

Torii Typhoon

Volume 9 Issue 1

November 2009

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



Special Points of Interest

- *As usual, the 2009 reunion was a great event. Read about it in the cover story.*
- *Why be a member of the Association? Find out on page three under "Membership."*
- *Beginning on page three, read about the changes being made in the group.*
- *The Treasurer's Report is found on page four.*
- *Your new president, Tom Sevits, and Dallas May, the new VP, have messages for all on page five.*
- *You'll learn about a few of the attractions in Dallas by reading page six.*

2009 REUNION IN ST. LOUIS WAS GREAT!

The 2009 ASA Okinawa reunion is now history and now less than a year until the next one in Plano, TX. Eighty-two members, spouses and guests attended the five day – four night event, held at the St Louis Airport Crowne Plaza Hotel September 9-12.

As usual, a large number of members arrived a day early to get rested up for the reunion. Tex Davenport was so anxious that he arrived on Sunday, so he was the first on the scene.

Following the established pattern, registration began and the hospitality room opened mid morning on Wednesday. Dave Merritt was the first member to register. The hospitality room was near enough the registration desk that people could peek out the door and see who was at the

desk, run out and greet them and go back to the hospitality room. This was pretty much the pattern throughout the afternoon.

Later Wednesday afternoon the Board Members met to set the agenda for the business meeting and to make recommendations for the membership to consider. At 1700 hrs the welcome reception was held. Association President Lonnie Frampton welcomed everyone and announced that the bar was open and hors d'oeuvres were available. This was the first "planned" activity and it turned out very well.

Shortly after the reception a busload of folks looking for some games of chance and excitement boarded the motor coach and headed for one of the casinos in near-by St

Charles. Apparently the casino's well thought out stimulus plan worked very well, (for them); we are not aware of any big winners; therefore we can only conclude that the money that went into the machines stayed there.

Thursday's activities began with a private breakfast buffet. Shortly after breakfast two busloads of members and guests departed for the St Louis city tour. The day included a riding tour of downtown St Louis, Soulard, and Forrest Park, a tour of the famed Cathedral Basilica, home to the world's most beautiful mosaic art; of course a visit to the Arch with a tram ride to the top, the museum of Western Expansion, or for the faint hearted, a movie, Monument to the Dream: -

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the story of building the arch. Lunch was on your own at Union Station and a quick stop at the Anheuser-Busch brewery to see the famous Budweiser Clydesdales. What a great day!

Meanwhile back at the hotel members continued to arrive and make use of the hospitality room while waiting for the tour to come back. When they did, there was a mad rush from the busses and hospitality room converging in the lobby. What a wonderful sight, seeing old friends come together! After a few minutes of greetings most went back to the hospitality room or their respective rooms for a short rest.

Later in the evening, about 6:45, members began congregating in the lobby for the short trip to the riverboat and the dinner cruise. The actual cruise wasn't all that glamorous, but the meal was exquisite, probably the best of the entire reunion. And there was a banjo picker and a musician who played some other instrument – we forgot what – for after dinner entertainment and dancing. All in all it was a really peaceful and relaxing evening spent with friends. It doesn't get any better!

Once again Friday's breakfast was a private buffet. Following the meal, many (in fact most) of the group boarded motor coaches for a visit to the Bison Ranch, with a German flavor. The "Home on the Range" tour was the most requested activity on the surveys that were returned. Some folks got confused thinking this was next year in Texas. This out-of-the-city trip to Bison Ranch was unique! Most had never had a hands-on tour of a bison ranch; much less learn about the different kinds of bison and how to take care of them. Well thank your lucky stars; you were able to do it all! The brave (or foolish) had a chance to feed these ton-and-a-half animals Twinkies by ramming their arm to their elbow down the throat of the slobbering beast. It has been said that the bison snort or honk (whatever they do) in German. Then, we went to the Romer Topf for a genuine German meal with live entertainment. Whatta

day!

Just before the social hour started we had a near tragedy. Our friend Gerald Mueller suffered an as yet undetermined medical condition that required him to be hospitalized. Obviously we were concerned about Jerry and Sandy but the evening activities continued although in a more subdued manner.

