



June 2000

Dear Falcons and Friends,

We finally have some news regarding the next reunion----Forget about Florida, for several reasons, but mainly because the hotel we were dealing with in Tampa added an impossible clause just as I was to sign the contract. The clause gave them the option to cancel our reunion up to 30 days prior to our beginning date. So Betty and I went to Branson, MO and have made arrangements with the Welk Resort to hold our 2000 reunion there. The dates will be October 28 or 29 or 30 to November 3rd. If you have some idea you want to see Shoji Tabuchi you will need to get to Branson on the 28th as that's his last show until November 6th, the shows scheduled so far are the Lennon Brothers morning show, their first Veteran's show of the season, and the Welk show the same night. It will be their first Christmas Show of the season. We saw both shows while we were there and the Lennon Sisters and Jo Ann Castle just seem to be ageless and still great performers. We're blocking tickets for the Yakov Smirnoff show, the Osmonds and Andy Williams for November 2nd and Jim Stafford on October 30th. The Welk shows will both be on November 1st with our banquet on Tuesday October 31st. We will have tours of Branson on Monday the 30th as well. The Welk Resort Hotel is very nice---clean and well cared for, with a staff that is extremely helpful. Most of the rooms have two queen beds but there are some kings as well. Our rate will be \$65.00 a night, plus tax of course, but that includes a continental breakfast for up to 4 persons per room. If the continental isn't enough, there is a full breakfast buffet for an additional \$4.25 per person. There is a covered walkway from the hotel to the dining area and into the theater, very convenient for the guests of the hotel. While there are other big hotels in Branson we liked the family atmosphere at Welk, really pleasant. We hope you all will be as happy with our choice as we are. The reservation slips for your hotel rooms are included with this letter---we encourage you to fill them out and put them in the mail immediately as space is limited both in the hotel and for the shows. There is a toll free number that goes directly to the Box Office---you must ask for the hotel reservations and identify yourselves as members of the 79th Fighter Group Association. Don't put it off---do it now and be certain there'll be space. Time is so short---no fault of yours--- but getting those reservations made immediately is so important.

The shows are booked for our Group and the buses reserved for transportation to the different theaters---. Everyone must take the package. The cost is \$198.00 per person for all 6 shows, the buses to the theaters, our dinner on the 31st and a full buffet breakfast on our last morning, November 3rd. Information for our dinner is enclosed on a separate sheet. You will have three choices of entree---Prime Rib, Chicken Cordon Bleu or Norwegian Salmon Fillet. The price is the same no matter which one you select.

OPTIONAL SHOWS

Since the Shoji Tabuchi show won't be available during our stay we will attempt to obtain tickets for anyone who wants to see the show on Saturday October 28th at 8:00 p.m. The cost for tickets is \$31.00 each. Transportation to the theater and back on your own. One other option is the Bobby Vinton Show on Sunday October 29th at 8:00 p.m.. The cost for these tickets is \$25.00 each. We would highly recommend both of these shows. This would work best for someone who drives to Branson. However there may be others there with cars if you arrive on the 28th or before. There is no space available at the hotel after November 2nd. Some space is available prior to our reunion beginning date.

GOLF

Pointe Royale ---- Across from the Welk Resort

This is the area where Andy Williams lives---don't know where he plays golf. LedgeStone
---- 3 miles from the Welk Resort.

There are several other courses also---you all know how to find them. Lots
of free time and we're told it's great golf weather that time of year.

SHOPPING

3 Outlet Malls

Downtown Branson

Grand Village - across from the Grand Palace Theater

We are on line at: ednbetty@freewwwweb.com You are free to write us anytime. It sure is depressing to check for mail every morning and find there's nothing new. Let us hear from you even if it's only to say hello.