

Remain In Touch



***FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION***

NEWSLETTER

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Howdy fellow FTVA members,

Welcome back from your Holiday Season...we hope you all had a great time. We have been extremely busy here in San Antonio and this is shaping up to be a great year for your Association. We will hold our Spring Social in San Antonio on 21 April at the SeaWorld Marriott (contact Ken Williams), we are working on adding two new chapters (Salt Lake City and Alaska), and we have started to plan for this year's anniversary events in late September. This year we will celebrate 70 years of excellence for the Command. From US Air Force Security Service through Electronic Security Command, AF Intelligence Command, Air Intelligence Agency, AF ISR Agency, and into 25th Air Force, it has been a long line of success for our silent warriors as they work to protect the nation. We hope you will be able to join us this September to celebrate those that came before us...and those that continue to carry on the fight.

We have had some major changes to our Board of Directors over the last couple of months that I wanted to share with you. One of the biggest changes is the retirement of Colonel Bob Cope as treasurer. Colonel Cope has been associated with the FTVA board for over 25 years, in one status or another, but one of the most important jobs has been as treasurer for...wow, neither Lee Anthony nor I can figure out how long, but suffice it to say, he has been the bedrock for our board for many years. Colonel Cope and his wife, Debbie, have unselfishly taken care of our finances and taxes for many years and for that we say, Thank You. You have both been great stewards of our monies, but more importantly you have been great friends. Safe travels to you both.

A couple of other changes, Dennis Buxton has graciously volunteered to take over as editor of the Remain in Touch newsletter for Dennis "Rass" Rasmussen, with assistance from Joe "Pepito" Figueroa. Rass will still participate, but on a limited basis. The last change has Lee Anthony

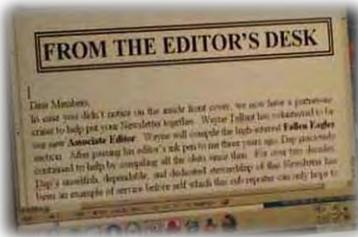
stepping in as the new treasurer...he definitely has some big shoes to fill.

For those of you that are in Alaska or the Utah area, please reach out to the FTVA Board of Directors and we will put you in touch with the individuals that are working on standing up the two new chapters.

Finally, I want to thank the membership for their continued commitment to the FTVA. Your emails, questions and suggestions to the board are well received and continue to generate discussion and change as we continue to push forward. One of the big things we are looking at right now is figuring out an option to pay dues online. We have several ideas that we are pursuing and should be able to push out an update in the near future. As always, keep those emails coming in...we appreciate it.

Again, thanks for everything you do to assist in our efforts to ***Remain In Touch***.

Ted Colquhoun



Greetings!

What to say? What to say in my first column as your new RIT editor? We'll begin with sad news. As many already know, the dedicated and talented Rass – primarily because of medical issues - is passing on the mantle and responsibility of editorship to this ‘cub reporter’. But

in conversation, he also added “it’s time”. We all know when “it’s time” for us for a change and those who know us, respect that decision, without question. You, the FTVA readership know and appreciate more than anyone, the uncounted hours Rass has devoted to not only this publication but the FTVA organization as a whole. Four times a year Rass has provided you with a quality publication chock full of items of interest to all. In between he has participated in and supported every activity undertaken by your Board of Directors. His opinion was sought and valued; always. As his junior assistant for the past year, I thank him personally for his tutelage but more importantly, his continued presence and future advice as I attempt to continue his legacy by bringing you a publication you appreciate and look forward too. I ask that if you see me slipping from the high standards set by Chief Rassmussen, feel free to call me on it and recommend a course correction. Thanks Rass, for all you have done and what you will continue to do.

Dennis Buxton



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Following Transcribed)

1 Feb 18

A note from Rass....

“I am ‘having some medical issues’ since the end of December these days amigos. Immobilized for all practical purposes by an unexplained and thus far untreated swelling of my hands and feet. So far ruled out heart and liver. Right now Intestinal doc looking at gallbladder and kidneys. Blood doc says it could be internal infection. Either way I can't move well and yep, it do stings every so often. Will add on a few amigos FYI. Dennis Buxton took over for me as FTVA newsletter.

Prayers appreciated. Rass

3 Jan 18

“Rass,

And another one bites the dust. Bob Angel” (*Ed: reported in the last issue*) “jeeped me in on the IBM 026 keypunch machine. We had been hand logging “Civ” traffic on large proforma sheets. Then someone asked the obvious – why are we doing it this way? Why not poke it directly from traffic? Bob was very instrumental in getting me going ‘after it’. Boy did that save some man-hours! I am not looking forward to the day I find my name and obit in the Fallen Eagles section. I croaked and nobody told me?”

Cheers, Mi Amigo,”

Roy (Heath)”

2 Feb 18

FTVA Spring Social

“Hi, Sports Fans. Today I signed the contract for the Spring Social at the SeaWorld Marriott for Saturday, 21 April from 1700-2200 (5-10 pm). Same as last year, heavy finger foods and a pay as you go bar. We'll request a voluntary \$5 donation at the door.

There will also be tea, water, and coffee.

Any questions, please let me know. Go Cowboys! (sigh).

Cheers,

Ken Williams



HALL OF HONOR NEWS

By A. J. Harrison, HOH Chairman
NOMINATIONS FOR 2018

Do you know someone who you think should be in the Freedom Through Vigilance Association’s Hall of Honor (HoH) and who is not? The only way people are selected is if they are nominated! The only way they get nominated is by members doing the work to nominate an individual! Please take the time to nominate those who are worthy as the HoH Selection Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates for induction. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association’s reunion activities and is scheduled for Friday morning, 28 September 2018, at Headquarters, 25th Air Force.

Since the creation of USAFSS as a major air command in 1948, members of USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/AF ISR Agency/25th AF, hereinafter referred to as the command, have been at war 24/7/365 as anonymous sentinels, engaged in combat with foreign enemies of the United States and its allies while conducting operations in the air as aircrew members, on the seas aboard U.S. naval ships, and on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world. In no small measure, their contributions toward the preservation of our freedoms, though largely

unheralded, have been vital to the continuance of our national security and our way of life. The command has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who possessed the skill sets and intellectual capacity, coupled with unselfish dedication and commitment, to conquer whatever challenges they encountered – often while confronting significant adversity and at great personal sacrifice.

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association's founders established the Hall of Honor in 1983 to honor those individuals who served the command with great distinction and contributed immeasurably to successful mission accomplishment. To date, 188 individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Honor. They include former officer, enlisted and civilian personnel whose contributions as technicians, supervisors, planners, managers and leaders extend from World War II through the ongoing conflicts. The Hall of Honor preserves the legacy of those who have gone before, highlights their deeds, and honors their contributions to the Nation.

We have all had the privilege of serving with individuals who are viable candidates for induction into the Hall of Honor. This is an opportunity to nominate deserving individuals in an attempt to ensure they receive the recognition and lasting tribute they have earned. The Selection Committee will review all eligible nominations and select individuals for induction into the Hall of Honor using eligibility criteria and procedures pursuant to the Hall of Honor Charter. A copy of the Charter is available in the newsletter and on the web page at <http://www.ftva.org>.

Nominations must be received not later than 4 June 2018 by email. Email nominations to myself at chiefajh@gmail.com or to Bob Cope at rcope6@earthlink.net. When submitting nominations, please limit to one page, front and back, using the HOH Nomination Form available on the website. I am available to answer any questions anyone may have on how best to develop a nomination.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

A. J. Harrison, HOH Chair

Ed: The following is the speech delivered at the September 27 Induction by Mr. Ron Haygood, past FTVA Board President.

HALL OF HONOR 2017 SPEECH

Ron Haygood

“Gen O’Brien, Mr. Pohl, CMSgt Cadell, Mrs. Larson and other distinguished guests Good Morning.

“It is an honor and a privilege to induct four new outstanding silent warriors into the Hall of Honor. From time to time I drop by the BALA and slowly look at some of the plaques on that back wall. Some of us have had the fortune to work with, for or around some of the heroes on the wall. It brings back memories of locations and units around the world, in peace-time and conflict, at home or deployed, on land or at 35,000 feet, in good times or trying times in many places that we no longer have units. Today we have the privilege to put another plaque on that wall with four more airmen with unbelievable resumes.

“If you look at our history since 1947, our airmen have been involved in every major or minor historical overseas event, both political and military. Unfortunately, most of the remarkable details are classified, but you can get an idea, a smattering from today’s Hall of Honor inductee’s accomplishments...at least the unclassified snippets. We have continuously been behind the scenes, saving countless American and coalition lives, ensuring the bad guys were taken off the battlefield, and ultimately keeping America safe.

“Gen O’Brien has highlighted only some of the unbelievable unclassified accomplishments of our four inductees today, so I won’t repeat them. One can only imagine the unabridged, classified version. I want to not only congratulate them, but also to thank the people who took the time to do the write-ups. That part is not automatic. It takes an author or a team of authors to do the digging, the prodding, the research for these quality write-ups...because the competition is intense, the numbers and quality of nominee write-ups continue to grow, which makes the Hall of Honor committee’s job harder and harder...and to me, that is a good thing....so please keep it up.

“If you look closely at those plaques on the wall, it’s not necessarily who you were or what position you filled or what job you had...it’s based on accomplishments. There are many generals, commanders, colonels, chiefs, and senior civilians who are not on that wall. There are TSgt’s, MSgt’s and Majors and LtCols who are. But again, it’s on merit, on the individual’s achievements...not who you knew, your rank, your title...but what you

actually accomplished.

