

POST-MONITOR

VOL 30 – ISSUE 02

WEBSITE: AFTACAA.US

2022-08



The Alumni Anthem

Over the years and
at younger ages ...
'GS,' 'E' and 'O'
were our gauges

But now we've reached
the best of stages
Being one of the
Center's Sages

Long-Range Detection

denotes and represents all
who served the mission
throughout its inception and
history. Recognized for 70
years of service to our
country September 16th

1947 – 2017

A 70TH COIN WAS ONLY AVAILABLE
TO ATTENDEES AT THE DINING OUT
HELD IN 2017



SAGE SALUTE

ED LINDSAY

Our Alumni **SALUTE** for
the April 2021 POST
MONITOR (PoMo) was Ed
Lindsay, when we honored
him as the Alumni of the Year

(AOY). Generally, when we select our AOY, we realize
that many of their accomplishments for the Association
have already occurred, but some of our AOYs just keep
on giving. **Ed Lindsay** is certainly one of those
members.

Ed wears many hats in the Association. Having
previously served as President and Vice President, Ed
is currently our Secretary, Sage Shop manager, and
Website Chairman/Media, and he has just recently
assumed (temporarily) the duties of Membership Chair.

In addition to all these volunteer duties, Ed recently
served as Master of Ceremonies of the 2022 Worldwide
Reunion. He even enlisted his daughter, Angelina, to
take pictures at the event. Ed also organizes our spring
and fall Golf Tournaments. I guess Ed has not learned
to say "NO" – and that's a good thing for us!

Thank you, Ed and Angelina, for
your devotion to the Association.
We would need several volunteers
to replace what you do for the
Association.

Angelina



NOTE: PoMo pictures, obituaries (& much more) are on the **website**
at near real time (URL at banner, above). Also, check the **Colorado**
and California websites for more pictures, reports, and information;
URL information shown on page 2.

** Sage ALERTS –WHAT'S COMING UP **

ALUMNI MONTHLY MEETINGS

Friday, 19 August 2022*

1500 – 1600

HQ AFTAC Building – Lobby Conference Room

Friday, 16 September 2022*

1130 – 1300

FY2023 Florida AFTACAA Sociable September
– Annual General Membership meeting
and **Election of Officers**

1300 - 1400

Alumni of the Year (AOY) members meeting
Patrick SFB Manatee Cove Golf Course (MCGC),

***TELECONFERENCE MEETING.** To sign up for the
Teleconference Connectivity, please Email
Phil Godfrey, AFTACAA President at
afsophil@gmail.com or 321-446-8775 (cell)

Also, please check pages 3-5 for various Alumni
Association events.

AFTAC 75th DIAMOND JUBILEE BIRTHDAY BALL

Saturday, 17 September

1830 - 2230

Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront

1550 N. Atlantic Ave, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

R.S.V.P. by 7 September 2022

<https://sendomatic.com/a2muF>

[Further details of coming events on pgs 3-5 and at
the AFTACAA Web site aftacaa.us]

ASSOCIATION Information *Deceased, (D)*

Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (27)

Lou Seiler/2021-Ed Lindsay/2020-Bryce Dunn/2019-Pete Gilbert/2018-John Kemna/2017-Carol Snyder/2016-Frank Calenda/2015-Sean Ryan/2014-Lonnie Gibbons/2013-Gene & Dee Melchior/2012-Dale Klug/2011-Jack Smith (D)/2010-Jack Jackson (D)/2009-Bob Wiley/2008-Bill Schmied/2007-Deborah Carson/2006-Mike Black/2005-Joe Goldian(D)/2004-Pat Snyder/2003-Joe Johnson(D)/2002-Jim Payne (D)/2001 -Ben Vlassick (D)/2000-John & Christel (D) Horsch/1999-Frank Hall/1998-Judy Milam-Henderson/1997-Carl Gailey (D)/1996-Clark Creery (D)/1995

AFTAC/Long Range Detection (LRD) Alumni Honorarium

Several ongoing projects represent and honor Center people and history. Three, 'Hall of Heritage' (data/artifacts), the '20-Year Wall of Service' (alumni who served the Center for 20+ years and have mailed in their photos/bios) and the Wall of Honor, are housed at AFTAC Headquarters. Another is an AFTAC display at the Grand Encampment, WY, Museum.

Association History A group of retired/active duty AFTACers, by invitation from then CC, Col **Clapper**, met at Patrick AFB, FL, on March 12, 1985, and formed the **AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)** (chartered, 1986); from 2001-2014, we were renamed 'Long Range Detection' (LRD). Website,

<http://sites.google.com/site/lrdalumniassnneedtoknownow/>

--The Association provides a forum for those wishing to maintain a relationship with the Center and its people, active-duty and retired. Membership is open to all who serve/served our mission in any organization associated with LRD (AFMSW-1, 1009th SWS, AFOAT-1, 1035th FAG, 1035th TOG, and AFTAC), and any field detachment. Of note, there are several Sages who recall an earlier effort to form an association in 1978.

There is this Association and two Chapters

1. Florida 'AFTAC Alumni Association': (application at the bottom of each page at aftacaa.us)-**Dues, \$10/FY** (dues due 15 September each year)/**\$75 for life**. Most monthly meetings are at 1600, 2nd Monday each month (verify if coming) at the AFTAC HQ (Bldg 10989), or other venue, at Patrick SFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' on page 28. Contact: Ed Lindsay, piston_horse@hotmail.com - mailing address is: **PO Box 254892, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4892**. The Association has several communications resources, this triannual newsletter, '**Post-Monitor**' (namesake of prior active-duty publication, 'Monitor') & a multi-page Website, see banner on previous page, with assn/alumni news and photos-we provide a '**Breaking News**' service at the website and thru instant notification, what we term, '**eALLert**,' for time sensitive data at <http://groups.google.com/group/aftac-lrd>.

"PERENNIALS" *Deceased, (D)* (5+ years board service) Clark Creery (D)-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01-10; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam-Henderson, Sec 89-06, Pres 04; Eunice Harris (D), Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; Swede Swansen, Pub 93-06; John & Christel (D) Horsch, Newsletter since 96; Pat Snyder, 'Insider/Sage Shop' 96-2010, VP 04, Sec 05; Mike Black, Webmaster 96-15; Jim Payne (D), Mbrshp 99-04; Joe Goldian (D), Treas, 03-17; Randy Vlassick, Mbrshp 04-09; Sean Ryan, Sec, 06-15, Treas 17-current; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 10-16; Pete Gilbert, Webmaster, since 15; Mike Steskal (D), Mbrshp, 16-22; Carol Snyder, 'Insider,' 10-20.

2. Colorado Chapter: Formed Nov 1986, **\$5/year**, they publish a newsletter, 'Echoes', have several meetings and social events a year. See website at <http://www.aftacco.org> for additional information and email contacts.

3. California Chapter: Formed 1999, \$10/year/\$75 lifetime.

For more, email, TOD.Alumni@AFTACWCC.org-mail, Alumni Assn, PO Box 3974, Citrus Heights, CA 95611-3974. The Chapter meets several times a year, publishes a newsletter, '**Depot Fallout**' and has a website, <http://www.aftacwcc.org/>

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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING



As we neared publication of this issue of the Post Monitor (PoMo), John Horsch, who is dealing some health issues, asked if I would write this Editorial.

I thought about all the things I might say, and the first thing that came to mind is the need for help to get the PoMo published three times a year. As soon as one issue goes to the press, items begin to come in to include in the next issue. John receives articles from a number of sources – other members, Facebook posts, the AFTAC Public Affairs officer, obituaries, reports about upcoming Alumni meetings and events and Alumni events that have already taken place, etc. This information is passed to me, where I sort through it and start working on the next issue, putting articles into the proper order and the proper format, and getting them ready to use in the PoMo. This is something anyone can do. You do not need to live in Florida; it's all done through Email. John also works with the AFTAC Public Affairs office to clear documents for publication to be sure we do not include any sensitive information, and he sends out reminders to submit articles. The reason I say that anyone can do this is that I'm not sure how much longer John and I will be able to continue in our current positions. If you would like to help with the PoMo, send me a message at jem2415@earthlink.net

Some people say we no longer need a PoMo, as nearly all of the PoMo documents are included on the web site (aftacaa.us), but I know there are some Alumni members who do not have computers and others who just want a paper copy. **As a reminder, if you receive a paper copy, you're required to pay a \$10 per year fee to receive the paper copy (due by 15 September, annually);** otherwise, you will receive an Email copy only, whether you are a lifetime member or you pay dues by the year. **Be sure to notify us if your Email changes; also, if you have moved or obtained a new phone number, we would like to have that information.** You can send updates to me at the above Email address or to Judy Henderson, 1978 Red Bud Circle NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907, and I'll be sure it gets to the proper people.

(continued on pg 3)

Sage Communicators-Post-Monitor Editor John Horsch, **Formatting** Judy Henderson; **Information/Proofing:** Judy Henderson, Susan A Romano/GG12/AFTAC PA; **Executive Review:** Frank Hall; '**Rovin**' **Cameras/Reporters:** Judy Henderson, Bob Wiley, & Lou Seiler; **Printing/Mailing:** Ed Lindsay, Sean Ryan, & Phil Godfrey; **Website Chairman/Media:** Ed Lindsay; **Webmaster:** Pete Gilbert



EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

(continued from Pg 2)

Enough said about the PoMo. I want to congratulate all those who worked so diligently to ensure we had a memorable reunion in May (see the reunion article and pictures later in this issue and additional pictures on the web site). Even though we enlisted the aid of a reunion company, there were many decisions that needed to be made and much work to be done to ensure a good time was had by all. A big thanks to Sean Ryan who Chaired the event. There was something for everyone – casual time that allowed lots of opportunities to meet with other attendees and see old friends and make new friends, a limited tour of the new AFTAC building and attendance at the Wall of Honor presentation, a tour of the Kennedy Space Center, and a formal dinner with a speaker and entertainment. We even had a space launch on the Space Coast during the reunion, and many attendees enjoyed their first-ever live space launch. If you missed the reunion, you missed a great one!

