

Torii Typhoon

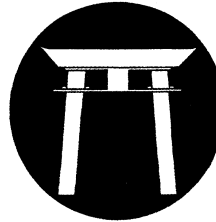
Volume 10, Issue 3

November 2011

Official Newsletter of ASA Okinawa



Union Terminal, Cincinnati



2011 ASA Reunion a Great Success!

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Cincinnati, Ohio was the host city for the 2011 reunion of the ASA Okinawa Association, held September 14-18 at the Hilton Cincinnati Airport Hotel. Thirty-four members and twenty-eight of their guests enjoyed a few days of reliving some of the best times of their lives. Gene Riling was so eager to begin his reminiscing that he was the first to register for the reunion on Wednesday around noon. Gene is a talented artist, and he presented several of his sketches to members waiting in the lobby. It pays off to be an early-bird! As the afternoon progressed, the registration table saw a brisk business and the hospitality room became more lively as those who finished registering made their way into the room for a first glimpse of the arrivals. Displays of memorabilia from the ASA Okinawa were set up and everyone enjoyed discussing the items and remembering their own

time in Okinawa. Soon it was time for the official start of the reunion with a welcome reception scheduled at 5:00 pm. Association President Tom Sevits welcomed everyone to the reunion, and first time attendee Gerald Clemmons was welcomed and quickly made to feel part of the group. Meatball and vegetable trays were available, as well as a cash bar. The reception was the only planned event for the first day, giving everyone time to get settled in and to spend plenty of time getting reacquainted with old friends.

Thursday morning's breakfast was from the hotel buffet, but seating was in a private room set aside for the ASA Okinawa group. Following breakfast the scheduled tour took the group to Newport on the Levee and a luncheon cruise on a riverboat. Across the river from Cincinnati is the small and historic city of Newport, Kentucky.

The main attraction is Newport on the Levee, whose lifestyle center includes dozens of small shops and retail stores including a wide variety of restaurants and an impressive aquarium. At 11:30 the group departed for a luncheon cruise on the Cincinnati Belle which featured games, entertainment and a delicious buffet. The cruise and the meal were much enjoyed by the attendees. Around 2:00 pm the group returned to the hotel where some chose to go straight to their rooms to relax, while others went straight to the hospitality room, stopping by to buy their raffle tickets. Thursday's dinner was a build your own deli sandwich featuring a variety of salads, dressings, meats, and cheeses. The self-made subs were good (some were better, depending on each person's culinary skills), but the real highlight of the evening was the Oldies Newly Wed Game. There

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were a number of couples who have, or will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary during 2011. Three of the couples (Daniel & Margaret Carr, Lonnie and Faye Frampton, Tracy and Carol Davis) "volunteered" to participate; Gary & Rusty Duenow were volunteered by acclamation to be the 4th couple. Everyone appreciated the participation of all four couples – volunteers like them are what make the reunion tick. Thanks! The "contest" was modeled after the TV show "Newly Wed Game." And after a series of questions, the couple with the highest score (as determined by the scorekeeper/judge) Lonnie and Faye Frampton were declared the winners. Thanks also are in order to our judges/scorekeepers John and Carol Stanley. John, you will recall, won the sexy red underwear at last year's reunion in Plano. It was a fun evening with everyone leaving with a smile on their face.

Friday morning began after another hotel buffet with seating in a private room and then at 9:00 am the tour to the Wright-Patterson AFB's National Museum of the Air Force departed. With respect to attractions, this museum in Dayton, OH is why Cincinnati was chosen as the reunion site. First stop of the morning was The Presidential and Research & Development Galleries, located in the controlled-access portion of Wright-Patterson Air Force. ASA Okinawa was afforded the opportunity to have a private tour of this facility. From there it was to The National Museum of the United States Air Force. The museum galleries present military aviation history, boasting more than 360

