



ATFAR NEWS

ALL THAT FUN AFTER RETIREMENT

2024



ATFAR is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization committed to keeping retired ATF employees active, up to date and in touch with each other. Our motto says it all:

Fellowship Based on a Lifetime of Service

ATFAR

Box 547 Mountain Home TN 37684



RENDEZVOUS 2025



Due to the catastrophic devastation from Hurricane Helene in east Tennessee, Rendezvous 2025 has been rescheduled until September 7 — 10, 2025

Currently Interstate 26 and Interstate 40 are impassable and not expected to be repaired till mid August 2025 and hundreds of secondary roads in the area are simply gone. Dislocated citizens are being lodged at many of the area hotels, including the one we had selected for Rendezvous 2025.

Join us in celebrating ATFAR's 50th Anniversary at Rendezvous 2025.

A separate flyer will be mailed to all with new details for Rendezvous 2025.

ATFAR member William “Billy” Queen helps those in need in the North Carolina mountains.

On Friday and Saturday, September 27th and 28th, 2024, western North Carolina and east Tennessee suffered catastrophic devastation resulting from the unprecedented amount of rain from hurricane Helene. The region had already had three days of heavy rain prior to Helen’s arrival causing rivers to rise to near flood stage.

Helene settled in on the Appalachian Mountains and dumped more water into the mountains in twenty-four hours than ever recorded..

ATFAR member, William “Billy” Queen heard about the devastation in western North Carolina and east Tennessee. Having spent a career as an ATF Special Agent and being involved in numerous natural disasters in the past knew what needed to be done. Retired Special Agent (RSA) Queen is a licensed commercial aircraft pilot and owns a Piper Arrow, single engine airplane. RSA Queen immediately reached out to the Central Baptist Church in Oak Ridge N.C. They, in turn began collecting food, water, clothing, medications, and first aid supplies to send to the affected area. RSA Queen loaded supplies into his Piper Arrow until he reached the maximum safe weight limit (between four hundred and four hundred fifty pounds of supplies) and ferried the much-needed supplies into the affected region.



Retired Special Agent William “Billy” Queen poses in front of his Piper Arrow prior to a humanitarian flight delivering much needed supplies to the mountains of North Carolina.



Retired Special Agent Queen, working with the Central Baptist Church of Oak Ridge North Carolina delivers lifesaving supplies to areas devastated by Hurricane Helene

At the time of writing RSA Queen has made seven humanitarian trips into the mountain region of North Carolina. There has been no compensation or reimbursement for fuel or maintenance of his aircraft made to RSA Queen by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) or any other governmental component. RSA Queen stepped up and undertook this mission out of the kindness of his heart and his compassion for those in need. RSA Queen explained that there were several ATFAR members supporting his efforts in flying in the much-needed supplies.

RSA Queen was able to tour many of the areas that were hardest hit and it left him deeply touched and sad to see so much devastation. His heart swells with pride when he sees the amount of support and effort of other volunteers like himself.

Retired Special Agent Billy Queen plans to keep flying in supplies as long as needed or as long as he is able.

**WOW! Billy you are a certified Hero!
THANK YOU**

DID WE HAVE A BLAST IN ARIZONA! - YES!

RENDEZVOUS 2024—Springtime in the desert.

Over sixty ATFAR members traversed the United States to attend RENDEZVOUS 2024 in Tempe Arizona, April 28th through May 1.

The fun began on Sunday evening, April 28th with the opening of the ATFAR Hospitality Room and continued for the next three evenings. Attendees enjoyed a fantastic Steam Boat ride on Canyon Lake in the Superstition Mountains, ate lunch at an authentic 1800's restaurant and saloon, floated down the Salt River in inner tubes and some participated in an art class in a private art studio.

The Drury Inn, a fantastic venue, not only provided a first rate breakfast every day but also provided a hot meal and cocktails every evening prior to the opening of the ATFAR hospitality room.

Fun was the name of the game each evening as we gathered in the hospitality room for games, auctions, door prizes and more. Several new activities were added this year including ATF Trivia, Bingo and "Prize Winner—Spin the Wheel." Everyone had a blast!

Rendezvous 2024 concluded with a catered gourmet meal and ATFAR members wishing each other well until next year.



ATFAR members aboard a charter bus headed for a steamboat cruise on Canyon Lake in the Superstition Mountains and lunch at Tortilla Flats



More photos on the ATFAR Facebook page.

