

# *Remain In Touch*

*FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER*



*March 2023*

# ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

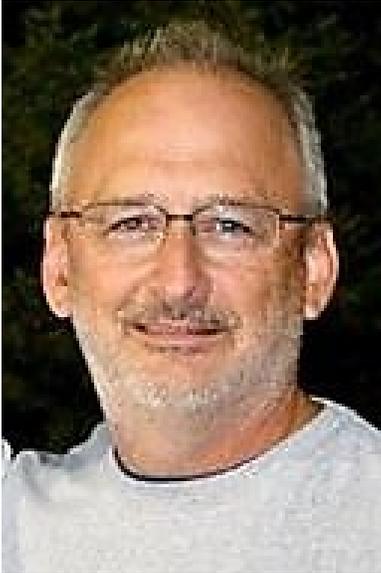


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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**By Ted Colquhoun  
President, FTVA**

Howdy Y'all,

Hope everyone is doing great, wherever you are. Spring has definitely sprung here in south Texas and the pollen count is up.

It's been a pretty hectic start to the new year, and our big project remains getting the FTVA website up and running on a continuous basis. We had it going for a few weeks, but the gremlins have sprung up again. Mr. Roy Burnett is working with a private contractor to work out the issues and as soon as it gets up and running, we will let you know.

As far as what's going on with the "Command", our Airmen continue to enable operations across the globe, especially in eastern Europe, while keeping a close eye on any developments in the Pacific region. For those of you that remember Lt. General Ken Minihan (ESC/CC and DIRNSA), his son, General Mike Minihan, has upped his game as the AMC commander and given his folks notice to prepare for whatever is to come in the Pacific...and to do it quickly. His letter to the Airmen of AMC is to prepare, and do it today, because we will be going to war, in some sort of fashion, in the very near future. He directed them to find innovative ways to get things done and train, train, train...and then train some more. It has been a while since we have heard a senior leader talk like this, but where they go, so go our Airmen in 16th Air Force (16 AF). They remain ready, willing and able to enable operations...Anytime, Anywhere!

What's coming up in the next few months. We are holding the FTVA Spring Social here in San Antonio on 25 March 2023. Lt Gen Kennedy, 16 AF/CC, is our guest speaker and if you have some time to come out, we welcome your attendance; details are in the reunion section of this issue.

Want to also remind everyone that our Hall of Honor Committee is accepting nominations for Hall of Honor consideration. Please contact Mr. Lee Anthony for information if you feel you have a candidate that warrants consideration. And while we are talking about the Hall of Honor Committee, I want to publicly thank Mr. AJ Harrison for his many years of running such a stellar program. AJ, the memories you helped create for so many of our inductees and their families mean more than you can realize. Well done my friend.

I would be remiss if I didn't put a plug in for our Anniversary/Reunion events in October 2023. Yes, it says October. We were trumped by another couple of weddings so we had to slide our events. In hindsight, this was a good move as it lines up with the anniversary of both the USAF Security Service (USAFSS), activated - 20 Oct 1948, and 16 AF, reactivated - 11 Oct 2019. This will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the command and we want to celebrate in style. If you have any suggestions, please send them to the FTVA Board of Directors. The events are as follows:

***19 Oct 2023***

***5K Run and Golf Tournament***

***20 Oct 2023***

***Hall of Honor, Remembrance Ceremony and Picnic***

***21 Oct 2023***

***General Membership Meeting and Anniversary Banquet***

One additional event we will add to the banquet is the recognition of all our Vietnam War Veterans. This year is the 50th anniversary of the end of hostilities and it would be fitting to recognize our fellow Airmen who spent many days and nights keeping watch and enabling our combined operations in, and around Vietnam.

Finally, thanks to you, the members of FTVA. We continue to support the Airmen of 16 AF and open our arms to our many brothers and sisters as they carry on the mission. Rest assured fellow veterans, these Airmen are good...really good...and they have the watch.

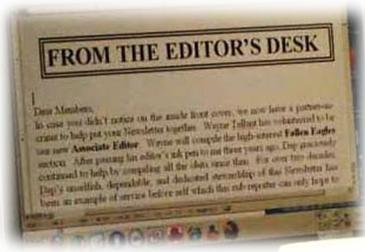
Thanks for your support, friendship, and prayers, and more importantly thanks for maintaining contact with each other and ensuring what we do best...Remaining in Touch.

Until next time.....

Ted

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The next issue of *RIT* will be compiled and posted in June 2023, so please be sure to send your inputs to [newsletter@ftva.us](mailto:newsletter@ftva.us) or [dennis.buxton@me.com](mailto:dennis.buxton@me.com) (or to my attention at 8847 Breanna Oaks, S.A., TX 78254) by June 1, 2023.

**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 former 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

**Lee Anthony  
Hall of Honor Program Chair**

Sometimes transitions don't go exactly as planned. As I assumed the role of Chairman, Hall of Honor Committee, I noted that last year AJ Harrison began this article with, "I would like to start by recognizing the contributions of CMSgt-Ret Ed Jolly and his contributions over many years to the Hall of Honor Selection Committee." This year we start in the same manner by recognizing the late CMSgt-Ret Bob Egger, who served as a Security Policeman and became the USAFSS/ESC Chief of Security at the old Headquarters. He served on the Hall of Honor selection committee for several years, and always made the work enjoyable. A great man and servant for this organization.

We will accept nominations for this year's Hall of Honor through 5 June 2023. If you need help with developing a nomination, please contact me or AJ Harrison, and we can work with you to help you develop a package. The only way those who deserve recognition obtain it is if you nominate 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/25th AF/16 AF, hereinafter referred to as the command, have been at war 24/7/365 as anonymous sentinels, engaged in combat with foreign enemies of the United States and its allies while conducting operations in the air as aircrew members, on the seas aboard U.S. naval ships, and on each of the major continental land masses as well as numerous islands around the world, and in the cyber realm. In no small measure, their contributions toward the preservation of our freedoms, though largely unheralded, have been vital to the continuance of our national security and our way of life. The command has been blessed with an abundance of talented members who possessed the skill sets and intellectual capacity, coupled with unselfish dedication and commitment, to conquer whatever challenges they encountered – often while confronting significant adversity and at great personal sacrifice.

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

We have all had the privilege of serving with individuals who are viable candidates for induction into the Hall of Honor. This is an opportunity to nominate deserving individuals in an attempt to ensure they receive the recognition and lasting tribute they have earned. The Selection Committee will review all eligible nominations and select individuals for induction into the Hall of Honor using eligibility criteria and procedures pursuant to the Hall of Honor Charter. A copy of the Charter is available at the [FTVA Web Page](#).

Nominations must be received no later than 5 June 2023 by email. Email nominations to me at [LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com](mailto:LeeAnthony@satx.rr.com). When submitting nominations, please limit to one page, front and back, Times New Roman 12 Pitch using the HOH Nomination format available on the website. I am available to answer any questions anyone may have on how best to develop a nomination.

Thank you and *Remain In Touch*.

# 16<sup>th</sup> AIR FORCE NEWS

Article compiled and submitted by Ken Maynard  
Associate Editor Extraordinaire

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## 16<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS WELCOMES NEW FOUR-LEGGED WINGMAN

Adapted from an article by Sharon Singleton and Rachel Kibbe Williams  
16th AF, 15 Feb 2023

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TX** — Suicide, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder ... these are all challenges that the workforce deals with daily and affects the Total Force. 16th Air Force knows the best way to accomplish the mission is to keep the backbone of the unit strong and support the team through resiliency efforts and training.

To bring resilience initiatives right into the offices, Col. Tracy Bozung, 16th Air Force surgeon general, with the rest of the Community of Action Team, routed the required request to start a therapy dog program at the 16th headquarters. This brought an English golden retriever named Bindi Lou or “Bindi” for short, to the 16th Air Force team, and Bindi has proven to be no ordinary dog.

