



# Pleiku M.P. Association



The "**Pleiku M.P. Association**" was incorporated January 26, 1998 by the IRS, as a tax exempt, non-profit organization, for members Who have served honorably with Company B, 504<sup>th</sup> M.P. Battalion, in Pleiku and its detachments, during its Tour of Duty, in the Republic of Vietnam.

[www.pleikump.org](http://www.pleikump.org)

Fall / Winter 2007

The **Pleiku M.P. Association's** 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion was held at the MCM Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from October 4 thru 7, 2007. Harry and Pat Yates hosted this year's meeting. With spouses and guests, there were a total of 48 people. Old timers attending were: Karl and Thinh Klink, Gene and Kathi Petrowski, Walt and Megan Caldwell, Vern and Valerie Park, Don and Sherry Warnock, Ron and Sherri Sledge, Joe and Kathy Horstkamp, Mike and Peg Cordero, Mike Little, Tim and Bridget Nichols, Harry and Pat Yates, Gary Moore, Bill and Kathleen McCook, Mike and Christi Zenisek, Bruce MacGibbon, Tim Oliverius, Larry and Beth Abney, Stan and Sharon Nelms, Daniel and Phyllis Thomason, Jack Williams, Lucky and Denise Higgins, Phil and Dianne Olson, John and Jerry Ann Kirtley and Tom and Thelma Bailey. The old timers welcomed FNG's Ron and Virginia Sperber and Bob and Barb Oilschlager. It was also the first time for Jerry Ann Kirtley and Beth Abney. Dianne Olson's brother, Ronald Aspenson, was also in attendance.

Early birds who took advantage of the extremely discounted hotel rates arrived as early as Tuesday and Wednesday. They found the tram ride to Sandia Peak with its height and panoramic views was an adventurous way to spend half a day. Some of the more adventurous of us, Joe and Kathy Horstkamp, also chose to tempt fate on a balloon ride. Trips to Old Town and local eateries were also a hit.

On Thursday, 17 attendees took the bus trip to the Acoma Indian Reservation. Along with the spectacular views, learning of the Indian history and culture, shopping for locally made crafts and jewelry, and tasting some of the baked goods made it an enjoyable experience.

Friday found 25 attendees taking the bus trip to historic Santa Fe. The addition of a tour guide enhanced the



**CLASS of 2007** From left to right (Front row, kneeling) Mike Little, Dan Thomason and Gene Petrowski. (2<sup>nd</sup> row sitting) Gary Moore, Bob Oilschlager, Mike Cordero, Harry Yates, Tim Nichols, Ron Sperber, Tim Oliverius and Lucky Higgins. (3rd row standing) Larry Abney, Walt Caldwell, Stan Nelms, Mike Zenisek, Karl Klink, Jack Williams, Joe Horstkamp, Vern Park, Ron Sledge, John Kirtley, Bruce MacGibbon, Phil Olson and Bill McCook.

experience with interesting side stops and insight of the areas we visited. For example, the end of the Santa Fe Trail with its sculpture and museum was of interest. A stop at Madrid, NM, an old mining ghost town converted into a small art community of galleries and shops transported you back to a 1960's hippy town. It is where the movie "Wild Hogs" was filmed. Santa Fe attractions included a sculpture studio with Glenna Goodacre works, the Loretto Chapel with its mysterious spiral staircase, jewelry shops and local cafes and local arts. Following the bus ride back to the hotel, the attendees enjoyed a dinner from Mr. Powdrell's Original Barbeque.

Saturday was left open for the attendees to choose from the many venues available. The balloon festival was a colorful event as the balloons of various colors and shapes filled the sky. A trip to Old Town seemed to be the popular way to spend the day. The festival showcased Indian dancers and Mexican bands in the plaza and entertained the crowds

assembled, mostly there for the balloon festivities. The festival also included a book signing by the famed WWII Navajo Code Talkers who shared the MCM Elegante. The book, "**Navaho Code Talkers**", a brief history of their exploits in WWII, was sold as a fundraiser for Native American scholarships. Shopping, resting, visiting and photography was the order of the day. Saturday evening the Hospitality room was the setting for the annual dinner and meeting.



