

GOMER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



MARK "DULA" DULANEY

Outgoing Association President



Well, as I write this, I guess it is the former President's Corner.

This will be my last Newsletter as your Aggressor Association conducted elections at the 50th Anniversary Reunion on November 3-5, 2022. A new slate of Officers are taking the controls and I'm sure they will be engaged in hot pursuit of moving the Association forward as it evolves and matures.

We had a GREAT 50th Anniversary Reunion! The weather was perfect, the Aviation Nation Air Show was awesome, Top Golf was fun, and the Gala Banquet

paid special tribute to the Initial Cadre bunch that started this whole thing. We ended up with 395 Gomers and guests registering for the weekend, needless to say, it was an epic event and I do believe all had a great time.

As you know, in 2017 the Aggressor Association was formed at our 45th Anniversary Reunion. Our Charter was to form the Association as a means to keep our Aggressor group together and prepare for the Aggressor's 50th Anniversary Reunion. Typically, the Nellis Aggressor Squadrons had always led the charge on this, but Vegas has gotten so Corporate that long lead times and large quantities of dollars are required to get a venue and conduct an Aggressor Standard of Excellence type of event. Hence, the job of the Association.

I am proud to say that your Association is doing well. Our membership database started at about 250 individuals, today we count over 500 names in our DB. We started with exactly "0" dollars in the bank and we will turn the

account over to the next Board with approximately \$50,000 in the bank...after all the reunion bills are paid! And the Aggressor Association is in the process of incorporating into a Not For Profit, 501(c)(19) Tax Exempt Corporation. A lot of progress has been made, but still lots to do going forward.

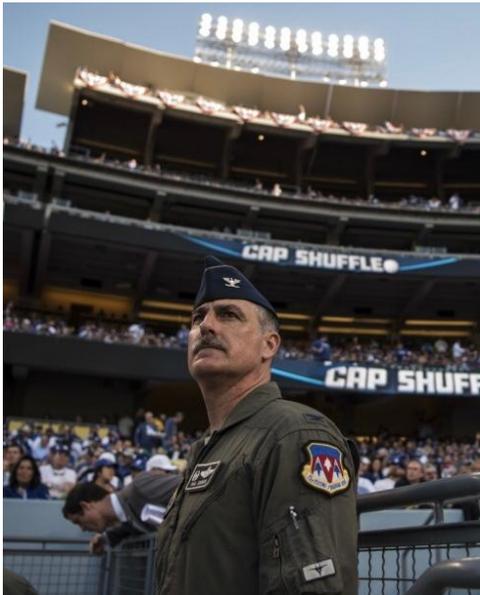
It has been a total Team Effort and once again please thank your outgoing officers, Biff Huffman, Dida Clifton, Frog Clemens, Mark Stevens and Dan Futryk. Reina Pennington will remain as our Historian.

Thanks for all your support!

Mark "Dula" DuLaney

PAUL "HUGE" JOHNSON

Incoming Association President



Happy New Year to the Aggressors! Here's to 2023 being a great year for you, your family and friends. I wanted to take a quick moment and introduce myself to you as the new President of the Aggressor Association. At our 50th Anniversary Reunion in early November, I along with several others were voted in as new officers to serve you, the USAF Aggressors, and continue the superb work that the outgoing group of Association officers have done for us during the previous five years. It's an honor for me, as I know it is for the rest of our team, to serve you well for the next five years.

Allow me to first congratulate Dula DuLaney and his "initial cadre" team on what they created, beginning five years ago at the 45th Anniversary Reunion. While I wasn't privy to those initial conversations, I'm confident that their concern was that without such an Association, it would have been more difficult if not impossible to properly recognize the contributions that the USAF Aggressors have made over the decades. As well, I believe they thought it necessary for an Association to better preserve our history as well as to effectively coordinate future Reunions; both endeavors keeping us all in better contact and showcasing that legacy. I and your new Association officers intend to carry that torch forward.

While I've purposely laid low after the November Reunion and through the Holidays, I now plan to get to work in doing what I allude to above. Specifically, there are three areas upon which I'd like to focus in the near future. First, I plan to work with Yogi O'Neal and Reina Pennington to find ways to make the treasure trove of Aggressor history not only more accessible to all of you, but arguably just as importantly, to ensure that it is retained for future generations in a manner befitting such an organization. Second, I hope to increase the number of Aggressor Association members, both those who served in the past, and notably those who currently serve. If this Association is to endure in the future years, we need current Aggressors to join our ranks. That brings me to the third area I'd like to focus upon in the near term; that of keeping an active

line of communication to those current Aggressors. I think it's as important for them to know our combined heritage as it is for us old, decrepit bastards to understand what they are doing now to continue to affect that heritage for future generations. Frankly, I'm of the belief that the latter is more important than the former. Thus, I think it imperative to be closely linked with them.

