



President's Message

Nashville 2010! Our prayers are with the people of Nashville as they recover from the May flood. Joe Rutter has already been in contact with the Opryland Hotel management and we are proceeding with our reunion plans. Joe & Franca have an update elsewhere in this Afterburner. Let's think positive! Nashville needs our support now more than ever.

And Thinking Positive! Our reunion is six months away, and our hosts Joe & Franca Rutter have continued to do an outstanding job in organizing a superb package of events for us. The Dinner Banquet menu looks divine! The attendee list is in this issue, and it's nice to see the names of first time attendees along with our "ole faithfuls." Those who mailed deposit checks by the March 31 deadline qualified for the free prize drawing. If you are still on the fence, now is the time to say yes and get that deposit check mailed to the Rutters! Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship! **NOTE: If you have not previously made hotel or flight arrangements, do not do so until we send out the separate "Reunion Update" later in the summer.**

New Member Contest! Congratulations to Jay Maust for earning a free one year extension to his membership. He brought us three new members and I hear that he is working on more. Jay was the only one who got the checks and membership info to Emily by March 31. We received a few more new memberships thanks to those who spread the word. Thanks for your support, and please keep it up. We can grow our membership only if you get involved and help.

The Webmaster Job! No one volunteered for the job so I found someone, twisted an arm, made some promises, and Lisa Ringler is the newest member of the ARA and the new Webmaster. Lisa's husband Gordon is still on active duty and they reside on Randolph AFB. Lynn says "bless you, Lisa."

2011 Reunion in Italy! You may recall that our initial plans were to have our 2011 reunion in Italy in May. After checking the calendars we realized that it was too soon after the Nashville reunion and too close to Easter. We've slipped the date to October 2011 for a beautiful Fall reunion in Italy. Roberto is already working the details and itinerary and we'll have the official announcement in the August Afterburner.

\$200 Prize! Those attending the Nashville reunion will be entered in a drawing to win a \$200 certificate applicable to their 2011 Italy reunion fee. Want more details? Join us in Nashville. Better still, talk it up with fellow members and friends and have them join you there!

Don't Forget! If you would like your Afterburner emailed to you, please send Emily a note at empo@tampabay.rr.com.

In this Issue... Lots of new member names. Don't miss the Rutter's Nashville update. Our first "Memories of Aviano" article is enclosed. We also have a "Photo from The Past" taken at Aviano. Who do you really recognize in the photo?

See Members In the News (page 7) about a significant effort being undertaken by two of our members.

2010 Aviano Reunion Nashville

Our reunion in Nashville is rapidly approaching. The picture is the entrance way to the Magnolia section of the Opryland Hotel (see page 5). Our banquet room is located

near this entrance and is called the Magnolia ballroom, a very beautiful room and back-drop for our sumptuous farewell Italian dinner. More information on pages 4-6.

Breaking News: As you may be aware Nashville experienced major flooding on May 1&2. The hotel was also flooded. Reservations are currently not being accepted at the hotel. We expect that by November everything will be ok, so we are still taking reservation deposits for the reunion attendance. We will provide all registrants with an update on June 30 via email or phone calls. Please continue to send us your reunion attendance deposits.

ARA Officers

Ben Catalina - President
Rodger Gracey - Vice President
Emily Povey - Secretary/Treasurer
Nick Leone - Editor
Lisa Ringler - Webmaster
Tama Tillman - Board Assistant

FUTURE REUNIONS

2010 Nashville, TN - Hosts: Joe & Franca Rutter
Dates: Nov. 28-Dec. 3
2011 Italy - Hosts: Ben & Lynn Catalina
Dates: TBD October 2011



DON'T BE DELINQUENT!

Check your label and if it is highlighted in blue, you need to pay your dues. Dues are \$15 per year. Make checks payable to Aviano Reunion Association and mail to Emily Povey, 626 East Davis Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606. If you receive your Afterburner by email or you are in disagreement with your label, contact Emily for status of your account. empo@tampabay.rr.com or 813-251-4664. Delinquent members will be removed from the mailing list before the next Afterburner.



