

GEEIA-MDA-EI “CAN-DO”

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

October 8-11, 2009

FIFTEENTH BIENNIAL WORLDWIDE GEEIA-MDA-EI ASSOCIATION REUNION

Another great reunion! Not our biggest, but it was one of our best reunions ever, despite the heavy rains and winds that tried to wash us out. We had several new attendees and many who haven't attended in a while.

The 15th Biennial Worldwide GEEIA-MDA-EI Association Reunion was held at the Biltmore Hotel Oklahoma in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 8-11 October, 2009.

We had attendees from twenty-six states (AK, AR, AZ, CA, FL, GA, IA, IL, KS, KY, LA, MA, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA and WY). And once again, Roy Finuf came all the way from Tachikawa, Japan, and he is already looking forward to attending the 2011 reunion.

On Thursday evening we hosted a complimentary wine and cheese party. Approximately sixty-five (65) reunion attendees participated. All enjoyed the event and the camaraderie of telling "War (Installer) Stories".

Friday morning, seventeen (17) attendees visited the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. The trip was enjoyed by all.

Saturday morning, fourteen (14) attendees visited the Remington Park Casino— we understand there were NO winners.

We had approximately one hundred and thirty attendees, (not everyone signed in at the reunion), with 108 eating at the banquet. The food served was Prime Rib, Cornish Hen, or a Vegetarian Plate.

Our guest speaker was Colonel (Retired) Carl Williamson, former commander of Air Force Communications Agency, located at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Colonel Williamson's message was on the importance of standardizing and integrating communications between all branches of service. Colonel Williamson was presented with a certificate from the Reunion Committee making him an "Honorary EI Team Chief."

The Mayor of Oklahoma City, Mick Cornett, proclaimed Friday, 9 October 2009, as GEEIA-MDA-EI Day in Oklahoma City; and the Governor of Oklahoma, Brad Henry, proclaimed Saturday, 10 October 2009, as GEEIA-MDA-EI Day in the State of Oklahoma. We were honored to receive this recognition and each attendee received a copy of both proclamations in their Dinner Programs.

The assistance of Morris Moradi, Banquet Manager for the hotel, was invaluable. To a large part, the success of this reunion can be attributed to his dedication to detail and full support of all our requirements. The Reunion Committee presented Morris with a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts.

A big "Thanks" to the attendees who helped setting up the memorabilia room and helping out with the bar. We couldn't have done it without your help, and we ask your continued involvement in keeping OUR history in the limelight.

And a "Special Thanks" goes to Colonel (retired) Bill Hartsell for stepping in and acting as our Master of Ceremonies, including the Invocation and a powerful POW-MIA Ceremony.

We were extremely pleased to welcome Walt and Nancy Chapman back with the group, after missing the past two reunions due to bad health. We're happy to report that their ailments have been corrected and they are well on their way to recovery. Welcome Back!

As you know, we have developed a web site for the association. James Badgett, of Azle, Texas is our Webmaster. James asks for help from all our members in constructing the web site. He wants your ideas, history, TDY stories, photos of jobs, reunions, etc. If you know or hear of any of our brothers or sisters who have passed on, please provide that information also. We have a Forum page on the web site that you can use to communicate with all of the association membership. Remember, it's your site. Let's build it and use it. Perhaps through it's use, we can cut the number of newsletter mailings and reduce our costs. <www.geeia-mdai-ei.org>

Costs in reproduction, mail, rental of hospitality rooms, and the banquet set-up and clean-up have risen to the point that we have had to increase our registration fee; it was unfortunate, but we had no alternative. The "Raffle", sales of Personnel Registries and donations to the "Kitty" paid the bulk of the expenses.

If anyone desires a copy of the October 2009 GEEIA-MDA-EI Association Personnel Registry, they are available for \$7.00 per copy plus \$1.90 mailing cost. Please contact Jim Street at (405) 733-5041 or email at <streetjames@att.net>.

Colonel (Retired) Jim Hanby will look into the possibility of hosting the Sixteenth GEEIA-MDA-EI Association Worldwide Reunion in in Biloxi, MS in 2011. Dates of the reunion and guest speaker will be announced as soon as details are firmed up—check the web site for updates.

