

# *Remain In Touch*

## *FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER*



*December 2020*

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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Evan Smith

Greetings!

Hello from chilly South Texas. As I write this, outside we've received the first frost of the year. Changing seasons are here again. As for me, 2020 can't be gone soon enough. With promises of a vaccine for COVID-19 having emerged, I'm hopeful that with the new year that all of us will be able to get back to doing the things we love and are able to gather with friends and family more freely.

While FTVA events have slowed dramatically, there are still some efforts that are percolating that are worth mentioning. First, I want to again thank Dennis Buxton as our Editor-in-Chief of the *Remain in Touch* and his band of Merry Men who diligently proof-read and provide feedback to help make the published edition a fun and informative read for us all. I also want to thank the Chapters and Chairpersons for their monthly contributions that fuel the content of our Newsletter. As you read this edition. I hope it brings a smile and perhaps sparks an idea for a story, a memory, or a photo you'd like to share in a coming edition.

As the folk song goes "The times they are a changing", and so is the FTVA website.

We have partnered with another non-profit here in San Antonio, Cyber Texas Foundation, on an initiative to upgrade and modernize our website. The brainchild of Mr. Joe Sanchez, a long-time Security Hill presence, Cyber Texas Foundation works with industry and educational institutions to promote cyber security and the development of the next generation cyber workforce. Through the employment and mentoring of college and high-school interns, they're able to provide real-world experience while helping other non-profits like ours. Having seen their transformative work on other websites, we couldn't turn down their offer to upgrade ours at a fraction of the cost wanted by commercial website developers. The new site will offer a more friendly user experience with enhanced security and increased functionality. As the effort progresses, we look forward to providing you a peek and will be soliciting your inputs on ways to make it even better.

As we rush towards Christmas and the new year, Annette and I wish you all the best, good health, and happiness. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or news to share. Please do *Remain in Touch!*

Evan Smith, Lt Col (R)

Many Air Force senior leaders have released statements that should resonate with every member of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA). They stated, “It is time for every one of us to strive for understanding and a

## **FTVA Value Statement**

**By Evan Smith**

culture of inclusiveness and belonging across our Air Force, and “It is our very own General Benjamin O. Davis, Tuskegee Airman, who said, ‘The privileges of being an American belong to those brave enough to fight for them’.” These sentiments were recently echoed by the Space Force Commander, General Jay Raymond, and Chief Master Sergeant Roger Towberman (former Airborne Mission Supervisor), Space Force Senior Enlisted Adviser and U.S. Space Force Senior Enlisted Adviser, who said, “We have an opportunity to get this right from the beginning by making diversity and inclusion ‘one of the bedrock strengths’ of the Space Force. And our 16<sup>th</sup> Air Force Commander, Lt General Timothy Haugh and Command Chief, Summer Leifer, have both implored NAF members to embrace diversity, challenge our own biases, and treat everyone with dignity and respect.

Since the formation of the USAF Security Service (USAFSS) in October 1948, and in its various iterations since then to the present 16<sup>th</sup> Air Force, we recognize that the one constant and bedrock strength of our organization is the people. Throughout the years, our leaders have understood that if we take care of the people, the people will take care of the mission. Our people are as diverse as the missions we support. Yet, despite these differences, we train and fight as one. We value and understand the importance of respect and dignity for all, regardless of ethnic background, religion, gender, and/or sexual orientation.

The FTVA reaffirms our commitment to our country and the people we serve. Now is the time for reflection and listening to those that may not have had a voice at the table. Those voices need to be heard and be part of this national debate. We, as an organization, understand the sacrifices that have been made so that all Americans can enjoy the benefits of liberty, freedom, and justice for all. These benefits must encompass all Americans for we are greater in strength unified than in division. The FTVA thanks all who have served and sacrificed through the years and remains committed to the values we hold dear of dignity and respect for all and the Air Force’s Core Values of *Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do*.

Remain in Touch, Evan V. Smith, President, FTVA

# YOUR NEWSLETTER STAFF

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Roy Burnett, Circulation Manager	e-Issue



Hi Readers,

It is with a touch of melancholy that we create and publish this issue. In 'normal' times this issue would be chock full of pics and features of the Annual Reunion, which, alas and alack, we were unable to hold. That annual event, as you know, is a major event to "Remain in Touch!" as we face-to-face meet friends old and new and lament over

a brew or two the passing of those unable to be at the picnic, golf tournament, or other events. It is our hope that the continuation of this Newsletter can help fill in some of the void left over from our inability to meet in person and reminisce in person. So until we dispense with this season of our mutual discontent and inconvenience and meet again in person, please read through and enjoy the contents provided by so many of your compadres.

Our next issue will be posted in March 2021! Please send your inputs to [newsletter@ftva.us](mailto:newsletter@ftva.us) before 1 March.

And, as always, we welcome and appreciate all your comments and inputs. Simply send an email to [newsletter@ftva.us](mailto:newsletter@ftva.us). Or, if you prefer, send me a handwritten note or typed missive to 8847 Breanna Oaks, San Antonio, TX 78254.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to each and every one of you!

**Dennis Buxton, Newsletter Editor**  
[Newsletter@ftva.org](mailto:Newsletter@ftva.org), 210-627-7586

# **VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!!**

## **OPEN Position: FTVA BOARD TREASURER**

- Monthly reconciliation of all bank accounts (SSFCU)
- Monthly balance sheets and income/expense reports for both FTVA and USAFSS/ESC Memorial Fund accounts
- Submit monthly balance sheet (received and incurred costs) to FTVA BOD for review/archive
- Pay all incurred bills and obligations (FEDEX, IT services, Memorial Funds, Reunion activities, reimbursements, 25 AF support, contracted labor, etc.)
- Pay annual stipends to chapters
- Maintain all records for IRS purposes (including chapters' annual financial reports)
  - o Provide 1099MISC to contracted labor annually (Before Jan 31<sup>st</sup>)
- File annual tax report for corporate/non-profit entities (May 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Provide financial guidance/advice to board regarding funds disposition
- Provide tax exempt forms to members for purchases
- Coordinate with SSFCU as necessary for access, renewal of CDs, etc.
- Advise FTVA President and BOD on overall financial status
- Receive correspondence from SSFCU Mailbox
  - o Distribute as applicable
  - o Notify Roy of all Membership paperwork
  - o Deposit checks
- Maintain currency on IRS 501(c)19 and 501(c)3 decisions as applies to organization
- TX corporate reports/responsibilities



## FTVA HALL OF HONOR



**A.J. Harrison, Chairman, Hall of Honor Program**

### **Hall of Honor Soliciting Nominations**

Do you know someone who you think should be in the Freedom Through Vigilance Association's Hall of Honor (HoH) and who is not? The only way people are selected is if they are nominated, and the only way they get nominated is by members doing the work to nominate an individual! Please take the time to nominate those who are worthy as the HoH Selection Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates for induction. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association's reunion activities.

Since the creation of USAFSS as a major air command in 1948, members of USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/AF ISR Agency/25 AF/16 AF, hereinafter referred to as the command, have been at war 24/7/365 as anonymous sentinels, engaged in combat with foreign enemies of the United States and its allies while conducting operations in the air as aircrew members, on the seas aboard U.S. naval ships, and on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world. In no small measure, their contributions toward the preservation of our freedoms, though largely unheralded, have been vital to the continuance of our national security and our way of life. The command has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who possessed the skill sets and intellectual capacity, coupled with unselfish dedication and commitment, to conquer whatever challenges they encountered – often while confronting significant adversity and at great personal sacrifice.

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association's founders established the Hall of Honor in 1983 to honor those individuals who served the command with great distinction and contributed immeasurably to successful mission accomplishment. To date, 192 individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Honor. They include former officer, enlisted and civilian personnel whose contributions as technicians, supervisors, planners, managers, and leaders extend from World War II through the ongoing conflicts. The Hall of Honor preserves the legacy of those who have gone before, highlights their deeds, and honors their contributions to the Nation.

We have all had the privilege of serving with individuals who are viable candidates for induction into the Hall of Honor. This is an opportunity to nominate deserving individuals in an attempt to ensure they receive the recognition and lasting tribute they have earned. The Selection Committee will review all eligible nominations and select individuals for induction into the Hall of Honor

using eligibility criteria and procedures pursuant to the Hall of Honor Charter. A copy of the Charter is available in the newsletter and on the web page at <http://www.ftva.org>.

Nominations must be received not later than 1 June 2021 by email. Email nominations to me at [chiefajh@gmail.com](mailto:chiefajh@gmail.com) and to Lee Anthony at [LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com](mailto:LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com). When submitting nominations, please comply with the page, front and back, and font using the HOH Nomination Form available on the website. I am more than willing to assist anyone on how best to develop a nomination. Thank you for your support and for recognizing those who are deserving. Thank you and Remain In Touch.