Welcome New Members

Neva Cole

October to April address
13755 E 46 Drive
Yuma, AZ 85367-6457
May to September address
7602 Runway Drive
Casper, WY 82604-1525
Phone: 928-287-8347
Email: nevabwpc@aol.com
Friend of Harmit

James (Jim) & M (Jill) Dohr

9971 S Deer Creek Court
Highlands Ranch, CO
80129-4325
Phone: 303-471-8237
Email: rkymtnhilady@yahoo.com
Sister of George Hefner

Thomas (Tom) & Carolyn (Jo) Scannell

10714 Wynstone Place
Helotoes, TX 78023-4235
Phone: 210-695-9247
Email: tscan@att.net
Aviano Era: 1963
Unit: 7272 USAF Hosp, Whelus
AB, Libya
Friend of Catalina

Arthur (Art) & Susan (Sue) Beidler

447 Fable Road
Hedgesville, WV 25427
Phone: 304-754-5457
Email: beidlersinwv@dirctv.net
Friends of Catalina

Constance (Connie) & Bill Brown

7409 Fair Oaks Pkwy
Boerne, TX 78015
Phone: 830-981-4950
Email: constancejpbrown@yahoo.com
Friends of Ursula Domingues

Alice Cox

434 Cave Creek Road
Fredericksburg, TX 78624-5721
Phone: 830-990-2270
Email: alicedc@ctesc.net
Friend of Ursula Domingues

Ursula Domingues

8303 Greatview Apt 706
San Antonio, TX 78230
Phone: 210-488-4837
Email: ujdomingues@sbcglobal.net
Friend of Scannell

G L (Topper) & Carole Long

782 Plantation Way
Gallatin, TN 37066
Phone: 615-206-9553
Email: topperlong@gmail.com
Friends of Catalina

Lisa & Gordon Ringler

7 B Northeast Drive
Universal City, TX 78148
Phone: 210-945-4067
Email: lisingler@sbcglobal.net
Friends of Catalina



ROSTER CORRECTIONS

Anita Burnett

10043 Idlewild Rd Apt 205
Matthews, NC 28105-2016
Phone: 704-790-7548

Kelly & Olimpia Gibson

October to June address
114 Fairway Circle
Umatilla, FL 32784-8654

George & Diane Hefner

1804 Blackwood Common
(just change to house number)

Nametags for Reunion

Members that have attended previous reunions should already have nametags and lanyards. Attendees that have not previously received a nametag and lanyard or those that cannot locate their nametags and/or lanyards need to notify either Emily Povey (empo@tampabay.rr.com or 813-251-4664) or Joe Rutter (josephgrutter@bellsouth.net or 256-534-7214). There is no charge for the first nametag and lanyard, but those receiving replacements will be charged \$1.50 for the holder and \$2.50 for the lanyard. No charge for those just needing the paper insert with name printed. Emily will be delivering those items ordered to the reunion, but be sure to contact her or Joe as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made.



Memories of Aviano...

OUR FIRST 24 HOURS IN ITALY

by Jean Ives

Our first night in Italy (1960) was not only difficult, but very funny. Because of a family emergency, our sponsor, Lt. Kessler, had to drop us off quickly at our hotel, leaving us to indoctrinate ourselves into Italian life. The Cesaro Hotel catered primarily to men who worked during the week for Zanuzzi Rex, the kitchen appliance manufacturer, which was tucked away in a large corn field between Pordenone and Sacile—and what seemed miles from Aviano and Pordenone. Where were the Americans? Where was the air base? And how do we get there or anywhere without transportation?

Dragging luggage for our young family of four across the parking lot, up the stairs, and into a large entrata, we finally located our rooms that were across the entrata from each other. At the end of the entrata was a filthy community bathroom with a shower that sprayed over the toilet and a big ring around the bathtub. Oh dear, can we handle this?

