

AVIANO AFTERBURNER

NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



Volume 16, Number 4

November 2003

Your 2002-03 ARA Officers

President

Tama Tillman
10 Tacoma Circle
Nashua, NH 03062-1460

Vice President

Rodger Gracey
1810 Apache
Cheney, KS 67025

Editor

Nick Leone
2623 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801

Reunion Host '04

Lynn & Ben Catalina
8510 Aesop Lane
Universal City, TX
78141-2641

Secretary/Treasurer

Emily Povey
626 E. Davis Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33606

Historian

Gene Ives
3525 Hartstock Ln.
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

Reunion Host '03

Gerald Smith
11890 Old Stage Road
Willow Springs, NC 27592-7810

Reunion Host '05

Tama & Gary Tillman
10 Tacoma Circle
Nashua, NH 03062-1460

ARA Webmaster - Lynn Catalina/www.avianoreunion.com

From The President

The reunion was fantastic. For details, read *Travels with Tama* and the *Minutes* in this issue. Also take the time to read the note from Ray Walbridge in the correspondence. As those that attended the reunion are aware, Marilyn was in a coma and they were unable to attend. The great news is that she has awakened from the coma. We also picked Tuscany, Italy for the 2005 reunion. Roberto has agreed to put together another reunion for us there. For those that attended the last one in Sienna, I found out that

Thanks to Gerald

Hi, these are the "thanks" I have rec'd with some personal omissions:

First one from **Paul and Fran Mobley** (Paraphrased, the card is missing now)

"It was one of the best reunions we have attended. We appreciate the work and details that went into making this reunion a glorious success"

Carolyn Waters: "Thanks, again, for planning a great weekend for the group and know our friends had as much fun as we did. And thanks, also, for taking care of the cake for Bob. He didn't have a CLUE about what was happening! Hope to see you (& Lynda) next Nov."

Rodger & Betty Gracey: "We had such a good time.& wanted to say "Thanks again" You did a great job."

Lynn Catalina: "Just a note to say how much I enjoyed the reunion in Fayetteville You tended to every detail and rolled with every punch (&

Roberto and Patti had a baby boy. His name is Michele Russell Bechi (Michele=Michael) and he was born May 26. He looks just like Roberto. By now you should have received your roster. PLEASE take the time to check your entry and let us know if there are any additions or corrections.

And now is the time to look forward to next year's reunion in San Antonio. I don't know about you, but I am extremely excited about going there and you know Ben and Lynn will do a terrific job.



blow). Lots of fun with great memories. Ben is wearing his "Mule Days" t-shirt today. We have huge steps to fill because of your high standards. Will do our best, see you next year."

Emily & Bill Povey: "Thank you so much for making the reunion so major success. I really can't decide what was the best event. All were absolutely perfect. And the time you spent on the

planning certainly paid off. Thanks so much."

Bill Coote: "I want to thank you for the great hosting of the Aviano Reunion. I know that you went thru some very difficult times in herding us to the right places, but it all worked out to be a very successful reunion time. I wish my wife could have attended, but she had to escort her mom to Tucson, AZ. She got home safe yesterday. A blessing on you and your family in the days ahead."

New Members Welcome



Roberto & Patricia (Patti) Bechi
Via del Forno Vecchio 14
53040 Serre di Rapolano
Phone: 011-39-0577-704789
E-Mail: tourrob@tin.it
Status: friends of membership

Mary Ann McPherson
3921 Longbrook Rd.
Columbia, SC 29206-2214
(803) 782-3115
Aviano Era: 58-61
Status: Dependent Spouse
Spouse – Clarence (Bud)
McPherson deceased

Helmut (Joe) and Seija Mueller
4322 Danube Drive
King George, VA 22485-5702
(540) 663-0627
E-mail: saya@3n.net
Aviano Era: 65-68
Status: Military
Unit: 40th CAM/ELECT

Terrance (TC) and Barbara (Barb)
Monroe
1020 Jay Court
Loveland, CO 80537-8847
(970)-663-2960
E-mail:
TERBARMONROE@aol.com
Aviano Era: 56-56
Status: Military
Unit: AACCS

