



Number 016

December 2020

Welcome to the EC-47 History Site Newsletter

Tom Nurre Happy Anniversary - 2014-2020 Joe Martin
 Website Managers * www.ec47.com * www.vietnam50thcpp.com



PINS & PAVERS



9/30/2020: 6994th Scty Sq veterans with masks off momentarily for this posed photo: (L-R) "JR" Barnes, Ray B. Ivey & JJ Pitzeruse at the plaza.

Working within the COVID-19 guidelines, Goodfellow seniors helped host out of town visitors at the EC-47 Memorial Plaza and

ARDF History Exhibit. Heritage Chapter president JJ Graham, the wing historian, Mark Howell, and Wing Command CMSgt Casey Boomershine presented Vietnam War commemorative lapel pins and certificates to each veteran in front of the ARDF History exhibit in the Norma Brown building. They also escorted the veterans to the Plaza and located the exact pavers where their engraved bronze plate will be placed in an eventual dedication ceremony.



Howell presents certificate to Coffman



10/13/2020: All the way from Ohio, EC-47 flight engineer Jim Coffman (seated) and helicopter pilot Jack Mecham (right) pose with San Angelo hosts following their tour and pinning ceremony. (L-R) JJ Graham, FTVA Heritage Chapter president; Joe Martin, EC-47 History Site (Arizona); Mark Howell, GAFB Historian; and Tom Nurre, EC-47 History Site. Photos by 17TRW/PA, A1C Ethan Sherwood.

Click [HERE](#) for more information. If you would like to visit, contact Tom @ info@ec47.com as far in advance as possible.

Welcome to the new EC-47 History Site Newsletter



October 2020: Engraved bronze plate for the 8x8 paver in the EC-47 Memorial Plaza as held by 17TRW Command CMSgt Casey Boomershine. Photo by A1C Ethan Sherwood, GAFB/PA.

**Leave
Your
Mark!**

The Leave Your Mark company was started by Pete Ciso when he was the Dean of Students at Ashland High School, Ashland, OR. In 1993, the graduating seniors presented the school with a gift of enough money to purchase a CNC Engraving machine. They also did the legwork to find a manufacturer for molded pavers and bronze plates. Ciso helped them produce what would become the First Leave Your Mark (LYM) engraved bronze plate/paver memorials.

When Pete retired in 2000, the school gave him the engraver. Shortly after retiring, Pete became a dealer for Western Interlock and started a nation-wide bronze plaque and landscape company with the Leave Your Mark name.

When he was 11 years old, grandson Henry Ciso joined the LYM crew working weekends and summers. When his grandfather was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2017, Henry moved in with him to help as a caregiver and work as a full-time employee. Pete Ciso died in May 2019.

LYM was one of three companies considered for the EC-47 Memorial Plaza project. Their proposal was accepted by the FTVA Heritage Chapter in December 2018. The first plaza bronze plates were produced in November 2019. Following more than a year local contracting delay, the pavers were installed in the plaza area next to the static display aircraft in April 2020.

In September 2020, California wildfires traveled north along I-5 and destroyed the LYM company located in Phoenix, OR. Henry Ciso is currently the company manager and is making plans to rebuild and be back in operation, hopefully by late summer 2021. He is purchasing a new generation engraving machine and will be able to duplicate the engraving fonts and emblems of our existing inventory. He is optimistic...and so are we. Thank you for your trust and patience too.

There are 578-4x8 pavers and 410-8x8 pavers (988) installed in the plaza. A total of 370 bronze plates (255-4x8 & 115-8x8) have been ordered. We have received 283 completed plates that have been photographed and uploaded to the galleries on the CPP website. The unfinished plates will be reordered as soon as LYM is back in operation. Every order is accounted for...and we continue to accept and process new orders. Please contact Tom via (pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com) if you have any questions or concerns.



MSgt Salvador Paradiso

DOB: March 28, 1931 - DOD: June 22, 2004 Fairborn, Ohio

"I have been searching for the aircraft that my father would have maintained while stationed at Tan Son Nhut AB. Going from memory, he brought home a plaque with the "Old Tiger Antique Airlines" and TEWS emblem. He was a prop and jet engine mechanic for the presidential fleet during the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson era. So, we are assuming that is what he did there too. We are wondering if the EC-47 could be one of the planes he serviced.

