

A Word from Willie

Society of Wild Weasels Newsletter
Dec 2025



CINCWW's Corner

Fellow Weasels,

A Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all of you for what you have done for the Land of the Free and Home of the Brave!

We have made some additions to the medical section, and we ask you to review it and pass on how we can improve it. The MACH Coalition is still at work monitoring the VA cancer study, working on the g-induced injury bill and other initiatives. If you would like to attend the meeting by zoom on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:00 EST, let either Sleet or myself know. We regularly post updates from the MACH Coalition on the Weasel medical page.

We will keep the one-year free membership until the first of January so if you know of a Weasel candidate, please let them know. LABud is busy working to make sure the new members are

recognized and appreciated. It is an easy process on the Website to sign up for the new membership.

On the reunion front we have committed to the Island Resort, and they have set aside a block of rooms for us with the sign up (see below). The first week of January will see us publishing the signup sheet for events and where to pay your money. The 33rd Wing and the 96th Test Wing are both looking forward to hosting us from 14-17 May.

I want to close with a salute to what our members have done to ensure democracy and our republic is defended! I am thankful this Holiday season for you and your families, my family and God!

Very Respectfully

Budman Redmond

Society of Wild Weasels Chief in Charge

YGBSM

FILO



***Booking your Room for the reunion
Reunion Hotel Rooms Process***



<https://www.theislandfl.com/>

Our room booking is up and running below for our reunion 14-17 March. We will have all events lined up and payment for each on the Website by 10 January.

Click the link below, select the dates and room type you are interested in on the booking screen and click BOOK NOW:

[Society of Wild Weasels](#)

<https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=37398&Chain=6255&arrive=2026-05-14&depart=2026-05-17&adult=1&child=0&group=2605WEASEL>

Guests may also book over the phone by calling 850-337-9194.

Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm CDT to make their reservations.

Event Details

Start date: 5/14/26

End date: 5/17/26

Last day to book: 4/14/26

Cancellation Policy: 48 hours prior to arrival

Deposit Policy: 1 night deposit due at time of booking

Rate: starting at \$199.00 USD per night plus tax

Please note: Guest's need to contact the group housing coordinator directly, if they want to extend their stay or book different room types outside of the group block (which is subject to availability and rate).

Reservations needed after the cutoff date must be booked directly through group housing. The group rate after cutoff is not guaranteed, and is subject to current availability

***Venessa Blackmon, Group Housing Coordinator,
Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm CDT.***

Please Call 850-337-9194 or email vblackmon@theislandfl.com

Guests may also book over the phone 7 days a week, 24 hours a day!

Please call 1-800-874-8962.

Daily Resort Fee of \$29.00 is waived. Daily Parking Fee of \$15.00 is waived.



Weasel Watch



I have been working with the Bremont Watch Military Special Projects Team to create an F-4G Wild Weasel watch, but I have confirmed that the Bremont F-16CJ Wild Weasel watch is currently available to order on an individual basis. The first of these watches are due to be complete soon and any new orders placed will have an individual lead time of 8-10 weeks from the date of deposit payment.

I have been working with the Bremont Watch Military Special Projects Team to create an F-4G Wild Weasel watch, and I have confirmed that the Bremont F-16CJ Wild Weasel watch is currently available to order on an individual basis.

- For the F-4G watch, Bremont will need to receive 15+ orders to allow them to move ahead with the next stage of collecting security deposits.
- For the F-16CJ watch, the minimum has already been met. The first of these watches are due to be completed soon and any new orders placed will have an individual lead time of 8-10 weeks from the date of deposit payment.

Procedures

- The Watch is the ALTITUDE MB METEOR
 - <https://us.bremont.com/products/alt42-mt-ti-bkbk-l-s> .
- The Watch is **\$3,700** (including duties and shipping within the US) to aircrew. Bremont subsidizes a portion of the cost from the \$5,300 retail price as a tribute to the military.
- I can send you the official poster and order form. The order form is to be completed by anyone eligible and interested in ordering the watch and sent back to military@bremont.com . In the order form you will find most of the pricing about the different accessory options and extras.
- Once Bremont has received the order details, they will email the sender with all the information about securing their order by processing the security deposit of \$800.
- They offer three methods of payment; online, by phone or bank transfer.
- The Bremont Military team collects the deposits directly with each person ordering the watch.
- The remaining balance due would be collected just before the watches are ready to ship.
- All orders go to Bremont, and they handle all the financials

If you would like to proceed with placing an order, please contact me at blackburnmanor@mac.com and I will email you the official poster and order form.

