

Torii Typhoon

Volume 13, Issue 3

November 2014

Official Newsletter of ASA Okinawa



2015 reunion in
Kissimmee, FL:
Sept 23-27



2014 REUNION REPORT

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 2014 Reunion Report | 1-2 |
| List of Attendees | 2 |
| Treasurer's Report | 3 |
| President's Message | 3-4 |
| Welcome Mat & Taps | 4 |
| Mail Call | 5 |
| Lonnie Frampton's Story | 5 |
| NCU 37 Sobe Camp | 6 |
| Kissimmee Preview | 7-8 |

The annual reunion of the ASA Okinawa Association was held on September 17-21, 2014 at the MCM Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque, NM, with thirty-four members and twenty-seven of their guests attending. Ross and Sue Lee beat out the others who were waiting when the registration desk opened Wednesday afternoon and won the honor of being the first to register. Registration continued during the afternoon, and most people spent at least some time in the hospitality room enjoying refreshments, sharing memorabilia items and catching up on news with old friends. At 5:00 pm the whole group met for the first time at the Welcome Reception for pizza and wings. Association President Gary Duenow welcomed everyone to the reunion, and then everyone enjoyed getting reacquainted and sharing some good laughs. After the reception, everyone was free to have dinner on one's own or spend time in the hospitality room with old friends.

Thursday morning, after an excellent breakfast buffet featuring all the traditional breakfast items, many of the group boarded a bus for a day of touring. The tour started with a visit to the Turquoise Museum and gift

shop. After the visit to the museum, the bus took a detour on to Route 66, just so the group could experience the famous highway. Some of the best preserved urban sections of Historic Route 66 are in Albuquerque. Albuquerque also boasts the only place on the entire route that Historic 66 intersects itself! The next stop on the tour was the Acoma Indian Pueblo "Sky City," built upon a 70-acre mesa almost 40 stories above the canyon floor. An Acoma Indian guide took the group through this ancient village which is kept without modern plumbing or electricity. At San Esteban del Rey Mission, the group learned the history of the Pueblo culture and had an opportunity to purchase hand-crafted items on the mesa top. At the Visitors Center the group enjoyed a hosted lunch, then had a scenic ride back to the hotel for some relaxation before the evening tour.

At 5:00 pm that evening, 33 persons departed the hotel for the Sunset on the Sandias tour. This driving tour traveled through the beautiful neighborhoods of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque on its way to Sandia Mountain, which dominates the east side of Albuquerque

with its nearly 5000 ft vertical rise. The Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway ride provided a wonderful view of the city from the Tram terminal and a beautiful view of the sunset. Dinner and some fun continued at the nearby Sandia Resort and Casino, owned by the Pueblo of Sandia tribe. It was a wonderful evening which everyone will always remember.

Friday morning again began with the hotel breakfast buffet, and then it was off again for a day of touring the Santa Fe area. No visit to New Mexico is complete without a trip to this historic, photogenic, Capital City, known for its bright clear skies and high desert climate, abundant shops and galleries. The tour took the group on a ride through the scenic Turquoise Trail, through small towns and former coal mining communities. Once in Santa Fe the guide led an orientation tour of the immediate plaza area pointing out restaurants, shops and museums. Loretto Chapel was included in the tour (famous for its "miraculous staircase" said to have been built by St Joseph himself). The group had about 2½ hours to explore the area on their own

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

and have lunch at one of the many restaurants there. It was another great day in New Mexico!

Friday evening at 6:00 pm the social hour began the night's activities, and after drinks, dinner followed. The menu featured "A Taste of the Southwest" including a salad bar, red chile cheese enchiladas, margarita chicken, tamales, SW beans, Spanish rice, Calabacitas, flour tortillas, assorted desserts and beverages. Following dinner the annual raffle/fund raiser was held. Everyone had been asked to bring a gift for the raffle. Tickets had been previously sold, and during the raffle an item was randomly chosen from the table of gifts and a ticket drawn. The ticket owner then won the item. In addition, the association's friend and favorite member, Dorothy Turner, continued her magnificent needlework, making many perfectly framed needlepoint pictures. These tickets were sold separately—and sold like hot cakes! Everyone wanted one of these works of art. (See picture on page 7.) Thanks, Dottie!!!

