below), leaving large piles of shells behind. There was little doubt that those

guys and gals not only knew how to break apart the shells to get to the meat, but also fully enjoyed their meal.

Saturday morning breakfast found the golfers getting ready to head out with **Carl Muthersbaugh** taking care of all arrangements again. Muthersbaugh returns as our Director for the Fifth Annual **“Black Sam” Kalagian Golf Tournament**. Carl reports: *“The tournament was held at the Ft. Walton Beach Municipal Golf*



Course on Saturday, May 3rd. This year was the first time we had the opportunity to play the pine course. We had six golfers to play this year: **Tom Reinshagen, Bud Vann, David Brull, Charles Bischdorf**, and myself, with one new golfer, **Jerry Callaway**. Everyone had a great time and the winning combo was Tom Reinshagen and Bud Vann. We just did get the tournament in before the heavy rains came, and we sat in the Two Tree Restaurant enjoying a light lunch and trying to solve all the world problems. The highlight of this year was on Friday. We were playing a practice round at the Blue Water Bay Golf Course when David Brull had a hole in one on the sixth hole, a par three 144 yards. This was witnessed by Carl Mutherbaugh, Tom Reinshagen, and Bud Vann. To make it even more special, David called his father in Arkansas and learned that his father also had a hole in one that same day. Hopefully we will have something special for next year. Carl.”



The Association owes Carl thanks for handling these chores each year. It takes people behind the scenes to make our reunions successful. We are lucky to have several that step forward each year to handle necessary jobs. We thank you Carl.



The above crowd ventured out to a local oyster bar (note the red-and-white sign).

Saturday afternoon was windy with occasional rain showers, so most of us stayed in the hotel and really got into memory time. I was handling registration till mid-morning, so could not spend as much time with others as I would have preferred, but I could tell that groups of members were enjoying being together again. We had eight new members attending for the first time. You could see that they were enjoying spending lots of time talking to friends, old and new.

Saturday Night Dinner and Business Meeting at the Two Trees Country Club Restaurant started off with Happy Hour, and then at 6:55 our **President, Marty Heuer** called the group to order and asked **Butch Elliott** to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Following a prayer, dinner was served with lots of well prepared food served buffet style using two lines for speedy service.



Marty



Following the dinner, Marty recognized the **Wheat**

family, who had returned for their second reunion. Marty then introduced **Ellen Bragg, General Manager** of the Best Western Beachfront hotel (on the left in photo) and **Delana Peterson** (on the right), new **Sales Director** for

the hotel. Delana fit right in with the group and was a big help in keeping things moving smoothly. Welcome to our family, Delana.

Marty read a message written by **Jim Messinger 67 - 68**: **Jim wrote:** "Thanks for the memories! Sorry I couldn't stay tonight but I'll plan now to be here next year. It was great to finally get faces to put with the names I've seen for over 10 years. The 174th

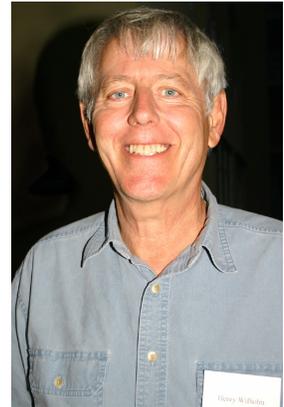


was the best unit I ever served with. I hope we can make it live forever, Jim Messinger, May 67-Jun 68." Ron Conner, Billy Wood, and Jim Young (photo at right) served with Jim in 67-68.

Marty then asked that 174th members attending the reunion for the first time stand and introduce themselves. **Bill Cooper, J.C. Pennington, Tom**

Dana, Don Tingle, Jerry Callaway, Jim Towle, William Conklin, and David Rios, all first timers to our reunions, stood and introduced themselves. All mentioned how much they were enjoying the reunion. Marty suggested that they contact some of their buddies that had not attended a reunion and get them to join the association and come enjoy our time together. **Geoff Buckley** and **Bill Walzer** also attended this year. Welcome all. If I left out a name from the group attending for the first time, please forgive me.

