Son Tay Raid Photographs

Army raiders had three designated photographers who recorded activity during training, deployment and raid execution. Initially they were all classified but some became available after the post raid debriefing. Almost all photographs of the raid were assembled in the third volume of the *Commander JCS Joint Contingency Task Group, Report on the Son Tay Prisoner of War Rescue Operation Raid, Part III.* This volume consisted of numerous planning and in flight maps and logs, supporting documents, photographs, radio tape recordings, debriefing tapes and transcripts as well as assorted small items from the entire operation. The footlocker was stored at SACSA headquarters and was lost after this organization dissolved after the war.

Air Force raiders did not have an assigned photographer and its crews were forbidden to take photographs during training and operation. There was only one photo op on which chase aircraft photographed daytime formation inside of the Eglin AFB restricted area.



B.G. Donald D. Blackburn



B. G. LeRoy J. Manor

Training in Florida



Colonel Arthur D. "Bull" Simons Captain Richard A. Meadows Lieutenant Colonel Elliott P. Sydnor



Blueboy Assault Group



Greenleaf Support Group



Redwine Security Group



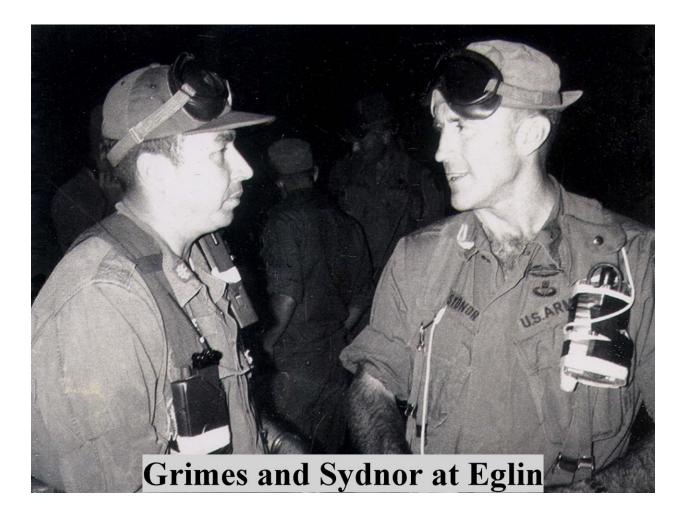
Redwine Command Element

Redwine Element # 1



Redwine Element #2

Redwine Element #3



Cloth and 2x4 mock-up of the Son Tay POW camp



Ground training



Blueboys in HH-3 Banana

On the ground at Duke Field







Macomber (USAF Ops Security)

Paine (Peach 1)

White House reception

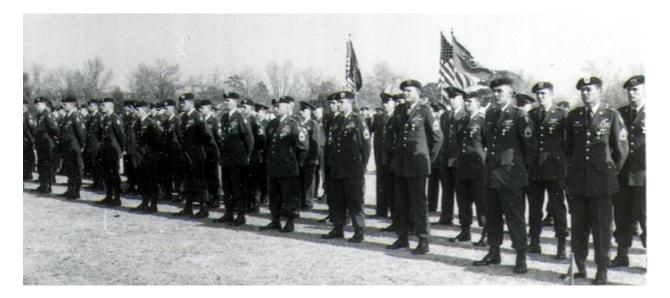


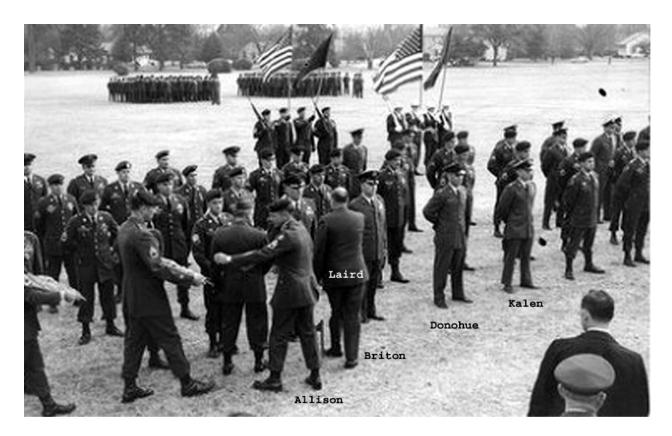
Warm welcome and awards for Tsgt, Wright and SFC Adderly from President Nixon in the White House.

