

Silver Spur Reunion 2024
10-12 September, Branson, Missouri
After Action Report

The Thousand Hills Resort Hotel, formerly known as the Radisson, hosted our reunion in Branson again. As you know, the 119th Assault Helicopter Company veterans have agreed to have us join their reunion each year, and this was our second. We all enjoyed a private hospitality room the entire time. Soft drinks, coffee, beer, and wine were complimentary every day, and a cash bar opened in the room every day at noon. Drinks at that bar were also complimentary the evening of the final dinner, on Thursday.

After the closing dinner, the 119th conducted a raffle of donated items. Items ranged from books to model helicopters to booze to knives, and many other desirable items. Tickets are sold for \$1 each and the 119th uses this raffle to finance much of their reunion expense. There were so many items that winners were awarded two or three items with each win.

The 119th had about 30 attendees plus their guests. Some brought as many as ten family members, and nearly all had at least one guest. We all missed Spencer Gardner, the former 119th door gunner who ran their reunions for years, but passed away since the last one. His widow, daughter, and son ran this one, and vowed to continue as long as veterans attend. Six Silver Spurs attended, plus their guests. No former commanders were able to attend, for various important reasons.

The 119th formally ended their reunion Thursday night with the banquet and raffle. Chuck Oualline had planned to conduct a Memorial Ceremony for our fallen and missing comrades on Friday morning. Unfortunately, nearly everyone had a time conflict with travel plans and only a few would be able to attend, at great inconvenience. So, on Thursday night, we reluctantly canceled our ceremony. In order to avoid this problem next year, the Memorial Ceremony will be scheduled during the week, probably on Thursday morning. We really appreciate Roger Young's efforts in finding information and maintaining a list of our losses between reunions. Chuck provided this list to the attendees. Our fallen list still includes one whose remains may have been returned from Cambodia, but who still has not been identified (Gregory Antunano) and is officially classified as BNR.

We were warmly welcomed by the 119th AHC for the second time, and Silver Spurs are making new friends. The 119th meets every year, in September, at this hotel, and we have been told that we are welcome at all their future reunions. We who attended really enjoyed their hospitality. The 2025 reunion will be held on September 9, 10, and 11. It is sad to think that all of us might not be around for this next reunion. I pray it is not so. But reality and age tell me that it is likely. Each time we meet could be our last. So, don't blow off the

next reunion. Don't put off attendance until the one after that. Be there. For each other.
And for loads of fun, just like old times.

Chuck Oualline, 2024/2025 Assistant Reunion Chairman