“I want to encourage you all to think about other “silent warriors” who should be on that wall. They are lurking in the shadows of our memories, our war stories, our unit reunion get-togethers, and just pop-up thoughts. We have been in virtually constant conflicts since the early 90’s. Spectacular achievements by our Airmen abound...fertile ground for the HoH. Please help us add those heroes to the growing lists of airmen that are truly deserving recognition...both for the individual and their family and friends sake who probably should know of their accomplishments, but probably don’t and unfortunately may never.

“I want to refer back to a Hall of Honor ceremony conducted a couple of years ago. SMSgt Lantz was inducted into the Hall of Honor posthumously. His family, his children, brothers and sister had never heard anything about his military service. They were astonished by his accomplishments...they had never heard any of them. So thru the Hall of Honor, we inform families, friends and even strangers of just a smattering of their accomplishments. But unfortunately, he was already deceased so we had to do that for him.

“Don’t make that mistake. Talk to your family...now I’m not asking you to divulge national secrets, but to talk to them about what has shaped your life, shaped who you are, what you think, what you believe in and why. They may better understand how those things affected you, your family and their lives along the way.

“In conclusion, it’s important that we carry on the tradition of recognizing those unsung, silent warriors...those true heroes that stand in the shadow of our country’s history in true silent warrior fashion. Please help us do that.

“Thanks again for being here to help us honor these silent warriors. I hope to see many of you tomorrow night at the Reunion Banquet...and remember the FTVA motto of “Remain in Touch”.”



25TH AIR FORCE NEWS

**Compiled by Ken Maynard,
Associate Editor**

25 AF Releases Revised Mission, Vision, Priorities Statements

Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas (18 Jan 18)

Twenty-Fifth Air Force

Mission

We execute worldwide intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to protect and defend the United States and its global interests.

Vision

We will employ innovative ISR, Cyber, and EW capabilities, fully integrated into joint multidomain operations, to detect, disrupt, deter, destroy, and defeat our adversaries.

Priorities

Plan and Execute Today's Fight

Restore Readiness, Drive Innovation, and Anticipate Tomorrow

Develop and Strengthen our Dedicated Professionals and their Families

Integrate 24 AF & 25 AF Missions and Capabilities

25th AF Mission, Vision and Priorities

Twenty-Fifth Air Force officials released new mission, vision and priorities statements today, highlighting the capabilities 25th Air Force Airmen provide the Air Force and Joint teams and how 25th Air Force is postured to adapt to a dynamically-changing national security environment.

The new mission statement is: *“We execute worldwide intelligence,*



surveillance, and reconnaissance to protect and defend the United States and its global interests.”

The new vision statement is: *“We will employ innovative ISR, Cyber, & EW capabilities, fully integrated into joint multidomain operations, to detect, disrupt, deter, destroy, and defeat our adversaries.”*

The new priorities are: Plan and Execute Today’s Fight; Restore Readiness, Drive Innovation, and Anticipate Tomorrow; Develop and Strengthen our Dedicated Professionals and their Families; and Integrate 24th Air Force and 25th Air Force Missions and Capabilities.

“These new mission, vision and priorities statements more accurately reflect who we are and the capabilities our Airmen provide,” said Maj. Gen. Mary O’Brien, 25th Air Force commander. “Unpredictable fiscal resources, emerging technologies, and an increasingly-complex and dangerous world are some of the variables driving us to revise these fundamental statements. What hasn’t changed is our Airmen – they’re incredible and doing amazing things.

Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth Unveils War Hawks Logo

Adapted by an article from 55th Wing Public Affairs

Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. -- The War Hawks logo was officially unveiled by the 55th Wing commander during a staff meeting here Jan. 25.

Col Michael Manion, 55th Wing commander, challenged his staff to look at the wing’s history along with its current mission set and come up with a few ideas for a wing nickname and logo.



Finally, after hearing a story about how an adversary described the 55th Wing's RC-135S Cobra Ball mission in the Pacific as, "imperialist war hawks running amuck," he knew he had the wing's nickname.

From that point on the name War Hawks has become a part of the wing's lexicon.

However, there was no logo to match it – until recently. The commander unveiled the War Hawks logo to the wing's leadership team to resounding applause.

"I think it's outstanding," he said. "Now when our team hears the name War Hawks, they have a visual to go with it."

Holmes, Batten Pay First Visit To Nuclear Treaty Monitoring Center

Adapted from an article by Susan A. Romano, AFTAC/PA

Patrick Air Force Base, Fla. (24 Jan 18)— The commander of Air Combat Command paid his first visit to the Department of Defense's sole nuclear treaty monitoring center recently to meet the Airmen responsible for providing forensic-level scientific data to support ACC and national



Senior Airman Dylan B. Melone (right), a clean room technician with the Air Force Technical Applications Center, shows Gen. Mike Holmes, commander of Air Combat Command, a transmission electron microscope grid he uses to accomplish AFTAC's trace particle analysis mission.

decision makers.

Gen. Mike Holmes, accompanied by his command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Frank Batten, flew in to Patrick AFB and spent the day learning more about the organization that falls under their command. Col. Steven M. Gorski, commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center, Dr. Glenn E. Sjoden, AFTAC chief scientist, and Chief Master Sgt. Michael Joseph, AFTAC's command chief, accompanied the ACC

leadership team throughout the visit to introduce them to the scientists, engineers, analysts, operators and support technicians who execute the AFTAC mission.

"I was told early in my tenure as COMACC about AFTAC and how I needed to see for myself what this organization was all about," said Holmes. "It was everything I expected it to be, and more."

Holmes was particularly interested in seeing AFTAC's Innovation Lab, which he had heard a lot about before his arrival.

"The Secretary of the Air Force (Heather Wilson) has a keen interest in innovation," said Holmes. "I was aware of the innovative work being accomplished here at AFTAC, but I didn't know the exact projects your innovation lab was specifically working on. I did know they were important enough to be showcased at the AFA (Air Force Association) symposium in Orlando, and it was great to be able to see these Airmen in action and the important mission they perform. Very impressive!"

ACC's senior enlisted leader was equally impressed with the center's work force.

"The AFTAC Airmen's innovative spirit and mission focus impressed me," said Batten. "I enjoyed sharing time with Airmen who were not

apprehensive to try something and fail. Mistakes can make us better and teach lessons, and they built upon that to overcome many challenges.”

He added, “I didn’t realize prior to the visit just what (these Airmen) fully did, and I left just blown away.”

In 2015, AFTAC became a subordinate unit under ACC as one of the command’s premier surveillance organizations under 25th Air Force. While AFTAC personnel have had significant interaction with their counterparts at ACC’s headquarters at Langley AFB, Va., this was the first time Holmes and Batten had the opportunity to visit the nuclear treaty monitoring center since Holmes took command of ACC in 2017.

After meeting scores of Airmen who call AFTAC home, including three of AFTAC’s overseas detachment chiefs via video teleconference, Batten wasn’t able to meet them all, so he offered a few key pieces of advice for the center’s junior enlisted force.

“While timing and luck play a part in getting through life, I think it’s a pretty easy formula to set yourself up for great opportunities,” he explained. “My three steps are simple: learn your job and do it well; take care of those Airmen entrusted to you; and you won’t always get it right, but try every day to make yourself a little better.”

The command chief has upcoming travel in the near future and hopes to be able to connect with Airmen at AFTAC’s overseas detachments.

The visit also included the opportunity for Holmes to recognize several outstanding performers. Capt. Joshua Ford, Hugh Brown, Senior Airman Andrew Pouncy, Christopher Lockridge, Staff Sgt. BreAnne Groth, and Senior Airman Samuel Carmichael all received coins from Holmes for their hard work.

“It was very satisfying to be acknowledged for the work our whole team has done in standing up the AFTAC mission defense team, which will be part of the larger Air Force transition from a traditional communications squadron construct to the new active cyber defense concept,” said Hugh Brown, AFTAC’s MDT threat emulation lead. “The efforts the ACC/A6 has provided have been invaluable, and they have been pivotal in their help to get us where we need to be. It was an honor to be recognized.”

Britain's Giant Concrete Ears Built to Warn of an Enemy Aircraft Attack



Adapted from an article published by RoniMix, October 30, 2017

Scottish physicist Sir Robert Watson-Watt invented the first practical radar system back in 1935. The system used pulsed radio waves, and it could detect airplanes up to 100 miles away.

A few years later, a chain of radar stations were established throughout

England, which helped defend the British and played a crucial role in the Allied victory in World War II. It was a huge discovery and the inventor Sir Robert Watson-Watt was knighted for it in 1942.

But what about the period before the radar was invented and was the forerunner of radar and how the British defended themselves from the German Zeppelins during World War I?

Concrete Acoustic Mirrors and How They Worked

The massive concrete acoustic mirrors, or “listening ears,” lining the southeast coast of England were built between the world wars to monitor the skies for the tell-tale sounds of airborne invasion.

Constructed between 1927 and 1930, the sound mirrors were part of Britain's national defence strategy. Their parabolic shape collected and magnified sound waves in the air over the English Channel and directed them at a microphone positioned just in front of the parabola. Anti-aircraft defences were then deployed. The mirrors effectively gave Britain a 15-minute warning of an impending attack.

The British used these devices and with their help, they managed to detect many enemy raids. The acoustic mirrors could detect an incoming aircraft up to 15 miles away, which gave English artillery just enough time to prepare for the attack of the German bombers.

Many of these strange looking devices remain on Britain's coastlines, more or less intact. They can be seen in many places throughout the country, including Hartlepool, Seaham, Redcar, Sunderland, Dover, Romney Marsh and Selsea. However, some of the finest examples of acoustic mirrors can be seen on the Dungeness peninsula and at Hythe in Kent.

On the former Royal Air Force site near Dungeness, in Kent, England, there are three acoustic mirrors built between the 1920s–1930s; one of them is a 70m (230 ft) curved wall, around 5m high, while the other two are dish-shaped around 5m in diameter.

