

Remain In Touch

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



September 2020

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Evan Smith

Salute!

A warm hello from San Antonio!

To say that 2020 has been a year for the record books would be a woeful understatement. Normally for the Fall RIT edition, I'd be telling you about all of the coming Anniversary Events in anticipation of seeing old friends and colleagues here in San Antonio, but this is 2020. Like the rest of the world, we're holding out hope that a vaccine for COVID-19 will be forthcoming soon so that we can get back to the things that we're missing out on this year. Regardless, as they say, the show must go on...

Despite the cancelled in-person events this year, we will be holding our annual General Membership Meeting on Saturday, September 26th, via ZOOM. Details have been emailed out to the membership and our intent is to open the meeting for up to the first 500 members who wish to "zoom" in. As in past years, we'll be seeking to replace two of our Executive Board members whose two-year terms are concluding. This year we'll be looking to name a new Treasurer and Secretary to follow Lee Anthony and Loren (Phred) Sevensing. Words can't do justice to the contributions to FTVA that both Lee and Phred have made through the years, and we'll be forever grateful for their hard work and dedication.

I hope you all enjoy this RIT edition as much as I know I will. I wish each of you happiness and good health. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your FTVA Board with any news, questions, or concerns you may have...until next time, *Remain in Touch!*

Evan Smith, Lt Col (R)

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

FTVA Value Statement

By Evan Smith

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 Chief Master Sergeant Roger Towberman (former Airborne Mission Supervisor), Space Force Senior Enlisted Adviser and U.S. Space Force Senior Enlisted Adviser, who said, “We have an opportunity to get this right from the beginning by making diversity and inclusion ‘one of the bedrock strengths’ of the Space Force. And our 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

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Ken Maynard, Associate Editor	16th AF News
William (Bill) Brockmiller, Associate Editor	Chapter Inputs
Roy Burnett, Circulation Manager	e-Issue



Dear Readers,

Thanks to many of you for reaching out to the FTVA Newsletter staff with your accolades and constructive criticism. We are glad you enjoy remaining in touch by accessing and reading it.

Many of you know, and we ask that you pass on to all you know, that we do not mail out the newsletter via hard copy any longer because of the printing and mailing costs which have gone through the roof. Nor do we distribute copies directly to the members as there are just too many and we would be considered a purveyor of SPAM email.

We have found the most economical and efficient way to distribute the email is via our web site. And, if your email address is current with our membership chairman, then you receive the notification that a new issue has been posted. But wait! There’s more! At the web site you can access past issues to catch up on what you may have missed during this year of transition to a web version. We know many, many of you miss the little blue-covered black and white booklet but again costs unfortunately prohibited its continuation. And, the vast majority of feedback to the e-Issue version has been overwhelmingly positive.

For now, enjoy the read and stay safe! As always, all comments are welcome, and I will respond as soon as I can.

Address all comments to: newsletter@ftva.org.

!

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

FTVA BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

We are seeking volunteers to fill the role of Board Secretary and Board Treasurer. Please consider helping out your FTVA by filling these important positions. If interested, please contact Ken Maynard, at stagsa@gmail.com. Thanks!

OPEN Position 1: FTVA BOARD SECRETARY

“Phred” Sevening is looking to move on after years of distinguished service as the FTVA Board Secretary and we are seeking a volunteer to replace this irreplaceable Mr. Sevening. Duties primarily consist of attending meetings (virtual and in-person), take notes and publishing minutes, tracking action items, maintaining the constitution and by-laws, and serving as one of the key board voting members for establishing quorums and voting on key issues.

OPEN Position 2: 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
- Provide tax exempt forms to members for purchases
- Coordinate with SSFCU as necessary for access, renewal of CDs, etc.
- Advise FTVA President and BOD on overall financial status
- Receive correspondence from SSFCU Mailbox
 - o Distribute as applicable
 - o Notify Roy of all Membership paperwork
 - o Deposit checks
- Maintain currency on IRS 501(c)19 and 501(c)3 decisions as applies to organization
- TX corporate reports/responsibilities



FTVA HALL OF HONOR



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

Mr. President,

The Hall of Honor Selection Committee has notified all of this year's inductees, and all have accepted. I therefore announce the 2020 Hall of Honor Inductees:

- **Brig Gen Neal T. Robinson, USAF (Ret) (Deceased)/ Mrs. Patricia Robinson accepted on her husband's behalf**
 - **Mr. Larry L. Benson, Col (Ret)/DISL (Ret), USAF**
 - **Mr. John Michael Kretzer, DISL, USAF (Ret)**
 - **Lt Col Bernie Gavin, USAF (Ret)**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the following committee members:

- Brigadier General Grover Jackson, USAF (Ret)
- Mr. Gregory Radabaugh, USAF (Ret)
- Lt Colonel Ken Williams, USAF (Ret)
- Chief Master Sergeant Robert Crabtree, USAF (Ret)
- Chief Master Sergeant Kenneth Maynard, USAF (Ret)
- Chief Master Sergeant Edward Barnes, USAF (Ret)
- Chief Master Sergeant Marco Aldaz, USAF (Ret)
- Senior Master Sergeant Lee Anthony, USAF (Ret)

This year was more challenging than many in the past, and the total professionalism of this group remains an inspiration. They spent a great deal of time to ensure the best-of-the-best are selected. It is a true privilege to serve with each of them.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

A.J. Harrison, Hall of Honor Program Chair

16th AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken Maynard
Associate Editor

ACC OFFICIALLY DECLARES FULL OPERATING CAPABILITY FOR SIXTEENTH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES CYBER)

(Adapted from an article by Sharon Singleton and Jennifer Spires, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) / Published July 17, 2020)



JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND, Texas -- Gen. Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander and Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander declared Full Operating Capability for Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) during a virtual ceremony held here, Tuesday.

The declaration of FOC signifies that the Air Force's Information Warfare organization met a rigorous set of criteria, including an approved concept of operations and demonstrated performance of mission under stress

in simulated and real-world conditions.

"Today's declaration of FOC demonstrates the Air Force's trust and confidence in the Airmen of Sixteenth Air Force to deliver information warfare outcomes for the nation," said Haugh.

Haugh highlighted the IW Numbered Air Force's readiness through the approach of convergence in response to our adversaries.

"We have adopted an approach of convergence that enables a clear focus on these hard problems," said Haugh. "Convergence takes a global viewpoint and uses access to data across each functional area to generate insights and...integrates IW capabilities to produce timely effects in the information environment."

As the Sixteenth Air Force looks towards the future it will realize convergence by leveraging the inherent strengths of all the Sixteenth Air Force units.

"Convergence has brought previously segmented elements in our enterprise together...to synchronize on common operational priorities that cross combatant command boundaries," said Haugh. "As we scale and build upon convergence in the information environment and implement material solutions that automate data awareness and sharing...we will begin to generate global outcomes at the speed of the information war."

Holmes' shared Haugh's sentiments: "Listening to everything the units are doing filled me with certainty that pulling this Numbered Air Force together was the right thing to do," said Holmes. "You've worked relentlessly to optimize the readiness, employment, and presentation of not just [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance] resources but cyberspace, electromagnetic spectrum, and other information operation assets. It's a great day for our United States and our combatant commanders as you have now presented new ways to use our assets to maintain our global superiority in this ever-evolving fight."

Holmes concluded the ceremony by extending his thanks to the entire Sixteenth Air Force team and signing the FOC declaration.

"As you go forward I believe that it's going to be crucial for you to continually develop the United States multi-domain warfighting capabilities and to ensure that our methods are the most effective, most lethal, and that they remain on the cutting edge. I believe that the establishment of the Sixteenth Air Force will help us to modernize the way information flows from Airmen to 4-star generals." said Holmes.

The [Sixteenth Air Force \(Air Forces Cyber\)](#) is the first-of-its-kind NAF. Also known as the Air Force's IW NAF, the Sixteenth Air Force integrates multisource ISR, cyber warfare, electronic warfare, information operations, and weather operations capabilities across the conflict continuum to ensure that our Air Force is fast, lethal and fully integrated in both competition and in war. Sixteenth Air Force provides mission integration of IW at operational and tactical levels... recognizing the role of information in creating dilemmas for adversaries in competition and, if necessary, future conflicts. Sixteenth Air Force is empowered Airmen delivering outcomes for the nation.

BROOKE ARMY MEDICAL CENTER (BAMC) INSTITUTES TEMPORARY VISITATION POLICY

(Adapted from an article by BAMC Public Affairs / Published August 20, 2020)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas --While the importance of family support during hospitalization is understood and appreciated, BAMC is temporarily adjusting the visitation policy to reduce the risk of COVID- 19 spread as of Aug. 19.