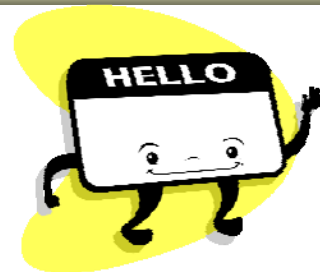
Following breakfast Saturday morning, the annual business meeting was held to make decisions for the following year. Officers will remain the same for 2015—Gary Duenow, President; David Merritt, VP and Duane Sands, Treasurer. Kissimmee, FL was reaffirmed as the 2015 site, and Buffalo, NY was selected for 2016.

The tour for the day left the hotel around 10:30 am for another exciting adventure in Albuquerque. First the group toured the New Mexico Veteran's Memorial and had the memorial service. The memorial was just outside the gates of Kirtland AFB. Many commented on how this Memorial is unlike any other they had seen. It is dedicated to all who served and will serve, and each section of the grounds was well organized and enjoyable. The Memorial Service honored all ASA Okinawa personnel who have passed away, especially those since the last reunion. Ross Lee served as Chaplain, with assistance from David Merritt, bell ringer and Duane Sands, name reader. Those remembered during the service are as follows: Anthony Bates, James Bias, John Bishop, William Cupeloto, Albert Cooper, Thomas Cooper, Robert Dripps, Galbreath Gelon, Harold Graber, Merle Jackson, John Kerr, Eugene Knutzen, Howard Morrow, Edwin Nuhring, Clarence Steele and Donald

Virgil. New Mexico's sunny skies and the majestic Sandia Mountains in the background put the icing on the cake for this very special place and service. Everyone then enjoyed a boxed lunch and then it was on to the next adventure. Albuquerque has a very rich and deep history in both its military people and Pueblo Indian people. The next stop was at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center where the group saw a live dance performance and learned of the common ancestry of the Pueblos and the cliff-dwelling people. Admission to the Center included the museum and galleries that had art and history exhibits. . . . and a comprehensive gift shop.

On Saturday evening came the most anticipated event of the reunion—the ASA Okinawa Association banquet. The evening began with a social hour and photo session at 6:30 pm, followed by the banquet at 7:30 pm. SFC Gerald Clemmons (Ret) and Col Bill Roscher arrived in uniform and looked especially handsome! Association President Gary Duenow welcomed everyone to the banquet and introduced first time attendees Gene Cooper, James Callery, Michael and Rene Collum, David and Kathleen Miller and Eddie and Kathy Johnson. Then everyone enjoyed the dinner of filet mignon, mashed potatoes, vegetables, salad and dessert. Following dinner, the Rev. Steven Gribble, Chaplain of the Albuquerque VA Medical Center was the guest speaker. He spoke of the duties and responsibilities of a VA Chaplain and how even the non-believers appreciate the opportunity to have a non-medical person to talk to. He is originally from PA and when his friend from PA, our own Bob Bross, found he was coming to Albuquerque, Bob asked if he would be interested in speaking at the banquet. The Rev Gribble called Gary Duenow, and the rest of how he ended up at the reunion is history. The evening was a great success, with everyone enjoying good comradeship and wonderful food. The end result was a satisfied group of ASAers.

Sunday morning's breakfast was the last chance for good byes before everyone headed off for home. There were mixed emotions—happiness at having spent a few days with old friends in exciting places, sorrow that it was ending, and anticipation for next year in Kissimmee, FL where everyone will hopefully be together again to make more great memories. Let's all keep the reunion going and see you in Kissimmee!