Pinky
WW #1911
Robert Blackburn, Jr.
blackburnmanor@mac.com

Weasel Medical

MACH Coalition Medical Update

MACH is a Medical Coalition of former flyers and 10 organizations that seeks to ensure current and former Aviator health. This is from Aztec and is our year in review with some look ahead in 2026.

Congratulations. You got two pieces of legislation passed in one year of this Congress. With today's 77-20 Senate passage of the FY26 NDAA, the ROTOR Act is a single step from enactment: PoTUS signature. As you consider this accomplishment, please, do not lose sight: we did this because we are stronger together than we are alone. I will soon follow with a separate ROTOR Act email that gets at some details. Denise Sanders & Chuck Rouhiere: the dream became yet more tangible.

2. With the ACES Act and ROTOR Act passed + one waiting for enactment, military fixed wing flyers and rotary wing aviators are demonstrating what can be done with a unified vision and tight teamwork. We are doing this better than any other legacy Vet organization when it comes to our health issues.

3. Please, do not expect that 2026 will or should be a rinse-lather-repeat version of an amazing 2025 year. **We have to do something in 2026 we have not yet done: grow up.** We have to become a real non-profit. So, we will be doing "station-keeping duties" but we will *not* cease advocating. To that end, Denise Kloepel is MACH's ACES Act implementation POC.

4. In launching career #3 (a day job), I am finding myself with less calendar white space. **We will need others to possess then help own our mission(s) work.** This is part of entering a more developed phase. Next, please expect **that in 2026, the 2nd WED of each month--except AUG, will be a MACH Zoom call at 13:00ET/10:00PT. The current standing Zoom call link remains in effect.**

5. I am unsure if MACH will continue to grow in 2026. However, **if you encounter other not for profit organizations who care about Veteran health issues, please share with those good people who we are.**

6. I am recalling in our early work in sub-concussive brain injuries in flyers and aviators that we are not the coalition for cancer, we are the coalition for health. This issue, brain micro-traumas, is real. Today, military aerospace medicine is disconnected. We will bring them along. Expect a related MACH white paper to follow. Next, our PROMETHEUS concept to DoD PROMETHEUS is awaiting their response. We may temporarily be more ready than they are. However, I have to remember that we don't send plane loads of Docs & Researchers to the merge. Only we are found there. So, we will lead. The MAST Act and AERO Act are both in

early days of locating congressional support. This is the tough part--the equivalent of the valley of death for would-be lawmaking. But here is my 2.69 cents: we can cut years off and not consume 3 congresses and 4+ calendar years to obtain traction and eventual passage of our priorities. All this by staying together. I hope you love formation work as much as I do.

The Weasels will be supporting all this with a main focus on back and neck injuries studies. We will be ramping up the writing campaign which so many of you have supported!

Weasel Leadership

Here's a quick biography on Bob Pietras, our new Vice

Born in 1958 in Pittsburgh, PA. Grew up in Columbiana, OH and attended Youngstown State University. OTS - Aug 1982, EWO School - Oct 1983, F-4 RTU - August 1984. Assigned to 3 TFS Clark AFB, Aug '84 to Aug '87 flying F-4E, 561 TFS and 562 TFS Aug '87 to May '92 flying F-4G. IEWO and Wing EWO for 37 TFW, Desert Storm. 27 Combat missions. May 1992 transferred to Idaho Air National Guard. Assigned to the 189 Training Squadron as an IEWO. 266 Range Squadron Commander, Aug '99 to Aug '03 at Mountain Home AFB, ID. Retired from Dec '03. Finished career with over 2,200 hours in the F-4 D, E, and G. Married to Kris Pietras for over 30 years. Four children: Sarah, Katie, Alex and Ashley.

