

Remain In Touch

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



June 2021

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Evan Smith

Greetings from San Antonio!

I hope this edition finds you all happy and healthy and leaves you with a smile. Things are beginning to stir back to life here along with the rest of the Country. Just a couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of enjoying the Alamo Chapter's (aka, Bernie's Band of Rabble Rousers) first post-COVID lock-down get-together with over 30 great Americans. It was truly nice to interact face-to-face once again. And on that note, we are planning for some of that this Fall for at least some of the Anniversary events. More on that in a bit, but first...

You should have received the mass e-mail notice announcing the launch of the new FTVA website (www.FTVA.us). This effort was made possible through a partnership with Cyber Texas USA who oversees college and high school computer science students who gain practical experience helping non-profits like ours by upgrading their digital footprint. Please check out the site and send any suggestions or comments you have about it to Roy Burnett, our Membership Chair. I also want to take a minute to thank Lee Anthony who is stepped down as FTVA Treasurer. Lee has served for many years in all capacities in the organization, and the work he and Jen have done after stepping in for the Copes has been exceptional. Please welcome CMSgt (R) Ken Maynard as the new Treasurer. I think you all know him. Thanks, Chief, for stepping up!

We are still in discussions with 16 AF about this Fall's events. For certain we are holding a Golf Tournament and a Banquet at the Gateway Club, and we hope to see you there. Just as soon as the full agenda has been finalized, we'll get it to you! Until then, stay safe and as always...*Remain in Touch!*

Evan Smith, Lt Col (R)

FTVA Value Statement

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

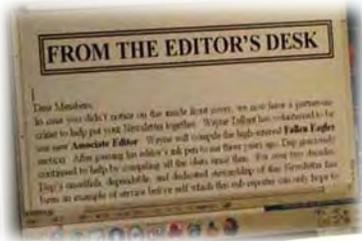
Since the formation of the USAF Security Service (USAFSS) in October 1948, and in its various iterations since then to the present 16th Air Force, we recognize that the one constant and bedrock strength of our organization is the people. Throughout the years, our leaders have understood that if we take 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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Hello Again Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June 2021 issue of *Remain In Touch!*. As Dylan said, “*The times they are a changin’...*” and in my opinion changing for the better and this ugly episode of masks and staying apart will be behind us. I hope our *Remain In Touch!* issues over the past year helped you cope with the bad and kept you somewhat informed of the doings of

people you know and look forward to seeing again. I’ve enjoyed hearing from many of you and exchanging ideas and inputs on how to make this, YOUR Newsletter, better and better or even just leaving it as it is because change does not necessarily equal improvement. With that said, I hope to hear from more of you in the next 3 months.

Our next issue will be posted in September 2021 just before the annual reunion! Please send your inputs to newsletter@ftva.us by 1 September.

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

To quote the musical group “The Happenings”, I’ll ‘see you in September....”

Dennis Buxton, Newsletter Editor



FTVA HALL OF HONOR



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

Hall of Honor Soliciting Nominations

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 7 June 2021, and selections will be announced in the September RIT issue. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association’s reunion activities that are still being coordinated with 16 Air Force leadership as the Corona virus is still impacting base activities. For those of you who submitted nominations, thank you as we are always looking for those who should be honored. There was a paucity of new submissions this year which I hope is only a result of the virus and the lockdowns. I encourage members who think back on those who deserve recognition to reach out and nominate them. Board members are willing to help in the development of nominations. A FTVA member must nominate someone for them to be considered and inducted. Thank you for your support!

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

A.J. Harrison, Hall of Honor Program Chair

Hall of Honor Selections Announced in September RIT

16th AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken Maynard
Associate Editor Extraordinaire

55TH WING DEDICATES NEW HEADQUARTERS FACILITY

Adapted from an article by 55th Wing Public Affairs / Published May 04, 2021

OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, Neb. — The 55th Wing officially unveiled their new headquarters facility and dedicated it to retired Col. William E. Riggs during a ceremony here April 30, 2021.

The wing's new headquarters was previously home to U.S. Strategic Command, who moved into their new command and control facility in November 2019.



Kimberly Riggs Chandio, Col. Gavin Marks, 55th Wing commander, Kelly Riggs Witteman, and Chief Master Sgt. Bryan Tuman, 55th Wing command chief, officially cut the ribbon on the new 55th Wing headquarters facility April 30, 2021, at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. During the ceremony, it was dedicated to Col. William E. Riggs, who served as wing commander from August 29, 1966, to July 17, 1970, the longest in wing history. (U.S. Air Force photo by Josh Plueger)

“Warhawks, past and present and future...we are finally home,” said Col. Gavin Marks, 55th Wing commander, during the ceremony which included four former wing commanders.

The 55th Wing has been without a permanent headquarters since floodwaters destroyed its previous facility in March 2019.

“Back in March, April, May and June of 2019, the 55th Wing was homeless. We were squatters in the Dougherty Conference Center,” Marks said. “So, today is an exciting today for us, but

not just because we are rebranding a building. This is larger than that. Today is about resilience. This is the 55th Wing’s way of saying, ‘yes, we took a punch, and yes, we got knocked down, but today we are still standing, still strong.’”

During the ceremony, the wing dedicated the facility to Riggs, who helped move the wing to Offutt from Forbes Air Force Base, Kansas, in 1966. The 55th Wing Hall of Fame member is the longest

serving commander in wing history, having led the Fightin’ Fifty-Fifth from August 29, 1966, to July 17, 1970.



Col. Gavin Marks, 55th Wing commander, unveils a plaque to Col. William E. Riggs during the 55th Wing Headquarters Building Dedication ceremony April 30, 2021, at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The facility was built in 1955 and originally served as the home of Strategic Air Command prior to U.S. Strategic Command. (U.S. Air Force photo by Josh Plueger)

“Please accept our family’s heartfelt thanks for recognizing daddy’s service and sacrifice,” said Kelly Riggs Witteman, the youngest of Riggs’ four daughters. “We have always known he was a bright shining star and to this day he remains our moral compass. He taught us to honor God and to honor country and how fitting, that today that you honor him by dedicating this headquarters building in this name.”

During Riggs’ tenure as commander, he also led the wing’s transition from the RB-47 to the RC-135 aircraft, which the wing continues to fly to this day.

“I can’t think of anyone more worthy to dedicate this facility to,” said John

McQueney, 55th Wing historian. “He was the embodiment of service before self and a true wing hero in every sense.”

Also during the ceremony, Marks unveiled the renaming of three roads used to enter and exit the headquarters to 55th Street, Videmus Omnia View and Warhawk Way.

“When you get knocked down, it physically hurts, but sometimes it can also hurt your spirit,” Marks said. “Today is about a rebirth and a rekindling of our spirit. It serves as a spark to reignite our culture.”

In addition to the rebranding of the entire facility, the overall complex is also in the first of three phases of renovations. During phase one, large-scale infrastructure systems are being updated in addition to the second-floor common areas, theater and cafeteria. During phase two, the first-floor office spaces and exterior are to be upgraded and improved, and then the final phase includes the third floor and underground facilities.

The Col. William E. Riggs Building was originally built in 1955. It originally served as the home of Strategic Air Command prior to USSTRATCOM.

247TH IS AIRMEN SUPPORT OPERATIONS IN LAST FRONTIER

Based on an article by AIC Justin Wynn, 118th Wing / Published May 25, 2021

Nashville, TN—Four thousand miles from home, a group of 247th Intelligence Squadron (IS) Airmen from the Tennessee Air National Guard, are participating in a unique, multi-year mission to augment active duty troops in real-world intelligence operations.



From left to right: Tech. Sgt. Johnathan Thompson, Senior Airman Deniea Turner, and Staff Sgt. Michelle Aguilar-Villafuerte, all members of the 247th Intelligence Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, pose with the Chugach Mountains in the background May 12, 2021 at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. All three Airmen were in Alaska to support active-duty operations, and to learn new skillsets to bring back to their home unit. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Justin Wynn)

Stationed at the Alaska Missions Operations Center, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, 247th IS Airmen are exposed to high-tempo challenges and learn skills not easily acquired back home at Berry Field Air National Guard Base, Nashville, Tennessee.

“It really gives them the hands-on training that they need to come back and pass on to our enlisted folks,” said Chief Master Sgt. Shane Robinson, 247th IS senior enlisted manager. “When they come back here, they’re considered subject matter experts.”

The program, coordinated by the Reserve Guard Integration Office (RGIO), allows Air Guard units to

augment the National Security Agency’s (NSA) mission during personnel shortfalls.

The 247th IS has maintained a win-win partnership with the RGIO for several years, steadily supplying top troops to help the NSA when needed, while giving Airmen the opportunity to enhance their career and skillset.

“A tour like this can be used as a platform to possibly extend an NSA career in uniform or as a civilian,” said Lt. Col. Kirk Larson, 247th IS commander. “It may not always be rainbows and butterflies up there, but it’s a great location nine months out of the year, and when they come down, they’ve in essence punched their ticket for future career opportunities throughout the intelligence community.”

