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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Evan Smith

Salute!

Greetings from San Antonio!

In the midst of these troubling times, I hope this issue of our *Remain In Touch* Newsletter provides a brief respite from social distancing, self-imposed quarantines, and saddening news that bombards us all around the clock. Without question, COVID-19 has changed things, and the FTVA's activities have slowed dramatically as you might imagine. The Executive Board did recently meet via a ZOOM video teleconference and that'll be the standard going forward for the foreseeable future. Likewise, I'm pleased to see that several of our Chapters have also taken the initiative to reach out virtually to their members just to check in. That's what families do, so please keep up the good work and stay connected.

2020 FTVA Reunion Cancelled. One of the most pressing topics we discussed at our recent Executive Board Meeting was planning for this year's anniversary activities in light of COVID-19. It's certainly too early to predict where the Country will be with regards to travel and gatherings come the Fall, but based on the current situation and CDC warnings about the likelihood of a second wave of COVID-19 coupled with flu season, **we've made the decision to cancel** this year's scheduled events. By making the decision now, those who were planning to fly in hopefully will be able to minimize any planned travel expenses, but more importantly, we're taking these extraordinary measures to keep everyone safe. We will still make selections for the 2020 Hall of Honor and will plan to recognize those selected in-person during next year's Anniversary Events. Additionally we are exploring options for a virtual Memorial Ceremony and perhaps other on-line events and will keep the membership informed as plans solidify.

Each and every one of you is in our thoughts and prayers. Please continue to stay safe and look after one another and please don't hesitate to reach out to Board with any news, questions, or concerns you may have...*Remain in Touch!*

Evan Smith, Lt Col (R)

Many Air Force senior leaders, including the Chief of Staff, General David Goldfein, the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Kaleth Wright, the incoming new Chief of Staff, General Charles Brown, and others have

FTVA Value Statement

By Evan Smith

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

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

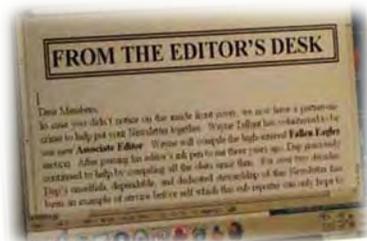
The FTVA reaffirms our commitment to our country and the people we serve. Now is the time for reflection and listening to those that may not have had a voice at the table. Those voices need to be heard and be part of this national debate. We, as an organization, understand the sacrifices that have been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

Remain in Touch,

Evan V. Smith, President FTVA

YOUR NEWSLETTER STAFF

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William (Bill) Brockmiller, Associate Editor	Chapter Inputs
Roy Burnett, Circulation Manager	e-Issue



Dear Readers,

Hello all, welcome to the June Issue of YOUR *Remain In Touch* Newsletter. Received some very positive comments on the new format and I thank you for those. Remember, and pass on, that you will be notified via email of new issues being posted on the web site IF and ONLY IF your email address is correct in our database. If it

changes, or you want to check it, please send an email to membersupport@ftva.us. Our esteemed Membership Chairman will, at your request, double check that we have your most current email.

You will notice this issue is ‘skinnier’ than usual and a big portion is missing, as this cursed virus has hampered our chapter activities sections, reunions, etc. A couple of them managed to hold virtual meetings and provided much appreciated inputs that you can read within.

We hope to have more for you in the September issue, but we are currently in uncertain times and no amount of stories, copy, or pictures is worth compromising your health and well-being; so stay safe and my best to you and yours from me and mine.

All comments can be directed to: newsletter@ftva.org.

Thanks and Remain In Touch!

Dennis Buxton, Newsletter Editor
Newsletter@ftva.org, 210-627-7586

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

FTVA BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

Lee Anthony has been a member of the board for many years and has simultaneously filled 2 critical positions during that time. Over time, of course, our lives change and, consequently, our priorities change. Other important projects are demanding so much of Lee's time that he has to leave these positions.

We are seeking volunteers to fill the roles of Board Treasurer and as the Fallen Eagles Data Base chairman. The duties are outlined below. Please consider helping out your FTVA in these important positions. If you are interested, please contact Ken Maynard, at stagsa@gmail.com.

Thanks!

FTVA BOARD TREASURER

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

- Maintain currency on IRS 501(c)19 and 501(c)3 decisions as applies to organization
- TX corporate reports/responsibilities

FALLEN EAGLES

- Maintain and update the 12-month listing of Fallen Eagles to be read at the Remembrance Ceremony
- Maintain and update the overall Fallen Eagles database, regardless of year of passing
- Receive/process all Fallen Eagles reports from website form, RIT staff, 6918th team, and all others

Your FTVA runs on volunteers from the chapter levels to the overall Board. If interested in filling one or both of these impending vacancies, please contact Ken Maynard, at stagsa@gmail.com. OJT will be provided!



FTVA HALL OF HONOR



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

Hall of Honor Nominations Under Review

The Hall of Honor Selection Committee is currently reviewing the write-ups of nominees for induction into the Hall of Honor. HOH nominations had to be received not later than 1 June 2020, and selections will be announced in the September RIT issue. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association's reunion activities that will be held at 16 Air Force HQ (Building 2007), providing Corona allows us to hold the anniversary events this year; however, regardless of the virus, we will ensure that this year's inductees will receive the full recognition and ceremony that they deserve even if it has to be delayed. For those of you who submitted nominations, thank you as we are always looking for those who should be honored.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

A.J. Harrison, Hall of Honor Program Chair

16th AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken Maynard
Associate Editor

AIR FORCE INFORMATION WARFARE'S NEW WARFIGHTING UNIT ACTIVATES

Adapted from an article by Sharon Singleton, Sixteenth Air Force / Published March 18, 2020



U.S. Air Force Col. James F. Weaver (right) assumes command of the 616th Operations Center from Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sharon Singleton)

Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland, Texas — The 616th Operations Center was activated here during a ceremony Monday.

The new OC integrates the 625th OC, including Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance operations with the 624th OC, including cyber operations.

Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander, shared his vision for the new center.

“Today we stand up a warfighting unit that will be responsible for the convergence of the Air Force Information Warfare enterprise to create new outcomes for the nation,” said Haugh. “The Airmen of the 616th OC are charged with developing the new operational art that will ultimately change the way our service fights.”

Col. James F. Weaver, the new 616th OC commander eagerly accepted the charge ahead.

“As we move forward into the 616th we bring two great cultures together,” said Weaver. “One that is the gold standard for command and control and the conduct of full-spectrum cyber space operations and one that’s a culture focused on filling gaps and seams to optimize ISR operations worldwide, resulting in increased effectiveness and Air Domain Awareness for Combatant Commanders worldwide.”

The activation concluded with the unfurling of the 616th OC flag and activation of the newly formed 616th OC.

The success in forging the way ahead for the 616th OC will be revolutionary not only for Sixteenth Air Force but for redefining Air Force contributions to joint operations.

MADE WITH LOVE IN AUSTRALIA BY A 2ND WS AIRMAN

Adapted from an article by Paul Shirk, 55th Wing/PA / April 08, 2020

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — Staff Sgt. Kalynn Mitchell, a 2nd Weather Sqdn solar analyst at Learmonth Solar Observatory in Exmouth, Western Australia, is using her sewing

machine and fabric from a local hardware store to create face masks for medical workers and others at risk in the community in the midst of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

Although the masks won't perform at the same level as N95 respirator masks, the ones used by healthcare workers, they will still provide some benefit.

"Even surgical masks don't perform to the same level as N95s," Mitchell said. "With the decline of readily available resources, I am trying to figure out different outside-the-box solutions. So basically, the way it will work is there will be soft fabric on the inside of the mask, then the antimicrobial fabric followed by a third layer of fabric. This is to enhance or at least maximize the amount of filtration the mask does since this virus is water droplet based."



Staff Sgt. Kalynn Mitchell, 2nd Weather Squadron Det 1 solar analyst, sews face masks using a sewing machine at her home in Learmonth, Western Australia, April 1, 2020. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Kalynn Mitchell)

Mitchell added, "The intent is for the mask to go to the frontline nurses and those at most risk of being exposed. I have been in contact with a few different medical clinics throughout Western Australia. We will take care of this town first with our local hospital, the elderly home as well as the Australian Federal Police."

"I was inspired after hearing about the countless shortages of medical equipment across the region," Mitchell said.

"Medical professionals have been asked to reuse their own personal protective equipment and others have completely run out of masks all together. I think that's unacceptable especially with my Dad being a respiratory therapist. I wanted to help in any way that I could."