*“Therapy dog stress relief and joy are real -- just ask the people who interact with Bindi.”*  
- Carlos Bushman, therapy dog handler



Bindi Lou, 16th AF Therapy Dog

“The surgeon general’s office oversees the therapy dog program and the approval of therapy teams, maintaining certification, information, and coordination of events for the therapy dog team,” said Bozung. “The current therapy dog team, Mr. Carlos Bushman, and his dog Bindi, bring such joy and happiness to the 16th Air Force headquarter staff. People light up when they see Bindi in the halls and in the offices.”

“This is not a ‘bring your dog to work’ program. There has been a lot of effort and thought put into establishing the 16th Air Force Therapy Dog Program -- not the least of which was to make it a formal and repeatable process for other units to emulate,” said Bushman, Bindi’s handler.

Bindi's training allows her access to the 16th Air Force building where she goes room to room bringing stress relief, enjoyment, engagement, and dialogue to anyone who needs it.

Bushman knows how hard Bindi works and how much joy she delivers as an asset to the workforce.

"Bindi's training was provided at PetSmart and her certification via an AKC-recognized therapy dog organization," said Bushman. "She gets very excited, hops and barks ... she knows that when I brush her out, get her vest and leash, that it's 'go' time. She loves serving!"

Bindi has already made an impact visiting approximately 11 offices and 70-75 personnel per visit.

"The reactions are a mix of wonder, joy, and disbelief. Wonder because she's not a service animal, that you cannot pet or touch; joy because when folks learn that they can pet Bindi, they can't help but give in to their impulse to pet a dog, at work; and disbelief because folks can't believe there is ACTUALLY a therapy dog program at 16th Air Force," said Bushman.

Bindi is only one member of the new Community of Action Team. CoAT is also comprised of the command surgeon and her staff, the lead chaplain and his staff, the 16th Air Force True North team, first sergeant, deputy chief of staff and diversity and inclusion offices. Their primary mission is to coordinate and publicize deliberate actions addressing topics to include resiliency, culture, health, safety, and awareness. In other words, this team is designed to directly support and exemplify the commander's second priority to strengthen resilience.

Bozung said, "Under the Community of Action Team, the Therapy Dog Program builds on Lt. Gen. Kennedy's second priority of strengthening resiliency through improved morale in the workplace."

As 16th Air Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Kevin Kennedy said, "Individual resilience leads to mission resilience. As Airmen, we will build a resilient force by maintaining our own resilience and supporting each other. A healthy and inclusive culture starts with our front-line leaders setting the example and understanding the challenges the Airmen on their team face."

## **THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ISRW CHAPEL: THE SPIRITUAL FLIGHT RESOURCE**

Adapted from an article by SSgt Sonia Clark, 70 ISRW/PA

**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD** — For some, the chapel can be a slight mystery. The services offered do not have a direct physical impact. And the resources available affect something that we cannot physically see or touch: our spirit.

The 70th ISRW Chapel provides religious support and spiritual care, ensuring that all Airmen and their dependents have opportunities to exercise their constitutional right to freedom of religion.

“Most of what we do falls under spiritual care,” said SSgt Darren Brown, 70th ISRW Chapel resource management noncommissioned officer in charge. “It can be specifically religious or non-religious.”

Additionally, and most importantly, what is shared with the chaplains is 100 percent confidential.

“Some people just need to speak out loud about what’s going on in their lives,” said Brown. “Plus, we can give them guidance to other organizations more suited to provide the help they need, such as sexual assault prevention and response, behavioral health, or judge advocate, with 100 percent confidentiality.”

All chaplains are ordained ministers in their selected faith group. They provide direct and indirect religious support according to the tenants of their specific beliefs.

“I have provided support for Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Norse Pagan, and Muslim requests,” said Brown. “We have had members of other faith groups seek out religious support that we have provided for them by seeking religious support from another chaplain or a faith community off post.”

Other resources available include couples counseling and Strong Bonds events, which provides service members and families with offsite retreats to strengthen their relationships. They also offer reading materials on parenting, self-improvement, financial management, and enhanced leadership skills.

The 70 ISRW is a tenant unit on Fort Meade, which owns most of the traditional chapel facilities and programs. The 70th ISRW Chapel partners with their Fort Meade Garrison Chapel counterparts to help facilitate events.

“People say, ‘Fort Meade is different,’” said Brown. “One of the reasons is because Meade is an Army installation with joint mission responsibilities. As such, the Air Force, Navy, Defense Information School, and [other] geographically separated unit chaplains are all guests in the Army’s chapel.

Long term, the wing’s chapel team continues to find the best ways to connect with members and their families to ensure their religious and spiritual needs are met.

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ISRW DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COUNCIL CREATES STRONGER BONDS

Adapted from an article by SSgt Kevin Inuma, 70th ISRW/PA, 22 Feb 2023

**FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MD** — The 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing Diversity and Inclusion Council was established July 9, 2020. The group’s goal is to create a work environment that will recruit and retain Airmen that reflect a diversified workforce for all organizations.



Airmen assigned to the 70th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing and their families speak with one another during a Juneteenth celebration, June 17, 2022, at the Church at Severn Run, Severn, Maryland. The 70th ISRW Diversity and Inclusion Council hosted the event to commemorate black freedom, black pride, and black heritage, which is recognized annually on June 19. (U.S. Air Force photo by SSgt Kevin Inuma)

Air Force Instruction 36-7001, Diversity & Inclusion, broadly defines diversity as “a composite of individual characteristics, experiences, and abilities consistent with the Air Force Core Values and the Air Force Mission. Air Force diversity includes, but is not limited to: personal life experiences, geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds, cultural knowledge, educational background, work experience, language abilities, physical abilities, philosophical and spiritual perspectives, age, race, ethnicity, and gender.”

“It’s important to create a culture that empowers authenticity by embracing diversity and driving inclusion because people are always our greatest asset,” said TSgt Macey

Valentine, 70th ISRW D&I Council member. “With a diverse and inclusive workspace, we can earn deeper trust and more commitment from our Airmen.”

Creating diversity in the Air Force increases its warfighting capabilities and lethality by attracting talent from diverse applicants and leveraging their unique characteristics, experiences, and abilities to complete the mission.

“We are stronger together; however, we are only as strong as our weakest link,” said TSgt Vanity Cross-Williams, 70th ISRW D&I Council co-manager.

Since its inception, the council has hosted awareness events such as luncheons, museum tours and fun runs, to bring a diverse group of people together to connect and learn more about each

other.

“I want to give a voice to those who felt like they never had one and give those same people a seat at the table they previously could not sit at,” said Valentine. “I want everyone to feel heard and know they matter, and I want to educate people who don't know better but want to.”

There are always challenges when starting a new endeavor such as creating an entirely new council from scratch. With every challenge, there is one thing that Airmen want: a better group, a better wing, and a better Air Force.

The wing recently assigned a new D&I Manager, Ms. Frances Rodgers, who will act as a focal point for education, development, and community involvement.

“The D&I program is the starting point for development because the armed services and DOD may be the first time we engage someone whose personal norms differ from our own,” said Rodgers. “This is a human program, not a ‘let's get along’ program. D&I encourages a broader range of thought, which promotes innovation.”

## DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE TO CONDUCT HACKATHON

Adapted from an article by Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, 28 Feb 2023

**WASHINGTON (AFNS)** — The Department of the Air Force will conduct its next “BRAVO” hackathon March 20 – 24, 2023, this time at [Hurlburt Field](#), Florida.

Any American citizen may apply, regardless of whether they currently work for the Department of the Air Force. Applicants are required to apply online [here](#). Applicants are being accepted on a rolling basis.

Attendees are not required to hold a security clearance. However, certain spaces, use cases, and datasets may require a U.S. secret security clearance or higher. Organizers may request additional information for clearances that applicants possess. Applicants may apply as an employee for the U.S. government, a U.S. government contractor, or a U.S. citizen either affiliated or unaffiliated with a company.



