

# 2013 Spectre Spotlight

2013 Spectre Reunion, October 9-12



## *Bangkok House Reception by Norm Evans*

As we gathered on the first night of our 2013 reunion, it's hard to believe it was our 40th. As usual, the food was outstanding and the service was great...but more important was the reason we were there; to meet our old friends and acquaintances. We are a family, a big family; some of us go back a lot of years. A lot of changes have occurred over the years, we have lost a lot of good friends, little weight added on, gray hair, little wrinkles and some with little less hair. Our bodies may have changed, but our love in comradeship for each other is as strong as ever. What I remember most about the evening are hearing the words, do you remember when, you remember him, or do you remember the time when so-and-so did this or that. And of course "if you ain't Spectre you ain't s—t". This was the beginning of another great reunion.



## *Spectre Store Operations by Darren "Vito" Vitalo*

Hello fellow Spectres. Well, we survived another reunion, but not without challenges. Once again I had the pleasure of taking care of the Spectre Store at the reunion. It is something that I enjoy and look forward to. This year I would like to give special thanks to Duane and Grace Spencer for not only letting us use their supplies to set up the store, for being there to help with sales. We got a late start setting up on **Friday** at the Sheraton. Unfortunately, the Sheraton had booked the room we were using for the store to an attorney to conduct depositions for a court case. We were not able to get into the room until about an hour before the reunion started. Thanks to the help of the board members and the Spencers we were able to get it up and running shortly after registration started. Despite the late opening we still had a busy night of sales and I hope everyone was able to get what they wanted. The rest of the reunion went without incident and I sincerely hope that I did a good job for the membership. I hope You All enjoyed the reunion as much as I did and I am looking forward to seeing You again next year! See You In Vegas!!!

## **Friday Evening Banquet Report by PJ Cook & Frank(Ski) Gonoswski**

The Banquet started with an auction of donated “big ticket” items. Everyone came up to the front tables to see all the items returned to the Association with the knowledge that they could ask for anything that they desired to give a good home to these items. This was a well-received part of the reunion. We are all very thankful for the family members who donated the items back to the Association. Also donated for the auction was a nice POW/MIA home keychain hanger donated by Art Acheson.

The auction was a very high-spirited with lots of bidding and plenty of suspense. A few of the items were also kept for the Saturday Evening Banquet to be auctioned off then as well to give a chance to the members that only come out Saturday night for the banquet.

The staff at the Sheraton Four Seasons put out another fine buffet with everyone getting a full plate to eat and the serving staff did a great job keeping the drinks full and clearing off our tables so we could relax afterward and share some laughs and memories of days gone by. For a new twist, our President, Bill Walter, showed a movie of the 40MM on the ground firing in slow motion as a most fitting backdrop. The crowd really appreciated the films Bill shared with the group. As usual, the crowd slowly headed to the store to purchase their Spectre goodies and then out to the Hospitality Room area around the Pool area where many lies were told and beers emptied as the people of Spectre remembered great times together and shared stories. The outside activities went well into the beautiful night as the weather was perfect the entire reunion. This has become somewhat of a tradition for the after the banquet hangout to spend time with your long lost buddies and of course to make plenty of new friends of different Spectre eras. This reunion was a tale of many generations that had one thing in common...all were part of something fantastic...The Fabulous Four Engine Fighter..The Mighty AC-130 Spectre Gunship!

### **Friday Night Auction results**

Li'l Pete – POW/MIA Key Hanger made and Donated by Art Acheson (\$250 donation)  
Arlie Griffis – Blood Chit In Frame (\$105.00 donation)  
Gary Thompson – Spectre Saw Blade (this item was AWESOME!) (\$700.00 donation)



# **SPECTRE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING**

***By Barry Gossman and Bill Patterson***



12 OCTOBER 2013, 0900 hrs.

- Board President Bill Walter called the meeting to order at 0900 hrs.
- Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Moment of Silence was given for Spectre Board Treasurer Dennis (Pete) Peterson who just recently passed away.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- The minutes of the 2012 Spectre Association General Membership Meeting were read by Bill Patterson. Minutes were accepted as read.
- The Quarter Masters report was read by Pat Carpenter. Report accepted as read.

