

ATFAR NEWSLETTER

"Fellowship Built on a Lifetime of Service"

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ATFAR

405 Bonaventure Road

Saint Simons Island, GA 31522

July - 2019



What is a Rendezvous?

You could ask any one of the "almost" 100 people (I actually made 99 name tags), who attended the latest rendezvous, the Smoky Mountains Rendezvous II in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. We were at the Country Cascades from April 29 - May 2, 2019. The hotel and staff are fantastic. The hotel had just been completely remodeled so everything was fresh and clean. The staff sorta adopted us and was constantly asking what they could do for us. So NICE. If you are ever in that area, check them out. Got kids? They have two water park areas, one for younger and one for older kids. Swimming pools, etc.

There is always so much to do in this area, shows, shopping, restaurants and, of course, everyone's favorite, the Hospitality Room!. It was fun watching the younger set interact with the older set. And we do have a lot of In-Be-Weens. We had two who were close to 100 years old. They had a blast explaining the Old ATF. Al Klotz, from Metairie, LA, is 97 and Warren McConnell, from Springfield, VA, just celebrated his 98th.

If you have never hosted an ATFAR Rendezvous, you really don't know how much planning and work that goes into making it a success. Gene and Marsha Rightmyer and their gang of helpers did an outstanding job. They were available early morning until late night seeing that everyone was happy and having a great time.

When is the next Rendezvous?

The Saint Simons Island Rendezvous will have check in at the King and Prince Resort on Sunday March 8, 2020 and check out on Thursday, March 12, 2020. These dates are very early for ATFAR, however, at this late date is was the only dates available. We were hoping to go to Lexington, KY next year, but that fell through because of our host there had a very serious medical problem. We are so glad to report, at last contact, that Mike Angel is doing well and still going to therapy for his surgery. He and Fredi are gearing up for 2021.

We tried several venues here and on Jekyll Island. Sea Palms, where we had our 1999 and 2008 reunions, is still under renovations from flooding from our last hurricane. They will not be up and running for at least two more years. Tried a few places on Jekyll too but for various reasons, settled on the King and Prince on Saint Simons.

GUEST ROOM BLOCK & RATES:

The King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort (“Resort”) is pleased to extend special group rates to **ATF Reunion** (“Organization”). Rates are net non-commissionable, and do not include Resort Services Fee currently \$10.00 per room per night, or Georgia Hotel-Motel Fee currently \$5.00 per room per night. Rates are subject to Georgia state sales tax currently 4%, Glynn County sales tax currently 3%, Glynn County rooms tax currently 5%; total of 12%.

<i>Room Type</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
	3-8-20	3-9-20	3-10-20	3-11-20	3-12-20
<i>Oceanfront Rooms</i>	4/ \$179	4/ \$179	4/ \$179	4/ \$179	
<i>Partial Oceanview Rooms</i>	9/ \$169	9/ \$169	9/ \$169	9/ \$169	
<i>Resort View Rooms</i>	4/ \$154	4/ \$154	4/ \$154	4/ \$154	
<i>Standard Rooms</i>	10/ \$144	10/ \$144	10/ \$144	10/ \$144	
<i>Wesley Cottage</i>	1/ \$159	1/ \$159	1/ \$159	1/ \$159	
<i>Total</i>	28	28	28	28	Check Out

CHECK IN TIME: 4:00PM

CHECK OUT TIME: 11:00AM

Please note the dates on your calendar and call for reservations **TODAY**. The rooms at the lowest rate of \$144, plus taxes, etc. are limited, however, they will give us that rate on all rooms if they have rooms available. They are very popular and their rooms are sometimes filled two years in advance. So, call right away, if you can't make it - you can cancel. All rooms have either a king bed, with a pull out sofa, or two queens, with a pull out sofa. Check all the facilities by going to www.kingandprince.com. Make sure you mention ATF Reunion to reservations!

As you can see from the rates, this hotel is more expensive than we normally pay! We were actually lucky to get rooms at all since they are usually booked for two or more years at a time. It is considered a luxury resort hotel so everything about it is very nice. Be sure to check it out on line where you will be able to see all the amenities

You will, of course, be getting more information as plans get made, but it is very important that we get the room rates locked in. The \$144 per night (plus taxes) is a special rate for The King and Prince so we need to get everyone's reservation logged in as soon as possible.

To be allowed by law to bring our own drinks and food, we will have a small cottage for the Hospitality Room outside of the hotel - 3 minute walk from lobby. It's size is a problem, but we have overflow areas outside. There is a patio and another seating area, plus a yard which we plan to have a tent with tables and chairs.

