



**July
2019**

**281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER
COMPANY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER**

No. 72

**50th Anniversary Reunion
San Antonio, Texas
October 4-5, 2019**

At the historic Menger Hotel in the heart of all the downtown activities with a special room rate of \$124.00 per night with extra rooms available Tuesday thru Sunday. Call [1-800-345-9285](tel:1-800-345-9285) for reservations (ask for 281st AHC Reunion).



281st AHC 50th Anniversary by Wes Schuster, VP

How many 50th Anniversaries are there? There is only one in a lifetime. Don't miss this one! It is going to be special. All the stops have been pulled to make our 50th Anniversary reunion the one for the ages! We are getting together in one of this country's best small cities, San Antonio, Texas. There are many attractions and the weather will be perfect in early October. See the Alamo, ride a boat through the Riverwalk, stroll around the market, enjoy great restaurants and stay in a hotel loaded with history and character. This is all at your doorstep. We have the best location in town. That is just the beginning. Our 50th Reunion will have a decidedly western theme. Wear your boots, come casual and enjoy the good food, music and entertainment. Friday we will have a Mexican buffet, live music and a slide show. On Saturday we will have a special business meeting and announcements to be made about our future. Of course we will honor our fallen Intruders in the afternoon but in a very different way. In the evening we will have a barbeque, a western slide show, music, and entertainment of a world-class magician.



Be sure not to miss this one. Bring your family and friends. Capture San Antonio at its best. Come early, stay late, enjoy the town, see your buddies but by all means don't miss this great **281st 50th Anniversary!**



Latest update from Brian Paine

We are now about three months away from San Antonio. It's been nearly two years since I started this project! The hotel is sending me reservation information and they are starting to book reservations. They have blocked out a bunch of rooms for us with a deadline of September 1. Happily we are approaching our goal. There are still rooms available at our discounted rate of \$124 per night. They are in both the old section and the new section and some have balconies. You can make your choice when you contact the hotel. Act now so you won't miss out on this great deal. See y'all in San Antonio soon! If you have any questions or need help, feel free to call me 713-899-2511 Thanks, Brian...your reunion guy.

ATTENTION !!!**YOU WILL BE VOTING ON AMENDMENTS TO OUR BY-LAWS AT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN SAN ANTONIO**

There are three components to these amendments:

- 1.) **Organizational Structure**, a smaller more focused Executive Board.
- 2.) **Term Limits** that are flexible and potentially longer.
- 3.) **Reunion Chairman** who is part of the core decision-making group. He will no longer be an appointed position but an elected officer of the board.

In addition, there is an amendment for **Survivor Honorary Membership** that makes it automatic for any surviving immediate family member who qualifies for membership without Executive Board approval.

Also we are eliminating an award for **Past Presidents**. We decided we don't need another wall hanging.

Given the inevitable trend toward reduced membership it is proposed that a smaller executive board with flexible term limits will ease the problem of finding qualified personnel. Additionally, by focusing on reunions it will ensure our core objective to maintain our camaraderie.

The Executive Board has approved these amendments and recommends a yes vote.

Your approval of these amendments will be sought at the General Membership Meeting in San Antonio.

To find the proposed amended By-Laws dated July 12, 2019 please go to: 281st.com/proposed

To find the current By-Laws, go to the 281st.com website, click the column on the right labeled Member Area and click on By-Laws on the top menu.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Wes Schuster. VP at weschuster@gmail.com



Beating the Air into Submission!

Things I wanted to accomplish as President of the 281st AHC Association by Lou Lerda

Unfortunately, the effects of Agent Orange are taking their toll and I will not be able to attend the reunion in San Antonio. As president of your Association, I spent time looking at ways to streamline and upgrade the By-Laws of the organization and to call issues to your attention that in my opinion needed corrective actions while we have the active manpower to accomplish these issues. Thank goodness for folks currently on the EB and past presidents who are currently working on these issues. The following are my primary thoughts, but by no means all the issues, that I feel need to be constructively addressed.