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**The Next Issue of *Remain In Touch*  
will be posted in March 2021  
Please send your inputs by 1  
March 2021 to [Newsletter@ftva.us](mailto:Newsletter@ftva.us)**

# 16<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by **Ken Maynard**  
Associate Editor

## SAN ANTONIO MILITARY LEADERS SPEAK AT AFCEA’S VIRTUAL ALAMO ACE

Adapted from an article by Lori A. Bultman, 502nd AiBW/PA, 20 November 2020

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Every year, thousands of cyber and intelligence professionals, as well as technology vendors and acquisitions personnel, gather in San Antonio for Alamo ACE, an event sponsored by the Alamo Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association to support the military community. The conference moved to a virtual platform Nov. 17-19 due to COVID-19.



Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander, spoke to virtual attendees at Alamo ACE, an event sponsored by the Alamo Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association, Nov. 18, 2020.

Opening the conference were San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and Brig. Gen. Caroline M. Miller, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio commander. They were followed by a multitude of presentations and panel discussions by subject matter experts, including several from Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) which is headquartered at JBSA-Lackland.

During her remarks, Miller said San Antonio is becoming known in media channels as not only Military City USA, but also Cyber City USA.

“They would be amazed by the amount of cyber and intelligence-related entities operating throughout San Antonio today. These entities operate in a multi-domain arena in order to provide

opportunities to address problems and combat adversaries in new and innovative ways,” she said. “Today, San Antonio is the 7th largest city in the United States and home to our nation’s second-largest concentration of cybersecurity experts.”

Miller said JBSA's diverse capabilities are exactly what the nation needs to achieve information superiority.



“At JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis, we ensure synergy and fusion of relevant data to help keep our country safe. At JBSA-Randolph, Air Education and Training Command has pioneered new and innovative programs and concepts, such as Pilot Training Next and Maintenance Next,” she said. “These initiatives continue to change the way we train pilots... and shape our future as an Air Force.”

“At JBSA-Lackland and -Kelly Annex, our mission partners work together to ensure unity of effort and seamless collaboration ensuring our national security,” she said. Miller said the civic partners JBSA has are also key to bolstering innovation and tackling the nation's cyber threats.

“There is no place like San Antonio, where the opportunities to innovate, collaborate and grow are endless,” she said. “It is even more evident with the joint environment and military-affiliated supporting agencies that work tirelessly together to weave our cyber, ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) and communications into strong multi-domain capabilities. With these skill sets, we assure mission fulfillment of our service men and women in the global arena, on the ground, on the sea, and in the air.”

On Nov. 18, JBSA's mission partner commander, Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), spoke to virtual attendees about the progress the new Numbered Air Force has made in its first year and what lies ahead.

“We built a new organization from a number of predecessor organizations to be able to create a new, information warfare Numbered Air Force,” he said. “We really started to do outreach; we engaged with the city, we engaged with our partners, we had a number of civic leaders come in from the bases we are part of, and we started to normalize into an organization that was growing our partnerships. Then, COVID-19 hit.”

“What I have really been proud of is, our Airmen have continued to operate, whether that be in the cyber domain, within ISR, electromagnetic spectrum, weather, targeting, they have been able to continue meeting the expectations of the Department of Defense, during a pandemic, in a way that has been able to keep them safe but also effective. We are really proud of that first year.”

Going into their second year, Haugh wants to unleash the NAF's Airmen on the hard problems the nation needs to be solved, becoming the competitive force of the Air Force.

“We certainly aren't the only ones out there in competition, but we can be a catalyst based off all the roles and missions that Sixteenth Air Force and our Airmen execute,” he said, noting the

National Defense Strategy’s conflict continuum - the environment from competition through armed conflict, with crisis in the middle.

“As a service, we’ve been really comfortable to prepare for... armed conflict,” he said, referring to the Red Flag exercises that take place annually. “Any of us that have gone to Red Flag has been very experienced at - the fight begins when fighters merge over the Nevada desert.

“In reality, our adversaries have begun the fight way in advance of that, in the information environment, in terms of intellectual property theft, and Sixteenth Air Force is uniquely postured to be a driver in how our Air Force fights in competition,” he said. “We have taken that mission on with passion, to be a driver of how the Air Force will fight in the information environment, in cyberspace, and ensure that we’ve got the decisive advantage for the leaders across our service and the joint force.”



## **AIR FORCE SERVICES CENTER LAUNCHES AIR FORCE GAMING**

Adapted from an article by AFIMSC/PA, 30 November 2020

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas** — Air Force Gaming made its official debut Nov. 11, under the Air Force Services Center with a global gaming and esports hub for the Air Force.

AFG is focused on supporting the Department of the Air Force’s resiliency and retention efforts through the creation of a global esports program that brings Airmen and Space Professionals together through community experiences and competitive leagues.

At launch, AFG consists of a new intramural esports program - Air Force Gaming League, a Discord community and top tier competitive "pop-up" opportunities for all Airmen and Space Professionals. AFGL is currently being piloted in AFGSC, but plans to cover every base in the Air Force beginning in 2021.

More than 80 percent of Airmen ages 18 to 35 identify as “gamers,” and play between four and 10 hours per week, said Col. Marc Adair, AFSC director of operations. This community creates a fun outlet for Airmen and Space Professionals stuck at home during this global pandemic.

“Air Force Gaming’s mission is to create an inclusive gaming organization for Airmen of all ages, ranks, and backgrounds,” said Adair.

“We are confident that by establishing a unified hub for community and competition, Air Force Gaming can help promote resiliency, retention, teamwork, and mental well-being for service members around the world.”

The pilot season is set up with Air Force Global Strike Command as base locations within the command are in isolated areas where remote play may have its challenges. This will provide much needed feedback on how successful the program will be and if there any limitations to hinder the enterprise launch.

During the AFGL season, gamers from AFGSC will compete in Call of Duty: Black Ops - Cold War, League of Legends and Rocket League with more games planned for the global rollout.

AFSVC and AFG hosted the first ever “All-Air Force” and “All-Space Force” Call of Duty Esports Team Qualifiers Nov. 14. Over 600 Airmen and Space Professionals formed more than 200 teams to compete in the tournament. At the conclusion of the tournament the two teams **SELECTED**, will represent the Air Force and Space Force in Call of Duty: Black Ops-Cold War event at the U.S. Air Force Academy Dec. 11. More information on the event will be released at a later date.

Started a year ago as a grassroots effort by volunteer Airmen outside of their normal jobs, AFG was created with the focus on improving mental health by building community through video games. Within the first month of going live total force membership counts more than 10,000 servicemen and women on all community platforms.

Capt. Oliver Parsons, a force support officer who is credited as being the Air Force Gaming founder, implemented the program globally with the intention to harness gaming/esports to promote resiliency, comradery and competition for all Airmen and Space Professionals around the world. As momentum picked up for AFG, AFSVC decided to bring the program to an official capacity with the mission to properly deliver gaming and esports to the field for Airmen and Space Professionals by Airmen and Space Professionals.

“We are intentionally starting small with Air Force Gaming, but have big goals,” Parsons said. “By organizing this pilot season in AFGSC and our various pop-up events, we will ensure that all coordination is in place to scale the program globally and make Air Force Gaming a unifying community available to all Airmen and Space Professionals.”

AFSVC partnered with Rally Cry, a tech company specializing in developing esports infrastructures, to create a customized platform for the Air Force. The unified hub was able to get more than 4,800 Total Force Airmen and Space Professionals on the platform in less than two

weeks of launch. Air Force Gaming will use their intramural esports league, community, and competition to bring Airmen and Space Professionals together around the world.

Airmen and Space Professionals can visit [airforcegaming.com](http://airforcegaming.com) to register and join the Discord community. For more information on the official gaming hub, visit AFG's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AirForceGaming>.

## VETERAN DPRIS AVAILABLE THROUGH MILCONNECT

Adapted from an article by Airman Chris Corso, 910th Airlift Wing/PA, Published November 18, 2020

**YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio.** — Service members who separated or retired after 2004 can now access their Defense Personnel Record Information (DPRIS) through milConnect. This service provides Veterans with an easy way to access their records in under 24 hours. Step 1, type <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/> into your search browser. For the



next 14 steps view the visual aid on how to access your records through milConnect in the photo slider at <https://www.16af.af.mil/News/Article/2419977/veteran-dpris-available-through-milconnect/>

## COVID-19 FORCES DOD TO ADAPT, INNOVATE

Adapted from an article by Jim Garamone, DOD News / Published November 10, 2020

The Defense Department moved quickly in response to the coronavirus pandemic and is already planning on the follow-on computing/data needs, said John Sherman, the DOD's principal deputy chief information officer.

Sherman virtually spoke to the FedScoop Red Hat Government Symposium today.

He gave a bit of background on the DOD's response to the coronavirus and charted the path forward with digital modernization implementation. "Our focus is on activities to empower our

workforce during this critical time and to posture the department for future mission success," he said.



COVID-19 challenged the DOD to act and innovate quickly. "Like many crises before, COVID has forced innovation and new ways of thinking that might not have otherwise been brought to bear, at least not so quickly," he said.

