

Remain In Touch

Freedom Through Vigilance Association Newsletter



March 2026

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Gold Country Chapter, Yuba City, CA	John Aurelius, President
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William "Bill" Brockmiller, Past President

The President's Corner

Joseph 'Pepito' Figueroa
President, FTVA

Contact: joseph.figueroa361@gmail.com



My previous letter was about introducing myself and saying thanks for the amazing opportunity to serve as President of the Freedom Through Vigilance Association. This letter is about providing members information about some of the strategic and operational topics we're working on. One of my goals is to ensure the organization has the tools and processes required to meet members' existing and emerging needs. We realize the best tools and processes won't work without motivating existing members to remain involved and motivating new people to join our organization and get involved, but that topic will be covered in the next newsletter. For this newsletter, review the topics below and provide feedback. In addition, let us know if there are any blind spots. Are there any topics we're not covering that you want us to address? We are here to serve you. Proactive communication is the key. Send your comments directly to me at the above email address.

• Strategic

- Execute Business Plan: Need volunteers throughout the chapters and general membership to be involved in following. Expect details to follow via FTVA website and emails.
 - Membership and Outreach Committee (key to our future)
 - Convince members of Cyber community to join FTVA.
 - Vigilant Partners Committee (during my course of studies, we used to say that no matter how altruistic the mission: no money/no mission).
 - Historical and Heritage Committee
 - Humanitarian Support Committee
 - Educational Programs Committee (Leadership by example, I am volunteering for this one).
- Establishing new chapters (Offutt and Hurlburt Field are goals, but let us know if any new locations are interested).
- Review and amend by-laws as necessary (example, codify emeritus status and rules for establishing new chapters). For chapters and general membership, review Bylaws and make recommendations

- **Operational**

- Attain services of Certified Public Accountant to assist Treasurer as needed.
- Modernize Membership software/IT support.
 - As the saying goes, there is an app for that...we need to get that app.
- Confirm FTVA reunion dates (confirmed as September 24 to 26). Meeting with 16th Air Force Chief of Staff to discuss logistics/locations of events on March 5. Will pass on results of meeting.

- **Other**

- Is any member not getting emails from FTVA when we send out mass emails? Reach out to membersupftva@gmail.com for any assistance. **You also call me or text me at my cell phone (402-452-4562) for any assistance**
- I don't have a "saying". However, I like to remind myself to communicate, communicate, communicate, decide, decide, decide and keep repeating the cycle. Members deserve transparency, a say in the organization, and for us to be decisive. Very few decisions are irrevocable. As members give us vectors and we will adjust if needed based on your feedback.
- Visits:
 - I want to visit (in person or virtually) the different chapters. Alamo Chapter is in same city where I live. Going to visit Heritage Chapter in San Angelo, March 26/27.
 - I'll coordinate with other chapters throughout the year. All costs come out of my pocket (and I even have to take leave for local meetings). This is as it should be. Just bear with me as I convince my wife our holiday plans include Maryland, Colorado, etc. She is 100% supportive as long as I throw in a Panama vacation in there in 2026 and 2027 and a Europe trip in 2028.

I continue to be humbled and privileged to serve this amazing community. Let's work together on enabling the growth of our community through enhancing the tools and processes to meet our emerging needs.



Newsletter Staff

newsletter@ftva.us, 210-627-7586

falleneagles@ftva.us, 402-452-4562

Dennis Buxton, Editor

Dennis Rasmussen, Senior Adviser

Joe “Pepito” Figueroa, Fallen Eagles,

Ken Maynard, Associate Editor, 16th AF News

Dan Martin, Associate Editor

Roy Burnett, Circulation Manager and Member Support



The holidays are in the rear-view mirror now and I hope all of you have spent significant time with your kinfolk and all is well at your hearth and home. It’s ‘Ops Normal’ for us on the staff of **Remain In Touch** as we wrap up this quarterly issue and begin planning for June. I recommend an in-depth reading of Pepito’s President’s Corner to learn about the overall thrust and direction of your FTVA. “Modern-Day” happenings are in the 16th Air Force News in which you can see just how our command and heritage have evolved since our days, back in the day. A lot of folks are involved in bringing these quarterly issues to you and I thank them, sincerely thank them for their inputs as it would be impossible to create this very worthwhile publication for you, the members. We do like to hear from you about anything at all in this or past issues, so feel free to send an email or call with your inputs be they kudos, constructive criticism, corrections, or general commentary. Bring it on and as President Pepito states, communicate, communicate, communicate.

Remain In Touch,

**Dennis Buxton
Your Newsletter Editor**



FTVA Hall of Honor

Greg Radabaugh, Program Chair
Contact gregory.radabaugh@gmail.com



Nominations Due Tuesday, 30 June 2026.

Remembering Our Past Honorees

CMSgt “Combat” Ronald W. Davey, FTVA Hall of Honor 2014

Chief Davey was personally nominated for the Hall by Major General Doyle E. Larson. An airborne mission supervisor on the EC-121, EC-47, C-130, and RC-135, “Combat Ron” flew over 12,000 hours of reconnaissance missions, including 600 missions and 2,400 hours in Viet Nam. His actions during combat missions earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, and numerous Air Medals. He was the Senior Enlisted Advisor for the 6990th ESG and Electronic Security Pacific. Major General Larson called Ron “...the most highly respected NCO in all of PACAF,” and was “the NCOs’ NCO.”

CMSgt “Combat Ron” Davey is one of only 226 individuals inducted into the Hall of Honor since the Hall was established in 1987. We all know people we served with who deserve to be recognized in the Hall. Please go to <https://ftva.us/the-hall-of-honor/> to find the Hall charter outlining the requirements for nomination and the nomination form. Please use the embedded form (single page, double sided, 12 pitch font, 1-inch margins) to submit your nomination. Nomination packages not meeting these criteria will be returned to the submitter. Nominations for the 2026 Hall of Honor are due by Tuesday, 30 June 2026.



**CMSgt Ronald W. Davey,
FTVA Hall of Honor 2014**

FTVA Member Support

Roy Burnett, Member Support Chair

Contact: membersupport@ftva.us

210-473-4921

New/Renewed Members

Joseph Mayer, Middlebury Center, PA

John Baland, Roseville, CA

James Long, Round Rock, TX

Lori Weber, Norfolk, AR

Brandon Abbott, San Angelo, TX

Tim Robinson, St. Petersburg, FL

New Lifetime Members

Richard Baxter, Orlando, FL

Please address any and all issues relating to the FTVA website or membership to MemberSupport@ftva.us.

16th Air Force News

Articles compiled and submitted by Ken Maynard
Associate Editor Extraordinaire
Contact: spitfiresa@me.com

CYBERSECURITY FORCES IN TEXAS SHOWCASE GLOBAL DOMINANCE TO ACC COMMAND TEAM

Adapted from an article by Manuel Garcia, published 12 February 2026

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TX — The 688th Cyberspace Wing and three other 16th Air Force (Air Forces Cyber) units welcomed Gen Adrian Spain, commander of Air Combat Command and CMSgt Jeremy Unterseher, ACC Command Chief, to its headquarters, 5 Feb.



CMSgt Jeremy Unterseher, command chief of Air Combat Command, awards TSgt Jonathan Brooks, 690th ISS, a challenge coin during his visit, 5 February 26. Unterseher highlighted Brooks' exceptional technical mastery while configuring network services. (U.S. Air Force photo by Ms. Deirdre McNamara)

General Spain began a three-day tour of cybersecurity forces in Texas 4 Feb, with a visit to the 67th Cyberspace Wing, led by Col. John W. Picklesimer who highlighted the full array of cyber combat power available to his wing. Briefings from both the 67th and 318th Cyberspace Operations Groups underscored the wing's offensive capabilities and showcased the advanced training facilities essential for shaping skilled cyber warriors.

"It is reassuring knowing that, as cyber threats evolve, our Airmen are at the forefront of safeguarding military assets and bolstering cybersecurity." said Spain.

On the second day of the visit Col Joshua Evans, 688th deputy commander, walked Spain through 688th CW's defensive cyber operations and critical intelligence

across the expansive Air Force Information Network. Spain was briefed on the mission of the 33rd Cyber Operations Squadron, which plays a key role in monitoring and protecting both Air Force and Central Command networks.

“Our Airmen are highly trained and are the best at navigating the challenges of the new digital environment,” said Evans, “they are truly our most valuable asset.”

The 688th and 67th units have been instrumental in safeguarding U.S. military operations and protecting national interests in an increasingly digital landscape. Their effective cyber defense measures have been critical in upholding the integrity and security of national defense operations.

“Without our cyberspace wings, our country would be more exposed to vulnerabilities in our increasingly digital world,” said Spain. “Their absence would hinder our cyber operations and diminish our global strategic influence, but rest assured, our highly trained Airmen are in the fight.”

Col Evans provided Gen Spain walk-around tours of both the 33rd COS and the Air Force Mission Assurance Center operations floors, explaining AMAC’s role in cybersecurity.

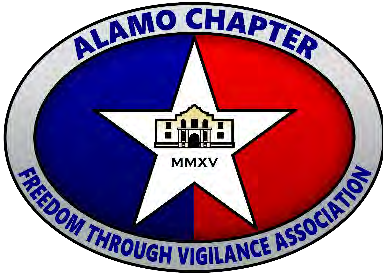
Prior to departing, Gen Spain coined SrA Skyler Gomez of the 33rd COS and MSgt Kevin Murphy of the 690th COS, for their outstanding leadership and contributions to the mission. CMSgt Unterseher coined TSgt Jonathan Brooks, of the 690th Intelligence Support Squadron for his technical mastery configuring network devices.

The 688th CW is headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, and is aligned under Sixteenth Air Force, Air Combat Command. The wing is the Air Force's premier cyberspace warfighting organization dedicated to delivering actionable intelligence and tactics, techniques, and procedures, deployable warfighter communications, engineering and installation capabilities, defensive cyber operations, and network security across the Department of the Air Force Information Network enterprise.

The 67th CW is also headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, and aligned under Sixteenth Air Force, Air Combat Command. The wing presents combat cyberspace capabilities to the Service, United States Cyber Command, and the Joint Forces. In this capacity, the wing acts as the Air Forces Cyber execution arm for conducting global cyberspace operations. Additionally, the wing provides organic operations training, cyber capability development, operational testing, and range capabilities to drive readiness across the Cyber Mission Force.”

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. Submissions can be in any form or format, and I will edit.



