

RED EAGLES NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2014



December 25, 2014
Issue 23

FELLOW RED EAGLES:
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



Red Eagles Reunion 2014

The Red Eagle Reunion for 2014 was held on Oct 17th and 18th in Las Vegas Nevada at the Boulder Station Hotel located on the Boulder Highway. We had over 120 attendees to include Red Eagles and their guests. From talking to several attendees and their guests I can say it sounded like everyone had a great time and enjoyed rekindling the friendships established during their tenure as a Red Eagle. We started off the reunion on the 17th with a beer call at 1600 hrs at the 57th Adversary Tactics Support Sq on Nellis AFB, we had good attendance and the stories got bigger and better each time they were told. We then gathered at the Nellis Golf Course for the reunion sign in and cocktail party at 1800 hrs. This event was great, we had super attendance and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Ben Galloway set up the Red Eagle Store and we sold a ton of Red Eagle shirts, hats, pins, and Evil's books. The heavy finger food was superb and this event is always one of the most fun at the reunion.

On Saturday the 18th we began the day at 0900 hrs with the Red Eagle Golf Event held at the Wild Horse Golf Club. This is one of the better courses in the area and the golfers had a great time. Next at 1600 hrs we had the Red Eagle Alumni Association Meeting at the Hotel. Mike Scott, President of the Association conducted the meeting, most importantly we decided on the next Red Eagle reunion. It will be in 2016 at the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Also at the meeting an anonymous donor had donated drinking glasses with the Red Eagle Sq patch engraved on them and they were given out to all attendees. At

1800 hrs we had the highlight of the reunion, our banquette, at the Boulder Station show room. The place was packed with Red Eagles and their guests. We started off by having Evil present a framed MiG 21 litho to Shar Costello the Station Casino's National Sales Manager who set up everything at the Hotel and gave us some nice discounts on various items. Neal Henderson prepared and showed a Red Eagle video that was well received by all. We next enjoyed the well prepared buffet dinner. Ben Galloway also set up the Red Eagle store during this event as well. Near the end of dinner we had the entertainment for the evening. It was Z man posing as Johnny Carson's character Carnac with Tom Boma as Ed McMahan. This got some great laughs and brought back a lot of memories. Everyone really enjoyed the banquette and had a wonderful time, the next day Sunday the 19th was a safe travel home day.

You would be surprised how much effort goes on in putting on a reunion. I hope I don't leave anyone out but a special thank you to all the following Red Eagles for their help in putting this together: Scotty, Evil, Obi Wan, Admiral, Gibo, Robby Robinson, Bro, Ben Galloway, Melody Galloway, Neena Wright, Z Man, Tom Boma, Neil Henderson, and the Station Casino's for hosting our event.

Best Regards,
Jim "Bluto" Keys

Business Meeting Recap

Red Eagles - 2014 has been another banner year for our group - the highlight be-

Editor's Christmas Column:

These are my guidelines for Christmas:

- Peace on earth starts with your family. Put aside hard feeling and disagreements on this one special day.
- Spend this day with family and friends and let them know how much they mean to you. Say "I love you" to those special people in your life. Make that phone call on Christmas day.
- Treat each gift you receive as if it cost the giver a fortune. It doesn't matter so much about the gift as the thought behind it.
- Think of your past Christmases and try to make this one the best. This is a time for giving, not just gifts but of yourself.
- You can submit your stories or roster updates by emailing them to: 4477redeagles@gmail.com
- Or, mail to:
Ben Galloway
3732 Bar 10 Road
Calhan, CO 80808

ing our Reunion in mid-October. Bluto has provided a superb, overall recap of that event. So, for the benefit of those of you who were either unable to attend or, like me, have a problem remembering, I thought a recap of the business meeting might be in order. It was held on Saturday at 1600 and lasted about an hour.

