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and in Vietnam, spanning a 30-year military career. He retired at Shaw in 1972 as a lieutenant colonel.

He would go on to a career as a flight instructor with Midlands Aviation. He also was one of the first pilots in the Jamil Flying Fezzes – Shriners – flying sick children and a parent from Columbia to shrine treatment facilities in cities like Cincinnati, Montreal, Galveston, Boston and St. Louis.

Cusworth held a pilot’s license until June 30 when he made the decision not to renew it because of his age. He made his last takeoff and landing as a pilot on Friday. On Wednesday, he just took the controls for a stretch.

‘I’m no hero,’ he said of his military service. ‘I just stayed in because I loved to fly.’

463d Airlifters Association
7218 Glen Rosa Dr.
Katy, Texas 77494

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

463d News



463d Airlifters

December 2012

Notes from the President:

I would like to start by trying to explain why the 2012 reunion was held in Branson and not in Nashville. During the 2011 reunion in Pigeon Forge, TN. the location of Nashville was brought up by Dennis Moody and he said he would set it up, and keep me informed as to how things were going. After a couple of months Dennis called me and said he had too many things on his plate and could not handle it. I then called the Convention and Visitors Bureau of Nashville and was told the prices of rooms and the hospitality rooms would make it too expensive, plus the fact that we could not bring in our own liquor it would be too expensive so I started looking elsewhere. Meanwhile Dennis called me back and said that Branson had some good deals so I ended up going to Branson, MO.

“A vote was taken by the Association and the reunion will be held in Dayton OH, Sept. 2013...”

- Jerry Haines

The reunion at Branson was not as large as we had hoped but the people that were there had a good time and were all happy with the results. David Sweet was elected our new Secretary and will assume the duties and put out a newsletter twice a year. If you have anything that would be of interest to the members please send it in so that it can be printed for all to see. Some interesting things happened during the reunion that will be published in the newsletter for all to read and enjoy.

A vote was taken by the Association and the reunion will be held in Dayton, OH, in Sept. 2013. If you have any suggestions please contact me or David. And once again please send in anything worth printing so that we can have a good newsletter.

Thank you and I hope to see you in Dayton, OH in 2013



In This Issue

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Maynard Cusworth
Ladies, Ladies
Mitch Geiger



Ralph Fischer / David Sweet

From the Treasurer:

The report below was presented by Ralph Fischer (Treasurer) at the Branson Meeting, voted on and accepted by the body of members present. Ending Balance as of the September Meeting was \$12,594.62.

From The Secretary:

Taking part in the organization will be an interesting adventure. I look forward to hearing from all of the members with ideas and suggestions. Anything can be used in the newsletter from events that are happening or have happened in your area to recipes of a special dish that you have discovered. I can receive suggestions, by email or by snail mail. Please make all checks for Dues out to the "463d Airlifters Association" I will forward them to the Treasurer after I

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463rd Airlifters Association
August 2011 To 2012

Date	Name	Dues	Hats & Shirts	Reunion	Expenditure	Balance
9/12/2011	Walmart Debit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 359.93	\$ 13,445.65
9/12/2011	Walmart Debit				\$ 17.26	\$ 13,416.32
9/12/2011	Dollar Tree Debit				\$ 4.39	\$ 13,411.93
9/14/2011	Kroger Debit				\$ 77.62	\$ 13,334.31
9/15/2011	Legion Post 104				\$ 100.00	\$ 13,234.31
9/16/2011	Main Stay Suites				\$ 3,096.56	\$ 10,137.75
9/20/2011	Re4union Deposits			\$ 1,496.00		\$ 11,633.75
9/23/2011	Richard Kirkpatrick				\$ 160.00	\$ 11,473.75
10/7/2011	Deposit	\$ 55.00				\$ 11,528.75
10/7/2011	Richard Kirkpatrick				\$ 204.19	\$ 11,324.56
10/25/2011	Melvin Babra Reunion Refund				\$ 160.00	\$ 11,196.56
11/21/2011	Deposit		\$ 7.00			\$ 11,331.56
12/28/2011	Deposit		\$ 25.00			\$ 11,356.56
5/4/2012	Deposit	\$ 40.00				\$ 11,236.56
5/16/2012	Deposit for Reunion			\$ 480.00		\$ 11,716.56
6/25/2012	Deposit	\$ 10.00				\$ 11,726.56
7/10/2012	Rick Kirkpatrick				\$ 1,756.94	\$ 9,969.62
7/10/2012	Deposit	\$ 60.00		\$ 240.00		\$ 10,269.62
7/27/2012	Deposit	\$ 30.00		\$ 80.00		\$ 10,379.62
8/2/2012	Jerry Haynes				\$ 145.00	\$ 10,234.62
8/15/2012	Deposit	\$ 40.00		\$ 2,320.00		\$ 12,594.62
9/12/101	Dollar Tree Debit				\$ 12.07	\$ 13,433.58
		\$ 235.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 4,616.00	\$ 6,093.96	
	Beginning Balance					\$ 13,805.58
	Total Receipts					\$ 4,883.00
	Total Expenditures					\$ 6,093.96
	Ending Balance					\$ 12,594.62

