



Hof Reunion Monthly Update #791

In celebration of Veterans Day, just a bit early....

And to fill an old request for occasional centerfolds at the same time, I give you....

My friend Richard Essick, now 93 and a total chick magnet, is a WWII vet (with the Seabees in the South Pacific). When that mess was over, he joined the Marines in time for Korea and THEN, apparently not having learned his lesson, joined the Air Force and served with SAC in England. All consecutively. Just recently at 92 he was inducted into the US Army as an honorary enlistee so he can truthfully say he served in all 4 services.

I asked him once what the difference was between the Marines and the Air Force after Korea. He said the Air Force gave him plates to eat from instead of a mess tin!

The young ladies are Mrs. Pennsylvania and Miss Pennsylvania. Richard said that Mrs. PA was giddy when she met him, but Miss PA was "totally cool".





Photo by Jerry Middendorf

At our recent Fredericksburg Reunion, Francis and Joann Fukumoto were, by a previous unanimous vote of the Board of Directors, were honored with a plaque celebrating their years of service to the Reunion, starting in 1996. Yes! In 1996 the first Reunion was held, primarily organized, if memory serves, by some of the German wives of members of the 60X groups that had kept in touch with each other through the years after Hof.

Francis and Joann have attended EVERY reunion since that first one, traveling incredible distances every year including back to Hof/Saale from their home base in Pearl City, Hawaii! Francis has served as our chaplain at each reunion and officiated at the Final Flyby ceremony each year where the names of Hofers, the men and women who have died within the past year are read as well as the opening prayers at our business and dinner meetings

Silent and verbal auction and door prize results in Fredericksburg, from Jerry Middendorf:

HRA 2019 FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA

DOOR PRIZE PROGRAM

AFTER ACTION REPORT

The Hof Reunion Association (HRA) 2019 Fredericksburg, Virginia Reunion door prize, silent and live auction program occurred on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. Donated door prizes were collected on Monday, September 30, 2019 during registration and were placed on display giving everyone a chance to view the donated door prizes for the silent auction.

The Door Prize Program was a three (3) part program (Silent and Live Auction and Door Prize(s). Four (4) donations went to the “live” auction. The remaining items were available for the “silent” auction and were on display in the hospitality room where reunion attendees bid on the donation. The person with the highest bid was the winner of the silent auction donation.

For the 2019 HRA Fredericksburg reunion, all door prize items donated received silent auction bids. Door Prize Program went fast for this year (2019) which provided more time for socializing and dancing.

***GREG KRCMA* (HRA 2011 President) graciously volunteered as our auctioneer. With the spontaneous and hilarious help of Greg as auctioneer and with the 92 donations received from the dedicated donors and the widely enthusiastic crowd, the live and silent auction was an outstanding success. Greg did a great job as auctioneer. We collected a total of \$424.00 from the live and silent auction. In fact, \$95.00 was collected from the top four (4) live auction donations. Additionally, there was an \$11.00 donation to the HRA. Total collected was \$438.00. Monies collected from the Silent and Live Auction and Donation goes into the HRA Treasury and helps to defray reunion costs.**

The door prize committee of Jerry Middendorf with the assistance of my Hofer Frau, Hilde (to keep me in line) extend a hearty thank you to everyone that provided crafts and other donations for the live auction and door prizes.

Historically, the Silent and Live Auction and Door Prize Program has been very popular by everyone in attendance at the annual reunions. Consistently we see the HRA is loaded with talented members, crafters and commitment to the door prizes and auction program and “YOU” add that little extra touch to make the HRA reunions and luncheon most memorable. Again, thanks for all your commitment and donations and congratulations to the recipients of the silent and live auction donations.

***DONATORS:* HANNA HÖRATH, JOHN LAMB, ANIA LUCKENBILL, JERRY MANGAS, HILDE MIDDENDORF, JERRY MIDDENDORF, ANNA MÜLLER, CAROL SCANNY, CHARLES (C.R.) SHOCKLEY, ELFRIEDA SCHUETY AND HELGA WÜRDINGER. 92 DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE DONATORS.**

***SILENT AUCTION WINNERS/RECIPIENTS:* SANDY ALEKSON, MICHAEL J. BOGGS, JAY (J.C.) CAMPBELL, MARY CAMPBELL, GAYLE FUTRELL, DAN OLDEN, GAY KIELBANIA, KEN KIELBANIA, GREG KRCMA, ANITA LUCKENBILL, JERRY MANGAS, WALTER MURCH, PHIL MURRAY, MONIKA NICKERSON, TOM NICKERSON, PHYLLIS PHIPPS, ROSIE QUEEN, CAROL SCANNY, TIM SPAETH, FRANCIS THOMPSON, AND HELGA WÜRDINGER (DONATED A TOTAL OF \$332.00)**

LIVE AUCTION WINNERS: WALTER MURCH (WALKING CANE – HAND MADE), PHYLLIS PHIPPS (TABLECLOTH – HOF VOLKSFEST 2018), CLAUDE NIEBUHR (HUMMEL EMBROIDERED – FRAMED) AND MONIKA NICKERSON (GERMAN – HAND CARVED HORSES, BAUERN (FARMER) AND HONEY WAGON). COLLECTED \$95.00.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS: MICHAEL J. BOGGS, MARY CAMPBELL, JOANN FUKUMOTO, GAYLE FUTRELL, HANNA HÖRATH, DICK KREUZER, HEIDI KREUZER, JERRY MANGAS, ANNA MÜLLER, WALTER MURCH, MONIKA NICKERSON, TOM NICKERSON, SUSANNE NIEBUHR, ERLINDA PELTON, DAN SCANNY, JOHN SCHOLL, MICHAEL SHANAHAN AND NOEL SINCHAK. Items that did not receive a bid for the SILENT AUCTION and were not selected for the LIVE AUCTION we used as Door Prizes at the Buffet Luncheon. DOOR PRIZE Donations included Photo Paper, HRA 2019 Reunion Magnets and table drink coasters.