Great Current News on the WW Mission Links:

(click for web link)

[F-35's against Iran](#)

[The F-35's key role in the war against Iran - Israel Today](#)

[2025 National Security Strategy](#)

Weasel Happenings

Dutch Schultze who became an honorary Wild Weasel about 6 weeks ago is an award-winning model builder! He has built an F-4G model which we will present to the 35 Cadet Squadron in late Feb for display in their Legacy room. Dutch is in the process of building the 50th Anniversary F-16 for presentation to the Shaw Community during their Air Show on March 28-29. Hats off to Dutch who is the new Executive Director of the Air Warrior Courage Foundation! We recently setup a new model page in the museum and the F-4G is displayed there. If you have a model you are proud of send me a picture at Budmanrocketsnow@gmail.com and we will display it.

[Weasel Models – Society of Wild Weasels](https://wildweasels.org/virtual-museum/weasel-models/)

<https://wildweasels.org/virtual-museum/weasel-models/>

Shaw will have their Air Show as mentioned on 18-29 March with the theme of celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Wild Weasel Mission. The Weasel Society has been in close contact with the team planning it and the River Rats, Air Warrior Courage Foundation will have a booth. The Shaw team has asked for possible Weasel mission speakers for events and if you have a good story and will be close to Shaw on those dates, please let us know. Below is the patch they have designed, and they have donated the patch for us to have available.



The 35 Cadet Squadron is planning on starting a tradition of YGBSM shirts for graduating seniors! We will sponsor the purchase of some of these but if you want to sponsor a senior or half a senior let us know and we will put you in touch with our liaison Kad at the Academy.

Here is the shirt below:



Weasel Poem #1

The Weasel 100



A Poem for Martin E. Cherone, WW#155,
Wilkes University Class of 1961

By Sarasha Elion
Wilkes University Class of 2026

First in, last out...

they rode the storm,

skimming the edges of both fire and sky,

hunting the unseen, chasing the strike,

as silence hummed with the heat of war.

A light, a tone, a call to dive,

metal wings tip towards the heart of the storm,

where smoke curled up from earth's open wound,

and the air cut sharp with the scent of survival.

*They were bait,
chasing death in spiraled turns,
pulling the sky into their hands,
slipping past a missile's reach,
defiant in the face of defeat.*

*And when the battle was done,
when the fire dimmed low,
they landed...
feet on soil, hands on cold steel,
breath still catching – up to the body's feel.*

*A beer in hand, a name on the wall,
a hundred flights written in fire and wind.
The sky, it whispers...it still remembers them,
because the Wild Weasels never truly land.*

CREDITS: President Cant, Col Lyons, Kevin Boyle and Creative Writing Department students

Marty Cherone gave the Wild Weasel briefing to ROTC students and faculty at Wilkes University and they were impressed they held a poetry contest and the winning entry is below. They have also added a plaque for the Weasels on their building. The Society sent them tshirts and thanks to Whitey (our WW store manager) stickers and such. Marty has volunteered to be the liaison for the Wilkes College ROTC unit which is supported by the Society and will receive a \$2000 dollar grant from the Air Warrior Courage Foundation for students. A big thankyou to Marty!!

Weasel Poem #2

“Requiem for a Wild Weasel”

by Dave Parsons

-For Colonel Jerry Hoblit (Ret.)

*I found his oil company executive business card
pinned to the Conroe YMCA bulletin board, scrawled
with a handwritten: I'm looking for a handball game, call.
I called and the following week, his appearance at the courts
did not surprise, as I mistakenly thought, a typical businessman,
not very large or muscular and with a typical all-business
half-smile and cool, look-through-you board room handshake,

and so, we played our first game, which became surprisingly
challenging and spirited pushing me with unexpected “gets”
slowly revealing another presence, the vestige of the inner body
of my opponent, a fierce warrior heart emerging as he relentlessly
guarded the front wall, precisely re-killing my every attempted
kill shot, and though I was the more experienced, more skilled,
I was in a real dogfight to become victorious in the game
and first match that would begin a long series of four-wall wars,
and many, many years of moments of fellowship and brotherhood,*