**The Famed WWII Navajo Code Talkers signed Dan Thomason's book in Old Town.**

(Photo by Phyllis Thomason)

Gene

I still can't find the notes--so here is the best I can remember. Also, if you brought any of the left over stuff home, please check to see if one of my picture albums got mixed up in it. I can't find the small blue plastic 4X5 album of the shots I took the days after Tet. If you don't have it, please place a lost and found note in the newsletter. Thanks.

#### MINUTES:

**President** Karl Klink called meeting to order at 9:04 pm. Walt Caldwell led the Pledge to the Flag and Tim Nichols offered the opening prayer. There were 25 members present. Roll Call of Officers revealed all Officers present. Mid-West Director/Chaplain Don Warnock was excused, as he had to return home due to an emergency.

**Treasurer's report:** All monies due for the reunion were collected and expenses paid. We also picked up two new Life Members. A donation was made to Operation Rice Lift. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made and seconded. Motion Passed.

**Secretary's report:** Roster is up to date as of the date of the meeting.

**VP Report:** Effective this tax year (2007) we are required to file an electronic IRS Fm 990EZ. This is to keep our tax-exempt status. All previous years' filing had been done by completing the form and mailing it to the IRS. Several members reported that we need a Letterhead to legitimize our tax status. Sec Mike Little volunteered to make a letterhead.

**T-shirt committee:** No report.

**Ron Bonnin**, who was unable to attend, was recognized for donating Road Runner patches for the attendees. A Certificate of Appreciation will be sent to him.

**Web Site:** We discussed the need to update and keep abreast of our web site. Due to Vickie's new status of being a full time grandmother, we did not know how busy that would make her. She will be contacted to see if she wants someone else to take the site.

All Officers were re-elected. They are:

**President** – Karl Klink  
**Vice President** – Vernon Park  
**Secretary** – Mike Little  
**Treasurer** – Ron Sledge

**Pat and Harry Yates** were congratulated for an exceptional job with the reunion.

There were two FNGs, Bob Oilschlager and Ron Sperber. Ron made a few emotional and interesting remarks as the Company Commander who bought B Company to Pleiku.

**2008 Reunion.** Possible sites for the 2008 reunion were discussed. Several members said they would look into Atlanta GA, Branson MO, Fayetteville NC, Washington DC, Nashville TN, and Florida. Interested volunteers said they would check out the areas and report back to the Reunion Committee for final decision.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:04 pm. Tim Nichols gave the closing prayer.

I'm sure there was much more, but I can't remember it all. Sorry. I have looked everywhere and I can only conclude the notes were discarded during one of the many cleaning frenzies which happen periodically at the new house.



Tim Nichols offers the opening prayer



Karl Klink conducts the Annual meeting.



Ron Sperber addresses the membership

*Support our Troops*

**Karl M. Klink Jr.** is one of the founders and has been the President of the Pleiku MP Association for twenty-one years. Who is Karl Klink? Let's meet the man whom we have chosen to lead the Association since its inception.

Karl M. Klink Jr. was born October 15, 1947 near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has two younger sisters. He graduated from Harriton High School, Rosemont, PA, in June 1966. He entered the Army 20 October 1966 at the age of 19. He took his Basic Training, C/5/1, at Fort Ord, California. After basic training he reported to Fort Gordon, GA. A/10/4, for Military Police training.

