



JOLLY GREEN ASSOCIATION

2008 REUNION-May 1 – 3

Ft, Walton Beach, FL.

I was able to attend the 39th annual Jolly Green Association reunion banquet dinner held at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort in Ft. Walton Beach, FL on Saturday evening May 3, 2008

It was a great opportunity to connect with several fellow RotorHeads, meet fellow members of the USAF helicopter family and enjoy a great presentation by our guest speaker.

The banquet began with the traditional empty table tribute to the POW/MIA. The introductions and presentations to the Jolly Green Association Mission of the Year crew of HH-60's involved in a night time rescue and recovery of survivors of a coalition helicopter mid-air collision in a combat zone.



The guest speaker for the evening was Col. Alvin Drew Jr., a former HH-3E Jolly Green pilot, and now an Astronaut, who flew his first Space Shuttle mission on the thirteen day mission of STS-118 Endeavor which took off on August 8, 2007. He gave a great slide and movie clip presentation covering his mission to the international space station. It was very interesting to hear his descriptions of the power of the lift off, the awesome views from space, the task accomplished during the mission and the landing of the shuttle back at Cape Kennedy. He described the approach and decent to Cape Kennedy as feeling similar to an autorotation in an HH-3E.

I had the honor of getting to meet Col. Drew and invited him to view our RotorHeads website where his bio is posted. One of the other attendees was kind enough to take this photo of fellow RotorHead, John Kriletich (on left) and me (on right) with Col. Drew (in the middle) just before the banquet began.



After the banquet was over fellow RotorHead, John Flournoy suggested we try to round up all the fellow RotorHeads in attendance for a group photo. This was akin to corralling a heard of



chickens in a fox den... but we did finally get some of us together for this group photo and then I was able to get a shot of Otto Kroger as he was heading to the party hooch.



Later,

SMSgt Jim Burns, RotorHead