That's all for now. Again, many thanks to Dula and his Team. As well, many thanks to the new Team who volunteered for this new responsibility. I look forward to working with them, and we look forward to working for you. Expect to hear back me and the new Association officers in the next quarterly newsletter, if not sooner. Be safe, be well. We should all be glad we're still around to witness another New Year. I know I am.

Introducing the New Association Cadre

Paul "HUGE" Johnson President

Flew B-1's for first three years post-UPT, then transitioned to the Eagle. Flew the WGASF operationally at Lakenheath (493 FS) and 2xKadena (44 FS, then later after Nellis stint as the 18 OG Deputy). IFF IP at Moody (435 FTS) between the Heath and Okinawa. Assigned or attached to the Aggressors from '08-13, to include commanding the 65 AGRS. Retired after 25'ish years, with the last assignment being the 71 OG/CC at Vance AFB, OK. Currently fly fat jets for UPS and live in the Louisville, Kentucky area. Drink more Bourbon!

Jake "Baked" Hammons Vice-President

Flew F-15Cs for first three years (Elmendorf), touch and go as an IFF instructor, then flew F-16s for the last 10 years. With the 64th Aggressors from 2009-2011, then back as the 57 ATSS DO and flew attached from 2015-2019 along with the 422 TES. Active Duty for 18 years, last 5 years in the ANG (Nevada and now DC ANG). Wing Commander of the Nevada ANG "High Rollers" in Reno (C-130H). Currently fly fat jets for United and live in the northern Virginia area,

Greg "Booger" Pickette Secretary

Began my Eagle career at Langley (71FS) and Tyndall (2FS) before being assigned to the reactivation of the 65AGRS in 2006. I flew with the 65th full time until 2009 and then as a guest flyer from 12AF until 2012. I completed tours at Kadena (67FS) and Tyndall (2FS) before retiring with 20 years and 1 month of service. Since retiring in 2016, I've flown with FedEx in both Germany and Hong Kong, and now live in Tampa, Florida.

Stan "Spackle" Duvall Treasurer

First three years awaiting pilot training in the Adversary Tactics Division of Red Flag, aka the Aggressors. Flew the F-16 on Active Duty, the F-15 in the Air National Guard, then to the Air Force Reserves at Nellis flying drones for conventional and SOF forces. AFSOC Command in Afghanistan then school and staff. 29 years of Total Force Air Force, with about 10 of them at Nellis. Now leading the F-35 sim team at Nellis for

Malcolm "X" Kemeny Membership

Flew F-15C's at Bitburg, Spangdahlem, Langley, Kadena, and Tyndall. With the Aggressors from 1999-2003 during the 414 CTS/AT time period. Retired after 20 years of service. Currently an F-22 simulator and academic instructor at Tyndall AFB and a civilian flight instructor.

Craig "Kool" Jones Reunion

Flew the Eagle for nine years.(Sorsterberg, Spangdahlem, Tyndall). Joined Aggressors in 1999 and stayed till retirement in 2013. Grew with Aggressors from 414CTS to 64AGRS, 65AGRS and ATG. 25 years non-stop flying F-15 (2,900hrs) and F-16 (1,000hrs). Currently living in Vegas flying A320 for JetBlue.

Lockheed Martin. Best mentor EVER - Mark "Dula" Dulaney - my first boss and still current role model.

Association Presidents Emeriti:

Pete "Pink" Williams

Paul "Biff" Huffman

Mark "Dula" DuLaney

50th Anniversary Reunion



The big news is that our reunion was a great success! For those that were not able to attend just know we missed you, but still talked "Trash" about ya!

The Sahara Hotel was our reunion Headquarters and they treated us very well. We utilized the Penthouse Suite again as our gathering spot for our Hospitality room, they allowed us to use the main pool area, Azillo, for our Friday night Roll Call and put on a world-class buffet for our Gala Banquet on Saturday night. On Friday, 4 Nov, we took buses to Nellis AFB for Military Appreciation Day and the Aviation Nation Air Show. We were treated to a beautiful day and some great flying. For the Aggressor 50th Anniversary, Nellis bent over backward to make the day special. We had a great Chalet for gathering and visiting, the Nellis Club provided a cash bar for libations and we were treated to a catered meal from CrackerBarrell. And, oh yeah, the Thunderbirds flew and put on a GREAT show as promised.