BAMC will no longer allow visitors into the facility, to include the Emergency Department. Exceptions to this policy include:

- Pediatric outpatients: 1 adult caregiver (no additional children other than the patient)
- Pediatric inpatients (including NICU): 2 visitors
- Cognitively impaired adults (inpatient and outpatient): 1 primary caregiver
- Adult and pediatric inpatients at end-of-life: 2 visitors

- Labor and Delivery (including postpartum): 1 primary support person (may not leave L&D or inpatient unit and return)

For questions/concerns, please ask a member of the patient’s healthcare team.

For all patients and visitors:

- Everyone entering the facility will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Visitors who are sick will not be permitted to enter.
- Visitors may be re-screened by BAMC personnel at their discretion.
- Everyone must wear a face-covering according to current guidance.
- Everyone should practice social distancing measures as appropriate.

Patients are encouraged to remain closely connected to their loved ones through virtual means. Be careful not to impede healthcare, display HIPAA information, or include patients or staff who have not consented to being filmed/photographed.

This guidance is subject to change based on new or additional information. For updates, visit the BAMC COVID-19 website at <https://www.bamc.health.mil/articles/covid19/>. For general COVID-19 information, visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

AIRMAN SECURES COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT WITH DISRUPTIVE PASSENGER ONBOARD

(Adapted from an article by A1C Erin Baxter, 15th Wing Public Affairs / Published July 17, 2020)



Staff Sgt. Drew Mayo, 37th Intelligence Squadron senior intelligence analyst (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Erin Baxter)

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — Airmen train to be ready for any situation, not knowing when the occasion will arise to use their skills.

For SSgt Drew Mayo, 37th Intelligence Squadron senior intelligence analyst, his moment to step in and provide crisis control came while traveling to Los Angeles.

“Two hours after takeoff is when I first noticed something was wrong,” said Mayo.

Seated near the front of the plane, Mayo noticed a group of flight attendants attempting to enter the bathroom. He could tell by their expressions something was wrong, so he stood up and offered his help.

A passenger took all of his belongings and locked himself in the bathroom, refusing to speak to anyone aside from the FBI or the captain of the aircraft.

“With just that information to go on, we thought he might be trying to create a weapon or bomb in the bathroom,” said Mayo. “The flight crew put me on the phone with the captain of the flight, who was also Air Force, and the airline’s security center headquarters. After talking on the phone with them, they agreed to let me try talking him out.”

“He was very hostile and agitated at first, but after about an hour he agreed to come out and sit with me,” said Mayo. “They gave me a pair of plastic handcuffs to restrain him, but he left the bathroom peacefully. At this point, we were about 3 hours from landing in LA, so I had to keep him calm for the rest of the flight.”

It turned out the man believed another passenger was a police officer who was trying to kill him for something he witnessed him do. When he exited the bathroom, he still had hold of a pen that he had been using to threaten the other passengers and aircrew.

Believing the man was mentally disabled, Mayo knew he had to carefully talk him down and de-escalate the situation by trying to talk about the man’s family.

“About 15 minutes before landing I finally convinced him to give up the pen,” said Mayo. “I was relieved because I didn’t want it to get violent once the police came on board, but luckily they managed to get him off the aircraft without incident.”

Mayo attributes the Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape training he received before his deployment to the Middle East in 2018 as the biggest help in the situation.

“You get a lot of knowledge about how to communicate with hostile individuals and de-escalate situations,” said Mayo. “I honestly don’t think I could have talked him out of the bathroom without the training.”

“Drew spent some time in a deployed location prior to arriving at our unit and the team he was with instilled confidence in himself,” said SMSgt Derrick Lodge, 37th IS superintendent. “He is the type that takes action when he sees an issue, so while the situation on the flight was surprising, his actions and efforts to ensure the safety of those around him were not.”

The ability to keep a level head allowed Mayo to go above and beyond in this situation, keeping everyone on the flight safe from harm.

AIR FORCE TOP OFFICIALS VISIT JB SAN ANTONIO FOR FIRST COMBINED TRIP

(Adapted from an article by Capt. Kayshel Trudell, 37th TW/PA / Published August 24, 2020)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-Lackland, Texas (AFNS) — For their first trip together, the Air Force’s top three officials visited Joint Base San Antonio, Aug. 20-21.

Secretary of the Air Force Barbara Barrett was accompanied by newly sworn in Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass to take a closer look at operations across JB San Antonio during the COVID-19 pandemic.

JB San Antonio was the ideal venue to witness missions at the air base wing, basic military, technical and flying training, with a final stop to learn more about the Sixteenth Air Force’s (Air Forces Cyber) cyber mission, under Air Combat Command.

While visiting Headquarters Sixteenth Air Force, Barrett, Brown, and Bass met with intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, cyber, information operations, electronic warfare, and weather Airmen who demonstrated how the Numbered Air Force integrates and synchronizes information warfare capabilities to produce outcomes in the information environment.

The tour of the Air Force’s information warfare NAF included discussions of the organization’s unique capabilities, global perspective, and authorities that are integrated and converged on global kinetic and information targets in support of the National Defense Strategy.

A global NAF that also serves as the service cyber component to U.S. Cyber Command with support to U.S. European Command, U.S. Space Command, U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Transportation Command, the Air Force leaders also saw a demonstration from Airmen who operate and defend the Air Force information networks against external threats, a demonstration from an offensive cyberspace operator, and they gained insight into ongoing operations to defend U.S. elections. Additionally, they heard from Airmen who provide ISR support to the U.S. Space Force.

Finally, the Air Force’s senior leaders learned about an initiative called, “Listen, Learn, Lead,” a Sixteenth Air Force commander-led program aimed at getting to the root of bias and then



SecAF Barbara M. Barrett, CSAF Gen. Charles Brown, Jr. and CMSgt of the Air Force JoAnne Bass listen as Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, 16AF (Air Forces Cyber) commander talks about operations at the newly created Information Warfare Numbered Air Force, while CMSgt Summer Leifer, 16AF (AFCYBER) command chief, stands by, Aug. 21, 2020. (U.S. Air Force photo by George G. Serna)

leaning into meaningful change through candid, honest discussions. The facilitator-supported initiative was the pinnacle of the visit, followed by Barrett awarding several IW Airmen with the Secretary of the Air Force coin.

“As the information warfare arm of the U.S. Air Force that takes the conflict in the information environment to the front lines, this visit is incredibly important,” said Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, Sixteenth Air Force commander. “That the secretary, chief and chief master sergeant of the Air Force came here to show their support for our innovative, diverse and empowered Airmen, is a testament to our leaders’ care for our people and their role in protecting and defending our great nation.”

The tour also included visits to the 12th Flying Training Wing at JB San Antonio-Randolph and the 37th Training Wing, 59th Medical Wing and 502nd Air Base Wing at JB San Antonio-Lackland.

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 JJ Graham,

It has been a slow summer for our chapter. Corona virus restrictions in San Angelo and on Goodfellow AFB have limited our ability to do much of anything -



including meeting for our quarterly socials. We continue to meet monthly via Zoom with the able assistance of our tech guru, Wayne Bascom. I think it is safe to say we are all looking forward to the day we can once again meet in person. Good News Department: Goodfellow has a new historian, Mark Howell, and he has hit the ground running. Just two weeks into his new job, Mark has established the Goodfellow AFB Heritage Committee. The goal is to make our heritage more accessible and more relevant to base and community personnel. In doing so, the committee will "foster an environment of professionalism that is team-focused, values-based, and founded on Air Force heritage and the Airman Warrior Ethos." Tom Nurre and myself were invited to be part of the committee and attended its first meeting. Since we both have a long history of involvement with the base, we were asked to brief the committee on our respective accomplishments. I briefed the Heritage Chapter's many contributions to Goodfellow over the years, and

Whoever these 3 amigos are it's a definite improvement! :-) - editor Actually they are the Heritage Chapter's movers and shakers. Left to right, elected as officers for the next 2 years at a 6 August virtual meeting are: Secretary/Treasurer - Larry Ross, Vice President - Ed Bendinelli, and President - Ronald "JJ" Graham.

