



39TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ASSOCIATION



*MUSTERED BY FATE, FROM COOKS TO COMMANDERS, BOUND
TOGETHER BY LOVE OF COUNTRY AND EACH OTHER*

Including 40th and 41st Squadrons of the 35th Fighter Group and Successors.

Volume 31, Issue 1

THE NEWSLETTER

Reunion 2013 Report

Hello Fellow Cobras!

Well, I hope all of you have recovered from our reunion activities last month! I have to say I am grateful that so many of you were able to attend. It was great to see you all again and to have a few new faces there as well. For those that couldn't make it, I will tell you everyone had a good time and we look forward to seeing you at next year's reunion so start making plans now!! No excuses!!



We had a great time at the Commemorative Air Force museum in San Marcos but unfortunately were unable to see Miss Connie (their local P-39) fly that day due to maintenance. It's tough keeping those old birds flying but they do an outstanding job. We were also able to recognize Col (Ret) Bill Powers who flew P-51s early on in the Korean War while a member of the 39th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. I believe I was able to guilt him into joining our band of misfits so hopefully we'll see him again in the future! After our tour there, we headed to the Gristmill restaurant in Gruene for an outstanding lunch that left everyone unable to move due to being in a food coma. That evening, several members of the 39th FTS joined us in the hospitality room for drinks and camaraderie. Frank Royal actually lasted longer than most people half his age and was one of the last to call it a night!

On Friday, we traveled up to Randolph AFB for a day of squadron tours and simulator flights in the T-38, T-6 and even the T-1. I think this was the highlight for most people and our very own 39th FTS pilots were their sim instructors. It was great to see everyone knock the rust off their flying skills and jump in like they had never left the cockpit. Bill Miller BBQ catered an outstanding lunch free of charge that once again left everyone with a full belly and ready to relax. That night in the hospitality room proved to be entertaining as usual with "there I was...." stories and "you should have seen it....." tales.

Our annual meeting on Saturday was productive with the members voting to press forward with a reunion location of Washington D.C. next year. Our very own member, Ric Smith II, has already volunteered to begin the planning for it and has some awesome ideas for activities. It will definitely be an event you won't want to miss! The memorial service was moving as always thanks to a great job by our own Rich Clothier. (Cont. on page 3)

2013/14 39th Fighter Squadron Association Officers

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Roll Call Memorial Service

Richard Clothier lead the 39th FSA Memorial Service in San Antonio, Texas. Richard read the names of those members who had taken their "Final Flight" in 2013. He also read the names of spouses who has passed away during the past year. The following individuals were reported deceased since the last Reunion and are remembered by us all:

39th Fighter Squadron Association Honored Dead Reported in 2013

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Charles P. "Sully" O'Sullivan - 20 September 2013 | William A. Otis - 31 March 2013 |
| Robert Gerhardt - 18 January 2013 | Oakley Allen - 15 November 2012 |
| Richard Lloyd - June 2012 | Harold Christensen - 26 June 2012 |
| Billy Inness - 31 May 2012 | Harold Anshanslin - March 2012 |
| Sam Teese - 4 November 2010 | |

Deceased Spouses of Members

| | |
|---|--|
| Mrs. Curtis (Mary) Erwin - May 2013 | Mrs. Donald (Mary) Green - 31 January 2013 |
| Mrs. William (Donella) Anderson - 18 January 2013 | Mrs. Dick (Ruth) Suehr - 5 November 2012 |

