

174th AHC Association
c/o Charlie Doherty
Secretary/Treasurer
267 126th Ave
Treasure Island, FL 33706
<http://www.174ahc.org>



*** OFFICERS ***

PRESIDENT
Butch Elliott

VICE PRESIDENT
Dennis Fisher

SECRETARY/
TREASURER
Charlie Doherty

WEBMASTER
Jim McDaniel



174TH AHC ASSOCIATION 2019 26TH ANNUAL REUNION AFTER ACTION REPORT

The 2019 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 29 with most of the group arriving by Thursday afternoon and the party did not stop until Monday of the following week. This year's theme was **"The Wild Wild West."** Everyone seemed to have had a wonderful time. There were about 82 Members and Guests in attendance (including wives, significant others, sons, daughters, grandkids and assorted other shirrtail relatives and friends.

The Best Western Beachfront Hotel's exceptional staff again 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 helped to fill the Best Western to capacity.

Dennis Fisher was unable to attend this year. **Mike Hall, Steve Kennedy** and **Darrell Bennett** stepped in and did an excellent job of setting up the "Ready Room." Several members brought their scrapbooks, photo albums and shared their exploits with several other members. Two kegs of beer and 22 bottles of wine and several different types of sodas were available for everyone in attendance to enjoy. Long tables were set up along the wall where the very best snack food was provided, along with the donated items on display for the silent auction.

Mel Lutgring has again updated the Unit's Flag of Honor and it was displayed for all to see and reflect on those warriors who are no longer with us. Unfortunately, there were nine individuals added to the Flag of Honor this year

Craig L. Cary, August 10 2008, **Jarvis "Sugar Bear" Gambrell**, April 27, 2018, **Henry E. Schwartz**, July 8, 2018, **Perry T. "PT" Yowell**, August 11, 2018, **Gerald A. Gesslien**, September 1, 2018, **Roger A Mitchell**, December 4, 2018, **Dale Wilie**, December 4, 2018, **Frank Martinez**, December 15, 2018 and **Clifford Stepp** January 21, 2019.



This year's 26th annual Reunion Registration Gift was a set of four whiskey glasses, two depicting the unit's logo and two depicting Shark helicopters. See Below:



Sets of these glasses are available from the Company Store.

The 174th Company Store: Steve Kennedy and helper Darrell Bennett set up their sales operation in the hotel lobby on Thursday. Shirts, hats, head bands, unit pins, decals, patches, blankets, and polo shirts with 174th AHC unit logos, "Dolphins," "Sharks," and "Witch Doctors" embroidery, were available for purchase. The

Company Store had several days of brisk sales, the cash register rang up more than \$2,324 in sales for the Reunion period. Thanks to all who made purchases.

Ladies Luncheon: The Ladies were in full swing again this year with more than 26 ladies enjoying the lunch from the local Publix Market deli department, and wine from the Hotel. After the luncheon, 22 ladies took advantage of the chair massages provided by “A Day Away Massage and Spa.” The massage was a big hit with the ladies.

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 1400 with approximately 35 members present. Minutes from last year’s meeting were read and approved. Secretary/Treasurer **Charlie Doherty** presented the Association’s financial report. The Association is in a strong financial position.

At the end of this reunion the tour of duty ended for **Butch Elliott** (President), **Dennis Fisher** (Vice President), and **Charlie Doherty** (Secretary/Treasurer). Also, at the end of this reunion, the tour of duty began for our incoming officers: **Billy Wood** (President), **Mike Hall** (Vice President), and **Hal Koster** (Secretary/Treasurer). Their tours of duty will last for two years. A new association membership directory was given to each attendee of this year’s reunion. Steve Kennedy has additional directories available upon request.

President Elliott announced that next year’s reunion will take place April 30 through May 4, 2020, again at our host hotel The Best Western Beachfront Hotel in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1435 hours.

Friday Evening:

The Friday night theme of “**The Wild Wild West**” was an outstanding success with many participants dressing the part. See some of the participants below:

“The Settlers” Kim and Joe Watson



**The Posse has arrived,
Sam and Helen Davis**



**“Two Gun” Art Behringer
was there to protect all of us.**



“Our new Leaders”, Marshal Billy Wood and his Deputy Hal Koster



The Friday night buffet was again catered by The Golden Coral. Approximately 82 members and families along with guests enjoyed the excellent buffet. A very special alcoholic beverage was provided by **Sam Davis** this year that was shared and enjoyed by all.

Saturday:

Eglin AFB Armament Museum: Approximately 10 members, wives and guest enjoyed the Air Force Armament museum for a personal tour. 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. Everyone really enjoyed the open bar this year. 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 along with the Flag of Honor. Dinner choices consisted of Prime Rib, Fried Shrimp, and Chicken Cordon Bleu. The Elks Club staff again did an exceptional job.

Our guest speaker was Colonel Michael Johnson, Commander, 1st Battalion, 14th Aviation Regiment from Fort Rucker, Alabama, accompanied by his lovely wife Elesa. Colonel Johnson presented a detailed talk on the current changes taking place in Army Aviation today. He also thanked all of us for our service and dedication to Army Aviation.

Colonel Johnson, shown below, also passed the new unit guidon during the change of command ceremony from the outgoing President Butch Elliott to the incoming President Billy Wood.



After the change of command ceremony, the Award pictured below was presented to the following outgoing Officers Butch Elliott (President), Dennis Fisher (Vice President) Charlie Doherty (Secretary/Treasurer), and the Board of Directors **Ron Conner** and **Martin Wifholm** for services rendered.



Silent Auction: 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. Net proceeds from this year's silent auction was \$511.

Sunday Morning Devotional: An extremely well-planned and spiritual non-denominational devotional service was led by **Steve Kennedy** in the Best Western hotel "Ready Room." Traditional hymns were led by Carolyn Wood, and Wilma Kennedy provided a special signing in American Sign Language done to the contemporary Christian song "I Wonder" by Leeland.

Sunday Evening Survivors Pizza Party: The reunion survivors dined on pizza Sunday night in the tent on the Best Western Beachfront patio. Approximately 20 to 25 people enjoyed pizza along with beer and wine.

Jim McDaniel, we missed you at the reunion this year. We hope that you are well on your way towards the completion of your book. 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 "listserv." 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 Officers and the 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 2019 reunion such a resounding success. We missed all those who could not make it. Mark your calendar for the next one to be held from April 30 thru May 4, 2020. The 2019 Gaggle get together date is scheduled to begin Thursday, October 10 and end on Sunday, October 13, 2019.

Charlie

Charlie Doherty
Outgoing Secretary/Treasurer
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