Hot-wire microphones designed personally by Dr. William Sansome Tucker that were placed at the focus of each structure made it possible for the listeners to detect the sound of oncoming enemy aircraft and gave a

fifteen-minute warning to the English artillery to prepare for the attack. Some of the most sophisticated acoustic mirrors could detect the sounds of oncoming enemy aircraft up to 25 miles (40km) away.



As aircraft performance increased, its sound could no longer be heard or located 15 minutes before it reached its target, and that is why acoustic

mirrors were no longer useful and were replaced by the newly developed radar technology.

Warriors of the North Prepare for GFAFB's First CCRI

Adapted from an article by SrA Cierra Presentado, 319 ABW/PA

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. -- Grand Forks AFB first-ever Command Cyber Readiness Inspection is set to take place here from April 16-20. The 319th Communications Squadron wants to ensure each unit and more importantly, each individual is ready.

The CCRI is a USCYBERCOM-mandated inspection that is aimed at improving the security of Department of Defense Information Networks and is conducted by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). The 319 CS is currently working to ensure unit cyber security liaisons and security managers are educating their users on the importance of cybersecurity.

- Never leave your Common Access Card (CAC) unattended
- Know who your unit security managers and cyber security liaisons are
- Ensure classified information is secured in accordance with unit security manager directives
- Never bring unauthorized wireless devices into secured areas
- If you receive a suspicious email, follow proper procedures on the Network Incident Reporting Aid (NIRA) and report it immediately
- Ensure the communications equipment in your unit has the appropriate classification markers
- Encrypt all emails that contain personally identifiable information (PII)

“The important thing we want everyone to know is that, even though the 319 CS is executing a great deal of work to prepare for this inspection, all Airmen should take measures to ensure they are protecting the information systems in use on a daily basis,” said Senior Master Sgt. Grange Coffin, 319 CS Operations Superintendent. This inspection is an opportunity to educate users in their role in ensuring the security of the AFNET and strengthening the cyber posture of GFAFB.”

While the Communications Squadron plays a huge role in ensuring the base is compliant, it is important to know that every individual has a hand in getting a “PASS” on the inspection.

Cobra Ball Receives New Nose Art Artist Gets Up-Close Look

Adapted from an article by 55th Wing Public Affairs

Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. -- An RC-135S Cobra Ball assigned to the 55th Wing here was the latest aircraft to receive nose art as part of an effort to bring back a popular tradition used during World War II where units decorated their aircraft to display unit pride.



The design's artist, Jerrica Skipper, traveled here Jan. 23 to see the nose art, which will now be permanently displayed on the reconnaissance aircraft for years to come as it carries out missions across the world.

"It's crazy that I was able to get this opportunity," said Skipper. "I never thought something like this would happen to me in little Carriere, Mississippi."

It was only by chance that she got the opportunity. It started when maintainers in the 83rd Aircraft Maintenance Unit squadron began looking for a good artist.

"After having different nose art discussions with my wife, Marcia, we reached out to her brother, Dustin Black, a Chevron engineer based in Mobile, Alabama," said retired Air Force Master Sgt. Rick Brown who was assigned to the 83rd AMU.

Her brother, a former military service-member, also appreciated nose art. He mentioned the need for a talented artist with his colleague, who said he knew of a "brilliant" artist named Jerrica Skipper.

Once the connection was made, Brown discussed their vision with her and provided a patch previously worn by crewmembers in the 1960s and 70s. From there, she took the concept and ran with it.

Brown said the design is symbolic of the aircraft's mission.

“The ball represents the Earth, the purple part with the star is the missile coming up from the earth and the snake, which represents the aircraft, is protecting the Earth,” Brown said.

As part of Skipper’s visit, Brown gave her a personal tour of the aircraft where she received a letter of appreciation along with mementos from the 55th Maintenance Group.

Skipper said she’s been drawing and painting since grade school and was excited to be a part of such a unique opportunity.

“I’ve always had a love for art and [mixed martial arts],” Skipper said. “It’s how I express myself; through art and fighting. I like to paint with passion and energy.”

Nose art has historically been a tradition led by maintainers. The maintainers at Offutt often work in the worst of weather, both here and deployed, to make sure 55th Wing aircraft are capable of carrying out the wing’s global intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Brown said nose art is important to the morale of those units.

“It instills pride and honor in the maintainers who experience the constant pressure and grind of keeping these aircraft flying,” Brown said. “Nose art is more than a piece of art – it is a symbol of the maintainers’ dedication and perseverance to ensuring freedom for all.”

Col. Clayton Seale, the 55th Maintenance Group commander agreed.

"Nose Art is a direct link to our history and heritage and it is a way for the maintainers to show pride and ownership in their aircraft," Seale said. "It will be a great day when the last aircraft at Offutt gets its unique art work applied. We are working very hard to make that a reality in the near future."

Airman Finds Solution to Unsolvable Problem

Adapted from an article by Lori A. Butman, 25AF

Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland, Texas -- When Airmen at the 363rd Intelligence Support Squadron discovered an issue with the three-dimensional functionality on computer workstations vital to target analysts, one of their own highly-skilled Airmen found a solution and prevented



\$100,000 in equipment from becoming useless.

“Airman 1st Class Nathaniel, a cyber systems operations apprentice, researched and automated a fix action to establish 3D functionality in 36th IS’s newly purchased KVM (keyboard, video and mouse) switches,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew, the Airman’s supervisor.

When the issue arose, Nathaniel contacted the KVM’s manufacturer and was told by their engineers there was no solution, but he did not let that stop him from supporting the squadron’s vital mission.

On his own accord, he spent hours studying beyond his level of expertise to build his understanding of how the various systems were operating. Then, he learned how to modify those systems in an authorized manner, his supervisor said.

The apprentice worked hard to find the correct solution.

“For solving the problem, I just did some research on how KVM’s are supposed to work and identified where the error was occurring during the process. After that, it was just a lot of reading on how to manually send signals to and receive signals from the KVM and how to force an output configured for the specific monitor’s we were using,” he said.

Solving problems and completing missions is something this Airman strives for.

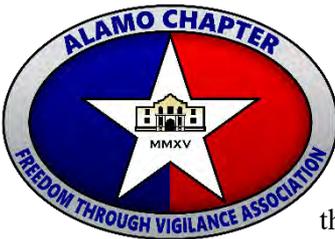
“I’m always excited to try to fix issues that others have trouble solving. New technology will sometimes have obscure issues when it comes to some of our specialized systems at Langley Air Force Base. We are encouraged by our leadership to solve some of these problems,” he said.

Nathaniel’s hard work and dedication to the mission did not go unnoticed. He was recently recognized by the 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing commander, Col. Jonathan C. Rice IV.

“Because of Nathaniel’s innovative effort with the 3-D issues, the 36th IS was able to move forward with no interruption in operations,” the 363rd is able to exercise dynamic adaptability and solve problems for warfighters around the world.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

A new year and a new issue is upon us. The FTVA Chapters are waking from their winter (and holiday) naps. Many thanks for taking the time to input. Remember to forward your chapter inputs at any time (monthly, weekly or all at once) to Evan Smith, FTVA Board Vice President and current Chapter Liaison (evan.v.smith@gmail.com), with CC to your chapter input compiler Dennis Buxton (dennis.buxton@me.com).



Alamo Chapter

San Antonio, TX

Barnie Gavin, President

Mike Nielsen, Secretary/Treasurer

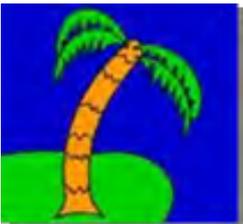
November Doings. The November meeting of the Alamo Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) was held on 16 November 2017 at the Saltgrass Steak House 11745 I-10 West, San Antonio, TX 78230. The meeting was called to order by President Barnie Gavin with an attendance of 24 members, spouses, and guests. The following business was completed:

- December Meeting – With Christmas and everyone so busy, Barnie asked for input as to whether we should have a meeting/Christmas party or just skip the December meeting. He asked for the members to email him to let him know their druthers.
- Barnie also asked for feedback on the meeting tonight, i.e. do we want to come back to the Saltgrass, was the service good, food good, etc. Again, let him know via an email.
- Bill Scheck gave a report on the Combat Apple Reunion he attended. At the reunion, Mrs. Larson, who attended along with Nancy, was presented with a walking stick that was engraved with all of Maj. Gen. Larson's assignments.
- Barnie also mentioned that anyone who wanted name tags to let him know.
- The next chapter meeting, if we have one in December, would be held on December 21st. Location TBD depending on the feedback Barnie receives based on items 1 and 2 above.

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM, followed by great fellowship and comradery.

Happy New Year. The January meeting of the FTVA Alamo Chapter was called to order by President Bernie Gavin at 5:45 PM at Saltgrass Steakhouse on January 18th. There were 27 members, spouses and family members present. Items discussed included:

- Whether to continue to meet at Saltgrass or find another restaurant in the future. There's a possibility Saltgrass may charge a room fee in the future so please provide us your feedback as well as any other locations that may be suitable for groups up to 30 people.
- The "They Served in Silence" DVD is still available. You can still pick up a copy at the next meeting.
- Bernie again is reaching out to the commander of the 543rd to discuss how the Alamo Chapter can support that organization. We currently have \$450 in our treasury that needs to be allocated to a cause or possibly returned back to the FTVA.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM where we continued to share stories and enjoy each other's fellowship. The next meeting is scheduled for 15 February at 5:45 PM at the Saltgrass Steakhouse. If that changes we'll be sure and let you know.