Tom put together an interesting presentation on the EC-47 History Site's involvement on base, to include the EC-47 Memorial Park. Mark already has some future activities planned to bring history to the forefront, to include a visit to a local abandoned Atlas missile site and a Holocaust remembrance ceremony. Formal buy-in from the Wing Commander is expected shortly. Needless to say, we are both excited and honored to be involved in this endeavor. I believe this will be another venue where the Heritage Chapter can continue to enhance our relationship with Goodfellow AFB and the San Angelo community. Even though our much-anticipated EC-47 Paver Dedication Ceremony had to be postponed until 29 March 2021, there is some good news to pass along. I'm happy to report our EC-47 #204 recently received a fresh paint job and looks better than ever! I'm sure you'll notice the difference when you visit next March. Be sure to check out the EC-47 History Site Newsletter #15 for more information on the paint job, updates on the EC-47 paver project, and many other interesting topics.



Until next time, we at the Heritage Chapter hope you and yours stay well and happy!

Goodfellow AFB Memorial Plaza

**Written by JJ Graham, Heritage Chapter President
Published in EC-47 History Site Newsletter #15 (July 2020)**

The San Angelo Heritage Chapter of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA), supported by a \$7,500 grant from the San Antonio-based association's Board of Directors, sponsors the EC-47 Memorial Plaza paver project. Goodfellow AFB officials accepted the Heritage Chapter proposed design and gift of 975 pavers on June 24, 2019. Early plans were to install the pavers as soon as possible and then insert the engraved plates as part of a plaza dedication ceremony (and Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration event) scheduled in San Angelo over the March 27, 2020 weekend. Our chapter was conducting all the registrations and RSVPs for the plaza ceremony. We were as disappointed as you were when the COVID-19 pandemic related travel bans, and community "lockdown" restrictions resulted in the subsequent postponement of all these events. To their great credit, dedicated Goodfellow AFB civil engineers and a San Angelo contractor did complete the plaza construction the first week of April 2020. The site is now ready for us whenever the opportunity window reopens. The "before",

“during” and “after” construction photos that I was able to get on base and take are uploaded on the EC-47 History Site (see photos below).

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on Goodfellow AFB operations with many base-wide restrictions implemented in late March still in effect. For example, all students are restricted to base, many offices are “distance working” with only key and mission-essential personnel admitted to the base. Military retiree ID card holders are allowed access to limited base facilities between 1300-1900 on Wednesday’s and Friday’s. These restrictions obviously negate any ideas we might have for planning a ceremony on base anytime soon.



Get the windshield and check the oil, please.

Looking forward, we are hoping to host the plaza dedication ceremony on 29 March 2021, which is national Vietnam War Veterans Day. Watch the two websites for more information as it becomes available to us.



Installing the pavers

From the “Just So Ya Know Department”: While this memorial is important to so many of you who were involved in the EC-47 mission and those of you who served in so many other aspects of the Vietnam War, please also understand this memorial is just as important to those who serve today and those who will serve tomorrow. As you know, the mission of Goodfellow includes training and preparing the next generation of intelligence professionals. It is imperative that our trainees have knowledge of and appreciation for the achievements and sacrifices of those that came before them. Having the EC-47 Memorial Plaza, to include both the inside and outside displays, allows us a unique opportunity to present our history to these young Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. Over the years, members of the Heritage Chapter and EC-47 History Site have had

opportunities to meet with permanent party personnel and students to share “war stories” and expand upon our history of service. Your support of the paver project enhances our ability to proudly display this heritage to thousands of military and civilian personnel each year.

We are all amazed at the overall enthusiastic response to the plaza paver project! Working the hundreds of paver requests coming in from individuals and from group has been inspiring. Working arm-in-arm with the EC-47 History Site to make this a reality has been an honor and a privilege. We are looking forward to working many more paver purchases to come. Thank you for your continued support!



A job well done!



A proud lady marking a great cause.

EC-47 Newsletter Inputs

Wildfire Damages Memorial Paver Company - Phoenix, OR

Submitted by Tom Nurre

The [Leave Your Mark](#) company is our EC-47 Memorial Plaza paver and engraver vendor and our point of contact advised us on September 8 that their company buildings were burned to the ground by the wildfires moving north along I-5. He said everyone in the company was safe even though they had only a 2-hour warning. I have talked with them a couple of times since then and offered our full support and patience as they decide how to recover.

Pavers Project Update

The installation of all pavers (574-4x8 & 401-8x8) is complete. Click [this link](#) to view photos of the installation process and completed plaza design or simply type in <https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/the-ec-47-memorial-plaza> into your browser's address bar.

As of today, we have processed 324 total orders (214-4x8 & 110-8x8). We have received 282 engraved plates (180-4x8 & 102 8x8) that have been photographed and uploaded to the website galleries. We are tracking the 42 plate orders not yet completed. Click on these links to view photographs of completed engraved plates.

[4x8 Inscribed Pavers](#)

[8x8 Inscribed Pavers](#)

There are an estimated 36 additional 4x8 pavers being readied for another group purchase project. I will send out another update when [Leave Your Mark](#) is ready to resume operations. In the meantime, we will continue to receive new orders and guarantee that all orders are accurately accounted for through the production process. More as information becomes available. Call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Tom Nurre 325 949-7188 or email pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com or info@ec47.com.

EC-47 Newsletter #15

Greetings,

Click [HERE](#) to link to our website and Newsletter #15, or go to www.ec47.com and click on the sidebar Newsletter menu.

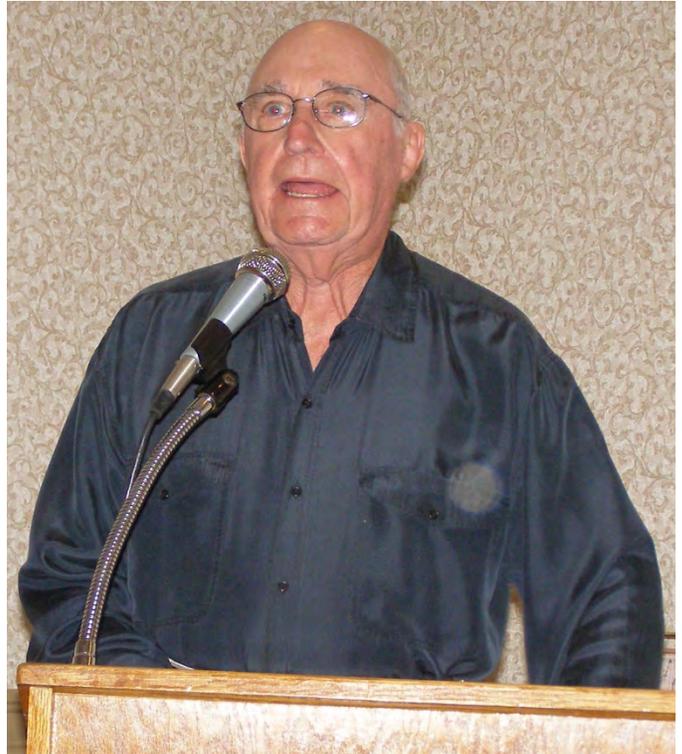
We enjoyed putting it together for you and please let us know about the articles you like in this edition or topics you would like to see covered in future newsletters. Remember, most of the EC-47 Memorial Plaza paver project and the EC-47 History Site [Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program](#) files and information are carried there, our sister site.. Be sure and check out all the menu items for information, directions, and tons of pictures.

Stay well. Send us your EC-47 Story soon. Thank you. Tom & Joe and guest JJ Graham.

Special Tribute from the Prop Wash Gang

Tribute to Hermann Louis Roesler
2 August 1923 – to 19 February 2020

Belatedly and with heavy heart, I write this eulogy for Herman L. Roesler — one of America’s original airborne cryptologic linguists. Born Aug 2, 1923, Herman died in his sleep at age 96 on Feb 19, 2020. In 1944, Herman Roesler served as a German “voice interceptor” (an 11th crew member) on B-17 bombing missions against targets in Nazi-occupied Europe — a standard B-17 crew was ten airmen.



*Herman Roesler — September 25, 2004
FTVA Reunion Guest Speaker*

Herman Roesler’s German Heritage — A 3rd generation German-American, Herman Roesler was the oldest of 4 sons of Rudolph Friedrich Roesler and Malinda Gertrude Rosenbaum in Needville, Fort Bend County, Texas. His paternal grandparents, Carl Rudolph Roesler and Anna Caroline Mussyal, were born in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Prussia (Germany), respectively. They arrived in Needville in 1906. Herman’s maternal grandparents, William Benjamin Rosenbaum, and Louise Meyer, were born in Westfalen, Prussia, immigrating to Brenham, Washington County, Texas, in 1881.

