

RED EAGLES NEWSLETTER



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FELLOW RED EAGLES:

SPRING 2018



Some Red Eagle Info

Yes, it's been awhile since our last Newsletter. Sorry, but, we chose to delay sending something until we had something to say! We now have something to say; so, here you go! I'll address the first subject, Board business, in this article. Other issues will be provided separately.

First, John 'Admiral' Nelson reports our treasury reflects approximately \$18,000. His comment is that the total is relatively stagnant due to two phenomena: many members opted for lifetime dues and are now all paid up; and, due to the many of you that did not opt for lifetime dues — guess!!! We've received some dues and it is appreciated — to the rest of you who have not gotten at it, yet — **Please pay your dues** (note: if you plan to attend the 2018 reunion, it will be worth your while to be a 'dues paid-up' member — just sayin' — but, even if you don't attend, stuff still needs to get done and eventually, without dues, we will not be able to do it!) Our website, www.4477reaa.com provides the info on how to join and pay your dues. Just click on the '**Contact Us**' button. Admiral also reports that our tax statement has been filed and our business license has been renewed (using treasury/dues money — hint, hint!) — we're still a viable, non-profit organization.

Board Organization — Same old, same old! As this was a non-reunion, non-election year, we did not have any change in Board composition — neither did the organization change: Jim 'Bluto' Keys continues as Vice President, Larry 'Mase' Mason continues as Secretary, and I remain the President. The permanent positions also remain the same: Admiral as Treasurer and Ben Galloway as Editor.

2017 REAA Accomplishments — The most noteworthy was the realization of sourcing and, then, inspiring motivation to acquire a former Red Eagle MiG 23 for display at the National Museum of the Air Force in Dayton — the jet arrived at the Museum late in the winter and is now on display. Thanks to Gail 'Evil' Peck, Herb 'Hawk' Carlisle, John 'Flash' Mann and the many others whose special contacts, influence, and general political acumen made this happen! On that same level of noteworthiness, REAA folks (Chuck Holden, Gail Peck and Earl Henderson to name a few) were major influences in the decision to rename the Nellis Threat Training Facility ('Petting Zoo') after our first Commander, Glenn 'Pappy' Frick. We also initiated a project to place a Red Eagles monument/memorial at the USAF Museum — it is discussed elsewhere in the Newsletter. As part of the process for placing the monument, we discovered that the Air Force history office has only a skeletal, rudimentary (fancy words for 'almost none') record of our history. We've met with Nellis' 57Wg historian and are working to rectify this problem.

The preceding reflects our major work — as always, various members are occasionally called upon to present a program to some organization or another, provide history to some media folks, and generally, do the things that if we did not have our organization, would stand a good chance of not happening. A tenet of our charter is to ensure our story gets told and does not get lost — 2017 saw your REAA doing just that! 2018 promises to be another busy year — your REAA will keep on doing just that! Pay your dues!

Editor's Spring Column:

Spring is here, time to start moving:

- Time to dust off winter's cobwebs and start caring for the outside of the house.
- Prep the flower beds and fertilize the lawn.
- Spring cleaning is always a pain but necessary to clear away the stale smell of winter in a closed-up house.
- Time to take off the snow tires and have the car serviced for the warm weather ahead.
- It's never too early to clean the grill and start cooking outside. Cook some ribs for me.
- 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

Red Eagle Reunion – 8-11 Nov 2018

Museum Red Eagle Monument

Yes, it's true – we will be holding a reunion in 2018. We are still fine-tuning and will get reunion registration details to you later this spring. But, for now, some information we do know: **The city** – Las Vegas NV; **The date** – 8-11 Nov; **The hotel** – Arizona Charlie's on Decatur; **The banquet** – Our banquet will be about two blocks away at the Las Vegas Elks Lodge located on West Charleston; **The banquet speaker** – Chuck Magill, a Marine fighter pilot who trained against us in the 80's; then, as an F-15 Air Force exchange pilot in the first Gulf War, downed a MiG. The banquet will be held the evening of the 10th. We will also have an event on the 9th (see separate article), and will be open for reunion check-in the evening of the 8th. Hotel reservation and reunion registration are two separate steps you will have to take. Reunion registration details will be provided at a later date. Hotel reservation info follows.

We have blocked a number of rooms for each night – the block expires on 1 October, so it is not necessary to register at this time. But, for you early birds, hotel registration is already available. Call Arizona Charlie's Reservation Center, (800) 342-2695 and reference group code **C-4477** or simply mention **4477th Red Eagles Alumni Reunion**. Expect room rates (tax is included) as follows: 8 Nov - \$45.20; 9 Nov - \$73.45; 10 Nov - \$84.75; 11 Nov - \$45.20. The normal 'resort fee' has been waived.

That's all the reunion news, for now. Stay tuned.

