

**281<sup>ST</sup> ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY**  
**"INTRUDERS"**

NHA TRANG  
1965-1970

Company Newsletter No. 33

Christmas 2007

*To the Veterans of the 281<sup>st</sup>....*

**Merry Christmas**



*Happy New Year*



**WISHING ALL THE 281<sup>ST</sup> AND FAMILIES CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS**

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## ***The Prez speaks.....***

I have traveled a lot since our reunion and the last newsletter. I met in Wisconsin on September 11th with our new Treasurer Fred Beck. Fred had American Flags flying and we took pictures with the 281st Guideon. Prior to down loading the pictures my camera was stolen. Our Association was well represented at the SOAR. Included is a photo of four of the six Intruders in attendance. Don "Zorro" Jutz was their official photographer. Included is a photo of Zorro with two of his able bodied assistants. SOA Officers recognized Brian Paine for his efforts in organizing their accounting, enabling them to give an accurate financial report to their membership. One of our members worked the registration tables. I felt the 281st members were received well by the SOA members and officers.

On the way back from the SOAR Doris and I had the opportunity to meet for dinner with member Jay Hendrix and his wife Christy in Phoenix, AZ. While attending a conference in Mississippi I spent a couple evenings with Sr. member @ Lg. Fred Lewis who was temporarily working there. My return trip included a stop near Birmingham, AL. to pick up some excellent Alabama honey from our VP Frank Little, who with Margaret took me to a great BBQ Restaurant for lunch. Coming back through Kingsport, TN, I tried to meet with Association member Tony Ruiz but the schedule didn't work out.

Association members participated in the reading of names at the Wall in Washington DC during the Veterans Day festivities. Members also assisted with placing Christmas Wreaths December 15th and visiting resting places of our fallen Brethren at Arlington National Cemetery.

Thanks to Tim Schaffer and Jack Mayhew the Scholarship Fund has been put in place receiving Tax Deductible Donations and some applicants. Many Thanks to our Officers, Commo committee, and others for contributing to this newsletter and especially our Editor Fred Mentzer for the hours of labor he spends putting the newsletters together and publishing it. Looking forward to seeing everyone in St. Louis.

Merry Christmas to all and wishing you a safe and prospers New Year!

Jay Hays  
President

## ***The Past President***

Intruder Family. I would like to comment on the reunion. First of all Joan and I have fun at reunions. If we didn't we wouldn't come. I know that some folks would like to move the reunion to different places and go on lots of tours. I feel that we need to keep the costs down so that we can get more folks there. The Crowne Plaza fits that bill. Joan and I come to reunions (no matter where they are), to have fun, renew friendships, make new friends and just be with people with people we love and enjoy. The Intruder Family is very important to us. Joan and I would like to wish every one a Very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May our Heavenly Father bless you all with good health so that you can continue to lead a good life.

Darryl M. Stevens  
Past President

## ***Our New Treasurer***

This is my first writing as treasurer. I am excited to be more actively involved with the Association, both socially and in the position of treasurer.

For those of you who don't know me, I was a WO Ratpack pilot from July 1967 through June 1968. I picked up the name Fred during that time and it stuck with me until I left the Army in 1970. Since then I went back to my given name of Jerome or most commonly, Jerry or some other unmentionable names. So it was quite strange and good to be called Fred for a few days at my first reunion in August.

I am no stranger to this type of position, graduating with a degree in accounting. I worked for many years auditing large corporations for the IRS and acted in the capacity of treasurer for other organizations.

The transition from former treasurer Butch Jones went relatively smooth except for some

computer and software problems. The associations accounting software (Quickbooks) is pre-Vista and I had some difficulty installing it on my computer. However it is now working well. I understand that it is a common problem and some Quickbook owners can't get it installed on Vista computers. Quickbooks, of course, wants everyone to buy the Vista addition.

Gary and I have worked out the logistics for depositing membership dues and it is working well. I would like to do next years reunion fees in a similar fashion. We also now have online banking with Wells Fargo. All checks will be issued by the bank and statements are paperless.

