

## Reflections on the Top Gun Reunion in Phoenix

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*Younger and Older Top Guns*

Every year many of the Top Guns (American Freedom Coalition brothers in America) get together for spiritual re-charging. Thus it was very challenging for me to leave the comfort of 25 below zero temperatures in Chicago to travel 3 hours to Phoenix. But, due to my commitment to True Parents and my love for my Top Gun brothers, I pushed myself to go. I have attended nearly every Top Gun reunion and my main motivation to go has always been for the fellowship. Even putting me in a room with another Jewish brother (you know they say that when 2 Jews are in the same hotel room there are usually 3 opinions—but of course, my roommate would disagree).

Mark Anderson, Mike Smith and David Burgess have been coordinating the logistics of the event. The biggest change for this year was the presence of two younger Unification leaders (Jaga Gavin and David Hunter) who not only joined us but are committing to bring more “young Unificationists” to our next gathering.



*Younger Top Guns*

My passion is the future of the second generation. I have 5 children and ideas concerning their future are critically important to me. The initial three panel discussions, “How is God working?” “Where do we go from here?” and “How to pass on our mission to the next generation?” — were especially inspiring.

The social time; swimming, hot-tubbing, hiking, golfing, singing and eating are a critically essential part of the conference for me. I always return home stimulated, inspired, and re-charged.



*Bruce Sutchar and Paul Yasutake [Mike Smith in the middle]*

When the AFC mission began in 1987, we began having regularly scheduled national level American Leadership Conferences. There were three critical values to these conferences. On one hand they were educational, with Dr. Thomas Ward (UTS’82) and Mr. Bill Lay teaching the CAUSA lectures to our audience. Through these conferences we were able to meet and ally ourselves with some of the most important political, religious, business and educational leaders in America. Finally, by regularly coming together with Dr. Pak and the 75 ACC leaders in America, we developed a deep camaraderie in the field that is still deeply connected to this very day.

During on Phoenix conference we heard reports about the Next Gen Academy by Eric Bobrycki (UTS’84) and his wife Colette, and concerns of the next generation (Jaga Gavin and David Hunter) as well as a medley of music both new and old, from our Father’s Musical Prophet and Historian Dan Fefferman (UTS’86).



*Bob Spitz*

Last year we discussed the possibility of funding a Next Gen Conference so that we can begin to pass on our mission. Our final session returned to this idea and our next gen representatives were asked to bring several of their most committed brethren to our next gathering. It was also suggested that each of us follow Mike Smith’s example and bring one of our children to a meeting in the near future.



*Top Gals*

These conferences are not funded. Each participant pays for his own airfare, hotel room and meals. This should give one a good idea of how valuable these conferences are to the participants. I recently attended a reunion of my college fraternity. The meeting was wonderful and the brothers flew in from all over America. However, the value of the conference was basically to renew old relationships whereas the purpose and value of our Top Gun gatherings are always centered on how to fulfill True Parents vision to restore, refresh and renew our great country.