

## GOMER NEWSFLASH / MAY NEWSLETTER

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION USAF AGGRESSORS

Fellow Comrades, the time is now! We will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States Air Force Aggressor Program in Las Vegas, NV on November 3-6, 2022. We have an action packed weekend planned to include the Aviation Nation Airshow at Nellis AFB on Friday, 4 Nov, the Aggressor Roll Call at the Sahara, Top Golf on Saturday and of course our grand Gala event at the Sahara Hotel on Saturday night.

Event registration will be at the [www.gomersrule.com](http://www.gomersrule.com) website. Just follow the prompts to sign up for the reunion. While you are there if not a member then be sure to join the Aggressor Association as well. It is because of your membership in the Association that we are able to have such a grand celebration!!

Now for the highlights of what is planned.

Thursday—3 Nov: We gather at the Sahara---Hospitality room open at 1700

Friday—4 Nov: Aviation Nation Airshow at Nellis AFB. Bus Transportation if desired. We will have a place to gather on the “Show Line” to have a front row seat to the Airshow. There will be a tribute to the Aggressor 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a celebration of the Air Force’s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and of course the Thunderbirds will perform with their new and updated show----spoiler alert---you WILL enjoy! In addition, there will be static displays of many of the US Air Force planes along with the Aggressor Static Display. We are hoping to have an F-5E on display as well. After the airshow we plan to have a tour of the 64<sup>th</sup> Squadron and Bar along with a short “How Goes the Aggressors” briefing.

Friday—4 Nov : Then back to the Sahara where we will gather at the Alexandria Pool at 1900 for socializing and Aggressor Roll Call at 2000. This will be conducted by the current Aggressor “Mayor” and is always a raucous event. Afterwards, the Hospitality room will be open for late night discussions and world problem solving.

Saturday—5Nov: This year we are offering a different take on our usual golf opportunity. We are working with Top Golf Las Vegas to host our group. The good news is Top Golf is a 15 minute Monorail ride and a 15 minute walk from the Sahara Hotel. There are two main advantages to playing at Top Golf: 1) we are in a closer group so can visit with everyone as opposed to just your foursome, and 2) Allows us to still have time in the day for an Aggressor Association General Membership Meeting---where you will elect a new Board of Directors. Very Important meeting....LOL. Of course, Top Golf is a very fun experience I know you will enjoy.

Saturday—5 Nov: As alluded to there will be an Aggressor Association Business Meeting to go over a few issues and elect new officers. Time TBD. We will discuss happenings of the last 5 years, goals and direction going forward and of course elect new officers.

Saturday—5 Nov: 1800 cocktail and 1900 our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at the Sahara Hotel. Your Master of Ceremonies will be Col. Derek “Tazz” Routt, a 64<sup>th</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup> Aggressor from 2003-2012. Our guest speaker for the evening will be The Honorable Matt “Gorilla” Donovan, 65<sup>th</sup> Aggressor 1986-1988, F-15 Squadron Commander, former Acting Secretary of the Air Force and currently Vice President for Requirements and Capabilities, Raytheon Intelligence and Space.

Lots of festivities and opportunities for photos will be available and Yogi O’Neil is once again preparing the Aggressor Video

This year we will be doing a dinner buffet at the Gala. Nothing says Las Vegas like a great buffet! This opportunity gives us a great meal, with ample selection of the food you like and helps to keep your cost down. Music and dancing will be available. Speaking of dancing, my mind goes back to 1987 at the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion and “Nasty Pierre” Mize at the Toga party with Otis Day and the Knights! A new meaning to a “Little bit Lower, Now”! Definitely an image burned into my retina...LOL!

Sunday—6 Nov: Currently, no activities planned. Everyone have a safe trip home and see you in 2027.

#### PRICING

Now for the fun part. All this fun does cost a few dollars. As you know, your Association was formed for the purpose of keeping our group information current, providing updates on Aggressor happenings AND to provide funds for our reunions. So far, we have done a pretty good job of meeting all three of those goals, but these things are expensive. Just know, it’s not the Vegas of old. We have a threefold financial goal for this reunion, 1) Have a GREAT TIME; 2) Have funds left over to pass on to the next administration; 3) Provide some funding assistance to support the Aggressor Squadrons.

Entire Weekend Pricing---\$185 per person: (golf and bus extra)

What you get:

Access to the Hospitality Room for the entire reunion, there will be complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available.

