



ATFAR NEWS

ALL THAT FUN AFTER RETIREMENT

FALL 2021

ATFAR.ORG

Make sure you check out ATFAR's online presence: ATFAR.org

ATFAR NEEDS YOUR STORIES

We want to keep the newsletter current and interesting. We would love to publish stories related to your time on the job or your life after ATF. Please submit your story to atfarsetup@gmail.com

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
405 Bonaventure Road
St. Simons Island, GA
31522

Neta Rice
Executive Director

**RENDEZVOUS 2021 IS A FEW SHORT WEEKS AWAY!
HURRY AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS.**

ATFAR 2021 - Lexington, Kentucky October 10 thru 14, 2021

Registration Fee

\$60 each - includes buffet dinner on Wednesday

Accommodations

Hilton Double Tree
2601 Richmond Road, Lexington, KY 40509
(859) 268-0060
Reservation window: Aug. 1 through October 1, 2021

Block of 50 rooms reserved:
45 rooms are king with French balcony at \$139
5 rooms are king with full balcony at \$149
2 queens (no balcony) for \$139
All balcony rooms overlook indoor courtyard and lobby
Use 3-letter code "ATA" when making reservations



"Kentucky is the source of 95% of the world's bourbon. In Kentucky there are more barrels of bourbon than there are people. That's a fact."



Claiborne Farm or Lane's End Farm tour

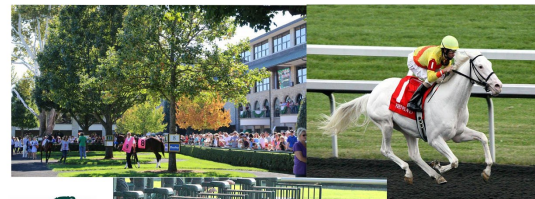


Town Branch tour



Tuesday, October 12, 2021

\$99 per person includes all activities below with transportation and guide:
Morning guided tour of Claiborne Farm, Paris, KY - former home of the great Secretariat OR Lane's End Farm, Versailles, KY -- former home of the great A.P. Indy
Tour and bourbon tasting at historic Town Branch Distillery - includes lunch at distillery
(Subject to change due to Covid)



Wednesday, October 13, 2021

A day at the races!
Keeneland Race Track, Lexington
\$60 each includes transportation & guide
Reserved grandstand seating
Food & drink available for purchase
Betting and shopping available

For tour reservations go to ATFAR's Web site: www.ATFAR.org or ATFAR Facebook page or call Bluegrass Tours at (859) 252-5744



USEFULL INFORMATION FOR YOU

If you know of great discounts or specialty programs that would benefit other ATFAR members let us know so we can put them here. Forward your info to us at: atfarsetup@gmail.com

We search high and low to find things that benefit ATFAR members. Here are a few:

Veterans Save 20% every day at CVS. Did you know that if you or a loved one are a military veteran you can sign up for VetRewards at CVS and receive 20% off your online purchase and free shipping! To find out more visit CVS at <https://www.cvs.com/content/veterans-advantage>.

DON'T FORGET!

As a former ATF employee you qualify as a "First Responder" and are eligible for some pretty good discounts. Simply register with ID.me and provide proof of your prior employment with ATF and bang, you are ready to receive your discounts.

- 45% off of retail on Oakley sunglasses
- 25 % off Carhart clothing
- 30% off Reebok shoes
- 20% off Merrell hiking boots & shoes
- 25% off New Balance shoes
- 30% off Sperry shoes
- 20% off Nine Line Apparel
- 20 % off UnderArmor

Check it out at www.ID.me

ALL ATF Employees qualify as First Responders.

U.S. NATIONAL PARKS AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS

This pass will get you into national parks and federal recreation areas without paying an entry fee!

Cost for those over 62 is only \$20.00. (\$80.00 for those under 62)



The America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is your ticket to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites across the country. A pass covers entrance, standard amenity fees and day use fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle at per vehicle fee areas (or up to four adults at sites that charge per person). Children age 15 or under are admitted free.

