



A Word from Willie

Society of Wild Weasels Newsletter May 2022 - Post Reunion Edition



CINCWW's Corner

Fellow Weasels,

The reunion at Phoenix was a great success and we need to thank Uke for making it happen along with Victor, Chili and others. We also need to thank the great reception we had from Luke led by Brig Gen “Freddie” Kreuder whose speech at the Friday luncheon had us all wanting to sign up again! He knows his Weasel history and he is building on the Wild Weasel culture with young aviators every day. Col “Bonzai” Watkins gave a great welcome and hats off to Capt Nitro Lorbiecki and Major Bender for their work as project officers and briefers.

With over 170 Wild Weasels we had some great stories from each generation and the F-35 and F-16 Warriors of today made us want to get back in the cockpit!

As we look back over Uke's 7 years as our CINC I have to say "outstanding job" and I am very confident having him as CINC Emeritus along with Victor to continue to guide us and help us grow as an organization. I hope to continue in their footsteps, and I am counting on all the Wild Weasel Society members to help us stay pure to the Weasel Veterans that have gone before us and on whose shoulders we stand today.

I wanted to take this opportunity to post my objectives for general feedback:

1. *Ensure the Wild Weasel Society maintains its heritage of support, integrity, accountability and continues to build on the Wild Weasel Ethos*
2. *Ensure that we communicate our intent, plans and strategies to the members of the Society*
3. *Provide heritage and a sense of belonging to both the F-16s and F-35s Weasels so that they can understand and carry our heritage forward*

Near Term Targets (within 6 months)

1. Publish Intent
2. Ensure bylaws/awards are published and available for all
3. Publish Reunion Word from Willie
4. Recruit a WW artist
5. Setup a Wild Weasel Gmail (WildWeaselReports@gmail.com)
6. Bring the Museum out of the Firewall and build an F-4C history
7. Work to coordinate Wild Weasel website and social media for messages
8. Setup a program and advertise for Interns
9. Provide a standard briefing for members to grow our heritage
10. Connect with National Museum of the Air Force, Cadet Squadron 35, River Rats and the Air Force Historian to promote, and support Weasel sections
11. Write a recruiting strategy and provide Heritage support to key Weasel geographic nodes through an operations plan and liaison officers
12. Review certificates and awards as part of marketing strategy
13. Setup Zoom update calls to brief the Society at 6-month interviews
14. Inventory museum artifacts

Budman

YGBSM/FILO

WW Society CINC

Now, Enjoy the Reunion Recap in Pictures

SOCIETY OF WILD WEASELS



*CERTIFICATE TO ACCOMPANY THE EDUCATIONAL GRANT OF
\$ 1,000.00*

***IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM F. HICKEY
THE SOCIETY OF WILD WEASELS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AIR WARRIOR
COURAGE FOUNDATION PRESENTS THIS GRANT TO***

***XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX
On 31 MONTH 2022***

BUD REDMOND, CINC WEASEL

DAVID BROG, TREASURER

Our new Education Grant—Thanks to the Board/Membership!

We're a bunch of Weasels and we never grow old!



Phil and Jim ready for anything!

Still ready but with a lot more wisdom (Right)



Victor and Chili rocking the House!

They still have the magic! (Right)



**8 April - Luke AFB for 56 FW Mission Brief and
F-35 flight line crawl**



Uke getting us ready for a great briefing from Bender!



Dave and Stanry ready for the flight line—Dapper is the only word to describe these well-dressed Weasels!



F-35 Loaded for Action!



Wreath Ceremony, and buffet lunch at Club

Wild Weasel Memorial Wreath Ceremony



8 April 2022
Luke Air Force Base, Arizona



Brig Gen Kreuder and Tom Hanton set the Memorial Wreath



General Kreuder and Tom salute our 80 Veterans that have flown West since our last reunion! We Remember Always!



Ed White WW #12 & Bob Breault WW #109—Hats off to the F-100 Weasels
Friday night Flight Suit Party



Harry Daye and Lillian looking great!

Scruffy and Stanry—a new WW crew? (Right)



Today's warriors trading stories with yesterday's legends—we were there!



Gaile Connolly, Bearly, Lori Gassdorf, Gail McCormick celebrating in honor of George Connolly WW #450! We are proud to host a great family and generations of Wild Weasels!



