

# POST-MONITOR

VOL 29 – ISSUE 02

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.AFTACAA.US](https://www.aftacaa.us)

2021-08



## 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 16<sup>th</sup>

**1947 – 2017**

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



## SAGE SPOTLIGHT

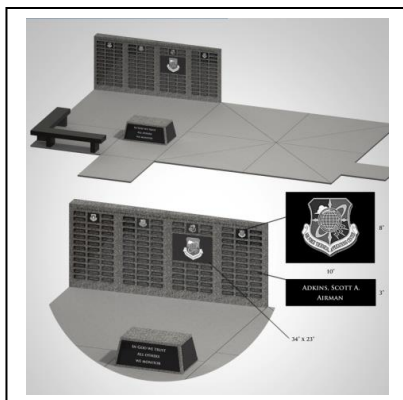
### AFTAC MEMORIAL – UPDATED DESIGN – LOWER COST



### WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

The AFTAC Memorial Corporation (AFTACMC) has been working diligently over the past many months to design and fund the construction of a memorial to those AFTACers who have passed away while serving in AFTAC. The initial design has previously been published in the Post Monitor and on the AFTAC Web Site ([www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us)). The AFTACMC has continued to refine the memorial for both visual improvements and maximum efforts to reduce the overall cost.

The **UPDATED DESIGN** is shown here.



Please read the full article on page 3.

## **\*\* Sage ALERTS –WHAT'S COMING UP \*\***

### **GOLF- N' GETTOGETHER**

WooHoo -- We're back in business. **Golf Tournament Scheduled for 15 October 2021 – Shotgun Start 1300 - at Manatee Cove Golf Course, Patrick Space Force Base.** [See page 3 for full details]

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Generally on the second Monday of the month at 4 PM. Most meetings are currently being conducted as Tele-Conference Meetings. If you would like to participate, please contact our AFTACAA President Phil Godfrey at [afsophil@gmail.com](mailto:afsophil@gmail.com) or call **Phil at 321-446-8775**  
See pages 4 & 20 for schedule of upcoming meetings.

The **SEPTEMBER 2021 General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers** will be held at the Manatee Cove Golf Course, Patrick Space Force Base, on **Friday, 10 September 2021, 1130 – 1300 (see pg 4).**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AFTACAA FY22 DUES ARE DUE ON  
15 SEPTEMBER 2021**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WORLDWIDE REUNION  
SAVE THE DATES  
18-22 MAY 2022**

Radisson Resort at the Port, Cape Canaveral, FL  
See more details on page 4, and watch the Web Site [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) as details are ironed out.

## ASSOCIATION Information *Deceased, (D)*

### Honor Roll: Alumni Of The Year Recipients (25)

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/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 [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.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 AFB, FL-details, see 'Sage Schedule' on page 22. Contact: Mike Steskal, steskalmike@gmail.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>.

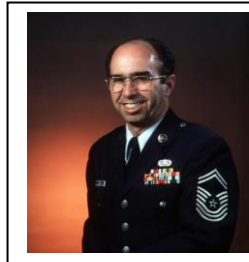
**"PERENNIALS"** *Deceased, (D)* (5+ years board service) Clark Creery (D)-Newsletter, 85/89-95, Pres 94/95, Webpage/Mbrshp, 01/10-Current; Frank Hall, Pres/Vice 89-98/01; Judy Milam-Henderson, Sec 89-06, Pres 04; Eunice Harris (D), Hosp 89-00; Mary Welch (D), Mbrshp 91-99; Carl Gailey (D), Treas 91-99; 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 09-present, Sec-Treas; Steve Revels, Sage Shop, 10- 16; Pete Gilbert, Webmaster, 15-20.

**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](mailto: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/>

## EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

### FROM THE HORSCH'S MOUTH



Another great effort from those who provide the sweat and planning for our events, and the articles and information that comprise the PoMo, and to Judy Henderson for putting it together in a usable and

easy-to-read format. Speaking of that, let's go into a little history of the PoMo Authorship over the years for reasons that will become evident as this article goes on.

Clark Creery (D) produced the first Newsletter at the official inception of the Alumni Assn, June, 1985. BTW, past issues are archived on our Website, [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us). It was his labor of love until the June, 1996, issue. A call for lending a hand went out and Chris and I decided it was something we would enjoy doing. And thus, it was our honor to be entrusted with this duty thru the time of Chris's death, Nov 2012, and until I asked the Board for some help in 2018.04 and recommending a change in format and some content. Pete Gilbert and I worked together for a time and Judy stepped up for the 2018.08 issue. Through all of this, Clark was instrumental to the product.

At the time Judy accepted this position she made it clear she was offering until a permanent replacement could be located, and, as things go, that has not happened. Judy, with my assistance, is actively looking for relief. If there are no offers, we will again need to look at the role the PoMo plays at the current time.

In the beginning, the newsletter was the only real 'Assn' contact with all its members and there was no doubt it was necessary. Thirty-Six years have passed and information-sharing resources are totally different. The biggest change, I believe, is the Internet and having a Website. The web effort began in 1996 and has grown and improved to what it is now. The PoMo of today is duplicative of much available on the Website in almost real-time. Facebook has had a major impact on what used to be reported in the PoMo as Barely-Substantiated and much more of the personal input by members.

(continued – page 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:** Mike Steskal, Sean Ryan, & Phil Godfrey; **Website Chairman/Media:** Ed Lindsay; **Webmaster:** Pete Gilbert

## **SPOTLIGHT – AFTAC MEMORIAL** (continued from Pg 1)

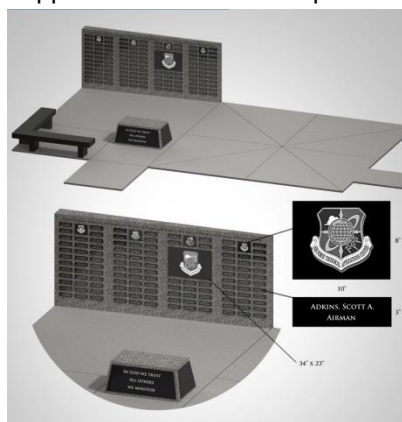
### **THE AFTAC MEMORIAL**

By Lou Seiler, President, AFTAC Memorial Corporation

Email - [lseiler@cfl.rr.com](mailto:lseiler@cfl.rr.com)

The AFTAC memorial Corporation (AFTACMC) (a Florida non-profit 501(C)3 corporation) has been working diligently over the past many months to design and fund the construction of a memorial to those AFTACers who have passed away while serving in AFTAC. The initial design has previously been published in the Post Monitor and on the AFTAC Web Site (AFTACAA.US). The AFTACMC has continued to refine the memorial for both visual improvements and maximum efforts to reduce the overall cost. As of this point in time, we believe that we have succeeded in both areas. An updated design is shown in the included image. In addition to an improved physical design, the projected cost has been significantly reduced. We are waiting for cost estimates for the last element of the total costs. IF this comes in at our anticipated level, it would mean that we are half way to our funding goal.

The updated design previous poured concrete elements with granite slab material. The main element features a grey granite wall in four segments with names on black granite slabs. Also included in the wall are the five unit emblems that have represented the AFTAC mission over time. Other items include a granite bench and a granite pedestal. Currently we have full engineering drawings and cost estimated for the main memorial components and drawings for the support slab are in development.



As of this article, we have \$46,000 in the building fund, towards an anticipated fund goal of \$100,000. Currently, donations range from \$30.00 to \$10,150.00. Organization donations range from \$300.00 to \$10,000.00.

I know that many, if not all, have very fond memories of their time in AFTAC, many with their entire military and/or civilian service time in AFTAC. Many of you have known and/or have served with those members who have died while working at AFTAC.

