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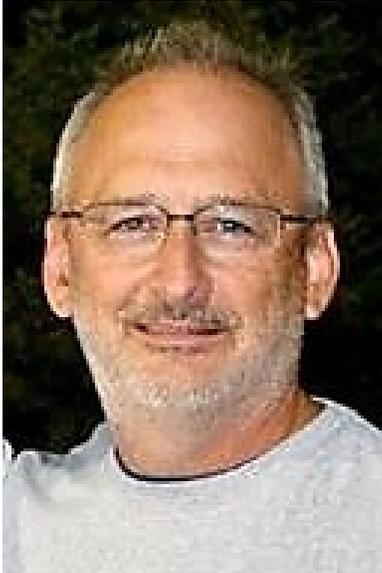


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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By Ted Colquhoun
President, FTVA**

Howdy Y'all,

And just like that, Spring is here...well, in some parts of the country. I hope you all had a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year. Our holiday weather was mild here in San Antonio but we hit our "cold" spell in mid-January. Not as bad as last year, but it was still plenty cold for us.

I know you all have been following the news over the past few weeks about Ukraine and Russia. Suffice it to say, the bedrock you all put in place during the cold war is solid and remains strong. You would be proud of what the men and women of 16th Air Force are doing for our nation. They are definitely #UkraineStrong.

FTVA Reunion News - By now you all have probably seen the update letter canceling the FTVA reunion festivities we had scheduled for the end of March. Unfortunately, the event became too difficult to pull off with all the COVID restrictions still in place for the Department of Defense and Joint Base San Antonio bases.

Planning for the 2022 FTVA Reunion this coming September begins in earnest this month and while we mentioned we might hold the event in San Angelo, we are going to keep it here in San Antonio for 2022. One thing to highlight though is our dates for September are slightly changed due to a couple of weddings scheduled at the Gateway Club venue, so we will hold the festivities in San Antonio on 8-10 September as scheduled below.

2022 FTVA/16 AF Reunion Event Schedule

Thursday, 08 September 2022

Golf Tournament at Golf Club of Texas

10:00 AM, Check-in begins 9:00 AM

Event POC – Bob Benitez

Friday, 09 September 2022

Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony (2020/2021/2022 inductees)

Bernard A. Larger Auditorium, Bldg. 2007

8:30 AM

Event POC – AJ Harrison

Remembrance Ceremony in front of 16 AF Headquarters Building (EC-47)

11:00 AM

Event POC – Joe Figueroa

FTVA Picnic - Stapleton Park

1:00 PM

Event POC – Jacque Lerma

Saturday, 10 September 2022

FTVA Banquet at Gateway Club, Lackland AFB

(Alternate recognition for Hall of Honor inductees if needed)

5:00 PM

Event POC – Ken Williams

Again, we apologize for all the changes, but we wanted to make sure we are providing everyone a safe environment while still meeting any COVID restrictions currently in place.

Finally, we are constantly looking for ways to support our Airmen/units, expand our membership and maintain 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.

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 of the Space Force Roger Towberman](#), 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.

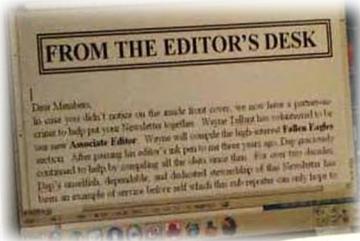
Since the formation of the USAF Security Service (USAFSS) in October 1948, and in its various iterations since then to the present 16th Air Force, we recognize that the one constant and bedrock strength of our organization is the people. Throughout the years, our leaders have understood that if we take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

Welcome to the first of 4 issues of *Remain In Touch!* for 2022. Like you we’ve had our challenges during the past couple of years but without fail, we’ve managed to obtain enough copy and information to keep to our publishing schedule and keep all of us in touch despite the cancelled chapter activities, the cancelled annual reunions, and just the general cancelled informal get-togethers many of us engage in. Been a real challenge and a pain for sure. Two years ago, I never thought I’d have to learn the Greek Alphabet just to converse intelligently about one variant after another. Should have paid more attention in school I suppose. But I am truly optimistic after reading Ted’s news above about September and with the masks coming off from East to West, I hope to have more chapter and other news to share with you. Keeping my fingers crossed. This issue we have a heaping helping of our standard fare of 16 AF News and the always sad to read Fallen Eagles section and the herculean efforts of a couple of chapters we check in with, Hawaii and San Angelo and the Alamo Chapter! Enjoy.

Our next issue will be posted June 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 June 1, 2022.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dennis Buxton
Newsletter Editor



FTVA HALL OF HONOR



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

FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations

Due 6 June 2022

Last year I began this article with, “I would like to start by recognizing the contributions of CMSgt (Ret) Okey Warden, Jr. to this organization and especially to the Hall of Honor Selection Committee.” Unfortunately, I must begin this article with recognizing CMSgt (Ret) Ed Jolly and his contributions over many years to the Hall of Honor Selection Committee. Chief Jolly was inducted into the Hall of Honor in 1994. He served many years on our selection committee and could always be counted on for his wise council. We have lost yet another icon and member of the extended FTVA family, and I would like to express my deepest sympathies to his family and his friends. We will all miss him.

We will take nominations for this year’s Hall of Honor through 6 June 2022. If you need help with developing a nomination, please contact me, and we can work with you to help you develop a package. The only way those who deserve recognition obtain it is if you nominate an individual! Please take the time to nominate those who are worthy as the HoH Selection Committee is soliciting nominations of candidates for induction. The induction ceremony is a major element of the association’s reunion activities.

Since the creation of USAFSS as a major air command in 1948, members of USAFSS/ESC/AFIC/AIA/AF ISR Agency/25th AF/16 AF hereinafter referred to as the command, have been at war 24/7/365 as anonymous sentinels, engaged in combat with foreign enemies of the United States and its allies while conducting operations in the air as aircrew members, on the seas aboard U.S. naval ships, and on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world, and in the cyber realm. In no small measure, their contributions toward the preservation of our freedoms, though largely unheralded, have been vital to the continuance of our national security and our way of life. The command has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who possessed the skill sets and intellectual capacity, coupled with unselfish dedication and commitment, to conquer whatever challenges they encountered – often while confronting significant adversity and at great personal sacrifice.

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

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

Nominations must be received not later than 6 June 2022 by email. Email nominations to myself at chiefajh@gmail.com or to Lee Anthony at LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com. When submitting nominations, please limit to one page, front and back, using the HOH Nomination format available on the website. I am available to answer any questions anyone may have on how best to develop a nomination.

Thank You and Remain In Touch.

A.J. Harrison

Hall of Honor Program Chair

Submit your Nominations

to FTVA Hall of Honor

NLT 6 June 2022.

See details and submission procedures above.

16th AIR FORCE NEWS

Compiled by Ken Maynard

Associate Editor Extraordinaire

526th IS Delivers Tailored ISR Training Scenarios to Combat Air Force Intelligence Professionals

Adapted from an article published 11 Jan 2022 by TSgt. AJ Hyatt, 363d ISR Wing

The Nellis AFB-based 526 Intelligence Squadron (IS) seeks to deliver tailored intelligence training scenarios to units worldwide, expanding the reach of synthetic training to the desktops of analysts globally. The former mission of the unit was to provide advanced training to AF DCGS professionals supporting Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft primarily at RED FLAG exercises. Hosted three times a year by the 414th Combat Training Squadron, RED FLAG provides



aircrews a high-end training experience via intense, simulated air combat sorties in the safety of a training environment. However, a recent study conducted by ACC revealed that only approximately 10 percent of intelligence professionals were given the opportunity to participate in a RED FLAG or similar Large Force Exercise (LFE).

A December 2021 memo co-signed by both Commanders of the 480th ISR Wing and 363rd ISR Wing, recognized that future exercise participation and training requirements must adjust to meet the needs of an increased strategic threat and prepare for Strategic Competition. The Commanders asserted that the “old model” of

TSgt Adam, 526 IS SIGINT/PAI Scenario Development Section chief, and TSgt Kimberly, 526 IS EUCOM Scenario Development Section chief, pose in front of the 526 IS logo at Nellis AFB, NV. The 526th creates realistic, customer-driven ISR training scenarios for Combat Air Force intelligence. (USAF photo by A1C Zachary Rufus)

training was “limited” and “did not reflect the way the ISR Wings would actually conduct intelligence operations in combat”. They acknowledged a needed shift away from Air Force DCGS weapons system access/support and sustainment, to “a focus on providing robust realistic Multi-INT ‘virtual/synthetic/constructed’ training scenarios that provide exercise environments that closely resemble what AF DCGS MMT¹s, AET²s, and other intelligence training audiences expect to encounter in conflict”.

