



FLORIDA DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION



Rotor and Scalpel

WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

First, I hope all had a wonderful holiday and I appreciate all the good wishes received. I would like to take a moment to welcome all new members to Dustoff and hope they will join us at the reunion this year. We appreciate all their input and everything they may have to offer to our organization. Reunion time is rapidly approaching and will be here before we know it. We are hoping for a good turn out and look forward to seeing all there. Once again, we will be located in Campsite "B" our favorite spot. As always, we will have water splits and extra electrical receptacles.

Doc and Patches have volunteered to replace Doc Williams and myself for obtaining the campsites for next year's reunion. They will need to be at Wickham Park the day before the sites go on sale in order to obtain our sites. I hope all will take the time to thank them for volunteering for this task. Doc and myself have done it for the past several years.

Even though it has been an exceptionally hard year for myself, and family due to Bert and myself being ill, Doc Williams (and wife Linn), Bert and myself have been representing Dustoff faithfully with the Vietnam and All Veterans Coalition. Dustoff hosted the October 2008 General Membership meeting at our home with a turnout of approximately 30 people (Brett and Elizabeth Brookins was in attendance), we also hosted an executive board meeting here at our home as well as one at Doc Williams home. To remind you the Coalition meets once a quarter for general meetings (all are welcomed to attend) in addition to 4 executive board meetings. We then forward the information that we receive from these meetings (and e-mail updates) to you, our general membership. *From time to time we ask for your input and would appreciate your responding to our requests. We cannot speak on your behalf without your response.*

Roberta and myself presented our wreath this past Veterans Day here in Edgewater at our local cemetery. It was a beautiful ceremony, complete with a flyover. Doc Williams spent the day at the UDT Seal Museum with Patches and his crew. It has been our intention to be at the Museum as well, but unfortunately, we were unable to make the trip.

I would like to Congratulate to all recipients of awards last year: Golden Stethoscope –Doc Williams, Doctor Dustoff – myself, Art Smith and Carolyn Zsoldos, Certificate of Appreciation for Service to Dustoff - Chris Voisey, Camper of the Year Award to Tom Burton (who absolutely loved it!!). Speaking of awards, the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida presented Dustoff with a plaque for hosting the October meeting. Accepting on behalf of Dustoff was Doc and Linn, Bert and myself at the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet held January 16-18th in Altamonte Springs.

To remind all everyone should contribute and bring two 12 packs (beer, soda, water, etc.) to donate to the coolers at reunion. It has worked out great for the past few years and I for one did not hear any complaints.

Please remember, our general membership meeting will be held 1 hour after the close of opening ceremonies at the campsite on the 25th.

Now for the part of our newsletter nobody likes to read. It takes money to run an organization and I know things are rather tough for a lot of people these days. However, if you are an annual member, **PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES.** *As you must be a member in good standing to vote, please make sure that the dues are paid prior to the start of our annual meeting.* If you would like to pay them now, please forward your payment in the amount of \$20.00 payable to Florida Dustoff Association to 2304 Woodland Drive, Edgewater, FL 32141. **Please note – there are only two types of memberships**, annual and lifetime – that is it. If you join us for the meeting and are not one of these

membership types or have not paid your dues, you are not eligible to vote.

In addition, for the last time, I need to clarify the fees regarding the campsites. The fees (which are located at the end of the newsletter) **are per camper, per motor home or per tent – per night**. These fees are not per campsite!!! If you bring a tent, then you pay for each night. If you bring a motor home, you pay per night. If you share a site with another motor home and or tent, then both per night. Dustoff must pay for the sites for almost the entire week a year in advance and we cannot afford to keep doing this without recouping these funds. If you have an issue with this, please contact me directly prior to reunion at 386-424-1989.

I look forward to seeing you all at the reunion.

DUSTOFF FOREVER
Bob (Doc) Neitzel

A NOTE TO ALL FROM THE EDITOR

Another year has passed and once again, really nothing has been forwarded to me to include in the newsletter (except from VVB and VVOF members which has been forwarded from myself and Bob throughout the year). A lot of you are retired, whereas I am not. *I really would like someone to step up to the plate – e-mail some info.* I am e-mailing as many newsletters as possible, so if you received this by snail mail and have a e-mail address, please e-mail it to me at Hdwizrd8@aol.com and PLEASE indicate Dustoff in the subject line.