To all of you troops that remember Mitch Geiger, He was located in Festus, MO. After a long time searching for him, Rick Kirkpatrick got his phone # and talked to him. Mitch retired from the Air Force and had an accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. I called Mitch and had a lengthy conversation with him. He is in good spirits and has a good attitude about life. I asked him if he could attend the next reunion and told him the Association would ensure that the Hope Hotel would ensure to all his needs. He said that he would like to come and will make every effort to be there. If you would like to send him a card or note, I am sure he would like to hear from you; His address is...

413 Moore St.
Festus, MO 63028

Mitch is also on Face Book



Mitch Geiger

The table is set with a white tablecloth, a black napkin and white candle, and a plate with a slice of lemon and salt. An empty chair leans against the table.

The tradition, little known to the general public, of setting an empty table with a white tablecloth in remembrance of prisoners of war and those missing in action had its beginnings with a group of fighter pilots who flew in Vietnam.

But what was started by the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association -- the so-called River Rats of Vietnam -- has, during the intervening years, spread to other branches of the military where remembrance tables, or so-called missing-man tables, are set when units or commands gather for dinners or reunions.



Never Forgotten

LADIES !!! LADIES !!! LADIES !!!

Ladies it is time to start preparing for the next 463rd Airlifters Association's Reunion. I'm looking for some suggestions for future reunions for the ladies to do while the men are reminiscing about the good old days. The only problem is getting someone to help set things up. I will find out more information and let everyone know at the 2013 reunion.

At this years reunion I'd like to have a luncheon with all the ladies. I hope to have it at Packys in the Hope Hotel. Everyone will buy their own lunch but there will be some surprises at the luncheon.

Also there will be door prizes at the banquet again this year. We had door prizes for two years and it seemed to go over very well so were bringing them back. Tickets will be given at registration sign-in.

There will be a drawing for a Vera Bradley purse for the ladies. Ladies will receive a separate ticket from Sandy or I at the banquet. I will also have another quilt to raffle, if anyone has a quilt or special item and would like to donate it to the Association, we can raffle them off and get extra money for gifts for the 2014 reunion.

If anyone has any suggestions for the reunion please e-mail me at Kirkpatrick_linda@comcast.net or

call me at (765) 689-0736. I'll close for now and hope to hear from you and will see everyone at the 2013 reunion.

Linda Kirkpatrick



The printing of the newsletter was provided by Mark III Plant Construction of Sealy, Texas

Offsetting the cost of Color 2 page printing

- David Sweet



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have updated the rooster. Also check us out on Facebook.com, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/383814121687771/> or the web.

www.463rdairliftersassoc.org/

Send email to:
das@dsweet.com

Send Snail Mail to:
David Sweet
7218 Glen Rosa Dr.
Katy, Texas 77494

The Memorial Bench Poll:

The poll that was sent out to the membership by email and phone carried the motion to purchase a marble bench and have the Dedication ceremony for its' placement during the 2013 Reunion in the Air Force Memorial Gardens at Wright Pattison Air force Base. The attached is a basic design, There will be a slogan and patches at the bottom pending approval of AF Museum.



Comments from our Historian:

Remember, if you have any orders with multiple names on them, any pictures they may have from past reunions or pictures that may show wing involvement, please submit them to me with copies that we can keep for the Associations records. I also would like, in the newsletter, for members to discuss things they like or dislike about the way the reunions are handled, better ways to discuss locations for the reunions. I would like to see a little more participation from the members.

