

BANQUET DAY, SATURDAY, JULY 14

There was a good amount of free time on Friday and Saturday, and many in groups or alone ventured out to experience the many popular activities offered in the Seattle area. The Light Rail system was a good choice to avoid traffic and to see the sights on the way to downtown. It was simple and efficient transportation.

View of I-5, as the Light Rail train crosses on the way from the airport train terminal to Seattle. This was a GOOD deal, and it was an even better deal for seniors.



While the majority were out and about, four of our ladies spent some quality time in the banquet room putting final touches on table and flower arrangements. They made it look so nice, too! Left-right: Kay Klett, Sharon Paulsen, Floy Ann MacPhee, and Myrna Cardwell-Smith. Ladies, you did a great work on the floral center piece arrangements! Thank you!



This Catkiller banner hung outside the registration room and visible for all to see. Before the banquet, it was hung inside the banquet hall.

While not ALL the good times happened at the Doubletree Suites Hotel, there was certainly a lot of appreciation for this classy hotel in a perfect location. Thanks to the reunion committee for their excellent choice.



(Arrington)



(MacPhee)

We began the evening with a photo session outside the banquet hall door. A professional photographer did his best to beseech each couple passing to stop and pose for a souvenir shot, and we hope you took advantage of the opportunity. After everyone was seated, Scott Cummings came forward and delivered the invocation.



**Donna and Scott Cummings,
Lubbock, Texas, USA.**



**Our cool and funny Master of Ceremonies,
BG Jim Morris and his wife, Janet**

Flanked on either side by these lovely ladies, Sally Milam and Pat Bradley, our guest speaker, MG Jerry Ralph Curry, takes the moment to make a great photograph (Smith). Below, left, General Curry with his granddaughters, Victoria Tripp and Rebekah White, knowing they have come to THE party of the evening (Smith) Below, right, is our reunion chairman, Norman MacPhee with Charlie and Raleigh Vantramp, Jerry Curry's daughter and her husband.



Far lower left (Finch): Four gentlemen and a lady, Paul and Trudy Brennan, Bob Arrington, Bud Bruton, and K. C. Kohlbrand.

Far lower right (Ricks): The table setting as we entered the banquet room. Hats off to the ladies and the hotel staff for making this a pleasant evening, and for the cooperation they extended during the entire event.



(Finch)





Mrs. Floyd Dean Caldwell and her son, Glenn, were our special guests for the evening banquet. At left is Al Paulsen, who created and constructed the new KIA/MIA Memorial Display board. This board was available in the registration room until Saturday, when it was again moved to the banquet room. Al's finished work, with help from others, will be transported to the U. S. Army Aviation Museum for display and safe-keeping in mid-October.

Back in our homes a few days following the reunion, I received this note from Catalina Caldwell:

