

174th AHC Association
c/o Jim Young
Secretary/Treasurer
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*** OFFICERS ***

PRESIDENT
Butch Elliott

VICE PRESIDENT
Dennis Fisher

SECRETARY/
TREASURER
Jim Young

WEBMASTER
Jim McDaniel



174TH AHC ASSOCIATION 2018 25TH ANNUAL REUNION AFTER ACTION REPORT

The 2018 gathering of the Dolphins, Sharks, Witch Doctors, 409th Maint. Det., 452nd Signal Det., 133rd Ord. Det., and 756th Med. Det., together with several very special guests was another fantastic success! Members and guests began arriving on Monday April 25 with most of the group arriving place by Thursday afternoon and the party did not stop until Monday of the following week. This year's theme was "Masquerade." Everyone seemed to have had a wonderful time. There were about 120 Members and Guests in attendance (including wives, significant others, sons, daughters, grandkids and assorted other shirttail relatives and friends. We were quite fortunate this year, we had nine new reunion attendees.

The weather was excellent this year unlike other years where the rain and wind put a damper on the festivities. As always, the enthusiasm and camaraderie prevailed throughout the reunion. The party spirit prevailed and we kept the party alive in the best military tradition.

The Best Western Beachfront Hotel exceptional staff did everything humanly possible to make our reunion a total success. The hotel provided a continental breakfast each morning. We kept them busy restocking the supplies and filling the coffee pots and juice dispenser. Our 174th members/guests had filled the Best Western to capacity.

Dennis Fisher and crew did an excellent job of setting up the "Ready Room". Several members brought their scrap-books, photo albums and shared their exploits with several other members. Two kegs of beer and 32 bottles of wine were available for everyone in attendance to enjoy. Long tables were set up along the wall where the very best snack food that Sam's Club could provide additional calorie several of us did not need. Along with the donated items on display for the auction Saturday night. **Mel Lutgring** again had our updated Flag of Honor on display for all to see and reflect on those warriors who are unfortunately no longer with us.

The 174th Company Store: The Company Store “new store keep” **Steve Kennedy** and crew Darrell Bennett set up their sales operation in the hotel lobby on Thursday. Shirts, hats, head bands, unit pins, decals, patches, blankets, polo shirts, with 174th AHC unit logos, “Dolphins,” “Sharks,” and “Witch Doctors” embroidery, were available for purchase. The Store had several days of great volume such that the cash register rang up more than \$1061 in sales for the Reunion period. Thanks to all that made purchases.

Friday:

Friday Golf Tournament: This year was the 15th anniversary for the 174th AHC Association "Black **Sam Kalagain** Golf Classic" ramrodded again by the very capable **Carl Muthersbaugh**. There were eight participants. Carl had the provided a special occasion Callaway commemorative golf ball with the 174th AHC logo with 25th anniversary printed on it. Additional golf balls are available for sale in the Company Store. See below:



Pickles and Patron: The Ladies were in full swing again this year with more than 40 involved in what has become an annual event, the Pickles and Patron extravaganza minus the pickles this year. It seems that this event gets more exciting each year. Lunch was from the local Publix Market deli department and wine from the Hotel and obviously the star attraction Patron. After the luncheon 22 ladies participated in Painting with a Twist in which they painted a Marti Graw mask, some of the ladies were quite talented and other apparently had one too many Patrons. Music for the ladies was provided again by Disc Jockey Extraordinaire, Steve Williams. The ladies renewed old friendships and made many new ones.



Annual Business Meeting: The annual business meeting was held on Friday this year due to all the other activities that were scheduled for Saturday. President **Butch Elliott** called the meeting to order shortly after

14:00 with approximately 45 members present. Minutes of Last year's meeting were read and approved. Secretary/Treasurer **Charlie Doherty** presented the Association's financial report "...the Association is in a very strong and sound condition..." Reference last year's annual meeting discussion regarding a new class of membership, Heritage Membership, was undertaken with the results that **Billy Wood** after reviewing the By Laws research and recommend language to amend the By Laws to provide a Heritage membership classification. The new calcification of membership was approved by the board and several new Heritage members were nominated and seconded and approved by the members present. All Heritage members will be required to pay dues and fees that any member would pay.