Pat announced that there will limited Spectre Store items available at the next out of town reunion, due to logistics.

- At the present time the Spectre Association Membership consists of: 475 Lifetime Members and 212 Annual Members.
- Las Vegas, Nevada was announced as the site for the 2014 Reunion.

The votes by the general membership were:

Washington D.C. - 19

Wright Patterson- 22

Cannon AFB - 29

Las Vegas- 50

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- It was discussed that there were some glitches for the members trying to register on the Spectre Association Web Site. It was a Pay Pal failure. These issues were cleared up and briefed by PJ Cook.
- It was briefed that all new membership registrations will be handled by the Board President Bill Walter.
- Gunner Jack Nominations- There were no nominations for 2013. Membership was asked to please take advantage of this award and put nominations in for next year.
- Announcements by the Board President Bill Walter:

- Ron Terry was being inducted into the Air Commando Hall of Fame.
- A gunship history book is being written by AFSOC/PA covering the years of 1973-2012.
  - Gunner Jack (assisted by Vito) drew the envelopes containing the winners of the Spectre Scholarship fund. The winners will be announced at the Banquet.
  - Members were picked for the MIA table.
  - It was discussed that the Spectre Memorial Plaques at the Hurlburt Field Air Park are starting to look tarnished. It was suggested that the Hurlburt Field Wing Commander should be e-mailed and made aware of the situation. It was also suggested that maybe there should be plaques at the Eglin Armament Museum since that is where we conduct our Memorial Services now.
  - Bill Allen read a petition given to him from 3 Finger Jack concerning those members that may have been affected by Agent Orange. See 3 Fingers if you think it may affect you.
- Three Finger Jack was recognized as the only Spectre to attend every reunion!
  - It was asked that for any Funerals the family may request in Lieu of Flowers that donations be made thru the Spectre Association to the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Please notify the Spectre Association as soon as possible of any Spectre Association Members passing so that we can get with the family for any assistance they may need.
  - New Spectre Association Board Member Cecilia Pagan is trying to organize a future Spectre Gathering in the hopes of getting the younger Spectres united with the older Spectres. These plans will be announced in the future, please try to attend.
  - It was asked that everyone get together after the Memorial Service at the Eglin Armament Museum for a group photo.
  - Pistol Raffle- We had 340 tickets sold. There will be an opportunity to buy more tickets at the banquet.

Spectre Association Board Member Nominations Present Board Members

- Bill Patterson- Nominated and voted in by General Membership as Treasurer.
- Cecilia Pagan- Nominated and voted in by General Membership as board member.
- Barry Gossman- Accepted to run another term as board member. Voted and accepted in by general membership.

New Board Member Nominations

Duane Spencer

Gary Thompson (note; after the meeting adjourned, Gary withdrew his nomination allowing Duane to fill the position).

General Membership Business Meeting Adjourned at 1018 hrs.



**SPECTRE ASSOCIATION CAPITAL & ASSETS AS OF Oct 7 2013**

**Capital & Assets**

-Certificates Of Deposit	-Life Fund	\$ 27,270.69
	-Life Fund	\$ 6,407.86
	-Gunner Jack Fund	\$ 10,291.35
-Scholarship Fund		\$ 10,775.62
-Special Operating Account		\$ 5,579.42
-Checking Account		\$ 19,343.75
-Inventory On-Hand (Approx)		\$ 46,500.00
-Computer		\$ 300.00
-Projector		\$ 5.00
-Telephone		\$ 40.00
-Flags & Staffs		<u>\$ 50.00</u>
		\$ 126,563.93