The issue of Honorary Membership. Since this privilege would be extended to our wives and families upon our demise, why not do it NOW with an option for applicable members to opt out if desired. Although this may sound like a closure move, it is merely a consolidation of effort and resources on the part of the association.

Where do we want the Association to proceed in the future? When the last member dies, does the organization cease to exist or will it conceivably continue under the guidance of our family members. If the former is true, what actions does the

association need to accomplish NOW to preserve the funds and records of all that we have established and accomplished to this point in time. **One issue is what do we do with the scholarship fund so it is not absorbed into a state or federal government agency pot.** To whom or where are the records, historical items, guideons, and memorial items to be sent for storage and safe keeping? Are we continually reviewing and updating our By-Laws to insure that they are correct and pertinent to our association and that no unusual or unapproved additions have been made to them. Although these are simple issues, we need to plan for appropriate action before the task becomes too daunting for the last man standing.

Simplification of taskings that now fall on EB members for such items as reunion planning. By stating that we should consider Mini Reunions, which was approved in Washington, DC in 2017, there are those members who had or possibly still have the idea that this meant small group reunions. Not so! For those of you who attended the reunion in Gettysburg, I tried to set an example of what a mini reunion would consist of. A simple but adequate location and setting where we can gather and talk, enjoy a variety of activities together and just continue our personal contacts and friendships without running ourselves ragged, trying to find appropriate guest speakers, and keeping the cost of the event reasonable. My personal feelings in this matter are that an EB member should still be the “go to” individual, but folks with the local knowledge and in close proximity to the chosen location should be the head honchos.

I did not expect to be limited in my ability to actively pursue my duties during my term on the EB but the effects from Agent Orange have changed that. It also prompted me to compose this message to you to insure all of you know that this is not a “bail out” on my part. Each individual within the organization needs to recruit their former and current friends to take an active part to continue the 281st AHC Association. The unit and each one of us has a special place in U.S. Army Aviation history. We were and still are a unique unit and a special group of individuals in the way that we respect and treat each other, NEVER let that change. I will still retain the position of Association President until the Executive Board convenes at the San Antonio Reunion this October. Lou Lerda



SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

by Dr. Karen Heintz-Forch, Secretary

We currently have three students being funded by the 281stAHC Scholarship Program. They are:

1. **Andrea Rutledge**, completing her first year at Montana State University.
2. **Abigail Blessing**, completing her second year at University of Texas-Austin.
3. **Jenna Hartz**, Bowling Green State University (Ohio), completing her first year.

All three have a GPA of 3.0 or above and are qualified to receive further funding when approved by the committee.

Onnie (JR) Watson graduated with Honors from Fairmont State University in West Virginia and will be attending graduate school at American University in Washington, DC. He will not be funded for his graduate program as he has used his eight semesters of funding. We are all very proud of his accomplishments and wish him well at American University.

At the July 1, 2019 deadline for submission, we have two new students applying for scholarships. The decision on these students will be evaluated at the reunion in San Antonio.

Dr. Veronica Mondrios was approved as a new scholarship committee member. She is associated with Rutgers University in New Jersey and is a very qualified educator and a welcome new member to the committee.

Please consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund when you register for the reunion. This is a vital program that is assisting our young people in their college pursuits. We definitely have some outstanding students who are part of our organization.

From Past Prez: Bain Black

I hope everyone had a great Independence Day. Considering the weight-gain, I had a marvelous time. Grilling, apple pie with ice cream, cherry pie with whipped cream, corn and other fresh veggies....yum yum. I need a replacement bathroom scale.

The heat and humidity of summer are upon us in the South. I may complain about the heat, but NC is only tepid compared to AZ!

Unless you have lived in Phoenix, AZ in the summer, you haven't experienced heat! How can heaven in January turn to hell in July/August? And don't believe that dry heat story...when the humidity in Phoenix nears 40% with 110-115 degrees, it is like someone threw water on the rocks in a sauna. Even the Diamondback's baseball stadium is air conditioned. How would you like to have that electric bill?

