

8th AF Meeting November 08, 2002

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Introduction of Guests

Skeets Merhan (AT-6 Lickety Split owner); Genny & Jay Johnson; Marilyn Burg; Wing Cunningham (x TWA captain);

Reunion Notes

Don Anderson talked about 15th reunion of the 404th BG down in Arizona. They had a panel discussion of 7 people called "This is the way it was" during the reunion. Encourage to send to to others to encourage this type of discussions.

Charlie Gallagher's 95th BG in St. Louis. They also ran oral interviews onto tape, then sent out for editing to the people to review, and send back edited and a picture as during the war. Charlie was elected VP of his BG at their latest reunion.

Pass onto Joe Conroy (Oregon Chapter Historian) anything that you want recorded.

Don 398th BG reunion was held in Portland.

Roster

Joe Conroy brought the unit roster for those to check. Check address, phone and e-mail.

117 Veterans in group. 83 associates. 4 vets and 7 associates were added in during 2002. 6 Vets are deceased and 1 associate.

Deceased: Capt. Bill Hawkins; Col Morris Grule (B-26s, school 42-J) two bails (once into North Sea); Helen Lincoln (wife of Richard Lincoln of 486th BG); Elbert Piles 305th BG shot down on 19th Mission Feb 19, 44 over Belgium, evades to Switzerland; Helen Cambell (associate member who did the treasurer work); Donald Guynaugh 364th FG Assoc; Jack Martin; Oliver Bradford 603rd SQ Eng/Gunner.

Roland announced these. Joe tracks this for the group.

Speaker

Don Keller introduced General McPeak. 37 years in AF, was AF Chief of Staff. Two years in Thunderbirds.

Raised in Grant's Pass.

At the start of the Cold War. Talked about his trip to the practice field at Wheelis in F100 (first fighter to have drag chute as standard equipment). Was flying and on guard channel they heard the recall word (there was a practice recall and a real recall). They heard the real recall and thought it was wrong and the CO went to guard ch and told

them not to use the real, but it was a real recall back to England. They took three hours to get back. He was in B flight 79th Squadron. The recall was at the start of the Berlin Crisis when the Berlin Wall went up. Mike Dougan and him.

Fast forward later to when both him and his wingman are both 4 star Generals. He was in charge in Pacific, and he was in charge in ETO. This was during the 1989 -- both were Lts in the same unit before the Berlin wall went up and both were 4 stars when it went down.

Mike was the AF Chief of staff during Desert Shield. He held an impromptu press conference in the a/c on the way back. He gave colorful talk to the press and some of this was not liked by the Chief Of Staff and Dick Cheney. Thus he took over from his friend.

He went to Saudi Arabia and did practice flights with the F16s over Iraq with other squadrons (like 5 times) since he was still current. Cheney, the President heard about it and was called to a meeting. Had to do this and get back to his desk by January 19th. Colin Powell was not too happy about the whole desert storm. The president told him that no to worry about his flights.

This was when Barbara Bush had a cast on and he met her in her bed with a Cast in her PJs with the President and their two dogs!

Treasurers report

Checking @\$800, savings @ \$1,200. Chapter dues came in around \$550. Meeting notices and newsletters came to around \$120. You can always get exact figures from the treasurer whenever you want.

Prizes

Lance Vick got the door prize of \$8.00 for attending..

564530 got the First raffle prize of \$10; \$15 went to 564559 Robert the newsletter editor; \$25 went to 564535.

Eldon Bevins was the nominating chairman who could not attend.

President: John Horne

Vice President: Stan Greer

Secretary: Tom Philo

Treasurer: John Andrews

Directors: Virginia Knight, Tom Davis; Dick Nielton

Price Increases

Mailing costs went up this year and another is being talked about again next year. The board of directors talked about costs and expenses and what can be done to ensure fidical continuance of the chapter.

Research Needs

Anyone who knows about the "Death March" that occurred during the Winter / Spring 1945.

Oregon Military Museum News

Phil Leraunt

located at 10101 SE Clackamas Rd.; Clackamas Or 97015

10,000 catalog items. 9-5 Sat-Sun. Free. Willingly accept donations but there is no formal admission charges. Lots of items are Federally owned so to keep it lower it is free.

Have a Cessna L-19.

Next Meeting in February