

*Remain  
In  
Touch*



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE  
ASSOCIATION***

***NEWSLETTER***

# ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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## The President's Corner



Spring is here. Basketball and hockey seasons are coming to an end (Go Spurs Go), while baseball is just getting in gear. Looks like weather has been kind of crazy across the states. We've had some interesting weather here this Spring in San Antonio with the much needed rain coupled with some hellish hailstorms...USAA is getting a lot of business.

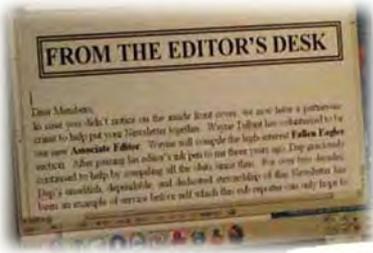
We had a great time at the FTVA's Spring Social last week. Even though we had a lighter turnout than last year's, we enjoyed the camaraderie and numerous war stories being told around the tables. Brig. Gen. Lambert was our guest speaker and talked about the significant changes he has seen in the last six years since joining AFISRA/25<sup>th</sup> Air Force. One of the biggest changes was his starting up the Cyber ISR Group at Ft Meade with barely 400 people that has quadrupled in size in six years...not including the added units in the AF Reserves and Air National Guard.

On 26 April, several of us attended the stand-up of the 625th Ops Center. Directly following the ceremony, the Ops Center facility was named in honor of Mr. Ken Williams. It will affectionately be called the "KWOC". Ken cut the ribbon with Sheila and a host of FTVA members in attendance.

The planning has started for September's Anniversary activities. Maj Octavia Heard is the 25AF's POC for all the events. Some slight changes will be occurring this year, like a change of venue for the Golf Tournament. Also, you still have time to submit nominees for the Hall of Honor...there are a lot of deserving Airmen out there, so don't procrastinate, "getter done"! I know it will be another great series of events, so start your plans to attend now.

Finally, the Board always encourages suggestions and feedback. Whether its ways to encourage new membership, chapter news or ways to support our troops/units, don't hesitate to contact us thru our web-site. We are here to support...and as always "Remain in Touch".

*Ron*



**Hi Folks,**  
**Over the past four years, we've highlighted the FTVA Member Support initiative by Bob Baert which offers the RIT in softcopy format via e-mail. As a result, we now have well over 300 members who have signed up for this service.**

**(This resulted in a significant savings in printing and postage.)** On the centerfold of this issue, you will find a listing of individual and corporate sponsoring partners compiled by our Vigilant Partners Chair, Mark Hess. Highlights from our annual *Spring Social* found their way into this issue of RIT along with our quarterly Chapter activity reports, Reunion summaries, and tributes to our Fallen Eagles. I call your attention to the article by A. J. Harrison detailing the current status of our Hall of Honor nomination process. Thanks for all of your inputs and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!!

Sincerely



**Editor's Disclaimer**

*Information in the form of letters, notes, fax, e-mail, or by phone is accepted as true and factual. In order to include as much information as possible, some of it may be edited for brevity or may be delayed for later publication. Publishing of any article or notice in this Newsletter does not assure accuracy or endorsement by the Association or Command.*



**Letters To The Editor**

Mar 31, 2016  
Dennis Rassmussen, Editor –

Please excuse my delay in sending this. Dave kept stacks of the FTVA Newsletter and he really enjoyed reading it every few months. It was thoughtful of Tony Cook to submit Dave's obituary to you. We really appreciate his effort along with your decision to include Dave in the March issue. Thank you for sending the extra copies to me.

Best Wishes,  
Mrs. Olga Honermann

**FTVA Vigilant Partners' Program**



We invite anyone who might be interested in becoming a Vigilant Partner to contact our POC Col (Ret) Mark "Mutley" Hess (Ph 210-380-6328).

E-Mail: [Hessm58@gmail.com](mailto:Hessm58@gmail.com) (Centerfold provides the most recent list of FTVA Vigilant Partners.)

**Annual 2016 FTVA Officer Elections**

In accordance with Article VII of the FTVA By-Laws, the BOD appointed the nominating committee for the annual officer elections to be held in September 2016. This year, the nominating committee accepted submissions for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. For obvious reasons, only those who can attend the monthly BOD meetings in San Antonio were seriously considered. With the unanimous concurrence of the FTVA BOD, Loren Sevening and Bob Cope have accepted re-nomination to serve as your Secretary and Treasurer, respectively, for the upcoming 2016 - 2018 term.



Loren



Bob



**FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations**



The Hall of Honor Selection Committee is currently reviewing the write-ups of nominees for induction into the FTVA's Hall of Honor. As detailed in our last issue of RIT (March 2016), HOH nominations must be received not later than **6 June 2016**, and selections will be announced in the September RIT issue. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association's reunion activities to be held just prior to our FTVA annual meeting at 25<sup>th</sup> AF HQ on **Saturday morning, Sep 24th, 2016**. Once again, thank you for your participation.

Remain in Touch,  
*A.J. Harrison*, Hall of Honor Program Chair

**25<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE NEWS**



Compiled by Ken Maynard, Auxiliary Staff

**625<sup>th</sup> Operations Center Activated**



The guidon of the 625<sup>th</sup> Operations Center is unfurled during the unit's stand-up ceremony in the courtyard of the 25AF headquarters, JBSA-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas, Tuesday. Maj. Gen. Bradford, J. Shwedo, 25AF commander, left, and the 625<sup>th</sup> OC commander, Col. Kyle Forrier, far right, stand by to

execute the flag exchange signifying Forrier's acceptance of command. The 625<sup>th</sup> OC is Air Combat Command's execution arm for providing America's globally integrated ISR planning and direction, collection, processing and exploitation, analysis and production, and dissemination. The OC plans, schedules and assesses in support of ISR operations around the world. The facility gives the 25AF commander a way to provide NAF-wide operational-level guidance and direction, and command and control of delegated forces. (U.S. Air Force photo/ William B. Belcher)



**FTVA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**625<sup>th</sup> Operations Center Dedication Ceremony**

Maj. Gen. Bradford J. Shwedo, 25th Air Force commander, right, and Mr. Kenneth A. Williams, center, former Director of Staff at the 25th, cut the ribbon dedicating the 625 Operations Center as the **Kenneth A. Williams Operations Center** at the 25th headquarters building, JBSA-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.



Looking on is the 625th OC commander, Col. Kyle Forrer, left. **Williams was instrumental in the planning and startup of the 625th and the build out of the facility.** The 625th OC is Air Combat Command’s execution arm for providing America’s globally integrated ISR planning and direction, collection, processing and exploitation, analysis and production, and dissemination. The OC plans, schedules and assesses in support of ISR operations around the world. The facility gives the 25AF commander a way to provide NAF-wide operational-level guidance and direction, and command and control of delegated forces. (U.S. Air Force photo/ William B. Belcher)

## Honoring Legacy

Adapted from an article by TSgt. Veronica Pierce, 70th ISRW

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD -- Recognizing our heritage helps us remember where we came from, and how much we overcame to get to



where we are today. The 7th Intelligence Squadron celebrated their legacy during their seventh anniversary celebration April 15, 2016, at Fort George G. Meade, MD. The unit's roots go back to 1944 when the 7th Radio Squadron Mobile was established during WWII. Members of the 7th IS invited a very special guest to celebrate their anniversary.

Jack Leonard, 96, speaks to Airmen of the 7th Intelligence Squadron during the unit's seventh anniversary celebration April 15, 2016 at Fort George G. Meade, Md. (U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Veronica Pierce)

Jack Leonard, 96, who served as an Army Air Corps officer in the 7th RSM during WWII, was the guest speaker for the event. His mission paved way to the

mission the 7th IS accomplishes globally today.

Addressing over 200 attendees, Lt. Col. Matthew Reilman, 7th IS commander said: "Seventy-two years ago, the 7th Radio Squadron Mobile was activated in the Pacific theater to intercept, geolocate, analyze and decrypt the Japanese encrypted message traffic in the field to provide the commanders a decisive advantage." According to historical documents, the 7th RSM participated in numerous operations through the Pacific theater. Operations ranged from the surrender of Japanese forces at Morotai in the Philippines, to translation of Japanese radio transmissions exploiting enemy communication. Now, the 7th IS defends our national security through cyberspace operations. Their mission is to drive cyber Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance operations and analysis for the national intelligence community and Air Force and combatant commanders. "Today, the method of communication may have changed, but the history of excellence and innovation continued in the 7th IS as we ambush, exploit and defend in cyberspace," Reilman said.

Technology has changed, but not the quality of Airmen. During WWII, the 7th RSM received multiple campaign awards to include the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. Airmen of the 7th IS have continued the legacy by receiving multiple Air Force-level and Intelligence Community awards since the unit’s activation in 2009.

Hosting one of squadron’s earliest members was a combined effort to bring Airmen of the 7th IS, past and present, together. While looking through a hometown hero’s social media site, Tech. Sgt. Phillip from the 7th IS, remembered reading about Leonard. Phillip was able to contact a family member of Leonard to extend the invitation to anniversary dinner. “Jack is the oldest member of the 7th IS. You cannot beat a chance at firsthand knowledge and stories of our past,” said Phillip. “We wanted to let him know what his old squadron has turned into and is doing presently.” Airmen of the 7th IS had a chance before the anniversary dinner to sit down and share stories with Leonard. During the anniversary dinner, Leonard spoke about his experiences in the Pacific and some of the challenges they faced and overcame. Now that 72 years has come and gone, Leonard has seen first-hand the changes of the Air Force. “After speaking to the men and women of the 7th and getting to hear what they do to protect our nation daily, I can rest easy knowing that my country is safe in their hands,” Leonard said.

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### March Madness

By Chief Master Sgt Roger A. Towberman  
25th Air Force Command Chief



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas -- WARNING! I’m about to talk about sports ... maybe the March Madness title gave that away, but maybe you are so into your “League of Legends” game you didn’t notice, or perhaps you’ve been out ‘LARPing’ all day and your helmet hat blocked your view of the top of the page.

Whatever the case, you’ve been warned.

The 2016 NCAA College Basketball National Championship Tournament (aka March Madness) is in full swing. First weekend’s down, and just 16 teams remain from the field of 68 (On Wisconsin!). This is one of my

favorite times of year. There are literally countless leadership lessons we can learn from past and present coaches, players and teams, and I enjoy watching the leadership as much as I enjoy watching the competition. These coaches take a bunch of 20-something individuals with four-year commitments to their teams (usually), and make them winners ... sound familiar? There's so much to learn here. I love, love, love it!

I won't get into a debate over the greatest-of-all-time in college basketball coaches, but a man named John Wooden won 10 national championships in 11 years, including seven in a row. His teams once won 88 games without a loss over two-and-a-half years. Maybe there have been better, but certainly he was great. Wooden was so great that in the 1970s a couple of researchers (Ronald Gallimore and Roland Tharp) decided to analyze his methods. Their study is fascinating and was recently revised. If you're interested in leadership and/or basketball, it's time well spent.

I recently stumbled on their work in a book, "The Talent Code" by Daniel Coyle. There's lots of stuff we can talk about from the study and the book, but today I'd like to make just one quick observation. According to the study, which charted more than 2,300 "discrete acts of teaching," less than 7 percent of the things Wooden said to his players were compliments. Similarly, less than 7 percent of the things he said to his players were "expressions of displeasure." In the parlance of professional military education, I think we'd call those carrots and sticks. By contrast, 75 percent of his "acts of teaching" were simply that ... teaching ... pure information. Since I learned this, I can't stop thinking about it. One of the greatest coaches of all time spent three quarters of his time simply passing on his knowledge to his players. Not discipline, not motivation, not "carrots" or "sticks," just information.

We spend a lot of time talking to our Air Force leaders about motivating and disciplining, about "carrots and sticks." We preach to you about what it takes to get people to want to be great or what to do when they fail to be great, but maybe ... just maybe ... we spend too much time on that. Maybe the greatest lesson we can learn from one of the greatest coaches of all time is that information and teaching are really the key to success. Maybe we should spend every minute of every day trying to empty what's in our brain bucket into the brain buckets of our Airmen. Maybe if we spent more time teaching, and less time trying to teach ourselves the secrets of motivation, the motivation would take care of itself. Maybe if we bend our every will on ensuring our Airmen have the training (and resources) they

need to learn their craft and be awesome at it, we'd find our job mostly done. Maybe our Airmen need to be taught more than they need to be led? Maybe, just maybe, when teaching and leadership are done right, they are mostly one-and-the-same!

