

Remain

In

Touch

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER



December 2022

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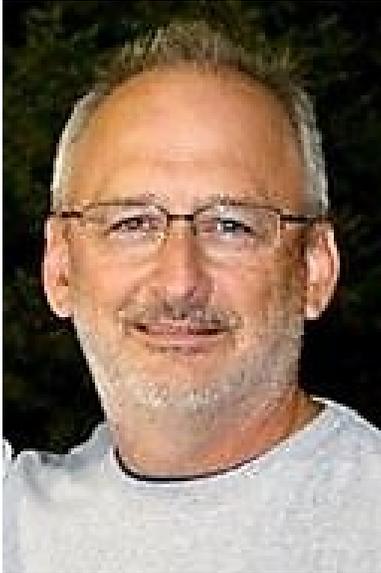


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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Ted Colquhoun
President, FTVA

Howdy Y'all,

Greetings to you and your loved ones this holiday season. I hope your Thanksgiving was a smashing success. It was quiet at the Colquhoun casa, but our planning for a fun Christmas and New Year's is going strong right now. Well, it's been a quiet quarter for the FTVA to end the year. Our big project right now is getting our website fixed. We have a few leads on fixes and are having some individuals beta test our site. As soon as we get it up and running properly, we will have Roy Burnett send out a mass email letting the Association members know.

I always try to keep the reunion events in the front of everyone's minds. We start planning with the Headquarter elements during the first quarter of 2023 and the dates scheduled right now are 19-21 October 2023 with events listed below.

Thursday, 19 October 2023

Golf Tournament at the Golf Club of Texas

Friday, 20 October 2023

Annual Meeting

Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony

Remembrance Ceremony

FTVA Picnic

Saturday, 21 October 2023

FTVA Banquet

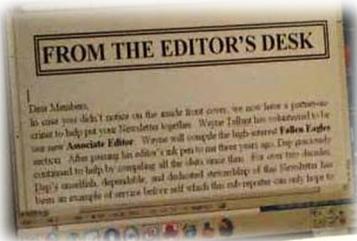
Holding the festivities in October aligns us with the 75th anniversary of the activation of USAFSS (20 October 1948) as well as the 4th anniversary of the activation of 16th Air Force (11 October 2019)

If you are interested in helping/supporting the planning efforts as we move into 2023, please drop me a line and I'll get you in contact with the proper project officers once the planning starts in earnest.

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".

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Hey There Readers! As you already know, our Web Site, where we post all past, present, and future issues of *Remain In Touch*, has been giving us fits and starts. Until that is resolved – as it wasn't as of this writing – we are seeking an alternative method to disseminate the newsletter to you, which has succeeded if you are reading this.

😊 . I do want to wish you and yours all the best of holiday seasons, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. The next issue of RIT will be compiled and posted in March 2023, 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.

Dennis Buxton
Newsletter Editor

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 prior 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*.



FTVA HALL OF HONOR



FTVA Hall of Honor Nominations Requested

**A.J. Harrison,
Hall of Honor Program Chair**

Do you know someone who you think should be in the Hall of Honor (HoH) and who is not? The only way people are selected is if they are nominated, and the only way they get nominated is by members doing the work to nominate them! 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/24 AF/25 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, on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world, in space, and in cyberspace. In no small measure, their contributions toward the preservation of our freedoms, although 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, 208 individuals have been inducted into the Hall of Honor. They 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.

Nominations must be received not later than 5 June 2023 by email. Email requests for the HoH Nomination Form, Charter and/or nominations directly to Lee Anthony at LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com, and A.J Harrison at chiefajh@gmail.com. When submitting nominations, please comply with requirements of one page, front and back, and font using the HOH Nomination Form. Lee and I are more than willing to assist anyone on how best to develop a nomination. Thank you for your support and for recognizing those who are deserving.

Thank you and Remain In Touch.

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

16TH AIR FORCE (AIR FORCES CYBER) COMMANDER FLIES A COMPASS CALL

Adapted from an article by A1C Paige Weldon, 55th ECG

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, Ariz. — U.S. Air Force Lt Gen Kevin Kennedy, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander, visited the 55th Electronic Combat Group and flew the EC-130H Compass Call at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, Sept. 14, 2022.



USAF Lt Gen Kevin Kennedy, 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) commander, performs preflight checks on the 55th Electronic Combat Group's EC-130H Compass Call at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, Sept. 14, 2022. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Paige Weldon)

The 55th ECG provides combat-ready Compass Call aircraft, crews, maintenance and operational support to combatant commanders and the Air Force's only airborne electronic attack platform.

Kennedy is the commander of the first Information Warfare Numbered Air Force. This convergence of IW forces synchronized cyberspace operations, Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance, electromagnetic spectrum operations such as the 55th ECG's mission, information operations, public affairs, and weather.

NEWLY ACTIVATED 544TH ISRG WELCOMES UNITS DURING CEREMONY

Adapted from an article by Senior Airman Haley N. Blevins
Space Base Delta 2/PA

BUCKLEY SPACE FORCE BASE, CO — The 544th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group was activated Sept. 26, 2022 during an activation and realignment ceremony at Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum in Lowry, Colorado.

Previously located at Peterson Space Force Base, Colo., the 544th ISRG delivers global, space-related information to national agencies and warfighting commands, provides policy guidance and functional assistance to assigned organizations, and develops mission-based facilities and communication.

The 544th ISRG's mission is to lead the Air Force in executing overhead signals intelligence, infrared operations, and tradecraft development to achieve mission outcome success in all circumstances.

Signals intelligence plays a vital role in our national security by providing our leaders with critical information they need to defend our country, save lives, and advance U.S. goals and alliances globally.

This activation ceremony was more than a single group - realigning the 566th Intelligence Squadron and Detachment 1 from under the 373rd ISRG and into the 544th ISRG. These realignments are one of many efficient ways our intelligence community remains ready across the intelligence space.

“The 566th has its roots very deep in Buckley's soil dating all the way back to 1944,” said Lt. Col. James Nolan, 566th IS commander. “Now we get to launch a new branch of those roots as we stand up the 544th ISRG. We are looking to make our predecessors of this group and squadrons proud and do the best for our Airmen and Guardians going forward in the future.”

In addition to the realignment of the 566th IS and Detachment 1, two squadrons were reactivated under the 544th ISRG. The 26th IS was reactivated for the first time since 2006 and the 18th IS was reactivated since its deactivation in 2020.

‘PETTING ZOO’ TEMPORARILY CLOSED, BEING RELOCATED

Adapted from an article by TSgt AJ Hyatt, 363d ISRW

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — Located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., the U.S. Air Force’s premier Threat Training Facility (TTF), owned and managed by the 547th Intelligence Squadron, houses a collection of adversary weapons including ground equipment, surface-to-air missile systems (SAMS), and aircraft.



Currently, the TTF, also known as the “Petting Zoo,” is closed to the public while the equipment is being relocated on Nellis AFB near the Simmons Gate as part of the 365th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group MILCON project.

The expected completion of the relocation move and re-opening is early 2023.

What is the ‘Petting Zoo’?

“The purpose of the TTF is to educate and train warfighters through a blend of physical and virtual instructional methodologies,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Jeremy Hirsch, 547th Intelligence Squadron commander. “Seeing these real weapons systems up close offers unique opportunities to understand

The U.S. Air Force's premier Threat Training Facility is located at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and operated and maintained by the 547th Intelligence Squadron. The 547 IS is the U.S. Air Force's "Center of Excellence" for adversary tactics analysis. The unit compiles, writes and edits the Air Force's Threat Reference Guide and analyzes, refines, and disseminates intelligence on adversary tactics and weapons employment for customers throughout the Department of Defense. (Courtesy photo)

how they might be used by an adversary in combat.”

While much of the equipment is Soviet era, these systems can bolster the unit’s understanding of tactics observed on modern battlefields like Ukraine and can be used as building blocks toward understanding more advanced threats being fielded by our adversaries, according to Hirsch.

Why the relocation?

“The TTF move offers an opportunity to bring threat-representative training to a new generation of Airmen,” Hirsch said.

One of the first benefits of the move is the opportunity to refurbish equipment that has been sunbaking in the Las Vegas heat for decades to restore the look and feel of the older systems.

The 547th team has carefully planned the new layout to take students on a journey from early technology to newer weapons systems. For example, there will be a ‘Mig-Alley’ that starts with a Korean War-era Mig-17 FRESCO and ends with a Mig-29 FULCRUM.

“We will also maintain our SA-8 and SA-13 surface-to-air missile systems in partial working condition to continue to offer unique training opportunities to Airmen and visitors using real systems,” Hirsh added.

According to Hirsh, in order to maximize the training value of the TTF, they are blending technology to fill training gaps to take students beyond what is in front of them using tools such as QR-code links to videos and information that can be accessed from any smart phone and will be taking delivery of several new assets that will become available to our customers at a classified level.

In the end, this effort to modernize the TTF will pay dividends for the Joint Force by helping the warfighter better understand the threats they will face in training environments and in combat.

What can people expect in the meantime?

In the interim, there will still be several opportunities to interact with some of the weapon systems and 547 IS instructors, including the Nellis AFB Air Show which is scheduled for November.

“We expect to provide several static displays and offer walk-around tours and briefs to anyone who stops by the 547 IS booth,” said Hirsch.

Lastly, the 547 IS Training Flight subject matter experts remain postured to offer tailored classroom-style training opportunities for units or groups who coordinate with us ahead of time.

FIRST TRUE NORTH RELIGIOUS SUPPORT TEAM AT A NUMBERED AIR FORCE

Adapted from an article by 1st Lt. Dorothy Sherwood,
16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber)

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TEXAS — 16th Air Force has become the first Numbered Air Force to have a True North Religious Support Team. The True North RST consists of a Staff Chaplain, Capt. Greg Redden, and a Religious Affairs noncommissioned officer in charge, Tech. Sgt. Raef Gamble.



U.S. Air Force Capt Greg Redden (right), Staff Chaplain, and TSgt Raef Gamble (second to right), Religious Affairs NCOIC, with 16th Air Force, talk to the 16th Air Force's Commander Support Staff at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, Oct. 7, 2022. Redden and Gamble are the first True North Religious Support Team assigned to a Numbered Air Force.

“Task Force True North is an initiative where units can better benefit from having an embedded Religious Support Team,” said Redden. “We can engage early, recognize issues early and have a plan specifically for the 16th Air Force.”

This Air Force initiative started to improve resilience and the well-being of Airmen and their families. Since its creation only a couple of years ago, the True North program has expanded to more bases to change the culture in seeking help.

“We walk around with the same patch on, we belong to 16th Air Force,” said Redden. “We want to get to where when someone sees us, they know we are your chaplain and RA team with that constant, present support.”

Only mid to senior-level chaplains and RAs can become a True North RST since it is a one-deep assignment focused on delivering preventive and educational programs to the NAF with minimal administrative duties.

“We don't have additional duties in this role, so we can devote all our time to our Airmen,” said Gamble.

Gamble has been an RA for seven years and came from Thule Air Base in Greenland, where he managed religious programs for over 144 active duty military and 400 contractors. In total, Gamble has over 12 years in the Air Force with his first five years being with intel.