Saturday, brought our Association Business meeting where we elected your new Officers, we had a group play a few hours at Las Vegas Top Golf, and that proved to be a very fun event, and then our banquet that evening. We were fortunate this year to have about 13 members and / or their spouses of the Initial Cadre attend the reunion. Truck Futryk announced their names as they entered the room and proceeded to their seats. I thought it was so cool that the current 64th Aggressor Commander, "Von" Finkenstadt, escorted Joyce Boothby as the first to enter the room. Yogi O'Neal provided the slide show and video for the evening entertainment. Our guest speaker, The Honorable Matt Donovan, provided the keynote address. His great insight as a former 65th Aggressor and the acting Secretary of the Air Force made for a great perspective of today's Force.

Oh, did I mention there may have been a bit of booze consumed over the

weekend? Overall, a very fun weekend, and hope we are all able to make the 55th in 2027!!

As mentioned earlier, the Association is in good financial shape as leadership changes over. This is due to your annual or Lifetime Member dues and also the great generosity of our Reunion Sponsors. Please thank those that have recognized your achievements of making our Air Force the best in the world. Our reunion Sponsors are Raytheon Corp, JT-4, Lockheed Martin, AVTECH, Collins Aerospace, Top Aces, SouthPoint Hotel and Casino, Arista Wealth and the Boyd Group. We also had a generous donation to help some of our NCOs attend the Gala Banquet from a former 65th Honorary Commander, Ms. Deberah "Red" Black. THANK YOU ALL!!

PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD



The Banquet photographer has made all the pictures available for viewing and download. He doesn't charge for the service so we've set up a tips/donations link here if you'd like to say thank you and leave a little something for the young family.

[VIEW & DOWNLOAD](#)

[TIPS & DONATIONS](#)

YOGI'S REUNION VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT

Yogi O'Neal has downloaded his videos shown at the banquet to Google Drive.

You may email Yogi at yogidad@yahoo.com and request access to his videos.

The files are too large to send via mail which is why you need to request the access through google drive. Take the time to do this, the videos are great and will bring back some good memories.

FAST (FIGHTER AVIATION STEM THUNDERCHICKENS)

Another item discussed at or meeting was the proposal to develop a museum in Las Vegas that would highlight all the assets at Nellis AFB to include the Aggressors, Thunderbirds, Weapons School, Red Flag etc. Currently, the Directors are in the process of finding financial support to proceed. Please see the following:

The FAST Center museum will showcase the elite history of the Aggressors and the important role this mission continues to play. Let's tell our story to the world in a way that honors our past, and inspires future generations. We can support this effort in many ways, from a simple monthly tax-deductible online donation of any amount using the link below, to corporate sponsorship, to putting some of your personal memorabilia on display when the center opens. No effort is too small, and the Aggressors' legacy is the direct beneficiary. Let's support this like we have carried out our mission, fully committed and effective against any challenge.

<https://www.fastcenterforexcellence.com/donation>

<https://www.fastcenterforexcellence.com/view-the-brochure>

This project promises to be a huge success not only to highlight our Air Force, but to inspire the future generations! And, an amazing venue to tell the Aggressor story!!

AGGRESSOR GREY MATTER

In [breaking news](#), the Alaska Gomers (18th Aggressor Squadron) are getting a much needed boost to their fleet, as Alabama Air National Guard F-16s are getting transferred to the Aggressor mission as a part of the unit's upgrade to the F-35!

"So we'll just bring them up here to Alaska. ... they'll go to the paint barn, we'll do a new paint job on them. And then once we get our pilots trained, so they get their familiarization flights, ground training, [simulator] training, computer-based training we'll start flying and put them on the line and put them up in the air and flying those aircraft as soon as the next couple of weeks"

Ray "Henri" Dissinger pointed out this extremely interesting [WarZone Article](#) about private F-5 Adversary jets flying with Infrared Search and Track Systems:

"Tactical Air Support said it has completed initial flight testing of the Lockheed Martin-designed TacIRST, an integrated, infrared search-and-track sensor, or IRST, on its F-5 Advanced Tiger aggressor jets. Through this collaboration between Lockheed

Martin and Tactical Air Support, both companies are working to bring this capability to the broader threat replication/adversary community.