Mitchell went to the local hardware and purchased rolls of antimicrobial cloth on her own. So far, she has produced 110 face masks.

"The (the healthcare workers') reaction has been one of surprise," Mitchell said. "They don't ever expect things like this to happen. They are very appreciative. As far as how they are being used, from what I was told they are used when they admit new patients."

This is not the first time she has put her craft skills to work. "I actually don't sew as much as I used to," Mitchell said. "The last thing I sewed was kangaroo pouches to help the recovering wildlife affected by the Australian forest fires. And just like then, it was like, what can I do to help? I want to help. I need to help."

Members of Det 1 are supporting Mitchell's efforts, purchasing materials so that she can keep producing masks.

The detachment has a long history of community involvement with Exmouth, a town of about 2,500. Even under social isolation conditions, Det 1 has found ways to stay connected.

“Our det chief does an online video trivia night with members of the community,” Nu said. “This was previously done in person and was a great social event in town. With the new restrictions in place, he decided to bring the trivia to everyone virtually and keep those connections strong.”

Mitchell hopes that people will find their own ways to assist their communities.

“These are hard times, but there is light at the end of this tunnel,” Mitchell said. “I didn’t start doing this for recognition or a bullet, I started doing this because I want to help. You have to be the change you want to see in the world, and kindness goes a long way. In my humble opinion, I think we as a world, and to drill down even more, as an Air Force, we will make it out of this better and more resilient. It won’t be easy, but together we are unstoppable.”

AIR FORCE KEEPS THE TELEWORK FORCE IN THE FIGHT

Adapted from an article by George Serna, 16AF / March 27, 2020

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas. — In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) is working to ensure teleworkers across the Air Force keep government and personal computers and networks connected and protected.

“Some of the efforts to expand telework capacity have been months in the making, while others were accomplished by incredible Airmen who re-engineered systems overnight,” said Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, commander of Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber).

Virtual private network capacity has been upgraded to 70,000 concurrent users enterprise wide – a 600 percent increase. More upgrades in the coming weeks will take that number to 200,000 concurrent users.

Haugh also explained that although Airmen stabilized and eliminated a problem requiring users to enter their PIN multiple times, the issue persists for some segments of the network; and work is ongoing to address the issue.

The Air Force network can add up to 30,000 more government owned mobile devices. Installations purchasing additional iPhones and iPads should coordinate with their communication squadron. Additionally, units experiencing telephone issues, should contact their communications squadron for assistance and potential upgrades.

[Haugh announced](#) several capabilities coming online soon. “The combined team is working to improve your ability to access key tools such as Microsoft Outlook, SharePoint, and One-Drive through the use of both government laptops and personal devices,” he said.

“SecDef guidance is clear – we need to protect our mission critical data.” Haugh said, “While many Airmen are starting to use commercially available collaboration tools, we want to be conscious of information security and be aware that our adversaries are always seeking to exploit any new vulnerabilities. Do not work with any FOUO or PII on these platforms.”

A final word on disinformation: “We know our adversaries will attempt to spread disinformation about COVID-19,” Haugh said. “Each of us can serve on the front lines in the fight against

disinformation, if we recognize the threat and maintain a healthy skepticism about the information we view online.”

When reading posts, tweets, articles, etc., consider the following: Is this an original account, article, or piece of content? Who shared or created it? Simply ask yourself: “Is this real?” Then take a couple minutes to investigate and be especially mindful about what we re-post or share with friends, co-workers, and family.

Additional information and resources are available:

DISA renews anti-virus software license agreement helping teleworkers keep machines safe at home: <https://disa.mil/NewsandEvents/2020/anti-virus-software-teleworkers>

Defend the DoDIN: Telework Do’s and Don’ts

<https://www.doncio.navy.mil/chips/ArticleDetails.aspx?ID=13284>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON CIVILIAN LEAVE

By SAF/AAR, Office of the Administrative Assistant to the SecAF / Published April 24, 2020

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE, SD — The Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force (SAF/AAR) has answered frequently asked questions regarding civilian employee use or lose leave usage and time off award extensions during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Q: During the COVID-19 Pandemic, are there prohibitions on civilians earning or using certain types of leave?

A: Civilians may earn: annual and sick leave, compensatory time-off, compensatory time-off for travel, credit hours and time off awards. There is no current service prohibition on the use of civilian leave; those decisions are made locally, based on command/organization mission requirements and the personal needs of an employee.

Q: Does the Department of Defense (DoD) plan to extend the leave year or grant automatic Restoration of Annual Leave due to the COVID-19 crisis?

A: DoD is continuing to monitor the situation and at this time, there are no changes to the end of the leave year or leave restoration policies. Civilians may only carry 240 (CONUS) or 360 (OCONUS) hours of annual leave from one leave year to another (Current leave year ends on January 2, 2021). Regulations allow for restoration of forfeited annual leave. Large scale or group restorations can be approved, based on exigency. Restoration under an exigency is only authorized if use of the leave was scheduled in advance, in writing, and was approved for use before the start of the third biweekly pay period before the end of the leave year.

Q: Does DoD plan to extend the time frame in which Compensatory Time Off AND Compensatory Time Off for Travel can be used due to the COVID-19 crisis?

A: DoD conducted research to see if there was any flexibility to modify or waive the provisions governing Compensatory Time Off AND Compensatory Time Off for Travel given the impact the

COVID pandemic is having on the DoD civilian workforce. After reviewing the statute and regulations, DoD has determined that there is no such authority to modify these provisions, even in a temporary manner. Such changes would require statutory or regulatory change DoD is continuing to monitor the situation and may consider legislative relief depending on the duration of the pandemic. At this time, however, there are no changes to either of the Compensatory Time Off policies. The current rules and authorities are as follows:

- Civilians must use their Compensatory Time Off within 26 pay periods or must be paid out (FLSA covered employees) or forfeited (FLSA exempt). For the latter group, if it is determined that the employee's failure to use the time off was beyond the employee's control, it will be paid out.*
- Civilians must use their Compensatory Time Off for Travel within 26 pay periods or it will be forfeited. If forfeiture was beyond the employee's control, an agency may extend the forfeiture deadline by up to an additional 26 pay periods (one year).*

Q: Does DoD plan to extend the time frame in which Time Off Awards can be used due to the COVID-19 crisis?

A: Civilians must use their Time Off Awards within 1 yr of the effective date; no extensions permitted. Payout is not allowed. DoD is working on policy to extend the expiration of time off awards awarded during 2019. More guidance on this issue is pending.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

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



Heritage Chapter San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, Chapter President

Larry Ross, Secretary/Treasurer

Submitted by Larry Ross,

Zoom. Zoom. On 7 May, the Heritage Chapter boldly went where no chapter had gone before (*editor: except of course for the Wasatch Chapter that went there 24 April 😊*) and conducted what we believe was the first virtual chapter meeting in the entire history of FTVA. Evidence of the event is provided in the form of a screen shot of the nine

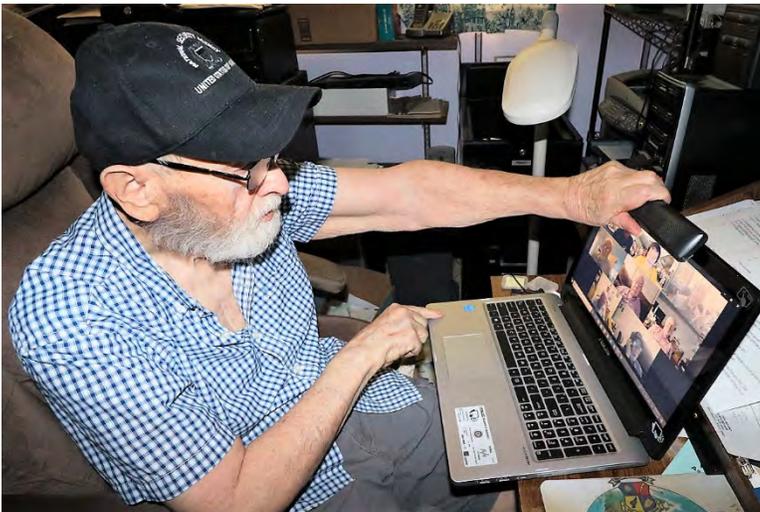


Wayne Bascom, serving as ZMS (Zoom Mission Supervisor) looks over the Heritage Chapter 'crew' seriously wondering if he has a Cat 3 among any of them. :)

members on the Zoom meeting that were somewhat knowledgeable of the technology. The photo may remind some of the opening picture of the “Brady Bunch.” In attendance were Wayne Bascom, our Zoom host/facilitator; Vice President Ed Bendenelli; Secretary Larry Ross; John Frost; Tom Nurre; Larry Miller; Rick Premo; Harriett Samad; and Ray Thompson, a Heritage Chapter member who lives in faraway Sherman, Texas. Ray was attending his first chapter meeting.