“I was a 1-N-O,” said Gamble. “I understand what the intel Airmen go through here with long hours in a SCIF (sensitive compartmented information facility) feeling cut off from the rest of the world. Once we get the building (2088) a little more presentable, our goal is to have a room for Airmen to come and get out of the SCIF.”

Redden is a seasoned chaplain coming from Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, with over six years in the Air Force Chaplain Corps, but a total of 18 years in the military. He enlisted into the Army as an Air and Missile Defense crewmember with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His mission was, “protecting the force and selected geopolitical assets from aerial attack, missile attack and surveillance.”

“I used to launch Stinger missiles off my shoulder,” said Redden.

He later cross-trained as a respiratory therapist and was stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

“It was while I was at Walter Reed when it was actually still in D.C., that I knew I wanted to be a chaplain,” said Redden.

A calling for him to protect the force again, this time providing the skills necessary to remain spiritually fit.

The True North RST is already becoming familiar faces after making initial visits at all the staff directorates, and two other units they support, the 616th Air Communications Squadron and 616th Operations Center.

“This is a very preparatory and reactive type mission,” said Gamble. “The preparatory is where we walk around, and when we walk into your room there is no expectations, we just want to get to know who you are.”

In addition, the True North RST has been providing 100% confidential counseling for any DoD ID cardholder and their dependents. No other agency can provide this 100% confidentiality, which includes the chaplain and RA, who are not allowed to share any part of a private conversation held during counseling sessions.

“We are building some kind of trust,” said Gamble. “We want their reaction to a crisis to feel comfortable enough to come, have a conversation with us; whether it is big or small, we want to be there for them.”

Redden and Gamble are holding these counseling sessions in building 2088, an original building on Security Hill. The building was never a chapel, yet the RST have a vision on how to improve the building and make it a place for Airmen to come eat lunch or just unwind.

“We have plans for burger burns out back,” said Redden. “Also, a classroom where we will tailor resiliency courses for whatever the units need.”

Redden is certified in Preventative Relationships Enhancement Programs that are being planned for future events like a quarterly off-base couples retreat and day workshops for single Airmen. Another future event would be Life-Over-Lunch with the RST supplying a free lunch and open to all ranks to discuss different life issues.

“We talk about topics that is everyone’s concerns, it could be about relationships for single or married,” said Redden. “We do life together and give a sense of connectiveness.”

Within the 616th OC, is another True North RST office location called, “The Escape.” The Escape is a room with a massage chair, lounge couch and the opportunity to receive counseling.

“It is a safe place inside the SCIF to get away and come talk to us,” said Redden.

If you need their services, you can reach the 16th Air Force True North RST at (210) 395-0051 for building one and (210) 977-5077 for building 2088.

“Come see us,” said Gamble. “It doesn’t have to be anything serious, if you just need to get out of the office and talk, we are here for you.”

“We are your Staff Chaplain and Religious Affairs NCOIC,” add Redden. “We are ready to care for our Airmen, Guardians and families more than anyone thinks possible.”

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

Adapted from an article by 55th Wing/PA

LINCOLN, Neb. — The 55th Wing and the Air Force Technical Applications Center said goodbye to an aging antique and welcomed its refreshed replacement during a ceremony at the Lincoln Airport Sept. 7, 2022.

WC-135C/W tail number tail number 2667 was retired from service while WC-135R tail number 4836 was officially welcomed to the fleet.

“Today we say goodbye to tail 2667 and to the end of an era, as it is the last small motor jet in the Offutt inventory,” said Col. Derek Rachel, 55th Operations Group commander, who served as the

Tail 4836 is the first of three WC-135R deliveries to the Fightin’ Fifty Fifth, while tail 2667 is the last of the old WC-135C/W fleet to be retired.

Operated and maintained by the wing’s 45th Reconnaissance



The Offutt Air Force Base Honor Guard performs at an aircraft retirement ceremony in Lincoln, Nebraska, Sept. 7, 2022. WC-135C/W tail number tail number 2667 was retired from service while WC-135R tail number 4836 was officially welcomed to the fleet. (U.S. Air Force photo by Charles Haymond)

Squadron in support of AFTAC's 21st Surveillance Squadron, Detachment 1, global mission, the WC fleet serves as the Air Force's atmospheric collection aircraft.

"This is both a joyous day for us and also a little bit sad, because it's an end of an era," said Col. James Finlayson, AFTAC commander.

Originally delivered to the Air Force in 1964 and most recently flown by the New Hampshire Air National Guard, tail 4836 was modified to a WC-135R in Greenville, Texas, by the 645th Aeronautical Systems Group, better known as Big Safari.

It arrives to Offutt with a brand-new cockpit and the same four high bypass turbofan engines as the rest of the wing's 135 fleet.

"What a beautiful aircraft," Rachel said. Previously, a C-135B, tail 2667 was redesignated as a WC-135B in March 1966. It was then redesignated as a TC-135B in 1993 before becoming a WC-135C/W in 1994. It has more than 8,750 landings and more than 36,500 flying hours.

A 45th RS aircrew will now fly the aircraft to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, for placement in permanent storage at the Aircraft Maintenance and Regeneration Center there.

As far as the next two WC-135R deliveries go, the second one is expected sometime this winter, with the third and final jet arriving in the summer of 2023.

"This unique mission has bright future as we enter a new era of global detection for our nation," Finlayson said.

FTVA CHAPTER NEWS

Forward your chapter inputs at any time (monthly, weekly or all at once) to Dennis Buxton, RIT Editor, at newsletter@ftva.us or dennis.buxton@me.com. Please include captions and names on all photos submitted. Submission can be in any form or format, and I will edit.



Heritage Chapter San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, President
All inputs submitted by Wayne Bascom, Secretary

HERITAGE CHAPTER ELECTS NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS



San Angelo, TX. The Heritage Chapter held their biennial elections in September. The new slate of officers in the photo from left to right are Rick Premo (Treasurer), JJ Graham (President), Wayne Bascom (Secretary), and Larry Miller (Vice-President)."

WEYANDT-EDDY MEMORIAL PLAZA BRONZE PLATE INSTALLATION BEGINS



Goodfellow AFB- San Angelo, TX. The first set of engraved bronze plates were cemented in place at the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza on Goodfellow AFB in October. Two craftsmen from Lankford Construction company installed all the plates we currently had on hand, about 300. They did an outstanding job meticulously inserting each paver into its proper orientation as well as ensuring they were perfectly level. When the Heritage Chapter pressed them about submitting an invoice, they responded that we didn't have to worry about it. They will continue to provide this service for every 150-200 bronze plates we have ready for installation. Now that's a high class move and the entire FTVA thanks Lankford Construction for their generosity and support.





VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER PROGRAM

Since 2015, the Heritage Chapter has worked with various Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program (CPP) organizations to honor Vietnam War veterans and their supportive families. This is accomplished through the public presentation of Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins or Surviving Spouse Lapel Pins, as well as a Certificate of Honor from a grateful nation. The Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) just announced their new Ambassadors Program which is a new distinct part of the CPP. These individuals are recognized leaders in both Governmental and nongovernmental organizations who embrace opportunities to promote the mission and messages of the VWC and inspire others to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families. Pictured in the corresponding image are recently honored Vietnam War Commemoration Ambassadors, United States Air Force CSAF General C.Q. Brown, Jr., and CMSAF JoAnne Bass. Chief Bass was previously the Goodfellow AFB 17th Training Wing Command Chief and assisted in Heritage Chapter activities with local CPP organizations. Congratulations to Chief Bass!

HERITAGE CHAPTER OCTOBER SOCIAL

The Heritage Chapter held a social in October, the first time we have had an opportunity for members and families to meet face to face in a while. As usual the venue, Los Panchitos at the Paseo, provided us the necessary privacy and outstanding service to enjoy a good meal and conversation. We were honored with the attendance of Ray Leftwich, and his sister Paula (Leftwich) Pool. Ray Leftwich and his recently deceased wife Kitty managed the Leftwich Charity Fund which provides scholarships to local JROTC candidates. Ray Leftwich's father, Raymond Leftwich, was a morse operator who was killed when his EC-47 aircraft, callsign TIDE 86, was shot down over South Vietnam. Goodfellow AFB has a dormitory named after him, Leftwich Hall. Not pictured in the images are Larry Miller and Wayne Bascom.



Left, Scott and Barbra Dickson with their son. Below, Ray Leftwich (Left), (Right front to back) Tom Nurre, Paula Pool, Carl Frenz and Granddaughter, Marietta Garza, David Garza, Rick Premo.



LOCAL VETERAN RECOGNITION PROGRAM'S VETERANS' DAY ACTIVITIES

The Heritage Chapter continues to recognize local veterans both through partnerships with other veteran organizations or through sole sponsorship. One of the biggest successes in the past year has



been the introduction of "In Memory Of" yard signs throughout the community. Spearheaded by Tom Nurre, these yard signs have been well received all year long by servicemen families as an outstanding tribute to the service of their loved ones. This Veterans Day eleven "In Honor Of" and "In Memory Of" yard signs were delivered in tribute to living veterans of the Wars in Haiti and Iraq and the families of deceased veterans of World War II, Vietnam, and Desert Storm.

The accompanying images depicts Vietnam veteran "In Memory Of" signs being presented to surviving spouse Elia Juarez honoring her husband LCPL Abel Juarez and his older brother PFC Oscar Juarez who was killed in action on June 28, 1968.

In addition to these events on Veterans Day, yard signs were also presented on November 23rd for the internment service of USAFSS veteran Steve Ryan and on December 7th for the three San Angelo sailors who were on the USS Arizona in 1941 (see below, Pearl Harbor Anniversary).



 **IN MEMORY OF**

STEPHEN GREGORY RYAN
TSGT USAF 1973-1993
COMM ANALYST - DC3CM TECH
DESERT SHIELD/STORM
RIP 1951-2021



AF MERITORIOUS SERVICE - AF COMMENDATION
AF ACHIEVEMENT - AF OUTSTANDING UNIT - COMBAT READINESS



PEARL HARBOR ANNIVERSARY REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Note from Wayne Bascom, Heritage Chapter Secretary. This is an amazing story, and I'll provide a quick generalization. Larry Miller discovered that a local San Angelo sailor was on the Arizona when it was sunk. I then used my resources to review old newspapers and found that there were three on the Arizona, two who perished. Once we collected the information the Navy here took it over with us as logistical support. We produced the programs, worked with base protocol and public affairs, and with the city, while Tom Nurre did his magic with the yard signs. It was a magical event that will now be an annual tradition here in San Angelo. Story and pictures follow:

Several months ago, the Heritage Chapter discovered that three young men from San Angelo were present during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941. The story of the sacrifices of these three heroes was, for all intent and purposes, completely lost to history and to everyone in San Angelo.

Two of these sailors – Seaman First Class Walton A. Erwin and Boatswains Mate James A. Martin – perished in the attack and remain forever entombed in the wreckage of the USS Arizona. Gunners Mate Ernest Shawn survived the explosion, dove overboard, rescued a number of shipmates, and then swam to Ford Island. He then went on to participate in the Battle of Midway and saw action in the Solomon Islands. GM1 Shawn survived the war, died many years later, and is buried in Belvedere Cemetery here in San Angelo. SIC Erwin’s mother and father, Bertha, and George Erwin, are both buried at the Fairmount Cemetery in San Angelo.



