

# Torii Typhoon

Volume 4, Issue 2

November 2004

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ASA OKINAWA



## *Special Points of Interest*

- *See how much fun you missed if you couldn't make it to the Colorado Springs reunion. Read all about it in the cover story.*
- *A list of reunion attendees is on page three. See who had all the fun.*
- *An important announcement is on page five about the future of the newsletter. Be sure to read it carefully.*
- *Please take time to read the preview of Branson and fill out the survey for the 2005 reunion. See pages 7 & 8.*

## **2004 REUNION WAS A GREAT ONE!**

The 2004 ASA Okinawa reunion, held 30 September— 03 October is now history. By all accounts it was one of the better reunions. The Radisson Hotel North, Colorado Springs, Colorado served as the host hotel. The four day-three night event was attended by 79 men and 66 spouses or guests.

While the reunion did not “officially” begin until Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>, some people arrived as early as Tuesday and a lot more on Wednesday. With so many people arriving early, an “early-bird” registration began on Wednesday afternoon to accommo-

date them. Because there was so much to do and see in the Colorado Springs area, an optional trip to the famous old west town of Cripple Creek was offered, and 60 persons made the trip. Rumor has it that some people won a few dollars at the gaming machines. The scenery between the Radisson and Cripple can only be described as “magnificent.” The ride was worth the price.

Although Thursday marked the first full day of the reunion, it was necessary to schedule a tour to accommodate the many survey responses request-

ing such a variety of activities. Consequently, an optional tour to The Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods was made available. An unbelievable 84 people enjoyed a relaxed, hassle-free tour to the 18,000 acre Air Force Academy. After passing through the North Gate we viewed Diamond Lil, the B52 Bomber. The scenic overlook off North Gate Road was magnificent. A real treat was in store when the exquisite 17 spired interdenominational chapel was visited. Other attractions today included Falcon Stadium, the Cadet

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Glider Port and the new 3.8 million dollar visitor's center. From the Academy, it was off to the Garden of Gods. Not surprisingly, this is the most photographed place in the United States. One of the world's greatest natural wonders, this gallery of amazing red rock sculptures was created years ago by violent geological forces. Fantastic formations jut skyward over 300 feet. Several stops were made to view such spectacular monoliths as Balanced Rock and Kissing Camels. Lunch at the Trading Post was included.

For those remaining in the hotel and those arriving, it was the excitement of seeing old friends and waiting to see who would be the next to walk through the doors. The hospitality room was open for those in the hotel. It was a real madhouse for a few minutes after the tour returned to the hotel. Those returning from the tour wanted to know who had arrived since they left and those arriving wanted to know who had been on the tour. It was great! The first planned function was the welcome reception at 1700 hours. Here Association President Billy "Tex" Davenport welcomed everyone and asked for the first time attendees to introduce themselves. Following Tex's remarks, the cash bar opened and hors d'oeuvres were served. The remainder of the evening was spent getting reacquainted and making new friends.

Friday started with an early breakfast for everyone going on the Royal Gorge trip. It was necessary to leave early so as to arrive in Cañon City in time to catch the 9:00 a.m. Royal Gorge Route Railroad. This spectacular, scenic train route traveled along the bottom of the Royal Gorge Canyon, with open-air cars as well as comfortable, climate-controlled coaches, and a small snack bar. The train stopped below the bridge and park for picture-taking. Here we disembarked and took the world's steepest Incline Railway up the towering walls of granite to the park to the world's

highest suspension bridge at 1,053 feet high (331 meters). It crosses the massive granite Royal Gorge as well as the raging Arkansas River. For anyone not feeling like walking across the bridge, the world's longest single-span Aerial Tram, which glides above the granite canyon and the Arkansas River, was available. The views of the bridge and surrounding Sangre De Cristo Mountains are breathtaking. Lunch was provided on the tour.