Fort Bragg, North Carolina

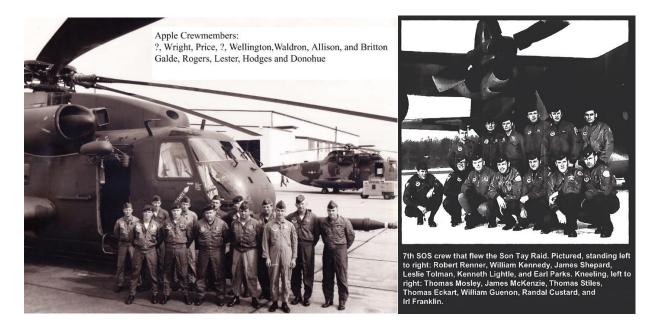


Parade and presentation of decorations by the Secretary of Defense Melvin R .Laird.





Helicopter crew awards



HH-53 Apple crews from Eglin AFB and C-130 Cherry One crew from Ramstein AB, Germany.



Crew of Cherry Two: Kneeling – John Gargus (radar navigator), Norman Mazurek (map navigator), Paul Stierwalt (radio operator), Ron Jones (alternate pilot), Gerald Carroll (maintenance officer), Albert Blosch (aircraft commander), Mike Connaughton (pilot). Standing – William Brown (alternate engineer), Jimmie Riggs (flight engineer) Failus Potts (alternate radio operator), Billy Elliston (loadmaster), Dallas Criner (flight engineer), Harry Pannill (copilot), Bill Stripling (FLIR navigator) and Mel Gibson (loadmaster). **Coming home**

"Operation Homecoming" Return of first Vietnam War Prisoners of War

Feb. 12, 1973





Processing details.

This way is home.



Lining up for a bus ride.

Last photo op in Vietnam.



Hanoi Taxi plane ride to freedom.



Welcome home in Hawaii and welcome home on the mainland.



Families and friends wait for the Air Evac plane at home airports.

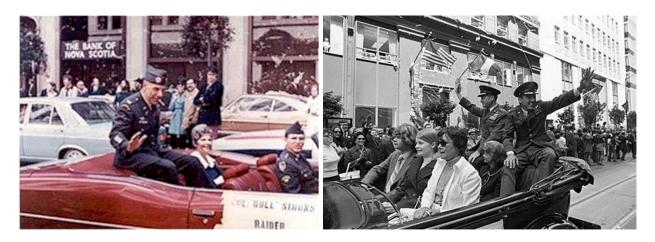


Happy sprints to daddy's arms.

1973 - San Farncisco Homecoming

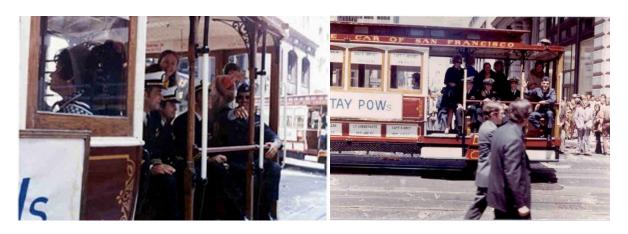


Mr. Ross Perot welcoming and hosting returning POWs in San Francisco.



"Bull" Simons on a street parade.

POWs with their wives and families in the parade.



Navy and Air Force POWs enjoy a cable car ride

1989 - First Reunion at Fort Walto Beach



Army raiders



Wives of raiders and POWs



Blueboys

Redwines



Greenleafs

Air Force raiders



Son Tay POWs

Planners and support



Gargus (Cherry 1) at memorabilia display

Gargus (Air Ops) with Brinson (USMC plans)



Gargus and Gray (Son Tay POW)

Day (POW) and Andraitis (Photo Intel)

1992 – Fort Bragg



Raiders and POWs attending the second Son Tay raid reunion



Reunion attendees at prison model Barbara in the JFK Museum.