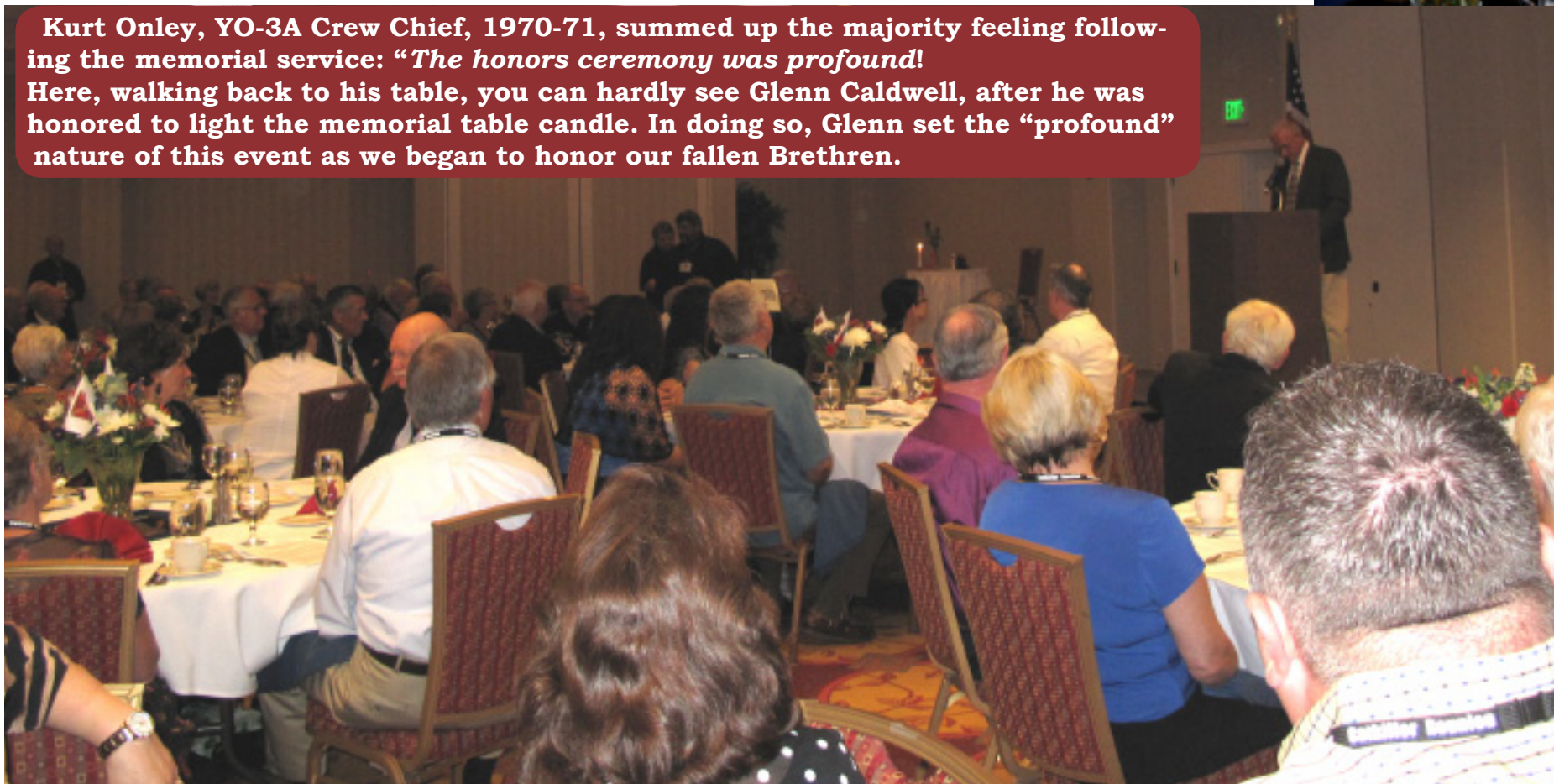
"Glenn and I enjoyed so very much the experience of the Catkillers 2012 Reunion! Thank you so very much for your generosity, kindness, and time. The fellowship was absolutely wonderful.

**Blessings,
Catalina Caldwell"**

Thanks to all who met and spoke with Mrs. Caldwell and her son. Catalina was pleased to take home with her one of the beautiful Catkiller patch flags shown in the vase.



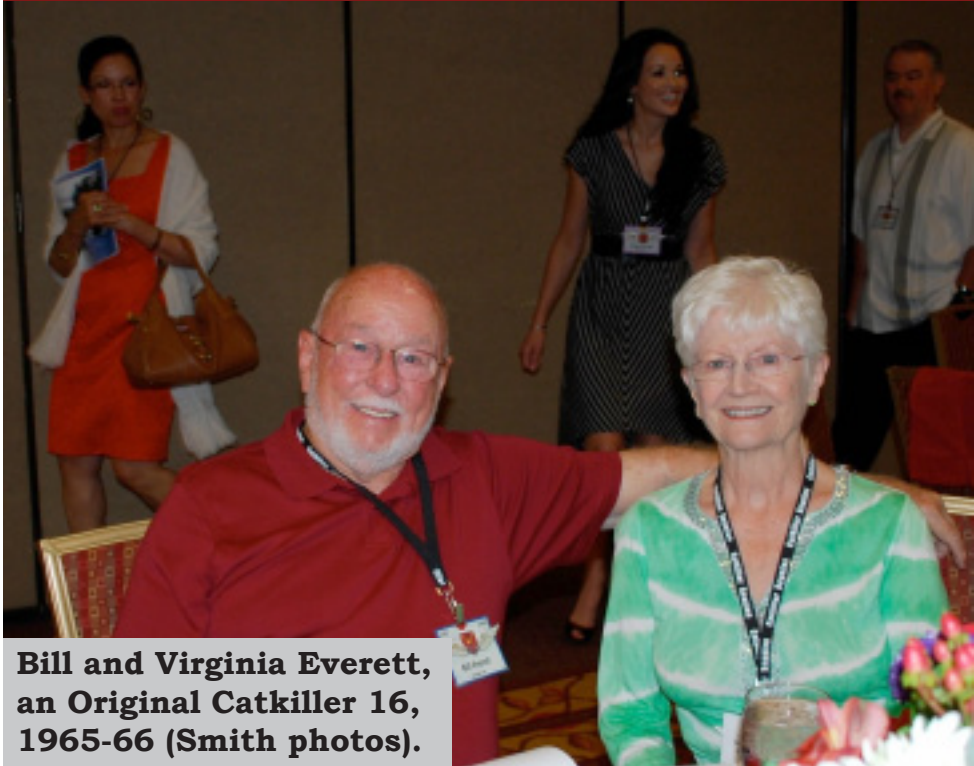
Kurt Onley, YO-3A Crew Chief, 1970-71, summed up the majority feeling following the memorial service: *"The honors ceremony was profound!"* Here, walking back to his table, you can hardly see Glenn Caldwell, after he was honored to light the memorial table candle. In doing so, Glenn set the "profound" nature of this event as we began to honor our fallen Brethren.