Tactical Air Support (TacAir) is a Reno, Nevada-based private 'red air' commercial adversary support contractor that has for years been working to further develop its advanced F-5E/F derivative, dubbed the F-5AT, to efficiently simulate modern enemy capabilities to better prepare U.S. and allied aircrews for future conflicts. Tactical Air Support's fleet is made up of 21 ex-Jordanian surplus F-5E/F airframes that have been heavily modified and refurbished by Northrop Grumman and equipped with tailored upgrades to create a "4th generation adversary platform with 3rd generation economy," as described by TacAir."

Also of note, Top Aces announced just before the reunion it had [won its bid for Contracted Air Support](#) to provide F-16 adversaries at Tyndall and Luke AFB:

Top Aces Corp, the world's only commercial owner/operator of F-16 fighter aircraft, today announced that it was selected under the US Air Force Combat Air Force Contracted Air Support program to provide advanced adversary air training to pilots at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida and Luke AFB in Arizona. Top Aces will begin training in support of USAF F-35A and F-22 fleets next month. Valued at up to \$175 million USD, this five-year contract will significantly enhance the training of fifth generation combat pilots. Top Aces is the first commercial provider to deliver contracted air training to the USAF using the supersonic F-16 platform, and is the only company in the world to operate the F-16 Advanced Aggressor Fighter – an upgraded version of the aircraft with unique open system architecture capabilities, including Advanced Electronically Scanned Array radar, helmet-mounted cueing systems, tactical datalinks and high off-boresight missile capabilities."

Last but not least, the renowned aviation journalist Jamie Hunter released [this spotlight of the 64th Aggressor Squadron](#) in November in commemoration of the 50th anniversary. It features pretty awesome brand new flying footage, as well as an interview with the current commander, LtCol Christopher "VON" Finkenstadt. Check it out!

IN MEMORIAM

We were informed just recently that Dave "Sasquatch" Sams passed away last January. We did a silent toast to Sasquatch during the Roll Call at the reunion. There were also a few good "Squatch" stories that were shared. See the following write up in the AFA Magazine:

devoted father, Bob worked tirelessly to provide for his family, he relished being "Papa Laser" to his grandchildren and loved to dote on them. Favorite family memories include ski trips in the Alps and beach vacations in Emerald Isle, N.C. Notwithstanding his long list of accomplishments, Bob's greatest legacy is his faith in Jesus as his Lord and Savior that he imparted to his children and entire extended family. He is greatly missed.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery on Sept. 9, 2022. *(Bob's loving family)*



Paul R. Stucky, '73

Paul Richard Stucky passed away on May 8, 2022, at home in Litchfield, Ariz., with the loving assistance of Hospice of the Valley, after a short but mighty fight with cancer.

He is a proud graduate of the Class of '73, CS-39. His love of flying began early by hanging out at the local airport in Florida where he pumped gas, cleaned airplanes, and earned flying lessons. He soloed on his 16th birthday before he had a driver's license.

Paul was better known as "Bear" within the fighter pilot community. During his 20-year Air Force career, "Bear" was a Fighter Weapons School graduate flying the F-4E Phantom II, F-15A/C Eagle, F-15E Strike Eagle, and as Bandit 40 in the 4477th Red Eagles. Paul flew 230 sorties in the Soviet MIG-21 Fishbed and 96 sorties in the MIG-23 Flogger. Additionally, during a Pentagon tour, he was instrumental in the development and launching of the follow-on F-15 replacement, the F-22 Raptor.

Paul was humble and approachable, but most of all credible and generous with his expertise. Ask any fighter pilot who crossed paths with "Bear" or flew with him and they will all speak of "Stook" as a leader, their brother and all have lively stories to tell of their crazy adventures together.

He continued his flying career with Southwest Airlines. His dedication to excellence stood out and he did pilot interviews and was handpicked for the President's Council looking to make Southwest that much better.

After retiring from Luke AFB, Ariz., the Stucky family chose to remain in Litchfield Park. His leadership had a positive impact not only on his country but also on the lives of many in his community. He served as a member of the city's planning and zoning commission and on the Litchfield Park City Council for 12 years. He supported the Boy Scout Troop 90, managing their flag program on all 11 holidays for 14 years. In 2006, seeing a need for more eyes on the community, he established the Litchfield Park Posse. For this outstanding service, Paul was Posse Man of the Year by Maricopa County.