aerospace vehicles and missiles on display. Many exhibits are rare and one-of-a-kind. These exhibits along with thousands of historical items and powerful sensory exhibits bring history to life and connect the Wright brothers' legacy with today's stealth and precision technology, including aircraft, engines, equipment and weapons of the USAF. Each and every exhibit will make you walk away wondering how could man accomplish this?? It is far too lengthy to describe the exhibits here, but those who were there know what we mean. A few of the more popular exhibits were: the Early Years Gallery, WW II Gallery, Korean War Gallery, Southeast Asia Gallery, Cold War Gallery, Missile and Space Gallery, Presidential Gallery, R & D Gallery, Air Park, Memorial Park, Restoration Projects. Lunch was purchased individually at the museum cafeteria. The group arrived back at the hotel around 4:00 PM – where a hospitality room full of "goodies" awaited.

For a change of pace, Friday night's meal was a plated dinner – choice of turkey and dressing or herb-roasted pork loin. Today was the birthday of J. R. Davenport and her new husband (our own Tex Davenport) had a cake delivered to the dinner in her honor, and in an action rarely, if ever, seen before, husband Tex led the singing of Happy Birthday. We all joined Tex in wishing her many more. In a completely separate action five couples were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary sometime this year – and a cake was provided by the Hilton for these couples; Lonnie

and Faye Frampton, Daniel and Margaret Carr, Tracy and Carol Davis, Larry and Brenda Eckard, and Ross and Sue Lee. Congratulations to all of them and may you have many more. Following dinner the annual fund raising raffle was held. There was excellent participation, nearly everyone brought a gift, lots of tickets were sold and the prizes were nice. Our strong supporter, Dottie from New Jersey, once again donated not one but four cross-stitched framed pictures. Dottie, thank you and bring yourself to Nashville! Faithful and loyal members Bill and Elaine Overholt were not able to be with us, but sent a nice gift. Thanks Bill & Elaine, we missed you. This year was Gene Riling's turn to model his newly acquired sexy gray underwear. It was a great evening of fun and friendship.

Saturday was the Optional Cincinnati tour which left the hotel at 9:00 am. As we traveled to and through the city, the guide told about the history, traditions and culture of Cincinnati. Stops at some of the major attractions included the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal. Originally built in 1933 as the Union Terminal train station, the building was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1977. Today it houses, among other exhibits, the Cincinnati Museum of History, The Edge of Appalachia, Museum of History and Natural Science, the Cincinnati Historical Library, an OMNI-MAX Theater

(not part of the tour), and other special attractions and exhibits. Another place where one could spend all day is the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. During the 1800s, estimates suggest that more than 100,000 slaves sought freedom through the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad is the symbolic term given to the routes slaves took to gain their freedom as they traveled, often as far as Canada and Mexico. Free Blacks, Whites, Native Americans and other slaves acted as conductors by aiding fugitive slaves to their freedom. The group arrived back at the hotel around 2:45 just in time for a quick snack before the business meeting at 3:00 pm. The annual business meeting was called to order by Association President Tom Sevits. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. Official minutes of the meeting will be published later, but the most significant actions were the selection of Chattanooga, TN as the 2013 reunion location; and the election of Gary Duenow as VP/ President-Elect; Tracy Davis as Secretary; and Jim Norrbom as Treasurer. After the closing of the business meeting there was time for relaxing and preparing for the Saturday evening banquet.

The pre-dinner cocktail hour began at 6:30 pm, with everyone arriving in their "Sunday best" for the photo session that took place during the cocktail hour. LTC Marvin Huff (Ret); CW3 Lonnie Frampton