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**ANNUAL SPRING SOCIAL**

Our **2016 FTVA Spring Social** was held in the Alamo/Concepcion Room of the San Antonio SeaWorld/Westover Hills Marriott Courtyard Hotel Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Over 60 FTVA members and active duty service men and women enjoyed this special evening when we recognized a 25AF recent returnee from deployment. Brigadier General Peter Lambert, 25AF Vice Commander (right) highlighted the evening as our guest speaker. Needless to say, Gen Lambert was kept busy throughout the evening visiting with attendees.



(Left) SSgt Tom Westrick was recognized by the FTVA at its annual Spring Social on April 23<sup>rd</sup> where he shared with the audience his experiences while on a recent 25AF deployment to Afghanistan.

(Annual Spring Social Out-Takes)



(L-R) Head Table: Brig. Gen. Lambert, Ron and Kathy Haygood, Bruce and Carol Glover, Steve and Beth Doucette Standing: Andy Smith

(Right) FTVA Vice President Andy Smith was a very articulate and entertaining program Emcee for the Social.



(Left)  
Bill Sheck and Jim McLendon



Virginia and Bob Askew with Kay and Ron Weaver

(Annual Spring Social Out-Takes cont'd)



Debbie and Bob Cope



Lee and Jenn Anthony



Segundo Espinoza Greg Mahoney

Pixie and Chuck Purkiss

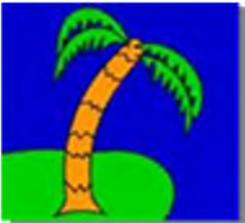


Ken and Sheila Williams with Elisa and Vince Colacicco

**FTVA CHAPTER NEWS**

Compiled by Dennis Buxton, Auxiliary Staff

The latest happenings from around the FTVA world as reported from our intrepid chapter correspondents located from the Aloha State to the National Capitol Region. See what’s happening in your area and become an active part of keeping the FTVA active around the globe and in your region. First up and moving west to east in this issue, we hear from the very active Aloha Chapter with the following snippets and goings-on as related by “Aloha Tilly”.



**Aloha Chapter, Honolulu, HI**

John “Tilly” Toillion, President

Nothing significant to report except we're planning our next Aloha Chapter get together for the end of April or early May.

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**Heritage Chapter, San Angelo, TX**

Ronald ‘JJ’ Graham, Chapter President  
Ed Bandinelli, Chapter Vice President

Now we travel to the sprawling metropolis of San Angelo, TX to hear from “J. J.” Graham, the Heritage Chapter President.



Hope this finds everyone healthy and happy! Nothing major to report from metropolitan San Angelo. On 3 March the Heritage Chapter held its quarterly social with 31 members and guests enjoying the evening. Web master Wayne Bascom showcased our recently created web site. It can be directly accessed at [ftva-heritage.wabasco.net](http://ftva-heritage.wabasco.net) or via the FTVA web site. Tom Nurre entertained the audience with a short video presentation recognizing Bruce Foreman and Larry Ross for providing photographic support at Vietnam War Commemorative pinning ceremonies.

Five students of the foreign officers course on Goodfellow AFB who came from Jordan, Egypt, Taiwan, Republic of the Congo, and Japan joined us for a “meet and greet” opportunity. They were a small but very active group and we had a lot of fun chatting with them. We’re partnering up with a number of local organizations to help bring the Moving Wall back to San Angelo in October. One of the base organizations is leading the charge, and we’ll be helping as needed (donations, manpower). Not sure how many of our folks will make it to the Spring Social. I’m working a big volunteer event so it doesn’t look like I’ll make it – but I’ll try! You guys taker EZ and hope to see you soon!



JJ Graham and Don Goff examining Don's collection of Morse keys



Kitty and Tom Nurre with Carl Wood



Above: Wayne Bascom gave a presentation on the Heritage Chapter's new web site: [ftva-heritage.wabasco.net](http://ftva-heritage.wabasco.net)  
Seated on left: Mary, Don & Steve Goff  
Seated on right: Bruce Foreman, Pat & Edie Potter, Corky & Karen Bingham. Seated in far right background: Chae Bascom



Foreground Seated L-R: Karen & Corky Bingham, Edie & Pat Potter, and Bruce Foreman. In background: Foreign officer students



Far side L-R: Diane Ross, Jim Cox, Mary, Don & Steve Goff, Larry & Pat Miller, Mary O'Brien  
 Near side L-R: Corky and Karen Bingham



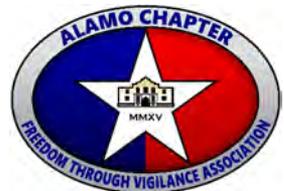
L-R:  
 Bruce & Marilyn  
 Foreman;  
 Seated in  
 background: Foreign  
 officer students.

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**Alamo Chapter, San Antonio, TX**

Barnie Gavin, Chapter President

Mike Nielson, Chapter Secretary-Treasurer



**Alamo Chapter February Minutes**

The February meeting of the Alamo Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) was held on 18 February 2016 at Logan's Roadhouse, 12477 W. Interstate 10, San Antonio, TX 78230. The meeting was called to order at 1830 by President Barnie Gavin. There were a total of 16 members and four spouses/family members present. The following business was completed:

1. The Alamo Chapter now has a chapter checking account with SSFCU. Mike Nielsen, Secretary/Treasurer received checks this week and provided a deposit slip for Barney to pass on to the FTVA Treasurer at the 19 February 2016 FTVA Board meeting. We receive funding based on our membership numbers from the National Chapter.
2. Ron Haygood updated the group on the status of the RQ-4 Global Hawk Enlisted Pilot conversion. Air Force Enlisted Pilots are in our future for the first time since WWII.
3. Ron also provided an update on the AN/FLR-9 located at Elmendorf AFB Alaska. A ceremony on 25 May will officially mark the cessation of operations at our last Flare 9. The unit is in the early stages of looking into methods to preserving the antennae/complex as a historical site. Ron will keep the FTVA Board apprised as this issue develops.
4. Meeting was adjourned at 1900, followed by a meal and great fellowship and comradery.

**Alamo Chapter Feb Out-Takes**



Jesse Greene, Barney (back), Mike Shields      Helen & Okey Warden



Ken Williams and Bill Sheck



Lanny Abee

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### Alamo Chapter March Minutes

The March meeting of the Alamo Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) was held on 17 March 2016 at Logan’s Roadhouse, 12477 W. Interstate 10, San Antonio, TX 78230. The meeting was called to order at 1830 by Vice President Ken Gendolfe. There were a total of 14 members and four spouse/family members present.



(Left) Ottis ‘Leroy’ Rogers, a long-time FTVA member and volunteer with the USAF American Heritage Museum, gave a presentation on the Airman Heritage Museum located on the training side of Lackland AFB. Currently there is a fundraising effort with a goal of raising \$50M to build a new museum facility. Membership dues are \$25 a year and the museum is

looking for donations of older uniform items and other historic memorabilia. They also have a Legacy Paver Program where one can purchase a paver for \$55 to be placed on the Lackland parade field to honor the memory of USAF personnel. For more information on the USAF American Heritage Museum call 210 670-0100 or email:

[foundation@myairmanmuseum.org](mailto:foundation@myairmanmuseum.org).

Mike Nielsen volunteered to be the Security Hill representative for the Annual FTVA Golf Tournament. Dennis Buxton is the lead POC this year for this great event which will be played at the newly updated Golf Club of Texas. There will be no April meeting as all are invited to the Spring Social on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Marriot Hotel near Sea World. Meeting was adjourned at 1900, followed by a meal and great fellowship and comradery.

**Alamo Chapter March Out-Takes**



(Left)  
Clara & Jesse Coultrap

(Right)  
Chapter V.P  
Ken Gendolfe and  
Ken Miller



(L-R)  
Mike Shields  
Joe "Pepito" Figueroa  
Ken Williams  
Mike Nielsen  
Dennis Buxton

(L-R)  
Vince & Elise  
Colacicco  
Judy Gavin and  
Judy's mother Doris  
Bowers



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**Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colorado Springs**

[Ftva-rockymountainchapter.com/](http://Ftva-rockymountainchapter.com/)

George "Ike" Eichelberger, President,

*(with Facebook contribution by Sharon Frizzell)*

Our fellow Rocky Mountain FTVA Faithful held their regularly scheduled meeting on 14 April at 6PM , at Rhinos.

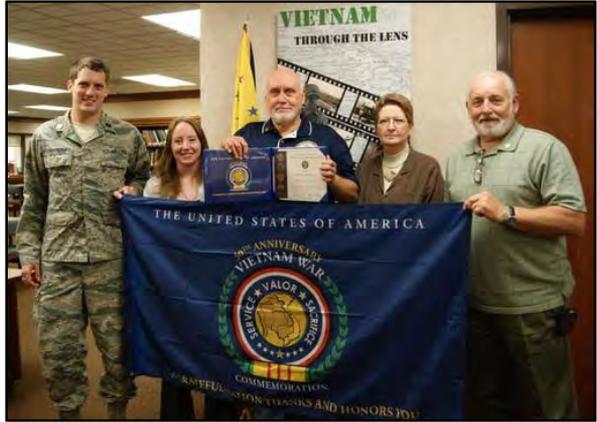
The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration ceremony endeavors to "Thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank



and honor the families of these living U.S. Veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location."

The big focus of this meeting was to tie up loose ends prior to performing this commemoration ceremony to honor chapter members, as well as family and friends, who served in the Department of Defense during the period of the Vietnam War (1955-1975).

Note: After last month's meeting, I've gotten the chance to spend some time with CMSgt (ret) Tom Nurre, (on far right side of photo) who has been one of the main drivers behind similar recognition efforts by the San Angelo Heritage Chapter. Tom has



lent us his expertise and we are progressing towards a first-rate event which says "Thank You" to a group of Veterans who did not receive the same welcome home that subsequent generations of U.S. Military Veterans received.

Due to a change in his travel schedule, Chief Nurre offered to be with us on Thursday and help us as we finalize our plans. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank Tom for sharing his passion and for helping us maneuver through the wickets of the Commemoration Committee process. If you haven't made a meeting in a while, I invite you to join us on Thursday. Come and share in the FTVA bond; Oh, and bid adieu to Sharon Frizzell as she heads off to Yellowstone for another "Summer of Adventure," and to wish Jeff Waldeck a Happy Birthday!

On April 29, 2016, Chapter president Ike Eichelberger served as emcee for a program held at Peterson Air and Space Museum. The Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC-FTVA) is the newest organizational member of the EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program (CPP) committee.

The EC-47 History Site CPP committee provided planning and oversight assistance to the RMC along with The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), another Colorado Springs CPP member organization. It was our honor to welcome and share this program with three members of the

TREA CPP. Ms. Gail Whelan and the museum staff were keenly interested and provided tremendous support. The Air and Space Museum is an ideal venue that provided easy access, audio/visual support, and an amazing historical backdrop for this event. Every detail was well planned, support from the Commemoration was timely, and the event stirred great interest in the chapter membership and Colorado Springs community. The major challenge was a late winter snow storm warning in southern El Paso County - including Colorado Springs and Peterson Air Force Base - that was in effect until Friday night. The base declared an early release of all personnel ... the nearly 8" of snow and early release of base personnel confounded all planning and effectively cut our expected attendance by 50 percent. However, the ceremony was well received by all who did attend.

Ike Eichelberger welcomed the veterans and their families with opening remarks followed by an audio-visual presentation that included the commemoration program introduction by Joe Galloway, the recent Sam Elliott Vietnam War video, and the commemorative lapel pin introduction video aired in the July 8, 2015 program in the House of Representatives. Then, seven veterans were called forward and presented with individual lapel pins, a copy of the Presidential Proclamation and a RMC-FTVA Certificate of Honor. The highlight of the ceremony may have been when the chapter vice-president, Colonel (retired) Greg Roman, offered his personal memories about his own father, Anthony Roman, going off to Vietnam. Roman then called his father forward and presented the commemorative lapel pin and chapter certificate.

