

Geodetic Survey Squadron/Group, Newsletter #76, 13 September 2018, Distribution 8

Inbox



Garrett Moore via yahoo.com
to garrettmooore

Sep 13, 2018, 9:38 PM (16 hours ago)

Greetings, Fellow Veterans of the Geodetic Survey Squadron and Geodetic Survey Group!

And Happy Autumn! I know, I know---it's not officially autumn until the Autumnal Equinox, but after Labor Day, the rest of the year just seems to gallop away...

Meanwhile, it's still hurricane season, and *Florence* is bearing down directly on the Carolinas and Georgia as I write! Stay safe and dry, folks!

Bonnie and I are just back from our post-reunion road trip following the *sixth* GSS/GSG reunion, 3-5 August, in Cheyenne. Using the reunions as an excuse, we have come to love these transcontinental road excursions and find that it refreshes the soul to get reacquainted with what *really* makes America great---it's the land and the solid folks who live in this vast and diverse landscape! We all have inherited a wondrous piece of geography, much celebrated in song and poems, "...from the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam..." "beautiful for spacious skies and amber waves of grain" and "purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain." It is indeed a blessed place "from sea to shining sea."

Singer-songwriter Phil Ochs penned this ode to America:

Come and take a walk with me thru this green and growing land
Walk thru the meadows and the mountains and the sand
Walk thru the valleys and the rivers and the plains
Walk thru the sun and walk thru the rain
Here is a land full of power and glory
Beauty that words cannot recall
Oh her power shall rest on the strength of her freedom
Her glory shall rest on us all (on us all)
From Colorado, Kansas, and the Carolinas too
Virginia and Alaska, from the old to the new
Texas and Ohio and the California shore
Tell me, who could ask for more?

The great Woody Guthrie also celebrated the land with:

This land is your land, this land is my land
From the California to the New York island
From the Redwood Forest, to the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me
As I went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
And saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me
I roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts

And all around me, a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me
When the sun comes shining, then I was strolling
In the wheat fields waving and dust clouds rolling
The voice was chanting as the fog was lifting
This land was made for you and me
This land is your land and this land is my land
From the California to the New York island
From the Redwood Forest, to the gulf stream waters
This land was made for you and me

And as Robert Frost notes in his poem, *The Gift Outright*, it is the land that underlies the strength and character of the country. He read this poem at JFK's inauguration in 1961 at the age of 84:

The land was ours before we were the land's
She was our land more than a hundred years
Before we were her people. She was ours
In Massachusetts, in Virginia,
But we were England's, still colonials,
Possessing what we still were unpossessed by,
Possessed by what we now no more possessed.
Something we were withholding made us weak
Until we found out that it was ourselves
We were withholding from our land of living,
And forthwith found salvation in surrender.
Such as we were we gave ourselves outright
(The deed of gift was many deeds of war)
To the land vaguely realizing westward,
But still unstoried, artless, unenhanced,
Such as she was, such as she will become.

After the reunion, Bonnie and I hit the road again, pushing our way across Wyoming to the beautiful Rocky Mountain landscapes of the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, western Montana, Idaho, Washington state, Oregon and California. We had visits along the way with family and friends and spent time with two of our sons, their ladies and our two precious grandkids in the Bay area. That left another 2000 miles to traverse to get back home from the San Francisco Bay Area to Virginia, so we headed out again from sunny California, avoiding the wildfires, traversing the Great Central Valley---the vegetable, nut and fruit basket of the country---and the high Mojave Desert. From there, we went through Nevada waving goodbye to busy, bustling Las Vegas without bothering to stop, crossed a spectacular slice of northwest Arizona, visited three amazing National Parks in Utah and stopped to visit my former astro-positioning colleague, **Gary Micheli** (Astro, FEW, 1969-73) and his wife Karen in Pueblo, CO. (Gary and I shared TDYs together in Greenland in 1969 and most of a year in North Dakota in 1972, doing astronomic positioning with the Wild T4.) Gary & Karen were gracious and generous hosts, treating us to our first ranch rodeo and state fair, among other wonderful delights in Pueblo. I remarked on the irony of having been stationed in Cheyenne for four years and had never seen a rodeo before---I was usually on TDY during Frontier Days! From Colorado, we zipped through Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland and finally crossed the Potomac into Virginia. We were gone for over five weeks and the numbers tell the story: our round trip put well over 8000 miles on our 2012 Toyota

