

# the **HOF CONNECTION**

## newsletter

January 2003

Hof Reunion Association, P.O. Box 276883, Sacramento, CA 95827-6883

(Condensed Newsletter - Some Items Deleted)

### **THE STARDUST RESORT/CASINO TO HOST 2003 LAS VEGAS REUNION**

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### **THE 2002 HOFER REUNION**

TOM BRYSON - Past President - Executive Board Advisor

The Reunion in Hof was an experience that is certain to be treasured in the memories of those of us fortunate enough to attend. A great deal of "behind the scenes" work had gone into this event, and it clearly paid off in a terrific, week-long party filled with camaraderie, new experiences (field trip to Prague), good food and overall fun.

With lots of free time, we could see that although the 21st century had arrived in the form of cell phones, more cars, new German words (Die Faxcopie) and so forth, Hof was still very much the same; as charming and European as ever. However, many one-way streets and pedestrian malls did cause some navigational problems for those of us with cars. But thanks to what seemed to be a general awareness and appreciation of our "invasion" no citations were issued although I should have gotten several myself. The Mayor of Hof granted us an audience and was very personable and gracious. He spoke about our contribution to the protection of Hof during the Cold War and later had his picture taken with my daughter and anyone who wanted to be photographed with him. Each participant was presented a coffee mug with "Hof in Bayern Ganz Oben" printed on the side. After the session with the Mayor we were all treated to Champagne, Beer and Bratwurst.

Later in the Day, we gathered at Fernweh Park (the sign post forest) for pictures and an informal ceremony. City signs from across this Great Country were presented to Klaus Beer, the Curator of Fernweh-Park. Some pictures appeared in the Frankenpost, Franken Blick and Hofer Anzeiger. Many pictures are posted on the Internet. You can also visit the Associations Website to view the pictures.

Manfred Koehler and the ladies of the Pro Hof Club (Chamber of Commerce) then invited all reunion participants to the "Teddy Bear Museum" for coffee and cake. The "Teddy Bear Museum" was moved from Berlin to Hof in 2001. A beautifully decorated 10,000 Sq. Ft. facility, with marble floors and lighted display cases, the museum is underground in Old Hof. The museum is home to more than 5000 teddy bears. The largest collection of teddy bears in the world. The nicely decorated Café serves lunch, coffee, and deserts. If you ever visit Hof, allow approximately two hours to tour the magnificent Teddy Bear Museum.

Overall, we seemed to be welcomed. The staff at the hotel had to learn about ice in drinks among other things but seemed to get a kick out of

us. I heard the phrase "Amis" a number of times all over the place but never in a derogatory sense. Everyone seemed to enjoy having us around, and we got great write-ups in the local Newspaper.

The day spent with the German Air Force was very special. We were given a briefing in the old Chapel where an area is dedicated to the memory of our service in Hof, and got to see the Intercept Site at a distance and several new antenna fields for that site. At Doebraberg, they allowed us to go where we wanted and photograph whatever we wanted except the interior of their Radar ops. We could go in, however, and it was interesting. Later, we were served lunch at our old Mess Hall by young German Airmen and allowed to roam. We were able to visit our old barracks and even look into the rooms if nobody was there. German Airmen are as sloppy as we were. Although the rooms were newer, they looked the same. Underwear and fatigues hanging on chairs, cases of beer in the corner, posters of Beer and Women on the walls etc. Soldiers never change. We could have walked right into those rooms and taken up housekeeping. It was refreshing. Another word on the Bundeswehr, they really cleaned up their act since we the Sixties. The greasy, ill fitting fatigues and jackboots are gone and now they look like our own Marines. Hats off to the Bundeswehr, they have become a sharp and military outfit that would make anyone proud.

The tour to the Porcelain Factory in Tettau gave everybody an opportunity to see how fine porcelain is produced and pick up a few souvenirs. After a wonderful lunch, we boarded the busses and proceeded to the Hummel Factory and Museum in Roedental near Coburg. The 110 tour participants were divided into small groups for the purpose of touring and shopping.

The Reunion Banquet was held in the Buergergesellschaft. Tables were arranged for 12 people to set around each of the 15 tables. A Franconian Dance Team performed and German Music encouraged everybody to end the evening dancing. After our formal dinner, we had the pleasure of hearing Jim Taylor (the Valkyries) and a tremendous group of gospel singers perform several old standbys in their own style. It was a tremendous performance. Jim, by the way, has been in Germany for over thirty years, living in Munich then again back in Hof. It was great to see him and he hasn't changed a bit.