Conspicuously absent from the actual Zoom connection was our president “JJ” Graham who was “sort of” notionally in charge attempting to lead the meeting via his flip-phone voice connection relayed into Larry Ross’ Zoom audio.

After Wayne finally brought most of us into the Zoom meeting and after sergeant-at-arms emeritus John Frost conducted a scrupulous pants check (all members were found to be suitably attired and without face masks), the group chatted while we waited as Wayne and Larry attempted to locate our missing-in-action president.



COMMS RELAY: Adapting and overcoming, Larry Ross, in direct communication with JJ Graham, below, holds his phone to the mike (we hope) of his laptop so the assemblage can listen to JJ’s profound pontifications, while Wayne Bascom, left, stoically reminiscences about the good old days of chatter rolls and chaffing and freezing JJ’s fatigue cap at the next opportunity.

Ray Thompson, who none of us had ever met before since he lives some 250 miles away from San Angelo, introduced himself and entertained us with stories of his four-year’s service back in the 1950s while being stationed in one of the many German border sites active during that time.

Finally comms between Larry Ross and JJ were established with president Graham speaking into his antique flip-phone which was then relayed to Larry’s phone that was sitting by the mike on Larry’s computer. At times we could actually recognize JJ’s voice.

The meeting was finally called to order at 7:04. For the next hour we discussed several chapter business items. The June meeting is also scheduled via Zoom. The Heritage Chapter does not meet in July. Hopefully in August, we can then meet in person.



Chapter President JJ “MIA” Graham attempting to “Zoom-In” with his turn-of-the-19th-Century” flip phone. Rumor has it that C3 was missing a C or two.

To view completed 4x8 pavers:

<http://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/photoGalleries/index/the-ec-47-memorial-plaza-4x8-paver-w-inscriptions>

To view completed 8x8 pavers:

<http://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/photoGalleries/index/the-ec-47-memorial-plaza-8x8-paver-w-inscriptions>

Due to restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 virus, the plaza dedication and other associated activities scheduled for 27 March 2020 were cancelled. After reviewing several options for a new date, members agreed to reschedule the dedication on 29 March 2021, Vietnam Veterans Day. Updates will be posted at www.ec47.com and www.vietnam50thcpp.com.



JROTC Scholarship Donations

Submitted by Larry Ross
FTVA Heritage Chapter Secretary/Treasurer

On 12 June, Ed Bendinelli (left in photo below), on behalf of the 6994th Security Squadron Association, presented a \$500.00 check to Kitty and Ray Leftwich for scholarships to two graduating high school JROTC cadets.

In 2017, Ray Leftwich Jr created the "RF LEFTWICH & 6994TH ARDF EC MEMORIAL FUND" in honor of his father, TSgt Raymond Leftwich, killed in the first shootdown of an EC-47 aircraft during the Vietnam War. (Photo and copy submitted by Larry Ross, Heritage Chapter Secretary/Treasurer.)



EC-47 Newsletter Inputs

PAVER PHOTOS POSTED FOR VIEWING

Submitted by Tom Nurre

We uploaded the first 42 photos of 4x8 engraved pavers [Here](#). The first 30 photos of 8x8 engraved pavers are also available [Here](#). Or check out the EC-47 Memorial Plaza photos with links to the individual paver photos [Here](#).

<http://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/the-ec-47-memorial-plaza>

The Heritage Chapter provided photos were taken of each engraved plate temporarily inserted in a single studio paver. As expected, the actual color tint varies from paver to paver in the plaza, so your reserved paver will not exactly match these staged photos.

Email us at info@ec47.com or pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com if you have any questions or comments. Call Tom direct if you have personal concerns to discuss.

Thanks for your participation. More than 250 of the available pavers have been reserved and ordered. The Leave Your Mark vendor company is open but at reduced capacity.

FTVA SPONSORS EC-47 MEMORAL PLAZA PAVER PROJECT

Submitted by Tom Nurre and Joe Martin

The San Angelo Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA), supported by a grant from the San Antonio-based association board of directors, sponsored the creation of an EC-47 Memorial Plaza paver project. Goodfellow AFB officials accepted the Heritage Chapter design and gift of nearly 1,000 pavers on June 24, 2019.

Initial plans were to dedicate the EC-47 Memorial Plaza and insert the completed engraved bronze plates during a national Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony scheduled at the aircraft display on March 27, 2020. However, the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic with extensive travel bans and community "lockdown" restrictions caused both the construction of the plaza and the dedication ceremony to be postponed indefinitely.

Dedicated Goodfellow AFB Civil Engineers and San Angelo contractors did complete the plaza construction as shown in the above photo taken by JJ Graham the first week of April 2020.

Click [HERE](#) to link to additional photos of the plaza construction.

Nearly 250 (total 4x8 & 8x8) paver locations have been reserved and the Leave Your Mark company is producing the engraved inscription plates at a moderate pace. Here are just two examples of the 4x8 plate engravings. The George Wall plate is a custom In Memory Of inscription with wings and two lines of text. The Henderson plate is engraved with the standard four lines of text. The plates have been temporarily inserted in a Willamette paver for the photos.



The Memorial Plaza fund is currently at zero dollars. We do encourage and appreciate your contributions and recommendations for dedicating additional inscriptions for both living and deceased veterans, family members and friends. The [DONATE](#) feature on vietnam50thcpp.com has been set up specifically for the Memorial Plaza contributions but donations can also be made on ec47.com/donate.

Please note that the new [Guestbook](#) is up and running. It has an added feature for "trusted authors" to register with the Guestbook. After successful registration, authors will be able to Login and have their comments uploaded directly to the Guestbook display. Comments made by unregistered authors will be reviewed by the website Admin section prior to being posted. Check it out and leave us a note. More to come!

ARDF RESEARCH QUESTION CONTEST

We have located this photo in our ARDF research. It is also included in a CT-29A ARDF tribute video, but I think it is an EC-47 navigator console for the VHF capable ALR-38 system...either on a prototype or production model. I will award a special EC-47 Memorial Plaza patch for whoever can solve this question.





Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT

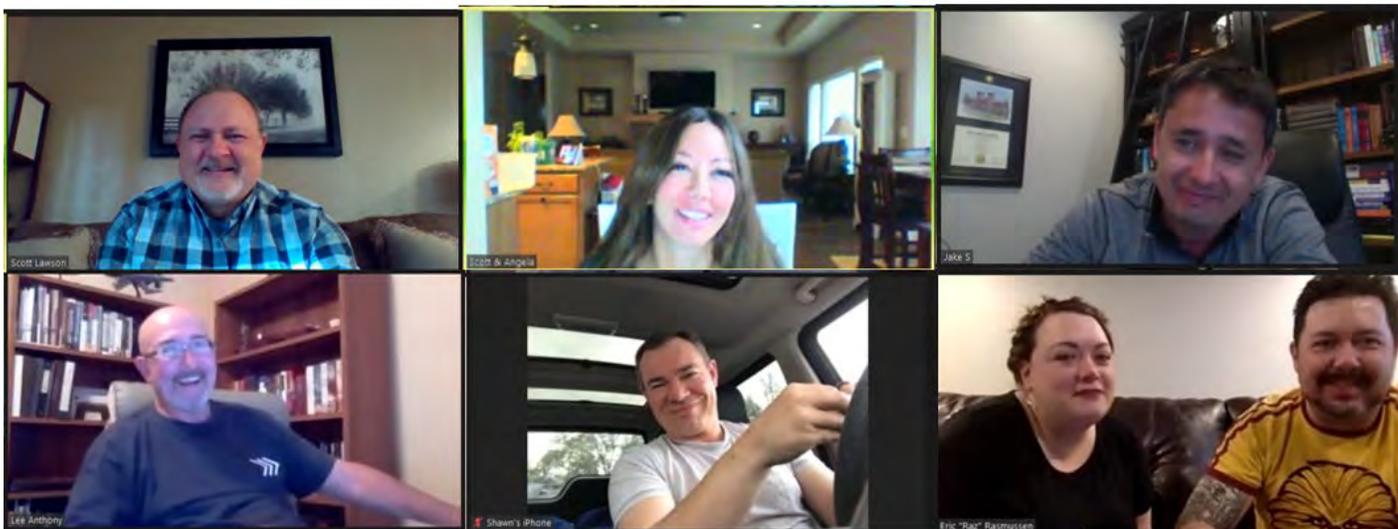
Jacob Scheid, President
Shawn Heckman, Vice President

Submitted by Linz Rasmussen

The FTVA Wasatch Chapter slowed down a bit with COVID-19 restrictions, but that didn't stop us from meeting. As with most of the world, we found creative ways to “*Remain in Touch*” by using Zoom video conferencing. We held two meetings during this period on 24 April and 22 May. Given there's no limitations on distance meeting on Zoom, we were honored to have Lee Anthony, FTVA Treasurer, join us to provide updates on the FTVA at large and discuss arrangements for the upcoming Spanish Linguist Reunion in August.