Senior Airman Deniea Turner, a 247th IS target digital network analyst who has been in Alaska for six months, is enjoying her experience so much she’s in recruitment mode. “I’m currently trying to

convince some of my counterparts at the 118th [Wing] to come here,” she said. “I feel it’s important to experience multiple shops to better develop both tradecraft and leadership skills.”

The program’s success is evident in feedback from active-duty leadership, who frequently contact the 247th IS to compliment the guardsmen who have seamlessly integrated with their troops.

“The squadron commander there recently said we’ll take all that we can get if they’re all of this caliber,” said Larson. “You cannot put into words the fact that you have a four-star general being briefed by one of our Airmen.”

Strictly voluntary, the program relies on the lure of career enhancement and spending several years in a unique location.

688TH CYBERSPACE WINGMEN ENHANCE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER MISSION

Adapted from an article by Nadine Wiley De Moura, 688th Cyberspace Wing / Published May 05, 2021

WASHINGTON D.C. — 688th Cyberspace Wingmen from the 38th Engineering Squadron provided direct support to the National Military Command Center in Washington D.C.



The Wingmen directly enhanced the joint staff and the Secretary of Defense’s execution of the NMCC mission by engineering and installing updated communication systems.

“For the past three and a half years, the 38th Cyberspace Engineering and Installation Group has sent engineering professionals to support the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon,” said U.S. Air Force Col. Christopher Schlak, deputy chief, N2C3 Division, Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

“They were able to design and engineer updates to networks that support nuclear command and control links between the NMCC, senior DoD

688th Cyberspace Wingmen from the 38th Engineering Squadron pose for a group photo. The Squadron provided direct support to the National Military Command Center in Washington D.C. The Wingmen directly enhanced the joint staff and the Secretary of Defense’s execution of the NMCC mission by engineering and installing updated communication systems.

leadership, White House leaders and nuclear forces in the field.” The National Military Command Center is located in the Joint Staff area of the Pentagon. The NMCC is responsible for generating Emergency Action Messages to launch control centers, nuclear submarines, recon aircraft and battlefield commanders worldwide.

Michael McCool, Department of the Air Force Civilian with the 38th Engineering Squadron was a lead systems engineer for the NMCC projects.

“We assessed the facility and found differences with current communications systems,” said McCool. “The first thing we did was provide an overview of how the systems were connected and picked the top five to fix.”

The project involved installing and upgrading a total of six networks.

The team worked to identify outdated legacy systems and outfitted the NMCC facility with systems that were in line with today’s security standards.

“It really was rewarding and perhaps more than other work we have done in the past since we had a lot more clear impact and results. Literally, in some cases we were building the network as we went along.”

The NMCC support team from the 38th Engineering Squadron are geographically based at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Due to the nature of the mission, the team was required to travel back and forth to the D.C. area for the last few years to work on the NMCC projects.

“We were there more than half of the year in 2019 and spent a significant amount of time there since we couldn’t work remotely,” said McCool.

McCool’s colleague Jeffery Iverson, another lead systems engineer for the NMCC projects said that despite the frequent commute, this mission was the greatest impact that he has driven while working in the Air Force.

“The systems that we are dealing with are critical to national defense,” said Iverson. “It is really important to have a lasting impact not only on the Air Force but for the whole national defense. That is very rewarding and the most important project I’ve worked on.”

For Iverson, the task also provided an opportunity for lessons learned.

“I would say some lessons learned were clearly defining expectation management to define what the scope of the project is and define lines of effort so that everyone is on the same page,” said Iverson.

The project also provided an opportunity to build a partnership with the 844th Communications Squadron, stationed at the NMCC.

“Working with the whole team over the last several years has been a great experience and I think of them as part of the NMCC family for all they’ve done and for how much time they spent with

us,” said Alfredo Hernandez, Chief of the NMCC Operation Support Branch and Department of the Air Force Civilian.

“I would like to pass on my appreciation to the men and women of the 688th that provided superior mission support to the Nuclear Command and Control mission and personnel in the National Military Command Center.”

Their dedication and time spent away from family, culminated in us establishing a protected cyber terrain within our facilities boundary, ensuring the Chairman’s ability to execute his mission essential functions securely, Hernandez added.

The 38th Engineering Squadron is home to the Air Force's single largest concentration of Cyberspace Engineering expertise.

“The squadron's support to the National Military Command Center--the very nerve center supporting Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, the President of the United States for matters of National Defense--is a perfect example of how the unit punches well above its weight class,” said U.S. Air Force Col. James Trachier, 688th Cyberspace Wing A/4/6 and 38th Cyberspace Engineering Installation Group commander.

“In simplest form, the job description of an engineer is to solve problems. The Honey Badgers of the 38th ES have decades' worth, or likely even centuries' worth, of combined engineering experience among them, making them uniquely suited to solve the unique problems for which our mission partners require solutions.”

In some cases, the squadron had to reverse-engineer systems that have been online within the NMCC for decades as the first step for modernizing the capabilities those systems supported.

The institutional expertise was long since lost and the original vendors and manufacturers long since shuttered, Trachier added.

“I’ve been around engineering and installation teams’ work in the past and this team didn’t disappoint,” said Schlak.

“Their planning, work, and professionalism ensured the NMCC mission supporting the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs never failed and the information technology systems they affected are ready to perform for years to come.”

WITH ITS PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE CONFIRMED ABMS MOVES TO A NEW PHASE

Based on an article by Charles Pope, SECAF/PA / Published May 24, 2021

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFNS) --With senior Air and [Space Force](#) officials satisfied that the ambitious



Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS) has met key benchmarks, they are pushing the novel program into a new and more operational phase, bringing the system's tools and technology one step closer to being available for use in the "real world."

After 18 months exploring new ways to better connect the joint force alongside a growing cadre of industry partners, the Department of the Air Force is ready to move ABMS from the drawing board into the hands of warfighters.

"Nearly two years of rigorous development and experimentation have shown beyond doubt the promise of ABMS," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr. "We've demonstrated that our ABMS

A communications pod installed in a KC-46 Pegasus will allow the F-35 Lightning II and F-22 Raptor to connect and instantly receive and transmit the most up-to-date information to ensure the warfighters maintain decision superiority. This concept is known as Capability Release #1 under the Advanced Battle Management System framework. The ABMS is the Department of the Air Force's contribution to Joint All Domain Command and Control, or CJADC2, a DoD effort to digitally connect all elements of the U.S. military – from sensors to shooters – across all five warfighting domains: air, land, sea, space and cyberspace. (U.S. Air Force graphic)

efforts can collect vast amounts of data from air, land, sea, space and cyber domains, process that information and share it in a way that allows for faster and better decisions."

"This ability gives us a clear advantage, and it's time to move ABMS forward so we can realize and ultimately use the power and capability it will provide," he said.

ABMS is the service's overarching effort encompassing a new set of technologies, operational requirements and warfighter integration efforts that will allow commanders and warfighters to share more and better information faster and that has the potential to change the future of combat much the way radar did nearly a century ago.

A critical step in the progress of any military program, including ABMS, is the establishment of the manpower, resources and doctrinal infrastructure that underpin the program. Charged with this task for ABMS, Air Force leaders stood up a cross functional team and tapped [Brig. Gen. Jeffery Valenzia](#) to lead the requirements and warfighter integration effort.

“Command and Control is as timeless as warfare — as the character of war changes, so too does the art and science of C2,” Valenzia said. “In a data-dependent and data-saturated world, victory belongs to the side with decision superiority — the ability to sense, make sense of a complex and adaptive environment, and act smarter, faster, and better.

“ABMS will enable decision superiority by delivering that data — the digital lifeblood of modern warfare — to warfighters when and where they need it.”

A top modernization priority for the Department of the Air Force, ABMS will be the backbone of a network-centric approach to battle management in partnership with all the services across the Department of Defense.

The requirements, technology and integration efforts in development under ABMS will enable this concept by simultaneously sensing, making sense of and acting upon a vast array of data and information from each of these domains, fusing and analyzing the data with the help of machine learning and artificial intelligence and providing warfighters with preferred options at speeds not seen before. The Department of the Air Force received \$170 million this fiscal year for this effort and intends to bolster these resources over the next five years, underscoring both its importance and potential.

While the new phase in the life of ABMS might seem unglamorous and incremental, officials stress that it is significant for several reasons. In addition to moving the program from largely developmental to one where equipment, software and other components are purchased and installed on aircraft and other hardware under the guiding hand of the Department of the Air Force’s Rapid Capabilities Office, this latest effort allows Air Force and Space Force program officials to test a cornerstone element of ABMS — the ability to transfer data from a central source to a diverse joint force.

As an initial step in this new phase, communications “pods” will be designed and purchased and installed on a select number of [KC-46 Pegasus](#) tankers. Designers liken the “pods” to internet hotspots that will allow, in this case, [F-22 Raptor](#) and [F-35 Lightning II](#) aircraft to “log on” and easily — instantly — receive and transmit a wealth of data and information that previously was not available or, at best, hard to receive.

Randy Walden, Rapid Capabilities Office program executive officer, said that in addition to outfitting KC-46s, which is known as Capability Release #1, “we’re also gearing up for major investments in digital infrastructure to shore up the foundation of the Advanced Battle Management System.”