These are just a few of the marvelous highlights of an event that was marvelous in it self. I was lucky enough to be small part of the planning and construction of this Reunion as well as an attendee. The result has been extremely rewarding and I urge anyone who has the opportunity to do whatever possible to contribute to the leadership, entertainment, activities, preparation and execution of our next great event in Las Vegas, the playground of America.

#### **HOF/SAALE MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Deceased Colleagues were honored at the reunion banquet. The Service began with a Prayer from Francis Fukumoto, the Association Chaplain. Tom Bryson, Dick Barry, Bob Blanchard, Ken Putman, Tom Nickerson and

Bill Toni assisted Francis. Each Assistant was provided with an alphabetical list of approximately 30 names of deceased colleagues.

As an assistant would step forward and read his list of names honored, the audience was requested to stand if they recognized an honored person's name and were asked to remain standing until the person reading the list departed the stage. At the end of each list, Francis would sing a verse from, "End of the Road." The Assistant would then salute and depart the stage. The Service was beautiful and a worthy recognition of those participating in spirit only.

### **Hof Participation List**

Here is a listing of those that attended the Reunion in Hof/Saale, their attendance and enthusiasm is what made this marvelous event the success that it was. And a special Dankeschoen for our Hofer hosts that made us feel welcome and at ease.

Bob Alekson, Mike & Ursula Assenmacher, Larry & Jackie August, Richard & Jean Barry, Jim & Sue Beard, Klaus & Erika Beer, Adolph, Ursula & Uwe Bernhuber, Bernd & Petra Bernhuber, James & Gertrude Berry, Robert Blanchard, Else Breitfelder; Tom, Denise, & Hanna Bryson; Robert Butler, Hilde Calisti, Jay C. Campbell III & Mary Roth, Barbara Chapman, Gary & Sandra Cherpes, Mark & Peggy Clemons, Bill & Marcia Combs, George & Irmgard Coursey, Eddie Crump & Dot Little, Jerry & Ellen Decker, Gary, Kay and Greg Dempsey, Christa Devine, Tony & Joan Donofrio, George & Christa Fahrback, Francis & JoAnn Fukumoto, Bill & Siegrid Fuller, Sid & Gale Futrell, Ralph & JoAn Glover, Milton & Virginia Gibbs, Marty & Alice Habecker, Volker Hartmann, Norman & Ursula Hines, Robert & Hanna Hoerath, Bennie Hopper & Sophye Pullen, Margit Jensen, Jimmy & JayDell Johnson, Karl & Melanie Kaiser, Manolia Kara, Paul & Erika Laven, Jerry & Erika Librizzo, Ursula Lusczak, Jerry & Pat Mangas, Chuck & Renate Mattice, Tim & Ina Meyer, Bob & Barbara Mollahan, Russ Moyer, Anna Mueller, Steve & Donna Murphrey, Tom & Monika Nickerson, Danny Noble, Chelle Nyberg, Dick & Evelyn Obidinski, Joe & Carol Olenik, Arnol & Mable Oelke, Bruce & Esther Orr, Erwin & Marianne Pade, John & Agnes Pace, Bill & Gale Partridge, Jim & Eadie Patterson, Gerhart & Nana Pleir, Heidi Pouch, Ken & Kay Putman, Otto & Ella Riedel, Jim & Traudl Rigglin, Harold & Helga Robinson, Norbert & Sylvia Robish, Heinz Rockelmann, Michael Rockelmann, Leo & Ilse Root, Donn Ross, Lydia Rueger, Juergen Ruppert, C.A. Russell, Phil & Rosalie Ruth, Dan & Carol Scanny, Adolph & Jane Schaller, Harvey & Suzanne Schmit, Horace & Gradie Schnabel, Heinz Schneider, Bob & Lilo Sherwood, Jim & Peggy Slothower, John & Eva Marie Slutz, Jim & Elfriede Smith, Karli & Sonja Spahn, Jerry & Cha-hee Standfield, Jim Taylor, Dean & Shirley Thompson, Bill & Helen Toni, Anja Wachter, Ernst Von Waldenfels, Klaus Walter, Bill & Edith Ward, Eura & Elisabeth Wilhelm, Helga Wuerlinger, Juergen & Petra Wettengel, Ollie & Linda White, John Wible, Billy & Irmgard Wicker, Chuck & Monika Wilson, Rip & Jeanie Yarnall, Ron (son) & Lorraine Zobrak.