ROSTER ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS

Sorry, omitted in Past Reunion Hosts (inside cover)
2002 – Sienna, Italy – Lash & Norma Lasher

John E. (Ed) Jones
Phone: home – 858-459-8381, work 858-455-2151
E-mail: ed.jones@gat.com
Unit Accounting & Finance

Moyer Lynn/Moyer: bamoyer@wpa.net

Donald Casillo: dcassilo@cox.net

Green Don/Anne: green93455@attglobal.net

Walbridge: rwalbridge@sbcglobal.net

Leo MacCarthy: New Area Code
(386)-677-5176



SEEKING AVIANO AFB INFORMATION

Received the following e-mail:

I am the historian for the 31st Fighter Wing, the host unit at Aviano AB, Italy. I received your name and e-mail address from the Retiree Affairs Office. I understand you were stationed at Aviano AB from 1953-1957 as a member of the 629 ACWS. I am currently gathering more information about Aviano from the earliest days of the Air Force's presence. I would be grateful if you would provide me with some information and pictures concerning your brief time here at Aviano before your squadron moved to Campoformido. I will use the information to educate Aviano's personnel about the base's history. Moreover, we are having Veterans' Day celebration on 7 November. Information and/or photographs you provide may be used during the ceremony.

Sincerely,

NIKLAAS A. WALLER, TSgt, USAF
Historian, 31st Fighter Wing
Aviano AB, Italy
niklaas.waller@aviano.af.mil
31fw.ho@aviano.af.mil

San Antonio Reunion Day Tentative Schedule NOVEMBER 3-7 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

WEDNESDAY - Hotel check-in after 3:00 pm

THURSDAY - Morning at leisure; San Antonio Missions Tour in the afternoon; Mexican dinner on a barge cruising the renowned *River Walk*

FRIDAY - Bus tour to Lackland AFB for graduation ceremonies; tour of USAA (a la carte lunch in USAA cafeteria); evening free

SATURDAY - Free day with optional Hill Country Tour (wineries, Fredericksburg) - minimum number required; dinner at hotel catered by Texas Land & Cattle Restaurant

SUNDAY - Enjoy brunch on the river on your own; check out by noon

Make hotel reservations directly to:

River Walk Drury, 210 N. St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, TX 78205
Reservations: 800-378-7946 Cost: \$119 + tax per night, including hot buffet breakfast daily (*rates and availability guaranteed ONLY until September 3, 2004*)

REUNION HOSTS Ben & Lynn Catalina 888-522-7447;
bcatalina@satx.rr.com

\$135 per person.

Please make checks out to Aviano Reunion Association and mail to:

Ben & Lynn Catalina
8510 Aesop Lane
Universal City, TX 78148

Submitted by Lynn Catalina
OrsiniOs Goulasch



CORRESPONDENCE

Mobley Reunion Notes

What a great time we had at the Ft. Bragg, N.C. Reunion!! The planning done by our host, Gerald Smith, was evident as we had so many interesting places to see and visit. After getting settled in on Wednesday, it was good to meet and greet others who arrived at various times.

On Thursday we toured Ft. Bragg and Pope A.F.B. An interesting thing occurred as we were looking at the various airplanes on display. Paul recognized a C-1 19 like the one he'd had to make an emergency jump from, along with 39 others, in the Mohave Desert, 50 years ago. He been one of those who'd been on their way to Nevada to observe a modern weapons drop at an undisclosed location.

About 7 1/2 miles out from George A.F.B., Calif., they developed trouble in both engines and the pilot feathered one. They were alerted to bail out, and did so, but this was more excitement than they'd planned on. As a result Paul received a certificate and pin as a member of the "Caterpillar Club", which at the time was issued for making an emergency parachute jump. Needless to say he had no desire to fly again for many years.

The pilot managed to restart the feathered engine and get the plane back to George A.F.B. The crew chief told them later that as soon as they touched down the engine stopped again. All who'd bailed out were picked up by ambulance and taken to the hospital for exams and treatment. Paul was there a few days with a back injury.

