



October 1, 2015

## Mosquito Association 6147<sup>th</sup> Tactical Control Group

### From the President

Dear Member. The 2015 Mosquito Reunion was a fantastic success. At registration, we gave each attendee a refund for total cost of meals and tours sent in at registration for the reunion. We did not reveal the reason for the refund until dinner on Thursday evening. Reason for the refund was the receipt of a \$25,000.00 check left to the association by Tim Coggins who passed away on September 5, 2014, the final day of the 2014 reunion. All costs for the 2015 reunion were paid for out of the gift. Bonnie Hall who attended several reunions with Tim and a trustee of his trust agreed that this would have been what Tim would have wanted. The check was received the week before I left for the reunion. What timing!

At Friday night's dinner, we were honored with the presence of Lt. Col Stephen Esposito, Commander, 375<sup>th</sup> Communications Sq. Scott AFB. and his wife Jozette. Col Esposito presented the Korean Ambassador Peace Medal to seventeen of our members present at the reunion. An additional 68 Medals were mailed upon my return home, a total of 85 medals. If you submitted an application and did not receive a medal, it's because a DD214 was not attached to your application. I did not receive the Medals until Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of August and left for the reunion on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August. Cut it pretty close. Nobody knew I had succeeded in getting the Medals until they were presented at Friday night's dinner. A great surprise to all in attendance.

Because of Tim's gift, there will be another reunion in 2016 at the same venue as this year's reunion. Great hotel and many tours left to choose from. John R. Dichard, President elect for 2016

For change of address, please notify: John R. Dichard, 2202 County Road 331, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961. E-Mail at [Dichardn@yahoo.com](mailto:Dichardn@yahoo.com). Widows who wish to get the Newsletter can receive at no cost. However, they do need to notify us at the address listed above



**OLD T-6 OVER  
KOREA IN BACKGROUND**

When paying dues, do not send documents or other items, they may not be forwarded to the Association. The purpose of all checks should be clearly identified by placing a comment on the memo line. (For example: Dues or Contributions) Send all dues or Contributions to the address shown below. Annual Dues \$25.00

#### Make check payable to:

The Mosquito association, Inc  
C/O Centennial Bank  
13700 E. Arapahoe Road  
Centennial, Colorado 80112



**NEW T-6**

Used at Vance AFB for all Tng.



# Chaplin's Thoughts

**MOSQUITO ASSOCIATION**  
6147<sup>th</sup> Tactical Control Group

**John R. Dichard,**  
USAF Retired  
EDITOR

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936-569-8058

**We are on the WEB at:**  
[www.mosquitokorea.org](http://www.mosquitokorea.org)

**MOSQUITOS WHO HAVE  
PASSED since 7/1/2015**

Name	Passed On	State
Rebman, Ben C. Jr.	Mar 15	FL
Tripp, Richard B.	Sep 15	WA

**2016 REUNION**

Commander Ray Vold  
Treasurer John Dichard

Good food, good companionship, nice sights, and a rekindling of memories. It would be difficult to ask for anything more from a military reunion. I went to my doctor today but I won't confess how much weight I gained. One thing I know for sure, I have to work to shed these pounds I gained while at our reunion. We were fed very, very well.

As I have been reflecting back on the activities and procedures we were involved in during our stay in St. Louis, I have been reminded that there really is no "free lunch". I am paying a price for the meals and other foods I ingested at our reunion.

On a similar note, I submit there are repercussions for all our behaviors. Now in my case, I will self impose a regimen of calorie watching to address the "unfair" results of my food intake. But what am I to do about the spiritual indiscretions I so often find in my life?

I have learned that no amount of righteousness on my part will erase or cover up my indiscretions or "wipe the slate clean." Am I doomed then to suffer the consequences? Fortunately the answer is, "No." We do have a way out. The way out of our dilemma is found in scripture. You see, the price has already been paid for us to "wipe the slate clean." And all we have to do is accept this by faith and receive this free gift.