Mike Gaylor
Historian
mikebqsr@gmail.com



Maynard Cusworth

For Maynard Cusworth, 91, of Columbia, the Fourth of July was a journey back to his youth. As a 21-year-old, he flew C-47 transport planes during World War II. He would go on to pilot aircraft through the Korean and Vietnam wars as well. On Wednesday he slipped

behind the controls of a vintage C-47 as it cruised at about 2,000 feet above the beach, as part of the Salute from the Shore flyover down South Carolina's coast. It was the first time he had flown a C-47 in more than 65 years.

Cusworth, a member of the South Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame, joined three other World War II veterans on the plane, which hauled everything from ammunition to paratroopers during the war.

The veterans were a bit of a twist for the third annual flyover, which featured F-16 jets from Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter flying over all of the state's beaches from Myrtle Beach to Hilton Head. The flyover is intended as a way for South Carolinians to wave greetings and flags as a tribute to those who have served the country in uniform, past and present. The flyover and shout-outs from the beach are filmed, and then posted on social media and military websites.

The organizers were inspired by the popular Honor Flight program, which flies World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., free of charge to see their national memorial. So they decided to add the vintage aircraft and invite World War II vets to fly along.

"It's a great way to get these old guys back in the pilot's seat," said Jack Sellers, who flew Cusworth to the beach from Hamilton/Owens Downtown Airport in Columbia on a private plane, courtesy of Hope Aviation Insurance.

Joining Cusworth were:

- William B. "Woody Woodward of Conway, who flew P-47 fighters in the war.
- Garland Porterfield of Murrells Inlet, who was with the Caribbean Air Com-

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mand in the Panama Canal Zone

- John Stinson of Little River, who was with the U.S. Marine Corps' 2nd Air Wing.
- Robert J. Hirsch of Myrtle Beach, who flew C-47s in Europe

Hirsch, a former mayor of Myrtle Beach, was beaming as he left the cockpit, the first time he had flown the plane in more than 65 years. The C-47 made its mark flying over "the hump" from India to take vital supplies to Allied troops fighting in China. It also was the workhorse of the Berlin Airlift after the war ended, flying endless tons of supplies into the former German capital to keep it out of Soviet hands.

But the C-47 saw plenty of combat, too, dropping paratroopers into battle zones from Sicily, to Normandy to Holland.

Hirsch flew for three days over Holland during Operation Market Garden – the largest air assault in history – dropping paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division and towing gliders.

The flight was donated by Barry Avent of Bennettsville, who in 2007 purchased the plane, nicknamed Bones, from a startup Caribbean airline that never got off the ground. It had a storied past, also flying in Operation Market Garden with the Royal Air Force. It even was used in the movies "The Eagle Has Landed," "The Dirty Dozen" and "War and Remembrance."

The plane with, two huge Pratt & Whitney engines, burns 100 gallons of aviation fuel per hour.

But for Avent, it was worth every penny.



"If you wanted to see a grown man cry all you had to do was look in the cockpit," he said. "I got to fly with those guys! What a privilege."

Cusworth would go on to fly during the Korean War

(Continued on page 8)



463rd Airlifters Association Reunion

Wednesday September 18 – Sunday September 22, 2013
Hope Hotel, Dayton, Ohio.

Please return this form with payment not later than August 13, 2013 to Jerry Haines at the address below.

Registration fee: \$85.00 per person. Please print names of persons attending.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Activities to include: Hospitality Suite, Refreshments, Drawings, Raffles, Prizes, Banquet and Cookout.

17th – Early Sign in – No Hospitality Room, Museum Open till 5PM

18th - Wednesday Sign In 2:00PM –Thursday Evening

Breakfast (Thursday thru Sunday)

20th Cookout, Bench Dedication (Friday)

21st Banquet (Saturday)

22nd Sign out and have a safe trip home (Sunday)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to “463rd Airlifters Association” and mail to:

**G.A. Haines
463rd Airlifters Association
2411 S. Techmseh Rd.
Springfield, Ohio 45502**

**For Room Reservations call the Hope Hotel, WPAFB, Dayton OH.
937-879-2696**

Rooms are being held in the name of 463rd Airlifters Association.

Room Rates \$75.00 plus tax, Breakfast included