A hackathon is an innovation event commonly employed by technology companies in which teams develop prototypes working around the clock in response to enterprise challenges associated with data. Prior BRAVO projects have produced multiple prototypes and inventions influencing major [Defense Department](#) programs.

Federal government employees and federal contractors representing federal organizations are encouraged to share sponsoring use cases, data, or infrastructure relevant to the primary mission of the Department of Defense for use at this event by contacting [SAF.CN.BRAVO@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.CN.BRAVO@us.af.mil).

“Across the previous hackathons, we have honed methods to build and fight with classified and protected data of increasingly larger size and varied origin,” said Stuart Wagner, chief digital transformation officer for the U.S. Department of the Air Force and hackathon organizer. “Hurlburt Field will prototype joint use cases, data and software infrastructures from combatant commands and various military departments.”

In January 2022, the department ran BRAVO 0, its first department-wide classified innovation hackathon with Air Force weapons system data at [Nellis Air Force Base](#), Nevada. BRAVO 1 Canary Release grew the effort when in July 2022, the department ran its second hackathon simultaneously at [Joint Base Langley-Eustis](#), Virginia; [Patrick Space Force Base](#), Florida; and [Eglin AFB](#), Florida, with about 300 hackers.

BRAVO allows participants to rapidly commingle and run open-source software and data otherwise unapproved for production with classified or protected data.

“BRAVO moves from the traditional DoD development model operating at the unclassified level where we push code up to protected environments, to a permissive development model on protected data, which we refer to as ‘Dev High,’” Wagner said. “This enables developers to build weapons’ capabilities and calibrations directly with the data at lower cost compared to traditional prototyping pipelines and at a rate faster than an adversary is likely to build countering capability. This event will test how ‘Dev High’ scales to joint multi-domain use cases.”

Applicants looking to participate may do so in one of three roles. The “Hacker” role is open to all applicants and expects project builders with varying skill sets and experience, including software development, data science, machine learning, design and user interface/user design, data visualization, product management or warfighter subject matter expertise.

The “Subject Matter Expert” role is open only to government and government contractors and supports multiple teams with specific expertise or knowledge about a use case or dataset offered at the event. Any federal organization is eligible to supply a use case or dataset for consideration.

The “Supporter” role is open only to government and government contractors and provides administrative support to the event by running security, facilitating supplies delivery, organizing social events, and facilitating the delivery of science fair materials and attendee check-in.

Organizations providing infrastructure support include the “STITCHES” Warfighter Application Team, the Navy Project Overmatch program, Project Arc, Office of the Secretary of Defense Advana Edge and [Air Force Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office](#). All five U.S. military services and [U.S. Special Operations Command](#) provide use cases and data.

The BRAVO hackathon series is named after “Project B,” a 1921 series of joint Army-Navy target exercises based on Army Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell’s then-controversial claim that bombers can sink battleships. Also styled after Project B, BRAVO hackathons are designed to allow government, academia, industry and citizens to test and validate bold ideas using real DoD data, Wagner said.

## **FAMILY OF AFTAC HEADQUARTERS’ NAMESAKE VISITS FOR FIRST TIME**

*Adapted from an article by Susan A. Romano, AFTAC/PA, 15 Dec 2022*

**PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.** — In 2014, the Department of Defense’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center held a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially commemorate the naming of its headquarters after an iconic leader and pioneer of long-range detection.

The Air Force Technical Applications Center christened its 276,000 square-foot facility after Walt Singlevich, a giant in the field of atomic energy and nuclear research. Eight years later, 12 of Walt’s relatives paid a visit to the center Nov. 22 to learn more about his role during the Atomic Age.

Composed of nieces, nephews, in-laws, and great nephews from New Jersey, South Carolina, Florida and Arizona, the extended family traveled to Patrick SFB for the sole purpose of expanding their knowledge about Walt’s legacy.



Family members of iconic leader and pioneer of long range detection Walt Singlevich pose for a group photo in front of Singlevich’s portrait and plaque dedicating the Department of Defense’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center to AFTAC’s first Senior Scientist during the family’s visit to the center Nov. 22, 2022. Pictured are Ellsworth Singlevich, Jonathan Lane, Trent Singlevich, Kimberly Lane, Brandon Lane, Spencer Singlevich, Melissa Singlevich, Sara Singlevich, Patrick Lane, Cynthia Singlevich, Paul Singlevich, and Jack Singlevich. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)

“This is such a great opportunity for us,” said Melissa Singlevich, Walt’s niece, “because for the longest time we were told that Uncle Walt’s job was highly classified, so we never really knew much about what he did during his time with the Air Force.”

Walt began his career in 1944 where he was assigned to the Manhattan Project – the research and development program that produced the first atomic bombs during World War II. After several years in industry, he began working for the Air Force’s Office of Atomic Energy in 1952, where he directed the research for many nuclear tests that took place in the South Pacific and at the Nevada Test Site.

The elder Singlevich ultimately became AFTAC’s senior scientist, and throughout the 1980s until his death in 1992, he operated the U.S. Atomic Energy Detection System; directed the work of 850 scientists, engineers, technicians and analysts; and oversaw 20 laboratories in the U.S. and overseas.

While that information briefly describes Walt’s role in nuclear event detection, it only scratches the surface. In order to provide the family with a greater sight picture into Walt’s considerable contributions to national defense and global security, AFTAC invited Dr. James “Mike” Young to come out of retirement and serve as a visiting docent for the family. Young was AFTAC’s Command Historian for 11 years before bidding farewell to government service in May 2022.

“Melissa is spot-on with her assessment,” said Young. “Like many other AFTACers of that generation, Walt and his colleagues were never allowed to discuss anything about their work on the Atomic Energy Detection System due to the extreme sensitivity of the mission. The family seemed extremely interested in learning as much as they could about his service.”

The Singleviches were given the rare opportunity to spend time in the AFTAC Heritage Room, where the center houses some of its priceless artifacts and historic memorabilia. They also got to see the commemorative plaque dedicating the building to their patriarch, as well as the framed portrait of Walt sitting at his desk, complete with a set of toy trains in the foreground.

“Uncle Walt absolutely loved trains,” said Jack Singlevich, Walt’s nephew. “When I was about 10 years old, I spent the Christmas holidays with him and (his wife) Aunt Joan. He had an elaborate Lionel train collection set up all through the living room. While I sat and watched, Uncle Walt and his friend and colleague Dr. Uri were on their hands and knees playing with the trains like little kids. It was a sight to behold, and definitely not what I thought nuclear scientists did in their spare time!”

Throughout the visit, Young discussed some of the major projects Walt was involved with and the importance of that work, especially during the dangerous years of the Cold War. He also confirmed the rumor the family had been hearing about for years – that Walt was, in fact, the original “Roswell Alien.”

“I explained to them that back in the day, Walt and his team would launch balloons from Alamogordo Air Force Base in New Mexico to collect radioactive particles from detonations at

the Nevada Test Site. The scientists were testing their ability to use this technology to detect secret Soviet nuclear tests, and due to the nature of the work, they had to wear protective gear – full suit, hood, and respirator. On one occasion, a rancher’s wife stumbled upon Walt when he was retrieving his large mylar balloon and immediately fainted right there on the spot, thinking she had seen an alien!”

The family got a kick out of that humorous anecdote!

When asked about what they thought about their trip to the nuclear treaty monitoring center, each family member had varying perspectives, but similar sentiments.

“Our visit to AFTAC was the highlight of our trip to Florida,” said Patrick Lane, husband to Kimberly, Walt’s grandniece. “It was an honor to learn more about our ‘famous’ relative and celebrate his accomplishments with the base personnel.”

Kim added, “I was uncertain what we would see or learn, but the tour was fantastic and so educational! Up until our visit, I had no idea the critical role AFTAC has in our national security, and how its importance continues to grow.”

