

PIONEERS OF STEALTH®

NEWSLETTER

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Pioneers,
Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Pioneers of Stealth® Newsletter.

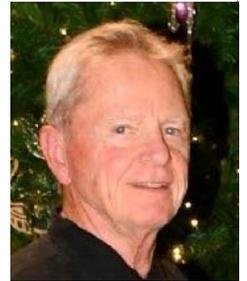
The Summerlot family kicked off summer with our annual trek to Cheeca Lodge located on the Islamorada Strait in the Florida Keys. Islamorada is made up of six islands: Plantation Key, Windley Key, Upper and Lower Matecumbe Keys, Indian Key, and Lignumvitae Key. It is recognized as one of the Sport Fishing Capitals of the world. The unique location between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of America creates a diverse ecosystem that attracts a variety of fish species, which entices anglers from around the globe. Islamorada is a rare place where it is possible to catch sailfish, mahi mahi, tuna, and wahoo offshore and fly fish for permit, snook, redfish, and tarpon in the shallow backcountry, all in the same day.

While the sailfish alluded our off-shore charter this year, we managed to land more than twenty mahi mahi, skipjack tuna, and blackfin tuna. Son Michael, who is an avid fly fisherman, teamed up with backcountry guides fly fishing for the elusive "silver king" tarpon.

Overall, the island weather was outstanding, the food unique and delicious... a relaxing but fun-filled week from normal life. We are already thinking ahead to next year.

The POS efforts in the early summer months have been dedicated to the

upcoming POS 2025 Reunion and the NMUSAF Memorial Park Bench additions. We are three months from when the Pioneers will converge on Orlando, Florida, for the reunion. The reunion committee has worked hard to plan a week for you to focus on visiting with fellow pioneers while enjoying the tropical weather and entertainment that Orlando has to offer. We anticipate having more than sixty attendees taking in the Group Social, Kennedy Space Center Tour, Lockheed Martin visit, Cirque du Soleil show, and Group Dinner/Banquet at Seasons 52 restaurant. In addition, the reunion offers an opportunity for members to meet and conduct our biennial "POS Business Meeting." This meeting will include a presentation and discussion of a future POS project.



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Letter From The President - Continued from page 1.

The 2025 Winter Edition of the POS Newsletter first introduced the proposed plan to add two "Benches" to the National Museum of the USAF (NMUSAF) POS memorial dedicated in July 2023. At that time, Denny Jarvi graciously accepted the leadership task for the project and initiate the planning and donation campaign for the benches. The membership response was outstanding. In just a few months, we received contributions necessary to cover the costs of the benches and the life-time care requested by the NMUSAF.

Fabrication, final assembly, and installation of the benches was completed.

An informal dedication was held on August 14 with local members attending.

Thank you to the generous Donors, the POS Leadership Team, Denny Jarvi, and Morrison Monuments for making the Memorial Benches a reality!

In closing, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing many of you at the reunion here in Orlando this October!

Cheers,

John Summerlot
President, Pioneers of Stealth®

Blast From the Past

"Ten Calling Birds"



POS Memorial Benches Installed!

From Conception to Completion

Greetings Pioneers,
 As the Winter 2025 POS Newsletter stated, the Pioneers of Stealth Leadership decided to install two benches on the POS memorial that was dedicated in 2023 at the National Museum of the US Air Force (NMUSAF). These benches are in honor of our families and their many sacrifices during our stealth aircraft developments. The POS Leadership reactivated me as the past Memorial chairman to lead the effort.

The design chosen for both benches by the POS Leadership were identical benches with an inscription to honor our families. To the right are 3D view images of the memorial showing the bench placements and a close-up of one bench featuring the chosen text for both benches. The benches are jet black granite with only these words engraved on the front face of the benches: "IN HONOR OF SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR FAMILIES TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS POSSIBLE."

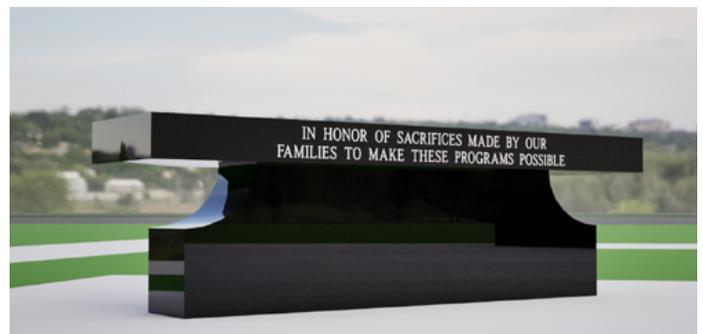
The POS contracted Morrison Monuments on 21 February. Morrison Monuments was the contractor for the original memorial completed in 2023. The total cost was \$12,675 for the two benches which included the required \$2000 for perpetual care to the NMUSAF. The museum approved the concept, installation, and placement of the benches.

