

COL Bill McPherson Birthday Celebration

On June 30th, 2024 We helped celebrate Col Bill McPherson's 90th Birthday at the Wings Over The Rockies Air & Space Museum alongside his UH1-M "Mike" Model Gun Ship, "Sweet Sioux".



Helping to celebrate were, In the first picture: Front row L-R, BG Kathleen Flarity, and Chapter Members, COL Bill McPherson, LTC Ken Overturf; Back row L-R Crew Chief TSgt Ed Arden and CSM Bill Martin. All were involved in "Helicopter Ministries with Sweet Sioux". As many of you know, Helicopter Ministries has provided a source of healing to many Vietnam Veterans through the 150 events over the last 10 years. Some of them have been in conjunction with our Helicopter War Museum Events.

Dedication of "Sweet Sioux" Ceremony 2019



Bill graduated Flight School Class 63-4. He was shot down during his first tour in Vietnam in 1966, conducting close air support to a Special Forces Fire Base. He managed to crash land the Helicopter gun ship inside the wire where his crew chief pulled him to safety. He had sustained 3 rounds to the abdomen and suffered severe spinal injuries. He recovered from those injuries only to return to Vietnam and serve two more tours.

After 30 years of Service he returned to Colorado and eventually became the City Manager of Cripple Creek, CO. Aside from establishing Helicopter Ministries with Sweet Sioux and a host of volunteers, He was also recruited as the Ambassador Commander to the 34th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron at the 302nd Airlift Wing at Peterson Air Force Base by the Squadron Commander, then Lt. COL Kathleen Flarity. That was a unique fit as he was restored to duty, to fly again, following being shot down in Vietnam by the Aeromedical personnel of the Army's 93rd Evacuation unit and the Medical evacuation personnel of the Air Force in Camp Ho Zama, Japan.

Bill had this to say, "For a service member who is critically injured, it is the "AeroMed" (Aero Medical Evacuation Personnel) who may be their last thought". Colonel McPherson explained. "The "AeroMed" could remind them of their mother, wife, or daughter-they are in their thoughts during their last moments of life. I was saved by the U.S. Air Force AeroMed's".

Bill also stated that, "If you don't come to my 90th you won't get invited to my 100th".

Happy Birthday Bill!!!