



MACS-8 REUNION 2009

Some of the old gyrenes met at the Comfort Inn, Springfield, Virginia for the 16th annual Marine Air Control Squadron 8 reunion. The event took place 24-28 June and the host couple were Pat and Anne Kearney from Staten Island, New York. Big **OORAHs** go to Pat and Anne, and also to Tom and Margie Redus for personnel research, organizing and starting the reunion in 1994! There were approximately 30 attendees with some surprises. Gunner Mark Rybus came on Friday afternoon to see everyone, especially his "maintenance crew", Tom Redus, Jerry "Ski" Bockowski and Frank Cantrell. Also on Friday morning quite a character entered the breakfast room of the hotel and at first those that saw him figured he was a hotel guest. This person was dressed in shorts, leather vest, bandana and long straight grungy gray hair with a dilapidated cowboy hat on his head. He walked up to a table and producing a gold USMC emblem in his hand said, "Does this get me into this group?" All at the table then really looked at this guy closely and Ski Bockowski said, "Hey, I know you, you're Marcey!" Then K. A. Miller said, "MARZ, Robert. Sure enough, it WAS Bob Marz from Radar. He took the trip down from New Jersey after recently learning about the MACS-8 reunion on the internet. Bob then took off his disguise and was clean cut with a head of well groomed white hair.



Most attendees were from MACS-8's Atsugi, Japan tour from April 1964 thru May 1965, but some like Gene Grabowski were there at the beginning when MACS-8 was founded in Miami. A list of all Marines and their wives at this reunion is on page 3.

Tour schedules included the Sunset Parade at the 8th and I Marine Barracks, Washington, DC on Friday night and a trip to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico on Saturday morning. Some of the attendees went to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, Arlington National Cemetery, Washington Monument, Smithsonian, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

The banquet on Saturday night was held at Houlihan's at the Hilton Hotel across the street from the Comfort Inn. It was a great affair with the door prizes brought by each attendee the highlight of the evening. Get well cards were sent to Larry Fellows, Bill McGinn and Gary Burrier who have health problems. Also mentioned by Tom Redus were 3 MACS-8 Marines who passed away this year, Ray Frady, Alton Stracener, and W. D. Virgin. Farewell brothers! After dinner all went back to the MACS-8 hospitality room and continued talking about their memories from over 40 years ago till late into the night!



16th Reunion Photos...



16th Reunion Attendees...

Pat and Anne Kearney

Tom and Margie Redus

Larry and Rose Benoit

Johnny and Pat Freeman

Jim and Carol Liston, brother David,
and friends Mike and Jacquelyn Belli

Charlie and Ginger Eicher

Len and Angie Patchin

Chick and Mary Ann Pendergraft

Gene and Joann Grabowski

Charlie Zahm and granddaughter Cynthia

Sig and Janet Stenmark

Sue Bragdon (widow of Ron)

Ed Dorin

Larry and Stephanie Butts

Tom Plantz

Kent (K.A.) Miller

Jerry Bockowski

Mark Rybus

Bob Marz

A. Kent Parker

Frank Cantrell

Ken and Judy Overman

Bill and Theresa Drobek



MARINES
THE FEW. THE PROUD.