Once again, back in the hotel, people continued to arrive and when the tour returned, it was Thursday's mad house all over again. Friday afternoon there was a stag call, where all the men assembled for a leisurely discussion of world problems while enjoying the companionship forged many years ago. At 6:00 or thereabouts, the women, who could no longer contain their curiosity about the subjects being discussed, joined the men for a social hour and made ready for a Western-themed BBQ dinner. The evening was topped off with a C & W band playing a lot of familiar old country songs. Just for grins, so we can all say we've been kicked out of better places, we had to ask the band to leave early because so many other guests were complaining about the noise.

Suddenly, it was Saturday and the trip to Pikes Peak was here. Pikes Peak is America's Mountain, the best known peak in the country. This isn't because it's the highest, but because it rears out of the plains apart and alone. Discovered by Zebulon Pike in 1806, it rises 14,110 feet above sea level. As we traveled up the mountainside aboard a Swiss-made COG railroad system, we experienced three distinct geographical regions marked by striking changes. The summit was like being on top of the world. Those sweaters or jackets reluctantly dragged along were needed up top.

The annual business meeting was held at 3:00 PM. Branson, MO was reaffirmed as the reunion site for 2005 and Harrisburg, PA was

chosen as the 2006 site.

The annual raffle was conducted immediately after the business meeting. Many people brought items representing their home towns or states and lots of folks went away happy.

The banquet was of course the highlight of the reunion. There was music for dancing and listening pleasure after the meal. And we did have an Honor Guard from Ft Carson to post and retire the National Colors. Of particular interest is the fact the Honor Guard was from the 104<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion. The 104<sup>th</sup> traces its history back to one of the old ASA Battalions. This is significant because one of our members, Colonel (Ret) Bill Roscher, commanded this same battalion when ASA was still in business.

Then it was Sunday and nearly time to go. The farewell breakfast was a bit more somber than usual. The memorial service paid tribute to our deceased friends. All too soon it was time to go. Then the good-byes began. We've passed the handshaking stage, now its hugs. Then the room was empty.

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#### ***The Torri Typhoon is Published By***

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karenmlrs@charterinternet.com***

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

## **HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE STAFF AT ML&RS, INC.**

**Larry, Brenda, Dina, Lynette, Elaine,  
Karen, Pat, Sidney, Lois, Phyllis, Ralph  
& Karlene**

## 2004 REUNION ATTENDEES

Joe & Peggy Alexander  
 John & Joyce Ambrose  
 Donald & Nobuko Anderson &  
 Rose Simon  
 David & Diane Bergman  
 Melvin & Gracie Jean Blubaugh  
 Gerald & Darlene Brown  
 Earl & Martha Butler  
 Betty Bynum  
 Daniel & Margaret Carr  
 Lewis & Barbara Chenault  
 Gerald & Geraldine Clemons  
 Rick Clemons  
 James & Gwen Coatney  
 Albert Cooper  
 Thomas & Tonia Cooper  
 Hobart & Mildred Crawford  
 Whitney & Marilyn Cude  
 Billy Davenport  
 Tracy & Carol Davis  
 Wayne & Sandra Ditter  
 Edward & Patricia Domanski  
 Gary & Linda (Rusty) Duenow  
 Larry & Brenda Eckhardt  
 Robert & Ruth Eckhardt  
 James & Lucy Elder  
 Harold & Ruth Ellis  
 Lonnie Frampton  
 J. R. Frediani  
 Jack Frediani  
 Jerry & Wilma Gabbert  
 Bruce & Darlene Garland  
 James & Alice Hart  
 William Hauda & Diane Lillis  
 Foster & Pam Hoffman  
 Jon Hoffman  
 Charles & Dolores Hoover  
 John & Bernadette Horengic  
 Marvin & Edna Huff  
 Jay & June Ibach  
 Arthur Jordan  
 Charles & Jane Kendzierski