Alamo Chapter

San Antonio, TX

Ken Williams, President

Chapter Submissions and Photos by Ken Williams

Chapter Meeting, 15 January 2026

The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA held their monthly meeting at the Alamo Café Restaurant on 15 January 2026. Twenty-one members and spouses enjoyed lunch and fellowship. The following attended:

Doug and Anne Williams
Ken Maynard
Bob and Donna Crabtree
Dan Martin
Ken Williams
Pete Siegel
Bill and Shirley Frances
Darby Stacey
Bill Sheck
A.J. and Ginny Harrison
Bob Askew
Mike Bernal
John Lopes
Andy Smith
Jesse and Clara Coultrap

Agenda Items discussed included the following:

- The funeral service for Greg Mahoney's wife, Sue, will be held on Friday, 16 January 2026, at 1300 at Castle Ridge Mortuary on 8006 Military Dr.
- The Treasurer reported we have \$240.00 in our account.
- Ken Williams was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from Roll Call member Bob Askew for his support of the Roll Call organization for the past 20 years.

- There being no other business, we adjourned at 1330. Our next meeting will be on 19 February, same time and location.



LEFT (l-r, front to back): Bill Sheck, Pete Siegel, Bill Frances, Shirley Frances, Ken Maynard, AJ Harrison, Andy Smith, and Ginny Harrison and Mike Bernal (obscured behind AJ)



LEFT (l-r): John Lopes, Jesse and Clara Coultrap



ABOVE: Bob Crabtree, Anne and Doug Williams

RIGHT: Ken Williams receives the Lifetime Achievement Award from Roll Call member Bob Askew. The award was presented for Ken's support to the Roll Call organization for the past 20 years.



Alamo Chapter Meeting, 19 February 2026

The San Antonio Chapter of the FTVA held their monthly meeting at the Alamo Café Restaurant on 19 February 2026. Twenty members and spouses enjoyed lunch and fellowship. The following attended:

Ken and Shiela Williams
Ken and Judy Maynard
Bob and Donna Crabtree
AJ and Ginny Harrison
Vince and Elise Colacicco
Leroy and Hilda Rogers
Bill and Shirley Francis

Dan Martin
Pete Siegel
Andy Smith
Marco Aldaz
Ed Barnes
Dennis Rassmussen

After singing Happy Birthday to Ed Barnes, it was mentioned that Ted and Shari Colquhoun will be relocating to North Carolina soon. A reminder was made that the FTVA Board of Directors meeting will be at the Gateway Club at 1300 on 20 February.

There being no other business, we adjourned at 1430 after a lot of visitation and sharing of war stories. Our next meeting will be on 19 March, same time and location.



ABOVE (front to back, left to right): AJ Harrison, Bob Crabtree, Ginny Harrison, Donna Crabtree, Shirley Francis, Leroy Rogers and Hilda Rogers. Background right: Bill Francis and Andy Smith

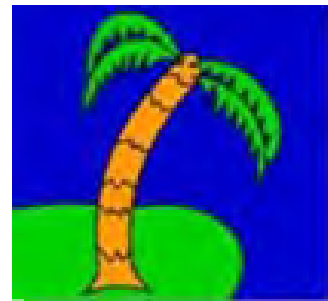


ABOVE (front to back, left to right): Vince Colacicco, Elise Colacicco, Dan Martin, Shiela Williams, Bill Francis, Pete Siegel, Andy Smith, Marco Aldaz, and Dennis Rassmussen



RIGHT (left to right): Judy Maynard, Ed Barnes, Ken Maynard

Aloha Chapter
Honolulu, HI
John “Tilly” Toillion, President
Chapter Contact: alohatilly@hawaii.rr.com



Input by Tilly

Aloha All

The Aloha Chapter held its first 2026 social on February 12th at the local Zippys for lunch. While membership is just us three, we are sure to “Remain in Touch”.

Discussion topics included Ken’s sharing benefits of having a Medicare Supplement plan while Tilly shared about an upcoming open-heart surgery scheduled in March to repair a leaking valve which is NOT a way to lose weight!!!

Fred, who works for Hawaiian Tel, provided information on an upcoming HAWTEL project to install Fiopics in Tilly’s HOA. That’s exactly how Fred came to be the 3rd part of our “3 Amigos” team when we learned he too was in USAFSS.

As always – the Hawaiian Welcome Mat (with slippas) is here to receive any of you headed this way.

“Aloha ā hui hou” – (until we meet again).



Aloha Chapter members (l-r) Fred Romero, Tilly Toillion, and Ken Een at their favorite watering hole for the chapter’s February meeting.



Gold Country Chapter
Yuba City, CA
John Aurelius, President
Chapter Contact: jaurelius@mikodi.com

NTR: Check Back in June



Heritage Chapter

San Angelo, TX

Ronald 'JJ' Graham, President

Chapter Contact: waynebascom@gmail.com

17th Training Wing Commander Meets with Heritage Chapter

Submission and Photo by Wayne Bascom

Col Matthew Norton is the 17th Training Wing Commander at Goodfellow AFB. Since his arrival in 2025 he has been keenly interested in the veterans' activities in San Angelo and the close ties and support from the community.

In January, Col Norton scheduled a complete hour with his entire staff solely to meet with the Heritage Chapter. President JJ Graham, Treasurer Rick Premo, Secretary Wayne Bascom, and members Larry Miller and Tom Nurre discussed the history of the chapter and close association with the base. He also listened to our concerns, such as the poor drainage at the EC-47 plaza and directed his staff to look into what the engineers can do. The Heritage Chapter provided Col Norton with a binder containing a one-page summary of the Heritage Chapter, and extracts of chapter inputs to the "Remain in Touch" for all of 2025. At the end of the hour we presented Col Norton with an EC-47 chapter coin. We appreciate the Commander and wing staff taking precious time from their schedules to meet and get to know us.



FTVA Heritage President JJ Graham presents Col Matthew Norton, 17th Training Wing Commander, Goodfellow AFB, TX with the EC-47 Chapter coin.

Chapter Attends 39th Annual TET Reunion

Submission and Photo by JJ Graham

On 7 February, four Heritage Chapter members - Scott Dickson, Rick Premo, Larry Miller, and JJ Graham - made the trip to Abilene, Texas, to attend the 39th annual TET Reunion.

For nearly four decades, the Abilene Grunts Association and Texas Veterans Chapter One have provided a place where veterans can reconnect, remember, and feel recognized. As we have the past two years, the Heritage Chapter once again reserved two tables on which we displayed trifolds showcasing significant Chapter successes and an actual brick from the Hanoi Hilton. Chapter members enjoyed numerous interactions with many of the over 1,500 attendees.

Once focused primarily on Vietnam veterans, the TET Reunion welcomes all veterans from every branch of the U.S. military and every era of service, along with their families. This is no longer just a reunion; it's a community gathering built around respect, remembrance and shared experiences. The event features a USO show, free barbecue meal, select vendors, and multiple veterans organization/outreach booths.

The TET Reunion is a busy, fun-filled day where veterans get a chance to enjoy each other's company - and possibly share a few war stories! We're looking forward to attending once again in 2027!



ABOVE: The Heritage Chapter display included a brick from the Hanoi Hilton as well as other chapter projects.



ABOVE: Heritage Chapter members Rick Premo (center), Larry Miller (right), and Scott Dickson (sitting) chat with a well-armed veteran attendee.



ABOVE: (l-r) Scott Dickson, Larry Miller, Glenda Steddum, Rick Premo, JJ Graham (Photo courtesy of the Steddum family)

Heritage Chapter BOOMS at Fort Concho

Story by Larry Miller and Tom Nurre
Photos by Heritage Chapter

During the December 2025 three-day ‘Christmas At Old Ft Concho’ celebration here in San Angelo, the Heritage Chapter presented a display honoring the air crews of the EC-47 program in Vietnam and a Hanoi Hilton brick presentation. Literally hundreds of students and adult visitors were enthralled by the stories of intelligence operations during the Vietnam War. Tom Nurre gave the audience a thorough lesson on triangulating enemy radio transmitters and the invaluable

contribution it made to Army and Air Force combat operations during the conflict. Larry Miller managed the powerful Hanoi Hilton brick display, highlighting the project for presenting these bricks to former POWs.

A highlight of Saturday’s festivities was a 21-gun salute on the fort parade grounds honoring Vietnam War veterans. Four of our own veterans—Tom Nurre, Larry Miller, Gary Taylor, and Ron Flatt—joined the Civil War-era cannon crews. After a very detailed five-minute training session, the team took their places among the 7 guns crews...expertly pulling the lanyards upon command. Each volley sent a "thunderous boom"



Confederate Yankee Tom Nurre readies his cannon for firing.

across the fort, much to the patriotic joy and awe of the visiting crowds.

The weekend was about more than just history; it was about the camaraderie of those who served. The event concluded with exchanges of challenge coins, commemorative pins and emblems, and handshakes and hugs between generations of veterans and their families.



Larry Miller assumes the firing position.

Heritage Chapter Continues Christmas Hangover Tradition Plus New Chapter Meeting Watering Hole

Submission and Photo by Wayne Bascom
Photos by Heritage Chapter

The Social. Once again, the Heritage Chapter celebrated our Christmas social in January with 13 chapter members and several guests, including the 17th Training Wing Command Chief, Derek Neill, and Wing Historian Dr. Daniel LeClair. Luigi's Italian restaurant hosted our event with excellent service and scrumptious entrees. As usual, JJ Graham dazzled those in attendance by transforming a serious meeting (*cough) of action items into a repertoire worthy of a comedy club act.



LEFT 4: Scott Dickson, Steven Goff, Marc Kirner, Bob Kent; RIGHT 5: JJ Graham, Bill Brown, Barbara Brown, Derek Neill, Rick Premo



LEFT 4: Larry Miller, Pat Miller, Susan Frost, John Frost (hidden); RIGHT 4: Harriet Samad, David Martin, Gary Taylor, Tom Nurre

Tom's Tavern. For regular monthly meetings Tom's Tavern is now fully stocked and open for business. This new venue was a huge (*hic) hit at the inaugural meeting and will now be the standard location in the future.



Tom's Tavern: (l-r) John Frost, Tom Nurre, Patrick Baughman, Evi Shaw, JJ Graham, Larry Miller, Rick Premo, and Marc Kirner

Goodfellow Air Force Ball**Who Cuts the Cake?**

Submission by JJ Graham
Photo courtesy of Goodfellow AFB Public Affairs



As most people know there is a tradition when cutting the cake. When the 17th Training Wing Commander Col Norton, and Command Chief CMSgt Neill approached the cake to call out the youngest and oldest in attendance, there was a surprise. First, a student from the 316th, AB Abraham, was called up as the youngest in attendance. Initially, LtGen Downs, the guest speaker, was called up as the oldest in attendance. General Downs is a former 17th Training Wing Commander and now Associate Director for Military Affairs, Central Intelligence. After walking up to the cake he made a surprise announcement. He said there is indeed someone in the audience older than me. He then proceeded to call up our very own septuagenarian to bookend the cutting process, JJ Graham. Depicted (L-R) CMSgt Derek Neill, AB Inara Abraham, LtGen Michael Downs, JJ Graham, Col Matthew Norton

Heritage Chapter Assists American Legion At District Oratory Competition

Story and photo by Heritage Chapter

The American Legion national oratory contest district level was held in San Angelo again this year, and the Heritage Chapter raced to support with judges, tabulators and timekeepers. Not surprisingly, Akash Vukoti once again took top honors. Larry Miller spearheaded event organization with his dual-hatted (Legion and Heritage Chapter) prowess, with JJ Graham and Tom Nurre as judges, and Rick Premo as tabulator and timekeeper. After winning this event, Akash then battled at the division level in Odessa, TX, once again coming out on top. In February he then competed at the state level in Lubbock, Texas for a chance to go to the national stage. Unfortunately, Akash was edged out by another well-spoken opponent. Akash is currently a high school junior and has one more year of eligibility for this honor.