A call for nomination of a new slate of officers was made as the term of our existing crew will expire at the end of the 2019 Reunion. The nominating committee put together a slate that will be voted on as soon as the ballots are available.

President Elliott announced that next year's Reunion will take place 2 through 5 May 2019 again at our host hotel The Best Western Beachfront Hotel in Ft. Walton Beach.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 14:50 hours.

Friday Evening:

"Masquerade" The Friday night theme of Masquerade was an outstanding success with many participates dressing the part. See some of the participates below:

The Witchdoctor

The Chicago Boss



The Captain and Super Hero's

The Roaring Twenties



The buffet was again catered by The Golden Coral. Approximately 120 members and families along with guest enjoyed the excellent buffet. The Rock and Roll music of our youth was played by our very capable DJ Steve Williams and it provided a great look back to the “sock hops” and dances of years gone by. Many of our members enjoyed dancing under the tent. A very special alcoholic beverage was provided by **Sam Davis** this year that was shared and enjoyed by all.

Saturday:

Gulf Marine Adventure Park: Approximately 20 members, wives and guest enjoyed the Dolphin Show and Aquarium Tour at the Gulf Marine Adventure Park which is located on the Miracle Strip Parkway just a short distance from The Best Western. An enjoyable time was had by all who attended the outing.

Saturday evening Banquet - Elks Club: Our dinner banquet was once again held at the FWB Elks Club. Our dining room had a private bar which began service at 5:30 pm. The Elks Club Restaurant is located a short distance from our Best Western Beachfront Hotel on the road to Destin.

Our traditional Honor Table to Our Fallen Comrades was again present. Additionally, Members **Jim McDaniel**, appropriately dressed in a fine kilt “piped” the evening’s Memorial Service with Mel carrying the flag.



Dinner choices consisted of Prime Rib, Sliced Ham and, Chicken Cordon Bleu. The Elks Club staff again did an exceptional job. Reservations have already booked the Club for next year’s reunion banquet.

Our “special” guest speaker Cliff Stern, a member of the 174th AHC, presented a detailed presentation on the Lam Son 719 operation.

Saturday night “Live Auction”: The Live Auction conducted after the banquet meal at the Elks Club was a remarkable success. The President and CEO of the Ft. Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, **Ted Corcoran** acted as our auctioneer for the evening. Many items were donated by our members. One of the highlights was the Custom Hand Made beautiful quilt made by Betty Fisher. The total revenue generated was over \$1076.

A huge **Thank You** to everyone who provided items for the auction and a huge **Thank You** to all of those who bid on those great items.

Sunday Morning Devotional: A non-denominational devotional service was led by **Steve Kennedy** in the Best Western hotel “Ready Room.”

Awards

Mel Lutgring transferred his duties as the Company Store manager to **Steve Kennedy** last year. Mel did an outstanding job as the Company Store Manager and was presented an award for his untiring efforts. Jim Young transferred his duties as Secretary/Treasure to me last year. I owe him a great deal of appreciation and gratitude for how well he prepared me to assume the duties as Secretary/Treasure and for the outstanding job he did as Secretary/Treasurer. Jim was not able to attend the reunion this year so his award was mailed to him. See the Awards below:



Sunday Evening Survivors Pizza Party: The reunion survivors dined on pizza Sunday night in the tent on the Best Western Beachfront patio. Many reunion members/guests continued visiting and had a wonderful time. This was a fun and enjoyable occasion.

Jim McDaniel, we again “thank you” as we are indebted to you for your efforts, time and especially for your creativity regarding the 174th AHC Assault Helicopter Company Website and the “list-server”. Thanks for sharing the “guest book” entries and your comments. Because of your interest, tireless energy, we can say we are part of the largest post-Vietnam, continuously meeting, aviation unit group of Vets, with the greatest website in existence, anywhere!!!

We are especially indebted to entire Board of Directors of the Association for all that they have done this past year to make this reunion one of the best. Additionally, thanks to all who came and made the 2018 reunion such a resounding success. We missed all those that could not make it but mark your calendar for 2-5 May 2019 for the "Next Big One" - our next annual reunion.

Charlie Doherty
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