2014 REUNION ATTENDEES

Joe & Peggy Alexander
 James Callery
 Daniel & Margaret Carr
 Gerald & Rick Clemons
 Michael & Rene Collum
 Gene Cooper
 Billy (Tex) Davenport
 Tracy & Carol Davis
 Jere & Carol Dillon
 Edward, Edward B., Tim & Stephen Domaniski
 Gary & Linda Duenow
 Paul & Sara Duffau
 Larry & Brenda Eckard
 Charles Gurreri
 Gerald & Ann Hardesty
 Charles & Nancy Hoover
 Eddie & Kathy Johnson
 Jane Kendzierski & Linda Bonkowski
 Ross & Sue Lee
 Johnnie Luke
 David Merritt
 David & Kathleen Miller
 Theodore Mish & Rea Murray
 James & Sharon Norrbom
 William & Patricia Phillips
 Herbert Powell
 Louis & Lovaguhn Quigley
 Granville & Judy Rainey
 William & JoAnn Roscher
 John & Diane Sanborn
 Duane & Lou Anne Sands
 Tom & Judy Sevits
 John & Carol Stanley
 Michael & Robin Tranchina

Total Members: 33
Guests: 28
GRAND TOTAL: 61

Association Officers

Gary Duenow, President
6090 Indian Dr
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411
319-393-2234
thedue60@yahoo.com

David Merritt, Vice Pres.
3759 246th Ave SE
Issaquah, WA 98029
425-369-9719
mgdvmerritt@msn.com

Duane Sands, Treasurer
4331 Pine View Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
319-395-7847
sandysands66@msn.com

Tracy Davis, Secretary
231 West Ledge Dr
Lansing, MI 48917
517-321-3243
cjpgolddavis@comcast.net

Dallas May, Immediate Past President
1840 Horn Lake Rd
Nesbit, MS 38651
901-413-7981
dallmay1@bellsouth.net

Jim Norrbom, Past Pres
11409 Christensen Ct
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-890-2384
jhnorrbom@aol.com

Tom Sevits, Past Pres.
25703 McCutcheonville Rd
Perrysburg, OH 43551
419-874-7680
Tom.judy@wcnet.org

Lonnie Frampton, Past Pres.
20 Heights Rd

Newville, PA 17241
717-776-5139
lonboy1@embarqmail.com

Billy "Tex" Davenport, Past Pres.
PO Box 241
Tioga, TX 76271
903-564-7012
texokinawa@aol.com

Larry Eckard, Past Pres
1225 34th Ave NE
Hickory, NC 28601
828-256-6008
larry@mlrsinc.com

Bill Overholt, Past Pres
69 Hillside Rd
Turnersville, NJ 08012
856-218-0124
asasobie@aol.com

Tom Sturgeon, Treasurer Exofficio
12 Cherry Lane
Olmstead TWP, OH 44138
440-427-9985
duosturgeons@aol.com

Ross Lee, Chaplain
801 Newcomb Dr
Benton, AR 72015
501-778-3345

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

Enzie Harshman, 1st Pres.
701 Oak Creek Rd
Franklin, NC 28734-1373
828-349-1674

The Torii Typhoon is Published By:

Premier Reunion Services
PO Box 11438
Hickory, NC 28603

828-256-6008 (voice)
828-256-6559 (fax)

Dina@mlrsinc.com
Larry@mlrsinc.com
Karen@mlrsinc.com

WWW.MLRSINC.COM/ASAOKINAWA

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

Treasurer's Report ASA Okinawa Association October 31, 2014

**Beginning Check Book Balance June 30, 2014--
\$5138.99**

Income

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Income from Dues | \$200.00 |
| Income from Newsletter | \$75.00 |
| Income from Caps, History Book, etc..... | \$119.00 |
| Income from Reunion..... | \$1003.00 |
| Income from Donations..... | \$500.00 |
| Other Income | \$1.08 |
| Total Income | \$1898.08 |