24 April, 2020 Meeting: Top (l-r), Lindsay Rasmussen and Eric Rasmussen, John and Emily Swinarski, Scott, and Angela Lawson; Bottom (l-r), Shawn and Jen Heckman, Nick Batura and Elisha Frey



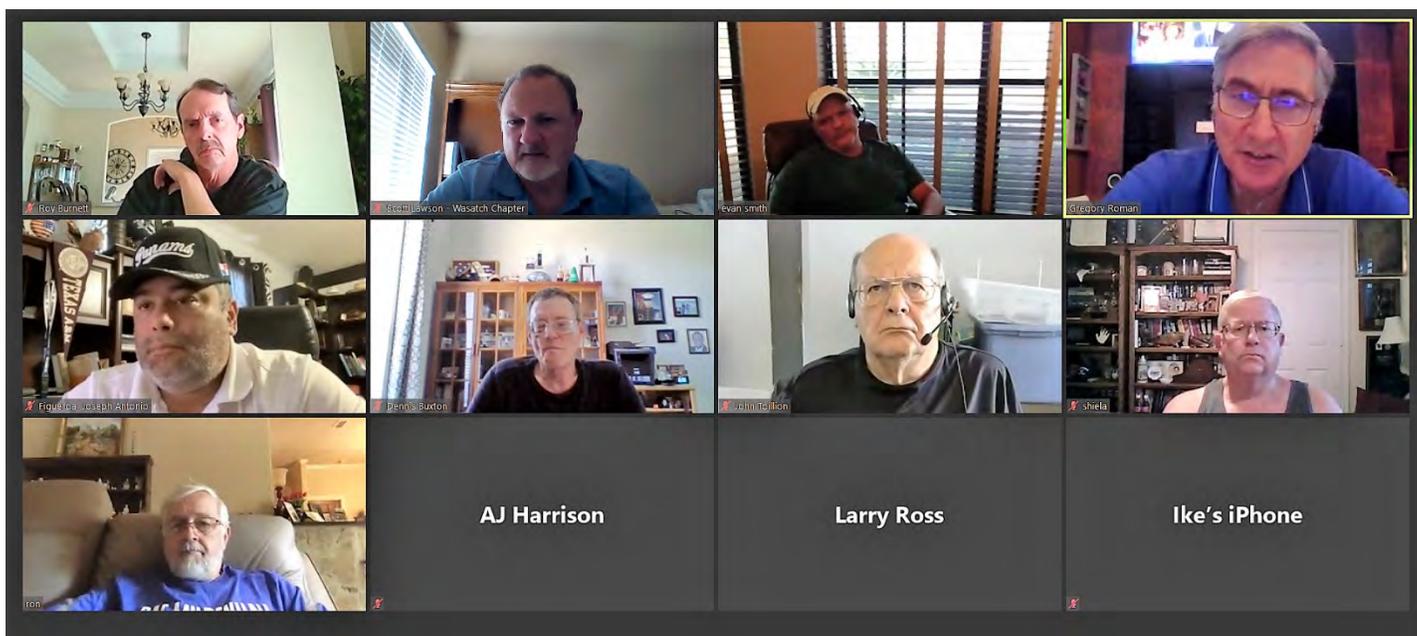
22 May, 2020 Meeting Top, l-r, Scott Lawson, Angela Lawson, and Chapter President Jake Scheid); Bottom Row, l-r, Special Appearance by Lee Anthony, FTVA Treasurer; Shawn Heckman, chapter vice president; and Eric and Lindsay Rasmussen

With COVID-19 restrictions gradually lifting, we continue to make plans to host the Spanish Linguist Reunion in Salt Lake City this summer. Final dates are 19-22 August with events planned to incorporate the retirement of SMSgt Eric Rasmussen, a tour of the 169 IS, and the usual festivities that accompany the reunion. Look for more details from Lee Anthony soon.

This month, the FTVA Wasatch Chapter plans to participate in the Huntsman Cancer Walk in honor of Rich Marks. Rich is an honored and beloved retired member of the 169 IS as a Hebrew Linguist and AMS, currently battling cancer. And hopefully later this year, we'll be able to reschedule our planned bowling mixer to get folks together. See our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147113162599404/>) for more information and announcements on our meetings held fourth Fridays at 6:00 pm (locations vary). If you're ever in town visiting, we'd love to see you join us.

Board of Director Meeting

On June 11, the FTVA BoD held an impromptu meeting to discuss the impact of COVID-19 upon the chapters and receive input into current discussions ongoing between 16 AF and FTVA regarding any 2020 reunion activities (See Evan’s column). While we were ‘face-to-face’ – using Zoom and the miracle that is the Internet – we also discussed other interests especially the idea of increasing BoD meeting participation with the chapters through this medium. The folks attending below are:



Top Row: Roy Burnett, Membership Chair and Web Master; Scott Lawson, Co-founder and member of the Wasatch Chapter, Salt Lake City, UT; Evan Smith, FTVA President; Greg Roman, Co- President of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, Colorado Springs, CO

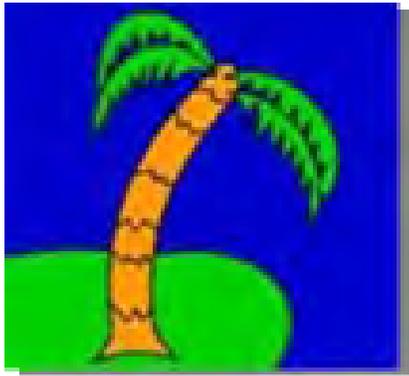
Middle Row: Joe “Pepito” Figueroa, Fallen Eagles Chair; Dennis Buxton, RIT Editor; John “Tilly” Toillion, Aloha Chapter President, Honolulu, HI; and Ken Williams (in workout garb), Social Activities Co-Chair.

Bottom Row: Ron Haygood, Past FTVA President, and 3 camera shy attendees: AJ Harrison, Hall of Honor Chair, Larry Ross, Secretary/Treasurer of the Heritage Chapter, San Angelo, TX; and “Ike’s iPhone” (AKA Ike Eichelberger) also of the Rocky Mountain Chapter.



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

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



**Aloha Chapter
Honolulu, HI
John "Tilly" Toillion, President**

The Aloha Chapter luaus were cancelled because of the Corona Virus.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter's search for volunteers to serve on the BOD continued through the pandemic lockdown.



Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

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

The Rocky Mountain Chapter soirees were cancelled because of the Corona Virus.



Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA



By

Stewart Harris, President

The Gold Country Chapter's howdy-dos were held in abeyance during this evil pandemic.



**REUNION
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Misawa Project Annual Reunion
June 25-28, 2020 **Has Been Cancelled****

The following is posted on the Misawa Website

“COVID-19 UPDATE (15 APRIL, 2020) - DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION, THE 2020 MISAWA PROJECT REUNION HAS BEEN CANCELLED. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO RESCHEDULE THIS YEAR’S REUNION.”

**Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association Reunion
September 27-October 1, 2020**

The 12th reunion of the Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association will take place at the Holiday Inn Dayton/Fairborn in Fairborn Ohio September 27 - October 1, 2020.

The primary activity will be the dedication of a Memorial Plaque for all of those who served at Peshawar Air Station. The plaque will be located at the Memorial Park of the National Museum of the United States Air Force. The dedication is scheduled for Wednesday September 30 at 11AM. All are welcome to come to the dedication.

Activities will include tours of the National Museum of the USAF and The Wright Brothers National Museum at Carillon Historical Park. Potential visits include The Huffman Prairie Flying Field, The Wright Brothers Memorial, the Armstrong Air and Space Museum, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum and many other points of interest in the area.

As of this writing, the reunion is still scheduled to take place. However, changes can happen at any time. For further information and updates, please contact Tom Davis at badaber@att.net or 937-470-3395 or check the [6937th Web Site](#) or their Facebook page.