Pre-World War II Needville, Texas — Immigrating from Brandenburg, Prussia, to Fort Bend County, Texas, in 1891, August Schendel founded Schendelville, which consisted of his house, a store, and a cotton gin. When a local U.S. Post Office opened in 1894, Schendelville became Needville. In 1914, Needville had 3 general stores, 2 cotton gins, a movie theater, and a population of 100. In 1920, the town had a dozen general stores, 2 schools, 4 churches, 4 gins, an electric power plant, telephone service, a bank, railroad lines to San Antonio and Houston, and a population of 500. By 1932, natural gas was piped into town, and an all-weather road (FM 36) connected Needville to nearby Rosenberg and Richmond. This was the Needville that Herman Roesler knew — his hometown — when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942. Needville’s population in 2010 was 2,823.

Enlistment in Army Air Corps — Herman Roesler became a voice intercept operator by happenstance. Enlisting in the Air Corps in Nov 1942, 19-year-old Herman L. Roesler reported to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for basic military training. In an early formation, his drill sergeant asked for a volunteer with typing skills, and Roesler became company clerk, ending his formal basic training. For 6 months, he produced the Morning Report and completed other tasks for the 1st Sgt. On May 1, 1943, the Air Corps activated the 451st Bombardment Group with four B-24

Liberator heavy bomber-equipped squadrons at Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Arizona. Trained as a radio mechanic, in January 1944 PFC Roesler accompanied the 451st group to Gioia del Colle Airfield, Italy. Learning of his fluency in German, the group sent him to 15th Air Force HQ for an interview for a new special flying assignment.

Airborne Voice Interceptors in WW II— By 1944, 1 or 2 voice interceptors, fluent in German, were assigned to each U.S. Army Air Forces strategic bomb group in the European Theater (8th Air Force in England and 15th Air Force in Italy). Working out of Group Intelligence (G2), a voice interceptor flew aboard the group leader's bomber, monitoring Luftwaffe fighter communications and forewarning the flight leader of pending hostile actions against their mission. A MSgt in 15th AF/G2 put Corporal Herman Roesler, TSgt Jakob Gotthold, and nine other German-speaking Air Corps soldiers — the initial cadre of voice interceptors in 15th AF — through a quick (1-week) course in Luftwaffe order-of-battle, air operations, and associated terminology. In the Spring of 1944, 15th AF assigned Roesler and Gotthold to the 348th Bomb Squadron, 99th Bomb Group, Tortorella Field, Foggia, Italy.

The squadron was equipped with B-17 Flying Fortress bombers, two of which were equipped with an auxiliary signal intercept position with a Hallicrafters S-27 VHF receiver and a wire recorder. Roesler flew when his specially configured B-17 flew, often flying 3 or 4 days in a row.

He participated in 3 bombing raids on the Ploesti oil fields in Romania, plus other missions south of the Alps and missions north of the Alps over Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland. Prior to each mission, Sgt Roesler reported to G2 to receive tasking (a list of German fighter units for today). With a map showing the German air defense grid system and fighter bases of interest, he developed his own shorthand code for hand-scanning Luftwaffe voice traffic in real time while keeping his aircraft commander apprised of enemy fighter activity. After missions, he typed from his hand-scans a mission voice transcript and a translation of the transcript for G2. Herman Roesler missed only one scheduled mission, due to a severe case of diarrhea – the crew with whom he would have been flying was shot down! He was promoted to Technical Sergeant soon after becoming an airborne voice interceptor.

Operation Frantic – Under *Operation Frantic*, 15th AF and 8th AF crews carried out shuttle bombing missions against distant (difficult-to-reach) German targets during deployments to airfields in the Soviet Union. In June 1944, Herman Roesler and Jakob Gotthold were members of a task force that kicked off *Operation Frantic* during a deployment to Poltava, Ukraine. Gotthold documented their deployment and shuttle bombing raids in the 99th BG internal newspaper upon return to home base in Italy.

Out of the rainy sky over Poltava, USSR, a group of Flying Fortresses peeled off one by one to become the first task force of the United States Air Forces to land on Russian soil. After the Commanding General of the MAAF [Mediterranean Allied Air Forces], Lt. General I. C. Eaker, set his ship down, the 99th Bomb Group led by Col. F. J. Lauer followed, arriving at this eastern base on 2 June 1944.

Fifteenth AF Commander Maj. Gen. Nathan F. Twining gave a pep talk to the aircrews prior to the deployment. Targets en route to Poltava were the railroad repair shops in Debrecen, Hungary.

Gotthold wrote that the crews' first glimpse of "Russia" looked very much like Nebraska except that scars of battle (shell holes and extensive systems of trenches) were in evidence from the air. An 8th Air Force ground support team preceded the task force to Poltava and supported U.S. Air Corps operations there. The aircrews lived in a tent city on the airfield and spent three days "sightseeing and making friends with Russian Allies." Although the town had taken the full brunt of war – hardly a building left intact – the town's inhabitants were far from giving an impression of defeat. The American flyers were impressed with the "unbounded feeling of friendship and admiration for America and its leaders." Loud cheers and calls of "Amerikanyets" filled the streets. The feelings of friendship were not shared by Marshal Josef Stalin, who availed the USSR of critically needed military weaponry, supplies, oil, and food under the U.S. Lend-Lease program but did not want U.S. military forces on USSR soil. *Operation Frantic* ended in Sept 1944, with Stalin creating the "Iron Curtain" to deny access by Western observers to the USSR and Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

Crew Rotation — During WW II, USAAF HQ was sensitive to aircrew "combat burn-out" — rotation policy varied from Theater to Theater. Policy changed often, but relief was contingent upon availability of replacements. In Sept 1944, 15th AF rotation guidelines for heavy bomber crews required 50 sorties, and having logged 52 combat missions in late 1944, TSgt Roesler PCS'd to a non-flying job in CONUS.

Herman Roesler and the Prop Wash Gang — In 2004, I became ecstatic when I read about "German Voice Interceptors" and Herman Roesler in the declassified WW II unit history for the 2nd Radio Squadron Mobile — at the time, the 2nd RSM was an Air Corps training squadron tasked with training voice intercept operators (predecessor of today's cryptologic language training at Goodfellow AFB). The unit historian wrote:

In January 1945, the section had the benefit of Technical Sergeant Herman L. Roesler's experience. Sergeant Roesler, a veteran of more than fifty missions as a flying voice interceptor, joined the organization after returning from the European Theater of Operations.

Learning from a Prop Wash Gang member that Herman was alive – living in Dallas, Texas – I dialed his number; his answering machine responded, "Herman, the German — sorry I missed you, please leave a message." In later discussions, I was highly impressed. He had a strong, vibrant voice and sharp mind that belied his age — 81 in 2004. Herman grew up speaking German at home, and to the day he died, he rolled his "R's" in conversations in English, much like a German national speaking English.

I introduced Herman to the PWG and Freedom Through Vigilance Association. He became a lifetime FTVA member and was banquet guest speaker during the annual FTVA reunion in September 2004. Depicted addressing attendees at the FTVA Reunion Banquet on Sept 25, 2004, Herman Roesler is a predecessor to today's U.S. Air Force *Airborne Cryptologic Language Analyst*. RIP Herman!!!



Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT

Jacob Scheid, President
Shawn Heckman, Vice President
Submitted by Linz Rasmussen

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) - Wasatch Chapter is the newest Chapter of the FTVA, private, non-profit corporation dedicated to the support and perpetuation of the objectives of the US Air Force and USAF Security Service and its successor Commands/Agencies, and to the support of social, educational, and humanitarian services. The Wasatch Chapter will further these objectives by uniting eligible members in the greater Salt Lake City area.

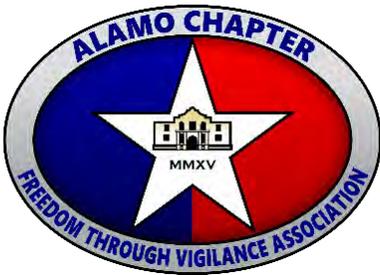
August 2020 Monthly Meeting Minutes

Welcome again our new leadership! These are:

- President: Jake Scheid (formerly Scott Lawson)
- VP: Shawn Heckman (formerly Nick Batura)
- Secretary: Lindsay Rasmussen (formerly and Co-Secretary: Eric Rasmussen)

Thank you to our former leaders and founders! In accordance with our 2020 Goal to increase membership and attendance we will honor and continue the legacy of our founder. In other meeting notes:

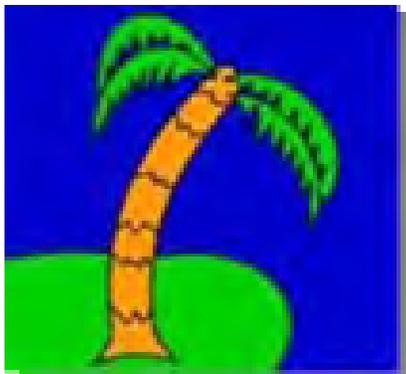
- Scott Lawson will serve as interim Treasurer. We are looking at the best way to recruit a new treasurer; suggestions/recommendations are encouraged.
- Stay tuned for the First Annual FTVA Wasatch Bowling Mixer - TBD!!!
- Next monthly meeting is September 24th.
- Beaner Banner is postponed until August 2021 in SLC!



