



April
2022

281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER
COMPANY ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

No. 80

2022 NOLA REUNION by Jeff Murray, Pres.

Y'all know we are heading to New Orleans this September for our reunion. Well I took a planning visit in February and let me tell you, this trip has to be on your bucket list. Here are my reasons:

The WWII Museum. It is right across the street from the hotel, I mean right across the street. We are getting a private viewing of the movie before entry. I haven't seen it but I hear that alone is worth the price of admission. It will take you 2 full days to view the entire place, we give you 1 day as part of the registration fee, and the next day you can go back and view all day for \$7.

The Higgins Hotel. Military themed, luxurious, new, and very nice staff.

Dining. There are some very good local restaurants within 3 blocks, the French Quarter is a short Uber ride away, and there is simply some very unique food in this town.

The WWII Museum. I can't say enough about this place. If you have any memorabilia from WWII, the museum will take it. Peruse the website and bring your items and you can donate them.



REUNION REPORT by Bain Black, Chair

Hello Again Intruders, in the last newsletter we were all pulling for our dear Brother, Jay Hays. Unfortunately, God had other plans for Jay. We will all miss him! I already miss those rambling, energetic phone calls!! RIP Jay and Peace to Doris, Jason and the Hays family.

Planning is well underway for our 2022 Intruder Reunion in New Orleans (NOLA) **September 18-22.**

Seven couples (Black's, Schuster's, Murray's, Hendrick's, Mitchell's, Baker's, and Torbert's) recently visited our host hotel, The Higgins

<https://www.higginshotelnola.com/photos>,



and The National WWII Museum
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/visit/museum-campus-guide>. This will be one of our most memorable reunions, for sure!!

Sunday, early arrival and check-in (Sep 18)
Monday, registration, check-in, and hospitality room.
Tuesday, at the Museum, a private showing of Tom Hanks' 45-minute movie, *Beyond All Boundaries*, access to the museum (you can add a second day for \$7), and luncheon buffet at BB's Stage Door Canteen. We will have our memorial service here as well.

Back at the hotel, we will have a hospitality room where we can mingle and discuss old times.

Wednesday, morning will be business (committee meetings and a general membership meeting) followed by an open afternoon to return to the Museum or tour the city. That night we will have a buffet dinner at the magnificent Higgins Hotel. BTW, the Higgins hotel was named for Andrew Higgins, who designed and manufactured the Higgins Landing Craft used at Normandy as well as PT boats.... all in New Orleans.



The registration deadline is June 1, otherwise a \$50.00 fee will be charged.
The Higgins Hotel will honor our \$149 group rate for reservations made until August 19.

Handicapped accessibility: Hotel and Museum meet ADA requirements. Museum has 30 wheelchairs for use by attendees. If you are interested in rental of a motorized chair (scooter), go to

www.mrwheelchair.com or call 504-834-2810. See page 8 of this newsletter for Registration Form and Hotel Reservation info, or go to www.281st.com

Looking forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans in September!!



New Orleans has it all by Wes Schuster, Past Pres.

There is so much to see and do in New Orleans. Bain has a great reunion planned and it is not to be missed. You should also be there to experience a unique city. Take a streetcar to Jackson Square and enjoy a carriage ride. While you are there view the St Louis Cathedral and stand on the banks of the mighty Mississippi. Be sure to grab a coffee and eat beignets at Café Du Monde and listen to New Orleans jazz. For \$1.50 you can ride the street cars for a day. There are three different lines which all connect to one another (Canal St, Riverside, and St Charles). Dawn and I took a streetcar and walked around the Garden District viewing all the grand mansions and homes of the 1800's. Tours, tours, tours, there are all kinds. In the city, there are bus tours, walking tours (food, cemeteries, architecture). Outside the city there are fan boat tours and plantation tours. And did I mention food. It is a spectacular city for foodies. The specialty is Creole and Cajun cuisine. There is nowhere else you can have the opportunity to enjoy gumbo, Po Boys, jambalaya, etouffee, turtle soup, pralines, king cakes, bananas foster and so much more. So along with your special WWII museum reunion at the best hotel we have ever booked, plan a special vacation in New Orleans. Come early, stay late, and enjoy!