“To build ABMS, you must first build the digital structures and pathways over which critical data is stored, computed, and moved. The Department of the Air Force needs a smart, fast and resilient ‘system of systems’ to establish information and decision superiority, and ABMS will be that solution,” he said.

Aside from the system's embrace of a different warfighting philosophy and practice, ABMS is utilizing an approach to developing the complex system that breaks with traditional defense approaches and practices.

Program managers say the goal is speed and utility, which means that some ABMS components are being developed from products that can be derived from commercially available technology when applicable. It requires a close working relationship with industry partners and a willingness to push experimentation of innovative ideas in order to learn what works and what doesn't on short time horizons.

The impacts of ABMS extend far beyond just the Department of the Air Force. Officials have billed it as the Air and Space Force's contribution to the DoD's vision for Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2). In partnership with the Army's Project Convergence and the Navy's Project Overmatch, ABMS is intended to replace legacy stove-piped command and control and ultimately deliver joint force decision superiority.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXPANDS ACCESS TO MILITARY EXCHANGES

Adapted from an article by DoD News, / Published May 01, 2021

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Defense announced the expansion of access to military exchanges as of May 1.

Starting May 1, 2021, DOD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and non-appropriated fund civilian employees are authorized to shop at military exchange stores in the United States and the U.S. territories and possessions.

Online exchange access will also be available for active and retired DOD and Coast Guard appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund civilian employees by mid-October. This shopping access does not include the purchase of military uniforms, tobacco products or alcohol.

Previous in-store exchange access for DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees was limited to those on service agreements overseas (i.e., in foreign countries and the U.S. territories and possessions) and access was limited to overseas exchanges. The expansion will allow all DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees to shop in exchange stores in the United States and the U.S. territories and possessions.

“Every shopper of the exchange helps improve the military community and the benefit for service members and their families,” said Patricia “Patty” Montes Barron, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy. “We welcome our DOD and Coast Guard

civilian employees to take advantage of the convenience and familiarity of military exchanges. Shopping at our military exchanges is a quality of life experience that serves the community in ways no other commercial entity does.”

Online exchange access will be available later this year for all active and retired DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees with a U.S. mailing address, including territories and possessions and APO and FPO addresses. Online exchanges are not permitted to ship to local addresses in foreign countries.

To learn more about military exchange access, visit the commissaries and exchanges webpage on the Military OneSource website.

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

On May 28, 2021, under cloudy skies with a threat of rain, 18 teams teed off in the inaugural Memorial Day Golf Tournament. The event was co-sponsored by the American Legion Post 572 and the Tom Green County All Veterans Council. Prize money was awarded to the top three teams. In first place was the Yellow Stone team. The team generously donated their prize money (\$600) back to the sponsors. Second place was the Widow Maker team (\$300). And a surprising third place finish (\$200) went to the Heritage Chapter sponsored Goodfellow MWR Team. Team members were selected from some 100 junior enlisted applicants. Much to the relief of both the organizers and the donor, no one won the car offered as a reward for a hole-in-one.

Designed by Heritage Chapter CMSgt (Ret) Tom Nurre, approximately 60 “In Memory Of” signs honoring deceased veterans were placed around each hole and throughout the course. They honor veterans from World War II through Iraq. At the 16th hole, Heritage Chapter member Larry Miller displayed a genuine brick salvaged from the Hỏa Lò Prison of War Camp, a.k.a. the “Hanoi Hilton.” The Heritage Chapter also set up the Don Goff Memorial Missing Man Table.

On day two, members of the San Angelo Elks Lodge 1880 provided a great hamburger lunch with all the fixings for the players and volunteers. Enjoy the pics that follow commemorating the event.

//Article by Larry Ross; photos by JJ Graham and Larry Ross//



Smith-Bryant Post 572
PO Box 704, San Angelo, TX 76902

Memorial Day Weekend

Saturday & Sunday
29-30 May 2021
Riverside Golf Course

AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Heritage Chapter Team at the 16th Hole



Ryan Goetz - Watch This One!



It's all about the trophy and bragging rights!

Larry Miller with the Hanoi Prison Brick



AB Michael Degarimore - Good Shot





Team Yellow Stone - 1st Place!



Team Widow Maker - 2nd Place



Larry Ross and Larry Miller manning the 16th Hole.



IN MEMORY OF

CMSGT JAMES A. "JIM" ALI
 USAAF/USAF * 1946-1974
 ABN RADIO OP - KOREAN WAR
 EC-47 ARDF - NHA TRANG, VIETNAM
 RIP - 1928-2005





IN MEMORY OF

MSGT WILLIAM "BILL" ALLEN
 US AIR FORCE * 1951-1971
 USAFSS CHINESE LINGUIST
 KOREA & VIETNAM WARS
 RIP - 1933-2014





IN MEMORY OF

TSGT ANDY DOVE
 US AIR FORCE CAREER
 USAFSS COMMUNICATIONS
 KOREAN & VIETNAM WARS
 RIP - 1931-2019





IN MEMORY OF

Wm. "BILL" D. HARRIS, JR.
 MSGT USAF * 1960-1986
 USAFSS MORSE RADIO OPR
 ENGLAND - TAIWAN - THAILAND
 RIP - 1940-2008





IN MEMORY OF

NICHOLAS A. MESSERSMITH
 MSGT USAF * 1964-1984
 USAFSS RUSSIAN LINGUIST
 GERMANY - TURKEY - NSA - GAFB
 RIP - 1942-2004





IN MEMORY OF

MAJOR DON PARKER, JR.
 USAF ENL/OFF * 1961-1991
 CHINESE LING - INTEL OFFICER
 EUROPE - JAPAN - VIETNAM - CONUS
 RIP - 1941-2018









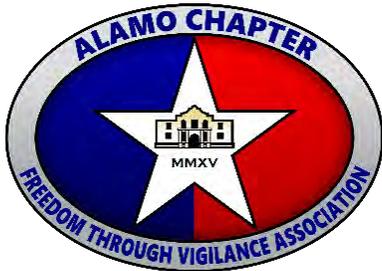
At last...lunch at the Elks Lodge following the tournament after paying respects and honoring those who gave all and are to be remembered not only on Memorial Day, but Every Day.

Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter

Bob Bastian, Acting President, Treasurer

The Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter is gearing up for a return to a more active posture following more than a year of inactivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A core group of members will be meeting via Zoom later in June to discuss and make plans for a fall social; very likely around the Air Force's birthday (so perhaps Friday, September 17, 2021). Potential venues are being researched, so if members of the Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter have ideas, recommendations, or simply want to volunteer their help in planning this event, they can contact Bob Bastian (bobbast@comcast.net). Hope to see you there!"

Thanks, Bob



Alamo Chapter San Antonio, TX

Barnie Gavin, President
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer

After a year-long hiatus, the Alamo Chapter gathered for dinner and a short business meeting at Saltgrass Steakhouse on Thursday, 20 May. Joining the festivities were members of the FTVA Board and the Command and Senior Enlisted Manager of the 543 ISR Gp, Col Ty Gilbert and CMSgt Amy Mendonca.



L-R: Evan Smith, Kathy Haygood, Ron Haygood

President Gavin introduced Col Gilbert, who briefed “Heritage Bridge,” a concept by which Alamo Chapter members would mentor 543rd airmen/NCOs. The goal would be to instill a sense of the rich history the FTVA represents.

Chief Mendonca, further explained “Heritage Bridge” and discussed financial support requirements for the 543rd awards program. She believed \$175/year would cover the requirement. President Gavin also offered a year’s FTVA membership and a copy of the “They Served in Silence” DVD as additional awards.

All agreed that this return to “normal” was most welcome and enjoyed renewing acquaintances and, of course, sharing memories!

Ken and Sheila Williams with Anne and Homer Waring



L-R: Chief Amy Mendonca, Judy Gavin, Barnie Gavin



L-R Vince and Else Colacicco



L-R: Carole Gendolfe, Ken Gendolfe, Andy Smith, Jeannie Smith

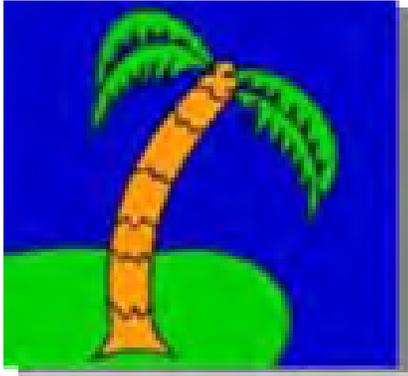




**L-R: Mark Hess,
Jesse Green, and
Dan Martin**

**Right - Ken Gendolfe explaining the
finer points of kicking COVID's
patootie to Bernie and Vince!!
Welcome back Chief! Below - L-R
Ken and Judy Maynard joined by
Hilda and LeRoy Rogers.**





Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John “Tilly” Toillion, President

Aloha All - We finally had our first get together (via ZOOM) on April 14 after a year’s hiatus thanks to COVID-19. Four of us were able to participate: Ken Een, Dickie Hites, and a first timer – John Harman who lives on Maui and has been anxious and excited to be able to meet with us even though via ZOOM.