This gift has been provided by God's own Son, his name is Jesus. All we have to do is believe with all our heart that Jesus is the Son of God, confess our sins to him through our prayers, and accept him into our hearts. This is a very personal process and one that should not be taken lightly. Only by repenting of our sins and then leading a life that reflects this decision will the repercussions for our sins be cancelled.

It is really refreshing to know our future is secure and our name can be written in the Book of Life. I would much rather choose life---the alternative is not something I would wish on anyone.

While none of us know what the future holds, we can know who holds the future. Dick Warner, Mosquito Chaplain

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CURRENT OFFICERS

- |                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| President      | John Dichard                  |
| Vice President | Al Koenes                     |
| Treasurer      | Ray Vold                      |
| Secretary      | Hal Prather                   |
| Directors      | Karl Rebman & Chuck Ferbrache |
| Historian      | Jerry Allen                   |
| Chaplin        | Dick Warner                   |
| Editor         | John Dichard                  |
| Records        | John Dichard                  |

All 2015 board members re-elected for 2016 by unanimous vote!



**Above:** Group picture of member attendees Saturday evening just prior to the Saturday night banquet.

Below:

Friday night just after dinner, Lt. Col. Stephen Esposito, Commander, 375<sup>th</sup> Communications Support Squadron Scott AFB, presented the Korean Ambassador Peace Medals to 17 of our members attending the Mosquito Reunion.



## 2015 MOSQUITO REUNION ATTENDEES

### MEMBERS

ALLEN, JERRY	ASLASKAN, ELROY	BURTTSCHELL, JOHN
CLIFFORD, DONALD	DICHARD, JOHN	FERBRACHE, CHARLES
GUPTILL, WILLIAM	HALLIDAY, JOHN	HOLZINGER, JOHN
JORGENSON, AL	KILBANE, MARTIN	KILROY, HOWARD
MEANS, JOHN	MORPHEW, ALAN	PASCALE, TONY
PRATHER, HAL	REBMAN, KARL	RIDGEWAY, THEODORE
RIDINGS, OSCAR	TERRY, CHARLES	TROUT, HOMER
VOLD, RAY	WARNER, RICHARD	WHEELER, THOMAS
WILES, JAMES		

### WIDOWS

GIBBONS, MAUREEN	MCDOWELL, KARYN	STALIWE, JUDY
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### SPECIAL GUESTS

HALL, BONNIE, TRUSTY, TIM COGGINS TRUST  
SHINN, DAVID & CONNIE, SON OF HOMER SHINN

### PEACE MEDALS

THANK YOU PEACE MEDAL RECIPIENTS WHO SENT THANK YOU NOTES, PHONE CALLS AND E-MAILS ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR EFFORTS IN ATTAINING AND AWARDING THESE WELL DESERVED MEDALS.

Cost to mail the Peace Medals was approximately \$1,000.00. Contributions from the recipients would be appreciated. Please send check to Centennial BANK noted on page 1.



Photo by Christi Spargur

The 6147th Tactical Control Group hosted a reunion banquet Sept. 4 in St. Louis and surprised 18 of its members by presenting them with the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal.

## Korean War veterans receive Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal

By CHRISTI SPARGUR  
375th Air Mobility Wing  
Public Affairs

On Sept. 4, 18 Korean War veterans assigned to the 6147th Tactical Control Group, known as Mosquitos, were surprised to receive the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal during a reunion banquet in St. Louis.

Presented by Lt. Col. Stephen Esposito, 375th Communications Support Squadron commander, the Korean Ambassador Peace Medals were originally presented to Korean War veterans who returned to the Republic of South Korea through the Revisit Program. The South Korean government recently expanded eligibility to include Korean War veterans who served from June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953, and are unable to travel. Veterans who served in United Nations peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955 and U.S. Navy members who served aboard Navy vessels in Korean waters from 1950 to 1953 are also eligible for the com-

memorative medals.

The 6147th TCG used airborne and ground-based Forward Air Control systems. An overview on the National Museum of the Air Force's website says, "The primary FAC missions were to direct strike aircraft against enemy targets and conduct visual reconnaissance. Since the U.S. Air Force did not have any airborne FAC units at the beginning of the war, pilots flew the first missions with borrowed Army liaison aircraft ... To perform these missions, Mosquito FACs flew 'low and slow' over enemy positions so they could spot and mark targets, a practice that left them particularly vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire."

