

A Message from the President

When Lois and I joined the VP-2 Association back in the last century, we were given member number 50. At the time, I wondered how many veterans of VP-2 we could find to join us in our new Association. Each year, I continue to be amazed that we're still connecting with VP-2 veterans who become new members. Since the June Newsletter was published, we have welcomed members #590 Steven and Karen Fuller of Silver Lake, OH, #591 Richard and Shirley Gregory of Grand Prairie, TX, and #592 Eugene (a VP-1 veteran) and Toni Bosse of Gladstone, MO. We hope to see these folks in Fort Worth next October.

Speaking of Fort Worth in October, you'll find all that you need to know about our 2012 Fort Worth reunion in this issue. Save the dates; fill out the registration form with your down-payment and send it in now before you forget; go ahead and make your hotel reservation to make sure you can get a room with our special reunion room-rate. Don't put it off. I know you... you will forget. Jim and Pat Welch and Bob and Marilyn Satterwhite have laid the groundwork to create a great reunion experience. The rest is up to us. The best part of our reunions is getting together with our old friends and squadron-mates. To do that, we and our friends have to show up. Keep an eye on our website at www.patron2.com to see a continuing updated list of all those who sign up to attend the reunion. Doug Donohue will get that started next month. We have some members who have never attended a VP-2 reunion. I hope to see all the usual regulars plus many newcomers at the Fort Worth gathering.

A year ago, we announced that the VP-2

Association was taking on a new project to raise money for the restoration of the Truculent Turtle which is now on display at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola. When this Newsletter issue went to press in early November, we had reached 75% of our goal of raising \$50,000. Many thanks to all those who have contributed so generously to the Turtle Fund. Our fundraising effort continues, so we ask those who haven't yet contributed to the Truculent Turtle to please consider sending a tax-deductible donation by check to Doug Donohue (same address that you use for dues payments) or go to the Museum's website to make a donation via credit card. Help us to pass the word throughout the VP community about the Truculent Turtle and our efforts to preserve it in perpetuity. Let Bob Champoux know at rchampoux@comcast.net if you have any questions.

The Christmas season is upon us, and we are reminded of the many thousands of U.S. service men and women who are on-duty around the world and away from their families during the holidays. We thank them for their devoted service and continue to be concerned for their safety as they work to keep America free. In this age of the "all-volunteer force," our military men and women choose to defend our freedom. They aren't out there because they have to be... they are out there because they have volunteered to protect us. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Lois and I send our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'll see you all in Fort Worth in October.

Floyd Palmer
President, Patrol Squadron Two Association



Officers:

President – Floyd D. Palmer

1st VP – Dino Vlahakis

2nd VP – Jim Welch

Director – Vic Gulliver

Director – Milt DeBuhr

Director – Arley Hamilton

Secretary/Treasurer -

Doug Donohue



Truculent Turtle News By Bob Champoux

Great News: After nearly a full year of fund-raising by our Association, the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola has informed us that the VP-2 Association is now the official sponsor of the Truculent Turtle. We haven't reached our goal yet of raising \$50,000, but the museum has given us more time to work on that. We're happy to report that we have raised more than \$37,000. Most of that success is due to the response of our own Association members who stepped forward from the beginning, and who continue to contribute. We should also thank those members who have called upon their friends and acquaintances from other squadron associations to spread the word. It might have been Bill Kraper who first got the VP-4 Association interested in our fund-raising project. Former VP-4 members have made significant contributions to the Turtle fund.

We've been working hard to get the word out to other squadrons, but our main support seems to come from the "old-timers" who once served in P2V squadrons. We still need our members to raise awareness of the Truculent Turtle and our fund-raising effort among their friends from other squadrons. Our continuing goal will be to raise the entire \$50,000 to which we originally committed; however, we no longer have a deadline of completing this goal by the end of 2011.

