

SPECTRE BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 7, 2019; 6PM Central



Planned Participants:

Bernie Frakes, President; planned absence
Bill Allen, Vice President; presiding
Bill Patterson, Treasurer
Bill Walter, Historian
Ed Rodriguez, Quartermaster
PJ Cook, Web Developer
Jerry Michaud, Board Member
Ski Gonsowski, Board Member
Fred Taylor, Board Member
Duane Spencer, Board Member; absent
Darren Vitalo, Board Member
Barry Gossman, Board Member
Norm Evans, Board Member
Dick Vancil, Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

- Note: Prior to the start of the meeting Fred T paid \$500 cash to Bill P to honor his donation pledge.

Bill A conducted and chaired the meeting.

- Bill A called the meeting to order at 6:01PM Central Time. Bill A took roll and thanked the Spectre Association Board Members for their attendance. All board members were present, except as noted above. Many warriors were lost since our last meeting e.g. Mike Skerrett, Don Beardsley, Michael J. Kemerer, John "Pappy" Gallagher, and others.
- Bill A called for the reading of the previous meeting's minutes.

REPORTS:

- Dick V summarized the minutes from the Mar and Apr 2019 meeting for the attendees.

BOARD MINUTES APPROVAL:

Bill A made a motion that the previous Board meeting minutes be accepted and approved as paraphrased, motion was seconded by Norm E. Vote was taken and the meeting minutes were approved and were authorized for PJ to post to the website.

Bill A asked for the Treasurer's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill P reported the following:

TREASURER'S REPORT May 2, 2019

- Checking Account **1517 \$09378.12
-
- Gunner Jack Fund **50419 \$10,344.97
-
- Scholarship Fund **4187 \$15,405.28
-
- Operating Fund **4462 \$30,225.07
-
- MS BOND \$25,000.00
-
- Total **\$90,348.44**
- Note: Mrs. Tate wrote a nice letter to the membership and donated \$1000 to fund next year's scholarship (see attached)
- It was noted that Bernie would be asked to send a nice "Thank you" to Mrs. Tate
- Bill A requested the Quartermaster's report:

SPECTRE STORE / QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

- Ed R reported:

- Sales picked up during the month of April. The Black Spectre adjustable back strap hat (15 ea.) and Spectre Mag hats (25 ea.) were ordered and received at a cost of \$354.30. Also the Zippered Hoodies (20 ea., M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL) were ordered and received at a cost of \$527.00. Total shipping cost for hats \$26.70.

April							
Date	Sales Gross Amount	PayPal Fees	Shipping & Handling	FL Sales Tax	Membership	Donations	Net Amount

Totals-->	\$1,232.50	-	\$45.85	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$1,316.65
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- Ed R has Mar and Apr 2019 Postal receipts
- Ed R has been working on the taxes and will give to Bill P
- Ed R ordered more Spectre decals
- All Spectre flags are sold out
- Ed R asked about design for the reunion T-Shirts and the discussion will be held later in tonight's meeting
- Vito said that Mike McCarty does design work for T-shirts
- Ed R submitted tailored tax and sales info by annual/quarter/month for Bill P to submit- should be good for taxes
- Bill A thanked Ed for the QM report and conducted a vote on a motion by Bill P, seconded by Norm E to accept the QM report. Motion passed without dissention.

- Bill A opened the floor for discussion

DISCUSSION:

- **Spirit 03 Veteran's Memorial Park 26 May at 1PM**

- Bill W has all the info on the ceremony and asked PJ to include all of the information on the website(s) asking for membership participation
- Everyone attending are encouraged to wear Spectre/Board T-Shirts
- PJ agreed to add the notice to the Association website and FB pages

- **Need guest speaker for reunion**

- Bill A asked for a guest speaker for the reunion
- Bill P has a potential speaker (Gnd commander at AnLoc) – Bill P will get a commitment NLT mid-June for the Jul meeting
- Fred T suggested the 73rd Ops Officer as an option to have a speaker on two evenings like last year – Norm E is our liaison for the squadron so he will approach the Commander and work the details
- Norm E asked the costs involved for travel of the Guest speakers... more info to follow at a later date.

- **AFA Plaque input**

- Bill A opened the discussion on the AFA plaque and Bill W provided everyone with a DRAFT input for review and editing prior to the next meeting (copy attached)
- Bill W will provide Dick V an electronic copy for the minutes