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Ed Lindsay for stepping up to help the Alumni Association in so many ways. Ed is a past-President and past-Vice President who just keeps on giving of his time and energy to the Association (see the Sage Salute on page 1). -- Judy (Milam) Henderson



**** Sage ALERTS -WHAT'S COMING UP ****

(continued from page 1)

19 August 2022 - 1500 – 1630

HQ AFTAC Building – Lobby Conference Room

AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) Monthly Membership meeting

TELECONFERENCE MEETING. To sign up for the Teleconference Connectivity, please Email Phil Godfrey, AFTACAA President at afsophil@gmail.com or 321-446-8775 (cell)

*** * * * ***

7 September 2022

WHAT: Retirement Ceremony of WC-135 Aircraft – T667

WHERE: Lincoln ANGB, Nebraska

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

(See page 5 for details)

*** * * * ***

Saturday, 17 September

1830 - 2230

AFTAC 75th Diamond Jubilee Birthday Ball

Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront

1550 N. Atlantic Ave, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

R.S.V.P. by 7 September 2022

<https://sendomatic.com/a2muF>

POC: Capt Jesse Lubove COMM: 321-494-7321

Military: Mess Dress or Semi-Formal Civilian: Formal Attire

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**** Sage ALERTS –WHAT’S COMING UP ****

(continued from page 3)

16 September 2022 - 1130 – 1300

FY2023 Florida AFTACAA Sociable September – Annual General Membership meeting and Election of Officers -- See nominees below!

Followed by a meeting of the **Alumni of the Year (AOY) members -- 1300 - 1400**

Patrick SFB Manatee Cove Golf Course (MCGC), (Putter Room)

Pay-as-You-Go Lunch is available beginning at 1030

TELECONFERENCE MEETING. To sign up for the Teleconference Connectivity, please Email Phil Godfrey, AFTACAA President at afsophil@gmail.com or 321-446-8775 (cell)

*** * * * ***

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 16 SEPTEMBER 2022 - Annual General Membership Meeting

NOMINEES: Our most previous past-president, Ed Lindsay, and the nominating team have come up with a few names for consideration:

President, Open, still combing the members for possible nominees. If you would like to be considered, please contact Ed Lindsay -- piston_horse@hotmail.com -- 321-507-7193 (Unlisted)

Vice-President, Rick Manley

Secretary, Ed Lindsay (continuing in his current position)

Treasurer, Sean Ryan (continuing in his current position)

In addition, nomination of willing individuals will be accepted via email to Ed Lindsay at piston_horse@hotmail.com and taken from the floor prior to the elections. Nominees must be current members in good standing.

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Friday, 21 October 2022

**AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
Annual Fall Golf-n'Get-Together XXXVII**

Venue: Manatee Cove Golf Course, PSFB. **Check-in:**1130; **Shotgun**

Start: 1300. (**Format:** 4-Person Scramble).

Cost: \$40 (Alumni Members); \$45 (Non-Alumni Members).

Fee includes: Golf, Cart, Range Balls, and BBQ from Tides Club served for Dinner

Open to: AD Military, Retirees, Civilians, and Contractors

Mulligan's pkgs will be on sale: \$5 for 1 mulligan, Red Bomb, & Nolan

Team Mulligan ball: available for \$10

POCs: Mr. Ed Lindsay -- piston_horse@hotmail.com -- 321-507-7193 (Unlisted)

Mr. Bruce Snelgrove -- robert.snelgrove@us.af.mil - 321-494-6166 (Unlisted)

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October 2022 (date to be determined) –

AFTAC will host the Women in Science & Engineering (WISE) Symposium

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Also, check page 28 and the web site at aftacaa.us for latest news on Alumni Association events.

(continued on pg 5)

**** Sage ALERTS –WHAT’S COMING UP ****

(continued from page 4)

INVITATION TO ATTEND – NEED TO RSVP

Information passed by Phil Godfrey, AFTACAA President

WHAT: Retirement Ceremony of WC-135 Aircraft – T667

WHEN: 7 September 2022

WHERE: Lincoln ANGB, Nebraska

AFTAC Alumni (that's YOU) have been invited to attend the retirement ceremony for one of our storied WC-135 aircraft, Tail #667. The ceremony will be held at Lincoln ANGB, Nebraska on 7 September, 2022. If you are interested in attending this special occasion, please let Ed Lindsay know so he can pass along this information to the unit. (Ed Lindsay contact, piston_horse@hotmail.com)

It's a great honor to be invited, and the ceremony will be a great opportunity to send off the ol' gal in style.

INVITATION sent to Phil, as follows: My name is Capt Zach LaMere and I work with the WC-135 here at AFTAC. Doris Bruner asked me to reach out to the Alumni Association to see if any of the members would be interested in attending the retirement ceremony of T667. The ceremony will be held at Lincoln ANGB, Nebraska on 7 September 2022. If you could forward this out to the rest of the members so we could get a rough number on how many would be attending that would be greatly appreciated. Additionally if any of them have any cool pictures or stories to pass on that would greatly be appreciated. Thanks!

V/R, Zachary W. LaMere, Capt, USAF, Flight Commander, Collection Ops, Air Force Technical Applications Center
709 SAG/21 SURS



FROM THE TOP – MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ:

Greetings Fellow Alumni!

This will be a short note to let you know that this issue will be chock full of information and articles about the Worldwide Reunion held in sunny Cape Canaveral, FL, 18 – 22 May. This was a fantastic event and before I give too much away, look for the article we put together later in this issue. We've also included a few pictures, but we took dozens – too many to publish in the PoMo. So, you'll want to check out the AFTAC Alumni Association website, www.aftacaa.us, for more.



Friends, it looks like we've learned to tolerate the COVID-19 virus well enough to return to some semblance of normality. Things are getting back to normal, and with that good news comes a renewed focus on more in-person camaraderie with members of AFTAC. This will give us more events to participate in (hopefully more like the way it used to be before the pandemic). The great news is AFTAC's new Commander, Colonel James "Cobra" Finlayson is very much looking forward to integrating the Alumni Association into more AFTAC events. In fact, look for more information and opportunities to join AFTAC events through our website and eALLs. Welcome, Col Finlayson!

Finally, we regret to pass along news of the passing of our Membership Chair, Mike Steskal. Mike passed away unexpectedly just before the Reunion, and he will be sorely missed. Please keep his family in your thoughts, and fondly remember all the good times we shared with Mike over his decades of service to AFTAC and the Alumni Association. Mike now sends cosmic rays our way from the heavens.

Your friend, Phil Godfrey, President, AFTAC Alumni Association

Board Members (elected positions)

President-**Phil Godfrey**--Vice **Rob Christman**--Secretary **Ed Lindsay**—Treasurer **Sean Ryan**
Appointed –

Activities-(**vacant**), CCMS, Hall of Heritage-(**vacant**), Membership/Master Data Base-**Ed Lindsay**, Post-Monitor Editor-**John Horsch**, Post Monitor Formatting & Information-**Judy Henderson**, Alumni of the Year Coordinator-**Bob Wiley**, Publicity/Social Functions-**Sean Ryan**, Sage Shop-**Ed Lindsay**, Webmaster-**Pete Gilbert**, Website Chairman-**Ed Lindsay**, 20-Year Wall Coordinator-**Tony DeMarco**.



THE 2022 AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNION

The 2022 AFTAC Worldwide Reunion (2022 AFTAC WWR), was truly an awesome time and event, making it one of the best we have ever had! Seventy-two fellow Alumni from 14 states, and 1 guest from overseas, gathered in sunny Cape Canaveral, Florida, for the 2022 AFTAC WWR. Our Theme this time was "75 Years Monitoring Earth & Heaven since 1947." It marked a perfect opportunity to gather and celebrate AFTAC's 75 years of Long Range Detection (LRD) excellence and the 75th Birthday of the United States Air Force. Mired in stories and steeped in tradition, members seasoned and spry proffered tales of AFTAC days gone by, but not forgotten. The 18th - 22d of May assembled a cast of characters from parts known and unknown to share stories, beverages, and laughs. It was wonderful to see so many folks from all over the lands arrive in style, to participate in the events and activities the reunion team had planned.

Those staying in the fabulous Radisson Resort at the Port hotel in Cape Canaveral, generally arrived on Wednesday. Each Alumni and their guests then signed in with Barb, the representative from A Complete Reunion. This made sure that they each received a goody bag and knew the layout of the Hospitality Room. It was the Hospitality Room that proved to be the command post and gathering place for the reunion, for the duration of the week, fully stocked with spirits, suds, and snacks, Alumni spent many hours catching up with old friends and making new ones. There was also a display of notable events and people from AFTAC's past to add to the ambiance, as well as hand-carved medallions commemorating the 75th year of LRD and the USAF, available for a donation. These were expertly crafted by Mr. Mark Bitter, also an AFTAC Alumni, and the proceeds went to support the planned AFTAC Memorial in front of the current HQ. The Hospitality Room truly had it all this year.

The resort festivities began on Thursday night with our traditional Icebreaker. Attendees arrived in the main ballroom of the resort, dressed and ready to kick off this reunion the right way – with aplomb! This event was emceed by our own past President, CMSgt (Ret.) Ed Lindsay, who made sure all were entertained and sufficiently lubricated. Ed traveled the room making sure folks connected and mingled, which really wasn't that hard since AFTAC'ers are a big family! That evening, also, a nice surprise for our WWR guests was the launch of an Atlas V Rocket with Boeing's Starliner Space Capsule. A total "Awe" moment for those who have never seen a rocket launch LIVE!

As noted earlier, the Hospitality Room was the Command Post. Intelligence reports (and we always trust Intelligence, right?) firmly state that all information both heard and delivered in this hallowed room was 100% true. Your Reunion planners, and heck, anyone else we could rope in, made sure the truth serum was well stocked and ready, and tales of past battles were shared, by elixirs of courage. Mike Johnston had some of the best tales on many a night. Even more amazing was hearing of the past conquests of Gene Melchior, Dee Melchior, Dan Gilb, and Michael Clark – but, there were so many other fascinating conversations in our Command Post that we can't name them all. During the entire reunion, the Hospitality Room was the place to socialize, chat, relax, and catch up with old friends and family members. The most typical remark overheard was, "Do you remember when we....?" That was usually followed by some hearty laughter.

The highlight of the Reunion was the visit to the AFTAC Headquarters on Thursday morning. Most attendees and their guests decided to attend this event, which began with a briefing by the AFTAC Commander, Colonel Katharine Branson, and included a tour of the new AFTAC Heritage Room. This room holds amazing artifacts from our history and provides a place to connect current AFTAC'ers with the legacy built by all of us Alumni. Most importantly, the AFTAC HQ visit was to celebrate the addition of three Alumni members onto the sacred AFTAC Wall of Honor (WOH). Adorned with names like Singlevich, Ciambone and Northrop, this day saw Colonel (Ret.) Jim Whidden, SMSgt (Ret.) Frank Calenda and MSgt (Ret.) Curtis Smith (deceased) forever enshrined on the WOH, which honored their significant contributions to the AFTAC and LRD missions over the years. This was a truly special event and a joyous occasion for these Alumni and their special guests. Attendees finished this event with an awesome Burger Burn cookout at the AFTAC Pavilion hosted by Mark Bitter and the AFTAC Memorial Corporation, before it was back on the bus for the short trip back up Highway A1A to the hotel.