Ceremony: Vice President Henry Wifholm (right photo) started the memorial ceremony. **Mel Lutgring** (below-left photo) marched in and presented the flag. Mel was accompanied by **Jim McDaniel**, in full Scottish rig (photo next page), playing the Army Song (Caissons) on his bagpipes. Henry then read the names of



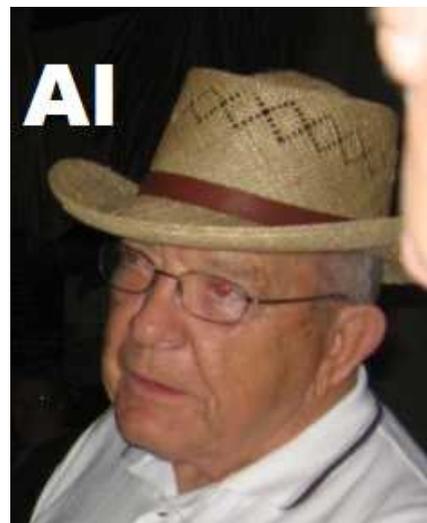
members who were no longer with us, having passed away during 2007. Those most recently lost include: **Floyd King (Feb 2007), David Rosenthal (Mar 2007) and Al Sarnecki (Dec 2007)**. Henry dedicated the memorial service to those 174th members during 1965–71 who made the supreme sacrifice. He noted that there were 58 names of our members on the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Henry noted that recent inquiries have also been made concerning **Bob Shields, Fred Thompson, Al Weamer, and Tom Wheat**. Jim completed the ceremony by playing Amazing Grace, Going Home, and TAPS on the pipes.

Bob Jones talked about **Al Sarnecki**, his very close friend who passed away on December 26, 2007. Al was the oldest active member of our association, having been born May 16, 1927. He will be missed, together with all our members who have passed on. Jim's bagpipe dirge brought damp eyes to several in the audience. Mel read a poem and Henry ended the ceremony with a blessing.

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OLD BUSINESS:

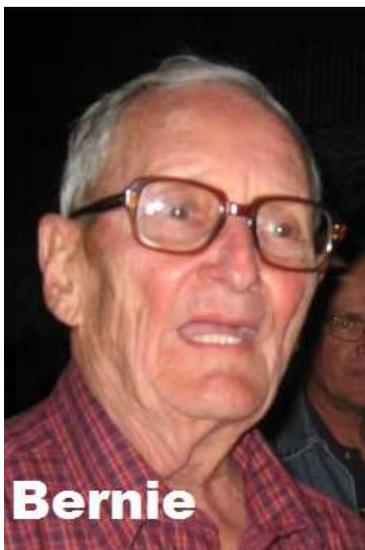
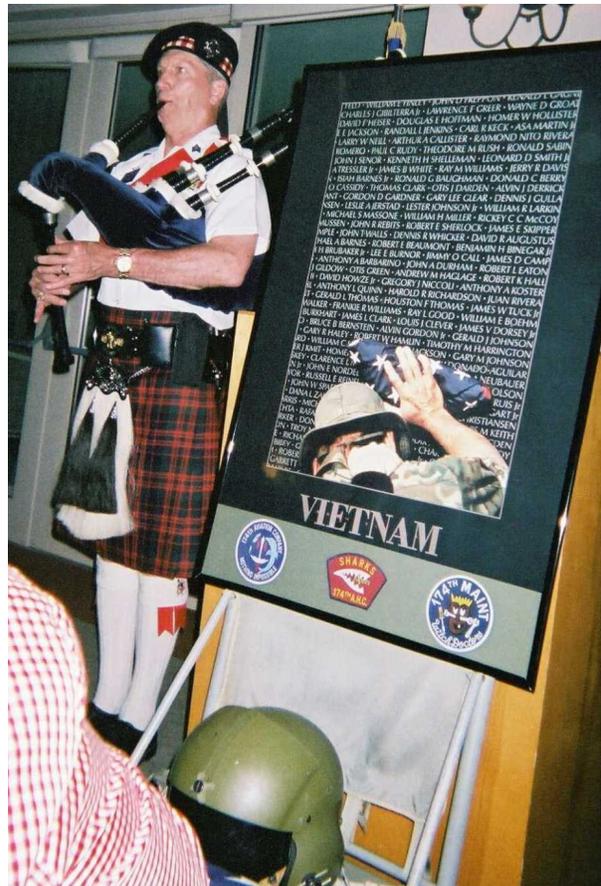
Bob Jones asked for approval of the 2007 Business Meeting Minutes. **Bernie Cobb** recommended that we approve the minutes as written, with a Second