Disbursements

| | |
|--|------------------|
| July Issue of Torii Typhoon | \$917.89 |
| Donation to Fisher House Foundation..... | \$1000.00 |
| Reunion Disbursements..... | \$712.00 |
| Other Disbursements | \$210.11 |
| Tracy Davis, Association Secretary..... | \$500.00 |
| Total Disbursements | \$3697.07 |

Ending Check Book Balance 10/31/23014.....\$3697.07

Total Membership is as follows:

- 10 Life Time Members
- 12 Life Time Deceased Members Wives
- 176 Paid members for 2014
- 100 for 2015
- 42 for 2016
- 10 for 2017

If anyone would like a detailed list of Incomes and Disbursements email me at sandysands66@msn.com and I will email it to you.

Duane R. Sands, Treasurer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems the summer is over in Iowa. Was 19 degrees when I got up this morning. Time to clean up the golf clubs and put them away until our spring getaways in February/March to somewhere a little warmer than here in the Midwest. Although I am certain Jim is usually a little colder up North of us. I feel for ya!

I want to thank Larry, Brenda and the team at MLRS ASA Okinawa for planning and carrying out another great reunion in Albuquerque. I would also like to thank Sandy, Lou, Rusty, Dave, Jim and the rest of the officers and members that helped get things set up, including new events, such as shopping for goodies for the hospitality room. But it all seemed to have come together and went as well as can be expected from the B-team. We were all quite pleased with

(Continued on page 4)

the help from the staff of the hotel. They seemed to try to help with any concern we may have had. I hope everyone had a great time and are looking forward to joining us at the Kissimmee reunion in September, 2015. I am confident we will have a great time in Florida.

Just want to remind everyone I still have some very nice caps at the great price of \$13 plus shipping cost (usually \$5-6) or you can order it for delivery, save shipping cost, when you attend the September reunion in Kissimmee. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

God Bless you all
Gary Duenow



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.

Charlene Dalton Wooten

914 West Ave
Nashville, TN 37206

(Charlene was the bartender in the hotel for the reunion in Nashville. Her father had served in ASA Okinawa and she was warmly welcomed into the group when this fact became known.)

David & Therese Hood

832 N Alyes Bury Rd
Goose Creek, SC 29445-5700

Dennis Maxwell

422 E Central Rd
Arlington Hts, IL 60005-2656



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.

Joseph DuJardin

(1961-64) Major, HHS Co
Date of death not reported

Ralph Steele

(1957-60) PFC
Died March 16, 2012

Joe Micheletto

(1954-58) Sgt
Died May 14, 2010

Robert Clemons

(1957-59)
Died April 28, 2014

Gene Riling

(1956-59) SP5
Died February 16, 2014

Linda May (wife of Dallas May)

Died November 7, 2014



ASA Okinawa brick installed at the Fisher House in Murfreesboro, TN



MAIL CALL

To the Editor:

I just received the July 2014 issue of the Torii Typhoon and upon checking the TAPS section I saw the names of Robert Dripps and Wm. Capeloto listed. Both were shown as having served from 1950-52 in the 111th Sig. Svc. Co. I don't remember Robert Dripps, but I had known "Cap" since going through Radio School in Georgia at the same time he did. Actually, both men were also in the 327th Comm. Recon. Co. and very briefly the 8603AAU since that was the unit official designation when we were scheduled to return to the US for separation. If memory serves me correctly, I believe "Cap" lived in or near Seattle, WA.

We had what turned out for us to be a very unusual Independence Day in 1952—that was the day "Cap" and I received our formal and complete discharge from service. Sometimes good things happen.

I am sorry to learn about "Cap's" passing, but considering it's over 62 years since we served, I doubt that there are very many of us left from that period.

