



DEAR FALCONS AND FRIENDS,

MARCH 1998

AFTER EXTENSIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE HILTON HOTEL IN HUNTSVILLE WE HAVE REACHED AN IMPASSE WHERE THEY ARE ADAMANT ABOUT A CLAUSE THAT WE CANNOT AGREE TO---IT'S CALLED "CONDUCT OF EVENT" AND READS, "PATRON ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF ALL PERSONS IN ATTENDANCE AND FOR ANY DAMAGE DONE TO ANY PART OF THE HOTEL'S PREMISES ". THE WAY THIS IS WORDED THEY COULD MAKE ME RESPONSIBLE FOR ANYTHING THAT OCCURED DURING OUR STAY. THE HOTEL OFFERED US THE OPPORTUNITY OF REWORDING THAT CLAUSE---WE SPOKE TO OUR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, WHO IS AN ATTORNEY, AND SHE TOLD US WE HAD NO BUSINESS REWRITING THE HOTEL'S CONTRACT---THIS WAS A VERY DANGEROUS SITUATION AND WE JUST SHOULDN'T DO IT. THE HOTEL CONTINUED THEIR INSISTANCE ON THE CLAUSE BEING INCLUDED. WE SUSPECT THAT THE RECENT OLYMPIC VILLAGE EPISODE IN JAPAN AND THE TAILHOOK FIASCO ARE THE REAL PROBLEMS HERE, BUT TO COMPARE OUR GROUP WITH EITHER OF THESE IS RIDICULOUS. WE JUST COULDN'T MAKE THEM SEE IT THAT WAY. I HAVE INVESTIGATED A CRUISE BUT THEY WANT THEIR DEPOSIT LAST MONTH----I AM CURRENTLY WAITING TO HEAR FROM ANOTHER HOTEL IN HUNTSVILLE.

APRIL 1998

THE MARRIOTT HOTEL ON THE I 565 LOOP AROUND HUNTSVILLE HAS OFFERED US A CONTRACT. WE'RE WAITING FOR THE WRITTEN DOCUMENT BUT HAVE GIVEN VERBAL APPROVAL TO THEM FOR AUGUST 19 OR 20TH TO THE 23RD, THIS YEAR! WE HOPE THE DATES WON'T BE A PROBLEM FOR ANYONE, BUT IT IS THE BEST WE COULD DO, AND IT WAS A LONG, HARD STRUGGLE! THE RATE BEING OFFERED BY THE MARRIOTT IS \$60.00 PER NIGHT FOR REGULAR ROOMS AND \$80.00 PER NIGHT FOR THE CONCIERGE LEVEL. HOWEVER, IF YOU WANT TO HAVE ONE OF THE CONCIERGE LEVEL ROOMS, I SUGGEST YOU CALL IMMEDIATELY AS THEY ARE ONLY ALLOTING US 15 ROOMS ON THAT FLOOR. THE HOTEL PHONE NUMBER IS 205-830-2222 AND THEY MAY BE SOON UNDERGOING A CHANGE IN THEIR AREA CODE SO IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM YOU MAY WANT TO CHECK THAT. THE HOTEL PLANS TO SEND US RESERVATION CARDS VERY SOON AND WE WILL HOPE TO HAVE THE COST WORKED UP BY THAT TIME SO THAT WE CAN GIVE YOU THE ACTIVITY FEES. LEE GOSSICK HAS ALREADY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A TOUR AT ARNOLD ENGINEERING AND LUNCH AFTERWARDS ON FRIDAY THE 21ST. WE WILL HAVE OUR FIRST MEAL TOGETHER AT A BUFFET ON THE EVENING OF THURSDAY THE 20TH. OUR BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY THE 22ND WITH THE BREAKFAST ON SUNDAY THE 23RD. THE HOTEL WILL EXTEND OUR RATE BEFORE AND AFTER FOR A FEW DAYS FOR THOSE WANTING TO STAY IN THE AREA. THEY WILL ALSO PROVIDE A SPECIAL MENU OR MEAL PRICE FOR OUR GROUP IN THEIR RESTAURANT. WE FEEL FORTUNATE THAT WE'VE FOUND A HOTEL WHO WAS WILLING TO WORK WITH US TO MAKE THESE ARRANGEMENTS. THE HOTEL IS NEXT TO THE SPACE CENTER AND IN A NICE AREA. WE THINK YOU'LL BE PLEASED. SHUTTLE SERVICE TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT IS COMPLIMENTARY AND THERE IS PLENTY OF FREE PARKING AROUND THE HOTEL. AND, IF YOU HAVE AN R V, THERE IS A STATE(?) CAMPGROUND

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE TO THE HOTEL, PROBABLY A LONG BLOCK, DEPENDING ON WHICH END OF THE CAMPGROUND YOU'RE LOCATED.

WE'RE ENCLOSING A POSTAL CARD TO BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL ENABLE ME TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BUSES TO TULLAHOMA TO TOUR ARNOLD ENGINEERING AND TO PERHAPS MAKE PLANS FOR A CITY TOUR. IT'S SO MUCH EASIER IF WE HAVE SOME IDEA OF NUMBERS. YOU WON'T BE HELD TO THIS--IT'S JUST TO GIVE ME A LITTLE LEVERAGE WHEN NEGOTIATING WITH THESE FOLKS.

WE'RE SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN GETTING THIS LETTER OUT BUT WE THOUGHT EACH DAY THAT WE'D HAVE NEWS ABOUT THE NEXT REUNION. THAT OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T WORK OUT. WE DO WANT TO MENTION THE REUNION IN SAN DIEGO---WE HAD A GREAT TIME! IT WAS A SMALL CROWD BUT OF EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY. THE TRIP TO MEXICO WAS VERY INTERESTING AND THE CITY/HARBOR TOUR WERE EXCELLENT. BETTY ESPECIALLY ENJOYED THE HARBOR SEALS WHO SEEMED TO HAVE A GREAT TIME NAPPING ON THE BUOYS. MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE REUNION---THOSE WHO DONATED RAFFLE PRIZES AND THOSE WHO HAVE CALLED IN THE INTERIM TO LEARN ABOUT THE '98 REUNION.

WE'RE STILL FINDING MEN---ROGER FILES WILL HAVE THE NOTICES IN THE VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS VERY SOON. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WE DON'T HAVE ON OUR ROSTER PLEASE FORWARD THE NAME AND ADDRESS TO US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE'RE AGAIN UPDATING THE ROSTER, PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY CHANGES TO BE MADE.

WE HAVE INFORMATION FROM ITALY ABOUT AN 86TH SQUADRON PLANE RECENTLY RECOVERED, HAVING GONE DOWN AT ANZIO ON JANUARY 31, 1944. IT IS A P 40L, NUMBER X 49 AND WAS PILOTED ON THIS MISSION BY MICHAEL MAURITZ ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT THE PILOT OF RECORD. DOES ANYONE HAVE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CREW CHIEF ON THIS PLANE AT THAT TIME? THE PLANE WAS RECOVERED INTACT---WILL BE RESTORED AND HOUSED IN AN ITALIAN MUSEUM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IF YOU CALL THE HOTEL TO MAKE A RESERVATION BE SURE TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS PART OF THE 79TH FIGHTER GROUP TO RECEIVE OUR RATE.

SINCERELY,

Edwin P. Newbould

EPN/B

Mail us that card yes or no.