by **P.T. Yowell**. The minutes were approved as written.

Bob then asked for approval of the 2008 financial report, noting that the report had been placed on the wall of the hotel's meeting room. Due to salty comments by P.T. Yowell, Bob then proceeded to read a summary of the 2008 financial report. Basically the report covered 4-09-07 through 4-29-08. We started the year with \$9,035.00 and ended with \$21,444.09 (including the CD) with our checking account totaling \$11,797.83. This total, however, does not reflect the cost incurred and not paid for our current reunion. A motion for approval of the report was so moved, seconded, and approved as read, subject to audit.

Marty Heuer announced that our 2009 reunion would be May 1-3, 2009. He then presented **Ellen Bragg**, Best Western's manager with a photograph, signed by all those members attending the 2008 reunion. Marty noted that we had received excellent service +Plus+ and that the staff was definitely a cut above, thus making the hotel a welcoming environment, and a feeling of a second home.



State of the Association and Historical Data Base

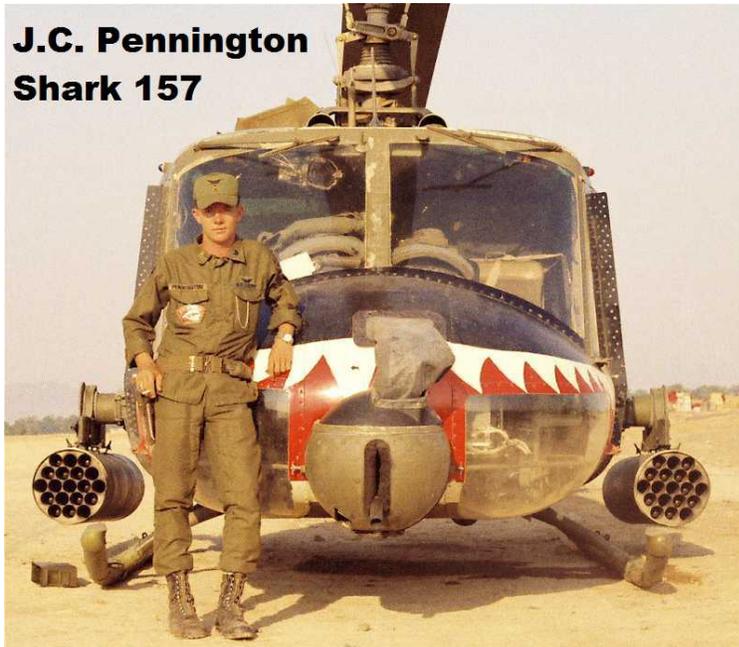
Marty gave a Report of the State of the Association and noted that a Historical Data Base and History of the 174th Association had been prepared. Marty honored **Bernie Cobb** for all his work on these two important projects during the past year.

174th AHC aircraft:

Dick Overhamm, in a phone conversation with Marty Heuer, reported that assistance in restoring a Charlie model Shark helicopter that was being restored would be appreciated. The new owner needs to move the helicopter off a low boy trailer and does not want untrained personnel

assisting, as damage to the helicopter could easily result. He could also use help in restoring the helicopter. E-mail Dick at shark6sl@qwest.net if you can help in the rebuild process.

