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Proposed Association Name Change Resoundingly Approved by Members

The name change committee will make recommendations on how to proceed with implementing the change

By Dick Cole
Editor

The membership of the association voted in February to change the name of the organization from the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association by dropping the word alumni.

Fifty seven percent of the association’s eligible members voted. Of those, there were 233 yea votes and 29 nay votes, with an approval rate of 88.9 percent.

The name change committee, headed by Jay DeFrank, immediately set upon examining a new dues structure for the association to encourage more active duty military and civilian public affairs professionals to join the organization.

“That was, after all, one of the primary reasons for changing the name – to encourage more of our active duty colleagues to become members,” said Brett Ashworth, the association’s chairman of the board.

A survey of AFPAAA mem-

bers conducted in 2018 indicated the time might be right to reexamine the proposal according to DeFrank.

“The findings of that survey reflected that there may now be greater interest than in the past among members for a name change and greater involvement of active PA’s,” said DeFrank. At the June 2022 board meeting the board voted unanimously to submit to the full membership for a vote the option of changing our name and making the structural changes necessary to admit active military and civilian PA’s as full voting members.

Both the Army and Navy Public Affairs Alumni Associations had already dropped the word alumni from their names prior to the AFPAAA action.

Changing the name of the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association has been a matter of study for several years and was formally proposed three times since 1994.



From the President's pen...



At the last meeting of our association's board of directors, we were informed that continued health issues were forcing current association president Greg Smith to step down. As the association's current vice president, I was asked to move up early to president and fulfill the balance of Greg's time in the position and I agreed to do so. Thanks, too, to Eric Schnaible who moved up from secretary to fill my remaining term as vice president and to Carla Sylvester for agreeing to fill "Flak's" remaining tenure as secretary.

So, as your new association president, I want to congratulate those who were elected to serve on the board of directors in June's election, which is recapped in this issue of *News and Notes*.

Congratulations, too, to those who have been selected to the AFPAA "Hall of Fame" (Thanks, Art Forster for the yeoman's work you do on managing this important program). I look forward to their induction at our annual meeting in Tampa in October. Congrats, too, to our deserving Dalton Scholarship recipients!

I am a little concerned that our registrations for the annual membership meeting in Tampa are lagging behind where they should be. Perry Nouis and members of the annual meeting committee have worked hard to put together a first class agenda for this meeting—the first in four years because of COVID. Don't delay your registration! This one is going to be "one for the books" and I encourage your registration today! Avoid a late fee by registering for the meeting prior to the October 1 deadline (a registration form is included in this newsletter). The Association has reserved a limited block of rooms at the hotel until Oct. 3. The negotiated rate is \$159 a night while the supply of rooms remains available.

Hope to see you in Tampa!

John Dorrian

Air Force Public Affairs Association *News and Notes*, Dick Cole, editor, is published quarterly for members by the Air Force Public Affairs Association, P. O. Box 2446, East Peoria, IL 61611-2446. On-line subscriptions are available at www.AFPAA.org **Membership Information:** Those who have served in Air Force Bands, Broadcasting, Multimedia, and Public Affairs career fields, as either military or civilian, are eligible for Full Membership. Current or former members of those career fields, still on active duty, or in the Guard or Reserve are eligible for Associate Membership. **Membership Rates:** Lifetime \$300 (payable in four quarterly \$75 installments); Full Membership, one-year \$25 or three years \$50. Associate Membership, one-year \$10 or three years \$20. Membership applications are available at www.AFPAA.org **Officers and Board of Directors:** Chairman, Brett Ashworth; President, John Dorrian; Vice President, Eric Schnaible; Secretary, Carla Sylvester; Treasurer, Phil Ratliff, Julie Briggs, Dick Cole, Doug Kennett, Jim McGuire, Chuck Merlo, David Phillips, and Jerry Renne. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Membership Meeting Coordinator, Perry Nouis; Communications, Dick Cole; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Phil Ratliff; Membership, Christine Queen; Oral History, John Gura; Website, Jim McGuire; SAF/PA Liaison, Lou Timmons.



Class of 2023 Hall of Fame



John Banusiewicz

Judy D. Bivens

Ira C. Eaker

Jack Oswald

David Schillerstrom

Dave Shea

Leo "Mike" Terrill

Seven Inducted Into Association Hall of Fame for 2023

The Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame recognizes those Public Affairs professionals who have made unique, significant, and lasting contributions to the United States Air Force.