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ton (Ret) and CW3 Larry Eckard (Ret) wore their uniforms, and Col Bill Roscher (Ret) and CW4 Charles Kennedy (Ret) wore an impressive array of medals on their civilian clothing. The banquet began at 7:30 with the playing of our national anthem, the Caisson's Song, and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Association President Tom Sevits welcomed everyone to the banquet and dinner was served. Following the meal there were two special guest speakers—Kerrie Hagan from Fisher House and Roland Cresswell from the IRS Criminal Investigation Division. Karrie Hagan gave a presentation on the Fisher House which she compared to the Ronald MacDonald House, except the Fisher House is sanctioned by the VA and offers lodging for family members of wounded veterans and scholarships for children of veterans killed in the line of duty. The Association thinks

so highly of the organization that a \$1,100.00 check was presented to Ms Hagan. She was so thrilled with the gift! Roland Cresswell from the IRS Criminal Investigation Division gave a presentation on how the IRS tracks money laundering and individuals or corporations trying to hide income. He cited several successes and emphasized the value of the Patriot Act in finding these offenders. In addition, he cited at least one terror plot that was thwarted by their efforts. Following the two speakers, a special presentation was given to four members who attended the first reunion in Orlando, FL in 1995. Those members were Jim Bowling, Herb Powell, Charles Kennedy and Tom Sturgeon. These loyal members were given certificates and a gold colored "charter member" tag to hang below their name tags. Tom

Sturgeon was then presented with a desk pen set for his years of service as Treasurer. Then in a formal ceremony at the conclusion of the banquet program, Outgoing President Tom Sevits thanked the membership for the privilege of leading the Association the past two years and members of his family – namely Judy—for their help and support. At the conclusion of his remarks he took the ASA Okinawa Flag from the stand and presented it to Immediate Past President Lonnie Frampton who passed it to incoming President Dallas May. Dallas then returned the flag to its stand signifying the assumption of the presidency. In his opening remarks Dallas expressed his gratitude to the membership for the opportunity to serve as Association President and asked for their continued loyalty and support. After a rousing round of applause for the

new and old presidents the banquet formalities ended on this high note.

Sunday morning's final breakfast was held in a private banquet room—the same room as the Memorial Service which was held at 8:15 am. The memorial service, honoring deceased ASA Okinawa members, followed breakfast and was led by Chaplain Ross Lee. Newly elected President Dallas May was the master of ceremonies; Gary Duenow read the names of the deceased and Duane Sands was the bell ringer. Following the Memorial Service, the 2011 reunion of the ASA Okinawa Association came to a close. As usual, no one was eager to say good bye, but knowing that they will be together again in Nashville, TN next year made leaving a little less somber.

Treasurer's Report ASA Okinawa Association September 21, 2011

Beginning Check Book Balance 09/23/2011.....	\$3,697.34
Income from sale of flags	\$40.00
Total Income.....	\$40.00
Disbursements	
Money Returned for Life time members who had paid dues already.....	\$50.00
ML&RS, Inc reimburse banquet dinner money.....	\$152.00
Tom Sevits reimburse for ASA History Books made up for sale.....	\$99.94
Total Disbursements.....	\$301.94
Final check book balance as of 10/21/11.....	\$3,435.40

***Actual bank balance is \$1,100.00 more because Fisher House Check has not cleared the bank yet.**

NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES October 2011 \$396.01

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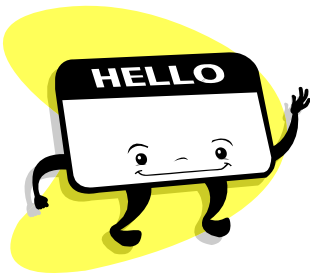
[WWW.MLRSINC.COM/
ASAOKINAWA](http://WWW.MLRSINC.COM/ASAOKINAWA)

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

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION REMINDER

Please check the membership expiration date on the outside of this newsletter envelope. Dues are \$10.00 and are to be sent to **Jim Norrbom**, 11409 Christensen Ct, Burnsville, MN 55337.