### **Testimonials:**

Dear Chuck & Monika, Association Officers, Planners and Participants.

Traudl and I wish to thank all you folks for the wonderful September 15-22 reunion in Hof. The week was well planned and there was never a dull

moment. You did a lot of work to put this reunion together and it could not have been better. There were three buses for the Prague Tour. We thank you for putting the "Old Timers" on the same bus. We had a blast. Our bus driver said he had never had such a good time. The best load of people he had ever driven anywhere. We are looking forward to the reunion in Las Vegas, but nothing will ever compare to the Hof Reunion. Those that missed this reunion do not know what they missed. This was a once in a lifetime experience. After the reunion we went to Augsburg four days and the Oktoberfest in Muenchen, and then spent three days in Berchtesgaden with the Obidinski's. We must say, this was the best vacation we have ever had. Again, thanks a million. Jim & Traudl Rigglin.

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My wife and I enjoyed the Hof Reunion very much. I've never seen a group that large gel as one so quickly. Thank you to everyone involved for making it a great experience. My wife and I have already decided, if there's another reunion in Hof, we're going. We found some old friends and made many new ones. Of course, I'm going to have to eat a lot of salads to make up for all the good food and beer. What a wonderful trip this was. A Big Thank You to all that participated. Jim & Sue Beard

#### **Executive Board and Officer Commentary**

**President:** Tom Nickerson

The Las Vegas Reunion is on the horizon and now is the time to start making plans to participate in the October 2003 function. Thanks to a maximum effort by many people working behind the scene, this get-together in the entertainment & gambling capital of the world promises to be the finest reunion ever. Monika and I are proud to say that we were part of the fabulist 2002 Hof/Saale Reunion. When we departed Hof, we knew we had participated in the greatest military reunion ever. Now that we have had a glimpse of the plans for Las Vegas, we think "the best" is on the horizon. We are all getting up there in age and this may be our last opportunity to visit and celebrate with colleagues that we served with while directly contributing to the U.S. Cold War Victory. My hat is off to the volunteers that are putting the Las Vegas Reunion together. We would love to see a 100% participation by the membership at large. Let's all demonstrate our support for the Hof Reunion Association with a toast at the October 9th Banquet.

**1ST Vice President:** Jim Patterson

The membership renewal form is mailed to each member with the July issue of the Hof Connection Newsletter. The Association's fiscal year runs from October 1 thru Sept 31 so we ask all members to renew their membership as early as possible and beat the Sept 31 deadline. By doing this, you will lighten the load on our Secretary. The Secretary can update the Master Hof Roster and with a large bulk reproduction order, reduce cost. He can then bulk mail the updated roster to renewing members. Please remember; this guy works for FREE! It is a labor of love on his behalf, so your assistance is encouraged. Mail that

membership renewal in around the middle of August (or earlier) to help ease the crunch.

The Las Vegas Reunion planning is well underway. A hard to beat deal has been negotiated with the Stardust and Wayne Newton's people. The October 6th through the 10th Reunion will be an occasion you won't want to miss. The Hof reunion was outstanding, but I predict , this one will be the "MOTHER OF ALL REUNIONS." Don't get left out on this one. Looking forward to seeing you in Vegas.

**Treasurer:** Nathan Sparks

I want to thank the membership for your vote of confidence in electing me Association Treasurer at the 2002 Hof Reunion General Membership meeting. Having recently retired from Defense Accounting and Finance with 40 years service, I feel adequately qualified to assume the Association Treasurer responsibilities. The Association's finances are in excellent condition with more than \$5000.00 in our Association bank account, however, we are confronted with some heavy expenses in the near future. I hereby pledge to continue the faithful stewardship of Association funds established by predecessors Sam Suber and Chuck Wilson. I am looking forward to meeting all of you at the October Reunion in Las Vegas.

**Secretary:** Chuck Wilson

**NATIONAL AWARD:** We have been informed that Mark Clemons was selected as National Career Tech Teacher for the year 2002. He and his wife Peggy traveled from Oklahoma to Las Vegas where the Association of Career Technical Educators at their annual convention presented this award to him in December. It's comforting to know we have people like that in our midst. Congratulations Mark.