OK, time to talk business. Unfortunately COL Jack will not be able to join me and Jim Torbert (MOM) on our planning trip to New Orleans the week of 7/22. Our goal is to narrow some of our options for the October 2020 reunion. Why October? Hurricane season is technically over, weather is cooler and there is the Krewe of Boo Parade (10/24) to celebrate Halloween. I have attended it twice, and it is HUGE fun. Those NOLA people know how to partee! It is like Mardi Gras parade without the insane crowds. You will enjoy it.

The 2020 Intruder Reunion is designated a mini-reunion, so we will pass on some of the ceremony....keeping it simple and hopefully cost effective. MOM and I have appointments with the WWII Museum to learn what they offer for veteran groups like ours. Perhaps a group tour and/or dinner or lunch at one of their restaurants on site. This is probably the best WWII museum in the world, and perhaps the best military museum on the planet. You are in for a real treat! They have the only operable PT boat in existence and offer rides on Lake Pontchartrain. A little expensive (\$400 I believe), but maybe we can get a group discount. It may not be for everyone.

The Higgins Hotel (named for the boat, the company and the inventor of the Higgins Boats that landed many of our troops on D-Day) is opening this fall. Jim and I have an appointment with management to see what we can negotiate for rates,

hospitality room, meeting rooms, etc. We do not plan to have banquets or formal meals there. The renderings of this hotel are awesome and it is adjacent to the WWII museum.

Lastly, we have a meeting with NOLA Tourism office to see what they can offer us. All the NOLA people I have spoken with are delightful on the phone. Below are a couple of links that might be of interest.

https://www.nationalww2museum.org/plan-a-visit-gs?gclid=CjwKCAjw36DpBRAYEiwAmVVDMD9wOPdhKzhNc9F4Uauctq9JIGuNIawawADwcsF-8cbDzyIY0DZRgxoCx8D8QAvD_BwE

<https://higginshotelnola.com/>

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, stay healthy and see you in SAT.

Bain

**Ammo, Delta and Hydraulic Fluid By Lance Ham, Wolf Pack 35, 67/68**

Sometime during the preparation for this Delta, I went to Cam Ranh Bay with a large order of various ammo and was told that if I had any trouble getting what I needed, to call Colonel Kelly at Nha Trang Special Forces Headquarters. Somehow I didn't have any trouble with small arms ammo, grenades, etc., but when the supply sergeant read 150 WP (White Phosphorus) and 1500 HE (High Explosive) rockets, he said, "Too many". I asked if I could speak with his supervisor. He called in a Captain who also said he couldn't fill an order that big right now. I asked if I could use his phone, spoke to the Colonel at Nha Trang who said to hang up and wait for a call to that Captain. In just a few minutes the phone rang. The Captain picked it up and said, "Captain so & so Headquarters Supply". Then after a pause..."Oh! Yes sir, fine sir, thank you, sir". He

hung up, turned to the supply sergeant and said, "Give this man any darn thing he wants". I always wondered who was on the other end of that call. About two weeks later, we (the advanced party) were at Polei Kleng filling sandbags for revetments, etc. when someone hollered, "Mr. Ham, I think the Ammo is here". I looked up to see two flatbed semi-trailer trucks with helicopters and ground escort pull up. I ran over, jumped up on a step and told the driver, "This sure looks like a lot of ammo!" He said, "This is only half of it. The rest will be here tomorrow". In disbelief, I looked at his manifest, and it said 7500 rockets. I said, "Gosh, I only ordered 1500 H.E. rockets. Can you take some of them back to Pleiku?" He said, "Hell no! It was dangerous enough getting here!"

Needless to say, I got on a radio and stopped the other 7500 rockets. I guess the supply man got so upset by the phone call that he added another zero to the order (total 15000). They must have come by ship to Qui Nhon, then airfreight to Pleiku and trucked to us and we probably put a lot of folks in Vietnam in short supply. Anyway, we were able to scrounge a bulldozer and forklift and built an earthen revetment. Everyone went to work screwing rockets together (the warheads are in a separate carton). Needless to say, we nearly wore out our rocket pods on the helicopters and would not come back from a mission with even one left in a tube. I never wondered about how high up the food chain Project Delta really was after that. Can you imagine the NVA capturing the shipment by truck from Pleiku to Polei Kleng?

