

2002.05.GEORGIA (SAC 2002 Reunion)

55th Strat Recon Wing Association

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

16 May 2002 – Pooler, GA, SAC 2002 Reunion

President Bill Ernst called the meeting to order at 1600.

Attending were: Vice Pres Robb Hoover, Treasurer Errol Hoberman, Secretary Max Moore, Sparky Adams, Don Griffin, Sam Pizzo, Charles Waters and Ben White. Also sitting in was Reg Urschler.

Absent were Jim Maloney, Bob Krist, Mike Cook, LtCol Kerm Neal, MSgt Steve Haggett.

Minutes of the Board meeting of 16 May 2001 from the Melbourne, FL, reunion were read by the secretary. Waters moved the minutes be accepted as read. Seconded and passed.

Treasurer Hoberman presented the financial report (copy attached to secretary's minutes for record). He stated \$10,000 had been paid to Dodd's Monuments toward the memorial with the balance of \$14,795 to be remitted as required and before the end of 2002. The intake for the memorial fund was \$36,000 as of this report. Adams moved the report be accepted. Seconded and passed. He related there were 989 members in good standing to include widows, gratis Wing staff and associated organizations who receive the newsletter.

Ernst gave a detailed overview of the memorial status. The USAF Museum director and staff accepted the design and layout on 7 May 2002. Construction on the site will begin in early June 2002. He stated that he had given the 55th Wing senior staff briefing on the memorial's status and details on 14 May.

At the suggestion of Ernst and Moore, all agreed that any widow who donated less than \$50 to the memorial fund would be afforded a personalized brick in memory of her husband. This would amount to about 15 bricks.

Webmaster Don Griffin stated he would like more digital pictures forwarded to him for posting with e-mails and articles for the Association web page. Pres Ernst complimented Griffin and Dave Johnson for their superior work in maintaining an excellent web site.

The president announced that LtCol Kermit Neal had been nominated by the 55th Wing commander to be the active duty officer representative on the Board and that the BoD had approved his selection as of 24 April. This fills the vacancy left when Col Scott Mellow PCS'd. MSgt Steve Haggett will be going PCS in June, so a replacement for him will be sought.

Ernst discussed nominating CMSgt-Retired Denny Haun to the Board. The members agreed he could not be appointed to the position, but would have to be elected in due course. All agreed the president had the authority to appoint Haun as an advisor or consultant until such time as he could stand for election. Action pending.

Hoover explained the Memorial Honor Roll criteria previously arrived at by the Planning Committee, and the ongoing research into the accuracy and completeness of the list of names of those killed in the line of duty while serving in the 55SRW during the Cold War to be etched onto the monument base. When the list is finalized, it will be forwarded to Dodd's Monuments for inscription on the monument.

As History Chairman, Hoover reported he would take possession of the reunion photo albums which were moved from Melbourne by Mike Cook to his office. An effort will be made to seek volunteers to update and maintain the albums via word of mouth and newsletters. Moore related that Jean Castleton had indicated this would be a project for interested widows. Action pending.

Hoover also reported that the progress on the sequel to "We See All" had reached an impasse partially due to the reluctance of 55th Wing staff personnel willing to pursue and sign off on declassifying research material and documents. Where the project goes from here is to be determined.

Moore stated there would be a post-reunion newsletter within the next three months. Its major articles will cover the reunion, the memorial status and the Recon Rendezvous to be held in Dayton in September 2003. Another issue focusing on that reunion and registration for same will be published in Feb/Mar 2003.

Adams was given the floor and restated his firm opinion that the Memorial Honor Roll should be limited to those who perished on operational missions.

White noted there is an organization of Ton San Nhut veterans, which holds reunions. Anyone interested in information on the organization should contact him.

Reg Urschler put forth a proposal to contact all surviving former 55th wing commanders to seek pledged donations to pay for the four commemorative benches to be added to the memorial at some future date. After some discussion supporting the proposal, Reg volunteered to take on and chair the project. The Board eagerly accepted his volunteered chairmanship and looked forward to assisting where necessary.

The subject of electronic (e-mail) parliamentary procedure was raised by Griffin and discussed. The members agreed to refine and establish the procedure to smooth the process thusly: Any Board member may put forth a subject, issue or topic for discussion with the future intention of presenting a motion. Once that discussion has occurred for a reasonable time, the president will call for a motion (most likely, from the member who initially raised the issue). Once the motion is seconded, the president will call for the vote. Both the president and secretary will record the votes and the president will announce the results.