Friday brought with it dreams of Space. No, we didn't launch any purveyors of bad intel into space, though there were some volunteers. So we did the next best thing. Sixteen guests boarded the Alumni Express (a bus-shaped armored vehicle) and plotted a course for the Kennedy Space Center Visitor's Center. This fine establishment has changed a lot in recent years, with the addition of a real Space Shuttle, the Atlantis, and many more flamey-rockety things in the Rocket Garden. The KSC Visitor's Center offered our Alumni a fantastic view of the latest in space technology, and was a great avenue to explore the very best of NASA's history. Once there, our Alumni performed heavy recon of the grounds and establishments, taking careful notes and imagery of anything suspicious. I heard several tales that items of great value were retrieved from the enemy trading post, and that KSC's rations were enjoyable.

Saturday, the peak of the Reunion, brought us to the Reunion Banquet that night. This feast assembled the vast majority of our attendees for a night of great celebration of each other and our shared time in the AFTAC and LRD missions. This event was held in the resort's main ballroom to exquisite standards, and well serviced by attentive and friendly Radisson staff. No MREs here, the meals were a delicious selection of Chicken, Beef or Vegetarian and the

dessert was quite outstanding. The Uniform of the Day was "Dress Nice," and folks did just that – and looked dashing and fabulous! Also emceed by Ed Lindsay, with help from Sean Ryan, the dinner and drinks inspired fellowship and conversation, but more than that, connection and family. It's connection and family that glued AFTAC together over the years, and still does in the Alumni corps.

To celebrate our history of victorious excellence, the reunion team enlisted the help of the Aloha Hula of Brevard Dance Team. This fantastic group of talented performers, brought joy and wonder to the banquet. I don't know how they move like they do, but I'll bet it hurts! The Hula we witnessed was simply wonderful and amazing and should remain a closely guarded secret by all of us, for they provided a morale boost the enemy could only wish for!

The highlight of this night was the Keynote Address by the AFTAC Historian, Dr. Mike Young. Mike did an amazing and outstanding job reminding us of all of the impact we've had on the science of Nuclear Treaty Monitoring, and on national security policy for over 75 years. Dr. Young has done stunning work cataloging and documenting AFTAC's history during his 12-year tenure as the AFTAC Historian, and we were all so honored to have him as our Keynote on this special night. Mike has since retired, and he let me know that he felt it was a "perfect way to finish his career" as our Keynote Address speaker. Dr. Young's support for the Alumni over the years is too vast to fully describe here, and we greatly appreciate all his efforts, and sincerely thank him for them.

Sunday morning brought a buffet breakfast and travel outbound to other duty stations for our Worldwide Reunion Attendees, having secured victory of the primary mission: Fellowship, Fun, and Celebration. While the pandemic tried to keep us apart, it was defeated in the end by our uncanny sense of courage, dedication to our legacy, and good ol' fashioned hard work. Your Alumni team was so happy you came – it was wonderful to see each of you and catch up. Thank you so much for joining us and others!

Finally, none of this could have happened without Volunteers, chief among them, Mr. Sean "Radar" Ryan. Living up to his call sign, "Radar," expertly planned the mission with the skills of a hardened General and the grace of an F-16 in flight. We all owe Sean a huge (Atomic) thank you for a successful event. Other volunteers, Sages, and shoulders to cry on include Michelle Ryan, Phil Godfrey, Frank Calenda, Judy Henderson, and Ed Lindsay for the absolutely instrumental planning support and strategy. Thanks to Tony De Marco (for the super cool commemorative coasters), Bob Wiley and Frank Hall (for the historical display), Angelina Lindsay (for her amazing photography and great conversations), The AFTAC Memorial Corporation (for the Burger Burn), and Mike Clark (for the amazing CTBTO presentation). I'm sure I'm leaving a few folks out, but we thank you too!

Remember, the AFTAC Alumni Association is an all volunteer organization, and it takes all of us, to make things go. But we are not immortal. Our last thank you goes to Mike Steskal, our Membership Chair. Mike passed away on 27 April. Mike was a friend to all and played a big role in linking us up with the reunion planning company we used. He also was a huge part of making sure we could contact all of you to advertise the Reunion, which was two-years in planning, and gave us great advice on what to include in the Reunion. Mike was a vital member of the AFTAC appointed Board, but more than that, he was a dear friend who would have loved to join us for this Reunion. His passing was unexpected and hit all of us very hard. Mike, we felt your spirit – thank you dear friend, and accept our salute.

We can't tell you when our next Reunion will be yet, but the 2023 SnowBall is right around the corner. We hope to see you present for duty at our next muster! *Until then, "In God We Trust, All Others We Monitor"!*

Sincerely, *Sean P. Ryan, Chair, 2022 AFTAC WWR, & Phil Godfrey, Vice Chair, 2022 AFTAC WWR*

(See Pictures–continued on next 2 pages–provided by Angelina Lindsay, Rick Manley, Judy Henderson, and Rich Carr)



Dan & Paula DeForest

BANQUET

*Sharilynn Marshall
& Wally Jones*



2022 AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION PICTURES



BANQUET – Gene Melchior, George Henderson, & Hula Dancers



Banquet - Keynote Speaker – Dr Mike Young



HOSPITALITY ROOM



HOSPITALITY ROOM



Michelle French, Jan Whitney, Patty Hammond
Frank Hall, Rose Levka, & Terry Hammond



Dave Tarquino, Don Gilbert, Rick Manley, &
Chuck Conrad - ICE BREAKER



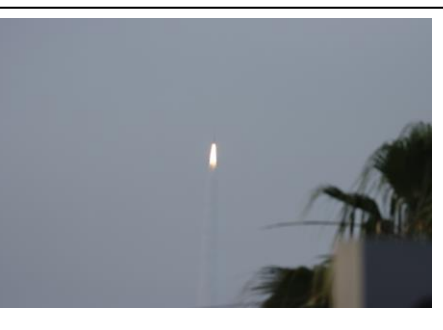
Pam & Steve Rice, and Judy & Tom
Niquette



Rick Manley, Mike Clark, Judy Henderson,
& Bryce Dunn



Chuck Conrad & Sean Ryan



Atlas V Rocket Launch



Don Whitney and Betty Gilb

2022 AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION PICTURES

(continued from pg 8)



Angelina Lindsay and Jim Whidden



BURGER BURN Chefs –
Phil Godfrey & Ed Lindsay



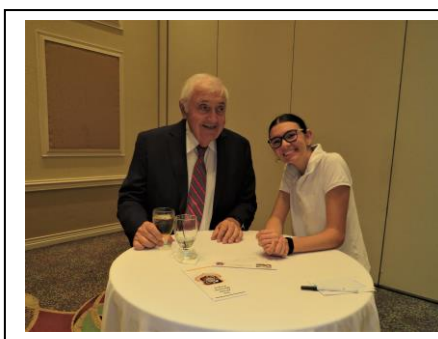
Ed Lindsay – enjoying his burger!



BANQUET = Gene & Dee Melchior



Lloyd French and Chuck Conrad



Don Whitney – trying to get an extra
dessert from the server!



Mike Young, receiving presentation from
Sean Ryan



Mike Higgins and Tom Niquette



Arlin & Carolyn Massey



Doris Bruner, Sean Ryan, Dan DeForest,
And Sally Deabenderfer taking a hula lesson!



Doris Bruner and Judy Niquette



Dave Tarquino and Phil Godfrey --
HOSPITALITY ROOM

SEE ADDITIONAL PICTURES at aftacaa.us

(continued on pg 25)



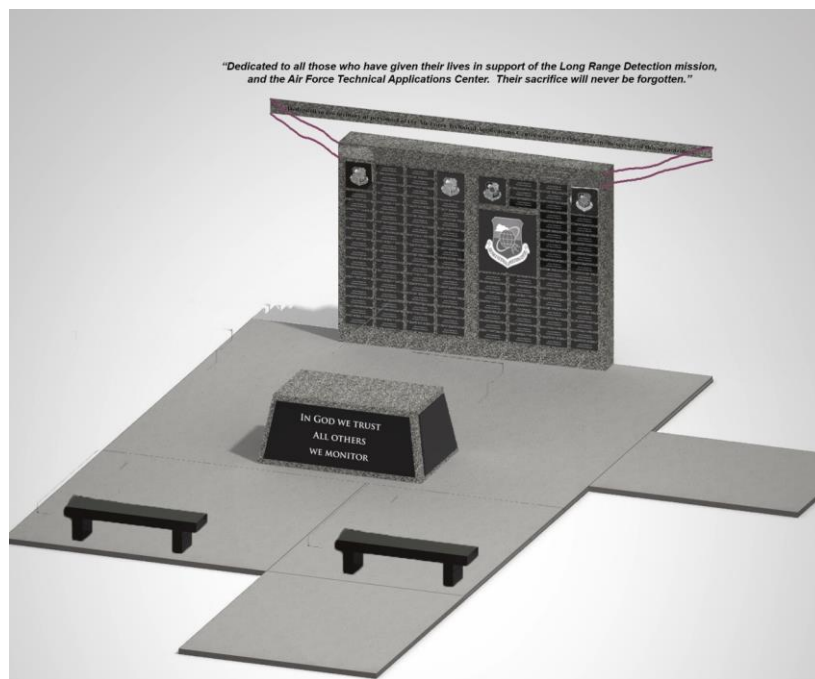
AFTAC MEMORIAL CORPORATION (AFTACMC) **THE AFTAC MEMORIAL**

“WE’RE UNDER CONTRACT!”

By Lou Seiler, President AFTAC Memorial Corporation

The AFTAC memorial Corporation (AFTACMC) (a Florida non-profit 501(C)3 corporation) has for the past 40 months been conducting a fund raising to construct a memorial to those AFTACers who have passed away while in active service to AFTAC. Well, all the hard work is close to being a reality....we have signed a contract for the production of the granite memorial elements!

As of July 2022, we have raised a total of \$62,000 in the building fund. Since this amount is less than what was needed to build and install the original design, the AFTAC Memorial Corporation Board of Directors has downscaled the design to something attainable in the very near term, while allowing for future expansion should proper funding be available in the future. The reduced design is similar to the original, but limited to two of the four “wall panels” in the original concept, a pair of benches and the center pedestal without the “ion” sculpture. A revised artist concept is shown below.