"**THE PRICE OF VIGILANCE**" is a well written and informative assessment of Cold War history of attacks on American Surveillance Flights by Larry Tart and Robert Keefe. A thriller about the deadly cat and mouse game of which many of you hold a first hand knowledge. An excellent history of events that will hold a special meaning to many Hof Reunion Association members. Place this real life adventure on your "must read" list.

**EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE? Help us serve you.** Send any change of email address to < CWilson940@aol.com > or < HofReunion@aol.com > We want to email you the Association updates. If we receive 3 consecutive bounces, the email address is removed from the Association address book. If you do not receive an update for a month or so, please send an email to one of the above addresses so we can check the email address book for an error.

**ASSOCIATION WEBSITE:** A reminder that the website is up and doing well. Barry Springsteen is doing a great job. Type > [Hof Reunion Association, Home](http://hofreunion.home.att.net/) < or > <http://hofreunion.home.att.net/> < into your browser. The hard copy of the Master Hof Roster contains the name of more than 2600 former Hof Colleagues but the "**website roster**" contains only the name of Members in good standing.

**Membership Chairman:** CA Russell

Although we have accounted for well over 200 Hof Vets in the past 9 months, there are still many out there that we haven't found, and a lot we don't have on our roster yet. We would appreciate membership participation by sending us copies of any old orders you might have, as middle initials and serial numbers are crucial in location of our friends. Send in U.S. Mail to C. A. Russell, 1206 Achord Road, Dublin, GA 31021, or email to < [russca@bellsouth.net](mailto:russca@bellsouth.net) >. Overall, we have over 2/3 of our roster accounted for and with your help, we can do better. A big thank you to all of you that have already made a contribution by providing orders, names, and addresses.

**"People that forget there past have no future."**

Winston Churchill-Mondified

**Webmaster:** Barry Springsteen

The Association Web site was initially created to establish a presence on the Internet and help locate and attract new members. That phase of the development is now complete and it is time to move on to the next phase, member services. What services does the general membership need and want? That's a question that can best be answered by the general membership. > <http://hofreunion.home.att.net/> < Take a peek and give me some feedback. Don't forget to leave a message in the **Guest Book**.

**Photomaster:** Mike Becker (Mike Becker died July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003)

Many additional Photos have been added to the *CLUBPHOTO* site and many more will be added in the near future. Check the Album with the Bier Coaster and also the 2002 Reunion in *HOF ALBUM*. you have. (Added Note: Mike Becker died July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003)

#### **Hof Reunion Association Officers and Staff**

**Executive Board Advisor:** Tom Bryson

#### **Executive Board:**

<b>President</b>	Tom Nickerson
<b>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</b>	Jim Patterson
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.</b>	Bruce Orr
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> V.P.</b>	Dick Obidinski
<b>Secretary</b>	Chuck Wilson
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nathan Sparks
<b>Membership Chairman</b>	C A Russell

#### **Other Officers:**

<b>Publicity Chairman</b>	Ted Bey
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Phil Murray
<b>Web Master</b>	Barry Springsteen
<b>Photo Site</b>	Mike Becker
<b>Chaplain</b>	Francis Fukumoto
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	Bob Alekson
	Tony Donofrio

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## newsletter

July 2003

P.O. Box 276883 Sacramento, CA 95827-6883

**Condensed - Some articles deleted -**

### **Las Vegas Is The Undisputed Entertainment Capitol of the World and Our Event Promises to Be The Best Reunion Ever**

With this writing, more than 250 Association members and guest have already registered for the 6 – 10 October get together at the Stardust Resort and Casino, 3000 Las Vegas Blvd. We are expecting to receive another 200 to 250 registrations over the next 20 days. Many participants will be arriving on Sunday, October 5. The nightly room rate of \$55 a night will apply. Reunion registration will begin at 11:00AM, October 6<sup>th</sup> in the Hospitality Suites which are side by side and located on the Main floor. The Hotel Front Desk should be able to provide directions. Prepackaged registration envelopes will contain activity tickets, name tags, free show schedule, bus schedule, and Event T-Shirts if ordered. For those that sign up for the October 8, Hoover Dam-Valley of Fire Desert Tour, tickets will be in your registration envelope.

We are asking Las Vegas Reunion Participants that have photo albums from their Hof-Doebra tour of duty to bring them along to share with others in the Hospitality Suite. Dick Obidinski, Phil Murray and Tom Nickerson will attempt to keep coffee & cups available along with other refreshments in the Hospitality Suite.