About 60 Korean War veterans, spouses, and widows attended the reunion banquet. The youngest veteran was 78 and the oldest was 96.

Among the 18 medal recipients of the 6147th TCG at the reunion was Charles Ferbrache who

Please see KOREAN WAR, A4

served in Korea from 1952 to 1953. Ferbrache voluntarily enlisted in the Air Force on Sept. 15, 1950, at the age of 20. "My brother served in the Army Air Corps during World War II," said Ferbrache. "At the time, I was doing rough labor in a saw mill, logging, and doing concrete work. I thought the military would be better than that, and I knew I was going to be drafted. I preferred the Air Force to the Army, so I enlisted. It's funny, because I got my draft notice while I was at basic training."

In basic, Ferbrache scored high marks on the exams. He was assigned to radio communications, and was sent to technical school here at Scott Air Force Base. What Ferbrache remembers the most from his time at Scott is the cold and going to St. Louis on weekends.

After graduating from radio school, Ferbrache was assigned to Warner Robins Air Force Base and from there left for Korea on April 1, 1952. In Korea, Ferbrache did close air support using radio-equipped jeeps.

A National Museum of the Air Force's fact sheet describes the radio equipment of early 50s as "complicated, bulky and temperamental." The fact sheet states, "In most cases, a 'radio' was a set of several boxes, each performing a different function. Moreover, they relied on fragile glass vacuum tubes that could easily break. These radios required extensively trained personnel to operate and maintain them."

Ferbrache remembers the radio equipment and his time in Korea well. "The most surprising thing was I got assigned to different Army units, four different Korean Army groups and the Canadian's 25th Brigade."

In all, Ferbrache spent 11 1/2 months in Korea returning to the states in March 1953. He was discharged on Sept. 14, 1954, and went onto to use his skills in the civilian sector working for 33 years for a company that built military electronics, radars for fighter jets, and guidance systems for torpedoes.

Ferbrache said, "My military experiences guided me to my life career. I have no regrets and wouldn't trade it for anything."

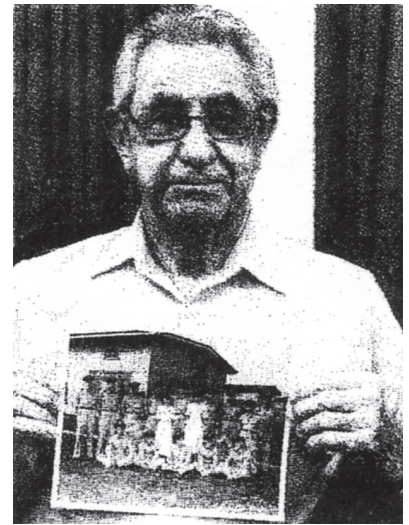


Photo by Christi Spargur

Charles Ferbrache graduated from Scott's Radio School on June 13, 1951. Ferbrache served for nearly a year in Korea with the 6147th Tactical Control Group.

Another Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal recipient, Ray Vold also volunteered for service and enlisted at the age of 18. A farm boy from Wisconsin, Vold did not grow up having electricity or running water at home. His fondest memories are of listening to Harry Caray broadcasts of St. Louis Cardinal baseball games with his father on a battery-powered radio.

"I really wanted to be a pilot," said Vold. "I passed all the tests and went to Eglin, but couldn't continue pilot training after failing an eye test." Vold instead became a radio operator training at Scott near the hometown of his beloved Cardinals.

Vold served in Korea from 1954 to 1955 and ended up doing two assignments in the Air Force - four in active duty and four in the reserves.

In all, the Mosquitos flew T-6 aircraft on more than 40,000 sorties. Seventy-six were killed in action. J.B. Wiles, a Korean War Analyst with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, reports 22 Mosquitos as missing in action or unaccounted still today.

The article above appeared in the SCOTT AFB, "COMMAND POST" Newspaper Thursday September 17, 2015.