Aloha Chapter

Honolulu, HI

John "Tilly" Toillion, President

We had a great time celebrating our first Chapter meeting of the New Year. Ken brought along Stan Cook, former Aloha Chapter member and now lives in Colorado Springs area where he's a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

Discussions included lots of war stories mainly focused in SEA, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Germany. As Chapter President, I'm always amazed at how many of our "senior" members recall so many names and events that took place over the last 50 years.

One of the hot topics was Steve Crain's grandson, Aaron Trang, who is on the US Olympic Short Speed Skating Team. Here's a link for more info on Aaron: <https://www.nbcolympics.com/athletes/aaron-tran/1146498>.

We missed some of our regular attendees - Dickie Hites and Fred Collins, both under the weather, Oly Harrison, and Al Teal.

It was really great having Stan Cook visit us and is a reminder to all who find their way to the islands to contact us so we can arrange a get together.

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



Poi Boys! (l-r) Stan Cook, Steve Crain, Ken Een, Dave Jones, Larry Nishihara, and John Toillion.



Heritage Chapter
San Angelo, TX

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

On January 11 the Heritage Chapter held its annual holiday social, sometimes known as our “New Year’s Hangover”, “Christmas Hangover” or “Instead of Christmas” party with 35 members and guests attending.

JJ Graham gave his annual recap of chapter activities. This was definitely a very busy year. Members were involved in a vast variety of activities: socials in January, March; June and September; meet-and-greet with international students; numerous Vietnam War 50th Commemorative pinning events; Dogger, 6994th SS, 6911th SS, Combat Apple 50th reunions; All veterans Council Tom Green County; 94th IS Heritage Day, Vietnam Memorial helicopter restoration, Memorial Day

ceremonies, DLI Hall of Heroes induction ceremony; Tom Green County All Veterans Council; presented gift to departing Goodfellow Commander Col Michael Downs; Leftwich Scholarship Fund, primary sponsor of The Wall That Heals (Vietnam War Memorial) mobile display.

Using our photos and video, Wayne Bascom produced two excellent videos – one highlighting chapter activities, the other covering The Wall That Heals.

Tom Nurre then took center stage and presented certificates of appreciation to JJ Graham, Ed Bendinelli, Larry Ross, Larry Miller and Wayne Bascom for their support and participation in the November 18th pinning event. He then continued with an emotional pinning ceremony honoring two Blue Star (surviving spouse) family members – Pat Fennell and Arletta Hendrix. Aryn Lockhart, an adopted orphan rescued from Vietnam during the April 1975 Operation Babylift, presented each with a pin and certificate of honor. She praised the honorees for their dedication and support as military spouses.

What good is a party without gifts? Tom Nurre, JJ Graham and Larry Ross each were presented a pin and patch in recognition of escorting the Wall That Heals into town. Ed Bendinelli got a bag of real shredded currency purportedly all the money that was left from The Wall That Heals fund. Ed was the one who secured the funding to bring the wall to San Angelo. JJ Graham received a framed photo of the 2017 Texas Rangers baseball team.

Show Time! Heritage Chapter members and guests viewing video highlights of “The Chapter Year in Review” and “The Wall That Heals.”



Thank You Sir! May I Have Another? Tom Nurre presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Wayne Bascom for his support participation in the November 18th Vietnam War 50th Commemorative pinning ceremony.



Blue Star Honors. With Aryn Lockhart (left) looking on, Ed Bendinelli (Right) honors Blue Star (surviving spouse) family members Pat Fennell (above middle) and Arletta Hendrix (below, middle) with pins and certificates of thanks.





Thank You Military Spouses. Aryn Lockhart, an adopted orphan rescued from Vietnam during the April 1975 Operation Babylift. She praised the honorees for their dedication and support as military spouses.



Awards & Decs. (Left, l-r) JJ Graham, Larry Ross and Tom Nurre each were presented with a commemorative pin and patch in recognition of escorting the Wall That Heals into town.

I'm rich! I'm rich, I tell you! Ed Bendinelli caught holding the bad; a gift of real, albeit shredded, currency purportedly all the money that was left from TWTH fund. Ed was the one who was instrumental in securing the funding to bring the wall to San Angelo.





Play Ball! Larry Ross (left) and JJ Graham admire the Rangers baseball team photo presented to JJ as a memento of appreciation for all he does; and it's a lot.

The Wall that Heals. Howdy. Just wrapped up 4 days with "The Wall That Heals." Wonderful event. Lots & lots of emotions. Vietnam Commemoration Ceremony yesterday. 510 people in attendance. Pinned about 80 veterans, 15 Surviving Spouses & 7 or 8 Gold Star Families. 3 VVMF guys who brought the Wall here were just fantastic. Real feather in the cap for Heritage Chapter. Lots of pictures. I'm sure Larry will be sending you all kind of stuff. Pete Micale there today. In wheelchair. Just looked so frail!! Great all-around effort. I'm so proud of our guys. Asked J.J. today what we can do to top this. I guess we're going to have to build a memorial somewhere. Stay tuned. Hope this finds you well. Take care. Ed

The Wall That Heals Visits San Angelo



The Heritage Chapter was proud to be primary sponsor of The Wall That Heals (TWTH), a one-half scale replica of the Vietnam War Memorial, which visited San Angelo, 15-19 November 2017. The replica was set up on the parade ground of Fort Concho National Historic Site. It is extremely hard to describe in words and pictures the emotions felt by the visitors –

some came simply to view the wall, others to remember loved ones, and others for closure and healing.

15 November, 0900 hours. On a cool, overcast morning everyone gathered in the Ballinger Wal-Mart parking lot. At 1000 hours, fortified by hot coffee and fresh donuts provided by Wal-Mart employees, the convoy, led by the Runnels County Sheriff's Department and escorted by nearly 50 riders of the Patriot Guard Riders and Combat Vets Association motorcycle groups left for San Angelo. At the Runnels-Tom Green County line, lead was



relinquished to the Tom Green County Sheriff's Department. At the San Angelo city limits the San Angelo Police Department Patrol Division joined the convoy. Upon arriving at Fort Concho at 1100 hours, 20 Marine Corp volunteers, working in two teams, quickly unloaded the van and expertly assembled the wall panels. By 1530 hours TWTH replica and its mobile education center were open to the public.



16 November, 1000 hours. Before a large crowd, TWTH was officially opened. The Opening Ceremony was emceed by Heritage Chapter President, JJ Graham. Due to mix-up in scheduling, those assembled sang the National Anthem; Ray Leftwich Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ed



Bendinelli, Heritage Chapter Vice President, was the guest speaker. His message focused on “remembrance”, not only those whose names are engraved on the wall, but all veterans.

Kathy McCuiston, on behalf of the Heritage Chapter and the “Doggers”, an association of former Vietnamese linguists, presented Patrick O’Neil, site manager for Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, with a “Hanoi Hilton” brick. The inscription reads: *Presented to The Wall That Heals. This common construction brick was recovered in 1993 from the infamous Hoa Lo Prison in North Vietnam, known to U.S. Prisoners-Of-War as the “Hanoi Hilton”. This relic is symbolic of the service and sacrifice of the millions of American veterans who answered their country’s call to duty during the Vietnam War. “All Gave Some, Some Gave All.”* The brick will be on permanent display in the mobile education van and travel with the exhibit. The ceremony concluded with the Goodfellow AFB (GAFB) Honor Guard rendering a gun salute and the playing of Taps.



18 November, 1400 hours. With TWTH as the backdrop, Tom Nurre and the EC-47 History Site Commemorative Partner Program (CPP) Committee organized a special Welcome Home for Vietnam War veterans, In Memory Of (Gold Star) and Surviving Spouse (Blue Star) Certificate of Honor and lapel pin recognition ceremony on the Fort Concho parade ground. Tom Nurre, Jr., Angelo State University (ASU) Office of Communications and Marketing, performed the master of ceremonies duties. The ASU ROTC



Honor Guard presented the colors, followed by the national anthem played by the Lake View High School Trumpets (**photo Trumpets**) led by band director Cyndi Costello. GAFB Chaplain (Father) Tony Riganan enjoined everyone in an opening prayer.

There were four featured speakers. GAFB Wing Commander, Colonel Ricky Mills spoke about the meaning of The Wall That Heals and described the 11 buildings on the base that commemorate veterans killed in action during the Vietnam War.

Gold Star daughter Debra Tijerina Brown was the second speaker and told



the 500-plus attendees her heartwarming story of growing up without her father, USAF Capt. Albert Tijerina who was killed in action; Tijerina Hall on GAFB is named in his honor.

Immediately after the Mills and Brown remarks, 16 Gold Star and 15 Blue Star family members were called forward and presented a Certificate of Honor and respective commemorative lapel pin.

The third speaker was Aryn Lockhart who had been rescued as a 1-year-old from a Saigon orphanage and brought to her American adoptive parents as part of Operation Babylift in April 1975. She spoke eloquently about her special parents and how thankful she is for her life and the unbounded opportunities here in the U.S. made possible because of the service, valor and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans, especially those attending the ceremony. She is co-author of a book, *Operation Babylift: Mission Accomplished*, with Regina Aune the head flight nurse on board the inaugural Operation Babylift mission. Both survived the tragic and ill-fated crash of the C5A aircraft. Aryn is currently employed on GAFB as the 17th Training Wing



Public Affairs community engagement chief.

After Aryn spoke, 81 Vietnam veterans were called forward and each was presented with a Welcome Home handshake and a commemorative lapel pin.

San Angelo Mayor Brenda Gunter was the fourth speaker and closed the program with warm and meaningful comments praising the veterans and their families, and thanking everyone for their commitment to country, community and family.