Venza. We covered 21 states and crossed five of them twice, going west and coming back home. We visited eight national parks, witnessed landscapes as diverse as forested mountains, barren deserts, sea shores and lake shores, volcanoes and craters, mighty rivers and gorges, the rolling plains and prairies of the heartland---nearly every square inch planted in corn and soybeans! We also crossed the magnificent canyons of the basin and range country, followed the Arkansas River from Colorado to Missouri. We even breathed in some smoke from the drought-driven fires in Washington, Oregon and California. We had one oil change in Grand Junction and celebrated one birthday on the road---mine---and met lots of old friends, former colleagues and relatives along the way.

Because we were on the road since late July and all of last month, there was no August newsletter, so you have not missed any.

More on the reunion below...

Reunion News:

The August reunion in Cheyenne was a success, but, as expected, we had far fewer attendees than the previous five reunions that have had since 2003. Previous reunions had attendance ranging between 80 and 100+. Among the attendees this time at some or all of the events were **Paul and Brenda Schilinski, Hank and Kay Miller, Bob and Anne Tyszka, Dave and Janet Stout, Allan and Paula Cramer, Dick Winslow, Marc and Claire Pouliot, John Dix, Michael Konkel and Michelle Vernon, Bill and Kim Conner, Ed and Alma Fincke, Patrick and Elaine McDonough, Jim and Gerry Peek, John and Lottie Kemp, Rick and Kathy Eckhardt, Bill Hatchett, Liz Starr and her grandson and Dawn Starr, Merilou Miller, Woody Woodard, Gus Guliuzza, John Swann, LeRoy Clark, Dana Hannon**, and possibly some late arrivals whose names escape me.

One of the highlights of the reunion was a presentation by a guest speaker, **David Marcum**, who was a last-minute add-on to the agenda for Saturday's luncheon quite by serendipity! Dave is currently an instructor in Government Studies at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. He describes himself as a "military brat," who was born right on F.E. Warren AFB. He wrote to me shortly before the reunion and mentioned that he had stumbled upon one of our brass gravity markers somewhere in Wyoming, which peaked his curiosity about the Squadron. He traced the marker to our website and contacted me. He expressed his curiosity about what the Squadron did and how it relates to a Cold War history project he hopes to pursue. He is especially interested in the roles played by F.E. Warren AFB and Wyoming. So, I invited Dave to speak at our reunion. He came readily prepared with a PowerPoint presentation. His enthusiasm got the crowd excited and there was a great deal of interaction between Dave and the audience after the presentation. Dave has taken great interest in our organization, its veterans and what we accomplished. He especially wants to hear from our veterans with their "war stories" and other exploits, some of which he has already seen on our website. You may contact Dave directly at dmarcum@lccc.wy.edu. We will have more to say about Dave and his project in future newsletters.

Speaking of Reunions...

Since turnout has fallen for our triennial reunions in Cheyenne, perhaps it's time for a change in venue. Remember, we have an open suggestion from **Werner Koslowski** (Computing, Orlando and FEW; Geodetic Technician (Gravity), and Geodesist, Data Reduction at FEW, 1967-91; DMA, St Louis, 1991-97, Det 4 Patrick AFB, 1997-2003) to have an off-year reunion in 2019 in Orlando on the occasion of the Squadron's 60th anniversary. The original 1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron (Missile) was established on 1 July 1959 in Orlando. July is probably *not* the best time to be in Orlando, but for planning purpose, I want to keep polling our veterans for interest in such a reunion

and to determine among us when would be the best time to have it in 2019. In the several times that I have asked, so far I have received only **27** responses in favor of it and none against---and most of those replying yes said **only if** politics is left out of it, with which I heartily agree. (Werner had originally suggested inviting political guests.) I will be out of the planning on this one and will happily turn it over to Werner, if he is still game to do it.

I personally like the idea of honoring the 60th anniversary. We celebrated the 50th anniversary in 2009 in Cheyenne, and when the unit was still active, in 1989 there was a reunion, picnic, golf tournament and formal dinner for the 30th anniversary. That said, a reunion in 2019 in Orlando would follow less than a year after the August 2018 reunion. Given the low turnout in Cheyenne, Orlando might “scratch the itch” of those who have long complained about the reunions always being out west. We have a substantial community of retirees in Florida and nearby states, like the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama and Texas and others along the East Coast. Orlando has much to offer and it has the historic angle of being the place where it all began for our unique unit. There are plenty of fun options in Orlando, including Disney World and Universal, but it also includes the nearby Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, an easy day trip.