Alamo Chapter San Antonio, TX

Barnie Gavin, President
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer

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



Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John "Tilly" Toillion, President

NOTES FROM TILLY

Due to an out of control spike in COVID-19 positive tests and infections we have been unable to meet and are once again in Lock Down. Recently Hawaii went from #1 in the country with the

lowest positive/infection numbers per capita in the nation to #1 in the nation in positive tests/infections per capita.

Since tourism provides 60 percent of our gross income, we are stretched significantly and especially the small businesses. Just today Hawaiian Airlines is giving pink slips to hundreds of employees. Many Mom & Pop stores are closing for good after 50-75 years.

As an example of how out of control we are, the Surgeon General spent last week here in Hawaii coordinating increased testing for up to 60,000, Today (9/1) and this Thursday the state is shutting down the entire H3 freeway in both directions between Aloha Stadium to Kaneohe to do testing. Their goal is 10,000 per day.

Meanwhile Aloha Chapter members Dickie Hites, Ken Een, Fred Collins, Steve Crain, Dave Jones, and John Harmon continues trying to remain in touch and we can hardly wait to be able to lunch together sooner than later.

Wish I had more positive news to share but will plan on it next time.

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

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

Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter

Bob Bastian, Acting President, Treasurer

MARC Chapter Holds Meeting via Zoom

On 18 September 2020, the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the United States Air Force, the Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter (MARC) of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) held its first-ever meeting via the online conferencing service Zoom.

Participants included:

- Andy Alexander
- Bob Bastian
- Dave Dlugiewicz
- Jerry Gething
- Jim Griffie
- Gary Harlan
- Gary Parker
- Dick and Anna Smith
- Frank Stross
- Lee Wofford

Due to technical difficulties encountered by Bob Bastian, the meeting did not go as smoothly as hoped. However, several discussions were held and are captured below.

FALLEN EAGLES: The meeting started first with remembering members of the Chapter that have passed away over the past few years. Anyone can notify the FTVA Fallen Eagle coordinator of the passing of a member by visiting the FTVA.org web site's Fallen Eagle page. The following Fallen Eagles were recognized:

- Neal Robinson (2017)
- Richard (Dick) Cheney (2018)
- Vladimir (Lad) Culkowski (2018)
- Stephen Feit (2018)
- Joseph Allen (2019)
- John Casciano (2019)
- Michael Cassidy (2019)
- Paul Duplessis (2019)
- Richard Baer (2020)
- Janice Leach (2020)
- Gary Garmen (13 Aug 2020)
- Kevin "Haji" Rogers (4 Sep 2020)

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bob Bastian then provided a treasurer's report. Between a small amount held in our savings account, and the chapter's checking account, the chapter has \$4,130.56 on hand. We recently received our annual Chapter Incentive check from San Antonio

(\$466.00). One upcoming bill is our Post Office box rental fee, normally around \$110.00 per year payable in October.

FUNDING INITIATIVES: The group discussed different ways to invest some of the funds, including investments in the next generation of enlisted leaders that attend Airman Leadership School. Andy Alexander volunteered to reach out to the ALS Commandant and explore potential ways the Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter could support the development of these enlisted leaders. Another potential area we may be able to support involves the restoration and relocation of the C-130 formerly displayed in National Vigilance Park. The C-130 that had stood in the park for nearly three decades (??) was removed, along with the other aircraft on display, prior to the start of construction on the new entrance and parking lot in front of NSA. During the preparation to move the aircraft it was discovered to have suffered extensive damage due to corrosion. There's a much longer story associated with the movement, replacement, restoration, and relocation of the C-130 than we have space here to go into. However, it was suggested this may be an issue/activity the chapter can provide support to in the coming months or years that it takes to reestablish National Vigilance Park.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS. Bob Bastian also discussed the need for volunteers to stand for election to the Chapter's executive committee. Currently, the positions of president, vice president, and secretary are vacant. Bob will place a notice on Facebook, through email, and possibly through U.S. Postal Service mailings, calling on volunteers and/or nominations, with the intent to hold elections around 1 December. The new executive council would be installed on 2 January 2021. We will call for nominations shortly, but during the Zoom session, the following nominations were made:

- President: Andy Alexander
- Vice President: none
- Secretary: Dick Smith
- Treasurer: Bob Bastian

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Finally, since this was the 73rd anniversary of the birth of the Air Force, we asked if anyone had been born on September 18, 1947; unfortunately, nobody had been born on that specific date. However, we were fortunate to have one person self-identify as having been born in the year 1947! That lucky person will receive an FTVA Lapel Pin as a memento for sharing the Air Force's birth year 😊!



Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

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

Reliable sources indicated the Rocky Mountain Chapter was planning a using Zoom or at Rhino's on August 19th and September 16th. However, by press time no confirmation was received of meeting activity. In general however, the Rocky Mountain Chapter soirees continued in CANX status because of the Corona Virus.



Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA

Stewart Harris, President



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



REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The following items were received from the Alumni Association:

The Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association reunion has been rescheduled from September 27 - October 1 2020 to the last week of April or first week of May 2021. The Peshawar Air Station Memorial Plaque dedication in the National Museum of the United States Air Force Memorial Park has also been rescheduled to coincide with the reunion in 2021.

The PAS Memorial Plaque has been completed and mounted on the wall in the National Museum of the United States Air Force Memorial Park. Photos follow.



FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

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



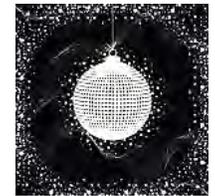
PLATINUM PARTNERS
Mrs. Doyle E. Larson
(IMO Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson)
Prop Wash Gang
(IMO CMSgt Tom Tennant)



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"
Greg Radabaugh



BRONZE PARTNERS
Mark and Amy Hess
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-----

Last Name - Sherwood
First Name - Robert
Email - fly99rls@sbcglobal.net

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

E-Mail address: Thzephyr41@aol.com
First Name: Thomas
Last Name: Henning
Unit: USAF Security Service
Comment: Hello to all I knew at the 6952nd RSM RAF Kirknewton, Scotland. Wrote a book you might like called "The Scotland Spy". Retired as a Defense Contractor from both IBM and Lockheed Martin. Gave a speech in Russian language in Moscow,1989. Penn State grad '66 BA and '68 Med.

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

E-Mail address: garyanderson1938@gmail.com
First Name: Gary
Last Name: Anderson

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

Last Name - Henning
First Name - Thomas
Email - Thzephyr41@aol.com
Comments - I think you should encourage all FTVA chapters to use Zoom for meetings. We have geographic distance and commuting problems in the Washington DC mid Atlantic area.

We do, we do! I see above the MARC chapter is doing one this month. Please contact them to be sure you are notified of the meetings! - Editor

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

E-Mail address: n7ood247@gmail.com
First Name: Robert
Last Name: Pleak
Unit: USAFSS
Country: USA
Comment: looking for eric j jarrett, 6990th 1970

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

E-Mail address: bkwilco@gmail.com

First Name: Brent

Last Name: Wilcox

Unit: AFIC

Country: United States

Comment: Career spanned 1974-1994. 1st assignment was 6917th San Vito AS, 75-78, HQ INSCOM Liaison Officer 1978-1980, 6947th 1980-1981, 6903rd Osan AB Korea 1982, Ft Meade MD JOCCP Program 1983-1985, 6920th Misawa AB Japan 1985-88, HQ ESC Constant Web 1988-91, and 6950th RAF Chicksands UK CARC Director 1991-1994.

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

E-Mail address: wellmeier@hotmail.com

First Name: Brian

Last Name: Wellmeier

Unit: NASIC

Comment: DAWG Flight, 20751, December 1978 to 1981. Morse Op and UFD op.