Rendezvous 2024 Tempe, Arizona

FUN WITH
FRIENDS

P A



FUN WITH FRIENDS



Did you know...

The cost of mailing the ATFAR newsletter is going up and up and up. Also, if you move or have provided us the wrong address the ATFAR newsletter will be returned by the post office to ATFAR at a cost of \$1.00 each! Make sure your address is up to date!!!

It's Official: Social Security Benefits Only Get a 2.5% COLA in 2025

The Social Security Administration released news on Thursday, Oct. 10, explaining that beneficiaries will receive a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2025. That means the average monthly retired worker benefit will increase from \$1,920 in August 2024 to \$1,968 in January 2025. Retired workers haven't received a smaller raise since 2021.

We need your stories.

Help us keep the ATFAR newsletter interesting. Submit your stories and recollections so we can share them with the ATFAR membership.

Submit your article, story or your recollections to us at:

atfarsetup@gmail.com



Did you know that ATFAR has a private facebook page?

You can keep up with ATFAR events. Communicate with other ATFAR members or share what is going on in your life.

The ATFAR facebook page is a private group that is accessible only by invitation. Currently we have over 500 members on the page. If you would like to be part of the facebook page send a short email to atfarsetup@gmail.com. If you are a member of the page and know a member of ATFAR that is not on the page you can send an invite to them by clicking the "Invite" button on the facebook page ATFAR home screen.

Don't forget to pay your dues!



Did you know that 78% of ATFAR members are now Current on their dues? Thank you for staying up to date!

If you are not one of the 78% You can pay your dues at ATFAR.org or mail your dues to:

**ATFAR
Box 547 Mountain Home,
Tennessee 37684**

May as well laugh about it!

I was taught to respect my elders, but now it is getting harder to find one.

How many retirees does it take to change a lightbulb? One, but it will take all day!

The older we get the earlier it gets late.

At my age the only pole dancing I do is holding on to the safety bar in the bathtub.

Don't let your age get you down, it's too hard to get up again!

Not saying that I am old but my doctor just referred me to an archeologist.

What do you call someone who really enjoys Mondays? Retired.

With age comes wisdom... and hair in some really weird places.



ATTENTION NRT MEMBERS / ARSON INVESTIGATORS

Did you work any of the 911 scenes?
Did you serve on an ATF NRT?
Did you work fire scenes?
Do you have or had Cancer?
This article is for you.

Jen Eskew ATF Retired

In March of 2023, I was sick and tired of hearing about my former co-workers being diagnosed with cancer. Most of them had been in the ATF medical surveillance program for years, yet only a few years after they retired, they were being diagnosed with cancer. Something needed to be done, but I had no clue as to what or where to start. I reached out to a current ATF CFI, Dawn Dodsworth Whetzel, whom I greatly admire, seeking her opinion on asking a new CFI Candidate to conduct their required research project documenting incidents of cancers within the retired ATF NRT/CFI/CES community. Sort of like a follow-up to the medical surveillance program. It sounded like a good idea, but logistically, how would someone find retirees? We all know, once you retire, you are virtually dead to ATF HQs. She suggested I try locating people, then we'd attempt to wrangle a CFI Candidate into a follow-up study and white paper. Being a trained investigator, my search for retirees was done via Facebook Groups: ATFAR, ATFA, and CFI's Past and Present. Plus, continually asking everyone in the ATF family to please reach out to everyone within our family. In the last 18 months, I've received over eighty (80 calls/texts).

A little about me: 29 years ATF Special Agent, 23 years NRT, 21 years CES, 17 years CFI, and my final 3 years as the Academy's Arson Program Training Manager. I was diagnosed with uterine cancer in 2021 and I'm doing great. Having cancer helped me acquire certain information and answers from litigators that otherwise would have been ridiculously difficult to obtain

Some things I've learned, which may be beneficial for my fellow retirees:

1. NIOSH/CDC started the National Firefighter Registry (NFR) for Cancer in 2018, with funds from the NFR Cancer Act. I recommend anyone who worked any fire/arson, explosion/bombing scene as part of their ATF mission, who has or had cancer, please take a few minutes to sign up. Takes maybe 30 minutes on the secure portal page: www.nfr.cdc.gov The data they collect will be beneficial. (ATF is NOT listed as a supporting agency of this federal cancer registry project.)