Charles & Fran Kennedy  
 Tom & Kathy Kiklas  
 Eugene Knutzen  
 Walter & Beverly Ann Kusmierczyk  
 John & Diane Lanier  
 Ross & Sue Lee  
 Mark & Jane L'Hommedieu  
 Tony & Shirley Logan  
 Mike & Helen Maki  
 James & Judith Mans  
 William & Gail Marietta  
 Dallas & Linda May  
 David Merritt  
 Theodore Mish & Rea Murray  
 Howard Morrow & Margaret Hoffman  
 Gerald & Sandy Mueller  
 James & Sharon Norrbom  
 Mike Nuin  
 William & Elaine Overholt  
 William & Patricia Phillips  
 Lawrence & Mary Ann Plato  
 Gene & Kay Riling  
 William & JoAnn Roscher  
 Robert & Marlene Rutkowski  
 Duane & Lou Anne Sands  
 Erland & Velma Scribner  
 Tom & Judy Sevits  
 John & Carolyn Spillane  
 Gerald & Betty Sturbaum  
 Thomas & Marian Sturgeon  
 Jim & Helen Thompson  
 John & Peggy Tibbs  
 Michael & Robin Tranchina  
 Dean & Marlene Tweet  
 William & Nancy Vernau  
 John Weir  
 Nicholas & Loraine Williams  
 George & Shirley Williamson

**Total Members: 79**  
**Guests: 66**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 145**

### TREASURERS REPORT ASA OKINAWA OCT. 15, 2004

Beginning Balance as of Oct. 2, 2004.....	\$617.50
Dues Received .....	\$843.00
Proceeds from Reunion Raffle.....	\$661.00
<b>Balance as of Oct. 15, 2004.....</b>	<b>\$2121.50</b>

### ASA OKINAWA MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

Balance as of Oct. 2, 2004.....	\$2265.00
Donations Received.....	\$2321.00
<b>Balance as of Oct. 15, 2004.....</b>	<b>\$4577.00</b>
<b>Amount needed to reach goal of \$5000.00.....</b>	<b>\$423.00</b>

Respectfully submitted.....Thomas Sturgeon, Treasurer

## STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Torii Typhoon is the official publication of the US Army Security Agency Association Okinawa. It is published tri-annually in March, July and November. The Newsletter is funded by voluntary contributions from the membership. Contributions should be sent to the treasurer. All members are encouraged to support the voice of ASA Okinawa. A financial statement appears annually in the November issue.

The newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for the members to express opinions, make suggestions and especially share experiences.

Unless otherwise stated, the views and opinions printed in the newsletter are those of the article's writer, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Association leadership or the Editor of the Newsletter.

All letters and stories submitted will be considered for publication, except unsigned letters will not be published. Letters requesting the writer's name be withheld will be honored, but published on a space available basis. Signed letters with no restrictions will be given priority.

Letters demeaning to another member will not be printed; letters espousing a political position will not be printed.

ML&RS, Inc is not responsible for the accuracy of articles submitted for publication. It would be a monumental task to check each story. Therefore, we rely on the submitter to research each article.

The editor reserves the right to edit letters to conform to space limitations.

You are encouraged to actively participate in the newsletter family, by submitting your stories and suggestions.

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978-465-7473

**Newsletter Expenditures for  
November 04  
\$939.41**

**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.

*Bruce Sutton (1967-69)  
244 Cascade Rd  
Warwick, NY 10990  
845-986-2786  
suttonb@usarc-emh2.army.mil*

*David DeBaer  
(1964-65) & (1970-71)  
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*Jimmy Rowan  
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*Richard Moore  
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Rmoore20@woh.rr.com*

*Daniel Singer  
(1949-50) 111 Sig.  
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Battle Creek, MI 49015  
dsingtec@aol.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.

*Warren Friberg  
(1954-56) SP3  
Died September 14, 2003*

*Neil Sipe  
Died April 2, 2004*

*Herbert Standish  
(1955-57) SP3  
Died July 28, 2004*

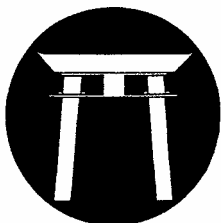
*Ted Volkman  
Died July 2, 2002*

*Evert Wood  
Died January 3, 2002*

*Edward Birbeck  
Died October 16, 2003*

*Leonard Sheets  
(1957-59) SP4  
Died March 27, 2004*

Anyone learning of the death of someone who served with ASA Okinawa, please advise the Typhoon so their passing can be acknowledged.