Tom Nurre Standing alongside the "In Memory of" signs for the three local USS Arizona sailors.

After discovering all of this and establishing our initial plan to conduct a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony to be held at Fairmount Cemetery, the Heritage Chapter approached the US Navy Detachment at Goodfellow AFB to partner with them for this ceremony.

December 7th, 2022 coincided with the 81st anniversary of the attack, and obviously offered a wonderful opportunity to pay tribute to all of the more than 2,400 American sailors, soldiers, airmen, and marines who sacrificed their lives in that

attack, including these three local San Angelo heroes.

This event involved a massive amount of coordination with both local city agencies and those at Goodfellow AFB. It culminated in what can only be described as an absolutely phenomenal ceremony with more than 350 attendees including all 150 personnel assigned to the US Navy and Coast Guard detachments at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

Distinguished guests participating in the ceremony included Tom Green County Judge Steve Floyd; 17th Training Wing Commander, Colonel Matthew Reilman; all of the Air Force, Marines, and Army service commanders from the base; and San Angelo city council members Harry Thomas and our own Larry Miller, vice president of the Heritage Chapter.



Marker and Wreath provided by the Heritage Chapter at the resting place of Seaman Erwin's parents. A piece of the actual USS Arizona is on the left.

Other attendees included representatives from the San Angelo and Tom Green County Veterans Affairs service officers, the president of the Tom Green County All-Veterans Council, representatives from all the various veteran groups in Tom Green County and the city, and a host of other veterans and spectators.

Covered extensively by base and local media, the ceremony included all of the “pomp and circumstance” one would anticipate the Navy to muster – a boatswain mate piping and bell ringing announcing our distinguished attendees, as well as spirited singing of both the “National Anthem” and the “Navy Hymn” by the Navy quartet.



Tradition of placing a penny on the site to reflect visitation to the grave,

Councilman Harry Thomas delivered the San Angelo city’s proclamation declaring this day as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day” in San Angelo. Master Chief Mike McEiligot presented a perspective on the attack, and LCDR Mark Wess, Navy detachment commander, gave eulogies of the three San Angeloans.

The absolute highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of a memorial marker, provided by the Heritage Chapter honoring Walton Erwin that was placed directly in front of his parent’s grave. Alongside the marker was a shadow box containing a bent and twisted piece of wreckage from the USS Arizona temporarily placed there courtesy of the Navy Detachment. The Heritage Chapter also had

"In Memory of" signs on display providing photos of all three, detailing their lives and the various decorations they earned during their time in the Navy. The ceremony ended with the Navy quartet singing "Amazing Grace," and all attendees walking to the memorial marker to place pennies there as a symbolic tribute to the lives, sacrifice and service of these three World War II sailors.

**Message from U.S. Congressman August Pfluger
U.S. Representative, Texas 11th Congressional District**

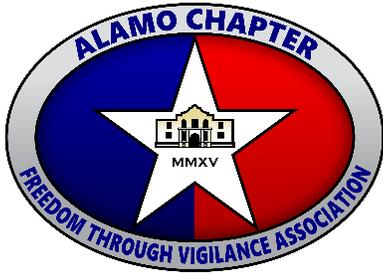
Honoring Pearl Harbor

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day fell on Wednesday, December 7th.

On that infamous day 81 years ago in 1941, 2,403 service members and civilians were killed during the attack on American soil. In the wake of this tragedy, many more brave men and women of the Greatest Generation took up the gauntlet and answered the call to defend freedom and democracy across the world.

San Angelo held a special wreath laying and plaque unveiling ceremony for the sons of San Angelo who served in Pearl Harbor that morning: Seaman First Class Walton A. Erwin, Boatswain's Mate James A. Martin, and Gunner's Mate Ernest M. Shawn. Both Erwin and Martin gave their lives in the battle.

In addition to the ceremony, a memorial was also placed for Erwin alongside his parents' resting place. As we remember and honor these men, may we take a moment to reflect on the ensuing battles for freedom - where light and justice prevailed. Thank you to all of our veterans and service members who put their lives on the line to protect us from harm. May God bless them and our great country.



Alamo Chapter San Antonio, TX

Ken Williams, President
Dennis "Rass" Rasmussen, Vice President
Ken Maynard, Secretary/Treasurer



The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA held their monthly meeting at the Alamo Café, IH-10, on 17 November 2022. Members and spouses enjoyed fellowship and dinner. Attendees present:

- Ken and Shiela Williams
- Bob and Donna Crabtree
- Ken and Judy Maynard
- A.J. Harrison
- Dan Martin
- Dennis Rasmussen
- Vince and Elise Colacicco
- Ron and Kay Weaver

President Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 1830 and the following business was discussed:

Wreaths Across America Support. A motion was made and unanimously passed to donate \$150.00 for 10 Christmas wreaths from Wreaths Across America to be placed on graves at Fort Sam Houston National Ceremony during the holiday season.

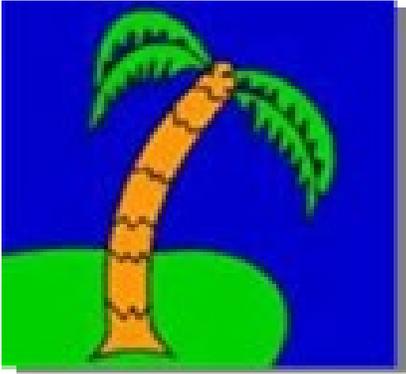
December Chapter Meeting. There will be no meeting held in December since many members will be attending other events and due to the number of holiday parties and other get togethers planned during the month. The next get together is currently set for 19 January 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was officially adjourned at 1845 to enjoy the victuals and companionship present.

December input from Chapter Present Ken Williams: Hi, everyone - I hope December finds you fine and well and planning for the upcoming holidays. As a reminder, due to so many being out of town or with other plans, we voted last month to not meet in December. So, our next get together will be at the Alamo Cafe on Thursday, 19 January 2023 at 5 pm. I'll send out a reminder about the January meeting next month. Happy holidays, and Merry Christmas to you all.

Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John "Tilly" Toillion, President



Aloha All – Our most recent get together was November 11 (*Veteran’s Day*) at our favorite “watering hole” Ruby Tuesdays in Mililani. On that day we paid tribute to all Vets for their service to God and Country. Of course, we had our usual servings of many memories from our times on Active Duty which of course resulted in lots of laughs. I would like to know just how many times “Do you remember when?” or “I remember when.....” were said.

Thanks to Dickie who always brings a sign to say “Aloha” to one of our fellow airmen. Bob Cope was his selection this time. Will keep you posted on who the lucky Airman will be highlighted at our next meeting. Until then, always remember that the welcome mat is opened to any of you are traveling this direction.

Until next time – “Aloooooooooooooo HA!!!



The Hawaii 5, OH! (back row clockwise left to right) Ken Een, Dickie Hites, John “Tilly” Toillion
Brendan Collins, Fred Collins

Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter

Bob Bastian, Acting President, Treasurer

Submitted by Bob Bastian

ATTENTION MEMBERS OF THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION CHAPTER

FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION

With COVID on the wane, it is imperative the Chapter arrange for elections for new leadership. Currently, we have an Acting President and Treasurer (Bob Bastian). All positions (President, Vice President, Communications Director (Secretary+), and Treasurer need to be filled. If you would like to volunteer, or nominate someone, for any of the four positions, please contact Bob Bastian (bobbast@comcast.net). Nominations will be vetted with the individual, with Elections in February or March 2023. Terms of Office are two years.

JOINT TEAM ASSESSES “SATCOM HILL” AIRCRAFT MEMORIALS

Fort George G. Meade, MD - On 8 December 2022, a joint team, including Bob Bastian, acting MARC president, visited “SATCOM Hill” on Fort Meade, Maryland, to put eyes on what remains of the former Air Force and Navy National Vigilance Park memorial aircraft. The visit allowed these representatives to determine the conditions of the Navy’s EA-3B and remaining components of the Air Force C-130 memorial aircraft and discuss options for the future restoration of memorials dedicated to the aircrews killed in the line of duty.

The inspection team consisted of:

Mr. Bob Bastian (CMSgt, USAF, Ret; Acting President, FTVA MARC)

Mr. Al Gray (CMSgt, USAF, Ret; 1st Director, NSA Senior Enlisted Advisor)

Mr. Mike Meermans (CMSgt, USAF, Ret; President, Big Safari Association)

Mr. Todd Wilkinson, (Lt Col, USAF, Ret) and **Curtis Johnson**, both from AFCO/BM.

Mr. John Anayannis (Cmdr, USN, Ret; President, Navy EA-3B Skywarrior Association)

Mr. Larry Castro (National Cryptologic Foundation)

For those of you that have never been to Fort Meade or visited National Vigilance Park or had the opportunity to read “The Price of Vigilance” by Larry Tart and Robert Keefe, the Park memorialized Air Force, Army, and Navy aerial reconnaissance programs’ crews lost during the cold war. An Air Force C-130A painted and configured in memory of aircraft 60528 (see below), the Air Force reconnaissance aircraft shot down over Soviet Armenia in 1958, was installed in National Vigilance Park with a dedication ceremony on September 2, 1997, the anniversary of the shootdown.



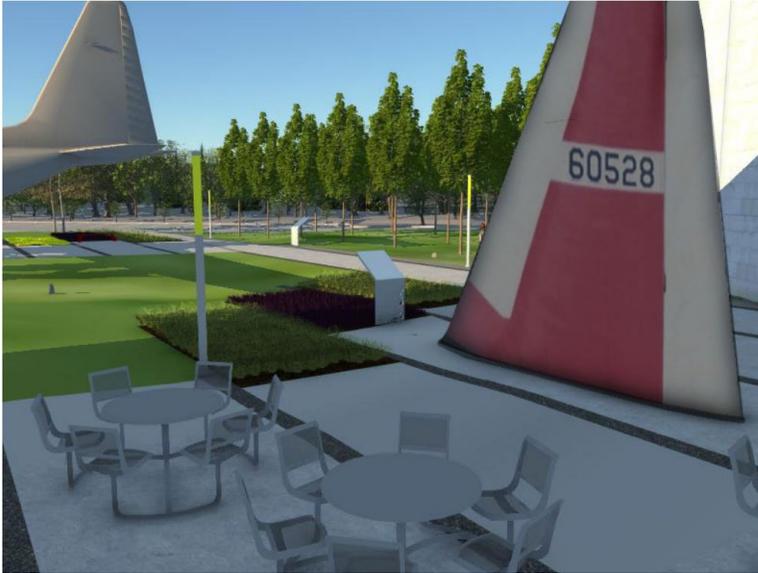
C-130A #60528 Memorial Aircraft with Memorial Plaque and names of crewmembers.

This aircraft remained in National Vigilance Park for nearly 20 years, until the need arose in 2017 to move the three aircraft to make way for a new road and vehicle security checkpoint leading into the NSA campus at Fort Meade. To move the C-130A, it first had to be dismantled. As the team assigned this task separated the wings, the aircraft tilted onto its side due to a large amount of water later discovered to be in the wings. Between the damage caused to the other wing and fuselage, and the significant amount of internal damage throughout the aircraft caused by years of water seepage, rust, and other factors, the aircraft was declared a total

loss. The only elements saved were the rudder and tail. For the last five years the tail assembly has been stored outside on NSA’s “SATCOM Hill”.

