



390th SMW Memorial Association

P.O. Box 17916, Tucson, AZ 85731

redsnooty@comcast.net

Phone/Fax: 520-886-3430

www.390smw.org

To All Former 390th SMW Members:

The upcoming Reunion in September has brought about a question from a former crew member and this isn't the first time. Several years ago, it was asked rather vehemently of our Board of Directors - Why do we, as former crew members, be required to pay to go to the Titan II Museum after all, we worked and maintained the missile during its years of operation.

Well, it isn't ours anymore. When the doors were finally closed in 1982 the site was taken back by the Federal Government (who always owned it) and ultimately to the Pima Air and Space Foundation.

What to do now with this piece of history... It was through the foresight of several former crew members to put together all the necessary forms and paperwork to get the site recognized as a National Historical Monument/ Museum – the only one of its kind in the world, that fact alone, should make you proud to know you had a hand in preserving something unusual and want to keep it maintained for the future..

Even though the Pima Air and Space Museum through its Foundation provides the Titan II Museum with some funding, there isn't enough to go around to fill all the repairs, etc. that are needed to maintain the site, thus there is an entrance fee. We are very fortunate that we, as a group of former crew members, are given a reduced rate during the upcoming Reunion so you can be proud to bring your families/friends to see what you did during the Cold War and your place in history.

Currently, the old, unstable 1962 era elevators that brought you down to Level 7 and the topside one as well, are in dire need of repair and cannot be used. There aren't enough funds available to do the work.

Our Association, 390th SMWMA tries to assist the Museum as best we can. A few years ago, we ran a "Room Naming" program and we raised \$10,000 to have a plaque placed on one of the rooms in the Museum that indicates our contribution towards Museum maintenance. Usually once a year we ask Yvonne Morris, Museum Director and former 390th Crew Member to give us a list of what the Museums' biggest needs are and we try to fill at least one of them. Our bank account isn't large as our only income is Membership dues and Reunions, however, reunion events only gives us \$1 to \$2 over the cost of each event. All on the Board of Directors pay for the events they go to, just as everyone else.

So, to all those who feel the same as the two who expressed their unhappiness at having to pay to go see where they worked and to others who might feel the same way, I hope you will reevaluate your concerns and make the trip to Tucson in September and happily pay to see where you worked thus continuing to fund this piece in history through your entrance fee.

Contact us if you have comments, questions, etc. via the website www.390smw.org

390th SMWMA

Board of Directors

Dick Kampa, President

John Lasher, Vice President & Reunion Co-Chair

Joe Brown, Treasurer

Susan Lasher, Corresponding Secretary & Reunion Co-Chair