**Proposed Budget for 2013/2014**

**Estimated Revenues**

Dues	Annual	\$ 400
	Life	\$ 3000
		<u>\$ 3400</u>
Estimated Sales		\$23,000
Donations		<u>\$ 4000</u>

**Estimated Expenses**

Membership Mailings Postage	\$ 350
Supplies	\$ 500
Spotlight Printing	\$ 300
Store Inventory Replenishment	\$ 10,500
Merchandise Shipping	\$ 500
Memorials	\$ 1000
Web Maintenance	\$ 800
Warehouse Fee	\$ 1000
<b>Post Box Fee</b>	<b>\$ 95</b>
<b>Phone Conferencing Fee</b>	<b>\$ 400</b>

**Liabilities**

Scholarships	\$ 2000
Residual Reunion Cost	\$ 9200
Donations	<u>\$ 3000</u>

**Total Estimated Rev \$30,400**

**Total Estimated Expense**

**\$ 29,645**

### *Saturday Memorial Service by Bill Walter*

More than one hundred Spectres, family members and friends gathered behind the ramp of AC-130A 129 “The First Lady” at USAF the Armament Museum for the annual Memorial Ceremony. The Museum staff and “Friends of the First Lady” group were very generous and supportive and were on hand to open the aircraft for visiting. They lowered the ramp to allow visitors to board and Spectre Association Board Member Barry Gossman led the memorial while two other board members read off the names of all Spectres lost in combat operations, followed by those who passed since the last reunion.



### *Saturday Night Spectre Banquet by Celia “Cee” Pagan*



It was a beautiful day on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Oct and with this being my very first Spectre Banquet I was both nervous and excited to see what the night would bring. The night began and we greeted our guests who by the way all looked great for the event.

Our performer for the night was Ben Buzga, Spectre Gunner and our Guest Speaker was Spectre Association President Bill Walter, who filled in “last minute” because our scheduled speaker’s attendance was affected by the government sequestration.

It was a busy time for all the board members as our guest made their way to their tables. This was the night we were to announce the winners for the Gun Raffles so needless to say we were selling tickets like crazy up until the banquet.

The room was set up beautifully and the atmosphere was filled with laughter and smiles. Our Photographers for the evening were Larry and Arlie, they were kept busy that night taking pictures of the crowd. Since I'm the newest member of the board I requested a board member photo which was fun to take. Hopefully we were all looking at the right camera and at the same time. I walked around to the tables ensuring everyone was ok and having a great time. The only request from one of our tables was that this year both the red and white wine wasn't out on the tables but that was soon taken care of. All I can say is that everyone was very happy to be there but I would like to know who requested that the AC be put to a colder degree. I was freezing (LOL).

So it's time for the dinner and scheduled events to take place. The POW/MIA table was set up and the Fort Walton Beach High School Honor Guard has stepped in to Post the colors, which by the way they did a marvelous job doing.

Dinner has been served and we are about to hear from our guest speaker. We were able to view a video that night that helped us all to see that the gunships are out there till this day fighting the war and our Spectre brothers and sisters were making us all proud even till this day.

Our Master of Ceremonies Bill Allen announced the scholarship winners as the night went on and this year we were pleased to have received so many donations.

Dinner was delicious, the crowd was magnificent, and I can't wait till the next reunion. Now it's time for our performer to take over and the crowd just loved him. Even requested he join us again for next years event.