Following a delicious dinner buffet the annual raffle was held. Helen Maki and Brenda Eckard sold raffle tickets throughout the reunion in anticipation of the drawing, and preliminary results indicate that about \$750.00 was raised for the association. Helen and her team of Dianes (Bergman and Sanford) ran the raffle. Helen drew the numbers and described the gift while the two Dianes delivered the gift to the winner.

Saturday morning was pretty much a repeat of the previous two days, starting with a private breakfast buffet followed by a trip to Grant's Farm. The tour of the farm included a tram ride thru the farm. We saw Hardscrabble, the house that Grant built, and observed animals such as bison, elk, antelope, zebras, ostriches, and sika. Lunch was on your own and some folks got a sample of free beer.

The annual business meeting was held immediately after returning to the hotel. We were privileged to have two "Texas girls" from Plano, TX at the meeting to give us a preview of next year's reunion. Janna Timm represented the Southfork Hotel and Ranch and Jennifer Hyde represented the city of Plano. Their presentations were just what we needed to build enthusiasm for 2010. Janna gave away two tickets, won by Mark L'Hommedieu, to a Southfork BBQ (which we will be doing). Jennifer gave away two Plano baseball caps, a Plano umbrella, and a six golf ball packet. On behalf of the Association, Lonnie presented each of the ladies with an ASA Okinawa T-Shirt. A forthcoming newsletter will provide details for and about the reunion.

Three major items of business were brought before and approved by the membership. First item was to

elect a vice-President/President Elect. Dallas May was elected to fill this slot. Welcome aboard Dallas! Next, Cincinnati was chosen as the 2011 reunion site. Other nominated cities were Nashville, Jacksonville, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Rapid city, SD.

Finally, after considerable discussion the decision was made to change the unit flag and guideon to correspond with the association By-Laws, which says the name of the association shall be ASA Okinawa. In order to insure every unit that served on Okinawa is represented under this "umbrella," a streamer will be made for each unit and the streamer will be attached to the unit flag. A new flag with streamers and guideon will be purchased to reflect the changes.

The photo session and social hour began at 1830 hours – and a social time it was – one of the last times at this reunion to have that last favorite beverage with that favorite group of people! The banquet formalities began with the Elite Drill Team Commander requesting and receiving permission from Col Bill Roscher (USA Ret) to post the National Colors. The National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance followed the posting. After a few welcome remarks by association President Lonnie Frampton, dinner was served.

Following dinner, the Elite Drill Team wowed the audience with their rifle and close order drills. These young ladies were great.

After their performance, Col Roscher gave a short talk on the demise of the Army Security Agency; some of how the death came about and the aftermath of ASA being integrated into the rest of the Army. Some of us had long suspected, but were not able to confirm our suspicions until the Colonel's remarks.

Then out-going President Lonnie Frampton made his closing remarks, thanking everyone for their cooperation during his tenure as President and reminding everyone why we gather each year and why it

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is important.

Immediately after Lonnie's comments the Change-of-Command ceremony was held and Tom Sevits officially took over as President of the ASA Okinawa Association. In his opening remarks Tom thanked everyone for electing him to this position and promised his best efforts to lead the group. Tom, we know you'll do a fine job and you have the entire association's support!

Suddenly it was Sunday, the last day. Breakfast, like it usually is on Sunday, was a little more subdued, a little quieter, and an obvious reluctance to leave. After breakfast, Ross Lee, Gary Duenow and Duane Sands conducted the memorial service honoring our deceased friends.

Then it was over – just like that. The handshakes were few, the hugs were many. That's how it is when you leave friends – and there were no strangers at this great reunion.

MEMBERSHIP

This edition of the Torii Tribune is being sent to everyone on the mailing list – not just to Association members. For those of you who are members of the Association, please look at your address label to see when your membership expires and send in your dues before the expiration date. Renewals are the lifeblood of our membership, so please be aware of your expiration date and renew accordingly.

To the large numbers of you who are not association members, please consider joining. Dues are only \$10.00 a year. Any former soldier who served in the 111th Sig Svc Company, 327th Comm Recon Co; the 8603rd AAU, 3rd ASA Field Station, ASA Field Station Sobe, Army Field Station Okinawa, or any of the other units that fell under the Torii Station designation are cordially invited to become members. A membership application is included with this newsletter.