We decided quickly that being separated would not be a good idea, so we spent our first night sharing two single beds on mattresses filled with corn husks. Yes, in 1960! At around 3 pm, we were hungry, so I ran down to the bar to get some food and cleaning items. Unfortunately, everything was closed. Riposo, of course. I tried again at around 5 pm, but still everything was closed. However, I smelled something wonderful coming from behind one door and knocked. A pudgy, gray-haired woman opened up and I politely inquired, "Hello, will you please tell me when the restaurant will be opened?" She shrugged her shoulders in obvious admission that she didn't speak English. What now, I thought? Okay, let's play charades! So, I opened my mouth, pretended to chew, and she apparently got the picture and rattled off something I couldn't understand...until she pointed to her watch and to the number 7. That I understood!

So, we made our way to the restaurant at 7 pm, and our waiter took us to a table with a white tablecloth. It was a large room with over 20 tables filled with men all dressed in dark blue suits, white shirts, and ties. All of them turned their heads and watched as we made our grand entrance, especially the two females. The waiter brought us a menu, but who among us could read a menu in Italian handwriting? Impossible!

After more charades, I finally got a typed menu, but since it was still in Italian, of course, the only words I understood were spaghetti and pollo. So, we ordered spaghetti and pollo. The spaghetti looked



strange with only about a teaspoon of tomato sauce and dab of butter, but we were hungry. We were expecting some good old country fried chicken, but instead it arrived cold, saturated with oil, and with rosemary covering the goosebumpy skin. In true American style, we proceeded to pick it up and eat with our fingers, noticing all the men watching us. Still hungry, we wanted some dessert. The waiter was very patient as Gene thumbed through his trusty Italian dictionary, but saw only an entry for the word "desert." So Gene pointed to it and said, "with two s's." We laughed knowing that would not get us anywhere, but then I spied a bowl of fruit and pointed to it. Thank goodness he understood. The waiter then brought us four bowls of water and placed them in front of us. Gene and I looked at each other, puzzled. I said, "Honey, they must be finger bowls." So, I proceeded to daintily place my fingertips in the water, with Gene following suit. Suddenly, we noticed our daughter, age 9, washing her hands in it, while our son, age 4, was taking the water up his almost to his elbows. By then, the waiter was bringing the fruit to our table, but stopped short when he saw what was happening. Honestly, he slapped his forehead and said, "Mama mia!" and then turned to tell all of the men what we were doing, and they began to laugh. At first we were embarrassed and even a little angry since we didn't know what he had said. And we're not talking about light chuckles here, but loud, continuous laughter for 15-20 minutes! Laughter is infectious, though, so before long we were joining them. The waiter returned with four fresh bowls of water and demonstrated the correct way to clean and cut a pear using our forks and knives --- our first lesson in Italian etiquette. Our second lesson: do not pick up chicken with our fingers.

I must add that it ended up as a blessing to live at the Cesaro Hotel, because it became home to us. Our children played in the corn field making forts (it was so big that the padrone didn't mind). And the men played with them in the parking lot. They also thanked me for the clean bathroom, and the women of the kitchen later saved my son's life from choking. We have so many wonderful memories of our 54 days in that hotel! That was the beginning of what would be a beautiful assignment in Italy, with so many great memories.

(Have a special memory of Aviano you would like to share? Please write a few paragraphs and email or mail them to Lynn Catalina at lcatalina@satx.rr.com.)

Aviano Reunion - Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN November 28 - December 3, 2010