Meadows (Blueboy and Donohue (Apple 3) Sydnor (Ground force CO), Donohue (Apple 3) and Franklin (Cherry 1)



Leon Franklin and wife Ella May

Kemmer (Blueboy, unknown and Gargus (Cherry 2)



Donohoe (Apple 3) with Meadows (Blueboy)



Demonstration at Camp McCall

1995 - Fort Walton Beach



Dutton and Schierman (Son Tay POWs) with Petrie (Blueboy and Donohoe (Apple 3) Manor (JCTF CO) and Kraljev (JCTF Operations)



Kraljev (Ops), Ropka JCTF Plans) and Gargus (Cherry 2 and Air Ops plans) Robbins, Petrie, Kemmer and StClair (all Blueboys)



Jean and Dick Dutton (Son Tay POW) Gargus, Stripling and Connaughton (all Cherry 2) with Ellen Connaughton.

1997 – Dallas



Reunion welcome from Mr. Ross Perot Manor (JCTF CO), Mr Perot with wife Margo and Schierman (Son Tay POW) with wife Fay



Honoring Dick Meadows – Ford (Son Tay POW) with Janet Meadows and Gargus (Cherry 2) Rememberin the displaced Montaignards



Tribute to "Bull" Simons (Deputy CO JCTF)

Mr Ross Perot



Gargus Cherry 2) and Franklin (Cherry 1) Manor (JCTF CO) with his wife Dee and Jean Sydnor with her husband (Ground force CO)



Powell (Greenleaf) and Peshkin (Ops and Plans)

Andraitis (Photo Intel) with Mr. Perot



Andraitis (Photo Intel) with Manor

Gargus (Cherry 1) and Lupyak (Redwine)



Gargus (Cherry 1) with Manor (JCTF CO)

George Petrie (Blueboy)

<text>

1998 – Dallas Nam POW reunion "25 years of freedom"

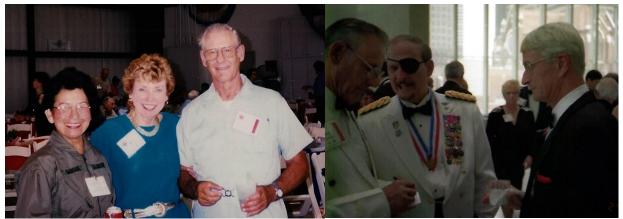
Reunion program with anniversary pastry.



Gathering before the formal banquet



Mary Baugh, Anita Gargus and Bill Baugh (POW) Fran Chapman with her husband Harley (POW) and John Gargus with wife Anita Bill and John were classmates in college and Harley was John's classmate in high school.



Anita Gargus with Jean and Dick Dutton (Son Tay POW). Dick Dutton with George Petrie (Blueboy) and Tom Powell (Greenleaf).



Gargus and his flag with Tom Madison (Son Tay POW). Julius Jayroe (Son Tay POW0 and his wife Lupe.



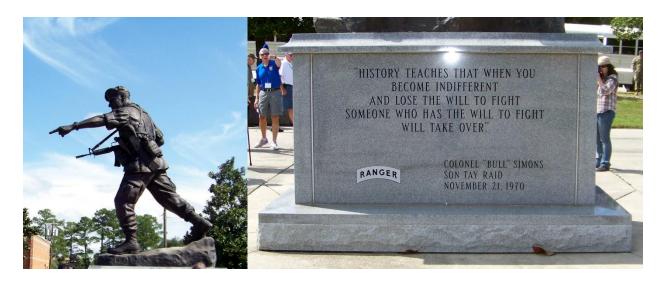
Anita Gargus with Ross and Margo Perot. General Robinson Risener (POW) with a lady and his wife Dot.