After graduation from MP school and a 30-day leave he reported to the Transient Company, US Army Personnel Center, Oakland, CA. for deployment to Vietnam. He arrived in Vietnam in March 1967 to the 90<sup>th</sup> Replacement Company in Bien Hoa. Karl was then assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Replacement Detachment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Pleiku where he underwent Jungle Training. He was then transferred from the 4<sup>th</sup> Div to the 630<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company in Cam Ranh Bay. The 630<sup>th</sup> was assigned port security guarding piers, ship fantails, ships cargo holds and the ammo dump along with the five power ships supplying power to Cam Ranh Bay. They also manned the checkpoints entering Cam Ranh Bay. The 630<sup>th</sup> was responsible for convoy escorts from Cam Ranh Bay to all areas of Vietnam. He took part in several (1,2,and3 day) convoys to Qui Nhon, DaLat, Ban Me Thout, Phan Rang, and Ca Na along with daily runs to Battalion Headquarters in Nha Trang. The largest convoy was 3 days to the city of DaLat, which consisted of 86 trucks carrying food, supplies and JP4 jet fuel.

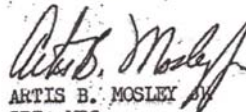
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SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

DA, 630th Military Police Company, APO 96312, 18 September 1967

TO: PFC KLINK, Karl M., RA 11 858 573, 630th MP Company, APO 96312

1. It gives me great pleasure to forward this Letter of Appreciation from Jack B. Stephens, Director of Safety, US Army Support Command, CRB, and LTC Matthew J. Mejasich, Commanding Officer, 97th Military Police Battalion.
2. Your performance of duty while on convoy escort to Dalat brings great credit upon you, your unit, and the US Army. Congratulations on a job well done.
3. A copy of this letter will be placed in your 201 file.

  
ARTIS B. MOSLEY  
CPT, MPC  
Commanding

In late September 1967, Karl transferred from Cam Ranh Bay to B Company 504<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion in Pleiku. He was assigned to Town Patrol and later assigned to the "Joint Patrol" consisting of 1 USMP, 1 Vietnamese Policeman, 1 Vietnamese Military Policeman (QC) and an interpreter. Karl was wounded (shrapnel in left side and face from enemy grenade) in the early morning hours of the Tet Offensive 1968 and transported to the 71<sup>st</sup> Evacuation Hospital in Pleiku. He was medically evacuated to CONUS and received extensive treatment for his wounds at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Fort Devens Army Hospital, and Valley Forge Military Hospital before being Honorably Discharged in 1969. Karl was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

Karl stayed in law enforcement attending the Delaware State Police Academy for Municipal Officers in 1972. He retired as Chief of Police, Dewey Beach, Delaware in 1999. Besides being the President of the Pleiku MP Association, Karl is a member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a life member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Karl has four sons, John, Joe, Karl III and Phillip, and five grandchildren from a previous marriage. Karl married Think Thi Ho in Saigon Vietnam in July 2000. Karl and Think reside in Frankford, DE; have a home in Saigon, and a newly built home in Hue, which is Think's hometown. They return to Vietnam yearly to visit with Think's family.



From an E-mail from Ron Sperber <vrsperber@comcast.net> dated 8 Dec 2007

Gene, Please accept Virginia's and my gratitude for such a great time in Albuquerque for the reunion. It was such a neat experience to be associated with fellow MP's who had served their country in the same military unit. After we got back home we had 4 days then we headed to Las Vegas for my sons wedding. We got home on the 15th of October and then I had back surgery on October 19th. So I guess this will have to do for my reason for not getting back to you sooner. I have attached a couple of comments about the reunion and the talk that I gave at the meeting, and your request for me to send you those comments. I'm not sure of what all I talked about but hope this will do. I know you have other documents that spell out details about what the unit's mission was and it's accomplishments so I didn't want to be redundant and go into any more detail than what I did. So again **thanks** to you and Kathi and the others for such a superbly organized reunion.

Ron Sperber

**Company "B" 504<sup>th</sup> MP.BN.  
Pleiku, Viet Nam  
Pleiku M.P. Association  
Capt. Ronald H. Sperber (LTC. Retired)**

The Association reunion was held in Albuquerque N.M. during the period October 4-7, 2007. When my wife Virginia and I received word that the reunion was to be held in Albuquerque it was an invitation we couldn't turn down. I was the Company Commander of "B" Company when it was sent to Viet Nam. My time with the Company in Viet Nam was from August 1965 to July 1966. When I left Viet Nam my next assignment was to Albuquerque to work in the Joint Command called Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA). My assignment was Nuclear Security. So you can see why it would have been difficult to pass up the opportunity to see members of my former company as well as rekindle memories of our time in Albuquerque.