Stay-at-home orders and social distancing forced the department to adapt in many areas like flexible collaboration capabilities, more robust networks, and implementation of new principles like zero trust. The DOD had to enable new ways to work

outside the office.

And it did. "The speed of innovation also demonstrates what the department can do when pressed," Sherman said. The speed of innovation was built on the three directives to the department: protect the workforce, continue the mission, and support the whole-of-government response. Digital solutions were key to enabling all of these.

All parts of the department collaborated, and Sherman particularly praised the work of the Cloud Computing Program Office, the Defense Information Systems Agency, U.S. Cyber Command, the Joint Staff, and the military departments. These organizations responded by deploying the commercial virtual remote capability based on Microsoft Teams. Made available in mere weeks, CVR is now used by over a third of the department, with over a million active users, the deputy said.

"CVR has enabled telework by providing a capability to hold group calls, form virtual teams and host video conferences," he said. "All of this involved DOD users being able to communicate with others, not on the Department of Defense Information Network and, crucially, with government-furnished equipment or their own devices."

CVR has been extended through June 2021. "However, CVR does not currently operate at the level we need over the long term to ensure proper safeguarding of our sensitive information," he said. "We've always known we need to transition to a capability at a higher security level."

Through this process, cybersecurity was not ignored and DISA, U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency combined to mitigate risks and deal quickly with threats. "Ensuring our workforce is aware of these threats and being able to respond quickly when problems do occur have been critical to staying in front of these types of incidents," he said.



Still, the commercial virtual remote was never intended as a "forever" solution and the department is working to define what the enduring capability will be. "We want a solution with more robust security hosted on a government enclave cloud environment," Sherman said. "We also want the functionalities of CVR, such as bring-your-own-approved device, and an ability to communicate with users not on the (DOD network) and with users operating in the current environment."

"I've heard much about zero trust from a conceptual perspective, and I've always appreciated what it really means — namely not just trying to stop threats at the perimeter, as has been the default for so long," he said. "Rather, we should use more holistic access standards and verify identity and other aspects at every point in the process," Sherman stressed.



Implementing zero trust concepts is foundational to enabling the DOD "to craft an up-to-date, effective solution that entails CVR-like capabilities," Sherman said.

This is not easy and there has been constructive dialogue among the various agencies. Sherman said this is a good thing to happen. "Innovation isn't born out of groupthink," he said.

The pandemic forced the department to confront these challenges. "This crisis has forced us to think differently, and at an accelerated pace, in a way that is certainly going to put us into a more capable and advanced position than we were a year ago," he said.

## **APP FOR MILITARY RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO SERVICE MEMBERS, FAMILIES**

*Adapted from an article by David Vergun, DOD News / Published November 09, 2020*

The "My Military OneSource" mobile app is now available for service members and their families for free by downloading it on Google Play or Apples App Store.

The purpose of Military OneSource is to put as many resources as possible in one place, so people have an easier time finding what they need, said Erika Slaton, the associate director for Military Community Support Programs. The app makes it more convenient when users are away from their computers and are only carrying a smartphone.

Each year, Military OneSource connects hundreds of thousands of service members and their families to resources to help improve their quality of life, Slaton said.

Resources offered include:

*Childcare options*

*Relationship counseling*

*Domestic violence awareness*

*Parenting tips*

*A Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program digital library*

*Tips for communicating in a long-distance relationship*

*Moving and housing*

*Tax services*

*Confidential help*

*Financial and legal assistance*

*Education and employment*

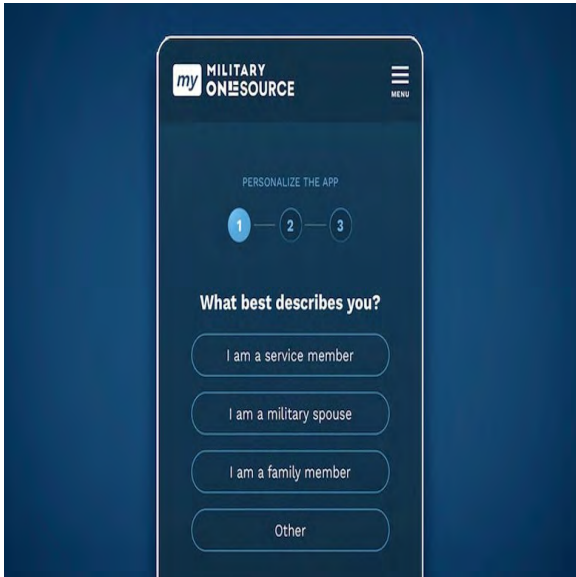
*Confidential non-medical counseling*

*Health and wellness*

*Benefits finder*

*Recreation, travel, and shopping*

*Installation program directory*



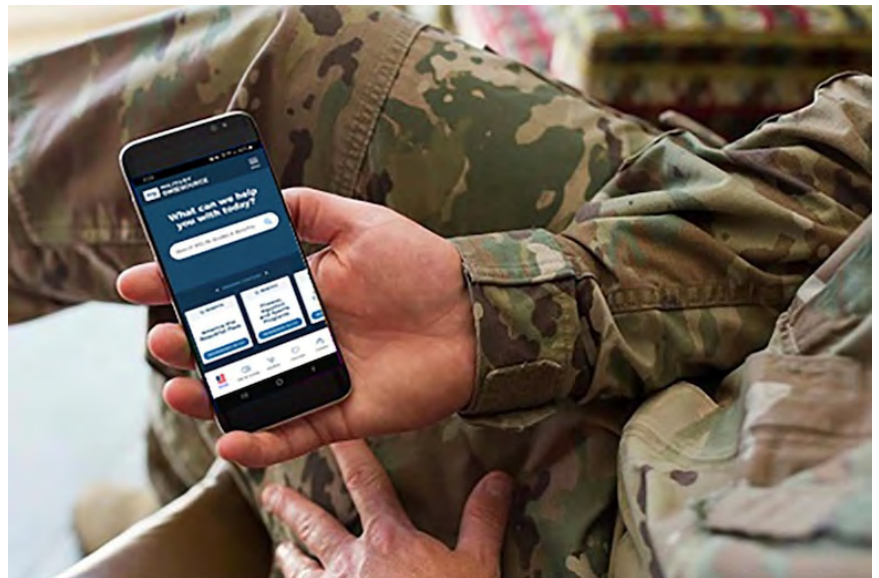
The user-friendly design of the new My Military OneSource app is based on comprehensive data analysis and user input, including in-depth interviews with more than 300 service members, spouses, and service providers; analysis of user satisfaction data input from military leadership and program managers; and a thorough review of best practices, Slaton said.

"To ensure the My Military OneSource mobile app continues to meet the needs of the military community, we will evaluate user feedback to help inform ongoing updates and enhancements, as well as new features," Slaton, who added that feedback is particularly important to improving the site, said.

Besides the app, users can visit the Military OneSource website on their computer. There's also a toll-free call center manned 24/7/365.

Users can trust the My Military OneSource app, website and call center because it guarantees their confidentiality with a few mandatory exceptions, Slaton said. Military OneSource must disclose illegal activities and situations to prevent harm to self or others.

Those eligible for Military OneSource are Defense Department service members, including National Guard and Reserve, irrespective of activation status, DOD expeditionary civilians, Coast Guard members when activated for the Navy, survivors, veterans up to 365 days post-separation or retirement and family members of all the categories listed.



Military OneSource is a DOD-funded program that is both a call center and website that provides free comprehensive information, support and resources on every aspect of military life.

Military Community and Family Policy is directly responsible for establishing quality-of-life policies and programs that help our guardians of country, their families and survivors be well and mission-ready. Military OneSource is the gateway to programs and services that support the everyday needs of the 5.2 million service members and immediate family members of the military community. These DOD services can be accessed 24/7/365 around the world.

## OFFUTT BIDS FAREWELL TO AGING WORKHORSE

Adapted from an article by 55th Wing Public Affairs / Published November 16, 2020



**OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NE** — WC-135 Constant Phoenix tail number 582 departed for the final time here as officially decommissioned from service Nov. 16, 2020.

Originally built in 1962 and delivered to the Air Force as a KC-135 Stratotanker, the aircraft was first converted to an EC-135 Looking Glass before its transition into its WC-135 configuration in 1998.

“Eventually all good things come to an end,” said Col. John Litecky, 55th

Operations Group commander. “All in all, tail 582 has flown over 29,689 hours, which includes 72,251 landings for our Air Force in all her shapes and forms, and we are truly grateful for her service.”

One of only two WC-135s in the entire Air Force inventory, the fleet is scheduled to be replaced by the end of 2022 by three new WC-135Rs, which are converted KC-135R tankers.

“This particular WC-135 aircraft has proven finicky over these last two decades for our crews and maintainers,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Maus, 45th Reconnaissance Squadron commander, “but nonetheless, it served our mission well.”

The aircraft is now at Majors Airport in Greenville, Texas, before it heads to the boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

“Parts of this aircraft, such as the air foils and some other mission equipment, will be taken off and utilized on the new WC-135Rs, which will be soon delivered from the Big Safari team,” Maus said.

