

Remain In Touch

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



December 2021

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Ted Colquhoun
President, FTVA

Howdy Y'all,

I hope your Thanksgiving Holiday was relaxing and enjoyable. It was a quiet time here in San Antonio, but now it's time to ratchet up the planning for a successful Christmas and New Year's celebration. Not sure how the weather is where you're at; here in south Texas it's been sort of mild, but we are starting to see the beginning of the winter flow into town. Just hope we don't have a repeat of last year's mega freeze.

I have a few updates for you on our upcoming reunion activities but first I want to thank Lt Col (Ret) Evan Smith for the job he has done as the FTVA President over the last two years. I thought I had it rough in 2018/2019, but what Evan had to go through in 2020/2021 was above and beyond. The stand-up of 16th Air Force with the corresponding merger of 25th and 24th Air Forces, followed by COVID in 2020/21 that forced us to cancel or postpone our anniversary events, as well as go virtual on our meetings, were just some of the issues he had to endure. Evan, you did an incredible job and I, for one, appreciate everything you did for our Association and the Command.

For the reunion events. We had to postpone the most recent event from Sept 2021 to March 2022. You will notice a submission in the newsletter by Mr. Ken Williams about all the festivities. We still plan on holding all the events as follows:

Thursday, 24 March 2022

Golf Outing at The Golf Club of Texas

Friday, 25 March 2022

*Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony (2020 and 2021 inductees)
(COVID restrictions permitting)*

*Remembrance Ceremony in front of Headquarters Building
FTVA Picnic*

Saturday, 26 March 2022

FTVA Banquet (Alternate recognition for Hall of Honor inductees if needed)

Please bear with us as we prepare for the upcoming FTVA Spring 2022 festivities and remain flexible if needed.

We are also planning the FTVA Annual Fall 2022 reunion, however with a tentative twist. JJ Graham, Heritage Chapter President, has negotiated with the 17th Training Wing Commander and the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce to host our 2022 Anniversary events in September 2022 at San Angelo/Goodfellow AFB.

We are looking at this event as “*A Return to Our Roots,*” and back to where we started our long journeys through the Command. We are still in the planning stages and discussing the possibility with 16th Air Force leadership so there will be more to come from the project officer, JJ Graham, in the very near future.

Finally, I need to offer some words about the merger and our future as the Association. It’s been a little over a year since 16th Air Force was reactivated and we took on the legacy from their previous missions. With that action the lineage of both 25th and 24th Air Forces was placed into history. This move by Air Force senior leaders has caused a lot of angst and tremendous amounts of discussion on what we have lost and where we go from here. In retrospect, we have all experienced changes during our careers, from grease pencils/Plexiglas over maps to google maps on our phones, from spinning and grinning to automated searching. However, the one thing that didn’t change with the merger was the overall mission of protecting our nation, and I believe it is time for us, FTVA, to embrace the new organization and push forward. Yes, it is true that displays have changed within the Headquarters building, but what hasn’t changed is the great work our Airmen are doing out in the field. They still prosecute the same missions we grew up doing (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Cyber), as well as some additional missions with the 557th Weather Wing (Offutt) and 319th Reconnaissance Wing (Grand Forks). These Airmen deserve to know the legacy of our Silent Warriors and I believe it is incumbent upon us to provide them with that history. There will be many more discussions on this over the next several months, but I wanted to let you know where I stood as a relative newcomer (1979-2009).

We are constantly looking for ways to support our Airmen and units, expanding our membership and maintaining our legacy serving our great nation and we encourage you to provide us with suggestions and feedback to improve our support for all our members as we go through these changes. If you have any ideas, please contact us through our website (www.ftva.us).

Finally my friends, I wish you all the best over the upcoming holidays. However you celebrate, I hope you and your loved ones remain healthy and safe. My wife, Shari, and I wish you each a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Until next time, always remember to "Remain in Touch".

Ted Colquhoun

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 prior 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,
Ted Colquhoun
President, FTVA**

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Hello Again Loyal Readership,

Welcome to the last issue of *Remain In Touch!* for 2021. I’m sure you’ll find it as informative and as interesting as past issues. Although almost two years of COVID has attempted to put a damper on our activities, YOU, through your individual contributions coupled with the innovative ways the chapters have refused to gently go into the night

has enabled us to “*Remain In Touch!*” month after month. I, for one of many on your board of directors, appreciate that. So, with your stockings hung by the chimney with care in hopes that you know who will soon be there, fire up the laptop, lean back in your easy chair, and enjoy the read. Our next issue will be posted in March 2022, so please be sure to send your inputs to newsletter@ftva.us (or to my attention at 8847 Breanna Oaks, S.A., TX 78254) by March 1, 2022.

Looking forward to hearing from you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours.

Dennis Buxton
Newsletter Editor



FTVA HALL OF HONOR



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

Hall of Honor Class of 2021 Selected

The Hall of Honor selection committee takes great pleasure in announcing this year’s selections for induction into the Hall of Honor. On behalf of the Committee, I am pleased to announce the following individuals have been selected for induction into the FTVA Hall of Honor for 2021 and will be formally inducted at the next reunion event. Selectees are:

Col George V. Eichelberger, USAF (Ret)
CMSgt Kenneth Gendolfe, USAF (Ret)
CMSgt Ralph A. Wade, USAF (Ret)
Mr. Barry Steveson, USAF (Ret)

The following Hall of Honor members comprised this year’s selection committee: Lt Col Ken Williams, USAF (Ret); Mr. Gregory Radabaugh, DAF (Ret); CMSgt Bob Crabtree, USAF (Ret); CMSgt Ken Maynard, USAF (Ret); CMSgt Marco Aldaz, USAF (Ret); and SMSgt Lee Anthony, USAF (Ret).

Thank You and Remain In Touch.
A.J. Harrison
Hall of Honor Program Chair

16th AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken Maynard
Associate Editor Extraordinaire

The Future Of Information Warfare

(Adapted from an article by Joshua Rodriguez, 16AF (AF Cyber), published November 22, 2021)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TX — Sixteenth Air Force leaders, various wing command teams, and group command teams gathered in-person and virtually here Nov. 8-9 to meet and discuss the future of the Air Force’s only Information Warfare command.



Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh, 16th Air Force commander, said the main goal of the leadership summit was to collaborate as leaders and see how the various commanders are accepting the challenge at their local levels. Haugh noted that for this summit, his goal was to embrace and embody the principles of collaboration, connection, empowerment, innovation, and outcome focus in keeping with 16th Air Force Phoenix culture.

“I could not be more excited to have everyone in the same room,” Haugh said. “I am proud of how you have handled the challenges in front of you over the last couple of years.”

