

2023/2024 Presidents Messages (Composite)

March 11, 2024 – Firing Circle

Registration for the 2024 Reunion.

The Association is ready to gather once again, this year in Colorado Springs, CO, Sept. 11 -15, 2024, for the Association's 24th reunion. Here is where you get to refresh old friendships, make new friendships, and move our AC-119 legacy and heritage just a bit closer to the daylight. The Board worked diligently to put a great reunion package together. Hotel information and the Program for 5 days is included on the following pages. The Registration is on this page, below.

The Reunion includes our Hootch, Meet & Greet, Association Meeting, Banquet, and Farewell, as well as TWO fantastic Tours! PLEASE READ the Program Info carefully! This announcement is out later than usual, mostly due to the fact that the Board and Committee workers are spread thin. You're not surprised to hear that the number of active Association folks is getting lower – we are losing more people than we are gaining. For this reason, reunions like this one are so important to keep our friendships engaging, and to meet new friends. There is an increasing number of friends and family participating, which helps make reunions successful.

With some of the ills from the past few years behind us, the Association should have a great turn-out this year. We have made commitments on expected participation, and it is VERY IMPORTANT for us to get attendee numbers as soon as possible. Therefore, you are encouraged to register early!

This information is on the Association's Website, and we post this on our Facebook page for those of you using social media.
Hope to see you ALL there!

Here is the link to Register: <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/AC-119Gunship2024>

Hotel Info and Program Below

M. Drzyzga, March 11, 2024

October 8, 2023 – Reunion Flash Message

Who's coming to the Washington DC AC-119 November 8-12 Reunion!!

The following AC-119ers, family, and friends will be at our Washington DC Reunion to refresh their old friendships; make some new friends; visit the Vietnam Memorial and other Tours; meet a full AC-130J Ghost rider crew (with several maintenance folks as well) and tour their state of the art Gunship; hear what the prior 17th SOS Active Duty Commander thinks his heritage and our legacy; and hear author Barry Levine's presentation on AC-119s.

This Reunion Hotel and events are in a great location, with great tours and guests, and (TRUTH) it's best to SEE old friends while we can all still be seen!!!!

You can cancel up to 24 hours before your arrival. Quit procrastinating; get off your butts and register!! Here are the links you'll need:

- Reunion and Tour Registration link: <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/AC-119Gunship2023>
- You can assure you'll get our room rate by reserving your Hotel Room now. Doing that helps us with our forecasting on Reunion numbers, plus there's no risk since you can cancel as late as the day before your arrival. PLEASE, reserve your hotel room at <https://book.passkey.com/event/50394539/owner/1694/home>
- Questions? Contact Wayne Laessig. Thanks and see you there!!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul & Teri Beagley • Charles & Debra Blackmon • Tom Brander • Stinger 41 KIA Ken Brown's widow Sandra Layne, son Tom Reitz & spouse Dolores & their sons Ayden & Robert • Windell & Bernadette Bunton • JoAnna Kafoed (Byrd) • Shadow 78 Survivor Allen & Barbara Chandler • John & Denise Cootz & daughter Angelique & Joe Bolli • Stinger 41 Survivor Craig Corbett • Peggy Craig • Roy Davis & Paula Pascoe • Mike & Andrea Drzyzga & daughter Alanna & friend Nick Muller • Bob & Janet Dydo & Niece Abbie Moore • Jim & Christina Farrell • Lloyd & M.E. Froelich • Sam & Debby Gallo • Jan Goryl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Griswold • Rich Hall & Gloria Lister • Jerry & Ellen Hester • Gerald Heuer • Clement & Suzanne Hill • Ron & Carol Hinton • Shadow 78 KIA Andy Anderson's daughter Lee & Tim Jordan & daughter Scarlet & son Jacob • Mike Krauss • Al Krueger & Phyliss Demske • Wayne & Lynette Laessig & Army Buddies Mike Ward & Jim Resau • Jesse Lau & Melvin Jackson • AC-119 Author Barry Levine & daughter Jessica • Bob; Cheryl, & Brooks Lyall • John Paul & Nancy Mac Isaac • Dan & Arlene Mages • Heather Mahoney • Dale & Jeanette Martin • Larry Mersek & Susie Ryslinge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John & Carolyn Morrow • Mike & Theresa Mullen • Rod Olsen & Cyndi & Freya Hathaway • Jim Quigley • Jim Rash • Matt & Annette Robeck & AC-119 KIA Commemorative Trike • Bob Safreno & Sandy Paxton • Terry & Theresa Sarul • Stinger 41 Survivor Ski Sledzinski & Yami Lust • Al & Margaret Smith • Mike & Becky Smith & daughter Sandy • Jerry & Kathy Stout • Mark Tarpley • Jim Toy • Gene Van Over • Chuck & Stefani Williams & daughter Hannah • Doug Wohlgamuth • A DOZEN AC-130 Ghost rider Air & Ground Crew
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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE – September 2023 – Reunion Flash Message:
AC-119 WASHINGTON DC REUNION – NEW TOUR**

