

The President's Corner By Dan Weber

We did it again! Another smashing (no pun intended) time enjoyed by about 325 folks from the TAC Tankers Association with our "Tally Ho in Tidewater." Carel Humme and his Merry Men set up an outstanding get-together at the local Holiday Inn in Hampton and we were treated very well. We had a lovely hospitality room, an office and Saturday evening we moved down the hall to a very large banquet room.

For those of you who missed this reunion, I would say that you must attend one of these gatherings as so much camaraderie is enjoyed by so many people. The war stories are slowly being replaced by stories of grandchildren and great-grandchildren complete with pictures. I am pleased that so many folks have now attended all three of the reunions starting with Tucson. Too those of you who cancelled at the last minute or had airline problems, I say please give it a go the next time.

As you know, we schedule these reunions around the country for your convenience and the next biennial reunion will probably be west of the Mississippi, perhaps in Colorado Springs. I must add that I was disappointed that many from the Virginia area did not show up for this one. We are also talking about a series of mini-reunions perhaps run out of Nate and Natalie's new motor home as they tour the country. More about all this in later issues of the newsletter.

The tours that were set up for up is Hampton were very enjoyable and most of us got to visit Ft. Monroe, Williamsburg, Hampton Air and Space Museum, Norfolk harbor with lunch and entertainment on a nice tour ship, as well as a lovely evening at the Boxwood Inn on the peninsula.

The Memorial Service at the Langley AFB Chapel conducted by the Reverends Lewis and Burrows was again well attended and appreciated. We really enjoyed the operatic rendition of "The Lord's Prayer" by Bill Wolford's wife Shirley and the duet "How Great Thou Art" by Reverend Lewis and his wife Edna. What talents these folks are and how moving the sermons by the two chaplains!!

The business meeting covered a variety of issues including a new dues program so as to cut down on postage costs. More about that elsewhere in this issue. The present group of officers was re-elected for an additional two years.

Saturday evening, the 4th of May,

was the banquet and as usual, this room, too, was beautifully decorated by Natalie Hill. Ruf Mewborn put together a digitized version of some of his old Super 8 home movies of in-flight refueling which was a real crowd pleaser especially for some of the wives. Ruf then introduced our guest speaker of the evening, retired General Carlos Talbott. General Talbott, a neighbor of Ruf's was a sometime fuel customer of ours many years ago and he spoke in detail about some of Tactical Air Command's early mobility deployments. His comments brought back memories for many of us in the audience.

Earlier in the evening the TAC Tankers Association was presented with a City of Hampton Proclamation advising us that the first week of May was deemed to be TAC Tanker Week. Duly signed by the Mayor this is a first for the organization and it is now in our archives.

Following the dinner there were more get-togethers in the banquet room and outside in the hall for a long time into the evening. It seemed that some folks just could not get enough of the friendships that these reunions generate. Four those members who are thinking about attending the next reunion, you might keep this in mind. On Sunday morning many of us met again in the hospitality room for breakfast and exchanged plans about where we were going prior to arriving home. Tom and Regine Kennan were heading north up into Canada and then across to northern California to complete their five weeks on the road. Nate and Natalie went up into New England, Pug and Norma Hoover stayed in the Norfolk area, Tom and Joyce Grey went to Maryland, then Wisconsin and back to Sonoma, CA, and Barb and I were down in Fayetteville, NC visiting my son and family. Hopefully, wherever you went, you had a fun time.

Thank you letters have been written to the tour company, the Holiday Inn, the Mayor, and so on, as we all get back to our normal routine. Many thanks again from all of us to all of you who helped put this reunion together and made it such a success. See you in two years.

Dan Weber

Right : Some of the Merry Men:
Standing: Zee Siekirski, Harv Margulies, Don Smock, Gary Myers, Jim Underhill.
Sitting: Ruf Mewborn, Chairman Carel Humme, and Don Hiemstra



Rodger Running, Vern Williamson with "the Prez" Dan Weber

Life Members

John D. Fox, Fayetteville NC-427
James "Geech" Hamilton, Leeville SC-427
Ken Norenberg, Duluth MN-622
Donald L. Taylor, Ocala FL-431
Rev. Jerry Lewis, Morehead City NC-427
Chas H. Vellines, Mary Esther FL 431,4505

Welcome New Members

Al Ballinger, Missouri City TX-622, 421
Warren Beaumont, Hemphill TX-420
Robert Benamati, Moreno Valley CA-421
Kent Carter, Greensboro NC-427
Joel Clark, Minette AL-431, 427
James Conover, Poquoson VA-427
Walker Cullop, Camden DE-622
James DuPont, Satsuma FL -431
Thomas Fitzgerald, Deale MD-427
John D. Francis, San Antonio TX-622,421
Marion Gillaspie, Colleyville TX-420, 429
Millard Girard, Cheboygan MI-427, 429
Robert Hennessey, Doylestown PA-427
John Hoyle, Potomac MD-431
John McColman, Hampton VA-427
Floyd Middleton, Brisbane Australia-431
Roland Morin, Oldsmar FL 429
Jack Nicewander, Bella Vista AR-429
Horace Odom, Ontario CA-429
Willie Perry, Tyler TX-421
Harry Rhyner, Oshkosh WI-420,429
Lou Stough, Hampton VA-427
Tobey Smith, Goodlettsville TN-431
Joseph Welding, Klamath Falls, OR-420
Bob Wilhite, Scandinavia WI-421
Al Zambrano, Carrizo Springs TX-



The USS Wisconsin which was visited on The tour to Norfolk.