Following this sequence will preclude motions being put forth and seconds be made prematurely, and as has happened in the past, then being revised substantially or recalled altogether. Please adhere to this policy.

President Ernst asked/appointed Sam Pizzo to chair the nomination committee to prepare a slate for the next election of the Board of Directors at the Dayton reunion in September 2003. Ernst handed out the proposed agenda for the Dayton 2003 reunion to each member present. The only recommended change to the agenda was to have the membership meeting on Saturday morning in conjunction with breakfast, leaving the rest of the day open. The recommendation was to be communicated by Ernst to the reunion chairman for his action.

Ernst stated that Jack Kovacs has done a terrific job working the memorial project, organizing the reunion and in keeping everyone informed on the restoration status of the RB-47H. We all owe him a great deal of gratitude for his dedication and hard work.

Hoover suggested the Assn aim for a reunion in the spring of 2005 and look for a chairman in San Diego.

A motion to adjourn was made by Moore, seconded and passed at 1750.

Respectfully submitted,

Max R. Moore, Secretary

55th Strat Recon Wing Association

Membership Meeting

55th STRAT RECON WING ASSOCIATION

18 May 2002 – Pooler, GA, SAC 2002 Reunion

President Bill Ernst called the meeting to order at 0900. A quorum was present.

He welcomed the members to the reunion, and explained that contrary to the membership wishes in 2001 to have our own hospitality suite at this event, there was no Association point man in place and the logistics of having it were not conducive. He recognized member Tommy Harrison, the SAC Reunion chairman, for a fine job, and that the arrangements worked out well.

The Secretary Max Moore read the minutes from the Melbourne, FL, reunion membership meeting of 19 May 2001. A motion to accept the minutes as read was made, seconded and passed.

Treasurer Errol Hoberman pronounced the Association as “solvent”. The total intake for the past year was \$40,000 of which over \$36,000 was for the memorial fund (rounded figures). Membership is up to 989 in good standing to include widows and gratis 55th Wing senior staff. Don Griffin announced that, at the request of the treasurer, he and Jim Taylor had audited the Assn books and found all in order.

President Ernst reported on the memorial status. The USAF Museum director and staff approved the overall concept and design of the monument, patio layout and proposed ‘recon park’ idea. The cost for the initial phase in 2002 will be \$24,795. He also gave an update on the restoration progress of RB-47H, #4299.

Vice President Hoover reported on the research to finalize the list of those killed in the line duty whose names will appear on the monument base as the 55th SRW Honor Roll. He stressed the need for accuracy and inclusiveness.

Ernst detailed the personalized brick donor situation. After 1 June the cost to secure a personalized brick would go to \$65 per since bricks made after the initial phase will have to be done on-site by the contractor, and that is more labor intensive.

Hoover will be the custodian of the reunion photo albums until such time as volunteers are named to update and maintain them. It has been suggested that a group of widows may take the project.

Ernst announced that LtCol Kermit Neal has been named to the Board as the active duty officer representative from the 55th Wing taking the vacancy left by Col Scott Merrow’s PCS last summer. MSgt Steve Haggett will be going PCS in June and his replacement will be sought.

Webmaster Don Griffin stated that he is seeking more members’ input for the Assn web site in the way of articles and pictures.

Ben White reported on the Ton San Nhut veterans’ organization. Anyone interested in information on the organization should contact him.

President Ernst announced he had appointed Sam Pizzo to chair the nomination committee to prepare a slate for the next election of the Board of Directors in September 2003.

Ernst commented on the plans for the next full reunion for the Association at the Recon Rendezvous in Dayton, OH, for September 2003. Ernst praised Jack Kovacs for the superb job he has done in working the memorial project, organizing the reunion and in keeping everyone informed on the restoration status of the RB-47H. The membership owes him a great deal of gratitude for his dedication and hard work.

Looking to the spring of 2005, a chairman for San Diego will be sought.

Harrison stated that the SAC heritage organization will be planning reunions at Barksdale AFB area in 2004 and March AFB area in 2006.

Meeting was adjourned at 0945.