**2005 ASA OKINAWA REUNION  
SEPTEMBER 15-18  
BRANSON, MISSOURI  
RADISSON HOTEL**



## A WORD FROM THE PREZ

Another great reunion has passed. It seems that the reunions are getting better each year. We had a great turn out and lots of new people who hadn't been to a reunion before. I want to thank everyone who helped me out during the week. I'm sorry that I wasn't feeling too good, but maybe the procedure they do this Thursday (Oct 21) will correct my problem.

I would also like to thank Larry and Brenda for the hard work they did setting up the reunion and the work they did while we were at Colorado Springs. The tours were great, and we sure did enjoy them. I wish that we could have had the whole group there, for I think that the people who didn't make it to Colorado Springs sure missed a good time.

Let's start making plans to meet next year in Branson.

Billy Don (Tex)

## A WORD FROM THE VP

Hello to all our Torri Typhoon readers. This is Jim Norrbom, and I just wanted you all to know what a great time we had at our last reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. It was good to see you all there. We had quite a few new people who attended the reunion this year, and it was great to see them all. I wanted to thank Larry and Brenda Eckard and their staff at the office for the terrific job they did for our group this year. For those of you that were there, and haven't returned their survey about this past reunion, please fill it out and return it to Larry's group. That is the only way they know if you were pleased with how the reunion went, and also if there were any problems that you might have had that needs to be looked into. We really look forward to seeing everyone at next year's reunion in Branson, MO.

One other thing. We are within \$300 of reaching our goal of \$5000 for the ASA Okinawa Association Plaque for the NSA Museum. If anyone would like to contribute toward this goal, please send your contribution to Thomas Sturgeon, 12 Cherry Lane, Olmstead, OH. 44138-2918. I just want to thank Bill Overholt for providing the leadership toward reaching our goal.

Jim Norrbom  
V. President

## BUSINESS MEETING ACTIONS; SOME CHANGES ARE FORTHCOMING; BE AWARE

This is not the official version of the business meeting, however, we believe the following accurately reflects the decisions made at the meeting that will have the most impact on the entire membership.

Most important has to do with the newsletter. It was unanimously agreed that the Torii Typhoon is an essential part of the association's ability to communicate with the membership. Members are encouraged to submit their stories, ideas, suggestions, criticisms and the like for publication. Publication cost is a major concern and at last year's meeting, ways to reduce the cost were discussed. At that time consideration was given to sending the newsletter only to dues paying members or those who contribute to the newsletter fund. Implementing this policy was postponed for a year to see if membership increased. It did not.

This year, a vote to stop sending the newsletter to non-members or non-contributors was reaffirmed and the newsletter editor and treasurer were directed to take the following actions. This issue of the Torii Typhoon will be sent to every person on the current mailing list. **Future issues of the Typhoon will be**

**sent only to dues paying members or anyone not joining the Association, but contributing at least \$5.00 to the newsletter fund.** It simply is not fair for less than 100 persons (the number currently contributing to the newsletter fund, plus the proceeds from the auction) to subsidize newsletters for the entire 1,500 plus mailing list. This will have no, repeat, no impact on the reunion registration information. **Everyone on the mailing list will continue to receive the reunion information.**

Here is how it will work. Dues are \$10.00 per year. Members have full voting privileges and are allowed to bring business before the assembly. All memberships will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. To be very clear on this, if you pay dues anytime during a calendar year – whether it is January 1<sup>st</sup> or November 30<sup>th</sup>, your membership will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of that same year. You may pay your dues for the following year (or years) at the annual reunion. For example, if you paid dues at this past reunion it was for the year 2005. If you pay at next year's reunion that will be for 2006. The mailing labels on the newsletter will now reflect your expiration date. Watch for it.