As part of the plan for eventual restoration of National Vigilance Park, the National Cryptologic Foundation had contracted for designs of a new Cyber Center for Education and Innovation (CCEI) with the current National Cryptologic Museum with the memorial park included in the design. The intent at that time was to incorporate both a replacement aircraft and the tail assembly from the original memorial aircraft into the new memorial (see below). Recently, the National Cryptologic Foundation’s efforts were determined to fall under Military Construction rules, and NSA assumed responsibility for planning and funding the construction of what will be called the Education and Innovation Center (EIC). More information on the future EIC and plans for the memorial park will likely be available in the spring of 2023 following a design “charrette” in March.

A replacement aircraft was identified and flown into Tipton Airport just outside Fort Meade in 2018. Unfortunately, it was discovered upon landing to be an EC-130 (Compass Call) configuration. It was eventually determined that the EC-130 could not be converted to a C-130A model, and efforts to return the aircraft to the Air Force or dispose of it via other means were begun (and are still ongoing). At the same time, efforts to identify a replacement C-130A model also began. As efforts to identify a replacement C-130A continued, the high cost to obtain, relocate, and refurbish a replacement aircraft became daunting. That left a small group of



Artist's Rendering of a Potential Future Memorial to Aircraft 60528 Outside the Future CCEI.

dedicated former aircrew with the idea of reimagining the memorial using only the tail assembly. Hence the visit to SATCOM Hill on 8 December.

As we examined the damaged tail assembly, an Agency photographer took pictures of the tail and the Navy aircraft. It didn't take long for each of us to come to basically the same conclusion. This tail assembly was missing some key components and would require too much restoration work to serve as a viable memorial. However, two other options were identified. 1) A former AC-130 parked at the Museum of the Air Force has been offered as a replacement; and 2) The tail assembly of the EC-130 flown into

Tipton in 2018 as a replacement aircraft for the original #60528 memorial aircraft.

There is still a lot of planning, coordinating, perhaps some fundraising, and other actions before any memorial to the crew of #60528 becomes a reality. As mentioned earlier, a key event will be the design charrette in March 2023. At that point we may learn what will be authorized for memorials to the Services' downed aircrews. So, stay tuned to this space for future updates!



Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

[Rocky Mountain Chapter Website](#)

Submitted by George "Ike" Eichelberger

On 9 Dec, six members of the FTVA Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) took part in a recognition ceremony for 35 Vietnam Era Veterans at the Spanish Peaks Veteran's Community in Walsenburg, Colorado. As a Commemorative Partner, of the Vietnam Commemoration Committee, the RMC has committed to hosting at least two events annually; however, this was the first recognition that we have hosted since the COVID pandemic.



In addition to recognizing the 35 Vietnam Era Veterans, we were also able to recognize five Surviving Spouses who were also in attendance. The photos included capture the event.





Taking part in the recognition activities were Chapter President-Greg Roman, Vice President-Dennis Daniels, Secretary-Mike Click, Treasurer-Ike Eichelberger along with Ricki and Gretchen King. Finally, thanks to CMSgt (ret) Tom Nurre and the EC-47 folks in San Angelo for getting us started as a Vietnam War Commemorative Partner.



Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT

**Jacob Scheid, President
Shawn Heckman, Vice President
Scott Lawson, Treasurer**

Check back in March 2023



Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA

John Aurelius, President
jaurelius@mikodi.com



Check back in March 2023



**REUNIONS &
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FTVA Annual Reunion
19-21 October 2023
San Antonio, Texas**

Thursday, 19 October 2023

Golf Tournament at the Golf Club of Texas

Friday, 20 October 2023

General Membership Meeting

Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony

Remembrance Ceremony

FTVA Picnic

Saturday, 21 October 2023

FTVA Banquet

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

**P.O. BOX 691616
San Antonio, TX 78269**



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

Alsup, Wilburn G., A1C, USAFSS
Banes, Dante Rashad, SSgt, USAF
Barga, Paul, USAFSS
Beyke, John Carroll, USAFSS
Bobinger, David L., Sgt, USAFSS
Bradley, William C. Jr., USAFSS
Busbee, Jerry W., USAF
Calabrese, Gary M., A1C, USAFSS
Campbell, John R., Col (ret), USAFSS
Carson, Tracy Lynn, USAF
Cobb, John S., USAFSS ***FTVA Lifetime Member
Cobb, Joseph L., USAFSS ***FTVA Lifetime Member
Colon, Daniel, TSgt (ret), USAF
Conway, Richard A., A1C, USAFSS
DeCamp, William C., MSgt (ret), USAFSS ***FTVA Lifetime Member
Dely, James “Evan,” USAF
Deshaies, Leo Paul Rene, Lt Col (ret), USAFSS
Dinerstein, Nelson T., USAFSS
Dishner, Jack A., USAF
Fulkerson, David E., Col (ret), USAFSS
Ganson, Philip J., A1C, USAFSS
Gomez, Arthur R., USAFSS
Hassett, John P., USAFSS
Hearn, B. Kyle, USAFSS
Hill, James W., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
Holley, Robert S., USAFSS
Hood, George R. Jr., USAFSS

Jerrell, Carl E. "Sonny," TSgt (ret), USAFSS
Jones, David Lawrence, USAFSS
Jones, Ralph Dorsey, MSgt (ret), USAFSS
Jones, Robert Alan, MSgt (ret), USAF
Krahn, Allen A., SSgt, USAF
Krein, Donald "Don," USAFSS
Kreuzer, Richard L., Lt Col (ret), USAFSS
Lebrecht, Clarence R., Sgt, USAFSS
Lee, Robert Evan, USAFSS
Lackey, John T., USAFSS
Luna, Noe, USAFSS
Macecevic, William Anthony Jr., Maj (ret), USAFSS
Marks, Richard Lynn, SMSgt (ret), USAF
Mehaffey, Robert A., "Bob," CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
Mier, Salvador A., USAFSS
Nisley, Kermit J., Lt Col (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**
Norman, Darrell R., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
O'Brien, Thomas G., USAFSS
O'Neal B., Jaymes B., USAFSS
Perrin, William F., USAFSS
Rawheiser, Ralph L., USAFSS
Roberts, Kenneth Eugene, USAFSS
Rosenberg, Neil J., USAFSS
Russell, Danny E. "Cazzie," Sgt, USAFSS *****FTVA Lifetime Member**
Scaramucci, Francis J., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
Scarborough, James A., USAFSS
Seitz, Richard E., USAFSS
Skoskie, Joseph C., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
Stiewig, Lloyd P., USAFSS
Tesch, Byron D., USAFSS
Dr. Tunnell, Kenneth D., USAFSS
Vollmer, Francis "Frank" Xavier, TSgt, USAFSS



Alsup, Wilburn "Buck" Gene, A1C, 82, passed away July 16, 2022. He enlisted in the USAF in 1958 and served as a Morse Intercept Operator in the U.S.A.F. Security Service. His assignments included Pakistan. Buck is survived by his loving wife, Donna Sue Alsup; his children: Renee Hall; Kimberly Jones and husband Paul, Tiffany Broome and husband Mark, and Tammy Miller and husband Todd. //Obit - **John M. Ireland & Son Funeral Home and Chapel**//



Banes, Dante Rashad, SSgt, 25, passed away September 10, 2022. Dante served in the Air Force from September 20, 2016 to September 10, 2022. Dante realized he wanted to follow in his mom and dad's footsteps and joined the United States Air Force to serve with PRIDE. He lived the Air Force Core Values and was the epitome of Excellence in All We Do before he signed the dotted line. Dante was the Airman every supervisor dreamed of. He excelled at everything he did; at the same time keeping everyone laughing and on their toes being his genuine self. He is survived by his father MSgt (Ret) Rodney Banes; mother CMSgt (Ret) Wahkeitha Banes; spouse Sabrina Banes; brother Sekai Banes; sister Rylan Banes; grandmother Deloris Garner; grandfather CW4 (Ret) Claude Garner; grandmother, Judith Banes-Austin; and grandfather, MSgt (Ret) Reginald Banes. //Obit - **Schertz Funeral Home Chapel**//

Dante was Stationed at Skivvy Nine in Osan //CMSgt (ret) Ted Colquhoun//



Barga, Paul, 77, passed away March 29, 2022. Paul joined the Air Force where he was taught morse code and employed as a Radio Intercept Operator. A generous and thoughtful soul, he returned from his time abroad in Greece and Japan with gifts for everyone, a bevy of travel tags on his B-4 bag, and endless tales of his exploits. Serving just over 4 years in the Air Force, Paul was honorably discharged in 1969. //Obit - **Idaho Statesman**//



Beyke, John Carroll, 74, passed away April 27, 2022. He proudly served in the US Air Force during Vietnam. He is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Kathie Williams Beyke; six children: Angela Mills (Bill), Jon Beyke (Tonya), Michelle Weikel (Rick), Stephanie Bernauer (Keith), Kim Desmond (Travis), and Brian Beyke (Kristen); and a host of family and friends especially the USAF Veteran brotherhood of Vietnamese linguists. **//Obit – Owen Funeral Home//**

*John and I were in the US Air Force Security Service for four years of active duty and two years of reserves. We shared all training as North Vietnamese linguists for 48 weeks at the Fort Bliss Army Language School in El Paso, TX in 1969, which was followed by six of the 72 men in our language class being selected by NSA in Washington to study enemy code breaking. Next came airborne intercept training at Goodfellow Air Base, TX, followed by International Survival School in Spokane, WA, then Jungle Survival training at Clark Air Base, Philippines. John and I spent 7 months in Danang, Vietnam on a ground intelligence assignment and completed the year in Udorn, Thailand on the Laotian border. After 30 days of leave in the USA, John and I were assigned to airborne intelligence assignments flying out of Okinawa's Kadena Air Base on RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft that were airborne for 19 to 24 hours over the Gulf of Tonkin, Vietnam or over Laos. I believe John also flew approximately 29 or 30 missions during our second year in the Vietnam War. I served with John on all the same duty assignments for four years which earned us the title of "Brothers". We have lost one of the finest men I could have served with, and Heaven has gained a man of great integrity, faith in God, love for his family, friends, and country. John's loyalty and leadership skills were impressive to all. He assured me in our last conversation that he was, "At peace with the Lord and prepared for his next adventure..." May John's family be as comforted and at peace with the Lord as John **//Bruce Birkeland, Laguna Hills, CA//***



Bobinger, David LaRue, Sgt, 75, passed away July 20, 2022. David enlisted in the USAF, serving proudly in Vietnam, where he was a Morse Code Intercept Operator and flew 135 combat missions, during which time he was shot down twice. He was most proud of his military service and kept in contact with his service buddies through the years. He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Carolyn; and son, Jason David Bobinger (Alison). **//Obit – Riemann Family Funeral Homes//**

David was one of the most memorable people in my life. We shared a cubicle space in Vietnam as I too was an X5BX trained killer (as David would say his whole body was a weapon). After exiting the Air Force, I lost track of David for 30 years but the moment he called my number in 2000 and started his foolishness, I knew exactly that it was Brillo! He asked everyone he met if they knew how to get to Wiggins and I'm sure he passed through there on the way to heaven!
//Larry Eavey//