Butch reported the approximate financial results in the last newsletter. I have included a complete profit and loss statement in this newsletter (\*see *Editors comments*). If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

As can be seen in the statement we incurred a loss this year. One of the larger expenditure was for the ballroom rental on on Friday and Saturday nights. The charge of \$1,452 was incurred because we failed to meet a contract provision of \$1,800 cash bar spending. We were significantly below that amount. We will be discussing the provision with the hotel for next year. We must be getting old and/ or becoming proverbial tee-totalers. Not like the old days.

Fred Beck  
Treasurer

## ***The Chaplains Corner***

### *Santa's Prayer*

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,  
but Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.

"Dear Father", he prayed "Be with me tonight.

There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.

I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,

knowing full well a reindeer can't fly.

I will visit each home before the first light,

I'll cover the world and all in one night.

With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,  
amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.

To get in the house is the difficult part,

so I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.

My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes.  
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.

I'll fill all the stockings and not leave a track.

I'll eat every cookie that's left for my snack.

I can do all these things Lord, only through YOU,  
I just need your blessing, and then it's easy to do.

All this is to honor the birth of the ONE,  
that was sent to redeem us, Your Most Holy Son.  
So to all my friends, lest your glory I rob,  
Please Lord... remind them who gave me this job.

In Jesus Name I Pray, Amen."



Marge & I wish all 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Association Members and their Families a Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year.

Norm Kaufman  
281<sup>st</sup> AHC Association Chaplain

## ***The Membership Chairman***

In 7 years we have gone to member # 347 !!!  
Just after the 2007 reunion in St Louis, I had three conversions from annual to Life, one new Life Member and one new annual member. It was great that we were able to collect a lot of the 2008 dues with the reunion Registrations.

The by-laws state that dues could be sent using reunion registration form. Of course the person receiving the reunion registration forms, must keep me up-to-date, thee I will have a straight roster of members in good standing.. Thanks!

All NEW applications for membership and RENEWAL DUES will come to me at the address on the membership form:

Gary L. Stagman  
281<sup>st</sup> AHC Membership Chairman  
2525 Reverses Route  
Granite City, IL 62040-6148

I am including **portions** of the new updated by-laws change that was voted in by the members in good-standing: **(Go to Section 4 of the by-laws on the web site for the complete information)**

**Section 4. Membership and Dues Assessments:**

a. Annual membership renewal dues shall become due and payable on August 1st each year. The membership year of the Association shall begin August 1st and end July 31<sup>st</sup>. Dues renewal will be \$25.00 annually, and will be collected on the Annual Reunion Registration Form. Members are not required to attend the Annual Reunion, but may pay their dues using the form. New members joining the Association prior to October 30<sup>th</sup> shall be assessed \$25. **A graduated dues schedule shall apply to new members only.** A new member joining after October 30th shall be assessed dues on the following schedule for the remaining initial calendar year of membership: Nov-Jan = \$18, Feb-Apr = \$12, and May-Jul = \$0.

b. Life Membership dues may be paid in **one** payment or over a period of one year in no more than **six** payments including the down payment. These payments, including the down payment, must be initiated and completed within the timeframe of a membership year. A membership year begins in 1 August and ends in 31 July. Upon completion of the last payment, a Life Membership card will be issued by the Membership Chairman.

c. Fees and dues that do not reach the Association by August 1<sup>st</sup> shall be considered delinquent. Members that are not in good standing forfeit their rights and privileges to vote, hold elected or appointed office, serve on committees, or participate in general membership meetings.

Here a while back I received information on some of that guys that we listed as not found are now have listed as DAT. I do have a

positive side of all this is that in talking to guys, I am getting some directions to head in when they mention names in our conversations...

Did find a name listed on the roster (I received a email asking about him) and come to find out, he was never in the 281<sup>st</sup> or RVN, or any US Army flight School!! He has been removed from our roster and the VHPA directory also. Thanks to the people that furnished the proper information on this guy.

I still am begging for more information that is contained in old orders, roster, etc. I have received some information on guys in the 1969 timeframe... But, I will take any information that I can get to keep the searches going on.

**I want to thank everyone that has been sending me their new information to update the master roster, this saves postage and you get your newsletters faster. PLEASE keep your information on the master roster up to date.**

Thank you for your continuing support, to the 281st AHC Association!! And making a old man's life

better!!! This allows me the extra time to try to help others thru information to pursue their claims with the VA system.