The attending family members of all the veterans were welcomed and thanked for their own service and were presented with a selection of commemoration support materials. Immediately following the ceremony, everyone stayed to enjoy a commemoration cake, refreshments, photo sessions, and story-telling. The Peterson AFB public affairs office representatives did not provide the expected coverage due to the weather conditions, but a selection of best photos is included as an attachment to this after action report. We appreciate the Commemoration support and will schedule a follow-on event.

Regards, Ike

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**Chapters MIA:** No inputs were received from Gold Country and NCR Chapters in time to make this issue.



**REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Our 14th National Misawa Project, Inc. Reunion will be in Mobile, Alabama June 22-25, 2016. The Reunion will officially kick-off on Wednesday. Our Raffle will take place on Thursday evening. Our Banquet will be held on Friday evening. See you there!!

Ref: [usafssmisawa.com](http://usafssmisawa.com)

**Combat Apple 50th Reunion**

I am planning to host the **Combat Apple 50th Reunion** here in Rockwall, Texas (with some activities at L3 Communications in Greenville) in September 2017. If all goes as planned, our reunion will precede the FTVA Reunion in San Antonio by a few days such that we can move the party to San Antonio and celebrate FTVA. The second reason to elicit input from those of you who were involved in Combat Apple. So ... please provide your feedback directly to me at [rhc2k@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhc2k@sbcglobal.net) please. I will guard and protect any information you share ... and I do look forward to reading MANY stories with great anticipation. //Bob Cotti//



Bob Cotti

**Sep 15 – 18, 2016**

***37<sup>th</sup> RSM/6952 RSMG (RAF Kirknewton, Scotland)***

Location: Courtyard by Marriott, Seattle, WA (425) 255-0300

POC: Stan Harris ph (615) 971-9527. Email: [sharris02@sprynet.com](mailto:sharris02@sprynet.com)

Comment: We welcome anyone assigned to either organization.

**Sep 21 – 23, 2016**

***6994<sup>th</sup> Security Sq and Detachments***

Location: San Angelo, TX

POC: Bob Hull ph (740) 924-5261. Email: [shibob27@columbus.rr.com](mailto:shibob27@columbus.rr.com)

Comment: See web site for details, forms & registration

The theme of this reunion is a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the activation of the 6994th Security Squadron and the two detachments at Tan Son Nhut, Nha Trang, and Pleiku, respectively.

Reunion events include a detailed tour of the USAF Heritage Award winning EC47 ARDF History Exhibit, a base tour, and a special 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War ceremony honoring all the 94th SS Vietnam War era veterans and their families. The USAFSS Roll Call group will take a day out of their San Antonio reunion to attend this commemoration ceremony scheduled for September 22nd. All veterans and their families from these and other groups or associations are invited to participate in the commemoration ceremony. Representatives from the War Stories project will be available to provide more information and invite these veterans to participate in their project. There is more information about the 94th reunion at: [http://6994th.com/?page\\_id=2355](http://6994th.com/?page_id=2355)

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**Sep 21 – 24, 2016**

***USAFSS ROLL CALL (in conjunction with FTVA Reunion)***

Location: Sleep Inn & Suites, San Antonio, TX

POC: Bob Askew Email [byaskew@yahoo.com](mailto:byaskew@yahoo.com)

Comments: For Information see: [usafssrollcall.com/sanantonio.html](http://usafssrollcall.com/sanantonio.html)

Note: Thursday Guest Speaker: CMSgt Tom Echols

Friday Banquet Guest Speaker: Maj Gen Bradford Shwedo

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**Sep 21 – 24, 2016**

***FTVA Annual Reunion***

Location: Security Hill, San Antonio, TX

POC: Ron Haygood, [president@ftva.org](mailto:president@ftva.org)

Comments: Reunion packets are mailed to the membership along with the annual *Member Directory* in early July. Further information available at our website: <http://www.ftva.org>

**REUNION REPORTS**



**Gathering of “SOBs”**  
Submitted by Pete Siegel, Jr



The Society of Old Bats, a.k.a. “The SOBs”, gathered at the Hilton Homewood Suites in northern Tucson March 16 – 20, 2016. Membership in the SOBs is open to all who served with the 6988<sup>th</sup> Security Squadron (USAFSS), Yokota AB, Japan, during its 1958 – 1972 existence. This was our second large gathering. Our first was in Portland, OR, over Labor Day Weekend 2010. Smaller gatherings were held in San Antonio in 2013 and at Offutt AFB in 2014. Bats from California, Oregon, New York, Pennsylvania, and places in between descended on Tucson.

Thursday’s St Patrick’s Day activity was a trip to Sabino Canyon, <http://www.sabinocanyon.com/index.php> “A Desert Oasis in the Coronado National Forest.” I believe most participants rode the Sabino Canyon Shuttle rather than walk the trail. Lunch was had at El Charro Restaurant before returning to the hotel.



Lunch at El Charro complete with green beer ☺ Clockwise around the table - Don Baker, Joel Daven’s shirt sleeve, Jennifer Daven, Meredith Dunn, Tom Hardy, Jim Gooding, a bit of Jean Gooding’s hair, Martha Cusick, Walt Bates, Bill ‘Sparky’ Rogers

Some of the group went to a local pub to hoist a pint or two in honor of the Irishman who drove the snakes from the Emerald Isle. Your intrepid reporter went out to Davis-Monthan AFB to meet our contact for Friday's visit to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Electronic Combat Squadron which flies the EC-130H COMPASS CALL.



(L-R) Galen Pratt, George Ittner, Norma Bissett, Ken Bissett, Ed Truelson, Patti Collins, John Collins, Gary Belcher.

(Right) Jennifer & Dr. Joel Daven on the tram.



Friday's activities included a tour of the 43<sup>rd</sup> ECS, the 309<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Maintenance and Recovery and Regeneration Group (AMARG), otherwise known as the "Boneyard," and a visit to the Pima Aerospace Museum.



We depart for Davis Monthan – Jim Gooding, Jack Poulson, John Collins, Dane Zeller, Steve Senderling, Ray Bernard, Denny Stillway, Ed Truelson, Ken Bissett, George Ittner, Don Baker, Walt Bates, Pete Siegel



The 43<sup>rd</sup> ECS's emblem is the bat and the squadron's primary mission is support to the Pacific area. Our bunch of Chinese linguists had fun comparing notes with the squadron's linguists. Our Basic Mandarin course was 34 weeks. The current Basic

Mandarin course at the DLI Foreign Language Center is 64 weeks. When the unclassified unit briefing ended, we were surprised with a gift of the bright red unit T-shirts the crew members wear. Ray Bernard, one of the younger SOB members presented Lt Col Lance Benson, 43 ECS commander with a 6988<sup>th</sup> bat patch. Lt Col Benson reciprocated and gave Ray a 43<sup>rd</sup> bat patch. The squadron is under the 55<sup>th</sup> Electronic Combat Group which is part of the 25<sup>th</sup> Air Force's 55<sup>th</sup> Wing at Offutt. Lots of potential FTVA members since they are part of us. Ed Truelson was the first Det 2, Hq EST, commander at D-M when the COMPASS CALL program was starting.



43<sup>rd</sup> ECS briefing room – U/I 43<sup>rd</sup> member, Jim Gooding, John Guiliano (doing head slap), Bob Lewin, Ed Truelson.

We went to the flight line and toured the EC-130H. The crew explained how their positions worked and the role each had in the mission. The cockpit was quite similar to our C-130B cockpit. The instruments were still dials and gauges, no “glass cockpit” yet. The navigator station is more modern and they have only one navigator station. One capability they have that we did not is aerial refueling.

(Right) Lt Col Lance Benson and Bat Five Ray Bernard swap patches



We reluctantly departed the squadron for the Pima Aerospace Museum and our tour of the Boneyard. The 309<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Maintenance and Recovery and Regeneration Group (AMARG) is an Air Material Command Unit. Airplanes, helicopters, and missiles are stored and destroyed here. It is a source of spare parts for our B-52 fleet. F-4s were, and now F-16s are refurbished as target drones for Air Force and Navy pilots.

(Right) Don Baker & his uncle, Tom Duddleston, A WW II vet, in front of the EC-130H.



Galen Pratt, Jim Gooding and Pete Siegel in background.



A mummified C-130 in the boneyard

The Pima Air & Space Museum, <http://www.pimaair.org/> , has over 300 aircraft from a Wright Flyer to a Boeing Dreamliner.



We had lunch at their Flight Grill before wandering around the museum. (The grill makes a great grilled pastrami on marbled rye bread.)

Norma Bissett, Ken Bissett, Ed Truelson, Denny Stillway



(left) On Friday evening we gathered at Zinburger, a wine & burger bar near the hotel. We hoisted our glasses, toasted departed comrades,

and shared stories.

Above L-R: Tom Hardy, Meredith Dunn, Jean Gooding, Jim Gooding, Ed Truelson, Martha Cusick, Walt Bates,

The Bat Cave hospitality suite was a popular gathering place, especially with the NCAA “Big Dance” starting. I don’t have a picture of Sparky Rogers regaling us with the true story of the famous Naha Incident, but here’s another photo of him wearing his famous shirt and an official Det 1, 6988<sup>th</sup> cap.



L-R  
Jerry Wilson,  
Dane Zeller,  
Denny Stillway,  
Galen Pratt,  
Jack Poulson.

We had a great gathering. There were some who had not seen each other since they left Yokota almost 50 years ago. The next big gathering will be in 2018 and Washington, DC is the target area when the Bats will fly again.

### Annual Fall Of Saigon Party (FOSP)

April 27 – May 1, 2016

Submitted by Randy Seitter

### Philadelphia, PA



First, apologies if I get a few items mixed up and names also. But, another FOSP come and

gone. And thanks to the Crowne Plaza Hotel Trevese for all their help and the hospitality suite! Please stay there if you're in the area!

**Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** – The first FOSPer's arrived. I know it was Dom Domyancic, Ben Johnson and maybe RT Wood. Had a beer with them at the bar and then off to complete the arrangements and shopping.



FOSP 2016 - Bottom row sitting L – R: Larry Miller, Bud “Rosie” Rosenstrom, Terry “Spider” Neiles and Bob Finch. Next row starting with green coat, Mick Cole, Bob “RT” Wood, Ray Simmons, Dino Rovito and Bob Klobucar. Third row with olive green jacket, Bill Healy, Randy Seitter (me) and Lowell Cook. Back row – Kent Hixson, Dean Brown, Ben Johnson, Ed Evans, Gary Koehn and Dave “Dom” Domyancic! //Randy Seitter//

**Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** – Went down a little early to set up the hospitality suite. They were gracious enough to move out the bed and put in more chairs. Many started showing up by then. The drinks started flowing and the stories came a flying. Don't believe there was any embellishment to the war stories. Do recall something about 400+ crew members in the "Pig in the Mud" and the refueling boom through the cockpit. Other than that, smooth evening. Some left to do dinner and came back. Wound up around 11:00 or so.

**Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>** – Very nice 59 passenger bus picked us up for our day trip to Philly. Almost everyone in attendance except Jimmy Herbert and Dave Ryan. First stop was Independence Hall and the Mall. Our tour guide was very thorough and knowledgeable. Seemed to be related to almost everyone in Philadelphia's past and present. Really entertaining. A little rain in the morning didn't dampen the spirit. And some real troopers in our group that couldn't move all that well but, kept up none the less for most of the day. Saw the Liberty Bell and some nice stories about it and its "sister" bell (that DIDN'T crack and is still in use today, Villanova? CRS.) Then off to the Reading Terminal Market for lunch. Very interesting place. A market that dates back almost as old as Philly itself. With almost any/every type of food, meat, vegetable, etc. Ick, my wife and I did Dini's pulled pork sandwiches. Delicioso! And of course had to top off lunch with Bassett's Ice Cream while others ate at various other places in the Market. Saw a few stop at Termini's Bakery for some baked goods and cannolis. Resumed our bus trip and made a stop at the Art Museum (built on an old water reservoir!) And that was the earlier picture sent out with us posing on the "Rocky Steps". A few did the run to the top. Most just sauntered and the rest stayed at the bottom. Back in the bus and drove around while seeing Elfreth's Alley (oldest street in the US).