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

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



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



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



SILVER PARTNERS
Anthony F. Jensen
Grover Jackson
Regis F.A. Urschler
Bob & Debbie Cope
"Picnic Partners"
Grant and June Howells & Ken and Hide Lantz
(IMO Robert Lantz)
Donald Bundy
Greg Radabaugh



BRONZE PARTNERS
Mark and Amy Hess
Henry Whitney
Ronald Hentz
(IHO Col Bob Cope)
Larry and Alice Boyce
E.W. Forbess
Perry Eisenhower



PATRON PARTNERS
CMSgt Roger Towberman
James Mayer
Charles Bishop



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

CHATTER ROLL

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

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

E-Mail address: guy.walsh@utsa.edu
First Name: Guy
Last Name: Walsh
Unit: U. S. Cyber Command

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

E-Mail address: saint@kc.rr.com
First Name: Forrest
Last Name: St. Aubin
Unit: 3rd RSM
Comment: I am attempting to catch up on losses from the Russian language class R-6-10.

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

E-Mail address: dwfeath@hotmail.com
First Name: David
Last Name: Featherston
Unit: 20773A

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

Last Name - Thompson
First Name - Ray
Email - raymack@mac.com

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

E-Mail address: kellybjrinaz@yahoo.com
First Name: William
Last Name: Kelly
Unit: 6989 RSM Sq.
Comment: Assigned to Misawa from 1959 to 1963 on Trick 3 as a 29251 in Super 3 Letting old pals know I am still kicking. Still have dits/dots/dashes, whatever, going through my head.

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

E-Mail address: SMSgtMike@aol.com
First Name: Michael
Last Name: Murray
Unit: Ubon, Thailand 1974
Comment: To all those that remember an old Sgt (AMS). Was in Danang and Ubon 73-74 timeframe.

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

E-Mail address: rlh95965@yahoo.com

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Hewitt

Unit: Tuslog

Comment: 6981st, Anchorage, Det 4 Pt Barrow (1955-1956), Tuslog, Trabzon, 57-58, out as S/Sgt. 1958

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

E-Mail address: MAC5151@HOTMAIL.COM

First Name: Mark (Mac)

Last Name: McConnaughay

Unit: RAF Chicksands

Comment: A Flight

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

Last Name - Ross

First Name - Larry

Email - lrc@verizon.net

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

Last Name - kiger

First Name - charles

Email - chiefk12@hotmail.com

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

E-Mail address: rossmartinez@msn.com

First Name: Rosendo

Last Name: Martinez

Unit: 6949th

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

E-Mail address: fourfriends1@yahoo.com

First Name: Tom

Last Name: Sparrow

Unit: 6950th ESG RAF Chicksands

Comment: Served in USAFSS/ESC from 1963-1986 as a Communications Analyst (202) in Turkey, Crete, Texas, Korea, Alaska, Florida, and England.

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

Last Name - Kenneth

First Name - Meyer

Email - kemeyer123@att.net

Comments - I'm a life member.

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

Last Name - Peirson

First Name - William

Email - w.peirson@juno.com

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

E-Mail address: james.troup@comcast.net
First Name: James
Last Name: Troup
Unit: ESC

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

Last Name - Poyas
First Name - Howard
Email - stanp74@comcast.net

Comments - It has been quite some time since I last visited the site. Just want to see what is current now. I spent my time in USAFSS from 1961 to June 1978. The most important period of my life and so proud that I was able to serve in Command. Wish I was still serving.
HSP TSGT

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

E-Mail address: nescott276@aol.com
First Name: Norman
Last Name: Scott
Unit: 6987th SG

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

E-Mail address: billdecamp@sbcglobal.net
First Name: William
Last Name: Decamp
Unit: HQ USAFSS 1975

Comment: I felt then and still think that USAFSS and subsequent command designations were the cream of the crop in personnel. However, some of the present alumni don't seem to realize the uniqueness of the job they did. Guess two generations down the line has that effect on most of us. I can say I would not want to be in today's USAF...best experience(s) of my career, with Phu Cat AB, Vietnam being the most personally rewarding.

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

E-Mail address: lasnyder45@msn.com
First Name: Les
Last Name: Snyder
Unit: 6922nd Scty Gp

Comment: Trying to remember the first name of SMSgt Zinn, S&W Supervisor at 6922nd in 72-73 timeframe thank you.

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

From: Roger Hubert <twinoaks274@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 24, 2020, 00:20
Subject: Re: RIT Newsletter posted
To: <membersupport@ftva.us>
I love the new format of the RIT. Great job.
Roger Hubert

Ed: Thank you Mr. Hubert for the kind words. Please do keep in touch often.

-----Tear Line-----
 From: Yvonron41 <yvonron41@aol.com>
 Date: Fri, Mar 20, 2020, 10:40
 Subject: Re: RIT Newsletter posted
 To: <membersupport@ftva.us>
 The readability is fantastic. Don't change the format.

Ed: Thanks for the feedback Mr. Moyer. Appreciated!

-----Tear Line-----
 Last Name - Jackson
 First Name - Grover
 Email - grover.jackson1940@gmail.com

-----Tear Line-----
 E-Mail address: les.ettinger@gmail.com
 First Name: Les
 Last Name: Ettinger
 Unit: 6986th Security Group Wakkanai Japan
 Comment: 1966-67 6986th Security Group Wakkanai Japan. Prior 450th AEMS Minot.

-----Tear Line-----
 E-Mail address: dlstock@earthlink.net
 First Name: David
 Last Name: Stockbridge

-----Tear Line-----
 E-Mail address: deedias@msn.com
 First Name: Norbert
 Last Name: Dias
 Unit: 6933rd SG Tuslog Det 94 Karamursel, Turkey
 Comment: 1963 Goodfellow tech school 292x2 1963-1965 Clark AB. Philippines 1965-1966
 6933rd Det 94 Karamursel Turkey

-----Tear Line-----
 E-Mail address: dfowler9824@gmail.com
 First Name: David
 Last Name: Fowler
 Unit: Det 1 6960th Spt Gp

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



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

- Baer, Richard T. Lt Col (ret), USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Ballinger, Alice Lee, **Spouse of George Ballinger, CMSgt (Ret), FTVA and Heritage Chapter Lifetime member.****
- Blair, Craig S., USAFSS
- Blake, Ronald, G., Sgt, USAFSS
- Cochran, Richard, Kenneth, SSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Cresap, Charles C. “Soppy”, MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Cullen, Richard E., USAFSS
- Delheimer, James W. "Jim", USAFSS
- Deuson, Benny, USAFSS
- Dumas, Gerald H., USAFSS
- Elsleger, James D., USAFSS
- French, Elizabeth Hunter Dawson, **Spouse of John F. French FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Gierard, Donald A., Lt Col, USAFSS
- Grabski, Thomas J., Sgt, USAFSS
- Graham, William, D., Maj (ret), USAFSS
- Julien, Dale R., USAFSS
- Leach, Janice Ilene Bunfill (“Jan”), **FTVA Member****
- Lovern, Ronald L., A1C, USAFSS
- McCurdy, Myrna Samson, **Spouse of Darrell McCurdy FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Miller, John Michael “Mike”, CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Ortoli, Neal Charles, USAFSS
- Ritter, George William, USAFSS
- Roby, Randolph W. “Randy”, USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Roesler, Herman, L., TSgt, USAFSS **FTVA Lifetime Member****
- Rushe, George Marion, Col (ret), USAFSS
- Scarboro, Richard Gay, USAFSS
- Sloan, Hugh Johnston III, PhD, USAFSS
- Smith, Gerald "Jerry" E., USAFSS
- Tackett, Robert Foster, TSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Wankowski, Marilyn Josephine Mullins, **Spouse of Alvin Wankowski, FTVA Lifetime Member****



Baer, Richard T., Lt Col (ret), 88, passed away March 22, 2020. Beloved husband of the late Vickie Baer and devoted father of Millie Baer. He graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Arts and then received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering with honors from University of North Carolina. He retired as a Lt. Col. from the United States Air Force and later retired from the United States Civil Service. Those who knew him loved his dry sense of humor, work ethic, caring heart, and his love for procrastination. Services will be announced for a future date. //Beall Funeral Home//

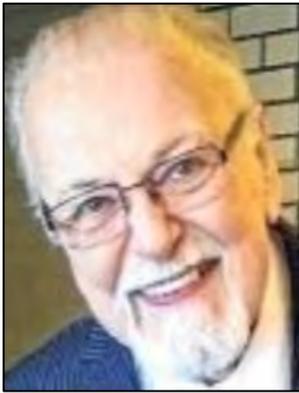
Dick was a dear friend of mine, He told me that he began his career in the early 1960's at Lackland AFB at the old AIA. After "training" he told me that he left for his first Intel assignment in Turkey in 1963. //Jay Fraser//