2. The Federal Firefighters Fairness Act of 2022 allows that fire protection activities are the presumptive cause of certain cancers and pulmonary issues. There is a catch, ATF isn't currently included.

A small cadre of our former co-workers still with ATF are actively working to have those involved with fire/explosion investigations included in this bi-partisan bill that was signed into law in 2023. This law currently does NOT mention fire investigators or the act of conducting fire investigations.

3. Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) is a fire suppressant used for the past 50+years. It has been used for the military, especially airports, ships, and any potential fire scenes involving flammable liquid fires. The AFFF product has been utilized by the Fire Service to extinguish industrial fires, fuel facility fires, large commercial fire scenes, vehicle fires, even residential fires. Many may have mistakenly believed the foam was a heavily concentrated type of fast foaming liquid SOAP. IT IS NOT!



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9/11 Cancers continued.....

It is a mix of highly toxic chemicals (PFOS and PFOA), known to be highly carcinogenic. A federal lawsuit has been filed in the US District Court of Greenville, SC. Initially started through the Environmental Litigation Group of Birmingham, there are numerous litigant law firms currently authorized to be part of this multi-billion dollar lawsuit.

***For those who worked in the military, who may have been exposed based on their work/training;**

***For those from the fire service, who may have been exposed through work/training**

***For those with ATF, who may have worked in fire scenes extinguished with AFFF,**

Approximately 53 cancers are in this particular lawsuit, primarily Kidney, Testicular, Liver, Ulcerative, Prostate, Pancreatic, Bladder, Preeclampsia, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Leukemia, Multiple Myeloma, Thyroid Disease - Hypo-Hyper and Hashimoto's, Breast in males only at this time, Colorectal, Lymphoma, Ovarian, Endometrial, Uterine. FYI: I've noticed many of the female related cancers are based on a case by case basis. Keep in mind, the number of women exposed in the past 50 years is a very limited number, making research studies more difficult.

If you *have or had cancer*, you should consider contacting one of the law firms. I have been dealing with the Hochman & Lee Law Firm of Laredo, Texas. Case Managers Laryssa Garza and Anthony Galan have been excellent in assisting with information. laryssa@lawdocts.com (956)-704-5086 ext. 333 *Being part of the AFFF lawsuit in no way precludes you from the 9/11 programs. AFFF was used at the Pentagon. I don't know about the other two crash sites.*

WHAT will you need to prove for the AFFF litigation: You have/had **one of the cancers on the active list** with the AFFF litigation.

Exposure through MILITARY, FIREFIGHTING/FIRE SERVICE, or through your ATF mission work of investigating fire/explosion scenes.



Jen Eskew has been the driving force behind this research and the possible assistance forthcoming for those affected by these illnesses. Thank you Jen for undertaking this monumental task.



Photos courtesy of ATF.gov

ATF conducts federal investigations of arson/bombings, which includes participating in the physical on-scene investigation of the post-fire/post-blast scenes. NRT, CES, CFI, Chemists, K-9 handlers, arson & explosive group agents, *and others* have worked within these scenes, walking through the debris, shoveling, digging, raking, hand sifting, collecting evidence, photographing, mapping, and operating small excavators and dozers. How the fires were extinguished was not relevant to most of our work duties, however, if AFFF was utilized, then you would have been exposed for days or even weeks per scene.

****I am trying to obtain a list of every NRT callout, in an effort to research some of the larger scenes that may have been extinguished utilizing AFFF. ***Anyone who can get me the full list of NRT callouts, I'd be appreciative.**

If you **KNOW** you worked specific fire/explosion scenes that utilized AFFF to extinguish the fire, that is great information you should document. Like location, the Fire Dept. involved, year, what the fire scene was, if it was NRT or a case being worked by the local office or by the Division, maybe you have photos during the extinguishing or pictures were published in a local newspaper. Any proof of use of fire foam to extinguish would help greatly.

Continued next page....

9/11 CANCERS Continued...

MOST 9/11 CANCERS WILL BE DIAGNOSED BETWEEN 2015 and 2032, based on my reading of various medical and research publications. The list of cancers recognized by the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) is approximately seventy-two (72). Over 24,000 people have been diagnosed with 9/11 related cancers, with more than 1,500 known to have died from 9/11 related cancers.