More Good News: We have received a beautiful gift of a 24" x 30" oil painting of the Truculent Turtle by the noted aviation artist Robert Fiacco. We plan to donate the painting to the museum to add to the Truculent Turtle exhibit. As an avenue for further fund-raising, we are exploring the possibility of the production and sale of prints of this painting. The painting is an extraordinary work of art. The black and white version of it in this Newsletter doesn't do it justice. The painting can be viewed in color on-line at the artist's website: www.robertfiacco.com. Bob Fiacco served on active duty with VP-24 from 1991-94. He later served in VP-62 and VP-64. His dedication to our project is greatly appreciated. His artistic ability is inspiring.

The VP-2 Association wants to again remind everyone of the historical significance of the Truculent Turtle's epic flight. It wasn't a publicity stunt. That flight of nearly 12,000 miles cemented the Navy's maritime surveillance mission at a time when it might just as easily have been assigned to the newly emerging U.S. Air Force. The fact that the U.S. Navy continues to have responsibility for maritime surveillance can be traced back directly to that flight from Perth, Australia to Columbus, Ohio.



Oil painting by Bob Fiacco- 2011

We still need your support. If you haven't donated to the Turtle yet, please consider a tax-deductible contribution. Send your check made out to the VP-2 Association to Doug Donohue at PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410. For donations by credit card, please go to the NNAAM website at www.navalaviationmuseum.org/getinvolved/giving/contribution-form and fill in the information requested. In the drop down "Designation" box click on "Exhibits", and then in the "Comments" box insert "VP-2 Truculent Turtle". After submission, the museum will provide a receipt; please forward a copy to Doug Donohue at nvsoar@charter.net to assure donation tracking and appropriate acknowledgment.

The Vietnam Wall

The Internet has become a never ending abundance of information. Have you ever wondered if you went to school with or knew people who died in the Vietnam War? To research the subject, get on the Internet and go to <http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm> Click on your state and then scroll down to your city. The names of those who died in the Vietnam War from your city will appear. You can click on each name, and in many cases it will give a photo, a brief biography of the person including their military awards and description of the circumstances surrounding the death. This is an amazing research effort on somebody's part and well worth investigating.

Martin J. McNally

Dennis O'Leary reminds us of a long-lost veteran of VP-2 who got into some trouble in 1972. The following is quoted from a 1972 Time Magazine article:

June 24: Martin J. McNally, 28, an unemployed veteran, demanded \$502,200 at gunpoint on an American Airlines flight over Tulsa, Okla. He got the ransom money in St. Louis, as well as a fresh plane and pilot, and set off for Toronto. He parachuted to safety in an Indiana field, but lost the ransom, which was found by a farmer. Police arrested McNally at his Michigan home.



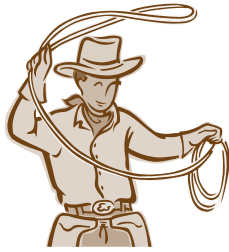
Maritime Patrol Association

RADM Hewitt, the current Commander Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces, has announced the formation of a new Maritime Patrol Association (MPA). Members of MPA will have the opportunity to network with each other through a variety of meetings, events and media; give and receive recognition to those persons who have made significant contributions to the community; and be informed of new developments and accomplishments in the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance community.

Members who register in the association's first year will be considered "Plank Owners," a historical tradition in the U.S. Navy whereby crew members of a newly commissioned ship had bragging rights to the "ownership" of one of the planks on the main deck.

Those interested in joining this new non-profit charitable organization can find out more by contacting the Executive Director, September Wilkerson, at (904) 563-4036 or via email at info@maritimepatrolassociation.org.

There is more, including how to join, on their website at www.maritimepatrolassociation.org.



VP-2 ASSOCIATION REUNION FT. WORTH, TEXAS

October 25-29, 2012

WELCOME YA'LL

YEE HAW

HOWDY PARDNER

When you get to the VP-2 Reunion, be prepared to meet some friendly folks who talk with a twang...Texas style. Check in, get comfortable, and be ready to enjoy visiting with old and new friends while sharing and reminiscing about Kodiak, Iwakuni, and Vietnam. We know the stories get better with age, so review your stories and be ready.