Paul's celebration of life is scheduled for Oct. 22, 2022, at The Church at Litchfield Park with a reception at the Wigwam Resort. All are welcome. Memorials may be made to Southwest Lending Closet in Avondale, Ariz. *(Paul's loving family)*



David W. Sams, '74

Lt. Col. (Ret) David Warren Sams was born on August 13, 1952, in Bardwell, Ky., to his loving and devoted parents, H.C. and Lou Emma Sams. He was the oldest sibling and cherished his two younger sisters and one younger brother. David passed away on Jan. 1, 2022, in Las Vegas, Nev. During his childhood he found a passion for playing basketball, including for his high school basketball team at Carlisle County High School, graduating in 1970. Due to his talent on the court, he was recruited to play for the Air

Force Academy where he graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. He later attained his master's degree in business.

David completed pilot training in October 1975 and selected to fly the F-4. After becoming qualified in that aircraft, the Air Force assigned him to the 406th Tactical Fighter Wing in Zaragoza, Spain, where he served as a liaison officer between the Spanish Air Force and numerous USAF fighter units. It was during his tour in Spain that David met his wife and lifelong friend, Nora. After getting married in 1986, together they shared many adventures while travelling, camping, and sampling worldwide cuisines.

In March 1985, David was selected to attend the USAF Aggressor Training Course in the F-5, graduating with distinction in June 1985. He then served as flight commander, assistant director of operation, chief of wing standardization and evaluation, and as weapons and tactics officer. As an aggressor pilot, David also qualified to fly the F-16. He also served on the staff for Joint Task Force Proven Force in support of Operation DESERT STORM.

He was promoted to lieutenant colonel on Sept. 1, 1990. In 1991, David was assigned to Nellis AFB, Nev., as the assistant director of operations, 4440th Tactical Fighter Training Group, and later served as the Red Flag director of operations prior to his retirement from the Air Force in 1996.

Lt. Col. Sams was a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours in the F-4, F-5, and F-16 aircraft. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Combat Readiness Medal, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

After the Air Force, David became a defense contractor working on operational testing of the F-22, and later the F-35. He was a driving force to develop innovative 5th generation fighter test plans and scenarios that maximized the number of operational factors to be evaluated in the minimum number of test trials. These efforts saved the Air Force a significant amount of time, expense, and flight hours, and earned David national recognition as the winner of the 2015 National Defense Industrial Association Air Force Contractor Tester of the Year award.

Throughout his career, David remained passionate about his family, flying fighters and his country. He thoroughly enjoyed basketball, cooking, and spending time with his family and dachshunds. He is survived by his loving wife, Nora, two daughters, and four grandchildren. *(Lauren [Sams] Schloss, David's daughter)*



Richard D. "Dave" Murray, Jr., '77

Richard David "Dave" Murray, Jr. was born into a U.S. Air Force family in Big Spring, Texas Sept. 25, 1955, to Maj. Gen. Richard D. Murray, Sr. (deceased) and Janice Collins Murray. He recently retired to his hometown of Dallas and passed comfortably on March 29, 2022, surrounded by his family at the age of 66.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Murray; his daughters Michelle Murray and Danielle Huckabee (Chad); his granddaughter, Samantha; his siblings, Patti O'Keefe (Kevin) and Mark Murray (Sarah); and nieces, Kate, Brooke and Sidney. In addition, are Sandra's children, Jessica Daniel (Lt. Col. Brooks Daniel, '04); grandchildren Stella and Audrey, as well as Patrick Mathews (Lauren) grandchildren, Kaylee, Landon, and Dallas.

Dave was a proud graduate from CS-23 and retired as a colonel after a 25-year military career. Following graduation, he attended UPT at Reese AFB, Texas, and stayed as a T-37 FAIP. Following his FAIP tour, Dave flew multiple tours in the F-111, FB-111, and EF-111. During his time in the EF-111 he

Also, at the reunion we learned that Bob "Plug" Lewis was in an ATV accident in early November and died from his injuries.

A slow hand salute to these fine men and former Aggressor Pilots...RIP my friends!

NOT FOR PROFIT INCORPORATION

One of our goals in the first five years was to explore and file for 501(c) incorporation. We are pursuing a 501(c)(19) Tax exempt corporation. This is a Veteran's based tax-exempt type of corporation and appears to fit our needs perfectly at this time. Should be completed by the end of the year.

DID YOU GET YOUR COIN?





We have 50th Reunion Coins Available \$20 plus \$7.00 postage

Send your request to gomersrule@gmail.com

NOT A MEMBER YET? JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

Visit the website and
complete your application: www.gomersrule.com

There are several levels of dues:

Gomer Annual \$ 25 per year
Lifetime \$ 250 one time

Gomer & Family \$ 45 a year
Lifetime \$ 450 one time

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