Very Important!

Call Today

Reserve Your Room

800-342-0212

Smokey Mountains Rendezvous - 2019

I didn't get a lot of photos while at the rendezvous, but here is a sample!



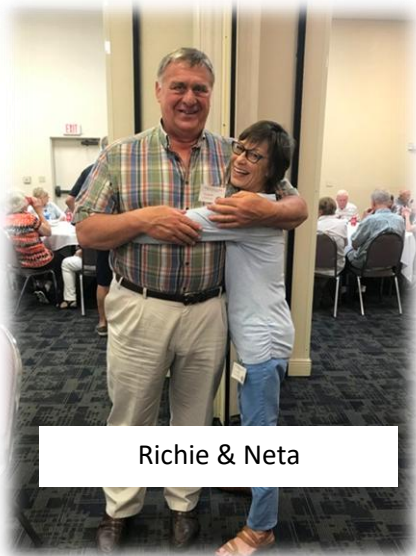
Jim, Neta & Carlos
Note the ATF quilt!



Steve
Waiting for moonshine?



Tana and George



Richie & Neta



Moonshine Girls



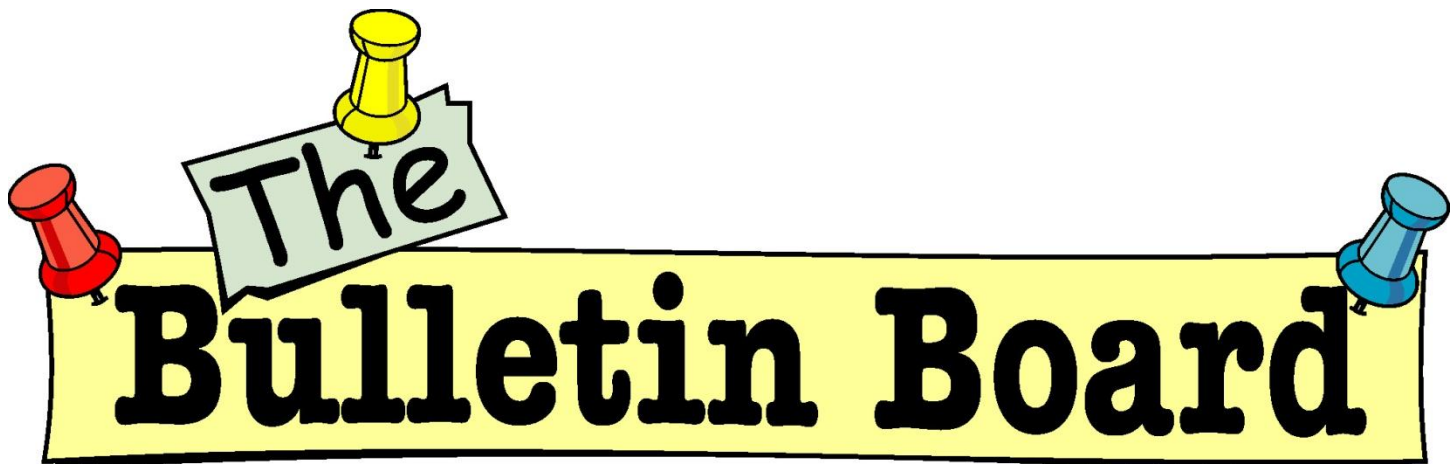
Country Cascades



Mac McConnell (98) & Al Klotz (97)



Dicki J - Hawaii
Bobby Joe - Miami



The Bulletin Board

Cumming, GA

Neta what a wonderful news letter. It is the best I have seen. I also want to thank you for all of the contact information when I needed investigators from areas around the country. You even gave me people from other agencies. All of that was much appreciated. I graduated from ATF Basic School #26 on 10-30_1969. I am a graduate of the infamous little red school house in Washington, DC. I managed to get to the first roundup after I retired, but have been full time employed since then.

When I retired I was the ATF coordinator for OCEDEF in the Southeast Region based in Atlanta. I then went to work for an investigative agency, John C. Villines for twenty years. I was his Director of Investigations. In addition to investigations we also escorted youth to Wilderness and other therapeutic programs. This included finding runaways. My ATF training made me pretty adept at this. After 9/11 we received a contract with DOJ. This included civil investigations all over the country. When this ran its course I became a Juvenile Court Bailiff. One day the Clerk of Court/Administrator asked me to become her administrator assistant in Forsyth County. I then became an Administrative Specialist. And

at over 80 I am still enjoying it. Keep in touch,
God bless,

Gary Mugridge

Savannah

I received the ATFAR Newsletter. I delayed my response, because I knew that I had either a bad right knee or a bad right hip. I finally received a diagnosis for replacement of my right hip. However, I did not know the date of the surgery or the length of the recovery. I now know the surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2019. After the surgery, I will be released the next day from the hospital and begin physical therapy sessions. I am looking at three physical therapy sessions per week for as long as 12 weeks; and my activities will be severely restricted during that period. I don't believe that it will take that long; but it is not up to me. My physician and the physical therapists will determine the final release date. The Readers Digest's version of this email is I will not be at the Rendezvous. I know that Gene and his troops will keep everyone entertained.