2011 Reunion Attendees

James Bowling
 Daniel & Margaret Carr
 Gerald Clemons
 Billy (Tex) & J.R. Davenport
 Tracy & Carol Davis
 Gary & Linda (Rusty) Duenow
 Larry & Brenda Eckard
 Stephen & Joyce Fitzgerald
 Lonnie & Faye Frampton
 Charles & Dennis Hoover
 Marvin & Edna Huff
 Jane Kendzierski & Linda Bonkowski
 Charles & Fran Fitz Kennedy
 Eugene Knutzen
 John & Diane Lanier
 Ross & Sue Lee
 Dallas & Linda May
 David Merritt
 Mort Miller
 Theodore Mish & Rea Murray
 James & Sharon Norrbom
 Herbert Powell
 Louis & Lovaghn Quigley
 Gene & Kay Riling
 William & JoAnn Roscher
 John (Jack) & Diane Sanborn
 Duane & Lou Anne Sands
 Tom & Judy Sevits
 Scott & Jo Sevits
 Steve & Emily Sevits
 John & Carol Stanley
 William & Veronica Stanley
 Thomas & Marian Sturgeon
 George (Bill) & Mary Rose Williamson

Total Members: 34
Guests: 28
GRAND TOTAL: 62

From the President

As I reminisce about our recent ASA Okinawa reunion in Cincinnati; we had another great time. Cincinnati proved to be a great venue for our reunion. I was really impressed with how many firsts in the nation they had. They also have more than their share of Fortune 500 companies. They have really improved river front properties and made them a very nice tourist attraction. It is also a great venue for the locals, with their many walking and bike paths; ideal shopping and great food for all. I was a little disappointed that some of the shops and food venues did not open for business until eleven or twelve o'clock. It also amazes me that all the pro sports arenas and ball parks are situated along the water front. Of course that is how it is in most of the pro sport cities. They all gravitate toward the water.

It was a pleasure to have Tom and Judy Sevits' two sons and their wives at the Saturday night banquet. They are a very nice family. We enjoyed their company very much. We also had two very excellent speakers at the banquet. Tom and Judy's friend, Roland Creswell who works for investigative end of the

Internal Revenue Service. It was enlightening as to how they went about bringing down some of the biggest cheaters against the Internal Revenue Service.. The other speaker was Karrie Hagen, who represented Fisher House. Karrie is manager of the Fisher House in Cincinnati. ASA Okinawa presented Karrie a check for \$1100.00. Karrie was very gracious and gave a very heart warming speech in thanking ASA Okinawa for our generous donation.

I would like to remind all of our members that Tom still has a few of the ASA Okinawa flags for sale. He has some small patio flags, plus some of the larger ones. Anyone interested in the flags, please contact Tom or any one on the board of directors and we will get the flags to you.

In closing, I would like to thank Larry and Brenda for another great reunion. We are all looking forward to seeing all of you, next year at our reunion in Nashville, TN.

Thanks and God Bless
Dallas May



Tex Davenport made the highest bid for the first ASA unit flag that was put up for auction at last year's reunion in Dallas. Tex said he really wanted that flag and made a very generous bid of \$1000. Of course he outbid all those submitting bids. Thanks Tex! That was way beyond anything the association was expecting!
 From Tom Sevits

From the Vice President

Well, another successful reunion is in the record books thanks to Larry, Brenda and the crew. It was certainly good to see all our great ASA friends again. We just wish there could have been a few more of us in attendance. The more the merrier as they say. We certainly missed Bill and Elaine - hope to see you in Memphis. It was a rather damp trip on our way home from Cincinnati on Sunday (18th), but Duane, Sandy, Lou and Rusty were entertaining and kept the trip interesting, so the return went quite fast. All four of us are really looking forward to a great time next year in Nashville. As you may know, "Rusty" and I, her brother "Sandy" and spouse Lou Anne love to travel together to the reunions and usually extend the trip a little longer to catch some of the events/sights not included in the reunion schedule. A little extra