Now, why should you join the Association? First, we were all elite, silent soldiers that served without much recognition because of the na-

ture of our work. We are part of a brotherhood and an organization that needs to be remembered. The Association is the vehicle to carry on the memory and tradition of the Signal Intelligence organizations that served on Okinawa. In order to do this, the help of every former member is needed. Membership gives you that opportunity! You will receive the Torii Tribune three times a year with news about the association, our members and stories from the past. You will be able to participate in the management of the Association by attending the business meetings and voting on the matters brought up by the membership. The most important thing is comradeship that you will find by becoming a member and attending our reunions. This is something you will not find anywhere else, in any other walk of life. So often we hear the excuse, "Well, I won't know anyone." So what? It would be great to find that old friend that you ran around with, but an hour after you arrive you'll feel like you've belonged there all of your life. Ask anyone who has attended a reunion, they'll tell you the same thing. Give it a try; it'll only cost you ten bucks and it may possibly be the best \$10.00 you ever spent. Come on, we need you as a member!

2009 REUNION ATTENDEES

David & Diane Bergman
Earl & Martha Butler
Daniel & Margaret Carr
John & Lee Conley
Albert Cooper
Thomas & Tonia Cooper
Billy Davenport
Tracy & Carol Davis
Jere & Carol Dillon
Jay & Sandra Ditter
Gary & Linda "Rusty" Duenow
Larry & Brenda Eckard
James & Lucy Elder
Stephen & Joyce Fitzgerald
Lonnie & Faye Frampton
Charles Gurreri
William Hauda & Diane Lillis
John & Bernadette Horengic
Marvin & Edna Huff
Charles & Fran Kennedy
Eugene Knutzen
Richard & Wanda Krantz
Ross & Sue Lee
Mark & Jane L'Hommedieu

Johnnie Luke
Helen Maki
Dallas & Linda May
David Merritt
Theodore Mish & Rea Murray
Richard Moore & Kathleen Stewart
Gerald & Sandy Mueller
James & Sharon Norrbom
William & Elaine Overholt
Herbert Powell
Gene & Kay Riling
William & JoAnn Roscher
John (Jack) & Diane Sanborn
Duane & Lou Anne Sands
Tom & Judy Sevits
John & Carol Stanley
William & Veronica Stanley
Ronald & Linda Stradling
Thomas & Marian Sturgeon
Michael & Robin Tranchina
Nicholas & Loraine Williams
Total Members: 45
Guests: 37
GRAND TOTAL: 82

CHANGES ARE BEING MADE

The entire membership recognizes that the reunion group was started by some members who served in the 111th Signal Service Company and the very early 8603rd members. Thanks to the efforts of Membership Chairman, Paul Watson (one of the original members) the number of former ASAers who served on Okinawa grew by leaps and bounds; but the majority of them were members who served in the 8603rd, 3rd ASA Field Station, and later units. Without intentionally doing so, the reunion founders became the minority and as new elections took place the post 8603rd members were elected into office. This trend has continued and with exception of Paul, the original founders are no longer in office. It

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needs to be emphasized this “transfer of power” was a natural progression and was not intended to “slight” or detract from the pre 8603rd founders’ contributions.

Several years ago an attempt was made to give the organization a name that was all inclusive - for the express purpose of not offending or “slighting” any year group. Thus the name “ASA Okinawa” was adopted and has been used for the past several years. We realize that when ASA was integrated into the regular Army it became part of the Intelligence and Security Command, a member of the Military Intelligence family. Soldiers from that era are also part of us! They are most welcome and encouraged to become association members. We hope that because of their ties with ASA, those members are willing to accept the ASA Okinawa name.

In a further effort to insure that everyone and every unit is represented under the ASA Okinawa umbrella a number of changes were proposed, voted on, and passed at the last business meeting in St Louis.

The organization name “ASA Okinawa” will remain the official name of the Association. A new flag similar to the one we ordered two years ago will

become the official flag; new shirts with the new emblem, and new garden flags will also be available. Our own guideon with ASA on the top line, the Army symbol in the center, and Okinawa on the bottom line will be made. The new flag will have a modified emblem (flag, torii, and eagle), similar to the one we now use, except it will only have ASA Okinawa and Best in the Business inscribe. To represent every major unit that bears the heritage of Signal Intelligence work on Okinawa, a streamer attached to the unit flag will be used to denote specific units. The following units will each have a streamer: 1st Operating Platoon, 126th Sig Svc Co”; “111th Sig Svc Co”; “327th Comm Recon Co”; “8603rd AAU”; 3rd USASA FS; 51st USASA SOC”; “USASA FS Sobe”; “US Army FS Okinawa. At times there were other named or lettered units, but they were always subordinate to one of the above senior commands.