If for any reason you do not want to join the association, you may contribute at least \$5.00 annually to the newsletter fund and continue to receive the Typhoon. Your expiration date will also be reflected on the label. Contributors may not attend the business meetings and will not be permitted to vote or bring business to the floor.

People who served in the unit from all years are encouraged to join the association. Everyone, members, non-members and contributors are all invited and encouraged to attend our reunions.

All dues and contributions are to be sent to Tom Sturgeon – not to the newsletter. Tom will in turn provide the editor with a listing of expiration dates.

If you did not pay your dues or did not attend the last reunion, or if

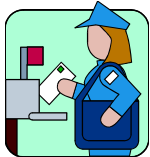
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you have never joined the association or contributed to the newsletter, please do so. Your support is needed. We really would like to reach the financial level that we could afford to send everyone the newsletter, but that will depend on you.

Larry Eckard

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## MAIL CALL

ML&RS,

Below are messages I received today from one Bruce Sutton, who saw the reunion notice in the Legion Magazine.

Paul Watson

**First Message:**

I am Bruce Sutton. I was in FS SOBE from April 1967 until Sept. 70. I worked in the Signal Center CRSO. I saw in the Legion Magazine that you are planning a reunion in Sept. and I would like more information. Also I am in touch with others who also served on OKI. I would appreciate more information.

**My reply:**

Hi,

The activities at Sobe Camp went on for quite some time, starting in about 1948 when the operation was at Futenma in quanset huts. The original four buildings were built and occupied in 1953.

The reunions we have had to date, have been mostly attended by those troops who were there in the early times. My tour was June '55 to Oct. '57.

The natural transition of the Sobe Camp reunions will certainly

expand to include those who were at the JPC, too.

The reunions are organized by a professional organizer, who, by coincidence, was at Sobe Camp from 1957 to 1959 and went on to stay in the Army.

You perhaps are not familiar with the term "Sobe Camp." It was the early name for the station, certainly having its origin in Kadena Circle. The folks at NSA somehow didn't think that name was flattering enough and sponsored a contest for the renaming of the station. In early 1958 a guy in a motor pool won the contest with the name "Torri Station," which has stuck to this date.

Thanks for your interest.

Paul Watson

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Hello Larry,

Please accept my apologies for not attending the reunion this year. Please tell everyone hello for me and if the creek don't rise or my number is called, I will see you all next year.

I was elected to the school board and this new law "No Child Left Behind" has the entire country scrambling for help.

Anyway, you all have a good time. Enjoy the reunion.

Lloyd King  
3536 King Rd  
Liberty, MS 39645  
601-657-8795

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## GOAL FOR PLAQUE FUND ALMOST MET!

A huge thank you goes out to all who have contributed to the fund to place a ASA Okinawa plaque in the National Cryptologic Museum, located on Ft. Meade, MD. The goal of \$5000 has almost been met, thanks to the generous gifts at the 2004 reunion in Colorado Springs. In one night we more than doubled the amount already raised, bringing the total in the fund to \$4797.00—just a little over \$200 short of the goal. If you have already promised to donate, please send your contribution so we can reach the goal. If you smoke, giving up a pack of cigarettes for one week could mean \$20.00 for the fund; giving up beer for a week could mean \$30.00; and giving up booze for a week could bring in who knows how much! So, please think about it, and send in what you can to get us over the goal. I was overwhelmed by the response at the reunion and hope to be similarly excited by the response of those not attending. Again, thank you so much for your help in making our dream a reality.

Bill Overholt

*Note: See contribution form below.*

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### VOCABULARY LESSON

- *Oniomania* is the irresistible urge to buy things.
- The indentation found on the bottom of some wine bottles is called a *punt*.
- *Triskadekaphobia* is the fear of Friday the 13th.
- The precise name for the symbol referred to as "the pound sign" on your telephone is *octothorp*.