The NGA Geodetic Support Team at Patrick AFB (the former GSS Detachment 4) might also be persuaded to give us a tour or brief us on their current activities. They still support many activities at Cape Canaveral. This will be my last time asking on this topic in 2018, and then I'll turn over the numbers to Werner. Early next year I will bring it up again to see if there is any added interest and to try to narrow down an agreeable timeframe. Werner will decide whether to pursue this any further at that time.

ACTION ITEM: If you have not already done so, please let me know about your interest in having an off-year reunion in 2019 in Orlando to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Squadron. Include your most preferred month or season.

GSS/GSG Commemorative Coins and Pendants:

There are still plenty of GSS/GSG commemorative coins and pendants remaining!

If you have not ordered yours yet, please do so! (For those of you who ordered while I was on my road trip, I will get your order out to you in the next few days.)

If you haven't seen them yet, take a look at the official artwork for the four designs of our commemorative coins and pendants on our GSS/GSG website. As many purchasers have readily acknowledged, the actual coins are more impressive than the images on our website can possibly convey! **Dick Winslow**, our Webmaster, has placed a link prominently on the GSS/GSG Veterans homepage that will take you to the coin images---or you can click

here: <http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com/PhotoPages/2018Coins.html>.

Please review the four designs at our website and make your selection: coin A, B, C, or D. Some may want all four designs, and others, only the design corresponding to their time in the unit.

To review, recall that the Squadron/Group had five different designations throughout its history. We commissioned a coin for the original name---1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron (Missile) – 1959-64---for the 2015 reunion, and they all sold out.

On the occasion of our most recent reunion, we commissioned and minted the other four designations.

- Coin A: 1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron (1964-68) (USAF emblem on the back)
- Coin B: 1st Geodetic Survey Squadron (1968-72) (USAF emblem on the back)

- Coin C: Geodetic Survey Squadron (1972-89) (DoD emblem on the back)
- Coin D: Geodetic Survey Group (1989-92) (DoD emblem on the back)

For more on the unit's history, see the condensed version on our website's homepage at <http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com> and the more detailed version written by **Gordon**

Barnes (Acting Commander and Deputy of Ops, FEW, 1975-78)

at http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com/Documents/Barnes/OurGroundGeodeticSurveyorBrethren_2-1.pdf

For this run, we have ordered only 45 of each coin design and five of each pendant or key fob design. This latter design includes a fused bezel and loop to convert the coin to a neck pendant, key fob or other hanging decoration.

The cost for each coin is \$7.00 plus shipping and handling.

The cost for each pendant is \$9.00 plus shipping and handling.

How To Order Your Coin(s)/Pendant(s)

To order your coins and pendants, please send me a **snail-mail note** (no e-mail, please) using the template below. Feel free to print and fill out the following into your note:

DATE:

YOUR NAME:

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

IMPORTANT! Please identify which coins or pendants you are ordering and how many of each:

A - 1381st GSS, B - 1st GSS, C - GSS or D - GSG---or one of each!)

Number of ___ COINS (without bezel) @ \$7.00 each:\$	_____
Number of ___ PENDANTS (with bezel) @ \$9.00 each:\$	_____
Shipping & Handling PER ORDER (up to four items):\$	6.00
TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THIS ORDER:\$	_____

NOTE: Treat orders for more than four items as an additional order requiring another \$6.00 shipping and handling fee. Please enclose a check or money order with your order for the total amount and mail it to:

Garrett R. Moore

6406 Stonehaven Ct

Clifton, VA 20124

Now that I am back home, you should expect to receive your items roughly one business week from the time you mail your order to me. Coins will be enclosed in sealed plastic bags and mailed in bubble-wrap padded envelopes.

NOTE: If the coins or pendants sell out, and there is sufficient demand after they sell out, I can reorder as many more of each coin or pendant as needed, including the original sold-out design offered in 2015! NOTE: Some minimum number of coins or pendants may be required for the mint to consider stamping out a reorder.

Gains and Losses:

No new losses to report, thank goodness, but we have one new addition to the group and a few who have updated their contact information.

