

114TH AVIATION COMPANY ASSOCIATION REUNION 2007 RECAP – NASHVILLE, TN JULY 11 – 15, 2007

By Jim and Ann Koepke, Reunion Chairpersons

The 2007 reunion was packed with activities around Nashville, in between good times visiting with the 95 members and their families, from the far corners of these United States and even one member from Canada, 184 people in all. There were a handful of members and their families that were attending the 114th reunion for the first time. Hope to see you again and maybe you can get your other 114th buddies that haven't joined in to attend in 2009.

There were several tours set up to see the Belle Meade Plantation, Homes of the Stars, the Country Music Hall of Fame, The Ryman, the Hermitage, General Jackson Cruise, and the Grand Ole' Opry with positive feedback from many about each site they visited. There were several folks that took off on their own and visited many other sites and sounds of Nashville's night life. It sounded as if people enjoyed the sites and we were so blessed with such unusually pleasant weather for the south in the summer.

There were 12 guys that got up very early one morning to enjoy 18 holes of "scramble" golf at the Gaylord Springs Golf Links. It is hard to believe 🍷 that they shared a beer afterwards to talk about the various shots on this nice course.

The general meeting place was in the Hospitality Room, where the members got together to catch up, meet new people, share experiences, and in general reminisce. Noah Dillion brought a slide presentation of his time in the 114th in Viet Nam. Phil Vanderwege brought the giant 6' X 18' Welcome Banner to the reunion and has the city and year of the past reunions. It was a great backdrop in the hospitality room and at the Banquet. While it is a little out of date, John Nichols is going to be updating the banner by the next reunion. Ron Kirby brought a set of Time/Life books on Viet Nam which were then donated to the 114th historical records. Many others brought great things to share. The full size knight made his appearance, an actual instrument panel from a Huey was on display and a few personal photo albums were brought for all to view.





The bar in this same room was tended by Lenord Cochran, who so generously stepped forward in the beginning and throughout the week to do what was needed, we greatly appreciate this first reunion attendee. Jeff Carr, as the quartermaster, was extremely generous. He provided the items (all the 114th related items) for the Welcome bags. He also provided a thermos, coffee cup and 114th cook book as centerpieces for each table at the Banquet Dinner, which were given away to the lucky people sitting in the marked seat. Thank you for all the treats.

Colorado Springs, Philadelphia and San Antonio were offered as places to hold the 2009 Reunion. Proposals will be submitted to the Executive Council for a decision.

The Auxiliary group met at the same time. The two leads informed this group of the lengthy and time consuming process it has been to become a “Foundation”. Until that paper work is completed no dues or anything else can be done. The story behind the wall with all 50 states flags was explained. Very interesting.

Charles Stone provided a very informative and much needed presentation regarding Veterans Benefits, who should contact the VA and helpful steps to get more help from the VA. There was an emphasis for everyone to register with the VA due to the exposure to Agent Orange.

Items were brought by several different people to be auctioned at the Banquet Dinner. J.P. Landahl was the auctioneer who was humorous, and perfect for the job. The members were so generous in their bids which were tax deductible donations to the 114th Aviation Company Association.

These reunions are such a great opportunity for us all to share our memories and for some of us those memories are going on 45 years and others less, but a very fun experience.



Ann and I want to thank all of you for attending. It is great to be part of such a wonderful group. We had a marvelous time with you all.

See you in 2009, where ever it may be. . .

Here is a breakdown of where the members came from:

4 from Alabama,	2 from Arkansas,	6 from California,	2 from Colorado,
9 from Florida,	2 from Georgia,	4 from Illinois,	1 from Iowa,
4 from Kentucky,	1 from Louisiana,	1 from Maine,	2 from Maryland,
1 from Michigan,	2 from Minnesota,	4 from Missouri,	2 from Mississippi,
3 from New York,	3 from N. Carolina,	1 from New Mexico	2 from Ohio,
2 from Oklahoma,	7 from Pennsylvania,	1 from S. Carolina,	1 from S. Dakota,
9 from Tennessee,	9 from Texas,	6 from Virginia,	2 from Washington,
1 from Canada.			