(Left)

Next stop was the Philadelphia Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. There we all got out and paid tribute to our fallen brothers and honorary Doggers. Back on the bus for a final stop at Christ's Church.

<http://www.christchurchphila.org/>.

Truly outstanding and I believe the highlight for many. Over 320 years of history and the docent was extremely knowledgeable! Finally, back to the hotel. Invited everyone over for hoagies to our house. Had about 15 takers. Many exhausted and stayed back at the hotel.

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – Free day for anyone to do what the pleased. Some did shopping, some Valley Forge and others presumably did nothing. Restocked the hospitality suite as necessary and reopened for business around noon. Many came in and out, more stories, more embellishments and general discussion about almost anything. Headed out around 4:30 to get ready for the banquet. Most arrived between 6:30 and 7:00 meeting at the bar for a few drinks.



Independence Hall

Our Banquet was at the Buck Hotel. (Thought I did a pretty good job with the menu.) Had chicken francais, salmon and carved beef. Along with roasted red skin potatoes and the vegetable of the day (green beans and carrots.) A few choices for desert and then on with the festivities. Larry Miller and Rosie gave out Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative pins. And somehow, someway, they were also able to get their hands on a few more bricks from the Hanoi Hilton. This year's recipients were Mick Cole, Ray Simmons, Gary Koehn and yours truly. WHAT A SURPRISE and HONOR to be acknowledged and given one of these special brick (and only a one termer Tac Op)!



(Left)

Walter "Rosie" Rosenstrom presenting one of the four "Hanoi Hilton" bricks to Randy Seitter, host of this year's event.

(Right)  
Rosie awarding Joe Turney with  
his Vietnam War Commemoration  
pin.



A few more drinks and then the vote for next year. Came down to Seattle (hosted by Joel Ware and Larry Knipshield), San Angelo (not sure who was volunteering for that one) and the winner is . . . . . LAS VEGAS. Joe Turney volunteered to take the helm. Hopefully we can get a few that are there to be the point man/men/women for next year's reunion. If you want to help and volunteer, let us know! Left the Buck around 10:30 and some back to the hospitality suite. I did not return having a few adult beverages already. Understand broke up around midnight.

**Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** – many packing their bags and heading out. Saw Mick Cole pass by my house on his motorcycle heading home up Street Road in the pouring rain. God bless him! About 15 of us did breakfast at the Suburban Diner. Good place, great breakfast and a Bucks County institution. Spent many a late night after club/drinking hours having their omelets! Said our goodbyes there and back to clean out the hospitality suite. Saw a few more and said our goodbyes. All over about 11:00 A.M.

Well, that's the wrap up and PMFR from my perspective. REALLY encourage you to attend ONE of the upcoming reunions. Great time, great camaraderie and a good time for all. Ask Kent Hixson, believe it was his first after all these years. Everyone welcomes you! Hope to see you next year! And also, watch for notices about the Combat Apple 50<sup>th</sup> coming up next September 2017 in Rockwall, TX.

Enjoyed my time hosting, Regards, Randy Tac Air Op 405! See if I can get these right, coming from memory (CRS & CRAFT)!

**FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION**  
**P.O. BOX 691616**  
**San Antonio, TX 78269**  
**1 May 2016**



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**(IMO Maj Gen Paul Martin)  
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Ken and Hide Lantz (IHO CMSgt (Ret) Larry Mills)  
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Tennant and Col Grover McMakin)**



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William Lantz (IHO CMSgt (Ret) Larry Mills and  
IMO SMSgt Robert W. Lantz)  
Robert Quinn (IMO CMSgt (Ret) Ken “Hopi” Hopkins)  
Bob & Debbie Cope  
(IMO of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)**

\*//Platinum Partner \$2,500 +//Gold Partner \$ 1,000 - \$2,499//// Silver Partner  
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### 6918 SS Hakata, Japan Luncheon

March 2, 2016 at Logan’s Roadhouse, San Antonio.

John Lieberman came in to San Antonio for a family visit and asked if we could get the Hakata Bunch together for lunch. It worked out well and we enjoyed a mini-reunion at the I-10W Logan’s Roadhouse.



L-R: Dave Naab, Gil Cadena, Paul Culp, Rod Teuscher, Dennis Rassmussen, Ken Belcher, John Lieberman (with Jacket), Bob Hale and Billy Mayo.



(L-R Left Side: J. Lieberman, D. Naab, Rass, K. Belcher, G. Cadena (L-R) Right Side: R. Teuscher, P. Culp, B. Mayo, R. Hale

(Right) Bill Francis was visiting San Antonio from his home in New Hampshire when he heard of our little get together and came by at the last minute to reminisce with us.



Bill Francis      Billy Mayo      Bob Hale

### Fredericksburg, TX Mini Roll Call Lunch April 30, 2016



Top, left to right: Pat Otis, Terry Cullivan, Pete Chamlee, Dennis Rassmussen, Ken Gendolfe, Bob Askew, Charlie Millsap, Kerry Sandstrom, Tom Nurre, and Tex Wright. Seated l-r: Jim Stephens, Jim Cox, Tom Echols, Jim Kaus, Jay Emmer, Dave Shephard, and Ron Weaver. Kneeling: J J Graham

On Saturday April 30, 2016, a group of mostly USAFSS Roll Call Pioneers gathered for lunch at Catfish Haven in Fredericksburg, TX to catch up on the “goings on” and help Jim and Alice Kaus enjoy their “retirement excursion” around the great South Central U.S. The couple touched base with long-time friends from Ruston, Louisiana to Springdale & Hot Springs, Arkansas, and Elkhart, Fredericksburg and Houston, TX. Gee, Jay Emmer and Terry Cullivan even came all the way down from the Illinois/Missouri border for this event. Next big Roll Call reunion is set for the end of September to coincide with the FTVA annual get together in San Antonio.

Many thanks to Bob Askew (On left in Photo) who was the man behind organizing and arranging this Mini-Reunion. //RIT Staff Compilation//



Bob Askew with Patrick Otis

Fredericksburg Mini-Maxi Out-Takes



Left (L-R)  
Charlie Millsap  
Pete Chamlee  
Jim Cox  
Bob Askew  
JJ Graham

Right (L-R)  
Jay Emmer  
Terry Cullivan  
Vi Stephens  
(Standing) Tex Wright



Left L-R Front:  
Ken & Carole Gendolfe  
Alice Kaus  
Standing:  
JJ Graham  
Bob Askew  
Jim Kaus

Right (L-R)  
Ron & Kay Weaver  
Pete & Linda Chamlee



Fredericksburg Mini-Maxi Out-Takes (cont'd)



Tom Echols would have missed the Fredericksburg Mini unless someone brought him because of his recent knee surgery. His friend Rob Riley, (pictured with him here) thoughtfully brought him and supped with us. He is a USAF guy, but not USAFSS so we had to be

careful how we behaved in front of him. He told me he enjoyed getting together with us and meeting some old-timer USAFSS'ers. //Bob Askew//



L-R Standing: Linda Gail Chamlee; Kay Weaver; Kitty Nurre; Carole Gendolfe.

Sitting: Violet Stephens; Lisa Millsap; Alice Kaus; Patsy Wright; Norma Shepherd // photo by Tex Wright//

(Pat and Norma got the giggles, just like a couple of teenagers).

### Sunshine Boys Get Together in Destin, Florida

Posted by Jim Kaus



(L-R) BJ Cook, Mike Miller, Larry Tart, Jim Kaus, Walt McGee

The wives enjoyed the visit too. Walt and Maria were as cordial as ever, fun to be around. Alice was with me as usual. Larry's health is vastly improved. Dianne was with him. He hopes to be in San Antonio at the Roll Call reunion this year.



Mike is having trouble with an arthritic foot, Vicki was there. BJ is

doing fine. His speech is really improved and he said he is going to take some kind of treatment for his failing eyesight. Tomi was wonderful.

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**Leif Ericson, the famous Viking explorer, returned home from a long voyage only to find his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official who apologized profusely saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."**

**"94 IS Heritage Day Group"**  
Submitted by Rick Yeh

The 3rd Annual Heritage Day for the **Veterans of the 6994th and Families** was held on **May 11th**, and even though the activities were on a much smaller scale in comparison to the inaugural Heritage Day, the appreciation for our veterans' service is not. A few important notes about this year's Heritage day: Just like last year, this was a one-day event, and took place entirely outside of the NSA Campus. The day began with a wreath laying ceremony at Arlington Cemetery at the Baron 52 gravesite (# 4402) at 1000 hrs. After the formal event finished, we adjourned and met at the American Legion in Severn for a pot luck luncheon. The same venue as last time with good food and service.

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**HISTORY & MEMORIES**



While this subject has been discussed many times over the years, here is a Stars and Stripes article that is worth reading and pondering.

No matter what the government's stance was over the years, since the day that Baron 52 was lost I have believed that the truth was denied and judgments were made too quickly based on circumstantial evidence. The Matejov family has been seeking to reverse the decision of KIA to MIA for Joe for over 43 years now. Let's see what you think after you have read the article.

//Tom Penn Apr 11, 2016//

<http://www.stripes.com/news/us/vietnam-war-airman-s-death-re-examined-after-decades-of-controversy-1.402908>

**Elmendorf FLR-9 Decommissioning Ceremony**  
(Follow-up to article in RIT March 2016 issue pp 40 – 41)

The following message was sent to FTVA President Ron Haygood recently. He then received a formal invitation to the Elmendorf FLR-9 Deactivation Ceremony on May 25, 2016 and, as of this printing, plans to attend. A full report of his visit and FTVA's possible involvement will appear in the History and Memories section of our September issue.  
//Editor//

*Sent: Wed, Feb 17, 2016 2:15 pm*

*Subject: Last US FLR-9...historical preservation effort*

*Mr. Ron Haygood,  
President, Freedom Through Vigilance Association*

*Col Suzy Streeter here, currently the commander at the 373 ISR Group, which moved from Japan to Alaska last summer (the old 6981st, now 381st is one of my squadrons). We'll be de-commissioning the last US-based FLR-9 this May and are pursuing efforts to preserve it as a historical site vs. turning it a soccer field. As far as we can tell there are no longer any functioning US-based FLR-9s... a bunch of them have been either torn down or turned into other buildings.*

*However, as part of our effort, we need to have some kind of non-profit organization sponsorship to assist with tour days (will need to be open to the public at least 5 days a year) and to assist with upkeep fund-raising. During his recent visit here Maj Gen Shwedo mentioned that you were now the president of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association. I noticed you don't have a chapter here but I'm hoping the FTVA can point us in the right direction/help get the word out/etc.*

*I've cc'd Capt. Chris Arnold, who's heading up both the de-commissioning ceremony (we'd love for you to be there!) and the preservation efforts.*

*v/r Suzy*

*//SIGNED//*

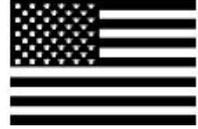
*SUZANNE M. STREETER, Col, USAF*

*Commander*

*373 ISRG and Alaska Mission Operations Center*



**MEMORIALS**



**The FTVA gratefully acknowledges the following bequests, generously donated “in memory of” (IMO):**

**Bob & Debbie Cope (IMO of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)  
Richard Hain IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant  
Ronald Hentz IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant and  
IMO Col Grover McMakin**

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**FALLEN EAGLES**



**We have learned of the following losses from caring relatives, friends or obituaries and we 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.” D. MacArthur**

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor

- Alaniz, Jose R., USAFSS
- Arp, Merl, USAFSS
- Bedingfield, Jerry, R., Col (ret), USAF
- Boatright, Barbara, Civilian, USAF
- Boston, Keith, D., USAFSS
- Boughner, Barry L., USAFSS, *FTVA Member* \*\*\*
- Bowers, Joel, USAF