# 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](mailto:newsletter@ftva.us) or [dennis.buxton@me.com](mailto: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.

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## Heritage Chapter San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, President

### CSAF VISITS

## GOODFELLOW AIR FORCE BASE

Submitted by Wayne Bascom, Heritage Chapter Secretary  
(Extracted from Congressman August Pfluger's December 16 newsletter)



Walt Koenig (Chamber of Commerce), Brenda Gunter, San Angelo Mayor; August Pfluger, Congressman; Steve Floyd, Tom Green County Judge; Lance Carter, Incoming Tom Green County Judge; and Mike Boyd, Community Leader

On 12 December Colonel Matthew Reilman and I hosted General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, in San Angelo for a tour of Goodfellow Air Force Base (GAFB). General Brown is the first Chief of Staff of the Air Force to have ever visited GAFB.

His historic visit was monumental and affirms the importance of the base to U.S. national security. The United States faces a complex threat environment—with bad actors rising in various theaters. At the heart of defending this Nation stands Goodfellow Air Force Base and the 12,000 professionals who graduate there every year and begin their careers to keep Americans safe.

I am proud of the team of leaders in San Angelo and Goodfellow who have dedicated years to ensuring a

successful community-based partnership. Special thanks to Tom Green County Judge Stephen C. Floyd, Tom Green County Judge-Elect Lane Carter, San Angelo Mayor Brenda Gunter, community leader Mike Boyd, and San Angelo Chamber of Commerce CEO Walt Koenig for providing their insight and joining me for a press conference following the tour.

It was an honor to visit with General Brown and make the case for why Goodfellow deserves expanded mission assets and permanent solutions for the base housing shortage.

## Heritage Chapter Holds Expanded “Hangover Christmas Party”

Submitted by Wayne Bascom, Heritage Chapter Secretary

All photos by Faith in a Flash, Carl Bradley

Every year, the FTVA Heritage Chapter holds their annual Christmas party in January, affectionately called the "Christmas Hangover Party." This year we decided to do something different. Earlier in the year, Tom Nurre spearheaded an effort by the Heritage Chapter to develop a large contact list of all Intel and Goodfellow support veterans in the area. This was initially done so that FTVA members who are not active could participate in our local election process. This outreach was extremely well received, with many indicating they would be interested in attending a future social event.

In December, the Heritage Chapter decided to use this contact list to hold a larger social than normal. The idea was to provide a venue where FTVA members, non-members, Goodfellow support personnel, and their families (a special effort was to contact spouses of deceased members) could reconnect.



Wayne Bascom Reconnecting with John and Pat Garza



Rick Premo Registering Guests

We were fortunate that one of our favorite chefs, Chef Carlos Estrada, was going to have his new restaurant opened at the same time, in the new Clarion Hotel. Chef Carlos had just moved his RiverView Restaurant into this location.

The outreach began with mailings and post cards sent to the entire contact list. RSVPs began flooding in from not only the local San Angelo area, but north Texas and Oklahoma as well. By the time of the event on 21 January, we had over 75 RSVPs. The event included a two hour social period in the lounge with access to the hotel bar, snack area, and the hotel

foyer containing huge displays of past Heritage Chapter activities.

The buffet dinner followed along with some entertainment, including Tommy Smart singing his rendition of "I've Been Everywhere, Man."



**Chef Carlos' Delicious Buffet**



**Tommy Smart Crooning "I've Been Everywhere, Man"**

The FTVA Heritage Chapter, along with an endowment from the estate of the late Cpl Rocky Durso, subsidized the social so that dinner and a free trip to the bar only cost \$20.



**Examples of "In Memory" Yard Signs**



**One of Several Large Displays**

One of the many highlights of the evening was the presentation of a Hanoi Brick to Lonnie Henderson, as well as the attendance of Ray and Paula Leftwich, Gold Star children of Raymond Leftwich who is memorialized on Goodfellow AFB with Leftwich Hall.



**Larry Miller Presents Hanoi Brick to Lonnie Henderson**



**Ray Leftwich Beaming**



**Tommy Smart, Norm Parlow, Gary Belcher, Bill Delaughter, Tom Nurre**



**The Barnes Family, Charlie, Rita, and son, enjoying the socializing in lounge.**



**Ernestine and Bob Pace**



**Heritage Chapter President JJ Graham Emceed the Evening Program**



**Bob Kent chatting with Chae Bascom**



**Special Surviving Spouse Guests Sandi Ryan and Gloria Henshaw**

The Heritage Chapter would finally like to especially recognize those individuals in our business community who went above and beyond to ensure everyone had the best experience possible. Pictured (Photos by Wayne Bascom) are Kelly Hicks, Clarion/Suburban Event Coordinator for the local Clarion Hotel, and Chef Carlos Estrada of The Riverview Restaurant, located within the hotel. This experience went so well that this venue was chosen as the dinner and lodging location for the upcoming Vietnam Veteran's Day activities in March.



**Heritage Chapter President JJ Graham (right) presents Kelly Hicks, Clarion/Suburban Event Coordinator with a certificate of Appreciation from the chapter. Photo by Wayne Bascom.**



**Heritage Chapter President JJ Graham presents Chef Carlos Estrada with the Heritage Chapter's certificate of Appreciation. Photo by Wayne Bascom.**

## C-47 History Site News

A look back... A look ahead. . .



Thanks again to everyone that participated in and supported the dedication of the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza this past March. There are a ton of pictures uploaded to the [vietnam50thcpp.com](http://vietnam50thcpp.com) EC-47 History Site Vietnam War Commemoration website. Photographer Carl Bradley of Faith in a Flash Photography did a wonderful job.

[March 25, 2022 Dedication Photo Gallery](#)



**Pavers update as of December 24, 2022**

**Total Pavers: 4x8 - 578; 8x8 - 410 \* Total 988**

**Total Inscriptions: 4x8 - 433 and 8x8 - 163 \* Total 596**

**Bronze plates installed in the plaza: Total 331**

**Engraver backlog at Leave Your Mark: Total 265**

**Backlog expected to be caught up early in 2023.**

There are only 145 4x8 pavers still available...and just 247 8x8 pavers. We continue to provide complimentary \$50 pavers to those you recommend or nominate through our special Pavers & Pins program. Funding is provided by the raffle and auction proceeds from the dedication dinner. Many recipient families also make generous donations that greatly extend the life of this program. If you know of a deceased EC-47 veteran you think merits a tribute in this plaza...or an EC-47 deceased veteran surviving spouse, please let Tom know via separate email ([info@ec47.com](mailto:info@ec47.com)) or telephone 325 450-4476. Don't delay. . .

**[Donate - Pavers & Pins Program](#)**

**[Purchase a Paver](#)**

# Fifty Years Ago . . . The last USAF EC-47 Sortie Out of Tan Son Nhut

by Joe Martin

“Time flies when you get old. As 2022 fades in the rearview mirror, we can’t help but reflect. Was it really more than a half-century ago that we spent a year or so of our then-young lives at bases in Vietnam and Thailand, cruising the skies of Southeast Asia in the trusty Gooney Bird?

November 6, 2022, marked the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the last USAF EC-47 mission flown out of Saigon’s Tan Son Nhut airbase. The crew on this milestone sortie was mostly brass from the 360th TEWS and the 6994th Security Squadron. In the left seat was 360th C.O. LTC Col. John Griffith. Co-pilot was 2d Lt James L. Clement, Jr. One of the two navigators aboard was 6994th commander LTC Dave Eddy, perhaps the individual most closely associated with the development of the Air Force's ARDF program. A couple of long-time radio operators worked the back end, one of whom, MSgt Mike Pressler, would log 700-plus missions. The aircraft, fittingly chosen for the occasion, was 43-15112, the very first Phyllis Ann "production" EC-47 to arrive at Tan Son Nhut back in 1966.”