I am pleased to add **Ed Oullette** (Branch I, Plans, SSO, Safety, FEW, 1985-89) to our roster of found veterans. Ed was with GSS when it made the transition to GSG in 1989. Says Ed:

"At the end of my time at GSG they made all the Cartographic/Geodetic Officers INTEL Officers, and I went to on to do Targeting. (Because in the words of AFPC, "Targeteers use

maps and you make maps.”) Along the way I got a PhD in French and alternated assignments between Targeting/INTEL/deployments and being a professor at Air Command and Staff College (ACSC), where I taught International Security, Culture Studies, Applied Warfare, Religion and War, and Just War Theory. (Was also the Deputy Director of Research.) Am now retired, but still teaching online for ACSC.

Richard C. Jones (Survey, FEW & Holloman, 1978-85) updated his contact information.

Jarold “Jerry” Gschwind (Gravity, FEW, 1979-93) also updated his contact information. Says Jerry:

“For eight years of my service at GSS in Cheyenne (1983-1991), I was on temporary assignment at the University of Colorado in Boulder. I worked at JILA (Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics) assisting in the development and testing of the JILA absolute gravity meter. I also worked at ACIC/DMAAC in St. Louis from June 1963 to October 1979.”

Jerry also sent us some partial information for his JILA Absolute Gravity colleague, **Allan Joll**, another civilian veteran of GSS. However, Allan has not yet sent me the rest of his contact information. We will be pleased to add Allan to our roster as soon as we hear from him. I have forwarded these updates to **Dick Winslow**, our Webmaster, for inclusion on our online roster.

Messages from the Field:

Many folks who could not attend the reunion this time sent their good wishes to all of you who did, including **Bob Carlson** (Survey, Orlando, 1959), **Jim Porterfield** (Survey, Orlando & Whiteman, 1960-64), **Rick Rogers** (Survey, FEW & Det 4, 1972-79), **Bob Nelson** (Survey, Data Reduction, FEW & Holloman, 1969-81), **Martin Lozano** formerly known as Homer “Marty” Martinez (Survey, FEW, 1978-82), **Bobby Walters** (Survey, Orlando, 1960-1965; Det2, 1969-1972; FEW, 1975-1980), **John Sarles** (Survey, Astro, Data Reduction, FEW, 1971-77), **David Roberts** (survey & Data Reduction, FEW, 1984-89), **Gerry Abraham** (Survey, numerous locations, 1961-91) and Pam LaFontain for her Dad, **Chuck Finley** (Astro & Gravity, Orlando, 1959-61?). Chuck, now in his 90s, was one of the original officers of the 1381st when it first stood up in 1959 in Orlando.

Bev Millians wrote to say that she and husband **Bob Millians** (Survey, numerous locations, 1963-83) could not attend the reunion this year as Bob has been dealing with some serious health issues and is now in hospice care. Please keep Bob and Bev in your thoughts and prayers.

Likewise, **Neil Miller** (Survey, FEW, 1966-70) wrote to mention that **Bud Houston** (Survey, FEW, 1966-70) is on chemo therapy and fighting cancer. Please encourage him in his recovery. His phone number is 503-310-8882.

My former Astro colleague from the late 1960s, **Mike Himes** (Astro, FEW, 1966-70) lives in Marshalltown, Iowa, which got hit by a tornado on July 19th. Says Mike:

“...everyone is fine. It's going to take a long time to get Marshalltown back on its feet. Two major industries started here back in the late 1800's, Lennox Industries and Fisher Controls. Although Lennox was completely destroyed, we learned just today that they plan to rebuild here, so that's good news. Thanks for caring.”

James Porterfield, mentioned above, also wrote to inquire whether anyone knows the status of SMSgt **Gerry Weber**. Says James, “Need to know more about him. I served with a TSgt. Gerry Weber and golfed with him. Worked with him the day JFK was shot and killed.” **Unfortunately, we have no contact info on Gerry Weber. Can anyone else help out here?**

Dave Stout (Data Reduction, FEW, 1967-71) sent his personal observations on the evolution of computing capabilities in the GSS and also attended the reunion with his wife, Janet.

Jim Heiser (Survey 1977-1980 & 1984-1987; Inertial Survey FEW, 1980-1984) passed on this thoughtful reminder, which may be of help to some of you in getting veterans' benefits, especially for those who served only one term of enlistment or commission and have lost their records:

"DD-214s are NOW Online. Please pass on to other Veterans.