As we are closer to being able to issue the necessary contracts for construction of the memorial, we once again ask each of you to look deep into your heart and soul, as well as your checkbook to consider a donation to make this Memorial happen. It can only happen with YOUR help. If you have already donated, thank you so very much. 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 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

Or you may also go to the website

<https://brickmarkersusa.com/donors/aftacmc.html>

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 are asking for your help to build a lasting Memorial to the men and women who have served AFTAC for the past 75 years, and continuing into the future. It is your decision to make!



## **EDITORIALLY SPEAKING – FROM THE HORSCH’ES MOUTH** (continued from Pg 2)

However, even with these similarities, the PoMo does have a unique place in our information resources. There are sections of the PoMo, that may or may not lend themselves to the Website, 'Sage Salute/Spotlight,' some 'Mail,' some Chapter interchange, etc. We also recognize that not all Sages have Web access and may best be served by the mailed copy of the PoMo; we recently went thru a shakeup of the mailing needs and now there are only some 30-35 printed copies.

These are my thoughts of the role and need for the PoMo. I have asked Judy to add anything she'd like about my thoughts about changes or elimination of the PoMo as it is today. Our readers may want to add their voices to what I have written.

My 'Bottom Line,' and if I could magically conjure someone who wants to volunteer to do the prep and production, I think it's worthwhile and wonderful. If not, some parts of the PoMo may lend themselves to continuance in the website and could be presented thereon. I will happily provide transition support. My PoMo time was, and is, well spent, and I totally enjoyed being a part of the propagation of Sage's history and events past and present.

**ADDED BY JUDY:** I would be happy to work with someone to get a new PoMo "formatter" up-to-date on what I do. I would even volunteer to continue doing the Obituary section for a while to make the transition easier and will continue to be a proofreader, but I would like someone else to step up and take the primary job. Contact me at [jem2415@earthlink.net](mailto:jem2415@earthlink.net) or John at [chrisjohn2@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjohn2@gmail.com) and we'll work with a new volunteer.



## **UPCOMING AFTACAA EVENTS**

**(continued from Page 1)**

### **SEPTEMBER 2021 AFTAC/AA SOCIAL SEPTEMBER** **General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers**

Location: Patrick Space Force Base, Manatee Cove Golf Course

**Friday, 10 September 2021, 1130 – 1300**

**\*\*\*\*\* Election of Officers: see the SLATE OF OFFICERS on Page 5 \*\*\*\*\***

*Note: Pay-as-You-Go Lunch is available to order from the Hackers Grill & Bar, before the meeting. They open at 1030 AM, for your dining and ordering pleasure*

(AOY Annual Board Selection Meeting is Email only)

**Friday, 15 October 2021**

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

**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](mailto:piston_horse@hotmail.com) -- 321-507-7193 (Unlisted)

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

## **WORLDWIDE REUNION**

### **SAVE THE DATE NOTICE!**

**2022 AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) Worldwide Reunion**  
**(2022 WWR)**

**18 - 19 - 20 - 21 - 22 May 2022**

**Reunion Headquarters: Radisson Resort at the Port**  
**8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920**

**FL AFTACAA Chair/POC: Sean P. Ryan**

**Email: [oceanblueview@yahoo.com](mailto:oceanblueview@yahoo.com), Cell: 321-591-9053 (Unlisted).**

**FL AFTACAA Co-Chair/POC: Phil Godfrey**

**Email: [afsophil@gmail.com](mailto:afsophil@gmail.com), Cell: 321-446-8775 (Unlisted).**



**AFTAC Alumni Association**  
**ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Friday, 10 SEPTEMBER 2021, at Membership Meeting**

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

President, Phil Godfrey (continuing in his current position)  
Vice-President, Rob Christman (continuing in his current position)  
Secretary, Ed Lindsay  
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](mailto:piston_horse@hotmail.com) and taken from the floor prior to the elections. Nominees must be current members in good standing.



**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS?**

The AFTAC Alumni Association (AFTACAA) monthly meetings are generally held at 4 PM (Eastern Standard Time (EST) or Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)) on the second Monday of the month, but the dates and/or times sometimes vary for different reasons. A schedule of the monthly meetings is generally published in the POST MONITOR – see page 20 of this issue for the next three months. For some time now, we have held the meeting via Free Conference, and all members of the AFTACAA are welcome to tune in and attend. For further information or to sign up for the meeting sign-on information, contact President Phil Godfrey at [afsophil@gmail.com](mailto:afsophil@gmail.com) to receive the log-on link. Check [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) for latest meeting schedule.



**FROM THE TOP – MESSAGE FROM THE PREZ:**

Greetings Fellow Alumni!

Well we've made it past the halfway point through another great year in AFTAC Alumni history. Things are starting to turn for the better with the COVID-19 pandemic, despite these new variants. We're turning the corner, but we are all still waiting for this to be completely over. No matter, we still find ways to come together as friends and former colleagues to remember our AFTAC journey, and to continue to support the AFTAC community however we can – even from video teleconference technology.



Speaking of that, more and more alumni dial in to our monthly meetings, and this is fantastic to see! Yes, sometimes going over the budget and business operations aren't the most exciting things, but what's great is how so many more of you are giving the Association great ideas on how to support our mission even better in the future! A big thanks goes out to those of you who dial or video into the meetings! It's so great to see all of you, especially those across the pond.

But we all need to get together soon, and we're planning just that. Our Worldwide Reunion planning has begun, and we've set 18-22 May 2022 for the big extravaganza! We're working on the agenda, and Cocoa Beach is lovely that time of year. Not too hot! More details will follow as we iron out the agenda, tours, and excursions – but so far, I can say you're not gonna want to miss it!

Also, we're coming up on our annual AFTAC Alumni Association Elected Board elections. These positions are vitally important to the operations of the Association. Please let us know if you have some time to volunteer for one of our positions. More information about our elected and appointed board positions are on our website, [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us). Please consider volunteering!

Finally, let's all remember to stay positive, stay safe, and start picking out your summer clothes for the Reunion. We can't wait to see you next year.

Your friend, Phil Godfrey, AFTACAA President



## **FACEBOOK ALERTS**

### **OPERATION FISHBOWL**

Don Rupp reported on FACEBOOK:

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Fishbowl](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Fishbowl) was a series of high-altitude nuclear tests in 1962 that were carried out by the United States as a part of the larger Operation Dominic nuclear test program.



### **ABOVE AND BEYOND**

#### **DON AND MARY KING - A Sage going Above and Beyond**

[Don is a member of the CA Chapter and the Editor of their Newsletter DEPOT FALLOUT]  
Reported on the Arizona Christian University FACEBOOK Page

On 29 April 2021 “we had the honor of recognizing the generous contributions made to Arizona Christian University by Don and Mary King as we re-named our music recital hall the Don and Mary King Performing Arts Auditorium. Don and Mary are two of ACU's most faithful supporters, and they have a particular passion for our music and performing arts students. We are so thankful for their love of ACU and their willingness to devote their time, talents, and treasure to helping our students succeed.”



\*\*\*\*\*

#### **ROB WILKINS – A Sage Success Story**

[Rob Wilkins was assigned to AFTAC/HQ. While there, he was active in promoting fitness among the AFTAC Members.]  
Reported on the “**AFTAC Alumni of the World Unite**” FACEBOOK page in May 2021:

“This month, we recognize National Physical Fitness & Sports Month, the ideal time to highlight the positive benefits of a healthy lifestyle & encourage others to exercise & be physically active. With this in mind, I fondly remember my 12 years at AFTAC and the tremendous support that many of you, members of the AFTAC Alumni, provided to me in regards to the AFTAC Unit Runs, beach clean-ups and unit sports day! Keep well, keep moving and be safe!”