Lt Col Brian Schmidt, Commander of our active-duty 17th SOS Legacy Squadron from Cannon AFB is coming to our DC reunion, along with an AC-130J *Ghost rider* (call sign Jackal) & crew! Col Schmidt & crew

plan to attend most of the reunion, & offered us a *Ghostrider* tour on Friday, Nov 10th between mid-morning & mid-afternoon! The Wednesday & Thursday Reunion Tours are not impacted & remain the same.

Numerous *Ghostrider* crewmembers asked to participate – they want to learn more about our heritage as well as swap some stories! Click here to learn more about the [AC-130J GHOSTRIDER](#). It is the most current version of the 40+ year AC-130 Gunship family, with an awesome armament suite that includes 30mm & 105mm cannons, Small Diameter Bombs, Small Glider Munitions, Hellfire Missiles, & Griffin Missiles!! If you want to see what our Legacy Squadron flies, & talk to today’s warriors who carry our heritage into battle in it, sign up for this tour!!!

Security access & parking challenges make carpooling very impractical for this tour. We are providing a bus for the tour, at no cost to attendees. BUT, the tour is limited to the first 98 who sign up. Plan for 0900 board bus, 1300 back at the hotel (subject to change). THERE IS NO FEE FOR THIS TOUR & we will provide specifics as details firm up.

If you **HAVE NOT** registered for the Reunion yet, & want to participate in this event, just select it when you register for the Reunion online at <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/AC-119Gunship2023>. You must ALSO fill in a SEPARATE form to assure we have info for any military access requirements. It is also a pdf attachment on the top of the reunion registration web page titled **REQUIRED SECURITY INFO- NEW TOUR**. Open the form, fill it in, print it, & mail it to: Armed Forces Reunions, 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA 23510.

If you **HAVE ALREADY** registered for the Reunion & want to add this tour, simply click this link for the required security form titled [REQUIRED SECURITY INFO- NEW TOUR](#); fill it in, print it, & mail it to: **Armed Forces Reunions, 322 Madison Mews, Norfolk, VA, 23510**.

BTW, here’s who’s already coming to this Reunion:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul & Teri Beagley • Charles & Debra Blackmon • Stinger 41 KIA Ken Brown’s widow Sandra Reitz & son Tom & spouse Dolores & their sons Aden & Robert • Windell & Bernadette Bunton • JoAnna Byrd • Gene Caruso • Shadow 78 Survivor Allen & Barbara Chandler • John & Denise Cootz & daughter Angelique & Joe Bolli • Tom Brander • Stinger 41 Survivor Craig Corbett 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob & Janet Dydo & Niece Abbie Moore • Lloyd & M.E. Froelich • Sam & Debby Gallo • Janis Goryl • Roger Griswold • Jerry & Ellen Hester • Clement & Suzanne Hill • Ron & Carol Hinton • Shadow 78 KIA Andy Anderson’s daughter Lee & Tim Jordan & daughter Scarlet & son Jacob • Mike Krauss • Al Krueger & Phyliss Demske • Wayne & Lynette Laessig 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Paul Mac Isaac • Dan & Arlene Mages • Dale & Jeanette Martin • Larry Mersek • John & Carolyn Morrow • Rodney Olsen & Cyndi & Freya Hathaway • Jim Quigley • Jim Rash • Matt & Annette Robeck & AC-119 KIA Commemorative Trike • Bob Safreno & Sandy Paxton • Terry & Theresa Sarul • Stinger 41 Survivor Ski Sledzinski & Yami Lust
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NOTE: Our hotel has wheelchair accessible rooms at our contracted group rate, BUT not many. If you need an accessible room, please consider reserving one soon. You'll get our room rate by reserving one now & it helps us with our forecasting on Reunion numbers. There's no risk since you can cancel as late as the day before your arrival. PLEASE, reserve your room now

at <https://book.passkey.com/event/50394539/owner/1694/home>. Questions? Contact Wayne Laessig.

Thanks and see you there!!