(L-R) American Legion 4th Division Vice-Commander Chris Holt, Akash Vukoti, and American Legion District 21 Commander Jeff Meurer



Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter

Fort George G. Meade, MD

Jerry Gething, President

Chapter Contact: sharong@thefrizzellhome.us

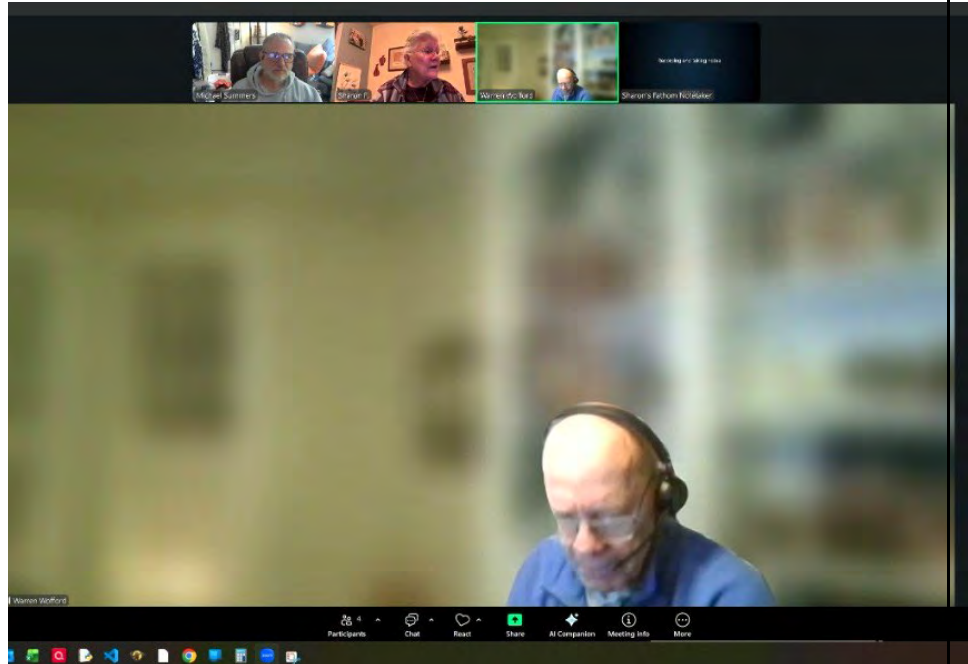
The Mid-Atlantic Region Chapter is planning a Spring Social in the DC/Northern VA area the weekend of 18 April. We don't have a location picked out yet, but we're hoping to get a good crowd together as we move into the Spring and Summer months! More to follow on this!

The Chapter has been moving forward with monthly meetings using ZOOM, staying in touch and carrying on the FTVA business. The consensus at our February meeting was to move towards a quarterly business meeting (rather than a monthly meeting) and introduce smaller monthly social gatherings around the area. Our next meeting is March 25th at 1830EST and we'll likely make some final decisions at that point.

Bob Bastian, FTVA MARC Treasurer since before money was invented, handed off Treasurer responsibilities to Lee Wofford in February. Bob has been a fixture within the Chapter, nearly single-handedly holding the Chapter afloat with his commitment to the FTVA. Although he's stepping down from the position, he won't be far away. Lee's arms should heal up in no time - they didn't have to be twisted too hard before he volunteered to take the Treasurer spot! We're looking forward to working with Lee as part of the Executive Leadership team.

You can find the latest Chapter plans and happenings on our Facebook page (FTVA MARC) or the FTVA Website. Remain in touch!

Mike Summers, Sharen Frizzell and Lee Wofford taking care of business at the latest Chapter Executive ZOOM Meeting.





Rocky Mountain Chapter

Colorado Springs, CO

Greg Roman and Stan Cook Co-Presidents

Chapter Contact: g.eichelberger08@yahoo.com

Ike Says NSTR: Check Back in June



Wasatch Chapter

Salt Lake City, UT

Jacob Scheid, President

Chapter Contact: lawson.scott1@gmail.com

NQ: Check Back in June



Originated in 1997

EC-47 History Site News

Submitted by Tom Nurre

A Mission of Honor: The EC-47 History Site and the Vietnam War Commemoration. As the sun sets on the official United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, we look back on a decade of service dedicated to a simple but profound mission: saying "Welcome Home, Thank You for Your Service."

The national Commemoration formally concluded its operations on November 30, 2025. Since 2012, this federal initiative has reached over 4.4 million Vietnam veterans. Among the 13,498 Commemorative Partners nationwide, the EC-47 History Site has stood as a beacon of local leadership and remembrance.



2015 West Texas Collection (WTC): First public display of the 50th Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program flag and Certificate presented by Committee members. L-R: ASU ROTC Cadet Peter Lennarson, WTC Archivist Shannon Sturm, EC-47 History Site webmaster Joe Martin, WTC Director Suzanne Campbell, and EC-47 History Site webmaster and event coordinator, Tom Nurre.

In 2015, webmasters Joe Martin and Tom Nurre, alongside charter members from Angelo State University and the Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) Heritage Chapter, registered as an official Commemorative Partner. What began as a small committee grew into a robust coalition of 16 local and out-of-state veteran organizations. Over the last ten years, our committee’s reach has been extensive:

- **75 Ceremonies:** Hosted and documented with formal after-action reports to the Pentagon.
- **2,655 Veteran Lapel Pins:** Presented personally to 2,527 veterans, with 128 mailed to heroes as far away as the Philippine Islands.
- **148 Surviving Spouse Pins:** Honoring the families who stood by those who served.
- **10,000 Attendees:** An estimated total of veterans and family members reached through our collective events.

"The Top One Percent"



The impact of the EC-47 History Site did not go unnoticed at the national level. During the 2025 National Vietnam Veterans Day ceremony hosted by Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, Texas, a special award was presented.

Recognizing a Decade of Excellence: On March 28, 2025, the EC-47 History Site was honored for its unwavering commitment to the Vietnam War Commemoration mission. These moments highlight the celebration of a "Top 1%" partnership.





Finally, here’s a special farewell message from our Director, Major General Edward J. Chrystal, Jr. “U.S. Army: Greetings to all of you! I hope you are all having a great summer. This being the final edition of our SITREP, I wanted to take the time to recognize and thank all of you for your tireless efforts. Our mission to thank our Vietnam War era veterans and their families would not have been so successful without your hard work, feedback and support.

As you know, we will officially close our doors on November 30, 2025. Even now, many of our staff have transitioned to, or are in the process of transitioning to, their next assignments or their retirements. We will continue to have a small staff working the Commemoration and we will continue to be active in speaking engagements and pinning ceremonies right till the end.

It is bittersweet that I bid you farewell and wish you all the best as we wind down our Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. We do close our doors, however, with confidence and pride that we’ve reached out and recognized an incredible amount of Vietnam War era veterans and their families since our inception. This was accomplished because of YOU. You were truly an inspiration to us and to your communities. Thank you, again, and WELCOME HOME to our Vietnam veterans!”

Heritage Chapter Event Announcement

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) Heritage Chapter is honored to announce its leadership in continuing the EC-47 History Site’s Vietnam War 50th commemoration focus as we proudly introduce the 35th Commemoration of the end of the Persian Gulf War.

Vietnam War Veterans Day



Welcome Home Ceremony
at the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial Plaza

351 Kearney Blvd
Goodfellow AFB, Texas

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026
11:00 AM

**WELCOME HOME VIETNAM WAR &
PERSIAN GULF WAR VETERANS AND FAMILIES**



free \$0

**WELCOME HOME
RECEPTION/MIXER
THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH
4-7 PM**

free \$0

**COURTESY THE EC-47 HISTORY SITE
ALL REGISTERED VIETNAM & PERSIAN GULF WAR
VETERANS & FAMILY INVITED**

**GO TO THE CHECK-IN TABLE TO PICK UP YOUR
WELCOME PACKET WITH NAME TAGS, PROGRAMS, TICKETS
AND GIFTS - AND TO PAY FOR THE FRIDAY DINNER**

\$25

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

\$25

**Reception @ 5pm - Dinner @ 6pm
Tickets Required - Casual Dress**

**ALL REGISTERED ATTENDEES & GUESTS
RAFFLE - SEAGRAM'S VO WITH
SHORT TIMER RIBBON BOOKLET**

PLEASE USE THIS ONLINE RSVP FORM TO REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS

WWW.VIETNAM50THCPP.COM/RSVP

**SPONSORED BY THE GOODFELLOW AFB HERITAGE COMMITTEE,
THE HERITAGE CHAPTER - FREEDOM THROUGH VIGILANCE
ASSOCIATION, AND THE EC-47 HISTORY SITE.**

FMI: JJ GRAHAM (325) 315-3188

WAYNE BASCOM (325) 262-2641

TOM NURRE (325) 450-4476

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Continuing the Mission: Honoring Vietnam and Persian Gulf War Veterans

Following the successful completion of the United States of America's 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War congressional mandate on November 30, 2025, the Heritage Chapter - Freedom Through Vigilance Association remains steadfast in our commitment to honor those who served. While the federal commemoration has concluded, our gratitude has not. We are proud to announce the development of exclusive Heritage Chapter lapel pins and certificates to continue recognizing Vietnam War veterans and surviving spouses, in accordance with the established eligibility period of November 1, 1955, through May 15, 1975.

The partnership between the EC-47 History Site, the Heritage Chapter-FTVA, the leadership at Goodfellow AFB, and Congressman August Pflueger's office has been nothing short of spectacular. In addition to maintaining our tribute to Vietnam veterans, the Heritage Chapter is expanding its recognition program to honor the service and sacrifice of Persian Gulf War veterans. This year is our first attempt to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the end of the Persian Gulf War (Desert Shield/Desert Storm/Provide Comfort) with a sincere outreach across generational lines to Welcome Home these deserving veterans and their families. We are now accepting registrations to present our commemorative pins and certificates to veterans and surviving spouses of veterans who served in the Persian Gulf War theater of operations from August 2, 1990, through November 30, 1995.