– Rob Wilkins

#### **White House Council on Sports, Nutrition and Fitness talks to News 8**

##### **LOCAL NEWS**

*Getting in-shape as we emerge from COVID pandemic*

ROCHESTER, NY & WASHINGTON, D.C. (WROC) — May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, and as we come out of the COVID pandemic, a member of the President's Council on Sports, Nutrition, and Fitness — [Rob Wilkins](#) — told News 8 now is the time to get moving.

“For three years, Wilkins has been helping to create a healthier America on a national stage. He says the more we move, the more we can inspire others. In 2018, [Wilkins was appointed](#) by then-President Donald Trump to serve on the Council. He has since stayed on for the Biden administration. “If you dream big, things can happen. Why not you? Why not me?” he says.

“An Air Force veteran and bodybuilder, Wilkins was a shoo-in for the position. With May being National Physical Fitness and Sports month, Wilkins is saying it's never too late to, “Workout, be fit, eat right. Do these things and help your quality of life,” he says.

“Especially as we start to emerge from COVID lockdowns and being more sedentary. He says to start small and build from there, even if it's just walking an extra block a day. Go to the gym when you feel ready and, “don't go out there and hurt yourself your first time back. You can't pick up where you left off,” he says.”

(continued on Page 7)



*Wilkins with former Surgeon General Jerome Adams*

See the full article and additional pictures at

<https://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/white-house-council-on-sports-nutrition-and-fitness-talks-to-news-8/#>



## **WALL OF HONOR COASTER**

By Tony DeMarco

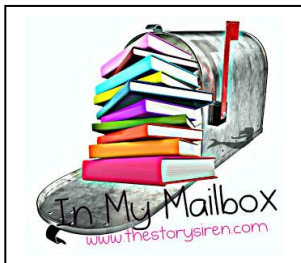
I've designed a special Coaster to Honor those AFTACers who have been recognized and inducted into the AFTAC WOH since 2015.

This Coaster contains the WOH Medal Image plus the individual Inductee's Rank, Name, and Year Inducted.

Attached is the Coaster example that is on order for our Special Chief.

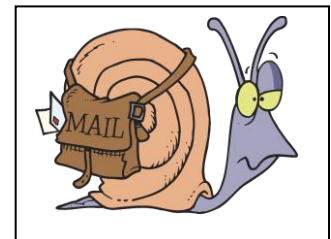
The first order of Coasters has been placed. It includes WOH Coasters for 10 of the current inductees, primarily those that I served with, served for, or personally knew during my AFTAC Career and was able to contact to see if they were interested.

So, if there are any other WOH Inductees who would like to get in on these Special Coasters, please contact me via E-Mail ([ynotba@aol.com](mailto:ynotba@aol.com)) and I'll start working with you on getting a second order started. The first WOH Coaster Order for 10 Inductees has been received and distributed. Feedback from all says the WOH Coasters look great. A second WOH Coaster Order is in work and I already have 3 Inductees signed up.



## **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**



Missives requesting no action may be mailed/emailed to the editor, '[chrisjohn2@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **AIR POWER HISTORY**

From Jack O'Connor, 1009th SWS

Interesting story about the balloons (reported in April 2020 issue of the POST MONITOR) of which I was unaware. Thanx! I only knew about flying in C-47, WB-29's with no seatbelt (Just hang on) and WB-50's out of McClellan, and Hickam but flew them mostly out of Eielson AFB in Alaska, and once out of Warrington AFB in England after they missed the air mass out of Eielson. I caught it above Iceland on its second time around. SAC also had to provide us with four modified RB 36's out of Travis but we flew in them mostly out of Eielson at 45,000 ft. The SEO was the 23rd man on the crew. SAC had to have two B-36's on ready alert; they had to be in Alaska on very short notice so we could get on them and get first crack at the higher level clouds. My longest flight in a B-36 was 27 hours. No refueling in those days, and we could have stayed up for about three more. Flew them out of Hawaii on French tests (they didn't like it), England (they did) and US tests. I once watched 2 squadrons B-36 foot in low level approach to Hickam. They could have been no more than 1,000 feet over the Island on their way out to sea to start their final approach. That ramp was full. I thought they'd never get on the ground; 15 seconds between planes on takeoff alert scramble and about 5 minutes between landings.

I was in the 1009th Special Weapons Squadron from June 1955 and left for OCS in March 1960 (6 hot months at Lackland in OCS). I didn't care about the butter bar; I wanted the wings which I received eight months later.

(continued on page 8)

## **AIR POWER HISTORY** (continued from page 7)

Note: I left the 1009th---now AFTAC, I guess---for OCS because I couldn't make E-6. The whole USAF was frozen for a drawdown from Korea. A little known fact is that there was an ex-1009th man in every OCS class since its inception, and there was one in the class following me (Captain Coppage was one). As it turned out, those frozen in rank with me were putting their Tech Stripes on at the same time I was putting on my Captain's bars so I guess it worked out OK. I missed AFTAC, but at least that gave me 24 years of flying. I'm still not sure which job I liked best. Not sure that being a navigator was as vital as SEO until I looked out my C-124, overcast, under cast, socked in, and no Loran. I couldn't even use the drift meter. I went to my bunk and told them to wake me in two hours. Something should be available by then. Doppler hadn't been used in the C-124 if it had existed then.

Great outfit with # 1 priority in AF and a two star for a squadron commander. Even took precedence over Curt LeMay and his SAC. We always flew with a First Class ticket in our pocket for use in emergencies. We HAD to get there ASAP.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **NEW GOOGLE EFFORT USES CELLPHONES TO DETECT EARTHQUAKES**

In an article in SCIENCE Magazine dated 28 April 2021, Paul Voosen reported that "Google is getting further into the business of saving lives. Today, [the internet giant announced](#) that users of its Android phones in New Zealand and Greece will receive warnings of damaging earthquakes about to strike their locations. And those earthquakes will be detected not by the usual seismometers, but by the phones themselves."

To see the full article, go to [sciencemag.org/news/2021/04/new-google-effort-uses-cellphones-detect-earthquakes](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/04/new-google-effort-uses-cellphones-detect-earthquakes)



## **OBITUARIES**

For additional information, see our Web site – <https://www.aftacaa.us>

### **EVELYN H. (McCALEB) ANDERSON**

November 7, 1919 - December 9, 2019

Evelyn H. (McDonald) Anderson, 100, of Carlisle, PA, died 9 December 2019 at home. She was born on November 7, 1919, in Richmond, VA, and was the widow of CMSgt (Ret) John Joseph Anderson, who died June 1, 2017. John's obituary was reported in the August 2019 POST MONITOR.

Evelyn is survived by two daughters Lee F. (Mike) Bethel of Carlisle and Christy M. (Mike) Van Zant of Prescott, AZ, three sons; James M. (Mary) Anderson of Gaithersburg, MD, John T. (Lisa) Anderson of Statesville, NC and Robert C. Anderson of Satellite Beach, FL, 6 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

Full obituary available at <http://www.ewingbrothers.com/obituary/evelyn-andersonn>

[Reported by Judy Henderson: Evelyn McCaleb (Anderson) worked at AFTAC in Civilian Personnel in Alexandria, VA, prior to her marriage to John Anderson].

\*\*\*\*\*



### **JOAN C. ANGELO**

Died 16 June 2021 – Age 75

Joan Carol Angelo was born and raised in the Bronx, NY. She was married to Joseph Angelo and served as a military spouse for 20 years, while raising their three children. Joan returned to school later in life and graduated from Rollins College (Brevard Campus) in 2004, after which she began pursuing her lifelong passion as an elementary school teacher. Over the next 15 years, she became affectionately known as "Mrs. A." Joan was predeceased by her daughter Jennifer. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Joseph, and her two adult sons, Joseph and James.