2013 Reunion Attendees

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Marvin Abney | Bill Adair | Keith Anthony |
| Stan & Chris Berkefelt | L/Col. Roger Bishop | Chett Bodette |
| Maj. William & Alexandra Brown | Jo Calhoun | Dick & Mary Clothier |
| M/Sgt. Lisa Cockrum & Clinton Ingram | Lee & Sandy Cundiff | C. "John" & Bette Dellinger |
| Maj. Justin Fletcher | M/Sgt. Anna Franco & Mark Gregory | Maj. Kyle & Carrie Goldstein |
| Maj. Justin Gittens | Lyn & Linne Haddock | Ronald Hartrim & Regina Richter |
| L/Col. Brian & Nicole Haines | Bubba & Kitty Heinsohn | Jerry Isbell |
| Ed & Barbara Kiczynski | Mark Kiczynski | Maj. William & Christina Lujan |
| L/Col. Tim & Thao Mangan | Peter Martin | Jeff & Ann McKennis |
| L/Col. Chris McMonnies | L/Col. Lee Morris | Jake O'Neal |
| Frank Royal | Randy, Sandy & Kallie Royal | Maj. Brian Savage |
| Gary Smith | Maj. Jeff & Amanda Stiff | Col. Roger & Tracy Suro |
| Hettie & John Wagner | L/Col/ Jeff & Jennifer Wallace | Dan & Alice Widgeon |

If we have missed anyone, please accept our apology. It was not intentional, but our records may not be complete.

President's Greeting Cont.: You all will be disappointed to learn that I was unanimously elected to be your next President. My plan for world domination has begun. My partner in crime for the next two years will be none other than MSgt Lisa Cockrum. You may call her "Bluto's #2". Wait, that doesn't sound good. How about Empress Sunshine? It has a nice ring to it, no? We were both humbled to be chosen and look forward to serving you all as well as Physer did for the past two years. We recognized his service at the banquet that night with what I think was a pretty cool gift. He was presented with a samurai sword with a Cobra head for a handle and a wooden wall mount complete with a 39th plaque. Needless to say, he was blown away and expressed his thanks to all for allowing him to serve as President for the past 2 years. The banquet was topped off by Mr. Peter Martin & Marvin Abney, RI state representatives, presenting the 39th with certificate of appreciations and briefing us on the current progress of the effort to bring one of our fallen 39th comrades back home from the South Pacific. You can read the full story in the link provided by Linne Haddock. And with that, another successful 39th reunion was complete. Of course, many stayed after to continue the festivities until late into the evening.... For those that made the trip, I hope you all had a good time and it was an honor to be chosen by you as the new 39th FSA President. I look forward to seeing you all next year and hope to see more of you in DC!

LTC Brian "Bluto" Haines, 39th FSA President

New Vice President - MSgt Lisa Cockrum



Master Sergeant Lisa L. Cockrum is the Chief, of Personnel Programs for the 39th Flying Training Squadron JBSA Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. She is responsible for supporting the personnel needs of Air Force Reserve Command and Air Education and Training Command Reserve Instructor Pilot Program, which trains and provides experienced pilots to augment Air Education and Training Command's instructor pilot force. The 39th Flying Training Squadron is comprised of 60 instructor pilots flying over 6,000 training sorties in the T-1, T-6, IFF T-38, and T-38C aircraft. The 39th reports to the 340th Flying Training Group (Air Force Reserve Command) during peacetime and to the 12th Flying Training Wing (Air Education and Training Command) in the event of mobilization.

Master Sergeant Cockrum was born in Seguin, Texas. She entered the Air Force in 1987 as a Medical Evacuation Technician. Following technical school at Sheppard AFB, Texas, she served as a traditional reservist assigned the 433rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, Kelly, Texas. While stationed at Kelly, she served as a qualified Medical Technician earning her wings in the C-130 C and H models. In 1991, she deployed to Incirlik AFB, Turkey in support of Operation Desert STORM providing medical support. Upon returning to home station, she continued her duties and responsibilities as a Traditional Reservist.

In 2000, Master Sergeant Cockrum joined the 100th Flying Training Squadron, Randolph AFB, Texas which later became the 39th Flying Training Squadron. Cross training into the personnel career field while assuming the duties as Commander Support Staff Personnelist. Her current responsibilities and additional duties include Resource Advisor, Unit Training Assembly Participation System Administer, Human Resource Development Council, Family Care monitor, Government Travel Card AOPC and Government Purchase Card Cardholder. Master Sergeant Cockrum is also 1 of 17 specially trained Randolph Victim Advocates.