Please check out the new ["veteran and surviving spouse"](#) online registration forms for both wars for more information.

Our sincere thanks also go to the Clarion Hotel for their continuing superb support. Their role has been critical to our success for several years, providing not only convenient, high-quality accommodations near the base but also invaluable assistance with city tour planning. The 100% satisfaction rate reported by our attendees is a testament to the Clarion staff's heartfelt dedication to making your stay and our festivities truly comfortable and world-class.

Congressional Record

Earlier this year, Tom Nurre and Rick Yeh of the 6994th Security Squadron Reunion group took advantage of an opportunity to pay tribute to EC-47 mission veterans, living and deceased, by preparing a document for reading into the congressional record by District 11 Congressman August Pfluger. Pfluger, who is very active in San Angelo veterans' affairs, presented Vietnam War commemorative lapel pins at the March 2025 Goodfellow AFB event. Below is an image of his Congressional Record statement.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025

House of Representatives

HONORING THE 6994TH SECURITY SQUADRON OF THE UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE SECURITY SERVICE, ALONG WITH THE 360TH, 361ST, AND 362ND
TACTICAL ELECTRONIC WARFARE SQUADRONS

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise today to recognize and commend the distinguished service of the 6994th Security Squadron of the United States Air Force Security Service, along with the 360th, 361st, and 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons. These squadrons executed highly classified and dangerous missions aboard the venerable EC-47 aircraft to meet the intelligence requirements of the Military Assistance Command and the Central Intelligence Agency in the operating areas of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

These integrated aircrews flew out of Tan Son Nhut, Nha Trang, Pleiku, Phu Cat, and Da Nang Air Bases in the Republic of Vietnam, as well as Nakhon Phanom and Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Bases in Thailand, from 1966 to 1974.

The 6994th Security Squadron was primarily composed of enlisted logistical and maintenance personnel, intelligence analysts, Morse intercept operators, and cryptologic linguist mission specialists. These professionals maintained and operated state-of-the-art airborne radio direction finding (ARDF) equipment aboard the EC-47 aircraft, used to detect, identify, and geolocate low-powered enemy transmitters on the battlefield. They also collected critical signals and communications intelligence about enemy plans and movements.

Working closely with the aircraft navigator, the mission specialists were able to geolocate enemy radio transmitters, often within a 200-meter radius, and determine the identity of enemy units. When priority targets were detected and confirmed, their locations and identifications were relayed to ground commanders for decisive action. During its tenure in Vietnam, the 6994th earned five Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor, two Presidential Unit Citations, and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device. It remains the most highly decorated squadron in the command from its origins in the United States Air Force Security Service to its current configuration as the 16th Air Force. Their success came at a high cost; 17 members of the squadron were killed in action during the conflict.

The 360th, 361st, and 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons were co-located with their 6994th counterparts and provided the pilots, navigators, and maintenance personnel necessary to operate and sustain the EC-47 aircraft. In flight, pilots controlled the aircraft while navigators coordinated with enlisted mission specialists to take electronic lines of bearing on specific enemy radio transmissions. These lines were then plotted on maps to pinpoint the exact location of enemy transmitters. Like the 6994th, the Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons also endured significant sacrifice, losing 19 members during the war.

As integrated teams, these squadrons provided battlefield intelligence that was vital for ground commanders to plan offensive and defensive operations. It has been reported that, thanks to intelligence provided by the ARDF program, many attacks on friendly forces were mitigated, and up to 95 percent of B-52 strikes during the Vietnam conflict were influenced by data collected through the program.

Even today, much of the work and results of the Airborne Radio Direction Finding program in Vietnam remain classified. Nonetheless, their impact on the success of the war effort and the broader mission of safeguarding the interests of the United States and the free world is undeniable.

Today, we honor the professionalism, dedication, and courage of the airmen of the 6994th Security Squadron and the 360th, 361st, and 362nd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadrons, whose work in executing the Airborne Radio Direction Finding program provided critical intelligence to ground commanders during the conflict in Southeast Asia. May the legacy of their service and sacrifice be remembered and honored forever.

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

Member of Congress

Tom Nurre says..."Thank you. It has been more than I could have ever imagined. All of you made a difference beyond words. Please take a moment to look at the thousands of pictures uploaded to the vietnam50thcpp.com website galleries for our Commemorative Partner Program (CPP). They tell a simply awesome story. And to our EC-47 family—the aircrews, support personnel, and the nearly eight hundred loyal members of the EC-47 History Site—I ask you to look back and stand proud of what your dedication achieved during the national commemoration. But our watch is not over. We now have the opportunity to channel that vast experience into this new Heritage Chapter initiative. Let us pour our hearts into making this next phase just as meaningful. I invite you to join me in March 2026 at the Weyandt-Eddy Memorial, so we may celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day in harmony and continue to honor those who served."

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Our mailing address is:
EC-47 History Site
4213 Green Meadow Dr
San Angelo, TX 76904-0704

Tell a Story

This new FTVA website enables one and all to "Tell A Story." Members can enter a story at <https://ftva.us/TellAStory> and see other posted stories at <https://ftva.us/stories>. This is meant to be a way to share stories of the adventures all of us had during our careers. Again, both are on the secure side of the site and require members to log in. The below is reprinted from the web site.

Autumn 1967, Det 1, 6994th, Nha Trang, Republic of Vietnam

The Secure Communications Project

Submitted by Jeremiah Joyce, Airborne Analyst
paxilman1@gmail.com

One of the problems with the ARDF program was communication between the aircraft and the Artillery Control Centers. Once we located the target, it took time to encrypt the information, contact the Artillery Center, transmit the message, decrypt it, and then send it to the operational artillery units. This processing time could allow the target to pack up and move if their commander suspected they had been located. It wouldn't take a particularly astute VC to deduce that an American aircraft, with unusual antennae circling his position but not firing at him, must be triangulating his position with direction-finding equipment. Our headquarters in San Antonio, Texas, developed a secure FM voice communications system to address this issue. The 6994th Security Squadron Commander at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon chose our Detachment as the first unit to install, test, and implement the system. Our operations officer assigned me to serve as the liaison for the Vietnam area in the pilot project.

We installed the equipment in our aircraft while the Army set up the ground equipment at their artillery centers. We then attempted to make the system operational. There were numerous problems with the equipment and synchronizing the daily codes, but we persevered. During a message exchange between my counterpart at the headquarters unit in Texas and me, I became annoyed by the tone of his writing. His final paragraph stated that if we were to succeed in our operations in Vietnam, we must all work harder to make the new system function effectively. As I replied to the first six paragraphs, which were all technical, my annoyance grew at the thought of some faceless person safely sitting in San Antonio instructing me to work harder while I was in Vietnam facing regular gunfire. I typed, "Re your paragraph seven – ridiculous." Before sending the message to the communications center for transmission to San Antonio, I reconsidered my statement. I blacked it out from the original but neglected to remove it from the carbon copies. The message was transmitted, and I continued working on the project. As luck would have it, the first transmission was received in an unreadable state in San Antonio, prompting them to request a retransmission. Because the original copy of all outgoing messages was sent to the Operations Officer, the operator in the communications center pulled the carbon copy of my message from the file for retransmission. The carbon copy still contained the "ridiculous" comment. This little communication quirk would bring me some trouble.

A few days later, the Operations Officer, Captain Dickey, called me into his office and asked for an explanation regarding a nasty message he had received from San Antonio about my comment. A bit of research uncovered how it occurred, which was sufficient for me. Some weeks later, Captain Dickey entered our Quonset hut and informed me that the Detachment Commander had called and ordered us to report to the orderly room. Knowing I wasn't due for a promotion, I was curious about what the commander wanted.

Upon arrival, someone informed me that A Bird Colonel from San Antonio and the Pacific Security Region Commander from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, were in the Commander's office and wanted to interview me alone. At that moment, I realized everyone else, including Captain Dickey and the Detachment Commander, had vanished from the area. I was alone in the hut, standing before the commander's door. A sense of dread washed over me. I feared that something terrible must have happened to my family back in the States, and that I was there to receive the bad news. I knocked once and heard a gruff "Enter."

I entered and saw two bird colonels. One was seated at the Commander's desk, and the other was in a chair next to the desk. I was supposed to know who they were, but I didn't. I walked up to the desk, stood at attention, saluted, and said, "Sergeant Joyce, reporting as ordered, Sir."

"At ease," snapped the colonel behind the desk. "At ease" does not mean "take a seat and relax." To stand "at ease" is to adopt a semi-attention position with feet spread apart and hands clasped behind one's back. He stared at me for several seconds before saying, "So, now I have a face to put with the famous 'ridiculous' remark."

I felt it now, I thought. This guy is furious. How did he know about that? My mind raced on. When I made that comment, I hadn't meant for it to be transmitted, and if it was, I assumed it was intended for someone of a higher rank. Now, I began to suspect that a Captain, Major, or even a Lieutenant Colonel was the project manager at Headquarters, and he was not happy. The Colonel said, "Your smart-aleck remark in the message you sent to San Antonio reached some very high levels." High enough that I got my butt chewed, and that butt-chewing is now flowing downhill. Can you explain yourself?

I explained how the incident occurred, adding that I thought it was ridiculous for someone in the States to lecture me while I worked 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, risking my life daily. I pointed out that when I was flying, I was being shot at, and when on the ground, I regularly dodged incoming mortar rounds because I worked at an Army camp, which was a common target of the VC. I told him it bothered all of us in the unit that someone in an air-conditioned building in the States, working 5 days a week, chose to tell us to work harder. I wanted to mention the roaches and using an outhouse instead of a clean latrine, but I figured I had said enough.

At that point, I remained silent and stood there. I almost smirked when I thought, 'What will they do to me? Send me home?' The colonel sat there, arms crossed, glowering at me for several seconds before he spoke. He said, "Joyce, I was sent here to administer counseling and punishment to you. You upset many people at Headquarters. I'm not doing anything because I agree with you,

but you will tell everyone you know that I read you the riot act and threatened to pull some stripes if anything like this happens again. Is that clear?" "Yes, Sir," I replied.

He continued, "I'm sure you noticed that there's no one in this hut but us. I arranged it so our conversation couldn't be overheard. If it ever gets out that I let you off the hook for this, I'll know it came from you, and then you'll see how angry I can get. Get out of here." I snapped to attention and saluted. He returned my salute; I did an about-face and walked out of the office and the hut. All I ever told anyone was that the PSR Commander raked me over the coals for what I had done. I figure that after 58 years it is safe to assume that everyone involved in this incident is deceased, so I can relate the story now.