Finkster, D-Day and LA-Bud having a grand old time!



561st Desert Storm Veterans



Why yes Captain we play this game called Crud—oh yea, fights on!



Sometimes the signage was a little different, but we made it on and off base!

9 April - Luke for Banquet Dinner buffet in a hangar setting.





And a great time was had by all!



One of the two guests of honor!



General Horner leads us again with a great speech!

General Horner as our guest speaker had the crowd fired up comparing what he learned in Vietnam and how he applied that to Desert Storm as the Air Component Commander. He talked about some key lessons such as bad ROE will get you killed and aggressive operations must be well-planned and then once the fight starts you have to be able to adapt! We were inspired by his words, and he is a fighter pilot for history. It was obvious that the veterans of Desert Storm came home because the right person was leading them!

A Word from Willie salutes General Horner WW #333

Where is the music coming from?

The Fighter Country Talent Squad is a mentorship program that provides Luke Airmen, active-duty, reserve, family members and DoD civilians an opportunity to develop their creative and cultural awareness through knowledge and appreciation of music.

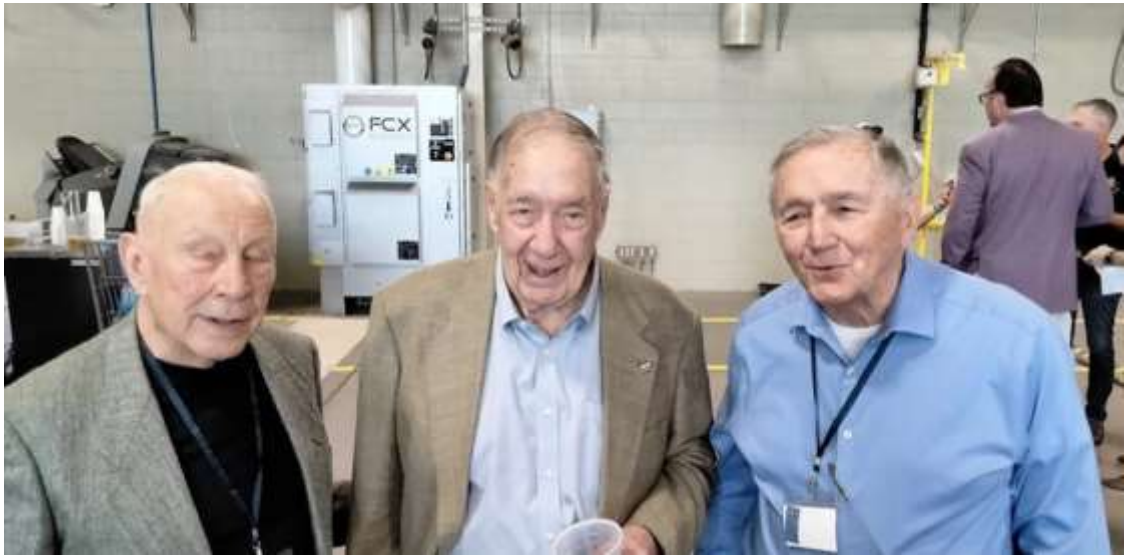
This volunteer initiative was started by Lt Col Greenwood & his wife during COVID to promote the positive use of leisure time, create a sense of belonging, provide a means for safe social bonding and to encourage force integration through music.

The group currently consists of over 40 members ranging from ranks A1C to O5 covering all music genres.



Fighter Country Talent gave us great musical rendition throughout the night!

These volunteers rock!



Bob Lewis, General Horner, and Bob Breault remembering some great times!