****If by chance I failed to acknowledge someone that a provided a donation to the 2019 HRA Door Prize Program blame the oversight on a memory issue. Once again, thanks for your participation in the Door Prize Program.

Looking forward to seeing you in Hof, Germany in 2020. Have a safe and healthy rest of 2019 and 2020.

Hilde and Jerry

From the Who's Who listing at Fred-burg...

The better half!



The other half!



From Jerry Middendorf, a link to the Facebook pages with a ton of pics for the AF Enlisted Village that the Reunion has helped support for literally years! Nice looking very modern place!

<https://tinyurl.com/y5qffjto>

New reenlistment protocol for the Air Force...

From Military.com: The Air Force has approved indefinite enlistments for active-duty airmen with at least 12 years of service, the service's top enlisted leader said after an internal memo became public. Beginning Nov. 18, all airmen with at least 12 years of service at their date of discharge can reenlist for an unspecified period, extending their enlistment term to the year they must be promoted or face separation, also known as the high-year tenure mark.

Again from Military.com https://www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html?ESRC=airforce_191105.nl A huge listing of various companies and organizations wanting to say "Thanks for your service!" in honor of Veterans Day.....

www.windy.com ... for Hoferwetter or for that matter, weather in just about any place in the world either currently or in advance! Most value for me is trip planning thru the upper Midwest in the winter and during any storm season here in the Mid-Atlantic/NE region, primarily coastal storms and tornado watches and warnings. For this part of the world the European model (ECMWF) seems to be most accurate in advance by a few days but elsewhere your mileage may vary. The computer models available are NOAA (NAM) for three days, the European and the Canadian (GMRS) for 9 days. These are the same charts/models your local weather guesser uses. Push all the buttons - there is a ton of weather and atmospheric information available there.

From the Way Off Base department!

From a Florida Hofer: A listing of: The unfriendliest cities in the world and Germany holds 4 of the top 10? Berlin is #1, also German cities are in 3rd, 4th and 7th places. Amazingly, New York City is #11. For NYC to lose the top ten places to all those other cities will undoubtedly have repercussions at some point.

Das ist die unfreundlichste Stadt der Welt <https://www.travelbook.de/ziele/staedte/unfreundlichste-staedte-der-welt?ref=1>

This city did not qualify!



Photo from Facebook

Status: Mel Hamill continues to make progress on transferring the old Hof Reunion website to a new provider. Not all of the old info has been transferred yet, so it has to be considered either as a work in progress or "under construction". The URL remains the same.... www.hofreunion.com

The monthly newsletter will be issued normally during the first week of the month (unless interrupted locally by two plus days of no electric service like this past weekend). It should contain recent information of importance to our members, historical information as it becomes available or is uncovered and submitted by our members, including visits to the "wayback machine" and the "off base" and possibly the "way off base" machine. Member submissions of almost any kind of stories, legends, photographs, questions, news articles, news about mini reunions or our members or

developments that might be of interest to our members is encouraged but I would request that they be sourced/attributed when known. Your ability to type or compose information is not important.

That's the job of Ye Ed (me.) If you send something in and I have questions about the article, I'll call you back for any clarifications needed. My Email address remains the same hofreunion@ptd.net

How to reserve your spot in Hof in 2020.... From Mel Hamill



Sample Reservation Email for the Volksfest Hof Reunion next year:

The 2020 HRA reunion will be in Hof, Germany, July 21-29, 2020. We will be staying at the Quality Hotel which we have used 4 times in the past. From the east coast it is 4107 miles as the crow flies. To make reservations at the Quality:

Email: info@quality-hotel-hof.com

Fax: 0011 49 9281

Phone: 0011 49 9281 820640

Address: Quality Hotel Hof
 Ernst-Reuter-Strasse 137
 D-95030 Hof

EXAMPLE EMAIL:

TO: info@quality-hotel-hof.com

FROM: (your email)

SUBJECT: Hotel Reservations

Jim Rigglin with the Hof Reunion Association has blocked rooms for the members of the Hof Reunion Association for the time frame of July 21 – 29, 2020, reservations good three days before and three days after. I understand the agreement is 88 € per night, per room.

I will be arriving (date) and departing (date) and require the following:

1 double room for (# of people)

Check in date: Monday July 20, 2020

Check out date: Wednesday July 29, 2020

Please confirm the reservation by email.

-- Happy Veterans Day to all
“Until we meet again”

Ein Bayerischer Sibirien-Überlebender 1965-1968