Discussions included (of course) COVID 19 – shots, enforcement (or the lack there of) but most of our discussions centered on getting to know each other, especially about John H. who was a Russian Linguist. He shared about being stationed in Berlin for 11 years and was there when the wall came down.

We also reviewed Col Eric Mack’s bio. Col Mack is Commander, 692nd Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) Group, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii. He was unable to participate as he was TDY on the mainland.

Also, I showed some photos I found in my FTVA folder that date back to 2005 when we were much younger, had more and less gray hair (see photos next page).

Last but not least, we discussed having an in-person lunch now that Ruby Tuesdays in Mililani can handle tables up to 10 people plus we promised John H. we’d ZOOM him in.

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

John “Tilly” Toillion
Aloha Chapter President

Now



**(Top L-R) Ken Een, John Toillion
(Bottom L-R) Dickie Hites, John Harman**

And ...

Then ...



**(L-R) John "Tilly" Toillion, Al Teal, Ken "Hopi" Hopkins, Dennis Rassmussen,
Ken Een, and Dickie Hites**



Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

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



Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA

Stewart Harris, President





Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT

Jacob Scheid, President

Shawn Heckman, Vice President

Submitted by Linz Rassmussen



REUNIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vito Mini-Reunion Submission Courtesy of Rass



Some smiling Vets of San Vito met April 27th on the patio at Applebee's off Loop1604/Bandera Rd, San Antonio, TX, for their monthly gathering. Pictured from L-R are Jim Ray, Bill Etherton, Bob Andress, Lanny Abee, Rick Sassaman, Ed Klem, Dennis Rassmussen and Jim Gonzalez.

FTVA 40TH ANNUAL REUNION BANQUET

Celebrating the Future

Fiesta Room • Gateway Club • JBSA Lackland

Dress: Coat & Tie

Attendance Limited to 175 Attendees

25 September 2021 (1730 - 2230)

COST: \$30 per Person

(Make Check Payable to:

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

Mail to: Kenneth A. Williams, Jr.

10118 Remuda View

San Antonio, TX 78254

(210) 688-7099

NOTE: Reservations must be received NLT 20 September 2021

MENU:

(Served Buffet style)

Spring Blend Salad with crumbled

Blue Cheese & Balsamic Vinaigrette

Beef Tenderloin with Bordelaise Sauce

Breast of Chicken topped with Avocado,

Tomato and Swiss-American Cheese

Roasted Rosemary Potatoes

Five Cheese Macaroni & Cheese

Asparagus with Sliced Roasted Almonds

Yeast Rolls & Butter (Served with Salad)

Dessert Flower (Cinnamon Tortilla Shell with

Vanilla Ice Cream, topped with

Pecan/Coconut/Carmel and Fanned Strawberry)

Iced Tea, and Coffee

FTVA ANNUAL REUNION GOLF TOURNAMENT

WHEN: Thursday, 23 Sep 21, 1000 shotgun start; check-in begins at 0900. Please check in before 0930 or you may lose your slot!

WHERE: The Golf Club of Texas; 13600 Briggs Ranch, San Antonio, TX 78245; (210) 504-2550

DIRECTIONS: See Map/Directions Below

ENTRY INFO: The entry fee is \$45 per person and includes green fees, range balls, carts, prizes, skills challenges, and the meal to be served after the tournament. **Entry fees are due NLT 10 September.**

All former members of USAFSS, ESC, AFIC, AIA, AFISR, 25AF and current/former members of the 16AF and associated units, and guests, may participate. Entries will be limited to the **first 144 paid players** to sign up, and **the entry fee must be paid on or before the deadline of 10 September.** Please note that the field frequently fills up well before the deadline.

FORMAT: 4-PERSON FLORIDA SCRAMBLE. Each player hits a tee shot, the best ball is selected, and all players play from that spot, and so on until the hole is completed. Rule sheet and other information provided at the tournament. Enter as a single, two-some or field a full team of 4. I will create teams of 4 from singles and 2-somes.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Rental Clubs. Please note that the golf course has only a limited number of rental clubs sets available. If needed, please let me know ASAP and whether you need right-handed or left-handed men's or women's clubs.

Cash or Check Only. Also please note that FTVA does not have the ability to accept credit or debit cards. The only acceptable payments are **checks or cash only.** Checks will be deposited the day after the tournament in case we must cancel due to weather or other circumstances.

Charlie Copy. If you include an e-mail address on your entry form, I will acknowledge receipt.

COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW, DETACH AND MAIL THE FORM AND CHECK

**Make checks payable to "FTVA". Please mail
entry form and check to:**

Bob Benitez

9739 Dahlia

Helotes, TX 78023

Email: fourfor4@satx.rr.com

Cell: (210) 464-5541

ENTRIES & ENTRY FEES DUE NO LATER THAN 10 SEPTEMBER 2021

NAME _____ Phone #. (_____) _____

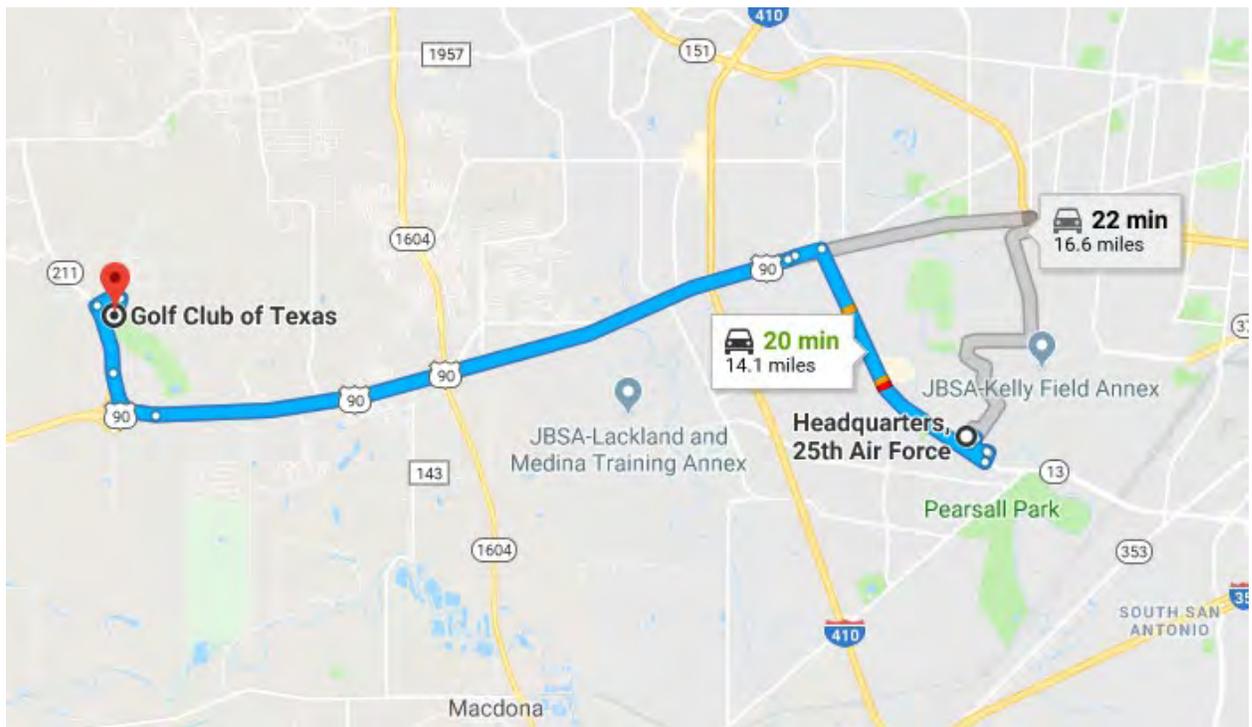
E-MAIL _____ HDCP/Avg. Rnd. _____

Team Member: _____ HDCP/Avg. Rnd. _____

Team Member: _____ HDCP/Avg. Rnd. _____

Team Member: _____ HDCP/Avg. Rnd. _____

**The Golf Club of Texas
 13600 Briggs Ranch
 San Antonio, TX 78245
 (210) 504-2550**



Take Highway 90 West from San Antonio to Highway 211 North/Texas Research Parkway. Go approximately 1 mile and turn right at Briggs Ranch. Go a short distance to a dead end (T intersection) and turn right. Follow the road to the parking lot. If coming via Potranco Road from the east, turn left onto Highway 211 South and drive approximately 2 miles and turn left onto Briggs Ranch.

FTVA/16AF REUNION GOLF TOURNAMENT

23 Sep 21

Golf Club of Texas Rule Sheet

Format: SCRAMBLE

Each player hits a tee shot; the team then selects the best shot and marks the site of the selected ball within one club length of the mark, no closer to the hole. Each player hits from that spot; repeat until the ball is holed. If you are a 3-some, rotate the 4th shot. Record no more than a bogey. If your team reaches bogey, pick up and record the bogey.

