



Rotor And



Scalpel



FLORIDA



DUSTOFF



ASSOCIATION



Spring Edition
MARCH 2008

Newsletter



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is reunion time again and we are hoping for a good turn out. We are returning to our "old and familiar" campsites this year again in Camp Ground B. As always, we will have water splits and extra electrical receptacles. Doc Williams and I will be heading to Melbourne the week prior to get our sites for next year.

Patches and his crew are in the process of deciding on the meals that they will be serving – hope they are as good as last year!!! Friday and Saturday night's dinners will be at a cost of \$5.00 and \$6.00 respectively. If anyone would like to donate any items for our raffle or auction, please see myself, Bert or Doc Williams at the campsite. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Although we did not present colors this past reunion at opening ceremonies, I would like to do so again. Anyone interested in participating, please contact me at HDWIZRD7@AOL.COM so we may make arrangements.

I would like to take a moment to welcome all new members to Dustoff, including Brett Brookins, who recently joined after attending a Stand-Up at the Orlando VA Medical Center this past February. He and his wife, Elizabeth will be attending the reunion and will be staying at our campsite. Sgt. Brookins served two tours in Afghanistan as a Medic.

Even though it has been an exceptionally hard year for myself, and family due to Bert being ill, Doc Williams,

Bert and myself have been representing Dustoff faithfully with the Vietnam and All Veterans Coalition, with Bert only missing one executive board meeting due to the location and the amount of people attending. Dustoff also hosted the July meeting in Daytona at the Hawaiian Inn, as well as hosting an executive board meeting here at the house. To remind you the Coalition meets once a quarter for general meetings (all are welcomed to attend) in addition to 4 executive board meetings. We then forward the information that we receive from these meetings (and e-mail updates) to you, our general membership. From *time to time* we ask for your input and would appreciate your responding to our requests. We cannot speak on your behalf without your response.

Roberta and myself presented our wreath this past Veterans Day here in Edgewater at our local cemetery. It was a beautiful ceremony, complete with a flyover.

I would like to Congratulate to all recipients of awards last year: Golden Stethoscope – James "Patches" Watson, Doctor Dustoff – Joe Most, Patches and Jeff the Bubblehead, Certificate of Appreciation for Service to Dustoff - Chris Voisey. In addition, Bert with the help of the Board of Directors presented myself, Doc Williams and Doc Caldwell with Past President Awards, as well as Jimmie Kirkley for Service to Dustoff.

To remind all everyone should contribute and bring two 12 packs (beer, soda, water, etc.) to

donate to the coolers at reunion. It worked out great last year and I for one did not hear any complaints.

Please remember, our general membership meeting will be held 1 hour after the close of opening ceremonies at the campsite on the 26th.

Now for the part of our newsletter nobody likes to read. It takes money to run the organization. If you are a yearly member, **PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.**

DUSTOFF FOREVER

Bob (Doc) Neitzel

A NOTE TO ALL FROM THE EDITOR

Another year has passed and once again, really nothing has been forwarded to me to include in the newsletter (except from VVB and VVOF members which has been forwarded from myself and Bob throughout the year). A lot of you are retired, whereas I am not. *I really would like someone to step up to the plate – e-mail some info.* I am e-mailing as many newsletters as possible, so if you received this by snail mail and have a e-mail address, please e-mail it to me at Hdwizrd8@aol.com and PLEASE indicate Dustoff in the subject line.

I think that our last reunion was a great success. We would like to encourage all members to attend the reunion in April 2008. We will have a general membership meeting on Saturday. **If you plan on attending the reunion this year, please contact me at (386) 424-1989 or by e-mail. I will need to know if you need a campsite (wet or dry) and how many people will be attending with you.** It is quite difficult to plan a dinner (as usual, Saturday night) without having an idea of a head count. The reunion dates are April 24-27th at Wickham Park.

If you can also attend the week prior, you may also wish participate in the Vietnam And All Veterans Reunion Memorial Walls Motorcycle Escort on Sunday April 20, 2008 at Brevard Community College 1519 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL. If staying overnight room rates: Econo-Lodge US1 & 528 \$52.99 per night Free Breakfast. Mention Vietnam Vets to get rate 1-888-721-9423 Local 321-632-4561

Line-up is at 9:00 am and they will leave 10:00 am. Arrive at Wickham Park, Melbourne, About 11:00 am. The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard will host a COVERED DISH PICNIC, for those who want to

help set up the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Other Memorials and Displays. It is well worth the experience if you are able to do so.

Please take a look at the reunion website page at VVOF.ORG and there is a link to the reunion home page, or go right to the source at the VVB website.

As mentioned, Doc Williams, Bob and myself have attended various functions this year representing Dustoff with the Coalition. This past February we attended a Stand-up at the VA Medical Center. The attendance was good considering for a portion of the day we had a torrential downpour. The idea behind the stand up is to welcome troops currently serving, or who have recently served and to let them know what resources are available for them and what benefits they are entitled to. In addition to helping and supporting our troops, it lets them know that WE are all here for them. If there are stand ups in your local community, please attend, even if it is just to say WELCOME HOME! It is also a great way to bring in younger members into the organization.

I have been working on troop support for the coalition by contacting corporations requesting donations for our troops. It would be appreciated if our membership attending the reunion could bring items to support this effort. We are looking for personal toiletry items such as brushes, combs, soap, flip-flops, trial sizes of shampoo, toothpaste, etc., to send over seas. Items or monetary donations (personal or from organizations) would be greatly appreciated. We do have a 501(c) 3 being used if an organization is donating money.

