

**COMMAND AIRCRAFT COMPANY REUNION
TAMPA FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 28, 2012**



L-R, back row: Don Nicholson, Peter Faber, Joe Plumley, Bob Kirksey, Rodney Richie, Jack Lynch, Jack Watson, Garnett Crask, Dave Hassen, Jack Fitzgibbon, Dave Barlow.

Sitting: Jim Garrard (365th Avn Det), Don Ricks, Joe Tilghman, Alan Smith, Paula Hardiman, Our Missing Man, John Moore, Ken Fender, and George Simpson.



George Simpson eagerly volunteered to sponsor a Friday evening, CAC get together during the Long Thanh North Reunion. To his credit, he also acquired the assistance of Glenda Knox, and between the two we enjoyed an excellent meeting atop the Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay Hotel, followed by hotel-provided transportation to *Mitchell's Fish Market* a few miles from the hotel. More on that later. Left, a welcome introduction by George.

George and Glenda were excellent hosts, and the reception made everyone feel welcomed as we stood around for about an hour enjoying conversation and drinks.





Right: Jack Watson presents Don Ricks with a copy of his recently released book, *Hidden Cuba: A Photojournalist's Unauthorized Journey to Cuba to Capture Daily Life: 50 Years After Castro's Revolution*. Jack signs a copy for Paula Hardiman at left.



Above, Joe Tilghman takes a moment to discuss the new Long-trip.org web site. We also pitched in to help cover costs of the web site and evening's expenses.

Above right, Don Ricks leads the group in recognition and honor of those on the unit's KIA/MIA list prepared by George Simpson. Bob Kirksey holds a suit that represents each. Lower left, Rodney Richie and daughter, Melisa, observe the ceremony.





CAC Ladies in FLA

The ladies received lots of attention, and it was obvious that Peter was in heaven. There are higher definition versions of these photos, available from Paula Hardiman and Don Ricks. You might also ask Dave Barlow, a very good photographer, and the pro, Jack Watson. These photos are on the web site, too.

L-R standing: Marcia Crask, Melisa Richie, Maris Hassen, Diane Fender, Donna Colwell, and Donna Lynch.

L-R seated: Anne Barlow, Marlene Plumley, Paula Hardiman, **Our Resident Man**, Glenda Knox, and **Our Missing Man**.

Below: George Simpson presents each man with a gift (a very nice wall sign).



“There are old pilots, and there are bold pilots,

But, there are no old bold pilots!”



Yep, camera shy Joe Gray, here sir.





<http://www.fantasyofflight.com>

From the left are Ken Fender, Alan Smith, Kermit Weeks (owner of Fantasy of Flight), Pete Faber, Bob Kirksey, Joe Tilghman, enjoying their visit to the Fantasy of Flight Air Museum. Right, enjoying a good meal and companionship at Bern's Steak House, are Ron and Sadie Richardson, Pete Faber, Maureen and Lyle Sunderland, Joe Tilghman, Bob Kirksey, and Connie and Sam Langhofer.



The above might not be a "best photo," but it really represents what we look for in a reunion: talking, getting to better know one another, taking photographs, meeting people and renewing old friendships. Priceless! Not to draw attention, but unfortunately Melisa Richie did not share her photo. 🙏





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Building this report has been both fun and educational; it was a great opportunity to get into the many features of InDesign. Conversion of the original files to PDF helps provide a way for each person to download and save a personal copy. If you desire a copy of a particular photo, please send an email with a copy of the one you want. I will forward your request to the owner of the photo. Thanks for all the great smiles! Donald M. Ricks, CAC.