Dues are continuing to come in, and between Fred Beck and me we have a process for the deposits that keeps both of us informed. It's working great!!

Charles Cabe (66-67) joined as new Annual Member 346A and Virgle "Buddy" Samples (66-67) joined as a new Life Member 347L. John Hyatt said he couldn't remember his dues so he changed to Life also!! Ken Smith and Ted Nilssen also changed to Life Members. Earl Broussard and Charles Jordan have also made their initial payments towards life membership.

P.S.: I wish to pass on to everyone have a SAFE and HAPPY holiday season with family and friends.

Gary Stagman

281<sup>st</sup> Assault Helicopter Company  
Maintenance Support Element



" THE HELI DOCs "

## **Notes and Comments**

***Jack Mayhew, Secretary of the newly established Scholarship Program pens the following. Also provided is a donation form at the end of this newsletter....***

From The Scholarship Team

The 281<sup>st</sup> AHC scholarship program is up and running. We have IRS approval to operate a 501 (c) nonprofit program, have established a bank account and have a great group of volunteers to serve as your Board of Directors: They are:

Co-Chairman / Treasurer: Robert M. (Buck) Sorem  
Co-Chairman: Marshall A. (Okie) Hawkins

Members:

Jared H. (Jerry) Bahre (Susan Bahre has experience in scholarship fund management and will advise us on any issues that may arise) - Barclay A. (Barc) Boyd - Joseph M. (Joe) Bilitzke - Dr. Karen Heintz-Forch (College Professor) - Charles E. Fredricy - Roger C. Green, Jr. - Robert W. (Bob/Mop) Mitchell - Paul J. Talley - James R. (Mom) Torbert - Donald G. (Don) Torrini - Auditor: Brian W. (Fat Budda) Paine, CPA

Non Voting Secretary: John W. (Jack) Mayhew, (1-year term)

The 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Scholarship program will annually award scholarship Grants to the applicants who most nearly meet the established criteria for the furtherance of their formal education in an accredited institution of higher learning and or an approved technical or trade institution. The maximum educational attainment under the program is that of a Masters Degree (six (6) years or twelve (12) semesters). Applicant must be a high and or home school graduate or a high school or home school student anticipating graduation during the year of his /her application and they must be able to prove academic ability, interest in scholarship and leadership in school and community affairs. The deadline for submitting a scholarship application is April 15 of each year. To receive an application please contact the secretary at:

281st AHC Scholarship Program  
Suite 202  
1150, 17<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-466-8230  
Intruder06@comcast.net

The scholarship fund was started with a generous annual grants from two companies and we have already received commitments from four other individuals who want to contribute funds for scholarships in the names of former Intruders. This is a great way for individuals or groups of the Intruder family to establish a lasting memorial to a friend or a family member who served in the unit.

The scholarship board will hold its organizational meeting on 19 Jan 08 in California and shortly thereafter we will create a section for the program on the web site where we will publish all the appropriate documents, instructions for applying for scholarship assistance and information on making contributions. In the meantime you may make your checks payable to the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Scholarship Program and mail them to:

Buck Sorem, Co-Chairman / Treasurer  
281<sup>st</sup> AHC Scholarship Program  
%The Strategic Planning Group  
One World Trade Center, Suite 2340 - Long Beach, California 90831-2340  
Phone: (800) 585-9903 - Fax: (562) 983-0661  
Buck@tspg.biz

We have looked forward to being able to do this as a legacy for those that we lost and those that have gone before us. The time and opportunity is here so let's keep the program going in true Intruder spirit.

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**In Memoriam**



**Patrick M. Sheley**

LTC Ret 281<sup>st</sup> (10/66 -11/67)

Passed away November 12, 2006, in Tucson, AZ



**Bobbie Lenville Stanfill**

CW04 Ret 281<sup>st</sup> (1969)

Passed away October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in Ozark, AL

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***Some pictures by Jay Hays, our trusty Prez, taken during the trip(s) mentioned in his comments.....***



Brian Paine – Jay Hays – Don "Zorro" Jutz - Tom Lundrigan



Jay & Christy Hendrix    Jay & Doris Hays



Dirty Old Man "Zorro" at SOA Reunion 2007



Jay and Fred Lewis



Frank and Margaret Little

***A heartwarming story off the 281<sup>st</sup> Chat Net from David Dosker about his son Justin, home from Afghanistan in September.....***

He was home in September. Had a wonderful time. When we went to the airport the following took place. It was late morning, and there were about 250 troops waiting. Naturally he was a bit hung over so I was surprised when he volunteered when a Sgt asked for troops for a detail.

