

# The Tiger Gazette



121st AVN Association      Volume Number 11      Issue Number 1      Date 1 January 2021

## *From the Editor's Desk*

I would really like to hear the MISSION IMPOSSIBLE briefing tape for the year 2020. It has been a year of frustration and anger. Danger came to us in the form of a virus which was designed in China and which escaped into the world at large. We have postponed our reunion twice and now have to postpone it again.

How real is the danger to you and me? My sister died from COVID -19 in August and her daughter, daughter's boyfriend and her granddaughter were all infected but recovered after a very severe illness. My uncle died in November. I consider it very severe. We have two vaccines available now, but it will take some time to inoculate everyone and many people say that they do not want to take them. I plan to be first in line for my shot! Our military planners have known for years that there is the risk of a biological attack and have been planning how to counter it. All they needed to know was what agent to fight against.... Also, many people are refusing to wear masks. The Saratoga Sun reported that thanks to the universal use of masks by the residents of Taiwan that there have been only seven cases of COVID -19 in Taiwan. Seven cases on an island nation with a population of 33.78 million! Think about it.

All of the above is just my long-winded way of telling you that we must postpone the reunion yet again. I truly regret this, but I would regret it even more if anyone attended our reunion and died because they contacted COVID -19 while there. I have lost too many friends and too many fellow Tigers all ready, I don't want to loose any more of you needlessly.

Don Jackson, Editor

## **Secretary's Report**

The past year we were not able to hold our annual membership meeting due COVID-19 preventing us from holding a reunion. However, in order to comply with our by-laws and the requirements of our incorporation, the Board did hold a somewhat virtual Board of Trustees meeting. This gave us "State of the Association" minutes for our records.

Reports were submitted by all the officers and committees. Here are the important highlights of those reports:  
The Association is in good financial health.

The Association renewed our incorporation in the state of Florida for 2020.

All the current Trustees agreed to serve another term for the upcoming year.

The Historian reported that his work is never-ending work and Version 9 of our archives was sent to Texas Tech University.

Our Educational Financial Assistance Program awarded 4 - \$1000 scholarships to the grandchildren of 4 of our members.

For those of you who participated in the 121<sup>st</sup> Yahoo! Group, we were notified that all Yahoo! Groups shut down on December 15, 2020. We were advised that this was coming so Trustee Fred Lammers worked with member Mike Brewer to establish a Face Book page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1398273610462189/>.

John Schmied, Secretary

## **Historian's Report**

Just a quickie to let all know where we stand as we approach the end of the calendar year. Shortly after the New Year I will declare Version 10 complete and will begin Version 11. Hard to believe so many years have gone by and still new material surfaces. Checking the Log File, I note that there are twenty entries. The first one was from Ron Janes who sent five photos from his service in the 93<sup>rd</sup> Trans. in 1962. I posted these on 3/31/2020. The last entry was posted on 11/2/2020 It was a story provided by Buck Wade describing how he was attacked by a VC using a bayonet when he was flying low level (really low level) in the left seat of a Viking gunship in 1966. I won't go into more detail because this story will be in a future Tiger Gazette.

You guys have been terrific at sending stories lately. Keep it up!

Bob Greene

Historian

## **Another Reunion Postponement!**

Your Board of Trustees has been monitoring the COVID situation since it began nearly a year ago. As you may recall, we originally had scheduled our reunion in Columbus, GA for April 2020. When the COVID situation looked like it was going to be running rampant in April, we postponed it until September. Well, as everyone knows, that plan had to be scrapped because the virus was even worse then. With everyone's safety in mind, we decided to shoot for May 2021.