"Final Flight" - After the reunion, we have received word that one of our members, Curran "Jack" Jones, has taken his "final flight". He was one of the original 39th Pursuit Squadron members who went to the Southwest Pacific Area in February 1942. Our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

State of Rhode Island Recognitions

The 39th FSA was honored to have Peter Mater and Marvin Abney, Representatives from the Rhode Island House of Representatives, attend the 2013 Reunion. Peter Martin was the force behind the May 2013 Memorial Service held in the Rhode Island House of Representatives for 2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe, a member of the 39th Pursuit Squadron who lost his life in WW II. The last 39th FSA newsletter had an article about Lt. Thorpe, the Memorial Service, and the involvement of Lew Lockhart.

During the Annual Meeting, Peter provided a short overview regarding Lt. Thorpe and his long overdue Memorial Service. There is a link to the Memorial Service on the last page of the newsletter. It is well worth viewing. He also presented a petition requesting that the US Government do everything possible to repatriate the remains of Lt. Thorpe so his exemplary service and sacrifice for his country can finally be properly recognized and honored. The petition was signed by twenty-three veteran members of the Association and will be sent to the President, Vice-President and all members of the US Senate. If you would like a copy to send to your US House Representative, let Linne Haddock know and she will see that you get a copy of the petition and the accompanying letter.

At the banquet, Peter and Marvin presented the 39th Fighter Squadron Association with two recognitions. The first was a Citation from Rhode Island Governor Lincoln D. Chafee recognizing the Cobra Squadron's "steadfast and loyal contribution to the defense of our country since 1939". U.S. Senator Jack Reed, from Rhode Island, recognized the 39th Fighter Squadron Association with a "Certificate of Accomplishment" honoring the 39th Fighter Squadron for its "steadfast and patriotic contributions to the defense of United States of America since 1939". Both of these documents are now on display at the 39th FTS Headquarters.

To show our appreciation to Peter Martin and Marvin Abney, President Brian Haines presented each of them a 39th FSA silver medallion.



The Citation from Governor Lincoln Chafee, the Certificate of Appreciation from US Senator Jack Reed, and the petition to repatriate 2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe.



Peter Martin and Marvin Abney receiving 39th FSA medallions from L/Col Brian Haines.

Korean War Certificates of Appreciation

We honored 52 Korean War veterans this year by arranging for them to receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Department of Defense, signed by Secretary of Defense Leon Paneta. The recipients were listed on a poster at the Reunion along with the words on the Certificate. We also displayed pictures we received from ten of the recipients, (see poster on the right). From left to right, top to bottom, are Roger Rehn presenting to his Army buddy Al Nigg, Ronald Hartrim, Joe Pecoraro, Ernie Wakehouse, C. "Dell" Dellinger, Dick Davis, Ed Kiczyinski, Herb Hancock, Major Holifield and Roger Rehn.



REUNION PICTURES



Maj Brian Savage presenting Col (Ret) William Powers with his "Certificate of Appreciation" for service during the Korean War from the DOD.



Dan & Alice Widgeon, Gary Smith, Lee & Sandy Cundiff, Hettie & John Wagner



Gary Smith, "Starting Gun: Races of Aces" painted by Anthony Cundiff, Lee



Frank Royal with extended family



Dan Widgeon flying the T-38 simulator with his instructor, L/Col David "Super Dave" Youngdale.



Jake O'Neal & John Wagner checking out a 39th FTS T-38.

Maj Brian Savage receiving his 39th FSA "Thank You" gift, a Cobra head samurai sword, from L/Col Brian Haines.