family vacation, you know. We must all keep our fingers crossed for good weather and keep the heavy rains out of the picture so we don't have any flooding problems. Even though Lonnie and Faye kicked our rears at the 'dating game', Rusty and I had a great time checking our memories and knowledge of each other. We hold no ill will to the judges (the Stanley's). A good time was had by all. The election this year at the general meeting was quite eventful. I had resigned as secretary after six years to give someone else an opportunity to contribute to the board and our ASA Okinawa group. I feel Tracy Davis will take over and do a very good job for the group. Thank you to the membership for giving me the opportunity to assist Pres. Dallas May and the board guide our group thru the next two years. Our main goal will have to be to try to

increase membership and attendance to our annual reunions. We understand that the economy and costs factor into most of our ability to attend. There are ways to reduce the costs and still be able to see all your old friends and meet some new ones. Once you attend one, you will want to return again and again. You can cut costs by coming for shorter stays like 1 night, 2 nights, etc and you can exclude the group daily trips and spend more time in the hospitality room meeting old friends and making new ones and reminiscing about ASA Okinawa. The most important part is to attend and join us in the festivities. Hope to see you all in Nashville. **MAKE PLANS NOW**

Thanks again to all of you and may God bless you all.

Gary Duenow

From the Past President

In this final letter, I have reflected upon the four years I was an officer of our association. It was a great honor and privilege to serve as Vice President and President.

Participation in the ASA Okinawa Association has been, and will continue to be, a very special part of my life. Judy and I so look forward to the fellowship with you and your spouses at the reunions. These reunions have also provided the opportunity to see more of our great land!

During the past four years, a new unit flag with streamers and guidon was developed, Large and small flags were and are available for purchase. A relationship with the Fisher House was established, and honoring the founders of our ASA Okinawa reunions became a priority. At the association business meeting at this reunion, the members voted to grant lifetime membership to the thirty-five members who were at the 1995 reunion in Orlando.

A special invitation to attend the 2011 reunion was sent to all those we were able to contact that were present at that first reunion in 1995. Four of those gentlemen, Jim Bowling, Charles Kennedy, Herb Powell, and Tom Sturgeon were able to attend our reunion. I also received notes from several others who were unable to attend.

During the Saturday night banquet, Jim, Charles, Herb, and Tom were presented a certificate of appreciation for their role in establishing the ASA Okinawa Association. Tom Sturgeon was given an engraved desk pen set in appreciation of his many years of service as the association treasurer.

Paul Watson, another longtime ASA Okinawa member, was not present at the reunion. Acknowledgment and appreciation was expressed for his many years of dedicated service as membership chairman. As I have stated before, many of us would not have been aware of the association reunions had it not

been for Paul's efforts to locate and contact us. An engraved desk pen set and certificate of appreciation had been mailed to Paul so it would be received during the time of the reunion.

Also, it was important to me that a history of ASA Okinawa be compiled. My deepest thanks and appreciation goes to Larry Eckard and his group at ML&RS, Inc. for their efforts in gathering information and making it possible for a book to be printed. The book was printed in time for sale at the reunion. I do have more that can be purchased for \$10.00, plus \$3.00 for shipping.

To Dallas May, our new president, and his fellow officers, you can TRUST in the support from your ASA Okinawa brothers as you serve!

Again, THANK YOU, gentlemen, for making my four years as an officer a great experience!

Tom Sevits,
Past President

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From the Staff at ML&RS, Inc

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 978-465-7473

Ross Lee, Chaplain
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 701 Oak Creek Rd
 Franklin, NC 28734-1373
 828-349-1674

Richard Rettig, Past Pres.
 4775 Crestwood Dr
 Hamburg, NY 14075
 716-649-7160



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.

Steven Wood (1962)
 72 Par Ln
 Novato, CA 94948
 415-328-3642

Paul Behmke
 paul.behmke@att.net

John Shea
 2642 Mackubin St
 Roseville, MN 55113
 651-484-3405
 jshea2mn@yahoo.com



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.