Earl C. DeKay
2805 NE 128 Ave
Portland, Oregon 97230

HISTORY BOOKS FOR SALE

Tom Sevits still has ASA History books for sale for \$15.00 each. Make checks payable to ASA Okinawa Association and mail to:

Tom Sevits
25703 McCutcheonville Rd
Perrysburg, OH 43551

NEWSLETTER EXPENDITURES November 2014 \$281.20

This issue is mailed to only to those who sent in \$5.00 dues for the newsletter.

TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT

BY LONNIE FRAMPTON

At the end of my first enlistment, discharged 20 Dec 1957, I returned to Somerset County, Pa. I had high hopes of obtaining a \$10,000 dollar a year job. This was the target most guys returning from Okinawa had their sights set on. However, there weren't many of those jobs available in a county known mostly for farming, coal mining and cutting timber. None of those appealed to me. A man of my caliber couldn't see himself locked into one of those occupations.

I called Arlington Hall Station, HQ for the Army Security Agency, in Arlington, Va. I spoke with a CWO in Personnel and cut a deal. I would reenlist if I could go back to Okinawa or Japan. He instructed me to call again in two weeks and I would learn my fate. I called. The CWO said, "We will send you back to Okinawa." As an aside, Parker Lee was the Personnel Sergeant and he was instructed to set things in order. The CWO instructed me to go to Ft. Holabird, Md and reenlist there, which I did. I reenlisted on the 83rd day of a 90 day window to keep my rank (SP2 E5) but I would lose TIG. At Ft Holabird I learned I would be sent to Ft Jackson, SC to process. I knew I would be going to Ft Devens, Ma. Why I couldn't be sent from Ft Holabird instead of having to go to Ft Jackson remains a mystery to me. It was at Ft Jackson that my experience occurred.

I had the misfortune to be assigned to KP duty. Young troops today just do not realize what an honor and privilege it is to have the duty of performing KP to keep them busy and out of trouble. In addition it taught one the meaning of being humble. Anyway, being a

good soldier I reported for KP at the appointed time and learned I would be the DRO (Dining Room Orderly) for the day. When breakfast was ready the troops began to arrive and two 2LTs came in and sat down. Now even 2LTs had the privilege of having the meal served to them. They didn't go through the line like common folks did. One of the 2LTs called out to me, "Hey Junior, bring me a cup of coffee." I don't believe he was aware that it was very early in the morning and my complete set of faculties were not in proper order yet. However, I was awake enough to catch the fact that he had just insulted me. I had only been in the Army for one hitch but I did know that if you didn't know the soldier's name you addressed them as soldier, troop or even GI but not Junior. I got his coffee, sauntered over to his table and set it down where he could reach it without too much trouble. I guess I moved too slow to suit him. He said, "Do you think you'll make it?" This called for an appropriate reply and I guess my answer didn't suit him either. I shrugged my shoulders and simply said, "I may." I must say that really lit his fuse. He proceeded to give me an ass chewing. I realized too late that my reply wasn't the right one. But I knew I was wrong and I felt he was wrong.. I had always been told that two wrongs don't make a right. Apparently he figured my wrong was worse than his wrong. When he was done chewing that was the end of the matter.

My story may not appear too exciting as one reads it, but I can assure you it was when it happened.

Lonnie

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

&

MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM THE STAFF AT PREMIER REUNION SERVICES