Gargus with three Vietnamese veterans who were guests of Mr Perot. Gargus and David Gray (Son Tay POW) with three Vietnamese POWs. Man on the right of Gargus was a member of team Tourbillion that was resupplied in North Vietnam by Gargus' Combat Talon in November 1968. He was soon captured, tortured and imprisoned for 18 years. Mr Perot was successful in getting him and the other two POWs out of Vietnam 1999 – Fort Bragg – Dedication of statue to "Bull" Simons



Son Tay raiders who attended the statue dedication: Standing are Murray (Redwine), Manor (JCTF CO), McGuire (Redwine), Jakovenko (Greenleaf), Powell (Greenleaf), Joplin (Greenleaf), Bleacher (Greenleaf), Lupyak (Redwine), McKinney (Blueboy) and Turner (Redwine). Kneeling are StClair (Blueboy), McClam (Redwine), Strahan (Redwine), Unidentified, Donohoe (Apple 3) and Sydnor (Ground Force CO).

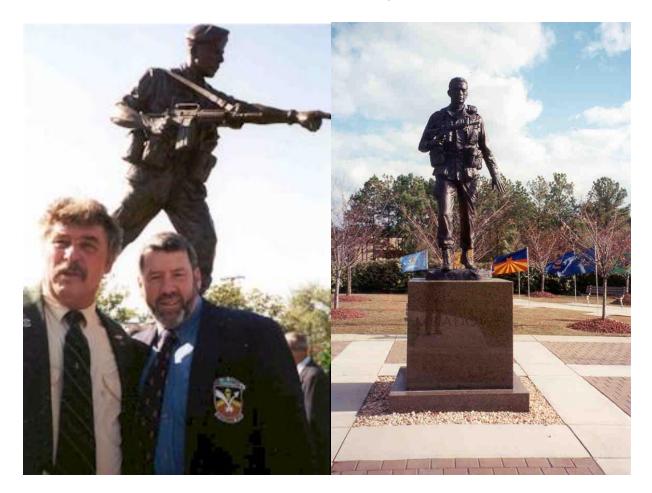


Statue of Simons and his quote at its base pedestal





Dedication ceremony



Jakovenko (Greenleaf) and McGuire (Redwine) Statue of Dick Meadows (Blueboy)



Schierman (Son Tay POW), Jakovenko (Greenleaf) and Donohue (Apple3) Darlene with husband Galen Kittleson (Blueboy)



McMillin (Blueboy)with Bleacher (Greenleaf) and Robbins (Blueboy) Bleacher (Blueboy), behind him is Mr. Liedetke, sculptor of the "Bull's" statue.



Jakovenko (Greenleaf), Adderly (Redwine), Unidentified and McGuire (Redwine) McClam (Redwine) with Lupyak (Redwine) and McKinney (Blueboy).

2000 – Fort Walton Beach



NAM/POWs in the Hospitality Room.

Signing of Blueboy painting.



Stories by Doug Clower (Son Tay POW) and John Gargus (Cherry Two navigator).



Warner and Barbara Britton (Apple One).

Margaret and Greg McGuire (Redwine).



Warner Britton with Barbara (Apple One) and Evelyn Allison with John (Apple Two). Texas Congressman Sam Johnson with Margaret McGuire and Tom.



Carlson and Jakovenko (Greenleafs). Faye with husband Schierman and Terrell (Son Tay POWs).



Bleacher (Greenleaf) with Clower (Son Tay POW).and McGuire (Redwine). Jake Jakovenko, Earl Bleacher, Doug Clower, Greg McGuire and Tyrone Adderly.



Franklin (Cherry One), Gibson (Cherry Two) and McMullin (Blueboy). Norm Bild (STRA friend) with Jake jakovenko.

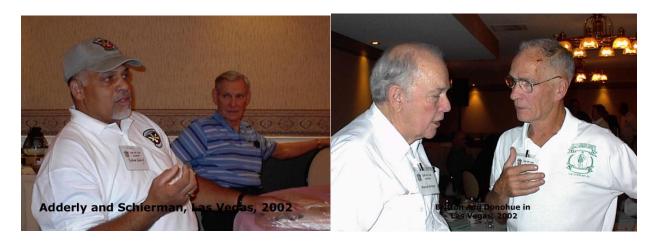


Lowry (Firebird Five) with John Gargus Jr. and father John Gargus (Cherry Two). Greg McGuire and his son Thomas (Redwine).