- **Reunion**

- Bill A turned all of the reunion info to Fred T
 - The 4 Points was pre-booked and Wild Bill and Weird Fred came to the same conclusion ... move the reunion to the Island Hotel
 - The Island Hotel is now booked for our reunion with all of our standard rooms. Parking is a little tight. Ball room is super and will support over 350 persons
 - Ski and Alice will run the Hospitality Room
 - Thursday night dinner is at the Thai Spice Restaurant again
 - Bill A explained all of the issues with the other venues – no problem Vito says “TS”
 - Norm E and Fred T plan to “lock-down” the future reunion plans earlier
 - Bill A is working the golf tourney and Duane is setting up the fishing trip
 - Bill A commended PJ for getting the reunion data on line and available to the membership
 - Fred T volunteered to send all of the “non-computer members” a copy of the registration info in the USPS mail – there were 14 at last count
 - Barry has Acft 129 (First Lady) setup to be opened at 1220 after the Business Meeting
 - Bill P Renewed our business license with the state and we have some issues to update - Bill P will fix
 - Bill P needs to help Ed R with the T-shirts
 - Bill P is working the reunion bars and will have some actionable info at the next meeting
 - Bill Walter’s Gunship book project is complete and currently in final edit. It is approx. 500 pages. The Enlisted Heritage Hall and Wayne Fisk are involved in the project
 - Bill W informed the group that the AC-130U model will retire next year and that 37-brand new AC-130J models are on the way
 - Ed R will be our T-Shirt design and production guy
 - Bill P will send the emails that he received from others to Bernie (see attached email)
- **Possible tour during reunion on Friday AC-130J training device/static?**
- Bill A will pass along the info and recommendations on simulators and static display timing to Bernie for his final determination
 - Bill A passed along the possible Friday activities to the phone folks

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Bill P passed along info on the Veterans heritage Project and displayed a nice book that is available for \$25. Please see Bill P for an application to participate – we need 30 veterans for Florida to have their own volume/book
- Fred T said that “Fall Break” may affect room availability – he will check
- Ed R suggested that we appoint continuity backups for critical positions (e.g. for Bill P, Ed R, PJ, etc.) – more discussion/action needed
- Bill W briefed us on the new Friends of the Armament Museum – much better working relationship
- Ski said he and Alice will work the Hospitality Room as in the past
- At the next meeting, Vito will discuss the elections, By Laws term mistake/correction (one error), and the need to extend to 4-year terms vice 3-year for board members. There are 11 each total active board members per the By Laws – cannot elect more than 3 new board members at each year’s elections.
- We need to use last year as “zero year”
- Bill P has a book from 1970-1972 that Pat gave him that he will bring in to show us. Pat passed away six days after giving Bill P the book
- Bill P posted the “Big Spooky” video - Gunship II (Acft 626) and has had over 115K views
- Vito asked if we have the capability to make reservations for the reunion and he was assured that we can
- Norm E entertained the group with his supposed photo of Bill W’s doppelganger

- ADJOURNMENT

- Bill A asked for a motion to adjourn. Fred T made the motion which was seconded by Norm E that the meeting be adjourned. There was a vote with no opposition. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:16PM Central Time.

Dick Vancil – Secretary

Dick Vancil

From: PJ Cook <pj@pjcook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 8, 2019 5:01 PM
To: Edward Rodriguez
Cc: Pat & Corinne Cook; Barry Gossman (gossman.barry165@yahoo.com); Bernie Frakes (frakesb@cox.net); William Allen; Bill Patterson (papa1172@aol.com); Bill Walter (billwalter105@gmail.com); Darren Vitalo (djvito77@gmail.com); Dick Vancil (vancild@cox.net); Duane Spencer; Frank Gonsowski (theskis0509@aol.com); Fred Taylor (weirdfred50@gmail.com); Jerry Michaud (jcmisssu563@aol.com); Norm Evans (normevans873@cox.net)
Subject: Re: Spirit 03 Memorial Plaque
Importance: High

I added this to the website home page, and all the FaceBook groups I could think of as well. I also updated the Board emails on the Board of Directors page (Under Membership, Board of Directors. Please send me photo and phone numbers of anyone who would like to share them as well.

-PJ
PJ Cook
President
Overhead Real Estate
Tampa Bay Drones
www.overheadrealestate.com



On May 7, 2019, at 10:29 PM, Edward Rodriguez <spectre-qm@cm-de.com> wrote:

All,
The Veterans Memorial Park of Pensacola Board of Directors have raised funds to dedicate a memorial plaque for Spirit 03 on the Persian Gulf War Memorial.

The tribute will be held **Sunday**, May 26th at 1 p.m., the day before Memorial Day. There will be multiple dignitaries attending and will pay special tribute to our local fallen heroes. Everyone is invited to attend.

Parking will be limited, so arrive early or be ready to walk to the Veterans Memorial Park.

Thank you,
Ed Rodriguez

Spectre Association Quartermaster

<image003.jpg>

-----Original Message-----

From: Johnny Nalepa <azz.yu.wish@gmail.com>

To: contact <contact@spectre-association.org>

Sent: Wed, Apr 17, 2019 9:18 pm

Subject: 2020 reunion and retirement

Dear administrators my name is MSgt John Nalepa and i currently am the MC-130J PM in A4 HQ AFSOC. I'm also a former FCC for the 4th AMU A0513. In 2020, September will be the final AC-130U retirement and i thought we should discuss a pass and present reunion of gunship association members and non-members to attend the final flight or flights. I would love to work towards a beautiful send off of a great warfighter. Thoughts or comments appreciated. Thank you kindly and hope to hear back from you soon.