INCIDENTS I REMEMBER While flying single ship out to the far west of Nha Trang, on ash and trash resupply missions, we were at altitude and over all jungle with no villages in sight. The Aircraft Commander (who I no longer remember) had been giving me a hard time that day. Don't even remember what it was about, but at the time I definitely didn't think I deserved it. So as we're peacefully flying along at altitude, I dropped two fragmentation grenades with a one second delay between releasing them. They fell the standard 500 feet and exploded harmlessly below and behind our ship. However, the concussion was felt in the ship as two dull Wump Wumps. Immediately the pilots came alive and said "artillery, do you guys see any impacts on the ground", to the crew in back because we can see the ground far better than they can. Of course the gunner and I said no. The AC called on the radio to check on artillery in the area, so that we didn't fly through the gun/target line and get hit by accident. No artillery in the area, the call came back. So the AC said to us "watch the ground as we fly for any more hits", "yes sir, we'll do that". So, for his being an ass for the day, he just got an increase in his pucker factor, and I got the satisfaction of getting back and not getting caught. Thing is, if he had just done a 90 degree turn and looked back, there were two black puffs in the sky, 500 feet below us and directly behind, but of course he only wanted to keep going straight and clear the area as fast as possible, something I had counted on from the start.



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK by Jim and Marilyn Torbert

The city of Johns Creek, GA has built a Veterans Memorial Walk to pay homage to all Veterans who have served in each conflict beginning with WWI. The Memorial is located inside Newtown Park in the south side of the city. The Memorial features a grand entrance plaza, a wooden gazebo, a fountain, granite benches, and granite monuments representing each conflict involving American armed forces since World War 1 and includes special monuments for Purple Heart Recipients, POW/MIA's, and Women in Service. In 2018 the City announced that the Park

would be the permanent home of "The Wall That Heals". The Wall That Heals is a half-scale replica of the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Like the original monument, the memorial is a black chevron with more than 58,000 names of U.S. service members who lost their lives or were missing in action in Vietnam. Since its beginning in 1996 The Wall That Heals has toured nearly 600 communities.

The 281st AHC Association has become a part of the Memorial for "The Wall That Heals". Thanks to the generous contributions of the Association, and of the following members, a granite bench, engraved with our unit name has been placed on the walk way in front of the Wall. Members who contributed towards the cost of the bench are Jack Mayhew, Jack Interstein, Jim Baker, Jeff Murray, Bain Black, and Jim Torbert. The park is located in Johns Creek, GA which is in the Atlanta area about 30 miles north of downtown Atlanta. Plan on a visit if you are in the area and if you want a personal tour call me (Jim Torbert) and I will meet you there. There is also an opportunity to purchase individual bricks for the walk way around the Memorial if you would like to add a memory of someone.



281st AHC & 54 MISSING bench dedication

VETERANS MEMORIALS

Do you have a veterans memorial in your area? Any time frame/era. Richard Lubic (Bandits 66-67) is putting together an album of veterans memorials across the US. If you would like yours included, please send photos to: Richard Lubic, 705 S. Main St., Plainwell, MI 49080

Below is a new scholarship recipient, the grandson of Wes Schuster, Wolfpack 68-69. From Port St. Lucie, Florida, his major is Aeronautical Meteorology.



To the 281st Scholarship Committee: I am extremely grateful and honored for being this year's scholarship recipient. The sacrifice of those who served our country in the Vietnam War makes this award very meaningful. I am honored to represent Chief Warrant Officer James Dayton who is still MIA. Being the scholarship recipient means a lot to me and my entire family. I have begun my college career at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to study Broadcast Meteorology. I am blessed for receiving this scholarship and I am thrilled to begin my college career! Sincerely, Max Schuster.

A PASSION FOR WEATHER by Wes Schuster

When Max was 3 years old his mother gave him a coloring book of the states. Max immediately began coloring weather patterns, warm fronts, cold fronts and storm fronts. For Max the weather Channel was what cartoons meant for other kids his age. Living in New Hampshire and 10 years old, he submitted an application and video for a select course on meteorology in Boston. The course was designed for high school seniors and college newbies. Based on his video he was accepted and graduated as the youngest student in the program. By the way, one of the final tests was to deliver a forecast without script in the TV studio within the standard time of 2 minutes plus or minus 5 seconds.