We know you'll enjoy our Texas hospitality and we are working hard to offer you some great fun and interesting activities during your reunion stay.

We do know how to have a great time and we want you here to enjoy it with us.

Jim & Pat Welch

Bob & Marilyn Satterwhite

REUNION ITINERARY (work in progress)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| Thursday, Oct. 25: | Check in; welcome reception. |
| Friday, Oct. 26: | Women's welcome, Association business meeting.
Free afternoon and evening. |
| Saturday, Oct. 27: | Lockheed plant tour, Fort Worth Stock Yards. |
| Sunday, Oct. 28: | Non denominational service by our chaplain, Doug Millar,
JFK Memorial, Cavanaugh Flight Museum, evening Banquet. |
| Monday, Oct. 29: | Hotel checkout |



SIGN UP FOR THE REUNION:

Total Cost: \$140 per person
\$30 Deposit by 1 April 2012 (non-refundable)
\$110 Remainder by 1 August 2012

Mail your form with a check payable to
VP-2 Reunion 2012 to Jim Welch
8601 Terrell Dr
North Richland Hills, TX 76182

Only for those with Internet access: To get you in the mood for a reunion in Texas, check out the video at www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=PGukluXzH1E. The video is not about the reunion; it is about having a good time in Texas!!

DOUBLETREE by HILTON DFW AIRPORT NORTH

The hotel is located two miles northeast of Dallas-Ft. Worth airport (DFW) at 4441 West John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063. Telephone 1(800) 222-8733 or fax 1(972) 815-0262



Check out the hotel on the web at:
dfwairportnorth.doubletree.com

Reservations are the responsibility of each individual and can be made by phone, or use the special hotel reservation website address below to make them on line. If making your reservation by phone, be sure to mention that you are part of the VP-2 Reunion group.

VP-2 room rates: \$ 85 single occupancy \$ 95 double occupancy
Plus state & local tax (currently 15% per room per night).

- ◆ These rates include coupons for a Full Breakfast Buffet daily.
- ◆ The hotel has extended the group rates 3 days prior to and 3 days after the reunion start and end dates based on room availability.
- ◆ Reservations will be accepted thru 3:00 PM October 19, 2012. The hotel will continue to accept reservations at our contracted rate after the cut-off date subject to availability.
- ◆ Reservation changes or cancellations will be accepted without penalty until 4:00 pm three days prior to scheduled arrival.
- ◆ Complimentary parking at the hotel (including RV).
- ◆ Complimentary Airport transportation.
- ◆ Complimentary Wireless Internet Service in Meeting Space and Guest Rooms.

Use this website address to make your reservations on line:

<http://tinyurl.com/hotelVP2>

Reservations by Phone: 1-800-222-8733

Our New MOAA Scholarship Winners

The Military Officers Association of American (MOAA) has chosen the two students for this academic year who will benefit from the college scholarships that have been funded by the VP-2 Association. The two students, Brittany Wetherill and Elizabeth Allgood have written thank-you letters which are copied below:

To: Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial/Patrol Squadron Two

Hi, my name is Brittany Wetherill, and I am the recipient of the Whidbey Patrol Squadron Memorial scholarship of a \$500 grant for this coming school year. I want to thank you very much for your kind gift and perhaps tell you a bit about myself.

I come from a small vacation town, Rangeley, on Rangeley Lake in the Northwest corner of Maine. I have lived there since 6th grade. Before that I lived just outside San Diego, California, and before that Yuma, Arizona. My family also spent a brief time in St. Simon's Island, Georgia. As you can see, we moved around a bit, mostly for my father's job, who is a Senior Agent in the U.S. Border Patrol as well as a Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard.

My family has always been a constant in my life. I have two little sisters, one of whom is off to college to study animation, the other in college to become an actress. Then, of course, there are my parents, Ana Wetherill, who is establishing her own catering business this year and taught me everything I know about food or a good story, and Benjamin Wetherill, who is serving with a naval unit overseas this year. Going to college and spending so much time away from them has been a new experience for me, but coming into my second year, I am enjoying my classes and the new challenges.