“The primary mission [of the 526 IS] today is to design and deliver tailored-threat experiences to defeat threats,” said Lt Col Tyrel Gibson, Commander of the 526 IS since June 2021. “Constructive, synthetic training scenarios designed and delivered to units in-garrison, to train the ‘Rest of Squadron’ – the other 90 percent of intelligence professionals that can’t attend an LFE like RED FLAG. At the 526th, our focus is on Intel as the Training Audience.”

By creating custom-built training experiences, the 526 IS assists Weapons & Tactics and Training shops with live scenario support that streams from Nellis AFB to any location worldwide whether inside a DCGS, AOC, Intelligence Squadron, or flying unit. One of the 526 IS goals is to unburden Intel organizations from scenario creation and give that time back so units can focus on internal TTPs, debriefing, and feedback with Airmen and analytic teams.

When the 480 ISR Wing began to change its DCGS construct to “DCGS Next” – the 526 IS found integration with intelligence personnel who support PED³ of ISR missions at RED FLAG and other LFEs limited. The 526 IS improvised with the idea of Constructive ISR. “Something built to support intelligence training at RED FLAG during ISR mission cancelations and grew [it] from there,” Gibson added.

Currently, the 526 IS has three priorities: 1) Gain and maintain momentum; and 2) Bridge to the Future and 3) Expand its base of end uses.

Gain and Maintain Momentum is about institutionalizing synthetic training and expanding a base of end users. “Our recent UNITGRAM and Public Affairs are helping with that – to get word out about our rapidly developing capabilities [and] to find end-users who could benefit. Providing units with true, peer-focused advanced threat system analysis and tactics using everyday analytic tools,” said Gibson.

“Our goal [with “Bridge to the Future”] is to design an environment to meet ACC’s needs for OTI for CAF Intel,” Gibson said. “Programmatically, we are currently working with [363d ISR] Wing XP for their on-going ‘Mission Analysis’ and ACC/A23T, post mission analysis, to help formalize our new direction. Operationally, we hope to expand our current baseline training scenarios which are SIGINT, GEOINT and PAI prime for fusion analysis towards being capable

¹ MMT - Mission Management Team

² AET- Analysis and Exploitation Team

³ PED – Processing, Exploitation, and Dissemination.

of benefiting training for targeting, ULI, HUMINT, enable awareness for Cyber/IW offensive options and more.”

“The unit’s ability to quickly scale its Constructive ISR concept, designing a delivery capability without outside resourcing, providing a first of its kind ‘Rest of Squadron’ training capability equivalent to training typically reserved for LFE events, is impressive and necessary to Win Tomorrow’s Wars today,” said Gibson.

“Our old mission was focused on facilitating and training ISR Airmen during Red Flag and WSINT [Weapons School Integration], while also documenting lessons learned in order to incorporate them into future [AFTTP] 3-1 re-writes,” said TSgt Adam, 526 IS SIGINT/PAI Scenario Development section chief. “One of the main issues [with the former mission] was that the ISR is not a [primary] training audience during Red Flag. We would also experience asset fallout during exercises meaning that the participants would only receive a fraction of the training and instruction they were hoping to accomplish.”

The first constructive ISR scenario took nearly six months to build. Six months later, the 526 IS has scaled operations quickly and can build 24 unique scenarios a year. The training scenarios created by the 526 IS are customer-driven and tailorable to specific, desired learning objectives.

“We consist of two flights who design and develop scenarios, one with a focus on INDOPACOM and one with a focus on EUCOM,” said TSgt Kimberly, 526 IS EUCOM Scenario Development Section Chief. “Our scenarios can range from small, two-hour exercises, or a multi-day training experience that includes any combination of IMINT, SIGINT and PAI. It is really up to what the customer wants!”

“The challenged architecture and advancements in analytic tradecraft make it clear that sending large numbers of analysts forward in order to participate in an exercise is no longer the most effective or realistic way to train our analysts, ULI, or CAF aircrew. We must adapt to the changes in warfare and train how our Airmen will fight in a high end contested environment utilizing distributed operations.”

“The 526th is important because we are developing training scenarios that match the operational environment as it re-aligns itself to meet the intent of the National Defense Strategy,” said Kimberly. “This is a massive change, the first of its kind in over 10 years. Since arriving to the 526 IS there have been a lot of changes. As a flight leader, I am constantly amazed by how open-minded and flexible our Airmen are. The Airmen of the 526 IS are our secret to success and they deserve all of the praise.”

For more information or to request a custom training scenario for your unit, please visit the 526 IS at: <https://confluence.epms.af.mil/display/526IS/526+Intelligence+Squadron>.

AFTAC, MSC INACTIVATE BALLISTIC MISSILE TRACKING SHIP

Adapted from an article published 21 Dec 2021, by Susan A. Romano, AFTAC/PA

CAPE CANAVERAL SPACE FORCE STATION, Fla. -- With the white hulled-ship serving as the backdrop for the festivities, the Air Force Technical Applications Center (AFTAC) and Military Sealift Command (MSC) held a joint ceremony 15 Dec 2021 to inactivate U.S. Naval Ship *Invincible* at the U.S. Army Transportation Wharf near Patrick Space Force Base, FL, where AFTAC has its headquarters.



Christopher Thayer, Director of Maritime Operations for MSC, delivers his keynote address during the Inactivation Ceremony of the USNS *Invincible* (seen in the background) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, FL. Pictured to the right Col Katharine Branson, AFTAC/CC, overseer of the *Invincible*'s GRAY STAR ballistic missile radar system. (USAF photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)

More than 150 people including Congressional staffers, Air Force general officers, senior MSC representatives and local elected officials were in attendance at Cape Canaveral SFS to hear Christopher D. Thayer, Director of Maritime Operations for MSC, and Col. Katharine G. Branson, AFTAC's commander, speak about the importance of the ship and the role it played in national security for the past 35 years.

USNS *Invincible* housed the GRAY STAR radar system that provided unique, high quality, high resolution, multi-wavelength radar products used to monitor U.S. or foreign missile, space or weapons test events worldwide. Launched in 1986 and put into full operational service in 1987, *Invincible*'s original mission was to patrol the seas looking for submarines using its sonar array. The vessel was refitted in 2000 to support Joint Chiefs of Staff missions to monitor missile or weapons test events that could pose hazards or threats to air or surface navigation.

During its tenure, USNS *Invincible* deployed worldwide and AFTAC provided a company grade officer to serve as the ship's Mission Commander, whose responsibility was to ensure the platform's team successfully collected and delivered vital mission data.

The decision to inactivate the ship was based on higher headquarters requirements to balance sustainment costs, operational effectiveness, and the Department of Defense's pivot to strategic competition. The DoD has a wide range of capabilities to support ballistic missile defense operations that continue to operate throughout the world today.

Maj. George W. Statzell V, a former *Invincible* mission commander and current officer-in-charge of AFTAC's Commander's Action Group, reflected on his time at the helm of the ship and the importance his crew played in national security.

"It takes a lot of coordination and teamwork to effectively employ an asset like GRAY STAR radar," said Statzell. The team aboard the *Invincible* made it work by focusing on the importance of the information they provided to national decision makers."

He added, "It was a highlight of my career to serve as *Invincible*'s MC. It's not often a junior officer gets the opportunity to command a naval mission, much less an Air Force officer. The job was demanding and had its own heightened level of stressors, but it was also a richly rewarding experience and one I'll carry with me for a lifetime."

During his remarks, Thayer commended the crew who "faithfully executed the mission."

"While these mariners operated in a threat environment, they answered the call to serve across all parts of the globe," he said, "bravely facing threats daily from weather at sea to pirates and combatants, as they served their fellow Americans."

He thanked the thousands of crew members who maintained and sailed on *Invincible* to enable other organizations to execute their complex mission set.

"The success of *Invincible* over these many years was due in great part to a series of highly effective partnerships between military commands and services, industry partners, and labor sources," Thayer said. "Whether civil service, uniformed military member or contractor, you contributed daily to the safety and security of our nation, and each one of you is a patriot."

USNS *Invincible* played a critical role in the U.S. National Security Strategy serving as a mobile tracking platform for recording data on missiles and satellites that were typically out of range of established land stations. During its time abroad, *Invincible* collected data on 73 different systems in its primary area of responsibility, the Middle East, providing the nation's most senior decision makers with technical measurements to monitor nuclear treaty compliance.

"I was struck by the way Mr. Thayer categorized today's event," Branson said during her remarks. "It's not so much the end of the line for *Invincible*, but a moment of transition. We must be able to adapt and respond to the ever-changing global environment to make us a strong, more efficient and successful force."