Another thing about this trip that was important to us, was that we'd just celebrated our 50th anniversary. Paul was stationed at Pope A.F.B. when we were married. It was interesting to see the changes that had occurred since we'd been stationed there. On Saturday we found our way back to Hope Mills where we'd lived on Boone Trail before being sent to Alexandria, La. to become part of the 629th A C & W Squadron on their way to Italy. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The banquet on Saturday evening was truly wonderful. The decorations done mostly by Gerald's sister, Carolyn Coble, were beautiful. The food was delicious, and the music provided by the Coble Trio was wonderful. So nice to hear the old familiar favorites. They even played "our song", "You'll Never Know Just How Much I Miss You". Paul and I, who dance very little these days, managed to make it to the dance floor for that. Gerald announced that we were celebrating our 50th anniversary and we were soon joined by others.

So a great time was had by all, whether at the "Mule Daze" at Benson or seeing other sights and feasting on good food and Southern Hospitality. I'm sorry some of you were unable to make it, but perhaps we'll see you next November in San Antonio, Tx. or 2005 back in Tuscany. A big thanks to Gerald and "his team" who put it all together.

Ciao,

Paul and Fran Mobley

From Ray Walbridge: (10/27)

Sorry I have not written before but I do have good news. Marilyn came out of the coma about 10 days ago. She is alert, knows what is going on, can answer 'yes' 'no' questions by nodding or shaking her head. Still has

the trachea so can not speak. Also has the feeding tube. She caught a lung disease in early September and has been in isolation for the last three weeks, but they finally identified the bug yesterday and removed the isolation signs today. She has a lot of rehab ahead of her but hopefully will be back to normal or near normal soon. They never did come up with a reason for the brain malfunction. Could find absolutely no clue. We appreciate all the prayers and thoughts. The cards were wonderful, so good to get the greetings from everyone. We will be in San Antonio, God willing.

From Lew and Dotty Erhart: Hi Nick and Marg sorry Dot and I missed the reunion in N-Carl. We had every intension on making it. Guess the trip down got to Dot and we had to cancel. I tried to call a couple of times to the Hosp. suite but no answer and the last time she said you had changed hotels. Anyway if you have a newsletter send it to 23 Willis Dr. Ormond Bch Fl. 32176. Dot still not walking very much so we are staying close to home. Will be here till after the first of the year. Hope you two are staying healthy. Say Hi to everyone. Love Dot and Lew

From Gene Wheaton:

My son and daughter, Gary & Denise, were there also as 3 to 5 year olds, and my younger daughter, Anita, was born in Italy at the Vicenza Army Hospital while we were at Aviano. So we are really a complete Aviano family. Also, my first boss there was Art Voisard. We were a very small OSI Detachment (3 agents) and were all very close. We remember Rusty very well....

My son, Gary... was stationed with Special Forces at Ft. Bragg in the mid-80's, as an Arabic Linguist and Intelligence Interrogator,...

Bill Coote was totally surprised to find the F-105 aircraft, pictured here, in which he had logged several hours, perched alongside several Flying Tiger aircraft at Pope AFB, NC. Bill, who was stationed at Aviano AFB from 1962-1964, was touring Pope with the reunion group in September, when he spied the F-105 #165. "It may," he thinks, "have been moved there from George AFB, CA when they closed out the F-105 missions there."



Bill's F-105 days began in 1968 when he was assigned to the 563rd TFS at McConnell, AFB, KS. After completing combat crew training, he went to several survival schools in the states and then to jungle survival at Clark AFB in the Philippines. In March, 1969, he transferred to the 44th TFS, 388th TFW at Korat, Thailand. Some missions took him into Laos-the secret war, at that time. Once the Korat missions converted to the Wild Weasel program, he had his choice of joining the weasel mission or transferring to the strike mission at Takhli. He chose the latter and transferred to the 354th TFS, 355th TFW at Takhli AB, Thailand.