I am attending Nyack College in Nyack, New York to obtain a degree in English with a focus on writing. I have always felt that the stories we tell each other, what we read in books or watch on the TV, are part of what shapes our world, how we think and act, and I want to be part of that. I love to write, and I also love to direct stage plays and movies. I hope to be able to do both as a career some day.

To that end, the money supplied to me by MOAA, and in part by you, has already been very helpful. I have already paid off part of my school bill for the year, as well as obtained my mail key and a new student ID after my old one was destroyed. I hope to put the rest aside to go on a school trip to Italy later this year, a chance to experience another culture and boost my writing, but we'll see how that goes. If anything, your money is simply giving me a chance to be here, outside my tiny town and normal experiences, something crucial to a budding author needing to observe and experience. Thank you for your generous contribution towards my education, and I hope to put it to good use.

God bless you and your organization,

Brittany Wetherill

August 2011

Another Scholarship Winner Letter

Dear Patrol Squadron Two Association,

I wanted to write and thank you for your generous donation. The grant you supplied is very much appreciated.

I am currently a student at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, FL. As the expense of school rises each year, it is through scholarships, grants and loans that I can even think of attending classes at a university.

Although my family is fairly well, they still have a lot of debt like most Americans. When I graduated high school and went away to college, I was completely on my own to pay for most of my schooling. It is through your donation to MOAA and the grant I received that allows me to pay for school.

As a result, I am extremely thankful for your gift. It helps me pay for my housing and textbooks throughout the year. This money I have received will be used to the fullest of my ability. In other words, it will ensure the success for me in another year of school.

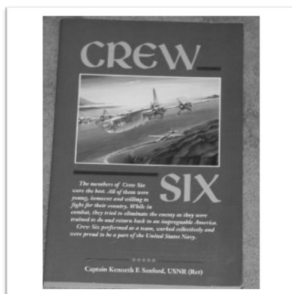
Thank you!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Allgood



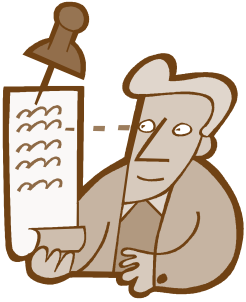
A note from Ken Sanford about "Crew Six:"



Yes, I have written a couple of books about my tours in Crew Six.

The first book is about my part in Crew Six in WWII, in VB-140. At this point I have no more available copies. My second book is post-WWII, which leads me into VP-2 (54-56). I do have copies of the second book. If you want one, send me your address and \$10 for mailing.

My address is K.F. Sanford, 21 Condon Ln., Port Ludlow, WA 98365. Phone # 360-437-2968.



As if he didn't have enough to do with the planning for our 2012 reunion, Jim Welch forwarded the following **Philosophy of Ambiguity**:

1. Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things.
2. One tequila, two tequila, three tequila, floor.
3. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
4. If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?
5. If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it a hostage situation?
6. Where do forest rangers go to get away from it all?
7. Would a fly without wings be called a walk?
8. Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?
9. If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked?
10. How do they get the deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs?
11. What was the best thing before sliced bread?
12. If you try to fail and succeed, which have you done?
13. Whose cruel idea was it for the word "lisp" to have an "s" in it?
14. Why is it called tourist season if we can't shoot at them?
15. If you spin an Oriental person in a circle three times, do they become disoriented?

The following may have come from the comedic genius of George Carlin. ...Can't prove it, but it sounds like him:

I have been in many places, but -

I have never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I have also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have never been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there.

I have been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I don't want to be in Continent... I don't want to go there...

And more and more I think of the Here After... Several times a day, in fact; I enter a room and think "What am I here after?"

Treasurer's Notes

By Doug Donohue



Thanks to all those who continue to support the association through their kind generosity. Dues donations are significantly lower this biennium. Nevertheless, the ability of the treasury to meet demands remains in good shape since Association outlays are very low, and in-kind donations pick up what would otherwise be a significant drain.

