



Greetings, Nighthawks!

The Stealth Fighter Association (SFA) 40th Anniversary Tribute at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas was a resounding success! We had 438 Nighthawks and their guests registered, including 125 Bandits, 44 golfers, and 70 Nellis AFB tour participants. Especially pleasing was the large number of first-time attendees of an SFA reunion event. Randy “Crooner” Eckley, Bandit 458, led the banquet attendees in the National Anthem, and the assembled patriotic voices joining in were positively glorious! SFA Board member Mark Dougherty, Bandit 168, led a moving tribute to our POWs/MIAs and our Fallen Nighthawks, which had everyone on their feet in a standing ovation. Thank you, Crooner and Mark! And thank you to guest speakers, General Joseph Ralston, and Lockheed VP of Tactical Systems, Keith Pedersen, for their fascinating presentations and insightful answers to questions from the audience. General David Goldfein was a last-minute cancellation due to an issue beyond his control and Keith volunteered to fill in.



If you were there, I just want to pass on a few items for you to consider after your return from our event in ‘Vegas:

- 1) Check your hotel billing statement carefully. Some attendees appear to have been overcharged or double-charged for the Resort Fees because hotel clerks did not understand you were part of our Group Rate. Contact the Melissa Sexauer at the Orleans at (702) 365-7050 if you have any questions.

- 2) SFA Embroidered Merchandise – We had a limited number of SFA polo shirts available upon check-in which quickly sold out. If you are interested in purchasing shirts, hats, or other SFA logo apparel, we are opening an order window from May 16th through May 31st for you to purchase items from our vendor.



The SFA makes no money from the orders...you are dealing directly with the apparel company. To order, go to <https://threadlogic.com> , and choose your items. At checkout, you'll create an account and a login. You do not need to upload the logo; we already have it on file. Enter "Stealth Fighter Association" in the Company Name tab and that will indicate that you are part of the SFA. Enter "Stealth20" in the Discount Code box during checkout. When the order window closes on May 31st. all orders will be processed and shipped. You can expect your items to arrive by 3-4 weeks after the order window closes (around mid-June). This is the LAST CHANCE to order SFA embroidered merchandise until the new SFA Board begins gearing up for our next reunion.

- 3) SFA Custom Watches – We partnered with SWISSPL to create an SFA-logo wristwatch. Again, the SFA makes no profit from these watches. If you are interested, log in to <https://swisspl.com/f117> to place an order. Custom-engraved backs are available for extra cost to commemorate career milestones, units, nicknames, Bandit #, etc. Entering the discount code "F117" at checkout secures you a 25% discount from the prices listed on the website.
- 4) The pictures taken by Cashman Photo at the 40th Tribute, and the slideshows shown in the banquet and hospitality suite will be added to the SFA website soon. You may review and download the photos now at:



<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d30ytcyg3fh2pzw/AACFzKLRy6BzctDdf7WUqij7a?dl=0>

- 5) The Board is soliciting feedback from you about the event in Las Vegas so that we can make the next reunion even better. If you wish to provide feedback, good or bad, or suggestions for improvement, please drop an email to the SFA Board at sfafeedback117@gmail.com. The comment window will be open until the end of May. We will take all of your comments, positive or negative, under consideration for future events.
- 6) Finally, this is my last official communication as President of the Association. I want to thank all of the officers and Board members who volunteered untold hours of time and effort to make the 40th Anniversary Tribute the success that it was: Vice President Joe Skaja, Secretary/Treasurer Alex Odekerken, and Kent Burns, Mark Dougherty, Jim Garlitz, Bill Lake, Tnle McCloskey, and Phil McDaniel...I owe all of them my deepest gratitude for all their assistance and wise counsel during this past five years.
- 7) During the Business meeting before the 'Vegas banquet, a new Board was selected. Five of the nine members are returning, and four new volunteers are joining the SFA Board. The new slate is:

President: Phil McDaniel

Vice President: Greg Feest

Secretary: Tnle McCloskey

Treasurer: Alex Odekerken

Communications: Chris Babbidge

Board members: Blake Bourland, John Faris, Jim Garlitz and Bill Lake

Join me in wishing your new Board the best of success as they guide the SFA into the future. It has been an honor to serve as your SFA President, and I'll see you at the next reunion!

Rick "Seldom" Wright

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