The project implementation continued successfully despite the aggravating remark from that jerk in San Antonio. We could soon communicate securely with the Artillery Centers within moments of obtaining the target's coordinates. One lingering memory associated with the project haunts me. While returning from a mission one evening after dark, I set the radio to the FM frequency we used to contact the Artillery Center in our operational area.

The frequency was supposed to be dedicated for our use only, but I heard someone calling a ground station with clear, unencrypted voice transmissions. It was an Army helicopter pilot. He asked the man at the ground station how things were going. The operator on the ground replied that it was a bad day and that he had six KIA to be picked up and taken to a staging area. As I recall, the helicopter pilot's response was, "What? Are you crazy? Do you want me to land there in the dark to pick up KIAs? You must be nuts. I'll come back at first light in the morning." Their unemotional, routine conversation while referring to six men who had been killed in action gave me a sinking feeling. It sounded as if the bodies were no more than pieces of wood lying on the ground. I pictured someone else speaking of my body the same way if I ended up dead. Death had become commonplace.

Fall of 1983, DOFB, 6950th ESG, RAF Chicksands

Surfing the 1983 Able Archer War Scare with Wolfman Jack

Submitted by Tom Borawski
operator4055@generaltelegraph.com

It was a great pleasure to see the name of the great David "Pete" Petrisko in the September 2025 release of *Remain In Touch*. Pete was one of my Intel Analysts during my time in the 6950th. Pete always reminded me of Wolfman Jack with a gravely kind of voice; however, he had a much better sense of humor. "Bleeding a Mid Shift" was always easier with Pete making wisecracks during the "Ray-Day" changeover.

In the Fall of 1983 I distinctly remember all hell breaking loose. I remember having to tag targets with a letter of the alphabet and damn near running out of letters! When certain information came in, I had to yell for Pete to rip the copy off of my teletype. No wisecracks from Pete that night.

At one point, someone said that they thought I was faking traffic, except that soon thereafter San Vito, Augsburg and the other units were confirming the signals. It was like a Russian Yosemite Sam was firing his six guns into my headphones and saying, "dance partner!"

It turns out that this was the Soviet response to the Able Archer 1983 exercise. For us, Able Archer was spending a not-so-enjoyable afternoon sitting in a hallway in our chemical warfare suits and gas mask with the base PA blaring out "Alarm Red." Thirty years later I find out that while we were sitting in Easy Dorm in our gas masks, the Queen of England had a simulated post-Nuclear attack speech prepared and ready to deliver (<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-23518587>).

Lt. Gen. Leonard Perroots gets the credit for having the steel nerves that kept the Able Archer incident from escalating to the point where the Queen would have to deliver her speech for real. I can't help thinking that Pete, Irene, "Marvelous Marv", Steve and my buddies in DF didn't also help keep things from blowing up (in the worst sense of the term) by giving the General the information he needed.

From the Archives – April 1984

The original copy was “cleaned up “with AI to enhance readability.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The membership drive for CY84 has progressed very well. We still need to hear from a few of the membership concerning renewals for the year.

Even though the '84 Directory has been published, those members sending in renewals plus all new members will be listed in subsequent Newsletters throughout the year.

We have received over 100 new members since the first of the year and our membership totals 1054 when this publication went to press.

The Lifetime Membership response has been very gratifying. We wish to thank the following people for their vote of confidence and wholehearted support of the Association by becoming lifetime members.

Norma E. Brown	Cora Meskill
Bobby J. Cook	Sam Mims
Willard R. Ellerson	Matthew Murphy
Joel S. Feinman	Bin M. Ng
John M. Flatten	Russell R. Ransom
Richard J. Flint	Daryl Reaney
Richard J. Gorman	Freeman Sattlemeier
Dale J. Hanks	Richard D. Small, Jr.
Dan L. Hearn	Justin W. Smith
John R. Kendrick	Cornelious Turner
Ralph L. Lowre	Eugene Walthall, Jr.
Bill L. Magoteaux	Judith Wills
George I. Mason	Richard D. Younkin
Thomas McCormick	

We still need new names for prospective members. Keep them coming! Buck Rogers

TAX EXEMPTION

During February 1984, we received word from the IRS that the USAFSS/ESC Alumni Association is exempt from federal income tax under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(19). This means that members dues are deductible when filing federal income taxes.

Duke Dapolito

Don't forget the May 4th social - Lackland O Club - 6:00 PM.



REUNIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Misawa Project to Hold 22nd Annual Reunion

Submitted by Waco Wetterman
Misawa Site Administrator

The Misawa Project's 22nd Annual Reunion is scheduled to take place from August 13th through August 16th 2026 in Nashville Tennessee and it is NOT just for those who were stationed at Misawa.

Attendance is open to ALL former members of USAFSS, ESC and ALL subsequent units to include those currently on active duty, regardless of where they were/are stationed.

Please visit the Misawa Project's "Public Site" at usafssmisawahill.com and click on "Reunions" for registration and attendance details as they become available. Alternately you may contact the Misawa Site Administrator at waynew511@aol.com with any questions you may have about the reunion.

FTVA BoD Holds January Social

Submitted by Ken Williams & Dan Martin
Photos courtesy of Shantal Figueroa, Pepito's daughter.



Incoming FTVA President Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa hosted an informal get-together to start the New Year on Sunday, January 18, 2026 at the Outback Steakhouse, 12511 I-10 West. A total of nineteen individuals attended, current and former board members, their spouses and family members.

The gathering was put together by our soon to be departing Past President/Social Activities Chairman and all-around great guy, Ted Colquhoun, very soon departing our Lone Star State for the Tar Heel State. We will all miss you, Ted!

TABLE VIEW 1 (ABOVE): Down the left side of the table we have our new FTVA Board President Joe “Pepito” Figueroa, Kathy Haygood, board treasurer Andy Smith, and social chairman Ted Colquhoun. Jumping across the table opposite of Ted and peeking around Jeannie Smith, there is Shari Colquhoun, then Jeannie followed by Ron Haygood, Rachel Aldaz and Marco Aldaz.



TABLE VIEW 2 (RIGHT): Again starting down the left side (left-right, left-right, etc is ingrained in our DNA) is AJ Harrison, Bob Crabtree, and Elizabeth Radabaugh. Across the table to Greg Radabaugh, Dan Martin, Donna Crabtree, Ginny Harrison, Shiela and Ken Williams.

FTVA VIGILANT PARTNERS

POC: Karen “Bam!” Rolirad
roliradlopez.karen@gmail.com

On 17 January 1991, service members across the military were called to apply years of rigorous training to a singular purpose. Pilots stepped to their jets, airborne linguists donned their headsets, and analysts prepared to receive, translate, and report. Whether in the cockpit or at a workstation, the mission was the priority.

This past week, history repeated itself against a new generation of adversaries. Today, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operators process and exploit unmanned aerial systems in complex deconfliction with naval air and sea operations. While the technology has evolved—with the 16th Air Force cyber warfare wing now “making the magic happen” from their keyboards—the core mission remains unchanged.

War evolves, but the dedication of those who wage it does not.

The Freedom Through Vigilance Association (FTVA) represents those who answered the call with unrivaled expertise. We are the legacy that builds the future, but we cannot sustain this mission alone.

Our 2026 Goal

In 2025, the **Vigilant Partner Program** raised approximately \$8,000 to support our Reunion and Ceremonial Week. It was a success, but I am confident we can achieve even more in 2026.

Our members have always given generously to this association. Today, I am asking you to renew that commitment by becoming a **Vigilant Partner**. Your contribution paves the way for us to celebrate today’s Airmen and honor the legendary predecessors whose shoulders they stand upon.

Continue our legacy and become a Vigilant Partner.

Member Benefits

Your partnership includes more than just a donation; it grants you a front-row seat to our community’s future:

- **Exclusive Access:** Special invitations to Association and Command-sponsored events.
- **Recognition:** By-name listing at all FTVA events and within our official newsletter.

Honorary Status: Continued honorary membership in the FTVA, including all Association publications.

The individuals and organization listed below have, in the past, and currently, lent their annual, monetary support to the FTVA. We thank them for their spirit of generosity which enables us to continue the FTVA mission.



PLATINUM PARTNERS
Engrave-Tech and Graphics
(Jen and Lee Anthony)



GOLD PARTNERS
Security Services Federal Credit Union
Anthony F. Jensen
Greg Radabaugh



SILVER PARTNERS
City of San Antonio
(Military and Veteran Directorate)
Bexar County
(Military and Veteran Service Center)
Centurian Military Alliance



BRONZE PARTNERS
Andy Smith
Bill Brockmiller
Ted and Shari Colquhoun
Joseph Figueroa



PATRON PARTNERS
Randolph/Brooks Federal Credit Union
John "Tilly" Toillion



Annual Partner Levels
Platinum: \$2,500+
Gold: \$1,000 – \$2,499
Silver: \$500 – \$999
Bronze: \$250 – \$499
Patron: \$100 – \$249



FALLEN EAGLES

Compiled by Joe Figueroa, Associate Editor
Contact: falleneagles@ftva.us



Received word of the following losses from caring relatives, friends and obituaries and we offer prayers and sympathy to the families.

“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

- Burgner, Rex Lynn, Electronic Security Command
Burshnick, Gerald A., A1C, USAFSS
Davis, Billy G., SMSgt (ret), USAFSS
Deller, Pamela Hope, MSgt (ret), Electronic Security Command
Ellis, William Kearney, USAFSS
Ferguson, Richard Scott, Capt, USAFSS
Gerke, David Joseph, MSgt (ret), USAFSS
Guthrie, Robert Lee, SMSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**
Hartle, Mary Lee, USAFSS
Huck, Andrew Dewayne, USAF
Jacobs, James "Jim" Wayne, A1C, USAFSS
Jansson, Steven Mark, USAFSS
Kale, Richard A., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
Lowe, Frank Newton, Maj (ret), USAFSS
Lyons, Sidney R., MSgt (ret), USAFSS
Maddux, Rob Berta Faye, Spouse of CMSgt (ret) Donald Maddux
Mahoney, Dongman "Sue", Spouse of CMSgt (ret) James Mahoney
McNamara, Barbara A., National Security Agency
Mills, Judah David, SMSgt (ret), USAF
Mudd, Joseph Eugene, CMSgt (ret), USAFSS
Page, John W., Capt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**

Pittman, Aubrey Gene, USAFSS

Rowell, Charles Herbert "Herb" Rowell Jr., USAF

Ryan, Richard Carrol "Rich", USAFSS

Stephens, James Lawrence, MSgt (ret), USAFSS

Thompson, Phillip (Phil) E., Col (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Hall of Honor**

Turner, Michael Eugene, CMSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Member**