[Notified by Bob Wiley]

Full obituary available at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/floridatoday/name/joan-angelo-obituary?pid=199325803>



\*\*\*\*\*

## TOM BOBOWICZ

Died 15 May 2021

Tom passed away on 15 May 2021 and was interred at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, Florida. No additional information is available.

[We were alerted to Tom's passing on a FACEBOOK post by Nancy Leckron. If you would like to add information and/or a picture to be published in the next POST MONITOR, please contact Judy Henderson at 321-327-3175 or [jem2415@earthlink.net](mailto:jem2415@earthlink.net) ]

\*\*\*\*\*

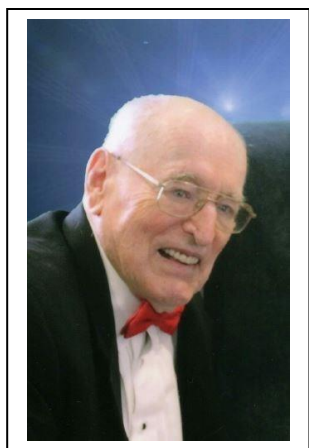


## AMOS LOUTELLE BOSSA

1918 – 1998

[A review of Alumni members who have not been heard from for some time led to the supposition that the Amos Bossa listed in our database is deceased. Mail to his address was returned with a note that he has not lived at that address for at least 7 years. Further research provides evidence that Amos Bossa, who was born in Ohio 1918 died in Florida at age 79 in 1998. If any member has further information about Amos Bossa and his service with AFTAC, please contact Judy Henderson at 321-327-3175 or [jem2415@earthlink.net](mailto:jem2415@earthlink.net) ]

\*\*\*\*\*



## FREDERICK "FRED" B. BUONI

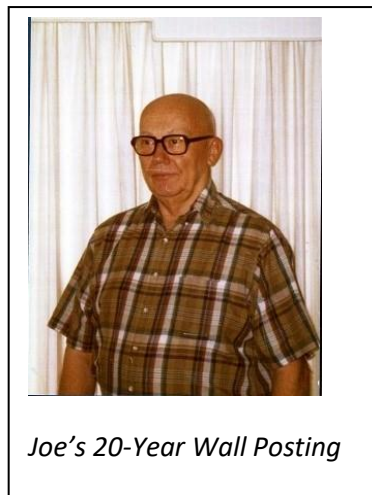
15 July 1934 – 1 August 2021

Fred Buoni of Merritt Island, Florida, passed away on 1 August 2021. Fred enjoyed singing with the Brevard Chorale and the Brevard Community Chorus. He and his wife Mary (deceased 2018) visited and sang with the Brevard Community Chorus in Scandinavia, Siros Greece, and Paris France. They also enjoyed cruises together and took Elderhostle/Roads Scholar trips, as well as other travel throughout Europe, Newfoundland, Greenland, and Iceland. A visitation gathering for Fred will be held on 1 October at Life Event Center At Florida Memorial, in Rockledge, Florida, followed by a memorial service. Fred is survived by his sons, Frederick B. Buoni, II, Gregory P. Buoni (Beatriz), a step-daughter, Katherine Kennedy, and grandchildren.

Fred worked at HQ AFTAC in TD-3 and TA.

Obituary at <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/rockledge-fl/frederick-buoni-10294196>

\*\*\*\*\*



Joe's 20-Year Wall Posting

SMSGT JOSEPH M. JOHNSON (1951 - 1974)		
JUN 51 MAY 52	**	1009 SWS (NOL; HAWTHORNE NV; FORT MYER VA; FORT SILL OK)
JUN 52 DEC 54	**	DETACHMENT 142
JAN 55 DEC 56	**	DETACHMENT 204
JAN 57 MAY 60	**	HQ (VIRGINIA)
JUN 60 MAY 61	**	1155 TCHOS
JUN 61 MAY 62	**	DETACHMENT 423
JUN 62 MAY 66	**	1155 TCHOS
JUN 66 JUN 67	**	1159 TCHOS
JUL 67 JUL 70	**	1156 TCHOS
AUG 70 MAY 74	**	1155 TCHOS

## JOSEPH MANLEY "JOE" JOHNSON

June 22, 1930 - April 14, 2021

Joe Johnson, was born in Jamestown, North Dakota, and passed away in Carmichael, California. He is survived by his brother Jerome Johnson, son Robert Johnson, daughter Carol Bowman, and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death in 2013 by his beloved wife, Gayle. Joe served 23 years in the U.S. Air Force during the Cold War era with the 1155th Technical Operations Squadron, service that took him across the United States and Pacific many, many times. After Air Force retirement, he greatly enjoyed a second wind in retail management. Joseph was active with his Air Force unit's (AFTAC) alumnae association, serving as the California



chapter president. His continuing friendships with these great people were a constant in his retirement years. Joe was also honored as the AFTAC Alumni Association 2002 Alumni of the Year. To his family, Grandpa Joe was always the iconic Sargent: get it done, get it done now, get it done right.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **CAROLANN KELLEY**

1935 – 19 August 2021

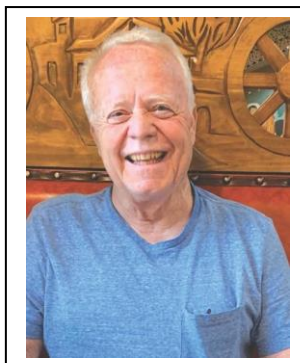
[Contacted by Frank Calenda, Florida Assn Member, passing along an EMail from Dana Kelley. Dana served at AFTAC from 1975 – 1982, HQ FL/DO/IG and 1156CC]

Dana Kelley writes:

My wife, Carolann passed away on 19 August after succumbing to a very lengthy illness. She was born in Singapore, Malaysia (at the time a British Protectorate). Her father, an American dentist, brought modern dentistry to this part of the world. Carolann and her mother were forced to leave Singapore in January, 1942, following the bombing and invasion by the Japanese. They were on the last passenger ship to successfully evade the Japanese, a 54-day trip to New York City. Dr. Hanna, forced to stay behind, survived 44 months as a POW of the Japanese. Dana and Carolann met at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, married a year later, a marriage that lasted more than 65 years. Carolann and our family were at my side at 14 duty stations during the course of my 26 year career in the Air Force. She is survived by 3 children, 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

Heroes are people who go out of their way to help others, who make sacrifices to help others, and who reach beyond themselves to make the world a better place. I can't think of anyone who fits that description more than Carolann. She was greatly admired for her volunteer work especially in the Clark Air Base hospital burn ward in the Philippines during the Vietnam War. She will be missed by all who knew her.

\*\*\*\*\*



## **ROBERT DALE LAND**

January 29, 1949 – June 28, 2021

Bob was born in Hollister, CA, and died in Boise, Idaho. Bob joined the Air Force where he served tours in Spain and Korea. Once retiring from the USAF 1989, after 20 years of service, Bob began a 26 year career working for the state of California for the Air Resources Board and retired in 2015. Bob loved his Harley-Davidson, the 49ers, and going on cruises all around the world. He is survived by his wife of 15 years Patti and former wife Melissa, daughters Danielle, Stephanie, and Kimberly and sons John and Chris. He was Papa Bob to his Grandkids.

[Notified by Ken Breitwieser and Neil Adler. Ken worked with Bob in O and J Engineering and enjoyed bowling teams, TDY's back to Denver, parties, and working together at the Air Resources Board after AF retirement. Also contacted by George Cronin and Croy Goins regarding a FACEBOOK post.]