Current Registrants

<i>Ben and Lynn Catalina</i>	<i>Rodger and Betty Gracey</i>
<i>Wendall and Norma Lasher</i>	<i>George and Diane Hefner</i>
<i>Nick and Margaret Leone</i>	<i>Dean and Dana Willsey</i>
<i>Bill and Emily Povey</i>	<i>Peter Ross</i>
<i>Mike Hansen and Linda Kazarian</i>	<i>Tom and Elaine Horton</i>
<i>Jay and Jane Maust</i>	<i>Dick and Barbara Gaskell</i>
<i>George Hughes and Josie Webb</i>	<i>Bill and Dee Davis</i>
<i>Bill and Gloria Walker</i>	<i>Daria Christenson</i>
<i>Lew Erhart and Tayler Erhart Bailey</i>	<i>Joe and Franca Rutter</i>
<i>Gene and Jean Ives</i>	<i>Phil and Hilda Howerton</i>
<i>Al and Lou Currie</i>	<i>Carolyn Watters</i>
<i>Robert Burnett</i>	<i>Ray and Marilyn Walbridge</i>
<i>Jaime and Belinda Vazquez</i>	<i>Jim and Nelda Hall</i>
<i>Joanne Harnit</i>	<i>George and Nancy Beckwith</i>
<i>Neva Cole</i>	<i>Gary and Tama Tillman</i>



Farewell Dinner Banquet Room

Preliminary Agenda

- Nov. 28 - Check-in (after 3:00pm)** Welcome reception/agenda updates: 5:00pm-7:00pm
- Nov. 29 - 7:00am-11:00am** Breakfast (on your own) and free time to get acquainted with the hotel and its beautiful decorations
- 11:00am-2:30pm** General Jackson Riverboat Cruise with lunch and entertainment, Dinner (on your own)
- Nov. 30 - 7:00 am - 08:30am** Breakfast (on your own)
- 9:00 am -1:00 pm** Nashville City Tour
- 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Freetime
- 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm** Grand Ole Opry
- Dec. 1 - 7:00 am - 08:30am** Breakfast (on your own)
- 9:00 am - 12:30 pm** Tour of the Hermitage - General Jackson's Plantation
- 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Free time to enjoy all the venues in the Hotel
- 7:30 pm -10:00 pm** Radio City Rockettes
- Dec. 2 - 7:00 am - 8:00am** Breakfast (on your own)

Optional Tours:

- #1. 8:30 am – 4:00 pm** Jack Daniel Distillery - includes lunch at Ms Bobo's famous family boarding house (minimum of 23 required) Tentative price: \$95.00
- #2. 8:30 am - 1:00 pm** Historic Franklin, TN (Civil War) includes time for shopping in downtown Franklin (many boutiques, galleries etc) Minimum of 23 required.
Tentative price \$70.00
- 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm** ARA Business and Social Meeting
- 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm** ARA Farewell Dinner
- Dec 3 - Checkout** no later than 11:00am.

Deposit Information

Hotel Reservations should be made directly with the Hotel at 615-883-2211 and identify yourself as part of the Aviano Reunion or Group Code X-AVIAN. Rates for the standard room will be \$175.38 inclusive of local taxes for double occupancy. Additional persons per room (up to 4) are charged \$20.00 per person plus tax.

Children are free. A premium room with a balcony overlooking the atrium can be had for an additional \$35.00 plus tax. The standard resort fee has been waived for our group and includes high speed wireless internet, local and toll free calls up to 20 minutes, access to the fitness center, daily newspaper delivered to each room, two bottles of water refreshed daily and scheduled complex transportation.

If driving, parking is available for \$18.00 per day. Reservations must be made no later than October 29, 2010 to obtain these rates. If anyone wishes to arrive early or stay later these group rates are available for 3 days prior to the reunion or 3 days after the reunion.

Recommend reservations be made early to insure room location within the group area. One day's charge will be made at the time of the reservation. This charge is refundable up to three days prior to the reservation date.

Please provide the following information with your initial deposit check of \$350.00 per person. The initial deposit covers a portion of the following: General Jackson River Boat cruise with lunch and entertainment, Nashville tour, Grand Ole Opry show, Hermitage tour, Radio City Rockettes show, and the ARA Dinner. It also includes all transportation, tour guides, any entrance fees and driver gratuities. If selecting one of the optional tours please add \$50.00 per person for Tour #1 and \$35.00 for Tour #2 to your deposit. Remaining costs are variable with total participants and will be due NLT Aug 25, 2010. All payments are non-refundable after Aug 25, 2010. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Joseph G. Rutter or Franca A. Rutter.