I have known David for the majority of my life, and I am 75. He was a very good life-long friend and brother- in- arms as we were both Vietnam veterans. We exchanged war stories about the war but there were no blood and guts stories, only humorous ones because David was all about making you happy. If you knew David during his young years you would notice a guy with tightly curled red hair. He told me that his buddies in Vietnam gave him the radio call sign "Brillo Red One" due to his hair. We always started our phone conversations using our respective call signs, my call sign was "Broken Breach Six-Niner" (artillery). David was an original Handsboro Boy and will be forever missed by those that knew and loved him and I am proud to be able to call myself his friend. RIP my brother. //Ronald (Ronnie/Nick) Nicholson//



Bradley, William C. Jr., 81, passed July 26, 2022. Bill was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, serving from 1958 to 1962 as a Radio Intercept Operator with the U.S. Air Force Security Service in Texas, Mississippi, and Nebraska. He was a member of the 6987th Radio Squadron Mobile and the 3rd Weather Wing. Survivors include a son, John William Bradley (Debbie Davis); and stepdaughter Susan L. Beers. //Obit – Waid Funeral Home//



Busbee, Jerry W., 53, passed away March 20, 2022. Jerry enlisted in the USAF as a Russian Linguist during the Cold War. He became so fluent he joined an elite group of interpreters assigned to a diplomatic corps associated with the START II nuclear disarmament treaty. Jerry later used his fluency to assist US travelers and businesses attain visas and work permits from the Russian embassy and consulates throughout the U.S. He is survived by his life partner Oh-Sung. //Obit - Harper Funeral Home//



Calabrese, Gary M., A1C, 84, passed away August 4, 2022. Gary proudly served in the USAF from 1956 to 1960. He spent his first two years in Washington, DC. and was stationed in Germany from 1958 to 1960 serving in the Engineering Department for the U.S. Air Force Security Service. His wife Myrna joined him in Germany and their first child Gary J. Calabrese was later born there. //Obit - John R. Orlando Funeral Home//



Campbell, John Raymond, Col (ret), 98, passed away October 7, 2022. Colonel Campbell was a World War II Veteran. His beloved wife of 69 years, Grace Miller Campbell, predeceased him in 2015 at age 90. To help his family survive during the Great Depression, John left school at age 13 for a year to work with his father in a coal mine. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 and serve his country in the Second World War. Following training as a navigator on a B-24 bomber, John went to the European Theater in September 1944. Based in Lecce, Italy, he served on 33 combat missions with the 98th Bomb Group of the 15th Air Force. Just

20 years old, he was selected to serve as lead navigator for the formation on several of these missions, including Vienna which was protected by 2,200 flak guns. For the first few years after the war, John was a member of Air Transport Command transport crews, flying routes to Asia and Europe. From 1948-49 he participated in the Berlin Airlift, which delivered coal and food to Berlin after the Soviets cut off access. In 1950, John was on the crew that delivered the records of the Nazi War Crime Trials from Nuremberg to the World Court in the Hague. In December of that year, during the Korean War, he flew into combat conditions once again, participating in the evacuation of the beachhead at Hungnam. John's Air Force career continued with key roles during the Cold War. In 1952 he joined the 303rd Bomb Group of Strategic Air Command (SAC) as Observer, where he was responsible for being able to arm a nuclear warhead. The 3-man B-47 Stratojet crew he served on was awarded best bomber crew in SAC in 1953. With the development of cruise missiles John served on an Atlas Missile Crew. During the 1963 Cuban Missile Crisis, he was manning a silo under a cornfield in the Midwest, awaiting orders that thankfully never came. John served as the base commander at Karamursel Air Base, Turkey from 1969-70, and later he served as the Commander of Hof Air Station, a U.S. Air Force Security Service facility on what was then the border of West Germany, East Germany, and Czechoslovakia. Next, he was stationed at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio as the head of the Air Force Cryptologic Depot. For final posting in Germany, John served as deputy commander of Security Services in Europe at Ramstein AFB, where he was responsible for

overseeing a group of American bases stretching from England to Turkey. John retired from the Air Force in 1975. John's military decorations include the Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit. He is survived by his three daughters: Mary Kathryn Mazzola (David), Risa Campbell (Bill), and Severin Campbell (Jonathan). //Obit – East Lawn Palms Mortuary//



Carson, Tracy Lynn, 53, passed away July 18, 2022. Tracy lived a life full of adventure. She started her adventures by serving in the United States Air Force as a linguist, being stationed in California, Maryland, and South Korea. She had a passion for learning, helping her to obtain degrees in Communications and in Radiation Therapy. She also obtained her pilot's license at a young age. She is survived by her three children: Emily Carson, Jonas Carson, and Trace Alex (Roger). //Obit - Published by Anderson-McQueen Tyrone Chapel//



Cobb, John Sanborn, 90, passed away July 3, 2022. John joined the military following a long line of ancestral service men. He was a direct descendent of General Jacob Bayley, a pivotal player in the American Revolutionary War. He, like his three brothers, all joined the armed services, as did two of his grandchildren. He enlisted and served in the National Guard (1951-1952); enlisted and served in the Army (1953-1955); and enlisted and served in the Air Force (1955-1973). His Air Force assignments began at Mitchel AFB (West Hempstead LI, NY; 1955-1959). He moved his young family to U.S. Security Service Command (Bremerhaven, Germany; 1959-1962). He was stationed next at Griffiss

AFB (Rome NY; 1962-1966). He also served in Danang, Vietnam (1966-1967). He then moved to his next assignment at Iraklion AFB (Crete, Greece; 1968-1969): one of his favorite assignments – settled sweetly on the Mediterranean Sea. Upon their return to the States, he served at the Office of the Joint Chief of Staff (Washington DC, 1969-1972) while his family returned to their home in New Hampshire. He was then stationed at Hanscom AFB (Bedford, Massachusetts; 1972-1973) where he retired from the USAF. He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 65 years, Shirley P Cobb. He leaves behind his daughters Cynthia M. C. Crow and Christina C Hebert. //Obit - Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville//



Cobb, Joseph Lenzie, 98, passed away September 8, 2022. A World War II veteran, "Joe" moved his family to San Antonio in 1965 to begin his long and distinguished civilian career with the U.S. Air Force Security Service, a military agency that played an important, classified role in national defense during the Cold War years. Working from the Air Force Cryptologic Depot at Kelly Air Force Base, Joe travelled extensively around the globe for the installation and support of electronic arrays that monitored voice and electronic signals from countries of interest. He took great pride in his work, keeping a small plaque on his desk that read, "If you work for a man, by God work for him." After his retirement in 1990

as Chief of the Engineering Branch, 6968th Alteration Installation Squadron in what was then known as the Electronic Security Command, Joe was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his career-long "outstanding dedication and exemplary performance of duty." Joe volunteered for military service during World War II. The U.S. Navy introduced him to electronics – his ultimate career – sending him through radio school in San Diego in 1943. He served as a radioman, serviced Navy airplanes on the island of Saipan, and was honorably discharged in December 1945. He met a lovely woman, Claire Bell Monk. They married in 1949 and shared 70 years together before Claire Cobb died on Dec. 7, 2019, at the age of 95. Claire and Joe lived in Alabama, Texas, and Hawaii over the course of their long lives and marriage but called San Antonio home. Joe is survived by children Margaret Monk Broxton; Kim Cobb Lofley and her husband, Lin Lofley; and Brian Cobb and his fiancé, Muffy Weyman. **//Obit – Mission Parks Funeral//**



Colon, Daniel, TSgt (ret), 60, passed away August 30, 2021. He is buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX. His headstone indicates service during Persian Gulf.

Danny was a Spanish Linguist and one of my first supervisors when I arrived in Panama in 1985. Even after change in raters, he continued to mentor me during our graveyard transcription shifts and hanging out in Panama together. //CMSgt (ret) Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



Conway, Richard A., A1C, 89, passed away August 6, 2022. Born in Bay, N.Y. on February 11, 1933, he graduated in 1950 from Clayton Central High School in Clayton, N.Y. and went on to serve in the USAFSS as an Airman 1st Class during the Korean War from 1950 1954. He served in Okinawa, Japan and was stationed in Myrtle Beach, S.C. as a radio intercept operator. He is survived by his wife, Judith Masterson Conway; a daughter, Kathleen Dyer (David); a son, Richard R. "Randy" Conway; as well as his stepchildren, Gwen Terry, Gay McKinney (James McGloine) and Scott Terry. //Obit – **Brendese Funeral Home**//



DeCamp, William Chatman, MSgt (ret), 81, passed away October 19, 2022. Bill served our country through a career in the United States Air Force Security Service with a Top Secret Clearance as a Personnel Specialist, Morse Code Intercept Specialist, and Manpower Technician for over 20 years retiring as a Master Sergeant at Randolph Air Force Base in 1979. During his service Bill served overseas in Germany, Korea, and Vietnam. Bill graduated from the Air Force Non- Commissioned Officer Academy, Air Force Survival Course, and the Jungle Survival Course. Bill’s awards include the Meritorious Service Medal. Air Medal with Oak

Leaf Cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with Silver Oak Leaf, National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Aircrew Member Badge. Bill was further honored by the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency with their Pioneer Award. Upon retirement from the Air Force, Bill continued to help his fellow veterans by serving 16 years at the Retiree office at Randolph and volunteering with the AARP preparing taxes. Bill is survived by his wife, Debbie DeCamp, son, Ken DeCamp, and daughters, Penny Brewer, Kim Toornburg and Pam Zaitz, along with their spouses, Shea Chester, Tony Brewer, Scott Toornburg and Brian Zaitz. Bill is also survived by his stepson Chad Davis, and his wife Sandra. //Obit - **Schertz Funeral Home and Crematory**//



Dely, James "Evan," 31, passed away June 17, 2022. Evan decided to pursue a career in the United States Air Force. He served honorably from 2009 to 2018. His incredible intelligence was utilized as an Air Force Linguist. He and his family are very proud of his service. Evan is survived by his parents, Christine Dely-Stinson and Jon Stinson, his sister, Maggie Dely, stepbrother, Tyler Stinson (Megan), and stepsister, Kelsie Campes (Edgar). //Obit - Meeks Mortuary//



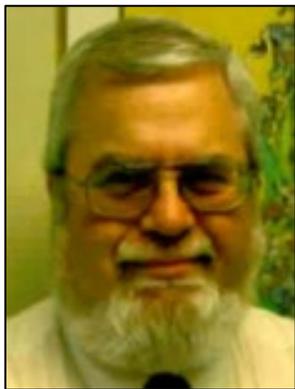
Deshaies, Leo Paul Rene, Lt Col (ret), 82, passed away August 15, 2022. He served 32 years and 4 months in the USAF. He joined in 1957. His career took him to England, Vietnam, Germany, Spain, Greece, Morocco, and Italy. While serving in Danang, South Vietnam from 1966 to 1967 and being fluent in French, he volunteered at a Vietnamese orphanage. The highlight of his subsequent posting to Darmstadt, Germany came when he met Erica Ulrike List at a Christmas party. His assignments then took them to southern Spain, Athens, Greece, and the US Embassy in Rabat, Morocco. In 1982 while at NATO Allied Joint Forces Command in Naples, Italy, he decided to return to the United States. Lucky Paul and Erica! He was assigned to Charlotte, as commander of the Military Entrance Processing Station. Paul is survived by his wife of 52 years, Erica; two sons Jean-Paul Rene Deshaies and Marc Francois Deshaies and his wife, Lauren. A gift in Paul's memory can be made to Christ Episcopal Church or to the 6924th Heritage Association Scholarship Fund, 1315 Belclaire, San Antonio, TX 78258. Paul served with the 6924th Security Service Squadron in Vietnam and attended its annual reunion of surviving members. //Obit - Robertson Funeral and Cremation Service//