See the photos from Jim Clement and the full story by Joe Martin on the EC-47 History Site Homepage... <https://ec47.com/>



6994<sup>th</sup> veteran Robert Washburn recently participated in the Wreaths Across America project at Jefferson Barracks cemetery. He is pictured at the communal gravesite for CAP 72.

### 55 years ago

*TSgt Fred Sebers - 8 Nov 1967*

### 53 years ago

*CAP 72 - 5 Feb 1969*

*TIDE 86 - 9 Mar 1969*

*PRONG 3 - 8 Oct 1969*

### 52 years ago

*CAP 53 - 22 Apr 1970*

### 50 years ago

*BARON 56 - 21 Nov 1972*

### 49 Years ago

*BARON 52 - 5 Feb 1973*

## National Vietnam War Veterans Day

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day will be observed on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. We are working closely with the Heritage Chapter-Freedom Through Vigilance Association and Goodfellow AFB senior leadership to hold an annual Remembrance Ceremony at the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza. Current planning is for the dedication of newly installed engraved bronze plates and presentation of Vietnam War Commemorative lapel pins to eligible veterans and deceased Vietnam veteran surviving spouses (DVVSS) at 11:00 am at the memorial plaza adjacent to the flagpole and east entrance to the Norma Brown building.



Texas Senator (Doctor) Charles Schwertner presenting his mom, Kaye Schwertner, with the DVVSS lapel pin at the March dedication ceremony dinner. Kaye is the surviving spouse of deceased Major Charles Schwertner, TEWS navigator.

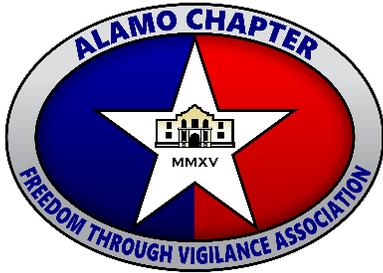
Please watch the [ec47.com](http://ec47.com) and [vietnam50thcpp.com](http://vietnam50thcpp.com) websites for more information.

Email us with all your comments and questions...[info@ec47](mailto:info@ec47). Tom's cell phone is 325 450-4476.

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Our mailing address is:

History Site  
4213 Green Meadow Dr  
San Angelo, TX 76904-0704



## 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 Restaurant on 16 February 2023. Fellowship and dinner were enjoyed by the 21 members and spouses present plus two special guests: Command Chief Master Sergeant and Senior Enlisted Leader at NSA Texas, Karen Blair and her husband Scott. In addition to our distinguished guests, the FTVA Members present were:

*Ted and Shari Colquhoun*

*Ken and Shiela Williams*

*Vince and Elise Colacicco*

*Leroy and Hilda Rogers*

*Bob and Donna Crabtree*

*Ken Maynard*

*Marco Aldaz*

*Kevin Abney*

*Charlie Bishop*

*Jim McLendon*

*Bill Sheck*

*Dennis Rasmussen*

*Doug and Anne Williams*

*Mrs. Doyle Larson (Lois) and Nancy Larson*

President Ken Williams called the meeting to order at 1800 and the Members discussed attending the upcoming Spring Social set for Saturday, 25 March 2023 at 5 p.m. The 16<sup>th</sup> AF Commander, Lt Gen Kevin Kennedy, is currently slated to be the guest speaker. Members decided to forgo next month's meeting and attend the Spring Social instead.

FTVA President Ted Colquhoun mentioned U.S. Representative Tony Gonzalez may also attend the Spring Social along with other key personnel from 16 AF.

Command Chief, CMSgt Karen Blair, discussed how our chapter and the FTVA might partner and support NSA Texas enlisted programs. More to come as discussions take place in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1900.



FTVA President Ted Colquhoun (standing right) addressing the Alamo Chapter members at the 16 February 2023 chapter meeting. Pictured (left side of table): Doug Williams, Anne Williams, Shari Colquhoun, Donna Crabtree (obscured), Shiela Williams, Ken Maynard, Marco Aldaz, Leroy Rogers. Right side of table (front to back): Charlie Bishop, Dennis Rassmussen, Kevin Abney, Ted Colquhoun (standing), Bob Crabtree (obscured), Karen Blair.



Left to Right: Bill Sheck, Ken Williams, and Nancy Larson posing for the camera at the February membership meeting of the FTVA's Alamo Chapter, San Antonio, TX.



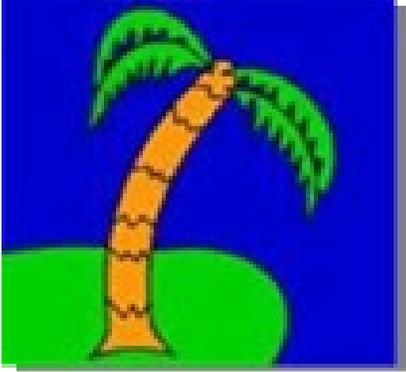
Left to Right, LeRoy Rogers, Elise Colaccio, Vince Colacicco, Scott Blair, and Karen Blair enjoying the camaraderie at the February meeting of the FTVA Alamo Chapter.



**(Left to front): Mrs. Doyle (Lois Larson) and Nancy Larson. (Right front): Bill Sheck, Jim McLendon, Charlie Bishop, Dennis Rassmussen, Kevin Abney, Ted Colquhoun, Bob Crabtree, Ken Williams, Karen Blair**

**Left: Vince Colacicco, Scott Blair, and Karen Blair. Right: side of table: Leroy Rogers, Marco Aldaz, Ken Maynard, Donna Crabtree, Shari Colquhoun, Nancy Larson, Mrs. Doyle (Lois) Larson, Shiela taking a photo, Bill Sheck**





## Aloha Chapter Honolulu, HI

John “Tilly” Toillion, President

Aloha All –

Our first year 2023 get together was Friday, March 3, at (you guessed it) our favorite “watering hole” Ruby Tuesdays in Mililani.

Attendees were Ken Een, Fred Collins and grandson, Brendan, John Harman (via Zoom from Maui) and yours truly. Bummer, I was asleep at the wheel and forgot to have a picture taken.

The topics for the day included our usual servings of many memories from times on active duty and retirement which of course resulted in lots of laughs. The food was “ono” (great) as usual too.

Unfortunately, we missed Dickie Hites with his usual “shout out” sign. Perhaps next meeting he’ll have a couple of “shout outs..”

I shared a wonderful phone call I had this week from Dennis “Rass” Rasmussen’ who spent many a year here as an Aloha Chapter member and leader. It was great getting caught up and definitely accentuates what “*Remain In Touch (RIT)*” is all about. Mahalo Rass for the call.

Last but not least, the Aloha Chapter’s Welcome Mat is always out for any of you traveling this way.

Until next time – “*Aloha ā hui hou*” – (until we meet again).

John “Tilly” Toillion  
Aloha Chapter President

# **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](mailto:bobbast@comcast.net)). Nominations will be vetted with the individual, with Elections in February or March 2023. Terms of Office are two years.*

\*\*\*\*\*



# Rocky Mountain Chapter Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

[Rocky Mountain Chapter Website](#)

Check back in June.



## **Wasatch Chapter Salt Lake City, UT**

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

Submitted by Scott Lawson

FTVA Wasatch finally managed to squeak out a quick gathering just before the holidays to reconnect with some of our regulars. No business, just good company and sharing of stories. A reminder that we need to do this more often. Later in the month, many of us are meeting up again to help place veterans' wreaths on the headstones of American Heroes as part of National Wreaths Across America Day on 12/17/22 at the Utah State VA Cemetery in Bluffdale, UT.

From left to right around the table: Jake Scheid, Scott Lawson, Curt Adamson, Nick Batura, Peter Buller, Elisha Batura, Jennifer and Shawn Heckman.

See our [Facebook Page](#) for more information and announcements on our meetings normally held on fourth Fridays at 6:00pm (locations vary). If you're ever in town visiting, we'd love to see you join us.