*"Frugality is founded on the principal that all riches have limits."
Edmund Burke*



RENDEZVOUS 2021

ATFAR 2021 - Lexington, Kentucky October 10-14, 2021 Pricing at a Glance

Registration Fee

\$60 each - includes buffet dinner on Wednesday
Make checks payable to:
Fredi Angel
994 Angel Acres Road
London, KY 40741

Accommodations

Hilton Double Tree
2601 Richmond Road, Lexington, KY 40509
(859) 268-0060
Reservation window: August 1 through October 1, 2021
Block of 50 rooms reserved:
45 rooms are king with French balcony at \$139
5 rooms are king with full balcony at \$149
2 queens (no balcony) for \$139
All balcony rooms overlook indoor courtyard and lobby
Use 3-letter code "ATA" when making reservations

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 Tour Day

\$99 per person includes all activities below:
Transportation with local guide
Morning guided tour of Claiborne Farm, Paris, KY - former home of the great Secretariat
or Lane's End Farm, Versailles, KY -- former home of the great A.P. Indy
Tour and bourbon tasting at Town Branch Distillery, Lexington, KY
Lunch at the distillery included
(subject to change due to Covid)

Wednesday, October 13: A day at the races!

\$60.00 each, includes:
A day at Keeneland Race Track, Lexington
Transportation with local guide
Reserved grandstand seating
(food & drink available for purchase on site)

For tour reservations

Go to ATFAR's Web site: www.ATFAR.org
or ATFAR's Facebook page
or call Bluegrass Tours at (859) 252-5744



Submit your stories for publication in the ATFAR newsletter to atfarsetup@gmail.com



Now That's Funny...

Long time ago I spotted a pair of discarded rubber boots lying by the roadside... I picked them up, not because I was a good citizen but I had mischief in mind.

There was an insurance office across the hall from our ATF office in Winston-Salem with whom we shared a restroom. I placed the boots in the lady's restroom stall and closed the door.

A little while later a lady who worked in the insurance office went to the restroom, saw those boots and ran out screaming. Special Agent Ed Krebbs, who had a desk near mine, frowned. "What did you do?" he said to me. I never replied to his question.... Some folks just ain't got no sense of humor.

Jack Crosswell

We need your first day on the job story!

We all had one, why not share yours?

Help us fill this spot in the next newsletter by submitting your "First Day on The Job" story to atfarsetup@gmail.com

DID YOU REMEMBER
TO PAY YOUR DUES
THIS YEAR?

ATFAR housekeeping...



Don't forget to pay your dues! The ATFAR year runs from July 1 through June 31 each year. We really appreciate your prompt payment of your dues and a double thank

you to those who have paid several years dues in advance. Remember, you can pay with a credit card on our website.

www.atfar.org

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!



ATFAR Apparel

From Polo type shirts, to sweat shirts and long sleeve button down shirts, ball caps, jackets and more. The ATFAR store has over 41 items that you can purchase with the ATFAR logo.

From the ATFAR website click on the ATFAR Merchandise link. You will immediately see a coupon for the ATFAR store. Click the coupon and it will let you into the store. Coupon is applied to prices upon checkout. www.atfar.org



RENDEZVOUS 2021 Shirts

Yes! We have Special Shirts just being made just for RENDEZVOUS 2021! They are AWESOME!

Check out the shirts and get yours ordered now by going to the ATFAR website and selecting the icon for ATFAR Merchandise then select ATFAR apparel. Once you click on the discount coupon you will be able to shop for shirts, hats, jackets, sweatshirts etc... Select "Shop by Logo" from the upper right screen and you will see the options to have the RENDEZVOUS 2021 logo applied.

In the Spring of 2021, we contacted Les Robinson and, in an effort to raise his spirits asked him to regale us with a story from his past. This is what we received:

Dear Jimm, Per Les Robinson, as he cannot write these days. He wrote a few short stories a few years ago. The Assassination Plot is what he decided on. I hope this works for you. Sincerely Les Robinson / Vickie Robinson



**FELLOWSHIP
BUILT ON A
LIFETIME OF
SERVICE**

***Do you know
someone that is a
former ATF
employee or a
family member of a
deceased employee
that is not a
member of ATFAR?
Please invite them
to become members
by using the "Join
ATFAR" link at our
website:
www.atfar.org .***

The Assassination Plot

Cesar Chavez, the founder and leader of the United Farm Workers of America started in 1962, forming a union to upgrade working conditions and to dignify farm work. With efforts to raise pay through non violence using boycotts and forming picket lines and formal marches. His organization started to draw public support but developed opposition from the powerful agribusiness and the Teamsters Union and their influence on the government. Chavez had become a controversial public figure.

In August 1971, I was preparing to have a small family celebration of my birthday on the 8th, the phone rang with a familiar request. I was needed in Bakersfield for a possible undercover detail. Over the years I had worked numerous undercover assignments,, which came up fast and usually during times that I tried to work on my own activities but of course it's nice to be needed. I had previously worked as a Detective on the Salinas Police Department. The previous experiences gave me enough knowledge to conduct complicated investigations as a new agent.