Ballinger, Alice Lee, 90, spouse of George Ballinger, CMSgt (Ret) of San Angelo went to be with the Lord on Saturday, June 6, 2020. She was born on January 10, 1930 in Metropolis, Illinois to John and Marion (Collette) Allen. Alice attended Pendleton High School and graduated in the class of 1948. She went on to obtain her nursing degree. Soon after she received her degree, she married her high school sweetheart, George Ballinger, on December 15, 1951. Together, they had four beautiful children. While George was in the Air Force, they were stationed in Japan, Germany, and many states in the US. In 1972, they moved to San Angelo with their family. She had a 21-year maternity leave before she went back

to work and spent 11 years at Shannon Medical Center. Alice has the honor of transporting the last patient from the old hospital to the current facility in 1982. Alice was a proud member of Texas Military Retirees RV Chapter of the Good Sam Club. Alice and George served as Ambassadors for Good Sam, representing Texas at various state Samborees around the country. Her hobbies included travelling the country in their RV, playing games and being an avid reader. She also had a special love for butterflies and their beauty. Alice will always be remembered for her crafting of all sorts, especially painting and string art cards, winning awards for art projects at the San Angelo Stock Show and Rodeo Art Exhibit. She is preceded in death by her husband, George. Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Cheryl Day of Austin, TX; Michael and Susan Ballinger of Townsend, GA; Karen and Randy Dumas of San Angelo, and Julie and Ed Belcher of The Woodlands, TX; as well as 11 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren, plus one on the way. Open visitation was held Wednesday, June 10, 2020 from 10 am to 7 pm at Johnson's Funeral Home. A funeral service was held at 10:00 am, Thursday, June 11, 2020 in Johnson's Funeral Home Chapel with a graveside service following at Johnson's Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens. Friends and family may sign the online register book at www.Johnsons-FuneralHome.com.

Her husband, George Ballinger, CMSgt (Ret), was an FTVA and Heritage Chapter life member. He died 14 January 2014.



Blair, Craig S., 75, passed away Dec 29, 2019. In 1963, Craig enlisted in the USAF. Following boot camp in 1964, he was sent to Yale’s Institute of Far Eastern Languages where he learned to speak Mandarin. He was then deployed to Yokota, Japan as a member of the USAF Security Squadron with airborne reconnaissance responsibilities in Southeast Asia. Craig is survived by his daughter, Kristin. //Obit – The Columbian//



Blake, Ronald, G., Sgt, 72, passed away April 21, 2020. He joined the USAF and was trained as a Vietnamese linguist at the Defense Language Institute, Presidio in Monterey, California. He served three and a half years and was honorably discharged as a sergeant. Ron is survived by his wife, Louise, his two sons, Benjamin, and Samuel. //Obit – Mercury News//



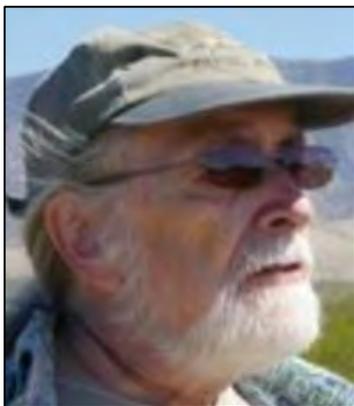
Cochran, Richard, Kenneth, SSgt (ret), 87, passed away Nov 22, 2019. He served 20 years in the United States Air Force and then returned to San Angelo, Texas. During his service to our country, he served 2 tours of duty in Vietnam and was a proud Veteran. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Effie, daughter Debbie, son Kenneth, daughter Beth, and son Rick. //Obit – Johnson’s Funeral Home//



Cresap, Charles Cornelius “Soppy”, MSgt (ret), 68, passed away March 8, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF where he attended the Defense Language Institute and then worked as an Arabic Linguist. He retired with the rank of Master Sergeant from the USAF in 1990 after having served for 20 years. He received numerous medals and ribbons during his time of service and an AA degree from the

Community College of the Air Force. He remained in touch with many of his Air Force friends via the "Prop Wash Gang" group. He is survived by his wife, Lora, and sons, Michael, and Constantine. //Obit – Dimonds and Sons Needles Mortuary//

As with many Prop Wash Gang members, I have known Sopyy Cresap since he arrived in Athens in the early 1970s, and we are indebted to him for a significant amount of the documentation of the operational history of USAFSS/ESC airborne direct support to CENTCOM during the 1970s and 1980s. Sopyy and I worked together in the Sham Shop in Athens, where he was a lead Arabic multichannel analyst after arriving in the 6916th SS from the 6931st/Crete in 1974. In 1980, he was the airborne analyst on an RC-135 Rivet Joint mission over the Central Med that narrowly evaded and escaped from an attack by a pair of Libyan MiG-23s, and later that year, he spent an extended period on TDY to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, flying as "area specialist" aboard AWACS missions monitoring the Iraq-Iran War. Sopyy also deployed as an area specialist as part of a CENTCOM expeditionary force to Khartoum, Sudan, in 1983, and he was the AMS on an RJ mission that supported Operation El Dorado Canyon (a retaliatory attack on Libyan military facilities in Tripoli in response to a terrorist attack on a nightclub in Berlin that killed an American soldier) in 1986. He spent inordinate off-duty hours composing details of those events and other related activities, which he provided for the USAFSS/ESC airborne recon history documented in "Freedom Through Vigilance," Volume IV. In later years, Sopyy Cresap's peers in the AFISR community looked to him as a superb authority on dynamic day-to-day activities in the CENTCOM AOR. //Larry Tart//



Cullen, Richard Eugene, 82, passed away Apr 13, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF was selected as one of the top of 1 percent of enlisted recruits to join the USAF Security Service. He served as a Russian language specialist in the 6912th Radio Squadron (Mobile) in Bingen and later Berlin, Germany. There he monitored Soviet military electronic signals for the National Security Agency. While stationed in Berlin he met and married Brigitte Petsch of Berlin, Germany on September 25, 1959. He is survived by his wife Brigitte, his two children Michael and Johanna. //Obit – Eastern New Mexico News//



Delheimer, James W. "Jim", 84, passed away March 25, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF in 1955. His journey included Syracuse University where he became a Russian Linguist. Then on to Turkey, California, Texas, Germany, Nebraska, Pakistan, and Alaska. James retired from the USAF in 1977. He subsequently entered the U.S. Civil Service at Goodfellow AFB where he spent many hours traveling as the Chief of Plans and Programs working for the Wing Commander. He retired from Civil Service in 1997. He is survived by his wife, Ruth and

their children, Victoria, Michael, Teresa, and Kevin. //Obit- Harper Funeral Home//

I first met Jim when I was an instructor at Goodfellow AFB in 1975. And met him again when I returned to Goodfellow in 1989 when he was a civilian. A good man and well-liked by all who worked for and with him. RIP, Jim. //Glenn Miller//

Knew Jim well during my time in the Tech Training Wing. We eventually bought and enjoyed their Bounder RV when Jim was no longer able to drive it. It was our 1st RV. Our deepest condolences to Ruth and the family. //Jim and Gayle Hartle//



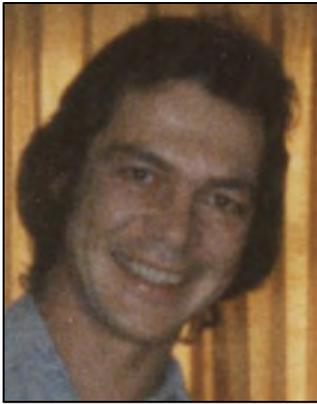
Deuson, Benny, 86, passed away Feb 17, 2020. He served in the USAF from 1956-1960 where he was stationed in Bremerhaven and Darmstadt, Germany. He is survived by his daughter Diane. //Obit – Laurel Land Funeral Home//

He served in the USAF from 1956 0 1960 with the 6913th RSM in Bremerhaven, Germany on “Charlie Flight” and later at Darmstadt, Germany. //6913th.org//



Dumas, Gerald H., AIC, 88, passed away Mar 3, 2020. He attended the Maine Maritime Academy before joining the USAF in 1952, where he was selected for the Security Service. From England to Washington State he served his country for four years. On June 27, 1953, he married Nancy McDonald. He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Nancy; son Robert; and daughter Lise. //Obit - Brookings Smith Funeral//