I think that our last reunion was a great success even though I was not feeling too well. As I was substituting for our secretary at the meeting, the minutes will be rather short this time. We would like to encourage all members to attend the reunion in April 2009. We will have a general membership meeting on Saturday. **If you plan on attending the reunion this year, please contact me at (386) 424-1989 or by e-mail. I will need to know if you need a campsite (wet or dry) and how many people will be attending with you.** At this point in time, the only motor home I am aware of is Patches. There are not other sites reserved. It is quite difficult to plan a dinner (as usual, Saturday night) without having an idea of a head count. The reunion dates are April 23-26th at Wickham Park. The VVB already has most of the reunion info posted at www.vietnamdallveteransofbrevard.com.

If you can also attend the week prior, you may also wish participate in the Vietnam And All Veterans Reunion Memorial Walls Motorcycle Escort on Sunday April 19, 2008 at Brevard Community College 1519 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL. If staying overnight they normally arrange for discounted room rates, which at this time have not been announced/posted yet.

Line-up is at 9:00 am and they will leave 10:00 am. Arrive at Wickham Park, Melbourne, About 11:00 am. The Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard will host a COVERED DISH PICNIC, for those who want to help set up the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Other Memorials and Displays. It is well worth the experience if you are able to do so.

Please take a look at the reunion website page at VVOF.ORG and there is a link to the reunion home page, or go right to the source at the VVB website.

Last year we attended a stand-up to welcome troops home at the Orlando VA Medical Center with the VVOF and VVB and have been awaiting news of another one. This time we are more prepared as we now know what info needs to be handed out. We are ready the membership apps and the tri-fold on Dustoff 90. The Coalition has also been working on a tri-fold and Ralph Earrusso had a banner made for the coalition.

I have been working on troop support for the coalition by contacting corporations requesting donations for our troops. It would be appreciated if our membership attending the reunion could bring items to support this effort. We are looking for personal toiletry items such as brushes, combs, soap, flip-flops, trial sizes of shampoo, toothpaste, etc., to send over seas. Items or monetary donations (personal or from organizations) would be greatly appreciated. We do have a 501(c) 3 being used if an organization is donating money. Two organizations that I feel are worthy are Operation Clear skies and Project Oasis. In addition, I feel that in order to up our membership and bring in younger members, Dustoff should send care packages to a Med Evac unit that is currently serving in either Iraq or Afghanistan. What do you think?

I have little by little been working on the website – I will let all know when it is up and running. I look forwarding to seeing all at the Reunion!!!

Roberta Neitzel

NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

As we all know, for the past several years, the Golden Stethoscope award has been presented each year at reunion. The prior years recipient solely selected the new veteran/member to receive the award for the coming year. At the annual meeting, it was voted that we will no longer present this award. We now have a Member of the Year Award and it is up to you, the general membership (in good standing) to nominate someone for the award. Nominations must be in writing – either e-mail to Hdwizrd7@aol.com (Bob) or Dragin52@Hotmail.com (Doc Williams) and indicate DUSTOFF NOMINATION in the subject line or send a snail mail to the Dustoff mailing address. **Just simply indicate the nominees' name, a few words why you feel they deserve it and you must include your name on the form.** Once the nominations are received, the Executive board will select the recipient. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2009 ! ! ! !**

Patches and his crew are in the process of deciding on the meals that they will be serving – hope they are as good as last year!!! Friday and Saturday night's dinners will be at a cost of \$5.00 and \$6.00 respectively.

We will be presenting colors at the opening ceremonies again and if anyone is interested in participating, please contact Bob Neitzel at hdwizrd7@aol.com or by phone to let him know in advance. As the flight suits we have are rather "slim" in nature, we would like at least one or two to present in the flight suits and all others to be in BDU's, and would like all to be in boots.