The summit's theme aligned with the Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr.’s national strategic guidance

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander, offers his opening remarks at the 2021 Senior Leadership Summit held at Joint Base San Antonio, Lackland, Nov. 8, 2021. The Senior Leadership Summit is an annual event that allows the 16th AF leadership and wing commanders to collaborate, listen and discuss innovations, initiatives, and challenges in the 16th AF organization.

initiative "Accelerate change or lose." Over two days, 16th Air Force leadership and Headquarters Air Force leaders spoke to wing commanders, command chiefs, and civilian leadership. They discussed multiple topics, including; operational outcomes, wing support, staff maturation, investing in Airmen, and diversity and inclusion.

Sixteenth Air Force Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Bruce emphasized the information warfare community doesn't move without the 16th Air Force, whether it is command and control, global ISR, or protecting Air Force networks. "I hope you use this week to connect with each other and see where you fit in the puzzle," said Bruce. "Understand how our Airmen are in the fight daily. None of it happens without this NAF. This NAF is the backbone of the United States Air Force."

Col. Kayle Stevens, 480th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing commander, highlighted the 16th Air Force Senior Leadership Summit which provided senior leaders a moment to step back and consider the big picture. The summit also provided a venue for leaders to listen and leverage the intellectual capital across the wings within the NAF and our National Air and Space Intelligence Center mission partners.

"For me, the best part of the event is spending time with fellow wing commanders, senior enlisted leaders, and NAF senior leaders," Stevens said. "Hearing how they are solving problems and accelerating change across their wings is inspiring. I always learn something new from them and their leadership."

According to Haugh, 16th Air Force is working to posture itself to better address the demands of the National Defense Strategy by driving the Air Force to operate more in the competition phase, as opposed to waiting until the conflict phase of warfare.

Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, is the first-of-its-kind NAF. Also known as the Air Force's Information Warfare NAF, the 16th integrates multisource intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, cyber warfare, electronic warfare, and information 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 (Air Forces Cyber) 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.

319th Reconnaissance Wing Earns Meritorious Unit Award

(Adapted from an article by 319th Reconnaissance Wing/PA, published November 7, 2021)

GRAND FORKS AFB, ND—The Air Force recognized the 319th Reconnaissance Wing (RW) for exceptionally meritorious service from 01 June 2019 to 31 May 2021.

During this timeframe, Airmen of the 319 RW made significant advances in unmanned aviation while providing over watch and communication support during the drawdown of United States forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions provided critical command and control to joint operations across 1 million square miles.

"This award is more than a medal," said Col. Timothy Curry, commander of the 319th Reconnaissance Wing. "This is the Air Force acknowledging at the highest level that Warriors of the 319th have a global impact each day they show up to work."



U.S. Air Force Airmen salute during the singing of the national anthem at the 319th Reconnaissance Wing change of command ceremony at Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D., June 28, 2021. The 319 RW maintains and operates the RQ-4 Global Hawk, which is a high-altitude, all-weather, remotely-piloted aircraft. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Dakota C. LeGrand)

"We are continually facing challenges in both aviation and ISR, but our Airmen develop ways around those limitations and keep pressing until the 'new thing' becomes routine," said Curry.

One example is the validation of all Joint Domain Command and Control, where the Global Hawk was integrated with the advanced battle management system, enabling the first-ever live ISR streams from the aircraft directly to Marine forces on the ground.

The 319th Reconnaissance Wing has earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award eight times previously as the 319th Air Refueling Wing, twice as the 319th Air Base Wing, and once as the 319th Reconnaissance Wing.

"Never have I been more proud to be a part of a team as I am today. It's my hope that each current and past member of our 319 team feels the same Warrior pride," said Curry.

363rd ISRW NCO Saves Life from Potential Fire

(Adapted from an article by TSgt AJ Hyatt, 363d ISR Wing/PA, published November 9, 2021)

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va -- (Editor's Note: The last name and location of the Airmen in this article has been withheld for operational security purposes.)

As she was on her way to work with her daughter, one Airman from an undisclosed location, noticed an odd reflection on a house ahead. As she got closer, she saw smoke and was able to determine it was sparks and fire from an electrical box on the back side of a home. Instead of continuing her way to work or waiting for someone else to respond, she jumped into action.

It was around 7 a.m. on Sept. 22, 2021, when Staff Sgt. Kali, a non-commissioned officer with the 363d Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, decided to quickly turn her car around and step up. She then saw a teenage boy coming back across the road and a teenage girl on her phone, both who seemed to be waiting on the school bus.

"I asked the girl if anyone had called 9-1-1 and she confirmed she had," Kali said.

Kali then parked her car on the other side of the road [opposite to the house] and called her husband to ensure he stayed on the phone with their daughter. Since, their house was only two miles away, Kali's husband was able to get to the scene within a few minutes.

"I told him where we were, the closest landmarks, and what was happening," she said. "Once I relayed the pertinent information of our location, I let him know my daughter would be alone in the car and for him to talk to her while I helped."

"There were no other cars stopping so I knew I had to do something," Kali said. "My daughter has always been a big fan of Daniel Tiger show on PBS, so all I could think of was to be the helper. The quote goes something like 'when you see scary things in real life or in the news look for the helpers, you will always find people who are helping.' So when I looked around and didn't see any helpers, I knew it was my turn."

When it came time, Kali started knocking and banging on all the windows and doors around the house to try and wake up anyone who was in the home.

"At the time, I wasn't sure how many people, if any, were inside," she said. "All you could hear was the popping sounds."

While she ran around the home, a man approached the house and told Kali that an older man lived there alone.

After knocking on doors and windows with no responses or sounds from inside the house, Kali decided to break a small panel on the front door to unlock and gain entry. Once she entered the house, she found the older man and woke him up.

“The man was very confused,” she said. “He stated that he heard us knocking on the windows and doors but thought he was dreaming. You could tell he was anxious and just wanted it to be over.”

After Kali escorted the man outside, they waited for the firemen and EMTs to arrive. The homeowner then informed Kali that he needed to go back inside to get his medication.

“Instead of him going in to get it, he was able to tell me where the medication was located, and I went in the home to retrieve it,” she said. “Around this time, the fire department and EMTs arrived and put out the flames.”

Once he was given the clear and the fire department was there controlling the scene, Kali continued with her day.

“Kali is one of the most dedicated, hardworking, and reliable people I have ever had work for me,” said Master Sgt. Richard, Kali’s supervisor. “I know that I can always rely on her to do the right thing, every time. She is a ‘fire and forget’ type of NCO.”

