



146th Wing Association

1534 N. Moorpark Road #365
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360



SMSGT Phil Uhas USAF (Ret)

The Wing Association was contacted by Mrs. Pamela Richards, the daughter of Phil Uhas, notifying us of her father's passing. Phil died on the 28th of February at 89 years of age. He was a long time member of the Wing Association and will be greatly missed at the gatherings in Laughlin, where he was a very active participant. There is no currently available obituary however included here is a short biography which Phil provided for our Old Timer recognition in 2009.

I joined the 62nd Fighter Wing at Van Nuys in 1948. On 1 November 1950 the unit name was changed to the 146th Composite Wing and in February re-designated the 146th Fighter Wing. In response to the Korean War we were called to active duty as the 146th Fighter Wing from 1 April 1951 through 23 June 1952 at Moody AFB, GA. As part of the activation I was deployed to George AFB, CA prior to deactivation.

Returning to Van Nuys I worked as the Photographic Technician from 18 March 1953 through May 1958. I was eventually promoted to the NCOIC of the Base Photo Laboratory. In June 1958 I was assigned to the 195th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron which was subsequently deactivated. I transferred into the 146th Military Airlift Wing in the Crash Fire where I stayed for the balance of my career as Assistant Fire Chief. The unit was called to active duty from 1 October 1961 through 31 August 1962 for the Berlin Crisis but remained at Van Nuys as the 146th Air Transport Wing. I retired from the Air National Guard on 25 July 1968 after 20 years of service with the rank of Senior Master Sergeant.

The military biography is just an outline but anyone who had the opportunity to spend time with Phil knows that he was a fascinating documenter of the History of the 146th Wing. He was in attendance at a critical time as the Wing was reformed, several times, after WWII and as it joined the new Air Force. Several activations with the Base Photo Laboratory, in the days well before digital, made him an expert and dedicated photographer. With his position as one of the base photographers, he participated in and documented all the daily events, large and small, at home, TDY and deployed. He willingly volunteered to perform the aerial photography from the back seat of the Wing's T-33 jet and captured some of the most iconic images of the F-86 Sabre in action.



*F-86 going vertical,
photo by Phil Uhas*

Phil will be greatly missed however he has left us a great photographic history. When you see pictures from the 1950's and 1960's you are looking at his great work. He has also provided a collections of personal photos of the Wing Association events over the last 20 years.

Respectfully,
Ed Bellion
Board of Directors

Celebration of Life
Feather Canyon Retirement Center
2pm, Saturday, March, 24, 2018
5900 Canyon View Drive
Paradise, California

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Air to air images taken by Phil Uhas