Robert Kennedy, Jr.
 (1958-60)
 Died August 9, 2011

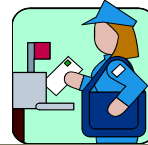
Clinton Campbell
 (1953-56) SFC
 Died November 27, 2010

Jack Britt
 (1953-55) Sgt
 Died May 12, 2011

Glenn Boehler
 Died November 11, 2009

Gerald Brown
 (1957-59) E-4
 Died December 2010

Robert Peterson
 Died June 8, 2011



MAIL CALL

Sobe Vets:
 Cleaning out some old papers this afternoon and found some info on well-known Sobe vet from the 50s. George E. Mattson was at Sobe from 1956 to 1958 and used his spare time to learn karate. He has made a career of teaching karate in the US and is still involved. There is a then picture of him on one of the websites—perhaps some of you will recognize him. There are many hits if you were to Google: "George Mattson" alone and with addition of "Okinawa."

Paul Watson
 17 Baker Rd
 Salisbury, MA 01952
 978-465-7473
 W562236@aol.com

Karen,
 I'd like to report that our 50th Wedding Anniversary was August 27, 2010. (Fifty-one was August 27, 2011.) Among other things, including gatherings of family and friends, we celebrated our 50th with a cruise to Hawaii and Tahiti.

Tom & Tonia Cooper
 Huntington Beach, CA
 (Tom—Okinawa '55-'57)

Cookout Pictures Identified
 In the last issue Robert (Bob) Frye submitted some pictures of a cookout taken in 1955. He could not identify anyone in the photos (except himself) and asked for help in identifying others. **Bill Overholt** has identified himself as the young man with sunglasses in the bottom left photo and the young man beside him as **Yoe**. The young nurse in the top right is identified as **Kim**. Valerian Luetmer has identified the young man to

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the left of Kim (in the flowered shirt) as being **Ken Bracken**. Thanks to these men for their help.

ML&RS, Inc

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading the last issue of the Torii Typhoon, Volume 10, Issue 2. When I saw the pictures of the cook out, I thought I was looking at my own scrapbook because I was at that same cookout. The only person I recognize for certain is Ken Bracken in the flowered shirt.

My name is Valerian Luetmer. With a name like that I was usually known by one of several nicknames. Either Val or Larry, or I think on Oki it was probably "Luet." I'm originally from Rural Melrose, Minnesota. I arrived on Okinawa on a C-124 Globemaster on the morning of Nov. 25, 1953. I had come through the normal channels, i.e. Ft. Riley, Kansas; Ft. Devens, Mass; Camp Stoneman, Calif.; Camp Drake in Japan and then Oki. Even with my background, arriving on Okinawa was a culture shock. The grass huts and farmers walking along the road coming and going from their field with huge bundles on their heads while the army trucks roared by, left a lasting impression.

Sobe Station was quite new at the time. Operations had just recently moved from Futema. I spent the first weeks working in the antenna field, mostly cleaning up and putting the soil back in condition where the Okinawans could again plant their gardens. The field was later fenced off. I started in Operations around December 15th as a code taker MOS 058. I don't remember what Trick I was on, but we were in the northeast corner building just east of motor pool. The small PX was also in our building. There were only six buildings on post at the time—Operations, four barracks and a small motor pool. We went to Kadena or Rycom for movies, church and the main PX. I recall we spent a lot of time on the beach and in the EM Club which was located in the lower level of the barracks down the hill. I've enclosed a picture of a group of us spending Christmas Eve there in 1953. Traveling around the island on

the Showa bus company, taking pictures and an occasional round of golf with sand greens rounded out the activities. I don't remember where the golf course was, but it must have been near Rycom. The view was great.