Burney, Lange, W., USAFSS  
 Chase, Arthur O., SMSgt (ret), USAF  
 Clark, Lloyd C., USAF  
 DeRousse, Seguin L., SMSgt (ret), USAF, *FTVA Member* \*\*\*  
 Dooley, Horace M., MSgt (ret), USAF  
 Edwards, Robert Lee, USAFSS  
 Fiveash, Kenneth L., USAF  
 Gilbert, Reginald USAF, *FTVA Member* \*\*\*  
 Hampton, Lewis "Lew" Allen, USAFSS  
 Hansen, Rodney S., USAFSS  
 Hartman, Randy, USAFSS  
 Jones, Mark S., MSgt (ret), USAF *FTVA Member* \*\*\*  
 Joyce, John P., Colonel (ret), USAF *FTVA Member* \*\*\*  
 Judy, Berlin G., MSgt (ret), USAFSS  
 Knudson, Dennis E., USAF  
 Lamoureux, Larry S., Civilian, USAF  
 Lawson, Chris E. Jr., USAF  
 Lundberg, David Charles Sr., USAF  
 McKenney, William L., CMSgt (ret), USAF  
 Medina, Joe L., MSgt (ret), USAF  
 Norris, Julie Patrice, USAF  
 Perches, Manuel J., Civilian, USAF  
 Peters, Danette R., CMSgt (ret), USAF  
 Reynolds, Richard Dennis, USAF *FTVA Member* \*\*\*  
 Scarff, James P., Colonel (ret), USAF  
 Schuncke, John L., SMSgt (ret), USAF  
 Soboul, Joseph Thomas, MSgt (ret), USAF *FTVA Member* \*\*\*  
 Sommers, Gordon W., Civilian, USAF *FTVA Hall of Honor* \*\*\*  
 Stanko, Charlie "Chuck", USAF  
 Tennant, Thomas H., CMSgt (ret), USAF *FTVA Hall of Honor* \*\*\*  
 Westbrook, Charles Douglas, USAF



**Alaniz, Jose R.**, 79, passed away 5 Mar 2016. Joining the Air Force immediately after graduating from High School, he became an intelligence officer in the late 1950s, working as a cryptographer with top secret information in Turkey, Germany, and other European countries. He was honorably discharged in 1959. //Obit – Porter Loring Mortuary//



**Arp, Merl 85**, died on 23 Mar 2016. He served in the USAF where he began his study of foreign languages. After separating from the Air Force he went on to a career as a U.S. diplomat. His overseas postings included Canada, Kenya, Nigeria, Sweden, the Philippines and Germany. He is survived by his wife, Jean; and children Erin, Kristin, and Heidi. //Obit –

**Washington Post**// Merl served with the U.S. Air Force in Bremerhaven, Germany on "Charlie" flight from 1952-55. //www.6913th.org//

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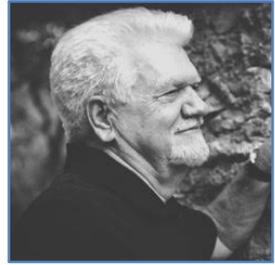


**Bedingfield, Jerry R., Colonel (ret)**, 75, died 14 Feb 2016. February 14, 2016. Jerry is a Viet Nam veteran who began his career in the United States Air Force in 1961. During his 31 years of service, he received many commendations, including

the Legion of Merit/1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Medal/9 Oak Leaf Clusters. Jerry began his career as an enlisted man and entered the Aviation Cadet Program, earning his wings in 1961. He served as navigator aboard multiple aircraft during Viet Nam, flying more than 200 combat missions, before transitioning into Electronic Security. He served with distinction in multiple leadership roles and has served as a mentor to many.

After retirement, Jerry worked as a substitute teacher at Locke Hill Elementary School. He was a gifted artist, carpenter, composer, and musician, and he spent many hours crafting beautiful treasures and serenading his family. He was a clever, mischievous wit who read voraciously and loved to travel and delve into the genealogy of his family. He was constantly planning and preparing for his family, both his biological and chosen, and had a knack for picking just the right gift or project. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine Panek Bedingfield, his daughters Kelly Bedingfield Robles and Nancy Bedingfield, and his son Steven Bedingfield. //Obit – San Antonio Express//

Last week we lost a hero. Our husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend, has gone home to Heaven. Our loss is devastating but we know that God is good and has us in the palm of His hand. While we mourn our loss, we celebrate his life - the love, the laughs and the lessons he left in our hearts and minds. //Lorraine Bedingfield//



Jim McLendon just called saying Jerry passed away this morning at his son's home in Irving, TX, (altho Jim lived in Shavano Woods) from a heart attack...He was DCS/DO at the HQ in the late 1980s and was Chicksands CC IIRC....SAC RC-135 Nav before coming to ESC.... //Bob Cope//

While all such messages are sad, this one is especially so for me. RIP, sir. //Ken Maynard//

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**Boatright, Barbara, 74,** passed away 16 Apr 2016. She worked in security services at what was then Kelly AFB before joining the San Antonio Express-News as a features section editorial assistant in 1997. //Obit – San Antonio Express//

She worked for the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center. //Bill Sims//

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**Boston, Keith D., 76,** passed away 10 Dec 2015. Thursday, December 10, 2015. He enlisted in the US Air Force and was a 292 at Hakata during his 1959-1961 assignment. He is survived by his wife Annette; children Deronda, Danette, and Cecilia. //Obit – Mowery Funeral Service// //Notified Carol Farr//



**Boughner, Barry Lee**, 76, passed away October 22, 2015. A proud “Silent Warrior”, Barry joined the Air Force on March 17, 1958. After completing the Morse Intercept Operator Course, he served as a Morse Systems Operator and supervisor within the Air Force Security Service. Barry served tours of duty in Okinawa, Japan; Kelly AFB, TX; Alaska; Key West; Crete; Taiwan; Germany; Italy; England; and Richenbacker AFB, OH. He flew 128 combat missions, including as an Airborne Mission

Supervisor, in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. Barry retired from the Air Force in 1980. After retirement Barry became an insurance agent and established BOUGHNER INSURANCE SERVICE. He was also an active member of THE GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL organization and a member of AF Sergeants Association and FTVA. Barry passed after a 5-year battle with peripheral neuropathy, diabetes II, and Sjogrens syndrome. He enjoyed reading the FTVA newsletter and reminiscing about his friends and experiences. The poem “Silent Warrior” was read at his funeral service. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Eileen; his son, Shawn Lee and his daughter, Pamela Marie. //Obit – [www.legacy.com/](http://www.legacy.com/) //Notified Eileen Boughner//

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**Bowers, Joel**, 71, died 2 Mar 2016. He served 8 years in the Security Service during the Viet Nam war. His duty took him to England, Germany, Japan and the Philippines. Realizing the military was a difficult life for a family, he halted his military career in 1971. Joel leaves behind his wife of 45 years, Carol, and sons David and Tim Bowers. //Obit – [www.legacy.com/](http://www.legacy.com/)

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**Burney, Lange W.**, 85, passed away 3 Jan 2016. His college days were interrupted by the Korean War and he served four years in the United States Air Force Security Service, mostly in Germany, before returning to school in 1955 under the veteran’s “G.I. Bill” program. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1957. He is survived by his wife Marilyn. //Obit –

[www.obitsforlife.com/](http://www.obitsforlife.com/)



**Chase, Arthur O., SMSgt (ret), 73, passed away 21 Jan 2016. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//**

Art was an Airborne Signals Intercept Processor/Operator (294XX). He retired out of the 6949th Security Squadron at Offutt A great guy. RIP.

**//Pete Ogaard//**

I remember Art as a gentle and kind friend. Stationed in Okinawa in 79/80 we rented a house with another friend and had many good times there. Will miss him greatly, my good friend. **//David Williams//**

I remember Art as a gentleman. Always. We met during our tour in Berlin in the latter part of the 1960s. May he rest in peace. **//Tim Snook//**

I knew Art as a subordinate in his duty section. He was always fair and took joy in training those new to his section and those of us too dumb to get it on the first try. He was a wealth of information and knew his job. He was a mentor and a friend. **//Billy Tolbert//**

I remember Art well from out time together in the Air Force as well as after retirement when we built decks together. Art was a meticulous craftsman and everything had to be just right. I always remember that Art was the slowest eater, said you had to chew each bite 50 times. Rest in peace, brother. **//Raymond Kantola//**

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**Clark, Lloyd C., 75, passed away 6 Apr 2015. He attained Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force with special training in intelligence operations and was honorably discharged on November 26, 1968. He is survived by his two daughters, Kim and Julie; and stepson Richard.**

**//Obit – [www.legacy.com/](http://www.legacy.com/)//**

Lloyd was a 292 at Hakata during his 1963-1965 assignment. **//Carol Farr//**



**DeRousse, Seguin “Skip” Lee, SMSgt (ret)**, 74, passed 10 Apr 2016. Being a child of a military family, his childhood was spent in many countries overseas. After joining the USAF, he studied French, German, and Russian at Syracuse University and Community College of the Air Force earning his associate degrees in interpreting and translating and communications processing management. He studied Vietnamese in Washington D. C. later in life. He served in the U.S. Air Force Security Service as a cryptology linguist and a linguist interrogator tech. He was awarded many medals, commemorations, and awards during his career. He retired at the rank of Senior Master Sergeant with 22 years of service to his country. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Niece; daughter Danielle; daughter Laurel; and son, Wade Lee DeRousse. //Notified Mrs. Niece DeRousse//

*Following representative of the many testimonials posted IMO Skip DeRousse:*

### **Tribute to My Friend Skip “DeRousse by Larry Tart 11 April 2016**

The year was 1969, but it seems like only yesterday — Sequin L. “Skip” DeRousse arrived at Rhein-Main accompanied by his young son Tommy. A single parent at the time, Skip and Tommy moved into on-base quarters in Gateway Gardens, and he worked for me in the Sham Shop. We (the 6916th SS) had just assumed mission coverage in the West Mediterranean, precipitating the assignment of Skip and 3-4 other French linguists to the squadron. Robert “Frenchy” Demers, who was already assigned, PCS’d to USAFSS/DOR about a year later, and Skip became the “Head Frog” in the squadron. When not flying — two missions with an overnight RON at Rota, Spain, weekly — Skip worked the day shift as our NCOIC in Ops Comm, which was an analysis function manned 24/7 primarily by what we called our ‘exotic’ shred-outs: (AL/BU/DA/HU/YO//FR, etc). Skip could make the teletype keys on an Ops Comm terminal ‘hum,’ and I credit him with using an off-line Ops Comm terminal to automate the updating and printing of our airborne AOB flimsies on water-soluble paper. Ultimately, he (with collusion from our own ‘Horrible Horace Bissett’ and Gary Hizer) developed the *BLUE AOB Database* that we hosted on a bootleg basis on the main frame computer at ESR/Frankfurt, and Skip insured that our Ops Comm mid-shift updated relevant water-soluble AOB pages and prepped airborne flimsies for the next day’s mission(s) — one of the magnitude of tasks that Skip completed so effectively and efficiently during his distinguished AF career. What a great organizer he was — be it leading the way and making things happen on duty or rallying fellow 6916th troops who lived in Gateway Gardens for an impromptu off-duty party in someone’s quarters, Skip was always engaged and producing superb results. He worked hard and played hard. Soon during that tour at Rhein-Main, he and little son Tommy were smitten by a DoD school teacher, Niece, who became Mrs. DeRousse (Tommy’s step-mom), and the rest is history! We have lost Skip all too soon - you will be missed, My Friend. RIP!



**Dooley, Horace M., MSgt (ret)**, 85, passed away 22 Mar 2016. He was a retired Master Sergeant in the USAF with over 20 years of military service, and was retired after twenty-three years of service as a Passport Clerk with the USPS in Gainesville, Georgia. Survivors include his wife, Edith Pritchett; daughter, Bina; sons, Victor, and Vincent.

