

## A brief synopsis of the Gray Ghosts reunion in San Diego, California

I would rate our reunion as another huge success. There was more than enough beverages and snacks available, in fact, I know of one particular beverage that gave up its' liquid gold to a couple of participants (gul-gulg).

Wednesday, September 11, we were afforded a couple of options. Some toured an animal park, where I heard some of these participants got lost, but still enjoyed the outing. That afternoon we were given the opportunity to try our hand in an F-18 flight simulator. For those that tried, their experiences varied from moderately successful to a hoot!!! I managed to play submarine during my attempt. **Captain URIBE**, our tour guide, quoted while laughing, "We don't inform our enemies that the F-18 has this capability". Just so you know, I didn't get wet.

Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup>, was spent at the Pearson home where we enjoyed a BBQ luncheon, played Bingo and held our annual scholarship auction. Some folks had "**Hot**" hands playing Bingo, I'm not sure if this was a set-up, only Rick N. knows for sure. And the auction managed to raise a respectable amount for the cause.

On Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup>, was memorable for a few of us as we attended the Graduation Ceremony at MCRD, San Diego. It's been more than 62 years since I participated in it and another member was last there 52 years ago. Although things are much improved since 1962 (Buildings, etc.) the more it stayed the same. I wonder if their DI's told the recruits not to dream about those Big Birds lifting off at the airport right next door. Next, we toured the USS Midway, and enjoyed our lunch there. This was also my first time aboard a "Navy Grey thing"! I managed to outsmart a few Commands that tried to get me aboard one during my active-duty years. That evening was spent at Fillippi's Scripps Ranch for Happy Hour and a banquet. Our guest speaker was LtGen. Terry "Guts" Robling, former DCS Air, and I feel confident that those in attendance got an idea of what our "Marine Corps" is doing/planning.

Saturday was again departure time. I hope everyone in attendance enjoyed the camaraderie of friends old and new, and that everyone got home safely. We're looking forward to seeing **YOU** at next year's reunion in Key West, Florida.