The reunion was something special with trips to the surrounding areas, to Santa Fe, the Balloon festival, and for Virginia and me two trips to Old Town Albuquerque (shopping). But best of all was the interaction with former members of "B" company and their Ladies. There were only 2 or 3 members that were part of my command that had served just 3-4 months with me prior to my departure. I was disappointed that there were not more at the reunion that were shipped over to Viet Nam with me. It would have been great to see them. But for all those MP's at the reunion there was great camaraderie, pride, fellowship, respect, and honor for serving their country and being members of a special unit—"B" Co. 504<sup>th</sup> MP.BN. ---, which was displayed the whole time we were there. Special recognition for the reunion must go to the following, the Petrowski's, Yates, Klink's, Sledge's, and I'm sure others that I just can't remember. Please understand this was my first reunion.

I was asked to add a little history about "B" company and its adventure to Viet Nam. I'm sure that all the points might not be exactly correct but please remember it's been 42 years ago!!

**504<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion  
"B" Company  
Assignment to Viet Nam 1965**

In June 1965 the 504<sup>th</sup> MP. BN., located at Fort Lewis WA, was alerted to prepare for deployment to Viet Nam. The first action was to replace MP's who had less the 6 months before they completed their current duty obligation. Therefore two main operational actions were initiated, one was an intense training cycle for the new replacements, and second was the preparation of our vehicles and equipment for shipment. On June 16<sup>th</sup> Captain Ronald H Sperber was assigned as the company commander of "B" Company. He and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Clendenon set out to form several task elements within the company to accomplish the mission to prepare the company for deployment.

In mid July our vehicles and equipment were shipped out to Oakland Army base to be loaded on the Navy ship USNS Barrett. On August 13 the BN. flew to Oakland Army base and loaded onto the Barrett. The next morning we left Oakland Army base and sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge on our 18-day trip to Viet Nam. The Barrett normally carried 1600 personnel and equipment but for this trip it had approximately 2300 personnel and equipment on board. After we left the California coastline we did not see land for 12 days until we stopped at Quam for refueling the ship. The first 5 days on board went by rather quickly as there were things to do but after that things got boring in a hurry. So needless to say everyone was glad to stop in Quam. At Quam they had prepared a food spread, beer and soft drinks for all of us. We only had about 3-4 hours to be off the ship. It was a blessing that we had an MP BN. and a separate MP company on board as it took all of our MP forces to get everyone back on the ship as the beer became the "food" of choice and we dealt with many drunken troops. The odor on the ship changed significantly with all the sick troops!!

The remaining 6 days that it took to reach the coast of Viet Nam were very sobering days as the reality of what we were about to face became more realistic. The mood of the troops became very solemn. Once we reached the central coast of Viet Nam the orders came down that the BN. Hq. "B" and "C" companies were to disembark at Qui Nhon and "A" company would go on down the coast to Na Trang. We disembarked the ship by landing barges, loaded onto big tractor-trailers and headed out to a deserted Vietnamese cemetery. It was during the monsoon season so after our perimeter security was set up and fox holes dug it started to rain and the fox holes filled with water and some of the tents collapsed making for a vary miserable first night. The next day we got things fixed up right and then we were in business. There are other documents that cover what "B" company did so I won't go into detail about the operational matters.

"B" company was eventually split up over the northern half of South Viet Nam. The Company Hq. and one Platoon plus went to Pleiku, one Platoon went to Hue, one Platoon minus went to Da Nang, one squad to Kontum, one squad to Ban Me Thuot, and finally one squad to Da lat. It took over a month to relocate the company from Qui Nhon to all its assigned destinations. All personnel and equipment had to be flown to our respective destinations as none of the road systems were secured. "B" Company had many significant operational missions such as assisting with getting the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Division to An Khe, the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division to Pleiku, defile control tasks, road escorts, perimeter security at Camp Holloway, town patrols and Provost Marshal operations in all its operational areas and whatever else we were assigned.