688th Cyberspace Wing Spreads Cyber, Air Force Mission Awareness To San Antonio Community Leaders

(Adapted from an article by Nadine Wiley De Moura, 688th Cyberspace Wing, published October 19, 2021)



Col. Joshua Rockhill, 688th A/5/8/9 directorate and 26th Cyberspace Operations Group commander raises awareness about the cyberspace and U.S. Air Force mission to a cohort of roughly 75 community leaders participating in the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Leadership San Antonio program, Oct. 8, 2021 at the Radius Center in San Antonio, Texas. Leadership San Antonio hosted a military day as part of the program’s initiative to provide participants with insight from present and future decision-makers in both the public and private sectors in order to prepare them to better to lead San Antonio into the future by using their broader understanding of the diverse community.

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas — U.S. Air Force Col. Joshua Rockhill, 688th A/5/8/9 directorate and 26th Cyberspace Operations Group commander raised awareness about the cyberspace and U.S. Air Force mission to a cohort of roughly 75 community leaders participating in the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Leadership San Antonio program, Oct. 8, 2021 at the Radius Center in San Antonio, Texas.

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the future by using their broader understanding of the diverse community.

“While the Military has been a great force and presence in Military City U.S.A., specifics of what the Military does in San Antonio may not always be known,” said Michelle Moreno, Leadership San Antonio Military Day team organizer. “Through the participation of the 688th Cyberspace Wing and Air Force participation at our event, class members were able to hear directly from military leaders about the significance of the work being done to defend our country’s cybersecurity and ask questions.”

Rockhill, who was accompanied by 26th Cyberspace Operation Group Command and A/5/8/9 Senior Enlisted Leader Chief Master Sgt. Juwone Harris, shared the same sentiment.

“Tens of thousands of military members take some of their first steps in uniform in this city,” said Rockhill. “It truly becomes home to so many of us later because of that. Be it in cyber or elsewhere, that type of foundation is as strong as they come. We have to continue leveraging it to help the city and country prosper.”

Rockhill discussed the larger footprint of Joint Base San Antonio in San Antonio, the 688th Cyberspace mission and related cyber security to local and national security objectives.

“Sometimes people may not know that the Military community is accessible or about the role it plays an integral part of our City as a whole,” said Moreno. “Sometimes that can create a barrier, so by participating in this type of forum, there is an opportunity to not only hear about the most up to date public information regarding the safety and defense of our country.”

LSA was created in 1975 by The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to help identify and develop community leaders and is now considered the premier program for existing and emerging leaders in the Bexar County and surrounding areas.

The program, one of the first of its kind in Texas, has graduated nearly 1,900 participants and focuses on delivering these leaders an opportunity to develop an understanding of the promise and challenges of the community.

“We are thankful for this newly founded partnership between the U.S. Air Force, 26th Cyberspace Operations Group, 688th Cyberspace Wing, with that of our individual LSA Class 45 participants, the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce,” said Moreno.

“Our nation is strong because of its relationships,” said Rockhill. “I think that is also true for our military--It takes a team in and across the military and outside of it to defend our nation.”

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

Powell Event Center Dedicated

Submitted by Larry Ross, FTVA Heritage Chapter Secretary
(<https://www.goodfellow.af.mil/Newsroom/Article-Display/Article/2771278/col-charles-e-powell-event-center/>)

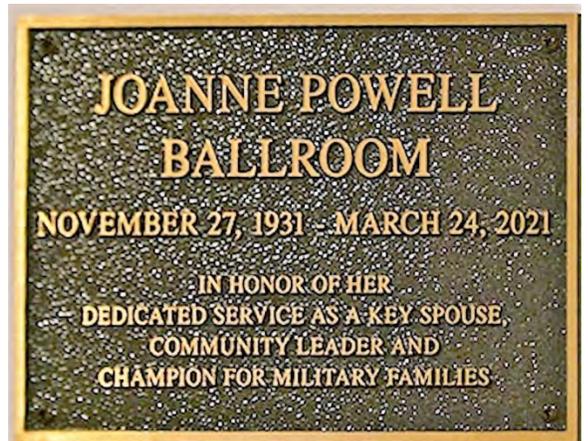
GOODFELLOW AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The 17th Training Wing and members of the San Angelo community held a ceremony to celebrate the renaming of the Powell Event Center, on Sept. 10. The renaming was a dedication to honor U.S. Air Force Retired Col. Charles E. Powell, a previous commander of the 3480th Technical Training Wing at Goodfellow Air Force Base, who continued to support the community and base even after he retired.



Along with the dedication of the building, the ballroom in the event center is now renamed the JoAnne Powell Ballroom to honor Charles' wife. There are now awards, plaques, coins, and certificates on display in the Powell Event

Center to honor the impact and dedication of Charles and JoAnne.

"I wanted to express my deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation of this incredible honor that you have bestowed upon both of my parents," said Theresa Ann McKinney, daughter of Charles and JoAnne Powell. "They are looking down and smiling and saying 'we don't deserve that' but we all know, they do."



Charles Powell passed away July 2, 2020 and JoAnne passed away March 25, 2021.



Col. Charles E. Powell

“It’s not just those that wear the uniform,” said Representative of the 11th District, Texas, Congressman August Pfluger. “It’s all of the community together. And how appropriate it is to be in an event center where the legacy that is honored is one that started after Col. Powell’s military service, with JoAnne working to serve the congressional service and with both of them working together to bring the community together.”



JoAnne Powell

Below photos by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Ashley Thrash



Left, Col. Matthew Reilman, 17th Training Wing commander, and Theresa Ann McKinney, daughter of U.S. Air Force Retired Col. Charles E. Powell and JoAnne Powell, unveil the dedication plaque during the Powell Event Center dedication ceremony on Goodfellow Air Force Base, Sept. 10, 2021. Theresa and several family members were in attendance to remember and honor the legacy of Charles and JoAnne Powell. Theresa spoke about her bond with her parents and how thankful she is to the base for honoring her parent’s legacies.

Below, family members of U.S. Air Force Retired Col. Charles E. Powell and JoAnne Powell, stand with the dedication plaque during the Powell Event Center dedication ceremony.



Hanoi Hilton Bricks Presented to Former POWs

By Larry Miller
Photos by brick recipients

SAN ANGELO, Texas - The USAF Doggers, former USAFSS/ESC Vietnamese crypto-linguists, along with the Heritage Chapter, the EC-47 History Site, and several other veteran organizations here in San Angelo, organized a project to present construction bricks from the infamous North Vietnamese Hoa Lo prison, sarcastically nicknamed the “Hanoi Hilton,” to US prisoners-of-war held captive there during the Vietnam War.