YOU will be required to prove you were present. This is something I've worked to accomplish, because I was hearing rumors ATF HQs was sending letters to those people who were at the 3 locations. I never received any information and the majority of people I spoke with never received information from ATF.

In July, I spoke with retired ATF AD Michael Bouchard, a founding member and officer of the ATF Association (ATFA), who explained past agreements with ATF HQs to assist retirees with the necessary information regarding 9/11 cancers and the need for agency confirmation letters. Mike retired in 2007, but has been providing letters to those needing them, because fortunately, he kept copies of the list of people working 9/11. Mike offered to reach out to ATF HQs, as my list of people who worked at the Pentagon that had cancer or had died with cancer was growing. Mike put me in touch with Jerry Raffa.

Retired ATF AD Edgar Domenech reached out to assist. Edgar and Mike are in contact and staying in contact with the current Director and ADs.

Fortunately, HQs heard us, with the Director and the ADs meeting in late August to address the need for ATF to stay in touch with retirees being affected by 9/11 Cancers. Assistance was offered by ATF's Employee Assistance Program and a full-time headquarters person has volunteered to oversee the commitment to keeping our nearly 300 mostly retired ATF 9/11 exposed personnel informed. (survivors and responders). This will include official letters confirming their presence at one of the 9/11 crash sites as an ATF employee survivor or responder, information regarding the WTCHP and the VCF. HQs has agreed to utilize their website, Inside ATF, and social media to inform people of the 9/11 cancers.

Additionally, we hope they address the need to re-examine the medical surveillance program for retirees, who were formerly included but removed based on retirement. There needs to be follow-up.

Retired ATF Group Supervisor Jerry Raffa of NYC has been a great contact in my research of the WTCHP and Victim's Compensation Fund (VCF). Raffa retired in 2008, then started assisting those with cancer from ATF NY in 2015 with the passing of William 'Bill' Sheldon. The three(3) ATF personnel who passed from cancer after exposure in NYC are Sheldon, Cesar Santana, and Chris Behan. Each had previously worked for Raffa, and he has been there for their families, as well as others who have experienced cancer/sickness since the attacks.

If you are a SURVIVOR or a RESPONDER to one of the three (3) Attack Sites, you are eligible to sign-up online for the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP)

www.cdc.gov/wtc You DO NOT have to have cancer. Other health issues are covered, so take some time to read the website. You are entitled to a lifetime annual medical with the program and other services. If you have cancer and want to be treated at Mt. Sinai, they will fund the treatments, transportation, and long-term stays. *Don't waste time, sign-up.*

I will gladly assist anyone wishing to reach out for assistance. I have a copy of the official list of those of us who were 9/11 Pentagon Responders, as well as numerous photos of the NRT working. I will sign a letter confirming your presence on the Pentagon worksite.

In my research, I have documented ten (10) NRT members, who worked the 9/11 Pentagon crash/attack site who have had or currently have cancer. Sadly, I've confirmed four (4) NRT members, who have passed with cancer. Rick Price - prostate cancer 2020, Jerome Gant- prostate cancer/covid 2021, Greg Baker - lung cancer/covid 2021, Larry Sanders - blood cancer 2022. Additionally, Richie Cocarro and Marshal Littleton passed away from cardiac events, and E.C. Painter passed from diabetes.

****The WTCHP will want confirmation of your presence at one of the three 9/11 crash sites. If you have/had cancer they will want the medical records, but again, you don't need to have any health issues to sign-up. Once you are accepted, they will issue you an official WTCHP number and card. It is all online. *Don't waste time, sign-up.*

www.cdc.gov/wtc

Victim's Compensation Fund - VCF. The best advice I have, if you have/had/or lost a family member to a cancer on the WTCHP list, immediately get signed up with the WTCHP, immediately text/call me (276-451-0389), and contact a recognized 9/11 Law Firm.

Several of us have obtained Barasch & McGarry of NYC. Their office has personally lost co-workers to 9/11 cancers. Michael Barasch is noted for his work with First Responders. Their office, or any 9/11 accepted law firm, will assist you with the VCF process. I found Barasch by accident in 2021 and recently Jerry Raffa said he considered them the top firm for assisting with the VCF 9/11 cancer process. **This is not litigation.** Legislation established this fund, and **the 9/11 cancers are presumptive.**

Don't waste time, sign-up.

Thank you Jen for your tireless efforts on this matter.