Teeing Ground:

- Ladies play from the White/Silver Tees
- Men ages 70 and over play from the White/Silver Tees
- Men ages 60-69 play from the Blue Tees
- Men ages 59 and under play from the Gold Tees

PIN Positions:

- White Flag - Front Pin.
- Gold/Yellow Flag - Middle Pin
- Black Flag - Back Pin

Other Items:

- You may take relief from rocks and exceed the one club length: again no closer to the hole.
- To speed up play, pick up putts within one putter grip length of the hole and count the stroke.
- All other USGA rules apply (if unsure, play a second ball if you believe you must get a ruling). The number one rule is to enjoy the day with our friends. Please repair fairway and tee box divots with sand and repair ball marks.
- One ball rule is not in effect; hazards are marked appropriately, as are out of bounds. All hazards are played as lateral. There is never a need to re-tee.

CARTS: Carts will be kept 30 yards from all greens and remain on the cart path around greens and tee boxes. Cart paths only on all Par 3s.

TIES: Ties will be broken by starting with the #1 handicap hole and proceeding accordingly.

SCORECARDS: Record one team score per hole. Drop your cards at the scorer's table.

MULLIGANS: \$5 gets you two mulligans

LONGEST DRIVE: #2; **CLOSEST TO PIN:** #6 and #12

EC-47 COMMUNICATIONS

Hello everyone. Here is a news update.

JC's Musings: In anticipation of the 25th Anniversary of the EC-47 History Site begun by JC Wheeler in 1997, we have developed a special webpage just for JC's Musings. Please check out the website homepage menu for JC's Page & Archives or click this link to go directly to his page. <https://ec47.com/jcs-musings>. Please join us in congratulating JC as we begin to celebrate the anniversary of his first keystrokes that created this historical record of our work during the Vietnam War.

MailChimp: The Newsletter Mailing program we have used since 2014 is now obsolete and no longer supported. Our website designer/server host has recommended MailChimp as a replacement. This email update is being sent using the MailChimp free software version. The current subscriber listing was successfully imported, and 595 emails will be transmitted in this first attempt. Fingers crossed.

Leave Your Mark: No new news about the Leave Your Mark company and the EC-47 Memorial Plaza engraved bronze plates. We continue to take orders and have more than 100 engraving jobs in queue for LYM as soon as they resume operations. Henry Cislo, LYM manager has promised an update soon...to include photos of construction on the original site. Keep the faith...please.

Thanks for your continued support. As always, drop Joe or Tom an email note to info@ec47.com or use the Contact Us form on the website.

Best,

Tom & Joe

P.S. See update to Leave Your Mark, next page.



The EC-47 * USAF Close Tactical Support
Airborne Radio Direction Finding in the Vietnam War

What's New?
Guestbook
Vietnam War Commemoration
ARDF Exhibit Virtual Tour
History of the EC-47
Tell your EC-47 story!
Odds 'n ends
In Memoriam
Photo Galleries
The EC-47 Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION

Recognizes
THE EC-47 HISTORY SITE
as a
Commemorative Partner

5
ANNIVERSARY
Recognizing and honoring
Vietnam War veterans and
their families all across the
nation.
The EC-47 History Site
info@ec47.com
www.ec47.com
The Committee members
are listed below. They are
all wonderful hosts and
ambassadors for this
recognition program.

* Angelo State University * The Heritage Chapter—FTVA * U.S. Air Force Doggers (Vietnamese Linguists) * Historic Fort Concha *
* San Angelo Chamber of Commerce * American Legion Post 572 * All Veterans Council of Tom Green County *

NOTICE * ALL SALES ARE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY * NOTICE

The Leave Your Mark (LYM) company in Phoenix, Oregon, supplies the paver engraved bronze plates for this memorial. Their complex was burned to the ground on September 8, 2020, by the California wildfires that raced up I-5 into Oregon and Washington. Everyone in the company escaped the fire, but their engraving equipment was completely destroyed.

June 4, 2021: The LYM company advised us that their reconstruction and return to normal paver supply and engraving services are taking more time and money than expected due to the exhaustive fire claims process and skyrocketing costs of building supplies. The earliest possible date for providing the bronze plates and engraving service is February 2022. LYM expects the price of goods will be increased substantially.



Photo provided by LYM General Manager, Henry Cislo. Henry stands in front of their temporary office building located at 4631 Pacific Hwy, Phoenix, OR 97535. Henry is personally invested in the success of the EC-47 Memorial Plaza project and is breaking his back on our behalf working to get back into production.

Effective today, all reservations for paver locations and sales of engraved bronze plates are suspended. All orders received but not yet engraved will be honored as submitted. These orders will be placed first when LYM resumes production next year. All new orders may see a price increase depending upon the LYM company's actions.

Thank you for your continued interest...and patience. For more information or to ask specific questions, please contact Tom @ 325 450-4476 or by email at: pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com.

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

P.O. BOX 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269



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



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



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



BRONZE PARTNERS
Mark and Amy Hess
Ronald Hentz
(IHO Col Bob Cope)
Jack V. Brewer
E.W. Forbess



PATRON PARTNERS
CMSgt Roger Towberman
James Mayer
Charles Bishop
John Toillion



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

CHATTER ROLL

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

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

From: Joe Figueroa

Email: pepfig@hotmail.com

Sending a special thanks to the Vietnam Veterans continuing their service as part of FTVA.

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/86323/virtual-events-available-national-vietnam-war-veterans-day/>

-- Pepito

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

Last Name - Davis

First Name - Thomas

Email - thomasdavis25@sbcglobal.net

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

Last Name - Joyce

First Name - Jeremiah D.

Email - Paxilman1@gmail.com

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

Last Name - Shemek

First Name - Franklin

Email - f.e.shemek@cox.net

Comments - The 40th Anniversary of Cobra Ball flight 664 was celebrated last week here at Offutt.

The link https://omaha.com/news/local/history/offutt-based-55th-wing-to-mark-40th-anniversary-of-deadly-alaska-crash/article_4f350836-7b9d-11eb-88ab-d34c700d919b.html is for your use and

to remember the lives lost in that crash.

**The Next Issue of *Remain In Touch*
will be posted in September 2021.**

Please send your inputs NLT 1

September 2021 to

Newsletter@ftva.us



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

- Acre, David L., MSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**
- Appling, Jesse K., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Arnold, Charles Weldon, MSgt (ret), USASS Roll Call
- Beck, Gerald William, SSgt, USAFSS
- Beecher, Sandford D., USAFSS
- Carpenter, Dwight, SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Carter, James H., *****FTVA Lifetime Member**
- Coleman, Gerald, MSgt, (ret), USAFSS
- Conklin, Dennis J., USAFSS
- Cravener, Lloyd H., USAFSS
- DiSabatino, John J., Sgt, USAFSS
- Donathan, Monroe T., TSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**
- Foshee, Robert L., USAFSS
- Gray, Lewis Elton, A2C, USAFSS
- Kersey, Glenn E., USAFSS
- Kline, Waldo C., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Hall of Honor 1987 & FTVA Lifetime Member**
- Lossing, Ralph A., USAFSS
- McAllister, Judy, SrA, USAFSS
- McCallum, Don, USAFSS
- Murff, Malcolm E., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Lifetime Member**
- Murray, Calvin M., Col (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Lifetime Member**
- Pavlishin, Edward J., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Ozarowicz, Sharon G., USAF
- Potter, Milton “Pat”, MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Powell, Joanne, Civilian
- Reaney, Daryl, L., SMSgt (ret), *****FTVA Lifetime Member**
- Rocha, Louis, CMSgt (ret), *****FTVA Hall of Honor 1986 & FTVA Lifetime Member**

Schuchert, Evelyn H., Civilian
 Shore, John, CWO3 (ret), USAFSS
 Dr. Snyder, Jerome Worth, Maj (ret), USAFSS
 Stevenson, William L., A1C, USAFSS
 Sweeney, Joseph B., USAFSS
 Washington, Booker T., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS



Acre, David L., MSgt (ret), 81, passed away Sep 21, 2020. He served in the USAF as a Linguist for over 26 years, retiring as a MSgt. Following his retirement, he moved to Winslow, Arkansas, and later, to Spring Hill, Florida. He was an active member of the American Legion. David will be dearly missed by his loving wife, Janice (Lutze) Acre; his stepchildren, Kevin (Connie), Gary (Liz), and Luann. He was preceded in death by his first wife of over 50 years, Ann; children, Lawrence and Michael. //Obit – **International Cremation Services**



Appling, Jesse K., SMSgt (ret), 81, passed away Mar 1, 2021. He married Carol Jean Nowlin in 1959. Jesse served in the US Air Force Security Service (Electronic Security Command) from 1959 to 1985. His many assignments around the world included one tour in Vietnam. His service also included detachments to the National Security Agency.