Airshow Aggressor “Chalet” Access. Still working our food and beverage options

Access to “Aggressor Roll Call” at the Alexandria Pool (cash bar at this time)

Access and meal to the Aggressor 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Gala (cash bar)

(Please note that is only a \$10 increase from 5 years ago. It really is the best bargain in town)

### Friday Only Pricing:

We want to meet all Aggressors at the merge for the entire weekend. But, if you have to “bingo” out and separate early then we are offering a Friday only option of \$75 which includes the Hospitality Room and all the Friday events.

### TOP GOLF

We are offering Golf this year at Top Golf Las Vegas, [www.topgolf.com](http://www.topgolf.com) . Don't even have to bring your clubs! Looks to be a fun venue and pretty easy to get to from the Sahara Hotel. \$100 per person for 2 hours of Top Golf with food and drink....a pretty good deal!

### BUS TRANSPORTATION

We plan to have bus transportation for roundtrip service from the Sahara to Nellis AFB for the Friday Airshow for those that desire transportation, or if you don't have military base access. Depart at 1000 and return about 1730. \$20 per person.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Coin

We had our Official Logo made into a commemorative coin for the 50<sup>th</sup>. These are a single run, numbered coins with a 750 coin production run. In other words, once they are gone there will be no others made. You can pre-order or pick one up at the reunion. We will honor specific number request if we can. The coins will sell for \$20 apiece.



We will also have Official 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shirts and there will be a commemorative lithograph for purchase. More to come on these items as we finalize details.

## A Word From Our Sponsors

This year we are blessed to have some of the titans of industry honor the Aggressor Program with their financial donations. This is allowing us to meet our financial goals and put on a great 50<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Anniversary Reunion. We want to thank our friends at Raytheon, JT4. LLC, Lockheed-Martin, AVTECH, Top Aces, Draken Intl, Collins Aerospace and Arista Wealth Management for their generous sponsorship to the Aggressor Program. We do have a few more titans that are going through their company process for sponsorship and awaiting word from them. Let us know if you or an acquaintance would like to be a sponsor.

## AGGRESSOR NEWS

### 65<sup>th</sup> Re-Opening

There has been a lot that has happened in the past few months concerning the Aggressor's at Nellis. First and foremost, the 65<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Squadron will once again unfurl the flag on 9 Jun 2022, with LtCol Brandon "Napalm" Nada taking the helm. The 65<sup>th</sup> will fly the F-35 in the Aggressor role, however, initially it is my understanding that the squadron will not "own" their jets, but will fly the Weapon School F-35s. But, hey the 65<sup>th</sup> is back in action! The 64<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Squadron will continue to fly their 30 F-16 C/D aircraft.



Welcome Back 65<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Squadron

## Draken Intl. Moving

You may have also seen this article from The Warzone magazine concerning Draken Intl and their support of the Adversary Mission at Nellis. Air Combat Command has decided not to renew their contract at Nellis AFB. You can read about it here:

[https://usnewsmail.com/news/automobile/drakens-adversary-air-support-contract-for-nellis-afb-wont-be-renewed/amp/?fbclid=IwAR0CIsF6sS9ZdlxQs\\_YMOZBwU\\_TQ03-K\\_Fbr6vjvtS64dcypB9jvQrUy80](https://usnewsmail.com/news/automobile/drakens-adversary-air-support-contract-for-nellis-afb-wont-be-renewed/amp/?fbclid=IwAR0CIsF6sS9ZdlxQs_YMOZBwU_TQ03-K_Fbr6vjvtS64dcypB9jvQrUy80)

## THE FIRST MIG 23

I received this from Bob Dwyer and thought would be an interesting article for our NewsLetter. Plus, I don't have to think of something else to write. How we got (perhaps the first) Migs. Hope you enjoy! Here is the video: [https://youtu.be/E1Pkwzdf\\_k](https://youtu.be/E1Pkwzdf_k)

## AGGRESSOR ASSOCIATION

The Aggressor Association was formed not only to prepare for this reunion, but to establish an organization going forward that will serve all Aggressors; past, present and future. It is time for the next group of leaders to take the reins and keep moving forward. We will elect a new President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. And In addition, we will need an IT person to handle website maintenance and update, a Newsletter publisher to ensure the Quarterly Newsletter goes out , a Membership Chair and a Reunion Chairman to honcho the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion.

Biff Huffman has volunteered to be a "President Emeritus" to help with transition and core knowledge, and I will be a Vegas contact as required and Frog Clemens will be a Squadron Contact.

Right now Reina Pennington will stay as our historian. This could change as life issues arise. Please search your soul and find some time to serve the Aggressor Community. You can email me at [dula737@aol.com](mailto:dula737@aol.com) if you'd like to throw your name in the hat.

Dula

## 65<sup>th</sup> Aggressor Squadron History

This was sent to me by Yogi O'Neil. I thought it appropriate timing with the 65<sup>th</sup> ready to reopen.