Branson congratulated the Airmen and all the mission partners for a job "exceedingly well done."

“Please accept my gratitude for your ‘high-seas expertise’ and willingness to get the job done. I am incredibly proud of you, and I look forward to what our maritime future has in store for us.”

It will take approximately seven months to fully inactivate the ship, with plans to repurpose it into a training vessel or be stored as part of the National Defense Reserve Fleet. The radar system will be repurposed by the Air Force Research Laboratory to conduct testing and evaluation of advanced radar technologies.

16TH AIR FORCE AIRMEN MENTOR NEXT CYBER GENERATION

Adapted from an article by Rabia Coombs, 16AF (Air Forces Cyber)/PA

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, Texas -- On Feb. 19 at this year’s San Antonio, Texas Mayor’s Cyber Cup and College Fair, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) Airmen engaged with local youth to talk about the Information Warfare Numbered Air Force’s national security mission as well as explain what a career as a cyber or intelligence professional may look like.

Over 300 high school and middle school students, all competitors in the Air Force Association CyberPatriot competition, their parents, mentors and industry representatives attended the college fair and award ceremony hosted by the CyberTexas Foundation. CyberPatriot is a national youth cyber defense competition created by the AFA to inspire students toward cybersecurity or STEM careers. Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, commander, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), and San Antonio Mayor Ron Nierenberg honored the accomplishments of the competitors.



Capt Robert Compton and MSgt Cornell Flores III talk with students about the 16AF (Air Forces Cyber) and their role in protecting national security during the 2022 San Antonio Mayor’s Cyber Cup and College Fair on 19 Feb. Information Warfare airmen supporting the 16AF exhibit booth provided guests with an overview of what they do to generate insights, compete now and prepare for escalation.

Adversaries and cyber criminals pose a significant threat to our nation and 16th Air Force Airmen generate insights generating Information Warfare capabilities to produce timely effects in the

information defending data, networks, and weapon systems against malicious cyber activity, optimizing the cybersecurity of our current and future systems daily, explained Haugh.

“Our nation has a need for increasing cyber security workforce and professionals,” said Haugh. “What we see here (in San Antonio) is this culture of creating continued growing expertise in cyberspace. It is really exciting to be a part of (it). In many ways what you were asked to do was analogous to what our Airmen do every single day. We were excited to see that you were challenged and that you all really took that challenge and were really motivated to find your way to solutions throughout this challenge.”

This year 318 teams from across San Antonio and rural area schools participated in the CyberPatriot competition and among the nine recognized was Virginia Allred Stacey Jr/Sr High School from Joint Base San Antonio who earned the Best All Female High School Award.

Master Sgt. Patrick Weller, 616th Operations Center, is one of the 16th Air Force mentors supporting the team. As a mentor, he teaches and provides support and guidance on a wide-range of topics including networking with Packet Tracer, computer components, initial computer skills, and basic commands. “We are only there to help create the environment, it’s up to them to do the research, practice their skills, and be successful,” said Weller.

He explained that programs like CyberPatriot help create a safer cyber environment by teaching the skills needed to combat modern challenges. “We live in a digital world, and understanding what these resources can do, and how to safely manage them is essential,” said Weller. “I hope that those who walk away from CyberPatriot have a better understanding of computers, the network, and the digital world. I also hope they make it a safer more accommodating place for all of us.”

Cadet Senior Airman Kinsley Seiter, Medina Valley High, Air Force JROTC competitor, echoed the sentiment. “It’s important to practice and learn cyber, (be)cause in the future we most likely will have more and more cyberattacks, it is an important skill to protect myself and others,” she said. “This is why it is important to have cyber at school to expand the cyber community and get younger people more interested and involved at an earlier age. I’ve learned that the internet and doing your own research can be your best friend. It’s important we all keep it safe.” Her team, the Ragin’ Cyberpenos earned the Rural High School Award.

“Our nation has a need for increasing cyber security workforce and professionals,” said Haugh. Continue to be curious, continue to be able to solve and look for hard problems.”

16th Air Force operates globally across nine wings and one center, integrating cyberspace operations; electromagnetic spectrum operations, information operations, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; weather operations, and other related capabilities.

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

San Angelo Honors Pearl Harbor Victims

Written by Larry Miller

Honoring the memory of those US personnel injured and killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, San Angelo

Mayor Brenda Gunter and the City Council delivered a proclamation commemorating the 80th anniversary of the unprovoked surprise attack. Included in the ceremony was the president of the Heritage Chapter, J.J. Graham, as



S1C Walton A. Erwin

well as representatives of all the various veteran organizations in the area. During research before the presentation on the attack, the Chapter also discovered that a San Angelo resident, Seaman First Class Walton A. Erwin, a graduate of San Angelo High School Class of 1940, perished in the

IN MEMORY OF
S1C WALTON A. ERWIN
 SAN ANGELO HS GRAD - 1940
 US NAVY - 1940-1941
 USS ARIZONA - PEARL HARBOR
 RIP 1921 - 1941

PURPLE HEART - AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/ FLEET CLASP
 ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL W/ STAR - WW II VICTORY MEDAL

In Memory of Banner complements of Tom Nurre and the EC-47.com History Site.

attack. The Chapter immediately brought this to the attention of San Angelo's city government

who were completely unaware that one of the city's former citizens was assigned to and entombed in the U.S.S. Arizona. As a result, S1C Erwin was specifically honored with his name included in the city's proclamation. S1C Erwin's remains will always rest with his crewmates aboard the Arizona. The Heritage Chapter is now working with other veteran organizations to permanently honor him locally with a bronze marker next to his mother and father's graves at Fairmount Cemetery here in San Angelo.



Group photo depicting (l-r) JJ Graham, FTVA Heritage Chapter President; Kyra Lindsay, Women Veterans Network (WoVeN); John Muckleroy, VFW; San Angelo Mayor Brenda Gunter; Jeff Meurer, VFW; and Luis Martinez, President, Tom Green County All Veterans Council. Photo courtesy of City of San Angelo.

Proclamation

On Sunday, December 7, 1941 the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in an attempt to break the American will and destroy our Pacific Fleet. The attack left over 3,500 Americans killed or wounded and marked the United States' entrance into World War II.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared December 7, 1941, a "date which will live in infamy". In his official speech on December 8, 1941 he included, "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory" and "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God."

Our service members valiantly answered the call by defending their positions, fighting back against our attackers, and caring for our wounded. The sacrifices made by the members of our armed forces and civilians to protect America and its people, will never be forgotten.

On August 23, 1994, Congress, by Public Law 103-308, designated December 7 of each year as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day" authorizing and requesting the President to issue annually a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to urge all Federal agencies, and interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag at half-staff each December 7 in honor of the individuals who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

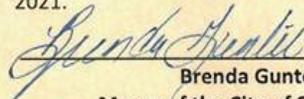
Commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor will instill in all people of the United States a greater understanding and appreciation of the selfless sacrifice of the individuals who served in the armed forces of the United States during World War II.

Now, therefore, I, Brenda Gunter, Mayor of the City of San Angelo, Texas do hereby proclaim December 7, 2021, as:

"NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY"

in San Angelo, Texas. Further be it known that the citizens of San Angelo remember with eternal respect those who were injured or killed on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, including Seaman First Class Walton A. Erwin, a citizen of San Angelo, whose mortal remains are forever entombed in the U.S.S. Arizona.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of San Angelo to be affixed this 7th day of December 2021.


Brenda Gunter
Mayor of the City of San Angelo

USS Arizona Memorial

The Arizona is the final resting place for many of the ship's 1,177 crewmen who lost their lives on December 7, 1941 in Pearl Harbor. The 184-foot-long Memorial structure spanning the mid-portion of the sunken battleship consists of three main sections: the entry and assembly rooms; a central area designed for ceremonies and general observation; and the shrine room, where the names of those killed on the Arizona are engraved on the marble wall.

Arizona was the most heavily damaged of all the vessels in Battleship Row, suffering three near-misses and four direct-hits from 800-kg bombs dropped by high-altitude Kates. The last bomb to strike her penetrated her deck starboard of turret two and detonated within a 14-inch powder magazine. The resulting massive explosion broke the ship in two.