John Allison (apple Two) and Warner Britton (Apple One). Herman Spencer, Joe Murray and Bud Sydnor (Redwines)

2002 – Las Vegas



Adderly (Redwine), Schierman(Son Tay POW), Britton (Apple 1) and Donohue (Apple 3)



David and Janice Ford

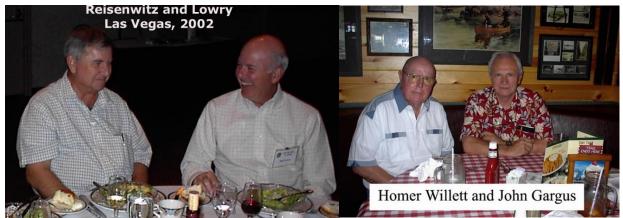
Sully deFontaine with wife Angelique



McMullin (Blueboy) and Rodriguez (Greenleaf). Miller (Greenleaf) and Sydnor (Ground CO).



Kronebusch (Firebird 1), Schierman (Sontay POW). Kemmer(Blueboy) and Reisenwitz(Firebird 3).



Reisenwitz(Firebird 3) and Lowry (Firebird 5) Willett (USAF Hq) and Gargus (Cherry 2)



Ramage (USS Oriskany) and Gargus

Blackburn (SACSA)



Kronebusch (Firebird 1)with Pauline Frisbie and Ober(Firebird4) Petrie (Blueboy) and Adderly (Redwine)



Erickson (Blueboy), Jakovenko and Rodriguez (Greenleafs), StClair (Blueboy) and Adderly (Redwine)Brundstrom (POW), McMullin and Robbins (Blueboys)



Family of John Gargus from Slovakia – brother Milan, sister Viera, sister-in-law Terezia, wife Anita, Mr. Perot, and son John Jr. Britton (Apple 1), Sydnor (Ground CO), Mr Perot and Schierman (Son Tay POW)



John Gargus Jr, John, Anita and Mr.Perot

Gloria and Tyrone Adderly (Redwine)



Franklin (Cherry 1), Donohue (Apple 3)

Dora and Mel Gibson (Cherry 2)



Waddell (POW)

Zehnder (Banana)

Sandy and Vladimir Jakovenko

2004 – Fort Bragg



Joplin and Powell(Greenleafs) with Guenon (Cherry 1) Clower (Son Tay POW), Turner (Redwine)



StClair (Blueboy) and Day (POW)Powell (Greenleaf and Schierman (Son Tay POW)



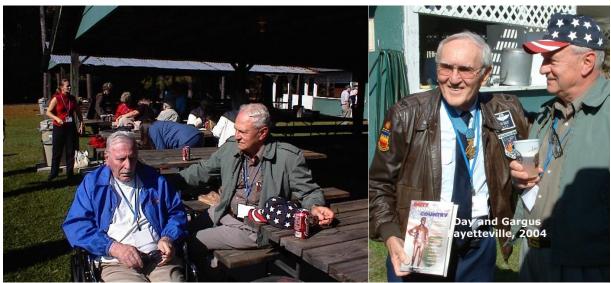
Taapken and Joplin (Greenleafs)

Mr. Perot, Clower (POW) and Gargus (Cherry 2)



Turner and Lupyak (Redwines)

Grady Vines (Support) and wife Beverly



Zehnder (Banana) and Gargus (Cherry 1)

Day (POW), Gargus (Cherry 2),



Medenski (Greenleaf) Bill and Ursula Guenon (Cherry 1) Joplin (Greenleaf)



McMullin (Blueboy) and Davis (Plans)

Medenski (Greenleaf and StClair (Blueboy)

2005 – Washington D. C. Red River Rat and NAM?POW reunion



Gargus with Anita and Joplin at Capitol steps. John and Anita Gargus with Jack and Kat Joplin



.Helen and Al Brunstrom on River Rat reunion in Washington D.C. in 2004. Kat and Jack Joplin (Greenleaf)