We accomplished these missions and tasks with the utmost professionalism, dedication, pride, and most importantly the safety and well-being of each other. During my command of the company in Viet Nam (August 1965-July 1966) we lost one MP to non-hostile death, and 3-4 MP's wounded by mortar attack. We were credited with being involved in 7 key military campaign operations during our tour in Viet Nam. We fulfilled our duty in Viet Nam and accomplished our given motto "Duty- Honor- Country"

For those who followed, their legacy was the same and was recognized appropriately.

The fact that the Pleiku MP Association (Company B 504<sup>th</sup> MP Bn.) was formed is a tribute to all of us who served with this unit in Viet Nam. We all share the same "PRIDE" and "LOYALTY".

Ron Sperber  
Former Company Commander  
(Prepared Dec. 2007)

*Editor notes.* Ron also mentioned that because of the lack of road security, everything had to be choppered in. On payday, Ron would have to fly out to the different detachments to pay the troops. On the occasions when flights could not be scheduled, he would have to scrounge helicopter flights to the detachments by serving as a door gunner to secure a flight. Ron also stated that, although the MP listed as lost to non-hostile action, he was killed in a collision while escorting tanks in a tactical situation on or about 3 June 66. It is believed that the MP was PFC Hezekiah George from New Rochelle NY.

Thanks to Ron for submitting his recollections, which are just a small portion of the emotional and informative presentation, he offered at the Annual business meeting to a highly interested and proud audience. Let this be a challenge for other Company Commanders, Company Officers, First Sergeants and Operations Personnel on our roster, to submit their memories so we can build a semi official history of Company B 504<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion in Pleiku and its detachments for service in Vietnam. Thanks. Gene

From an E-mail from Gary Moore < [moorervp@bellsouth.net](mailto:moorervp@bellsouth.net) > 28 November 2007  
And Carl Minter < [cminter@syrucity.net](mailto:cminter@syrucity.net) > 29 November 2007

**I think this says it all....**

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not *just* to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not *just* to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have my memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades. Ahh Such good men."

**--Author Unknown--**

*From an E-mail from Mike Little < [littlecrazy3@cox.net](mailto:littlecrazy3@cox.net) > 28 November 2007*

*I agree with Gary....great sentiment. I added the word "just" because that's part of it too.*

*FYI, think I told everyone that I might be going back to VN in March next year....as expected, my visa has been denied...so I won't be going. For the 3rd time since 1996, I've been banned. However, if anyone is ever interested in visiting Vietnam, I have a wonderful travel agency that can help you. They even went to the Immigration office in Saigon on my behalf.*

*Happy Holidays! Mike Little*

From an E-mail from Tom Wohlrab < [Chief15004@aol.com](mailto:Chief15004@aol.com) > 29 November 2007

Funny, last night I attended a friend and co-workers wake. I worked with him for approx 15 years. He served in Pleiku, the same time we all did. He was with the 25th Inf. Div and we spoke often of Nam and Pleiku.

He had a full military honors funeral and the proudest time of his life was with the military and the guys he served with. Carl, your find was right on, despite 35 years or more it seems like we were all there together just yesterday. I always felt in my heart that if I were ever in need contacting any of the guys would bring immediate assistance. I guess I'm still living in yester-year because that's exactly would have happened then and I still believe now.

Sorry, I didn't make it to the last re-union, but things happened very quickly and I found myself retiring from Federal Service after 23 years. I wasn't sure when the first pension check was going to come and didn't want to over expend before the holidays etc. This was the one I wanted to go too also, I was suppose to take a balloon ride up with Walter, (now that in itself was enough to scare anyone-Nam was a piece of cake compared to thinking of that ordeal!!!!)

Anyway, nice find Carl, no truer words were ever written. Hope you and your loved ones; all have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season. Tom Wohlrab 66,67 and 68.