### **Tentative Itinerary**

**Association Name Tags should be worn in the Hospitality Suite  
and at scheduled functions.**

Oct 6 - 11:00 AM- Registration Open, Hospitality Suite Open, Get Acquainted Time.

Bring your photo album, Group dinner sign-up. Schedule of events posted.

Group Dinners Posted - You may select the group you wish to dine with. (Dutch)

Oct 7- 9:00 AM - Hospitality Suite Open- Coffee & Donuts

10:00 AM – Association Business Meeting – Election/Selection

3:30 PM - Buffet (German Theme)

Reception/Social- Casual Dress/Shoes.

- No Host/Cash Bar

- Five minute talks.

- Fun Entertainment Time. - Audience

Participation

Oct 8 - 7:30 AM – Tour Bus 1 departs- Hoover Dam –Valley of Fire Desert Tour

8:00 AM - Tour Bus 2 departs-Hoover Dam – Valley of Fire Desert Tour

8:30 AM - Tour Bus 3 departs-Hoover Dam – Vally of Fire Desert Tour

9:00 AM – 9:00 AM - Hospitality Suite Open – Coffee & War Stories

4:30 PM - Tour Bus 1 returns to Stardust  
5:00 PM - Tour Bus 2 returns to Stardust  
5:30 PM - Tour Bus 3 returns to Stardust  
**Evening Open – Check your FREE Show Schedule - Las Vegas at Night – Light Shows**

Oct 9 - 1730 - Banquet Room Open (Name Tags & Ticket for Admission) (No Host /Cash Bar)

**Dress : Men:** – coat, nice shirt/tie. **Ladies:** dress or pants suit.

1800 - Posting of Colors by Nellis AFB Honor Guard (Our dinner Guest)

1810 - Memorial Service by Francis Fukumoto & Assistents.

1830 - Five minute talks by selected speakers

1900 - Invocation –Chaplain Francis Fukumoto

1905 - Dinner Served - **Dinner tickets must be**

**prominently displayed.**

2000 – USAF Thunderbirds Executive Officer (Thunderbirds are at Ft. Smith, AR)

1900 - Live Music by Professionals Herbie & Nickie

2015 - Dance Music & Singing – “Korn Blumen Blau”

**Oct 10 - Auf Wiedersehn Breakfast Schedule will be posted in Hospitality Suite Wednesday.**

## **EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD – Tom Bryson**

Last September The Association held a reunion in Hof, Germany, that was exceedingly successful. The occasion fulfilled the purpose of reunions in every way: to renew old friendships, to perpetuate the memory of our service in that Hof region, to promote fellowship and friendship among all of us interested in the Association and to educate dependents and relatives as to the importance of our time there during the Cold War.

Imagine the pride and satisfaction on the part of each of the Association’s officers in being an active participant in such an outstanding “job well done.”

Officers serve from reunion to reunion — including the Secretary. To provide Association stability, the President moves to the Executive Advisory Board and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President moves to the position of President unless he is un-able to serve. In that case, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President will assume the position of President. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chairman and any vacant positions are up for nomination and election each reunion.

These positions need to be filled by competent, responsible and intelligent individuals with the ability to get their arms around a difficult concept and mold it into a cohesive, living organism — an improved Association and the next Reunion. If you are that kind of individual; in the words of Uncle Sam: **”WE WANT YOU!”**

Do your part in improving and perpetuating the Hof Association and all it stands for. Seek office and serve well if elected. If you are willing to allow your name to be placed into nomination for any of the above positions, please send me an email <[Tbryson101@aol.com](mailto:Tbryson101@aol.com)> Be assured that previous Officers will be available for direction and advice if necessary.

**PRESIDENT – Tom Nickerson**

We are nearing “Crunch Time” for another great reunion of “Hofers.” If you haven’t already made plans to attend our upcoming event and sent in your registration fees, we urge you to do so immediately. There will never be a better time for us to gather as a group and revive the memories of “The Price of Vigilance” than the present. Take advantage of this opportunity to join old friends, honor our nation, and recognize those colleagues that have made the ‘Final Flyby.’ Las Vegas promises to be the best Association Reunion of all, including the magnificent get together in Hof last fall. “We pass this way one time” and nobody knows how many more chances we will have to come together as a group. Those of you that are unable to attend Las Vegas can send a short message to me <[Tnick123@aol.com](mailto:Tnick123@aol.com)> and I will post them so your former colleagues will know you are still thinking of them.