These bricks were “liberated” from Vietnam in 1993 when part of the prison was being demolished to make way for high-rise government buildings in Hanoi. An intrepid Dogger, who was part of the on-going POW/MIA search efforts in Hanoi, noticed the pile of rubble there and the very distinctive kiln mark on each one, and loaded up about a quarter of a ton of them into his vehicle. Ultimately, they were kept for several years in a storage locker here in San Angelo.



In the past, several of these bricks had been presented during the Doggers’ annual “Fall of Saigon Parties”, and to museums, veteran organizations, military units with connections to the Vietnam War, like NSA, DIA, and 16th Air Force among others. In fact, one of the bricks was installed at the EC-47 Memorial Plaza on Goodfellow next to pavers honoring two local Air Force leaders involved in the Son Tay Prison Raid in 1970 – Colonels Charlie Powell and John Nikolauk.



USAF Colonel Joe Milligan, F-4C pilot, shot down over North Vietnam in May 1967 displaying his brick in front of a somber backdrop.

However, in May of this year, a suggestion was made and agreed upon to present these iconic artifacts to our former prisoners-of-war who were incarcerated in the “Hanoi Hilton” during the Vietnam War. Contact was made with a few members of the NAMPOWs’ group and the word spread quickly. A flood of requests began pouring in from these heroes from all parts of the US – from Maine to Hawaii, and Alaska to Florida.

That’s when the real work started! With generous donations from a number of San Angelo’s veterans’ groups, contributions from the public, and a lot of hard work, we were able to carefully wrap and box 95 individual bricks and also cover the cost of mailing them to our POWs.

The response has been overwhelming from all the recipients. One former F-4 pilot, whose plane was shot down in 1968, remarked that when he opened the package, he could actually smell the “Hanoi Hilton.” Another quipped “...how ironic it was to receive this brick the day before the 55th anniversary of being shot out of the sky over North Vietnam.”

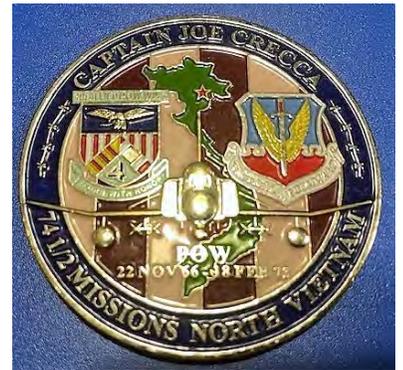


Ralph Galati, F-4D pilot captured February 16, 1972, displays his newly received brick.



Dogger Rich Bini presenting a “Hanoi Hilton” brick to Captain David Drummond, B-52 pilot shot down during Linebacker II.

Ed Crecca, a former Air Force pilot, sent us his personal challenge coin actually reflecting 74½ missions over North Vietnam. Several former POWs mailed us books that each had written detailing their experiences while in the hands of the enemy. A large number sent us a photo of them with their bricks, and all of them signed off their “thank you” notes to us with the simple letters “GBU” and “GBA” – God Bless You and God Bless America - just like they sent using the “tap code” to signal good night to their comrades while in the prison. As you can well imagine, this little project has been extremely rewarding for everyone involved who contributed monies and their support to honor these veteran American heroes.



USAF Major Ed Crecca’s very unique challenge coin.

Mathis Memorial Epilogue

Article and photos by Larry Ross, FTVA Heritage Chapter Secretary



FTVA Heritage President JJ Graham (right) presents the certificate to Mathis Airfield Director Jeremy Valgardson. The certificate commemorates the valor of 1st Lt Mark Mathis.

MATHIS FIELD, SAN ANGELO, Texas - On 28 October, Heritage Chapter members visited San Angelo’s Mathis Field to present a certificate to the Airport Director. This certificate sent to the Heritage Chapter by the Veterans Administration and signed by former President Donald Trump honors the courage and heroism of 1st Lt Mark Mathis who perished during World War II when his B-17 was shot down over the North Sea.

Airport Director Jeremy Valgardson warmly greeted members in his office and Larry Miller briefly described the significance of Lt. Mathis’ service and sacrifice to a grateful nation. JJ Graham then presented the certificate to Director Valgardson, who promised that the city would display it in a place of honor in the airport lobby.

While speaking about the ceremony at Fairmount cemetery honoring Lt. Mark Mathis, Tom Nurre related the tradition of placing a coin on the grave or marker of a fallen veteran showing with a penny that someone visited the departed service members’ resting place or with a quarter indicating that that visitor had been with them when they perished.

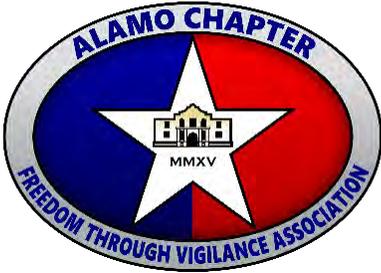


A copy of the certificate was previously presented to Sterling City (see RIT article in September 2021 issue page 9.)

Also, here is a link (<http://lanesboroamericanlegion.org/coins-left-on-tombstones.html>) to an American Legion article that more fully explains the tradition of “coins on gravestones.”



Left to right, Tom Nurre, Larry Miller, JJ Graham, and Mathis Airfield Director Jeremy Valgardson.



Alamo Chapter San Antonio, TX

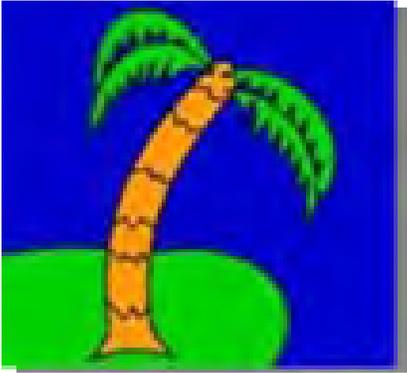
Barnie Gavin, President
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer



The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA met at the Saltgrass Restaurant on 18 November. Thirteen members, spouses and guests enjoyed dinner and fellowship. President Barnie Gavin called the business meeting to order at 1828 and welcomed everyone to our first meeting in a while. There was no business except to confirm that 543rd ISR Group annual award winners had received their FTVA memberships. Ken Maynard said he would follow up. There being no further business, the official business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 1843. Those present were: Barnie & Judy Gavin, Vince & Elise Colaccico, Ken & Judy Maynard & AJ Cummings, Grady & Theresa Robinson , Dan Martin, Dennis Rassmussen and Ron & Kay Weaver .



Clockwise from bottom left) AJ Cummings, Ron Weaver, Kay Weaver, Elise Colaccico, Judy Gavin, Barnie Gavin, Vince Colaccico, Dan Martin, Grady Robinson, Theresa Robinson, Judy Maynard, Dennis “Rass” Rassmussen.



Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John “Tilly” Toillion, President

Aloha All -

Our most recent get together was November 11 to celebrate Veterans Day and to “talk story” as we say here in Aloha Land.

Unfortunately, only us three Amigos were able to attend; however, we enjoyed being able to actually meet in-person at our favorite watering hole (Mililani’s Ruby Tuesdays).

Topics for the day included remembrance of our dear friend Steve Crain and our continued thoughts and prayers for wife Marivic and the Crain Ohana.

We also shared our usual war stories. Being the “youngster” of our Chapter, I enjoyed hearing Dickie’s and Ken’s stories of how it was “way back then!”

We look forward to getting together early in 2022 and hope to have a larger group gathering whether in-person, ZOOM or a combination of the two.

Until then “Aloha” from the land of the “coconut wireless” which is defined as “lively rumors that spread via word of mouth concerning anything –or anyone – of interest to people as they idle away their spare time.” That’s your Hawaiian lesson for the day.

Until next time – “Aloha all!” John “Tilly” Toillion



Left to Right, Ken Een, Tilly Toillion and Dickie Hites, Aloha Chapter stalwarts at their favorites and usual watering hole for a recent FTVA chapter get together.



Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

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

This just in.....Happy Holidays from an unseasonably warm Colorado. We broke a record today in the Springs...74! No snow on the mountains ATT. Afraid we are NSTR for the Rocky Mountain Chapter this month. We'll look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Cheers

//Original Signed//

Ike Eichelberger



Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA

John Aurelius, President



Check back in the next issue of Remain in Touch for chapter news and activities.



Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT

**Jacob Scheid, President
Shawn Heckman, Vice President
Submitted by Linz Rassmussen**

Check back in the next issue of Remain in Touch for chapter news and activities.

Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter

Bob Bastian, Acting President, Treasurer

Check back in the next issue of Remain in Touch for chapter news and activities.



REUNIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & REMINESCENCES

Annual FTVA 2021 Reunion 24-26 March 2022

Submitted by Ken Williams

Dear Freedom Though Vigilance Association Members:

I'd like to invite you to another special reunion this Spring 2022, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the FTVA and the first get together since we had to cancel activities the last couple of years due to the pandemic! Our annual FTVA reunion occurs during Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 24--26 March 2022. Please sign-up early for the festivities and join us as we reminisce and celebrate our rich heritage!

The annual golf tournament kicks off the festivities on Thursday, 24 March 2022 at the Golf Club of Texas (same venue as in previous years) with a Shotgun Start at 10AM (Check-in at 0900). This allows golfers to make it to their respective evening events on time.

We hope to recognize our 2020 and 2021 Hall of Honor inductees in the Bernard A. Larger Auditorium at 0900 on Friday, 25 March 2022, and then move to the Remembrance Ceremony, outside.

The Remembrance Ceremony takes place by the RC-47 in front of the Headquarters building on Security Hill at 1130 on Friday, 25 March 2022, and then on to the traditional picnic at Stapleton Park afterwards.

This year's banquet is a special event, as we will further recognize the 2020 and 2021 selectees to the Hall of Honor during the Anniversary Banquet at the Gateway Club, Lackland AFB, Building 2490 on Saturday, 25 September 2021. Cocktails start at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m.

You must have valid identification that grants access to Lackland AFB such as an active/retired Military ID, active Military-related civilian ID, or be on the pre-approved entry access roster. If you do not have a valid military identification and are not on the pre-approved roster, you will not be able to get on base.

Here's more info about the Anniversary Banquet:

BANQUET RESERVATION

26 March 2022

(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

Reservations must be received NLT 18 March 2022

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 Served Coffee

Annual FTVA 2022 Reunion

“A Return to Our Roots”

September 2022, Hosted by the FTVA Heritage Chapter, San Angelo, TX

In planning stages with more details on the way!

EC-47 Memorial Pavers Dedication/Memorialization Ceremony

You are invited! Mark your calendar!

Friday, 1100 AM, March 25, 2022

Norma Brown Building

351 Kearney Blvd, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas 76908





The Goodfellow Air Force Base memorial pavers will be dedicated during a special ceremony conducted near the main entrance to the Norma Brown building. Nearly 400 engraved plates, including 280 engraved bronze plates and a large number of temporary brass plates (backlogged orders) will be placed on display.

The engraved bronze plates will be permanently installed prior to the ceremony. Temporary brass plates will be placed in their proper paver location but will be available to the "owners" as a memento following the ceremony. The *Leave Your Mark Company* is expected to resume engraving operations in early 2022...giving first priority to the more than 100 backlogged orders (the temporary plates will be available if the permanent plates are not ready in time for the ceremony.)

Following the dedication and official acceptance of the paver plaza donated to Goodfellow AFB through the administrative work of the Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association, the paver area will be named and memorialized as the **Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza** in tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Paul Weyandt and Lt. Colonel Dave Eddy. Both deceased EC-47 veterans are well known throughout the ARDF, USAF, and Department of Defense communities.

Plans are being made for additional activities following the dedication/memorialization ceremony, including a reception at the base event center, a "Gatherin' at the Goon" photo opportunity, and possible windshield tours of the base. An evening no-host dinner at a local restaurant is also being considered. Please send us a short note confirming your interest in attending a planned dinner at info@ec47.com).

A more complete listing of events, including procedures for registering for Visitor Passes to gain entry to Goodfellow AFB as well as an ONLINE RSVP FORM will be included in our next broadcast email coming out soon.

Thank you for your continued interest...your trust...and your patience. Y'all are the best...and we look forward to seeing you at the plaza on March 25th.

Please email us with any questions, comments or concerns about the upcoming event at: info@ec47.com or pavers@vietnam50thcpp.com.

Sincerely,

Tom Nurre/Joe Martin/JJ Graham

PS: The Goodfellow AFB Heritage Committee - under the leadership of Mr. Mark Howell, 17th Training Wing Historian, and Committee Chairman MSgt Johnny Baker - is the office of primary responsibility for planning this historic event.