When the two officers, 3 E4's and E5's (one was Justin) and 11 or 12 E1's thru E3's gathered they were told them the following:

"Go down the stairs, get on the bus there. You will be taken to the Sheraton Hotel north of the airport. Meals will be provided. Be back here in 24 hours. This evening after dinner the bus will take you to Ranger Stadium for the baseball game. "

When they were gone I approached and thanked the Sgt. and the USO coordinator. I asked about volunteering to meet and greet the troops. When she found I was and that my son was among the Detail she gave me a game ticket !

I made it to the stadium before they did and got some beer and peanuts. ( Great seats, rows 26 & 27 behind first base) When Justin filed in I gave him a beer and asked what took them so long? Justin had surprised me on his arrival two weeks before when he called from the airport

At least 4 people bought them a round of drinks. During the 5th inning someone came and led them to better seats in rows 1 & 2 behind first. They were in uniform and the entire section gave them a standing ovation as they filed in. A friend Tivoed the game so he will be able to have the memory.

During the 6<sup>th</sup> Justin caught a foul. He looked at it, then at the little kid staring adoringly. He gave him the ball! Later as the Rangers were coming off the field at the end of the inning they tossed about 6 balls to the troops. He caught another one, then he gave it away to the kids' buddy..

When I asked him why he didn't keep one he said "Don't you recall the time Nolan Ryan was about to sign my ball but was called away by someone who signed it instead. Those kids will remember this game and the soldier everytime they look at that ball !! "

I will always cherish the time we shared on his way back to Afghanistan, and the generosity of nameless benefactors for these fine men and women soldiers! I am so proud of the Man who is my son!! On this Thanksgiving Day I thank the Lord that their experience was not like ours during Vietnam.

He was promoted to E5 upon rejoining his unit. Thank you all for your Service.

David Dosker  
Rat Pack 13

***Bobbie Stanfils passing generated many tributes and stories on the 281<sup>st</sup> Chat Net, from Jeff Murray, Gary Stagman, Bob Mitchell, John Korsbeck, Will Clark, David Dosker, Lee Brewer, John Galkiewicz and others. I chose Dean Roesner's tribute as representative.....***

He was one of the good guys, always treated the crews with respect and as equals, possibly because he had been enlisted and came from the SF community. I remember him as an "old guy" that had been around and seen a lot by the time he got in the 281st. According to his age now, he would have been 33 then and to a 21 year old that was ancient. He was the PP and I the CE when we crashed and totaled 342. He will be missed. - Dean

***John Gilbreath reports good news..... John and his wife Elke underwent a horrendous experience earlier this year when they returned home to a burglary in progress leading to a confrontation resulting in grievous gunshot injuries to Elke. Following is a November update from John off the 281<sup>st</sup> HQ Net.***

Please let everyone know that Elke is doing well. We just returned from Vanderbilt AFB where they dressed the wound to her upper left chest and the drainage cut. She will have bullet fragments remaining but they will not migrate. The wounds are healing well and she feels fine. She plans on being in the shop sometime soon. The real problem is the left forearm and wrist, On the 4th of Dec, we should know how much bone they will have to graft and the amount of tendon they will have to replace. She has good movement in two fingers and the thumb. The other two are limp, those we will work on thru the sports medical dept at Vanderbilt. Overall she is fine and in good spirits, especially after facing the SOB at the hearing before the grand jury. She was a great witness and did not flinch. Afterwards they increased the

bond to 1 million \$. The DA said he may get 40 plus years. We thank you all for your love and support.