A couple of things worthy of mention happened on that Delta. On one flight, I nosed the Charlie Model over a little abruptly on a rocket run, and the crew chief said, "Sir, we've got hydraulic oil running on the cargo floor!" Well, it doesn't matter if it's from mechanical or a well-placed enemy round, you don't want to lose hydraulics in a Charlie Model Huey. It seems that I remember that you have about five moves before the controls freeze up. Anyway, I think I moved the collective about twice, and the cyclic once all the way back to Polei Kleng and slid it in. After inspection, the crew chief allowed that before the flight he had added some hydraulic fluid and apparently had spilled some that had pooled around the cap and became dislodged in the gun run.

Note: I have hovered UH-1D & H Slicks without hydraulics.but it's a different head and bigger blades on a UH-1C.



Captain Barclay A. Boyd, Wolf Pack 36, as remembered by Earl Broussard

My early Wolf Pack days as I recall them with Captain Boyd.

I had finished aircraft maintenance training at Ft Rucker, Alabama on CH-21 & CH-34s, I knew everything I needed to know about them; I was ready to keep those birds flyable! When I was at Ft Rucker, Alabama I never saw a bunch of the aircraft I was trained on flying around. I arrived in-country on the first of January and was assigned to maintenance working on UH-1D & Cs, good luck with the 34s. Had to study the (Dash)-10s & (Dash)-20 to gather knowledge to work on the new birds. I had been in maintenance working on a PE crew. Later that month I was assigned to 1st Flight Platoon to crew aircraft 626 (myself and Eddie Phillips were assigned to the aircraft.) On the first of March, we were in Ben Hoa at a C Team, 5th Special Forces Group in support of the C Team. We had just heard that aircraft 711, with the crew, was shot down in the Delta supporting Can Tho. The crew-members were Specialist Frank Little and Ronald (Red) Renfrow who were also members of the 1st Flt Platoon. We found out later that Frank Little was not present during the crash as he was in the hospital with Malaria. Red Renfrow was injured seriously with burns over 50% of his body and was medevac'd to the states. Our spirits were really low.

The next day I was ordered to Phu Bai as a replacement crew-chief on a Gunship. I arrived a couple of days later at the forward operating base (FOB). I was assigned to the Third Flight Platoon, "WolfPack". I hadn't heard of that Platoon and I was not acquainted with anyone in the platoon. I was assigned to A/C 553 by Sergeant Bitle, the new Platoon Sergeant. My helicopter was a Minnie Gun Ship with a Minnie Gun on each pylon, seven-shot rocket pods on each of the hardpoints. Does all this sound confusing? Just imagine an 18-year-old turning 19 on the 24th of January; going to the ultimate in life and death situations. I studied those maintenance manuals until I wore out the pages and was still referring to them until I left the unit. I never tried to memorize any clearances or torques or any specifics about the aircraft. One of the instructors at Fort Rucker told us to always refer to the -20 when making repairs. Worked for me! A few days later I was baptized in being under fire with someone trying to kill me. We were assigned to retrieve a Road Runner Team in the A Shau Valley. Welcome to the PROJECT DELTA FOB! Captain Boyd came out to the ship and introduced himself by asking? "Is this helicopter going to fly," and I replied, "Yes Sir!" The flight took off and headed west toward Laos. The slicks were in a staggered trail formation with the gunships in the rear. Once we arrived on station, a slick went down to identify the Road Runners. They weren't identified by facial recognition but by the way the three colored scarves they wore were tied to specific portions of their body. If their scarves were not tied in the correct manner the team had been infiltrated by the enemy. This particular team was not identified as ours and we rolled in hot and firing. We fired up the personnel on the ground and when we opened fire all hell broke loose. This was true "Hell from above." We were a heavy fire team with three gunships performing gun-runs in a Daisy Wheel fashion. We were all receiving heavy small arms fire from all around us. We had made our second or third trip on gun runs and I had been firing my M60 throughout all the runs when William (Bill) O'Hare, my door-gunner, roughly tapped me on my shoulder. I looked over at him and he was pointing at Captain Boyd, I had already noticed that Captain Boyd was shouting and signaling quite vigorously to do something. Bill signaled for me to look at my mike cord and I