The Acoma Seventeen take a photo break before boarding the bus.



The Santa Fe tour group tours the Indian Museum.

## Our Little Corner of the World – The 2007 PleiMates



**Plei-mates 2007** (Left to right) Sitting: Kathleen McCook and Thinh Klink. Standing: Megan Caldwell, Kathi Petrowski, Bridget Nichols, Sharon Nelms, Denise Higgins, Phyllis Thomason, Sherri Sledge, Valerie Park, Dianne Olson, Christi Zenisek, Beth Abney, Virginia Sperber, Jerry Ann Kirtley, Pat Yates, Barb Oilschlager, Kathy Horstkamp, and Peg Cordero.

### Memories - Love - Opine.

By PM (PleiMate) Bridget L. Nichols - October 2007

#### Aloha PleiMates!

Well, it's history. The 21<sup>st</sup> Pleiku MP Association, "B" Company 504<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico, has now come and gone. It was a fun time. Enjoying and getting reacquainted with friends of many years and adding to the group, new members. Welcome Ladies!

#### **Memories.**

We all have favorite thoughts and memories of what was once. In my case of what was once, are fond remembrances of the women/PleiMates of yonder years. The moments shared with each other by shopping; sightseeing; sharing laughter; 'talk story' or 'breaking bread' together. It's because of these ladies that our present group shares such a wealth of rich memories. I'd like to symbolically salute our friends of yonder years. Ladies, we "Salute" you!

#### **Love.**

While shopping in Old Town Albuquerque, PM Megan Caldwell and I were generally asked the same two questions by store clerks. The questions were:

1. Where are you from? Answer: Georgia and California.
2. What brings you here (to Old Town Albuquerque)?

The answer to the second question was that our husbands had served in Vietnam as Military Policemen, and that once a year their Pleiku MP Association met together. Each year the locale changed and that this year's reunion town and state were Albuquerque New Mexico. Needless to say, the salesclerks were generally and pleasantly surprised, because they thought we were there for the festive event of the Flying Balloons. The sales clerks were always (my opinion) more respectful to PM Caldwell and me when they found out that our spouses and the Reunion group of men were Vietnam Veterans.

You ask what does this have to do with Love?

We understand that this emotion is very powerful. It is this emotion that takes our husbands/partners once a year to go to somewhere beyond, someplace nowhere, to be with their soldier brethren, to share that special bond. By now, most of these men are in their late fifties and early sixties.

Their commonality is youth hood. These young men, some barely out of their teens, going to a foreign land, seeing a different culture, smelling things that were beyond smell, hearing a language that was totally strange to them. These young men were sons, brothers, grandsons, nephews, some were engaged, some had girlfriends, some were single, others were married becoming young fathers while in Vietnam and who had never seen, held or kissed their babies until they were on R&R in Hawaii or other R&R countries.

Love, is why we PleiMates attend these Reunions, to be with our brave husbands/partners to share their sorrows, their happiness and to go somewhere beyond, someplace nowhere.

#### **Opine.**

It was wonderful to see and visit with Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Thelma Bailey (PM Petrowski's parents) again.

The group was privileged to celebrate with Mr. Bailey and his family a 90<sup>th</sup> "Hauoli la Hanau" (Happy Birthday).

Also, Happy Anniversary, sixty years to Mr. and Mrs. Bailey. God Bless these two beautiful people.

Finally, it is with much Mahalo (Thanks) to PM Pat Yates for hosting the 21<sup>st</sup> Pleiku MP Association, "B" Company 504<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, reunion.