19 November 1600 hours. The closing ceremony was again emceed by JJ Graham. The GAFB Honor Guard presented the colors, and as before, those assembled sang the National Anthem; Ray Leftwich Jr. led the Pledge of

Allegiance. The guest speaker was retired Air Force Colonel Mike Rader. He spoke about what the wall means to him. He also gave recognition to those who brought TWTH to San Angelo. The Honor Guard rendered a gun



salute, which was followed by playing of Taps. JJ concluded the ceremony by thanking all who helped making this visit a success.

All ceremonies concluded, the Marines disassembled the wall and packed it securely in the van. It is difficult to guess how many came out to view the exhibit. Judging from the attendance at the opening, closing, and pinning ceremonies it could be estimated the total is in the 1,000's.



19 November 1800 hours. The van hauling TWTH departed the Fort on its way to the next location. The Heritage Chapter thanks all organizations, sponsors and volunteers who made this visit a great success.

(Editor: And much thanks to the Heritage Chapter for sponsoring and making this such a memorable event. Great job!)

The Wall That Heals



Gold Country Chapter
Yuba City, CA
John Aurelius, President/GCC

Since our last report we have had another change of command here at the 548 ISR Group. As always, we are sorry to see the current Commander head off to a new assignment and then happy to welcome the new one.

This was the case when Col. Jacob Holmgren left and was replaced by Col. Scott Nahrgang. I would like to note that we appreciate the support of the Commanders who are who have set records for attendance at our monthly meetings.



Beale 548th COCOM. At the recent Change of Command Ceremony in Gold Chapter Country, Col. Scott Nahrgang (center) takes the reins from Col. Jacob Holmgren (right) with Col. Jason Brown, 480th Wing Commander (left) presiding.

As other chapters are experiencing, we are facing shrinking membership as members from the early part of the Cold War bubble move on. We are now meeting on base to make it easier for active duty personnel to discover us and perhaps become members. We will also be setting up a table monthly in the hallway of the building housing the 548th ISR Group. Getting our signage up along with literature and working to engage them in conversation is part of our recruiting plan for this year.

I'm sorry to report our chapter founder and past President, Richard Sacchetti is experiencing some serious heart issues and has just left his position as treasurer. Thomas Roach will take over the position pending a vote at our next meeting.



Offsite (above) Chapter Meeting Amigos. Depicted (l-r) Col. Jacob Holmgren, John Aurelius, Ruben Gomez, and Richard Sacchetti mugging for the camera.

Onsite (right) Gold Chapter Meeting Compadres. Seated (l-r) Col. Scott Nahrgang and Richard Sacchetti. Standing (l-r) Charles Swanson, Russ Clark, John Aurelius, Ms. Slacum (daughter of CMSgt. Edward Slacum), Chief Edward Slacum. The dinner get together was held on-base at the Coyote Pub and Grill.



Look for Reports from the other chapters listed below in the June 2018 Issue!

Salt Lake City Chapter, Salt Lake City, UT

Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter (MARC), Fort Meade, MD.

Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colo Springs, CO



2018
REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS
Newsletter Staff Compilation

UPCOMING 2018 REUNIONS

Apr 20 – 22, 2018

USAFSS Rollcall Mini Reunion

Location: Fredericksburg, TX

By Bob Askew

Join us for a USAFSS Rollcall “Mini” in the historic town of Fredericksburg, Texas and its surrounding area. We will have only one ‘official’ function and the rest is up to you to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Texas Hill Country, some 60 miles from San Antonio.

On Friday, April 20th we will meet at noon for lunch at Backwoods Barbecue located at 320 FM [2093 \(Tivydale Road\)](#) just on the western edge of town. We have a private room from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM where we can eat, enjoy seeing old friends, making new friends, retelling the old lies, making up new ones, and playing “My story is better than your story”.

The beauty of this restaurant is each member can go through the serving line and get whatever food and beverage they want – Ribs, Brisket, Chicken, Pork, Sausage or Ribeye steak. There are no set meals or set prices. You can check them out at www.backwoodsbbq.net.

After lunch, and through the weekend if you desire to stay over, everyone is free to enjoy all the shops and boutiques of Fredericksburg and the historic German buildings and backdrop. You can check out the attractions and events on the website at www.visitfredericksburg.com. Some of the attractions that weekend are:

- **Fredericksburg Trade Days** – Dozens of vendors with local foods, crafts and other original items for sale. Free.
- **VW Classic** – A car show with dozens of vintage Volkswagen cars and mini- VW Classic buses. Free.

- **The National Museum of the Pacific.** F'Burg is the home of Admiral Nimitz of WWII fame. This museum documents the events of the Pacific War and is highly recommended. Charge for admittance.
- **Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch and Home.** Just East of F'Burg with guided tours of the homestead. Free.
- **The Pioneer Museum Complex.** In downtown F'Burg. Free.
- **Wildseed Farms.** Just East of F'Burg where you can see acres and acres of Texas wild flowers in bloom in the Spring, buy flower seeds and or garden planters, etc. Free.

And **do not miss** visiting any of the dozens of famous Texas wineries in and around F'burg. The highway between F'Burg and East to Johnson City is lined with dozens of wineries, breweries and distilleries.

A highlight of any visit to Fredericksburg includes a visit to the famous little (Population 3) village of Luckenbach and imbibe a longneck beer, listen to random 'pickers' and enjoy the quaint General Store, Bar and Dance Hall. Google '**Luckenbach, TX**' for the schedule of events for the weekend of 20-22 April to see who is playing and when, and any other events happening there.

Ginny and I plan to visit F'burg in the next couple weeks to check on hotel/motel availability. We will not reserve any block of rooms, everyone who wishes to stay over the weekend can make their own search of B&B's, hotels and motels and make their own reservations. In the meantime, we will scout out some interesting places to stay and pass on any recommendations and prices. Just google **Fredericksburg Bed and Breakfast or Fredericksburg hotels** and several will pop up. Most of the B&B's have a central booking site for ease of use. Be aware that F'burg B&B's most often have a 2-day weekend stay requirement from Spring through Fall.

If you can join us for lunch, please let me know in an email. I have to turn in a count by April 17. If you have questions, or plan to attend, ask at bvaskew@yahoo.com.



Apr 25 – May 1, 2018
Fall of Saigon Party (FOSP)
2018 Doggers Reunion
Location: Key West, FL
POC: Joe Turney
Ph: [512-825-7290](tel:512-825-7290)
email: parrotjet@yahoo.com.

The 43rd Annual Fall of Saigon Party for all Vietnamese Linguists assigned to USAFSS/ESC/AIA, etc. The usual fishing & diving & boating/ & beach stuff, a Duval Crawl, a Dry Tortugas trip (AKA Gilligan's Island Redux), general sightseeing and rabble-raising, a memorial service and picnic, and a Saturday night banquet.

Greetings all, here is the info you need to make your reservation at the Fly Navy Inn for the reunion:

- Inclusive dates are 4/25/18 thru 4/30/18 (checkout 5/1/18). If you want to arrive earlier or stay later, be sure to ask about this when you call.
- Group ID# is 31130108115 listed under "The Doggers" 43rd Anniversary Reunion.
- The phone number to make your reservation is (305) 293-4100. If the person is busy, your call may be automatically transferred to Navy Lodging Reservations, which is not on-site, but they should still be able to handle it with the info above. If not, call the Front Desk at (305) 851-5780 and select Option 3 and they should be able to help you.

We have 50 rooms available at this time but may need more. So, don't wait until the last minute unless you really like camping under the stars or paying \$450 per night downtown for a roof over your head.

Hope to see you all soon!

Regards,

JET, (512) 825-7290



July 18-22, 2018
USAFSS Roll Call Reunion
Location: Colorado Springs, CO
Go to www.usafssrollcall.com

There will be three excursions. More details to come.



Aug 6 - 12, 2018
16th Annual National Misawa Project Reunion
Location: Branson, MO
Comments on Project website.

Aug 9 - 11, 2018
2018 6994th Reunion

Location: Airport Crown Plaza Hotel, Louisville, KY.

Registration, hotel and activities information will be forthcoming shortly on the website. Those interested in a round of golf during the reunion, please send a message to Rick Yeh at blk67cougar@gmail.com. We are currently looking at a course about 10 miles from the hotel at a cost of \$28 for greens fees & carts (senior citizen rate).

Oct 10 - 12, 2018
6918th RSM/Security Group
Brady / Hakata, Japan
Location: Jacksonville, FL
(Doubletree Hotel)
Comments on 6918th Website
<http://6918thhakata.com>



REUNION REPORTS

Loosely Organized Old Korlings (LOOK) Reunion

A great and robust bunch of former USAFSS Korean Linguists, many of whom date back to the early-mid 1950's, had a mini reunion in San Antonio the second week of November 2017.

Do You Know the Way to ... Osan? P-Y Do, perhaps?

The distinguished core members of LOOK pose at the November Event. Standing (l-r) Joe White, Joe Gilmore (since deceased; we're so thankful he made this reunion), Joe James, Steve Mobry, Peter Dinwoodie. Sitting (l-r): Tom Bibbey, Steve Lyons, Warren "Bud" Hedrick.



The Ladies of LOOK. Not to be out-posed, the Lovely Ladies of Look get their shot at the camera. Standing (l-r) Martha Kanapaux, Sherri James, Marianne Bibbey. Seated (l-r) Tina Dinwoodie (daughter of MGen Coira, USAFSS Commander mid-60's), Judy Mobry, Peggy Jones, Donna Lyons.



Pinning. (Left) Steve Mobry presents the 6929th RSM lapel pin to Bob Askew a Chi-ling who served at P-Y-Do in the late '50's. (Below) Joe and Sherri James



Posing. Below: Martha Kanapaux, widow of Bill Kanapaux, a legendary Korling with her son Kelly Kanapaux, a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel and his spouse, Penelope "Pooh" Kanapaux.