39th Fighter Squadron Association

Annual Business Meeting, October 26, 2013

I. Meeting was called to order by President Brian Savage.

The Pledge to the Flag was led by Brian Savage. Rich Clothier then led the 39th FSA Memorial Service. Please see the article on Pg 2 for the details.

2. Opening Comments & Recognitions

Brian welcomed everyone to San Antonio. He recognized the veterans in attendance - Chett Bodette, Rich Clothier, C. "John" Dellinger, Ronald Hartrim, Jerry Isbell, Ed Kiczynski, and Frank Royal. Brian asked all those who served during the Korean War to remain standing so they could be specifically recognized on the 60th anniversary of the "end" of the conflict. He also directed the members to the posters on the wall honoring all the 39th FSA Korean War veterans. There were 50 members and two "friends" of the Association who received the "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Department of Defense and signed by Leon Paneta, Secretary of Defense.

3. Minutes Approval

After a request for questions or comments, a motion was made to accept last year's minutes as written up in the 2012 Reunion Report Newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved by acclamation.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Linne Haddock, Treasurer. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report as stated. It was seconded and approved by acclamation.

5. Old Business

The 2014 reunion location was determined last year and will be held in Washington, D.C. Ric Smith II and his family have agreed to be our co-hosts. Linne will also be evaluating some organizations who assist groups like the 39th FSA with their events to see if this is something that might add value to future reunions. A flyer with the dates and lodging information will be sent out as soon as it is available.

6. New Business

There was a discussion about where the 2015 Reunion should be held. Several cities were discussed - Tucson, Dayton, Kansas City. A motion was made that Tucson, AZ be the first choice if a co-host could be identified. This was seconded and approved by acclamation.

7. Election of Officers for year 2013 - 2014

A motion was made from the floor to have the current officers, if they agreed, to stand for reelection. Brian Savage said he appreciated the "vote of confidence" but felt it was time for him to move on. A motion was made to nominate V/P Brian Haines for President. He accepted, the motion was seconded and approved by acclamation. There was then discussion about the position of V/P. A motion was made to nominate Lisa Cockrum. She accepted, the motion was seconded and approved by acclamation. A motion was made for Linne Haddock to continue as the Secretary and Treasurer, it was seconded and approved by acclamation. The 2013-2014 officers are:

- President - L/Col. Brian Haines, 39th FTS USAFR
- Vice President - M/Sgt. Lisa Cockrum, 39th FTS USAFR
- Secretary and Treasurer - Linne Haddock, (daughter of Frank Royal)

8. Other Business

Linne presented information about her visit to the Korean War National Museum in Springfield, IL. After some questions and discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved by acclamation to make a \$500 donation to the museum. The members also approved a donation of \$500 to the Commemorative Air Force, our Thursday tour host and home of the P-39, Miss Connie.

Peter Martin, State Representative from Newport, RI, made a presentation about 2nd Lt. Robert Thorpe who was with the 39th Pursuit Squadron during WW II and was executed as a prisoner of war. Peter asked the members to sign a petition to repatriate his remains that he would personally deliver to US Senator Jack Reed. It was suggested that a copy of the petition be sent to all Senators. Linne said she would take on that responsibility.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Linne Haddock, Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS & UPDATES

39th FSA "Final Flight" Information

If you are aware of any 39th Fighter Squadron Association member who has passed away, please let us know. Our members are our best resource.

We wish to show respect to all of our departed 39ers by publishing their names in our Memorial listing.

Lyn and Linne Haddock, Editors

Missing Financial Statement?

As a reminder to those who might be looking for the financial statement, it was decided at the 2012 39th FSA Business Meeting, that the financial statement would no longer be published in the Newsletter. Instead, an annual financial statement will be provided to those attending the Reunion Business Meeting. It will also be included in the post-Reunion mailing to current members, along with the Newsletter and updated roster. The treasurer will supply current financials to any Association member upon request.