In the 6th grade, Max would pin his forecast on the school bulletin board. In the 7th and 8th grade he did video forecasts on the green screen that were broadcast in the school's lunchroom.

Late in Max's freshman year in high school his family moved to Argyle, Texas. There his weather broadcasts became standard fare every morning on

the school monitors. He also began North Texas Weather Center on Facebook. Each year his followers have increased from 800 to 10,000, then 14,500 and today he has over 25,500. The site has become so popular he has paying sponsors. Now that Max is in college in Florida and majoring in meteorology, he continues his daily forecasts for northern Texas. Wherever he travels, home, college or to his grandparents, he travels with his computer and does daily forecasts.

In addition to Max's passion for meteorology, he enjoys singing, is an Eagle Scout, enjoys following the stock market and sports. Max's goal is to be a broadcast meteorologist for a local weather station.

To see one of Max's broadcasts, enter <https://youtu.be/1JEoZu3YVag>



Jerry Montoya (left) and Bain Black (right) receive their Quilts of Valor

There are certain aircraft sounds that can only be heard at night or over the jungle.
Most of them are scary.

The Go-To-Pilots, the All-Night-Crews, and the Ops Folks

It takes an unusual company to perform in the manner the 281st performed in Vietnam. I have been asked many times to explain our success and I simply say; it was the mission. In the standard aviation company you supported different folks each day

which makes it difficult to build relationships. Our relationship was built with the green berets. The SF folks were proud of their unit and that carried down to the 281st. Therefore, the pilots took pride in their ability to pick up a team in trouble, the crew chiefs and door gunners had pride in the reliability of their aircraft as did the maintenance teams, and the ops folks jumped through hoops to insure that all their SF requirements were met on time.

A HEARTFELT LEGACY by Wayne G Beckett

I wanted the 281st Association to know that a scholarship has been established at Washington State University - Vancouver, Washington Branch in Memory of Spec. 5 Scott Eugene Sutherland (KIA May 1970). Scott and I were friends for many years and we enlisted in the Army together right after finishing high school at West Bremerton High School in June of 1968. I remember and think of Scott each and every day. I'm now 71 and not in good health. I was concerned that after I pass on, very few people would remember Scott. So my wife and I established the scholarship in Memory of Scott. The scholarship will be going to veterans, and to receive the scholarship they have to know some information about Scott. I felt that this way Scott would always be remembered many years after I pass on.



Scott Sutherland on right, CE 69-70

CREDIT CARD TIP If your family credit cards are in the name of a single spouse with the other spouse as an authorized user you may want to consider getting your spouse her own card in her own name. Once a cardholder passes, his card becomes frozen

and authorized users have no access. And a spouse with no recent earning history will have trouble getting a new card in her name in a timely manner. That means she will have trouble shopping for anything, including for a funeral, for who knows how long. This may affect more of you than you think as Bank of America is one of the few major banks that still opens joint credit cards. **Joint checking OK, joint credit cards, not so much.**

THE NEW 281st BOOK by Will McCollum and Jack Mayhew

This last book "**THE GREATEST RESPECT**" has more than eighty stories and lots of pictures. Some of the titles are:

I WONDER IF SHE REMEMBERS ME?

COBRA

**THE BEST OF TIMES THE WORST OF TIMES
BARRACK SHOOTING**

LOSING SIGHT OF THE TEAM

UNFORGETTABLE CHARACTERS

THE RECOLLECTOR

SIR LISTEN TO ME

HOME COOKING WITH BANDIT FLAVOR

and at least seventy more. It takes me about two years from start to finish to complete a book like this. And, then the editing starts and never ends. I have had lots of help from Jack Mayhew, and two great proofreaders. I think this one is the best, but I thought that about the other three.

The manuscript has been sent to the publisher, it will be the same size as our "**WOLF PACK**" book with maybe a few more pages. This book will be in the PX sometime in May this year. Thanks to everyone, it has been a great ride.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT by Jim Baker, Chair

Your Scholarship Fund is proudly continuing support to students from seven of our families. One of our students, Andrea Rutledge, granddaughter of John Korsbeck, completed her studies and graduated early in December. All those remaining are justifying the support you provide by working hard and continuing to excel with their education.