NCU 37 SOBE CAMP, OKINAWA, 1956

BY NEAL P. GILLEN

Continued from July 2014

Welcome To Okinawa

The Air Force did not keep us long. The following day we flew out of Clark Field as the only passengers on a Navy RD4 prop plane headed for Atsugi, Japan. It landed in Naha, Okinawa in a cold teeming rain and taxied past the small commercial terminal to a dismal looking hangar to refuel. The hangar and a few Quonset huts were the home of a Fleet Air Service & Repair Squadron (FASRON). The pilot and co-pilot remained on board and bid us adieu as we prepared to grope with our sea bags on the rickety portable stairway that two airdales in foul weather jackets had pushed up to the plane's forward door. We struggled into the small operations office in the hangar and announced our arrival to a startled and salty old chief holding a mug of coffee. He gave us the once over as we stood there looking like fools dripping wet and freezing in our dress whites. "Where in God's name are you boys going?" We explained our travels and showed him our orders. "Well, welcome aboard. This is NAF Okinawa, but sure as shit we weren't told about you guys. We're just a bunch of grease monkeys down here." After a few telephone calls he was talking to the CO of the Direction Finding (DF) Station in Futenma, about ten miles further up the island. "They want you to report in tomorrow. They'll send someone down in the morning." He explained that chow was in 30 minutes and led us to a Quonset hut where we unpacked our gear and put on undress blues and our pea coats. We did the sights in Naha that night, but the cold rain drew us back for a good night's sleep.

The next morning a gray Ford Navy van picked us up and took us to Naval Communications Unit (NCU) 37, a DF station, call sign "NCN," high on a hill above the village of Futenma. We were told not to make ourselves comfortable as yet, that we would be there no longer than 24-hours as arrangements were being made for our

transfer to our permanent home in So-be. The yeoman briefing us did not know anymore than we did, though he did offer that we were the first of many for a large operation about to get underway. After lunch we met with the Officer in Charge (OIC), Lt. Cdr. Nelson Crow, who explained that we were being detailed to an Army base where we would live and work. He emphasized that we would remain under his command and be subject to being called back to Futenma for guard duty, work details, or assignment to the DF functions. We were assured that senior enlisted personnel would soon join us and that an officer had been detailed from Washington. It wasn't long before Commander Crow made good on his promise of work details as Charles Popikas, "Rip" Desmond, Lee Marshall, and I among others, soon found ourselves digging cable trenches in the Futenma antenna field on our days off from our intercept duties on the other side of the island.

The Futenma DF station was a comfortable facility. The ship's company was comprised of about 25 men and that included the cooks, yeomen, Seabees, electronic technicians, two officers, and the CTs. There were enough spare racks for us to sleep there that night since the married men were living on the beach. After a great meal at evening chow we learned that just down the hill was the huge Marine base at Camp Sukiran. We visited the bars in Futenma Village and then decided to drink with the Marines. The Third Marine Division had arrived the previous day having rotated for the Army's First Cavalry Division, which replaced them in Japan. We were advised to be careful as the Marines were just settling in and may not welcome us with open arms.

Proceeding down the hill from Futenma we walked through the huge red and gold Torii near the entrance to Camp Sukiran. We were cleared into the base and eventually made our way to a barracks building that had been hastily arranged into an Enlisted Men's Club. As we ascended the entrance stairs, two large Marine Master at

Arms rushed forward and literally tossed a squirming Marine in our direction. I instantly recognized the body in mid flight. It was George "Curly" Monahan from Manhattan's West Side, a friend I knew from Rockaway, one of the New York beaches. I rushed to help him to his feet and despite his obvious intoxication and dust-up with the authorities he recognized me.

"Neal, don't you miss Rockaway?"

"Some things don't change Curly, you always seem to be in the thick of it."

"Vouch for me Neal, get me back in."

"I'll see what I can do."

I approached the Sergeant in charge and explained that "Curly" was a friend from New York and that I would make sure that he behaved himself. He looked at me suspiciously.

"That I seriously doubt, but if you're willing to vouch for him then you will be held responsible for him. You sure you want to risk your rank over Monahan?" he asked mockingly jabbing his finger at my seaman's stripes.

The Sergeant reported that the Division had been cooped up on transport ships for a few days and he expected a degree of high spirits when the men were unleashed. He advised me that if I was a friend of "Curly" I was obviously aware of his propensity for mischief and that I had best watch him closely or I too would soon be persona non grata. I got up to dance and fraternize with an indigent woman and the next thing I knew "Curly" was at it again. He had tossed a glass onto the crowded dance floor before he was brought under control. He was quickly ushered out of the building by a phalanx of huge Marines. Rather than incur the wrath of the burly Sergeant I made a quiet departure with Desmond and Marshall. I would not run into "Curly" again until after my discharge.