I believe he was in Vietnam from 70-71. We were stationed at Patrick AFB when he was transferred to Tan Son Nhut. Is there any way to find out this information? Much Thanks! Julia Brown"

Tom added: The Ohio Burcham Funeral Home handled Salvador's funeral and has his DD-214 on file that covers the years 1969-73. Their copy has no reference to Vietnam service but Joe found a newspaper photo of Salvador in a Thanksgiving meal setting in Saigon in 1972. Also, click this link to his [grave marker information](#). If you know of this veteran, please let us know and we will get you in direct contact with Julia. (info@ec47.com or 325 450-4476)

Welcome to the new EC-47 History Site Newsletter



A Christmas to remember...

Col. Joseph W. Felock, Jr. USAF Ret
 Tan Son Nhut 1967-1968
 25 Jan 1933 - 23 Mar 2009
archive.ec47.com

Copied from the archives for this Christmas story feature.

"My crew had the last mission of the day - Christmas Eve. Intel info indicated it would be a quiet evening with the NVA/VC claiming a cease fire for Christmas. We took off into a calm, clear night, moonless, like flying in a bottle of India Ink. Upon reaching our cruising altitude we tuned into AFN Radio and picked a program of Christmas carols."

Crew #15 360th TEWS: Lt. to Rt. Capt. Jim Pate (N)
 Maj. Jack Cummings (AC); Capt Joe Felock (P); MSgt James Sanford (FM)

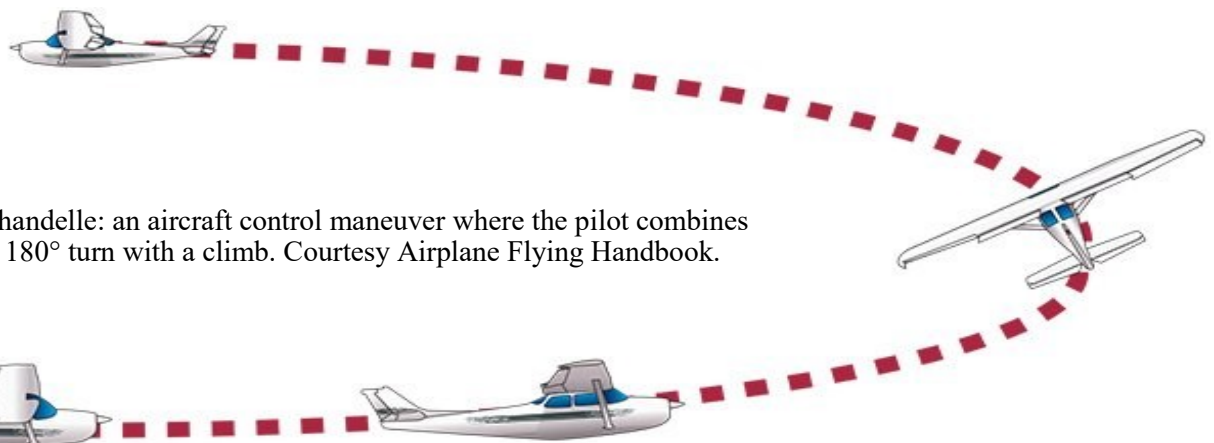
"As we crisscrossed our area under a cloudless, calm sky it was difficult not to allow ones mind to drift to thoughts of home, family, Christmas trees and snow. The reverie did not last long as we soon received a call that activity was reported in the "Eagle Beak" area. We immediately turned to that direction and could see a faint glow on the horizon. As we approached it was readily apparent that a firefight was in progress.

At this time I remember that AFN was playing "Silent Night" on the radio. As we reached the area to get a visual of what was happening for forwarding to the Command Post, we became the target of ground fire. Tracers were coming up missing our starboard engine by not more that 3 feet. I immediately cut all position lights, poured the coal to the engines and executed my first *chandelle* since UPT! The chandelle took us into a cloud bank that came from I know not where, for there wasn't supposed to be a cloud over Vietnam. While this was occurring I clearly remember a tenor singing "O Holy Night".

After recovering and regaining our bearings we remained on the perimeter to allow the back-enders to do their job. All I can say is that cloud was put there by the Almighty solely TO GIVE US PROTECTIVE COVER. There wasn't another cloud in the sky that evening. Had the gunner's accuracy been a few feet better, I may not be here at this keyboard. To this day, the carols "Silent Night" and "O Holy Night" trigger in my mind a vivid re-enactment of that event."

Rest in Peace, Joe.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167154191/joseph-william-felock>



chandelle: an aircraft control maneuver where the pilot combines a 180° turn with a climb. Courtesy Airplane Flying Handbook.