Wadle, Richard "Rick", CMSgt (ret), USAFSS *****FTVA Hall of Honor**

Weissgerber, Gary George, USAFSS *****FTVA Member**

Wing, Randall Ray, SSgt, USAFSS



Burgner, Rex Lynn, 62, passed away on April 3, 2025. He served in the USAF. He is survived by his Wife Ruby Burgner, Children Michael David Burgner, Rodrigo Gomez and Rafael Gomez, Brother Roger A. Burgner, Sister Kitty Bradford, and four grandchildren. //Obit - Baldauff Family Funeral Home.//

I met Rex in 1980 at language school. //David Michael//

I met Rex in 1982 in Panama. He was a good friend and a good man. //Juan Flores//

Rex was my roommate in ELC at Lackland AFB in 1980. //Erik Nilsen//

Had the pleasure of meeting/working with Rex at Offutt AFB, NE and also in Panamá. //Ismael Salazar//

Someone once remarked how Rex was the "Hoss" of the MK world. Big guy, big heart, always smiling and always ready to lend a hand. Adios, hermano. Gonna miss you.//Vernon Lee//

Rex was a Spanish Linguist. //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



Burshnick, Gerald A., A1C, 87, passed away December 30, 2025. He was married to his wife of 61 years, Ann Marie Vagonis Burshnick. He served in the USAF Security Service and was stationed in Japan, Korea, California, and Texas before an honorable discharge as Airman First Class. He is survived by his wife, Ann Marie, three daughters, Lisa Marie Puzio (Walter) Locust, NC, Cheryl Ann Izzo, Piscataway, NJ, and Christine Genthe (Eric), Clinton MS. //Bridgewater Funeral Home//



Davis, Billy G., SMSgt (ret), 95, passed away February 26, 2026. He is preceded in death by his wife, Billie Burson Davis, his step-daughter, Jennifer Borquist, his parents and eight of his siblings. Bill often said that by the time he was 15, he had lived through two major world events, both the Depression and World War II. Like his older brothers who had served in the war, Bill also felt a need to serve. In 1948, at 17 and with his Dad's permission, Bill joined the U. S. Air Force, where he eventually became a "ditty bopper," one who spent hours listening to Morse code and deciphering hostile communications. Bill's first teaching job was teaching code copying.

He served in multiple locations in the United States, Europe, and Asia. He retired as a Senior Master Sergeant after 21years in the USAF Security Service. Bill is survived by his wife of seven

years, Mary Sitton Davis; his son, John Davis and wife Kelly; and his two step-children, Janelle Brower and Nathan Wiens (wife Meghan). //Obit - Kilpatrick Funeral Home//



Deller, Pamela Hope, MSgt (ret), 62, February 4, 2026. Pam joined the United States Air Force on April 11, 1984, and dedicated 20 years to serving her country. During her military career, she was honored with the Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with 1 bronze leaf cluster, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor with three bronze oak leaf clusters. After her military retirement as a Master Sergeant, Pam continued to serve her country as an Air Force Civilian before her final retirement in 2019. Pam will always be remembered for her glowing love, humor, honesty, and the great lengths she would go to help her family and friends. Pam is

survived by her daughter, Nikki Deller and her husband (Larry Martinez); son James Deller and his wife (Cynthia Gomez). //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

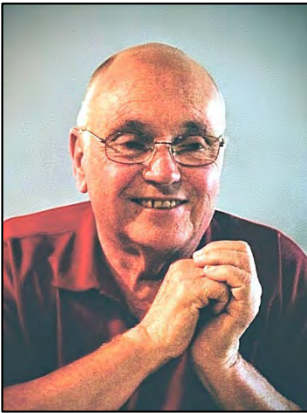
Pamela was the Exec for CMSgt (ret) Marco Aldaz and CMSgt (ret) Al Dowling. //Joseph “Pepito” Figueroa”//

My condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of Pam Deller. Pam was a very nice lady. I enjoyed my time working with her at the 67th Wing and Air Intelligence Agency. She was very smart, professional, and always willing to lend a helping hand. May she rest in peace. All the best and Godspeed. //David Hill//

Pam and I were colleagues in the late ‘90’s at Security Hill. Although it’s been a while since we worked together, I remember she was smart, straight foward and always had a smile on her face. A great person and teammate! Prayers to her family at this sad time. //Irvin Moss//

Pam - you were the light in so many of our lives, most especially mine. You made me a better man, person and Chief ... be at peace with God. //Marco Aldaz//

You have my sympathy. I will remember my wonderful friend always. We had a great time having lunch together and I enjoyed the pictures Pam shared with me of her grandchildren who were the love of her life. Pam was a joy to work with at Security Hill at Lackland AFB. Pam is one of the best girlfriends you could ever have. Rest in peace my friend. Love, Lindy. //Linda Vaughn//



Ellis, William Kearney, 80, passed away February 23, 2026. He proudly served in the United States Air Force. He served four years with USAFSS as a morse code intercept operator primarily at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage Alaska. He finished his service at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio Texas. He is survived by his children: Joseph Caswell Rosa Jr., Elizabeth Lenore Hooks, and Christopher Michael Rosa. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

I first met Bill 59 years ago this month. We were assigned to the same Morse code class at Keesler AFB in Biloxi, Ms. I was just 18 at the time and he was 21. Now the difference in age is trivial but then it seemed much bigger.

I was initially jealous of him because our schedule allowed him to drive home weekends and I being from Wisconsin was stuck lonely and wondering what I had gotten myself into. We were then assigned to Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage Ak where the wisdom of the older Bill helped me overcome homesickness and became a lifelong friend. We stayed in touch throughout the years with marriages, children, grandchildren and the joy of a lasting friendship. My wife Betty and I will miss him always. RIP good friend! //John & Betty Horvath//



Ferguson, Richard Scott, 92, passed away December 11, 2025. He married Alice (nee) Kaulfers on February 11, 1956. He and his bride subsequently served with the U.S. Air Force in Oklahoma; Texas; Florida; Zweibruecken, Germany and in San Antonio, Texas, as an officer in charge of computer operations for the U.S. Air Force Security Service until 1960, when separated from the military as a Captain in the United States Air Force Reserve. Richard was predeceased by his son, Daniel Evan in 1995; his sister, Margaret F. Garrison in 2000; his dear wife Alice in 2006 and his daughter, Bonnie Jean in 2018. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Jeanette Kaulfers of Richmond, VA;

//Bradley, Smith & Smith Funeral Home//



Gerke, David Joseph, MSgt (ret), 80, passed away January 28, 2026. David had a stellar career in the United States Air Force rising to the rank of Master Sergeant. During his time in the military, he was awarded the prestigious Cheney Award for heroism during peacetime. For his heroics in earning the Cheney Award and prestigious Airman Medals, David will be buried in Arlington Cemetery. /Obit – Dignity Memorial//

Dave and I flew together on Air Force RC-135 reconnaissance missions out of Alaska (Eielson AFB and Shemya Island). Dave was a good friend and outstanding crewmember. I was stationed in Alaska with him when he survived the Cobra Ball (RC-135 S Model) crash at Shemya in March

1981. Dave was awarded the Airman's Medal for heroism and later was selected as the Cheney Award winner. Dave was one of the "Silent Warriors." Those of us who worked behind the scenes in the Intelligence Community and due to the nature of our classified work could never reveal what we did. But I can assure you that his work was of the utmost importance for the decision makers in Washington DC, including the President of the United States. RIP Dave, your watch is over and we are proud to call you Brother. See you on the other side. //Rick Jefferson//

Dave Gerke was an A207X1 and Cobra Ball crash survivor. //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



Guthrie, Robert Lee, SMSgt (ret), 79, passed away December 28, 2025. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in January 1967. He proudly served for over 25 years in the U.S. Air Force, rising to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. His career included assignments at Keesler AFB; Misawa, Japan; Goodfellow AFB; San Vito, Italy; Shu Lin Kou, Taiwan; Osan, Korea; and multiple stations at Lackland and Kelly AFB in Texas, as well as temporary duty in several overseas locations, including Vietnam. Among his many commendations were the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Outstanding Unit Award with valor device, Organizational Excellence

Award, Good Conduct Medal, and National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star. He was recognized as NCO of the Quarter on several bases and named Senior NCO of the Year for the 6960th Electronic Security Squadron in 1985. He retired in 1992. Cherishing his memory are his devoted wife of 54 years, Julia "Frances" Guthrie; his daughter, Pamela Nazir; his son-in-law, Waqas Nazir. //Obit – Castle Ridge Mortuary//

X1 known in Taiwan and Headquarters. //USAFSS Facebook Post//



Hartle, Mary Lee Pleger, 82, passed away November 30, 202. Mary Lee served as a secretary for the Department of Defense with the United States Air Force from 1969 until her retirement in 2001. Over the course of her distinguished career, she was stationed alongside her husband and two sons in Germany, England, and Turkey. Her professional excellence was recognized early on when she received the Outstanding Air Force Civilian Executive Support Technician Award from the USAF Security Service in both 1972 and 1973. Upon her retirement, she was honored with the Award for Meritorious Civilian Service-an acknowledgment of more than

three decades of unwavering commitment to supporting military operations through administrative excellence. Beyond her professional achievements, Mary Lee's heart belonged to her family. She was a devoted wife to Joseph L. Hartle and a loving mother to their two sons, Joseph L. Hartle III and Conrad Hartle. She is survived by her son Conrad Hartle and his wife Chelley. //Obit - Castle Ridge Mortuary//



Huck, Andrew Dewayne, 43, passed away January 26, 2026. Growing up in an Army family, his world was vast and full of love; he spent his youth in Germany, Bahrain, Denmark, Italy, and various stateside locations. He was naturally loved by all his classmates and graduated from Vicenza High School in 2001. He enlisted as an Arabic Linguist and spent several years supporting the War on Terror as a linguist and intelligence analyst. While attending the University of Texas - Austin in 2006, he met Mona Min. They fell in love, married in 2008, and received their Air Force commissions together, becoming Intelligence Officers. Their life was an adventure: they lived in Okinawa and became scuba diving junkies, hiked the Annapurna

Circuit in Nepal, and dove with sharks in the Great Barrier Reef. And in 2015, they welcomed their son, Anderson Joonyoung Huck, into the world. After retiring from the Air Force, the family moved from San Antonio to Colorado to fulfill a dream of living by the mountains and Ponderosa pines. Andie is survived by his wife, Mona Min, and his son, Anderson Huck. //Obit - Swan-Law Funeral//

Retired 14N/former IN3 Arabic linguist within our 361st ISRG enterprise. Served at Fort Gordon and downrange with the Silent Shield team. //Silent Shield Facebook Post//



Jacobs, James "Jim" Wayne, A1C, 95, passed away December 21st, 2025. He proudly served his country during the Korean War in the capacity of Morse Code interception. He was stationed in Bremerhaven, Germany, with the military intelligence unit of the U.S. Air Force Security Service, 41st RSM. Subsequently, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Tennessee and began his life-long career with the Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company. He is survived by his son, Philip (and wife Nichol) Jacobs. //Carmichael Funeral Home//