Dates of USAFSS service: 1952-1956. AFSC: Radio Intercept Operator, 202 Ditty Bopper. Assignments: Chicksands 1952-1954; Kelly and March AFB, 1954-1956. He was a proud recipient of the USAFSS Pioneer hat and certificate. //Harry Larrabee Sr//



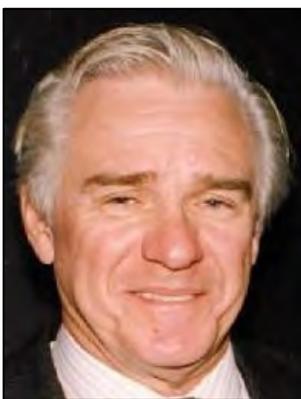
Elsleger, James D., 71, passed away February 17, 2020. He attended Duquesne University for one year before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force. Following his training, Jim served in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force Security Service, serving as a "backender" with the 6994th Security Squadron. //Obit - McIlvaine-Speakman Funeral Home LTD.//



French, Elizabeth Hunter Dawson, 75, passed away April 30, 2020. In December 1965, Liz came to Syracuse, New York, where she married John French, who was in the USAF and attending Syracuse University. John had spent the previous three years stationed in Scotland. Liz then became a USAF wife and accompanied her husband on his travels to Turkey, Maryland, Texas, Okinawa, and finally San Angelo where she lived until her death. She was a Red Cross volunteer for 35 years. Liz is survived by her husband of 54 years, John French; son Michael French; and daughter Lisa Alexander. //Obit – Harper Funeral Home//

Terry and I wish to send our condolences John to you and your family. //Dennis and Terry Pritchard//

Had occasion to meet with Liz once in Okinawa and at least once in San Angelo. I found her a beautiful and gracious hostess. My deepest condolences to John and family. Be secure in your faith. //Dave Highlands//

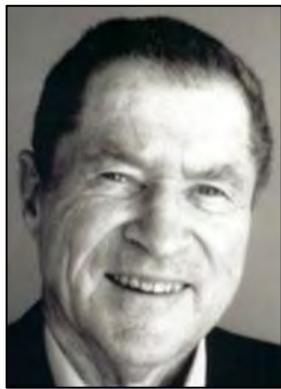


Gierard, Donald A., 87, passed away Apr 20, 2020. He joined the USAF and was commissioned through the Aviation Cadet Program (with the Class of 55 India). With the end of the Korean War, his Air Force career started as a rated intel officer for the Air Force Security Service in Germany. On his return from Europe, he transitioned to the B-47 Stratojet flying for Strategic Air Command from Dyess AFB TX and Plattsburgh AFB NY. In 1969, he was briefly recalled to active duty after the Pueblo incident, flying WB-47 aircraft for the Air Force Air Weather Service. Don is survived by his wife Frances; his daughter Carol Ann; his sons Robert Andrew; Robert Andrew Gierard; and John Charles. //Obit –

Gazette.com//



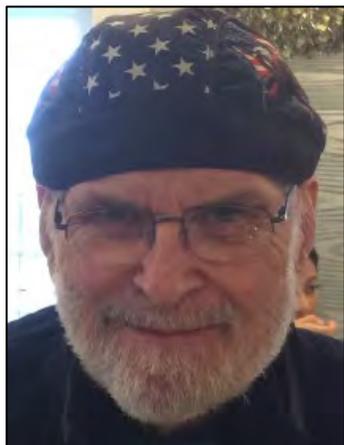
Grabski, Thomas J., Sgt, 70, passed away Jan 15, 2020. Tom served his country in the USAF during the Vietnam War. He was assigned to the 6994th Security Squadron. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Josephine Barcus, and daughter Julie. //Obit – Toland Herzig Funeral Home//



Graham, William D. “Bill”, Maj (ret), 76, passed away, March 7, 2020. In case you've read this far, no flowers please. Instead, go outside your comfort zone and promise me you will make personal contact with a homeless person at least once a month and offer them hope and encouragement and let them know in your own way that God loves them! As an ROTC student and new USAF 2nd Lieutenant I traveled to Harlingen, TX to attend navigator school. My 20-year career took me to Dover, DE (C-124 transports), Peshawar, Pakistan (electronic snooping), the National Security Agency (NSA) at Ft. Meade, MD (Shh!), Athens Greece (more snooping), Thailand (EC-47's) and Columbus, OH (KC-135 tankers) where

I retired in 1976. I flew over 5000 hours and was awarded several medals, including the Bronze Star, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal, and several others. My wife Glenice and I enjoyed many years together and have great memories of trips we've taken. My other three valuable assets will be sorely missed. They are my daughter Kathryn and sons Bob and Andy. I will also miss my stepchildren: Dayne Roberts, Dawn Allison, Denee Choice, and Davonne Smith. //Obit – Legacy.com//

Major Graham was the Commander of Det 3, 6994th Security Squadron, Nakhom Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base.



Julien, Dale R., 72, passed away Jan 25, 2020. He served in the Air Force with the 6994th Security Squadron during Vietnam. Dale is survived by his wife of 22 yrs., Barbara; son, Charles; and daughter, Melinda. //Obit - Throop Funeral Home//



Leach, Janice I, 87, passed away on 18 April 2020. Jan worked for the FBI in D.C. where she met Robert "Bob" Leach (USAFSS SIGINT reporter/analyst). She held various jobs at USAFSS bases in Libya, Japan, and Hawaii where Bob was stationed. In 1968 Jan began a long career at the National Security Agency, starting as a directorate level Executive Secretary in the 1970s, eventually serving in four directorates. Her last job at NSA was Executive Secretary for the senior general officer in NSA Operations Directorate. She retired from NSA in 1995 after serving almost 40 years. She loved her career and excelled at it,

winning many awards over the years, the most valuable of which for her were the many friendships she made. She then worked in D.C. and returned to the NSA travel office part time. Jan held various positions in FTVA and helped organize the annual reunions. She was also on the National Cryptologic Museum staff. Bob passed away in 2014. Jan is survived by her sisters Opal and Shirley, her brother Larry, her son Jeffrey and many beloved nieces, nephews, and friends. Jan was loved by all that knew her and will be sorely missed. //Obit – Cheryl Keeter & David George//



Assignments and inclusive years at each (if known): Various jobs at USAFSS bases in Libya (Wheelus), Japan (Misawa) and Hawaii (Wheeler) in the 1950s and 1960s. NSA from 1968 to 1976. Iraklion AS, Greece from 1976 to 1977. NSA 1977 to 1995. Jan was married to SMSgt (ret) Bob Leach. //David George//



Lovern, Ronald L., A1C, 81, passed away Feb 27, 2020. He served with the U.S. Air Force at Bremerhaven, Germany from 1960-63 on "C" Flight. He was the original creator of this Website many years ago. He is survived by his wife: Gail Lovern; children: Vonda, and Brian. //6913th.org//



McCurdy, Myrna Samson, 73, passed away Mar 12, 2020. Myrna grew up in the Philippines and graduated from Holy Angel College in 1968. She married Darrell McCurdy on September 22, 1977 in Honolulu, Hawaii. After Darrell retired from the USAF in 1985, they returned to San Antonio in 1987, after which Myrna worked for several years at Kelly Air Force Base and then at Walmart. Myrna retired from Walmart after ten years of service as a cashier. She is survived by her husband Darrell and her three sons: Patrick, Christopher, and Richard. //Obit – People’s Cooperative Funeral Home//



Miller, John Michael “Mike”, CMSgt (ret), 76, passed away Apr 22, 2020. Mike retired from the USAF as a Chief Master Sergeant after serving over 27 years. He then worked for the USAF Civil Service for over 17 more years. After retirement, he enjoyed reminiscing with former military friends from Misawa, Japan. He also enjoyed talking WWII history with the son of a former soldier who served with his father. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Vicki Lynn and his two daughters, Tonia Michelle Roark, and Shawna Marie Chase. //Obit - Bryan Lee Funeral Home//

On behalf of the 6918th RSM/SS family. Rest in Peace Brother. //Carol Farr//

Mike was a 202 assigned to the Daze Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1969-1972 time frame. As you know, the 6918th RSM/SS was deactivated in June 1972. At that time, Mike along with many of his 6918th RSM/SS Brothers were sent to the 6921st SG at Misawa. //Bill Spencer//

We served at 6918SS Hakata Japan. //Dennis Rassmussen//



Ortoli, Neil Charles Ortoli, 79, passed away March 2, 2020. He was the devoted husband of 57 years to Dorothy (Malerba) Ortoli. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran. He is the beloved father of Jeanne, Jacqueline, Daniel, and James. //Obit – River View Funeral Home//

Neil was stationed at 6913th RSM at Bremerhaven, Germany on “Able Flight” and the DF Site from 1959-1961. //6913th.org//



Ritter, George William, 76, passed away April 20, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF and was trained as a Linguist at Yale University before serving as a Mandarin Linguist in Vietnam. During his time at Yale, he had the honor of serving on the Color Guard for President John F. Kennedy. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years Bonnie and their three children Kim, Jeffrey, and Christina. // **Obit Burke Tubbs Funeral Home**//



Roesler, Herman L., TSgt, 96, passed away Feb 19, 2020. He served with the US Army Air Forces in WWII, intercepting, and translating Luftwaffe radio communications aboard B-17s.