REUNION ATTENDEES

Allen, Bill and Judy— Arizona
Anderson, Herbert and Ellen— Oklahoma
Anderson, William— California
Arsenault, Leonard and Marcia— North Dakota
Bailey, Robert and Justina— Louisiana
Beach, Robert—Iowa
Beard, Ike— Oklahoma
Beaudreau, Louise— Massachusetts
Bellisario, Don and Adelphia— Oklahoma
Benner, Noel— Illinois
Bessette, Duane and Nona— Alaska
Best, Willie— Tennessee
Chapman, Walter and Nancy— Oklahoma
Clark, David and Diane— Oklahoma
Cook, Robert— Texas
Crook, Walter + 1— Wyoming
Daniels, Ray and Janice — Florida
Davis, Don— Louisiana
Dawson, Gerry— California
Derscheid, Ronald (Red) and Linda— Mississippi
Esparza, Isaac— Texas
Felix, Victor— Minnesota
Finuf, Roy— Japan
Flynn, Robert and Rita — California
Gale, Dwight and Bobbie— Tennessee
Garcia, Arnie and Benita — Texas
Getchell, Darrell and Kiyo— Oklahoma
Gibbs, James — Florida
Graham, Maurice — Nebraska
Graham, Richard — Nebraska
Graham, Thomas— Nebraska
Hamm, Lester— Tennessee
Hanby, Jim and Nancy— Mississippi
Hanson, Robert — South Dakota
Hartsell, William and Glenda — Oklahoma
Henderson, David and Mitsue— Texas
Henson, Joyce— Oklahoma
Holloway, Henry— California

Horton, Rodney and Marilyn— Illinois
Howell, Antonio— Texas
Howell, Enrique— Illinois
Hubbard, Jack— California
Jarreau, Cecil and Mary— Mississippi
Jones, Finch and Sandy— Oklahoma
Kudolis, Charles— Louisiana
Lackney, Dale and Deanna— South Dakota
Lanham, Gary— Oklahoma
Lavalle, Anthony— Oklahoma
Lee, Neal— Missouri
Lerma, Noe — California
Lewis, Herman— Texas
Litz, Andrew— California
Lopez, Elias— Texas
Mahar, Denis and Kay— Michigan
McCollum, Denzil and Delores— Nebraska
McMall, Steve and Rebecca—Oklahoma
Miller, Jay and Peggy— Georgia
Mitchell, Harold and Shirley— Florida
Nobles, Milton and Karen— Oklahoma
Partlow, John and Gala— Texas
Pervin, Robert— Minnesota
Phillips, Rabun and Janice— Georgia
Poffek, Ed and Judy— California
Quirk, Joe and Joanne— Missouri
Ransom, Richard— Oklahoma
Rocciotti, Tony— Massachusetts
Roberts, Lee Roy— North Carolina
Rodriguez, Tony and Yoshiko— South Carolina
Seals, Arvel— Texas
Smith, Alfred and Shirley— Virginia
Smith, Fred— Arkansas
Snyder, Paul and Joyce— Texas
Stevens, Steve and Marjorie— Kansas
Strazza, Jerry— Connecticut
Street, James— Oklahoma
Strittmatter, Robert— Texas
Summers, William and Delores— Oklahoma
Suschinski, Mark— Maryland
Swecker, Richard and Ann— South Carolina
Tallant, James— Oklahoma
Taylor, Richard— Kentucky
Thomas, Larry and Peggy— California
Wangler, Dick and Jean— Illinois
Wangler, Richard—Illinois
Williams, George and Joan— California
Williamson, Carl— Illinois
Turner, Terry and Diane— Tennessee
Zorn, Peter— Oklahoma

As we said earlier, not everyone signed in. This is a minor glitch that we will have to work to correct in future reunions. We definitely want to recognize everyone for attending. We want to thank all those who fought the weather to make it to Oklahoma City, and hope to see everyone back for the Sixteenth Reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi in 2011!!