Mike Bovre informed the group that another UH-1



J.C. Pennington
Shark 157

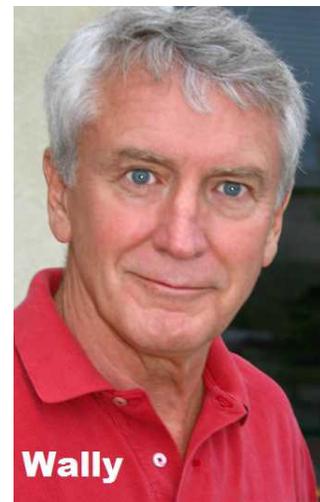
Charlie Model, #6414157, former Shark 157, was mounted on a pole at a **Veteran's** museum in **Madison**, Wisconsin. The helicopter has the 1st Cav insignia on the door and there is a movement among the 174th Association members to request permission from the Museum to repaint the helicopter in our colors, including the Shark's Teeth. Mike is looking for an M-5 weapons system to add to the helicopter. **J.C. Pennington** took pictures of the aircraft in Vietnam and says that he has copies available.

NEW BUSINESS:

There has been a long-standing interest in creating a “**company store**” to maintain an inventory of 174th AHC Association items, such as hats, patches, coins, etc. During the Board of Directors meeting Saturday morning, it was decided that only a supply of the 174th AHC patches worn in Vietnam would be maintained and available to fill requests. Those wanting a “174th hat” could purchase a patch from the Association and sew it on a cap bought at a local market. This should be a reasonable solution rather than purchasing a wide range of supplies and memorabilia, with the associated cost, storage, and records required by any individual willing to perform this service. The Association is simply not large enough to support a comprehensive “company store.” After discussion, the members present approved the recommendation. **Henry Wifholm** volunteered to maintain the inventory of patches and handle purchase requests. If you desire to acquire patches, contact Henry at (patches174ahc@aol.com).

Nominations for new officers:

Marty then announced that we would have an election of officers to serve starting after the 2009 reunion, and that a Nominating Committee had been formed consisting of **Wally Nunn** as President, with **Mel Lutgring** and **Bernie Cobb** as



members. Marty asked Wally to give his report. Wally reported that:

“The Nominating Committee of the 174th AHC Association has received three nominations for the upcoming election of officers. I, as Committee Chairman, presented the following official report to Association members attending the annual business meeting held during the reunion at Ft. Walton Beach, FL, over the past weekend: ‘Nominations received thus far are: **Martin F. Heuer (incumbent) for President; Martin H. Wifholm (incumbent) for Vice President; and, H. Wayne Lovett for Secretary/Treasurer.** The deadline for submitting nominations is May 18, 2008.’ Please make certain that any member you nominate has expressly agreed to serve if elected. Wally Nunn, Chairman Nominating Committee”



Subsequent to this, the following information was posted in our 174th AHC Listserver Digest, Vol. 4, Issue 53, dated 5/21/2008 at 12:05 pm., announcing that the election closed and new officers elected. The following was not part of the reunion business meeting but is included for your information.

===== Marty wrote in his listserv e-mail =====

Greetings, Flight.

All of you should have received, some time ago, a notice of election for the 174th AHC Association, with the officers-elect to be installed at our 2009 Reunion. The published deadline for nominations was Sunday, May 18th, 2008. The Nominating Committee has issued its official report to me as follows:

In compliance with your memo, February 14, 2008, which appointed a Nominating Committee for election of Association officers for the new term of office beginning in May, 2009, the following additional, and final, report is submitted:



A deadline of May 18, 2008 was established for nominations to be submitted in accordance with the Association's new bylaws. As of yesterday's deadline, no nominations have been received other than those earlier reported, i.e., **Melvyn J. Lutgring**, a committee member, nominated **Wayne Lovett** for the position of

Secretary/Treasurer. Bernard R. Cobb, also a committee member, nominated **Marty**

Heuer for re-election as President. I, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, nominated **Martin H. Wifholm**, for re-election as Vice President. All candidates are qualified and have expressed a willingness to serve if elected.