noticed that my mike cord was shot in two, about an inch from my helmet. Captain Boyd had wanted me to stop shooting as the fast movers (Jet fighters) were on station and the FAC was going to direct them to the targets. Bill told me to look at my hands and face as he noticed that I had blood on my face and hands. I had been hit by the aluminum material that was part of the floor of the aircraft. They were all superficial wounds and only required wiping off with a rag. We headed back to rearm and refuel the helicopter.

As we had been under fire, I performed an after-flight inspection on my aircraft. I found a bullet hole in the floor and pulled the inspection panel where I found that the bullet had hit the aircraft from the bottom. There was no damage to the aircraft control bell cranks. Then I looked upon the top of the cabin and found where the round had exited. I also found another hole in the top of the engine access door & opened the door to expose the engine compartment. There was a hole on the floor of the engine compartment near the engine mounting bracket that mounted the engine to the aircraft. The bullet missed all components around the engine compartment. However, the bullet went through the fuel cell, but it was a small arm round and the sealing gel in the fuel cell sealed the hole it made. (That fuel cell was never changed all the time I crewed aircraft 553.). All in all, we had to do some quick sheet metal repairs and the aircraft was good to go. Most bullet holes were repaired by using metal from beer cans.

We were about through with the sheet metal work when Captain Boyd returned to the aircraft to see how things were going. He was happy that the helicopter was going to continue to be mission ready. I could tell that he wanted to enlighten me that the order of authority while in flight started with AC. I thought sure that I was going to get my rear end chewed out. Instead, he said I couldn't have done anything else to change what happened that morning when I continued to fire after he called for cease-fire. He told me to be more aware of what was going on in the aircraft. He was a little bit more animated than what I wrote here, but he ended the discussion with, "A Good Job."

Captain Boyd was an excellent platoon commander. He was fair and consistent; all any soldier could ask for in a leader.
Earl Broussard, 1/67 - 1/68



Aaron Rich by Don Torrini

50 years ago we served together as Army Aviators with the 281st AHC in the Viet Nam War during 1967/68. Today the 281st AHC is recognized as the first U. S. Army Special Operations Aviation unit.



The 281st was assigned to supporting the 5th Special Forces Group, and specifically Project Delta. During Project Delta deployments we encountered heavy enemy activity. On March 16, 1968, we were inserting a ranger unit into a landing zone in the A Shau Valley. The area was heavily populated with North Viet Nam Army units. Three insertion aircraft landed and inserted the rangers, as Aaron departed the LZ, his aircraft was hit with heavy automatic fire and Aaron received a 51 Caliber hit to both legs and the aircraft received damage and crash landed. I was flying the recovery aircraft and landed to pick up Aaron, and the Special Forces medic on board our aircraft attended to Aaron. We managed to get him to medical help back at our base. Aaron was evacuated to the military hospital in Da Nang and then onto Japan.

I did not know that Aaron had survived his wounds until 31 years later. In July 1999, I decided to attend the 281st AHC reunion in Nashville, TN. I remember entering the hotel and called my wife, Carol. I told her that I thought I was at the wrong hotel; Carol asked why and I said that this hotel was hosting a geriatric's convention, Carol said no, you are at the right hotel. I went to the area where the 281st was having the reunion and met with men that I hadn't seen in years. After a while I noticed a person entering the room, I was amazed, it was Aaron. We immediately hugged and had a wonderful reunion. We have been close friends ever since.

We have always considered Aaron a gentleman. Aaron was always friendly and respectful to others. He was well respected both as a pilot and as a person. Aaron was a team player and could always be counted on at all times.