### NSA MUSEUM CONTRIBUTION

Enclosed is my contribution for the ASA Okinawa Association at the NSA Museum. **Mail to:**

Thomas Sturgeon  
12 Cherry Lane  
Olmstead, OH 44138-2918.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of contribution** \_\_\_\_\_

## PREVIEW OF BRANSON, MISSOURI FOR 2005 REUNION

Branson, MO, site of the 2005 ASA Okinawa reunion, has a lot to offer. The top attractions continue to be the 60 plus shows to choose from. You can find any type show you're looking for—from The Bald Knobbers "pure country" to the more sophisticated Shoji Tabuchi. Most of the "major" artists who once had their own showplaces are gone from Branson, but quality entertainment is still available. The Radisson Hotel (host for the reunion) sits beside one of the better theaters in Branson. It is not affiliated with any artist, but a major name star is always playing there. There is more than just the shows in Branson, and this is where we need your help. Below is a short description of some of the major attractions in Branson. We want to know what you want to do. Please take a few minutes to complete and return this survey because the entire reunion agenda will be created from your responses. If need be, we'll schedule a trip or show a day early like was done in Colorado Springs.

### SHOWS:

**Shoji Tabuchi:** A family show with a touch of class; the bathrooms are a major attraction.

**Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede:** Dinner and show featuring a rivalry between the North and South with spectacular horsemanship.

**Andy Williams:** Andy sings "Moon River" and other great hits from the past. Sometimes Ann-Margaret is on the show.

**Mickey Gilley:** Thirty-nine songs on the charts, 17 number one country hits. Not always in town.

**Jim Stafford:** A show filled with songs, laughter, and guitar picking. Voted 2004's entertainer of the year in Branson

**Pam Tillis:** Mel's daughter, a star in her own right with many top country songs.

**Yakov Smirnoff:** If you like laughter, this is the show. Voted comedian of the year for two straight years.

### Some Options to consider:

- Non- discounted shows range in price from around \$25.00 to \$47.50
- Going as a group will get discounted tickets, not more than 10%
- There may not be enough tickets available for a single group show, so tickets would be on a first come basis.
- There may not be any tickets available for individual shows.
- When you buy a group ticket, you do just that. Tickets must be paid for well in advance, and there are no refunds, period. If you have to cancel, we will try to resell your seats internally, but if we can't, you're stuck with a show ticket.
- You can choose your own show and the time you want to attend. There are shows from breakfast throughout the day.
- You also have to get to the shows on your own either by car or walking. Parking is limited, and everything is up hill or down hill in Branson.

### OTHER ATTRACTIONS:

#### Branson's Veterans Museum:

The Veterans Memorial Museum is composed of ten great halls covering the wars and conflicts fought during the 20th Century. A real tribute to veterans.

#### Ride the Ducks:

World War II Amphibious vehicles that run on land or sea. 80 minutes

of entertainment as you tour Branson. See famous Country Music Boulevard, Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery, Table Rock Lake and Powerhouse and a spectacular scenic view from the top of Baird Mountain. Then splash into Table Rock Lake for a relaxing cruise.

#### Branson Belle Showboat:

Take a luncheon or dinner cruise on the Belle, Branson's grandest lake attraction, and enjoy the scenery, food and entertainment.

#### Branson Scenic Railway:

Take a 40-mile round trip through the Ozark foothills and tunnels. Learn the history of the area and enjoy the scenery, all with the luxury of rail travel from yesteryear.

#### Silver Dollar City:

At this amusement park you'll see the Ozarks at the turn of the century with traditional food, costumes, music, crafts and hair-raising rides.

#### Shopping at Tanger Outlet Center:

Do some shopping while in Branson at the Tanger Outlet Center. There is something for everyone in the 66 stores in the complex.

A few other items to consider when coming to Branson. The nearest airport is Springfield, MO. There is no complimentary shuttle service to or from the airport. Commercial shuttle service is available at the terminal. If there are enough people who fly – and you are willing to wait in the terminal, perhaps for a couple of hours, we will consider hiring a van or bus to pick you up as a group and returning you to the terminal on Sunday. No promises here, it depends on how many would be interested. Please check on the survey whether or not you would be interested in this option.