ATFAR CHALLENGE COINS

Beautiful High Gloss Gold Colored Challenge Coins

with ATFAR logo and ATF Retiree badge

2 coins for \$26.00 includes shipping via USPS

Priority Mail

www.atfar.org

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WE LOST DURING 2024

2024 was a rough year for ATFAR members. I want to encourage you to take a moment to reflect on those ATFAR members who have passed away and enjoy your memories of them.

Remember, this is one of the reasons ATFAR exists. To foster fellowship between those whom we have worked with and shared similar experiences.

We are all getting older and, like it or not. I sure want to be able to enjoy your company now, tell you to your face that you were my friend.

Go enlist a friend to join ATFAR and make plans on attending the Rendezvous. Reconnect and celebrate your friendships every year while making lasting memories..



**WE
NEED
YOU...**

**TO TELL YOUR
FRIENDS ABOUT ATFAR**

Thank You—Thank You

We would like to thank those of you that attended Rendezvous 2024. It was quite a hike to get to Tempe but when you look at all the smiles in the photos taken during Rendezvous 2024, it was well worth the trip.

B.O.L.O.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT....

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A
SEPARATE MAILER FROM ATFAR
WITH DETAILS ABOUT RENDEZVOUS.
THIS WILL GO OUT AS SOON AS
A VENUE CAN BE SECURED.**

BE ON THE LOOKOUT.....

**BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OTHER
ATF / STATE AND LOCAL RETIREES
THAT SHOULD BELONG TO ATFAR.
INVITE THEM TO JOIN**

**A GOOD FRIEND ALWAYS TELLS
THEIR FRIENDS ABOUT ATFAR**

**HAVE A GREAT DAY AND SEE
YOU AT THE RENDEZVOUS**

Of all possessions a Friend is the most precious - Herodotus

CROSS COUNTRY TRIP TO STURGIS SOUTH DAKOTA CARLOS BAIXAULI

It was in the planning since our return from last years Sturgis 2022 trip! The task was to see how we could make it even better? Jimm and I met several times throughout the year and spoke on the phone more times than I can remember! Then it hit us ! We didn't have to make it better we just had to have fun, just like the year before!

The dates were set for departure July 27 at 6am. So I took off from my house in Okeechobee, Florida on the 25 anticipating an overnight on my way to Jimm and Nina's place in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Timmy Buns aka "Buns" was leaving from North Carolina while Tony Waldrop aka "Turbo" was leaving from South Carolina enroute to Langley's. Well, I made it in one day and was able to enjoy a full day in the newly installed Langley Pool !!! Ahhh, a true paradise in the hills of Tennessee ! No pictures because you wouldn't want to see me in a bathing suit !

Well, Bun's made it in late afternoon with Turbo arriving shortly after! We all helped unload Bun's bike from his trailer and then loaded "Earl" into Langley's trailer. "Earl" is Jimm's Road King that Turbo will be riding once we get to Sturgis. I was on "Earl" during last year's trip but this year I was on my new Blacked Out, 2023 Road Glide Special. Everyone got to meet "Black Betty" !

We were all busy getting all of our last minute packing done and making sure everyone had everything they would need for the trip. The time came to hookup Jimm's trailer to Turbo's F350 Platinum Duly ! What an awesome advantage this year to have Turbo's truck because all our luggage would be loaded into the trailer. Leaving our bikes nice and lean for the 1800 mile ride to Sturgis. Then Turbo showed us his back seat!! A huge cooler iced down and loaded with Gatorade, water, and soft drinks. But that's not all! He had tons of snacks for quick pick me ups along the way!! Turbo, truly thought of everything!! We were ready for the 6am call for boots and saddles!!



Bob Harper could not understand why someone would put a for sale sign on his Trike. Oh, I don't know, perhaps the twenty-two breakdowns in a single day!

ATFAR MEMBERS CAN NOW SAVE 15% ON FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

No, this is not a fun subject but it is a necessary one. At one point we are all going to need to secure funeral arrangements for a loved one, a family member or ourselves. Why not save a little money in the process.

Planning a funeral can often be an overwhelming task for family members. There are hundreds of decisions to be made and arrangements to confirm. As a member of a Dignity Memorial® Funeral Benefit partner, you and your extended family are eligible for a range of benefits through our funeral benefit partner, Dignity Memorial that can help alleviate the financial and emotional burdens of planning a funeral.