Aaron Rich by John (Jack) Mayhew

Fifty years ago Aaron and I joined the 281st at about the same time and I had the honor of serving with him throughout my service with the unit. In the Vietnam war, Aaron, along with a few hundred other young men drew the most dangerous jobs of the war; flying and maintaining helicopters that supported Special Operations of the 5th Special Forces Group, who operated in the remote areas of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Within this group of exceptional young men, Aaron stood out. He was a calm individual who believed in what he was doing and took his assignments seriously.

Aaron had a deep respect for his fellow soldiers, without regard to their duty position or rank, and in turn, we all held him in high esteem. He was a team player and could be counted on to accomplish the most difficult and dangerous missions successfully. He accomplished each assignment with the same steady, and quiet professionalism that became his trademark in life.

Aaron and his fellow Intruders wrote the book on helicopter support of special operations. In developing the pages of history, Aaron was a living example of the best of the best. I speak for all the Intruders when I say, serving with Aaron in war and knowing him in later life was a privilege and a high honor. He was our friend and a leader of men that we all respected and looked up to.

Please Don't Leave Me, by Jack Mayhew

In the late summer of 1967, I had the experience of a lifetime that I shall never forget. In a place called An Hoa, I flew my first mission with the Delta Rangers. . At that point I had almost three years of experience flying in Vietnam, Thailand, and Laos, most all of it in twin-engine fixed-wing aircraft. Although I was qualified in several choppers including the UH1, all of my helicopter time had been in the states and I was the newbie in the 281st. On this morning the 281st Intruder task force was inserting a company of the 81st ARVN Rangers. A few moments before liftoff a young US Army Lieutenant came up to my side of the helicopter and introduced himself as Charlie Ford, the Ranger Company advisor and stated that he had a request. I asked him what we could do for him and he replied that he had three days to go before he left for Nha Trang and out-processing to go home and that he would appreciate it if we did not leave him in the AO! I shook his hand and assured him we would do our best to get him back on time.

The rest of that day was uneventful and late in the afternoon his unit was in great shape with no NVA contact. At daybreak the next morning we were alerted by the Delta FAC that the unit was in trouble. In minutes the Intruder C&C, accompanied by a heavy fire team was in route to the AO! As we passed over a small mountain range we had a good view of AO and a river that bordered it and we immediately saw the problem. During the night a large number of NVA troops had come down the river on makeshift rafts and having beached their rafts on the river banks they had engaged the Rangers in close combat. We established the Rangers location, and the Wolf Pack went to work. The FAC requested emergency TAC Air support and left the area. By mid-morning the reinforced Bandits had inserted the remaining elements of the Ranger Battalion, and the battle raged on. During the day we resupplied the rangers, evacuated their dead and wounded and coordinated the TAC Air support. In the process we lost three helicopters that were shot down. We recovered the crews and destroyed the downed aircraft. We lost three Intruders to medical evacuation.

By late afternoon the NVA troops had enough of the Rangers, the Wolf Pack, and continued heavy bombing by TAC Air, and they withdrew, leaving

their rafts behind. We extracted the Ranger Battalion and that night the B52s conducted multiple ARC Light strikes on the NVA departure route.

When we closed at the FOB with the last of the rangers, young Lt. Ford was standing by the revetment waiting to thank us for not leaving him on the battlefield. We put him on the admin Otter the next morning for Nha Trang and home. Sad note: Charlie Ford was killed in a stateside helicopter crash a few years later.



The following menu is from a Mess Hall invitation in about 1968. It shows that war was not always hell, sometimes it tasted pretty good. We were fortunate to live with the 5th SF and eat in their mess hall, and the extra money above the monthly meal ticket cost from the separate rations pay wasn't bad either.



Wear the Hat by Jay Hays, PX Grunt

Last February while having Lunch with Frank Becker and our wives and wearing our 281st ball caps, a gentleman came up to our table to get a closer look at Frank. It was Paul Talley. Paul's winter home is just a mile from where we stay so we were able to enjoy about 6 weeks of comradery. Paul donated time and helped me repair shopping carts for Sunshine Acres, which receives donations by selling them to support the children's home.