Red Eagles to Be Inducted Into Nevada Aerospace Hall of Fame!

Yes – the headline is correct! We just (as the Newsletter was being developed) received word from the Executive Director of Nevada's Aerospace Hall of Fame that their Board has selected our group to be inducted into that select group. Induction ceremonies are tentatively set to occur on 9 November, 2018; thus, allowing us to incorporate it into our reunion. As details firm, we will include them in our reunion mailings. If you are interested in additional information about their organization, their website is www.nvahof.org. Another great reason to join us in November!

In Memoriam

Luis Hinostrosa, TSgt., USAF Ret., Passed away 18 Jan 2018 in Del Rio, Texas. Luis served with the Red Eagles as a Fireman from 1979 to 1984. I stopped by to visit with Luis the first part of September of last year on the last leg of my summer trip. I spent some time with Luis and his wife, Jerrie, and we talked about the old days. It was a good visit.



We have arrived at the point where all the talk, ideas and suggestions are ready to become a reality! The design is final; the placement spot at the National Museum of the Air Force is selected; we have sufficient funds to sign a contract — we will be signing the dotted line to make it happen! At that point, we expect a 4-6 month period until it is completed. When a completion date is assured, we will schedule and advertise a dedication to be held at the Museum. Our goal is for that to happen in the early fall, prior to the reunion, so we can provide a video of the ceremony for those that are unable to attend in person.

Some hurdles remain – they are not showstoppers, however. The first hurdle deals with final approval from the Air Force hierarchy. The committee has worked hand-in-hand with the manufacturer and the Museum's monument honcho – we expect approval but we won't be surprised if some unknown issue surfaces. Due to our classification history, the journey to this point has revealed some interesting 'prove it' requirements as we moved along – they haven't been insurmountable, just time consuming! Hopefully, we won't be surprised!

The second deals with funding. Contributions have been absolutely fantastic! However, now that we have our desired product finalized, we find the cost exceeds our collected funds. So, what do we do? **The Plan** - We are moving forward with the project and asking those Red Eagles who have pledged an amount but have not sent it in to do so – it's time and we need it! We are also asking Red Eagles who, for whatever reason, have not yet chosen to participate to give it some more thought. Finally, some folks who've already contributed have indicated a willingness to provide more, if needed. But, before we tap their generosity, we, first, want to afford those who haven't contributed another opportunity to do so. Bottom-line – by hook or by crook – this project will get done!

The following provides some info to help with your decision making:

How Much Do We Need? \$24,000. **How Much Do We Have?** \$15,000. **What amount are Red Eagles Donating?** 75 contributors have provided an average of \$200. The donated amounts range from \$50 to \$1000. Any amount helps! **When Do We Need It?** ASAP. **How Do We Provide It?** Send to 'Admiral' Nelson at our Red Eagle PO box in St George UT. The address:

John Nelson
PO Box 910564
St George UT 84791

If I Have Some Other Questions, Where Can I Get The Answers? Contact Mike 'Scotty' Scott, at mikebonscott@gmail.com. Phone conversations are also welcome – just email your contact number – you'll get a return call! **What Will It Look Like?** Pretty much like the pictures! See next pages for a better view.

We think we've designed something that our grandchildren's grandchildren can look at and proudly say, "One of my people was a Red Eagle!"



4477th Test and Evaluation Squadron 'Red Eagles' America's Secret MiG Squadron

This tribute is placed to recognize all the men and women of the 'Red Eagles' and the many Higher Headquarters personnel who contributed to the success of Project CONSTANT PEG.

From April 1977 to July 1990, the 'Red Eagles' of the 4477th Test and Evaluation Squadron executed the secret mission of Project CONSTANT PEG. The mission involved covertly obtaining and flying Soviet designed MiG-17, MiG-21, and MiG-23 fighter aircraft. Headquartered at Nellis AFB NV, the 'Red Eagles' flew out of remote Tonopah Test Range Airfield, located in the NW corner of the vast Nellis AFB NV training area. During the period July 1979 to March 1988, 'Red Eagle' pilots from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps secretly flew over 15,000 MiG sorties while exposing almost 6,000 Air Force, Navy and Marine fighter crews to the unique capabilities of the threat aircraft types they would likely face in the event of a conflict. Our secret was not publicly revealed until October 2006.

Special Honor is accorded to three dedicated men who lost their lives while performing the 'Red Eagle' mission.

Lieutenant Melvin Hugh Brown, (USN), MiG-17 Mishap, 23 August 1979

Captain Mark Francis Postai, (USAF), MiG-23 Mishap, 21 October 1982

Technical Sergeant Rey Hernandez, (USAF), Industrial Mishap, 15 February 1984

Front



Dedicated By the 'Red Eagles' Alumni Association xxxxx xx 2018

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