Congratulations to you for your continued faithful support for the Pioneers of Stealth. The benches were installed on Monday, July 21, 2025. Your generosity has fully funded these two benches.

On August 14, 2025, an informal bench dedication ceremony was held at the



Conception design for the addition to the POS Memorial at the NMUSAF.



Both benches to be inscribed "IN HONOR OF SACRIFICES MADE BY OUR FAMILIES TO MAKE THESE PROGRAMS POSSIBLE."



Morrison Monuments delivering the POS Benches to the museum site.

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Memorial Benches Installed! - Continued from Page 3.

Pioneers of Stealth Memorial site. We had 17 members, spouses, and families attending this ceremony honoring our families and spouses who supported us while we were busy building aircraft.

These supporting families only knew that we were working on something important but we could not talk about it. They were left to deal with everything that happened at home while we were gone: cars that broke down, refrigerators that stopped working, illnesses, family issues and more. In some cases, we arrived at home only to drop off clothes and leave again. This carried on for years.

It is truly fitting that two benches were created and placed on the memorial.

As pioneers use these benches to enjoy the memorial with all those memories from long ago, they can also reflect upon the impact of the work and the support that their own families accomplished, much of it on their own.

Denny

Dennis W Jarvi, Chair
 Pioneers of Stealth Memorial Committee
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Photo by Denny Jarvi

Updated Pioneers of Stealth Memorial with the placed benches at the National Museum of the Air Force.

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Memorial Benches Installed! - Continued from Page 4.



Photo by Ceaser Ivie

An informal Dedication was made by local POS members on August 14.

L to R: Judy Ivie, Jack Wilson, MacKinsey Whittmer, Christine Salvucci, Ralph Salvucci, Denny Jarvi, Becky Jarvi, Suzanne Roselius, Dave Roselius, Ralph Grimm, Woody Gibson, Johnney Ann Gibson, Frank Campanile, Skip Hickey, Mark Wilson, John Griffin.

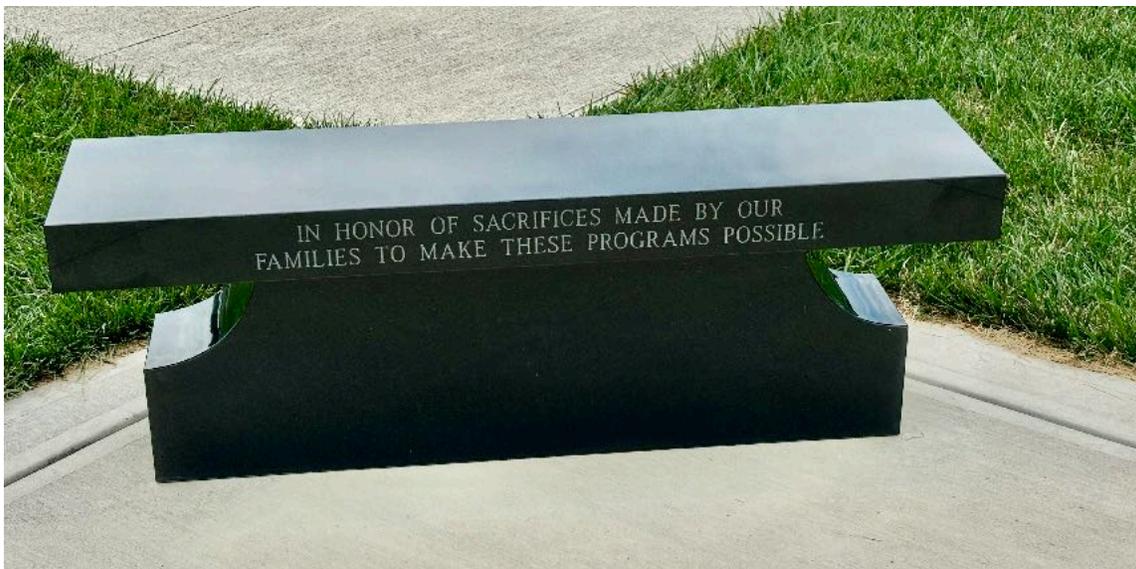


Photo by Denny Jarvi



Excerpt: “Light Memories from the Black World”

Compiled by Lynn Brucker

The Media and the F-19

Tantalizing speculation began to fill the aerospace trade press beginning in the late 1970s and early 1980s about “stealth” airplanes of all descriptions. We used to collect the articles because they were quite amusing. Most of the authors were making up any kind of silly invention and cloaking it with “wow” language. To quote one such article, “Believe it or not, we have aircraft flying today that are invisible, can fly 5,000 miles per hour, can change color to match their backgrounds, and can self-correct damage during flight.” We certainly knew of no such marvels. A few authors even tied stealth myths into speculations about UFO crashes, alien technology, holes in the mountains and other fantastic nonsense. It made widely entertainment reading.