A couple of days later while at the Swap Meet in Mesa, AZ where there were several thousand people in attendance, a Lady saw my hat and said "my

husband was in that unit". My gut reaction was "Yea Right". But thankfully I asked "what is his name" and she replied "Dan Wall". About 20 minutes later we were able to connect. They were only in Mesa for the day on their way back to Washington State.

Richard and Susan Houston of NM were in a Wal Mart in Idaho when another customer saw Richard's hat and said I was in that unit. It was Clint Rodgers and he has received a hat, 2 books and a challenge coin. He was there 5/67 to 5/68 and then back for another 5 months. He plans to attend the reunion in San Antonio.

On several flights this year I have been amazed at the comments I get while wearing the 281st Hat. While purchasing a Gator aid in the airport, I was told it's already been paid for by the guy in front of me. So if you have a hat wear it, if not we have them in inventory. The new reunion shirt is great, we plan to have plenty available at the reunion. See you in San Antonio.

Things to come, 2019 San Antonio 50th Reunion**Obituaries****Eugene Staggs**

Gene served with the 281st AHC as a Wolf Pack Door Gunner from 12/65 until 12/66. He remained in the military and retired as a CWO-4, completing 28 years of service to his country. He was a member of the Intruder association and was living in Angier, NC at the time of his death.



12/4/43 - 12/23/18

**Gary Southwell**

7/4/41 - 7/18/19

Gary served with the 145th ALP (pre-281st) as a pilot. He became an instructor pilot at Ft. Rucker for 39 years. He was a member of the Intruder Association and was living in Detroit, MI at the time of his death.

281st AHC Association Contact Information

Lou Lerda, President marlynlou@comcast.net

Wes Schuster, VP wesschuster@gmail.com

Jim Torbert, Acting Senior Member at Large (SM@L) JTorbs@bellsouth.net

Neil Sprague, Acting Junior Member at Large (JM@L) NJS11@Hotmail.com

Fred Beck, Treasurer Fred281st@outlook.com

Jeff Murray, Secretary Tamu73@sbcglobal.net

Bain Black, Immediate Past President

BainB@roadrunner.com

Will McCollum, Resident Author

willdanmac@yahoo.com

Jim Baker, Scholarship Committee

Bakerjw@icloud.com

Jay Hays, Store Jhays@haysenterprises.com

Dean Roesner, Newsletter deanroesner@aol.com



Registration Form
281st AHC 50th year Reunion
The Historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX

(across the street from the ALAMO)

210-223-4361 or <http://www.mengerhotel.com>

October 2-5, 2019. The hotel will honor our \$124.00 + tax
nightly rate from Oct 2-6. Parking will be \$20.00/night

Member# _____ Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____
Phone# _____ Unit/Plt: _____ Dates in country: _____
Your email address: _____
Name for Nametag: _____ First reunion Y N _____

_____ Guest name for Nametag

_____ Guest name for Nametag

REGISTRATION FEES:

281 ST AHC Annual Membership dues	Annual Fee	\$25.00=\$
Membership Reunion Registration	Member@	\$125.00=\$
Adult Guest fee (16 yrs old and up)	# guests X	\$125.00=\$
One day Adult (any day)	#persons X	\$85.00=\$
Children's fee (11-15 yrs old)	# guests X	\$ 65.00=\$
SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION	2019 TAX DEDUCTABLE	=\$
<u>TOTAL CHECK OR MO=\$</u>		

PAYMENTS: make check or money order payable to: **281ST AHC ASSOCIATION**

Mail payment AND registration form no later than September 1, 2019 to:

281st AHC Association
c/o Fred Beck
205 Carey Ct.
Neenah, WI 54956-9208
Tel: 920-558-4127 / email: Fred281st@outlook.com

Please bring your photos, CD's, books, maps and other memorabilia for sharing and/or display

VOLUNTEER: Registration.....PX.....Hospitality Room.....As Needed.....

THERE WILL BE A LATE FEE OF \$75.00 FOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER SEPT 1, 2019