Herman married Norma Morrell (1923 – 1998) in 1954 and is survived by their only child, Rick Roesler. //Obit - **Richard Roesler**//

//The following is a draft recognition that is planned on being entered into the Congressional Record by the Honorable Don Bacon. The final version may be edited prior to official entry. **Joseph Figueroa**//

I would like to recognize a member of our greatest generation. On 19 February 2020, Mr. Herman Roesler of Dallas, Texas, passed away at the age of 96. I highlight Mr. Roesler’s passing today because he was a true pioneer in the field of airborne reconnaissance and his contributions to our winning World War Two are worthy of our reflection.

In 1943, at the age of 18, Mr. Roesler left the tiny town of Needville, Texas, and volunteered to serve in the US Army Air Force. After basic training, the Air Force taught him how to fix the radios on B-24 bombers and sent him to Italy for duty with the Fifteenth Air Force then under the command of Major General Jimmy Doolittle, of Tokyo Raid fame.

Mr. Roesler was not destined to be a radio mechanic, however. At about the same time he got to Italy, the Air Force was starting a program where we put German-speaking airmen on the back of our B-17 and B-24 bombers to intercept German Air Force communications during our strategic bombing missions over occupied Europe. These guys were on the bombers to help keep our guys safe in combat; by eavesdropping on the Germans, they could alert the bomber crews when German fighter attacks were coming and from where. The information these first airborne voice interceptors heard gave our crews the advanced warning needed to fend off the German attacks and make sure our bombers returned home.

Mr. Roesler – who was a second generation German-American – was one of the very first of these unsung heroes. When the Air Force found out he spoke German, they gave him a crash course on flying on the B-17 Flying Fortress and put him into combat. As a pioneer of this new capability, Mr. Roesler developed tactics and techniques that are still in use in today’s Air Force.

During 1944, he flew fifty-two combat missions on the Flying Fortress over Germany and occupied Europe. As most of you know, flying on the B-17 was the most dangerous job in the entire military during World War 2. Mr. Roesler’s contributions undoubtedly saved the lives of the crews he flew with and helped shorten the war against Nazi Germany.

After the war, Mr. Roesler worked at the Croda Ink Company retiring as one of its Vice Presidents. After retirement, he remained very active in his community where he held multiple leadership positions in his church and with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, including leading their elementary school drug awareness program. Mr. Roesler was an avid golfer and occasional martini lover.

Today let’s reflect on Herman Roesler’s important contributions to our nation’s freedom. He is a true American hero and I believe it is to men like Mr. Roesler that we owe our complete gratitude. May God bless Mr. Roesler’s family and may God continue to bless America. **//Honorable Don Bacon//**

Dates of service were 1941 to 1944. Nicknamed “Herman the German”. Inflight German translator (maybe the first. **//Richard Roesler//**

Was probably the first documented airborne collection operator. Flew on US B-17s. He's attended a couple of FTVA banquets through the years. **//Lee Anthony//**

Signal Corps communications intelligence (COMINT) platoons were providing targeting information in support of Allied bombers carrying out bombing raids against Nazi Germany. The Aviation Section of the Signal Corps was created on 18 July 1914, and five months later a couple of Signal Corps lieutenants demonstrated two-way air-to-ground radio communications. Thirty years later, Technical Sergeant Herman L. Roesler was flying as a voice interceptor (German linguist)-providing internal advisory warning support-during U.S. Army Air Corps B-17 bombing missions against German facilities in Europe. Japanese-American (Nisei) linguists performed similar airborne duties aboard Air Corps aircraft in the Far East, intercepting Japanese air force and air defense communications in 1945. **//larrytart.com//**



Rushe, George Marion, Col (ret), 87, passed away May 12, 2020. He was commissioned in the USAF Reserve as a Chaplain. In 1960 he went into the active Air Force as a Captain and served until his retirement as Colonel in 1983. His assignments included Security Services Chaplain at Kelly AFB, TX; Religious Education Chaplain at Itazuke AB, Japan; and Protestant Chaplain at Fuchu Air Station, Japan; Headquarters Strategic Air Command Chaplain at Omaha NE; and Headquarters USAF Europe Chaplain at Ramstein AB, Germany. The Rev. Rushe is survived by his wife of 66 years, Daphne, nee Shepherd; three sons and their wives—Randall George, Brigadier General (ret.) Russell Arthur; and Dr. Todd Samuel. **//Obit – Thompson Funeral Home//**



Scarboro, Richard Gay, 88, passed away May 2, 2020. Richard served 22 years in the USAF. He is survived by his wife, Nicky (Ilse). //Obit - Joiner-Anderson Funeral Home & Crematory//

Richard served with the 41st/6913th RSM at Bremerhaven, Germany at the DF Site, Ops, "A" Flight and Easy Trick from 1951-1955 and from 1957-1964. //6913th.org//



Sloan, Hugh Johnston III, PhD, 78, passed away April 19, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF where, recognizing his talent for languages, he was sent to Indiana University and Syracuse University to become a Russian linguist. He served for 27 years as an intelligence analyst in such posts as Peshawar, Pakistan and Misawa, Japan, listening to Soviet MiG instructors training pilots for service in Vietnam and intercepting historic Space Race transmissions like those by Gherman Titov, the second person to orbit Earth. With that experience, he was assigned to the National Security Agency in Washington, DC with top secret Russian language intelligence responsibilities. Missing military camaraderie, Hugh joined the Ohio Air

National Guard at Rickenbacker Air Base in Columbus, Ohio. Still with AT&T, he trained with the Guard in the upper peninsula of Michigan, Hawaii, Nevada, Germany, Panama, and Great Britain. At age 39, he attended Ohio Air National Guard Officer's School in Maryville, TN, and was promoted to Lieutenant, Captain and Major with high security clearance in the Rickenbacker Intel Shop. Hugh led Oxford's Steve Launius Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol, empowering cadets, and senior leaders to excel in aerospace education, emergency services, and the noblest Air Force traditions. CAP's Mississippi Wing honored his years as Director of Aerospace Education and many other duties with the T.G. Fortune Lifetime Achievement Award. Hugh is survived by his wife, Mary Love Stringfield; son Hugh Johnston Sloan IV; and daughter, Susan. //Obit – Wells Funeral Home//



Smith, Gerald "Jerry" E., 85, passed away Apr 22, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF in 1953, serving as a Russian Linguist in northern Japan and Brunswick, Maine. During this time, Jerry married his high school girlfriend, Barbara Peterson, a marriage that recently celebrated its 63rd anniversary. Jerry is survived by his wife, Barbara, son Clark, and daughter Karin. //Obit- Caller Times//



Tackett, Robert Foster, TSgt (ret), 68, of St. Helena Island and husband of Judith Ann Vance Tackett passed away at the Beaufort Memorial Hospital on Saturday, May 2, 2020. //Chisholm Galloway Funeral Home//

Services are planned for the future. Picture is from Facebook Profile. //Joseph Figueroa//

Based on Facebook posts. Bob, also nicknamed “Hay Stax,” was a Vietnam Veteran. He was stationed in Okinawa from 1978 – 1981 and also stationed in Kadena from 1984 – 1988. His assignments also included Offutt Air Force Base where he claimed to have learned his Spanish from Segundo Espinoza and Lee Anthony.//Joseph Figueroa//



Wankowski, Marilyn Josephine Mullins, 86, passed away 11, 2020 in San Angelo. Mrs. Wankowski grew up during WWII and would follow her father throughout his military career after the war. Marilyn met a young Airman Al Wankowski and they were married March 14, 1953, having six children together. Like her mother before her, she joined her husband in his military career, raising their 4 boys between Europe and the states. They moved to San Angelo in 1964, where they would settle down and make a home. Marilyn attended Angelo State University, obtaining her license as an RN. This past March, Marilyn and Al celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary. Marilyn is survived by her

husband, Alvin Wankowski; and sons Eugene Wankowski and Kurt Wankowski. // **Obit – Legacy.com**//

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