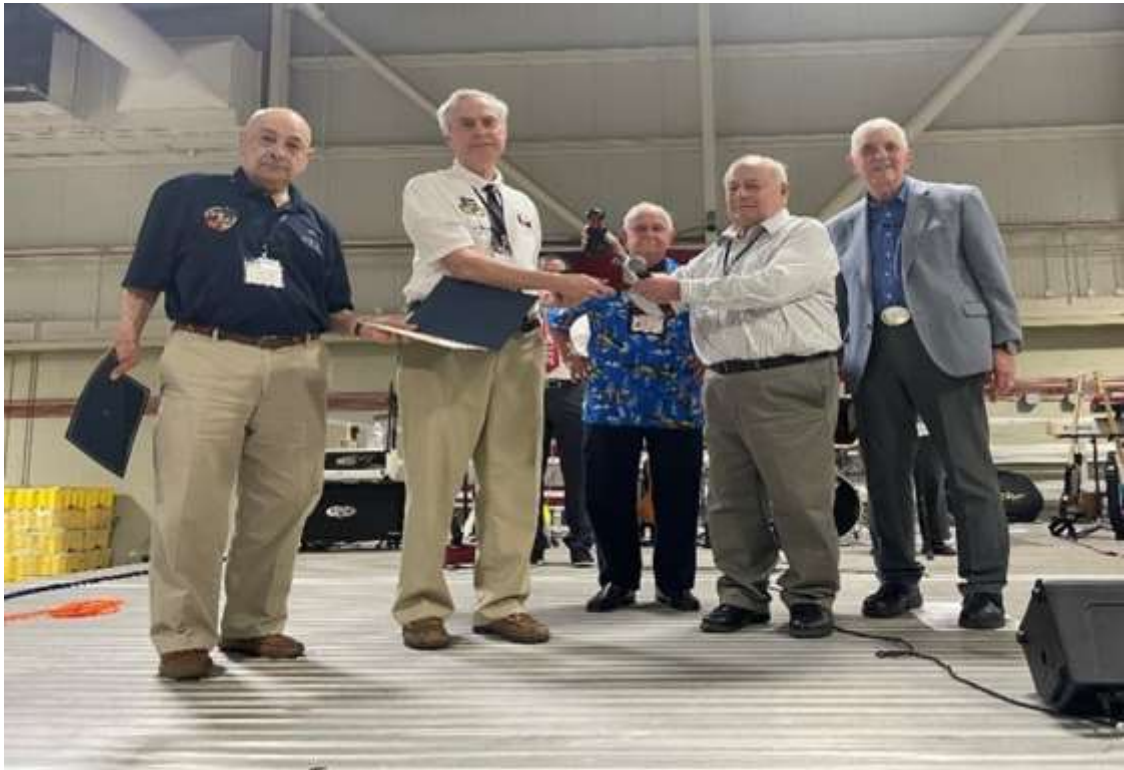
Our beautiful check in ladies (Eileen, Beth & Irma) and F-35s, life is great!

Wild Weasel Society Wild Weasels of the Year - 2020, 2021 and 2022

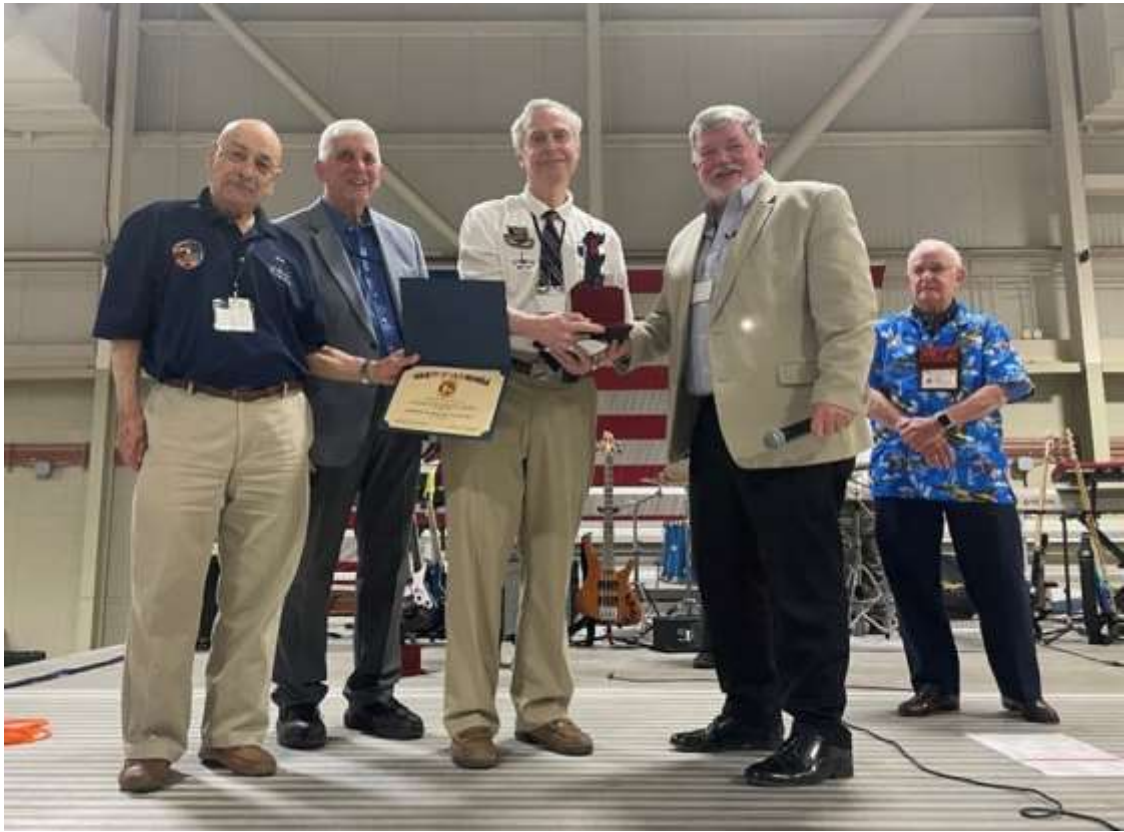
The Wild Weasel of the Year award is given to the member who worked hard to enhance the Society.