Since no additional nominations have been received, the Nominating Committee recommends that you proclaim the nominees, cited above, to hereby be accepted as the de facto officers to be installed at the 2009 reunion as previously announced to the Association membership, thus avoiding the effort and cost of conducting a needless election. We further recommend that you or the Secretary/Treasurer make an appropriate announcement to that effect to the general membership through communications of your choosing, and further ask that said announcement be also posted on the 174th AHC Website.

Wallace H. Nunn, Chairman”

Marty continues:

“I wholeheartedly agree that there appears to be no reason why we should have an election for both cost-savings and makes-no-sense reasons. Therefore, I hereby accept the Nominating Committee's recommendations and officially declare that the officers-elect for the next two-year term of office, beginning at the conclusion of the 2009 Annual Reunion, are: Martin F. Heuer, President; Martin H. Wifholm, Vice President; and H. Wayne Lovett, Secretary/Treasurer.

*Best Regards, Marty Heuer
President”*



Now, back to the business meeting.

Fidelity Liability Insurance for Association:

Marty Heuer discussed the need for obtaining fidelity and liability insurance for Association officers. During the Board Meeting, all Board members voted in the affirmative to acquire insurance and delegated to the president the task of researching the matter further to determine the types of insurance needed and related cost involved so the Association can make a suitable purchase. After discussion, it was generally felt among the members that, although expensive, the expense was justified considering how freely lawsuits are brought about in these times. The



president and vice president will continue research and report findings and present their recommendations to the board.

Membership Dues Increase:

Association membership dues were initially set at \$15 annually, and several years ago they were reduced to \$10.00 annually. Due to cost of insurance, purchase of patches, higher food costs, and higher general expenses, it was recommended that the annual membership dues be returned to the \$15.00 level, beginning in 2009. A vote of the members present approved the increase.



New Abbreviation for the Association.

To identify the Association as a separate organization from the U.S. Army unit it is named after, the Board of Directors recommended that the 174th AHC Association's new abbreviation be "174th AHCA." This recommendation formally adds the Association title to our communications. The title change was approved by all members present.

Friday Night Meal

Members were requested to comment on the Friday night meal. After discussion, mainly involving a slight change of the items on the menu that would be more acceptable to the group, a show of hands resulted in the current type of meal to be provided at the Friday night buffet to continue to be a seafood buffet.

Life Membership and Honorary Membership:

Butch Elliot asked if Life Membership could be offered. As part of the new By-laws, approved last year, Life Membership to our regular members would not be offered. The only exception to this policy is the status of Honorary Membership, is considered a lifetime status.

There being no further business, Marty asked **Jim McDaniel** to conduct the annual auction.

Jim McDaniel conducted a very professional and highly participating auction. First to be auctioned was a small afghan that was hand-knitted by **Bernie Cobb**, during one of his idle times. This outstanding example of colorful blocks, knitted together, was purchased after considerable bid increases by interested members, by **Kathy Basler**, who paid \$170.00 for the item. Bernie Cobb was heard muttering that he was going to get into the knitting business full time.



The next item was another hand-knitted item by Bernie. This was a large afghan featuring the 174th Logo and unit patches. It was very well done and highly desired by several in the group. Heated bidding ended with **Rex Schumacher** making the final bid of \$200.00. By this time, Bernie was really muttering into his beer about being in the wrong retirement business.



Jim next brought out five ½ pint jars of a white liquid that had been labeled as “North Carolina Well Water”. The supplier of this “well water” will remain unnamed in the interest of liability. Spirited (no pun intended) bidding on the first jar resulted in a winning bid of \$55.00. Remaining jars were picked up a cost of \$35.00 each by others (names not listed to protect the individuals).

