

Reunion 1998 Washington D.C.

The fourth annual re-union kicked off on Thursday evening, Oct. 8 with a social that was held in the hospitality room of the DoubleTree Hotel, Arlington, VA.

On Friday morning everyone boarded chartered buses and went to the Pentagon for a tour. After the tour the group proceeded to Bolling AFB by bus where a group photograph was taken in front of the R. V. Maisey building. Next stop was the base picnic area located on the banks of the Potomac River. A free BBQ lunch was provided by the 11th Wing. The Wing commander gave a big welcome home to the VSPA veterans and troops of the 11th Security Forces Squadron who had just return from a tour of duty in the desert. VSPA members had a chance to visit with active duty troops and tour the K-9 kennels next to the picnic ground.

Friday evening found the group and invited guests back at the DoubleTree Hotel for a buffet banquet. After dinner, the guest speaker was Adrian Cronauer of "Good Morning Vietnam" fame. VSPA was pleased that Wen-Ling and the Chestnut and her daughter were in attendance. Individual photographs were taken of all attendees and a reunion booklet will soon be published with those and other photos of all the events. Great door prizes were given out and every attendee received a copy of the book "Air Base Defense in the Republic of Vietnam 1961-73" Office of Air Force History. The author of the book, Roger P. Fox, who is a VSPA member, attended the banquet and signed the books for several of the members. VSPA exchange challenge coins with the active duty members of the 11th SFS. The above mentioned book will be provided at future reunions to those that attend and have not received a book previously. There are 50 more books and stock, so sign up early for the next (1999) re-union to be held in Las Vegas and a book will be reserved if you attend.

Saturday morning members went to the grave side of J. J. Chestnut, VSPA member and Capitol Police Officer slain by a gunman in July. Two of J. J. Chestnut's children were in attendance at the memorial service. Jim Murray, VSPA member, wrote an excellent article, it was published in the Boston Herald on the memorial event. (See cover story) At

1400 on Saturday, members gathered at the "Wall" and conducted a memorial and wreath laying at the apex of Vietnam War Memorial. Selected members read the names of those AP's/SP's who died in SEA during the war. As of this writing, the VSPA has identified 94 names of AP's/SP's who lost their lives. Saturday night was old squadron night and members hooked up with others that had served in their old units and went to dinner together.

All Sunday activities were held at the DoubleTree Hotel. VSPA provided breakfast for ladies in attendance on Sunday morning and the church service with conducted by VSPA Chaplain Steve Janke. Members took up a donation in lieu of an offering for "Vets With A Mission". \$225 was raised.

The annual business meeting was opened at 1120 hours with a moment of silence for our fallen comrades. B/General Richard Coleman, Director of USAF Security Forces and VSPA member, made remarks to the association on current and future security force issues. Members voted and approved the following: Membership: Life Membership was table, the criteria for joining VSPA remains the same and no increase in dues; membership cards will be issued upon initial acceptance into the Association. Replacements will cost \$5.00; Regional Chapters rejected; History Book of SP SEA service should be done in-house (Association) and did not hire an outside agency to write the history book; Future reunion sites: 1999 Las Vegas and 2000 San Antonio. Terms of office: two years for each office and a maximum of two terms consecutively.

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| President: | Ted Janiak |
| Vice-President: | Kevin Fitzgerald |
| Secretary/Treasure: | Steve Ray |
| Chaplain: | Steve Janke |
| Historian: | Steve Ray |
| Research Historian: | Ken Record |
| Trustee: | Mike Daoust |

Terry Morris was re-appointed Membership Chairman. Dave Dobson was re-appointed Editor of Guardmount.

Members voted to approve the slate of officers for the term indicated.

Mike Daoust asked if there was any other business for

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the good of the order. There being none the meeting was adjourned at 1415 hours.

Treasures report: as of October 31, 1998 the Association account balance was \$1315.79.

NOTICE: Beginning 1 January 1999 all orders for merchandise items should be sent directly to John Langley at 150 Aurora Road, Venice, FL 34293. John's e-mail address is: *dog man 1968@aol.com*

Also, don't forget that dues are payable 1 January. If you receive a notice in this issued, you owe dues. Don't forget, your family members can join a VSPA (non-voting) for five dollars a year. If no notice is received, it means you have already paid for 1999.

S. F. Ray
Secretary/Treasure
VSPA