Members of the Hall of Fame, whether enlisted, officer, or civilian, were groundbreaking leaders in one or more of the specialties encompassed by the Air Force Public Affairs career field — Band, Broadcasting, Visual Information/Combat Camera, and Information/Public Affairs. They secured their places of honor in the history and traditions of the Air Force by their ceaseless and eminently successful efforts to earn it the trust, confidence, and appreciation of the American people.

Hall of Fame members are selected on an annual basis and honored each year at the AFPAA Annual Meeting. Each new member—or their family representative—receives a unique trophy commemorating the honoree's contributions to Air Force Public Affairs. Recognizing the significance of this special honor to the Public Affairs family, AFPAA's

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Board of Directors has selected a permanent physical location for the Hall of Fame, and is currently working with SAF/PA on plans for its establishment at the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Md.

The first fifteen members of the Hall of Fame—the "pioneers"—were announced by the AFPAA Board of Directors and SAF/PA on July 1, 2021. Since then, fifteen more members have been announced, including the most recent ones—the seven members of the class of 2023. These 2023 inductees, along with others from earlier classes, will be honored at this year's annual meeting in Tampa, Fla. on October 27, 2023.

JOHN BANUSIEWICZ

Want to learn how to write, how to edit, and how to publish a newspaper?

John Banusiewicz is the person you need to talk to.

The 1991 winner of the National Association of Government Communicators Blue Pencil Award for Out-

standing Government Publication for his work on *The Desert Defender*, the official newspaper of U.S. Central Command's air arm, John Banusiewicz knows newspapers.

From the start of his career, as the distinguished honor graduate at the Defense Information School Journalist Course when a young airman, to his 17 years as the GS-14 managing editor of the Armed Forces Press Service, John has long been acknowledged and admired as DoD's top expert in the military newspaper business.

Banusiewicz served in public affairs at all levels—base, major command, Air Force, and DoD. While he specialized in writing and editing, he was first and foremost a respected leader. His most notable and impactful contribution was the many years he spent teaching, mentoring, and advising airmen on journalism and newspaper editing.

He retired from active duty in 1996, but he didn't retire from his commitment to grow and nurture military journalists. As a civilian, he established and taught the Newspaper Editors Course at the schoolhouse's new home in Fort Meade, Md.

In 2003, he stayed at Fort Meade, but made the short trip from DINFOS to

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Defense Media Activity headquarters, where he became the managing editor of the Armed Forces Press Service, supplying news stories pertaining to the activities of U.S. military forces around the world. He remained in that critical and influential position for seventeen years, retiring as a GS-14 in 2020.

Journalist, leader, teacher, mentor—John was all that and more. He may now be retired, but his legacy lives on, evident in the quality of military journalism we continue to see today.

JUDY D. BIVENS

Few people made as great an impact on the public affairs career field as Judy Bivens.

Few people made chief master sergeant after only nineteen years of service, were awarded the Meritorious Service Medal six times, or earned distinguished graduate honors at every professional military education school they ever attended.

Judy Bivens did all that—and more.

One of the first female public affairs chief master sergeants, Bivens served in all areas of the career field—internal information, media relations, and community relations. Her assignments were as diverse as her talents, with postings at Barksdale AFB, La.; Reese AFB, Texas; Ankara Air Station, Turkey; Yokota Air Base, Japan; Scott AFB, Ill.; and Randolph AFB, Texas.

Judy excelled at one of the toughest jobs the Air Force has—putting the right people in the right place at the right time—while deftly maintaining that delicate balancing act between the needs of the Air



Gen. Thomas M. Ryan, Jr., commander-in-chief of Military Airlift Command, left, holds SSGT John Banusiewicz's new technical sergeant stripes on his arm following a stripes for exceptional performers program promotion in 1984.

Force and the desires of the individual. As the chief of enlisted public affairs assignments at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph, she was responsible for assignments and related personnel actions for more than 1,600 public affairs, broadcaster, and band professionals. She analyzed manning and retention trends and executed accession strategies to ensure sustainment of all the career field's specialties.

Bivens' commitment to the Air Force and its people, indeed to all veterans, didn't stop after she retired from active duty. From 2004 to 2020, she was the Veterans Service Officer for McNairy County, Tenn. In that position, she assisted veterans in navigating the Veterans Administration system, helping them obtain disability compensation, low-income and elderly wartime veterans' pension benefits, and health care. In 2018, she received the Sterling Award, recognizing her as one

of the most influential women in West Tennessee, for her efforts on behalf of Tennessee veterans, her service on the county board of Habitat for Humanity, and her work as a Voice of Hope on behalf of the American Cancer Society.