### **1st VICE PRESIDENT – Jim Patterson**

Seems like we just returned home from the magnificent reunion in Hof/Saale, Germany. Time does fly when we are having fun. Eadie and I are excited about the up coming get together in the entertainment capitol of the world. We hope to see at least 500 smiling faces at the Stardust Resort in Las Vegas, October 6, 2003. Based upon our last 3 Hof Reunions, we can safely promise all of you the time of your life at this event.

### **2nd VICE PRESIDENT - Bruce Orr**

Future reunion sites have been given a great deal of attention over the past six months. The cities nominated for consideration by the Association membership are Orlando, FL; Branson, MO; San Antonio, TX; and Biloxi, MS. All are listed on the enclosed 2004 ballot. Orlando has a lot to offer the Association membership during October and early November. I will give a short briefing on the advantages of holding a reunion in Orlando at our general membership meeting in Las Vegas. Jim Beard attended “The Branson Veterans Task Force” Seminar and he will give a briefing on their program. Bennie Hopper will represent the Lone Star State with a briefing on San Antonio. Branson, Orlando and San Antonio are the leading contenders for the 2004 and 2005 Reunions. We need a volunteer from the Biloxi-Gulfport region to give a briefing on Biloxi. Hunter Dews nominated Biloxi, but due to his work, is uncertain if he can attend our gathering in Las Vegas. If you are willing to represent the Biloxi-Gulfport area, call the Hof Reunion Association at 916-366-1811.

### **3rd VP – Dick Obidinski**

My Frau Evi and I have been privileged to attend two previous Hof Reunions; the Colorado Springs event in 2000 and the outstanding Hof/Saale Reunion in 2002. We have been blessed with new friendships, the comradery of old confidants, and experiencing the fellowship, kindness and benevolence of former Hof colleagues. We want to share these joyful experiences with you. We’re looking forward to meeting you in Las Vegas.

### **TREASURER - Nate Sparks**

Our Association is recognized as a nonprofit, tax exempt, charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (19) and our accounting period is from Oct. 1 to September 30 each year. Under the IRS Non Profit rules, each year we should make a contribution to a charitable cause such as the Enlisted Widows Foundation, Shalimar, FL. This matter must be voted on by the membership in Las Vegas. The books have been closed for FY 2002. Copies of the 2002 report and a “to date 2003” report will be available at Las Vegas. The normal membership dues pay the bills, so if you haven’t sent in your 2004 dues, please do so. A membership renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

The Master Hof Roster is mailed to new members upon receipt of initial membership and upon each renewal of membership. A copy of the Constitution & By-laws will be attached to the Master Hof Roster.

### **MEMBERSHIP CHAIR - C.A. Russell**

Our Association roster has grown by over 500 people in the last year, to a current level of 2800 plus, including the Final Flyby list. Many of the new finds are a direct result of membership participation and old orders contributed by some of you. Thank you. Due to the hectic administrative workload generated by the upcoming Las Vegas Reunion, Chuck & I have agreed to curtail searches for former colleagues for a couple of months. We'll concentrate on making the Las Vegas Reunion an event that will live in the hearts and minds of all participants. **Please continue to send old orders to me:** C.A. Russell, 1206 Achord Road, Dublin, GA 31021-0715 or email <[russca@bellsouth.net](mailto:russca@bellsouth.net)>.

### **SECRETARY - Chuck Wilson**

If you have an Internet provider and are **not** receiving the Association Update every week, we probably don't have your current email address. We request all members send <[HofReunion@aol.com](mailto:HofReunion@aol.com)> a note containing your **name** and new **email address** when you change Internet providers. Your attention to this matter will save us a lot of time and keep you current on Association activities.

### **WEBMASTER – Barry Springsteen**

A poll was placed on our website in January 2003 and all members were asked to complete it. The results of the poll are now available and will be used to determine future website development and direction. A total of 40 people responded to the poll. 76% of those responding had visited the site more than 6 times before taking the poll.

The CHAT Room and MESSAGE BOARD services are no longer offered by our ISP and have been removed from the website. Also, no new services were requested or suggested during the poll. All areas showed a high level of interest except for the LINKS and MEMORIAL pages that only showed moderate interest. The NEWSLETTER page, although not used very much, showed enough interest to receive additional development time.