Full obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sanbenito/name/robert-land-obituary?pid=199455425>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MITSUO "MIKE" MINAMOTO**

Born 11 March 1926 (age 94)

Mitsuo "Mike" Minamoto was born in Kona, Hawaii, and as a child he and his family picked coffee beans for a living. Soon after graduating from high school, Mike enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was assigned to post war Japan. While in the military, his fellow soldiers had difficulty pronouncing his name let alone remembering it, so they started calling him "Mike" and the name stuck. After discharge from the Army Air Corps, he took advantage of the G.I. bill and enrolled at the Milwaukee School of Engineering. After receiving his diploma in radio and T.V. technology, he reenlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was assigned to Scott AFB in Illinois. While at Scott, he and his buddy occasionally drove across the Mississippi River to see the big city of St. Louis, where he met his future wife, Shirley, also a native of Hawaii.

While stationed at Lowry AFB, he took advantage of the Bootstrap programs and enrolled at Colorado State University. He received his bachelor and Master degrees in education graduating Magna Cum Laude. He was a member of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. After retiring from the Air Force, he embarked on his second career, teaching. He taught at Front Range Community College for 17 years and retired for good in 1990. Besides his wife, Mike is survived by a son,

(Continued)

Michael Minamoto of Westminster, Colorado, and daughters Lisa Minamoto-Rogers (James) of Alpine, Wyoming, and Mary Minamoto-Garcia (Felix) of Parker, Colorado, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.  
[Contacted by Bill Schmied, CO Chapter]

Full obituary at <https://www.horancares.com/obituary/MitsuoMike-Minamoto>

\*\*\*\*\*



*Photo shows Norvel with his wife, fellow AFTACer Alison Williams, on far right*

## **NORVEL PERKINS**

Died 15 April 2021

Reported by AFTAC Commander, Col Barber

AFTAC Family,

It is with a great deal of sadness I write to inform you of the unexpected passing of a member of Team AFTAC, MSgt Norvel Perkins. MSgt Perkins was a member of the 709th Support Squadron who most recently served as the Flight Superintendent for the Central Repair Facility. Many who don't know him as the CRF Flight Super will surely know him as the founder and leader of AFTAC's singing group, "Atomic Blue."

MSgt Perkins was extremely well liked and respected by his supervisors, peers, and subordinates alike, and throughout his career he made a lasting impression on all who knew him. His loss is felt across the Center and beyond. For any of Norvel's friends and colleagues who are feeling the crushing weight of his passing, please know there are many avenues available to help you through your grief. Do not hesitate to reach out to me, a fellow Wingman, First Sergeant, Chaplain, Physician, or Grief Counselor for assistance.

At this time, Alison has asked for utmost privacy as she navigates through these exceedingly difficult circumstances. Once service information becomes available, we will share that with the workforce. Please keep her and MSgt Perkins' three children in your thoughts."

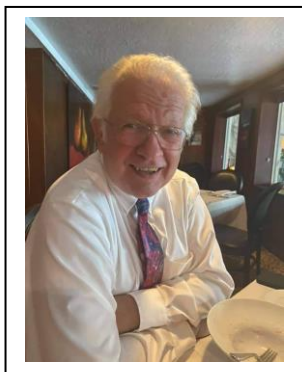
v/r

Col Barber

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BARRY FINLEY SEEGRAVES**

Died 19 August 2021 (age 70)



[Contacted by George Cronin, AFTACAA Member, passing along information Linda Welch Seegraves posted. Information also provided by John Vaught who was the point-man talking to Barry's wife as they are good friends since Det 315, and additional comments by Tony DeMarco – see below.]

Linda Seegraves advised on 19 August: "It is with a heavy heart but peace that passes all understanding that I share with you the passing of my sweet husband, Barry. I was allowed to be with him in the hospital last night thru to the end this morning. The verse that has been running through my heart is "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" and I

know that Barry is rejoicing at the feet of Jesus. Please cover us with prayer at this difficult time and especially Barry's father in TN. This has been a shock to us all."

Linda added, with permission to share, "We both caught Covid but after a week he was way worse and went in the hospital on 7 August. I'm over Covid now. He seemed to be getting a little better but then just plummeted on Tues & Wed. I got to spend the last 14 hours by his side but he was only lucid and able to talk to me for the first few hours. But it was precious to be with him and hold his hand, pray over him, talk to him, sing to him. He was a most precious husband and although I know I will be okay I will miss him with all my heart."

(continued)

Besides Barry's wife, Linda, he is survived by daughter Rochelle Rennert (Ryan), son Brian Seegraves (Vanessa), Father – Beecher Seegraves, brother – Vaughn Seegraves (Shirley); and grandchildren.

Tony DeMarco advised that he had served with Barry who was a 99. In the September 2004 POST MONITOR there was an article written on one of the ASDS Deployments. Barry's name was mentioned, but his name was misspelled – Seagraves instead of Seegraves.

Full obituary available at <https://www.bilbreyfuneralhomeinc.com/bilbrey-obituaries-2/>

\*\*\*\*\*



## **WENZEL SMEJKAL**

Died 23 July 2021

Information passed by Mary Smejkal: It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Wenzel Smejkal of Spooner, Wisconsin, who passed away on July 23, 2021, leaving to mourn family and friends. Wenzel was predeceased by his parents, Wenzel F. and Sally Smejkal and his brother Jeff Smejkal. He is survived by his wife MaryAnn Smejkal, his daughters, Barbara Reed (Jeff), Bridgette Leines (Eric) and Brittnei Taylor (George); and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as his sister Sharon Genson (Les).

[Alerted by Don Whitney, passing along information from wife Mary. Wenzel is remembered by many alumni members, including David Hamil, John Horsch, and Sean Ryan, to name just a few. MSgt Ret David Hamil wrote "...I was at PAFB from '96-'02, and Det 421 Det Chief from '02-'06. I live just 45 minutes from Spooner, WI. If AFTAC would like a representative there (at the funeral), I can go...." CMSgt John Horsch wrote "I served with him on the IG Team in the early 80's and he was a very knowledgeable Supply Man and had to be highly thought of to be on the team."]

Full obituary at <https://www.echovita.com/us/obituaries/wi/spooner/wenzel-smejkal-13071660>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **BETH STERN**

Died 23 June 2021 (age 82)

Writing to John Horsch, Warren Stern advised of the death of his wife, Beth.

"She was a great lady and truly loved the outfit and our Country. We met in 1957 and married while I was stationed at 142, she was a nurse in Rawlins, Wyoming. We then went on for a short while to Laramie, and on to an extended TDY with newly graduated OCS Lt. Bill Brockman in Washington and Idaho and Southern Canada. Both Marge and Beth went with us and were pregnant at the time. From there she went with me to Sacramento, to set up the trucks for a mission operation and had our 1st born. From there, four days after she had our first born, she had to endure a drive to Denver to stay with her mother, while I went on with a truck on the operation. She never once complained and like the others wives "grinned and bared it." We then went on to help start up 162. In March of 1960 we were sent to 301(Ankara). While there on 27 May 1960, while in a hotel in downtown Ankara, pregnant with our daughter, and with our young son in tow, she watched the Turkish military revolution take place, not knowing what to do or where to go, (while I was up at the site). They hung the President and the Prime Minister and purged the government of early seeds of the Muslim Brotherhood. She, like (your wife) Christel and the other wives served as much as we did. Beth always made sure, like the other wives, that any unaccompanied people always had a place at our table for holidays. These weren't women "officially" serving at the Det level at that time, but they were there serving always. After 63 years of having her highly valued company and input she is deeply, deeply missed.

John Horsch added a note: "I served with Warren and Beth in Pinedale and Ankara ... they were a fantastic couple and cared much for the mission, and the people, of AFTAC."

Obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/thebrunswicknews/name/beth-stern-obituary?pid=199176205>

\*\*\*\*\*

## **JACK DONALD WAGLEY**

May 28, 1930 – February 6, 2019

Jack Donald Wagley, age 88, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, died February 6, 2019. Jack was born in Bowie, Arizona. He served 21 years in the United States Air Force and 15 years in the United States Postal Service. Jack was a member of St.



Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. In addition to his parents, his daughters Barbara Wagley and Janette Holloway preceded him. He is survived by his wife; Frances, children; Rita Moses, Donna (Joe) Schwartzenger, Helen (Cary) Ogilvie, and Patricia (Bob) Kinkade, plus grandchildren and great-grandchildren and a half-brother Charles Wagley.

Full obituary available at [www.muehligannarbor.com](http://www.muehligannarbor.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

## ADDITIONAL OBITUARY INFORMATION ON ALUMNI MEMBERS REPORTED IN THE APRIL 2020 POST MONITOR



### JOSEPH JACOB BOROWSKI

7 May 1941 - 25 March 2021

It is with deep sorrow that we report the death of Joseph "Joe" Borowski.

[Tony DeMarco had recently worked with Joe in getting his AFTAC Career Display up on our 20+ Year Wall. Tony reported that at the time he knew that Joe was suffering from some medical issues but still, his passing was unexpected. Joe's updated entry is shown here and is also available at [www.aftaca.us](http://www.aftaca.us).]

\*\*\*\*\*

### CLARK E. CREERY, MSgt USAF (Ret) -- 12 March 1942 – 28 March 2021

Clark was born and raised in coal country in western Pennsylvania and graduated from Hempfield High School. Clark started his Air Force career in September 1960 when he traveled to Lackland AFB, TX, for Basic Training; followed by technical training as an Air Policeman (AFSC 771X0). Upon graduation from Air Police Tech School in January 1961, Clark then completed two tours guarding SAC Alert Aircraft.



His first Air Force assignment was to Ben Guerir AB Morocco, North Africa, where he stood watch on SAC B-47 Alert Aircraft. His second tour was then at Dover AFB, Delaware, in 1962, assigned to the SAC 11<sup>th</sup> Refueling Squadron guarding KC-97 aircraft. His next assignment in mid-1963 was to the United States Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), in Lisbon, Portugal. Clark earned the Joint Services Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service during his tour of duty as a MAAG security guard. Clark was immensely proud of this decoration.

In July 1966, Clark was 1035<sup>th</sup>/AFTAC bound with his first assignment to Lowry AFB, Colorado, to attend Special Electronics Technician training R.I. 99125Q. After completing Electronic Fundamentals and EMP Systems training, over the next 9 years Clark was assigned first to Detachment 333, Tehran, Iran, where he operated and maintained Q-4 equipment, and then to the 1155<sup>th</sup> Tech Ops Sq McClellan AFB, California, where he worked in the Engineering Section (LGEQ). Clark's work included performing field Mobile Depot Assistance Team functions, performing system upgrades, and updating engineering drawings and technical manuals.

On the move again, Clark was given a one-year remote assignment to Detachment 205, later renamed Detachment 461, at Shemya AFB, Alaska, as NCOIC Q-4 Maintenance. Tour completed and Clark was reassigned back to the 1155<sup>th</sup> Tech Ops Sq Engineering Section (LGEQ). When the Q-4 Technique was closed down mid-1975, Clark was released from AFTAC and assigned to Barksdale AFB, LA, as NCOIC Instrumentation Branch, performing live launch testing of the SRAM Missile System.

(Continued)

January 1978, AFTAC called Clark back to HQ AFTAC/LGLJ and he was assigned responsibilities for setting up the new Worldwide “J” Technique. Clark’s responsibilities in LG included not only the new “J” System Acquisition and interfacing with the Harris Contractor, but also as Team Leader for the Worldwide Site Surveys that were conducted in 1978 to select the new “J” locations. This would be the first technique deployed worldwide where AFTAC equipment and personnel would be co-located inside various host facilities and not in a standalone CRB. Following successful deployment of the new “J” Technique, Clark then retired from AFTAC and the USAF in Sep 1980.

In a nutshell, Clark’s 20-year Air Force career during the “Cold War Era” covered Air Policeman, Embassy Security Duty, Draftsperson, Electronics and Engineering Technician, a steely eyed Missile Man, and wrapping it all up as a System Acquisition Specialist.



## **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

**Membership:** Mike Steskal reported that the AFTACAA Florida Chapter membership is currently at 574. While attempting to contact members by phone who had not notified us regarding the extra \$10 fee per year for the printed copy of the POST MONITOR, we learned that the contact information for many members in our database has changed or is incomplete. **If your phone number, address, or Email address has changed since joining the Association, please send your updated information our membership chair, Mike Steskal. Mike can be reached at [steskal@aol.com](mailto:steskal@aol.com) or you can contact President Phil Godfrey at [afsophil@gmail.com](mailto:afsophil@gmail.com)**

**20-Year Wall:** Tony De Marco reported that we have 118 AFTAC’ers on the wall. He also discussed working on updating careers on some of those already on the wall.

**2021 Cocoa Beach Air Show:** Sean Ryan reported the next air show will be 15-17 October 2021 at Orlando Sanford International Airport.

**POST MONITOR:** Judy Henderson is looking for someone to take over the responsibilities for putting the Post Monitor together. It’s published as a WORD document, so no special software is needed.

**Alumni of the Year:** Bob Wiley reported the Alumni of the Year (AOY) nomination selection will be completed by Email again in 2021 by the current AOY association members.

**SnowBall:** Sean Ryan reported we will have a Snowball in early 2022, however it will be scaled down from previous years. He said he has a list of establishments to call as potential locations before a selection can be voted on.



**Board Members** (elected positions)  
President-**Phil Godfrey**--Vice **Rob Christman**--Secretary **Arlin Massey**—Treasurer **Sean Ryan**  
**Appointed –**  
Activities-**CMSgt Amy Long**, CCMS, Hall of Heritage-**Mike Young**/CC HO, **Bob Wiley**/  
Membership/Master Data Base-**Mike Steskel** 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**.



# MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

## FREE PASSES TO STATE PARKS IN FLORIDA AND BEYOND

The state of Florida offers free passes to its state parks to disabled veterans with a 10% or more disability? One way to obtain this pass is to go to a local state park and show them your driver's license and VA card showing "service connected."

The Federal Parks Commission also offers various free or reduced-cost passes, too. The promotions for these parks vary from state to state.

Here are two links that should give you all the information you need.

<https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-access.htm>

<http://www.usvetcamper.com/veterans/state-park-passes/>

Happy camping,



## CHAPTER NEWS

**DEPOT FALLOUT** ~ Excerpts from the AFTAC Alumni West Coast Chapter newsletter. For more information, visit their Web site at [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) – mail address: AFTACAA-WCC, c/o 6605 Sweet Gum Ct, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.

### THE HERE AND NOW

*By: Don King, Newsletter Editor*

We have always published obituaries of our members when they pass on. That is really nice for us when we read about them and reminisce. But wouldn't it be nice to honor the here-and-now about someone who we know or have known where they could also read what fellow 99's think about them? Send me comments and stories and I will publish them in each issue. It can be as long or short as you like. The stories might also bring some new members into the alumni fold.

The person who immediately comes to my mind is someone with whom I never had the pleasure of serving. I wish that I had because of sharing his life for the past ten years. His name? Bob Fitzgerald! Bob has become a great friend and also a talented mentor and go-to guy during my years editing the Fallout. He has shared his knowledge very patiently to this guy who is not computer literate in almost any sense of the word! We have worked our ways around my hopelessly out-of-date equipment and software to get it published. I can only imagine what fun it would have been to work with him in the field. Under Bob, there is always a solution to whatever comes up. He has shown this to me as one of the real heart-and-soul persons that we are incredibly lucky to have in our chapter and in the whole AFTAC family around the world. I would literally trust him with my back in any situation! I know that if such a time comes to me, I'll be able to holler a big, "Thank you, Bob!"