The USS Arizona Memorial grew out of wartime desire to establish some sort of memorial at Pearl Harbor to honor those who died in the attack. Suggestions for such a memorial began in 1943, but it wasn't until 1949, when the Territory of Hawaii established the Pacific War Memorial Commission, that the first real steps were taken to bring it about. Initial recognition came in 1950 when Admiral Arthur Radford, Commander in Chief, Pacific (CINCPAC), ordered that a flagpole be erected over the sunken battleship. On the ninth anniversary of the attack, a commemorative plaque was placed at the base of the flagpole. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who helped achieve Allied victory in Europe during World War II, approved the creation of the Memorial in 1958. Its construction was completed in 1961 with public funds appropriated by Congress and private donations. The Memorial was dedicated in 1962. According to its architect, Alfred Preis, the design of the Memorial, "Wherein the structure sags in the center but stands strong and vigorous at the ends, expresses initial defeat and ultimate victory....the overall effect is one of serenity. Overtones of sadness have been omitted to permit the individual to contemplate his own personal responses...his innermost feelings."

As a special tribute to the ship and her lost crew, the United States flag flies from the flagpole, which is attached to the severed mainmast of the sunken battleship. The USS Arizona Memorial has come to commemorate all military personnel killed in the Pearl Harbor attack.

<https://www.pearl-harbor.com/uss-arizona-memorial-pearl-harbor->

Weyandt-Eddy Plaza Memorialization

Submitted by Tom Nurre

A ton of good news!!

On March 25th, the long-awaited dedication of the EC-47 Plaza and subsequent memorialization as the Weyandt-Eddy Plaza will finally take place after a 2-year delay caused by COVID. Goodfellow AFB and San Angelo planners are going all out to support this special dedication and memorialization program. The online RSVP count for the base ceremonies is 200. The list of 110 registrants needing a base visitors pass will be forwarded to Goodfellow AFB Security Forces. There are 175 registrations for the dinner...all seats are reserved.



ONLINE RSVP FOR ALL EVENTS IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE

Travel to Goodfellow AFB

Please arrive at the Goodfellow AFB Jacobson South Gate off of South Chadbourne Street. For attendees with all passengers having a military or DoD identification card, please drive right to the gate entrance for the 100% ID check and access to the base. For attendees with drivers and/or passenger(s) registered on the BASE ACCESS LISTING, please also proceed directly to the gate entrance. Security Forces will check your individual identification card with the BAL and clear you for entrance. Visitors will not be required to exit their vehicles or process a typical visitors pass. This is expedited, special attention for this event...please double-check the data you submitted with your RSVP form...and have each passenger in the vehicle prepped to have their identification card available. **Call or email if you have any questions. (info@ec47 or 325 450-4476)**

After entering the base, follow the signs to the designated parking area near the ceremony site. There will be a check-in desk between the parking lot and the ceremony site near the wing headquarters building. At the check-in desk, you will receive an envelope with name tag(s) and other event materials. See more details on www.ec47.com and www.vietnam50thcpp.com.

Dedication/Memorialization/Reception

The dedication/memorialization ceremony will begin outside promptly at 11:00 AM. Seating will be open at 10:00AM. The reception will be held at the plaza dedication site immediately following the opening ceremony. This will be a "mix & mingle" affair with access to the aircraft display, plaza, and the ARDF History Exhibit inside the Norma Brown building. Docents will be available. The Goodfellow AFB Public Affairs office and Faith in a Flash Photography will be taking pictures. Restrooms are available in the Norma Brown building.

Hospitality Hootch - Courtyard by Marriott

The hootch is open to all registered attendees. Please check our websites for Hours of Operation. There will be a large display of Island Enterprises aircraft models. There will be a variety of merchandise (books/caps/mugs/patches/coins/prints) for sale, and raffle ticket sales for a rare bottle of Seagram's VO w/FIGMO ribbon. The drawing for the booze and an auction of the aircraft models will be held during dinner. Proceeds from the raffle and auction go to the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza Paver Fund. This fund provides complimentary pavers honoring deceased veterans as decided by the Heritage Chapter paver committee.

Friday Dinner – River View Restaurant

Everything is set for a gala dinner party. Please check the websites for the full menu description. The restaurant opens at 5 PM with a dinner bell at 5:30 PM. There will be a Vietnam War Commemoration presentation of lapel pins and certificates to about 20 Vietnam veterans as well as 5 deceased Vietnam veteran surviving spouses following dinner. The drawing for the FIGMO booze raffle and the live auction will immediately follow the presentations. You are in for a treat with the scheduled appearance of Mr. Mike Smith, a renowned San Angelo auctioneer. After dinner, everyone is invited back to the Hootch for another couple of hours of visiting and storytelling.

This free meal is provided courtesy of the WWII Corporal Rocky & Byl Durso Estate as willed to Tom & Kitty Nurre. Rocky was always interested in aviation...and at age 28 joined the Army Air Corp. He was within a few weeks of graduation from OCS when, due to heavy ground force losses in certain specialties, Rocky was pulled from OCS, promoted to Corporal and assigned to anti-aircraft artillery. He spent the duration of the war as a gun commander for a Bofors 40mm automatic gun. He was credited with at least one Messerschmitt Bf-109 shootdown. Rocky and Byl were our best friends from the Greatest Generation and we know they would have loved to be here at this special dinner. Thanks, Rocky & Byl.

Saturday Activities

The Hospitality Hootch will be open most of the day except during the San Angelo American Legion Post 572 Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration scheduled for 3:00 PM at the Angelo State University LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to the American Legion so seating and enough food for the cookout can be arranged.

COVID Protocol

Here is a direct quote from the Goodfellow AFB:

Mask Wear Policy - All Goodfellow AFB personnel: all vaccinated personnel must wear a mask indoors on base only.

- Off-base mask wear for vaccinated personnel is highly encouraged.
- Civilian personnel and contractors are required to follow this order on base and are highly encouraged to wear masks off base regardless of vaccine status.
- Vaccinated personnel may remove their masks outdoors on base.

Pavers Update Message

To all of our long-time and first-time subscribers alike, especially all of you that have already submitted your RSVPs for the March 25, 2022 events outlined above - THANK YOU. You have endured COVID and the Leave Your Mark company disastrous fire. You have tediously worked through making, canceling and remaking travel plans and reserving lodging accommodations. And here we are...the COVID trying to mess with everything again...but we are full speed ahead with plans to make this party happen. I hope this update answers your questions and reassures you that we are all in a positive mood as plans come together.

Henry Cislo, owner/manager of Leave Your Mark Company, advises that the new engraving machine has arrived. We expect that production will resume for our backlog of nearly 170 plate inscriptions. Henry is registered to attend. He will be at all the events as well as have a display table in the Hospitality Hootch. It is never too late to order a paver with an engraved bronze plate inscription for yourself and those veterans from all services and all periods of service you would like honored in the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza.

Our [EC-47 History Site](#) website is the place to find the full description of the dedication, memorialization, reception, and dinner events scheduled for Friday, March 25, 2022, starting at 1100 AM. Joe Martin is doing a great job keeping the webpage updated...and even has a running list of TEWS and USAFSS EC-47 veterans who have already registered. Please check ec47.com regularly to get the most up-to-date information. The sister website, vietnam50thcpp.com also has updated information but more importantly, is the gateway to ordering Memorial Pavers and submitting your RSVP form for these events. Let us know at 325 450-4476 if you have questions or need assistance in submitting any of the online forms.

<https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/reservations>

<https://www.vietnam50thcpp.com/pavers>

Paver Sales and Production Update

- Pavers in Plaza: 988.
- Bronze plates ordered: 449.
- Bronze plates engraved/finished: 287
- Plate photos online: 280
- Plate QC do-overs: 8
- Bronze plates backlogged: 169 (includes do-overs)

The paver coordinator is working with two San Angelo engraving companies to produce inexpensive engraved brass/plastic plates as temporary substitutes for the backlogged bronze plates. These substitute plates will be placed (without adhesive) in the plaza for the dedication events. After the ceremony and photo session, attendees (with a plate in backlog) will be offered the substitute plate at no cost to take with them as a memento ... and as a sign of our commitment to install the "real" engraved bronze plate as soon as it is received. See pictures of the substitute plates on the ec47.com website.

Saturday, March 26, 2022

You are also invited to the Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony hosted by American Legion Smith-Bryant Post 572. Note the flyer below.



The American Legion Smith-Bryant Post 572 has just announced plans for celebrating National Vietnam War Veterans Day on Saturday, March 26th. This is a couple of days early as March 29th is the designated day...but they wanted to offer all EC-47 dedication attendees an opportunity to attend this event Saturday afternoon starting at 3:00 pm. This annual Welcome Home ceremony is very popular and enjoyed a standing-room-only crowd the first two years. The event features the missing man table, supporting organization information tables...and a US and allied country flag ceremony that includes the service flags and boisterous singing of all the service songs.

Veterans and family members are Welcomed Home and thanked for their service as they should have been honored 50 years ago. Veteran, Gold Star, and Blue Star lapel pins and certificates will be presented to eligible attendees. The event closes with a "burger burn" cookout sponsored by the Elks Lodge and Vietnam era favorite songs played by the DJ "Doctor John", There is no cost to attend. Check out all the details and the RSVP form on the [American Legion Website](#).