*each time peeling back further my first impressions of the man,
finding deeper comradeship and an uncommon thunder in an enormous
heart, mirroring the powerful heart of the F-105 Thunderchiefs
he mastered flying while fighting in that labyrinthine “real
war” over the Asian jungles, becoming a most highly skilled player,
playing the deadly role of a Wild Weasel, that was the moniker
he flew under, roaring ahead, leading the many American sorties,
putting himself out front of the squadrons, taking on the spears
of the hidden enemy silos, inviting their many attempted kill-shots
and then with the greatest of tenacious and skillful graceful aplomb,
avoiding the lancing shots, then piercing that wall of shrouded jungle,
when he dove into the breach of errant air for the resounding re-kill.*

As You Were: The Military Review, Vol. 14 | Spring 2021

Notes: Col. Jerry N. Hoblit (Ret.), a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, flew over 100 Wild Weasel combat missions in Vietnam and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Silver Stars, and the Air Force Cross, among many other honors. He lives in Conroe, Texas with his wife Rosalie.

Wild Weasel is a code name given by the U.S. Air Force, to an aircraft, of any type, equipped with radar-seeking missiles and tasked with destroying the radar and Surface-to-Air (SAM) missile installations of enemy air defense systems. The job of a Wild Weasel was arguably the most dangerous mission faced by fighter pilots in the Vietnam War.

David M. Parsons, 2011 Texas State Poet Laureate, co-founder of MCLAC Writers In Performance Series and the Greater Conroe Arts Alliance. He is the recipient of an NEH Dante Fellowship to the SUNY Geneseo, the French-American Legation Poetry Prize, and the Baskerville Publisher's Prize. His first collection of poems, *Editing Sky*, was the winner of the 1999 Texas Review Poetry Prize and a 2000 Violet Crown Book Awards Special Citation. His other books, are *Color of Mourning*, *Feathering Deep*, *Reaching For Longer Water* (Texas Review Press/Texas A&M University Press Consortium), David M. Parsons

New & Selected Poems (TCU Press), and Far Out: Poems of the 60's (Wings Press, Co-edited w/Wendy Barker). He has taught Creative Writing at Lone Star College-Montgomery for over twenty years and in many other venues across the state, including Inprint Inc. Parsons was inducted into the Texas Institute of Letters in 2009. He lives with his wife, Nancy, award winning graphic designer and fine artist in Conroe

2024 Funding

Available balance

• Ending balance as of Nov 25	\$74,011.81
• Current Posted Balance	\$73,407.70
• Pending withdrawals/debits	\$0.00
• Pending deposits/credits	\$0.00
• Available balance	\$73,407.70

Why the Wild Weasel Society Would Benefit from Your Charitable IRA Distribution

If you are 73 or older, the IRS requires you to take annual minimum distributions (RMDs) from your IRA. For many retirees, those distributions increase taxable income—even if the funds are not needed for daily expenses. Fortunately, there is a smart way to both reduce your tax burden and support causes you care about: a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

A QCD allows you to transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to a qualified nonprofit such as the Wild Weasel Society. The amount given counts toward your required minimum distribution but is excluded from your taxable income. That means you can satisfy the IRS requirement, lower your taxes, and make a meaningful impact at the same time. The Society will use that for grants, support to Weasels in need and other areas. You can earmark your funds for education if you want.

For the Wild Weasel Society, gifts made through QCDs provide essential support for honoring the legacy of Wild Weasel aviators, preserving history, and sustaining educational programs for future generations. Regular IRA contributions from members and friends create a reliable stream of funding, ensuring the Society can carry out its mission without interruption.

By designating your RMD as a charitable gift, you not only receive a tangible tax benefit—you also strengthen the Wild Weasel community and keep its stories and values alive.

Link for Wild Weasel Give Direct

<https://donate.givedirect.org/?cid=15484&n=386259>

Or, please send a check to:

Society of Wild Weasels

P.O. Box 877

Silver Spring, MD 20918

Another great charity is the Air Warrior Courage Foundation; here is their link:

[Donations – Air Warrior Courage](#)

Both organizations will write you a letter receipt for the IRS.

Another great idea is to designate your birthday on Facebook for donations.

Victor and Budman

If you have feedback, please drop us a line at WildWeaselReports@gmail.com

[Society of Wild Weasels, P.O. Box 877, Silver Spring, MD 20918](#)

wild-weasels-board@googlegroups.com