Dinerstein, Nelson T., 83, passed away August 12, 2022. Nelson spent 6 years in the Air Force as a linguist, speaking Russian. In that capacity, Nelson spent time in Texas, Japan, and Turkey. He is survived by his wife Kendra, and their 6 children: Kristin (Mark) Holt, Joshua (Shelly), Karyn Baxter, Jonathan (Bethanne), Jared (Meg) and Sabra. //Obit - Larkin Mortuary//



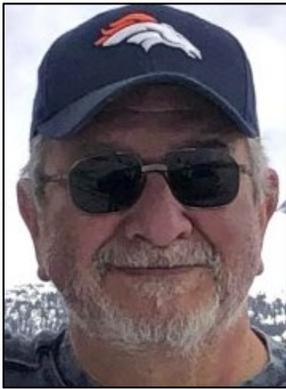
Dishner, Jack Alvin Jr., 60, passed away November 19, 2022. Jack served in the USAF and graduated from the Defense Language Institute where he was trained as a Russian Linguist serving under President Ronald Reagan. He served from 1980-1982 and was active-duty Air Force. To Missy, his wife, he was the most faithful and loving husband of 34 years. To Victoria, his daughter, he loved and treasured her more than anything in this world. //Obit - Stevens Mortuary//



Fulkerson, David E., Col (ret), 79, passed away October 17, 2022. He was in the United States Air Force and the United States Navy during the Vietnam Era. He was a Russian linguist for Air Force Intelligence. Shelia Butt recommended to Governor Haslam that he be appointed as an Honorary Tennessee Colonel Adjutant in honor of his services through the library. Also, Dolly Parton recognized him for bringing the Imagination Library to Spring Hill. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Lynda Sue Ellsworth Fulkerson; daughter, LeeAnna Michele (Allen) Holt. //Obit - Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home//



Ganson, Philip James, A1C, 88, passed away August 13, 2022. He enlisted in the USAF, serving from 1952 to 1956, based at San Antonio, Texas (Kelly Field). He was assigned to the 6913th Radio Squadron Mobile, USAFE Security Service, at Bremerhaven, Germany. He is survived by his wife Janet, his wife of 67 years, son Greg and daughter-in-law Nancy. //Obit - Michelotti Sawyers//



Gomez, Arthur R., 75, passed away March 11, 2022. Mr. Gomez served in the U.S. Air Force from 1970 to 1974. He was stationed at Kadena Air Base. in Okinawa, Japan. He served as an airborne linguist intercepting and interpreting Mandarin Chinese communications during the Vietnam War. Mr. Gomez is survived by his wife of 32 years, Christine Penelope Taylor (Penny), son Paul Arthur Gomez, stepchildren John Caldwell and wife Marnie, Sally Horrobin and husband Matt, and Ellen Caldwell. //Obit – The Durango Herald//



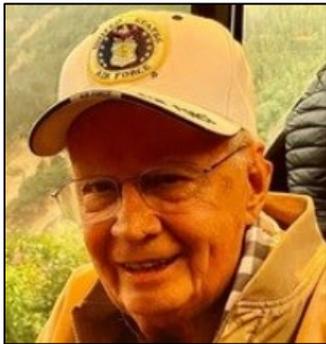
Hassett, John P., 87, passed away November 14, 2022. Jack served in the United States Air Force during the Korean war. After a year of training at Yale University, he worked as a Chinese linguist for U.S. Air Force Intelligence. Jack’s unit flew overactive battlefields in Korea, translating real time Mandarin communications of the Chinese, providing valuable intelligence to soldiers on the ground. Jack was married to Sylvia Allen in 1957. They were happily married for 46 years until her passing in 2003.

They had two children: Julia and Kevin. While Julia predeceased Jack, he is survived by her husband Bill. //Obit – Smith Kellher Funeral Home//



Hearn, B. Kyle, 78, passed away June 6, 2022. While a student at Ole Miss, he accepted an appointment by former Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Carroll Gartin and later entered the USAF, serving in the United States Air Force Security Service. Following his honorable discharge, Kyle spent over a quarter of a century employed by the Federal Government. His federal employment permitted he and his family to live in the United Kingdom and Thailand. Kyle enjoyed playing brass instruments. Initially learning to play the trumpet and then later the trombonium and euphonium. He felt honored to have participated in Taps Across America in support of fallen service

members and veterans. He is survived by his wife, Susan, his two sons and their wives, Zachary and Tracey Hearn and Nicholas and Billie Hearn, and his daughter Laura Hearn. //Obit – Baltimore Sun//



Hill, James W., CMSgt (ret), 88, passed away August 14, 2022. He proudly and honorably served 32 years in the United States Air Force, his first two years being with the Army National Guard. He stated his military career took him all over the world where he witnessed many different beliefs, religions, cultures, and people. He said he saw the "good, bad, ugly and beautiful" everywhere he went. After completing basic training, at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX, he attended Morse Code Radio Operations training at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS. In this field he was an Interceptor Operator, where he intercepted Russian, Chinese, and North Korean Morse Code until the code became obsolete. Afterwards, he attended school and became a Crypto Operator. He then requested re-training into Jet Aircraft Maintenance where he specialized on the Egress System on the B-52 Bombers. After 3 years, in this field, he requested re-training into Command and Control where he served for the next 21 years. He served in many countries including Japan, Korea, Germany, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Vietnam, and many posts in the USA including Alaska, twice at Elmendorf AFB. He retired from the Air Force in 1981 with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. He is survived by his loving wife, Dot Allen, sons Jeffrey Clark Hill and James Michael Hill (Debra), daughters Bethany Kay (Hill) Taylor (Gary), and Angela Kay (Hill) Gibson (Matt). Step(bonus)-children, daughter Karen Lynn Stephenson, sons Hoy D. (Nan) Allen Jr., Mike (Trina) Allen. He was preceded in death on April 1, 2010, by his beloved wife of 52 years Sondra Faye. //Obit – **Heritage Funeral Home and Cremation Services**//



Holley, Robert S., 88, passed away November 2, 2022. Bob was predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Jean B. Holley, his son, Robert (Bo) S. Holley, Jr., and twins, Henry Holley, and Avery Holley. He graduated high school in 1952 and spent the following four years as an enlistee in the United States Air Force as a Russian language specialist in the U.S. Security Service. He learned the Russian language through a one-year curriculum at Syracuse University. His language training was followed by a two-year tour of duty in Libya and Turkey. He served the remainder of his military service and received an honorable discharge from Lockport Air Force Station just outside of Niagara Falls, New York in 1956. //Obit - **Hardage-Giddens Riverside Funeral Home**//

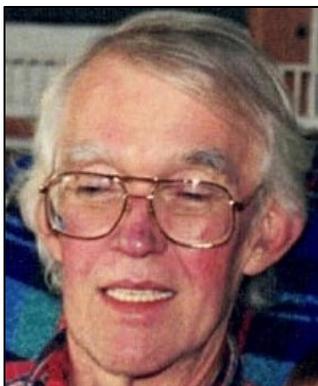


Hood, George R. Jr., 76, passed away October 8, 2022. He was the husband of Linda Townsley Hood for 50 years. A graduate of High School in 1964, he entered the United States Air Force and was trained at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey California. He then served as a Russian Linguist in the Intelligence Division of the Air Force in both Japan and Turkey. George is survived by his wife Linda of Sequim, WA., //Obit - Harper-Ridgeway Funeral Home//



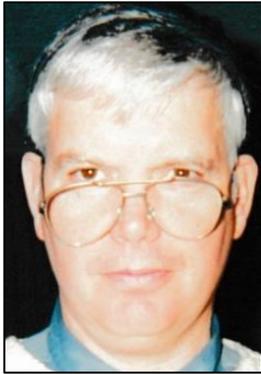
Jerrell, Carl E. "Sonny," TSgt (ret), 83, passed away March 28, 2022. Sonny graduated from High School in 1958. Soon after, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. He enjoyed many overseas assignments to include Turkey, and Clark AB, Philippines. Sonny was a Vietnam Veteran, and proudly served as a Morse Code Intercept Operator. He retired with the Electronic Security Command in 1980. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Jean Bryan Jerrell, his daughter Janet B. Wilson (Mark), son Brandon Pickell (Amanda), and daughter-in-law Mary B. Jerrell of

Raleigh, NC. //Obit – Craig Funeral Home//



Jones, David Lawrence, 79, passed away July 25, 2022. His father, David Jones, a pilot in the United States Army Air Corps, was a casualty of the European front of World War II. David enlisted in the USAF in 1962 as a Cryptographic Systems Equipment Repairman. He was stationed in Texas and in Washington State, but between schools and missions to ongoing operations in Southeast Asia, he was rarely on station. He concluded his active-duty military service in 1966 as a part of the 6948th Security Squadron Mobile. David's wife, Iris, passed away suddenly on November 7th, 2020, a day before their 51st wedding anniversary. David leaves behind his children Jason, Kristina, Erika, and

Peter and their spouses (Macie, Thomas, and Mark). //Obit - The Herald (Everett)//



Jones, Ralph Dorsey, MSgt (ret), 72, passed away June 2, 2022. He joined the USAF in 1971 as a Vietnamese linguist and cross-trained as a C-5 Load Master in 1975. In 1976, he married his wife of 45 years, Diana. They raised two adopted daughters. Ralph is survived by his wife, Diana (Smith) Jones; daughters, Linda Jones-Haveron (husband Brian) and Christina Jones. //Obit - Thompson Funeral Chapel//



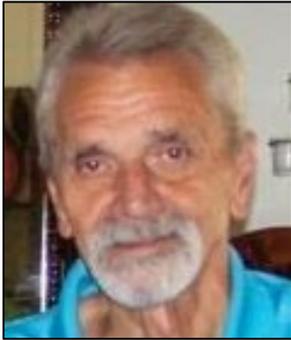
Jones, Robert Alan, MSgt (ret), 62, passed away September 12, 2022. He traveled the world serving his country with honor and was known as our hometown hero. Robert is survived by his mother, brother, sister, daughters and son, nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Robert is love, joy, peace, and friendship to many. //Obit – Monterey Herald//

Bob was my brother in the Air Force...though I was in a little earlier...we did the same job and shared similar experiences. Once we met it was instant friends. We hugged each and didn't want to say goodbye. My service dog Shao Didi really liked Bob. Bob brought me a part of my life I had been missing.