THE 65TH FWS WAS REFORMED AT NELLIS ON 15 NOV 1975. LT COL DONALD MADONNA ASSUMED COMMAND WITH MAJOR TOM BRONNING ACTING AS OPS OFFICER. THE 65TH WAS ONE OF THE 4 SQUADRONS IN THE 57TH FWM AND DIRECTLY UNDER THE SCHOOL COMMANDANT. DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF EXISTENCE THE 64TH AND 65TH SQUADRONS SHARED A BUILDING. TOM BRONNING IS ACCUSED OF BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGN OF THE CURRENT 65TH BUILDING, BUT IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS HARD TO IMAGINE A MISSION WITH MORE THAN 4 AIRCRAFT INVOLVED.

THE ERA OF DON MADONNA IS AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS THE "PUBLIC RELATIONS PERIOD". IF THERE WAS A CAMERA ON BASE MADONNA WOULD BE IN FRONT OF IT. HE SPENT MORE TIME HOSTING THE MAYOR, SENATORS AND VISITING DIGNITARIES THAN HE DID IN THE SQUADRON.

DON WAS BIG ON TRADITION, INSISTING THAT THE ORIGINAL 65TH TFS PATCH BE RETAINED. CAN YOU IMAGINE A FIGHTING CHICKEN WITH A LARGE BODY, SMALL HEAD, AND A CHIP ON IT'S SHOULDER? DON FINALLY CONCEDED TO THE CURRENT EMBLEM WHEN TUNA HARDY SAT ON HIS FACE.

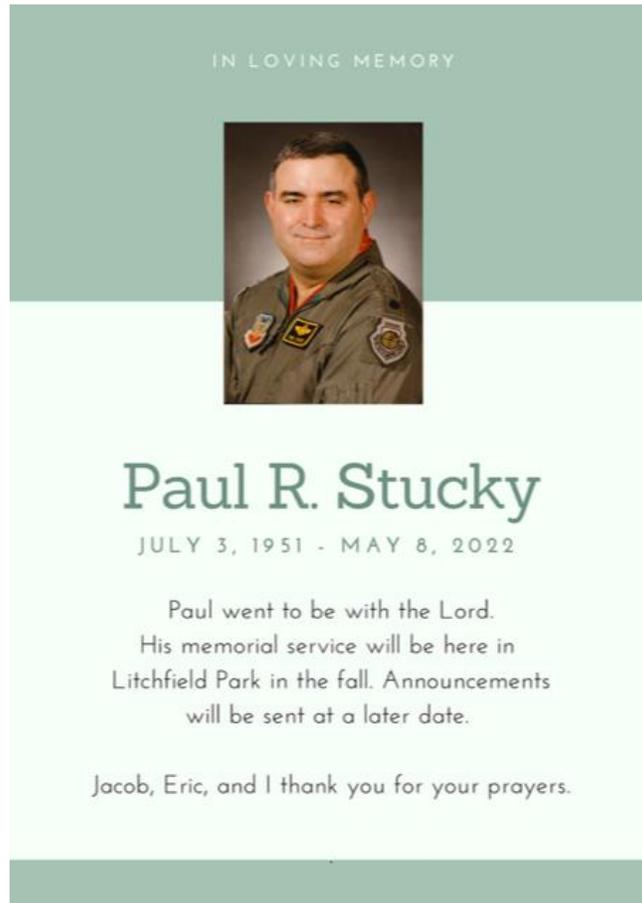


**Don Madonna's Tuna Hardy's**

Thank You Tuna!!

### Aggressor In Memorium

I received this from Mike “Scotty” Scott, who received it from the family of Paul Stucky.



Paul “Bear” Stucky was an Aggressor, Red Eagle and F-15 FWS Instructor and all around really good guy! I knew him mostly from SWA and when we would meet in the lounge he’d always come up with a big smile and put out his “bear-paw” hand to shake hands. “Nickel On the Grass” and blue skies my friend!

One more reason to NOT miss the Reunion! Just sayin!!

## IN CLOSING

### GOMER CHECKLIST:

1. Go to [www.gomersrule.com](http://www.gomersrule.com) and register for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion
2. Reserve your room at the Sahara <https://book.passkey.com/e/50211879>
3. Pays your money
4. Mark your calendar for Nov 3-6, 2022 in Las Vegas, NV
5. Meet you at the Merge

### CHECK SIX,

Mark "Dula" DuLaney---Association Pres

Dan "Truck" Futryk---Reunion Chair

Capt. Cal "Moose" Boerwinkle---64<sup>th</sup> AS Reunion/POC