The 354th was renown for it's high MIG kill count. The MIG's couldn't touch the Thud unless there was a dog fight. The Thud could not turn with the MIG, but they could outrun them. The Thud could outrun any aircraft in the world below 15 thousand feet. During a mission into North Viet Nam, Bill bombed a 100mm gun

emplacement that had threatened all allied aircraft flying in that area. That big gun had brought down several friendly aircraft. Bill first dropped two CBU's, (cluster bomb units) to scatter the enemy troops, then aimed two 750lb bombs down the throat of that gun to silence it for good. This allowed friendly missions to proceed with their assignments. For his gun kill efforts on that mission Bill earned the DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross). Several other air medals were received while on this tour of duty with the 354th.

Following a temporary assignment in November, 1969 with the 475th TFS in Kunsan, Korea, as an F-4 Fighter Operations Officer, he was reassigned back to the 354th at Takhli, in March, 1970, to continue flying combat missions. His aircraft was shot up with bullet holes several times, but made it back safely to home base each time. The Thud was one tough airplane. Ordinance carried was rockets, CBU's, 500lb bombs, 750lb bombs, 2000lb bombs, 3000lb bombs and the 1000 round, 20mm Gatling gun that fired 6000 rounds per minute.

In June, 1970, Bill was assigned to the 12th TFS, 18th TFW, Kadena AB Okinawa, Japan, to fly the F-105. This was to accomplish TS, (Top Secret) alert missions, and conduct these missions from bases in Korea, such as Osan, Kunsan, Suwan, Kwan Ju and Teague. His wife, Ellie, and daughters Debbie and Lori, accompanied him on this tour, and were able to enjoy Okinawa, except for the Typhoons that blew thru occasionally. Bill was always flying off to a safe haven base with the F-105s when a Typhoon was forecast for the island. (His family hated being hunkered down by themselves during these typhoons). His final assignment was to Sheppard AFB, TX in December.

North Carolina 2003 Reunion Attendees

Melvin & Sandy Black
 Guido Casari
 Lynn Catalina
 Bill & Carolyn Coble (Gerald's sister)
 Bill Coote
 Al & Lou Currie
 Bill & Dee Davis
 John and Marianna Fells
 Walt Geisinger
 Rodger & Betty Gracey
 Phil Howerton
 Gene & Jean Ives
 Lash & Norma Lasher
 Nick & Margaret Leone
 John & Rita Marx (friends of Watters)
 Edwin (Ed) & Bonny McCarthy (friends of Watters)
 Al & Libby Miro

Paul & Fran Mobley
 Lynn & Barbara Moyer
 Jay & Francesca Nepa
 Frank & Kathie Oldis
 Bill & Emily Povey
 Pablo & Jannetta Rubio
 Joe & Franca Rutter
 Gerald and Lynda Smith
 Gary & Tama Tillman
 Bob & Carol Watters
 Earl & Jessica Wemer (friends of Watters)
 Mary Ann McPherson
 Lynn Slack (Mary Ann's daughter)
 Martha Adams (Gerald's other sister)

TRAVELS WITH TAMA

Have to say that this was one busy and fun reunion. Gerald Smith did a great job as host.

We had a slight bobble to begin with. The hotel that was supposed to be host, Prince Charles Radisson, was unable to honor our reservations. Seems that it was full of National Guard troops that had been there for most of the summer and hadn't left yet. Arrangements were made for us at the Best Western instead. It wasn't quite as handy or beautiful, but they did their best on short notice. Plus, Gerald did a terrific job of making things work out for us.

Wed. - Gary and I arrived around 3 PM and were pleasantly surprised at the room we were given. It was very large with a mini kitchen and a balcony, plus a bathroom with the largest tub I have seen in a hotel in a while.

After settling a little, I went on up to the hospitality suite. Gerald sister and brother-in-law, Carolyn and Bill Coble, greeted us and gave us our goodie bags. As the day went along, people were coming and going from the room, filling it to capacity. Gene and Jean Ives had brought all the ARA photo albums at great personal effort (they flew and had them in their luggage) and had them on display. Jean had found an Olive Garden nearby and made reservations for 30. I think that more than 30 showed up there, but the Olive Garden did a great job of handling all of us in the same room at four tables. Once we got back from the restaurant, we made an early night because Gerald had a bus picking us up at 8 AM.

