

RED EAGLES NEWSLETTER



4TH OF JULY, 2016
VOLUME 29

FELLOW RED EAGLES:
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



Happy Summer, REAA

Red Eagles, I hope this finds all of you in the midst of a great summer. I also hope it will be enhanced by your reading the following information concerning REAA issues!!!

First, a REUNION PLUG! I hope you all know by now, we will be holding a *reunion* during **8-11 September** - location is Dayton OH and the USAF Museum. Ted 'Gabby' Drake has done a great job in leading the effort to make this happen - in fact, he's responsible for almost all of the effort! So far, attendees numbers are in the 80+ range. We anticipate having a great time with plenty of opening left for those who haven't made up their mind yet. And, one of our own, General Hawk Carlisle, will be the featured speaker at our Saturday banquet. So, if you have been kicking the 'sign-up can' down the road, it's time to get on board and make the plunge. Each of Gabby's monthly updates provides the program events and sign-up methodology. As a final plug - remember, we are not getting any younger and the opportunity for these type things is pretty much like all of us ---- slowly diminishing!!

Second, a MUSEUM UPDATE! Recently, great strides have been made towards creating a Red Eagles exhibit at the USAF Museum. John 'Flash' Mann has assumed the role of Project Leader and has done a wonderful job of getting this thing moving. Please read his article in this Newsletter - I think you will enjoy it - especially, when you consider that your efforts in establishing

one of our country's unique programs will be enshrined in perpetuity.

Third, REAA MEMBERSHIP! To all of you that have become Lifetime Members - Thanks! To all of you that have opted to pay on a yearly basis and have kept up to date - Thanks! To those of you who have not yet become Members, or have not always stayed current - no time like the present to get on board! Your funds are used in many ways. For the most part, all REAA business is accommodated without cost by the REAA volunteers who do our work. But, funds are still needed to provide for upfront costs (reunion, store, etc) so the folks doing the work don't have to come out of pocket for deposits. Other uses include providing a slight reunion discount to paid up Members; reimbursement for room and transportation if needed to accommodate our business; annual business license costs; and memorial contributions. Importantly, our Red Eagle group will not get bigger - we can't count on others to keep us solvent - only us!

Fourth, ELECTION! Our By-Laws call for six elected Board Members - each to serve a four year term - we elect three Members on an alternating cycle of two years to keep continuity. Last election, this procedure did not work out so well - it required email

Editor's Column:

The 4th of July is upon us and time to celebrate!

- Make plans to celebrate the 4th. Make sure to clean and check the grill. Refill the propane tank or buy enough charcoal.
- When going camping, make a list of all the things you'll need. Don't forget the first aid kit and jumper cables. Let someone know where you are going and when you'll be back.
- Don't forget to fly the flag.
- Enjoy this time with family and friends. Please don't drink and drive or forget to take rest stops while on long road trips.
- You can submit your stories or roster updates by emailing them to: 4477redeagles@gmail.com
- Or, mail to:
Ben Galloway
3732 Bar 10 Road
Calhan, CO 80808

voting - only seven Members outside of the Board participated. So, as a Board we instituted an interim By-Law change that calls for an election at each reunion, regardless of timing. We plan to continue the alternating cycle by electing three Members at each reunion and term length will now be dictated by reunion frequency. We will ask the Membership to ratify this change at our meeting during this year's reunion. The takeaway, here, is that we will hold an election (three Members) at this year's reunion. You will find a blurb on the procedure elsewhere in this Newsletter - please read it - more importantly, please participate in the process.

That's all I got,
Thanks - Scotty

National Museum of the USAF

Hi everyone. A couple months ago, Scotty and I were discussing the effort to add a Red Eagle display to the NMUSAF. Long story short, Scotty asked if I could honcho the effort. Of course, I said yes.

To make this happen, we've established a "Council of Elders" to provide guidance and give approval at various stages. The Council is Mike Scott, Gail Peck, Earl Henderson, Joe Oberle, Paco Geisler, Neil Henderson, and myself. I've also made contact with the curator team assigned to us, and with the leadership team at the Museum; we have everyone's support for making this happen. The Museum is organized by time periods, and their vision is to add the Red Eagle display to the existing Cold War section.

In today's museums, there are two types of exhibits—virtual and physical. The virtual display is web-based and intended for the person who is deeply interested in the history of the USAF. This virtual explorer is in a time and place that allows him/her to study topics thoroughly. The physical exhibit is designed for the person walking through the many exhibits in the Museum's multiple buildings. That person will have limited time, and may have very limited/no prior knowledge of the history depicted by the displays. So while the virtual display is practically limitless in scope, depth, and detail, the physical display will look more like an overview.

The Museum will construct both the virtual and physical displays. Normally, they also do research and write the scripts to accompany each. In our case, they have agreed to let us provide the story of the Red Eagles; they will convert our work into both the virtual and physical exhibits. That said, the Museum retains the authority to edit submissions to ensure they meet the standards of both the Museum and the USAF.

The first step is to write the story that the Museum will use as the basis for both displays. With input from the Elders, I've created and submitted an outline of our proposal to the Museum curators; it is now moving through their approval process. I anticipate receiving approval and beginning the next step of writing the storyline mid-July.

The outline has six parts: Vision (who/what made it happen); Acquisition of assets; CONSTANT PEG early days; CONSTANT PEG later days; In Memoriam; Lessons learned/impact. Special note—This is a USAF museum, whose mission is to preserve USAF history. That said, we will be telling the whole story, which includes the USN/USMC participation. Also, the Museum Director completely supports including Hugh Brown in the In Memoriam section.

Concurrent with writing the story is collecting artifacts. Authenticity is important here; the Museum greatly values things that were actually used during the program. Flight suits, gloves, patches, tools, unit-created checklists/tech data, etc, are all what they greatly value. They are creating a process for collection of Red Eagle artifacts that will be a bit unique to us. I'll be sending out more on that later.

Right now, the Museum has a MiG-17 and MiG-21 on display, and they plan to leave them where they are. They want to put a -23 in the Red Eagle display. They have identified a candidate airplane, but that airplane apparently has some non-original parts. Also, it is not one that was in the program. So one of our efforts is to track down and acquire an authentic MiG-23 that flew in our program.

I know there are questions about timeline. I honestly don't have any reliable information on when any of this will all be complete. I can tell you it won't be done in the next few months. I think I'll know more as we begin to write the storyline and collect artifacts.

I'll be sending an email with information on how the Museum treats artifacts, how they would like us to help collect them, etc. That's it for now. More when we get to the next milestone.

Flash
Bandit 56

Board Member Election, 2016

Three REAA Board Members will be elected at this year's reunion. The first part of the process is determining the candidates. Please email your nominations to Admiral Nelson at red eagle.admiral@gmail.com. Nominations are due NLT 1 August. Nominees may be yourself or someone else, but must be a dues-current Member of the REAA. The nominee list will then be scrubbed for dues currency and the nominee's willingness to run.

Next, all eligible voters (dues current as of 1 August) will be emailed a ballot NLT 8 August. The ballot email will include instructions on how to cast your vote. The terms of Larry Mason, Rob Zettle and Mike Scott are expiring - they are eligible for reelection. Note: For information on joining or paying dues, please tap the 'contact us' button on our website: www.4477reaa.com.