While no amount of change or effort will please everyone, with this effort to bring everyone back together, we hope to encourage members from the early years to rejoin us, and members from the later years to join us.

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**TREASURER’S REPORT—ASA OKINAWA ASSOCIATION
OCT. 20, 2009
By Thomas A Sturgeon**

Beginning Check Book Balance Sept. 7th, 2009.....	\$7297.78
Income from dues.....	\$500.00
Income from shirt sales at reunion.....	\$73.00
Income from reunion raffle.....	\$755.00
Sales of patches and pins.....	\$17.00
Total Income.....	\$1345.00

Disbursements

Expenses for purchase of shirts.....	-\$312.89
Freight bill for shipping shirts.....	-\$37.10
Order for additional shirts.....	-\$215.88
Reimburse ASA Okinawa memorial fund.....	-\$100.00
Donation to Elite Drill Team for performance.....	-\$500.00
Elite Drill Team over night accommodations.....	-\$144.00
Total Disbursements	-\$1309.87
Adjustment.....	-\$90

Check book balance as of October 20, 2009.....\$7332.01

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The St. Louis reunion, in my opinion, was a very enjoyable one. Although the number of attendees was down, we had a very good time renewing old friendships and making some new ones. The only down side was good friend Jerry Mueller falling ill on Saturday night. Jerry spent a few days in the hospital there, but I understand he is doing fine now. That's wonderful news!

Now we must look toward getting through this winter. I think all you southern folks should invite us northerners to spend a few weeks (10 or 12) with you. Just kidding!

As I begin my two years as your president, I invite your suggestions as to how we can get better attendance at the reunions. We try to vary the locations--east and west of the Mississippi--so that not everyone has to travel long distances to get to the reunions. I know in these troubling economic times, expenses are a factor, but we try to hold the reunions where the costs are lower. I believe the ML&RS does a great job scheduling events that are

cost effective. Any ideas that you might have would be greatly appreciated! You can e-mail your suggestions to me at tom.judy@wcnet.org.

As of this writing, I have been working on getting new flags, unit streamers, and a new guideon made. All should be done by the end of the year. We should be able to have order forms ready for the next Torii Typhoon edition. I understand there will also be order forms for shirts in that edition.

At a session in St. Louis, we had a presentation by two spokeswomen from Plano, TX and the Southfork Hotel, our base for the 2010 reunion. We can be certain these ladies, Larry and Brenda will plan an itinerary of enjoyable, interesting events to ensure we have another fantastic reunion.

Do plan on attending and having memorable times with friends old and new in the Lone Star State.

SEE YOU IN TEXAS!! **Tom Sevits**

VP'S MESSAGE

As I sit here in the still of the afternoon, with the sun slowly sinking in the west, I was reminiscing about the fine time we had at the Army Security Agency reunion we attended in St. Louis, the "Gateway to the West." I particularly enjoyed the trip to Grant's Farm and all the history connected to it. The riverfront with the Arch and the impressive new Busch stadium in the background were quite enjoyable. The riverboat dinner cruise down the big muddy was quite relaxing. The food and entertainment was great. I think the highlight of the reunion was the installation of our esteemed friend from Ohio, Tom Sevits, being installed as our new President. Congratulations, Tom. Our attendance at the ASA reunion was down this year from several years in the past. All I can say to you Guys and Gals that were AWOL is that you missed out on a great reunion. Hopefully we will see all of you next year in Texas. In closing, I would like to congratulate Larry and Brenda for another great reunion.

Thanks and God Bless,
Dallas May



WELCOME MAT

The following members have been located since the last newsletter. Welcome to the Association. We hope to see you at the next reunion and hear from you about your memories of your time spent in Okinawa.

Edward Garvin (1960-61) SP4
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TAPS

The Typhoon learned of the following deaths since the last newsletter was published. The deaths are not necessarily recent, but they were just learned of. The entire membership extends our deepest sympathy to the widows, families and friends of the deceased.