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

E-Mail address: writergate@aol.com

First Name: David

Last Name: Provost

Unit: 6960th Scty Sqdn, Key West, Florida

Country: United States

Comment: Served at 6987th Scty Sqdn, Taipei, Taiwan, 1963-64, USAFSS at Kelly AFB San Antonio, Texas, 1964-66, EurSctyRgn, Frankfurt, Germany, 1966-1968, 6960th, Key West, Florida, 1969.

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

E-Mail address: n7ood247@gmail.com

First Name: Robert

Last Name: Pleak

Unit: USAFSS

Comment: Kadena, Cam Ranh Bay, 1970-72 Chinese Mandarin. MAFAC. Anyone still around Monterey, Ca, home of DLI?

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

E-Mail address: bgranz@comcast.net

First Name: Carl "Bo"

Last Name: Granz

Unit: USAFSS 6948th Fort Meade, MD.

Comment: Stationed: Berlin Germany 6912th Security Squadron from SEP1972 through SEP1974. Transferred to 6948th Ft Meade, Maryland from where discharged JUL 3, 1975. German linguist at Marienfelde Site.

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

E-Mail address: mholub@ssfcu.com

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Holub

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

E-Mail address: rtcgoodman@outlook.com

First Name: dwight

Last Name: goodman

Unit: 6916th SS Rhein Main

Comment: 203 Russian at Syracuse 63-64 1965-1967 Flew RC-130A-II out of Rhein Main, Adana, Athens, Tehran, Aviano. A

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

E-Mail address: acbedfo@hotmail.com

First Name: Arthur

Last Name: Bedford

Unit: 859 CR 120C, San Augustine TX 75972

Comment: Just checking to see if the Roll Call Reunion is still on before I make reservations.

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

E-Mail address: biznismail@aol.com

First Name: John

Last Name: Lowry

Unit: 6987th

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

E-Mail address: mikehv2002@yahoo.com

First Name: Mike

Last Name: Volk

Unit: Shu Lin Kou A.S. 71-73

Comment: Looking for former A.F. friends from Turkey and Taiwan.

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

Last Name - Newville

First Name - Duane

Email - duane@adjust-a-brush.com

Comments - Served in USAFSS from 1956 to 1978. Made life membership after my retirement as S/MSgt in 1972.

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

E-Mail address: philip30cal@gmail.com

First Name: Philip

Last Name: Beekley

Unit: AFIC

Country: United States

Comment: First DO at Howard. Team Lead for Ops Training SAVs. DoD IG Augmentee for 90-day Training Audit at NSA.

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

Last Name - Lantz

First Name - James

Email - jclantz_jr@yahoo.com

Comments - I had not been aware of your organization until recently when I stumbled upon it as I was looking on the internet for a new hat from my old command. I was stationed at SVAS, Italy from Feb 1983 to Aug 1984 serving in the 6917th ESC as a 207X1, so I assume I am eligible to join. If I am eligible, what benefits are there to be realized from membership?

There are lots of benefits to remaining in touch! Please contact Roy Burnett, our membership chairman, at membersupport@ftva.us. - Editor

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

E-Mail address: trainman65@cableone.net

First Name: Rick

Last Name: Duncan

Unit: 6990 SS

Comment: Was also at Ft. Meade, but forget the unit ID, 69xx SG. Enjoyed reading the latest RIT newsletter. Good to see that the association is remaining active in spite of the Covid-19 shutdown.

Thank you! Yes, these are some trying days. Glad you can continue to enjoy the Newsletter and Remain in Touch! - Editor

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

E-Mail address: ellenarluin@yahoo.com

First Name: G.W. Scotty

Last Name: Hays

Unit: 6990 ESG

Country: USA

Comment: FanTAStic newsletter. Good work.

Wow! Very welcome feedback! Thanks so much and hope we continue to bring you enjoyable and informative quarterly issues! - Editor

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

Last Name - ochsner

First Name - lavern

Email - thunder1934@comcast.net

Comments - do you still sell hats

Yes, we do! Please contact Ted Colquhoun at ted.colquhoun13@gmail.com. -Editor

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

E-Mail address: sargetom203@yahoo.com

First Name: Tom

Last Name: Hughes

Unit: TUSLOG Det 3-1

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

Last Name - Meyer

First Name - Kenneth

Email - kemeyer123@att.net

Comments - I'm a life member of FTVA and the Prop Wash Gang. Airborne Hungarian Linguist
(while enlisted)

Retired USAF Captain

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

E-Mail address: awhite15@verizon.net

First Name: Andy

Last Name: Whiteside

Unit: Goodfellow AFB

Comment: USAFSS Diyarbakir 1958-1959

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



FALLEN EAGLES

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor



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

- Alexis, Leslie (Lee), SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Allison, Kenneth R., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Ballinger, Alice Lee, **Spouse of CMSgt (Ret) George Ballinger**
- Bayar, Frank Martin "Ted", USAFSS
- Brown, John E., USAFSS
- Bruce, Arvel Gene, MSgt (RET), USAFSS *****FTVA Lifetime Member**
- Daniels, Harry E., USAFSS
- Emmons, Albert D., TSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Daigle, Joseph George Emile, MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Deliganis, Tom, USAFSS
- Fender, Johnny C., Col (ret), USAFSS
- Gates, Arthur S., USAFSS
- Greene, Michael, MSgt (ret), USAF
- Hobson, Elmer Dean, USAFSS
- Kinkade, Robert C., USAFSS
- Kennon, Patrick E., USAFSS
- Mahan, Lonnie A., SSgt, USAFSS
- Monahan, Joseph Francis, USAFSS
- Pauley, Leo Edward, SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Perras, Alfred J., A1C, USAFSS
- Planinshek, John T., A1C, USAFSS
- Powell, Charles E., Col (ret), USAF
- Ray, Loren, USAFSS
- Reihms, Connie V., **Spouse of Paul Reihms**
- Richard, Francis, W., Sgt., USAFSS
- Scott, Donald George, Brig Gen (ret), USAF
- Silvia, William F., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Spice, Larry “Gah”, USAFSS
- Taylor, James Hampton, USAFSS
- Wesner, Joseph W., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS/ESC



Alexis, Leslie (Lee), SMSgt (ret), passed away July 14, 2020. He was a Chinese Linguist. His assignments included (MAFAC 1967), Taiwan, Okinawa, Osan, Goodfellow, and Ft. Meade. //Bert Turner//

AFSC: 203, A203, 208, A208, 1N3. Assignments: ShuLinKou AB, Taiwan 6990th ESS, Kadena AB, JA Goodfellow AFB, Tx Fort George G. Meade. Comments: Lee "MB Op", Instructor Rated Operator, Airborne Analyst, Airborne Trainer, Course Supervisor (GAFB) //Alan Dowling//



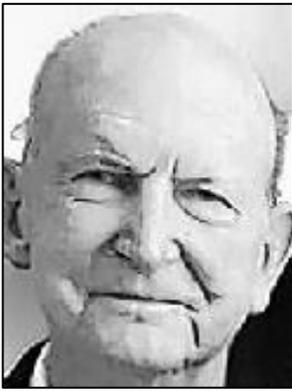
Allison, Kenneth R., CMSgt (ret), 87, passed away July 12, 2020. Ken was a Russian and Vietnamese linguist, retired Chief Master Sergeant in the USAF and veteran of the Vietnam War. Additionally, he graduated Valedictorian with degrees in Russian Language and International Relations from Syracuse University in New York State. He retired after 23 years of service. He was immensely proud of over 100 years of military duty served by multiple generations of his family. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Barbara Byers Allison; daughter, Terri Nichols; and son, Kenneth G. Allison. //Obit – McConnell Funeral Home//



Ballinger, Alice Lee, 90, Alice Lee Ballinger, 90, passed away June 6, 2020. She obtained a nursing degree and soon after 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 is preceded in death by her husband, George. Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Cheryl Day, Michael, Karen, Julie. //Obit - Johnson's Funeral Home//



Bayer, Frank Martin "Ted", 88, passed away July 14, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF and was assigned to the US Air Force Security Service, serving as a language specialist in Bremerhaven, Germany. In 1952, he married Helena Ann Pond of San Antonio, Texas. The couple had four children: Christopher, Steven, Nina, and Catherine. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years and his oldest son, Christopher. //Obit – [www.legacy.com//](http://www.legacy.com/)



Brown, John E., 82, passed away April 9, 2020. John. He was preceded in death by his wife Linda Linam Brown and his son Stuart Brown. He joined the USAF where he was selected to study Russian at the military's language school. He then served at an outpost in Turkey translating Russian radio messages. //Obit – Atlanta Journal-Constitution//