ENJOY! **Lance Hearn**

Kennett Square, PA

February 20, 2019 The funeral arrangements for Al Gleason are attached. Al had served in

the US Navy as a frog man and an UDT member in the Pacific area until the end of the II World War. He joined the NYPD and became a second grade Detective in the Bomb Squad. After retiring he became an explosives/arson specialist in the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. He made a lasting impression on each of these organizations and the people he served with.

Tom Cousins

WACO Remembered!

22 years ago today, just prior to sunrise, my partner Special Agent Larry Krisl and I were two of the first agents to infil onto the property of David Koresh in the rural area outside of Waco Texas. Both of us were dressed in Ghillie suits; I was armed with a Remington 40X sniper rifle and Larry carried an AR-15. We took up a positions under some old farm equipment, 240 meters from the compound that was built by Koresh and his followers. After sunrise the main SRT entry element arrived to execute a federal search warrant and when they exited their transport one of the largest firefights in U.S. law enforcement history began. Before it was over, four of my team mates and friends would be dead, and seventeen others, including my partner, would be wounded. After a cease fire was finally negotiated, and the SRT entry element was withdrawn from the area, Larry and I, as well as three other sniper teams, remained in our positions throughout the day to ensure that no one from inside the compound left the property.

Just prior to dusk a light rain began to fall and Larry and I received orders to exfil from the property. After moving a few hundred meters away from the compound we made contact with a small group of agents that had occupied

a barn on the neighbors property. Shortly after leaving the barn, Larry and I and the small group of agent came under small arms fire from a group of Koresh followers trying to reinforce the compound. It was almost sunset when this second firefight started and we were running low on ammunition. The results of the second firefight were one Koresh follow KIA, one captured, and one escaped. With the captured Koresh follower in custody, we continued our exfil to a road junction where we were picked up by other agents.

After being picked up and returned to the TOC, Larry and I first learned that it was Todd, Steve, Conway, and Rob had had been killed. Larry was treated for a laceration to the top of his head caused by bullet fragments that ricocheted off the farm equipment we were underneath during the firefight.

The next few weeks were filled with 20 hour work days and continuous efforts to get children released from the compound. Toward the end of March I returned to Detroit to see my family and rest up a bit. In April I returned to Waco with the rest of my team from Detroit. By this time the FBI decided to gas the compound and force Koresh and his followers out. I remember watching in disbelief when Koresh and his followers set fire to the compound killing almost all of the men, women, and children that remained inside.

Koresh was a evil POS that used religion to control his followers. He was a pedophile that abused minor girls that lived in the compound and he preached an apocalyptic theology that was based on his misinterpretation of the scriptures. Koresh ordered the fires to be set that destroyed the compound and he made the decision to refuse to surrender or to protect his followers. Koresh was a false prophet that told

his followers that he was the son of God and that only he understood the true meaning of the book of Revelations.

I may have some FB friends that do not know me very well or may think they know more about David Koresh and the raid in Waco Texas than I do. If this is the case feel free to unfriend me and label me as a constitution hating government thug that enjoys killing women and children. I have heard all of this rhetoric before and I'm well past getting upset over it. I know that my military and law enforcement friends would have acted in the same manner I did 22 years ago if they were presented with the same information I had regarding Koresh.

The four stars on the patch represent the agents that were killed. I will never forget that day, or the lives of Rob, Todd, Steve, and Conway that ended on that cold February morning.

Sent from my iPhone

Roger Guthrie

Wetumpka, AL

It was great to see you last week. We enjoyed everything, and we appreciate you. Please include this letter in your next ATFAR newsletter:

Many thanks to Gene and Marsha Rightmyer, Neta Rice, and all others who contributed to making the 2019 ATFAR Smoky Mountains Rendezvous II so successful. We enjoyed the venue, the nice weather, the delicious food, the great company, and the very interesting program concerning the Waco incident. Our trip to the aquarium in Gatlinburg was a first for both of us; and we highly recommend it for entertainment, education, and exercise. It was great to see everyone again, and we look

forward to the next rendezvous. Have a safe and happy summer.