The **National Personnel Records Center** (NPRC) has provided the following web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requester 'will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents."

"JJ" Jerome (Survey, Advanced Technology, Program Management, various locations, 1965-82) sent this item of possible interest to geodetic astronomers and surveyors. As you may recall, one of the first things that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did, as well as other follow-up astronauts on subsequent visits to the moon, was to set up a bank of retro-reflectors on the moon's surface. For over four decades, the McDonald Observatory in Texas (and other observatories around the world) bounced powerful laser beams off these reflectors to precisely measure the distance between the Earth and moon, much like our geodetic surveyors did on a more earth-bound scale to measure distances with laser geodimeters. After analyzing decades of measurements, one of the more astonishing findings was that the moon is moving away from the Earth at about 4 centimeters (1.6 inches) per year! Millions of years from now we will probably lose our moon.

In ant event, JJ sent a link reporting that a new scientific facility is under construction on the grounds of the McDonald Observatory called the McDonald Geodetic Observatory. Scheduled to begin science operations in 2022, the new observatory will focus on geodesy: the science of Earth's shape, gravity, and rotation — and how these change over time. See the whole story here: <https://mcdonaldobservatory.org/news/releases/20180820>

And last of all, we have this unusual request from **Brodie Thompson** (Survey, FEW, 1991-93), who is still with the Geodetic Surveys Division of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in St Louis. They took over when the GSS/GSG shut down in 1993. Says Brodie:

"I have a somewhat strange question here. The Geodetic Surveys Division here in St. Louis has a very limited amount of T0s for performing compass rose surveys for the military services. We have checked for the availability of these instruments for sale and have not found any suitable for NGA to purchase for us. Do you happen to know of any that might be available for purchase? Let me know if you need more information in order to research this issue for us. Thank you, Brodie"

For the uninitiated, the Wild T0 ("Tee Zero") is a magnetic theodolite, which combines the features of a regular direction-measuring theodolite with the magnetic compass. Unlike normal theodolites, the horizontal circle of the T0 aligns with the local magnetic field. As Brodie's note suggests, they are used to calibrate compass roses on the flight line so that pilots can check the accuracy of their aircraft navigation compasses before takeoff. (See http://www.wild-heerbrugg.com/shop/index.php?cPath=1_3_5_25_6)

I suggested that he check with Swisstek in Brewster, NY, which carries some of the surveying instruments made by the now defunct Wild Heerbrugg and Kern instrument manufacturers in Switzerland. ***If any of you have other suggestions, please send them to Brodie at brodiethompson@sbcglobal.net.***

History Project Update:

Speaking of Brodie, he had asked a while back whether we had a list of GSS/GSG commanders. Regrettably, we did not, but thought it was an excellent and long overdue idea for another history project. We expanded the notion to include First Sergeants, Detachment Commanders, and if possible, photographs of all of them, as well. I'm pleased to report that we have had a number of you chime in with some information and even a few photos. I will compile all those inputs and let you know what holes remain in our information in a future newsletter.

Your Contact Information:

Here's another reminder to please update your contact information so we don't lose you. If you have not done so yet, ***please send me your contact information or your updates***, including a brief profile of your time with the Squadron or Group; i.e., what office or detachment you worked in and what you did. That's the only price of admission to what I call our GSS/GSG online Hall of Fame.

How do you know whether or not you have or have sent me *all* of your contact information? Please click this link <http://geodeticsurvey.mysite.com/members.html> and check the roster. This page has the alphabetical list of everyone who has sent his or her contact information.

If your name is not listed there, but you are reading this newsletter, then you are among those who have *not* yet sent me your *full* contact info and profile; i.e., all I have is your e-mail address. Please close the gap by sending me the rest of your contact information (or updates to your existing profile) like **Ed Ouellette, Jerry Gschwind, Richard Bishop** did recently, using the format below. Just send me a separate e-mail with your:

NAME:

ADDRESS: (Include street or mailbox #, city, state and zip code)

PHONE:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

MILITARY or CIVILIAN: (Answer "both" if you served the unit in both capacities)

HIGHEST RANK or POSITION in GSS/GSG:

START/END DATES OF SERVICE IN GSS/GSG: (List all dates, if you had more than one assignment to the GSS/GSG)

BASE ASSIGNED TO: (Orlando, FEW, or Detachment location and dates)

ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT: (i.e., where you worked: Admin, Astro, Computing, Data Reduction, Gravity, Inertial, Logistics, Operations, Orderly Room, Sat Tri, Stellar Camera, Survey, Techniques, etc.)