Wally Nunn introduced **Charlie Johnson**, the maker of the two UH-1C Shark model helicopters donated for the auction. Jim McDaniel had talked to Charlie Johnson earlier, and Jim reminded us that Charlie is the English fellow who is a British military veteran and helicopter pilot who made the two Shark model helicopters that were donated for last year’s auction. See http://www.174ahc.org/2007-reunion-photos/IMG_4675.html for photos of last year’s model. Charlie built and donated two more models for us again this year. Charlie also

noted that he would build custom models for anyone interested. Jim conducted the auction. After considerable bids and counter bids, the final bid for the first helicopter was **Marty Heuer**, who paid \$155.00 for it. **Jim Yokum’s** winning bid of \$140.00 won him the second helicopter. Our thanks go to Charlie Johnson, whose generous donation of his outstanding models has made four members happy with their models.



The final item at the auction was a **Joe Kline** print of a 2nd Platoon Dolphin helicopter titled "Good Vibrations" lifting off from an active LZ. This is one of Joe Kline's latest prints.



Jim McDaniel had purchased a copy of this print for his personal enjoyment from Joe recently. Jim reported that, "...after discussing it with Joe, he personalized mine with Dolphin nose art from second flight platoon (red scarf). Because Joe and I have corresponded together a lot through the years (and maybe because I have purchased four other Kline prints), and knowing we have a reunion coming up, Joe personalized a second one and gave it to me at no charge. That was very generous of Joe. I had the second print matted, mounted, and framed. I will bring the print to the reunion and removed the glass from the frame so all the members can sign the matting below the print, and even around the borders if it fills up. After all have signed it, I'll reinstall the glass and we will auction it at the banquet to the highest bidder. I think it will look quite

impressive with all the individual signatures on it.” The above photo of the auctioned print was taken before anyone signed it. You can see the extra matting space provided below the print for the signatures.

Jim, true to his word, had the print matting signed by our members, installed the glass, and conducted the auction. Jim was hard pressed to keep up with the spirited bidding. After heated bidding, each higher and higher, **Wally Nunn’s** bid of \$1,200.00 ended the bidding. A number of our members were disappointed they didn’t get it, but pleased for Wally. This ended the auction.

The auction this year placed \$2,040.00 in the association account. Outstanding work by Jim and outstanding support by our members who kept the bidding going till finally one member out bid the rest and gained their prize.



Marty Heuer, after telling everyone that group photographs will be taken after the meeting, then closed the meeting. **Chas-Harold Simmons** will be taking the group photos and will make them available for posting on the 174th website.

Marty reminded everyone that the hotel’s meeting room would remain open for fellowship and partying, and thanked everyone for coming.

Saturday Night:



Fellowship and partying continued till the wee hours of the morning. Some of the North Carolina “Well Water” was tested and found highly acceptable. Other libations from the inside bar and our beer and soda supplies aided the partying. Lots of talking, remembering, and sharing of good times, and talk of old friends as well as new, went on till all were satisfied with the day’s events.

Sunday:

Breakfast found friends sharing breakfast, remembering the past few

days, loading cars, talking and planning for our next reunion. While a number stayed through Monday, the majority of members left sometime Sunday.



Another reunion is over, and our participants spread back throughout the entire USA. Still the good memories of fun times and spending quality time with old and true friends remain. As was heard several times this year, "It just don't get any better than this!" -- a statement that rang true and a statement filled with deep feelings.

Monday:

A few remained an extra day to enjoy the beach or the pool, continue talking with friends, perhaps visit Ft. Rucker, or just rest up from the reunion.

So, till next year, take care of yourselves, and write on your calendars in big letters **May 1, 2009!** We will be looking for you next year.

All our best,

Bob Jones,
Secretary/Treasurer