Jesse is survived by his wife Carol Jean Nowlin, sons Jesse Neal, Gary Wayne and his wife Kelley, Brian Allan and his wife Kelli. //Obit – www.legacy.com/



Arnold, Charles W., MSgt (ret), 96, passed May 3, 2021. Charles enlisted in the Army Air Corps and served as a B17 aerial gunner for 23 missions over Germany during World War II. After the war, Charles had met Mary Ryan at a USO dance in San Antonio, TX. They were married a year later on Nov 30, 1946. Charles also served in the Berlin Airlift in the Germany Cold War, the Korean War at Clark AFB in the Philippines and as a management analyst for the USAF Security Service in Frankfurt, Germany. Charles also served tours of duty at Lackland AFB, Kelly AFB, Bergstrom AFB and Brooks AFB, retiring as a Master Sergeant in December 1964. Charles was preceded in death by his infant son Joseph Arnold, son Mickey

Arnold, daughter-in-law Dawn Arnold and his devoted and loving wife of 74 years, Mary Louise Arnold. Charles is survived by his daughter Mary Dunford and husband Dan Pomerening, daughter Jeanne Moursund and husband Bowen, son Jameson Arnold and wife Kimberly, daughter-in-law JoAnn Arnold. //Obit – Mission Park Funeral Home//



Beck, Gerald William, SSgt, 88, passed Feb 28, 2021. Gerald enlisted in the Air Force in 1952. He proudly served three years in Europe during the "Cold War" in the USAF security service monitoring Russian Communications; he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. On June 22, 1957, Gerald was united in marriage to Arlene Neumeyer at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Theresa. Gerald joined American Legion Post #270 in 1957, where he was a consecutive 60+ year member, four times Post Commander, and Post Adjutant 35 consecutive years. He will be deeply missed by his five children: Renee (Jeffery) Beck-Stytz of Downers Grove, IL, Wayde (Faye) Beck of Theresa, Robert Beck of Lomira, William Beck of Fond du Lac, and Thomas Beck of Theresa. He was preceded in death by his wife Arlene. //Obit Koepsell Funeral Home//



Beecher, Sanford D. (Sandy) III, 60, passed away Oct 17, 2020. He attended the Defense Language Institute before serving as a linguist in the United States Air Force. Sandy leaves behind his wife Tany; children April Beecher, Tess Landis and husband Evan, Gabe Beecher and fiancé Lindsay Ruotulo, and Luke Beecher and wife Gabriela. //Obit – www.legacy.com///



Carpenter, Dwight, SMSgt (ret), 71, passed away Mar 5, 2021. Dwight was married to Linda on August 23rd, 1969; they were married 51 years. Dwight retired from the United States Air Force in 1997 with a rank of Senior Master Sergeant, having served our country faithfully for 26 years, including through Desert Storm. He went on to work at L3 Communications for 15 years before retiring in 2012. Dwight is survived by wife Linda Carpenter, son Chris (and Kim) Carpenter. //Obit – Gateway Funerals and Cremation//

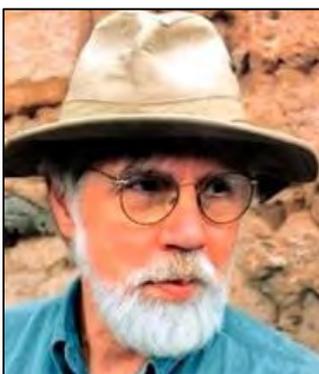


Carter, James H., 89, passed away Oct 12, 2020. Jim served in the USAF during the Korean War in Wakkanai, Japan as a Russian linguist. Jim served also served 40 years as a Crypto Analyst at NSA. He is preceded in death by his first wife Rosalee with whom he has three sons. He is survived by his wife Pat, son Chris, son Robert and daughter-in-law Robyn, and son Larry and daughter-in-law Miyuki. //Obit – Beach Funeral Homes//



Coleman, Gerald “Jerry”, MSgt (ret), 89, passed away Dec 15, 2020. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in May of 1949. Jerry began his USAF career in Europe as a linguist, speaking several languages including Russian, & German. He finished his career doing what he loved, flying. As a Loadmaster. He completed several tours of duty flying combat missions during the Vietnam War. MSGT Coleman was very proud of being a veteran, and especially of his service in Viet Nam. He often remembered and spoke of his service brothers that did not make it home. He retired with 27 years of service as MSGT. After his military career he worked in Saudi Arabia for Lockheed-Martin for 12 years. He is survived by his former wife & lifelong friend Edna Boisselle of Camden,

and their children; Deenie Aiken and her husband, Pie Hahn and her husband Reynold, Gary Coleman and his wife Jill, Michael Coleman, and Theresa Saari, & Robert Coleman and his wife Jean. //Obit - Torbert Funeral Chapels//



Conklin, Dennis, 81, passed away Mar 10, 2021. Dennis enlisted in the US Air Force at 17, where he was selected for Chinese Language training by Robert Tharp, founder of the Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages, an affiliate of NSA and the US Air Force Security Service. Following IFEL graduation in 1957 and four years of intelligence work in Taiwan for USAFSS, Dennis toured the far east with his friends. He was particularly fond of old Taipei for its tottering buildings and Dickensian cast of residents. Dennis is survived by his wife of 32 years, Barbara. //Obit – VanHorn – McDonough Funeral//



Cravener, Lloyd "Bud" H Jr., 76, passed away May 19, 2021. Bud enlisted in the USAF in 1962. He was stationed in Turkey and then Ft. Meade in Maryland. Upon his discharge, he was hired by NSA, where he stayed until his retirement in 1999. Mr. Cravener had a very successful career as an analyst, and his work is memorialized in the National Cryptological Museum on the National Security Agency grounds. He was also a two-time recipient of the Civilian Merit Award. Bud is survived by his loving daughters Kelly (Mark)

Hax-Fell and Kimberly (Richard) Champagne-Settles, two stepsons Steven (Camille) Piscitelli and Gene (Kaye) Piscitelli. He is also survived by his loving girlfriend Natalie Zanolli. He was preceded in death by his wife Joy Canino Cravener. //Obit – Hunter Anderson Funeral Home//



DiSabatino, John J., Sgt, 86, passed away died April 5, 2021. He joined the United States Air Force in July of 1952. In 1956, he married his high school sweetheart, Carol A. Yarnall, and continued his career in the U.S.A.F. The couple enjoyed an interesting life of travel with military assignments in Alaska, England, Japan, Turkey, and many others. He also served in Viet Nam and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service. He was also awarded the Air Force commendation medal, the Air Force good conduct medal, and was a

graduate of the Air Force Security Service non-commissioned officers academy. He is survived by Carol, his wife of 64 years, children John, Michael, and Jill. // Obit – Sunset Memorial Park and Funeral Home//

John and I were coworkers on Security Hill in the early 1970's. I did not know he returned to San Antonio. My prayers and well wishes to his family. RIP John. //Ernest Dalton//



Donathan, Monroe Turner II, TSgt (ret), 85, passed away May 20, 2021. He was also known as M.T., the Big Kahuna, The General, and most notably "Papa." He retired from the USAF after 20 years of honorable service as a Technical Sergeant, working in communications and intelligence. During his career, he was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base; Showa Air Station; Robins Air Force Base Georgia; Donaldson Air Force Base South Carolina; The Royal Air Force Station at Kirknewton, Scotland, with the 6952nd Security Squadron; Goodfellow Air Force Base; the Florida

Keys during the Cuban Missile Crisis; Peshawar, West Pakistan, as a guest of a West Pakistan Army Intelligence Unit; R.A.F. Chicksands, England; and then finishing his career at Kelly Air

Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, at command headquarters with the Cryptologic Depot. Surviving him are his wife of 65 years, Peggy Beaver Donathan; his daughters and sons-in-law, Phyllis and Michael Venable, Teresa and Jim Lewis, and Monica Donathan Inscore. //Obit – Mount Airy News//



Foshee, Robert Lynn Sr., 79, passed away Feb 11, 2021. He joined the USAF and served in Security Service. He said, "I grew up with these guys, we all became men together." They were still his dear and special friends. After all these years they get together yearly for a reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. He is survived by his loving family: wife of 55 years, Billie Ann Knight Foshee; son, Robert Foshee, Jr. //Obit – www.legacy.com/



Gray, Lewis Elton, A2C, 79, passed away Feb 28, 2021. Lewis served in the U.S. Air Force for four years. He completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas and Morse Intercept training at Keesler AFB, Mississippi. He then was assigned to the AF security service at Karamursel Air Station, Turkey as a Morse Intercept Operator and finally to the 2853rd Air Base Wing at Robins AFB, Georgia until discharged in 1963. He is survived by the love of his life, Janie, who had 57 years of wedded bliss together; his children, Joel Gray, Eric (Kim) Gray, Tamara Gray; grandchildren, Kodi Posey, Chase and Lindsey Gray. //Obit –

Bevis Funeral Home//

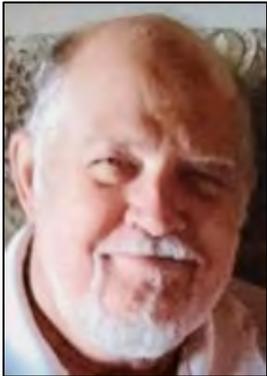


Kersey, Glen Edward, 79, passed away Nov 16, 2020. He served 28 years in the United States Air Force, where he received numerous medals and achievements for his work in radio communications. During his time in the USAF, Glen traveled the world, and treasured the lifetime of memories he made while serving his country. //Obit – **Dudley Memorial//**