This last July the Association received a \$1000 donation from the Lenart Erickson Foundation out of the blue. Efforts to "connect the dots" to VP-2 have so far been fruitless. The Board of Directors opted to transfer the donation to the Truculent Turtle Fund.

A member's dues donation status can be found on the website roster page, and on the label of this newsletter. Membership cards and association rosters are available on request. It is not difficult to tailor a roster list that is restricted to those VP-2 service years desired.

Please remember to maintain current contact information, including email address.

Thank you for your participation in our unique group of "old salts."

The Ships Store

by Vic Gulliver

The VP-2 Association seems to have a large number of members who either don't have access to or don't use the Internet or email. We have about 300 email addresses on file for our membership. However, an email we sent out about the Truculent Turtle last Spring was opened by only about half of those 300 members. So, I'm guessing that quite a few of our members don't use their email and don't visit the VP-2 website at www.patron2.com.

Our website shows that we still have a number of merchandise items for sale, but some members may not be aware of that. If you have Internet access, go to our website and see the order form and the various items in the store. For those who don't have access to our website, I can tell you briefly that we still have VP-2 ball caps for sale at \$12, 4.5" squadron patches for \$4.50, Cloisonné lapel pins for \$7.00 and VP-2 Zippo lighters for \$18.00.

The mailing cost for a ball cap or a lighter is \$6.00, and the mailing cost for a patch or a pin is \$2.00. For those who don't use the Internet, you can send me your handwritten order with a check by U.S. mail. Make your check out to the VP-2 Association and include enough to cover the mailing cost. We'll take it from there.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY DOUG MILLAR

As we read the Chaplain's Corner, Doug Millar is undergoing a serious and delicate surgery. Please join us in wishing and praying for his speedy recovery.

What a spring and summer we have seen – earthquakes and tidal waves; the Arab Spring; the near financial collapse of several European nations; riots and warfare; economic suffering at home. On a more personal level, most of us have seen the loss of friends, sickness around us (or perhaps to us) and any number of other life shattering events. In the midst of this it is easy to say, "Where is this God that is supposed to be love, and life, and goodness? What I see is pain, and suffering, and injustice!"

Does this match some of your own thinking? All of these thoughts have certainly entered my mind at one time or another and it is tempting to just decide to write God off and take our chances. But, let's look a little more closely.

Scripture tells us "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) He also created the flora and the fauna and finished his creation with man and woman. (Whether He did this in 7 days - or over millions of years, is not really significant. What is significant is that He did it.) And when He had finished, the Bible tells us, "It was very good." (Genesis 1:31) There was no death, no suffering, no hunger, no injustice – no sin. It was very good!

However, lurking in the background was God's archenemy –

Lucifer (or Satan as we know him.) He was, and still is, allowed to roam throughout the earth seeking to tempt and destroy God's ultimate creation – man and woman, the only created beings that were created "in God's own image." (Genesis 1:26) Satan is described to us as being a very seductive and convincing tempter, one who can even present himself as "an angel of light." God is sovereign which means that He has the freedom to do whatever He desires. He also gave to man and woman that freedom to make their own choices. Unfortunately the man and woman decided to yield to the temptation of Satan and disobey the only rule that God had given to them. In so doing they brought about their own destruction and brought the curse of sin onto mankind as well. Romans 5, verse 12 says, "... through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because ALL sinned ..." We are being told that all men and women sin. Ask yourself, "Have I ever sinned?" The answer for me personally is yes, yes, and yes – more than I can count. So the cause of the suffering and misery in the world is not God, but rather the great tempter, Satan. Mankind's unwillingness to resist his temptation, and to disobey God's law, is the cause of death and suffering. Should I be mad at God? I don't think so. My anger should be toward Satan and his program to bring us all down.

But God in His mercy and love has provided help for the present –

and hope for the future. That is what Christmas is all about – the sending of His son, Jesus Christ, to become a man and die for the sins of the world at Calvary. The book of John, chapter 3, and verse 16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life." This is the gift of Christmas! "Everlasting life," which continues out beyond this present life, is promised to have no pain, suffering, tears, or death. Do you believe it? The gift is there for your taking.