Jansson, Steven Mark, 73, passed away November 25, 2025. Steve is survived by his loving wife, in marriage and friendship of 47 years, Mary Kay in Barnes, WI; his brother, Bruce in Fridley, MN; his two children Kristin (Jeremy) Wilson in Pace, FL, and Kyle (Anna) Jansson in Brookfield, WI. He is also survived by his faithful dog, Brutus, and by countless lifelong friends. During the Vietnam era, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and became stationed in Okinawa, Japan, where he served in a reconnaissance unit. After returning home with an Honorable Discharge, Steve followed both his gift for mathematics and his passion for bowling

to the University of Minnesota. While on the Gopher bowling team, he met his best friend, future bride, fellow bowling enthusiast and teammate Mary Kay. One of his proudest personal achievements came at age 50, when he joined the Senior PBA Tour to fulfill his lifelong dream of “competing with the big boys”! Traveling the country with his buddies and teammates, Steve bowled against some of the best in the sport, met his idols, and embraced every tournament with the same competitive spirit, passion, and joy that defined him. //Obit - Dougherty Funeral Home//

Steve and I knew each other for 52 years. He and another picked Dave and I up from Naha airport in Okinawa after getting married in Wisconsin. There started our friendship. So many memories!!
//Sharon Petrie//



Kale, Richard Allen, MSgt (ret), 90, passed away January 17, 2026. When he was 17, Richard wanted to join the Air Force and completed his high school education while serving. He served from 1953 to 1973. He worked in the U.S. Air Force Security Service (USAFSS), a secretive Cold War-era intelligence unit that specialized in signals, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance agencies, focusing on electronic warfare and cyber operations. He has been to 30 different countries during his military career. Richard served in two wars, Korean and Vietnam, where he earned several medals. Two of these medals were The Distinguished Flying Cross and The Air Medal. Both

were for extraordinary achievement. During his military service, he married Mary W. Matthew of Lebanon on February 16, 1957. They would have been married for 69 years this coming February. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter Cathy Ann wife of Harold Echols of Anchorage, AK, son Richard Allen Kale, Jr., and his wife Laurie of Olympia, WA. //Obit – Kreamer Funeral Home//

I served with Dick in the USAF Security Service. Among various places, we served together in Turkey and in Alaska. We also worked together in Alaska after we had both retired from the military. Dick was a good friend and a person who could always be depended on; both in the military and in civilian life. He will be missed by those of us who were his comrades and he is in my prayers. May he rest in peace. //SMSgt Raymond W. Allor//



Lowe, Frank Newton, Maj (ret), 89, passed away January 24, 2026. Commissioned through the R.O.T.C. program in 1959 as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, Frank served as a USAF Security Service Officer at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, and at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. He served at MACV Headquarters, Saigon, Republic of Vietnam, from March 1968 through March 1969, receiving the Bronze Star. Other assignments included the AF Special Projects Production Facility at Westover AFB in Massachusetts, where he received the Air Force Commendation Medal for his work in photo intelligence and the Foreign Technology Division at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. He also served for four years in the Aeronautical Systems Division at WPAFB where he received the Meritorious Service Medal for his work in developing management information systems. Frank retired from the Air Force in June 1980 and spent the next 25 years working for various civilian contractors in the Dayton area. With airplanes and music as his passions, Frank flew as a member of the WPAFB Aero Club and was a four-thousand-hour volunteer in the Restoration Division of the National Museum of the USAF. Frank is survived by a sister, Margret (Lowe) Land of San Diego, CA, and a niece and nephew, Diana and Michael Land; his wife Sara Jane (Bitner) Lowe, formerly of Latrobe, whom he married in 1963; his son Christopher and wife Kimberly (Adams) Lowe, both formerly Air Force members; and two grandsons, Andrew Lowe, age 28, an active duty Air Force officer and David Lowe, age 25, also an active duty Air Force officer and his wife Erin. //Obit - Hartman-Graziano Funeral Home Chapel//



Lyons, Sidney R., MSgt (ret), 71, passed away July 23, 2025. He honorably served 25 years in the United States Air Force before retiring, followed by 15 years at Raytheon. Sidney is survived by his wife, Delia Lyons; two sons, Ricky Lyons and Joey Alingcastre; three daughters, Kathy Williams, Vickie Queen, and Tonya Lyons. //Obit - Faith Chapel Funeral Home//



Maddux, Rob Berta Faye, 88, passed away February 2, 2026. On November 10, 1957, she married the love of her life, CMSgt (ret) Donald Maddux, in Montgomery City. They shared more than 60 wonderful years of marriage before his passing in 2021—a partnership filled with devotion, adventure, and love. Together, Rob Berta and Donald traveled extensively, as Donald was serving in the United States Air Force, exploring the world side by side and creating a lifetime of memories. She spent many years volunteering with Family Services through the Air Force, generously giving her time in service to others Rob Berta is survived by her children: Mike (Cathy) Maddux of Rhineland, MO,

Donna Branson of Montgomery City, MO. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband. //Obit - Schlanker Funeral Home//



Mahoney, Dongman "Sue", 87, passed away December 22, 2025. Born on April 5, 1938, in Surat Thani, Thailand, to parents Kiaan and Amporn Naknam, she was the youngest of six children. Sue's life was a journey of courage, dedication, and unwavering support for her loved ones. She met her husband, CMSgt (ret) Greg Mahoney, in Nakhon Phanom, Thailand in 1973. They were married on February 20, 1976, in Papillion, Nebraska, thus beginning a lifelong partnership that lasted almost 50 years. They made their first home in Omaha, Nebraska, followed by homes in Fairbanks, Alaska, and San Antonio, Texas, while raising their two sons, Sakchai (Guy) Wickizer-Mahoney and Noi Mahoney. Sue's

life was rich with accomplishments and meaningful relationships. She was the proud owner and operator of two restaurants, ventures that she ran with the help of her supportive sons who inherited her strong work ethic. Her restaurants were more than businesses; they were welcoming places where memories were made and relationships fostered. As a devout Buddhist, she cultivated a home filled with kindness, respect, and spiritual values. Her role as a military wife was one that Sue embraced with courage and fortitude, supporting her husband's service with pride and the understanding of the sacrifices required. She easily managed all household responsibilities and cared for her two sons during the frequent absences of her husband. Sue was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and three sisters. She is survived by her husband, Greg Mahoney, son Sakchai (Guy) Wickizer-Mahoney, son Noi Mahoney, son-in-law Trent Mahoney-Wicker, and granddaughter, great granddaughter, and numerous nieces and nephews in Thailand. We are saddened by her loss but are forever grateful for having been blessed by her love and devotion to family. //Obit Castle Ridge Mortuary//

Dear Chief Mahoney, Guy & Noi, So sorry for your loss. Kermit & I always enjoyed time spent with you all. Sue was ALWAYS SO SPECIAL! God Bless. //Mary Kay Wegner//

Dear Greg, Guy, and Noi, We'll miss your dear Sue, too. Bob remembers her hospitality in Thailand, to those who were separated from families "back home", and we both very fondly remember all the Christmas parties in San Antonio, when everyone would ask "When is Sue coming?" or "Is Sue here?" and head for the food she brought, which made every party special! And at the end of each one, there was Sue: the first one with her hands in the dishwasher to help clean up. When Bob would tire being behind the bar, there you were, Greg, to help out. It was really a special time in San Antonio when we would get together - that we will remember! And our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this time of deep mourning. Please remember the good times, and we will, too! God Bless. //Debbie and Bob Cope//



Mills, Judah David, SMSgt (ret), 42, passed away at home in Cambridge, UK on October 18, 2025. He is survived by his wife, Heather Noelle Wharton and their daughters, Genevieve Elizabeth Mills and Juliette Delphine Mills. Judah joined the United States Air Force in 2002 at the age of 19. For the next twenty years, he served as an airborne linguist and signals intelligence specialist, accumulating over 3,000 hours as an aircrew member, instructor, and evaluator. His early military career was characterized by his specialization as an airborne cryptologic linguist in Korean, Malaysian, Indonesian, and Spanish. Due to his exceptional leadership and technical proficiency spanning multiple deployments around the globe, Judah concluded his career as a Senior Enlisted Leader of an Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Detachment stationed at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom. //Obit – Joseph Gawler’s Sons, LLC//

I was stationed with Judah in Monterrey, CA, 22-23 years ago. He was warm-hearted, open, and inviting back then. Easy to make friends with and regularly invited us over for get togethers. I wished I kept up with him after we PCS'd, but I'm glad I later found him on Facebook to at least share some parts of our family and lives. I am truly sorry for this devastating loss to his family and friends. //Alexander Anderson//



McNamara, Barbara A., 83, passed away January 17, 2026. Barbara began her storied career with the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., where she would serve in numerous capacities, rising through the ranks to the role of Deputy Director, NSA's highest civilian position. Before retiring in 2003, she was the first woman to assume the assignment of Special United States Liaison Officer to London, UK, from 2000 - 2003. Ms. McNamara was inducted into the National Security Agency Hall of Honor in 2020 and recognized for her contributions to our nation as a pioneering leader at NSA who helped shape modern U.S. Intelligence operations and strengthen national security. //Obit - Philbin-Comeau Funeral Home//

We are deeply saddened by the passing of former Deputy Director, Barbara McNamara, a pioneering figure at the National Security Agency. In 1994, she became the first woman to lead the Directorate of Operations and later served as Deputy Director from 1997 to 2000, greatly enhancing intelligence cooperation and production. Inducted into the Cryptologic Hall of Honor in 2020, her lasting contributions to the NSA's mission to protect our Nation will forever be remembered. We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones. //NSA Facebook Post//

McNamara arrived at NSA as a Chinese linguist in 1963 during the height of the Cold War. Over her 40-year career, she rose to key positions where she helped improve NSA's relationships with the U.S. Intelligence Community and foreign partners and helped shape an operational component at the Agency. Other positions McNamara held included NSA/CSS representative to the Department of Defense (1993-1994), NSA executive director (1994-1995), and deputy director of Operations (DDO) (1995-1997). In 1997, NSA Director Kenneth Minihan selected McNamara to be NSA's deputy director. Then in 2000, she became the first woman to serve as the Special U.S. Liaison Officer, London. McNamara — who was known throughout the Agency by her initials, "BAM" — had a reputation for being "strong-willed." This reflected her strong focus on the mission and on the jobs at hand. Awards McNamara received during her career included NSA's Meritorious Service Award (1988), the Exceptional Civilian Service Award (1994), the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award (1995), and the Presidential Rank Award (1999). She was inducted into the Cryptologic Hall of Honor in 2020. //NSA CSS News//