MSGT JOHN J "NAPALM" NALEPA JR.

Bill Patterson

I would like to donate \$1000.00
in my husbands name Sergeant
Douglas Tate for the scholarships.
Two five hundred ones or
Just one, one thousand
dollar one. If any questions
call me at 920 850 0662.

Debbie Tate
8788 Cty Rd MM
Larsen, WI. 54947

Thank You
Debbie Tate



Today we say goodbye to our beloved Sergeant Douglas Tate, a man that served his family, community and country well. Back in 1969 Doug and two of his friends went to join the Air Force. Only one was getting on the plane. Doug was waving good-bye to his two friends on the other side of the fence. Doug loved the Air Force and was in from 1969-1974. He did multiple tours over in Vietnam. He met Nick, Roger, Cowboy, J.T., Jake, Eddie, Toy and many more great guys and gals. Returning home he met the love of his life Debbie. I proposed to him two weeks later. We married and had five children. Adam, Ben, Isaiah, Sawan and Kira. Doug loved so much we went back three times over 43 years of marriage. He was a son, brother, husband, father, uncle, neighbor and friend. Doug was known for that sincere smile and warm embrace and for a long period of time a very stylish ponytail. Doug's passion for his family and his farm was witnessed by all that knew him. Farming is a character building job based on dedication, sacrifice, routine and a lot of elbow grease. Doug spent most of his life on that farm working daily side by side with his wife and kids. The joys and sacrifices of a farmer do not normally come up in conversation but somehow Doug was always able to keep his dream and his farm front and center in his life. The farm work is still there and I pray that God is able to comfort the family that must persevere without the farmer. Doug was not only head of his family but also took a leadership role in the family. We all looked up to him as a leader, his light shined brightest as he worked to bring us together. Whether it was a visit to the farm or a larger family event Doug's joy was spending time with all of us and we were all blessed to be loved by him. I know that after the goodbye we all have to move forward in a life that lacks his presence but I feel certain that we could all honor his memory by doing our best to drop our work load a little more frequently for family time, pick up the phone and check in with each other, and take the time to feel close and connected with those we love. Doug's life and death are a reminder that time is short and it is our responsibility to use it wisely. There were several close calls for Doug in the past couple years but none of us were prepared for this news. The challenges Doug faced following medical concerns the past couple years were unimaginable. We all witnessed great love and dedication from his family as they took on new roles and stresses to make life as comfortable and enjoyable as possible. One of the more obvious changes for Doug was how his head and heart were more of an open book than they had ever been before about the service and life. He was able to share thoughts and feelings more openly and honestly than we might ever be able to do in our lives but it gave us a chance to really see into his heart at times and again see the kindness, compassion, love and concern he had for the Air Force and all of us. This might be the last time he brings us all together but his love and memory lives on in all of us. Doug wanted to donate a \$1000.00 towards the scholarship funds. Thank you all for your service to our country. Sergeant Douglas Tate and Debbie

Tate.

Doug passed away on Dec. 8, 2019.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY SEA PLAQUE
(DRAFT)

The Gunship II program was devised by Engineers at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in 1967 to meet the unique demands of night-time fire support capabilities in Southeast Asia. Intended to be a more heavily armed variant of the AC-47 “Spooky” gunship, it was armed with four 7.62mm guns, 21,000 rounds of ammunition and four 20mm guns with 6,000 rounds of High Explosive Incendiary ammunition. During combat trials, Gunship II supported ground forces in Vietnam with great success and was found to be a particularly effective nighttime North Vietnamese truck killer on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. In 1968, the 16th Special Operations Squadron “Spectre” was activated at Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base with only four AC-130 aircraft. Within a month, Spectre was fully committed to Operation Commando Hunt, a full-scale interdiction effort to stop North Vietnamese troops, equipment and supplies flowing down the Ho Chi Minh Trail into South Vietnam. By the end of the first Commando Hunt effort, Spectre had proven to be the most capable and effective truck killer in theater. Through 1972, AC-130 crews supported all Commando Hunt phases. At the same time, the AC-130 was continuously upgraded with the assistance of Air Force Academy engineering Cadets. Late production AC-130H gunships were equipped with cutting-edge Forward Looking Infrared and Low Light Level Television sensors, Electronic Counter Measures (ECM), avionics, and 40mm and 105mm cannons. The unique AC-130 program was proven to be the right capability at the right time in the right place. Nevertheless, the program was successful only because of a few driven non-conventional Engineers and many equally committed and courageous Spectres who routinely braved intense enemy fire while performing their missions. By 1973, twenty-eight AC-130s had been built, while six AC-130s and fifty-two crewmen were lost during combat operations.