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

P.O. BOX 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269
FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 691616
22 June 2021



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



GOLD PARTNERS

Security Services Federal Credit Union
Engrave-Tech & Graphics
Anonymous
(IMO MSgt Robert "Bob" Fenstermacher)
Regis F.A. Urschler
(IMO Maj Gen Doyle Larson and
Tom Tennant)



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Ronald Hentz
(IHO Col Bob Cope)
Jack V. Brewer
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PATRON PARTNERS

CMSgt Roger Towberman
James Mayer
Charles Bishop
Edward Sellmeyer

The Next Issue of *Remain In Touch* will be posted at www.ftva.us in March 2022. Please send your inputs NLT 1 March 2022 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

- Bernier, James E., SSgt, USAFSS
- Casper, Kenneth, Col (ret), USAFSS
- Fish, William R., USAFSS
- Gadson, Willie E., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Georgeoff, Joseph J., USAFSS
- Harder, Gary, R., USAF
- Harris, Loyd L., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS *** FTVA Lifetime Member
- Haygood, Jeannette Maureen, Spouse of CMSgt (ret) Don Haygood, FTVA Lifetime Member
- Kobiela, John P., USAFSS
- Kozik, Richard V., Col (ret), USAFSS
- Lawter, Nichole E., USAF
- Lockett, Brandon, MSgt (ret), USAFSS
- Maerten, Annegret B., Spouse of Charles Maerten, FTVA Member
- Mattingly, Ronald, G. USAFSS
- Mclain, Claude H., USAFSS
- Moore, Kenneth M., USAF
- Prevott, James A., USAF
- Sanders, Otho George, USAF
- Sather, Mervin L., A2C, USAFSS
- Sheldon, Joseph Kyle, USAFSS
- Shirley, Graham Edward, Brig Gen (ret), *** FTVA Lifetime Member
- Spoonemore, Robert Ray, Maj (ret), USAFSS
- Trescott, Frederick, USAFSS
- Williams, Lionel G., Maj (ret), USAFSS
- Wujcik, Michael John, USAFSS



Bernier, James E., SSgt, 82, passed away Jul 20, 2021. His many interests and talents took him around the world, initially as a U.S. Air Force Airman (1960-1968) and Chinese linguist in Taipei, Taiwan (1961-1963). He later took on the roles of mathematician, teacher, Missile Systems Analyst at Foreign Technology Division, Wright Patterson AFB. As a Staff Sergeant, he served in Pleiku, Vietnam in 1966. He is survived by the mother of his children, Lana B. Kuzon, daughters Kathryn B. Weymouth and Audrey B. Schwankl (Jimmy), sons SFC Andrew J. Bernier (USAR) and Bradford J. Bernier (Carolyn), stepson Daniel J. Jahn. //Obit – Dayton Daily News//



Casper, Kenneth, Col (ret), 80, passed away Sep 30, 2021. He served from March 3, 1964 until his retirement on June of 1994. Kenneth married Mary Hutchinson Coppock on October 13, 1973. He has been a resident of San Angelo since 1982. He graduated with a degree in Russian, having worked all four years to pay for his tuition. Upon receiving his draft notice, he enlisted in the Air Force hoping to become a Russian linguist. The Air Force, in its greater wisdom, decided he would train as an intelligence analyst. His first assignment after graduating from OTS was to Goodfellow AFB for intel training. It was here that he first met his in-laws to-be when he was temporarily assigned to the Civil Engineering office, working for Greg Hutchinson (Lt. Col., USA Ret). Upon graduating from his class at Goodfellow, he went to Japan, Saigon, Viet Nam, and Ramstein AFB, Germany. During his Air Force career, he obtained a Master of Science in Education from University of Southern California, 1970. He returned to Goodfellow AFB in 1971 to manage the Officer's Open Mess. It was then that he renewed his friendship with the Hutchinsons, met his

step-daughter-to-be, Lori Coppock Saxon and eventually his wife, Mary. Ken always told people that he did things backwards when acquiring a family; first meeting in-laws, daughter and finally his wife. Thanks to a number of Air Force and DOD moves the family made their final move to San Angelo and Ken began working as a civilian in the "Schoolhouse", retiring in September 1997 as Chief of Resources, 17TRG. Ken was a published author of over 31 novels of different genres, a contributing columnist to the Buffalo Gap News, Christian Reporter News, and other publications. Survivors include his wife, Mary Casper; a stepdaughter, Lori Saxon and husband Frank. //Robert Massie Funeral Home//

I was shocked to hear of Ken's passing. I had the pleasure of getting to know Ken while working with him at Goodfellow AFB many years ago. He was a proud veteran and patriot. I'll miss our chance meetings and engaging conversations about almost any topic. I'll keep Ken and his family in my thoughts and prayers. Rest easy, Airman. //Ron JJ Graham//



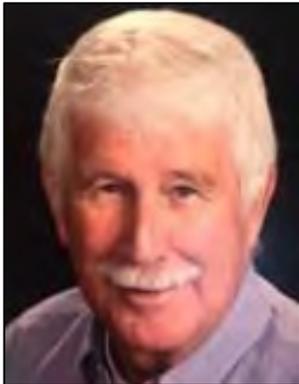
Fish, William, R., 91, passed away Nov 20, 2021. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War and was stationed in Germany and the United States as part of the USAF Security Service. Bill is survived by his wife of 69 years, Sara Mulligan Fish. He is also survived by his two children: Jayne and Richard. //Obit - Collierville Funeral Home//



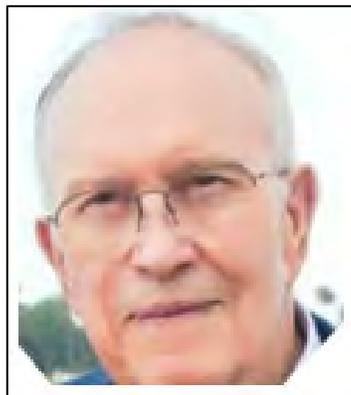
Gadson, Willie E., CMSgt (ret), 85, passed away Sep 26, 2021. Retired Chief Master Sergeant Willie Edward Gadson, affectionately known as “Lump”, always talked about the military and always had stories to tell everyone that he met. He leaves to cherish his memory; his loving wife Earline Gadson; two sons Edward Gadson of Fayetteville, NC, Eric (Janice) Gadson of Savannah Georgia; two daughters Tawanda (Kevin) Cannon of Upper Marlboro, MD and Tosha Gadson of Capitol Heights, MD. //Obit – Tribute Archive and [6994th.com//](http://6994th.com/)



Georgeoff, Joseph J., 76, passed away Nov 8, 2021. A loving husband and father of four children, Joe proudly served in the Air Force as a member of the elite United States Air Force Security Service, from which he was honorably discharged in 1969. //Obit – Swartz Funeral//



Harder, Gary R., 76, passed away Sep 5, 2021. He served in the U.S. Air Force as a Russian linguist and was stationed in Turkey and then at the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C. He is survived by his wife Betty; two daughters, Kimberly Scott (Michael), Karen Haynes (Brian); one son, Christopher Harder (Carter). //Obit – Memorial Park Funeral Home//