A Life Member of AFPAA, Judy served on the association's board of directors for six years, and led the organization as board chair in 2017 and 2018. She continues serving AFPAA today, providing advice and support to the current board, serving on committees, and managing the association's Facebook page.

Judy's list of accomplishments is long, but perhaps her greatest one was serving as a role model for countless officer, enlisted, and civilian public affairs professionals, encouraging both their personal and professional development. Leading by example and always placing others before herself, she was a trail-blazing female in the Air Force



TSgt. Judy D. Bivens checks a film library shortly after her promotion to E-6.

public affairs career field but was never one to highlight the many "firsts" she achieved.

IRA C. EAKER

One of the founding fathers of the Air Force, Gen. Ira C. Eaker had an exceptionally distinguished military career, both as an aviator and as a leader.

As an aviator, he set a new world flight endurance record in 1929, staying aloft for nearly a week by refueling in the air, and later made the first "blind" transcontinental flight entirely with instruments. As a leader, he was the Eighth Air Force commander in World War II and commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, and after the war served as the deputy commander of the Army Air Forces and chief of the Air Staff until 1947.

That very abbreviated list of his many accomplishments is impressive, no doubt, but what was it about him that merits his inclusion in a Public Affairs Hall of Fame? It turns out this great

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air warrior was, at heart, a journalist.

A graduate of the University of Southern California with a degree in journalism, General Eaker was a talented communicator, prolific author, widely read newspaper columnist, and strong advocate for airpower. In 1937 he became assistant chief of the Information Division in the Office of the Chief of Air Corps at Washington, D.C. — serving as one of the first full-time military public affairs officers.

With fellow PA Hall of Famer Gen. Hap Arnold, Eaker co-authored three books: *This Flying Game* in 1936, *Winged Warfare* in 1937, and *Army Flyer* in 1942.

After his military retirement in 1947 and leadership roles at Hughes Aircraft and Douglas Aircraft companies, General Eaker found the time to put his USC journalism degree to good use. Already an accomplished book author, in 1964 he began a



Maj. Gen. Ira C. Eaker commanded the Eighth Air Force during World War II.

newspaper column in the *San Angelo Standard Times*. Focusing on military affairs, his popular column ran for eighteen years in over 700 newspapers, syndicated first by Copley News Services and later by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate. In 1972, he founded *Strategic Review*, a

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Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Charles A. Gabriel, left, watches as Ruth Apperson Eaker pins on her husband, Ira C. Eaker's fourth star in a 1985 Pentagon ceremony. Gen. Eaker passed two years later on Aug. 6, 1987. He was 90 years old at his death.

quarterly journal devoted to scholarly discussion of national security issues.

In 1978, General Eaker was awarded a special Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his contributions to aviation, and in 1985, almost forty years after his retirement from active duty, he was promoted to full general by presidential direction and Senate consent. Fittingly, Air University's Center for Leadership Development is named after him.

Want to learn more about this student of journalism who is rated as one of the "great captains of air war" by military historians? His wartime aide, James Parton, wrote the most comprehensive biography of General Eaker, entitled *Air Force Spoken Here*.

JACK OSWALD

Remember watching "Air Force Now" at Commander's Call?

If you don't, "Air Force Now" was the precursor to today's "Around the Air Force." In 1969, it replaced an outdated and boring black and white film reminiscent of those old World War II-era newsreels with a modern, colorful take on all things Air Force, quickly becoming the centerpiece of monthly Commander's Calls around the world.

The creative force behind "Air Force Now?" Jack Oswald.

Fresh off a degree in Radio and Television at Northwestern University's School of Speech, a stint as the manager of the University's radio station, and a commission through Air Force ROTC, Lieutenant Jack Oswald began active duty at Lackland AFB, Texas, on December 7, 1955, exactly fourteen years after Pearl Harbor. From there, it was a quick trip to Ellington AFB,



In Vietnam, Oswald and his military film crews tackled some of the most difficult issues of the war.

Texas, where he earned his navigator wings.

His navigator duties took him to an air rescue squadron at Norton AFB, Calif., and a deployment to Eniwetok Atoll in support of the nuclear testing program Operation Hardtack. Once back from the Pacific, Jack was assigned to Prestwick, Scotland where, in addition to his navigator duties, he was the squadron information officer.