Thanks for your continuing interest. Stay safe. We'll see you in late March 2022.

Ray Leftwich Scholarship Support Continues

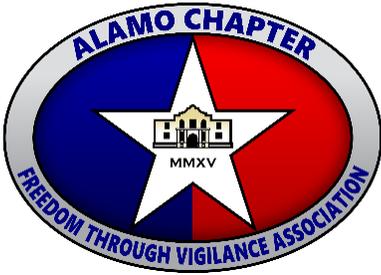
Submitted by Larry Ross, FTVA Heritage Chapter Secretary.

We continue to support the Ray Leftwich scholarship foundation, founded by Ray Jr and his wife, Kitty. This fund targets high school JROTC students. This is the 4th year we've facilitated a donation to the fund from the good people of the 6994th Security Squadron association.

On 9 December 2021 Ed Bendinelli, on behalf of the 6994th Security Squadron Association, presented Ray and Kitty Leftwich with \$500 check for the Ray Leftwich high school JROTC scholarship.



L-R: Ray and Kitty Leftwich, Ed Bendinelli



Alamo Chapter San Antonio, TX



Ken Williams, Interim President
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer

It is with sadness but best wishes for the future, the membership of the Alamo Chapter say a fond farewell to **Barnie Gavin**, FTVA stalwart and Alamo Chapter founder. **Barnie and Judy** are moving out-of-state and in departing, we give him our sincere thanks for his invaluable expertise and work in making the Alamo Chapter a success.

January Meeting

The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA met at the Saltgrass Restaurant on Chapter Meeting, 19 January 2022 and Convened at 5:30 PM. Fellowship and dinner were enjoyed by the 8 members and spouses present. This meeting was held on a Wednesday to accommodate the Vice President. More members would have been present had the meeting occurred on its normal Thursday. Members present included:

- Barnie and Judy Gavin
- Ken and Shiela Williams
- Jack and Deb Wadle
- Ron and Kaye Weaver

President Gavin discussed his upcoming departure to Mississippi and tendered his resignation as President. Ken Williams agreed to serve as interim President until elections can be held, hopefully in February. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1900.

February Meeting

The February 2022 Meeting of the FTVA Alamo Chapter was held on 17 February, convening at 5:30 PM at the Saltgrass Restaurant. Fellowship and dinner were enjoyed by the 13 members and spouses present. Members present were:

- Ken and Shiela Williams
- Ron and Kaye Weaver
- Ken and Judy Maynard
- Ted and Shari Colquhoun
- Leroy and Hilda Rogers
- Gene Sloat
- Dan Martin

Charlie Bishop

Interim President Ken Williams called the meeting to order and the members discussed the departure of Barnie and Judy Gavin as they have moved to Mississippi. Ken Williams solicited anyone to volunteer to fill the position of Vice President and agreed to serve as the President. No one volunteered to serve as Vice President. Members discussed the pending March Anniversary FTVA activities and decided to press on with holding the next Alamo Chapter meeting on 17 March 2022. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1900.

Photos of the 17 February meeting are below.



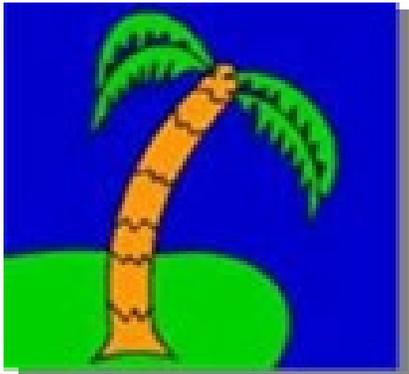
(Left-Right: Ted and Shari Colquhoun, Dan Martin, Hilda Rogers (hiding) and Leroy Rogers at the FTVA Alamo Chapter meeting on 17 February 2022.



(Left-Right): Ken and Judy Maynard and Shiela Williams at the FTVA Alamo Chapter meeting on 17 February 2022.



New Alamo Chapter *El Jefe* Ken Williams posing presidentially at the 17 February Alamo Chapter Meeting. Thanks for stepping up, Ken. Much appreciated.



Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John “Tilly” Toillion, President

Aloha All -

Our most recent get together was February 4th to celebrate the beginning of the new year and with signs that we’re finally ahead of COVID. Hawaii has started removing some of the more stringent protocols. This includes the size of groups at indoor and outdoor events which can now be up to 1,000. This allowed the Aloha Chapter to meet in-person at our favorite watering hole – Ruby Tuesday Mililani.



(From Left-Right): Ken Een, Fred Collins, LeRoy “Ole” Harrison, John Harmon (on the iPad), and John “Tilly” Toillion.)

While we didn’t quite make the maximum allowed we did have five attendees. It was our first hybrid get-together as John Harman ZOOM’ed in from the beautiful island of Maui.

Topics of choice included much laughter as we talked about our past experiences across our combined years of service – say about 300 years in all. It is always interesting to me how many of us crossed paths or were even stationed at the same locations but didn’t really know one another then. We are anxious to stay tuned into FTVA news about our next reunion as well as the latest in the many, many changes in our heritage. Someone once said, “The only constant in life is change.” Meanwhile we plan to continue our periodic get-togethers to *Remain In Touch* and share in good food with lots of laughter.

As always, the welcome mat is always opened to any of you traveling this direction.

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



Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

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

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



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**

Annual FTVA/16 AF Reunion

8-10 September 2022

See details on page 2

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

Peshawar Air Station Alumni Association 2022 Reunion

The PASAA 2022 Reunion will take place around the middle of October. The location will be in Patrick Space Force Base/Space Coast area of Florida, but the timing will be dependent upon hotel availability and other factors. This is just a ‘heads-up’. We are requesting volunteer(s) who live in the area to step up and help with checking out hotels, meeting venues, etc. in the Space Coast area. Please contact us at badaber@att.net and/or calling Tom Davis at (937) 470-3395. We hope to have complete details in the next Newsletter.

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

P.O. BOX 691616

San Antonio, TX 78269

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 691616



PLATINUM PARTNERS

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)



SILVER PARTNERS

Anthony F. Jensen

Grover Jackson

William F. Sheck

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

Edward Sellmeyer



Thank You VPs! Your continued support is vital in helping us continue the FTVA mission



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

Arcos, Elia, Civilian (ret), USAFSS

Abel, David Martin, Sgt, USAFSS

Bailey, John, USAFSS

Bingham, Karen Marie, *****Spouse of FTVA life member CMSgt (ret) Richard “Corky” Bingham who passed away October 2019**

Blackwell, Eldred Edwin, Col (ret), USAF *****FTVA Member**

Bolling, Sterling Ruffin, SSgt, USAFSS

Brown, Willis Donald, USAFSS

Buccigrossi, Frank George, MSgt (ret), USAFSS

Bufalino, Charles J., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS

Early, Sheldon “Butch”, USAFSS

Gallagher, Harry J., SrA, USAFSS

Hambidge, Richard W., USAFSS

Hodge, Mark D., CMSgt (ret), USAF

Jolly, Edward, CMSgt (ret), USAFSS ****FTVA Lifetime and HoH Member*****

Larson, Carl Edward, Lt Col, USAF ***** FTVA Lifetime Member**

Long, Charles, USAFSS

Manning, Billy D., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS

Mayer, Derrick H., SSgt, USAFSS

Miles, Thomas D., USAFSS

Newsom, Jefferson E., USAFSS

Oakes, Larry Lynn, USAF

Phelps, Robert J., USAFSS

Roberts, Richard "Butch", MSgt (ret), USAFSS *** FTVA Member

Swift, Roger W., USAFSS

Tyson, Herbert C., A1C, USAFSS

Willis III, Bud, Sgt, W., USAFSS

Ziel, Willard C., *** FTVA Lifetime Member



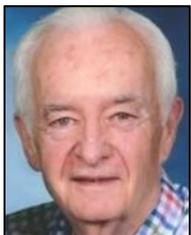
Arcos, Elia Munoz, 74, passed away June 24, 2021. In 1966, Elia started her civil service career where she was employed as a secretary stenographer for the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) at Kelly Air Force Base, TX. This was the Command's name at this time. She was assigned to the Air Force Cryptologic Depot. Her next assignment was in the Directorate of Military Personnel at HQ USAFSS. During this time Elia was a contestant for the miss

USAFSS Fiesta event. Her other assignments included working the Directorate of Manpower and the Directorate of Operations. In December 2006, she retired after a long and rewarding career. She is survived by her son, Peter Anthony Arcos (wife, Rosalee Bryan Arcos). //Obit – Castillo Funeral Home//