Marty Lydon (1952-53)
Died July 14, 2009

Norbert Meyer
Died November 2007

Charles Tatman
Died January 2009

John Wilson (1952-55) SP2
Died December 23, 2008

Lynn Williams
Died May 17, 2009

**NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES
for November 2009— \$1780.76
(mailed to all 1309 names on mailing list.)**

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**"Our Reunions Work So You Don't
Have To"**

“LIVE LARGE. THINK BIG.” COME TO DALLAS IN 2010

Your choice of Dallas, TX for the 2010 reunion is a great one! Today Dallas is the top visitor destination in Texas whose new slogan is “Live Large. Think Big.” Dallas offers something for everyone. Get ready to visit the sights of Dallas by reading about just a few of them here.

DEALEY PLAZA and SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM:

Dealey Plaza, site of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was built in 1934-40 and serves as Dallas’ western gateway. Now an historical district, it includes the plaza and the Texas School Book Depository.

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza is located on the sixth floor of the former Texas School Book Depository Building and details the events of the assassination, the controversies that followed, and a comprehensive tribute to the life and death of the legacy of President John F. Kennedy. From the window you can see the “grassy knoll” and the triple underpass: the same view that Lee Harvey Oswald had on that fateful November day.

CAVANAUGH FLIGHT MUSEUM:

Located on the grounds of the Addison Airport, just outside of Dallas, the museum collects, maintains and flies an extensive collection of aircraft while also housing artwork and artifacts spanning the time period from World War I through the Vietnam conflict. These comprise one of the largest private aviation collections in the country. Virtually all of the aircraft are air worthy and are still flown regularly.

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL PLAZA:

Along this plaza you will find a broad spectrum of Dallas County history and a variety of architectural styles. Old Red Courthouse, built in 1890 in Romanesque–Revival style; the John Neely Bryan Cabin, a reconstruction of the cabin built in 1841 by the founder of Dallas; and the Kennedy Memorial.

PIONEER PLAZA:

This group of 70 large bronze longhorn steers and their cowboy horseback riders is the largest sculptural group in the world. Created by Robert Summers of Glen Rose, TX, Pioneer Plaza and its bronze display is actually located on the historic cattle trail use beginning in 1854.

STOCKYARDS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT AND HERD CATTLE DRIVE:

Located in Fort Worth, this was once the 2nd largest cattle market in the world. Now preserved and renovated, it contains Western-themed events, shops and saloons. Among the attractions here are the Cowtown Coliseum, home to the annual Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show; Cowtown Opry; the Tarantula Steam Train; and Western and antique shops that line the streets once traveled by Butch Cassidy. Guided tours of the area are also available. Experience the world’s only twice daily cattle drive as Fort Worth’s herd of Texas Longhorn steers are driven down the bricks of historic Exchange Avenue in the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards. The herd is driven by authentic cowboys and cowgirls in period clothing from the era of 1865.

BILLY BOB’S TEXAS:

Also in Fort Worth in the Stockyard District, is this one-of-a-kind entertainment center known as “The World’s Largest Country Music-Honky Tonk.” This family-friendly nightclub offers more than just live music and dancing. There is an indoor bull riding arena, where professional rodeo cowboys try to tackle some of the toughest bulls around. The nightclub has an enormous dance floor, and every weekend country music performers make their way to center stage. Performers such as George Jones, Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks and Alabama have delighted audiences.

SOUTHFORK RANCH:

No visit to Dallas is complete without a visit to the legendary Southfork Ranch, setting for one of the longest running TV series in television history—“Dallas.” Guided tours of the famed Ewing Mansion let you re-live exciting moments from the series in the “Dallas Legends” exhibit, featuring an array of memorabilia from the show. See the gun that shot J.R., Lucy’s wedding dress, the “Dallas” family tree, and Jock’s Lincoln Continental. Guests are given a full guided tour of the house, even J.R.’s bedroom! Relax on a guided tour of the ranch. You’ll hear a history of the ranch and see Texas longhorns and American quarter horses. After seeing the house and ranch, board the Southfork’s Texas Tram and be transported to their “dinner camp,” complete with an authentic chuckwagon from the Old West. Singing cowboys will entertain with campfire songs and ranch hands will tell western stories and recite cowboy poetry after dinner. This is truly a unique experience! It will be a great day trip!

**2010 REUNION
ASA OKINAWA**

DALLAS, TX

SEPT. 8-12, 2010

**SOUTHFORK HOTEL
PLANO, TX**