First, we acknowledged the Board Members and thanked them for their diligence in getting our Association to our full-up, mature status. 2014 Elected Members were (and will be in 2015) Jim 'Bluto' Keys (VP); Larry 'Mase' Mason (Sec'y); Ike Crawley; Neena Wright; Rob 'Zman' Zettle; and me, Mike Scott (Pres). Permanent Members are John 'Admiral' Nelson (Treas); Bob 'Bro' Breault (Co-Editor, Asst Store Manager, Facebook Site); and Ben Galloway (Co-Editor, Store Manager, Keeper of the Roster, Website Guru). Additionally, we have two, non-voting 'Advisor/Emeritus' Board Members, Earl 'Obi' Henderson and Gail 'Evil' Peck (Historian). Phil Young, who did not seek reelection, was also thanked for his work as the past Board VP and 'Store Starter-Upper'.

The next item, Treasury Report, provided some insight into the use of our money. The biggest expense is providing augmenting funds to help keep Memberships' individual Reunion costs at a reasonably affordable number. In this regard, in addition to some admin expenses, we provided a no cost beer call at the Aggressors' Red Eagle Bar; a significant contribution to the golf course reception; and the ability to provide a deposit for the Boulder Station functions (without resorting to using Committee Members' Credit Cards!) Other costs include: annual corporate business license renewal and tax filing (both required for us to maintain our 501c non-profit status); initial purchase of store inventory (basically, self-sustaining from this point on); memorials for deceased Red Eagles (see next paragraph); and the ability to fund pop-up costs for unknown Association requirements. After tabulating 2014 total expenses, we expected to have a balance of over \$5000 in our Treasury. A subject of concern was the fact that out of well over 400 folks that were part of the Red Eagle organization and can legitimately call themselves a 'Red Eagle', less than 25% of them have joined our organization and pay dues to help support what we do.

We discussed a few New Business items.

A. First up was the need to Standardize/Codify Memorials for deceased Red Eagles. In the past, we have

been providing something (flowers, donation, etc) on a reactionary basis that involved contacting survivors for their wishes - and doing so at a time when the family had, understandably, other concerns. It was decided that our policy would be a standard donation in the amount of \$44.77 to the Wounded Warriors organization.

B. Next, we talked about a Red Eagle display at the AF Museum at Wright-Patterson. Museum leadership has indicated the intent to establish a display - the issues are 'when' and 'with what'. Our PoC, Neena Wright has been in contact with the Museum folks. As of this writing, they have not determined the 'when'; however, we have a *suggested* potential time - see the next paragraph. As for the 'what', that is in our (all of us) ballpark - they need stuff! But, to preclude our sending them a boatload of duplicate or unusable items, they must first determine whether or not the stuff we have is something that will work for the display. To that end, the museum folks have provided a methodology to get information (pictures, description, significance, etc) on memorabilia any Red Eagle might have to the museum for their consideration. We will make that procedure available in a separate emailing in January. In the meantime, check your memorabilia - if you have an item(s) you believe might be something that fits the bill, clean it up, take some digital pictures of it, and wait for the email for further instructions. We will also create a permanent 'how to' reference for inclusion in the Spring Newsletter and each subsequent edition.

C. The third item involved setting a date and site for the next Reunion. After discussing pros and cons, it was decided to have the next Reunion in two years, 2016; and that the site would be the Dayton, Ohio area with the objective of centering it at the AF Museum at Wright-Patterson. A goal for that reunion is to have it coincide with the opening of a Red Eagle Display (ref paragraph B); the Reunion Committee will strive to make that happen. Since the 2014 reunion, Ted 'Gabby' Drake has agreed to lead the 2016 Reunion Committee and is in the process of forming it up. Ted has already been in contact with the Museum; although their reservation calendar was quickly filling, Saturday 10 Sep 2016 was a favorable autumn open date so the Board voted to nail it down. When details have turned from jello to cement, the actual agenda will be published - expect that to be in early 2016. Until that time, just know that the next **Red Eagle Reunion** will be held at **Dayton Ohio** during the weekend of **10 September 2016. Save the date!**

D. We had less than 20 voters in the 2013 Board

Member election which was conducted via email. Consequently, with the objective of getting more participation, we also voted to delay the next election from 2015 to 2016. That will enable us to hold the election coincidental with the reunion (during the business meeting); and match the 'every two years' election requirement with each subsequent reunion (assuming we retain a two year reunion cycle).