To be continued in the next issue



Winners of Dorothy Turner's beautiful framed art work from the 2014 Nashville reunion

SEE WHAT'S AWAITING YOU IN KISSIMMEE IN 2015

When you think of Kissimmee, FL, you probably think of it as a gateway to Orlando and Walt Disney World, but Kissimmee has assets of its own to offer. We'll try to give you an overview of all the things in Kissimmee to do, as well as a few places nearby.

Museum of Military History

The 10,000-square-foot museum provides interactive displays and exhibits beginning with historical photos, uniforms and interpretations of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the recent military conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the displays that are particularly interesting are a large panoramic diagram depicting one of the elaborate tunnel systems used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War, actual uniforms and supplies used in various wars and a rare World War II motorcycle. There is also an opportunity to have a dog tag made on-site by one of the museum guides.

Wild Florida

Here you can take an airboat ride into the headwaters of the Everglades. Speeding through the water you will see alligators, flocks of many different species of birds and, believe it or not—cows munching on the plant life in the swamps, knee-deep in the water. Also located on the property is the Wild Life and Nature Park which featured zebras, watusis, water buffalo, emus, alligators, peacocks and many other exotic animals. If you like, you will have the opportunity to hold an alligator.

Stallion 51

This museum houses a huge collection of vintage aircraft, all airworthy and in prime condition. The amazing thing about this facility is that it offers anyone—no experience necessary—the chance to fly (after a training session, of course) a World War II P-51 Mustang.

Warbird Museum

In much the same grain as Stallion 51, the Warbird Museum also houses

a collection of vintage airplanes. You can climb on the wing of one of the P-51 Mustangs and look inside the cockpit. Flight opportunities for the adventurous souls are also offered at this museum.

Gatorland

Known as the "Alligator Capital of the World", you will see alligators of all sizes who make their home here. Get up-close and personal with gators, crocs, birds, turtles, porcupines, deer and much more. Enjoy the one-of-a-kind show like the Gator Wrestlin' Show where you can sit on the back of a real alligator! A walk along the long boardwalk in the park allows you to see thousands of white egrets nesting in the trees. They choose the park for nesting because the alligators keep away all the predators which would, in the wild, eat their eggs. Many other creatures are also on display here, including giant turtles, boa constrictors and all types of exotic birds.

Old Town

Come down to the coolest place in Central Florida and check out the 75 different shops, enjoy wonderful food from any of the 8 amazing restaurants or get AMP'd up at the New Pepsi AMPventure challenge course—a 4 story ropes challenge area, 40' Rock Wall and a 600' out and back zip line. You can also experience the 14 amusement rides for kids of all ages, and the Friday Night All American Muscle Car Cruise as well as the "world famous" Saturday Nite Classic Car Cruise. Live performances are on both nights.

Chocolate Kingdom

Take the Factory Adventure Tour, an interactive journey that uncovers how chocolate transforms from the bean into the creamy, dreamy chocolate bar. Your personal chocolate tour guide joins forces with a handsome Prince and his Dragon sidekick to take you through the "Beginnings of the Bean", a "One-of-a-Kind Chocolate Museum", a "Mystical River of Chocolate" and a "Bean-to-the-Bar Factory" utilizing old world machinery. Then, of course, you'll want to buy

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

some of the delicious chocolate at the end of the tour.

Capone's Dinner and Show

Hailed as "Orlando's Best Dinner Show Deal", (although it is actually in Kissimmee) this is a hilarious show featuring a colorful cast of characters straight out of Gangland Chicago in the 1930s. Audience participation makes for some hilarious ad libbing by the cast and will keep you in stitches. In addition to the best show around, over 14 unlimited beverage choices are included with admission along with an all-you-can-eat dinner buffet—one of the largest dinner buffets around!