The aircraft’s official final flight with the 45th RS, commonly known across the Air Force as its fini-flight, took place Nov. 2, 2020. Upon landing, 582 received the traditional water salute, where two firetrucks shoot water over the aircraft, creating an archway.

“It was a very fitting send off,” said John McQueney, 55th Wing historian. “The last time the wing retired an aircraft here at Offutt was in 1998, so this is a very rare occurrence.”

Over the past 22 years, 582 has supported the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 by conducting atmospheric collection. The 45th RS has flown the aircraft roughly more than 1,300



time, with members of Detachment 1, Air Force Technical Applications Center serving as special equipment operators collecting particulates and gaseous effluents and debris across the globe.

“This aircraft has served an important role in our nation’s nuclear treaty and collection missions,” said Lt. Col. James Smith, AFTAC Det. 1 commander. “While the aircraft did provide its share of challenges from time-to-time, we always accomplished our mission. She will be missed, but we are looking forward to accomplishing the AFTAC mission on our new aircraft.”

During its official retirement ceremony inside the Bennie L. Davis Maintenance Facility Nov. 13, 2020, many current and former aircrew members from both the 45th RS and AFTAC Det. 1, roasted the aircraft, recalling many of its unique hang-ups.

“Almost everyone who has served on this aircraft can tell you there, ‘so there I was,’ story about a mission they served on,” Maus said. “Although every aircraft has an identity that’ll set it apart, 582 was certainly unique.”

# FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

Forward your chapter inputs at any time (monthly, weekly or all at once) to William "Bill" Brockmiller, FTVA Board Vice President and current Chapter Liaison [WBUSAF@gmail.com](mailto:WBUSAF@gmail.com).

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## Heritage Chapter San Angelo, TX

**Ronald 'JJ' Graham, Chapter President**

**Larry Ross, Secretary/Treasurer**

### VIETNAM VETERANS HONORED

On 13 October, the Heritage Chapter, working in concert with the EC-47 History Site, was honored to host a visit to Goodfellow AFB by two distinguished Vietnam veterans. Lt Col (R) Jack Mecham and MSgt (R) Jim Coffman were honored guests here to visit the EC-47 Memorial Park. With COVID-19 forcing the cancellation of the memorial's grand opening in March of this year, these gents decided to make the trip now rather than wait to see if we are able to accommodate an opening ceremony next March. Jimmy Turk was also set to make the trip but, unfortunately, had to cancel for health reasons. (We hope Jimmy is doing well.)

Both of these gentlemen have significant ties to the intelligence mission and the EC-47 direction-finding mission in particular, and both will have bronze pavers set at the EC-47 Memorial. Jack, a former SR-71 pilot and member of the famed 20th Helicopter Squadron "Pony Express", was actually stationed at Goodfellow AFB at one time. Jim was an EC-47 flight engineer, responsible for keeping the birds airworthy for their critical direction-finding missions. This was his first visit to Goodfellow. They were accompanied by CMSgt (R) Tom Nurre, an EC-47 veteran who runs the EC-47 History Site, and SSgt (R) Joe Martin, former EC-47 airborne radio direction-finding airborne mission supervisor and current EC-47 History Site research and computer guru.

A highlight of the visit was a special ceremony arranged by Tom Nurre. Seventeenth Training Wing Historian Mark Howell officiated the ceremony where Jack and Jim were presented 50th Anniversary pins and certificates. Aply assisting in the ceremony were Joe Martin and 17th

Training Wing Command Chief CMSgt Casy Boomershine. CMSgt Boomershine also accompanied the visitors as they toured the EC-47 Memorial and saw where their pavers would be placed. Both Jim and Jack spent time talking about their time in Vietnam and were very impressed by the EC-47 Memorial Park. Jim also presented "Antique Airlines" pins to those in attendance. I'm glad we were able to host Jack and Jim, and I fell privileged to have met them both. I hope they can visit us again someday. (Submitted by JJ Graham)



**Back row: Joe Martin, Mark Howell, Tom Nurre  
Front row: J.J. Graham, Jim Coffman, Jack Mecham**



**Ret. Col. Jack Mecham, former SR-71 pilot, pushes Ret. Master Sgt. Jim Coffman, former EC-47 flight engineer forward to see Coffman’s paver at the EC-47 Memorial on Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, Oct. 13, 2020. Both Mecham and Coffman traveled to Goodfellow to see the EC-47 Memorial and place the pavers prior to the 2021 ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ethan Sherwood)**



U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Casey Boomershine, 17th Training Wing command chief, holds Ret. Master Sgt. Jim Coffman's paver at Norma Brown on Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, Oct. 15, 2020. Each paver was placed in the EC-47 Memorial here. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ethan Sherwood)



Mark Howell, 17th Training Wing historian, presents Ret. Master Sgt. Jim Coffman, former EC-47 flight engineer, with a certificate of appreciation at the Norma Brown Hall on Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, Oct. 13, 2020. Coffman was part of the "Antique Airlines" nicknamed for the old age of the EC-47. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Ethan Sherwood)

## SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE HERITAGE CHAPTER

Greetings!

As the year comes to a close, we would like to express our gratitude for your continued support. While we have all faced unprecedented challenges this year that we never imagined - reunions cancelled, virtual meetings, no socials - this time has underscored the importance of relationships, fellow comrades, and kindness.

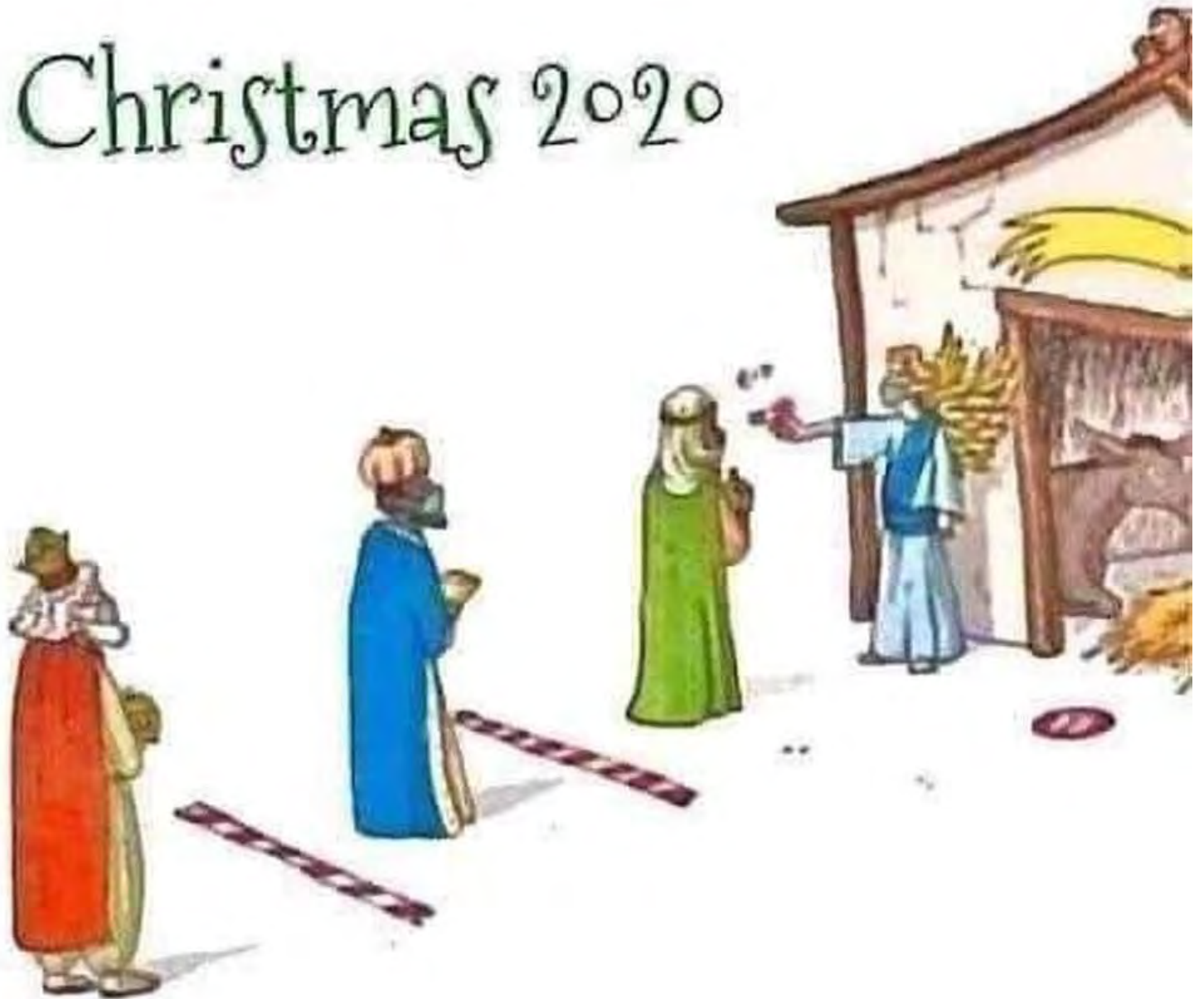
Although our holidays may be different due to the pandemic, one thing will remain unchanged is our collective spirit.