#### **In closing.**

Ladies, may God's peace go with you and yours always. Until we meet again --

Aloha pumehana,  
bleilani

# 2007 Reunion Photo Album



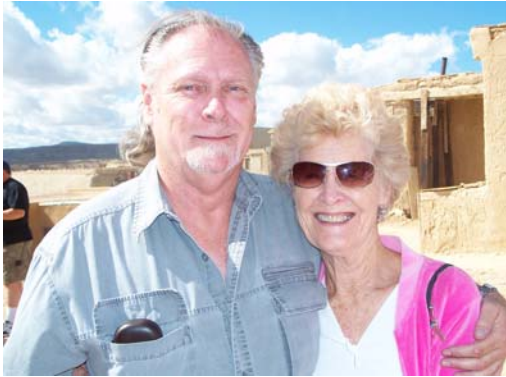
Welcome to Albuquerque



Joe and Cathy Horstkamp



Ron and Sherri Sledge



Harry and Pat Yates



Denise and Lucky Higgins



Sherry and Don Warnock



Karl and Think Klink



Walt and Megan Caldwell



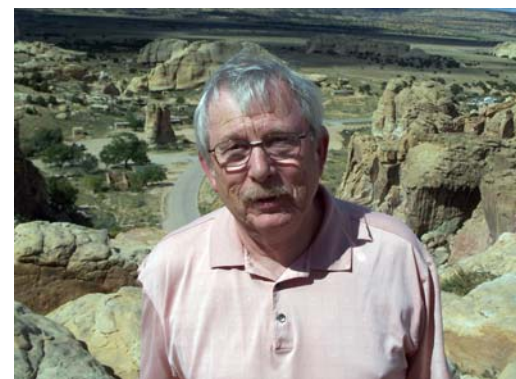
Peg and Mike Cordero



Valerie and Vernon Park



Christi and Mike Zenisek



Gary Moore



Phyllis and Dan Thomason



Bruce MacGibbon



Beth and Larry Abney



Barb and Bob Oilschlager



Kathleen and Bill McCook



Mike Little



Virginia and Ron Sperber



John and Jerry Ann Kirtley



Jack Williams



Sharon and Stanley Nelms



Ron Aspenson with Diane and Phil Olson



Tim Oliverius

# Miscellaneous photos



Gene and Kathi Petrowski



Thelma and Tom Bailey



Dinner is ready and waiting.



Walt, Lucky and Bob hit the Buffet table



The group enjoying a leisurely Saturday evening dinner



Treasurer Ron Sledge goes over the books.



Karl Klink Presents Pat and Harry Yates a Certificate of Appreciation for the, time, energies and expense in hosting the reunion



End of the Santa Fe Trail Sculpture



Ron Sledge, Gene Petrowski and Mike Zenisek present Shannon Mullan a Certificate of Appreciation for the MCM Elegante.



Bridget and Tim Nichols  
(Phyllis Thomason photo)



Tom and Thelma Bailey admire the mysterious staircase at the Loretto Chapel



A daily sighting. (Photo by Lucky Higgins)

Check out Tim Nichols new book

***“HIGHWAY PLATOON”***

*From an e-mail sent out on 1 February 2008, and some replies:*

It's Official! *Cocoa Beach Florida* is the place to be in October 2008.

The Reunion Committee has chosen *Florida's Space Coast* as the site for the Association's 2008 Reunion. Multiple reunion sites in Florida, Fayetteville, & NC/ Ft Bragg areas were surveyed with no proposals received from Atlanta, Branson, DC, or Nashville. We believe we have found the site with something for just about everyone: Cocoa Beach is the site and the Best Western Oceanfront Resort is the place. With a variety of room options offered to meet individual budgets; multiple activities available at a range of prices; and, 82 degree weather for lotsa fun & sun, we think it's a very good place for the 2008 Pleiku MP Association Reunion.

*Kathleen and I  
will be there.  
Bill Mc Cook*

*Hi,  
Thanks for the e-mail  
and info. I'll be there.  
Just keep me a little bit  
up to date.  
Thanks again,  
Roger L Cox Member of  
B Company, Pleiku, Mar  
1966.*



*Thanks for the update. Denise  
and I are in. We will be staying  
for at least the 4 days. I do  
believe I will do some  
surfcasting while in the area.  
The Space Center sounds good  
too. Thanks for the work. Stay  
well. Lucky*

*Sounds great  
firm plans to  
be there  
Greg Walter*

As you can see, the Oceanfront Resort is both an older and a newer facility. It has three two-story buildings housing 70 standard hotel rooms. There are two high-rise buildings – one with 50 two-room suites and one with 60 oceanfront hotel rooms. The hotel property with two outdoor pools & a poolside Veranda Bar and Grille sits on 250 ft. of sandy beach adjacent to Cocoa Beach Pier. A free continental breakfast is served daily and a complimentary manager's reception is held every Tuesday evening.