He was a connection to my past, both Shao Didi and I miss him. "Yi Lu Ping An" my brother. "Have a safe and peaceful journey." //Sgt Robert G. Pleak//



Krahn, Allen A., SSgt, 78, passed away September 30, 2022. He enlisted in the USAF in August 1962 where he served as a Russian Linguist and Command Post Specialist until 1970. He was stationed in Texas, New Mexico, Washington DC and Duluth, Minnesota. He also served in Turkey, Okinawa, and South Korea. After discharge from the regular Air Force in 1970 he served two years in the Air National Guard Duluth, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife Cynthia Lagae, //Obit - Greenlawn Funeral Home//



Krein, Donald “Don,” 85, passed away November 17, 2022. Don is survived by his beloved son Derek Krein and his wife Kes; his beloved daughter Kimberly Krein-Craddock and her husband Jucuba. Don enlisted in the USAFSS as a Morse Code Intercept Operator. He was assigned to Germany. //Obit – The Columbian//



Kreuzer, Richard L., Lt Col (ret), 83, passed away November 15, 2022. He will be lovingly remembered by his daughters, Heather (Tim) Bartelds and Heidi Kreuzer. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was trained in Washington, D.C., as a German linguist. He was stationed in Hof an der Saale, Germany, where he served enjoyably formative years as part of the 6915th Security Group. After commissioning, Richard furthered his military career by earning his Flight Surgeon wings, and he remained active in the Michigan Air National Guard until he retired with the rank of Lt Col. //Obit - Matthyse Kuiper DeGraaf Funeral Home//



Lebrecht, Clarence R., Sgt, 72, passed away July 23, 2022. He is survived by his daughter, Stephannie Lebrecht; two sons, James (Kathryn), and Joseph (Christina). He enlisted in the Air Force after high school graduation. He was very proud of his service during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Turkey, intercepting foreign messages using Morse Code. //Obit – Albany Times Union//

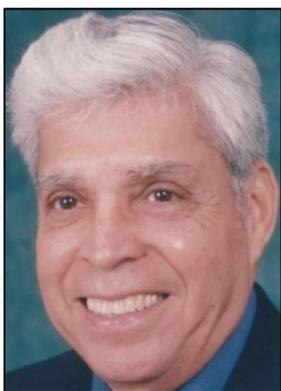


Lee, Robert Evan, 85, passed away September 20, 2022. In early 1959, when Vietnam was simmering, Bob enlisted in the Air Force where he was trained as a Vietnamese linguist and traffic analyst. While on flight status in South Vietnam, he served as a crewmember on aircraft staging out of Tan Son Nhut. Once discharged from the Air Force in 1963, Bob spent the next 40-something years serving in a variety of roles at the National Security Agency. Known for his highly accurate predictive analyses, he became special advisor to two Directors of the Agency. He is survived by

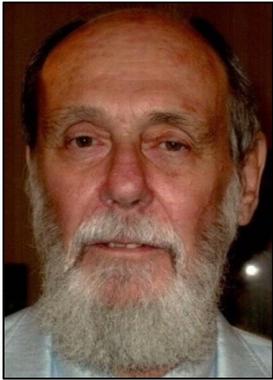
his wife of 25 years, Mary Frances (née Rogers) Lee, children Jacqueline Lee Taylor and Robert Allen Lee, stepchildren Rebecca, Matthew, and Timothy Hutchison. //Obit – Hardesty Funeral Home//



Lackey, John T., 81, passed away October 6, 2022. He enlisted in the USAF in 1965, serving 4 years at various locations. He was a Morse Code Operator/Transcriber with the U.S. Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) while at the Shu Lin Kou Air Station in Taiwan. His security clearance at the time forbade him to reveal specifics about his experiences. Honoring his oath, as a civilian fresh out of the Air Force, he interviewed for a position at NASA and was denied the opportunity because he would not give details about his job while stationed in Taiwan. He enlisted from 1965-1971. He is survived by his two daughters, Kristina Rhodes (Dan) and Karen Linscom (Zach). //Obit - James Crowder Funeral Home//



Luna, Noe, 87, passed away July 31, 2022. He was preceded in death by his loving wife Maria Elena Luna and his daughter Noemi Luna. He served in the USAF. After basic training with the 3724th squadron at Lackland AFB he attended Scott AFB, IL for additional training that allowed him to serve in the USAF Security Service as a silent warrior: "Freedom Through Vigilance". He is survived by his daughter Noelia Luna Hernandez. //Obit – Rudy Garza Funeral//



Macecevic, William A. Jr., Maj (ret), 90, passed away June 29, 2022. Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Jean Tumlinson Macecevic. He is survived by his daughter Teresa Neatherlin (Robert), son William A. Macecevic III (Suzanne) and daughter Laura Andersen (Cris). He joined in 1949 and rose to the rank of Major. He was stationed in San Antonio, Korea, South Carolina, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Hawaii. After Hawaii, he returned to San Antonio to the U.S. Air Force Security Service. He retired from the Air Force on Feb. 28, 1970. //Obit – **Sunset Northwest Funeral**//



Marks, Richard Lynn, SMSgt (ret), 60, passed away September 19, 2022. Rich enlisted in the Air Force in 1982. He served our country dutifully for over 20 years, living in several different locations and making many lifelong friends. After he left the military, he settled in Maryland and went into a career as a government contractor. He is survived by his wife of 40 years Mary Marks, his son Daniel Marks (Paula) and his daughter Sara Weaver (Rob). //Obit – **Witzke Funeral Home**//

*It was my honor to spend hundreds of hours in a dark USAF aircraft with Rich, flying in many areas of the world. His conduct was professional and exemplary, serious when appropriate but good-natured almost to a fault. His quick smile and infectious laugh were shared without reservation. Even after months or even years between visits, his friendship was without gaps or pauses. He loved his country and was always ready to serve, both in uniform and after military retirement. It is my privilege to call him friend. My condolences to his family. Those who knew him share your loss and love. Be comforted knowing he had profoundly positive influence on many, many people. God bless. //CMSgt (ret) **Conrad Caldwell**//*

*Richard Marks flew as an Airborne Mission Supervisor onboard SENIOR SCOUT //MSgt (ret) **Scott Birnel**//*



Mehaffey, Robert A., “Bob,” CMSgt (ret), 90, passed away November 22, 2022. Bob joined the United States Air Force in September 1949 and was so proud to serve for 27 years in the U.S. Air Force Security Service. That career spanned occupation forces duty in Germany, and during the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as the cold war with Russia and its allies. He was still active in the Dyess Chiefs Group after his retirement in July, 1976. Bob is survived by his wife Lilith Mehaffey; his daughters Sharon Laubenstein and husband Robert; Laura Eisenbach and husband Larry; Teresa Baumeister and husband Mike. Bob took Lilith’s family as his own and is also survived

by Scott Smith and wife Cherisse; Joel Smith and wife Neika. //Obit – Hamil Family Funeral Home//

I’ve had the distinct honor of knowing Bob since 2015. As a new Command Chief at Goodfellow AFB, he reached out to introduce himself and from that moment on was always there if I needed him...as a fellow Chief, wingman, and friend. His service and sacrifice, even in retirement, has made our Air Force better. We are richer for him...and his legacy will go on in all the people he has impacted. Me being one of them. Aim high, my brother...and rest well! //CMSAF JoAnne S. Bass//

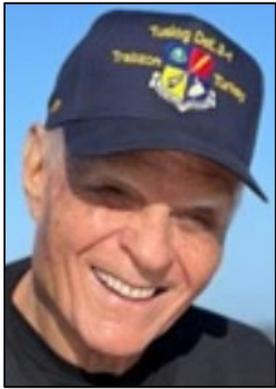


Bob was Ops Supe at Misawa. //CMSgt (ret) Dennis Rassmussen//

Mr. Mehaffey was my second Dad when we were stationed in Germany in 1972. His family adopted my husband and me as well as many other young married couples. He was a strong Godly influence in my life. Even though I haven't seen him or his family in many years, I love all of you. Lillith, that includes you. //Kathy Hill//

According to the [Together We Served](#) web site, he was a 29290 Radio Intercept Superintendent. In addition, his assignments included the 6910th Security Wing, 6921st Security Wing, 6922nd Security Wing, and 6940th Security Wing. A full list of his assignments can be found at [Together We Served](#). He also posted a lot of his exploits in one of the CMSgt Facebook USAF Chiefs site. Very interesting reading for those that can access the [Facebook Group](#).

//CMSgt (ret) Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//



Mier, Salvador A., 80, passed away August 12, 2022. After graduating High School in 1959, Sal enlisted in the USAF. During his tour of duty, a proud accomplishment was his position in USAF Security Service as a Morse Code Operator - or as we knew it - a "Ditty-Bopper." We heard countless stories of his time in Trabzon, Turkey where it was their job to intercept Russian transmissions. He remained friends with many in his squadron and communicated with them on a regular basis. When it was time to get home to the States, his commander said "Sal, you are going back to Texas." Excitedly, Sal thought San Antonio. However, he got orders to Amarillo, Tx. Not exactly close to San Antonio, but it was meant to be, as he was soon to meet his "Gracie." He is survived by his wife Gracie; daughter Lorraine Mayes and husband Allen; son Robert and wife Tracy; son Steven, daughter Cathy Cole and husband David; daughter Stacy Dockins and husband Dave. //Obit - Bradshaw-Carter Memorial & Funeral Services//



Nisley, Kermit J., Lt Col (ret), 87, passed away September 13, 2022. He graduated from Grove City College, PA in 1956 with a BA degree in foreign languages and an AFROTC commission as a 2nd Lt. He served 25 years in the USAF, 20 of those years in the USAF Security Service. Overseas tours included Pakistan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Turkey. He was awarded seven meritorious decorations and three unit citations. He is survived by his wife Joanne L. Nisley, his son Laurence and his wife Liz, his son Thomas and his wife Clara, his daughter Mary L. Anderson. //Obit – Berceuse Funeral Home//

Assignments included Pakistan 1961 to 1964; Vietnam 1965; Philippines 1967 to 1969; and Turkey 1970. He served as Flight Commander, Operations Officer, and Squadron Commander. He greatly appreciated his NCOs, their competence, professionalism, and their care and feeding of a young officer. //Mrs. Joanne Nisley//



Norman, Darrell R., SMSgt (ret), 83, passed away November 29, 2022. He was a graduate of Warrior High School, then joined the U.S. Air Force and became fluent in Russian after intensive study at Syracuse University in New York and a tour at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. He served during the Cold War era and retired after 21 years of service as a Senior Master Sergeant, which is among the top three enlisted ranks in the Air Force. After retirement, he became a member of the Prop Wash Gang, an airborne component of a larger group known as the Silent Warriors. An award-winning journalist, he worked at the Huntsville Times and Times Journal in Fort Payne, and retired

from The Gadsden Times, where he worked as a reporter and columnist. He also wrote a book, "Have Another Cup," a compilation of his work at The Gadsden Times. Norman is survived by daughter Amber McPherson (LaDon); grandsons Logan (Madison), Evan (Gracie), and Alex McPherson; great-grandson Brooks McPherson; wife Brenda, brother Jack Norman (Sue); and nephew Bryan Norman (Penny). //Obit – Gadsden Times//

Norman authored an outstanding article "[Remembering a Lost Plane](#)" in the Gadsden Times about his SAR efforts onboard an RC-135 in support of "Irene-92" RC-135D Rivet Amber that was lost after departing Shemya, AK in 1969.