The expected timeline from contract issue to completed installation is estimated to be 8-9 months. If all goes as expected, we should see an installed memorial in the April-May 2023 time frame.

But having a contract for the topside memorial elements doesn't mean the work is over, a couple of government paper work items (aka Red Tape) are still being completed.

And, this does not mean that no more donations are needed. There will be names added to the memorial on a hopefully limited basis, but history tells us that that rate is on the order of one per year. In addition, the Li ion sculpture needs to be added, and of course there is regular maintenance required to keep the memorial looking clean and meaningful.

Donations to date include over 110 separate donations ranging from \$30 to \$10,150.

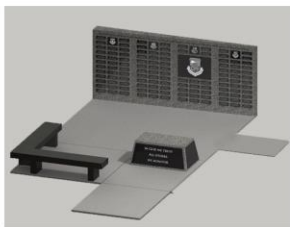
Donations in any amount are appreciated, the designation levels are:

- \$1-\$149 – Donor,
- \$150-999- Brick ,
- \$1000-2400- Bronze,
- \$2500-\$4999- Silver,
- \$5000-\$9999- Gold, and
- \$10,000-up – Platinum

So we ask each of you to consider a donation to make this Memorial happen. It can only happen with YOUR help. Donations for any amount can be made by a check made out to “AFTAC Memorial Corporation” and mailed to AFTAC Memorial Corporation, P.O. Box 372012, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

THE AFTAC MEMORIAL (continued from pg 10)

Or you may also click <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html> to go to the brick order website. From there you may download a donation form, order a brick on-line, or make a donation only, and pay through PayPal using your credit card or through your own PayPal account. We ask again for your help to build a lasting Memorial to the men and women who have served AFTAC for the past 76 years, and continuing into the future. It is your decision to make! You may also print the form below and mail in your donation.



AFTAC MEMORIAL CORPORATION



Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Would you like a receipt mailed to the above address for tax purposes? Y/N

Donor Levels:

(Donor names will be engraved on the pedestal of the sculpture):

Platinum	\$10,000 and above
Gold	\$5000 - \$9999
Silver	\$2500 - \$4999
Bronze	\$1000 - \$2499

Brick Level:

Inscribed pavers will be permanently emplaced in the east-west sidewalk:

☐ **\$150 - 4x8 Brick** ☐ **\$50 - Mini Replica**

*Replicas may only be ordered with purchase of full-size brick

3 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

Colonel Frank Hall
Hq PACTOA
Jul 1982 - Jul 1985

☐ **\$300 - 8x8 Brick** ☐ **\$50 - Mini Replica**

*Replicas may only be ordered with purchase of full-size brick

6 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)

Michael Steskal
Dedicated to those
who have passed
in service to the
AFTAC mission
since 1947

Mail form and payment to:

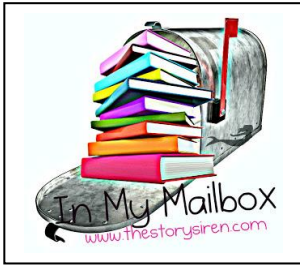
AFTAC Memorial Corporation
P.O. Box 372012
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

Please make checks payable to:

AFTAC Memorial Corporation

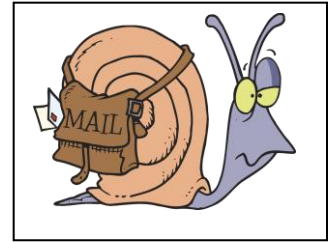
Donations may also be made via our website: <https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html>

For additional information please email us at: aftacmem@gmail.com



MAIL CALL

Any requests for action should be sent to
AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)
 P.O. Box 254892
 Patrick Space Force Base, FL 32925-4892



PLUS – FACEBOOK ALERTS and OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Missives requesting no action may be mailed/emailed to the editor, 'chrisjohn2@gmail.com.' Those may be edited for clarity and space but not normally for punctuation, wording, etc; opinions are those of the writer(s) and may not reflect Association belief or policy.

AFTAC ALUMNI GET TOGETHER

By Tony De Marco

An old friend from our Det 377 days contacted me recently and said she would be in this area for a week or so and would like to get together with some of the old AFTACers that her husband Clark served with while in AFTAC. Clark Wells was part of our Detachment Team that established one of the first "J" Technique Dets (Det 377) in Southern Germany. Clark then went on to serve as a Det Chief down at Det 315 before heading back to HQ AFTAC at Patrick SPB, Florida.



L – R: Larry Silhanek, Mike McClellan, Dave Johnson, and Tony De Marco



L – R: Susan Silhanek, Louise De Marco, Tony De Marco, Dave Johnson, Wally Jones, Larry Silhanek, Mike McClellan, Tess McClellan, & Betty Wells

Clark's Career is on the 20+ Year Wall, and you can read about his 20+ Year Career History with AFTAC there. Sadly, Clark passed several years back and Betty was really looking forward to meeting old friends and catching up, so we made plans, and a group of us old friends gathered at our favorite Watering Hole (Local Beefs) and spent the afternoon with things evolving as these normally do...the ladies wound up in one group chatting away, and the old 99s wound up in another where the War Stories started flowing Big Time.

(See the 20-year Wall at www.aftacaa.us)

I believe a nice time was had by all.



TALES OF TWO AFTAC 99125s

By Tony DeMarco

These are some episodes during the time spent together by two AFTAC 99125 Sgts many years ago. I assure you these tales are true and only the names have been changed to protect the guilty. Some believe the statute of limitations has run out, I do not.

TALES OF TWO AFTAC 99125s

(continued from pg 12)

First of all, it is important that you meet the lead characters and I use “characters” as an understatement.

First is Sgt. Pisano – a crafty highly intelligent man with a weird sense of humor. He can accomplish any task assigned to him quickly without complaining. He does not like or tolerate “stupid.” Remember there is no cure for stupid. If he is your friend, he is your friend forever. He could assume a quiet demeanor and disappear in a crowd leaving everyone else unsuspecting that an evil mind lurks behind the quiet surface. His one, and maybe only tragic flaw, was his complete dislike of one 99125 – a character you will soon meet.

Second character is Sgt. Frenchie - also, a highly intelligent individual with a weird sense of humor and who also cannot stand stupid. He also doesn't always think things through before acting. He leads by example and is trusted by his men. He always states he is crazy but not stupid. His mind was full of bits of useless information. At the site, especially during the midnight to 0800 shift, there were hours of quiet. This can be compared to a child's little league soccer game...30 minutes of boredom and 1 minute of excitement. He also had a seemingly unending string of jokes that are now considered “Politically Incorrect.” He had to stop joke telling as the world lost its sense of humor.

These two men were thrown together by chance and ended up in a land far far away. They became immediate friends noting that there was some type of bond formed between them. Over many beers the two found that they had similar lives. Born on the same day – same year. Both had the same religion and came from the same parish name in two different States. Their fathers were both in the Dry-Cleaning Business. Both good looking, admittedly most found Frenchie was somewhat more handsome. Both were AFTAC 99125 Sergeants stationed at the same place doing the same job. They found that the two of them quickly picked up on what the other was saying and could continue the conversation without missing a beat and often expounding on the topic. It should be noted that the Commanding Officer at this location had a minimum sense of humor. He often shook his head in disbelief but did not bring any action against the two, but it was obvious that he was not pleased with them. He was unwilling to rid himself of the two since both did outstanding work and were not easily replaced. Often a loud shout emerged from the Commander's office “Pisano and Frenchie” followed by some admonishment that was hardly taken seriously. Following this tour, both were assigned to same next duty station. This reassignment both confused the Commander and amazed him that AFTAC Personnel could have even considered this action.

These two formed such a bond that they have checked on each other quite often as years passed to ensure that the other was still alive. The comparisons between the two continued, both have had long successful marriages, attributed to having selected great partners with both having one hell of a sense of humor and the patience of a saint. Both have two children a girl first then a boy.

Now to get to our tales, truth being stranger than fiction.

The Muffler Bearing Episode

It begins on a Sunday afternoon in a Land Far Far Away. Frenchie is working as he does most Sunday afternoons. This enables him to accrue time in order to take off on Friday afternoons. This time is well spent and worth the inconvenience since it is utilized going to Beer Call and to prime himself for the upcoming weekend. Little does he know that a situation will arise that he will not be able to forget? This situation becomes the beginning of a great story that he and Pisano will enjoy telling many times over, unfortunately few will believe it.

Let me now introduce you to a Special 99125 SSgt. First, he is a Staff Sergeant in name only, having achieved that rank due to a mess up. An error in not having his name submitted for promotion, therefore an automatic promotion. He is one hell of a screw up. No matter who his shift mate is, he is given as many tasks away from primary equipment as possible. He takes on all assignments as if lives depended on his ability for successful completion. He never completes any task successfully. His inability to do even a simple task is overlooked by higher ups. AFTAC Personnel doesn't make mistakes.

On this particular Sunday, this SSgt was told to bring a routine message to the Comm Center located across at the main base. This is a simple task that gets him out of the CRB, a fact that is welcomed by all. He signed out the Det's Power Wagon. Of course, there were pickup trucks, smaller vehicles, etc. available but he chose the biggest one. Frenchie was quietly working at his desk when he saw the SSgt come back into the maintenance area. His head was hanging low. Frenchie asked what was going on. SSgt responded that the Power Wagon had broken down on the access road. Frenchie started to get upset since this vehicle was needed the following week for critical field work. Since the SSgt could not explain what was wrong the two went out to check on the Power Wagon. The SSgt was questioned about the operation of the vehicle and could not or would not answer any questions. Upon arriving at the vehicle Frenchie inspected

(continued on pg 14)

TALES OF TWO AFTAC 99125s

(continued from pg 13)

it. Frenchie saw that the emergency brake was engaged, the transfer case was in 4-wheel drive and the forward winch had been turned on so that 20 feet of cable was now on the ground. Once again Frenchie questioned the SSgt. He finally admitted that once he left the Det Compound he heard a loud noise and there was smoke coming from the undercarriage of the vehicle. Obviously, the smoke was due to the emergency brake being engaged. Frenchie fixed the problems and told the SSgt that he should not use the vehicle until he was trained on how to use it. How Frenchie kept his temper under control was a true miracle, the thought had crossed Frenchie's mind to kill the SSgt and bury him alongside the access road, a monument to stupid.