**Saturday Night Raffle, by PJ Cook**

Ken (Doc) Dority	- Booze Basket
Ski Gonsowski	- Vietnam Memorial Picture print
Robert Turek (Ship of Blazing Fools)	- Denny Bivens print of Gunships
Tommy Boknevit	- 40 Millimeter Beer Poster
Norman Evans	- Blue Round Air Force Emblem
Laverne Mason Holmes	- Red framed AC 130 Vietnam Picture
Dwight Howard	- Prints of Spirit 03

**The lucky winners of the 2013 Spectre Scholarships are:**

\$3000.00 scholarship - Natasha Victoria Clayton

\$1000.00 scholarship - Hanna Chrishine Gillette

\$1000.00 scholarship - Jessica Etheridge

\$500.00 scholarship - Andrew Keyes Bradshaw

**The winners of the Spectre Pistol Raffle were John Rockefeller and James Johnston.**

## **The Sunday SPECTRE Golf Tournament by Barry Gossman**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Spectre Golf Tournament was held at the Fort Walton Beach Municipal Golf Course. The weather could not have been any better for a wonderful day of golf. All of us, who participated, were briefed by Pat, the day before the tournament, that we had an 0800 hr show for a 0900 hr tee time. Guess what? We were booked for an 0800hr tee time. So as soon as we got there it was a quick preflight, of our combat golf carts, and a mad dash to hot cargo to load up our combat load of beverages. I don't even think Bob Turek had time to brief his DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) policy.

Unlike all the previous years, Pat really didn't have any stacked teams. All the teams were pretty even, as far as skill levels go. It was actually pretty quiet out on the course. You did hear the occasional yelling and screaming but that was just an I.O. getting attacked by killer squirrels. Probably the best shot of the day was by Bill Allen on hole number 5 when he made a shot from the fairway and put the ball into the hole to make an Eagle. At least that is the story he told and he is sticking to it. The only complaint I heard all day was from Bob Turek. He asked Pat if he could please stop making him play with gunners. He would rather play with Engineers. Well that would be great if you could find any engineers capable of swinging a golf club.

I would like to thank the Ft Walton Golf Course for having us and being a fantastic host. See you all next year in Vegas.

The Results were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - 68 - Wilkins, Wilkins and Thompson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place- 69 - Gossman, Branson, and Petrin  
69 - Carpenter, Vancil, Bean  
69 - Allen, Liles, Hartnes, Easley  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place- 77 – Turek, Hutchinson, Elfgen, Pierson

## **Sunday BBO. by Jerry Michaud**



A beautiful, sunny day and everyone is relaxing and slowing down after four days of partying and re-uniting with old friends and new. The menu of pulled pork, chicken, slaw, beans, potato

salad and assorted pies and cakes was, as usual, outstanding and delicious. The golfers arrived with their lies, some smiles and some sad faces. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the folks that didn't leave early retired to the hospitality room to have a drink and relax even more.

I would like to thank Ski for his great job of keeping the hospitality room up and running. I would also like to thank the board of directors for putting on another excellent reunion and we wish you all a safe New Year and hope to see you all next year in Las Vegas.



### ***2013 SPECTRE fishing trip! Duane Spencer***

Four hardy SPECTRES endured getting up at 0500 hrs. to go to Destin and spend a day fishing on the ***NO ALIBI***. Gary Carter, his son Jeff plus Grace and Duane Spencer arose early to be at the docks for the 0700 departure for the fishing holes. This was not a Gilligan three hour cruise; we were out for 10 hours! The weather was great, calm waters and warm winds made it great to be out there. The boat was packed and we were on the side of the boat near the center. This turned out to be a bad place for Grace and Duane as we have electric reels. Grace's reel makes a lot of noise when it is pulling the line in and we were directly under the speaker and microphone for the Captain to talk to the mates! Each time Grace pulled her line up the noise went to the pilot house and drowned out all communication! Guess you could say that Grace was really jamming. The fishing was great as everyone on board caught their maximum of two Red Snapper and lots of other fish. Jeff Carter hauled in a HUGE Trigger fish. After the boat docked

the fish were cleaned and we returned to the Four Seasons, smelling a bit ripe but happy. Grace and I cooked up one Red Snapper for dinner, we should have only had one side as we couldn't finish the meat. I am encouraging others to join us on the next trip in 2015.



*See you in Las Vegas in October 2014!*