Correspondence

From Carolyn Watters (Feb) - I am doing pretty well. My younger daughter has been 'training' me on Quicken, the internet, etc. I'm still mentally 'shaky', but am paying bills, etc, now. I've been in VA with my daughter, Meg, and grandson, Colton. My son-in-law is at Tyndall being trained to fly the F-22. He'll get home around the end of March. I plan on moving back home in a few weeks, and then staying there. Haven't decided about the next reunion yet. I may decide to come, solo. Probably won't tackle Italy, on my own, tho.



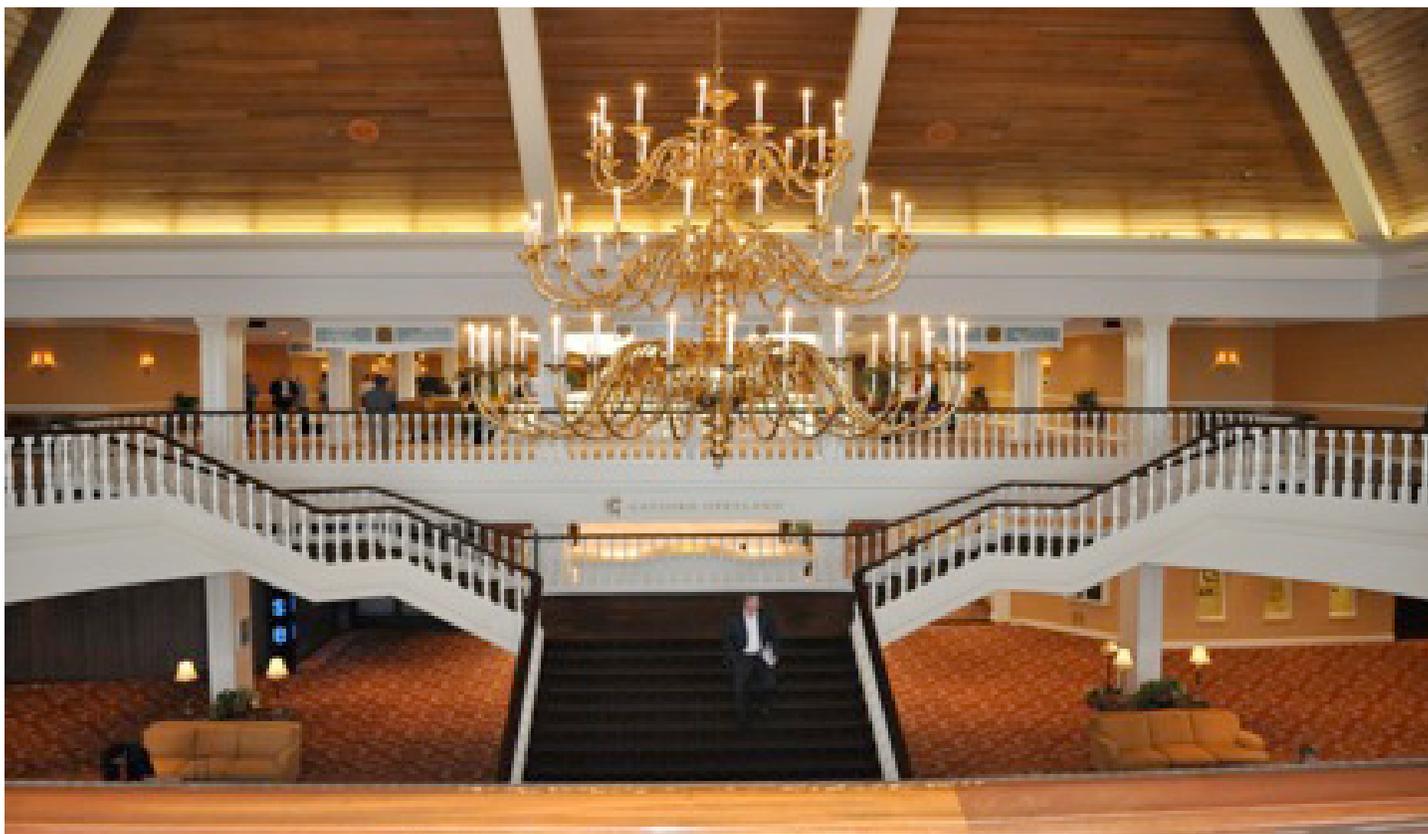
Photo from the Past



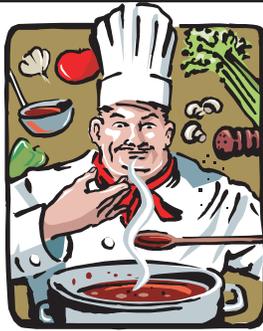
Photo taken at Aviano in Spring, 1974. Standing, left to right: Peggy Witt, Nancy Lewis, Lynn Catalina holding Jeff Catalina, Doris Burnett, Elaine Horton, Mary Muecke. Seated, left to right: Bob Burnett, Randy Witt, Tom Horton, Ben Catalina, Randy Muecke, Neil Lewis.

Got an old photo you'd like to share? Please send it to Ben Catalina.

Magnolia section of the Opryland Hotel



VEAL CUTLET PILLOWS WITH MARSALA SAUCE



Thin sliced veal cutlets
Thin sliced prociutto
Thin sliced (fontina, mozerella,
Or provelone) cheese
Chicken or beef broth
Flour

Pound veal thin and cut into 2x 2 inch pieces
Coat with flour mixed with salt and pepper
Sautee cutlets in butter and olive oil
(About 1 minute per side)
Set aside

Prepare marsala sauce:

3-4 Tablespoons Olive Oil
¼ cup onion, finely chopped
1-tablespoon garlic, finely chopped
½ pound mushrooms, sliced
1-tablespoon flour
¾ cup Marsala Wine
1-½ cups beef stock or chicken stock
Salt and Pepper to taste

Add olive oil to heavy hot saucepan. Add onions, garlic, mushrooms, sauté until mushrooms are tender. Add flour and cook for 1 minute then deglaze with Marsala Wine. Add beef stock and cook until thick and flavors are blended.

