

DINNER WITH NEW 55TH WING COMMANDER

Members of the Offutt-area (plus two fly-ins) **55th Wing Association** met with **55th Wing Commander, Colonel Michael (Gravy) Manion** for an informal social hour and dinner on 20 July 2017. The event was held at Anthony's Steakhouse, a long time favorite restaurant in Omaha. Colonel Manion assumed command of the *Fightin' Fifty-Fifth* on 8 June.

He is the thirteenth commander to be so hosted in a tradition that began in December 1996 by then-president Bill Ernst. This event provides an opportunity for the new commander to meet **55th** veterans in a social setting early in his tenure. The group has **no** agenda other than the success of the **Wing**, and to let the commander know we have, and are, resources to be used to support that effort.

A 1995 graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia (ROTC DMG), his previous command was vice commander, 39th Air Base Wing, Incirlik, Turkey, from June 2016. He is a career EC-130 (COMPASS CALL) navigator/EWO.

He has had a varied career with assignments in the **55th** Electronic Combat Group at Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ. (The **55th** ECG at D-M is one of six groups under the **55th** Wing, and has been since February 2003.); Haiti, Afghanistan, Korea, and the UK, among others.

The evening began with a social hour and introductions; then Col Manion rang the ceremonial bell. During the social time he met and got acquainted with those attending.



L-R: Spivey, Maloney, Dubuy, Stevens, Col Manion

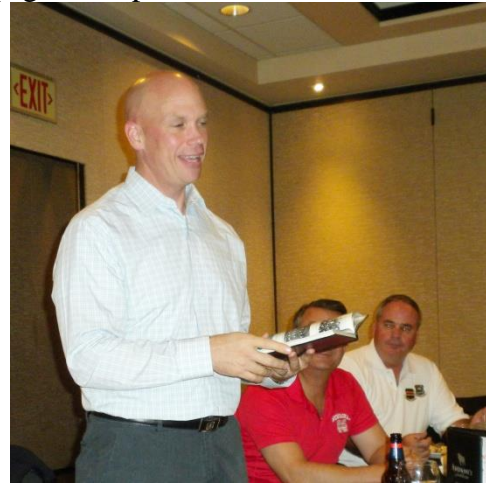


Bacon, Stevens, Col Manion at the Bell. Steve had related the Tale of the Bell



L-R: Tresmer, Van Denburg (partially hidden), Thomas, Jeanes, Kelly, Preisman.

President **Joe Spivey** made welcoming introductions, and the group enjoyed dinner. Each one there was given the opportunity to relate their AF history and time with the **55th** in a crisp round-robin. Pres Spivey also presented Col Manion with a copy of "*We See All*", **Bruce Bailey's** book of **55th** pictorial history, reading a cover page inscription.



Colonel Manion addressed the group expressing his pleasure with meeting everyone, hearing the stories, and the gathering in general.

Those at the event were: **Association** Board Members: President Spivey, Vice President Ricky McMahon, past presidents Bill Ernst and Jim Thomas; Max Moore, Don Kelly Jim Maloney, Paul Jeanes, Ham Kennedy and LtCol Dave Preisman, Former wing commanders Congressman (BrigGen-Retired) Don Bacon and Steve Stevens attended. Also at the event were Hank Dubuy, John Tresmer, Chris Canada, Dutch Van Denburg, Ben Ungerman, and Bill Sargent.



Seated in front, L-R: Stevens, Bacon, Col Manion, Ernst, Spivey.
In Back: Thomas, Dubuy, Kennedy, Kelly, Preisman, Van Denburg, Tresmer, Canada, Jeanes, McMahon, Maloney, Ungerman, Moore.