

A Word from Willie Reunion Edition

Society of Wild Weasels Newsletter



ALCON,

The Wild Weasel Society reunion at Fort Walton Beach was a great time. Hats off to the 33rd Fighter Wing and Col “Zeke” Skalicky for hosting us and giving a great briefing on his Wing. Our liaisons Maj “Vic” Babos and Capt “Knot” Wright for their hard work in making it very wright!

We were able to recognize the following for great work and superb leadership with the Society of Wild Weasels Achievement Awards:

56th Fighter Wing for their dedication in keeping the Weasel Ethos alive

35th Cadet Squadron for their support to the Weasel Heritage

Carl “Boozer” Schaffer for his work as both a Viper Weasel and a Civil Service Electronic Warfare and HARM expert for the Air Force

James “E.F.” Hundley whose work on the APR-38/APR-47 and the HARM ensured the program was combat ready for Desert Storm

*Our first Lifetime Achievement Award to **Allen Lamb** for all he has done for the Society. Thanks for letting us be part of your team Al!*

Our Wild Weasels of the Year

*2023 **George “JohnBoy” Walton** for his great work with Shaw AFB as the liaison and his leadership*

*2024 **Frank Alfter** for his great work on the River Rats Museum WW displays and his work as the Deputy historian for the Society*

Lastly a big congrats to all the Society members who wrote to their Senators and Congressmen (or gave us permission to write on their behalf) for the Cancer Engagement Bill. We have 33 Congressmen and an evergoing list of Senators supporting the bill and we (and the River Rats) are pushing a Senator engagement plan. We need more Senators to sign up for Next week, the U.S. Senate companion version of the House ACES Act, introduced by Sen. Kelly (AZ) and Sen. Cotton (AR) will be published. We need a membership maximum push to onboard as many Senator co-sponsors as possible. Please write or give us permission to engage with your address in an email to WildWeaselReports@gmail.com. See below for easy engagement.

VR

Budman Redmond

Society of Wild Weasels Chief in Charge

YGBSM

FILO

Cancer Engagement

We are only 2-3 weeks away from legislative markup—the process of introduction, committee comment, and votes on the ACES Act. **Please: make your voice heard today.** No one can tell our story of Veteran aviator cancer the way we can, and no one else does. We need this Act to be bipartisan supported in the SVAC & HVAC and the two MILCON/VA Appropriations Sub-Committees.

The key Senators on the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC):

Sen. Jon Tester (MT): <https://www.testersenate.gov/contact/contact-form/>
Sen. Jerry Moran (KS): <https://www.moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry>
Sen. Patty Murray (WA): <https://www.murray.senate.gov/write-to-patty/>
Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH): <https://www.brownsenate.gov/contact/email>
Sen. Marsha Blackburn (TN): <https://www.blackburn.senate.gov/email-me>
Sen. Sen. John Boozman (AR): <https://www.boozmansenate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me>

The key Congressmen on the House Veteran Affairs Committee (HVAC):

Rep. Rep. Mike Bost (IL): <https://bost.house.gov/contact>
Rep. Mark Tacano (CA): <https://takano.house.gov/contact/email-me>
Rep. Morgan Luttrell (TX): https://luttrell.house.gov/address_authentication?form=/contact
Rep. Keith Self (TX): https://keithself.house.gov/address_authentication?form=/contact
Rep. John Carter (TX): <https://carter.house.gov/contact/>
Rep. John Rutherford (FL): <https://rutherford.house.gov/contact>

To save you time, here is our recommended message; it says everything that needs saying:

Recent large-scale studies by the Air Force in 2021 and Department of Defense in 2023 confirm that Veteran aviators get diagnosed with cancer and die from it at rates significantly higher than the U.S. general population. The causes of those cancers are not known to science. We ask your support for H.R. 4886, Aviator Cancer Examination Study (ACES) Act.

The ACES Act would appropriate funding to the Veterans Administration in its 2025 fiscal year authorization to award a contract to the National Academy of Medicine to study the causes of cancers among Veteran flyers.

It is worth mentioning that while the PACT Act is oriented on burnpit and ground exposures, the PACT Act does not include any mention or study of airborne exposures, the domain of Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Army aviators. Elsewhere, ongoing DOD studies are for active-duty cancer mitigation. We need a study that specifically focuses on Veteran health that provides VA with the data it needs to provide earlier diagnostic care that saves more Veteran flyers and improves their cancer treatment.

Hats off to Vince “Aztec” Alazar and Phillip “Quack Bear” Steeves!

Reunion Pictures



Col Zeke Zalicky our host as the 33rd Wing Commander



WW & RR Of the Year Awardees



Keeping the Legacy alive, Murphy's Bar at Eglin



General Meeting on Saturday 13 April at the Resort Hotel



Members of the 17th Wild Weasel Squadron



Quack Bear discussing the Cancer engagement plan and other Studies.



Memorial Wreath for our Fallen from the last Reunion



Teach and Scruffy wanting a 1 V 1



Teach and Bucci—A Silver Star Picture



Hollywood, Tony and RT—POWs that returned with Honor!



Dr. Bob and Oly—F-100s to the Core!



F-105 Thud Weasels



River Rats and Wild Weasels!



The Society of Wild Weasel Reunion Group!

For adding pictures or seeing the full reunion pictures go to the link below. We have given everyone permission that was at the reunion (password is WW) and we can give you access by writing either WildWeaselReports@gmail.com or ggg@gcube.us. A big thank you to Gaile Connolly for her work on the album! Thanks Gaile