On About August 10, 1971, I arrived at a prearranged small motel in a remote area of Bakersfield, California. There I met William Vizzard, Bakersfield Supervisor and William Bertolani, Area Supervisor. I was briefed on the situation which could be very sensitive with public and political interest. An informant, XXXXXX, had given the Kern County Sheriff's Office information about a plot to assassinate Cesar Chavez, the Sheriff's Office gave the information to the U.S. Treasury and introduced the informant to Vizzard. Vizzard and Bertolani wanted me to meet with the informant and evaluate how far I might be able to go in getting introduced to Richard Pedigo who was was alleged to be planning the hit on Chavez.

I had developed an undercover false identity with connections to a variety of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, these contacts might be of value in conversations with Pedigo and the informant. I advised Vizzard that conversations about my background would be limited to protect my other investigations.

On August 13, a meeting was set up for me and the informant in a park in Bakersfield. The informant arrived at the park on a Yamaha motorcycle. The informant has known Pedigo through activities like go-cart racing and through other talks where Pedigo related he was trying to put together a hit on Cesar Chaves, but, it's not easy even though he has the money. The informant said "I understand you ride a motorcycle", when I said yes, he offered me to take his bike for a ride. I rode around the park then asked him where he heard I rode bikes. He said from my supervisors. This gave me the idea that this guy talks about anything he hears. This was just the beginning of many worries I developed about this guy.

The informant went on to tell me that Pedigo was given twenty-five thousand dollars to hire a "trigger man" to do the hit on Chavez. The people hiring him were a bunch of farmers and they also wanted the Chaves offices burned. The informant was eager to introduce me to Pedigo so I agreed to go with him in a few days.

On August 18, the informant and I went to Richard Pedigo's house where I met him for the first time. Pedigo was friendly and invited us into his house. He and the informant started a conversation about the Chaves offices and that the offices could be set on fire with little effort. The building is made of wood, which is old and has dried out. "You could just kick the door in, they do not have any alarms or guards, spread some files around and set them on fire." Pedigo said. The informant began repeating "set the files on fire, right, that's what they want. Pedigo says that it, you got it?"

The Assassination Plot continued...

After the informant and I left the residence I told the informant that I was going back to meet Pedigo on my own. The informant said he was going with me and I explained if anything substantial came up it would be better if he was not involved as a witness. This angered the informant and he said "If you do that I will go to Pedigo and tell him who you are and what you are doing." After I explained that this is an official federal investigation, this means if you go that direction you risk being arrested if your actions cause harm to me or Chavez. The informant withdrew the threat and said that he just got excited. Still, I had an uneasy feeling about talking to Pedigo.



Because of the threat by the informant we decided to wire me with a transmitter and body recorder. I never liked those devices but it turned out to be a good idea. On Friday, I met with Pedigo at his residence and informed him I had recently got a divorce and heard there was good money to be made and that I sure needed some because my ex has taken all I have and is looking for more. Pedigo explained he got \$25,000.00 to do the hit and the arson. He said he had a guy to do the hit but "he never got his shit together." so the farmers in the Delano and McFarland areas called it off. Pedigo asked me to go with him to his garage, he said we could talk and relax better in the garage. He related that he could still go for the burning of Chavez office and destroying of papers that there were contracts with the farmers. We stayed in the garage from about 10PM until 5AM, talking, drinking beer and looking at his custom cars and specially built go-cart. It was during this time I found out that Pedigo was one of the largest drug dealers in the Bakersfield area. Pedigo offered to go in business with me if I could handle taking large quantities of amphetamines to Fresno, which is where he used to go and there is a great outlet in that area but he was shot five times and run out of Fresno by a competitor. He lifted his shirt to show me the scars. He opened a locker in the garage and showed that he had pillows full of amphetamines. He said take a baggie for \$5.00 and see how fresh they are, fresh from Mexico.

It was getting morning and the sun was about to come up. I told Pedigo I had to go and shower and change clothes. He said "stay here, I have another bedroom." I said "I need to get my clothes and will be back later today." Remember, I was wearing a recorder and transmitter and both were getting warm from the batteries over-use.

I went back to the motel and woke up Bertolani. For both of us to get refreshed we jumped into the pool and raced to see who bought the morning coffee. After the pool we grabbed a cup of coffee and started typing state arrest and search warrants. By 7AM, the search and arrest warrants had been signed by a Kern County Superior Court Judge. At Pedigo's residence I advised the officers that I could go inside the residence and Pedigo would not resist. Pedigo's front door was unlocked and I opened the door and called to him. He said "Come on in." I walked to the side of his bed and showed him my badge and said "You're under arrest." and he responded, "Hey, that looks like a real badge, let me see it."