Tom was a 292 at Hakata during his 1966-1969 assignment. //Carol Farr//  
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**Edwards, Robert Lee** passed away 30 Jan 2016. He joined the USAF in 1969 to serve in the Viet Nam war. Ultimately, he was stationed on Okinawa where he worked as an Airborne Voice Intercept Processing Specialist. His assignment took him to Viet Nam several times, where his exposure to

Agent Orange played a major role in the cause of his death. Robert moved his family to Winnemucca, NV in March of 1976 to escape the chaos of big city life. Here he was able to heal the emotional wounds of Viet Nam and raise his children in open space and desert beauty. He is survived by his wife Rae and children Broc and Moll. //Obit – News 4 Nevada//

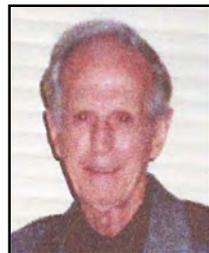
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**Fiveash, Kenneth L.** passed away 26 Jun 2015. Ken proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1969-1973 and then in the United States Army from 1979-1985 when he was honorably discharged//Obit-Books of Memories//

Ken was a 292 at Hakata during his 1969-71 assignment. //Carol Farr//

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**Gilbert, Reginald**, 93, passed away 10 Jan 2016. With World War Two imminent, Reg joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1942 and later the U.S. Army Air Corps, eventually fighting in the North African, Italian, and Romanian theaters. After two years of demobilization, Reg joined the newly formed USAF fighting in the Korean War, and Vietnam, retiring from the military in 1972. //Obit - [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com/)//



**Hampton, Lewis "Lew" Allen**, passed away 30 Dec 2015. In 1947, Lew intended to register for the draft, but while walking past the Air Force recruiting office, he enlisted there. That decision led to a successful Air Force career taking him all over the world. Lew's most important assignment was in Ipswich, England where he met his wife, Betty. They moved many times, both domestically and internationally, finally retiring in 1968. He is survived by his wife, Betty; his son,

David; his daughters, Teresa and Julie. //Obit – **The Columbian**//

Lew was a 202 at Hakata during his 1960-1963 assignment. //Carol Farr//

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**Hansen, Rodney S.**, 70, passed away 15 Mar 2016. He joined the AF in 1964, serving during the Vietnam War as a Chinese linguist. While stationed in San Angelo, Texas, he met his wife and best friend of 49 years, Sharon E. (Martin) Hansen. The two were married on June 30, 1967, and were relocated to Taiwan where they were stationed for the next year and a half. Rodney is survived by his wife, Sharon, his

daughter, Shealu, and his son Rodney. //Obit – **Farwell Funeral**//

Rod was a great combination of brains, cool, and passion. He made many friends among his Air Force colleagues. I knew Rod as a fellow student at Monterey studying Mandarin, as a fun-loving young adult in San Angelo, Texas, learning how to operate radio equipment and as a model representative of Americans overseas. //Michael Lester//

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**Hartman, Randy.**, 65, passed away 23 Nov 2015. Randy joined the USAF during the Vietnam War Era serving for 7 years. Randy became an accomplished Morse Systems Supervisor, ultimately achieving E-5 status in USAFSS. He served in Japan, the Philippines and in Texas. Randy worked for Rexus Landscape Service before his 31-year career with the United States Postal Service, retiring in 2009. Randy is survived by his mother, Jeannie Hartman. Also by his wife of 30

years, Marie. //Obit – **The Register Guard**//

Randy was a 292 at Hakata during his 1971-1972 assignment. //Carol Farr//

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**Jones, Mark, MSgt (ret), 67, died 8 Feb 2016.** A retired veteran of the USAF, died peacefully in his Orlando, FL home on February 8, 2016. Born in Ashtabula, OH on the Fourth of July, 1948, MSJ joined the military to see the world. He served around the Pacific Rim and specialized as a cryptologic linguist. In 1971, he married in Okinawa, Japan. Predeceased by his parents Dorothy and Crawford

Jones of Ashtabula, OH and survived by his wife Yoshiko and daughter Erika, Instead of flowers, please consider making a donation to [The Leukemia And Lymphoma Society](#) . //Obit – Orlando Sentinel//

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**Colonel (Ret) John P. Joyce, 90, died peacefully on Feb 28 in Corpus Christi, TX.** Col. Joyce led a life dedicated to the defense and security of United States. He was a pillar of the Corpus Christi and Padre Island business and philanthropic communities. He was born in Washoe, Montana on

March 13, 1925 and graduated from the Montana School of Mines and from numerous advanced military programs.

The Colonel’s wife of 61 years, Helen (Naylon) Joyce, was his partner and best friend. He and Helen joined the earliest owners at the Island House Condominiums on Padre Island and were long-time members of the St. Andrew by the Sea Catholic Church. His illustrious career began in World War II in the Navy with a passion for military security and radar operations. After World War II he joined the Air Force and served posts ranging from Arabia, Vietnam, Korea, Hawaii and Germany. In the U.S., the Colonel’s work ranged from Alaska to Washington, D.C. to Texas. In the course of his career, Col. Joyce worked with diplomats like Henry Kissinger, represented the U.S. in international diplomatic talks in Berlin.

//Cage-Mills Funeral Directors, Corpus Christi, TX.//

Col Joyce was a "Skivvy Nine" Commander who espoused the attitude of..."Work hard and play hard!".... May he RIP and enjoy his "Birds" (two live roosters) that were presented to him by me at his "Bird Colonel" promotion party at Osan in '71. //Randy Roby, 202 (JSPC Okinawa & Skivvy Nine) 68 – 71//

A true American Hero is now serving the Lord! Colonel Joyce’s direct actions, during his storied military career, is the reason our America is strong and vibrant today. Since meeting “The Colonel” in 2008 I have to serve America and my fellow man by his example. //Marcus Smoot//

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**Judy, Berlin Garlin Jr.**, MSgt (ret), 82, died 29 March 2015. He was a proud veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts, retiring as a Master Sergeant with the United States Air Force. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Carol Arbogast Judy; four sons, Robert, Steven, Timothy, and Brian. //Obit – Hastings Funeral Home//

Berlin was a 363 at Hakata during his 1964-1967 assignment. //Carol Farr//

I thank you for your service and my Freedom. You will not be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with the family of US Air Force Korea-Vietnam Veteran, MSgt. Berlin Garlin Judy, “A True American Hero” //Cheryl Skinner//

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**Knudson, Dennis Eldo**, age 78, passed away 6 Dec 2015. He served in the United States Air Force from 1956-1960. He honorably served as a first class airman, specializing in code communication and as a radio operator. //Obit - Horan & McConaty//

Denny was a 292 at Hakata during his 1958-1959 assignment. //Carol Farr//



**Lamoureux, Larry S.**, 62, passed away 4 Mar 2016. Larry enjoyed a successful 27-year career at Kelly AFB Security Hill. He is survived by his wife Irma.

Larry provided added dedicated service to the United States Air Force with his civil service time. He was a Top Secret radar analysis engineer in electronic warfare but we really didn't know what all of that

meant. // son - **Buzz Lamoureux**//

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**Lawson, Chris E. Jr.**, 77, passed away 8 Feb 2016. He was a veteran of the USAF and served as a Chinese Linguist. He was the beloved husband of Kathleen M. (Silvia) Lawson. He was the father of Scott and Christy; stepfather of Nathan and Nicole. //Urquhart - **Murphy Funeral Home**//

Hearing of Chris' passing is sad news. I did not know Chris personally when I served with him in the Air Force in Taiwan, but came to know him as part of a reunion project for veterans that served in Taiwan. Chris was a true gentleman and counselor. He gave me good advice and encouragement as we worked on forming our military alumni association. //Gary Knighton//

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**Lundberg, David Charles Sr.**, 80, died 18 Jan 2016. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Russian Area Studies from the University of Illinois. His career included service in the U.S. Air Force Security Service as a Russian linguist from 1956-1960, and later he worked with the NSA as an analyst. David is survived by his wife, Judith, his children Joyce, Victor, and David. //Obit – **Eline Funeral Home**//



**McKenney, William L., CMSgt (ret)**, 86, 25 Mar 2016. Bill enlisted into the United States Navy and served as an Aviation Electronics Technician. In 1956, Bill was honorably discharged from the US Navy and joined the United States Air Force. Upon being reassigned and serving a tour of duty with the United States Security Service, in Turkey, he returned to the continental US and Served as chief of the McGuire Air Force (NJ) base's PMEL. He retired in 1969. Bill is

survived by his wife Jan and three sons. //Obit – [www.legacy.com/](http://www.legacy.com/)//

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**Medina, Joe L., MSgt (ret)**, 72, passed away 4 Dec 2015. He is survived by his daughters Trish and Sherry. //Obit – **Arizona Republic**//

Thanks to him, I signed up to be a 208. Will be forever thankful that I did. Years later would meet up with him in Panama. Remember we were staying at El Continental and I believe he was the "Ops Super" during that deployment. //Ismael Salazar//

Sorry to hear this. Joe was a good man and I spent quite a bit of time on a couple of transcription crews with him in Panama. //Lee Anthony//

Joe was a true brother, and a hard working Airman. RIP Hermano. //Segundo Espinoza//

I met Joe Medina while I was enlisting at the AFEES (now MEPS) station in San Antonio. He was the individual who talked me into becoming a 208. Then I ran into him down at Howard AFB, Panama, during our deployment days. Very good man. //Juan Flores//

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**Norris, Julie Patrice**, 41, passed away 26 Dec 2015. After some college, she joined the Air Force and her 6 years of service as an Arabic linguist led her to the Gulf War in Iraq and the UK. She later filled various position in the medical field as an assistant. Survivors are husband,

Tim Norris; children, Sydney and Aiden. //Obit – **Obits For Life**//



**Perches, Manuel J.**, 89, died 10 Feb 2016. Jesse was a WWII Veteran. He was employed with Security Service at Kelly AFB when he retired in 1985. During his employment he spent 4.5 years in Germany. He is survived by his daughter Mary Alice LaRose. **//Dignity Memorial//**

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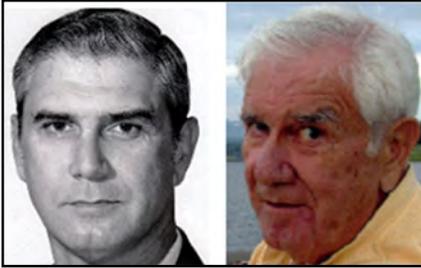
**Peters, Danette “Dani” R.**, CMSgt (ret), passed away 21 Jan 2016. Chief Peters initially enlisted in the Air Force in 1981 as a Russian linguist and later became a computer programmer in the early years of the Information/Internet Age. As a computer programmer, she helped the Air Force enter the 21st century with her work on various tactical, intelligence, space, and weather computer systems to include other information technologies for several major USAF commands and a field operating agency and was assigned throughout the United States and overseas. She served as an Air Force First Sergeant for seven years and deployed to Kuwait in 2003. She attained the highest AF enlisted rank, Chief Master Sergeant, and retired in March 2011 after over 30 years of service to her country. Survivors: With her mother are her sister, Georgette; brothers, Jeffrey, Timothy, and Gregory. **//Obit – Brubaker Funeral Home//**

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**Reynolds. Richard Dennis**, 80, died 15 Apr 2016. He was 20 years retired from the United States Air Force, serving during Korea and Vietnam. Survivors include, his wife, Connie; son, Zeus; and daughter, Kama. **//Obit – Bradshaw Funeral Homes//**

Richard was a wonderful young man, I knew him when he was in the Air Force, way back when. He had a wonderful family, I’m sure they will miss him, as we all will. R.I.P. dear Richard and God Bless You and your family. **//Sue Stephenson//**



**Scarff, James P. Scarff, Jr., Colonel (ret)**, 82, passed away 9 Mar 2016. While at WVU he met and married his life-long mate Susanne, from there they embarked on an exciting and rewarding thirty-year Air Force career. Following pilot training he was an active flyer in fixed-wing and helicopter

aircraft, then held staff officer and command positions with Strategic Air Command, Air Training Command, HQ USAF, the Pentagon, and Military Airlift Command. Following retirement in 1987, Col. Scarff served as Director of the Randolph AFB Retiree Activities Office for seventeen years and was a member of the Air Force Retiree Council for five years. He is survived by a son James and daughter Amy. **//Obit Dignity Memorial//**

I think that Jim Scarff worked in XP at HQ. **//Jim Youngson//**

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**Schuncke, John L., SMSgt (ret)**, 80, passed away on Sunday, April 10, 2016. John was a Chinese linguist at the 6988 Radio Squadron Mobile in 1963. A good friend of mine for these many years. His wife, Yoshie, passed away shortly after John's passing. **//Obit – Omaha.com// //Pete Ogaard//**