The Scholarship Committee will be accepting for review new applications from current high schoolers at the end of the current school year. As a reminder, new applications must be received by the Fund Secretary by June 15 to be considered for acceptance in the program. All details regarding the Scholarship

Fund can be found by clicking the "Scholarships" link on our website, 281st.com. Questions regarding anything about the Scholarship program can be directed to me (bakerjw@icloud.com) or the Fund Secretary, Karen Forcht (kforcht@elon.edu).

You have done a great job with your contributions in support of all our students, current and future. As the cost of education goes up for these ladies and gentlemen and their families, I urge you to continue that support. It is important and very much appreciated, as indicated by the thank you note we received from Maxwell Schuster that appears nearby. Thank you again from the Scholarship Committee, and I hope to see you in New Orleans in September.

MEMORIES FROM A RAT PACKER by Ron

Turner, Pilot, 1970 12 July 1970, 281st AHC, Nha Trang. Took close to an hour to get there...dinner time. Place didn't seem too bad. Hell, it had paved roads. It looked like the entire base area & barracks were undergoing major renovations. We pulled up to the 281st transient barracks and tossed our belongings on the ground, scaring a bunch of F-You lizards that got up on their hind legs and began running in multiple directions. We were told that the rest of the Company was deployed into Cambodia so there weren't many people around the base. After checking in at Ops, I got assigned to a 4-person room with another newbie Sid Hardeman, and a seasoned W2 who was in Cambodia. The barracks looked worse than the ones we had left in Long Bien but this was home. Sid pointed to the empty upper bunk across from him. The heat was unbearable, even with fans pointing directly on you.

With everyone gone, all we could do was odd jobs, check out the PX for our own fans and music, and go to the club to eat, drink and play slot machines. The club was shared between us and the 5th SFG officers and I quickly learned that when the SF guys weren't in the field, they ate really, really well. My first meal on base was steak & scallops. It was almost like eating stateside in a restaurant on Cape Cod. I had to wait about two weeks for the IP to get back from R&R to get a check ride and start flying again. Yes, finally!! I was assigned to the Rat Pack flight and we flew a few resupply missions between Nha Trang, Cam Ranh, Dong Ba Thin, and some of the SF camps out by Loc Thien, Ban Me Thuot, and Duc Lap while waiting for the rest of the company to return.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT NEWSLETTER

ATTENTION FOR THE PX STORE

The store and book sales will continue and be handled by Donna Ball. Contact info at end of the newsletter and on the Website.

To All Brothers and Sisters of the 281st:

Cheryl, Daughter Amy and I arrived in Lordstown, Ohio on Thur. Dec. 16, 2021, to attend the funeral of our Brother Jay Hays. That evening son Jason invited us over to the house. When we arrived, Doris and Jason, son Jim and Daughter Dory were all that was there. Doris seemed rather down, but as the evening developed, and Jay Jr. and the grandkids started to arrive, her spirits improved. Rich Schleher, Barb and daughter, Norn Kaufman and Marjorie also arrived. At eight o'clock it had been arranged to have a toast, there, and at some other locations, to Jay for a life well lived. There were stories of three brothers, a little sister, with some cousins, and Jay; it is a wonder that Doris lived through it all.

Friday, they held a private service at 9 o'clock and visitation at 10 to 12:30 o'clock. There was a line waiting all the time. We then made our way across Lordstown to the cemetery where the daughter they lost at a very young age is buried. They had a small chapel on site that everyone barely fit into. The local VFW held a full military service with 21 guns, taps and all. After they finished and before the flag folding, our own Norm K. had a few words and a prayer. Then they very sharply folded the flag and presented it to Doris. After that Rich, Norm and I went forward and, on behalf of the brothers of the 281st, we gave the flag case to the Hays family. We then moved to the local VFW where they had lunch for all. Later that evening we again went over to the house with their family, Norm, Rich, and I and our families. I put the flag in the case with the plaque and pins. Doris, Norm, Rich and I and our wives had a picture taken with the completed flag and case. Saturday, we left for the 10-hour trip back to Missouri. We arrived home at 12:30 Sunday morning!!! Don't know about the other two but I had a very bad case of TB (tired butt). I texted Jason Sunday to tell him we had made it home safely and how was Doris doing? He said good, as she was playing Grandma, her favorite job.