//Thanks to Lee Anthony for the tippers on the obit and the article. CMSgt (ret) Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//

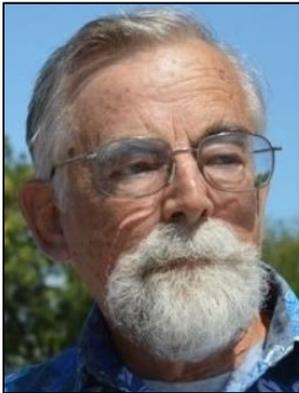
Norman also wrote a very nice article about the [Prop Wash Gang](#). //CMSgt (ret) Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



O'Brien Thomas G., 75, passed away September 23, 2022. He was the beloved husband of Joyce (Merry) O'Brien. Jerry was a veteran of the US Air Force. He studied linguistics/Mandarin Chinese at the University of Maryland and received his BA in those areas. He was later assigned to the National Security Agency where he was a linguist/analyst. In addition to his wife, Thomas is survived by six daughters, Erica Nicholas and her husband Mark, Erin Semprini and her husband Steve, Courtney O'Brien Marshall, Shannon O'Brien and her partner Ryan Dolmat, Emily O'Brien and her husband Bill Holland, Tyler O'Connell, and her husband Ryan. //Obit – Campbell Funeral Home//



O'Neal, Jaymes Buckley, 46, passed away March 9, 2022. He left behind a beautiful family, wife of 22 years, Ayako Takada O'Neal; six amazing children that he utterly adored, Oskar (22), Oliver (20), Mae (19), Jaymes (14), Cyrus (10) and Theophilus (5). Jay stepped up to proudly serve our country after Sept. 11, 2001. He joined the U.S. Air Force and served for 10 years as a Crypto Language Analyst in the Persian languages. //Obit-Herald Ledger//



Perrin, William F., 83, passed away July 11, 2022. After serving in the Air Force as a Czech linguist assigned to Germany, he returned to San Diego and studied at SDSU and later at UCLA, where he got his Ph.D., specializing in the biology of dolphins. Bill is survived by his wife, Louella Dolar, and sons Benedict and Joey. //Obit - San Diego Union-Tribune//



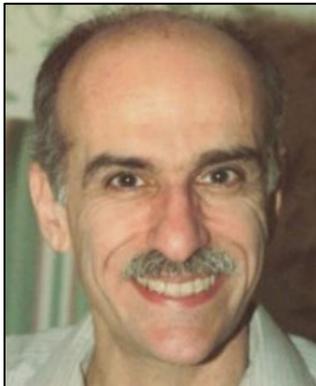
Rawheiser, Ralph L., 89, passed away April. 16, 2022. During the Korean War, Ralph volunteered and joined the U.S. Air Force, not wanting to be drafted into service. Since he knew Morse Code and could type, he was assigned to the 12th Radio Squadron Mobile in Bingen and then Landsberg, Germany. He worked as a Radio Intercept Operator, intercepting Soviet transmissions. He was the talk of the town for years because the US Government agents came to Watson town to interview people about him so that Ralph could get top secret security clearance. One of his Air Force friends played the guitar and became a famous musician, Johnny Cash. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife of over 60 years,

Margueritte "Peggy" Ward Rawheiser. Ralph leaves behind his sons and their wives: David and Susan, Robert and Laurie, William and Cecilia, and Steven and April Rawheiser, as well as his daughter Debra and her husband, William Robertson. //Obit - The News Item//



Roberts, Kenneth Eugene, 69, passed away July 16, 2022. He joined the Air Force on May 27, 1971. He proudly served as a linguist for 20 years including service in the Vietnam War, where he earned his Air Medal with 6 oak leaves among numerous other awards. Ken was stationed in Okinawa, Japan where he married his first wife, Delores Lynn Harrah, on October 6, 1973. Their 17-year marriage brought three beautiful children and numerous adventures to their lives. During this time, the Air Force moved Ken and his family to new and exciting places including California, Nebraska, Texas, and Germany. While living in Germany, Ken began to attend a Single Parent Group where he met Monika Lou Seegert. They

married on May 7, 1991 in Basil, Switzerland and Ken gained his 3rd son. They spent the first six years of their marriage in Germany where Ken retired from the Air Force on July 31, 1991 and added the last 2 children to their ever-growing family. Ken is survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Monika Roberts; six wonderful children: Carol (John) Bauss, Christopher (Anna) Roberts, Kenneth (Allyson) Roberts, Bradley (Jenny) Anderson, Markus (Rhyann) Roberts, and Kathrin (Jackson) Saunders. //Obit – Oman Funeral Home//



Rosenberg, Neil J., 82, passed away October 19, 2022. Neil was a U.S. Air Force veteran who proudly served his country from 1960 to 1964. During his military service, he was sent to The Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages to become an interpreter, where he learned to speak Mandarin Chinese. Afterwards, he was stationed in Taiwan as a linguist. He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Roberta (Steven) Rosenberg, two sons, Ross, and his wife Jennifer. **Obit - Newbaker Funeral Home//**



Russell, Danny E. "Cazzie," Sgt, 75, passed away October 19, 2022. Danny married Connie Anthony in Woodhull on June 10, 1972. Danny is survived by his children, Steve (Colleen Gunier) Russell and Sarah (Matthew) Walker. Danny was a Sergeant for the United States Air Force serving in the Vietnam War from 1966-1970. He was a founding member of the MRSEA (Maximum Recovery in Southeast Asia) recovery organization. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the United States Air Medal. He was a lifetime member of the VFW, and DAV/AMVETS, and a member of the Woodhull

Jaycee's and the Woodhull Fire Department. He was a Volunteer EMT and member of the Woodhull Ambulance Service. //Obit – Hurd-Hendricks Funeral Home//

Served with Danny in Misawa, Japan, in 1968. Great guy! Rest In Peace, Brother! //Tom Elliott//

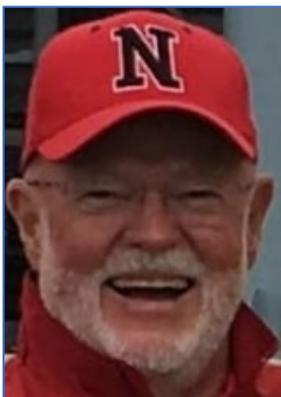
Was stationed with Danny (we called him Plowboy) in Japan. Followed him to Vietnam but he left before I got there. Everyone was extremely proud of him and his service. We kept in touch over the years and will miss him. Condolences to all the family. //Chuck Darwin//



Scaramucci, Francis J., CMSgt (ret), 93, passed away November 25, 2022. Francis joined the United States Air Force in 1949, where he specialized in radar. Francis later worked his way into an administrative position which Francis used to advance his military career. Francis retired from the Air Force in 1979 as the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the Air Force Electronic Security Command - Europe. Francis was a Korean and Vietnam War Veteran. Some of his best stories and memories were as the First Sergeant of a C-130 Gun Ship squadron out of Ubon, Thailand. Francis always said in his 30-year military career he never had a bad assignment. Francis is survived by his daughters, Gayle Brown and Dana Newell, sons, Louis Scaramucci, and John Scaramucci. //Obit - Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey Funeral Home//



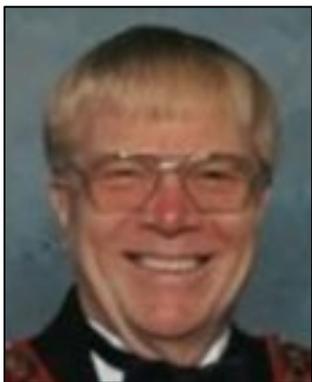
Scarbrough, James 'Jim' Alton, 82, passed away October 18, 2022. He married Connie Driskell on July 11, 1965. Jim served as a linguist in the United States Air Force for just a few short years before being medically discharged. Jim was most well-known for his time owning and operating 9 Dairy Queens in and around San Angelo. Jim is survived by his wife, Connie Scarbrough, his son Brian Scarbrough and wife Diane Scarbrough, and his son Michael Scarbrough. //Obit – Harper



Seitz, Richard E., 78, passed away March 16, 2022. He served in the United States Air Force from 1962-1966. He was a Morse Code intercept operator serving in Crete, Greece, and later as a programming specialist in San Antonio, TX. Dick is survived by his wife, Pamela Seitz; children Jeff Seitz (Kathleen), Dan Seitz (Kristin), and Kristine Seitz. //Obit – International Cremation Services//



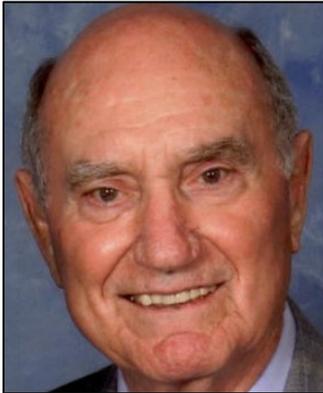
Skoskie, Joseph C., MSgt (ret), 74, passed away October 5, 2022. Joe enlisted in the USAF in January 1966. He was very proud of serving his country and teared up whenever the National Anthem was played. During his first 10 years of service, he served tours as a communications technician with the Air Force Electronic Security Command in Alaska, Texas, Italy, and Japan. He served his second 10 years as a computer systems analyst at Headquarters Strategic Air Command (SAC), Offutt AFB, Omaha, Neb. and the Defense Communications Agency at the Alternate National Military Command Center, Site "R," in southern Pennsylvania. During his career, he received degrees from the community college of the Air Force and Georgia Military College. He is also a graduate of the Strategic Air Command's Non-Commissioned Officer's Academy. Joe is survived by his wife, Mary Beatrice (Bea); daughter Kimberly Rowe and husband, Jake; daughter Amanda Carbaugh and fiancé, Mark Witmer. //Obit – Groves Bowersox Funeral Home//



Stiewig, Lloyd P., 77, passed away October 17, 2022. In 1965, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. He became a Morse Code operator, stationed in the Philippines and in Shemya, Alaska. During his service he received the Expert Marksman Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation and Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. He received an honorable discharge in 1968. He is survived by his wife, Karen, whom he had been married to for 52 years, his son, daughter, and son in law. //Obit - Hull & Hull Funeral Directors//



Tesch, Byron D., 83, passed away July 18, 2022. He served in the United States Air Force, attended Syracuse University, and was a Russian Linguist. He is survived by his beloved wife Laverne Tesch, and daughter Valerie Lemak. //Obit - Ebensberger-Fisher Funeral Home//



Dr. Tunnell, Kenneth D., 91, passed away June 6, 2022. He served in the USAF 1952-1956 and served in Japan in the USAF Security Service during the Korean Conflict. Surviving Ken are his wife Janrose and his daughter Ellen Tunnell. //Obit - Combs, Parsons & Collins Funeral Home//



Vollmer, Francis "Frank" Xavier, TSgt, 75, passed away March 20, 2022. He is survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, Sharon, and his loving son Ryan (Brooke). After graduating from high school, he joined the US Air Force and volunteered for service in Vietnam as a tribute to his friend who was killed in combat. Frank served with honor while assigned to Danang airbase from 1967-1968 and survived many conflicts including the Tet Offensive. //Obit – Atchley Funeral Home//

Frank was my traffic analyst when we were posted at San Vito Italy in 1966-67. He was a great friend and co-worker - always had a good word and a positive thinker. We went on many trips together with other co-workers and had some interesting adventures. My sincere condolences for your loss. I had hoped that we could re-unite at some point and share a bottle of wine. I hope you and the children are doing well. //Richard Haycook, USAFSS retired//

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