Mike and Toni Burton, son-in-law and daughter of General Curry, seemed to enjoy themselves and the pleasant atmosphere that prevailed in the banquet room, especially after the delicious meal served by the hotel. To the right is Charles Finch presenting one of Jim Hooper's books, *A Hundred Feet Over Hell*, to Catalina Caldwell. Glenn will get it next, then his brother and three sisters. Catalina and her daughters are teachers (Finch)!

GREAT REUNION PHOTOGRAPHS, JULY 14, 2012



Bill and Virginia Everett, an Original Catkiller 16, 1965-66 (Smith photos).



Virginia and Gene Alexander, a 221st Shotgun, 1969-70. Nice video presentation, sir!



Larry and Suzanne,

The Deiberts



Paul Smith, Catkiller 18/40, Myrna Cardwell-Smith



YOUR TURN TO TELL US WHO (SEE CONTEST NEXT PAGE)





Paul Garin IV, Paul Garin III, William Garin

Naming contest: The one who names *ALL* the un-named correctly wins a special photo spot in Part 4. Win!



Our excellent reunion committee member, Gene Wilson, managed, under trying circumstances, and succeeded, in having two model Birddogs for raffle on Saturday evening. And the lucky winners for the models were: Tom Murray (original model) and Bud Bruton (subdued version). Andy Anderson won the Vietnam Veterans Memorial photo shown here and to the right (Ricks)



“Gene, I received the Vietnam Memorial picture today. You did an excellent job of packing and the picture was in perfect condition. I will see that it occupies a place of honor in my office. Thanks a million.

You guys did a marvelous job with the reunion. I’ve attended them all and this was the best. I can’t remember when I was as relaxed and had as much fun. You did an exceptionally fine job with the weather, too. Thanks for the hard work of the whole committee. Those things don’t happen automatically. The accommodations, the location and the events were all great. We appreciated not being so scheduled up that we didn’t have time to visit. Good work!

The best,

Quinton (Andy) Anderson CK 10/3”

There were several comments following the reunion that reflect the mood and level of enjoyment. Andy’s above is one. Another comes from Jan Smith, who was not able to attend, but shares his continual interest in our success:

Hi Don,

Sounds as if you had a great time in Seattle. Ray Caryl says he did.

Gene Alexander wrote that he was delighted to be included and was made to feel right at home with the 220th. He said he’d previously met you in San Antonio. Gene also included a link to a video that Charles Finch made of the reunion and posted to YouTube. Don’t know if you’ve seen it yet ‘cause I’m sure you want to mention it to the other Catkillers. In case not, here’s the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKvznStDYW4> After viewing that, YouTube leads one into the 2nd part that Charles posted.

FYI, Doc has just accepted an invitation to speak to the Charlotte Quiet Birdmen. Wish I were back in the States to be able to attend that meeting. If any other Catkillers are in the Charlotte area and would like to be there on 6 August, let me know and I’ll make sure they’re invited.

Best to you,

Jan (Jan and his wife, Renate, own and operate a beautiful B & B in Paris, France (<http://terrasserimbaud.com/ENG/welcome.html>).

Thanks to Gene Alexander, 221st Avn Co, for a very well edited presentation on the Birddog in Vietnam, Kurt Onley for his presentation about the YO-3A on Friday evening.

Irene Oake, Mary Tobiason, and Pat Bradley (Wilson)





(Arrington)



(Stewart)



(Stewart)

As we entered the room, we saw a table to the left of the stage, elevated to draw attention to its purpose. It was just a table with a setting, until Glenn Caldwell lighted the candle. We were in somber reflection of those lost and the families effected by circumstances in their young lives. But, you know, happiness rests in the heart, as you see in the smiles of Glen Thoha, Catalina Caldwell, and Glenn Caldwell. It is right and proper that we remember.



(Stewart)



(Ricks)