Build pillow:

Veal cutlet
Prociutto
Cheese
Veal cutlet

Place into baking dish with
Broth just covering bottom of dish and bake for
About 30 minutes

Serve with marsala sauce

**Check Out
the ARA Website at
www.avianoreunion.com**

ARA FAREWELL DINNER BANQUET ROOM OPRYLAND HOTEL NASHVILLE



~ Appetizers ~ *(served family style)*

Affettato Misto
Salame Toscano, Coppa, Capocollo, Soppressata, Salame "Cacciatore"

Formaggi e Stuzzichini
*Fontina, Asiago, Provolone and Prosciutto stuffed Cherry Peppers, Marinated Onions,
Asparagus and Mushrooms*

~ Salade ~

Insalata Volare
Mesclun lettuce with Merlot infused Sun-Dried Cherries, Gorgonzola and Candied Pecans

~Duo Entrée ~

5 ex Filet Mignon
Marinated in our own herb blend with olive oil and garlic, and then grilled to perfection

Accompanied with

Gamberoni al Forno
*Three Jumbo Shrimp baked with Feta and Parmigiano Cheeses on a bed of Angel Hair.
Crispy green beans "aglio e olio" to compliment*

~ Dessert de ~ *Chef's Selection*

Members in the News

The Lackland Gateway Heritage Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded to help preserve Lackland's enlisted Airman history. Every airman coming into the USAF goes through Lackland Air Force Base for Basic Military Training. The goal of the foundation is to build a new state-of-the-art enlisted heritage museum on Lackland with a targeted completion in 2015. Estimated cost for the facility is estimated at up to \$50 million.

Aviano Reunion Association members Jaime Vazquez and Ben Catalina serve the foundation. Jaime is the foundation President, and Ben is the Paver Program Manager. The paver program is the first foundation fundraiser to raise money for the new museum. Allocated funds from the US Air Force may not be used for this project, so the foundation is responsible for total funding of the project.