### QUARTERLY MEETINGS:

Our quarterly WCC General Business Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of March, June, September & December at 4:00pm PDT. *(Please note the time change.)* Our next meeting is on Monday, September 13th and is expected to be held **IN PERSON** at the Lions Gate Restaurant at McClellan Field. All WCC members are welcome to join us. Always check our [www.AFTACWCC.org](http://www.AFTACWCC.org) website "Events" page before coming to confirm the details in case of last minute changes.

### UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS:

09/18/21 11:00am-2:00pm: "Welcome Back" BBQ Picnic & Potluck. *(Signup required by 9/11.)*

11/13/21 11:30am-2:30pm: "FALL SOCIAL". *(Signup we be required by 11/05.)*

\*\*\*\*\*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We have reserved the Aurora Hills Tin Cup for the following events:

1. Colorado Alumni Breakfast at the Aurora Hills Tin Cup, [50 South Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80012](#) on Saturday, 18 September 2021 (the 74th anniversary of the US Air Force), at 0900.  
Cost: \$17, Children 10 and under Free, Active Duty Military \$12  
Location: Aurora Hills Golf Course, Tin Cup Banquet Room, 50 S. Peoria St. Aurora, CO 80012  
Please RSVP by responding to this email or to Bryce Dunn - [president@aftacco.org](mailto:president@aftacco.org) or by phone 303.693.4150 (must leave a message) NLT 4 Sep 2021.

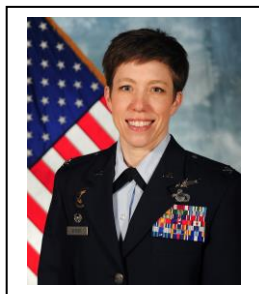
We need an accurate headcount to plan the breakfast.

Payment will be collected at the breakfast - We look forward to seeing you there!

2. Colorado Alumni Fall/Veterans Dinner also at the Aurora Hills Tin Cup, [50 South Peoria St., Aurora, CO 80012](#) on Saturday, 20 November 2021, at 1800.



## **MONITOR** ing Active Duty Doins' from around the AFTAC World *Command Section*



### **Commander/CC/2020. Col Katherine Barber**

Col Barber assumed command of the Air Force Technical Applications Center on 30 June 2020. Col Barber, a career intelligence officer, comes to AFTAC after serving as commander of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center's Space, Missiles and Forces Intelligence Group at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. She served as Senior Duty Officer in the White House Situation Room from July 2011 to June 2013.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

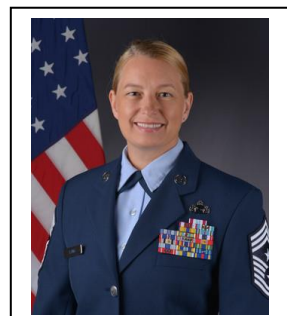


### **Vice Commander/CV/2018. Col Ralph E. Bordner, III**

Col Bordner received his commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Central Florida in 1996 with a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. His career includes multiple space-centric positions, to include crew-certified space operator, space and missile control engineer, chief of ballistic missile subsystems, and research and development engineer.

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

\*\*\*\*\*



**Chief Master Sergeant Amy L. Long** is the **Command Chief** for AFTAC, Patrick AFB, FL, where she advises the AFTAC wing commander on matters concerning the readiness, utilization, training, morale and welfare of the 1,000-member center and its 14 detachments around the globe who support AFTAC's international treaty monitoring activities. AFTAC operates and maintains the US Atomic Energy Detection System to monitor foreign compliance with various treaties limiting nuclear testing. AFTAC is also the designated US labor system that provides technical support to the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency.

Long entered the AF in Sep 1994. She graduated from the Defense Language Institute as an Arabic Cryptologic Linguist in Mar 1996. Her background includes various duties in intelligence operations, joint service



and training. Throughout her career, she has served in myriad positions including National Security Agency Functional Manager, Counterterrorism Senior Enlisted Representative, as well as Squadron and Group Superintendent. She has deployed in support of Operation New Dawn and completed overseas tours in Korea and Hawaii.

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



## **REPORTS FROM WITHIN THE HQ BUILDING**

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

### **THREE INDUCTEES JOIN PAST “GIANTS” ON AFTAC WALL OF HONOR**

By Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Public Affairs /Published June 02, 2021

PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE, Fla. -- In keeping with its annual tradition, the commander of the Air Force Technical Applications Center inducted three former members of the nuclear treaty monitoring center onto its famed “Wall of Honor” May 26.

Col. Katharine G. Barber recognized retired Senior Master Sergeants Mike Clark and Tony DeMarco and Ms. Eunice Harris at a ceremony held in the Doyle M. Northrup Auditorium here as dozens of current, former and retired members of AFTAC witnessed the induction.

Barber and her command chief, Chief Master Sgt. Amy Long, presented each inductee with an engraved medallion that depicts an American Bald Eagle clutching a scroll in one talon and a sword in the other. The scroll symbolizes the Limited Test Ban Treaty and the sword illustrates military strength and might. Above the eagle are the words, “Sapientia Potentia Est,” Latin for “Wisdom is Power.”

In addition to the medallion, the honorees’ names were engraved on plaques that now hang on the Wall of Honor in the center’s main lobby.

Selection to the wall is stringent and rigorous. The AFTAC Heritage Committee meticulously reviews dozens of nomination packages of former scientists, analysts, engineers and technicians to judge their contributions and impact on the center’s historic long-range detection mission. Only three per year are considered for induction. The committee looks for nominees who demonstrated great character and whose actions truly discriminated them from thousands of other center employees, both military and civilian.

Dr. Mike Young, AFTAC’s historian, led this year’s selection panel.

“Our lineage can be traced back to 1947, two days before the Air Force was established as a separate service, and the single thing that can be attributed to our success as an organization is without a doubt our people,” said Young. “The contributions of today’s inductees are priceless, and their work absolutely formed the cornerstone of our long range detection mission. AFTAC’s greatest asset has always been its people. It definitely gives our more junior personnel an opportunity to learn about the giants upon whose shoulders we stand today.”

Clark, who joined the Air Force in 1969, spent nearly his entire 25 years in the Air Force assigned to AFTAC’s various overseas and stateside detachments. He was also a technical training instructor and authored training manuals. After retirement, he became the lead analyst for the Group of Scientific Experts Technical Test 3, the planning group that helped develop the International Monitoring System for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization.

DeMarco was also a career-AFTACer, serving 23 years with the organization from 1966 to 1989. He was an expert in operating the electromagnetic pulse technique – the “Q” technique – in the Atomic Energy Detection System. When the “Q” capabilities were eliminated in favor of more advanced satellite methods, DeMarco played a key role in the rapid development of the new “J” technique and ultimately became AFTAC’s most experience EMP systems expert.

(Continued on Page 18)



*The medallion pictured here was presented to newest inductees to the AFTAC’s Wall of Honor at a ceremony May 26, 2021. The medallion, which was created by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Adam Satterfield and MSgt Chad Tabuba, both members of AFTAC, symbolizes the inductees’ contributions to long range detection and nuclear treaty monitoring, AFTAC’s primary mission. The back of the medallion has a personalized inscription that reads, “Let this medallion signify its recipient is a member of an elite and noble group of Airmen who stand in silent vigil for the good of all humankind.” (U.S. Air Force photo by MSgt Chad Tabuba)*

## **THREE INDUCTEES JOIN PAST “GIANTS” ON AFTAC WALL OF HONOR** (continued from Page 17)

Harris, a 31-year government civilian, served as the secretary and closest confidant to AFTAC's first senior scientist, Walt Singlevich, for nearly 20 years. She handled numerous responsibilities and managed countless classified and time-sensitive national-level reports to ensure Singlevich had the tools and resources needed to make critical decisions for senior decision makers. In essence, she was an office manager, administrative assistant, primary communicator and invaluable gatekeeper in managing AFTAC's senior scientist's daily workload.