I served in skivvy nine 1972 at Osan. A close friend was Glen Kersey. He was also there in 1972. //Tom Medlin//



Kline, Waldo C., CMSgt (ret), 90, passed away Mar 3, 2021. Wally worked in Security Service and retired after 20 years. Wally was inducted into the US Air Force Hall of Honors at Kelly Air Force Base, Security Service in San Antonio, TX for his high achievement in developing and implementing the Russian Linguist School. Wally is survived by his wife of 65 years, Nancy McArdele Kline; children, Wally (Rose) Kline, Danny (Karen) Kline, Kim (Vic) Lisi, Jerry (Karen) Kline, Thomas (Cathy) Kline, and James (Laurie) Kline. //Obit – Falardeau Funeral//



Lossing, Ralph A., 68, passed away April 18, 2021. He proudly served in the United States Air Force for 22 years. Ralph is survived by his wife of 44 years Millie; daughters Tiffany and Angela (Bowe). //Obit – Hedges & Scott Funeral Home//

Got word that Ralph A (Lex) Lossing died April 18. Think he was a 202 on Able. Flight at San Vito. //Keith Hyland//



McAllister, Judy Engholm, 63, passed away Jan 17, 2021. She joined the USAF in 1975. As a senior airman from 1977 to 1980, she monitored and translated Russian-language transmissions during the Cold War. Her assignment included Germany and Turkey. Judy is survived by her partner, Hodge Ashbrook. //Obit – Daily Telegram//



McCallum, Don, 82, passed away May 12, 2021. Don enlisted in the Air Force at 17 and served in Japan and Germany as a radio operator / intercept, using morse code. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Martha, sons Michael McCallum (Lisa), Eric McCallum (Rosemary) and daughter Suzanne Dorman (Lanny). //Obit – Graceful Memorial Chapel//



Murff, Malcolm Earle, SMSgt (ret), 92, passed away Mar 12, 2021. He served as a radio traffic analyst in the Air Force Security Service for twenty years at overseas locations in Germany, Japan, Turkey, and Okinawa. He retired in July 1968 as a Senior Master Sergeant. Afterward he was employed by the National Security Agency for ten years. He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Dorothy; two sons, Ronald Earle Murff and wife, Gloria and Brian Scott Murff and wife, Lynn. //Obit – Porter Loring//



Murray, Calvin M., Col (ret), 87, passed away Mar 12, 2021. He joined the USAF in 1952 as an enlisted Military Intelligence Specialist. While progressing in the Intelligence career field with assignments in the Philippine Islands, Japan and Pakistan, he went back to night school and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Military Science at Omaha University in July 1964. He was then granted an age waiver and entered Air Force Officer's Training School, graduating as a Second Lieutenant in February 1965. After a long and rewarding career as an officer which included assignments at Yokota, Japan; Anchorage, Alaska; HQ Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; HQ U.S. Air Force Security Service; HQ

Electronic Security Command, 6944th Electronic Security Squadron and Lastly Commander, 6920th Electronic Security Group in Japan, a unit he served in previously as a staff Sergeant. He is survived by his wife, Clara Amelia Murray and children William Randolph Murray, Michael Ray Murray, and Janice Elaine Jones. //Obit – www.legacy.com/

He served at the 29th RSM group as an airman/operator in the Philippines. Later he was the commander at Misawa //Joseph Hurst//



Pavlishin, Edward J., MSgt (ret), 72, passed away Feb 6, 2021. Ed enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1969. He went on to receive training in communications electronics systems at Keesler Air Force Base (Biloxi, MS). He was then stationed at San Vito dei Normanni Air Station (Brindisi, Italy) as a Tech Sergeant. While stationed in Italy, Ed received the Air Force Achievement Medal as an administration technician with 6917th Electronic Security Group. Ed’s lifelong friend, Denny Bavaria, recalls meeting Ed for the first time at San Vito, “He had black, slicked back hair and black glasses. He looked like he was straight out of the TV program 77 Sunset Strip!” While in Italy, Ed, Denny, Jon Horvath, and Harold “Cookie” Murphy got the nickname the “Wild Bunch” from a senior advisor to the Commander of the base. Needless to say, they had a reputation around the base and Southern Italy.

Ed’s military service brought him to Taiwan, where he met and married, Alice LuLu Shen. In 1973, they returned to the United States and where Ed was stationed at Langley Air Force Base (Hampton, VA). In 1982, Ed accepted a foreign assignment that brought him back to San Vito Air Station—this time as a family man. After three years, Ed was assigned to US Central Command under General Norman Schwarzkopf at MacDill Air Force Base (Tampa, FL). Following 23 years of service, Ed retired as a Master Sergeant from the United States Air Force. Ed is survived by his son, Edward Andrew Pavlishin; daughter, Tracey Ann Pavlishin and husband, Kurt Duncan. //Obit - www.legacy.com/



Ozarowicz, Sharon Grace, 61, passed away Nov 3, 2020. Sherri married Jerry Ozarowicz November 6, 1982. Shortly thereafter, she joined the Air Force. Following basic training, they moved to Monterey, California, for a year for her language school as a German linguist. She was stationed in Germany and enjoyed traveling in Europe, especially exploring old castles. With her German ancestry, she could pass for a native since she spoke the language fluently. Her military service was completed in Washington, DC. After accepting early retirement from the Air Force in 1993. Sherri is survived by her sons, Brian and Michael, of Lebanon. //Obit – www.legacy.com/



Potter, Milton “Pat”, MSgt (ret), 90, passed away December 20, 2020. While in the Army, he was posted in allied-occupied Germany for two years as part of the 1st Infantry Division. A few years later he enlisted in the Air Force. While stationed at Carswell AFB in Fort Worth, TX he met Evelyn “Edie” Vecera on a blind date. A year later, on Aug. 24, 1957. The couple began their life in Vernon, TX before moving to Eglin AFB in Florida. Pat was later stationed with his growing family to Yokota AFB in Japan. Pat became an instructor at Goodfellow AFB and moved with his family to San Angelo in 1967. He served in Vietnam in 1970-71 and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Military Merit Medal. Pat retired from a successful career in the Air Force as a Master Sergeant in 1974 after dedicating a total of 25 years of service to his country. Pat is survived by his wife of 63 blissful years, Edie Potter; his children Dale Potter, Ramona (Randy) Wessels, Kim (Allen) Gully, Deanna Potter and Duane (Yvonne) Potter. //Obit – Shaffer Funeral Home//

Pat was a 6994th SS member //FTVA Heritage Chapter//



Powell, Joanne, 89, passed away Mar 24, 2021. With the grace that defined her entire life, she joined her beloved Charles in heaven. Born in Nashville, Arkansas on November 27, 1931 to Brooks and Iva Mae McAdams, JoAnne learned at a young age that honesty, hard work, personal ethics, and character were the values to live by and she did just that throughout her life. She grew up in Nashville with her childhood sweetheart Charles Powell, graduated from Southern Arkansas University, and married Charles in December 1954, six months after he graduated from the U.S.

Naval Academy. From that moment on, wherever life took them, their lives were as one, until he left this world on July 2, 2020. JoAnne was a nomadic Air Force wife for over thirty years, finally settling in San Angelo with Charles’s final assignment at Goodfellow AFB. Once here, JoAnne began to work her magic on base and in the community. She revived the Goodfellow Officer’s Wives Club and started the Christmas Bazaar (now Santa’s Village). In 1984, she became the District Office manager and area staff aide to Congressman Tom Loeffler, and continued in that position serving three more members of Congress, Congressman Lamar Smith, Congressman Michael Conaway and Congressman August Pfluger. JoAnne took great joy in solving problems for the constituents throughout the district. For her it didn’t matter who they had voted for, what family they came from, how much education they had or what their jobs were. They were people with problems who needed her, and she was always there to stand for them.

JoAnne also stood for her community, working tirelessly for causes she believed were essential for others to thrive. She served on the boards of United Way, Red Cross, Angelo Civic Theatre, Concho

Valley Partnership, Meals for the Elderly, Hope for the Holidays, Hospice of San Angelo and the Concho Valley Republican Women to name a few, and was a member of the Johnson Street Church of Christ supporting both its mission and its outreach. Her service brought her many honors, including being named one of the “Top Ten Republican Woman” by the Texas Federation of Women, “Woman of Distinction” by the Girl Scouts of Central Texas, and receiving the “Keeping the Flame of Hope Alive” Award from the United Way.

Maya Angelou said “When someone shows you who they are, believe them,” and JoAnne Powell showed us who she was every day. She was love in action, a force of nature, full of compassion, humility, truth and service to each person she met. Her life reflected those core values learned long ago, a life filled with generosity, patience, guidance, wisdom, and most of all, an effort to always do good and make a difference in other people’s lives.

