



THE FWCA/VHPA NEWSLETTER

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

An independent organization not under control nor authorized to act as an agent or representative of the VHPA.

September, 2017

VOL. XXII, NO. 3

President's Message

Greetings! I wish I had gone to the VHPA Reunion. We are all waiting to hear all the stories from those who went. The chapter in San Antonio is planning to take a field trip to visit Ft. Wolters sometime in the near future. I recommended they visit the Museum while they are here. Anyone have any suggestions for an activity in which we could all participate. We would like to line up more speakers for future meetings, please recommend anyone you think might have an interesting subject, it does not need to be strictly aviation oriented. There are still potential members out there, now that most of us are retired or semi-retired, see if you can recruit those old aviators. I have run out of "Did you Know" candidates, I and the rest of our members would really like to know more about all members, everyone has a unique story about themselves that needs to be published. A quick e-mail with a short paragraph works wonders. See ya'll at the September meeting.

Chopperdon

Notes from the VP

For those of you who may not be aware, the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells is the legacy of the Fort Wolters Chapter. The Fort Wolter's Chapter formed the first committee to begin investigating the possibility of establishing a museum in the 1990's. The first name on the corporation was: Fort Wolters/Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Museum, Inc. Since then, the task became too big for the chapter to manage and responsibility for the museum has been handed off. As our chapter begins to wind down as age takes its toll, the chapter is trying to raise \$25,000 to give our chapter credit for the OH-23 display to be placed at the Museum. To date, the chapter has raised \$18,000 toward this goal. I know many organizations are vying for your donation dollars but I would ask that you consider a donation to this cause to keep our organization's name prominent in the museum. Many have made a one-time donation of \$1,000 toward this goal but any contribution would be appreciated. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact Jim Messinger: jmessinger@wc.edu. Please help us keep our legacy alive.

I supported my friend Jim Crigler (VHPA member) as he paddled the Mississippi river from the headwaters at Lake Itasca, New York to Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He is doing this to help raise awareness for Gold Star Families, those left behind (parents, siblings, relatives, spouses, and children) to live with the heartbreak of losing a loved one in defense of this country. He's also doing this to raise funds for the National American Huey History Museum in Peru, Indiana which does work with Gold Star Families. This is the group that provided the Helicopter demo at the Louisville VHPA reunion and is one of the events that was available at the Indianapolis reunion. We had to postpone the remainder of the trip down to New Orleans due to the Mississippi being in a dangerous state of flooding, especially to a canoe trying to navigate it. We plan to finish the trip the end of August when the river is down. You can follow this trip at <https://www.missionofhonor.org/> or on the facebook page: "Mission of Honor – Mississippi Gold Star Paddle".

I also attended the VHPA Reunion in Indianapolis. The association is in good shape financially and is currently funding five \$3,000 scholarships out of our reserve instead of the scholarship fund to permit the fund to grow. They hope to expand to six scholarships in the near future. Reunion attendance

continues to decrease and the officers will be looking at future changes to address this issue since the trend will no doubt continue. The activities available were well attended and I heard no negative feedback. I will have more details at the September Meeting.

Notes from the Webmaster

The website now provides a "Members Access" page where members can update their profile and choose to opt for emailed newsletters, saving the chapter the cost of USPS delivery. This page replaces the old email list and will soon provide that service as well. In order to log in to the members page you will need to create an account with a user name and password. On the HOME page, select "Login" on the right side of the top toolbar. The LOGIN page is then displayed. There is a button on the login page for doing this "Create Account", which will only work if you already have an email address in the chapter database. When you enter your email address and a new user name you will be sent a temporary password by email which you will need to change the first time you use it to log in. This is the most secure way to handle accounts that I have found. Send email address updates to webmaster@fwcvhpa.org if you have trouble creating your account. Members may also pay their dues using PayPal at the online gift shop link.

The "Email All" option available when you log in to our website is currently set up to send email to everyone in the database listed as a General, Associate or Honorary member and that has an email address. Right now that comes to 219 members. As of June 5, there are 239 entries in the database with no email address.