*Eunice Harris*



“My mom just loved AFTAC,” said Mike Harris, Eunice's son. “She was involved in everything from the alumni association to morale events to spouses groups to holiday parties – you name it. She adored being part of such a great organization.”

Mike, along with his sister Tina Colon, accepted the posthumous award for their mother.

“If my mother had been here today to receive this honor, she would be grinning ear to ear,” said Tina. “She ran our household much like how she took care of Mr. Singlevich – a tight ship, but with a lot of love. We are so appreciative of AFTAC for recognizing her in such a special way. We're all very proud!”

The Wall of Honor was established in 2015 to recognize individuals who “profoundly contributed to AFTAC's global mission, while personifying the Air Force Core Values of integrity, service and excellence,” and since its inception, the center has inducted 30 people to the wall.

Addressing the audience but directing her comments to the three inductees, the leader of the treaty monitoring center had nothing but praise for their significant contributions to AFTAC's continued success.

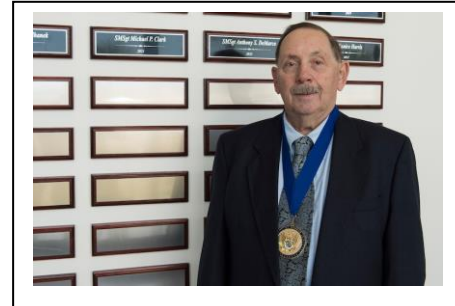
“It is such a privilege for me to recognize the lifetime achievements of today's honorees,” said Barber. “You are innovators, trainers, developers, instructors, creators, and trailblazers who used your expertise to make tough calls and provide crucial data to our national decision-makers, all the way up to the President of the United States, and in doing so, you kept us safe. I cannot wait to see the legends we are creating today join your names on our wall to forever commemorate your historic contributions. I salute Mike, Tony and Eunice and thank their families and friends for joining us in celebrating their profound impact.”



Mike Harris & Tina Colon accepted the posthumous award for their mother Eunice Harris



SMSgt Michael P Clark



SMSgt Anthony S DeMarco

\*\*\*\*\*

## **AFTAC HISTORIAN IS STILL SEEKING PHOTOS**

The AFTAC Historian, Dr. Mike Young, is currently writing a book entitled “A 75-Year Commemorative History of Long Range Detection: 1946-2021.” It is essentially a re-write of the 50-Year Commemorative History that was produced in 1997. He would like to include new, never seen photographs that many of our alumni may have. People, detachments, equipment, etc... whatever you think may be of interest to our community of AFTAC'ers. Mike's contact:

[James.young.53@us.af.mil](mailto:James.young.53@us.af.mil)

Air Force Technical Applications Center  
ATTN: Dr. Mike Young, CC/HO  
Room S4400  
10989 South Patrick Drive  
Patrick Space Force Base, FL 32925-3002



## **AFTAC OPEN HOUSE AND WINTER SOCIAL**

Submitted by Susan A. Romano, AFTAC Director of Public Affairs



### **SAVE THE DATES**

**3 December 2021 – AFTAC OPEN HOUSE**

**4 December 2021 – WINTER SOCIAL**

I thought you might like to have this flyer to include in the next PoMo – it shows the dates of the Open House and Winter Social, along with the POCs for both events. They would love to get the Alumni involved in the planning and execution of each event, so please spread the word.

Also, it's a great reminder to have folks mark their calendars for the annual tradition!

**ALUMNI NOTE:** Watch the **AFTAC Alumni Association web site** – [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) – for information on how to register to participate in these events; registration will be required.

**Information will also be distributed via E-All – If you are not currently signed up for E-Alls, contact Mike Steskal at [steskalm@aol.com](mailto:steskalm@aol.com) to receive these important up-to-date alerts.**



## **RETIREES AND DISABLED VETERANS DUE FOR RECORD RAISE NEXT YEAR**

Submitted by Dale Klug

AUGUST 18, 2021

*Editor's note: This article by Jim Absher originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.*

Military retirees and disabled veterans could see their monthly checks jump by hundreds of dollars each month in 2022, the largest increase since 1983.

The annual inflation-based Cost of Living Adjustment, or COLA, soon will be determined by the government, and all the figures point to an increase of at least 6%, and maybe more, beginning in 2022. That means that next year, military retirees will see their monthly retirement check increase, with the average monthly check going up by around \$160. Veterans receiving disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs also will see their monthly disability payments increase, with the average monthly amount increasing by nearly \$100.

The annual COLA increase is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is measured by the Department of Labor. That agency measures the costs of a select group of goods and services and compares those costs to the previous year. If there is an increase, retirees and many others receiving government benefits see an increase in their monthly payments for the upcoming year. If those costs go down, the government payments will remain the same in the upcoming year.

The CPI also is used to determine federal employee retirement and social security COLA adjustments as well as other federal benefit programs, so the CPI increase will affect over 50 million Americans.

Next year's COLA is scheduled to be announced in early October. When it is, Military.com will have the latest information, including disability pay rates available to you.





\*\*\*\*\***SAGE SCHEDULE**\*\*\*\*\*

**MANY OF THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED –**  
See the [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) web page for latest information.

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

**2. Alumni Assn Board/Membership Meetings**-normally-**2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Page 1 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](mailto:oceanblueview@yahoo.com)**

**See page 1 for current list – check**

**[www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) for latest updates**

**September 2021**

**Friday, 10th, 1130 – Gen Mbrshp Mtg & Election of Officers**  
**Manatee Golf Course, PSFB**

[check Calendar of Events at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) ]

**October 2021** (see pg 1 for Golf Tournament Info)

**Tuesday, 12th, 1600 –Membership Meeting - Teleconference**

[check Calendar of Events at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) ]

**November 2021**

**Monday, 8th 1600 – Membership Meeting - Teleconference**

[check Calendar of Events at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.aftacaa.us) ]

**December 2021** (See Pg 19 for additional activities)

**Monday, 13th 1130 Luncheon (TBD)– Membership Meeting**

[check Calendar of Events at [www.aftacaa.us](http://www.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 January or 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 – CO-2019.06; CA-2017.06, FL-2015.05.

**Next Reunion** The 2022 Reunion will be hosted by the Florida Association – see page 4 -- for SAVE THE DATE info

## **SAGE SHOP – OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Mail orders to:

AFTAC Alumni Assn, ATTN: Sage Shop  
P.O. Box 254892,  
Patrick Space Force Base, FL, 32925-4892

SAGE CONTACT: Ed Lindsay

[Piston\\_horse@hotmail.com](mailto:Piston_horse@hotmail.com)

321-507-7193

### **ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

Embroidered DriFit Polo (*no pocket*) \$25 Available in Royal Blue, Black, Red – M, L, XL, XXL

New DriFit Long-sleeve t-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)

\$18- Royal Blue, Navy, Red – M, L, XL

New DriFit Short-sleeve t-shirt (SPF 50 UV protection)

\$15- Royal Blue, Navy, Red – M, L, XL

[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

### **CLEARANCE ITEMS**

T-SHIRTS-50/50 blend -Assorted Colors, M or XXL –\$5

WINDBREAKERS-w/ stowable hood -Royal Blue – \$20

Screen printed Logo, Golf/Polo Shirts - Assorted Colors

\$15 - Available in 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 <https://www.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.