Another worthy cause of our support is **OPERATION CLEAR SKIES** which I had e-mailed our a while ago (info below):

Our Family Readiness Group or FRG is sponsoring a program to provide school supplies, clothing, and toys to Iraqi schools in support of U.S. Military humanitarian efforts. Our American service men and women in that devastated, war-torn nation are trying to bridge the gap between our two peoples. Currently, many of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines have programs in which children's school supplies, clothing, and toys are collected from supporters back here, in America and then distributed to schools throughout Iraq.

The program we are sponsoring, *Operation Clear Skies*, was designed to help the Iraqi people in the province of Salah Ad Din in north-central Iraq. Demonstrating their support for the Iraqi nation and its children will help our service members develop a rapport with Iraqi political, educational, military, and law enforcement leaders in Salah Ad Din. Such efforts at rebuilding and educating will tremendously assist our service members in bringing peace and stability to this region and to the entire country.

Any person or organization that would like to assist in supporting this program is encouraged to mail any of the items (mostly school supplies, pencils, rulers, paper, backpacks, etc) to the address provided below or e-mail Mrs. Melissa Bianchi directly with questions at melissabianchi@comcast.net. We will also collect items directly and mail them ourselves if necessary. Your support of *Operation Clear Skies* will make it possible for American service members to make a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people and their children and to make a positive change in the future of their nation.

M.G. Bianchi
927th CSSB
COB Speicher
APO AE 09393
ATTN: Operation Clear Skies

Important upcoming legislation:

Just a reminder, if you are a Florida resident, contact your representative and have them get behind this bill.

HB 39 - POW-MIA Flag
GENERAL BILL by Boyd (CO-SPONSORS) Holder; Nehr

POW-MIA Flag: Requires DEP to display POW-MIA flag at state parks displaying United States flag.
Effective Date: July 1, 2008.

265 Co-Sponsors for H.Res 111, But We're Still Stuck In The Rules Committee. Please keep the pressure on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rules Committee Chairperson Louise McIntosh-Slaughter. Remind them that H.Res 111 enjoys

overwhelming bi-partisan support. With 265 Co-Sponsors passage of H.Res 111 is clearly the will of the people.

Please continue to make the calls. The toll free number for Congress is 866-727-4894. Not sure if your Congressional Representative is a cosponsor, visit www.nationalalliance.org/legis/110congress.htm If your Representative is highlighted in red, he/she is a cosponsor. And, remember if your Congressional Representative is not a cosponsor, keep working on them!

I look forward to seeing all at the Reunion!!!

Roberta Neitzel

BITS AND PIECES

We wish the best to and keep our prayers with the following members of Dustoff who have been ill and are still recovering: Ken Baker, Don (Hoss) Caldwell, Gordon (Boz) Boswell, Bob Gallagher, Ron (Doc) Smith, and Roberta Neitzel.

Congratulations are in order for Bob Neitzel, who was not only chosen as The VVOF Veteran of the Year, but was also elected at the First Vice President, Doc Williams who was elected as the VVOF Second Vice President and Bert Neitzel, the VVOF Member of the year.

Please take a look at the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition Website (VVOF.ORG). There is a tremendous amount of information and links to other sites.

If you need to express yourself, or have something worth sharing, please e-mail Roberta at Hdwizr8@aol.com, or call me at 386-424-1989.

CAMP SITE FEES FOR 2008

WET SITES: \$40.00 per night
DRY SITES: \$30.00 per night
Friday Dinner \$5.00 per person
Saturday Dinner \$6.00 per person

ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Robert (Doc) Neitzel	President	Hdwizrd7@aol.com
Leo (Doc) Williams	Vice-President	Dragin52@Hotmail.com
Roberta Voisey-Neitzel	Treasurer	Hdwizrd8@aol.com
Art Smith	Secretary	Grawulf@msn.com
Roberta Voisey-Neitzel	Newsletter Editor	Hdwizrd8@aol.com
Larry Dutro	Membership	Larrydutro@aol.com
John Combs	Chaplin	Jodoco@xecu.net
Ron (Doc) Custer	Chairman of the Board	Custer_ron@yahoo.com
Ron (Doc) Smith	Board Member	Bigdocs@aol.com
Ed (Gunny) Ryan	Board Member	GunnyRyan@aol.com

MAILING ADDRESS

Florida Dustoff Association, Inc.
2304 Woodland Drive
Edgewater, FL 32141

All inquiries, questions or comments may be directed to the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. All articles printed in our newsletters are strictly the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Dustoff Organization. Updated September 17, 2006

FLORIDA DUSTOFF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New _____ Renewal _____ Lifetime _____ Yearly _____ (check one)
Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____
Spouse: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____
Cell: () _____

In what capacity did you serve? Pilot ___ Crew Chief ___ Medic ___ Maintenance ___ Supply ___ Door
Gunner ___ Flight Ops ___ Clerk ___ Commo ___ Cook ___ (check one or more) Rank _____
Branch of Service _____
Dates of Assignment (Mo/Yr-Mo/Yr) _____

Attachments _____

If this is a renewal is this a change of address/information? _____

_____ I know a former Dustoff/Medic/Corpsman/Pilot/Nurse or other potential member and have listed their name, address and telephone number on the reverse.

Enclosed is \$20.00, my membership dues for one year () initial

Enclosed is my Lifetime membership dues as follows Age 55 and Below \$100.00 ()

Age 56-75 \$75.00 () Age 76 and above \$50.00 ()

(Make checks payable to Florida Dustoff Association)

Please provide a copy of your DD-214 (within 90 days) to:

Roberta Neitzel, Treasurer, 2304 Woodland Drive, Edgewater, FL 32141