OTHER: (Whatever else you want to share here about your time in the Squadron/Group or what you have been up to since then.)

Dick Winslow, our Webmaster, will contact you with your user name and password when he loads your info onto our GSS/GSG website. Only other Squadron veterans with user names and passwords will be able to see your profile or contact information, and you will be able to read theirs, when you log in with your user name and password.

In addition to the roster of all who have sent us their contact information, the homepage tells you what's new, what's coming, our history, and has links to the list of our deceased veterans, photos and documents submitted by our members and lots of other interesting information, including links to "kindred organizations," such as the AF Photomapping Association, the Defense Mapping School Faculty/Staff Alumni, and the NGA Alumni Associations, East and West. There's also an archive of old newsletters in case you missed any. Please also send us your own photos of your time in the Squadron/Group. Send us your best, preferably in digitized form, annotated with the names of anyone in the photo and where the photo was taken.

There are, no doubt, *many more* GSS/GSG veterans out there who remain to be discovered.

Like **James Porterfield** did above with **Gerry Weber**, recall your old friends, colleagues, roommates, golf partners or office mates from your time with the Squadron or Group and check our online roster to see if their names are listed. (Be sure to include the list of deceased veterans, also on our website.) If you don't see their names there, please send me their names, and we'll try to track them down and add them to our growing list of rediscovered GSS/GSG veterans. If you have old orders with complete names and serial numbers or can recall any other details, like hometown, please share those too. That will help us narrow down our search.

If your name is already on our online roster, please log in to check your own profile and see if it's still current. If not, please send me your updates! If you have forgotten your user name and/or password, contact our Webmaster Dick Winslow <diskwy@gmail.com> to remind you or to reset it for you.

Important Final Notes:

At the end of this year's reunion, during the farewell Sunday-morning brunch, I announced to the attendees, and now to all of you, that **this would be my last time organizing a reunion**. There are a number of reasons for that, but some of you may have wondered why I do any of this at all. The answer is that our unit and its veterans hold a very special place in my heart. I consider my time with the Squadron a life-altering experience. I was in a difficult place in my personal life when I first checked into the Squadron in 1967, but I soon found my life's direction in the travel, adventures and intellectual and physical challenges of geodetic surveying and geodetic astronomy. It awakened something in me that had been dormant for a long time. Perhaps some of you feel the same way about your time there for your own personal reasons. I felt privileged to have had two assignments with the Squadron, one from 1967-70 and another, after 18 months overseas, for one year, from January to December of 1972---just four years in all---but life-changing years for me. Best of all, I met my future bride on my very first TDY out of Cheyenne! So, my time with GSS turned my life around and gave it direction, ultimately, a fine career and a loving wife for more than 46 years (so far!) My involvement up to now has been and continues to be a labor of love, of giving back to the organization and its great veterans for the good life that the Squadron gave me.

However, the Squadron/Group existed for another 21 years after my brief time with it, so it's time to "share the wealth." I recently turned 77 while on our road trip. There are younger veterans out there, and some contemporaries, who I firmly believe, could do this job and quite likely, do it better. I will be on standby to continue to help, and I will continue to put out these newsletters to try to keep us all connected, but it's time for others to step forward---that is, *if* you want to continue to have reunions, as we have every three years since **Mike DaRonco** (Stellar Camera, FEW, 1967-

70), **Jeff Golberg** (Stellar Camera, FEW, 1967-70) and **Dana Hannon** (Survey, Data Reduction, FEW, 1986-93) initially pulled us all together in 2003. We were, and still are, a unique and highly skilled group of folks who made significant contributions to the defense of our nation during a critical time in US history. Let's not lose what we did together and what we still have among us to the erosion of time and forgetfulness!

If you are on Facebook, I invite you to "friend" me there. Find me at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009342009837>

There is also a Facebook page for the Squadron/Group at <https://www.facebook.com/1381GeodeticSurveySquadron/>

Garrett

Field Survey Branch & Astronomic Positioning Branch

GSS/Cheyenne

April 1967 - May 1970 and January - December 1972

Nothing makes the Earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance—they make the latitudes and longitudes. – Henry David Thoreau, Surveyor and Philosopher



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