We will be having our raffle and auction as well as a 50/50 and if anyone would like to donate any items please see Doc Neitzel, Bert or Doc Williams at the campsite.

Important upcoming legislation:

These bills were just recently introduced in the House of Representatives – I think we all need to keep an eye on these and contact your representatives if you support them:

H.R.303 : To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

Sponsor: [Rep Bilirakis, Gus M.](#) [FL-9] (introduced 1/8/2009)

Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.333 : To amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Marshall, Jim](#) [GA-8] (introduced 1/8/2009)

Cosponsors (29)

Committees: House Armed Services; House Veterans' Affairs

Latest Major Action: 1/8/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

This one, however, should also be watched, but you really need to read the full text before you make any decisions.

H.R.442 : To provide an amnesty period during which veterans and their family members can register certain firearms in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: [Rep Rehberg, Denny](#) [MT] (introduced 1/9/2009) **Cosponsors** (None)

Committees: House Judiciary; House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 1/9/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

BITS AND PIECES

We wish the best to and keep in our prayers the following members of Dustoff who have been ill and are still recovering: Ken Baker, Don (Hoss) Caldwell, Bob Gallagher, Patches, Brett Brookins, Rick Moore, Bob (Doc) Neitzel, and Tom Bubb. Also, for those who may not be aware, John John, son of the Reverend John Steer, was in a horrific auto accident and will have a long recovery. Please keep him in your prayers as well.

Please take a look at the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida State Coalition Website (VVOF.ORG). There is a tremendous amount of information and links to other sites.

If you need to express yourself, or have something worth sharing, please e-mail Roberta at Hdwizr8@aol.com, or call me at 386-424-1989.

CAMPSITE FEES FOR 2009-prices remain the same as 2008

WET SITES: \$40.00 per night per motor home, camper or tent

DRY SITES: \$30.00 per night per motor home, camper or tent

Friday Dinner \$5.00 per person

Saturday Dinner \$6.00 per person

ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Robert (Doc) Neitzel	President	Hdwizrd7@aol.com
Leo (Doc) Williams	Vice-President	Dragin52@Hotmail.com
Roberta Voisey-Neitzel	Treasurer	Hdwizrd8@aol.com
Art Smith	Secretary	Grawulf@msn.com
Roberta Voisey-Neitzel	Newsletter Editor	Hdwizrd8@aol.com
Larry Dutro	Membership	Larrydutro@aol.com
John Combs	Chaplin	Jodoco@xecu.net
Ron (Doc) Custer	Chairman of the Board	Custer_ron@yahoo.com
Ron (Doc) Smith	Board Member	Bigdocs@aol.com
Ed (Gunny) Ryan	Board Member	GunnyRyan@aol.com

MAILING ADDRESS

Florida Dustoff Association, Inc.
2304 Woodland Drive
Edgewater, FL 32141

All inquiries, questions or comments may be directed to the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. All articles printed in our newsletters are strictly the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Dustoff Organization. Updated September 17, 2006

FLORIDA DUSTOFF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New _____ Renewal _____ Lifetime _____ Yearly _____ (check one)
Name: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____
Spouse: _____ DOB: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____
Cell: () _____

In what capacity did you serve? Pilot ___ Crew Chief ___ Medic ___ Maintenance ___ Supply ___ Door
Gunner ___ Flight Ops ___ Clerk ___ Commo ___ Cook ___ (check one or more) Rank _____
Branch of Service _____
Dates of Assignment (Mo/Yr-Mo/Yr) _____

Attachments _____

If this is a renewal is this a change of address/information? _____

_____ I know a former Dustoff/Medic/Corpsman/Pilot/Nurse or other potential member and have listed their name, address and telephone number on the reverse.

Enclosed is \$20.00, my membership dues for one year () initial

Enclosed is my Lifetime membership dues as follows Age 55 and Below \$100.00 ()

Age 56-75 \$75.00 () Age 76 and above \$50.00 ()

(Make checks payable to Florida Dustoff Association)

Please provide a copy of your DD-214 (within 90 days) to:

Roberta Neitzel, Treasurer, 2304 Woodland Drive, Edgewater, FL 32141