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**Soboul, Joseph Thomas, MSgt (ret)**, 85, passed 4 Apr 2014. He joined the Military and made it his career. He was in the Army for 1 year and then went into the U.S. Air Force for 25 years retiring at the rank of Master Sergeant. He was a decorated Veteran of WWII, Korea &

Vietnam. He also was a retired Youth Activities Director for The Department of Defense, McGuire AFB. He is survived by 3 sons Lawrence, LTC Randall A. Soboul (US Army Retired), and Joel. **//Obit – Lankenau Funeral Homes//**

Joe was a member of the Misawa AFB website for several years. We have noticed that he had not posted anything for some time and it was just brought to our attention that Joe passed away earlier this year. I always enjoyed Joe's posts. He was quite a source of information about things associated with Misawa AFB. He is missed by all of his cyber buddies, many of whom never had the chance to meet him but considered him a brother, nonetheless. //Jay Emmer Misawa AFB 1963-1965//

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**Stanko, Charlie "Chuck",** 68, passed away 12 Apr 2016. He was a Veteran of the Air Force, 6990th Security Squadron. He is survived by his wife Diedre and daughter Dennell. A very sad day for the Doggers. Charles "Chuck" Stanko, who served at the 6990th and at Cam Ranh Bay, passed away on April 12th. Until someone proves me wrong, I'll contend that Chuck was the funniest Dogger ever. If asked at FOSP, I will tell the story of the contentious relationship between a very

pregnant Ba Giap and Chuck. On her Facebook page (Deidre Stanko), his wife Dee just asked everyone to raise a glass in his memory. So we will! Spoke with Chuck about a month ago. He told me of his condition, but added that if it were at all possible, he would attend FOSP. I believe he was still there in spirit. //Larry Pat O'Brien Miller//

RIP Chuck! If I'm not mistaken, Chuck qualified me as R1 Cat 3 on the Apple. All around Good Guy //Richard Bini//

I believe Chuck was my first trainee. Will miss his humor and wit. RIP //Dave LeCorn//

Great guy. I served with him. Fond memories. //James Bomm//

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**Westbrook, Charles Douglas "Doug",** 81, died 27 March 2016. He served in the United States Air Force from 1952 to 1956 attending the Army Language School in Monterey, CA. He served as a Russian linguist while stationed in Sembach, Germany and later taught Russian at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio. He is survived by his four children. //Obit – Wacotrib.com//

*In Memory Of...*  
**CMSgt Thomas H. Tennant**



**Tennant, Thomas H. CMSgt USAF (Ret.)** Sep 2, 1930 - Mar 5, 2016 Survived by wife Margaret; children, Patricia (Mike) Burkhart, Penni (George) Tennant-Schumacher, Tom Tennant Jr., and Jean Price; brother Douglas Tennant; grandchildren, Daniel (Tracy) Burkhart, Brian Burkhart, Tim Burkhart, Patrick (Katherine) Price, and Griffin Price. Tom Tennant was a man of principle, humility, and loyalty. His incredible mind,

astounding memory and his personal and professional leadership will forever be his legacy. Tom was a man of values, he loved his family, honored and respected his Military brotherhood, and lived his life according to his most important virtue – Tom Tennant was a man of integrity. **Tom was a lifetime member of the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency's Freedom Through Vigilance Association and was inducted into its Hall of Honor in 1985 (photo right).**



He is survived by his wife Margaret; children Patricia (Mike) Burkhart, Penni (George) Tennant-Schumacher, Tom Tennant Jr., and Jean Price; brother Douglas Tennant; and five grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held at Bellevue Memorial Chapel on March 12, 2016 with full Military Honors by Offutt Air Force Base Honor Guard.

[http://www.omaha.com/obits/tennant-thomas-h-cmsgt-usaf-ret/article\\_dce00c44-af1f-5700-942d-383366cc3940.html](http://www.omaha.com/obits/tennant-thomas-h-cmsgt-usaf-ret/article_dce00c44-af1f-5700-942d-383366cc3940.html)

### TESTIMONIALS

*The following are offered as representative of the many testimonials posted IMO CMSgt Tennant:*

#### **A Dear Friend, CMSgt. Thomas H. Tennant**

I have tears in my eyes as I write this tribute to the most incredible Chief with whom I had the honor of serving in the Air Force. Born 2 Sept 1930, Chief Tennant (THT amongst his friends) enlisted in the AF on 5 Sept 1950. With a break in service, he retired in 1983 with 31 yrs & 29 days of active duty — 24 years on flying status, logging 7,500-plus recon flying

hours. CMSgt. Tennant was best known for his “computer mind” — for good reason — ask him about any event on his watch, and he would respond instantly with names, activities, and dates. At 85 years old, he might hesitate, telling you his memory is fading, but he would come forth with full details. That brilliant mind was only part of what made THT unique — it was his vast experience and the effective and efficient way he used his abilities to lead and manage resources that set him apart from contemporaries. Chief Tennant mentored thousands of airmen and officers during his career, and he had a hand in optimizing many strategic and tactical airborne ISR programs in use today.

In 1958, SSgt. Tennant began his flying career with Det 1, 6911th RGM, Rhein-Main AB, Germany, his first of eight airborne assignments. In the “kick-the-tires-and-fly” era when airborne intercept operators received no formal airborne training, SSgt. Tennant had a four-hour introduction to the C-130 ACRP during a flight crew training mission. Then, when he was scheduled as an AMS trainee — on his first mission — the Ops NCOIC (the scheduled AMS) took himself off the mission and designated SSgt. Tennant the AMS — his initiation into airborne recon!!! On 2 September 1958 (his 28th birthday), SSgt. Tennant lost 17 flying comrades when Soviet MiG-17 pilots shot down C-130 60528 over Armenia. That loss prompted the attention-to-detail that Chief Tennant paid to compliance with unit training and stan/eval procedures for the rest of his career.

In Nov ‘61, TSgt. Tennant became NCOIC of newly activated Det 1, 6916th RSM, Incirlik AB, Turkey. Promoted to MSgt., in December 1964 he became NCOIC of recently activated Det 1, 6940th SW, Offutt AFB — legacy unit of today’s 97th Intel Sqdn. Det 1, 6940th SW became the 6949th SS on 1 July 1965. MSgt. Tennant oversaw the start-up of 6949<sup>th</sup> airborne ops aboard SAC Big Team RC-135C Burning Pipe missions. Arriving as 6949<sup>th</sup> SS/CC in late ‘65, Major (later Maj. General) Doyle E. Larson and MSgt. Thomas H. Tennant formed a close professional bond that lasted until General Larson’s death in 2007.

MSgt. Tennant became Ops NCOIC, 6988<sup>th</sup> SS, Yokota AB, Japan, in 1966. He had the challenge of providing C-130 crews to fly two missions per day from Da Nang AB, Vietnam. Soon, Maj. Larson had a new mission for newly promoted SMSgt. Tennant. In 1967, Larson called on him to help activate the 6990th SS on Kadena AB, Okinawa, and Tennant played a major role in supporting RC-135M Combat Apple operations in SEA for three years. CMSgt. (selectee) Tennant returned to Europe as 6916<sup>th</sup> Ops NCOIC at Rhein-Main in 1970.

In 1973 when the RC-135C ELINT platforms were converted to RC-135V Rivet Joint ASRPs, USAFSS picked Chief Tennant as NCOIC of Ops, 6944<sup>th</sup> SW at Offutt, where he managed the RJ, Block I start-up and the MOB/FOB (main operating base/forward operating base) activities.

In 1975, Chief Tennant accepted an assignment as Ops NCOIC, 6908<sup>th</sup> SS, NKP, Thailand — his only non-flying assignment since 1958. When the 6908<sup>th</sup> closed down in June 1975, he relocated with the unit's Olympic Torch remote ground equipment to Ramasun Station, Thailand, where he brought the Torch ground station back on line before PCS'ing back to the 6944<sup>th</sup> SW at Offutt in Feb '76

Chief Tennant's third & final assignment at Offutt AFB (1976-83) was his most challenging, supporting extended RC-135 RJ coverage of the Nicaraguan civil war with an inadequate number of airborne Spanish linguists. He did such an outstanding job that the Spanish linguists adopted him as one of their own and honored him with a special tribute. When he retired in 1983, Chief Tennant had served as NCOIC of Ops or Ops Superintendent in each of the 97<sup>th</sup> IS heritage units at Offutt. He leaves behind his Scottish bride of 62 years, Margaret, three daughters, one son, and five grandsons. In a recent goodbye phone call, THE CHIEF maintained his positive attitude, "I have lived a full life and I feel I have contributed."

You are correct, Chief — RIP, Old Friend!!! **Larry Tart**

Awful news brother. THT was a real friend, sincere, honest, caring and a gentleman. I am so sad, tears in eyes, to hear of his passing. Please Espi, make sure he is added to our Hall of Fame of Fallen Eagles. I assume that he was already an Honorable Beaner. Please pass to us all the details you get, including his address, that we can send our condolences to our TOP Chief's family. Let us ensure that someone represents our association at his funeral if at all possible.

Indeed, RIP THT, my friend. **JD Colon**

Fellow Beaners/MK's, for those of you who haven't got the message. The inevitable has happened. Chief Tennant, whom I really respect as a man, a leader, and as a fellow Airman has gone to his resting place... Truly proud and honored to have served alongside the most intelligent, knowledgeable, caring and giving Air Force Chief Master Sergeant. RIP Sir... **Espy (Segundo Espinosa)**

After reading all the emails today about the passing of Chief Tennant, I am a bit confused because I want to say something to add to the praise of this fine person, but I feel a little inadequate to add to what many of you have already said. Here's my attempt to contribute a little (perhaps only to make myself feel better for the effort). One of the first words that comes to my mind when I recall memories of my times working for THT in a couple of assignments (and meeting him again over 25 years later) is the word "respect". That is, respect both in professional and personal relationships. Like most of you, I worked with many senior NCOs in USAFSS who were great professional leaders, but few ranked with THT and several who did were trained by him. The "respect" I'm talking about was a mutual respect that we had for THT and the respect that he exhibited toward us. Having THT tell me after flying with me on a Combat Apple mission (where I was the AMS) that I had done a "good job" meant more to me than all the awards, decorations, and promotions that I received in 30-plus years of active duty.

**Doug Fish**

Sad news indeed. Tom was a mentor, friend, and one of the finest men I've ever known. His legacy lives on in the young airmen of today who have been mentored by the men mentored by Tom. He was definitely one of a kind. RIP old friend.

**Greg Mahoney**

This terrible news hit me about as hard as an earlier loss a couple of Decembers back ... with the passing of Jack Riedel. I served with Tom in the early years of the 6916th when he was still a SSgt; shortly thereafter, he made Tech .... and from those days forward, I don't recall seeing Tom again until the PWG/FTVA/SOB reunion of 1998 in San Antonio ... Tom, Thank you for your friendship and your wisdom over the years. You've kept me out of trouble at times and cheered me on at others. I appreciate that more than I can express in words. We'll fly together again someday. In the meantime, get your crew rest and RIP

**Ron Hentz**

Chief Tennant was my Operations Superintendent at the 6949th ESS in the early 80s. As a young TSgt I had a lot of respect for Chief T and he was a role model for me as I progressed through the ranks. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family. He will be missed by many but his legacy lives on.