Dues note from treasurer **Linne Haddock**: Linne asks that you please locate your last **dues payment** date shown on the address label of the newsletter. If it shows 09, that is 2009. The \$20 dues payment is annual. Some members are only sending payment if they attend the Reunion. Your dues are needed to cover the rising costs of printing and mailing the newsletter and roster, as noted in the financial statements. Please mail your annual dues payment made out to the **39th FSA**, to Linne Haddock, 39th FSA Treasurer, at 446 Douglas Fir Drive, Woodland Park, CO, 80863.

Notes from the Newsletter Editors...

An updated **Roster** was mailed to you along with this Newsletter. We will also continue to distribute the Newsletter by **eMail**, along with frequently updated Rosters and news items to all with eMail addresses. If you don't have eMail, but have a family member or friend who can receive this for you, please send their eMail address. Also, please keep your contact information current by advising Linne Haddock of changes.

Vic Mihuta has a source for **35th Group Patches**, the ones with the hand holding the sword. Cost is \$15. Contact Vic if you are interested.

Request From Our Webmaster - Charlotte [Burk] Simons took over the management of the 39th FSA web site from Roy Seher. She would like to receive comments from everyone about the web site. Do you like what she is doing? What else would you like to see? Please contact her - charlottesimons@cox.net - with your suggestions. She would really appreciate your input.

Maj Benjamin Price is our contact for the continuing efforts of 39th FTS to acquire and maintain historical information about the 39th throughout its long period of activity. He is especially interested in old photographs and associated captions. The military history avenues are lacking when it comes to collecting this type of medium. He would like to receive scanned photo (300 dpi) with associated captions via email. Alternatively, you can send your photos and captions to him, via snail-mail, for scanning and he will return the originals to you. The 39th FTS is also eager to accept any artifacts donors feel would be suitable for display inside the Squadron's display cases. Please contact him with any question via email at benjamin.price.9@us.af.mil or his cell phone, 210.565.7125.

The ***A History of the 39th Pursuit Squadron, Volume One*** is available. It covers the 39th history from December 1939 to September 1945. The ***A History of the 39th Fighter Squadron, Volume Two*** is also available. It covers the 39th history from August 1945 to July 1953. Please contact Linne Haddock if you are interested in purchasing a copy of either book for \$20, plus shipping. She will have some copies available in Washington, D.C..

39th FSA Medallions - Interested in a 39th FSA medallion, please contact Linne Haddock directly. The cost is \$25.00 for a bronze medallion or \$50.00 for a silver, plus \$?? shipping. Medallions will be available at Washington, D.C. Reunion.

San Antonio REUNION VIDEO

Bill Adair Jr has produced a video of Reunion 2012

Available in VHS or DVD (Also some prior years)

Order Now. \$25 per copy, postpaid.

Send check or money order to Bill at:

3601 Lakeshore Drive, Blue Springs, MO 64014

wga37@yahoo.com



39th Fighter Squadron "COBRAS"



*Standing, left to right: Ed Kiczyinski, Ronald Hartrim, Rich Clothier, John Dellinger, Frank Royal, Chett Bodette, Jerry Isbell, and Bill Powers - CAF Docent and with 39th FIS during the Korean War
Kneeling, left to right: Maj Kyle Goldstein, Lt Col David Youngdale, Lt Col Tim Mangan, Lt Col Brian Haines, Lt Col Brian Sciantarelli, Maj Michael Stevens, and Lt Col Jeffrey Wallace
In front: Maj Brian Savage*

Links to Some Interesting Internet Sites

1. The National Museum of World War II Aviation: <http://worldwariaviation.org>
2. Heritage Flight Museum: <http://www.heritageflight.org>
3. Korean War National Museum, Library & Cultural Center: <http://kwnm.org>
4. Memorial Service - Lt. Robert Thorpe: <http://ricaptv.discovervideo.com/show/watch?id=450&t=1>
5. Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA): <http://www.afhra.af.mil/index.asp>

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39TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ASSN.

The Newsletter

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