Pedigo was arrested and in the search of his residence the contract money, \$25,000.00 cash was found in his freezer. In state court Pedigo was sentenced from two years to ten years on the drug charges and another two to ten years on the arson charges. This started a round of accusations that I was influenced by higher authorities to stop the investigation without finding the person that put up the money. Investigators questioned me and I advised that I did not want the plot and the money to be still floating around. I thought everyone would understand that by those actions it prevented someone from going ahead with the plot which protected Chavez from being assassinated because Pedigo is in jail and the money is seized and in the District Attorney's possession.



The Assassination Attempt, continued...

Senator Edward M. Kennedy requested the Justice Department to open an investigation into the event. The two year investigation finally offered Pedigo immunity if he would name the growers that gave Pedigo the \$25,000.00 for the plot. Pedigo declined. The Justice Departments investigation was closed with no additional information other than that already in the reports of U.S. Treasury Special Agent Les Robinson.

Bravo for you Les. What a great case and you definitely made the right decision!



Les Robinson passed on August 10, 2021. He had been ill for several months and was under hospice care.

Les worked undercover very successfully on several motorcycle gangs earning him high praise from his colleagues. In 1983 Les testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee that was investigating organized crim.

Les had an exemplary career and was a role model for many. Thank you for providing us this story Les—I only wish it had gone to press before you left us.



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

We hate to see you go!
Don't let this be your last newsletter!
We cannot afford to send newsletters to members that are not current on their dues.

Read a good book lately?
Did you know there were over 50 books written by ATF employees available for your reading pleasure? Check them out at the ATFAR website, atfar.org
LET'S SUPPORT OUR ATF AUTHORS

Book Review.....

A short review of 4 books

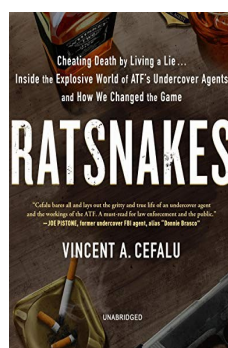


The Largest True Crime Arson Case in America's History

In this astounding true crime narration a conspiracy of nine men, including three Boston cops and a Boston firefighter, burned Boston and surrounding communities in the early 1980's due to tax-cutting measures that caused layoffs of hundreds of police and firefighters.

The case was covered by national media in the early to mid-1980s. Over two years, these fire buffs, turned arsonists, torched 264 buildings, causing millions of dollars in damages and hundreds of injuries. The city was ablaze with nightly fires, sirens wailing through the streets and people too afraid to sleep.

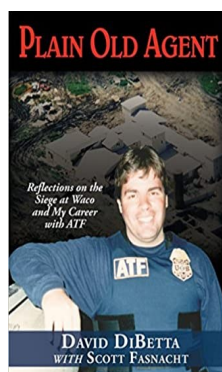
Burn Boston Burn interweaves the activities of the arsonists with those of the investigators, the fire fighters and the citizens of the area. Readers will shake their heads in disbelief at the brazen and wanton actions of these political terrorists.



Get ready to infiltrate the dangerous, secret world of criminals and cover identities by way of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), where the world's greatest undercover agents are known as RatSnakes.

RatSnakes are rarely, if ever, visible to the public that they move among and risk their lives to protect. In fact, thanks to their cover personas, they are often assumed to be members of the clandestine criminal world that they investigate. Real-life undercover work is a far cry from the sexy, candy-colored world seen in Hollywood movies. Only those who are strong and clever enough will get inside and survive.

Vincent A. Cefalu would know. He spent 30 years as an ATF undercover operative, in assignments ranging from the Symbionese Liberation Army to Asian organized crime. He has infiltrated notorious outlaw motorcycle gangs as well as splinter groups of the Ku Klux Klan. In *RatSnakes*, he provides transparent look at the organization and the operatives with whom he risked his life.



New memoir provides fresh insight into life as a Federal Agent. Unique perspectives on the ATF's fierce gun battle with the Branch Davidians in Waco are at the center of this compelling look at a career in federal law enforcement. After weeks of training, the ATF was prepared to serve a warrant on the Branch Davidians holed up in their Waco, Texas compound. Special Agent Dave DiBetta was the first agent off the trailers in the ill-- conceived police action. *Plain Old Agent* tells Agent DiBetta's story.