Thurs. - The bus took us to Pope AFB first. It dropped us off near the entrance where they had some planes set up for display. Pope AFB is home for two types of planes, C-141's and small fighter planes that are descended from the Flying Tigers. We had time to wander around the planes on display before two military buses came to pick us up to tour the base. Ed Dorhan acted as our guide and split his time between the two buses. The first stop they made for us was actually on the flight line. Made three stops at various types of planes and were allowed to actually tour two of them inside. The members were thrilled to pieces. Even Gary got excited about the C-141's since that was what he worked on when he was in the Marines.

After the flight line, we drove through the various housing areas. They have everything from historically registered houses (Officer's row) to a recently built new subdivision for the enlisted. We ate lunch at the Pope Club which is actually Officers and NCOs combined. They had a really nice buffet luncheon there. Food was very good and the company was excellent.

After lunch we were returned to the gate area and picked up by our chartered bus. It was used for the Ft. Bragg part of the tour. We started with a stop at the fairly new Womack Hospital. It is a huge and amazing place. They split us into groups of 8 and took us



on a long walking tour. It is so big, even those working there have problems finding things. Aside from having just about everything you could want under one roof, it is quite spacious and very well decorated. We were all very impressed.

Gerald was extremely proud of the center that he took us to next. It is the Chaplain Waters Family Center and is dedicated to family assistance, in other words, taking care of the special needs of the spouse and children. Emily and Bill said that I really missed hearing a very interesting and enthusiastic talk given by Chaplain Robert Loring to the group. Teach me to rest on the bus. Following that, we made a stop at the JFK chapel. It has beautiful stained glass windows. Finished up the tour with a stop at the Special Forces Museum. It was full of memorabilia from the Indian scouts to Desert Storm. Included were all sorts of strange weapons and equipment used by foes as well as the Special Forces themselves. We were returned to the hotel in time for a short break before a large mass of us went to dinner at Joe's Crab House. The food was fantastic and the group had a loud fun time. We fit right in because it is one of those type places where the waitresses dance. They performed to "Working at the Car Wash."

Fri. - We were told to meet out front for our bus at 10 AM. Gary and I walked out the front at exactly 10. Everyone else was already on the bus. Boy, were we teased...and stuck in the last seat in the back next to the toilet. We drove for almost an hour to Benson, NC. It is at the junction of I-40 and I-95. Once a year they have Mule Days. It has been going on for decades and people come from all over for it. It reminded me of a horse and mule version of Bike week in Daytona. We were greeted at the Benson Municipal Auditorium by a Helen Smith (no relation to our host Gerald Smith). She and her husband, Ray G. Smith (a past national president of the American Legion), gave us a little bit of history of their town and then invited us to go downstairs to tour their museum. It had rooms and rooms of STUFF that they had collected. Fascinating old items from an old electric perm machine to a small school room to old clothes and dishes and jars and farm implements. It was really fun to look through it all.

Afterwards, she escorted the bus to a place to park for our lunch. Imagine this lady walking along with a bus following and her even stopping traffic on the main street to allow us to cross. They had reserved this covered picnic area for us to eat our box lunches. She even chased off anyone that didn't belong in our group. The lady has grit and was a favorite of all of us. After our lunches, we got back on the bus and she acted as our tour guide while we drove around the town and she pointed out old houses and gave a little history.

After the tour, she left us and we went on to the mule events. The bus managed to get us close to the small stadium seating around the arena. They were doing pulling contests when we got there. The winner of the single mule pull did 3000 pounds and the winner of the two mule pull did 5000 pounds. You should real-



(Travels With Tama (Continued from page 5))

ize that this is on a sled type thing, no wheels, so it was dead weight. They followed this with the mule races. Gerald had made us play money that he called Jackass Dollars, so that we could bet with each other. The match races ended up with a young girl winning. The last race was a free-for-all. The girl had sense enough to avoid that one. We loaded on the bus again for a run back to the downtown area where they had booths set up with all sorts of things for sale. We were given enough time for a little shopping and sightseeing. And we finished the day with dinner in another town nearby that served family style, all you can eat. Had fried chicken, fried shrimp, fried catfish, barbecue, Brunswick stew, cold slaw, French fries, boiled potatoes and hush puppies. We all stuffed ourselves. The sun was already down when we left the restaurant for the drive back to the hotel.