Harris, Loyd L., CMSgt (ret), 89, passed away Oct 5, 2021. Loyd left us after a lengthy illness, on the day before what would have been his 65-year wedding anniversary to wife, Dawn F. Harris, who predeceased him in 2019. He joined the Air Force and earned the rank of Chief Master Sergeant, while serving in the Air Force Security Service with his specialty as a Radio Operator and Instructor. He was stationed solo in Japan and later with his family in Florida (where he met his wife), as well as Germany, Mississippi, Alaska, Taiwan, and Texas. After retiring from the military, the family then returned to Naylor where he served as Mayor and Chief of Police. He is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and a sister-in-law. //Obituary - Moore’s Jacksonville Funeral Home// Back in 1970, while at Shu Lin Ku Air Force Base in Taipei, Taiwan my husband, Skip Axe, was one of your dad’s Devil Dog basketball players. We kept in touch over the years, sending Christmas cards. My sympathy to each of you. //Christine Axe Dugger//



Haygood, Jeannette Maureen, 80, passed away Oct 8, 2021. Jeannette and Don were married in England on May 5, 1962, while Donald was enlisted in the US Air Force. They were fortunate to be stationed in Italy, Texas, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and then retiring back in Texas. She is survived by her husband, CMSgt (ret) Donald Haygood. Daughter, Donna and her husband, Frank Wilson. Son, Sheldon and his wife, Shelby of Gardendale, Alabama. Granddaughter, Laura (Wilson) and her husband, Joshua Brooks and great grandson, William of Mustang, Oklahoma. Grandson, Frank Wilson and his wife, Audra of Gainesville, FL. Granddaughter, Hannah Haygood and grandsons, Harper, Harrison, Hayes, Austin and Steven Haygood of Gardendale, AL. //Obituary – Schertz Funeral Home//

Jeannette and Don were regular attendees at Misawa get-togethers and at Roll Call functions //Stacey Darby//



Kobiela, John P., 80, passed away May 1, 2021. John served with the 6913th RSM at Bremerhaven, Germany in Comm from 1963-64 John and Glenda Lou enjoyed several 6913th Squadron Reunions. He married Glenda Lou Musselman on November 27, 1971. John is survived by his wife of 49 years: Glenda Lou Musselman 3 children: Robert "Bob" Kobiela Monica Kizer), Lori (Jeff) Riecke and Todd (Jenny) Kobiela. //Obit – 6913th Obituaries//



Kozik, Richard V., Col (ret), 78, passed away Oct 10, 2020. After graduating from Dunellen High School, he joined the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed at Bremerhaven, Germany from 1962-65 on 'C/E' flights. Koz was a Morse code operator. On July 23,1964 he married Christa Else Cordes and they raised 2 sons: Vance and Scott. His Air Force career began in 1960 as an Airman and retired as a Colonel in 1999. His career included: Morse operator, clerk, squadron commander, operations officer for the cruise missile wing, commander of a nuclear weapons squadron and political advisor the Senior USAF General for all of Europe. //Obit – 6913th Obituaries//



Lawter, Nichole E., 43, passed away Oct 5, 2021. Nichole was employed as a contractor for the US Space Force in Los Angeles, Calif., at the time of her passing. Nichole served in the U.S. Air Force as a Chinese linguist, passing one of the most lengthy and difficult schools in the Department of Defense. She was stationed in Hawaii and Maryland stateside. Nichole jumped at the chance to deploy to Iraq. After eight years of service, Nichole continued to support the United States by completing two tours in Afghanistan as an Intelligence Analyst, and settling in Los Angeles working with new and innovative technologies with the United States Space Force. She is survived by her parents, Dennis and Julie Lawter of Hickory. //Obit – Jenkins Funeral Home//



Lockett, Braxton, MSgt (ret), 88, passed away Aug 27, 2021. In 1962, mutual friends introduced Bill to a woman because they both enjoyed dancing, and in 1963 he married his dance partner, Mary Patricia Cook. Bill proudly served in the U.S. Air Force for 22 years. His service took him and Pat to various locales, including Okinawa and Japan. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and many other medals in recognition of his military achievements. He concluded his Air Force career at Goodfellow Air Force Base and retired at the rank of Master Sergeant in 1975. Bill is survived by his wife of 58 years, Patricia Lockett; children James; Mary and Larry. //Obit – Harper Funeral Home//



Maerten, Annegret "Ann" Betty (Harris), 81, passed away September 14, 2021. Ann will be deeply missed by her surviving family of husband, Charles "Chuck" Maerten, daughter Susanne (Timothy) Halcomb, granddaughter, Morgan Duhamel, and sister, Hanna Kino.

After marrying her husband in 1959, and joining him on his military career and giving birth to their daughter (1959), she became a naturalized citizen in 1964. Ann proudly became fluent in the English language where she was then able to earn her GED and go on to serve in the Civil Service. Having worked at several USAF bases across the country, Ann received numerous awards, recognitions, and certificates. Ann especially loved her time working with the UV-18 aircraft. //Obit – 6913th Obituaries//



Mattingly, Ronald G., 80, passed away Sep 14, 2021. Enlisting in the Air Force from high school, he was sent to Yale to learn Chinese, where he made many lifelong friends, including that of his honorary brother, Allen Alsop. Ultimately, he earned a degree in Chinese and a master's in political science from the University of Maryland and enjoyed a long, storied career at the National Security Agency, retiring at 55 as the Deputy Director for the Training Directorate. Ron lived a full, adventurous, and unique life and had many stories to share with his three children, Micheal, Sean, and Moira, and his nine grandchildren: Corwin, Chloe, Kasey, Emily, Riley, Juni, Sophie, Heidi, and Lucy, who all adored their Opa. //Obit – Panebaker Funeral Home//



McLain, Claude H., 79, passed away Aug 28, 2021. Mac married the love of his life, Cynthia Hester, on February 7th, 1975. They lived 46 beautiful years together, welcoming two daughters, Aimee and Jerilynn. He proudly served his country in Vietnam, and 24 years in the US Air Force. He continued to work many years for the Department of Defense after his military retirement. He is preceded in death by his parents Claude McLain Sr. And Aileen Endicott. His memory will be kept alive by his loving wife, Cynthia McLain, and two daughters, Aimee Ewald and Jerilynn McLain. //Obituary - Adams-Foster-Ray Funeral Home//



Moore, Kenneth M., 57, passed away Jul 20, 2021. Ken was devoted to his family and was married to his best friend, Kathleen, for thirty years. They met at James Madison University where he finished his undergraduate education following a four-year enlistment as a Russian Linguist in the US Air Force. He was stationed in Germany and that sparked an interest in learning other languages and cultures. //Obit - Thomas McAfee Funeral Home//



Prevott, James A., 60, passed away Nov 5, 2021. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Data Systems from UTSA in 1984. In 2014, after 29 years of service, he retired from the United States Airforce Federal Civilian Service, working in the Air Force Intelligence Command. James is survived by his mother, Mary Hazel Prevott. //Obit - Porter Loring//