As you prepare for 2021, we wish you a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.



And remember the Wise Men .....

# Christmas 2020



On behalf of your Heritage Chapter, we wish you a **Merry Christmas!**

JJ, Ed, Larry

## **PAVER SUPPLIER DESTROYED BY WILDFIRES**

(Submitted by Larry Ross, Heritage Chapter Secretary/Treasurer)

Disaster strikes! The Leave Your Mark (LYM) company in Phoenix, Oregon, supplies the paver engraved bronze plates for the EC-47 Memorial Plaza on Goodfellow AFB. Their complex was burned to the ground on September 8, 2020, by the California wildfires that raced up I-5 into Oregon and Washington. Everyone in the company escaped the fire, but their engraving equipment was completely destroyed. They are very busy getting the yard cleaned up and are seeking replacement equipment. LYM intends to rebuild at their same location and expects to be back in operation next year.

In the meantime, we continue to accept paver orders and will batch order them as soon as the company's new engraver is up and running. Pavers may be ordered at: <https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/pavers>.

Thank you for your continued interest and patience. For more information or to answer any specific questions, please contact Tom Nurre at or [pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com](mailto:pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com).



## **Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT**

**Jacob Scheid, President**  
**Shawn Heckman, Vice President**  
Submitted by Linz Rassmussen

We have continued to meet online due to COVID-19 restrictions. Here is a meeting screenshot from our last meeting.



November 2020 Meeting Minutes:

Happy Holidays members!

Please update your contact information, so we can keep you up to date!

2020 Goal: Increase membership and attendance.

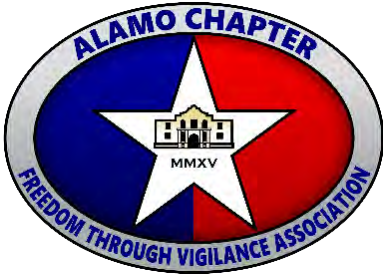
Special Note from Lee: National FTVA has Memorial Funds to honor members and platforms. Mark Gilman recently passed away from a stroke this past week. A former contractor with the 169 IS, and former Army veteran.

- Scott Lawson will serve as interim Treasurer. What would be the best way to recruit a new treasurer? Suggestions/recommendations encouraged.
- Stay tuned for the First Annual FTVA Wasatch Bowling Mixer TBD!!!
- Next monthly meeting: January 22, 2020 @ 6 PM
- Beaner Banner indefinite delay.
- Tentative Agenda:
  - \*Wed: Meet and Greet
  - \*Thurs: Group Facilities Tour
  - \*Fri Morning: Various Activities TBD
  - \*Fri Evening: Banquet

Survey Monkey: Friday Day Activity Ideas thus far:

- Snowbird Brunch
- Golf
- Downtown Tour
- Shooting Guns
- Spring/Summer 2021 SENIOR SCOUT Reunion hopefully in tandem with the Bean Banner Reunion. Involve Prop Wash, FTVA, MK.
- Scott can update association on this agenda item. Recognize 2019 Intel Professional winners with award plaques.
- General Matthews dedicated conference room to support Col Drennan.
- Save the Turtles - Christian Fritz Charity Hegel

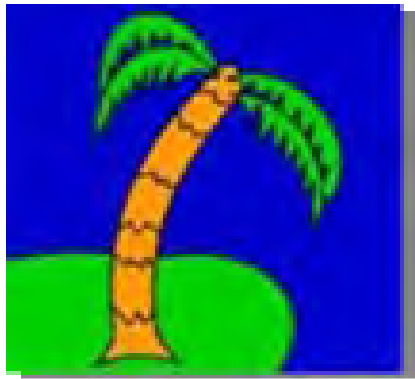
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**Alamo Chapter  
San Antonio, TX**  
Barnie Gavin, President  
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer

The Alamo Chapter monthly meets and greets remain in hiatus for the past few months because of COVID-19.

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**Aloha Chapter  
Honolulu, HI**  
John “Tilly” Toillion, President

Aloha All -

Like many areas across the US and world, Hawaii remains in a series of COVID19 protocols which discourages and limits any social gatherings. This has precluded Aloha Chapter in-person get-togethers. Accordingly we try to RIT via emails. I’m planning to give ZOOM a shot later this month.

On a more positive note, I have enjoyed being able to link into FTVA Board meetings via ZOOM and to at least see many of you that normally I wouldn’t otherwise.

Finally, please remain safe, wear da mask, and wash da hands!!!!

That be it from the coconut wireless. A-looooo-ha!!

John “Tilly” Toillion.

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# Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter

**Bob Bastian, Acting President, Treasurer**

As some of you may know, the National Security Agency complex at Fort George G. Meade, Md, has changed considerably over the last two decades. Part of that complex included the National Cryptologic Museum (NCM) and the nearby United States National Vigilance Park (NVP), a memorial to the military servicemen and women who participated in aerial reconnaissance during the Cold War. Dedicated on September 2, 1997, NVP was located just one block west of the National Security Agency (NSA) headquarters at Fort Meade. It was previously open 24 hours a day for viewing. Military events connected with the Intelligence Community and/or personnel stationed at Fort Meade or working at NSA were formerly scheduled through the Museum.

Three reconnaissance aircraft were on display at the memorial, ringed by a semicircle of 18 trees representing the 18 aerial cryptologic missions lost during the program. A U.S. Army Seminole RU-8D reconnaissance plane represented the Army Airborne Signals Intelligence contribution in the Vietnam War. The park also contained a U.S. Navy EA-3B Skywarrior, commemorating a mission in the Mediterranean on January 25, 1987, in which all seven crew members died. Finally, a Hercules C-130 transport, tail number 60528, modified to look like a reconnaissance-configured C-130A, memorialized a U.S. Air Force aircraft shot down over Soviet Armenia on September 2, 1958 (see the photo below). Arlington National Cemetery and the Air Force Museum at Wright-

Patterson AFB also have memorials dedicated to the C-130 crew that lost their lives that day.

As NSA continued constructing or renovating buildings and parking lots on the complex, a decision was made to relocate the three aircraft to enable the construction of a new Visitor Control Center, security control checkpoint, and parking. National Vigilance Park was closed in February 2017 and removed its aircraft and memorial to allow for the new checkpoint's construction.

Unfortunately, as the C-130 was being dismantled, the engineers discovered extensive damage throughout the aircraft from

20 years of exposure to water, snow, ice, heat, and cold. So much damage was discovered that it was determined to be nearly a total loss. This was a terrible blow, especially to the to the Air Force community members that arranged for the plane to be brought out of the boneyard at Davis-



Monthan AFB and the many Airmen who re-enlisted, retired, or held other ceremonies in front of the plane over the years.

NSA Installation and Logistics went looking for a replacement aircraft and identified one. It landed at Tipton Field just outside of the NSA complex in the fall of 2018. On hand to greet the new aircraft were Lt Gen Ken Minihan, former Director, NSA during the original plane’s dedication ceremony in 1997, and the first Commander of Air Intelligence Agency (October 1993 – October 1994) and a host of other dignitaries. To the surprise, and consternation, of Air Force personnel on hand, the aircraft was an electronic warfare version of an EC-130 (COMPASS CALL), rather than one configured for Signals Intelligence.

As those gathered for the arrival of the replacement aircraft discussed options for dealing with an EC versus RC configured aircraft, a suggestion was made to incorporate the original plane’s 528 vertical stabilizer, which was reportedly intact, into the Compass Call display. An additional recommendation was made to incorporate the stabilizer, the name, and the story into some form of memorial, next to (or near) the new aircraft. This suggestion was fleshed out a little bit and reflects a transition from the static display, to the 528 real-life stories and into the museum.

So, what is next in the new National Vigilance Park? The National Cryptologic Museum Foundation (NCMF) is leading the Capital Campaign to build and serve as the project manager to construct the Cyber Center for Education and Innovation (CCEI). A ceremonial groundbreaking for the new complex was scheduled for 30 October 2020 but was postponed due to weather and won’t likely be rescheduled until the spring of 2021 due to the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic. The CCEI is a private-public partnership between the National Cryptologic Museum Foundation (NCMF) and National Security Agency (NSA). When built, the CCEI facility will become a cross-sector enterprise delivering programs to encourage government, industry, and academia to share insights, knowledge, and resources to strengthen cybersecurity protection and workforce development across our Nation, while at the same time providing a new home for the existing NCM that will continue to be operated and maintained by the NSA.