A short while later Frenchie was telling this tale to Pisano. Pisano thought this was an opportunity to see how far they could take this situation, and a plan was devised. Only his devious mind with help from Frenchie could achieve this noble task. First, they must find a way to prevent the use of the vehicle. That was easy, on the Det vehicle status board just line it out for any reason. Now a totally unrealistic reason needed to be stated. How about "Muffler Bearings" needed replacement. Where do you get them? Stock Room is the answer. To be in the Stock Room you needed a Stock Number, no problem – make one up. Part Number, no problem - make one up also. Now you need a location in the Stock Room, no problem - find an empty drawer and put the Stock Number you just made up on it. Now all that was needed was for the SSgt to see that the Power Wagon had been lined out and check to see if Muffler Bearings were in Stock and then complain that someone messed up by not ordering any. Of course, the SSgt went directly to the Commander and told him of the problem. Without a word about the problem to him, the SSgt was dismissed. This was immediately followed by a shout from the Commander's office, "Pisano and Frenchie, in here now!" Low level laughter was heard.

The SSgt did ask Frenchie and Pisano exactly what were "Muffler Bearings"? He was told that when the engine revved it twisted and that twist is primarily absorbed by the motor mounts. The muffler is firmly attached to the vehicle so to compensate for the unique motor torque on the Right-Hand Drive Military Power Wagon, special "Muffler Bearings" were installed to prevent the muffler from being torn off the vehicle.

Please note that the Power Wagon was not used by anyone but Frenchie for the next month. To this day (more than half a century later) we wonder if the SSgt has had his "Muffler Bearings" checked on his own car. I don't know if the SSgt knows the difference between Right-Hand and Left-Hand Drive Military vehicles.



The Prop Wash Episode

Let me explain what "Prop Wash" is. When a propeller on an aircraft turns it forces air to the back of the engine and this is defined as "Prop Wash." Therefore, it is invisible and other than being felt like a breeze it has no shape or size.

On one typical day our two 99125 heroes were doing paperwork at their desks. Pisano recognizes that the SSgt was eavesdropping on the conversation between the two. This happened all too often. The SSgt was always looking for something to tell the Commander. He always wanted to make himself look as if he was a "to be trusted Sergeant" in the Commander's eyes. Pisano started by saying that the "The Prop Wash came in."

Frenchie responded, "Is it liquid or powdered stuff?"

(continued on pg 15)

Pisano – “They sent the powdered stuff!”

Frenchie – “Man that is so dangerous since it needs to be mixed with water and the solution will eat you alive.”

Pisano – “Well you know the Commander will only let a Sergeant or above use it.”

Frenchie – “I hope he doesn’t pick either one of us.”

Pisano “You know how important the air conditioner units are to this site, and any failure would disrupt the total mission. Cleaning the props (fans) is the only way to ensure continued good performance.”

Frenchie – “Where is the stuff?”

Pisano – “They are holding it for pickup over at the C130 terminal.”

Frenchie – “Let’s keep out of sight until someone goes and gets it and will probably be the one assigned to use it.”

The SSgt scurried away quickly. This was his chance to impress the Commander. He immediately left his duty station, his shift mate did not protest, signed out a pickup, and off he went.

A few minutes passed and the Admin NCO came back to the maintenance section and stated he had a strange phone call from the C130 terminal, “This call must be for one of you two.”

Frenchie answered the phone.

Voice on phone - “This is Sgt. Smith at the C130 terminal.”

Frenchie replied - “How can I be of help, Sarge?”

Sgt. Smith – “There is a SSgt here looking for Prop Wash. Does he belong to you?”

Frenchie – “Yes he does.”

Sgt. Smith - “Can I have some fun too?”

Frenchie – “Of course, Sarge.”

Sgt. Smith – “Thanks!”

A couple of hours pass. The two Sergeants heard the SSgt come back into the site and go directly to the Commander’s office. The SSgt tells the Commander he has been given the run around from base personnel. He has spent the last few hours trying to get the Prop Wash so badly needed to clean the Det’s air conditioner units but cannot seem to find it. The Commander’s response is to shout “PISANO and FRENCHIE, IN MY OFFICE NOW!!!!!!

I will pause for a moment. The phrase “Pisano and Frenchie, in my office now,” usually spoken at a high volume was heard often. It was usually followed by a brief discussion between our two 99125s as to what they were being accused of now, probably rightly so, as they were on their way to a routine invitation to visit the Commander in his office. The standard rule that they went by was if guilty never admit it and then make confusing statements until out of frustration the accuser dismisses you. Have you ever seen a Commander cry?



MAIL CALL

Mike Stiewig, email-2022.04.23 – Keeping Us Up-to-Date; Per other PoMo correspondence, and at our request, Mike Stiewig brought us up to date on his life.

"Cheryl and I are doing fine, coming up on our 50th anniversary in July (where the hell did the time go?!) I also retired in 2016 and went back to Texas for 4 years (Cheryl’s family), but moved to Mesquite in 2020; we considered Pinedale, but too cold/snowy anymore, not to mention the golf course is closed 6 months a year!

(continued on pg 16)

MAIL CALL

(continued from pg 15)

John, I do vaguely recall a spittoon in the late 80's (I had reminded Mike of giving him that spittoon years earlier!!), but afraid I moved on from that vice long ago (or maybe just replaced it with another?), not to mention Cheryl's opinion of that type "decoration" hanging around the house! Sad to say, but I'm going to be in Orlando for a few days the week before the reunion. I tried to adjust the schedule so I could come over, but just couldn't get it to work...would have been great to see folks again!"

Thanks, Mike, so great to hear from those I served with. – John Horsch



RARE HISTORICAL PHOTOS from the day when US government nuked Mississippi, 1964

Steve Kappel, posted on Facebook, "AFTAC Alumni of the World Unite"

See <https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/mississippi-nuclear-test-photos/?fbclid=IwAR3K8mPS5RHo-EUYluzIPPEbA5nqYQsVja8i-eOtL20FJXeOgf-ljPD6w1s>



UNDERSTANDING THE EARTH'S ARCHITECTURE

Submitted by Tess Ailshire

New Understanding of Earth's Architecture: Updated Maps of Tectonic Plates

<https://scitechdaily.com/new-understanding-of-earths-architecture-updated-maps-of-tectonic-plates/>



CONSTANT PHOENIX

Sean Ryan shared an article from the Offutt Air Force Base Facebook Group.

Team Offutt welcomed a new aircraft to its fleet for the first time in decades when WC-135R Constant Phoenix tail number 14836 arrived at Lincoln Airport. This is the first of three WC-135R deliveries to the 55th Wing as the US Air Force is modifying three KC-135R Stratotankers to replace the aging aircraft. Originally delivered to the AF in 1964 and most recently flown by the New Hampshire Air National Guard, the new WC-135R was modified by Big Safari and will serve as the Air Force's newest atmospheric collection aircraft supporting national and international partners. Operated by the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron with support from Detachment 1, Air Force Technical Applications Center, it collects particulate and gaseous effluents and debris from accessible regions of the atmosphere in support of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963.



DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ATOMIC VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE MEDAL

On 5 July 2022, the Secretary of Defense established the Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal to commemorate the service and sacrifice of veterans who were instrumental in the development of our Nation's atomic and nuclear weapons programs.

Our Nation's long-standing nuclear deterrence capability resulted from the service and sacrifice of Service members (now known as Atomic Veterans) who participated in the initial testing and development of our Nation's atomic and nuclear weapons programs. Notably, the dangerous and important work these veterans performed was often done in secret due to national security requirements.

(continued on pg 17)

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES ATOMIC VETERANS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE MEDAL

(continued from pg 16)

The Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal recognizes that the service and sacrifice of the Atomic Veterans directly contributed to our Nation's continued freedom and prosperity during the period following World War II, and was pivotal to our Nation's defense during the Cold War era. Veterans eligible for the medal are those who, while performing official military duties during the period of July 1, 1945, to October 1, 1992:

- (1) directly participated in the detonation of an atomic weapon or device;
- (2) directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from any such atmospheric detonation;
- (3) directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from an accident associated with an atomic weapon; or
- (4) were exposed to ionizing radiation resulting from the operational use of atomic weapons during World War II.

The Director of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) will manage the Department's Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal program. DTRA anticipates it will have medals on-hand to award to eligible individuals by the end of the year. In the interim, eligible veterans and the next-of-kin (NOK) of deceased eligible veterans will be able to apply for the medal online in the near-future. Applications will be processed so that when DTRA receives its initial supply of medals they can be provided to eligible veterans or their NOK in a timely manner.

A pictorial depiction of the medallion-only commemorative medal is shown at the link shown below.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3083737/defense-department-announces-atomic-veterans-commemorative-service-medal/>



MILITARY TIMES REPORT – Veterans are now eligible to teach in Florida Schools without typical accreditation
By Sarah Sicard

Veterans will now receive a five-year voucher that allows them to teach in the classroom in Florida schools without typical accreditation or the necessary education requirements that other certified teachers must possess. The move is part of an \$8.6 million statewide initiative to provide careers and workforce training to veterans and their dependents.

The state's Department of Education currently expects veteran candidates without degrees seeking teaching positions to have at least 60 college credits and a baseline 2.5 GPA. They need to pass the subject area examination for bachelor's level subjects, as well. In addition, their service needs to amount to 48 months in the military, with an honorable or medical discharge. If hired by a school, they are required to be supervised by a teaching mentor.

See full article at <https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2022/07/26/florida-schools-to-let-veterans-teach-without-degrees/>



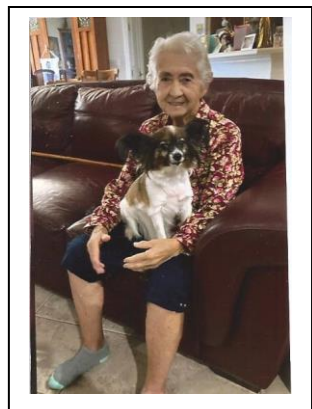
OBITUARIES

TERESA "TERRY" CIAMBRONE

26 October 1930 - 11 May 2022

(Contacted by Don Whitney)

Theresa (Terry) Ciambone, wife of former AFTAC Vice Commander and building name-sake Col Thomas (Tom) Ciambone (deceased), passed away 11 May 2022, after a brief stay in the hospital. Terry is survived by her daughter, Mary Anne, and grandchildren, Amber and Nicholas.