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament

Before the show you can visit the museum in a separate building

which contains artifacts that date back for as much as 800 years. The most fascinating artifacts are the actual tools used for torture in Medieval times—things like body stretchers, skull crushers, and other unimaginable punishments. Clothing, tools, furniture and household items are also on display. It certainly makes one appreciate the times we live in. When it is time for the dinner and show, you will be escorted to your seats in the arena. The pageantry and thrills of an authentic medieval tournament come to life inside the walls of the King's 11th century-style castle. Six armor-clad Knights on valiant horses seek the title of Champion amidst the clashing of lance and shield and heart-pounding combat. Dinner, without benefit of utensils, is served during the show. The Royal Court invites you to join in a spectacle not seen since The Middle Ages.

Kennedy Space Center

This has been the gateway to space exploration for the last 50 years—the launch site of space science and discovery. Walk the grounds and experience the journey of the pioneers of space exploration—the men and women of heroic endeavors. See the technology that took us to the moon, visit the home to America's Space Shuttle, the last place on earth for International Space Station hardware, and where probes are sent deep into space. It's where visitors roam the historic trails of *Mercury*, *Gemini*, and *Apollo*—a "can't miss" addition to your Florida reunion. For more information on what you will see, go to

www.KennedySpaceCenter.com.

As you can see, Kissimmee has much to offer for your reunion. Let us know what you think.

2015 ASA OKINAWA REUNION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to look over, complete and return this survey to Premier Reunion Services right away. The reunion agenda will be created from the responses and the Chairman's input. Let your voice be heard. Mail surveys to:

Premier Reunion Services
P.O. Box 11438
Hickory, NC 28603-6402

OR FAX: 828-256-6559

Reunion format:

Do you want entertainment after the Saturday night banquet? Yes _____ No _____

Please indicate which activities you would like to see on your reunion agenda:

Museum of Military History _____

Wild Florida _____

Stallion 51 _____

Warbird Museum _____

Gatorland _____

Old Town _____

Chocolate Factory _____

Capone's Dinner & Show _____

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament _____

Kennedy Space Center _____

PLEASE RETURN SURVEYS BY JANUARY 5, 2015



ASA OKINAWA ASSOCIATION
Duane Sands
4331 Pine View Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1712



For those of you who are members of the ASA Okinawa Association, please look at your address label from your last issue of the newsletter and note your membership expiration date and send in your dues before the expiration date.

To anyone who is 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 between 1945 and 1985 are cordially invited to become members.

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

Membership will also allow you to attend the business meeting, to bring business before the assembly, and to vote on issues brought up at the meeting. Among the recurring issues will be election of officers and selecting reunion sites. Every voice and vote is important and we'd like to have yours.

Our excellent newsletter, The Torii Tribune is also available to be mailed by USPS for an additional \$5 per year. That is a bargain for three issues. If you are comfortable on the computer and able to subscribe to the ASA Okinawa E-mailers list, you can receive the newsletter by email and save the \$5.00. (Information on subscribing is on the reunion web site at www.mlrsinc.com/asaokinawa)

The Association needs your support, please join and be a party of keeping the memory of ASA Okinawa alive.

-----DETACH HERE-----

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ e-mail: _____

Dues are \$10.00 per year. One year membership expires on 12/31/2015—(two years on 12/31/2016)

I wish to join the ASA Okinawa for: one year @\$10.00 _____ two years: @ \$20.00 _____

I prefer a paper copy of the Torii Tribune. In addition to my dues I have:

Enclosed \$5.00 for the 03/2015, 07/2015 and 11/2015 issues _____

Enclosed \$5.00 for the 03/2016, 07/2016 and 11/2016 issues _____

Make checks payable to: ASA Okinawa Association

Mail checks to: Duane Sands, 4331 Pine View Dr NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1712