The aircraft memorial element of the new National Vigilance Park will be located just around the corner from the entrance to the CCEI. In on-line pictures, it is shown by the flags at one end of the center. You can keep up with the construction details and see a photo of the "Coming Soon" billboard, recently erected at the entrance to NSA, on NCMF’s website at [www.cryptologicfoundation.org](http://www.cryptologicfoundation.org). If any member of FTVA would like to volunteer to assist in planning the new National Vigilance Park Plaza, please contact [ncmfinfo@cryptologicfoundation.org](mailto:ncmfinfo@cryptologicfoundation.org). To donate to the Capital Campaign, please click here <https://cryptologicfoundation.org/visit/ccei/donate.html>

The Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter’s Executive Committee is committed to keeping members informed about the renovation status. Anyone interested in potentially supporting this cause can also contact Bob Bastian.

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# Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/229888673742365/>

The latest from the Rocky Mountain Chapter reporting a refrain experienced by many of us.

“Dennis, No inputs from the RMC this month. Regrettably, we are still waiting for meeting restrictions to lighten up before getting back together. All the best from the snow-covered Rockies!” Submitted by Ike Eichelberger, Secretary-RMC FTVA

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# Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA



Stewart Harris, President

Good morning,

I took over as President of the Gold Country chapter for John Aurelius for a couple of months but believe that he will soon be back in the position. Until that time I wanted to provide our chapter's RIT information.

The Gold Country Chapter had begun holding meetings in the Vault, located within DGS-2 in the hopes of attracting more intelligence members before the pandemic struck in March. Since March, meetings have been sporadic, with us being able to gather for the first time in October since the pandemic hit. The meeting included many familiar faces and also a few new ones and also proved that the request for updated badges for some of our longstanding, retired members was a success as they were able to get on base to attend the meeting. November's meeting was held off-base in Yuba City, and with the Force Protection level on base increasing once again, it would seem that on-base meetings would need to be postponed yet again until restrictions loosen. Traditionally the chapter does not gather in December due to the holidays, so the determination will be made in January on the best strategy for moving forward. Hope this message finds everyone well, happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!



**REUNIONS &  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association Reunion  
Now Rescheduled to the April-May 2021 Timeframe**

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**San Vito Veterans Group Holds Monthly Get-Together**



**On October 27 the San Vito Veterans Group removed personal masks for a picture during their monthly get together at Applebee's Restaurant in Helotes, Texas. Pictured from L-R: Jim Ray, Bill Etherton, Rick Sassaman, Bob Address, Dennis Rasmussen, Jim Gonzalez, Lanny Abee and Ed Klem. Submitted by Dennis "Rass" Rasmussen.**

# FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

P.O. BOX 691616  
San Antonio, TX 78269  
June 2020



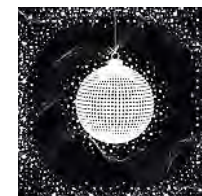
**PLATINUM PARTNERS**  
Mrs. Doyle E. Larson  
(IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)  
Prop Wash Gang  
(IMO CMSgt Tom Tennant)



**GOLD PARTNERS**  
Security Services Federal Credit Union  
Engrave-Tech & Graphics  
Air Force Federal Credit Union  
Anonymous  
(IMO MSgt Robert "Bob" Fenstermacher)



**SILVER PARTNERS**  
Anthony F. Jensen  
Grover Jackson  
William F. Sheck  
Regis F.A. Urschler  
Bob & Debbie Cope  
"Picnic Partners"  
Donald Bundy  
Greg Radabaugh



**BRONZE PARTNERS**  
Mark and Amy Hess  
Ronald Hentz  
(IHO Col Bob Cope)  
E.W. Forbess  
Perry Eisenhower



**PATRON PARTNERS**  
CMSgt Roger Towberman  
James Mayer  
Charles Bishop  
John Toillion



\*//Platinum Partner \$2,500 +//Gold Partner \$ 1,000 - \$2,499//// Silver Partner \$500- \$999// Bronze Partner \$ 250 - \$499// Patron Partner \$ 100 - \$249

# CHATTER ROLL

The following is a selected list of folks taking that extra step to *Remain In Touch* by signing in to the FTVA Website ([www.ftva.org](http://www.ftva.org)) in the past few months.

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Gilmore  
First Name - Timothy  
Email - [tmgilmore1950@hotmail.com](mailto:tmgilmore1950@hotmail.com)

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Jackson  
First Name - Grover  
Email - [grover.jackson1940@gmail.com](mailto:grover.jackson1940@gmail.com)

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Mrak  
First Name - Steve  
Email - [mrakgolf@aol.com](mailto:mrakgolf@aol.com)  
Comments - We are trying to form a small group of senior officers in the San Antonio area, and I have been tasked with finding local area members. Please send me a current listing. I would normally wait for the regular mailing, but as we age waiting seems to bothering my associates. 16th AF seems a long way from the days of ditty bops.

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name: Taylor  
First Name: Robert  
E-Mail address: [rjtjmj@gmail.com](mailto:rjtjmj@gmail.com)

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name: Cook  
First Name: Chris  
E-Mail address: [wccook@gvvc.com](mailto:wccook@gvvc.com)  
Subject: RE: September 2020 RIT Newsletter is posted  
Great newsletter – thanks. Chris

*Thanks! - Editor*

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Lizana  
First Name - Roy  
Email - [lizana@bellsouth.net](mailto:lizana@bellsouth.net)

Comments - Has anyone shown interest in trying to start a chapter on the Mississippi gulf coast?

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name: Mori  
First Name: Joseph  
E-Mail address: mori.joe@gmail.com  
Comment: A20351 6988th 6989th

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name: Stone  
First Name: Art  
Unit: 6921st SW  
E-Mail address: paparock60@hotmail.com  
Comment: assigned July 72 - Sep 73

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - McLaughlin  
First Name - Patrick  
Email - extmaco3@comcast.net

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name: Surette  
First Name: Herbert  
E-Mail address: H.surette@comcast.net  
Unit: Peshawar Pakistan

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name: Duffy  
First Name: Jim  
E-Mail address: mdacjfd@yahoo.com  
Unit: USAFSS

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Wilcox  
First Name - Brent  
Email - bkwilco@gmail.com

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name: Anaruk  
First Name: Axel  
E-Mail address: axel@anaruk.com  
Unit: 6903rd ESG  
Comment: 1969 to 1994. Mustang. Enlisted 203X1 MB, QB, SB. Commissioned SIGINT Officer. Rerack and HQ USAFSS, 6988th, 6903rd, 6987th, and several out of command.

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Shultz  
First Name - John

Email - wildcat194545@gmail.com

-----Tear Line-----

Last Name - Ballew

First Name - Charles

Email - mj\_6920@outlook.com

Comments - latest e-mail address. Thank you

-----Tear Line-----

**The Next Issue of *Remain In Touch*  
will be posted in March 2021.  
Please send your inputs**

**by 1 March 2021 to  
[Newsletter@ftva.us](mailto:Newsletter@ftva.us)**



**FALLEN EAGLES**  
Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor



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**Received word of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries and offer prayers and sympathy to loved ones.**

*“It is the soldier above all others who prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.” - Douglas MacArthur*

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- Apel, Elmer, Col (ret), USAFSS
- Carter, James H., A1C, USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member\*\***
- Chaika, Gary Allyn, SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Dickerson, Dennis B., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Dion, Normand, O., TSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Doyle, Arthur C., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Flage, Gary L., USAFSS
- Fortier, Hildegard, Spouse of Gerald Fortier USAFSS
- Galbraith, Jack, A1C, USAFSS
- Garman, Gary W., A1C, USAFSS
- Knasinski, Frank S., USAFSS
- Key, Roy Alvon, USAFSS
- Miller, Richard E., USAFSS
- Olenik, Joseph J., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Pauley, Leo Edward, SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Rodger, Kevin M., USAFSS
- Rominger, Daniel C., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Sandoval, Helen Anna Knickerbocker, Spouse of Raul “Sandy” Sandoval **FTVA Lifetime Member\*\***
- Skidmore, Calvin D., USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member\*\***
- Dr. Sloan, Hugh J. III, Maj, USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member\*\***
- Stewart, Robert W., TSgt, USAFSS
- White, Archie Lee, SMSgt (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member\*\***
- Wilson, Stephen D., USAFSS
- Wittenberg, William A., MSgt (ret), USAFSS

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**Apel, Elmer C., Col (ret), 87**, passed away July 20, 2019. He finished college at Ohio Univ. There he was a standout football player and was a member of ROTC. He was accepted into the USAF where he went to flight school and absolutely loved flying many different planes from Fighters, Bombers to his favorite C-130 cargo and rescue planes. He served over 30 years in the military and logged more than 10,000 hours flight time. Al retired as Commander of the 924th Tactical Airlift Group at Bergstrom AFB. Pat and Al were married 56 years and were privileged to travel to many locations including Japan with their family. Col Apel is preceded in Death by his wife Patricia. He is survived by

Daughter Julie, Sandra, Dawn and Son Gregory. //Obit - Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home & Cemetery//

He was a 732 (Personnel Officer) assigned to the Daze Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1958 to 1962-time frame. I spoke with Al's son, Gregory. He is interested in talking with anyone who may have served with his Dad during his time with the 6918th RSM/SS. //Bill Spencer//