[Added note: As Col Ciambone neared retirement, 1987, there was a groundswell of enlisted support to honor he and Terry for what they meant to the enlisted women and men of AFTAC. To my knowledge, Col Ciambone was the only Headquarters Officer ever celebrated as an Honorary CMSgt and Terry the only CMSgt's Mate!! Chiefs from around the AFTAC World were there to participate in an official ceremony and all AFTAC enlisted were invited to a congratulatory event after.

* * * * *

JIM STEVEN CWIKLA

23 June 1943 – 21 April 2022

(Contacted by Mike Stewig passing along obituary provided by one of the family members, Kim Nitzenberger)

James Steven Cwikla of Mesquite, Nevada passed away unexpectedly on 21 April 2022; he was born Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from De La Salle High School in 1961. James was a proud Air Force Veteran (Master Sergeant, USAF Retired), lifetime member of the VFW, tuba player, and loved the game of golf.

James is survived by his wife Mary Cwikla, children Travis Eckard, Troy (Claire) Eckard, Trishia (Josh) Davidson, Kimberly (Michael) Nitzenberger, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the staff at Mesa View Hospice and Mesa Valley Estates Assisted Living and Memory Care for the care they provided him and his family.

[**Mike Stewig** later added information of interest: "Jim was indeed a hell of a hand. I was stationed with him for a few months at 423 in 75/76 (my first assignment). I have to admit he didn't seem to trust my rookie capabilities too much back then, had me doing corrosion control pretty much solid..."if it doesn't move, paint it!" Jim retired to Mesquite, NV, 8-10 years ago....."]

[**John Horsch** added a comment: "Mike, damn, this is hard to hear. I worked a lot with Jim putting in the MCF's at the 57th and when 301 was returned to operation. He really knew his business."]

[**Gene Melchior** added: "I was stationed with Jim at 446 in 68 thru 69. He had a chain drive Honda Sports Car. He was an E-4 then, a real sharp co-worker and nice guy."]

* * * * *

DAVID DUNN

(Contacted by Chuck Conrad passing along the following information).

"Received word of David's death at his home in Germantown MD. I don't know of any other details, and I can't find an obituary. He was ~50 years old. David was at a few AFTAC detachments and TOD as a 9S from 1997-2005."

* * * * *

KARLA LARSON

1 May 1947 – 23 June 2022

(Notified by Don Whitney with information from Rick Larson, Rick writes.)

Karla Glavas Larson died on June 23, 2022, in Reston Virginia; she was born in Kansas City, Missouri. Karla graduated from Kansas City Junior College, Maryland University, while accompanying her husband on his Air Force assignment in Japan, and Chapman University with a master's in psychology. She married Eric (Rick) Larson on 16 August 1969 and they have two daughters Dr. Stacy Larson Baron and Alexis Larson Lundeen.

In the course of 17 moves during Rick's 30 years of Air Force service, Karla created wonderful homes from Japan to Egypt and Alaska to Mississippi. She exhibited extraordinary flexibility working as a drug abuse counselor, as well as positions teaching, and in retail sales, medical insurance claims, and property management in the United States and abroad. She served as a Vestry member, usher, and on the Altar Guild at St Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, Virginia. Her nephews and nieces noted that she had an ability to connect and make friends with her personable nature and her wonderful sense of humor. Karla and Rick were stationed at Detachment 407/DO, 1979 to 1982, Detachment 460/CC, 1982 to 1985, Technical Operation Division/DO, 1985 to 1989, HQ AFTAC/DO, 1991-1993 and HQ AFTAC/CV, 1995 to 1997.

She is survived by her husband Rick, daughters, Stacy and Alexis, two wonderful sons-in-law, Tim Baron and Kevin Lundeen, and six grandchildren.

* * * * *



DONALD R. MARCUS

4 March 1935 – 4 May 2022

Lt. Col Donald R. Marcus, of Slidell, Louisiana, passed away at the age of 87. He was a native of Birmingham, Alabama, Donald is the beloved husband of 67 years to Martha Forbus Marcus; adored father of Donna Marcus Jones and Beverly Marcus Jones (Randal J. Jones); and a proud grandfather of many grandchildren.

Donald earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Howard College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Florida Institute of Technology. He retired from the US Air Force, where he received many recognitions for his service, including the

Republic of the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Donald taught courses at both Phillips Jr. College and Louisiana Technical College. He enjoyed fishing and golf in his spare time but treasured nothing more than the time he spent with family and friends.

[See full obituary at www.AudubonFuneralHome.com]

* * * * *

JAMES TIMOTHY ROBBIRDS

(Contacted by Walt Hartley passing along information from Chip Reed.)

James Timothy Robbirds, 74, of Defuniak Springs, Florida passed away Wednesday, March 2, 2022.

* * * * *



SAMUEL LEBRON SMITH

11 September 1949 - 1 May

Samuel Lebron Smith, of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, passed away peacefully at his home on May 1st, 2022. Samuel was born in Daisy, Tennessee. He was very active young man, and served 10 years in the United States Air Force. Sam loved to paint and was an avid poet.

Samuel is survived by his wife of 21 years, Teresa Smith, and his biological daughter, Honey Lynn Smith. Sam had a love for children so much that he raised many step children. Sam leaves behind several grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Condolences and memories can be shared at www.williamsonandsons.com.

[Contacted, and link provided, by Chuck Conrad, adding the personal comment, "Sam served at Det 423 and, I believe, a period at the HQ in Florida."]

* * * * *



MIKE STESKAL

7 October 1956 – 27 April 2022

Michael J. Steskal was born Oak Park, IL, and died in Melbourne, FL. After graduating from St. Viator High School, Mike joined the Air Force in 1977. He spent the majority of his Air Force career in AFTAC as a scientific measurements technician based out of Patrick Space Force Base. His position involved travel around the world. He also served as the AF Principal Investigator for several NASA associated AFTAC projects, including in-cabin experiments on Space Shuttle flights. In 1991, his remote technical services directly supported the Warfighters' missions during the first Gulf War. Upon leaving the Air Force at the end of 1991 as a Technical Sergeant, he continued to specialize in software quality, operations, and maintenance for a variety of companies

engaged in government contract work including nine years with Raytheon and twelve years with Zeta Associates Inc.

From 1991 until his retirement in 2016, Mike completed three Associate Degrees at Brevard Community College and was pursuing a BS in Business and Management at the University of Maryland. Mike was a life-long learner and an avid reader. During this time, Mike also spent four years in the Navy Reserves with the rank of a Petty Officer First Class. In addition, upon settling back in Melbourne, FL, he joined the AFTAC Alumni Association and became a board member in charge of Membership. Mike cherished these shared memories and the fellowship it provided. Most of all, he was proud to serve his country. Mike is survived by his siblings, Joe (Vicky) Steskal, Linda (Kevin) Brooks, Laura (Jim) Ciontea, Mary (Dan Lobbes) Steskal, and Barb (Marty) Gfesser, as well as many nieces and nephews.

* * * * *

JUDITH WILEY

(Notified by Tony De Marco, passing along information from John Caban; alumni members checking on Bob Wiley, after not seeing him for some time.)

Bob Wiley reported that his wife, Judith, passed away recently. No additional information is available at this time.



A FEW MINUTES FROM THE MINUTES

This column will help you stay up-to-date on issues that are not covered in other places in the POST MONITOR

Ed Lindsay mentioned that Pete Gilbert has been updating the Beta website. Pete is also working on the friend search availability. This will allow all members, of all chapters to search for Email and phone information of other members that are in our membership data base.

AFTAC Spring picnic on 17 June went well; good turnout of Alumni members. Thank you to Sean Ryan, Frank Calenda, Michelle Ryan, Ed Lindsay, TomLehnerz, and others for helping with the Adult beverage serving.



CHAPTER NEWS

DEPOT FALLOUT ~ The www.AFTACWCC.org website has been updated to provide the latest newsletter and provide pictures of recent events.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS - All WCC Members are welcome to attend our Quarterly Business Meetings & events.

- **Monday, 12 September 2022, 7:00pm** Quarterly Business Mtg - ON ZOOM ONLY!
Everyone: Contact the WCC Webmaster if interested in attending on ZOOM & watch here for updates.
- **Saturday, 12 November 2022, 1:00 PM** – WCC FALL SOCIAL
LOCATION will be Sam's Hof Brau in Country Club Plaza area...
Check web site for details by mid-September 2022
- **Monday, 12 December 2022, 7:00pm** Quarterly Business Mtg - ON ZOOM ONLY! (Maybe?)
Everyone: Contact the WCC Webmaster if interested in attending & watch here for updates.

ECHOES – News from the AFTAC Alumni Colorado Chapter – www.aftacco.org

UPCOMING MEETING/EVENT:

The annual Autumn 2022 General Membership breakfast will be held on **10 September** at the Tin Cup Banquet Room, 50 S. Peoria St. Breakfast will be served at 0900.

Meet & greet the Alumni & families & friends. Current and past military & civilians and their families & friends associated with LRD/AFTAC are welcome.

Cost will be \$20 per person (Active Duty Military and spouse/guest are \$15 and children under 10 are free).
Pay at the door.



MONITOR ing Active Duty Doins' from around the AFTAC World

Command Section



Commander/CC/2022. Colonel James "Cobra" Finlayson

Colonel Finlayson assumed command of the Air Force Technical Applications Center on 2 June 2022. Colonel Finlayson received his commission in 1997 from the United States Air Force Academy. Prior to assuming command of AFTAC, Colonel Finlayson was the Vice Commander of the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow AFB, Texas, serving as the principal assistant to the Wing Commander and overseeing two training groups, a mission support group, and a medical group. Additionally, Colonel Finlayson served as the Chief of Staff, J2 Directorate for Intelligence, U.S. Strategic Command, located at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Previous leadership assignments include serving as the Commander of National Air and Space Intelligence Center's Regional Threats Analysis Squadron and as the Director of Operations for U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Intelligence Operations Center.

Command Section



Vice Commander/CV/2021. Col Richard R Beckman

Col Beckman is the Vice Commander of AFTAC, Patrick Space Force Base, FL. His career includes multiple assignments spanning the full intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance acquisition life cycle from research and development to sustainment. Colonel Beckman transferred from the U.S. Air Force and was sworn into the U.S. Space Force as AFTAC's first Guardian vice commander in the center's history.