When I was at Devens, we would come down Hwy #2 though Cambridge along the Charles River past MIT and Harvard on the way to Red Sox games. It became my dream to go to MIT and become an engineer. (Little did I know what I didn't know.) My high school education was mostly agriculture and shop related subjects with very little math—not a good background for MIT or any other college for that matter. At Sobe, I soon became acquainted with Tom Fredrickson. Tom, I believe, already was an engineer and was teaching math and physics courses in his spare time through the USAFI program on base and was a huge influence on me. Thanks, Tom! I think I took three math courses, physics and radio from Tom. This allowed me to get accepted in college (not MIT) and was also a good use of a lot of spare time. Axel Torvi, with whom I had some overlap, shared a cubical with us in the barracks, also wrote in the last issue about typhoons. I only recall one bad typhoon, but I don't recall being stuck at Operations. I do remember being barricaded in the barracks with the shutters closed and living off C-rations. Axel was a fellow Minnesotan and I still keep in touch with him.

In the summer of 1955, I took a 21 day leave, by myself, to Japan. The first day in Tokyo I stepped off the elevator in a special services hotel (The GA-JO-ENKANKO) and met a high school friend who was on R & R from Korea. We toured Tokyo together and then went to another special services hotel near Mount Fuji. We toured that whole area on bicycles. After he went back to Korea, I took a train to Kyoto and looked up some of my friends from Devens at that ASA facility and they showed me that area. I also spent a few days in Osaka. When it came time to return to Okinawa, I went to the Tachidawa Air Base in Tokyo to catch a ride. It was the Fourth of July so there was none to be had. After talking to a lot of people and asking a lot of questions, an airman came running to me and said he knew of a plane about ready to go there. He took me across the field in a jeep to a C-47 that already had its engines running. I showed my papers and

got on board. I was immediately fitted with a parachute. Then I noticed I was the only enlisted man on board. Just high ranking Air Force officers on a mission to Kadena Air Base. This thing did not fly very fast and we had to stop on Kyushu to refuel. I got back to Okinawa just before dark on the last day of my leave.

I put in a few more weeks of work and on July 29, 1955, I boarded the M.M. Patrick for a long ride back to Seattle via Yokahama. I was discharged on August 31st at Ft. Lewis, Wash., and flew home non-stop the same day. After spending the weekend at home, I moved into my dorm room in college at St. John's University at Collegeville, MN on Monday (Labor Day) with a bunch of 18 year-old high school grads (another culture shock). James Bias from Sobe later ended up in my class. Jim just passed away recently.

I thoroughly enjoyed college, but dropped out of engineering after my freshman year. I graduated in 1959 with a B.S. in Business and Economics. I immediately took a job as a bank examiner for the State of Minnesota. After three years I tired of travel, got married to Jo Ann and took a job in the finance department at Honeywell. I held several interesting positions in both the defense and computer divisions in over 30 years with the company, in the process, I again spent quite a bit of time in Boston. In the mid 70's, we had a large computer installation at MIT, so I got to go to MIT after all.

I never did feel comfortable with the regimentation in the military and was happy to get out, but in hind sight, it was a wonderful experience which changed the whole course of my life. I've been a member of ASA Okinawa ever since Paul Watson found me some 10 years ago. I have never made a reunion, but read every issue of the Typhoon. We now live in Annadale, MN, a small town about 50 miles west of Minneapolis. We are close to our daughter and two grandchildren and have a small summer cabin on a lake in northern MN. I still keep in touch with George Fricker, Loren Gibson, as well as Axel Torvi. If anyone cares to get in touch with me, I'm at 1254 Cy-

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 press Dr, Annadale, MN 55302 or
 lluetmer@live.com.

Regards,
Larry Luetmer

P.S. Enclosed are four photos—two at the cookout, one with Ken Bracken, one at the EM Club at Christmas and one taken at Yaka Beach.



Top right: L-R: Larry Luetmer, Loren Gibson, George Fricker & Howard Hill on Christmas Eve 1953

Middle left: Ken Bracken

Middle right: L-R: ? Last name I believe was Robertson, Robert Johnson, Robert Jensen from Nebraska, The other 5 were Sobe but I don't know who they are.

Bottom right: Waitress (who we now know is Kim) bringing me a cool one. It doesn't get better than this!