Tom Hanton for 2020!



Jim Uken for 2021!



Bud Redmond for 2022!



An RAF tradition becomes a Luke tradition!

The Battle of Britain was one of the toughest fights Airmen have ever had. The Battle of Britain was fought between July 10, 1940, and Oct. 31, 1940.

More than 1,500 British and Allied airmen were killed in the fighting, and the RAF lost more than 1,740 aircraft. Even after terrorizing British citizens by bombing London and other major cities nightly during "The Blitz" of 1940-1941, the Germans did not achieve superiority by air or by sea, and Britain lived to continue the fight to free Europe from the Nazi stranglehold.

Now, every September, the Royal Air Force -- along with American fighter units who served as volunteers during the Battle of Britain -- commemorate the victory with the ritualistic burning of a wooden piano. The piano is delivered in a ceremony, often ceremoniously hacked to pieces by airmen wielding axes and sledgehammers. Then, it's set ablaze.

No one knows for sure how the tradition started. Some believe that the shortage of gentlemanly pilots led the RAF to recruit men who weren't considered "gentlemen"

at all. These pilots were forced to take piano lessons so they could earn the title. At the first opportunity, these stressed-out pilots were said to have burned the piano. No piano, no lessons, just air combat.

A more likely explanation, according to one [Air Force historian](#), says that a group of RAF pilots were entertained nightly by one of their own who was an exquisite pianist. After one particularly brutal mission over the skies of England, their beloved melodic wingman did not return. The pilots, knowing the piano never again would play the music they loved so dearly -- and that their comrade never would be replaced -- burned it.

This is the most likely explanation, because it reflects what the modern piano-burning ceremony is actually about: remembering those who fought and those who died during the Battle of Britain and to honor the sacrifices made by all those who kept Britain for the British people.



A Word from Willie Salutes the Piano Burners at Luke AFB!



And Finally for His Leadership and Steadfast Devotion to the Society WfW gives our Biggest Salute to Jim "Uke" Uken!

Upcoming Events

Editor's Note: The below reunions have not changed as of publication date.

River Rats Reunion, 28 September, 2022 San Antonio Texas

[Red River Valley Association, Inc. \(river-rats.org\)](http://river-rats.org)

Warhawk Nation Reunion (has not been rescheduled as of this time), POC Pete Zimowski reunion, (petezimo@me.com)

Warhawk website: <http://greatwarhawknation.com/>



Keep your coin handy! ROE is in effect!

Your Information

Here is your contact information that we have on file. If there are any errors, please go to [Home](#), select your name and update your information. If you are non current, you can pay your dues here also.

Name: William Redmond

Nickname: Budman

Wild Weasel Number: 2712

Address: 9221 Palm Beach NE

Albuquerque New Mexico

87111

Phone: 4782976409

Member Level: Lifetime Membership

Member Status: Active

Member Renewal Date: Never

If you are unable to update your information, just reply to this message with your updated information and the membership team will update.

If you are Non Current you can regain currency by going to [Get Recurrent](#) and then paying your dues.

Society of Wild Weasels, P.O. Box 877, Silver Spring, MD 20918

wild-weasels-board@googlegroups.com

[Unsubscribe](#)