Johnnie and Elke

***This off the HQ Net.....***

From: HQ\_281AHC@yahoo.com (Jack Mayhew[intruder6@comcast.net])  
Sent: Thursday November 08, 2007  
Subject: 281<sup>st</sup> strikes again

Hello all, look at the first 281<sup>st</sup> Service Platoon Leader showing a young student what it is all about. Kind of reminds me of some of the conversations that he and I had at Ft. Hood when he was a young Lt. and right out of flight school, or better, the conversations that CWO3 Sandage, now retired CWO4, had with both of us. We all need to do more of this. – Jack Mayhew



Lou Lerda and student

From: Lou [mailto:marlynlou@comcast.net]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2007  
To: Gary Stagman; Jack Mayhew; Norman Kaufman; Darrell G. Piatt  
Subject: 281st strikes again

Whenever you get a target of opportunity always take it. I was invited to a Veterans Day program at a local elementary school on Monday. The PA Guard brought a Blackhawk and the Hagerstown, MD news paper sent a photographer. The result was a front page photograph in Tuesday's paper, clear enough to see the 281st on the hat. - Lou Lerda

***From the Editor and Publisher.....***

As a member of the 2008 Reunion Committee I'd like to let you know about what we are planning for next year. First of all, from all reports, the 2007 Reunion was a great success, as have been all the previous reunions. It is indeed wonderful to see our veterans meeting and greeting old comrades and friends many of whom had not been seen since our days in Viet Nam. We hope to continue bringing our members together to meet again as well as to continue "tall tales", have a lot of laughs, reminisce, and to just plain have a good time. Committee Chairman Frank Little welcomes any suggestions on improving the reunion. Contact Frank at [FWLittle@bellsouth.net](mailto:FWLittle@bellsouth.net).

Next years theme will be "R&R Hong Kong", with appropriate food and drink and maybe some zany and fun entertainment. And we will continue recognizing the participants in the 281<sup>st</sup> Weight Loss Club. If any of you would like join in the WLC, just email or phone Norm Kaufman; 724-235-2894 or [nckmmk@msn.com](mailto:nckmmk@msn.com).

On another matter, Gary Stagman reports that many are having difficulty accessing the 281<sup>st</sup> Assn Website. In the Internet Explorer, or Firefox, Mozilla, Safari, et al, just type into the URL (address box) <http://281st.com>. Or for you cognizanti .... [281<sup>st</sup>.com](http://281st.com).

*\*Reference Fred Beck's report, due to space constraints I exercised "Editors discretion" and did not include the reunion financial report. Anyone who desires to view the report please contact me and or Fred Beck.*

That's it for this newsletter, the last for 2007.

To all, Karen and I extend our best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Fred Mentzer  
*Wolf Pack 36 (1967-68)*

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***"Sure the LZ is secure, I'm whispering because I have a cold. Trust me."***

**281ST AHC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
Established 4 July 1999  
<http://281st.com>



#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**President**  
Jay Hays  
**Vice President**  
Frank Little  
**Secretary**  
Jeff Murray  
**Treasurer**  
Fred Beck  
**Senior Member@Large**  
Fred Lewis  
**Junior Member@Large**  
Ken Smith  
**Immediate Past President**  
Darryl Stevens

#### APPOINTED OFFICERS

**Awards** – Fred Lewis  
**Membership Committee Chairman** - Gary Stagman  
**Remembrance Committee Chairman** - Jack Mayhew  
**Historian** - Bob Mitchell  
**Internet Groups Administrator** - Brent Gourley  
**Commo Committee Chairman** – Bob Mitchell  
**Legal Advisor** - Brent Gourley  
**Reunion Committee Chairman** – Frank Little  
**Survivor Assistance Chairman** - Marshall Hawkins  
**Memorabilia Sales Committee-PX Chairman** – Jay Hays  
Association Memorabilia Chairman – Fred Lewis  
**Chaplain** - Norm Kaufman  
**Newsletter Editor/Public Relations**  
Fred Mentzer



## **INTRUDER SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT LETTER**

***I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby agree to support the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC Intruder Scholarship Program as shown below with my contribution to be paid on or before July 1 of each year.***

***My contribution is:***

***An annual contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.***

***In the name of \_\_\_\_\_.***

***A onetime contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.***

***In the name of \_\_\_\_\_.***

***I would like to set up an annual matching challenge for up to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of \_\_\_\_\_.***

***Please send your response letters and checks to:***

**Buck Sorem, Co-Chairman / Treasurer  
281<sup>st</sup> AHC Scholarship Program  
%The Strategic Planning Group  
One World Trade Center, Suite 2340  
Long Beach, California 90831-2340**