From left to right around the table: Jake Scheid, Scott Lawson, Curt Adamson, Nick Batura, Peter Buller, Elisha Batura, Jennifer and Shawn Heckman.



# Gold Country Chapter Yuba City, CA

John Aurelius, President  
[jaurelius@mikodi.com](mailto:jaurelius@mikodi.com)



Check back in June.



## REUNIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FTVA Spring Social  
Saturday March 25, 2023  
Gateway Club Lackland AFB  
San Antonio, Texas**

Guest Speaker: Lt Gen Kennedy, 16AF/CC

Dress: Business Casual

Cost: Free (though we ask for a voluntary \$5 donation at the door).

Light snacks, poo-poo's, hors d'oeuvre's

Pay-as-you-go bar, but tea, coffee, and water are free.

Social hour is 5-6 pm with start of event at 6 pm.

RSVP to Ken Williams ([kenbobb@aol.com](mailto:kenbobb@aol.com)) or 210-688-7099 ASAP as seating is limited.

**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

- 
- Abram, Richard T., SSgt, USAFSS  
Batson, Robert “Bob” B., USAFSS  
Bodvin, Leo. H., USAFSS  
Bruckner, Milton, USAFSS  
Carr, David J., USAFSS  
Crain, George C., USAFSS  
DeAngelis William M., USAFSS  
Egger, Robert P., CMSgt (ret), USAFSS \*\*\* **FTVA Hall of Honor and Lifetime Member**  
Hannigan, John, J., Maj (ret) USAFSS \*\*\* **FTVA Lifetime Member**  
Hartnett, Daniel C., MSgt (ret), USAFSS \*\*\* **FTVA Lifetime Member**  
Johnson, Craig L., \*\*\* **FTVA Hall of Honor and Lifetime Member**  
Kowalkowski, Jeremy, J., USAF  
McDonald, Ralph A., A2C, USAFSS  
Means, Curtis, R., USAFSS  
Meskill, Cora E., USAFSS \*\*\* **FTVA Lifetime Member**  
Moyer, Melvin, USAFSS  
O’Connor, Sandra P., USAF  
Orman, Kenneth, J., USAFSS  
Prehn, Gerald G., SSgt, USAF  
Roach, Thomas B., MSgt (ret), USAFSS \*\*\* **FTVA Member**  
Sacchetti, Richard J., A1C, USAFSS \*\*\* **FTVA Member**  
Santone, James R., TSgt (ret), USAFSS  
Schmitt, Gary F., USAFSS  
Simmons, Roger W., USAFSS  
Strickland, James M., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS  
Stroupe, William E., USAFSS  
Terrill, Fordham W., MSgt (Ret), USAF

Wachs, Joseph V., USAFSS  
Welch, George B. III, A1C, USAFSS  
Wilkinson, Gary A., Sgt, USAFSS  
Zoebisch, Dale L., SSgt, USAFSS

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**Abram, Richard T., SSgt, 74**, passed away December 4, 2022. Reverend Abram served in Vietnam as a Staff Sergeant in the USAF. Rev. Abram was a minister, adult Sunday School teacher, Men’s fellowship leader and member of Elgin Congregational Holiness Church. He always put God first, and he enjoyed flying his airplane, hunting, and fishing. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Abram; children, Brie A. Abram (Danna), David C. Abram (Melinda), Kevin M. Abram, and Amanda K. Abram. //Obit – Powers Funeral Home//

*Richard T. Abram is listed in “Our Losses” page from 6994th Security Squadron site <https://6994th.com/> //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//*

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**Batson, Robert “Bob”, 75**, passed away October 8, 2022. He was a veteran of the USAF having served two tours in the Vietnam War. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Lauwana Batson; son, Brian (Mandi) Batson. //Obit - Austin & Bell Funeral Home//

*Robert Batson is listed in “Our Losses” page from 6994th Security Squadron site <https://6994th.com/> //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//*

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**Bodvin, Leo H., 82**, passed away December 24, 2022. Leo enlisted in the USAF in 1958, serving in Okinawa, South Korea, Taiwan and Fort Meade, MD. He was honorably discharged in 1966 and joined the federal government as a civilian research analyst with the NSA. He retired in 2002 with 44 years of service. On April 27, 1968, Leo married his first wife, Wendy Roxanne Moeser. They had two sons, Christopher, and Eric, before, sadly, Wendy passed away from complications after surgery on June 30, 1975. He is survived by his second wife of 40 years, Francine Elizabeth Elam (who met and fell in love with him at the agency), and his two sons, Christopher, and Eric, his daughters-in-law, Rachelle, and Kristen. //Obit Shaw & Sons Funeral Home//

*Hi, Fran, I was so sorry to hear of Leo’s passing. I have known Leo as one off my best friends since we were at Yale in 1958. We were both in Taiwan together and shared many good times. He will be sadly missed by all of his Air Force friends. //Jack Corrado//*

*Fran, My condolences to you and your family for this difficult time. It has been over 2 decades in my communication with Leo. I am including other ChiLings on this message in case anyone has a personal message for you. //Carl Masthay//*

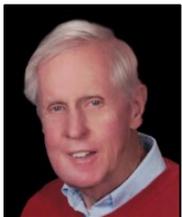
*Chinese linguist. (IFEL 1958-11) Okinawa, South Korea, Taiwan, and Fort Meade, (NSA civilian 1966-2002) //Bert Turner//*

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**Bruckner, Milton, 83**, passed away November 14, 2022. Milt had a stellar 42-year career as a Russian linguist. The first five years were spent in the USAF and the remaining 37 years at the National Security Agency (NSA). He loved languages as evidenced by the fact that he learned Azeri, the language of Azerbaijan, and also dabbled in Turkish and Spanish. Milt and Hobie loved to travel, especially their trips to more than half of the republics of the former Soviet Union. He is survived by the love of his life and best friend for more than 55 years, Hobie; his loving son and daughter-in-law, Daniel, and Kristen Bruckner. //Obit – Daily Camera//

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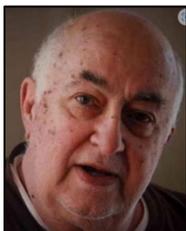
**Carr, David J., 82**, passed away February 20, 2023. He joined the USAF in 1963. While in the Air Force, Dave served primarily in Alaska as a Russian linguist. During his time in the Air Force, he learned to fly with the Aero Club and earned his pilot's license. Upon his discharge, Dave returned home to New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, daughters Allison (Marcus) DeGraaf and Elizabeth (Kevin) Chamberlain. //Obit – Baldwin Cremation//

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**Crain, George C., 80**, passed away December 30, 2022. He attended Indiana University, where he became fluent in Russian and went on to serve with the U.S. Air Force Security Service. After returning to the states, he began a 38-year career in electronics with AT&T. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia; their two daughters, Romi White and Trendi Johnson, both of Navarre. //Obit – Lewis Funeral Home//

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**DeAngelis, William M., 93**, passed away October 16, 2022. William enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces during the Korean War where he served in the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile. He married Nancy J. Kooser and they had five children. The family moved to Wilton, Connecticut in 1961, where he was mayor from 1990-94. In 1999 he married Yolanda Corenzo. They moved to San Antonio in 2001 and celebrated their twenty-third anniversary that year. He is survived by his wife Yoly; three sons and two daughters: Mark and Linda DeAngelis, Matthew DeAngelis

and Suz Friedrich, Christopher and Laurie DeAngelis, Sara DeAngelis and Archil Pichkhadze, Rebecca DeAngelis. //Obit - The Times Herald//