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**Carter, James H. (Jim), A1C, 89**, passed away October 12, 2020. Born Dec 30, 1930 Jim served in the Air Force during the Korean War with service in Wakkanai, Japan as a Russian linguist. He then graduated from Pittsburg State College in Kansas and received his master's degree from Florida Tech. Jim served his country for 40 years as a Crypto Analyst at the National Security Agency and taught History at FIT. He is preceded in death by his first wife Rosalee with whom he has three sons. He is survived by his wife Pat, son Chris, son Robert and daughter-in-law Robyn, and son Larry and daughter-in-law Miyuki. His extended family includes step-grandchildren Yousef and Jasmine, as well as Tim, JoAnne, Dan, and Kate

Deegan and Jeannine Collins. мальчик с пальчик //Obit – Carter Family//

*James H. (Jim) Carter assignments included language studies Syracuse University 1951, Misawa and Wakannai Japan 1952-1953. //James Carter//*

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**Chaika, Gary Allyn, SMSgt (ret) 84**, passed away October 17, 2020. Gary served in the U.S. Air Force on "C/B" with the 6913th RSM at Bremerhaven, Germany from 1955-58, and retired after 26 years as SMSGT. He played base level football and basketball. He was a lifetime member of the VFW Post 6992 and American Legion Post 254. Gary is survived by his Loving Wife of 61 years, Audrey; Children, Mark (MaDonna), Mary (Kenny) Duray, and Kathy (Jim) Schuler. //Obit - 6913th.org//

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**Dickerson, Dennis B., MSgt (ret), 77**, passed away, November 7, 2020. He served in the USAF for 26 years. After his service in the military, he traveled back overseas working for Sikorsky Industries for a number of years. Upon his return to the states, he worked for the City of Pensacola; Fire and Rescue as a dispatcher for 12 years, completing his service for the betterment of mankind. Dennis leaves to cherish his memory; his devoted daughter, Rita; his companion and caretaker, his son, Dennis Jr//Obit - Bayview Fisher-Pou Chapel//

*Dennis Dickerson's AFSCs were 292X2/207X2. //James Kilma//*

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**Dion, Normand, O., TSgt (ret), 89**, passed away September 11, 2020. He leaves his wife of 66 years, Rita T. (Noel) Dion (Rita and Norm observed their 66th wedding anniversary on September 6.). He also leaves five children: Paul, Ronald, Carol, Wayne, and Norma.

Norm served 22 1/2 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Technical Sergeant in 1974. He was a Korean War veteran and he saw action in Korea as a member of a radio jeep squadron, establishing voice communications between artillery fire and air strikes on enemy positions during the third Korean winter campaign. Subsequently, he held many world-wide assignments as a linguist and cryptographer. In 1960 he was assigned to Air Force Security Service, Texas. Before leaving again for the Far East, he received specialized communications training at the National Security Agency in Maryland. In 1964, after two years as a technical instructor in Texas, he was accepted for Cambodian language training at the Berlitz School of Languages in Washington, D.C. and was assigned to security service in the Philippines. Back in Texas, he was chosen for Arabic language training at the Presidio of Monterey, California. After serving three years on the island of Crete where he gathered and translated foreign language intelligence, Norm retired in 1974. //Obit - Turgeon Funeral Home//

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**Doyle, Arthur Conan Jr., MSgt (ret), 86**, passed away September 11, 2020. He joined the USAF in 1956 where he served as a Russian linguist for 23 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kay. He is survived by his children Kerrie, John "Mike", and Kellie. //Obit – **Bethany Funeral Home**//

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**Flage, Gary L., 78**, passed away November 30, 2020. He enlisted in the US Air Force and studied Russian linguistics. While at Goodfellow AFB, Gary met Marilyn Treadwell, whom he married on March 19, 1966. Their daughter Karon was born when stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska. Being honorably discharged in 1968, the family returned to San Angelo in 1970 where son Bruce was born. Gary is survived by his wife, Marilyn; daughter Karon; son Bruce. //Obit – **Harper Funeral Home**//

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**Fortier, Hildegard "Hilli", 81**, passed away **November 5, 2020**. She now rejoins her beloved husband and dance partner the late Gerald "Bert" Fortier. She was born March 27, 1939 in Bremerhaven, Germany. Hillie and Frenchie were planning to host the 2008 Squadron Reunion in Sacramento, CA when Frenchie passed away. Zane and Terri Maddox hosted the 2008 Reunion. She had many, many friends in the 6913th, and will be missed. She will be deeply missed by her sons, Marcel, Norbert, and Louis. //Obit - **6913th.org**//

*Our recollection of Hilli, was our meeting at our wedding in Bremerhaven just a few days before Bert and Hilli's wedding. She was slight-of-build, beautiful, and fun-filled then, as she ever was. Frenchie and I, with 4 other guys. worked in the squadron mailroom after our clearances were pulled pending marriage. We really enjoyed that period of our lives. Rest in peace dear Hilli and Bert, dancing in the clouds. //John & Lori Anderson//*

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**Galbraith, Jack Kethell, A1C, 81**, passed away November 10, 2020. He joins his wife, Sharon Lynn Walters Galbraith, who preceded him in 2009. He enlisted in the USAF and surveilled foreign intelligence as a Morse Code intercept operator on Shemya Island, Alaska (now Eareckson Air Station). A decorated Airman 1st Class, Jack was honorably discharged while stationed at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS, where he had earlier met Sharon Lynn Walters on a blind date. They married on August 4, 1962 and moved to Cleveland, OH. Jack is survived by his sons and their families: Gary, Scott, and Louie. **//Obit - Terrazas Funeral Chapels//**



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**Garman, Gary W., A1C, 79**, passed away August 13, 2020. Gary enlisted in the USAF where he was a computer programmer for the Defense Industrial Supply Center (DISC) in Philadelphia. He is survived by his son, Jeff and daughter, Sue. **//Obit – Boyer Family Funeral Home//**



Gary Garman's AFSC was possibly a 294. His assignments included HQ USAFSS. He served in the Special Communications Center from 1959 to 1962. **//Submitted by Bob Bastian on behalf of Gary Harlan//**

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**Key, Roy "Alvon", 77**, passed away November 9, 2020. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Language from University of Texas at Arlington. He then continued with language through Syracuse University of New York in Eastern European Languages. He enlisted in the USAF in the early 60's, serving as a linguist and Code Specialist while stationed in Darmstadt, Germany.



He is survived by his children, Andreas and wife, Arletch of Brazil, Stephanie and husband, Ken Finch of Burleson, Tx., Hillery. **//Obit - Skyvue Memorial Gardens Funeral Home//**

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**Knasinski, Frank S., 77**, passed away November 17, 2020. He served 4 years with the United States Air Force in Samsun, Turkey and Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. He met his wife, Patricia Meek Knasinski, at Indiana University where he was stationed for Russian language training, in preparation for becoming a Russian Language Intercept Operator in the United States Air Force. Upon his honorable discharge in 1965, Frank continued working at the Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C. in the Security Service. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Patricia; his daughter, Tanya; son Jason. //Obit - Walker Funeral Home//

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**Miller, Richard E. Miller, 73**, died Saturday, October 31, 2020. He was the beloved husband of Janet (Shaw) Miller, his wife of 46 years. Mr. Miller was a proud veteran of the US Air Force. //Huff and Lakjer Funeral Home//

*Richard E. Miller was a 292 assigned to Dawg Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1966 to 1968-time frame. //Bill Spencer//*

*Dickie was already on Dawg Flight when I got there but he was always kind to the Jeep that had so many questions that other Dawgs sometimes became short. He loved his golf. If you were trying to find him the golf*

*course was always a good bet. Our prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time.*

*//Robert Fuerstenau//*

*On behalf of the 6918th Brotherhood Rest in Peace Dickie. //Carol Farr//*

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**Olenik, Joseph J., CMSgt (ret), 78**, passed away November 12, 2020. In 1961, Joe enlisted in the United States Air Force and served for 26 years as an electronic intelligence signals analyst stationed in Germany, Turkey, Alaska, the National Security Agency, and the Pentagon. Joe received many medals and commendations for service, and when he retired in 1987, was a Chief Master Sergeant, the highest enlisted level of leadership in the Air Force. He is survived by his wife Wendy Olenik; stepsons Samuel McIntire and Alexander Olenik; daughter Christina. //Carroll County Times//

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**Pauley, Leo Edward, SMSgt (ret), 78**, passed away August 12, 2020. He joined the USAF serving 28 years. He then worked 16 years in Civil Service, attaining GG-13. While serving in the Air Force Leo was able to travel the world, he went to Crete, Australia, Germany, Japan, and numerous US States. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carolyn Elaine Pauley; his three daughters, Teresa Keller, Stephanie Gilbert, and Lisa Le. //Obit - Grubb Funeral//

*Leo not only had a passion for the mission, but he had a passion for the people. His infectious smile and laugh would light up any room!! Cinda G. Tapia//*

*I would just like to say Leo was such a great friend to everyone and will be truly missed. //Ed Jolly//*