E. A question was raised at the end of the meeting, "What exactly are we allowed to talk about concerning the Red Eagles". The response was two-fold: first, "No document exists that specifically spells out all the particular areas that that question entails"; and, second, the guideline answer is, "Our operation has been declassified and we are allowed to talk about the 4477TEF/TES as it pertains to our operations at Tonopah Test Range Airfield during the period of our official time of existence, summer 1978 to spring 1988." To amplify, we can talk about our MiGs, but not their source. We can talk about our base (including its construction), people, operations, maintenance and logistics; and some, but **not** necessarily **all**, of the corollary/ancillary support organizations that may have interacted with us. At one time or another, most, if not all of us, were assigned to other organizations that were also classified - their classification/declassification status remains in their purview. If you have a question in your mind, ask yourself if the subject aligns with the above. If the answer is yes, you are okay. If it is no, don't talk about it. If you are unsure, use your best judgment - my advice is to defer to the side of conservatism. Hope that helps!

That's all I got - have a Merry Christmas and a great 2015.

Mike Scott

2014 Reunion Photos

Neil Henderson and his associate were at the 2014 Red Eagles Reunion events on October the 17th and 18th in Las Vegas. Neil has provided us with a web link to view some of the photos that were taken at that time. Click on the link below to view:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d0voiqmh3ejzzq/AAA3y8qLaHJUUp-aDeBehfOaa?dl=0>

Red Eagles Web Sites of Interest

Just click on the link to take you to that site.

[Red Eagles web site: www.4477reaa.com](http://www.4477reaa.com)

Red Eagles Facebook page. Please feel free to request to join the group:

<http://www.fbjs.facebook.com/groups/75655098950/>

Col Gaillard Peck's book "America's Secret MiG Squadron: The Red Eagles of Project CONSTANT PEG"

http://www.amazon.com/Americas-Secret-MiG-Squadron-CONSTANT/dp/1849089760/ref=sr_1_10?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1409589285&sr=1-10&keywords=gail+peck

In Memoriam

Below is a photo of the "Memory Board" displayed at the 2014 Reunion listing our friends and squadron mates that have passed on. Gone but not forgotten. They will always be in our memories and in our hearts.



In Memoriam

DWIGHT ROYAL- MSgt. Dwight Gene Royal, U.S. Air Force, Retired, of Henderson, passed away Monday, Oct. 27, 2014. He was born May 27, 1954, in Elkin, N.C., to Dwight and Gina Royal. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1973 until he retired in 1993 and began working as a bus driver for Clark County School District. After retiring from the military, Dwight returned to college to pursue his passion of a higher education and became a special education teacher with the Clark County School District at South Continuation School in Las Vegas. He is survived by his wife, Susan Royal; his daughters, Savannah Grace and Shannon Marie Royal.

The Red Eagles Store

We now have a variety of new items available and ready for sale in the Red Eagle Store. Prices includes shipping and handling. When ordering more than one item you can email or contact me to adjust the shipping cost.

Please send check or money order made out to the "Red Eagles Alumni Association" or "REAA" and enclose a note with the name of the item you want, how many, what size for shirts and where to send it.

Send to:

Ben Galloway
3732 Bar 10 Road
Calhan, CO 80808
719-683-8945
bgalloway5@elpasotel.net



Red Eagles Tee shirt, sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL- \$17.00



4477th Farkel Dice Game- \$6.00



4477th Lapel Pin- \$6.00



Coins, front and obverse



4477th Unit Coin- \$6.00



4477th Reunion 2014 Poker chip- \$4.75



4477th Red Eagles Poker chip- \$3.75



MIG-17,21 and 23 Lapel Pins- \$6.00 each.
We currently have only 1 MIG-17 pin in stock with more on the way