Steve and Donna Lyons





Tina and Peter Dinwoodie



Tom and Marriane Bibby

Late September Mini Reunion in Sequim, WA

Posted by 'Charlie' Ballew



Mini-Mini Reunion. I guess when a couple of ex USAFSS members get together it is a Mini Reunion. The Ballew's & Armitage's got together for lunch & visit & with Steve and Judy Mobry (upper right) in Sequim, WA. Enjoyed the lunch, visit & old war stories. // "Charlie" Ballew (1964 -1991)//

Amigos Gather in Schertz, TX Staff Compilation

Some FTVA (self-described) elder members gathered to give a thumbs' up to their amigo, Ken Maynard for his induction into the 25AF/FTVA HOH.

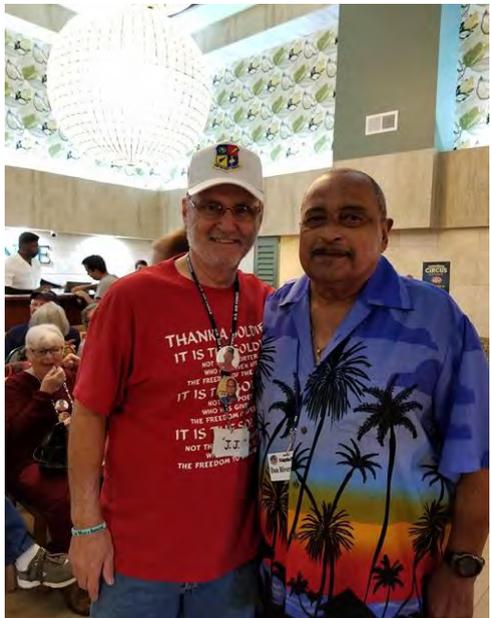
(l-r) Ken Maynard, Darr King, Andy Smith, Dennis Rassmussen, Bob Crabtree and Ken Gendolfe traveled to Schertz' PaPa's Pizza for their September dining out.



USAFSS Reunion

Submitted by Jay "J.J." Johnson

The "USAFSS Reunion", open to all USAFSS, ESC, AIA, AFIC, ISR, etc. folks, is held the last full weekend of every January. It was first begun by Jim Kaus and Helen Henderson in 2003 and hosted by Jay "J.J." Johnson and wife, Eileen, since 2007. JJ reports this was the 10th year at the same hotel in St. Augustine, and we are already scheduled for next year.



Welcome Back, Dan! Dan Rivera-Lugo (right) and J.J. Dan Rivera-Lugo suffered a fall over a year ago, and this is the first reunion he has made since his accident. A lot of folks had been asking about him.



Chapeau of Honor. Jim Kaus, left, presenting Dan Rivera-Lugo with a Pioneer Hat.

Right – It’s Magic! Addie Paul (right) showing Gerald Stein some Magic Tricks. Addie Paul turned out to be a Magician from long ago (understudy of Merlin?) and did some tricks for us.



Guest of Honor. The Grand Pioneer this year was Bill Patterson (right). Bill enlisted back in 1955. Here, Jim Kaus presented Bill with the coveted Grand Pioneer Award Jacket.

2018 USAFSS Reunion Attendees Collage



BIT AND BYTES

MAN WALKS INTO CHICK-FIL-A: Is Completely Blown Away When He Saw This for Vets

Bill Callen: Top Right News



Chick-Fil-A, the same fast-food outlet has once again proved a positive to the world. This time it did so by unveiling an amazing Veterans Day tribute that left Georgia resident Eric Comfort in complete shock. According to a Facebook post he published on Monday, when he walked into a local Chick-fil-A, Comfort discovered a "*Missing Man Table*" that contained a single rose, a Bible & a folded American flag, as well as a plaque within which was the following explanation:

"This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the

purity of their motives when answering the call of duty. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted " to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast. The chair is empty " they are missing."

After the story went viral, the store manager, Alex Korchan, explained to WSB that his team members had set up the table because they "wanted to honor veterans." Furthermore, he offered free meals to all veterans and their family members on Veterans Day. Korchan also put up a poster so that customers could write in the names of loved ones who they have lost. "We've had a lot of people who have come in and seen it and been touched by it," Korchan continued. "It's been special to see"

FTVA BoD Get Together

On 20 January, various past and present members of the FTVA Board of Directors and staff and their guests got together at a local beanery to reconnect after the holiday season. It's a time of transition for your BoD and while 'official business' was kept at a minimum, the camaraderie was rife, with new faces and changing board roles. Below are some selected out-takes from the feast.



½ **Group Pose.** Six of the attendees of the FTVA BoD officers and directors and guests, pose for the camera. Down the left are Rosario Figueroa, Vice President Evan Smith, and Annette Smith. Down the right we have Joe “Pepito” Figueroa, associate editor and head of the Fallen Eagles section; Deb and Loren “Phred” Sevensing, current FTVA secretary.



Cogitation. Left to right are: Donna and Bob Crabtree, and outgoing Treasurer and long-time board member Bob Cope and wife Debbie.



Smilin'. Left to right, Kathy and Ron Haygood, past FTVA President and Ken Williams, current Social Activities Chairman.



Grinnin' but not spinnin'. Enjoying the festivities are Shari Colquhoun with and Jen and Lee Anthony, newly elected FTVA treasurer.



Everybody's Happy. Depicted (l-r) are Amy and Mark Hess, leader of the Vigilant Partners Program, and Barnie Gavin, Alamo Chapter FTVA president with Judy Gavin. Peeking in from the right is Ron and Kathy Haygood.

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

**P.O. BOX 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269
28 January 2018**



PLATINUM PARTNERS

**Mrs. Doyle E. Larson
(IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)
Prop Wash Gang
(IMO CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)
General Dynamics Information Technology
Ozmen Family Foundation at the
Community Foundation of Western Nevada
(IMO Maj Gen Paul Martin)**



GOLD PARTNERS

**Jeff and Cecelia McRaney
Engrave-Tech & Graphics
Security Service Federal Credit Union
Air Force Federal Credit Union
William F. Shek
USAFSS Roll Call**



SILVER PARTNERS

**Anthony F. Jensen
6988th SS, 698th ESS & 488 IS Alumni and
Active Duty Members
William Springett
Grover Jackson
To The Penny Tax Services
Arrowhead Electric Service
Regis F.A. Urschler
“Picnic Partners”
Charles “Jerry” Ellis
Greg Radabaugh
Grant and June Howells & Ken and Hide Lantz
(IHO The Doggers)
“Sparky” Rogers
(IMO Col Duane Russell and Capt Rory Foran)
Donald Bundy**



BRONZE PARTNERS



Henry Whitney

BJ Cook

(IMO CMSgt (Ret) John Sinnard and CMSgt (Ret) AC Chamblee)

William F. McCarthy

Bob & Debbie Cope

(IMO of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant)

Ronald Hentz

(In Memory of CMSgt (Ret) Tom Tennant and Col Grover

McMakin)

Larry and Alice Boyce

E.W. Forbess



PATRON PARTNERS



Mark and Amy Hess

James Mayer

Richard Sacchetti

Jorge David and Patricia Colon

(IMO Ray and Joan Rivera)

Charles Bishop

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

HISTORY & MEMORIES

Ed. Note: The following began as an email exchange between two old friends and USAFSS alumni; over the weeks it evolved into a fascinating snapshot look back into time at USAFASS at a place few current and fairly recent command personnel know of. This was provided by Ken Rundine, who did his 'time' at Wheelus AB, Tripoli, Libya where the USAF presence ended in mid-1970. The below has been pieced together and redacted in an attempt to provide an historical memory of Ken's 18-months at Wheelus.

Memories of Wheelus

By Ken Rundine

As told (in part) to Ray M. Thompson

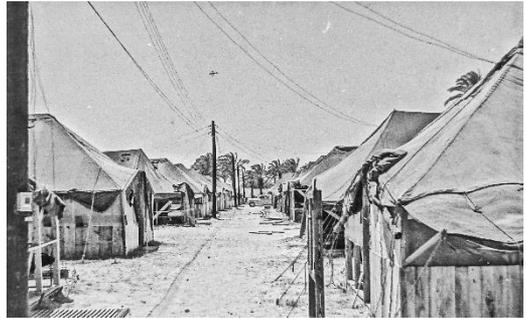
I was a Radio Traffic Analyst at the 34th Radio Squadron Mobile at Wheelus Field Tripoli Libya. Otherwise AKA //expletive deleted//. Anyway, I shipped overseas in Spring of 1952 and spent 18 months tour there. We landed at Bremerhaven Germany and then went to Weisbaden and Frankfurt. After about 3 months they reassigned us to the 34th RSM and because of that we flew to Landsberg, Germany and landed there to pick up a couple of guys going with us. We were in a C-47 that had no seats - we threw in our "bag and baggage" as they said. We flew thru the Alps (not over) to Rome for fuel - then on to Wheelus. At that time Wheelus was a Military Air Transport Base (MATS) and when we arrived (maybe April 1952) they treated us like aliens. By that I mean we could only eat after they ate. Rations were sometimes short and some foods ran out. When I was stationed at Wheelus we lived in tents all but the last month of our 18-month tour. Our antenna field was almost on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea and our operations building was between the sea and the end of the NS runway. Top Secret Operations was on the east side of the runway and we had truck transportation to take us from the NE of the runway to the SW of the runway where the MATS mess hall was located. Our tents were over there too. We lived in 6 men tents but we had a permanent latrine. We drank out of a Lister bag.

(Ed. What's a "Lister" bag? A MATS? You ask? Check out the photos below that Ken so kindly provided).