Members can suggest new services and features or improvements to the LINKS and MEMORIAL pages by sending an e-mail to [HofReunion@att.net](mailto:HofReunion@att.net). Complete results of the poll are available on the website <http://hofreunion.home.att.net/>.

### **SARGEANT AT ARMS - Bob Alekson**

Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not endure. . . I'm not "saving" anything for "someday." If it's worth seeing or doing, I want to do it **NOW**. I'm not sure what others would've done if they had known they wouldn't be here for "the next reunion" that we all take for granted. I'm not going to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives and friendship. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God. At my age, I don't believe in Miracles. I rely on them. Life may not be the party we hoped for but while we are here we might as well dance. **I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas.**

## **A Final Salute**

Obituary Extracted from the Chicago Tribune

Michael Becker, age 58, of Gurnee, IL., died July 5, 2003 at Condell Medical Center in Libertyville, born November 6, 1944 in Chicago, Il. He was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, Skokie Branch, for over 20 years. A US Air Force Vet, he was a member and Photo Master for the Hof Reunion Association. He is survived by his wife Gabriella; his mother Rose; sister Sharon; sons, Tony and Ron; grandchildren, Vanessa, Kurtis, Ariel and Alex; and many nieces and nephews.

## **2004 Reunion will be in San Antonio, TX**

[HofReunion@aol.com](mailto:HofReunion@aol.com)

[\*\*http://hofreunion.home.att.net/\*\*](http://hofreunion.home.att.net/)

**A MEMBERSHIP FORM FOLLOWS ON NEXT PAGE**

**Please Read**

11-01-03 - We have received a letter from the Air Force Enlisted Village thanking the Hof Reunion Membership for their \$1000.00 donation. James C. Bennicker, CMSAF #9, writes: Your support to the

widows and residents of the Air Force Enlisted Village is vital to our success. When groups like your generously support them, they know they are still part of the Air Force Family.

**Charitable donations are a condition of our IRS Tax Exempt, Charitable-Nonprofit status under the Internal Revenue Service Code.**

**HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 276883  
Sacramento, CA 95827-6883  
Tel: (916) 366-1811 (HofReunion@aol.com)**

**All Association work is accomplished by volunteers. No salary or wages are paid to any member.**

The "Master Hof Roster" now contains more than **2900** names and addresses of former Hof Colleagues (including the Final Flyby list). **We will mail you a hard copy of the roster when you return this Membership Form with dues or (if the \$15 will create a financial hardship) request a FREE membership.**

Those that fill in the form and send in a \$15.00 check will be identified on the "Master Hof Roster" as a **"FY4" (Paid Member for FY 2004)**. If you indicate you are **not** interested in the Association, we will place a **"NI"** (Not Interested) on the Master Hof Roster (**MHR**) and remove you from the Email Address Book & US Postal Mailing List. **FY 2004 is from October 1, 2003 thru September 30, 2004.**

If your spouse is from the Hof Region, please include her maiden name. This action will assist the German born ladies in there quest to locate former friends.

As a condition of our IRS Charitable Nonprofit status, we must make a charitable donation to the Air Force Enlisted Village, Schalimar, Florida. This year we donated \$1000.00. The Air Force Enlisted Foundation provides surviving spouses requiring financial assistance a place to live among peers, sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing. (Bob Hope & Sister Teresa Village)

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING FORM**

- - - - - cut along line- - - - -  
- - - - - cut along line- - - - -  
FY 04

**Last Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **First** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse**  
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(You may use the email address of a relative or friend)**

Street Address:

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST

Zip. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ .

Year at Hof: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: .

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

. \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a check for \$15.00 made out to Hof Reunion Association. I understand the \$15 Annual dues is to be used for printing the "Hof Connection Newsletter" that is mailed each January and July and the Master Hof Roster which is mailed to members upon payment of annual dues. The \$15 will also cover postage, envelopes, address labels, telephone & search for missing colleagues, Insurance, and other expense associated with conducting Association business. Excess funds will be donated to a IRS Recognized Charitable Institution such as the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home, Florida.

. \_\_\_\_\_ I am not interested in the "Master Hof Roster" or "Hof Connection Newsletter". Please remove my name from the Email and US Postal listing.

**HOF REUNION ASSOCIATION**

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Sacramento, CA 95827 - 6883  
HofReunion@aol.com

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