Powell (Greenleaf), Brunstrom (Son Tay POW), Joplin (Redwine), Sydnor (Ground CO) and Gargus (Cherry 2). Sydnor, Powell, Brunstrom and Gargus



2006 - Dayton - NAM/POW and STRA reunion "Hanoi Taxi"

Sydnor (JCTF Ground force CO)

Clower (Son Tay POW and SRO)



Gargus (Cherry 2) and Chevriere (Frog 1) Buckler (Redwine) Gargus and StClair (Blueboy)



Gaither (POW) with Sydnor (Ground force CO) and Gargus (Cherry 2) at Barbara table. Buckler (Redwine) Gargus Mona and husband Pat StClair (Blueboy)



Rhein (Peach 1), Donohue (Apple 3) and Gargus (Cherry 2) Judy and Frank Roe (Greenleaf) and Grady Vines (Support)



Mike and Helen Connaughton (Cherry 2) Anita Gargus with Galanti and McGrath (POWs)



Bud Day (CMH POW) with Mona and Pat StClair (Blueboy) Julius Jayroe and Orson Swindle (POWs)



Murray (Redwine), Brunstrom (Son Tay POW) and Anita Gargus. The Strayers of Apple Two.

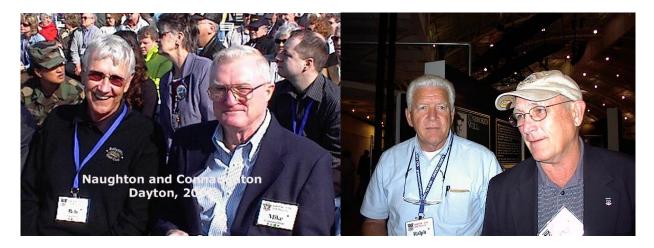


Anita and John Grgus with his high school classmate Harley Chapman (USMC POW) StClair (Blueboy) and Chevrier(Frog 1)



McGuire (Redwine) and McMullin (Blueboy)

Jakovenko, McGuire, Buckler and McMullin



Naughton (POW) and Connaughton (Cherry 2) Gaither (Son Tay POW) and McGrath (POW)

2008 - Dallas NAM/POW 35 years of freedom



One busload of attendees with a new F-35



Martin (Redwine), Jakovenko (Greenleaf) and Adderly (Redwine) Roe (Greenleaf), Murray, Strahan and McGuire (Redwines)



Maurine and Doug Clower (Son TayPOW) with Anita Grgus Mary and Chuck Schantag of POW/MIA Network with John Gargus Cherry2)



Dylan Schlaak with grandmother Anita Gargus Sydnor with wife Jean and Mr Perot Gargus (Cherry2) and Baugh (POW) – Bowling Green University classmates



Turners

Dan and Barbara Turner

Sydnor (Ground force CO)



Baker and McGrath (POWs)

David Ford (Son Tay POW)



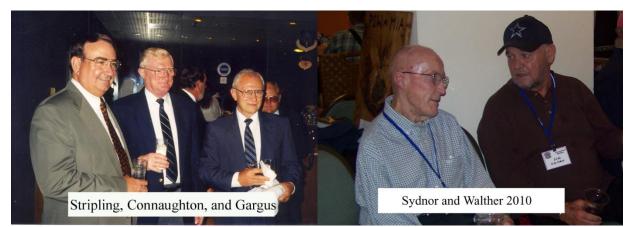
Dylan Schlaak, Anita Gargus and Bill Baugh.

Anita with Dylan and Pat StClair.



Russ Ober (Firebird 4), Bob Kronebush (Firebird 1) and Ted Lowry (Firebird 5). Marty Donohue and Tom Waldron (pilot and copilot of Apple 3).