All rooms feature microwave, refrigerator and free high-speed Internet. For attendees/guests seeking economy, the courtyard-view rooms are a good choice, and attendees/guests seeking convenience or traveling with pets can choose those rooms as well. New two-room suites feature apartment-size refrigerators, two flat screen TVs and pillow-top mattresses and, while not directly oceanfront, the suites do offer partial ocean views from large private balconies. Oceanfront hotel rooms with pillow-top mattresses offer great ocean views from Cocoa Beach Pier to the Kennedy Space Center peninsula. Parking is free and all rooms/buildings are key access only.

The room rates are **\$89 per night for standard courtyard rooms; \$115 for two-room suites; and \$129 for oceanfront hotel rooms. Tax is 11%.** Reunion dates are **Thursday, 10/9 to Sunday, 10/12.** Room rates are available 2 days before/after. Reservations must be made by 9/1/08 and may be cancelled up to 72 hrs before check-in. The number of suites is limited, so make reservations early. Call the hotel directly at (321) 783-7621, ext 377 or 366. Do NOT call the central Best Western 800 number.

Area activities include Cocoa Beach Pier (.01 mi) with restaurants, bars, surfing, beach volleyball, pier and surf fishing; nearby free gambling ships (SunCruz and Sterling) and 3-7 day Caribbean cruise ships for extending the vacation (Royal Caribbean sails Mon, Fri, Sun; Disney on Thu, Sat, Sun; Carnival on Thu, Sat, Sun); multiple golf courses; Kennedy Space Center (13 mi.); Astronaut Hall of Fame, American Police Hall of Fame and Museum, Valiant Air Command Warbird Museum (15 mi); dining and shopping at Cocoa Village; Indian River boat cruises; Brevard zoo; airboats; kayaking; manatee and dolphin watching; kicking back with friends.....

The nearest airports are Orlando (45 miles but super cheap flights to/from just about anywhere!) and Melbourne (12 miles with limited service to Baltimore, LaGuardia, & Atlanta). Airport shuttle service is available but expensive; group rates are good but need to be coordinated with other attendees. Rental cars at the airport are recommended. Several restaurants and a grocery store are within easy walking distance of the hotel. Trolley & bus transportation are available for travel around town, but carpooling is recommended.

## *The Reunion Committee*

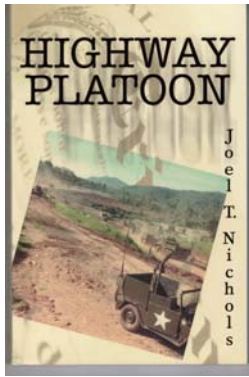
*Can't make it to Cocoa Beach? Check out the  
504thMPBNA reunion in Boston in August. Contact  
Mike Zenisek @ [mzenisek@att.net](mailto:mzenisek@att.net) or  
Paul Butler @ [504mpbna@gmail.com](mailto:504mpbna@gmail.com) for info.*

*Gene, far out and heavy! A great spot. Our daughter used to live down at  
Melbourne, and we went to the space center a couple of times. Great  
place, even if there are more than 2000 alligators on the grounds of the  
space center. I went to the police museum and the warbird museum, and  
they were good too, although the warbird museum was a little down on  
its upkeep. Cannot beat the choice with a big stick. Tim Nichols*



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For More Information.

*After reading about the reunion, Bridget and I decided to book a 4-night cruise out of Cape Canaveral and to return there on the morning of the 9th. Like I said before, we love that area you folks picked. Tim Nichols*



## *Florida's Space Coast 2008*

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