(Right) The Pause That Refreshes. Ken Rudine (me) getting a drink of water from a Lister bag. (it sweats for a cooling effect). **(Below Left) What? No Camel?** Ken posing with the primary means of transportation for tooling around Wheelus (and the desert!).



Right. Tent City. Wood floors and tough target screens. There were 6 men to each tent.



Our Gang. We rode the truck to the MATS base from work. Aubrey D Smith, Kenneth L Paris, Virgil O Bales, John J Geary, James L Hyden, Charles D Butter, Francis G Stein, Donald E Steinhoff. Personnel Officer was Lt. Robert DE Armond.

The incident occurred 9 days after the formal signing of the Peace Accords between the U.S. and both North and South Vietnam, "ending hostilities" in Vietnam. Laos was NOT a signatory to this agreement. (They entered a separate agreement in the latter part of February.)

Much has been reported on, and speculated about, concerning the cause of the "loss incident" and the ultimate disposition of the reconnaissance crew. The mostly burned wreckage, laying inverted, was located by reconnaissance photos two days after the loss. A 3-man rescue/recovery team entered into the location of the downed aircraft on the fourth day, the 9th of February; two para-rescue men and one USAF Security Service specialist. (A planned fourth member was in another helicopter that had to abort its mission). The 40-minute crash site examination revealed only four bodies of the eight-member crew with no survivors at the crash site and no other remains visible. The bodies that were found, possibly protected from the fire by their Nomex flight suits, were members of the 361st TEWS flight crew, with all but one crewmember suspended upside down in their seats by their shoulder harnesses, still in their assigned crew positions. Due to a helicopter fuel shortage, the three men were extracted with the body of just one recovered crewmember. Suffice it to say at this writing that the entire eight-man crew has not been fully nor acceptably accounted for, albeit one (Lt. Bernhardt), whose partial-remains were retrieved from the wreckage. He was buried by his family in 1973.

The crash site was re-entered and excavated in January 1993, with very few signs of any human existence. All archeological findings were sent to CIL-HI, the U.S. Army laboratories in Hawaii, for possible identification.

In 1996, a lone casket containing approximately 29 unidentified bone fragments (few could be verified as human bones and a tooth) representing the remaining 7 crewmembers, was interred at Arlington National Cemetery with family members of two of the crew present. These two USAFSS families were the Cressmans and the Matejovs. All families had to agree to accept an Air Force finding of Killed-In-Action/Body-Not-



Recovered status so that a formal military memorial and burial could take place for all remaining crewmembers. The Air Force then formally closed the case on BARON 52.

Two families have not! Today, one family has the findings under appeal to the Air Staff. These heroic crew members names follow:

361st TEWS Flight Crewmembers

Captain George Spitz (Pilot)

2nd Lt. Robert Bernhardt (Co-pilot)

2nd Lt. Severo Primm III (3rd pilot)

Captain Arthur Bollinger (Navigator)

6994th USAFSS Intelligence Crewmembers

SSgt. Todd Melton

Sgt. Joe Matejov (Airborne Mission Supervisor)

Sgt. Pete Cressman

Sgt. Dale Brandenburg

**They Served with Honor
And Gave Their All
BARON-52**

FALLEN EAGLES



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



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

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor

Borland, Isaac H., USAFSS, **FTVA Lifetime Member *****

Bouchard, John C., MSgt (ret), USAF

Brightbill, Royal A., USAFSS

Clinton, Henry, M., MSgt (ret), USAFSS, **FTVA Member *****

Collins, Norman W., USAFSS

DeArmon, Kenneth W., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS

Dorsey, Darryl S., USAFSS

Gomes, Joseph R., USAFSS

Halpin, John Patrick, CMSgt (ret), USAFSS

Henderson, Basil, L., MSgt (ret), USAFSS

Jolly, Delano R., MSgt (ret), USAFSS, **FTVA Hall of Honor *****

Knipschild, Larry, USAFSS

Kuhl, Eric., USAFSS

Kuntz, David T., Col (ret), USAFSS, **FTVA Lifetime Member *****

Lipham, Doreen, **FTVA Lifetime Member *****

Livingston, Melvin, J., USAFSS

London, Joseph C., USAFSS, **FTVA Lifetime Member *****

McLenegan, Harry Joseph, USAFSS

Newhall, David Scott, TSgt (ret), USAFSS

Posey, Bobbie W., USAFSS

Russel, Matthew J., USAFSS

Scott, Vern D., USAFSS, **FTVA Lifetime Member *****

Semonin, Paul Robert, USAFSS

Shaw, Verner, L., USAFSS

Stanley, Robert, USAFSS

Stooksberry, Jr., L. Keith, USAFSS

Thornton, Robert H., USAFSS

Woods, Ronald E., USAFSS



Borland, Isaac "Ike", 88, died Jan 25, 2018. He was a very proud and honored veteran, serving with the Brown Shoe Air Force, as a Staff Sergeant, serving in Germany during the Korean War. He especially enjoyed attending Air Force Reunions. Ike is survived by his wife of 64 years, Mary Ellen Louise Riche; Children Isaac, Sam, Vivian, John, Richard, and Lottie. **//Donald E. Lewis Funeral Home//**



Bouchard, John Charles, MSgt (ret), 47, passed away Dec 31, 2017. John graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Russian language. After graduation, he served 21 years in the USAF. John loved to fly, and his career took him around the globe on several Air Force platforms. His assignments include Det 3, 25th Intelligence Squadron, Kadena, Japan and tour at Osan AB, Korea. He is

survived by his wife, Ginny and Daughter, Lily. **//Obit – Platt’s Funeral Home//**



Brightbill, Roy A., 77, passed away Oct 13, 2017. He was a veteran of both the Louisiana ANG and USAF, where he served as linguist, interpreter and code breaker. He attended language school at Yale University. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Gwen Delatte and two sons, Kelly and Gary. //Obit – **Mobile Memorial Gardens**//

My heart is heavy with the news of Roy's passing. I had the great pleasure to know him for eight years while I lived in Mobile. We had many spirited and intriguing conversations about his experiences and his language abilities in Mandarin Chinese. //Robert Harding//



Clinton, Henry McFadden, MSgt (ret), 75, passed away Dec 13, 2017. His assignments include Skivvy Nine and HQ USAFSS. He is survived by his wife of over 40 years, Haekyong Chu Clinton; two daughters, Kimberly and Beverly. //Obit – **Barron Funeral Home**//

A legend and leader at Skivvy Nine. A great mentor. Believe he retired out of headquarters in the 80s. //Dennis Buxton//

Was on first test construction team for then-Comfy Olympics at HQ/ESC. //Tony Cook//

Korean Linguist extraordinaire. Vet of Skivvy Nine 60 - 80 time frame. He was a long time FTVA member. Outstanding and popular USAFSS enlisted who mentored and was a loyal friend to many. Skipper was a tried and true friend. Spent a lot of off duty time with him and Horangi Tillman during my time at Skivvy Nine in the late sixties. //Dennis Rassmussen//

I served with Skip on multiple tours. I can see him sitting on the mission supervisor position with his characteristic "I taught you better than that" look whenever myself or any of the other mission members didn't quite measure up. Skip was a brilliant linguist and intuitive analyst that played a major role in peace in our time. //Axel Anaruk//

Skip and I were a part of the "Gang of Four" at Osan in the mid-70s. He was a great GMS, linguist, and as Rock alluded, an excellent teacher. Even though our paths diverged over the years, he remained a good friend and I will miss him. //George Akin//



Collins, Norman Willoughby, 69, passed away Nov 18, 2017. Norman joined the USAF, serving at the 6922nd Security Service during Vietnam. After which, he made San Antonio his home and joined the San Antonio Fire Department retiring after 27 years and he continued to serve in the USAF Reserves. Norman is survived by his wife, Miki Rae; daughters Lisa, Dorothy, and Amy; sons,

David, Sean, and Damian. //Mission Park Funeral Chapels//



DeArmon, Kenneth, W., CMSgt (ret), 82, passed away Jun 3, 2017. He served in the USAF at the 6913th RSM in Bremerhaven, Germany on Charlie Flight from 1954 to 1957. He retired in 1983 as a Chief Master Sergeant. Ken is survived by his wife of 60 years, Edith DeArmon of Clovis CA; son Eddie DeArmon, and daughter Marianne Lenderman. //Obit – Boice Funeral Home//



Dorsey, Darryl Steven, 63, died Apr 18, 2017 at his home in Houston, Texas. He served in the USAF as a Morse Systems Operator from 1974 to 1976. //Wells Funeral Services//



Gomes, Joseph R., 89, passed away Mar 12, 2017. Mr. Gomes served 20 years in the USAF and was later employed with the Department of Employment Training for 20 years until his retirement. //Obit - Saunders-Dwyer Home for Funerals//

Joe was in my tech training class at Goodfellow AFB, TX in 1963/4 when he retrained. Place a flag on his memorial from his fellow “ditty boppers”. 73s good buddy. //Richard Haycock//



Halpin, John Patrick, CMSgt (ret), passed away Jan 8, 2018. John served for 24 years in the USAF as a Thai, Vietnamese, and Korean linguist. He fulfilled a variety of roles during his active duty career from supervising airborne reconnaissance missions to managing worldwide intelligence operations, while garnering an impressive 25 Air Medals. After retirement from active duty, Halpin served another 26 years in the intelligence field with the

Federal Civil Service in San Antonio He is survived by his wife Cathryn; children Jay, Karol, John, Jack, James, Jason, Nick, and Matt. //Obit – **Sunset Northwest Funeral Home**//

I flew with John when he was a "Dogger" and when he was a "MiMi" A pure professional with a wonderful snarky and intelligent humor, although we were not super close I will miss him greatly. Too many old "friends" departing and John was definitely one. My heartfelt condolences to the family.

