

The AC-119 Gunship Association

September 19, 2026 Flash

NEW: Ghost rider Static Display

A rare opportunity awaits reunion attendees! If you have not registered for the reunion, maybe this news will encourage you to do so. We have confirmed an AC-130J Ghost rider gunship from the 73rd SOS "Shadows" at Kirkland AFB, NM, is flying in to visit us during our Phoenix reunion! With their hectic schedule the crew can't make the weekend, so they are arriving **Thurs, Oct 22, 2026** at 3:00 p.m.

To make this additional reunion event work, we decided to use transportation via the tour bus returning from the **Saguaro Lake Cruise** – at least one of the two busses will go to the Gateway-Mesa Airport where they are landing.

That means that bus will return to the hotel about 6:00 p.m. instead of 2:30 p.m. as originally planned. For those reunion attendees on the **Saguaro Lake Cruise** who **do not** want to visit the Ghost rider, our 2nd tour bus will return you to the hotel as originally planned.

The crew is staying overnight, and we expect they'll visit our hootch Thursday evening to learn our history and share stories. We guarantee you and they will enjoy a very interesting time!

We will have (free) food in the hootch for that (6:30 pm-ish), along with our usual snacks and refreshments. Join us to meet today's warriors, and so they can meet their heritage Warriors (us :>) More details soon!

IMPORTANT: If you are registered for the Cruise and you **DO** want to go to the Ghost rider, send Mike Drzyzga an email at drzyzga513@hotmail.com OR text his cell 201-310-2943 telling him who will go. We **need** that info to know who will go on each bus!! **ALSO, if you aren't registered for the Cruise, but want to go to the Ghost rider, send the info on who wants to go to Mike. We'll figure out car-pooling once we know numbers.** See you in Phoenix!

Who's Coming? Here's who you'll SEE again IF you come :>)

- Lemon 10 KIA Clyde Alloway's Son Jeff Alloway
- Richard & Sandy Atkinson
- Stan & Cindy Baker
- Larry & Debbi Barbee
- Shirley & Danial Bartlett and Gary Cuellar
- Paul & Teri Beagley
- Jim Boyd
- Tom Brander
- George, George II, & Richard Carter and Michelle Carter-Graff
- Craig Corbett
- Peggy Craig
- Roy Davis & Paula Pascoe
- Mike & Andrea Drzyzga
- Bob & Janet Dydo
- Nancy Mac Isaac, Son John Paul, & Daughter Susan Ighani
- Dale & Jeanette Martin with Chris & Brad Martin
- Jerry McDonald
- Steve & Vivien Meleen
- Ed Metz
- Larry Middleton
- Jimmy & Elaine Montgomery with Bruce & Arlene Artis
- John & Lynn Morrow with Craig Morrow
- Joe Mras
- Bob Neuer
- Rod Olson with Cyndi & Freya Hathaway
- Bill & Karen Petrie
- Jim Rash
- Matt & Annette Robeck

- Jim & Tina Farrell
- John & Penny Forbes
- Ron & Patty Gilbert
- Chuck & Donna Gickman
- Janis Goryl
- Rich Hall
- Jerry & Ellen Hester & guests
- Clement Hill & Suzanne Austin-Hill
- Ron & Carol Hinton
- Stinger 41 KIA Ken Brown's Nephew Randy Holbrook
- Jim Acquaviva's Daughter Pam Kalbfleisch & Guest
- James "Pops" & Alice Knuckles
- Mike Krauss
- Wayne & Lynette Laessig
- Don Luke
- Bob Safreno & Sandy Paxton with Richard Safreno
- Terry & Theresa Sarul
- Gus Sininger
- Ski Sledzinski & Yami Lust-Sledzinski
- Jerry & Diane Snyder with Guest
- Ev Sprou
- Mark Tarpley
- Wayne & Darcy Taylor
- Dan Thompson & Darlene Hansen
- Gary & Kathy Totten
- Cooky Villareal
- Dave Voisey
- Doug Wohlgamuth
- Cynthia Wood
- Randy & Jeanne Woods



Join us!! You can Register & guarantee a room reservation thru today, Sept 21st. After that it is based on availability, but there is still availability, so sign up while you can!

Info is at <https://www.ac119gunships.com/reunion/upcoming-reunion-2026/> and you can register at <https://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/AC119Gunship26> !! Questions? Call, text, or email Wayne Laessig 707-592-4492, wayne.laessig@gmail.com, or Dave Voisey 713-818-9234 dvoisey@hotmail.com!!

VSO Opportunity

Veteran Services Officer Joe Mras is meeting with many of you to go over your VA claims, benefits, answer questions, etc. Joe is currently contacting those who signed up to schedule his meeting date and time with you. Questions, contact Joe at post12vso@gmail.com.

Banquet and Auction

We've traditionally done both Silent and In-Person Auctions of items, donated by our attendees and others, with proceeds going to our Reunion "cost offsets" and special projects. We do this after the Banquet, and it helps a bunch!! If you'd like to bring an Auction item, luggage packable is a good consideration :>) Check with Andrea Drzyzga when you arrive.

Also, the local Civil Air Patrol (CAP) will provide the Honor Guard at our Banquet for the Presentation of Colors and their Retirement. These folks are our Guests at the Banquet, and we'll seat them randomly to assure "we" get to meet "them" and vice-versa. They get to hear our stories, and we learn about their CAP "roles". PLEASE, engage them :>)

SURPRISES

There are always a few! Expect to see the Patriot Guard/AC-119 Gunship Memorial Trike in full regalia with Matt and Annette Robeck as the Trike's Riders!! We might even auction a ride on it!!