[Full Bio at <https://www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/>]



Command Chief

Chief Master Sergeant Amy L. Long is retiring as of August 2021.
(see her farewell message on page 24)

[See <https://www.16af.af.mil/Units/AFTAC/> as information is updated on a new Command Chief of AFTAC]



REPORTS FROM WITHIN THE H2 BUILDING

(Most of the following extracts can be read in their entirety at AFTAC Alumni Website: aftacaa.us)

COLONEL JAMES “COBRA” FINLAYSON TAKES COMMAND OF NUCLEAR TREATY MONITORING CENTER

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs, 7 June 2022

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla. -- The Air Force Technical Applications Center gained a new commander June 2 during the time-honored military tradition known as the change of command ceremony. Col. James “Cobra” Finlayson assumed command from Col. Katharine Branson, with Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, commander of 16th Air Force, serving as the presiding official.

Branson assumed command of the Department of Defense’s sole nuclear treaty monitoring center in June 2020, at the height of the global pandemic. Since that time, Branson oversaw significant key successes by the Airmen and Guardians of AFTAC, including the creation of the center’s War Room and Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning Accelerator Lab; procuring an additional WC-135 aircraft to expand Nuclear Debris Collection and Analysis capabilities; and earning Air Combat Command’s only “Highly Effective” rating during the center’s 2020 inspection.



Col. James “Cobra” Finlayson renders a salute to Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh, 16th Air Force Commander, upon assuming command of the AFTAC, 2 June 2022 as outgoing commander, Col. Katharine Branson, relinquishes command. Also pictured is Chief Master Sgt. Amy Long, AFTAC command chief and guidon bearer for the ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Matthew S. Jurgens)

“Colonel Branson is a dedicated strategic leader with an innate ability to analyze an organization as a whole and systematically determine ways to improve it,” Haugh said during his remarks to a capacity crowd at the base’s Sharkatorium. “She handles everything with strength, dignity and determination, and she is a visionary leader who invested in the development of her people.”

Following his remarks, Haugh presented Branson with the Legion of Merit, a military medal given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service and achievements.

Branson was visibly emotional during her farewell speech to the attendees. “It’s really you – the operators of AFTAC – who have made my time here richly rewarding. At a recent STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) event at Endeavour Elementary School, AFTAC rolled in with their equipment, demonstrations, and science experiments to show the kids. After the event, Endeavour’s science teacher sent a note of thanks and described one child’s reaction to an Airman from the STEM team. The student told the teacher that he needed to write down the Airman’s name, and when she asked why, the little fifth grader said, ‘He is my influence, and I need to remember his name so I can be like him.’ AFTAC Airmen are not only making a difference in the building and around the globe, but also for the future, and I think that is something that inspires me the most.” She concluded, “Colonel Finlayson, you are inheriting an elite Air Force team. If you take care of them, they will deliver tenfold on everything you ask of them. I am confident you will challenge them as much as they will challenge you – all for the right reasons!”

Haugh took a few minutes to introduce Finlayson to the men and women he will now command. “Colonel Finlayson is a career intelligence officer who has a bachelor’s in History, a master’s in Business Administration, a law degree from the University of Las Vegas, Nevada, and a Ph.D. in philosophy. He wanted to be a pilot, but according to him, he’s blind as a bat!” Haugh continued, “He learned how to be a leader from his father who served 25 years in the Army and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer, so Cobra is a leader who understands the importance of taking care of Airmen and their families.”

After the unit guidon was passed from Branson to Finlayson, AFTAC’s new commander was quick to recognize his cadre of unit personnel. “To the women and men of the AFTAC family, my focus each day will be taking care of you and your families,” he said. “I am humbled by this opportunity and I will give each of you my best every day and always.”

(continued on pg 23)

COLONEL JAMES “COBRA” FINLAYSON TAKES COMMAND OF NUCLEAR TREATY MONITORING CENTER

(continued from pg 22)

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Haugh reminded the women and men of AFTAC of their central role in the national defense strategy. “Our adversaries will continue to challenge the United States and our Allies, and your knowledge and expertise will be in great demand. I know you will deliver and I rest easy knowing AFTAC is ready to apply your catchphrase ‘science for consequence’ to ensure we answer our nation’s call. Your leaders, your Air Force, and your nation are behind you!”



A NOTE FROM THE AFTAC COMMANDER

By Colonel. James “Cobra” Finlayson

Greetings to all the AFTAC giants out there, past and present! I’m thrilled to have been asked to contribute a few words to your newsletter, especially since I have heard so much about your legacy, the alumni association as a whole, and your continued efforts to stay engaged with the workforce in a variety of ways.

I believe the Post Monitor editors are including my official biography in this quarter’s newsletter, so I won’t bore you with the details of my past military assignments, education and job titles. What my bio doesn’t cover is something I like to refer to as “Cobra’s Countdown” – sort of a list of rules to live by based on my philosophy of being a commander and an Air Force leader.

I attribute a lot of who I am to how I was raised and where I came from. I was born in Heidelberg, Germany. My dad was an Army Warrant Officer, and like all military families, we moved around a lot. I call El Paso, Texas, home since I graduated from Austin High School in 1993, and from there I was fortunate enough to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy. I spent the next 25-plus years traveling the world, applying my skills, contributing to the DOD mission, and meeting incredible people along the way.

When I first sat down with my staff here at AFTAC, I relayed four parts of Cobra’s Countdown: contact, initiative, communication, and balance. Pretty simple stuff when you boil it down, and I find that keeping things simple is a big key to success.

Contact. I like to walk around a lot and ask questions. I’m inquisitive by nature, and I think one of the best ways to learn is to ask the experts about what they do, how they do it, and why it matters. I love learning new things every day!

Initiative. Quite frankly, the best ideas most often come from the bottom up, not from the top down. All too often I think senior leaders lose sight of that concept. As General Colin Powell aptly said, “Never let your ego get so close to your position that when your position goes, your ego goes with it.”

Communication. It is crucial! We live in a world where a constant stream of information – more like a GLUT of info – comes at us every hour of every day, whether it’s email, texts, online messages, Tweets, Facebook posts, phone calls, or breaking news on TV. It’s always coming at us. But I am a firm believer that communication should be tailored to ensure the person receiving needs it at that moment in time, or if it can wait.

Balance. As the saying goes, your personal life will long outlast your Air Force career, so it’s important to make sure your life is in balance. I imagine those reading this are long since retired from active duty, and you know this saying better than most! Having a career is great, but having a balanced family life is even better.

And speaking of family life, I am blessed to be married to my amazing wife, Kristen, and we have two beautiful daughters together – Aurora and Audrey. They are the ones who bring balance to *my* life!

I hope that gives you a little insight about me, and I’m looking forward to meeting you at one of the many AFTAC functions that our great alumni support during the year. Be sure to make a point of introducing yourself – I want to shake the hands of all the legends who are the foundation of AFTAC’s continued success. Thanks for all you do to make our center better!

Cheers,
Cobra

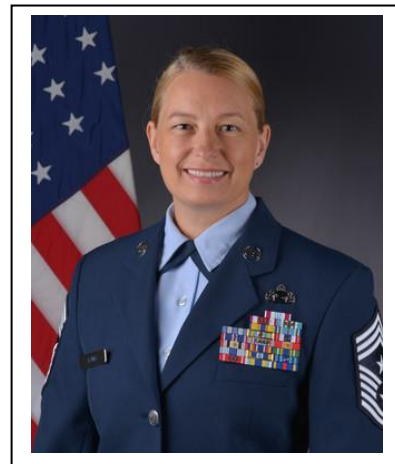


SO LONG, BUT NOT GOODBYE

By CMSgt Amy Long, AFTAC Command Chief

Hello to all our great AFTAC Alumni! It is my privilege to be able to write a few words of acknowledgment to this great group of people before my retirement from active duty, so thank you for allowing me some space in your quarterly newsletter.

I have had the honor of serving as the AFTAC Command Chief since July 2019, and since that time, I have had the opportunity to meet many of you at various functions, ceremonies and events. But frankly, nothing warmed my heart more than our recent Spring Picnic this past June. It was so refreshing to be back together – IN PERSON – since the pandemic sidelined so many of our gatherings. It felt so good to see everyone's smiling face and enjoy the wonderful camaraderie that happens at these events ... it's really magical!



I was fortunate enough to have had my tenure as Command Chief extended by a year, especially since COVID interrupted so much of our MWR programs. Before the virus became an international headline, I loved networking with our Alumni, whether at your annual reunion, the Wall of Honor ceremonies, the AFTAC Open House events, or at the Winter Social. Sadly, the pandemic took a lot of that away from us, and I truly missed the personal interaction with our "AFTAC Giants." So that's why this year's Spring Picnic meant so much to me – it gave me the chance to reconnect with many of you, meet a lot of new alumni I hadn't met before, and just feel that sense of "family" that AFTAC is so well known for.

I also want to say thank you to the Alumni Association for serving as our top-notch beer distributors! Your presence and sense of volunteerism really resonated with our Airmen, Guardians, and their families, and I can't thank you enough for continuing the tradition of being such an integral part of our social events.

But August is upon us, and now it's time for me to hang up this uniform I have treasured for the past 28 years to make room for our incoming Command Chief, Chief Jerome Wright, who is coming to us from the U.S. Air Force Academy where he was the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commandant. I know you will welcome him with the same open arms with which you welcomed me, and I am confident he will make a point of getting to know you and listening to your wonderful "war stories" about your history and experience with this great organization.

I read a quote recently that said, "Retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of the open highway." I would be lying if I told you I wasn't nervous about embarking on this new chapter, but I'm also excited about what the new journey will bring to my family and me. We plan to stay in the area, so that means I will become a more active and integral part of the Alumni Association so I can remain close to everything this great center brings to the table. AFTAC is made up of the very best of the very best, and it was a career high for me to consider myself a member of this elite group of professionals.

Our battle cry captures it best: "AFTAC ... One Team, One Fight!" Thank you all...I am forever grateful.



AFTAC WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES **19 May 2022**

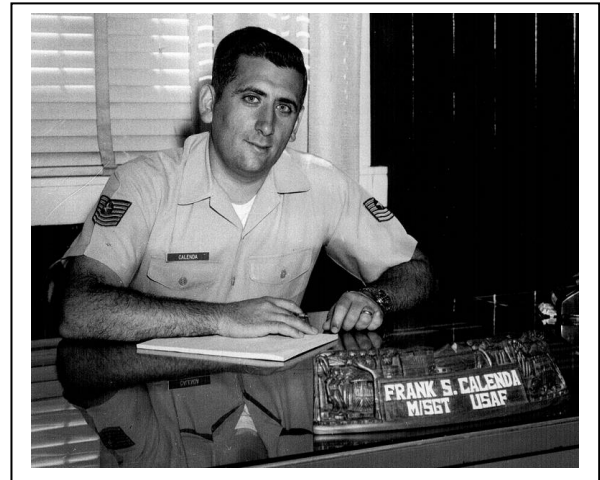
The 2022 inductees to the AFTAC Wall of Honor were honored at a ceremony at the AFTAC HQ building at Patrick Space Force Base on 19 May 2022. AFTAC staff, AFTAC alumni, and families and friends of the inductees were also present to offer their congratulations to the new inductees.