It was a sad trip but a happy one also as Jay had lived a good life and to the fullest. Had done a lot of

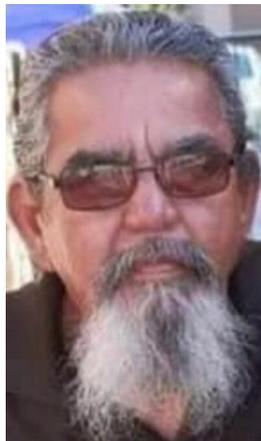
things and been a good friend to all. Still had a lot of things to do but I guess GOD had a chopper that needed crewing or a PX that needed someone to run. So long my friend till we meet again, take care of your little daughter up there, from your Intruder brothers. Respectfully, Frank Becker



Barb & Rich Schleher, Doris Hays, Cheryl & Frank Becker, Marge & Norm Kaufman

OBITUARIES

Manuel Gutierrez, Jr.
Served in 1st Platoon (Rat Pack) as a Crew Chief
1-70 to 10-70



5-14-49 to 1-31-22

James A. Wright
Served in 1st Platoon (Rat Pack) as a Crew Chief.
67 to 68



2-28-45 to 9-29-21



10-24-48 to 12-6-21

Rudy Sangl
Served in 3rd Platoon (Wolf Pack) as a Pilot.
4-70 to 12-70

Jay Hays
Served in 2nd Platoon (Bandits) as a Crew Chief and Platoon Sergeant.
11-67 to 11-68
Served in 281st AHC Reunion Association as PX Grunt and any other job that was needed!



6-8-47 to 12-13-21

281st AHC Association Contact Information
THE EXECUTIVE BOARD (Elected)

Jeff Murray, President Tamu73@sbcglobal.net
George Dossett, V Pres. georgedossett@att.net
Dave Mitchell, Secretary djmitch0470@gmail.com
Fred Beck, Treasurer Fred281st@outlook.com
Bain Black, Reunion Chair kbainblack@gmail.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS (Abbreviated list)

Fred Beck, Membership Committee Chairman
fred281st@outlook.com
Brent Gourley, Internet Groups Administrator
bgrlyy@gmail.com
Will McCollum, Assoc. Resident Author
willdanmac@yahoo.com
Jim Baker, Scholarship Committee Chairman
Bakerjw@icloud.com
PX Store Donna@haysenterprises.com
Jack Mayhew, Remembrance Committee Chairman
intruder06@me.com
Dean Roesner, Newsletter deanroesner@aol.com



Registration Form

281st AHC Association 2022 Reunion

The Higgins Hotel, New Orleans, LA

Call: 504-528-1941 (Ref Code AHCCI)

or <https://group.curiocollection.com/yaw4xj>

September 18-22, 2022

The hotel will honor our \$149.00 + tax, nightly rate, from Sept. 18 thru 21

Group rate honored for reservations made until August 19

Valet parking will cost \$40.00/night.

Self-Parking will be \$32.00/night

Member#	Last Name:	First Name:
Street Address:	City:	State: Zip
Phone#	Unit/Plt:	Dates in country:
Your email address:	I will arrive on:	
Name for Nametag:	Nickname or Callsign:	

Guest name for Nametag

Guest name for Nametag

REGISTRATION FEES:

281 ST AHC Annual Membership dues	Annual Fee \$25.00=\$
Membership Reunion Registration	Member@ \$150.00=\$
Guests (16 yrs old and up)	# guests X \$150.00=\$
Children under 16 yrs old	# guests X \$ 25.00=\$
SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION	2022 TAX DEDUCTABLE=\$
TOTAL CHECK OR MO=\$	

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

Mail payment AND registration form no later than June 1, 2022 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 \$50.00 FOR PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER JUNE 1, 2022

If you want to spend a second day at the museum tickets will be only \$7.00 Paid at the Museum!