**CMSgt (Ret) Rick Jefferson**

*In Memory of...*  
*Mr. Gordon W. Sommers*



Gordon William Sommers entered the kingdom of Heaven on February 20, 2016 in San Antonio, TX. Born on Jan 22, 1922 in St. Louis, MO, he graduated from Kirkwood High School there in 1939. He graduated from Princeton, summa cum laude, and was elected Phi Beta Kappa in 1943. Gordon began a lifelong career of service to his country in 1943 when he entered the U.S. Army, attained the rank of Captain, and served until 1947. Gordon then began working civilian service with the Army Security Agency (ASA), transferred to the Air Force Security Service (USAFSS), headquartered at Brooks AFB, and was reassigned in 1979 to the Electronic Security Command (ESC). Gordon served as advisor to the commander of headquarters at ESC in the review, evaluation, formulation of policies, concepts, and objectives governing the mission of the globally dispersed command. Among the numerous commendations and awards for his service was the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, authorized by William Webster, CIA director. **Gordon was a founding member of the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency's Freedom Through Vigilance Association and was inducted into its Hall of Honor in 1983.** Gordon and his late wife, Dorothy, were married in 1957 where for 37 years and had two sons. As members of St. David's church, Gordon served on the church vestry twice and was actively involved in Agape Ministries. Dorothy lost her battle with cancer in 1982. Gordon remarried in 1984 to Vicki Sommers. They were married for 28 years before she passed in 2012. Gordon is survived by two sons: Gordon E. Sommers and his wife Patty along with their four children; and Bill Sommers and his wife Dana with their two children; Gordon is survived by twelve great grandchildren. A loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather Gordon will be remembered for sharing his faith and love of God, his service to his country, and his devotion to his family. A memorial service was held on Saturday, February 27 at St. David's Episcopal Church in San Antonio. If you would like to make a donation, please send to the Sommer's Memorial Fund to empower and educate women at St. David's Episcopal Church.

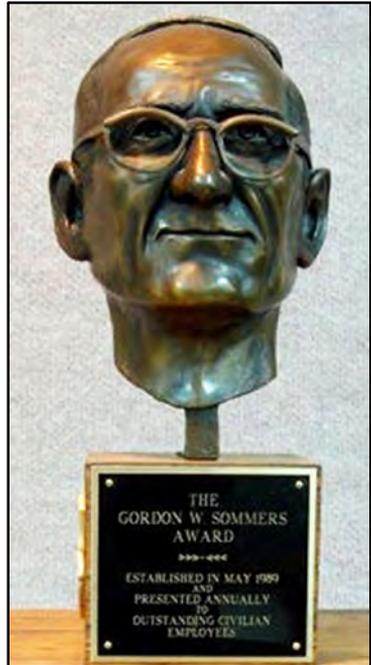
([http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/gordon-sommers-  
obituary?pid=1000000177823620](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/gordon-sommers-<br/>obituary?pid=1000000177823620))

## THE GORDON SOMMERS AWARD

This award is presented annually to outstanding civilian intelligence professionals in recognition of job accomplishments contributing to the effectiveness of the command mission. The award honors Gordon W. Sommers, former assistant to the commander of the Electronic Security Command, who retired after 40 years of service with Air Intelligence Agency and its predecessor units.

### TESTIMONIALS

*The following are offered as representative of the many testimonials posted IMO Gordon Sommers:*



Bill,

We are all very sorry and saddened for your loss. Mr. Sommers was a legend and an icon in our business. The Gordy Sommers Award for civilians will always keep his memory alive with our members that served with him in USFASS and ESC, let alone the follow-on members in AFIC, AIA, AFISRA and now 25th AF.

**VR, Ron Haygood**  
President, FTVA

Gordy Sommers THE Founder....and ultimate behind-the-scenes leader.

**--Bob Cope**

"Unfortunately I'll miss the celebration of a Grand Mentor's Life today. Mr. Sommers, 'The Gordy', provided the Foundation upon which the AF ISR / Cyber mission is built. It was his steady Hand, guiding Intellect and tireless Dedication that nursed the infancy of our Mission and lead us to the Air Force capabilities we have today!!! I am very proud to have been a part of his team and celebrate his Life and Accomplishments!!! Watch over us from the "Wild Blue Yonder"!!! Bless You my Friend!!!!"

**- Dave McNeely, Georgetown, TX**

"Sorry to hear about the passing of Gordon Sommers. I was privileged to have worked at HQ ESC while he was the advisor to the commander. He provided invaluable insight and guidance to several issues I and others worked on. "Gordy" was one of a kind. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family."

– **Greg Mahoney, San Antonio, TX**

"Mr. Sommers - you are the best of men I have known. I always so appreciated your time and attention down in the SX vault. I spent my entire career following the advice and direction you shared with me. Thank you for all. Best for you and those you have now reconnected with. Always, in my thoughts, Robert (Bob) Benson"

– **Robert Benson, Castroville, TX**

"Mr. Sommers - Gordy was a wonderful mentor and friend. We owe him much for his leadership and guidance. He will not be forgotten in my lifetime. RIP my friend."

– **Tom Nurre, San Angelo, TX**

"Bill & family - We are sorry to hear about the passing of your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you."

– **Joe & Ruthie Eaton, Friend, San Antonio, TX**

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### ***A BIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA***



In George Washington's time, images were either sculpted or drawn/painted (since there were no cameras then). Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters back then were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to draw/paint) Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, '*Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.*'



## BEDSIDE MATTERS

**Dickie Hites**// Oahu, HI// April 26, 2016// Positive feedback on Dickie's kidney post-op condition and found out he successfully completed double cataract surgery last month. // **Join Toillion**, Aloha Chapter President//

**Don Cole**// De Ridder, LA// April 29, 2016// According to his wife, Sue, Don's speech and mobility has improved and, as a result, he has moved back home from the assisted care facility. //Phone call from **Sue Cole**//

**John Grant** //Fate, TX//Apr 29// Rass, Another excellent edition of the newsletter! I noticed in Bedside Matters that one of my past co-workers (**Don Cole**) was in poor condition due to Parkinson's. Long story short: Make sure you are properly diagnosed. I was also stumbling around about a year ago and was fortunately referred to a specialist in Movement Disorders. She diagnosed "Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus" - eventually a neurosurgeon installed a shunt to drain off excess fluid. I'm now "normal." She told me that many Parkinson patients are similarly misdiagnosed. // **John Grant**// <dzhanroz@cebridge.net>

**Corky Bingham**// San Angelo, TX//Apr 17// Spent this afternoon with Corky, wife Karen and daughter Stacy. Originally thought he had Parkinson's but, turns out, Corky has a thing called "Dyskinasia." (the brain has too little Dopamine) causing involuntary motions (impaired speech - difficulty walking upright). // **Ed Bendinelli** // Corky was moved to Regency House rehabilitation facility in San Angelo April 18 and was doing much better in early May. // **J.J. Graham** // Saw Corky today and he's being released tomorrow to go home. // **Carl Frentz** //May 12//Fwd by FTVA Heritage Chapter Secretary //

**Jack Brewer**//San Marcos, TX// May 12// Bob, I had a stroke last Sept 30 while on the Mountain in Idaho. Been in the hospital and rehab since then, from Idaho, to Dallas, to here in San Marcos, and now Home. I am about 80% back: Right side still shaky, still working toward 100%. I'm going back to the Mountain in June, be back in Texas next October. Please let concerned folks know. //Bob Cope//

## Anniversary Announcements

### *Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Ron and Kay Weaver*



March 23, 1956 was the blessed day I married Ardean "Kay" Schick from Cortland, NY and we took the oath to live out our lives together as husband and wife. I could not have picked a better companion and Kay has put up with me through thick and thin. She had to live in Japan for 5 years and then she spent another 3 years in Germany. She raised 4 children while I spent my time going around the world visiting all of the USAFSS bases and sites. Additionally, I spent short tours in Vietnam and Thailand while she had to put up with four teenagers. Retirement after 45 years as both active duty and civilian with the U.S. Air Force has made both of us slow down some, but Kay is still the loving wife that takes time to ensure that her husband and family are properly cared for day and night. I have loved this woman for 60 years and plan to love her the rest of our lives.

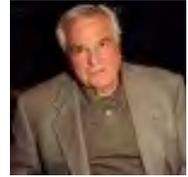
### *"Tied Up in Heart Strings"*

Posted by Jim Kimmett, GG-15 (Ret)

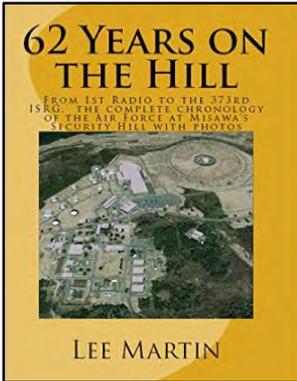


On 18 Oct 1956 after a 21-hour trip from San Antonio to Washington DC, I arrived in Odenton, MD (my parent's home) where my sweetheart was living while waiting for me to get finished with Basic Training. Over the phone, from Lackland AFB to Odenton in my last several weeks of basic, my one and only planned the wedding,

bought the rings, got the license, got the preacher and church, and sent out the invites that were responded to on short notice by about a hundred guests. The best man and my brother as the only usher wore tuxes, but I opted for the uniform. Never regretted it. Had that wonderful woman as my wife for almost 52 years (August 2008) and was committed to her for 54 years. Young Love, certainly. Six kids now 58 down to 47, and 15 grandkids ranging in age from 31 to 8, and one great grand. It was, and is, a wonderful life.



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### “62 Years on The Hill”

From 1st Radio to the 373rd ISRG, the complete chronology of the U.S. Air Force on Misawa's Security Hill with photos.  
by Lee Martin



It was actually 62 and one half years that the USAF had a cryptologic presence on Misawa Air Base, Japan. The narrative covers the hill from the very beginning until the day that the last Hill Airman left Misawa. It is supplemented by over 100 photos to explain the evolution of the units that helped keep the peace and ensure America's freedom during the Cold War and its aftermath.

([http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01B1VQNSE/ref=rdr\\_kindle\\_ext\\_tmb](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B01B1VQNSE/ref=rdr_kindle_ext_tmb))



## Membership Application

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	M.I.
HOME PHONE	E-Mail Address (optional)	
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE

Inclusive Years of Service:	
/	to /
(MM/yyyy)	(MM/yyyy)

Make your check or money order to the: <b>FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION</b>
Mail to: P.O. Box 891818, San Antonio, TX 78288-1818.

Yearly Memberships are \$20.00 Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> NEW REGULAR MEMBER <input type="checkbox"/> NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER <i>(**see below for description)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/> ADDRESS CHANGE
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Age Range for Life Membership Rates	
<input type="checkbox"/> 76 and over .....	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> 71-75 .....	\$95
<input type="checkbox"/> 66-70 .....	\$115
<input type="checkbox"/> 61-65 .....	\$160
<input type="checkbox"/> 56-60 .....	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> 51-55 .....	\$185
<input type="checkbox"/> 46-50 .....	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> 41-45 .....	\$220
<input type="checkbox"/> 36-40 .....	\$235
<input type="checkbox"/> 31-35 .....	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 30 and under .....	\$265

Optional Information we publish in yearly directory:
Rank/Grade: _____
Retired? Y / N
HAM Call Sign _____
CELL Phone: _____

Last Organization (USAFSS/ ESC / AFIC / AIA / AF ISR Agency)

**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT:** The authority to request this information is contained in Public Law 88-38 and Executive Order 12038. The principle purpose of the information is to establish a mailing list for membership rosters containing the name, address and telephone number of all members of the association periodically. Furnishing the information is voluntary; failure to provide the requested information will result in your not being listed. Your signature below\* indicates that you have read and understand the above.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Membership:** Former military and civilian personnel of USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA, and past or present military and civilian personnel of the AF ISR Agency.

**\*\*Associate Membership applies to the following categories:**

- (1) Surviving spouse of deceased individual who would qualify as a regular member.
- (2) Vigilant Partner organizations that actively support AF ISR Agency recognition programs.
- (3) DOD personnel (as individually approved by the Board of Directors) who, because of their close association to USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA, or AF ISR Agency, perpetuate the objectives of the Association.
- (4) Air Force personnel, assigned to intelligence organizations which are not assigned or attached to the Air Force ISR Agency, who support and perpetuate the objectives of the Association. The Board of Directors may designate persons eligible for membership in this category as individuals, by Air Force specialty, or may designate organizations whose members are eligible as a group.

**WE ARE ISR**

**Past Present Future**



***THE FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE  
ASSOCIATION***

THE FTVA IS A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT CORPORATION ESTABLISHED IN 1981. WE ARE DEDICATED TO THE SUPPORT AND PERPETUATION OF SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICES FOR THE USAF AND 25<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE .

ALL FORMER AND CURRENT MILITARY OR CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF 25<sup>TH</sup> AF AND ITS PREDECESSOR COMMANDS OR AGENCIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP. SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DECEASED PERSONNEL ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS.

***WE ARE YOU !!***