Abel, David Martin, Sgt, 72, passed away Jun 18, 2021. He joined the United States Air Force in 1968, serving in Vietnam from 1971-1972 with the 6994th, Det 2, at Danang, RVN Air Base. During his service, David flew over 50 combat missions flying on EC-47's and was awarded the Air Medal, along with numerous other medals. He married the love of his life, Nancy Bohnstedt, in 1974. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Abel, daughter, Amanda Waggoner, and husband,

Rob Waggoner both of El Dorado, AR. He is also survived by his stepmother, Judy Abel, of Miami, OK. //Obit – Youngs Funeral Home//



Bailey, John, 76, passed away January 27, 2022. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1966. While attending an event at the USO, he met the love of his life, Jane. They were married in 1972 and enjoyed nearly 50 years together as soul mates. Active duty for 24 years, he worked as a Russian linguist, recruiter, intelligence officer, and instructor all over the world. He retired from the military in 1990. He is survived by his wife, Jane Bailey, his daughter and son-in-law, Seth

and Heather Gregory. //Green Funeral Home//



Bingham, Karen Marie, 78, passed away January 30, 2022. After high school, she moved to Rapid City, SD. It was there she met her love, Richard “Corky” Bingham, whom she married on July 27, 1964. Together, they set out on a life of adventure courtesy of the United States Air Force. Her husband’s career took them to Biloxi, Mississippi; Misawa, Japan; Syracuse, New York; Chicksands, England; Heraklion, Greece; and San Angelo, Texas. She loved being part of the military community and developed friendships that spanned a lifetime, and often felt more like family. In 1965, Karen and Corky welcomed their first child, son Scott, while living in Japan. And in 1971, they added to their family with daughter Stacey while living in England. Karen is survived by son Scott Bingham; daughter Stacey Bingham Doyle and husband Joe Doyle. //Notified by Diane Ross// //Obit – Harper Funeral Home//



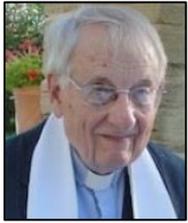
Blackwell, Eldred Edwin, Col (ret), 88, passed away Nov 28, 2021. Ed began his career in the Air Force in 1955. He served as a pilot and flew in Vietnam as commander of his squadron. After Vietnam he served in the NSA, various Security Service positions and ended his 30-year career as Chief of Staff for the Electronic Security Command of the Air Force at the rank of Colonel. Ed was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Ruby Dolores Blackwell. He is survived by his three children, Ken (Melinda), Brenda and Brian. //Obit - Mission Park North//

I was saddened to hear of Ed’s passing. He was my boss at HQ ESC back in the early 80s. He was really great to work for and one of the best men I ever served with. Even managed to play a few rounds of golf with him in later years and enjoyed his company very much. My heartfelt condolences to your family. May he Rest In Peace. //Greg Mahoney//



Bolling, Sterling Ruffin Jr, SSgt, 76, passed away January 8, 2022. Sterling enlisted in the United States Air Force and was assigned to the Air Force Security Service as a translator. He completed two tours of duty in Vietnam. SSgt. Bolling was awarded the Air Medal with First and Second Oak Leaf Clusters. Sterling is survived by his wife, Jocelyn G. Bolling, and child, Ian Mallory Bolling, both of Mount Pleasant. //Obit – Legacy.com//

First met Ling in Language School in 67 (I called him Ling for Bolling and he called me Lo for DePaolo. We went to the 6948th together after Language School. We went on several TDYs together including Survival School. I remember being in the NCO club at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa with him and we roomed together at the 48th. He was one hell of a good guy! I personally will miss him! //Anonymous//



Reverend Brown, Willis Donald, 90, passed away May 12, 2021. After college graduation, he joined the Air Force. He was sent to the Defense Language Institute in Monterrey, California to learn the Russian language. He was stationed in Japan. Following this assignment, he joined the U.S. Bureau of the Census in Washington, D.C. During this time, he decided to follow his life-long dream of becoming an Episcopal priest by attending the Virginia Theological Seminary. After completing his study, he moved to Louisville, Kentucky to become a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisville. He was later ordained and became the rector at the former St. John Episcopal Church. Don is survived by his wife, the former Patricia Knadler; stepchildren Deborah McCoy and her husband, Robert Keenan and Thomas B. McCoy. //Obit – Courier Journal//



Buccigrossi, Frank George, MSgt (ret), 91, passed away on December 29, 2021. Frank married Norma Jean Rullo on April 11, 1953. He served his country honorably for 22 years in the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of MSgt, with multiple stateside and overseas assignments, including Germany and Viet Nam. He retired in 1973 from Goodfellow AFB, Texas.

He is survived by his children; Mary Haddock, and husband Dee; Cheryl Bushell, and husband Greg; son Mark, and wife Darla; and Trisha Corbell, and husband Tommy. //Notified by Diane Ross// //Obit – Johnson’s Funeral Home//

As the saying goes, Frank was truly "one of a kind." A man of generosity, kindness, & concern for all humanity. He was exemplary as a father and a patriotic American proud of his heritage. During his military career, as an Airborne Electronics Maintenance Technician Aircrew Member, he flew Cold War missions & Viet Nam combat missions. He was a treasured friend and a great American. Dio vi Benedica. //Tony Massaro//



Bufalino, Charles Joseph Jr., SMSgt (ret), 82, passed away October 11, 2021. Charles joined the Air Force and was eventually part of the First Cavalry attached to the Army in Vietnam. He served his country for over 5 decades in the Armed Forces and Civil Service, retiring as a Senior Master Sargent and then going on to retire as a GS 12 in Cryptologic Support. Charles or as his friends called him Buff, met the love of his life, Carol Sue Bufalino in Myrtle Beach South Carolina. Their

romance lasted for 64 years. Buff and Sue traveled the world with the Military and had three children along that journey; Christopher Joseph Bufalino, Charles Anthony Bufalino and Michael Todd Bufalino. They finally settled in San Antonio, Texas in 1979. He is survived by Wife Carol Sue Bufalino, Son's Christopher Joseph, Charles Anthony and Michael Todd. //Obit – legacy.com//



Earley, Sheldon, 73, passed away June 7, 2020, at his home. He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force. When the Vietnam War began to escalate, he felt the call to serve his country and promptly enlisted in the United States Air Force. He served in the 6994th Security Squadron. During his time in Vietnam, he developed a real affinity for the country and its people, choosing to live off-base so he could immerse himself in Vietnamese life and culture. Butch was proud of his service throughout his whole life. After all, the 6994th Security Squadron is still the most highly decorated squadron in the history of the current 16th Air Force and all of its predecessor organizations. Butch is survived by his wife Beverly Earley; daughter Jennifer (Allen) Schultz.

//Obit – Justen Funeral Home//



Gallagher, Harry J. Jr., SrA, 61, passed away on November 30, 2021. He proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1981-1985 and obtained the Rank of E4 and served in Electronic Security Command. He received a Medal for Good Conduct, served Overseas and was a Small Arms expert Marksman. He was married to Ann Marie Gallagher for nearly 25 years and is survived by his six adopted children Wesley, Jose, Samantha, Angelina, Ashley and Anna

Gallagher. **//Obit – Klein Funeral Homes//**



Hambidge, Richard W. Sr, 86, passed away February 1, 2022. He joined the United States Air Force in June 1954 and was part of the 6913th Radio Squadron as an Interceptor operator and was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany where he met and married Edith Bauer. Besides his wife Edith of 63 years, he is survived by his son Richard of Danbury and daughter Debra and son-in-law Carl Maciejewski.

//Obit - Green Funeral Home//



Hodge, Mark D., CMSgt (ret), 59, passed away December 4, 2021. He transitioned from the depths of the earth while doing the thing he loved most in this world, exploring the soil and soul beneath his feet and sharing his passion for caving with young folk and old. Mark served in the United States Air Force as a Russian Cryptolinguist from 1980 until 2011 when he retired with a rank of Chief Master Sergeant. He served tours in Berlin, Frankfurt, Okinawa, and

England. In addition to his father, Mark is survived by his wife, Elizabeth “Liz” DeVenny of McDowell; and stepson, Trey Lawhorn of Staunton. **//Obit – Obaugh Funeral Home//**



Mark Hodge shared a memory.

November 11, 2016 · 🌐

...

Me at my retirement after 30 years in uniform, Oct 2010. With me are two other Chiefs that also did the difficult job I retired out of. To my left is "Pepito" Figueroa, and to my right is Ernie Shishido.