Returning to the states, Jack became the information officer at Scott AFB, Ill., and then the chief of internal information at Military Airlift Command headquarters.

After his selection for the Air Force Institute of Technology and the completion of a master's degree in cinema from the University of Southern California, Jack became chief of radio and TV at Command Services Unit at Bolling AFB.

Jack left his mark there, working with the Air Force Band and producing public service material for radio and TV that greatly enhanced Air Force

recruiting efforts. But moving across the Potomac to the Pentagon as internal media chief gave him his biggest challenge: revising the Commander's Call program. That challenge brought Jack's unique leadership abilities to the fore, as he assembled and mentored a creative group of talented lieutenants and captains including Andy Chiaramonte, Rick Vaughn, Phil Robinson, Bill Lenz, Mike Robe, Mike Conway, Jay Welsh, eventual brigadier generals Ron Rand and Tim White, and the Air Force Audio-visual Service staff at Norton AFB. Together they would make a major impact on the Air Force's internal information efforts for decades to come.

At the time, "Air Force Now" represented a radically different approach to military filmmaking, and it took a lot of convincing before a skeptical Pentagon E-ring would give the go-ahead. Its underlying concept was to

combine the then new “60 Minutes”-style long-form story with the also then new short “Sesame Street”-style “ads” — with subjects like safety, special topics and personnel issues. The adoption of these two “modern” ideas, produced by a cadre of bright, young Air Force filmmakers, some who went on to successful Air Force careers and others to fame and fortune in Hollywood, was the key to “Air Force Now’s” success and longevity.

In 1970, Jack’s Pentagon tour was cut short by an assignment to MACV Military Assistance Command Vietnam — in Saigon, where he supervised five military film crews documenting the Vietnam war, and produced a powerful documentary highlighting serious drug abuse problems within the military in Vietnam. After returning stateside to an assignment at AAVS headquarters in California, Jack became the executive producer of “Air Force Now,” and served in that role until he retired in 1977.

After his military retirement, Jack joined the faculty at the University of Southern California, teaching film and television production, and started a production company which became the official filmmaker for the world famous Tournament of Roses, documenting Rose Bowl games and Tournament Parades for eighteen years.

The “Air Force Now” series that Oswald conceived and nurtured was an indispensable communications tool that commanders at all levels came to rely upon heavily. Literally thousands of airmen gained a better sense of the Air Force mission and their role in it,

thanks to his leadership, creativity, and groundbreaking approach to film production. While technology has changed, Jack’s influence on the Air Force’s audiovisual production and internal information programs continues to this day and remains as strong as ever.

DAVE SCHILLERSTROM

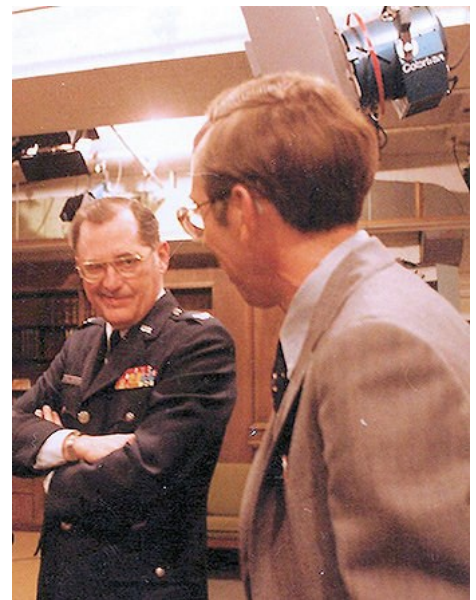
Leadership, communicator, gentleman.

You would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the public affairs career field more respected, admired, and liked than Dave Schillerstrom.

A humble, soft-spoken man, he treated everyone with respect and thoughtfulness. As a senior officer, he surrounded himself with bright young men and women, mentored countless individuals throughout their lives, and shaped more than a few professional careers.

His distinguished Air Force career began in 1954 as the base information officer at Turner AFB, Georgia, and culminated in 1980 with his assignment as the deputy director of public affairs at the Pentagon. In between those two milestones was a career that left a public affairs legacy few can match.