Have a great Christmas season.

In Memoriam

We have learned of the loss of the following association members since our June newsletter:

William S. Scantlin
(squadron 65-67)
(Dec 10)

Jerry Marr (squadron 51-54)
(May 11)

John Willcuts (squadron 58-61)
(Jun 11)

Max C. Kelso (squadron 60-64)
(Nov 11)

If you know of the passing of any of our former VP-2 personnel, please advise Doug Donohue by email at nvsoar@charter.net





VP-2 Association Officers *and Appointments*



President	Floyd D. Palmer 213 Woodhill Court, Mankato, MN 56001 507-327-6761, 507-388-2059 (Fax) floyd@palmerbusservice.com
1st Vice President	Dino Vlahakis 54 Westview Lane, Lebanon, NH 03766 603-448-3729 cg601@comcast.net
2nd Vice President	Jim Welch 8601 Terrell Dr., North Richland Hills, TX 76182 817-788-2204 japwelch@sbcglobal.net
Secretary/Treasurer Website Coordinator	Doug Donohue PO Box 2894, Gardnerville, NV 89410 775-781-3737 nvsoar@charter.net
Director/Ship's Store	Vic Gulliver 1900 Franklin Drive, Glenview, IL 60026 847-296-6907 vicgulliver@comcast.net
Director	Milt DeBuhr 171 Humbug Road, Yreka, CA 96097 530-841-0805 miltdebuhr@att.net
Director	Arley Hamilton 101 Burgess Avenue, Rochester, MA 02770 508-763-8434 hamilton.arley3@verizon.net
Association Chaplain	Doug Millar, 12515 Maple Street, Leavenworth, WA 98826 509-548-3154 dna@dnamillar.com
Association Historian	Skip Forseth, 2319 Brewster, Redwood City, CA 94062 650-365-2806 p2flyer@pacbell.net
Association Parliamentarian	Bob Bender, 197 Mill Pond Drive, Middleville, MI 49333 616-450-6790 bobender@yahoo.com
Membership Chairman Truculent Turtle Committee Chairman:	Bob Champoux, 286 145 th Place SE, Bellevue, WA 98007 425-502-9883 rchampoux@comcast.net
2012 Reunion Co-Chairmen	
Jim and Pat Welch	817-788-2204 japwelch@sbcglobal.net
Bob and Marilyn Satterwhite	817-279-9616 bstex@charter.net



Looking to Share Information
in the
VP 2 Neptune Newsletter?

If any of our members
would like to contribute
news, thoughts,
experiences, etc.,
please email:
Floyd D. Palmer at:

Floyddp@palmerbusservice.com

Patrol Squadron Two Association
PO Box 2894
Gardnerville, NV 89410



December 2011 VP-2 Newsletter

Patrol Squadron Two Association Reunion 2012; Fort Worth, Texas; 25-29 October 2012
Reunion Registration

I (we) plan to attend the VP-2 Reunion in Fort Worth, October 25-29, 2012.
I am enclosing a check for the \$30.00 per person deposit, or the \$140 per person fee.

Squadron mate: _____ Years in VP-2 _____ - _____

Accompanying Spouse (partner): _____

Please include your current complete contact information!

Mailing address:

Telephone(s):

Email:

Remember - Hotel reservations at the Doubletree by Hilton DFW Airport North Hotel.
See the website at dfwairportnorth.doubletree.com to view the hotel's amenities and facilities.