2010 – San Destin , Florida



Stripling, Connaughton and Gargus (Cherry 2) Sydnor (Ground CO and Walther(Greenleaf)



Strahan (Redwine) McKinney (Blueboy)

Strahan, Turner and Martin (Redwines)



Ropka and Kraljev (Operations, Plans and Training) Ross Perot with Ruud and son (Support)



Ross Perot, Clower (Son Tay POW) and Gargus (Cherry 1)Peshkin, Ropka and Kraljev (Operations, Plans and Training) Vaughan (Banana alternate and Gargus (Cherrt 2)



Walther (Greenleaf), StClair Blueboy and Buckler (Redwine) Batsell (General Manor's Aide)) and Gargus (Cherry2)

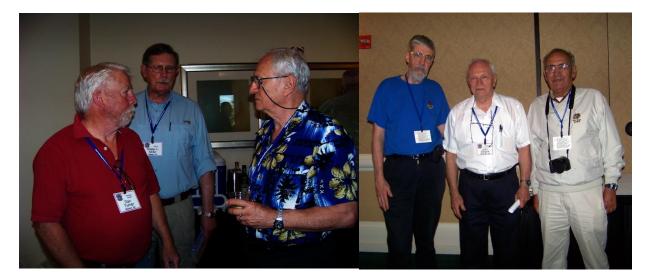


Wes Schierman and David Ford (Son Tay POWs)



Gargus and Manor

Cataldo (JCTF Doctor) at home in Manchester, NH



Turner (Redwine), Miller (Greenleaf) and Gargus Cherry 2) McClelland (Combat Apple 1) with Gargus (Cherry 2) and Quezada (Redwine)



Custard and Guenon (Cherry 1)

Quezada (Redwine) and Gargus (Cherry 2



Jakovenko and Walther (Greenleafs) with Turner (Redwine) Williams (UH-1 Banana) with Miller (Greenleaf)



StClair (Blueboy and Gargus (Cherry 2)

Randy Custard and wife (Cherry 1)

2012- Fort Benning



McGuire (Redwine) StClair(Blueboy) and Turner (Redwine) Joplin (Greenleaf) McClellan (Combat Apple 1) and Waldron (Apple 3)



McKinney (Blueboy) and Turner (Redwine) Sydnor with wife Jean and with Anita Gargus



Gargus book signing

Marsha and Terry Buckler (Redwine)



Adams (Support) and Anita Gargus Joplin (Greenleaf) and Peggy Moore, BK's widow



Anita Gargus and Dick Peshkin (Ops and TNG) Bild (STRA friend) and Strahan (Redwine)



Gargus (Cherry 2) and Eckhart (Cherry 1)

2014 – Kansas City



Kansas City reunion attendees.



John Gargus, Al Brunstrom, Pat StClair, Terry Buckler, Ed Britt, Keith Medenski, George Williams, X, Joe Murray, X and Frank Roe



At B-2 bomber at the entrance to Whiteman Air Force Base



Senator Roberts with Buckler (Redwine) and Bild (STRA friend) with Stutz (Son Tay POW)



Rodriguez and Miller (Greenleafs) with Studz (SonTay POW) Erich Anderson with Brunstrom and Studz (Son Tay POWs)



National anthem at Kansas Speedway with Son Tay raiders as honored guests

2015 - Cannon Air Force Base

27th Air Commando Wing at Cannon AFB which displays the Son Tay raid's Cherry One at the entrance to the Cannon AFB celebrated the raid's 45th anniversary on 20 November 2015 and invited all the raiders to this ceremony. The wing put all nine attendees on per diem that covered all their expenses and gave them and their wives a very memorable and appreciative welcome.



Cherry One

Opening Ceremony



History of Cherry One by Gargus

Enjoying the Chery One tales



Jim McClam with John Gargus and an award for entertainment from the Wing CO.Col,. Maitre



Award plaque to Ed Britt

Award plaque toTom Waldron



Ed Britt (Support), Mickey Batsell (Gen Manor's Aide), Pat StClair (Blueboy, Joe Murray (Redwine), John Gargus (Cherry 2) Tom Waldron (Apple 3), Col.Ben Maitre (Wing CO), Wing CSM, Jim McClam (Redwine), Bob Nelson (Greenleaf) and Bruce McClelland (Combat Apple 1)



Robert Nelson, Edwin Britt, Mickey Batsell and Thomas Waldron



Anita Gargus, Diana Murray, Paula Miller, Janie McClam and Thelma Nelson with wife of Capt Wilson, protocol host, who provided flowers for the five accompanying raider ladies.