This was one of Mark's favorite military pictures. He would post it every couple of years. This is what he posted years after he retired. As IA8 (Airborne ISR) Functional he advocated fiercely to take care of the Airmen in this

community. A lot of it happened at the senior AF levels behind the scenes, with plenty of spears received by him and little fanfare. The challenges faced by the IA8 community (creating a new IA8X2 AFSC, maneuvering A2 and A3 expectations; hi demand/low density, insert a million etcetera's here) were tremendous. He faced all of them and advocated fiercely for our Airmen. Again, with little fanfare. An amazing leader. When I retired, I posted that Mark Hodge was one my heroes. I'm glad he knows how much we appreciate him. //CMSgt (ret) "Pepito" Figueroa//

All I can muster right now is that I'm in shock. Although I did not speak with Mark all the time, we were the kind of friends who could go months without speaking and then pick up as if not a day had passed. We did tours together, and he was in my wedding. I think he was the 1st person I told, after my wife, that I made Chief. He was a mentor and an amazing person who truly lived life to the fullest, and exactly the way he wanted to. He is sorely missed. Liz, my deepest condolences...there are no word //CMSgt (ret) Art Croteau//

Mark was what I want in military leaders and colleagues. He was tough and brutally honest and fair. It may be that because he lost his brother earlier in life, he really understood how fleeting time and life can be. He turned down multiple 6-figure opportunities to live his outdoor and underground life working on their amazing and beautiful house. I visited and stayed with him a while back and we spent time down in multiple caves in the area. It's crazy dangerous and dark, even with the miner's light. A few nights ago we were chatting on FB about another visit. When I saw the post in the private caving group I was and still am just stunned. I expected that we'd keep visiting each other into old age. I hate that we won't. //SMSgt (ret) Tony Daniels//



Jolly, Edward, CMSgt (ret), FTVA Lifetime and Hall of Honor (1994) Member

CMSgt Ed Jolly passed on 9 Mar 2022. Ed spent 50+ years in Security Service organizations with his last assignment being on Security Hill, JBSA Lackland, TX. //Notified by David Hill//

Interment will be at Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery at 11:15AM, 6 April 2022. Funeral home is Castle Ridge

Mortuary. LINK: [Daily Burial Schedule - National Cemetery Administration \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/dailyschedule/) //Pepito Figueroa//

For 30 years Ed Jolly, Jr., made a name for himself as a military cryptologist, retiring as a chief master sergeant in 1984. For the next 27 years he forged a civilian career before retiring here April 30 as a communications management specialist with the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency. That's 57 years of continuous federal service to the intelligence community, a longevity achievement Jolly attributed, in part, to his passion for the job and an unusual, but effective, sleeping regimen. "I believe in getting four hours sleep each night," he said. "I also took care of my people and they took care of me." Jolly spoke highly of the mentorship he received as a young Airman. He appreciated those who trained him and provided guidance along the way. "One of my fondest memories is having worked for every commanding general this organization (in all its iterations) has ever had," Jolly said. "They were all people focused and really took care of their personnel."

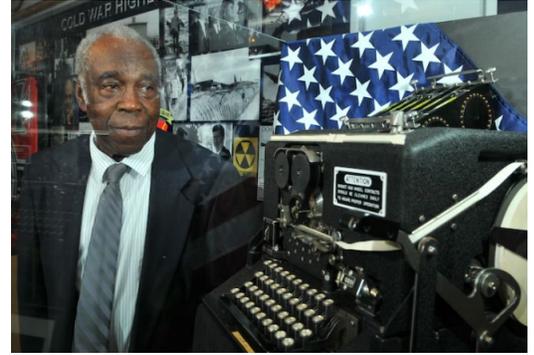
Jolly's 27-year federal civilian career followed a 30-year active duty career, all in the intelligence community. One of Jolly's former commanders, Lt. Gen. John C. Koziol, officiated his civilian retirement ceremony. "The chief dedicated himself to the communication architecture," Koziol said at the ceremony. "In a word, he was wonderful." Jolly's experience as a cryptographic specialist was featured in the Air Force Public Affairs Agency biographical series *Pioneers in Blue* which showcases famous heroes and everyday Airmen who helped build today's Air Force. That series recounted how Jolly encoded messages during the Vietnam War using the encryption and decryption machine, SIGABA (Air Force designation was GORGON), the vintage cryptographic workhorse of the time. He received his cryptologic training at Scott AFB, Ill. "It was there I realized how much I enjoyed working in the communications career field and wanted to do the best I could," Jolly said.

Ed's military experience enabled the New Orleans native to make a seamless transition into the federal civilian workforce. "My first civil service job, at Kelly AFB, Texas, was doing the exact same work I did my entire active-duty career," Jolly said. "I worked in the communications center processing messages in both plain and encrypted text, using the skills I learned during cryptologic training.

As a member of the agency's Hall of Honor induction class of 1994, his photo is displayed in the agency auditorium. Jolly's inscription reads "...If you need comms quickly, call Ed at 911...master technician, leader and role model, blessed with infectious enthusiasm, unfailing motivation and uncanny success."

And in July 2007 the agency's communication directorate conference room was dedicated as the Edward Jolly, Jr., Conference Room, with an enlarged copy of his *Pioneers in Blue* biography hanging outside its door. Jolly's second retirement ended his federal service time but not his desire to serve. "I plan to keep busy by volunteering at the Wounded Warrior Center in San Antonio," he said. In his farewell message at his civilian retirement he added, "See you at the bowling alley."

(Right) Edward Jolly Jr., poses with a SIGABA encryption and decryption machine in the Air Force ISR Agency Heritage Center here. The device is similar to what he used as a cryptographic specialist during his 30 years on active duty.



*Just a week or so ago I passed the conference room named in his honor at 16AF. This photo of him holding his basic training picture is posted in front. It always brought a smile! He was an outstanding Airman and the kindest individual you could ever meet. He will be missed!
//Michael Moore//*

Chief Jolly was a leader, friend and mentor to all! I was a SSgt when I first met him and like many of you, I worked with him throughout the rest of my career! When I became a Chief he would tell me to just call him Ed - but I could never do it! RIP Chief! //Marc Benkendorf//

Really sad news. Ed and I worked together on several projects. He was fun to work with, but always a professional. I thoroughly enjoyed his company and friendship, RIP old friend. //Greg Mahoney//

I worked with CMSgt Jolly when I was the Do at the then 6903rd Electronic Support Group. He was one of a kind leader and team player. The Ops-LG relationship was never better. Sad news but what an impact he made. He lived to the fullest. //Kevin Willey//



Larson, Carl Edward, Lt Col (ret), 88, passed away January 14, 2022, He graduated Indiana University with a degree in Psychology in 1955, with a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. While in the Air Force, his career included tactical officer and OCS instructor at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Texas; flight commander and assistant operations officer at Wakkanai, Japan; Commandant of Cadets at the University of Illinois; Assistant operations officer at Hof AFB in Germany; Operations officer and Deputy Commander Samsun, Turkey; Commander Sinop Air Force Unit, Turkey; and Deputy Commander USAFSACS, Goodfellow AFB, San Angelo, TX. Following his retirement from the Air Force in 1975, he worked as training manager for Rockwell International and the U.S. State Department training Iranian students in California and Iran, leaving Iran just prior to the Iranian Revolution. Carl married his high school sweetheart, Lora Lee Funk, in September of 1955 in LaGrange, Indiana. Together they had 3 children: Karen Ann, Douglas Alan, and Suanne Larson. Lora Lee preceded him in death in 1982 at the age of 46. He married Betty Byrd in 1993 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Together they enjoyed the retired life, including frequent trips to the Riverwalk in San Antonio. Betty preceded him in death in 2007. He is survived by his children, daughter Karen Hooker and husband Ronny; son Doug Larson and wife Cindy; and daughter Suanne Casey and husband Mike. He is also survived by Betty's children, Stephen Byrd and wife Melissa; Vicki Loso and husband Harley; Scott Byrd and wife Cindy; Mark Byrd; and Marcia Hisey and husband Randy. //Notified by Diane Ross//
//Obit – Johnson’s Funeral Home//