The paver program was patterned from other Air Force, Army and other military facilities. The pavers will be used as a long term project to beautify the base, starting specifically with the Basic Military Training Parade Ground area. The pavers will be used to create a Top Honor Graduate section on the parade ground to honor the Air Force's finest graduate each week. Pavers will also be used to create paved areas in front of each grandstand, as well as in front of each aircraft on display along airplane row. The aging existing sidewalk will eventually be replaced with pavers. Thousands upon thousands of pavers are needed for this long-term project.

Those Avianoites who attended the Reunion in San Antonio in 2004 should remember the trip we made to sit in the VIP section and observe the graduation ceremony. This traditional military ceremony celebrating the successful completion of basic training occurs 50 times per year on Fridays, and involves approximately 750 to 800 graduates each week. It is witnessed weekly by over 2,000 proud parents, relatives, and friends each week, as well as a group of special guests, like we were.

To raise money for the museum, the foundation has launched the paver sales program. Each paver (aka "brick") can be purchased and be engraved to honor a graduate, a family member who has served in the USAF, and even relatives and friends who served in other services. Civilians who were never in the military can even purchase a paver and have it engraved to show their support. Pavers are \$55 each, with two or more for \$50 each. They are tax deductible.

Jaime and Ben have purchased their own pavers, but have also donated personal funds to purchase two pavers that will be engraved in appreciation for the Aviano Reunion Association. The two ARA pavers will be engraved and installed as follows:

**AVIANO REUNION
ASSOCIATION
2010
PAVING THE WAY
FOR THE USAF
IN ITALY**

Full details of the paver program, as well as order forms, can be obtained from Ben or Jaime.

NOTE: If you have an article for Members in the News, please submit it to Lynn Catalina by July 15 and it may be in the August Afterburner.

DEPOSIT

Hotel Reservations should be made directly with the Hotel at 615-883-2211 and identify yourself as part of the Aviano Reunion or Group Code X-AVI-AN. Rates for the standard room will be \$175.38 inclusive of local taxes for double occupancy. Additional persons per room (up to 4) are charged \$20.00 per person plus tax. Children are free. A premium room with a balcony overlooking the atrium can be had for an additional \$35.00 plus tax. The standard resort fee has been waived for our group and includes high speed wireless internet, local and toll free calls up to 20 minutes, access to the fitness center, daily news-paper delivered to each room, two bottles of water refreshed daily and scheduled complex transportation. If driving, parking is available for \$18.00 per day. Reservations must be made no later than October 29, 2010 to obtain these rates. If anyone wishes to arrive early or stay later these group rates are available for 3 days prior to the reunion or 3 days after the reunion. Recommend reservations be made early to insure room location within the group area. One day's charge will be made at the time of the reservation. This charge is refundable up to three days prior to the reservation date.

Please provide the following information with your initial deposit check of \$350.00 per person. The initial deposit covers a portion of the following: General Jackson River Boat cruise with lunch and entertainment, Nashville tour, Grand Ole Opry show, Hermitage tour, Radio City Rockettes show, and the ARA Dinner. It also includes all transportation, tour guides, any entrance fees and driver gratuities. If selecting one of the optional tours please add \$50.00 per person for Tour #1 and \$35.00 for Tour #2 to your deposit. Remaining costs are variable with total participants and will be due NLT Aug 25, 2010. All payments are non-refundable after Aug 25, 2010. MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Joseph G. Rutter or Franca A. Rutter.

Send this form to Joseph & Franca Rutter, 2250 Governors Bend Rd, Huntsville, AL 35801 or

E-Mail josephgrutter@bellsouth.net or Fax (256) 534-7214

Please provide the following information with your check:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

Need name tag? Yes No If yes please print below how you want your name(s) shown:

Optional Tour: #1 Yes No Optional Tour # 2: Yes No



The Newsletter of The Aviano Reunion Association

2623 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801