Here we are early 2021 and while there is hope on the horizon with a vaccine in sight, things are starting to look a little more positive. However, the month of May could be just a little too soon for us to attempt to get together safely. I know everyone must be suffering from cabin fever as much as I am and itching to get out of the house. If you have been following the guidelines like we have, I am sure you are already going stir crazy and if not, you soon will be. But most of us are in the age group that is considered most vulnerable to becoming ill with COVID – 19, and many of us may already have a somewhat compromised immune system due to other health issues. As our Chairman and Editor, Don Jackson, mentioned in his introductory article, this has been a danger to all of us and we should all be as safe as we possibly can. The Board feels we should not take any chances of someone becoming ill with this dreaded virus.

The Hilton Garden Inn – Columbus has been fantastic to work with during these trying times. We have not been penalized for cancelling our reunions and rescheduling, although our contract included such obligations. They have waived the forfeiture of our deposit so there has not been a financial loss to the association for cancellations and postponements.

Having said all that, we have a new plan in place for our 14<sup>th</sup> reunion. We have contracted with the Hilton Garden Inn, in Columbus GA. to hold our reunion on September 16, 17, 18, 2021. We have the same room and catering rates as we originally had back in April 2020. We will send out the complete reunion schedule about 3 months before the reunion dates.

It is not known if there will be a possibility of visiting Fort Benning or Fort Rucker at this time. The Department of Defense controls that, but we will try to arrange it, if possible. Hopefully we'll have a better grip on that situation when we mail out the reunion information. There may be a possibility of having rides on a Huey (D-Model) available. We will provide as much information as we have available when the information is sent out.

September, 2021 will probably be much safer to travel and gather together and there may still be some restrictions for us to follow. Whether we still be required to wear face masks, practice social distancing, or if there will be restrictions on serving a buffet of snacks in our hospitality room is unknown at this time, but we'll just roll with the flow.

Hope everyone remains safe and healthy. See you in September.

John Schmied, Secretary and Reunion Coordinator

## Scholarship Program

It is not too early to start preparing your grandchildren to apply for our 2021 Educational Financial Assistance Program (Scholarship Program.) If you are a member and have children grandchildren or even great-grandchildren, encourage them to get ready to apply for our scholarship. The application and instructions are available on our web site: <http://121avn.org> .

Our scholarships are funded in part by our raffles held during our reunions. Since we have not held a reunion since 2019, the funds allocated for scholarships is running a little low, but it is the intention of the Board to provide as much for scholarships as possible. (Contributions to the Scholarship Program are always appreciated and are always welcomed by our Treasurer, Dave Cunningham. Just note that your check is for the Scholarship Program.)

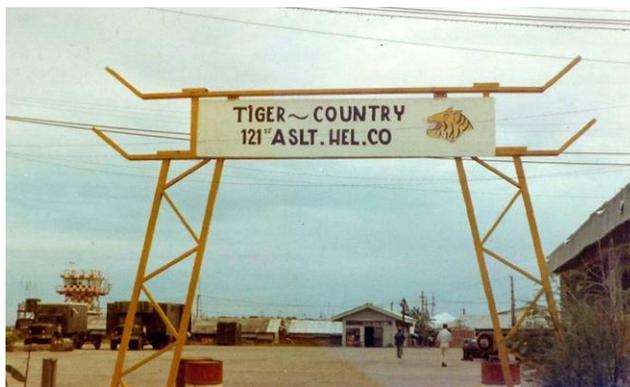
In 2020 we awarded 4 applicants with an Educational Financial Assistance Scholarship of \$1,000 each. While the funds may or may not be available for us to be as generous in 2021, we will do the best we can with the available funds. The amount of funds that will be available will be determined by the Board of Trustees and depend on the number of applications received.

Since our 2021 reunion will not be held until after the deadline for the applications June 30, it is important for you to encourage your grandkids to apply as soon as they have all their documents available. We will not have the usual constant reminders as we normally have during reunions.

If you are unable to access the web site for applications, please contact John Schmied at: [johndschmied@yahoo.com](mailto:johndschmied@yahoo.com) or you may call 352-633-0541.

John Schmied, Scholarship Committee

Fond Memories?



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