Bruce, Arvel Gene, MSgt (ret), 80, passed away June 2, 2020. He joined the USAF in 1959 and retired in 1984. He was a Vietnam veteran and a recipient of the Bronze Star. After retirement, he continued working in government agencies for many years. He is survived by his loving wife Sadako “Kay” Takahashi Bruce. //Obit - Kirkley Ruddick Funeral Home//

Listed in 6994th Our Losses web site. http://6994th.com/?page_id=151

//Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//



Daigle, Joseph George Emile, MSgt (ret), 83, passed away Jan 2, 2020. Joe and his twin brother joined the USAF and served through two wars as a USAF intelligence operations tech, compiler, and investigator. He was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany with the 6913th RSM Squadron on Baker/Admin from 1956 – 1959. He retired out of Langley AFB, VA. He is

survived by his children and stepchildren: Joey Lee, Dianne Marie, Debbie, Mark Anthony, Jennifer Michelle, Victoria, and Emile. //www.6913th.org//



Daniels, Harry E., 91, passed away February 25, 2020. He served in the USAF from 1948-1952 as an Airborne Radio Operator and as Senior Intercept Operator for USAFSS, participating in the Berlin Airlift. He is survived by his wife, of 42 years, Diana Daniels; daughters Jill and Jennifer; stepchildren Michael and Sheri. //Obit – www.legacy.com//



Deliganis, Tom, 90, passed away June 28, 2020. He attended East Texas State University (now Texas A&M Commerce) where he received Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees. From 1953 to 1957, Tom served his country in the United States Air Force Security Service. After completion of his military service Tom returned to college to continue his education, achieving a PhD degree. He is survived by his best friend and loving wife of 47 years, Jean and son, Tom. //Obit – **Sunset Funeral Home**//



Emmons, Albert D., TSgt (ret), 89, passed away April 29, 2020. Al enlisted in the USAF in 1951 and served with the 3rd Bombardment Wing in Korea during the war. He continued to serve his country proudly for 20 years, many of those with the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS). During his time in the USAFSS, he was stationed in Okinawa, Pakistan, and San Antonio, where he retired from the Air Force Cryptologic Depot at Kelley AFB in 1971. Al is survived by his wife of 65 years, Alice; daughters Sheryl Looper, Stephanie Emmons; son Stephen Emmons. //www.legacy.com//



Fender, Johnny C., Col (ret), 86, passed away July 26, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF in 1956, serving for 30 years. Johnny's career initially focused on flying fighter jets and was later promoted to Command and Staff positions involved with the Air Force pilot training program. Johnny logged 560 hours of combat air time in Vietnam. As a distinguished pilot he numerous medals, including the Silver Star for Valor, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and a Bronze Star. Johnny retired as Base Commander of Goodfellow Air Force Base in 1986, choosing to make San Angelo his home for the remainder of his life. Johnny continued to embrace the San Angelo community by proudly serving as Mayor from 1997-2001.

During his two terms of office, he led several delegations to Washington DC to discuss military and community issues with Pentagon and Congressional leaders. Governor Rick Perry appointed him to the Military Preparedness Commission in 2002. In 2001, he was awarded the Chamber of Commerce "Spirit of San Angelo" award. Johnny is survived by his cherished wife of 13 years, Linda Gay; two daughters, Laura Harkey and Elizabeth Hollis; stepsons, Todd Engel, and Brad Engel. //Obit – **Harper Funeral Home**//



Gates, Arthur S., 90, passed away August 26, 2020. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1951 and received training as a Russian Linguist. He moved to Maryland in 1958, and soon after, began his career at the National Security Agency. Art is survived by his wife of 66 years, Josephine Mary Gates; children, Amy, Tim, Leslie, Jeffrey, Bev, and Steven. //Obit - Singleton Funeral & Cremation Services//



George, Donald Scott, Brig Gen (ret), 58, passed away June 28, 2020. He spent nearly 30 years in distinguished and devoted service to his country. He retired from military service in 2014 as Deputy Director of the National Security Agency near Washington, D.C. Among his many prestigious postings, Scott served as a Squadron, Group and Wing Commander, as well as several tours of duty at the Pentagon, 5th Air Force/U.S. Forces Japan and U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska. He is survived by his wife Barbara, his three sons, Ian Robert, Calvin Scott, and Ryan Kennedy. //Tacoma Mausoleum and Mortuary//

Phenomenal Airman!! I was honored and privileged to serve under then Col D. Scott George from 2007-2010 as his contract lead for Modeling & Simulation. Everyone can point to those few individuals that helped make a huge difference in life. Brig Gen George is high on my list of influencers. His unique leadership and mentorship styles motivated me to grow into the successful Air Force Civil Servant I am today. Even after we went our separate ways, Gen George periodically dropped a note to say "hi" and, when he was in San Antonio, he would always stop by my office to check on me and always asked how the family was doing.. RIP Sir (final salute rendered). //CMSgt (ret) Steve Staycoff, 16th Air Force//

Brig General George...Rita and I are very saddened by your loss but will remember you always for the great leader and friend that you were. I had the absolute honor of being your Command Chief which was the highlight of my 30-year career. I cannot thank you enough for all that you did for our Nation over the course of your distinguished career. Our most sincere condolences and prayers to Barbara and your sons.

A final salute to you General. //CMSgt (r) Mike Ronayne//

Official Air Force biography can be found at <https://www.af.mil/About-Us/Biographies/Display/Article/108590/brigadier-general-d-scott-george/> //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



Greene, Michael, MSgt (ret), 52, passed away April 11, 2020 in Heraklion, Greece. He enlisted in the USAF in 1987. He attended the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Training Center where he proved to be a natural at foreign languages. His assignments included Athens, Greece and Mildenhall, England (where he spent the majority of his career at the 488th Intel Squadron); Saudi Arabia, Omaha, Nebraska, and Chania, Greece. His deployments included DESERT STORM, Bosnia, Kosovo, Operations IRAQI and ENDURING FREEDOM, and Afghanistan. He retired in 2007 after 20 years of service. He is survived by his children Will, Emma, and their mother Pia Sievers-Greene-his first Spouse; parents Rod and Marilyn Greene; and former spouse Krassimira Vidolovska; his sister, Kristine (Steve) Oakley, their children and his brother, Anthony Greene. //Obit provided by Carl Houghton and Will Greene//

A public Facebook group has been started in memory of Mike Greene. It is a very active page with many testimonials and amazing stories. As of date of submission, the site has 462 members. Recommend visiting site. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/646373706203882> //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//



Hobson, Elmer Dean, 74, passed away May 23, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF and his first assignment was as a Morse code intercept operator in Okinawa, Japan. After four years, Dean became an Air Traffic Controller. He was highly respected by his peers and commanding officers. He enjoyed teaching others the skills of his trade and was selected to create completely new training programs for the USAF in Spangdalem, Germany. He is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Valerie Greer Hobson; sons: Dean and Alex. //Obit – The Durango Herald//



Kennon, Patrick, E., 86, passed away May 1, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF during the Hungarian Revolution. As part of his training in Air Force Intelligence, he was sent to Indiana University in Bloomington to learn Hungarian. There he met his future wife, Josephine (Jo), and they married in 1955 after a whirlwind romance. Patrick was conversant in Spanish, French, and German, in addition to English and Hungarian. Pat is survived by Jo, his wife of 64 years, his children, Patrick, William, Julia Kennon, and Monica. //Obit – Washington Post//



Kinkade, Robert C., 80, passed away January 29, 2020. He was a 292 assigned to Able Flight with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1959-1962 time frame. At the time of his death, he was residing in Henderson, NV. //Obit – Palm Eastern Obituary// //Bill Spencer//



Mahan, Lonnie A., SSgt, 77, passed away December 29, 2019. He enlisted in the USAF, serving in Vietnam. After honorable discharge, Lonnie later obtained his undergraduate and master's degree from Wayland Baptist University. He worked as an IRS Agent until retiring. He is survived by his wife, Sue Mosser; and his children Karen, Jackie, Paul, and Jimmy; stepchildren, Victoria, and Scott. //Obit – Combest Family Funeral Home//

He was a 293 assigned to CHARLIE FLIGHT with the 6918th RSM/SS during the 1961-1963 time frame. May MUFFIN Rest-in-Peace now that he has joined his "FALLEN EAGLE" Brothers in their HEAVENLY HOME. //Bill Spencer//