Mudd, Joseph Eugene, CMSgt (ret), 95, passed away January 18, 2026. He served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He us interred in Ft Sam Houston Cemetery. //VA Cemetery Graveside Locator//

I'm posting this on behalf of my father, Joseph Mudd. He loved his Air Force family. He had asked me to post something in this group after he passed. We lost him in January. He was married to our mother for 72 years. //Mary Urey-Streeper//

Joe was our oldest surviving COMSEC analyst. We honored him at our COMSEC reunion in January. //USAFSS Facebook Post//



Page, John W., Capt (ret), passed away February 17, 2026. He served for 22.5 years. He was an Intelligence Officer with assignments including: BMT, Sampson AFB, NY, 1954; 519th ADG, Suffolk Co. AFB, NY, 1954; 1st Tactical Depot Sqdn, RAF Stations Sculthorpe, Wethersfield & Bentwaters, 1955-58; 6921st RGM Group Operations, (A1C & SSgt), Misawa AB, Japan, 1958-61; 6901st SCG (SSgt & TSgt), Zweibrucken, Germany, 1962-65; Selected for AECF; B.A. Political Science, Michigan State Honors College, 1965-67; Officer Training School, Lackland AFB, TX, 1967; M.A. Political Science, Michigan State, 1967-68; Air Intelligence Officer Course, Lowry AFB, CO, 1968; Intelligence Officer, 388th TFW, Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 1968-69; Air Intelligence Officer Briefing Instructor, Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center (AFAITC), Lowry AFB, CO, 1969-70; Intelligence Training Staff Officer, HQ ATC, Randolph AFB, TX, 1970-73; Professor of Political Science, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO, 1973-77. //Input courtest of Marion Page//



Pittman, Aubrey Gene "Jimmy", 82, passed away February 9, 2026. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force as a Morse Intercept Operator and was released from duty in 1966. On March 26, 1966, at Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Jimmy married his soulmate, Lois Vermel (Stokes) Pittman. Together they shared 59 years of devoted marriage. Jimmy is survived by his three sons, Wayne (Valerie) Pittman, Justin (Olivia) Pittman, and Daniel (Rebecca) Pittman. //Obit - Lewis Funeral Home//



Rowell, Charles Herbert "Herb" Jr., 71, passed away December 1, 2025. Herb was the beloved son of Charles Herbert Rowell Sr. and Ada Merick Rowell. Herb was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Alexander "Alex" Rowell. He is survived by his devoted wife, Kathleen Rowell; his children, Amy Pearson (Robbie), Lindsey Clark (Stewart), and Jaime Latshaw (Andrew). Herb dedicated his career to serving his country and community. He was a proud veteran, having retired from the United States Air Force, and working in civil service until his retirement. //Vinyard Funeral Home//

Served in Security Hill in the military and civil service. //Joseph "Pepito" Figueroa//



Ryan, Richard Carrol "Rich" Jr., 80, passed away February 14, 2026. He married Sherry on October 11, 1980, in Lone Oak, Texas. He proudly served his country for 20 years in the United States Air Force, logging thousands of flight hours as a Russian Voice Intercept Processing Specialist and Airborne Mission Supervisor. Rich carried the discipline, skill, and dedication he developed in the Air Force into his second career as a Systems Engineer with L-3 Communications (formerly E-Systems) in Greenville. He is survived by his wife, Sherry Ryan; daughters, Casey Stribling Chaney and husband Trey, Leslie Ryan Walsh and husband Colin;

son-in-law, Brian Fuhs; daughter-in-law, Theresa Juhl Ryan; //Obit - Coker-Mathews Funeral Home Chapel//

I met Rich about 50 years ago when we flew missions together in the Air Force. We became good friends and did a little motorcycle ride together, including a weeklong ride to Colorado in 1975. Fortunately, he, wife Sherry, and I were able to get together a few times in Texas and Colorado over the past 15 years or so. Rich will be missed by many, including me //RJ Facebook Post//

Sorry for your loss, prayers with Sherri and family. I worked with Rich in the USAF and our follow-on civilian world. I loved working /flying with Rich; he was always a great mentor for me. //Gary and Kellyn Tolly//

He was stationed at Offutt. //RJ Facebook Post//

Met Rich when we worked as Systems Engineers in Greenville. Lots of great conversations about RJ and life around the area, //RJ Facebook Post//

Spent many years with Rich in RAF Upper Heyford, Mildenhall, and at the 85th. //RJ Facebook Post//



Stephens, James L. MSgt (ret), "Bubba", 83, passed away February 21, 2026. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Vi Stephens; two children, Jim D. Stephens, Michelle E. Deal (Robert). James is a retired MSgt from the United States Air Force. //Obit – Heritage Oaks Mortuary//

Lost another old friend, MSgt Jim Stephens. Jim came to work for me in AFIWC. We retired from Civil Service at the same time, 2004. First met him when I was TDY to Crete in 1979. //USAFSS Facebook Post//

Served in Crete. //USAFSS Facebook Post//



Thompson, Phillip (Phil) E., Col (ret), 85, passed away January 24, 2026. He is survived by those "he considered the most important people in his life": his wife, Janice Marks Thompson; his sons, Stephen (Tami), Gregory (Megan), Michael (Laia); and six precious grandchildren: Connor, Luke, Mikaela, Elise, Liam, and Luc. In his military career Phil subscribed to the motto "In God we trust, all others we monitor". He served as a Signals and Human Intelligence officer in Pakistan, Vietnam, Germany, Greece, Poland (Air Attache), at the National Security Agency, and the Air Force Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. His military awards included the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, five Meritorious Service

Medals, and two Citations of Valor. In 2022 he was inducted into the Freedom Through Vigilance Association Hall of Honor for performance with great distinction. He concluded his career as a member of the United States Army War College faculty. //Obit – Ewing Brothers Funeral Home//

Our nation has lost a dedicated Air Force professional who served faithfully and well during his distinguished career, and our family has lost a good friend. Col Phil Thompson started his career in our country’s cryptologic service, providing our nation valuable intelligence from distant, foreign lands; he served in both command and staff positions, as air attaché in Poland during the Cold War, and as a professor at the Army War College. I first met Phil when I was a young second lieutenant in Germany. I was then blessed to have Phil as my commander on Crete, Greece; as a colleague and mentor while at Headquarters, USAF; and a friend as we grew older together. His life was dedicated to service and the example he set for young officers over generations was hard work, honesty and integrity. In recent years, we were privileged, as Phil shared his courageous fight against cancer, strengthened by love and support from Janice, Gregory, Stephen, and Michael and their families. We will continue to be there for your dear Janice. Rest in peace faithful friend. //Jim and Olga Sullivan//

Air attaché in Poland during the Cold War; professor at Army War College; Commander at Crete. //USAFSS Facebook Post//



Turner, Michael Eugene, CMSgt (ret), 83, passed away October 12, 2025. Michael proudly served his country during the Vietnam War as a member of the United States Air Force. Through decades of faithful service, he rose to the highest rank an enlisted airman can achieve — Chief Master Sergeant. His military career took him across the globe, serving in distinguished assignments including Okinawa and Misawa, Japan; Crete, Greece; Omaha, Nebraska; San Angelo, Texas; and San Antonio, Texas. No matter where duty called, he represented his nation with pride, leadership, and unwavering commitment. Michael excelled at sports in high school at



Huntsville High School and his elementary years were spent at East Liberty Elementary. He continued his playing throughout his military career. He also made the Air Force Basketball Team and traveled and played with them. He enjoyed softball, basketball, football, volleyball, bowling and darts. Michael shared a deep and enduring love with his late wife, Linda Lou (Buckenroth) Turner, of Bellefontaine, Ohio. Together, they raised two sons: the late Terry E. Turner and Scott D. Turner, to whom Michael passed on his sense of honor and devotion to family. //Obit - Eichholtz & Daring Funeral Home and Cremation Center//

Mike was a great Airman, mentor and gentleman that helped a young lieutenant and his bride's transition to the Air Force in the Island of Crete. We will always be in debt to Mike and Linda for their help and support.// Col (ret) Ron Haygood//



Wadle, Richard “Rick”, CMSgt (ret), 87, passed away September 28, 2025. Rick served proudly in the U.S. Air Force for over 22 years, retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant. In 1978, he opened Dive World Scuba Center, where he built a community of divers and friends who loved him dearly. Rick was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished family above all. He will be remembered as a veteran, mentor, and friend whose adventurous spirit touched countless lives. Survivors: Wife, Debbie; children, Rod, Cathy, Ashley, Shelby, and Julian; and his grandchildren. //San Antonio Express-News//

The write-up below Chief Wadle's photograph in the FTVA Hall of Honor reads "A superb technician, supervisor and leader. From assignments at ground and airborne units to staff positions in the headquarters, he excelled in every endeavor."



Weissgerber, Gary George, 81, passed away February 23, 2026. Gary joined the USAF in October 1965 and was stationed at Misawa, Japan as an Intercept Officer with the Security Service where he worked in signals intelligence. His time there was always remembered fondly and he was commended for his actions during the capture of the USS Pueblo by North Korea.

After his return stateside, Gary married and had two sons, Matthew Todd and John Bernerd. Eventually, Gary would meet and marry his partner of 34 years Marilyn (Womack) Weissgerber. Gary is survived by his wife, Marilyn (Womack) Weissgerber - Moody, AL, sons Matt Weissgerber and

wife Angela (Jordan) Weissgerber – Talladega, AL and John Weissgerber and wife Alicia (Hodkin) Weissgerber – Canton, GA. //Obit – Dignity Memorial//

He was a member of the FTVA. He was a 292x2 (207x2) stationed at Misawa Japan 1966 to 1969. //Roger Hubert//



Wing, Randall Ray, SSgt, 75, passed away January 9, 2026. He enlisted in the USAF and served in the USAF Security Service in 1968. While in the Air Force he was introduced to his future wife Barbara through his brother Russell. They started writing letters back and forth which quickly transformed into something more. While home on a 30 day leave in December of 1969, they dated and fell in love. Prior to shipping out to Okinawa Japan, they decided “we won’t say goodbye, we will say until we meet again.” That day was January 16th, 1969 (his celebration of life to be held 57 years later to the date). This long-distance relationship later led to a proposal and marriage of 55 years. Randy and Barbara were married on September 29, 1970, in Litchfield, Nebraska. The occasion was a double wedding ceremony that also included Randy's brother Russell and Barbara's sister Diana(a tradition that has previously occurred in the Wing family). Shortly after the wedding Randy departed to Okinawa for his first duty station. After 18 months, he transferred to San Vito Air Station in Italy, where his wife Barbara joined him until his discharge. He was honorably discharged from the United States Air Force in April 1973, after reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara; his sons, Stephen (Robin) Wing of Omaha and Timothy (Amy) Wing of Colorado. //Obit - Braman Mortuary//

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