*Leo loved the mission of supporting the field. He stressed the need to provide the men and women with the best tools to carry out their critical work. //Joe Sanchez//*

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**Rodgers Kevin Michael, 61**, passed away September 4, 2020. He was a proud member of the USAF and worked for them as a linguist. In his free time, Kevin, being an avid sports fan, enjoyed passing the time by watching football. He was an amazing man and will be dearly missed by all who knew him. Kevin is survived by his father, Franklin; mother, Gracie; daughters, Elizabeth, Kimberly, and Mica. //Obit - The Life Event Center at Florida Memorial//

*Haji was one of the first people I met when I got to Osan, my first duty station. Having trouble attaining my certification, Haji spent quite a lot of time with me helping me learn how to trust my instincts and not let overthinking get in the way of the job. Eventually I got to be pretty decent at it, which I definitely owe in part to Haji. //Christopher Long//*

*I met Haji on my second tour in Korea. He was my big brother, my confidante, my friend, and just an overall amazing person to serve with. //Abbasenia Barnes//*

*I was stationed with Kevin on the island of Okinawa, Japan at Kadena AB, 1987 to 1989. We were in the same hall of our dorm and had many occasions to interact on the weekends and even met up in South Korea when I was on vacation. Kevin "Haji" will always be in my happy memory when I think of my time on Okinawa. //Eric Gunn//*

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**Rominger, Daniel C., MSgt (ret), 76**, passed away April 5 2019. He wed his wife, Yvonne D. Sandwell on October 21, 1961 and remained married until his passing for 57 years. After graduating from high school, he joined the California Maritime Academy but ultimately joined the Air Force where he would enjoy a 21-year career of dedicated service. He was a member of Air Force Retirees, Southside Senior Center where he delivered meals to home bound members, American Cancer Society where he drove patients to appointments and the Missouri VFW. Dan is survived by his wife, Yvonne; a daughter, Dori; sons, Phillip, and Thomas. //Obit - Springfield National Cemetery//

*Dan Rominger as a 202 assigned to the Daze Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1963 to 1966-time frame .//Bill Spencer//*

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**Sandoval, Helen Anna Knickerbocker, 82**, passed away October 16, 2020. Surviving Helen is her husband, Raul [aka Sandy] Sandoval; their three daughters: Dorothy [aka Dodie] Sandoval (Jean Geary); Tonia Mickey (David); and Star Sandoval. Most of her adult life was spent traveling the world, first as an U.S. Air Force wife and then as a civilian whenever and wherever she could. Her and her husband loved dancing together, they were great dance partners. She met her husband, Sandy, when she moved to Syracuse. They had three daughters, relocating them many times around the world throughout their younger years. They lived in Japan for a stay of five years where Helen birthed her 2nd and 3rd daughters and attended the first Summer Olympic games held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1964. In Frankfurt, Germany, Helen discovered chimney sweeps and began a collection of them. Every location Helen and her family lived in and traveled to was a unique experience. She was lucky enough to realize her dream of seeing the world. Her husband said she was the perfect military wife: packing and unpacking and quickly adapting to military culture. Helen often said she served in the military as much as her husband did. After military life and her oldest went to college, she set off with the rest of the family to live in Tehran, Iran, while Sandy worked for Rockwell, Int'l. //Obit - Dibble-Tuttle Cemetery//

*With faith and loyalty, lovingly accompanied Raul (aka Sandy) around the world, supporting his mission and raising our 3 daughters. In 28 years of service, Sandy mostly was assigned overseas: Korea, Turkey, Japan 2 times (north & south), Okinawa, Thailand, Germany. //Raul A. Sandoval//*

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**Skidmore, Calvin D., 78**, passed away December 3, 2020. Calvin is survived by his wife of 56 years, Jo Ann Skidmore, son Harold Vance. He joined the US Air force and graduated from the Radio Intercept Analysis School and the USAFSS NCO Academy at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas. He served for nine years. //Obit - Bailey & Foster Funeral Home//

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**Dr. Sloan, Hugh J. III, Maj, 78**, passed away April 19, 2020. The USAF, recognizing his talent for languages, sent Hugh to Indiana University and Syracuse University to become a Russian linguist. He served for 27 years as an intelligence analyst in such posts as Peshawar, Pakistan and Misawa, Japan. He was subsequently assigned to the National Security Agency in Russian language intelligence responsibilities. After his active duty career, Hugh joined the Ohio Air National Guard at Rickenbacker Air Base in Columbus, Ohio where he ultimately attained the rank of Major. Having been a Civil Air Patrol cadet, Hugh led Oxford's Steve Launius Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol. The Mississippi Wing honored his years as Director of Aerospace Education and many other duties with the T.G. Fortune Lifetime Achievement Award. Hugh has been a member of Military Officers Association of America. He founded the World Future Society in Columbus, Ohio. He has enjoyed reunions with his oldest friends and mentors, the "Peshawar Bandits." Dr. Sloan retired as Associate Professor Emeritus of Marketing at the University of Mississippi after teaching for 29 years. He taught thousands of students and hundreds of Civil Air Patrol cadets. He earned his B.S. in political science from the University of Maryland Overseas while in Japan; an M.B.A. from Baldwin Wallace University; and his Ph.D. in Marketing and Logistics from The Ohio State University. Hugh is survived by his wife and best friend, Mary Love Stringfield Sloan; one son, Hugh Johnston Sloan IV; one daughter, Susan Kathleen Sloan Harper; and one sister, Mary Linda Sloan Guernsey. //Obit – Coleman Funeral Home//

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**Stewart, Robert W., TSgt, 80**, passed away September 24, 2020. He joined the Air Force and served for eight years, the majority of which he served as a Morse Code Intercept Operator on the island of Crete, Greece. He finished his career at Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. He continued his military career serving in the Texas Army National Guard. Stew is survived by his wife of 20 years, Grace, his three children Robert, Kelly, and Gene; Stepson Justin. //Obit – Heartland Funeral Home//

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**White, Archie Lee, SMSgt (ret), 88**, passed away June 29, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF and served two tours in Vietnam. He also retired from Toyota in SA, TX. Archie is survived by his three daughters Helene, Natalie, and Francine along with his two stepdaughters Paula and Rita. //Obit MySA//

I was fortunate to work with Archie in Darmstadt Germany in the 11th Radio Squadron Mobile. 1956-1959. I thought that Archie was one of the most thoughtful individuals that I had met. He helped me on many occasions during our shifts. We worked on the same trick. I was not aware that Archie was in

San Antonio. I have been here since December 2006 after retiring from General Motors. My deepest condolences to Archie's survivors. Be assured that he was an exceptionally nice person //Clarence Hall, Jr//

*Archie Lee White's AFSC was 202. His assignments included Taiwan and HQ USAFSS. //Jesse Coultrap//*

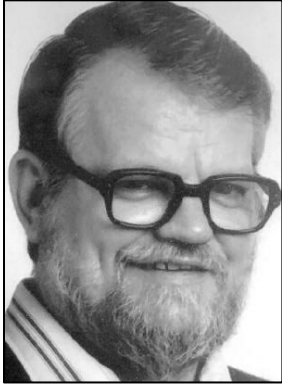
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**Wilson, Stephen D., 89**, passed away September 13, 2020. He served in the USAF at Bremerhaven, Germany from 1953-56 on "A" Flight. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Nancy; son Chris; four stepdaughters: Krista, Kathy, Kay (Rick) and Kelley. //Obit - 6913th.org//

*I wish to offer my deepest condolences to Steve's family. I served with him in the Air Force for three years in Germany. He was my roommate and my best friend. I am pleased to learn, and certainly not surprised, that his life was so productive and successful. It couldn't happen to a finer person. You were blessed to be a part of his family. //William S Hadley//*

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**Wittenberg, William A., MSgt (ret), 76**, passed away November 6, 2020. He entered the USAF, serving during the Vietnam War. Bill was the recipient of many medals, including the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service and Air Force Commendation Medals with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He was in the Air Force for 26 years, retiring at the rank of Master Sgt. Bill received his master's degree from the University of South Alabama. Bill is survived by three children, William, Jennifer, and John: two stepchildren, Pam, and Steven. //Obit - **Dusckas Funeral Home**//

BJ will be sorely missed by his AF Brothers and friends...Our paths crossed a couple of times in USAF Security Service, and I'll always remember his wit and humor, while also being the consummate professional. RIP old friend! "Curly" //**Randall Robinson**//

My sincerest sympathies and condolences to Williams family and friends. It was a joy to work with William in the 1980's in Crete, Greece and to have visited with him last year during our military reunion in San Antonio. He will be missed. //**Keith Favis**//

An iconic 202 and Dawgie. I'll miss our online chats Witt! //**Clark Robinson**//

William Wittenberg was a 207X1. Assignments include 6987th SG, Shulinkou AS, Taiwan, 1971-72. And 6913th ESS (Mobile), Augsburg, Germany possibly 1980-1982. //**Theresa Cullen**//

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