Those alumni and guests who attended the ceremony were treated to a tour of the newly renovated AFTAC Heritage Room after the ceremony and many attendees grabbed something to eat at the Burger Burn after the event, taking advantage of the opportunity to socialize with AFTAC active duty and alumni members.

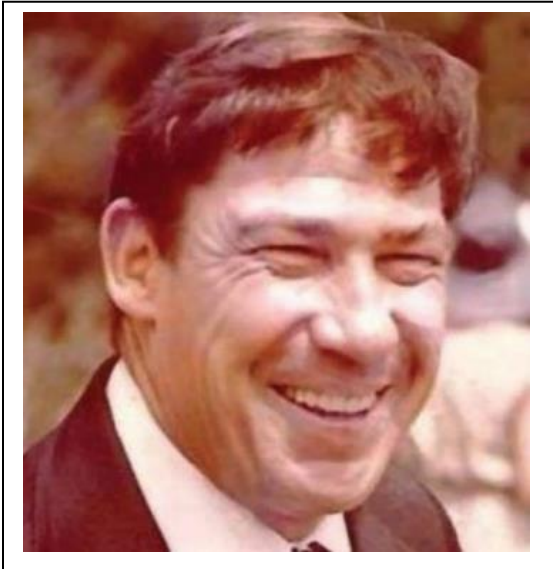
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AFTAC WALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES

(continued from pg 24)

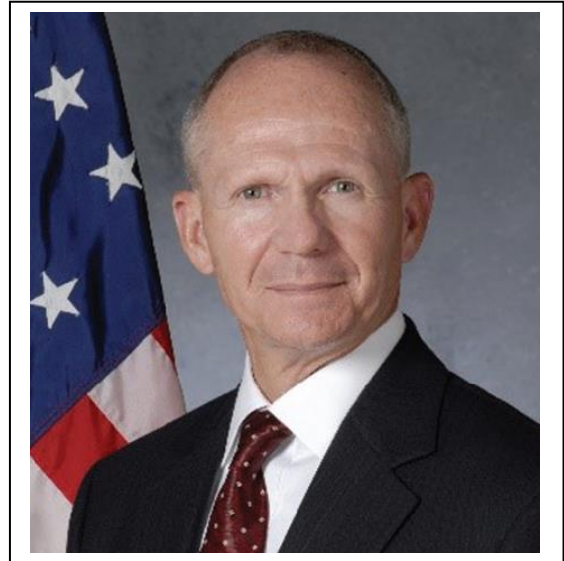


Senior Master Sgt. (Ret.) **FRANK CALENDA**



Master Sgt (Ret.) **CURTIS E SMITH**

(See award write-ups at aftacaa.us)



Colonel (Ret.) **JAMES F. WHIDDEN II**



ADDITIONAL PICTURES FROM THE 2022 AFTAC ALUMNI REUNION (continued from pg 9)



BANQUET – Edna and Frank Calenda

*Worldwide Reunion
Coaster*
Designed by
Tony De Marco

[Available for
Purchase – see
Sage Shop,
page 28]





ICEBREAKER – Phil Godfrey



BURGER BURN – Gene Melchior, Judy Henderson, & Dee Melchior



ICEBREAKER – Ed Lindsay



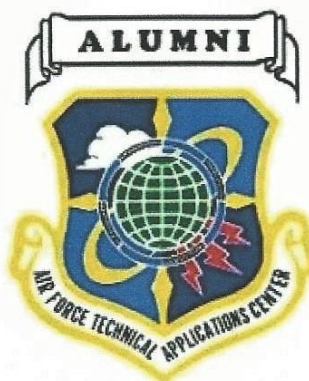
ICE BREAKER – Alumni Chatting



HOSPITALITY ROOM – Display Table



BURGER BURN – Angelina Lindsay, Ed Lindsay, & Chuck Conrad



AFTAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (AFTACAA)

MAIL TO:

AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA)

P.O. Box 254892

ATTN: Acting Membership Chair

Patrick Space Force Base, FL 32925-4892

1. **LIFETIME DUES:** ** \$75.

2. **ANNUAL DUES:** ** \$10 PER YEAR -- 1 OCTOBER - 30 SEPTEMBER. (**PAYMENT DUE by 15 SEPTEMBER.**)

** INCLUDES ACCESS TO PoMo ON THE WEBSITE, www.aftacaa.us, AT NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE.

3. **ADDITIONAL ANNUAL COST FOR PoMo PRINTED COPY:** \$10 PER YEAR - 1 OCTOBER - 30 SEPTEMBER. (**PAYMENT DUE BY: 15 SEPTEMBER.**)

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **CELL PHONE:** _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIPCODE:** _____

HISTORY WITH AFTAC / ANY ASSOCIATED ENTITIES (DETS, HQ, SQUADRONS, OTHER). (UNCLAS)

OTHER INFORMATION YOU MIGHT THINK IS RELEVANT: (UNCLAS) _____

4. **Note:** Information provided is protected and will not be divulged; However, we may publish your name, city and state, in our on-line data, so friends can or may, contact us for additional information. Right now, all they can access is "Name." For further information, users are instructed to please contact us for further assistance.

Active Duty, Retired Civilian. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

If you have any questions, please email, **Acting Membership Chair:** Ed Lindsay, piston_horse@hotmail.com

*******SAGE SCHEDULE*******

MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED –
See the aftacaa.us web page for latest information.

1. WindDowns-(normally sponsored by the active-duty force)
are scheduled for **1st Fridays** at 1530 taking place to the west of
the HQ building. **MOST ACTIVITIES ARE ON HOLD**

2. Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings-normally-2nd
Mondays at 1600 just inside the HQ Building, #10989.

Park across the street and the meeting will be in conference
room just to the left as you enter the front entrance lobby.

Currently, most of these meetings are Tele-Conference
meetings. See Pages 1-2 for information to participate.

a. If a **Federal Holiday**, the meeting will be the next day.

b. **Quarterly**-meetings during the last month of a quarter (Mar/
Jun/Sep/Dec) may be a luncheon, or a dinner, and at the
venues noted below. **NOTE:** Sites/Times will be determined at
the preceding meeting and announced via eALLert and posted
at the association website. Other Patrick dining venues (Tides,
Golf Clubhouse, Marina, Dining Facility) and off-base sites may
be considered for any meeting.

Active-Duty & Alumni are invited to all events.

Before coming verify date/time/venue at the Website and/or
with Sean Ryan at oceanblueview@yahoo.com

See page 1 for current list – check aftacaa.us

Calendar of Events (CoE) for latest updates

September 2022

16 Sep 22 – Membership Mtg & Election of Officers – 1130 -
1300 - Patrick SFB – Golf Course – see pgs 1&4 for details.

[see aftacaa.us] – Teleconference –

Followed by AOY member meeting – 1300 - 1400

October 2022

Date & Place TBD – Membership Meeting

[see CoE at aftacaa.us for more info] – Teleconference

November 2022

Date & Place TBD –Membership Mtg – Teleconference

[check CoE at aftacaa.us]

December 2022

Date & Place TBD – Membership Meeting–

[check CoE at aftacaa.us]

Event Plans and Timeframes—for planning only—dates may
vary – many events on hold because of the Pandemic

A. January-April (months may vary)

1. SnowBall -- Projected for February/Locale TBD

2. Center Annual Awards Banquet – no plans at this time

B. May-August (months may vary)

1. Nominating Board (ex-prez+2) selects slate for publication

2. Annual Association Spring Golf N'Getogether

C. September-December (months may vary)

1. Friday in Sep, Annual Board, General Membership &
Elections Meeting; **Alumni of the Year (AOY) Selection**
Committee (prior AOYs) meet following the annual meeting.

2. **Oct or Nov**, Annual Association Fall Golf N-Getogether

3. 15 Sep, **Alumni Assn ANNUAL FY DUES Due and \$10 fee**
for paper copy of PoMo Due

--AFTAC WORLDWIDE REUNIONS: Normally scheduled every
other year. Hosting rotates between the association and the two
chapters. Last host – FL-2022.05, CO-2019.06; CA-2017.06

SAGE SHOP – OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Mail orders to:

AFTAC Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop

P.O. Box 254892,

Patrick Space Force Base, FL, 32925-0892

SAGE CONTACT: Ed Lindsay

Piston_horse@hotmail.com

321-507-7193

ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE

Embroidered DriFit Polo (*no pocket*) \$25; Available in
Royal Blue, Black, Red

New DriFit Long-sleeve T-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)
\$18- Royal Blue, Navy, Red

New DriFit Short-sleeve T-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)
\$15- Royal Blue, Navy, Red

[Note: New DriFit t-shirts use a modern thermal transfer
process, producing high quality images that are proven
to last, and be washed/ dried with your other laundry.]

COINS & PINS

AFTAC Alumni Association Coin: \$10

AFTAC Alumni Association Pin: \$3

AFTAC Logo/ Shield Pin: \$3

60th LRD Commemorative Coin: \$5

75th ANNIVERSARY COASTERS (Black/Blue)

\$2 each or 12 for \$20 (see picture on pg 25)

CLEARANCE ITEMS

T-SHIRTS-50/50 blend -Assorted Colors, -\$5

Golf/Polo Shirts – Screen printed logo - Assorted Colors

\$10 - 50/50 (cotton/ polyester) moisture wicking w/
pocket - or - DriFit Fabric w/ or w/o pocket

Contact Sage Shop to verify inventory prior to
ordering ANY clearance Items

FUTURE ITEMS

We are currently exploring new merchandise options
(Hats, Sweaters, Jackets, etc...)

SHIPPING: Add \$8.00 for shipping/handling of 1 Item &
\$2 for each additional. (**no shipping cost for Logo**
pins). A link to additional information and photos of
these items is available at aftacaa.us —
enter the Sage Shop

SAGE SHOP MERCHANDISE FROM OTHERS

AC SEO Airborne Coin - SrA TJ Benscoter - 402-232-

1917/Theodore.benscoter@us.af.mil or SrA Chris Hayes,
402-232-9182/Christopher.hayes.13@us.af.mil

Det 45 has minted a commemorative coin. Contact the CO
Chapter Treasurer, 'Bilschmied@aol.com,' for info/purchase.