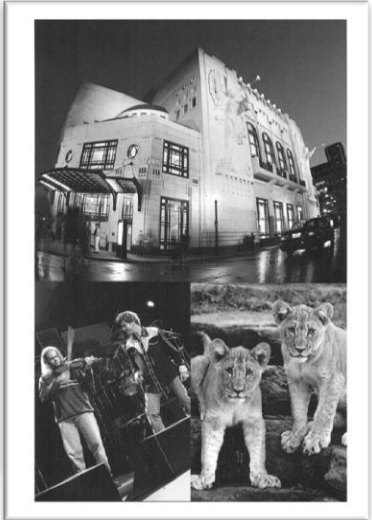
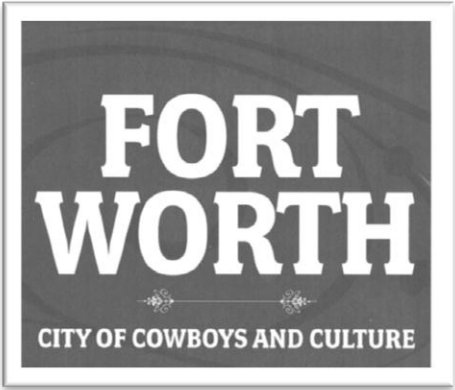
Mail this form and your check made out to VP-2 Reunion 2012 to:

Jim Welch
8601 Terrell Dr.
North Richland Hills, TX 76182

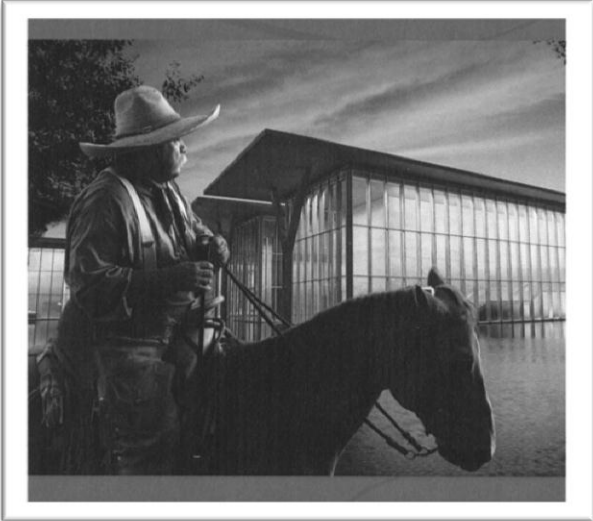
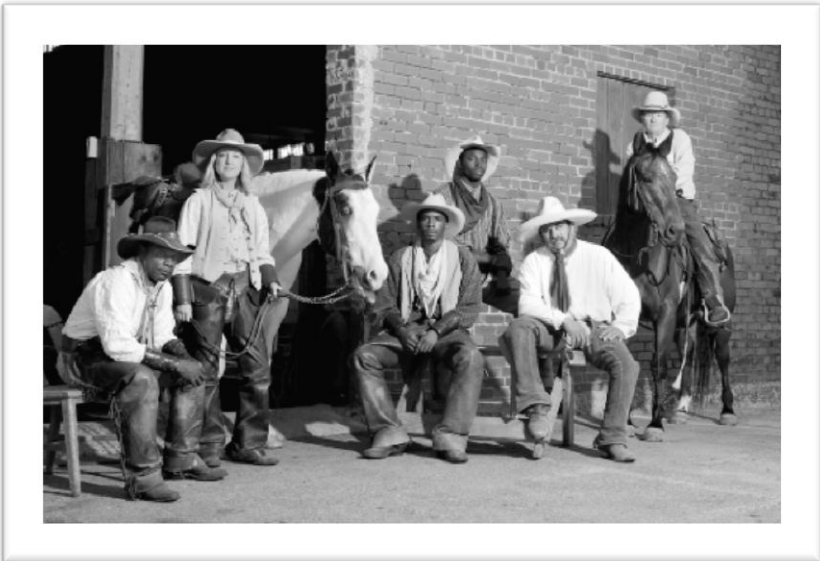
Questions - please call Jim Welch at 817-907-2170, or email at japwelch@sbcglobal.net

PLEASE NOTE: Some tours/activities will have additional cost.
When the activities and tours are finalized we will notify you of the cost and a decision
can be made at that time regarding your participation.

Comments:



Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport



See the famous Texas Longhorn cattle and real cowboys at the Stock Yard