Sat. - Started with a business meeting at the Prince Charles. It is a very pretty old hotel that has been very well kept up. It is downtown and there are quite a few tourist sites to visit nearby. They had us set up in a small meeting room that was just the right size for our group. The meeting lasted about an hour although we covered a lot of subjects. [see minutes] After the meeting, Gary and I returned to the hotel so we could drop off things and run out to lunch and then return for a much needed rest. Others stayed downtown and did some sightseeing. We ended the day with the final dinner.

It was held at the Prince Charles. Unfortunately, the air conditioning wasn't working very well and the humidity was high because of the light rain falling outside. But other than that, it was a really great evening. Gerald's brother-in-law is a member of a trio that performs, so they provided the entertainment. And the food was outstanding. Following our tradition of the previous year's host giving the current year host



a gift from the group, Lash and Norma Lasher picked some really thoughtful gifts. One got a lot of laughs. Gerald is a retired chaplain and the first gift was a large bottle of grappa. You should have seen Gerald's stunned look. The second gift was a silver replica of the Wright brothers' airplane. Remember, North Carolina was where it was flown. There was a lot of dancing and talking and joking around. Gary and I were one of the earliest to leave because we were leaving the hotel early the next day. It still took me quite a while to make it around the room to tell everyone goodbye.

One last little comment of what I considered interesting and funny. Gary and I proudly drove our new Pacifica to the reunion. We got there to find that we brought one of three that were there. At one point, all three were lined up in the hotel parking lot like some sort of display.

I can't thank Gerald enough for a fantastic time. And everyone has to also extend the thanks to Carolyn Coble for all the assistance she gave to Gerald. She and her husband also attended all the activities to make sure everything ran smoothly. She was even the one that did the beautiful decorations for the final dinner.

Most of you remember that Orsini's restaurant was located northeast of Aviano at the base of the Dolomites. Business was invariably brisk, not only with local Italians and American military families, but also with TDY personnel who often made the restaurant a regular stop. There was no menu; rather, Signore Orsini spied off the evening's selections himself to every customer. His goulasch was not the chunky variety (i.e. Hungarian), but was more similar to that found in neighboring Austria. To "steal" this wonderful recipe, Ben's mother and I actually visited Signore Orsini in his kitchen in 1973 and watched him prepare the dish, taking copious notes—with blessings—and it has always been a family favorite.

In 1997, however, Ben and I took our college-aged kids to Italy for the first time since we departed with 18-month-old Jeff in 1975. We visited Orsini's again, of course, which was by then operated by Orsini's son, as his father had died. Alas, he had changed the recipe—it just didn't taste the same. And, unfortunately, we've heard that the restaurant since then has closed. I submitted the original recipe, along with some others, in an article I wrote for (Military) Family Magazine back in 1983. Many thanks to Gerald Smith for submitting this same recipe to the hotel staff in Fayetteville to prepare as an appetizer at dinner during the 2003 reunion. Although cooked in a more "chunky" style, the flavor was right on and brought back many fond memories. Maybe the recipe below will send you down Memory Lane, too.

3 tbs. oil
 3 medium onions, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, chopped 1 large bay leaf
 _ lb. ground beef
 _ lb. ground pork
 Beef/pork stock or bouillon (about 2 quarts)
 2 Tbs. chopped parsley
 3 1-lb. cans tomatoes
 1 large green or yellow pepper, chopped
 3 large potatoes, diced
 1 tbs. marjoram
 Juice of 1 lemon
 1 tsp salt (or to taste)
 2 tsp pepper (or to taste; Orsini used a *lot*)
 Cornstarch for thickening (optional)

In a large pot, sauté onion and garlic in oil. When mixture is soft and yellow, add meat and brown. Add tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, lemon and spices. Stir in the stock, cover, and simmer one hour, stirring occasionally. If thicker soup is desired, add a little cornstarch which as been mixed with a small amount of water and cook a few minutes more. For the stock, I usually boil some soup bones and ham hocks, along with quartered onions, garlic cloves, and a celery stalk or two, but strain vegetables and soup bones before adding to the meat mixture. These days I generally use only ground beef, not pork.