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**Egger, Robert P., CMSgt (ret), 90**, passed away September 18, 2022. He served in the United States Air Force and retired after 30 years as a Chief Master Sergeant. He then served an additional 19 years in the Civil Service, retiring as a GS-14 with the title Security Chief of the Air Intelligence Agency. His service included tours during the Korean and Vietnam wars and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service. He also volunteered at Security Service Federal Credit Union for almost 40 years, ultimately serving 8 terms as the Chairman of the Board. He was involved in the national credit union movement, and was once named Volunteer of the Year. He held leadership positions in numerous local and national service organizations. His greatest love was his family. Along with his bride of 64 years, Anna, they were involved with and had an impact on six generations of family on both his and Anna’s side of the family. They always had an open-door policy to family and friends. Robert is survived by his beloved bride of 64 years, Anna Egger; sons Mark Egger and wife Diane and Mike Egger and wife Karri. //Porter Loring Mortuary West//

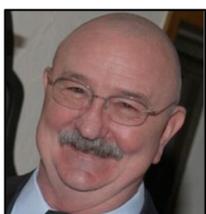
Chief Egger was inducted into the FTVA Hall of Honor in 2002. //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//

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**Hannigan, John Joseph “Jack”, Maj (ret), 92**, passed away January 21, 2023. He graduated from high school in 1948. He married Beverly Jean Micklewright on December 19, 1953 and celebrated 61 years together before Bev passed away in May of 2015. During his 22 years in the Air Force, Jack and Bev were stationed in several locations throughout the US and Europe: Otis AFB, Cape Cod, Massachusetts; USAF Radar Station, Ramore, Ontario, Canada; K.I. Sawyer AFB, Gwinn and Marquette, MI; Stewart AFB, Newburg, NY; Izmir, Turkey; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Strategic Air Command (SAC), Offutt AFB, Omaha, Nebraska; Air Force Security Service, Frankfurt, Germany; Pleiku and Da Nang, Vietnam; and Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is survived by daughters, Margaret “Peggy” Kircher; Jean Dotson and husband E.B.; and Mary Pat “Patty” Butler and husband Kent. //Obit – Klein Funeral Home//

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**Hartnett, Daniel C., MSgt (ret), 72**, passed away January 9, 2023. He served in the USAF for 23 years. He impacted many during his military service and his expertise was utilized on critical mission areas which took him and his family all over the world. His memory is cherished and carried on through his loving wife of 54 years Patricia Hartnett; children Patrick Andrew Hartnett (Tiffany), Gabriel

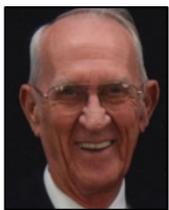
Ian Hartnett (Ilse) and Dana Elizabeth Çağlayan (Okan). //Obit – Castle Ridge Mortuary North//

My sincere condolences to Patty and family on Danny's passing. Danny was one of the Silent Warriors who did so much for our country, yet the nature of his work required him to remain silent on what he did. His contributions helped keep our country safe. Danny ole friend, rest easy and I'll see you on the other side. //Rick Jefferson//

Danny was a great guy. I spent two years with him in Misawa Japan, and it was a blast. I'm so sorry for your loss, God Bless. //Thomas Powell//

I'm so sad about losing my friend it's hard to put into words. He was my supervisor back in the 70s, and he was always a great friend all the way until a few days ago when he passed. He is an icon in the Air Force Intelligence Community. I'll miss you old buddy: See you on the other side. //Danny Prichard//

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**Johnson, Craig L., 92**, passed away January 9, 2023. Craig worked for 39 years in the U.S. Air Force Security Service holding various positions involved in signals intelligence, retiring in 1991 as Technical Director of the Electronic Warfare Directorate at the Air Force Communications Center. One of his favorite assignments was Zweibrücken, Germany from 1959-1962. After his retirement, he gave many years of service to the Association of Old Crows. Craig is survived by his wife of 71 years, Betty, his four daughters, Kay, Susan (Ronnie), Gayle (Wayne), and Stephanie (Eric). //Obit – Mission Park//

Craig was President of Old Crows in 1990s. Fallen Crow: Craig L. Johnson (jedonline.com) //Journal of Electromagnetic Dominance//

Mr. Johnson was inducted to the FTVA Hall of Honor in 1992. //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//

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**Kowalkowski, Jeremy J., 38**, passed away January 10, 2023. Jeremy served in the USAF for four years as an Airborne Cryptologic Linguist both stateside and abroad. He then pursued his mechanical engineering degree at MSOE all whilst working in the field of mechanical engineering. He is survived by his family: parents Keith and Lisa (Miller) Kowalkowski, brother Kyle, sister Lacy Kowalkowski. //Obit – Schneider Michaelis Funeral Home//

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**McDonald, Ralph A., A2C, 83**, passed away October 8, 2022. Ralph enlisted in the US Air Force. After basic training he had schooling at March Air Force Base and then served in the USAF Security Service in Germany during the Cold War. Upon completion of his service, he began his career in data processing where it developed into the Information Technology we know today. Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Ruth McDonald; his children and their spouses, Charles and Marlies McDonald, Bonnie and Steve Caughey, Mark and Heidi Ambrosius. **//Obit – Find A Grave//**

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**Means, Curtis R., 91**, passed away February 16, 2023. Curtis joined the USAF in 1951. During the Korean War, he served as a high-speed Morse Code Intercept Operator with the 1st Communications Squadron at Nagasaki Air Force Base. After the war, he transferred to the 450th Communications Squadron at Foster AFB, Texas. He enlisted in the Air Force Reserves in 1955. Curtis was awarded the Korean Service Medal, U.N. Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal before being honorably discharged in 1962. He is survived by his sister Marjorie (Means) Boston; son Steve Means and wife Genesis; daughter Karen (Means) Abernathy and husband Fred; son Bill Means and wife Kim. **//Obit - Petersen Family Funeral Home//**

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**Meskill, Cora E., 97**, passed away February 1, 2023. Cora spent most of her professional career teaching both in the Department of Defense schools abroad in Germany and Japan as well as locally within the San Antonio School District. Cora further excelled in a civil service career as a technical librarian within the Air Force Security Service, and was the first woman to receive the Distinguished Civilian Service **//Obit – Porter Loring//**

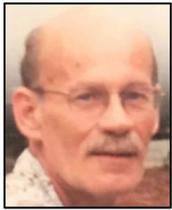
*Thank you Ms. Cora Meskill for taking a young Airman and teaching him some social skills. A temporary assignment at the Tech Library in 1963 threw us together and you recognized in me and complimented me for being polite. When you asked me to accompany you to a dinner at the Fort Sam Officer's Club, you were so gracious in suggesting to me what to wear. On numerous occasions you asked me to accompany you to dinners. This old, roughhewn West Virginia Hillbilly will be forever grateful for the lessons learned. **//Jerry D. Tilley//***

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**Dr. Moyer, Melvin, 89**, passed away November 29, 2022. Mel joined the USAF during the Korean War and served four years as an intercept radio operator with Air Force Security Service. His tour of duty included time in Japan, the Pacific Islands, and the Philippines. Married to Elizabeth (Beth) Moyer for 60 years, he had 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild. **//Obit - Kays-Ponger & Uselton Funeral Homes & Cremation Services//**

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**Orman, Kenneth J., 78**, passed away February 3, 2023. Ken served in the USAF from 1962-1966. He was a Russian linguist and was stationed in Germany and Pakistan. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Linda (Wiede), his sons Gregory, and Theodor (Cheryl L.). //Obit - Thayer-Rock Funeral Home//

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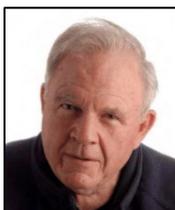
**O'Connor, Sandra P., 52**, passed away December 15, 2022. Sandra proudly served in the United States Air Force as a Korean Linguist. Sandra was eventually stationed in South Korea, where she met her loving, partner in crime, David, who luckily was stationed alongside her. After completing their family with their loving kids, Jacqueline and AJ O'Connor, Sandra returned to school to become the most compassionate nurse. Sandra is survived by husband, David O'Connor; daughter, Jacqueline G. O'Connor; son, AJ O'Connor. //Obit – White Chapel Funeral Home//

