

To: <Undisclosed-Recipient:;>

Subject: Fw: "Jolly 67" Flight Engineer, TSgt Roy D. Prater, from his son - Dennis J. Prater, PADD

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2010 3:48 AM

**Subject:** Fw: "Jolly 67" Flight Engineer, TSgt Roy D. Prater, from his son - Dennis J. Prater, PADD

Bat 21B / Nail 38B SAR participants [Bcc: All]

I've been contacted by Dennis Prater (age 51), of Auburn, IN. Dennis is the surviving son of Air Force Technical Sergeant [E-6] Roy Dewitt Prater, Flight Engineer, call sign "Jolly 67". TSgt Prater was KIA at approximately 1740 hrs-L, Thursday, 6 April 1972 southeast of the Mieu Giang River/Cam Lo bridge in MR-I (Quang Tri Province) RVN during a helicopter rescue attempt of Bat 21 Bravo and Nail 38 Bravo.

Synopsis: Brave Jolly Green [http://www.pjsinnam.com/VN\\_History/JG67/Jolly\\_Green\\_67.html](http://www.pjsinnam.com/VN_History/JG67/Jolly_Green_67.html)



**ROY DEWITT PRATER**

Panel 2W, Row 131

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Full Name: ROY DEWITT PRATER

Wall Name: ROY D PRATER

Date of Birth: 7/1/1936

Date of Casualty: 4/6/1972

Home of Record: TIFFIN

State: OH

Branch of Service: AIR FORCE

Rank: TSGT

Casualty Country: SOUTH VIETNAM

Casualty Province: QUANG TRI

Age: 35

Race: Caucasian

Sex: Male

Religion: BAPTIST

Marital Status: Married

Dennis Prater is requesting assistance from the Bat 21B / Nail 38B SAR effort network, similar to what we did for Tim Alley, brother of Sgt James H. Alley, as the Prater family organizes a memorial and services for TSgt Roy Prater:

**Repatriation of remains:** Thursday, 17 June 2010, departing JPAC Hickam AFB, HI arriving Indianapolis International Airport (IATA: **IND**) w/ ground escort to Ft. Wayne, IN (T.B.D.)

**Visitation & Military Internment:** Saturday, 19 June 2010 (T.B.D.)

The Prater family invites you and/or your representative to their memorial programs.

Dennis and the extended Prater family would like to hear from you. Specifically, if you have memories of his father, TSgt Roy Prater he will appreciate kind words that can be shared with the family Minister for use in the interment eulogy.

Dennis J. Prater

e-Mail: [denprater@aol.com](mailto:denprater@aol.com)

Home phone: 260-627-2471

I've included Tim Alley on **Cc:** as he has just gone through the repatriation process and will be of invaluable assistance to the Prater family.

Dennis Prater can use some help in contacting the Indiana Chapter of the Patriot Guard & Rolling Thunder motorcycle escort groups.

Dennis will appreciate a copy of Nail 32's cockpit audio tape, recording the tragic events of 6 April 1972.

I'm sure Dennis and the Prater family will appreciate any ideas you can offer that may contribute to the military memorial services that are being organized by AF Mortuary Affairs. This will be the most significant event in rural N.E. Indiana for some time to come.

Please consider this as first-notice so you can *pencil-in* your calendar(s) and begin to plan your activities accordingly.

Godspeed,

*Bob Laymon*

Bob Laymon, CMSgt (Ret.)

Formerly - Scatback T-39A crew chief

377th CAMS, 377th ABW

Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN

Sept 1971 □ Sept 1972

Director of History

Tan Son Nhut Association

<http://www.tsna.org/officers/index.html>

<http://www.tsna.org/reunion/index.html>

118 Rhonda Drive

Universal City, TX 78148-3420

iPhone: 210-415-7282

home: 210-659-2089

e-Mail: [ScatbackScribe@gmail.com](mailto:ScatbackScribe@gmail.com)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/people/Scatback-Scribe/1279372752#!/profile.php?v=info&ref=profile&id=1279372752>