Enjoy!

Lynn Catalina



MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

Call to Order:

Pres: Tama Tillman

Time: 10:10 AM, September 27, 2003

Thanked Gerald Smith and Carolyn & Bill Coble for reunion success.

Thanked Helen Smith (no relation to G. Smith) for Benson info / stopping traffic.

Approval of the 2001 Minutes: - Motion by Bill Povey. Carried.

Report by Officers:

~Rodger Gracey, VP - Pres. doing a nice job, please continue.

~Emily Povey, Sec/Treas. - Send in any address changes. ARA pins, etc. for sale.

~Nick Leone, Afterburner Editor: Ed Fairchild did get married to Harriet after last reunion. Send in information of interest. Send pictures from the reunion.

~Gene Ives, Historian - Send duplicate pictures.

~Gerald Smith - 2003 Host - Made announcements of the evening's activities.

Election of officers: Guido Casari made the motion to elect the existing Board by acclamation. The motion carried.

New Business:

Proposed Bylaw changes were presented:

Proposed to add:

ARTICLE V: GOVERNING BOARD

8. g. **Webmaster:** Will maintain Aviano Reunion Association Website.

Change current ARTICLE V: 8. g. to 8. h.

Gary Tillman made the motion they be accepted as proposed. Motion carried.

Guido Casari nominated Lynn Catalina as Webmaster. Elected by acclamation.

ARTICLE VI: DUES

1. Currently reads "... payable EACH YEAR prior to April 30" to be changed to "... payable EACH YEAR prior to May 31."

2. Currently reads "... Dues notification letters will be mailed during the month of May, each year." to be changed to "... Dues notification letters will be mailed during the month of June, each year."

3. Currently reads "... dropped from the Mailing List, as of June 30..." to be changed to "... dropped from the Mailing List, as of July 31..." Guido Casari made the motion to accept the proposed changes. Motion carried.

ARTICLE VI: DUES 4. currently reads: "Inactive memberships may be reinstated as "active" memberships upon payment of \$5.00 to the Treasurer or Membership Secretary plus one year's current dues." to be changed to "Inactive memberships may be reinstated as "active" memberships upon payment of the current year's dues."

Gary Tillman made the motion to accept the proposed change. Motion carried.

2005 Reunion Bid.

Tama Tillman offered to host the reunion in Tuscany, Italy with Roberto Bechi being the host/guide.

Jean Ives asked that the agenda be different from the 2002 Tuscany Trip. October, 2005 will be the Reunion month.

Carol Watters moved that Tama Tillman be host for 2005. Motion carried. Tama Tillman stated that the ARA business meeting will be held in 2004, in San Antonio, instead of 2005 in Italy. Lynn Catalina will check out a 2005 cruise for those that would like to continue the Italian reunion for another week. The cruise will probably be from one of the western Italian ports and tour the western Mediterranean countries.

Announcements:

~ Lynn Catalina reported on the San Antonio, 2004, reunion. She and Ben will be assisted by Bill and Dee Davis and Jaime and Belinda Vazquez.

~ Jean Ives gave information about an "Italian Charm Bracelet."

Adjournment: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

*Submitted by: Emily C. Povey, Secretary/Treasurer
September 30, 2003*

TOUGH TO BE MARRIED TO AN ITALIAN!

An elderly Italian man lay dying in his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite Italian anisette sprinkle cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort, gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs. With labored breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen.

Where if not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for there, spread out upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his

favorite anisette sprinkled cookies.

Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted Italian wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man? Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in a crumpled posture. His parched lips parted, the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged and withered hand trembled on its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when it was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife..... "Back of f!" she said, "They're for the funeral."

**AVIANO
AFTERBURNER**

NEWSLETTER OF AVIANO REUNION ASSOCIATION



2623 Hickory Flats Trail
Huntsville, AL 35801