Ed Faught – webmaster and database maintainer

Quarterly Meeting Notice

Due to the Labor Day Weekend, our next Chapter meeting will be the second Saturday in September, September 9th, at Logan's Roadhouse in Hurst. The Executive Council will meet at 11 AM with General Membership meeting at 11:30 (or whenever the EC finishes its meeting.) Lunch, which includes coffee, tea, or a soft drink, is \$20 per person from a special rate menu. The beer is on you. Guests eat if you or someone pays. Peanuts are free and you can throw the shells on the floor. Address is 948 NE Loop 820, Hurst, TX. Phone is 817-590-0261. GPS data: 32°49'32.43"N 97°2'03.69"W.

Secretary's Stuff

For questions or actions about membership or dues, contact Gerald Brazell at brazell911@aol.com or 817-267-7596. For change of address and email issues, contact webmaster@fwcvhpa.org. For Newsletter questions or inputs, please contact Herb Koenig at 817-801-1649 or email to herb.koenig@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report

Assets: Cash 3,156.04 ; CD: 1,483.92 ; **TOTAL 4,639.93**

Meeting Minutes

Ft Wolter's Chapter of the VHPA Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 3, 2017

Members in Attendance: Don Ancelin, Herb Koenig, Pat Richardson, Jim Messinger, Rick Couch, Ed Faught, and John Grow.

The meeting was called to order at 1100 hours.

Finances are as reported in the June 2017 Newsletter. The newsletter is available at the FWCVHPA website at <http://fwcvhpa.org/newsletters/>.

Adam needs to provide a proposed final copy of the bylaws based on comments he receives from members so that the final document is available for review and voting. If you are interested in reviewing the current draft bylaws, the document is available on the website. Please get any comments to Adam so he can finalize the document and we can vote on it.

Herb sent out an email to active members in April asking for donations to help toward raising the \$25,000 necessary to give our chapter credit for the OH-23 display to be placed at the Museum. Per Jim Messinger, we have received no additional donations to add to the \$18,000 already donated.

Pat Richardson brought up the fact that numerous WW1 pilots are buried at the Greenville Cemetery and that they had a Memorial Day Event to recognize these aviators. These pilots were trained at Camp Wolters. He thought it would be nice if some of us attended the next event which is planned for 2019.

With no new or old business remaining, the meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours.

General Quarterly Membership Meeting

The president called the meeting to order, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jim Messinger gave an update to the state of the museum. The Memorial Day Wall update went well with the first Coast Guard name being added. This led to the fact there was no Coast Guard Garden. The Coast Guard Representative there said he would take on the task of trying to get a Coast Garden added. There are couple boats (One to display and one for parts) on the east coast that are available and need to be transported to the museum. They are 30+ feet long. There is also an H-34 helicopter in California that Jerry Stackhouse has agreed to transport back to the museum.

Our speaker was Roy Mark. He is author of “Fixin' To Die Rag: Gooood Morning Vietnam... We've Just Had a Mid-Air Collision” and “Live By Chance, Love By Choice, Kill By Profession: Passing the Torch”. Both books are available on Amazon as well as other web sites. Roy then gave a brief summary of what each book was about.

It was brought up the Combat Helicopter Pilots Association (CHPA) is having their annual reunion and business meeting this year from Thursday through Saturday, August 24-26 in Plano, Texas. You can visit their website at <http://www.chpa-us.org/>.

Lunch was served and the meeting informally broke up around 1:15.

Herb Koenig – Vice President

Fort Wolters Chapter of the VHPA Officers for 2017

Name	Office	Contact Number
Don Ancelin	President	972-346-7020
Herb Koenig	Vice-President	817-707-4569
Ed Faught	Immediate Past President	972-923-2624
Gerald Brazell	Secretary	817-267-7596
Jim Messinger	Treasurer	940-452-1470
John Grow	Senior Member-at-Large	817-834-3975
Pat Richardson	Midterm Member-at-Large	817-723-8225
Rick Couch	Junior Member-at-Large	972-276-0541