Glen and Mary Kibler

Smithfield, KY

Neta....checking in to thank you for the beautiful get well card (signed by you and many ATFAR members) which I received in the mail yesterday which meant so much to me! Baring any other major setbacks, Mary Ann and I plan to attend the ATFAR get together next year. It will be great to visit with many of the ole timers that I haven't seen in a very long time. I'm gaining a little more strength each day (although very slowly) with the help of the nurses, physical and occupational therapists who visit me at home throughout the week. I still have to use a cane to get around the house along with my walker when I go outside, but it beats the alternative. I have been blessed by the many friends who have kept me in their thoughts and prayers during the past couple of years....PRAYER WORKS! Hope all is going well with you and yours.
JLB (That's Jim Brown to most of us).

Choctaw, OK

I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed my time at the reunion. I must have missed a dozen or more of them with Betty's health going downhill. She has been gone for 4 years, now and I haven't really cared about coming. My sons twisted my arm and threatened serious bodily harm to me if I didn't go. I'm grateful to all 3 plus 1 of them. I was reluctant to come, thinking I have been retired for so long I wouldn't know anyone or be known by anyone. I had many friends, there and enjoyed every minute. The Waco presentation was very special. I can't really explain why but I was in tears most of the time. It was far too removed to fear for my comrade's safety but I think I was again, enraged by the fact some monster could do this to my agency. I tried to tell Bill and Pete, right after the presentation, that I was very

proud of just being in the same agency as them and Curtis but I was unable to get it out. Tears and all, I wouldn't have missed it. I won't have to be coerced into coming next year. Thanks to you, Gene, and everyone who worked for us to have such a great time.

Ed Easley

Loudon, TN

I had a Pacemaker installed Friday, June 7th, and I won't be able to play golf for six weeks, July 19th. I know some of you are saying, "I did not know the SOB had a heart." "Surprise." I had not been feeling well, tired and listless for about a month. Went to our GP after tests he immediately sent me to Dr. Sharma and after some tests he sent me to the Emergency Room. I moved my car and walked in the ER and they were prepared for me to arrive in ambulance. I walked to my room in

the ER and took more tests. They took me to hospital cardiac section and installed the Pacemaker that evening. Checked out of the hospital on June 8. I have been checking my blood pressure for the past month and it had varied from 193/93/38, which scared the hell out me but still did not go to the doctor and didn't tell my wife but an hour or so later I checked it and it was 135/72/40. I had never worried about the third number, pulse, which I should have. I am home now and go back to Dr Sharma on Monday morning, June 10th. I am sore and my blood pressure is still high but bottom, third number, is better 65 – 80. I urge you to keep track of your blood pressure and pay attention to all three numbers.

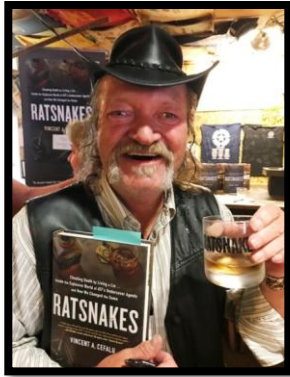
Gene Rightmyer

ps: I had quit smoking 2 days before this happened, just updating y'all.

ATF Friends and Family Who have Passed into Memory

Chuck Turner	May 2019	Suffolk, VA
John Kreeger	May 2019	Greenville, TN
John Manfreda	May 2019	FL?
Joe Stone	June 2019	Birmingham, AL
Clay Marshall	July 2019	Seattle, WA
Betty Haley	January 2019	Raleigh, NC
Al Gleason	February 2019	Palm Coast, FL

Please notify me when you hear that one of our loved ones has passed away. I don't always get the news and am so sorry when someone asks why their family member or friend wasn't mentioned. Thanks, Neta



Vince Cefalu Did It...

He wrote a book!

Ratsnakes

Cheating Death by Living a Lie...

Inside the Explosive World of
ATF's Undercover Agents

and How we Changed the Game

This book is a really good read and it's truly Vince from beginning to end. His love for ATF and for the friends he made in ATF are very clear throughout the book. Jim Lightfoot, former six-term congressman, US House of Representatives from Iowa, wrote the foreword and a gang of many make up the main characters. Vince not only highlights his career throughout the book, he highlights many of the people he worked with and came in contact with over his years of service.

If you have not already read "Ratsnakes", you can obtain a copy from Amazon, major book stores, or just contact Vince.

By the way, he and Robin finally gave up on California and moved to the most wonderful state of Tennessee!

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