The government and the Air Force refused to comment. Of course, any denials by anyone would have been seized upon as “proof” of an official cover-up.

Then the Testors F-19 plastic model appeared. Sleek and smooth and black in color, it looked like no known aircraft, so it must be the “hot stuff.” It bore no resemblance to a F-117. It wasn’t even an L.O. design. And it was supersonic according to the words on the box. The media acted as if it was a big compromise of classified information. One congressman, Ron Widow, was quoted as saying at a committee meeting with righteous indignation, “What I, as a member of Congress, am not allowed to



see is now ending up in model packages!” Of course, no one in the Air Force ever saw an F-19 either.

The media became enamored of the F-19. One article commented, “Some things are obvious about the way the Stealth fighter probably looks. It’s small, it’s smooth, it flies low and slow, it probably looks like a typical Lockheed product. Given those design parameters, the Testors kit probably doesn’t look exactly like the real thing, but it’s probably damn close.” Well, one out of five ain’t bad.

Actually the F-19 was designed by a guy well known to the Air Force. He had gained the reputation of a crackpot who regularly wrote Ben Rich at ADP asking questions and telling stories about space aliens in the desert. Ben passed his letters on to the OSI who probably had an extensive file of his letters.

In sales, Testors had a winner with the F-19 model. Even we bought them.

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Excerpt: Light Memories from the Black World - Continued from Page 6.

Tom Clancy

Tom Clancy's novels made good reading for long TDY's. His novel, *Red Storm Rising*, got on the F-19 bandwagon with a "stealth" fighter that he called the "Frisbee". After the Air Force acknowledged the existence of the F-117 in October 1988, Tom Clancy wrote a letter to the 4450th Tactical Fighter Group at Tonopah (better known to us as PS-66).

Sir,

Although the USAF, in its wisdom, now admits that your airplanes exist, they could not vouchsafe to let me know your name so that I could address you properly. I conclude, therefore, that though the F-117A may indeed exist, the pilots are invisible. Or something like that.

In any case, I am delighted to learn that the "Frisbee" does indeed exist, even though I seem to have mis-described it in nearly every particular. It looks about as much as a Frisbee as I look like Jack Ryan. But my wife most charitably notes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If she can love me, surely you can love those...things.

*I have looked forward to to this chance for some time. Enclosed, sir, is a first-edition copy of my novel, **Red Storm Rising**, autographed for the officers and men (and women) of your unit. Having spent a few days in Nevada earlier this year, I observe that there can be no higher testimony of professionalism than to endure the locale climate in service of one's country; for this alone you and your people are worthy of my praise.*

On a slightly more serious note, it's difficult at best for people in uniform to get the recognition they deserve, but to serve in an unacknowledged unit, maintaining, testing, and flying non-existent aircraft in an area that is purgatorial at best does say quite a bit about you and the professionals who serve with you. I hope you will accept this book as a token of my respect. If I may ever be of service to you, I would deem it an honor.

*Regards,
Thomas L. Clancy, Jr.*



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LEADERSHIP**

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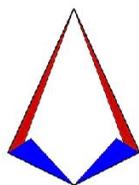
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**Pioneers of Stealth®
Charter**

Purpose. The purpose of the Pioneers of Stealth organization is to perpetuate the spirit and achievements of a relatively small number of government and industry people in the early days of low observables technology and development. These “pioneers” believe the bonds created through their sharing of these successful achievements will always be an important part of their life experiences. They are proud of their accomplishments and enjoy being together to visit and revisit with those who all made valuable contributions to these challenging and revolutionary programs. Maintaining this social relationship is extremely important and a primary objective of this organization. The Pioneers of Stealth also believe that their value to the current defense acquisition establishment is best accomplished by using their strong record of achievements to be advocates and mentors for industry-government teamwork, streamlined management procedures, and minimal oversight and reporting requirements – all factors that significantly contributed to the historic successes of the low observables programs.

Next Issue.....

2025 Orlando Reunion