Monahan, Joseph Francis, 76, passed away June 25, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF where he completed the Intensive Language Training program at the University of Indiana Bloomington, where he developed a fluency in Mandarin Chinese. He honorably and proudly served as a voice interception specialist and translator on reconnaissance missions during the Vietnam War. Joe is survived by his wife of 46 years Pamela Towns Monahan; daughter Joan; sons Andrew, Peter, and Joseph. //Obit – www.legacy.com///



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

Leo was a great, fun guy to be around “Back in the day” we shared many an adult beverage and laugh together! //Dennis Buxton//



Perras, Alfred J., A1C, 83, passed away April 16, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF in 1955 and served his country proudly as an Airman First Class, Radio Intercept Operator until 1958 when he was honorably discharged. Al is survived by his wife of 59 years Shirley; daughters, Sherry, and Donna; and son Alfred. //Obit – www.legacy.com/



Planinshek, John T., A1C, 83, passed away July 18, 2020. He joined the USAF and was stationed at Shiroi AFB (Japan) working on radio towers, reaching the rank of Airman First Class. He returned to the U.S. in 1957. In 1973 John was hired by the United States Intelligence Agency (USIA). He and Arlene moved with their two young sons to Laurel, MD. With the USIA, John traveled the world including Portugal, Hungary, Bulgaria, and many other countries working on communications devices. The majority of John's career was with the National Security Agency (NSA), where he worked from 1976 until his retirement in 1995. One of John's proudest accomplishments was his work on a teletype machine that was later displayed in the Smithsonian Museum. He is survived by sons Tom and Chris. //Obit – **Idaho Statesman**//



Powell, Charles E., Col (ret), 89, passed away July 2, 2020. He started college at Arkansas College and transferred to the United States Naval Academy where he graduated in 1954 with a B. S. in General Engineering and was commissioned into the USAF. His 30-year Air Force career included pilot for SC-54s C-124s, KB50Js and HC-130s. His mission aerial refueling missions supporting reconnaissance activities in the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also served in Vietnam where he was a Rescue Crew Commander and Airborne Mission Commander. In Vietnam, Col. Powell flew 168 combat missions and was credited with 14 combat “saves.” He also participated in the planning and execution of the Son Tay POW Camp raid. Across his career he logged over 6,700 flying hours and was awarded a multitude of medals including the Distinguished Flying Cross. His assignment on June 24, 1980 was to command the 3480th Technical Training Wing, Goodfellow AFB, Texas. He was named “Citizen of the Year” by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce (1982), received the “Distinguished Citizen of the Year” award from the Boy Scouts of Southwest Texas (2015), inducted as an Honorary CMSgt” by Goodfellow Air Force Base (2016), and honored as “Veteran of the Year” at Angelo State University (2019). He is survived by his wife, JoAnne, and daughter Teresa Anne McKinney. //Obit **Harper Funeral Home**//

“Goodfellow is here because Charlie Powell was here. When he came to Goodfellow in 1980 the base was on the closure list. Four years later when he retired, Goodfellow was not only not on the closure list, it was named a technical training center. Goodfellow went from a sleepy, single-mission, WWII-looking base to this vibrant, growing, multi-mission, ultra-modern facility

that you see today. That was because of Charlie Powell. His influence is incredible,” said Dr. John Garrett, who retired as the base’s historian last year. //Concho Valley//

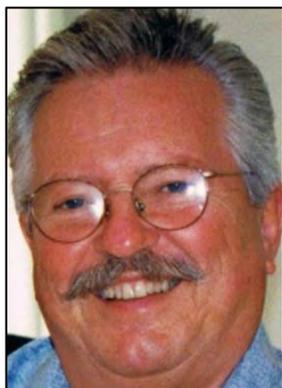
Concho Valley News coverage on Col Powell’s passing can be found at <https://www.conchovalleyhomepage.com/news/news-connection/remembering-col-charles-powell/> //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//



Ray, Loren E., 87, passed away June 19, 2020. He enlisted in the USAF and attended the Russian Language Course at the Language School in Monterey, CA. He then served as a Voice Intercept Officer overseas in occupied Germany and Tripoli. After graduating college, he began his over 40-year career of Federal Service. He began his career with the NSA while living in Washington D.C. and ended as a Branch Chief with the Department of Defense (Foreign Technology Division) at W.P.A.F.B. Loren is survived by his wife of 59 years, June; sons, Peter, and Eric. //Morton & Whetstone Funeral Home//



Reihms, Connie V., 83, passed July 17, 2020. In 1954, she married Paul Reihms. She spent many years as an executive secretary for the VP of Raytheon in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Connie is survived by her husband of 66 years, Paul Reihms; 2 sons, Mike, and Daniel; 4 daughters, Debra Harp, Pamela Farnsworth, Janice Gargone, and Robin White. //www.6913th.org//



Richard, Francis, W., Sgt, 79, passed away August 8, 2020. He served four years in the USAF, including two years in Turkey. He is survived by his loving wife Connie Porter-Richard and son Kevin Richard. //Obit – The Gardner News//

Rank: Sgt. Dates of Service: 1960 to 1964. AFSC: Crypto. Assignments: Lackland AFB 1960, Karamursel AS 1961-1963, Keesler AFB 1963-1964 //Peter Richard//



Silvia, William F., MSgt (ret), 87, passed away May 11, 2020. He was a Korean and Vietnam War veteran - serving with the United States Marine Corp and the United States Air Force. He joined the United States Marine Corp in 1951 and retired from the United States Air Force in 1974. William is survived by wife of 56 years, Violet Silvia; and his daughter, Elaine Maholchic. **//Smith Funeral and Memorial Services//**

I just learned of the passing of Retired MSgt William F. Silvia, with whom many of us served in Athens. He learned Russian @ Syracuse University and flew missions with the 6990th SS/Kadena during the Vietnam War and with the 6916th SS/Athens during the early 1970s. RIP William F. Silvia. **//Larry Tart//**

Bill was one in infinity. I crossed paths with him and his shadow over and over again: in Syracuse, at Goodfellow, Samsun and finally Athens. IIRC, he came to Samsun from Yokota but was also at Rhein Main at some point. He and Vi visited us in Laurel, MD well after his retirement. **//Jon Gwin//**

So many memories of Bill in Athens and in Rhode Island. Shirley and I visited Bill and Vi at their home in Rhode Island some years ago when we were working in a campground nearby in Massachusetts. It may have been while we were working on the 60528 project, but time dims that memory.

Darts at Bills place in Athens was always a great time. He was left-handed and he was deadly at triple 19. **//Dave Bristol//**



Spice, Larry "Gah", 80, passed away July 27, 2020. Larry worked for the NSA for 34 years. He loved frequent reunions with family, Air Force colleagues and friends. Larry is survived by his loving wife, Shirley Spice; sons, Barry, Cary, Derik; daughter, Lori. **//Obit - Barranco Severna Park Funeral Home & Cremation Care//**

I met Larry in Peshawar, Pakistan in either Dec 1960 or Jan 1961. Larry was a great guy and we had many adventures together in one of the most primitive areas of the world. I pray that his family finds solace in the many great memories. **//Rand Dorsery//**

Larry and I served together in Pakistan back in 1962 and then a few years ago, we were to reconnect via Hugh Sloan and Rich Rochelle. Larry will be sorely missed. **//Joe Mullican//**

AFSC - 203xx (Russian); Assignments - Mar '61---Sep '62 Peshawar AS "Dog" flight; A1C in 1962. **//Donald Mencl//**



Taylor, James Hampton, 85, passed away May 2, 2020. Mr. Taylor enlisted in the USAF in 1954 to serve his country and became a Russian Language Specialist. He attended Syracuse University and Dartmouth College in Hanover New Hampshire to study linguistics. Mr. Taylor is preceded in death by his wife, Nancy. He is survived by his son Steve. **//Anniston Memorial Funeral Home//**



Wesner, Joseph (Joe) William, CMSgt (ret), 80, passed away June 2, 2020. Joe enlisted in the USAF and served for 26 years. His service included assignments throughout the United States Air Force Security Service and Electronic Security Command. He was a Vietnam Veteran and spent several tours overseas in Korea and Japan. Joe was also stationed in Mississippi, Maryland, Texas, and Florida. Serving our Country and being with his family were his passions in life. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, and camping. Joe will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Thelma Wesner. He is survived by Nancy, his wife of 60 years, son Keith

Wesner and wife Rhonda, a brother and sister and families, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. **//Obit – Lawson’s Funeral Home//**

Saddened to hear about Joe’s passing. He was always a loyal friend and outstanding “silent warrior” serving in our USAF. **//Dennis Rassmussen//**

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