As an ATFAR member you are entitled to 15% savings on all funeral or cremation products and services you select at Dignity Memorial affiliated funeral homes. 15% savings on cemetery interment rights, products and services through Dignity Memorial affiliated cemeteries.¹

Eligible extended family includes spouse or domestic partner, your children (natural, adopted or stepchildren), and parents, grandparents and great-grandparents of both the ATFAR member and their spouse or domestic partner.

A Dignity Memorial representative can show you how to use these benefits to assist aging family members in making their final arrangements, plan your own service in advance or respond to an unexpected death.

For mor information visit ATFAR at [www. ATFAR.org](http://www.ATFAR.org) and click on the Death Benefits link.

6am on July 27th and we were off for the first leg of our journey! Jimm, riding on "Smyrna" leading the way. I fell in behind him on "Black Betty" and Bun's was next followed by Turbo covering our backs !! Only 500 or so miles to Benton, Kentucky and "Mongo's" Beautiful Lakefront Home for a steak dinner, a soft bed and a hot shower!! Greg Hanish, "Mongo" is a retired Illinois State Patrol Officer who attended ATF's State and Local Advanced Undercover Training Program while Langley and I ran the school! "Mongo" excelled in the class and became one of our instructors! He has been one of us ever since!

The next morning, Mongo joined the crew and we were off for another 500 mile trek to Saint Joes, Missouri and the farm of Retired ATF Supervisory Special Agent Bob Harper aka "Scout". We were in the saddles and on the road by 7am. We wanted to get in as much mileage as possible before the sweltering heat kicked in ! The ride to Scout's farm was uneventful. Except for the 5 miles of un-paved road that covered us and our bikes in dust! We looked like we had been in a flour fight ! We parked our steel horses in Scout's barn and when we looked at each other, we just started cracking up in laughter. You see, we were all covered in dust from head to toe except for our eyes, thanks to our eye protection!

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Cross Country Continued...

What a sight and what a mess! Scout and his wife Helen greeted all of us with big smiles, hugs and a BBQ Feast! We all ate, drank and told stories of our glory days until we passed out from exhaustion. The thing about being tired is, all you need is to find a place to lay your head.

On day three, our group of 5 had now become 7. So, we were all in the saddles by 7 am and started our trek to find the hard top and leave the dust behind. The crew was now, Langley on his CVO, Buns on his Street Glide, Mongo on his CVO Ultra, Ben on a Road King, Scout on his Indian Trike and me on my Road Glide Special, followed by Turbo in the PlatinumF350 Duly. Next stop a Comfort Inn in Valentine, Nebraska.

We had a few issues along the way this day. Scout's Indian kept cutting off on him. Luckily, Langley, Mongo and Turbo were Johnny on the spot and got her rigged enough to keep her going! The issue was that his Kick Stand, yes, you read that right a Kick Stand on a Trike! Why? Who knows!! Sorry, back to the issue, every time he would hit a big bump in the road, his kick stand, would move and it would cause his Trike to cut off. We continued on and then the trailer developed a bubble on a right rear tire. Again, the pit crew jumped into action and using Turbo's Impact Drill had it off and changed in a heart beat! What could have been a nightmare, was just a minor bump in the road ! Pun, intended! The crew rolled into the Wagon Wheel Bar, in South Dakota. A true, biker bar, hole in the wall but it's a tradition! Some drinks and some lies and we were off again!!

We made it to Spearfish, South Dakota. We got checked in and headed to dinner at the Applebee's across the street! Again, some drinks and some stories. In Spearfish, we were joined by another retired ATF Agent, Steve "Gundo" Gunderson. Our crew had now grown to 8 as planned.



The crew stopped for a cold drink in Huelett, Wyoming. When the bartender heard we were the world famous "Untouchables" she had to have a photo.



Our crew did the Sturgis deal for the next 4 days ! Doing the ritualistic rides to Rushmore, Crazy Horse and the Devil's Tower just to name a few ! We ate like pigs and drank like responsible fish in Deadwood ! We enjoyed the camaraderie and shared our love of riding motorcycles.

More over, we were able to reach out and give each other a hug and talk about what we meant to each other ! How lucky are we, that we get together every year. Just like many of you, who meet with fellow retirees that live near you! It truly is a blessing!