She is survived by her daughter Teresa Anne McKinney and husband, Bryan of Flower Mound, two grandchildren Dr. Colin Bryan Powell McKinney of Crawfordsville, IN, and Caitlin Brooke McKinney Cannady and husband, Jeremy, of San Angelo, two nieces and a number of cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband and soulmate, Colonel Charles E. Powell, parents Brooks & Iva Mae McAdams, brother James Brooks (Jim) McAdams, and in-laws Alford Jackson Powell and Maggie Mae Powell Cowling.

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Congressman August Pfluger posted this on his official Facebook account:

"It is with utter grief and sadness that Camille and I must announce the passing of Joanne Powell, a beloved member of my team and one of the most treasured pillars of the San Angelo community.

Joanne has served the constituents of the 11th District of Texas for over 35 years in the San Angelo Congressional office. During this time, she solved thousands of cases with federal agencies, and was the eyes and ears of the office—identifying and correcting needs on the ground. Her pride and joy in the office was mentoring hundreds of young men and women, including myself, through the service academy application process and helping dozens receive appointments.

Every day, she made the lives of someone in the Concho Valley a little bit easier—and a lot brighter. She trained four congressmen over her tenure, which begun with Tom Leoffler and continued on with Lamar Smith, Mike Conaway, and now myself. I have been fortunate to have known her almost my entire life, and it has been a priceless honor to have her mentorship and guidance as I begin my journey in Congress.

Joanne was the epitome of service above self—working right up until the very end and even handling casework this week. She genuinely cared for each person she served and showed Christ’s love to everyone. I cannot express how great this loss is to my team and the entire 11th District.

Joanne was an absolute jewel of the Concho Valley with unmatched compassion, dedication, and love for others. The influence that she and her beloved husband Charlie have had on this

community since they first saved Goodfellow Air Force Base from closure in the 1980's cannot be overstated.

Please keep her daughter Terri, son-in-law Bryan, grandchildren Colin and Katie, and all of her family and friends in your prayers during this time."

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From the GAFB Wing Commander:

Subject: Legacy of Goodfellow -- Passing of Mrs. JoAnne Powell

Raiders,

It is with heavy heart and deep sadness that I announce the passing of a true pillar within the San Angelo community and Goodfellow family, Mrs. JoAnne Powell. Mrs. Powell was the spouse of former Goodfellow Air Force Base Commander Colonel Charles Powell who led the base from 24 June 1980 – 10 July 1984. Following her spouse Charlie's retirement from the Air Force, the Powell's remained here in San Angelo. JoAnne took the path of public service and worked tirelessly for the constituents of the 11th District of Texas for over 35 years in San Angelo's Congressional Office. She aided four congressmen in that time span and her influence helped avert Goodfellow from being closed during the Base Realignment and Closure program of the 1980's. For countless years, JoAnne remained a staunch advocate for Goodfellow and the military as a whole. She helped secure several appointments for members seeking admission to the various service academies and was truly a respected voice of the community.

Please keep Mrs. JoAnne Powell and her family in your thoughts and prayers. JoAnne's legacy at Goodfellow and within San Angelo will not be forgotten. She will be sorely missed by all.

It is my honor to serve,

ANDRES R. NAZARIO, Colonel, USAF

Commander, 17th Training Wing



Reaney, Daryl L., SMSgt (ret), 86, passed away Apr 9, 2021. Daryl had long career in the US Air Force Security Service. During one of his deployments home, he met MaryAnn Varescak. They were married in September of 1957. With the exception of a tour in South Vietnam, they traveled the world. Assignments took them to Germany, England, Texas, Virginia, Okinawa and finally to Maryland. Daryl was stationed at NSA and retired in 1979. After retirement, NSA offered him a position he couldn't refuse so he went back to work as a civilian. He leaves behind Deborah Dwyer, Daryl J, Karen Cobb and her husband James, Jr. and Gregory. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

Daryl's AFSC was 202. I was stationed with Daryl at RAF Chicksands, England, Augsburg, Germany and Fort Meade, MD. //Logan Barnhart//



Rocha, Louis, CMSgt (ret) passed away May 27, 2021. Funeral arrangements were still pending as of publication date. Detailed obituary will be posted in September newsletter.

It is with deepest sorrow to inform you of the death of CMSgt Lou Rocha. Lou died peacefully this morning, 27 May 2021 in San Antonio after a long battle with cancer. In 1986, Lou was inducted into the USAFSS Hall of Honor as a

Distinguished Alumni of the Decade of the 1970s. Funeral arrangements are pending. //Luis A. Gonzalez//



Schuchert, Evelyn H., 98, passed away April 12, 2021. Evelyn is survived by her four children, Arthur J, Schuchert, III and his wife Michele, her daughter Pam Jupe and husband Pat, her daughter Sue Vordenbaum, and her daughter Sandy Walker. She built a 33-year career working for the Federal Government. Upon retirement, she held the prestigious position as Chief of the HQ Electronic Security Command's Organization Division at Kelly Air Force Base. //Obit – Porter Loring//



Shore, John Charles, CWO3 (ret), 90, passed away Feb 26, 2021. His Wife of more than 66 years, Aurora Adaline Barker Shore was by his side. John entered the Air Force on October 25, 1950 and completed Basic Training in San Antonio where he met Adaline shortly thereafter. John continued his Air Force career until February 1, 1961 when he transferred to the Army as a Warrant Officer. He completed his Military Service in the Army as a CW03 Warrant Officer on February 28, 1971 when he retired. He was a proud Veteran of the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife Adaline, his sons John (Chuck) Shore Jr. and wife Rebecca Lee Dew Shore, James (Jim) Shore and wife Angelika Krauss Shore. //Obit – **Johnsons Funeral Home**//

John and I shared 70 years of friendship, starting with our entering the US Air Force at the same time and going thru basic training and tech school at F. E. Warren AFB, CHEYENNE, WY while we were assigned to the USAF Security Service. We followed similar careers; both having retired as US Army Warrant Officers. After our retirements, we resumed our close friendship, often meeting in Fredrick burg or walking the mall in San Angelo. John and Adie provided enormous strength and support during and following the passing of my spouse in 2016. //Richard Shutte//



Dr. Jerome Worth Snyder, Maj (ret), 86, of San Angelo passed away Feb 27, 2021. He was preceded in death in 2004 by his wife of 45 years, Henrietta and is survived by their daughter, Lucy A. Snyder. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, 1952-1960, where he trained as a Russian Language Specialist and served in Korea at the rank of Sergeant, at USAFSS headquarters in San Antonio. In 1975, he accepted an Air Force commission as Major and moved to San Angelo to serve the Goodfellow USAF Clinic. //Obit – **Harper Funeral Home**//



Stevenson, William Lester (Bill) Jr., A1C, 84, passed away Feb 25, 2021. He joined the United States Air Force as a Cryptanalyst. He served from 1960 to 1966, first in Wakkanai, Japan and then Bremerhaven, Germany. At both locations he served in direct support of the Vietnam War and achieved the rank of Airman First Class (A1C) prior to his separation from the Air Force. It was while serving in Bremerhaven that Bill met the love of his life, Ursel Griesbach. They were married on August 19, 1965 in a small church ceremony in Bremerhaven. Bill and Ursel were married for 55 years. He is survived by his loving wife, Ursel; his sons, Masashige (Fumiyo) Minato and William (Lisa) Stevenson; daughters. Michelle Thorpe and Ramona (Shawn)

Tremper. //Obit – Southerland Family//



Sweeney, Joseph Branham, 88, passed away Jan 18, 2021. Joe enlisted in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He was stationed in the Philippines and served in the security service as a radio intercept officer. Throughout his life he amused and prided himself on well remembering the "dits and dots" of Morse Code. Joe leaves behind his loving wife of 64 years, Peggy, his four children: Kevin (Kathryn), Stephen (Karen), Peggy (Mark) and Brian (Jennifer). //Obit – www.legacy.com//



Washington, Booker Taliaferro Jr., CMSgt (ret), 74, passed away Feb 28, 2021. A 30-year retired Air Force (AF) combat-disabled Chief Master Sergeant, B.T.'s AF career consisted of over twenty-two years of assignments in Asia, primarily in the Philippines, South Korea, South Vietnam, and Thailand. During those tours, he served in part in support of combat communications units, most notably the 5th Tactical Control Group and the 1961st Communications Group. A highlight of his last tour in the Philippines was the recognition that one of his facilities (the 6922nd Electronic Security Service Communications Center) received for having won the James C. Swindell Award for three years straight as the best

communications center supporting the Electronic Security Command's (ESC) worldwide mission. Upon his promotion to Chief Master Sergeant, B.T. served another tour of duty with ESC through an assignment to the National Security Agency (NSA) where he was NSA's Telecommunications Certification Officer. In that capacity, he was responsible for ordering and cancelling communications circuits and lines in support of the NSA's worldwide clandestine. He is survived by his Wife, the former Gemma Espiritu Clarin of Arayat, Pampanga, Philippines, his Daughters Keeley Jackson and Kamille-Dawn Washington; Sons, Louie-Jude (Umber) Washington and Charles-Tomas Washington; Stepsons Arnold (Rose) Tanglao and Rainier (Lisa) Tanglao. //Obit – www.legacy.com//

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