//**William "WU" Wuerzberger**//

My thoughts and prayers are with the Halpin family. John was a very good friend of mine and he will be missed. I worked with John on Security Hill for many years and he was a great person and would do anything to help you. With deepest condolences to the family. John was a friend to have and work with. Rest in Peace John. //**Chief Edward Jolly, Jr (Retired)**//

We have lost one of the legends. //**AJ Harrison**//



Henderson, Basil, L., MSgt (ret), 81, passed away Dec 17, 2017. His assignments include the 6994th Security Squadron, Bravo Maintenance Technician.

As a tribute to Basil's training connection to Goodfellow AFB, and the EC-47 replica aircraft and ARDF Exhibit at the Norma Brown building, Army Lt Col (ret) Danny Henderson got his dad a custom-made EC-47 ARDF History Exhibit shirt for his birthday. //**ec47.com**//

We offer our condolences as MSgt Basil Lee Henderson has departed on his final assignment. To Margie and the Henderson family, thank you for letting us share the 50th Commemoration ceremony. Thinking of you all as we say a prayer for this great veteran. //**Tom & Joe The EC-47 History Site**//



Jolly, Delano "Del" Richardson, MSgt (ret), 80, passed away Jan 22, 2018. He served in the USAF for 20 years. Del served a tour in Vietnam. In 2006, he was inducted into FTVA Hall of Honor for modifications he made that resulted in many successful missions. He was also a founding member of Airborne Maintenance Technician Association (AMTA). He is survived by his loving bride of

57 years, Sharon Jolly; daughter, Monica Lynn Hall; son, Del W. Jolly; and daughter, Lori A. Parrott. //Obit – Moore’s Jacksonville Funeral Home//

I flew many missions in Vietnam with Del. A superior AMT and a gentleman in every sense of the word. RIP, old friend. //Walter Rosenstrom//

My heartfelt sympathy to Del's family and friends. Flew with Del on RB-50s during late 1950s while in Japan. In fact, he was our Airborne Maintenance Technician on his first flight, a night mission over the Sea of Japan. R.I.P., my dear friend. //Larry Lane, CMSgt, USAF (ret)//



Knipschild, Larry, 68, passed away Dec 17, 2017. Larry was a Dogger at both the 6990th and 6908th from the late 1960s. A regular attendee at every past Fall of Saigon Party, we were all fortunate and blessed to have had one last opportunity to visit with him at the 50th Anniversary Combat Apple reunion this last September. //Larry Miller//



Kuhl, Eric, 50, passed away Jan 18, 2018. After joining the USAF, he was assigned to the Defense Language Institute. Upon completing his studies there, Eric served as a Hungarian linguist working for the National Security Agency from 1988 to 1992. Eric will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 23 years, Liz. //Obit – Statesman Journal//



Kuntz, David Teal, Colonel (ret), 87, passed away Jan 5, 2018. He received a B.S. degree from West Virginia University and a simultaneous commission as a second lieutenant in the USAF on June 4, 1951. His assignments include Clark Air Base, Philippines and Hakata Air Station, Japan, where he commanded the 6918th Security Squadron.

He was also assigned to Headquarters, Air Force Security Service at Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, for duty on the Command Inspector General Team. He is survived by his wife Pauline, and four children, Patricia, John, Mary, and Carol. //Obit – Washington Post//

Colonel Kuntz served our country in the USAF as Squadron Commander during his 1970-1972 tour at Hakata. Colonel Kuntz and his wife Pauline were great supporters of the 6918th RSM/SS. //Carol Farr//

Worked with Col Kuntz at USAFSS. Was always impressed with his professionalism and demeanor. //Carolyn Dunkin//



Lipham, Doreen, 83, passed away Oct 24, 2017. Doreen was born and raised in Edinburgh, Scotland until she met a handsome airman, Bill Lipham (retired MSGT). They were married for over 50 years before she lost her beloved Bill to cancer in 2005. She was an FTVA lifetime member. Doreen is survived by her son, Wayne. //Legacy.com//



Livings, Melvin Jackson, 88, passed away Nov 18, 2017. He served in the USAF during the Korean Conflict where he spent the majority of his 4 years of service in the Washington, D.C. area as a Crypto analyst. He was very proud of his military service and being a veteran. //Obit – Lewis Funeral Home.



London, Joseph C., 87, passed away Jan 5, 2018. He served in the USAF for 29 years, including service during WWII, Korea and Vietnam conflicts. His assignments include HQ AF Cryptographic Depot, USAFSS. He is survived by his children: Kenneth, Jack, and Julie. //Obit - **Sunset Northwest Funeral Home**//



McLenegan, Harry Joseph, 79, passed away Sep 17, 2017. He was a veteran of the USAF Det 1, 6988th Reconnaissance Squadron based at Yokota AFB in Okinawa, Japan. He was educated at Yale University as a linguist – specializing in Mandarin Chinese, and was an Interpreter aboard a B-29 bomber for intelligence reconnaissance missions. //Obit - **Fager-Finkenbinder**

Funeral Home//



Newhall, David S., TSgt (ret), 65, passed Oct, 2016. He enlisted in the USAF, where he served 20 years, as an airborne linguist. He was a highly decorated Vietnam War Veteran. David is survived by his wife Cynthia; daughters Rebecca Warwick and Ruth Potts. //Obit – **Clements-Wilcox Funeral Home**//

David was a Dogger and Mimi. He was assigned to the 6990th, 6903rd, and 41ECS. He also served in Danang. //Matthew Poole//



Posey, Bobbie W., 81, passed away Dec 5 2017. He spent his life proudly serving his country until he retired from Air Force Intelligence, and then went on to work at E-Systems until he retired from there as well. Bob is survived by his wife of 55 years, Tommie; daughters Dianna, Darlene, Donna, and Deborah. // **Obit – Peters Funeral Home**//

Served with Bobbie in Japan flying Intelligence gathering missions from Yokota Air Base in RB50s. One super great guy whom everybody in the outfit admired as a man among men. My heartfelt sympathy to his family and other friends. RIP, Bobbie. //Larry Lane, CMSgt (ret)//

Tommie, Bobbie was a special person. I remember when I first met him it was as though we had been friends for years. We had conversations about his life in the Air Force back when surveillance was done from propeller driven aircraft. He will forever be in my memory. //Linda and Joe Goss//



Russel, Matthew J., 89, passed away Jul 7, 2017. He was an engineer, inventor, Russian linguist, pilot, photographer, woodworker and writer. He enlisted in the USAF and was stationed in Germany where he served as a Russian linguist analyzing Russian Air Force activities through intercepted radio messages. Following military service, he joined Eastman Kodak where he designed a photographic sub-system for the NASA Lunar Orbiter that was used to photograph and map the moon's surface prior to the first manned Apollo landing. He is survived by his children Suzanne, Steven, and William. //obit – [Jarmusz Cotton Funeral Home](#)//



Scott, Vern Dale, 88, passed away Nov 26, 2017. He entered the USAF in 1950 and completed training in deciphering radio traffic, code-breaking and international Morse code. He was stationed in San Antonio, Texas, until his deployment to Japan. He served in Korea until 1954 as part of the Air Force Security Service. He was a member of the [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), the [Korean War Veterans Association](#), and the Tirey J. Ford American Legion Post where he served as a member of the honor guard. He visited elementary and high schools where he talked with students about his experiences in Korea. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Marilyn (Barber) and son, Michael. //Obit – [Speaks From the Heart](#)//



Semonin, Paul Robert, 74, passed away Jun 7, 2017. He joined the USAF where he became a Chinese linguist and spent time in Korea. He later received a degree in cartography.

In 1972, he found work in Alaska and it became home. Paul is survived by wife Joyce; children, Matthew and Stephanie. //Obit - **Kehl's Palmer Legacy Funeral**

Home//



Shaw, Verner, L., 73, passed away Jun 17, 2017. Lee was born in Townsville, Australia during WWII to Verner L. Shaw, a US soldier from Texas, and Thelma Louise Patterson, a native Australian. To escape Japanese bombings, his Dad sent them to live with his family in East Texas when Lee was only 18 months old. After a brief time at San Antonio Junior College, he joined the USAF serving

in the "Crypto" field. His career took him to the Philippines and to Johnson Island in the Pacific, then back to Texas to Wichita Falls. He also served in Alaska, Mississippi, and Germany. Lee's final assignment was to Hurlburt Field. There he worked for the new 53rd Wing of the 8th Air Force which was instrumental in "Desert Storm". It was there he formally retired after 25 years. Lee is survived by Sherry, his loving wife of 45 years. //Sunset North Funeral Home//



The Reverend Stanley, Robert (Bob), 80, died Feb 14, 2017. He enlisted in the USAF and served in the linguistics unit based in Alaska and Omaha, Nebraska. He is survived by his wife Alice; two sons, Bruce and James; and three daughters; Rebecca, Ruth Anne, and Mary Beth. //Obit – **Miller Funeral Homes//**



Stooksberry, L. Keith, 69, passed away Dec 6, 2017. He entered the United States Air Force in 1969 and served as a Russian Linguist in Anchorage, Alaska during the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife Sheila; son, Shawn; daughter, Shannon. //Obit – **Coldren Crates Funeral Home**//



Thornton, Robert Herbert, 78, passed away Oct 26, 2017. In March of 1959, he enlisted in the USAF where he served his country as a Morse-Code decoder with top secret clearance. Bobby leaves to cherish his life memories three children; Andrea, Bobbi, and Thomas. //Obit - **Snowden Funeral Home**//



Woods, Ronald E., 81, died Nov 11, 2017. He enlisted in the USAF and was stationed in Hof Germany where he served as a linguist for several years. He is survived by his wife Margaret; his children Kim, Kelley, and Kendall. //Obit - **Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home**//

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