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**Prehn, Gerald G., SSgt, 90**, passed away February 2, 2022. He enlisted in the USAF during the Korean War in 1951. While still in the Air Force, he attended the University of Syracuse and was certified in the USAFIT intensive Russian language program which served him well in his subsequent role with the CIA. He was discharged from the USAF in 1954 with the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was a retired CIA senior intelligence and executive officer in the Directorate of Operations. Jerry joined the CIA in 1958 and served in a number of senior positions in Washington, DC and abroad in Moscow, Vienna, Munich, London, and Ottawa, including as Chief of Station in two postings and subsequently as Chief of the Agency Congressional Liaison Division, and Chief of the National Defector Operations Center. His Moscow assignment (1963-1966) occurred in the aftermath of the Cuban Missile Crisis, during the overthrow of Premier Khrushchev, the assassination of President Kennedy and of the signing of the first US - USSR Atomic Energy Agreement in which he participated. He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Shan Savage Prehn; sons Jeffrey M. Prehn and Matthew R. Prehn (Jill) and daughter Elizabeth P. Hogan (Michael). Published by //Obit - The Washington Post//

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**Roach, Thomas B., MSgt (ret), 83**, passed away April 29, 2022. It is with heavy hearts and great sadness, we announce the death of Thomas Roach (Lincoln, CA). //Obit - Reichert's Funeral and Cremation Services//

*Tom enlisted in the USAF in 1958. In October 1959, he was assigned to Misawa Air Base, Japan where he immediately bought a Nikon F at the Base Exchange. He*

had been photographing as a hobby since then. He retired from the USAF in 1978 and immediately moved to California. He was always interested in nature photography and took "eco-safaris" to Costa Rica. Tom was a chapter member for many years before I joined. We enjoyed many hours with Tom sharing his Air Force experiences of over 20 years. //John Aurelius President, Gold Country Chapter//

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**Sacchetti, Richard J., A1C, 79**, passed away June 16, 2022. He was a true patriot that served his country for many years. He was a member of many associations including but not limited to the American Legion, Disabled Veterans Association, Cooties, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Gwendolyn Faith Sacchetti. They had six children: Deborah Clifton, Michael Webb (deceased) Rodney Webb, Teresa Lund, Richard and Anthony Sacchetti. //Obit -

**Ullrey Funeral Chapel//**

*Richard Sacchetti was the founder of our Gold Country FTVA Chapter and served as its President for many years. I was present at his graveside service in Sutter California where he was honored by the Beale Air Force Base Honor Guard and a three-rifle salute from American Legion Post 705. I was told by a close friend of his that he was buried wearing his Silent Warrior T-Shirt along with his Silent Warrior ring. This is a ring that he had designed himself. Dick had it produced and is now worn by many of our members. Dick was a great leader and patriot and will be missed. //John Aurelius President, Gold Country Chapter//*

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**Santone, James R., TSgt (ret), 86**, passed away December 22, 2022. Jim retired after proudly serving 20 years in the USAF. Jim attended the Syracuse University's - US Air Force's Foreign Language program (becoming a Russian linguist). He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Joanne M (Fusillo) Santone of Canastota, NY. He met Joanne while attending Syracuse University. They were married November 26, 1959. Jim and Joanne had three children. Lorrie A Whipple (Jason)

Shortsville, NY. James R Santone Jr (John) of Orlando, FL. Kevin J Santone (Mandi). //Obit - **Oneida Daily Dispatch//**

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**Schmitt Gary F., 74**, passed away February 11, 2023. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Mr. Schmitt was a member of the McCormick Area Veterans Association (MAVA). Mr. Schmitt is survived by his wife of 31 years, Melody. //Obit - **Harris Funeral Home & Cremation Services//**

*Gary F. Schmitt is listed in "Our Losses" page from 6994th Security Squadron site <https://6994th.com/> //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//*

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**Simmons, Roger W., 83**, passed away November 6, 2022. He was born on November 8, 1938. He was a 20-year USAF retiree. //Obit - Sunland Memorial Park, Mortuary & Cremation Center Obituaries//

*It was my honor to be your best man at this happy occasion in Scotland. Rest in Peace my friend. //Thomas Henning//*

*Roger W. Simmons is listed in "Our Losses" page from 6994th Security Squadron site <https://6994th.com/> //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//*

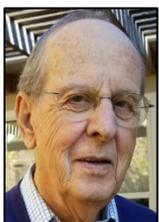
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**Strickland, James M., SMSgt (ret), 85**, passed away February 16, 2023. He joined the USAF and met Ermon June Moore while stationed in San Antonio, Texas. During his 21-year military career, he served in Vietnam as a radio operator on military aircraft, traveled extensively and had two daughters that he very was proud of. He retired as a SMSgt. He is survived by his daughter Rhonda Ragsdale and husband David, daughter Teresa Barker and husband Dwayne.

*.-. / .-. --- ...- . / -.- --- ..- / -.. -.- We love you Dad (morse code) //Obit - Sunset Northwest Memorial Home//*

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**Stroupe, William E., 89**, passed away February 21, 2023. He was a veteran, having served four years in the United States Air Force Security Service. While serving for three years in Germany, he met Irmgard Lang of Wiesbaden. A little more than a year later, they were married and returned to Western North Carolina, where they lived until 2010. Mr. Stroupe was a long-time broadcaster, having begun his career at WISE, then later joining WLOS, where he remained for more than three decades.

Mr. Stroupe is survived by his wife of 66 years, Irmgard Lang Stroupe, and his daughter Marla Stroupe. //Obit - Goldfinch Funeral Home//

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**Terrill, Fordham W., MSgt (Ret), 41**, passed away February 14, 2022. Fordham grew up in Pensacola, FL. He enlisted in the USAF in 1998 and retired in 2018, having most recently served as Cyber Warfare Operations Course Director at the 39th Information Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, FL. He is survived by his children Rory, Cain, Alyssa, Nathan, Dennis, and his "adopted daughter," Rosa. //Obit – The Advocate//

Selected as the “Outstanding Cyber Defense Operations (1B4) Noncommissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Fordham W. Terrill, 90th Information Operations Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio” for 2013.

LINK: [Air Force Chief Information Officer announces 2013 Information Dominance Award Winners > Air Force > Article Display \(af.mil\) //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//](#)

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**Welch, George B. III, A1C, 75**, passed away December 3, 2022. He enlisted in the military and was proud to be selected as a part of the fabled command known then as the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) – a part of the vast network of military intelligence workers who keep our nation safe. Airman Welch carried a Top Secret clearance and was forbidden, along with his comrades from those days of speaking to anyone out of the net of the work he was doing. Most activities in USAFSS were declassified in the late 1990s. Some of our history could finally be told. Airman Welch wrote three books about his work primarily at Misawa Air Base Japan. The books were entitled "Insomnia Mimatsu -A Story of Love and Espionage in Misawa". "Misawa - A Song of the Machi"; and “Eisenhower’s Children - the Road to Misawa.” Mr. Welch is survived by his son Robert (Allison) Welch and by his daughter Dr. Ami (Welch) Murphy and her husband Patrick. //Obit – **Guardian Funeral Home**//

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**Wilkinson, Gary A., Sgt, 61**, passed away December 28, 2022. He enlisted in the USAF after graduating from Ball State in 1984. He served as a Mandarin Linguist and received the distinct honor to attend the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California where he would meet his Wife, Teresa [m. 1986-92]. Gary and his wife would graduate together and go on to serve at Lackland Air Force base in Texas, and then to the Kunia Field Station in Hawaii. He served for five years. Gary is survived by his two sons, Nick and Brandon Wilkinson. //Obit – **Indiana Funeral Care**//

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**Zoebisch, Dale L., SSGT, 77**, passed away March 17, 2022. He served during the Vietnam War and was deservedly awarded an Air Medal. //www.findagrave.com//

*Dale L. Zoebisch* is listed in “Our Losses” page from 6994th Security Squadron site <https://6994th.com/> //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa//

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