I feel doubly blessed because not only do I get to meet up with my riding buddies! I get to meet up with my ATFAR peeps every year at the Rendezvous!! This past year, as many of you know, we met up in Mobile, Alabama!! But that will be another article!! I just bring it up because we need to reach out to all retirees and tell them about ATFAR ! Many are confused because they may have joined ATFA thinking it was ATFAR? Wish they would have named it something else to avoid the confusion! That being said, it is up to every one of us to reach out to our contacts and get them to join ATFAR! Tell them it will set them back a whopping \$26 for the year !! Tell them what a great time we have every year at the Rendezvous!! Tell them how awesome it is to reach out and touch someone who had such a great impact on your career and thank them in person, instead of standing over a grave and wishing you could have had just one more conversation!! This reminds me of our Columbus, Ga. Rendezvous and how Charley Fuller, who was dying of throat cancer, drove himself up to the Rendezvous. Something tells me, Charlie knew the end was near and wanted to feel the love of fellow warriors one last time! The thing I remember about my last conversation with Charlie was how he was able to comfort me as I was trying to comfort him!! Look, I can go on forever about Charlie but that too will be another article. Remember, we're all getting older and tomorrow is promised to no one!!

Oh, yeah... the rest of the Sturgis story!! We had great time and all made it home !! Planning a new adventure for 2025!!

Tech Update....

Currently ATFAR has over 600 paying Members. Wow! We have grown over the past few years. Along with this fantastic growth comes the laborious task of regularly updating the membership rolls and collecting and tracking membership dues. At this time, this is completed by manual entry of all information into an Xcel spreadsheet.

It is time for an update! ATFAR is currently looking into a complete membership management program that will automatically track dues payments, new members, allow correspondence between members and online registration for events such as Rendezvous.

IF we make the transition to this new program it will require a little bit of effort from you. You will receive an email invitation to complete your membership profile. Completing this profile should not take longer than ten minutes and will be of great value to the ATFAR admin. Please, when the time arrives—complete the profile and help us transition into the twenty-first century..

Don't forget

**ATFAR is a
Registered 501 C-3 charity.**

**As a 501 c-3 all
donations to ATFAR
Are considered 100 %
tax deductible.**

**Send your donations to
ATFAR
Box 547, Mountain Home
Tennessee 37684**

Update on Special Agent Carlos Valles:

In early September the following information was received.

Carlos is doing great. He's in a house in the Denver suburbs waiting for Tunnels to Towers to start shopping for a permanent home for him. Looks more like they will let him pick an existing house and completely gut it and build it out for his needs rather than buy land and start from scratch.

He's doing Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy numerous times a week and is waiting to get into the true world class rehab hospital in Denver. There is a wait list. Looks like he should be in around February. He is an AMAZ-ING guy with an absolutely incredible perspective.

Additional information will be provided upon receipt,

On September 4, 2024 Carlos Baixauli made a post requesting that ATFAR members help encourage Special Agent Valles during this difficult time by preparing and sending cards and letters to ATFAR for delivery on a monthly basis to SA Valles. As of November 29, 2024 three cards have been received. WE CAN DO BETTER! There was an online outcry for updates and information and several well wishers made comments to facebook posts but only THREE have taken the time to put pen to paper. Lets load SA Valles up with Christmas Wishes from his ATFAR family.

*Send Cards, Letters, or parcels for SA Valles to
ATFAR*

Box 547, Mountain Home TN 37684.

*Please mark the lower left of the envelope
"SA VALLES"*



RENDEZVOUS 2025



Due to the catastrophic devastation from Hurricane Helene in east Tennessee, Rendezvous 2025 has been rescheduled until September 7 — 10, 2025

Currently Interstate 26 and Interstate 40 are impassable and not expected to be repaired till mid August 2025 and hundreds of secondary roads in the area are simply gone. Dislocated citizens are being lodged at many of the area hotels, including the one we had selected for Rendezvous 2025.

Join us in celebrating ATFAR's 50th Anniversary at Rendezvous 2025.

A separate flyer will be mailed to all with new details for Rendezvous 2025.

Executive Director
BOX 547
Mountain Home TN 37684

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WATCH YOUR MAILBOX
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT
RENDEZVOUS 2025

THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF ATFAR



Please check to see if you are current on your ATFAR
dues. Thank You

Please address all
correspondence to:
ATFAR
BOX 547
Mountain Home TN 37684