My condolences to the Prevott family for the loss of James. I am proud to have worked closely with Jim at the 690 CSS/IP division. He was a hard working computer expert who always had a smile for his co-workers. I will miss Jim as will his family. Rest in peace my friend. Ronald Weaver //CMSgt (ret) Ronald Weaver//



Sanders, Otho George, 83, passed away Sep 8, 2021. He joined the Air Force from 1956 – 1960. He attended Syracuse University and became a Russian linguist in the Security Agency and Russian Cryptographer. He served 6 years in the U.S. Army National Guard. Bid was stationed in Texas, Alaska, New York, St. Lawrence Island, Baltimore-Washington D.C. and Oregon. He is survived by Polly S. Sanders (wife), Children: Matthew Sanders (Heidi Bell), Stephanie Hubbard (Robert), David Grindle, Michelle Mace, and Jennifer Pearson. //Obit - Rost Funeral Home//



Sather, Mervin L., A2C, 80, passed away Oct 22, 2020. enlisted in the USAF in 1958 and served until 1964. While in the service, he attended Yale University and became a military Language Specialist, with proficiency in the Chinese Mandarin language. At his time of discharge from the service, he was an Airman Second Class. He is survived by his loving wife, Dawn, his son Eric (Dia) Sather, his daughters, Kirsten (Frederick) Hink, Tina (Jeff) George, and step-son, Chris (Rosie) Lasiter, and step-daughter, Katie (Steven) Hare. //Chapel of American Heritage Funeral Home//



Sheldon, Joseph Kyle, 81, passed away Sep 16, 2021. He joined the Air Force in 1957 and was placed in the Air Force Security Services, serving 20 years. He was stationed in the US, Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Greece, Germany, finally retiring at Goodfellow AFB in 1978 and making San Angelo his final home. He is survived by his loving wife Darylene; daughter Lynn Sheldon McAllister; son Darren Sheldon; son Jody Sheldon; and daughter Joi Sheldon Alls. //Obituary – Johnson’s Funeral Home//



Shirley, Graham Edward, Brig Gen (ret), 78, passed away Nov 14, 2021. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and enrolled in the Air Force Academy Preparatory School in 1962, graduating in 1963. He was the first USAFA Prep School graduate to be promoted to general officer. He was a Distinguished Graduate in the USAF Academy Class of 1966. His first assignment was flying KC-135s at Columbus Air Force Base, MS. In 1969, he volunteered for combat duty, flying the RF-4C with the 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in South Vietnam. In June 1970, he transferred to the 14th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand, where he continued to fly combat missions as an Instructor Pilot and Squadron Executive Officer. He was the acting Commander when Operation El Dorado Canyon was executed against targets in Libya. In June 1990 he returned to Texas as Vice Commander of Air Force Intelligence Command, at Kelly Air Force Base, where he served until his retirement in 1992, after 31 years of distinguished service. General Shirley was a Command

Pilot with 3,000+ flying hours, including more than two hundred combat missions during two tours of duty in Southeast Asia. He is survived by his wife of more than 25 years, Deborah Long-Shirley, his daughters Jennifer Kathryn Shirley and Caryn Shirley Daun (Kyle). //Obit – Porter Loring Mortuary//



Spoonemore, Robert Ray, Maj (ret) 69, passed away Sep 16, 2021. After high school he served over 20 years in the Air Force, where he earned his Master's Degree in business before retiring at the rank of Major in 1994 and then continued to do civil service work until retirement. He is survived by wife, Laverne; two step sons, Rodney (Leigh), Doug (Gina). //Obituary – Herald Tribune//

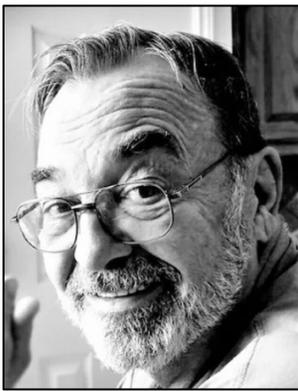
I knew Bob back in southern Italy, when we were both stationed at San Vito dei Normanni Air Station in the mid-1980's. He was a very nice gentleman and we kept in contact through the years. He was a very intelligent and dedicated junior officer when I knew him. My husband and I enjoyed his company at the "Officer Functions" we were required to attend. //Kimberly Hagen//



Trescott, Frederick, 92, passed away Nov 17, 2021. His studies at New Mexico Highlands University were interrupted by service in the Korean War as a cryptographer with the 15th Radio Squadron, Mobile, United States Air Force Security Service. After the War, Bill returned to New Mexico Highlands, where he played football (offensive line) and was graduated in 1956. Bill Trescott was preceded in death by Betty, his wife of 60 years. He is survived by his sons, Thomas (Melissa) and Robert W. //Obit - Sullivan Funeral Home//



Williams, Lionel George, Maj (ret), 85, passed away Aug 25, 2021. When he was 17 years old, he joined the armed forces and landed in the Air Force in 1954. He began his military career as an enlisted officer and within 6 years was sent to officer training school. In March 1969, Captain Williams was part of the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing activated at Otis AFB, Mass., prior to his permanent change of station to Tokyo, Japan in 1969. He was stationed at Yokota Air Base, Japan from 1969 to 1972 as part of the 556th Reconnaissance Squadron. Captain Williams flew 56 combat missions while on temporary duty in Vietnam. Major (ret) Williams primary specialty number and title was R205070 Electronic Intelligence Operations Technician. He earned an Air Medal from Hq USAFSS [United States Air Force Security Service] (June 7, 1972).He is survived by three sons; Mark Benjamin, Jerri Lynn and William Lee. //Obit – **Thomae Garza Funeral**//



Wujcik, Michael John, 76, passed away Aug 12, 2021. He joined the USAF in 1963 and was sent to college at Kent State University and Syracuse University to study Russian linguistics. He completed his training at Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, where he met and married his wife, Joyce Stewart. They were stationed in Italy for three years. He retired in 2010 after his wife, Joyce, passed away and became involved in a local Christian radio ministry. He was attending Calvary Chapel in San Angelo, where he met and married his current wife, Gail Allen. Michael is survived by his wife Gail Allen and daughter Michelle Tate. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joyce Stewart. //Obituary – **Shaffer Funeral Home**//

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ASSOCIATION***

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ALL FORMER AND CURRENT MILITARY OR CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF 16TH AF AND ITS PREDECESSOR COMMANDS OR AGENCIES ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP. SURVIVING SPOUSES OF DECEASED PERSONNEL ARE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATUS.

WE ARE YOU!!