Fayetteville – 2016

Troy industries presented Son Tay raid version of Car-15 to each Army raider who couldstill be located. Each weapon had an engraved name of the raider

To mark the 45th Anniversary of the Son Tay Raid, TROY has partnered with The National League of POW/MIA Families. A limited edition, historically accurate GAU.-5/A/A with modern manufacturing excellence will be offered with portions of the proceeds going directly to support their sole purpose: "to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War."



Front Row: Roe (Greenleaf), Wingrove (Greenleaf), Martin (Redwine), Jakovenko (Greenleaf), Juli Breyton (Troy Marketing), Adderly (Redwine), Nelson (Greenleaf), Britt (Support) and McKinney (Blueboy).

Back row: Spencer (Redwine), McClam (Redwine), Murray (Redwine), Medenski (Greenleaf), Buckler (Redwine), StClair (Blueboy) and Joplin (Greenleaf).



In JFK Museum: Jakovenko at Remembered Warriors wall plaque and "Bull" Simons' display.



Jay and Barbara Strayer, Tom Waldron and Diane Murray. Tyrone and Gloria Adderly, Janie and Jim McClam with Margaret and Greg McGuire



Martha and Billy Martin with Frank Roe

Dick Peshkin and Roxanne Merritt



Certificates and guns

Robert Nelson receives his Car-15 from Steve Troy



Steve Troy with Keith Medenski

Steve Troy with Frank Roe



Proud owners of CAR-15 Jake Jakovebko, Tyrone Adderly and Dan McKinney



Jim McClam Joe Lupyak and Dan McKinney

Tyrone Adderly and Joe Lupyak



Joe Lupyak with Roxanne Merritt

Son Tay POWs Brenneman, Ellis and Brunstrom

New Orleans – 2017 NAM/POW



Day and night fun in this fabulous city.



Great visit to a superb war museum.

Great surprise awaited all attendees. "Quilt of Honor" ladies from California prisented a specially made quilt to each POW and Son Tay raider. Precious quilts are professional quilting works of art that are numbered and registered specifically to each recipient. We cannot thank the ladies enough. Their names also appear on the sewn in certificate.



Gail Bellmont, Executive Director of the Quilts of Honor, presents a quilt to Ed Britt as Tyron Adderly looks on. Quilt to Pat StClair follows



Gail gets a well deserved hug from Ron Strahan . John Gargus gets his after Terry Buckler.



Registration label on the back side of a quilt.



Show offs Adderly, Britt, Buckler and Gargus.



Ladies with Orson Swindell.

Wayne Waddell's quilt.



Tyrone and Gloria Adderly with Lee Ellis.

The StClairs and the Bucklers.



Janie and Jim McClam with Don Taapken.

Frisco , Tx – 2018 NAM/POW 45th Anniversary of Freedom



Attending NAM/POWs at the 50 yard line of Dallas Cowboys football field.



National Anthem at Mr. Perot's Circle T Ranch.



Visit to Mr. Perot's Legacy Hall museum.



POW/MIA wall display and Son Tay raid corner.



Presentation of Mr. Perot's unfinished portrait and his luncheon treat for everyone.



Visit to the Oval Office at G.W.Bush Library.



Lunch and entertainment given to the attendees by the local Vietnamese community. Mary Schantag of P.O.W. Network and Erich Anderson with wife Teresa of the Veterans Tribute.



Political roundtable with Frank Lund. Around from the left photo: Richard Vaughan, Tom Hanton, Orson Swindle, Gene Smith, Jack Trimble, Ron Mastin, Jack Trimble, Lee Ellis, Frank Lund, Jim Ray, and Richard Vaughan.



Air show salute.

Presentation of colors at the banquet.



Jim Lamar (Cowboys owner Jerry Jones look alike), Norman McDaniel and Digger Odell.