**Acknowledgments:**

**Dennis J. Prater:** Background & JPAC details.

**Colonel Darrel D. Whitcomb,** USAFR (Ret.) the author of "The Rescue of Bat 21". Specific facts & details in this msg about the Bat 21 SAR effort come from his definitive book, and other sources. <http://www.tsna.org/reunion/whitcomb/index.html>

"Brave Jolly Green" <http://www.historynet.com/brave-jolly-green.htm>

**PJs in Vietnam:** 37th ARRS Memorial Program. The memorial was held by the 37th ARRS on 12 April 1972 at Da Nang AB, RVN.  
[http://www.pjsinnam.com/VN\\_History/JG67/Jolly\\_Green\\_67.html](http://www.pjsinnam.com/VN_History/JG67/Jolly_Green_67.html)

**Stephen F. Maxner**, Ph.D., Director - The Vietnam Center & Archive, Texas Tech University, on-line access to research USMACV History files, 1972 Eastertide Offensive. <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/general/staff.php>

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

---

**From:** DenPrater@aol.com [mailto:DenPrater@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 07, 2010 7:58 PM  
**To:** ScatbackScribe@gmail.com  
**Subject:** TSgt Roy Prater , from Dennis Prater, PADD and Son

Mr. Laymon,

TSgt Roy Prater was my father, I am the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) of the remains. I was forwarded the email you sent Mr. Nicholson in which you offered any assistance and resources pertaining to the Bat 21 mission and services for the fallen.

My two sisters and I are planning the funeral service for June 19, 2010, for our Father with full Military Honors at the graveside. We were all at the service at Arlington Natl. Cemetery in Nov 1997.

We are trying very hard to make it a "Hero's Welcome Home" ceremony.

I would like to communicate with you about the assistance and resources you have and how much you were involved with for the Alley Services in FL. on May 8. Do you know if any of the Bat 21 Participants were interested in participating to some degree with the services for my father TSgt Roy Prater. We are looking for Veterans that knew him personally or worked with him in Vietnam.

Please contact me so we can review details and particulars that you have.

Sincerely,

Dennis Prater

email: [denprater@aol.com](mailto:denprater@aol.com)

pH: 260-627-2471

---

---

**Footnote:**

Here are media links for Sgt James H. Alley, Combat Camera photographer, "Jolly 67" repatriation this week. I spoke with Tim Alley on Saturday afternoon and he was still dealing with the outpouring of Patriotism and kindness rendered in his brother's memory. In addition to all the normal military interment protocols, MacDill AFB, FL provided a C-130 *Hercules* fly-over. Also in the fly-over were an O-2 *Skymaster* [representative of Bilk/Covey FACs], and two A-1 *Skyraiders* [representative of 1<sup>st</sup> SOS Sandys] w/ a missing-man pull-up. Lt Col Dennis L. [Mizpah] Constant, HC-130P "King 27" aircraft commander represented the Bat 21B / Nail 38B SAR force at the interment of Sgt Alley. Regional FLA relatives of SAR force members also attended, along with a representative of the PJ Association.

*Please be tolerant of the commercial 'leader' on the news videos below. You can expand your video screen by clicking the full-screen icon *

**7 May 2010: CONUS arrival of remains @ Ft. Myers - Southwest Florida International Airport:**

Text: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20100508/NEWS0110/5080374/1075/Fallen-soldier-returns-home-after-38-years> [page 1 of 2 pages]

Photos: <http://www.news-press.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=A4&Dato=20100507&Kategori=NEWS01&Lopenr=5070809&Ref=PH&Profile=1075&SectionCat=Fallen-soldier-returns-home-after-38-years>

Video: <http://www.news-press.com/section/videonetwork?bctid=83753962001>

**8 May 2010: Internment @ Oakridge Cemetery, Arcadia, FL w/ full military honors:**

Text: <http://www.nbc-2.com/Global/story.asp?S=12451232>

Video: <http://www.nbc-2.com/global/Category.asp?c=170893&autoStart=true&topVideoCatNo=default&clipId=4769563&flvUri=&partnerclipId=>

"That Others May Live"