For more than 20 years he served in the ATF and often found himself in the center of the action. From Waco to 9/11, Agent DiBetta served his country with honor and distinction. "I'm thankful for all the experiences I had throughout my career", said DiBetta. Whether it was a great day or a tough day, every one of them reminded me to appreciate everything in my life. Initially intended to focus solely on his experiences related to the ATF's activities in Waco, *Plain Old Agent* shares DiBetta's perspectives into the operation. His story has not yet been published anywhere else, and it is shared now in an effort to ensure that the officers who sacrificed their lives that day are never forgotten.

These summaries are provided by the author or the book seller. Books were selected at random from the ATFAR.org authors page.

If you would like to see your book highlighted as more than a summary in a future ATFAR newsletter please prepare a synopsis (500 word max) and email it to atfarsetup@gmail.com

RED BAY?

Bob Whitney - Retired 2000

It's hard to believe that 14 years have passed since we began fulltiming in our Tiffin Allegro Bus motorhome. Our faithful readers and friends have followed us on our journey on our personal blog: rvandmh.blogspot.com.

Many of us have visited and are familiar with cities across the USA such as Tampa Bay, Green Bay, San Francisco Bay, Mobile Bay, and Chesapeake Bay. But have you ever visited or heard of **RED BAY, ALABAMA?**

Red Bay, AL is a small town in Franklin County with approximately 3400 residents and is located in northwest AL at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The city's name is derived from the red clay in the area and the bay oak tree. Red Bay is approximately 45 miles southwest of Florence, AL, and about 45 miles due east of Tupelo, MS.

Why do thousands of people travel in their motorhomes and recreational vehicles (RVs) to this little town each year? The largest employer in the area is Tiffin Motorhomes (TMH), a family-owned and operated business from 1972-2020*. There are countless individual contractors and tradespeople who either worked for or are retired from TMH and now have their own businesses. Their expertise involves everything from electronics to custom woodwork.

Because people from all over the USA and Canada converge on this community for warranty service, repair/upgrades, or to watch the construction of their new motorhome as it moves along the assembly line. Many owners are often frustrated because they are unable to obtain adequate service from their local dealers. Many of the owners (snowbirds) stop in Red Bay to have service work done while enroute to warmer climates for the winter or vice versa. The economy of Red Bay is greatly stimulated by all these owners in many ways. After 14 years of fulltiming and numerous visits to the Red Bay area we have our own list of craftsmen and tradespeople that we routinely employ and/or contract with while in the area.

Do we think that Red Bay, AL is a destination location? Tiffin Motorhome owners probably think it is a "destination location" because most of them will leave Red Bay as Happy Campers.

* In December, 2020 Bob Tiffin, founder of Tiffin Motorhomes sold TMH to Thor Industries for 352 million dollars. Bob Tiffin and his sons continue to run the day to day operations.



We agree with you Bob. Red Bay, Alabama can be a destination, and Tiffin Motor Homes produces one of the finest motorhomes on the road. Lets hope that continues under the Thor ownership.

Thank you for taking the time to prepare this article for the ATFAR newsletter.

Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend. – Theophrastus



ATFAR Rendezvous 2021 Blowout in the Bluegrass

Fresh Air, Sunshine, Beautiful Horses, Fine Bourbon and Fellowship with Friends

Make your hotel reservations for check-in on

Arrive 10/10/21 Depart 10/14/21

Hilton Doubletree * 2601 Richmond Road * Lexington, KY

859-268-0060

\$139 per night for King with French Balcony

\$149 for King with walk out Balcony

\$139 for 2 Queens, no Balcony – inside rooms

Registration Costs - \$60 per person

This fee covers the hospitality room and a buffet dinner!

Attendees Names _____

Family members or Guest _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Very Important - Blue Grass Tour: Please let us know if you will be doing this tour. It includes Claiborne Farm, lunch at historic Glen Willis House and Buffalo Trace Distillery. We need an estimate of how many people will be attending. You will be receiving more info and can pay BGT prior to the rendezvous

Attendees _____

Remember we have one day at the **Keenland Racetrack** with transportation, guide, grandstand seating, etc.

Send Form with check for \$60 per person to:

Fredi Angel * 994 Angel Acres Road * London, KY 40741

Executive Director
405 Bonaventure Road
St. Simons Island GA 31522
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Permit # 767

WE SURE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT
RENDEZVOUS 2021
IN LEXINGTON KENTUCKY

WE WILL HAVE FUN
WE WILL HAVE FELLOWSHIP
WE WILL MAKE MEMORIES
WE WILL MISS YOU IF YOU DON'T COME



**Please mail your newsletter
preference to the following:**

ATFAR
405 Bonaventure Rd.
St. Simons Island, GA
31522

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