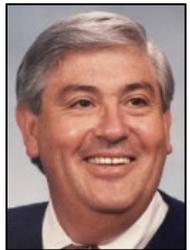
Long, Charles 'Charlie', 81, passed away February 13, 2022. He joined the USAF in January 1962. Upon completion of Russian language training at the Defense Language Institute, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, Charlie underwent subsequent intelligence training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas. His tours of duty included a year and a half in Pakistan, three years in Hof, West Germany, twelve years in Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, three years at the National Security Agency (NSA), and two tours in Japan. Charlie valued most his assignment as an analyst at the 6912th Electronic Security Group (ESG) strategically placed 110 miles within the Soviet Zone of East Germany in the divided city of Berlin (1973-1981 and 1984-1988). He played a key role in the unit's acquisition of the coveted Travis Trophy in 1986, was not only selected as the unit's representative during the Polish crisis in December 1980 coordinating with the AWACs mission in Ramstein AFB, he was handpicked to fill a 6912th command billet at Tempelhof Central Airport (TCA) until well after his retirement in early 1988. Credited with numerous Air Force commendations, Charlie was the sole recipient of the flag of the United States flown in his honor over all three duty sites in Berlin: Teufelsberg Operations, Marienfelde Operations, and TCA. Charles' first marriage was to Mary Akron of Morrow County, Ohio. He married second Christine Bauman at the Zehlendorf Standesamt in Berlin in December 1976. During their first tour of duty at the 6912th, the couple were members of the British Berlin Saddle Club. //Boyd Funeral Home//



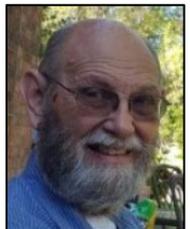
Manning, Billy Denton, CMSgt (ret), 88, passed away February 10, 2022. During the Korean war, Billy volunteered to join the United States Air Force on 24 July 1953. His assignments included the 6931st Security Group in Iraklion Crete, Greece and HQ US Air Force Security Service located in San Antonio, Texas. All Security Service bases were located overseas so Billy traveled overseas two or three times a year. He saw most of the major cities in Europe as well as the Far East and Southeast Asia. He also traveled to all fifty states. During his career, he received over twenty military awards and medals. They include Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal two times, Air Force Commendation Medal three times, Korean Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, and many others. He retired in 1979, after over 26 years in the military. He is survived by his daughters Kathy and husband Mark Hartman, and Linda Flanagan. //Obit - Walker Funeral & Cremation//



Mayer, Derrick Houston, SSgt, 60, passed away October 8, 2021 after fighting against the COVID-19 virus. Derrick had a degree in Cryptology and proudly served his country for 8 years in the United States Air Force as a Staff Sergeant E-5. He went on to work a civilian based job with the National Security Agency as a Printer Systems Analyst and retired in 2006. Derrick is survived by his mother, Paula Mayer; Daughters Darla Hurlbut, Candice Sorensen, Danielle Bowden, Kimberly Milner. //Obit – legacy.com//



Miles, Thomas D., 82, passed away February 1, 2022 after a brief battle with COVID pneumonia. Tom was a Vietnam veteran serving in Air Force Intelligence (USAFSS), stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. Tom is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sue Miles and daughter Nichole Miles. //Obit - Little & Davenport Funeral Home and Crematory//



Newsom, Jefferson E. Jr., 75, passed away February 11th, 2022. Jeff married his high school sweetheart Connie Penton Newsom on August 18th, 1968. They would remain married for over 53 years until his death. Jeff served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War from 1969 – 1973 stationed in Berlin, Germany and with the 6922nd security squadron in the Philippines. Jeff is survived by his wife Connie, his daughter Amy Newsom Brown and husband Tim, his son Jefferson E. Newsom III and his wife Keri, his son Jonathan D. Newsom and his son Jordan S. Newsom and wife Samantha. //Obit - Forest Ridge Funeral Home-Memorial Park Chapel//



Larry Lynn Oakes, of Castroville, passed away on January 1, 2022 at the age of 80. He was born March 24, 1941 in Cooper, Texas to Chester D. Oakes and Esther Young Oakes. Larry was a 1959 graduate of Paris High School. He was a proud Texas Aggie, graduating in 1969 from Texas A & M University with a BS degree in electrical engineering. As a very patriotic gentleman, Larry retired after forty years of service as an Airman---four years in uniform and thirty-six years as a Department of the Air Force civilian. Larry is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Patti Singer Oakes of Castroville; daughter, Mandi Chavez of San Antonio; grandchildren, Andrew DeLeon, Alex DeLeon, and Julian DeLeon; siblings, Karen Floyd (Gary) of Paris, Texas, Donna Sampler (Larry) of Carrollton, Texas; and sister-in-law, and Martha Oakes of Burleson, Texas. Larry was preceded in death by his parents and his brothers, Winford “Sonny” Oakes and Boyce “Bob” Oakes. Memorials may be made in Larry’s memory to the First Baptist

Church of Castroville Building Fund or the charity of your choice. //Obit - Tondre-Guinn Funeral Home. Visit www.tondre-guinn.com//

So sorry to hear of this as I just noticed this in the San Antonio Express News. I worked for Mr Oakes in the 1990s as his Senior Enlisted Superintendent. Of my 30 years in the USAF, he was the best civilian supervisor of military personnel that I have ever seen. Always there for mentorship and cheerleading, Larry truly cared about ALL his employees. Given a very complex mission and supervising military and civilian workers while in the AF Information Warfare Center, Larry was the most firm, sincere, and supportive leader in the organization. I only worked with him for about 3 years but his leadership impacts me to this day. God bless his family and all he touched. Bert Pickell, San Antonio.

Bill (Jr), Suzanne, and Michael Meskill send loving condolences. William Meskill from Buke VA,

God bless the family. Worked for Mr. Oakes in the 90s. Great man and a joy to work for. I know he will be sorely missed by friends and family across the nation. Willie Calhoun from San Antonio, Texas.

Larry was one of the "big wigs" at the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center, when I arrived in March 1977 being a 20-year-old AIC, he was MISTER Oakes to me but the thing I remember most was that he was famous for buying one of the 25th Anniversary Special Edition 1978 Corvettes. A pretty snazzy car. The last I heard he still had it and took very good care of it //Bill Sims, San Antonio, TX.



Phelps, Robert J., 83, passed away December 9, 2021. In September of 1956, Bob enlisted in the United States Air Force and served the next four years in the secure communications field with the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) Command, initially as an intercept radio operator and later, in Material Management. Shortly after his discharge from the USAF in September 1960, Bob was hired back into the USAFSS in San Antonio, Texas, as a federal employee, where he worked until his retirement in various assignments in the secure communications field of USAF Intelligence in 1995. Bob is preceded in death by his wife, Diana Nieschwietz-Phelps. //Obit – Peters Funeral Home//



Roberts, Richard B. "Butch", MSgt (ret), 82, passed away January 20, 2021. On December 27, 1958, Butch married Sally Botts Roberts, who survives him. Butch retired with 20 years of service in the U. S. Air Force as a linguist. Butch is survived by his wife, Sally J. Roberts sons, Richard "Rick" (Jozie) Roberts and Larry (Rosa) Roberts. //Obit – Willis Funeral Home//



Swift, Roger W., 84, passed away at the Lamun-Lusk Sanchez Texas State Veteran's Home 1809 N. Hwy. 87 Big Spring, TX 79720 on 9-11-2021. //Find-A-Grave//obit - www.findagrave.com//

Roger is listed in "our losses" at 6994th Security Squadron Site. https://6994th.com/ //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



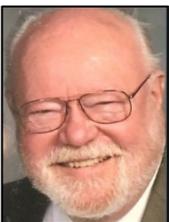
Tyson, Herbert C., 78, passed away February 18, 2021.

He served his country honorably in the Air Force during the Viet Nam War and achieved the rank of Airman, First Class. Survivors include son Hunter Tyson (Chris); son Jeff Landrum (Moirra). //Obit – Richmond County Daily Journal//

Herbert is listed in "our losses" at 6994th Security Squadron Site. https://6994th.com/ //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



Willis III, Bud William, Sgt, 78, passed away March 15, 2021. Bud served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a graduate of the Defense Language Institute and was a Korean linguist. He attained the rank of sergeant and was honorably discharged in 1972. He is survived by his devoted wife of 55 years, Linda Jolley Willis; his son Bud William Willis IV; his daughter Cynthia Willis Hanes and husband Robert. //Obit - Greensboro News & Record//



Ziel, Willard C., 85, passed away April 3, 2021. Bill enlisted in the USAF in 1956. He trained as a Cryptologic Language Analyst, eventually earning a BA in Russian and Eastern European Languages from the University of Syracuse. While studying there, Bill met the love of his life, Ann Clark. They were married on July 11, 1959 and were married for 60 years until Ann's death in September, 2019. Air Force life provided Bill and Ann with many adventures and opportunities to live in numerous places, including Texas, Oklahoma, Misawa, Japan and Berlin, Germany. Nearing his retirement from the Air Force, Bill decided to change his career from a Russian cryptologist to a recruiter for the Air Force in Madison, Wisconsin. He is survived by his daughter Kay (Bob) Arnold, son Eric (Beth) Ziel, son Tom (Angela) Ziel, son Rob (Isin) Ziel and daughter Kristin (John) Kleifgen. //Obit - Leader Telegram//

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