At Strategic Air Command headquarters, Dave was one of two information watch officers serving in the SAC underground command post during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also developed information plans for the recently declassified SR-71 reconnaissance aircraft program. During this assignment, he attended Boston University’s Air Force Short Course in Communication, and was presented the Air Force Association’s Arno Luehman Scholarship Award as the



Col. Dave Schillerstrom at media training with Maj. David J. Rigby.

year’s outstanding student.

Following a Pentagon tour as a programs officer in the DoD public affairs office, he served as the plans division chief and executive officer for the 7th Air Force public information office in Vietnam. There he initiated public affairs planning for the eventual withdrawal of the U.S. Air Force from Vietnam. Later, as the media relations chief, Dave had the unenviable task of representing the Air Force at the daily military press briefings the news media dubbed “The Five O’Clock Follies” at Saigon’s Rex Hotel.

He returned to the Pentagon in 1970 as the SAF/OI executive officer and later served as the support forces branch chief in the media relations division. Shortly after his promotion to colonel in 1977, he returned to SAC headquarters as director of public affairs. He guided the SAC PA program until 1980, when he headed back to the Pentagon for his final Air Force job as the deputy director of Air Force public affairs.

Dave retired from thirty years of
(cont’d on p.8)

active duty in 1984, but not from the public affairs profession. For ten years, he was the deputy director of communications for the Aerospace Industries Association, the Washington, D.C. voice of America's aerospace and defense industry, shaping the association's public image and shedding light on the member companies supporting the country's economy and national security.

Dave Schillerstrom possessed a wealth of experience and exceptional communication skills. More importantly, he was an admirable leader and a man of integrity — his moral compass straight and true. During his career, he overcame significant physical and professional challenges that gave him a unique perspective and understanding of what was fundamental in life and work, including never losing sight of the importance of people. He shared that commitment to people with his wife Carol, and together they epitomized the special meaning of family in the Air Force, setting the example for all whose lives they touched.

DAVE SHEA

Media isn't a four-letter word.

That's the message Dave Shea wants you — and your boss — to hear. He's spent his entire career spreading that message around, and demonstrating how, with the proper preparation, and by following a few simple rules, you can have a productive relationship with the news media.

Along with his co-author, former Air Force PA John Gulick, Dave wrote the definitive primer on dealing with the press: *Media Isn't a Four-Letter Word—A Guide to Effective Encounters with the Members of*



Dave Shea with the Lauren D. Lyman Award presented to him in 2012 by the Aerospace Industries Association for outstanding achievement in aerospace communications.

the Fourth Estate. Want to better understand the role of the journalist and how to help ensure a balanced and accurate story? *Media Isn't a Four-Letter Word* is absolutely essential reading.

Colonel Dave Shea was a career public affairs officer and public relations pro, greatly admired in the PR world for his many achievements during both his military and civilian careers. He began his Air Force career in 1959 after graduating from Fordham University and earning his second lieutenant bars as a distinguished graduate of Fordham's AFROTC program.

Reporting to Andrews AFB for his first assignment, Dave had no intention of staying past his three-year commitment. What he really wanted was to seek fame and fortune in the broadcasting business and pursue his dream of becoming the play-by-play an-

nouncer for the New York Yankees. Well, after his Andrews tour he did get into broadcasting, but it wasn't exactly in the Bronx at Yankee Stadium. It was in Greece, where the Air Force sent him to be the station manager of the Armed Forces Radio and Television outlet at Iraklion Air Station.

His enjoyment of that assignment had him reconsidering his career plans, and some great subsequent assignments, both overseas and stateside, sealed the deal. His Air Force career took him around the world, with overseas tours in addition to Iraklion at Misawa Air Base, Japan, Osan Air Base, Korea, and his favorite, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

When Dave was at Osan, he was sent TDY to Clark Air Base in the Philippines to support Operation Homecoming—the return of more than 300 U.S. prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict in 1973. Dave managed one of the biggest media events in Air Force history when the POWs arrived at Clark, their first stop after leaving North Vietnam.

He was also the public affairs escort for one of the last POW groups to depart for home, with stops along the way at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Andrews AFB, Md. that generated intense interest from the media and the American public.

When Project Blue Book—the Air Force's investigation of UFOs—was closed in December 1969, Dave wrote the press release announcing the termination and summarizing the project's findings: after studying over 12,000 reported UFO sightings, no evidence was found that any were extraterrestrial vehicles,

and only 701 of those sightings remained unidentified. However, as the very busy Project Blue Book spokesperson, Dave himself did not remain unidentified. Fascination with the subject continues unabated to this day, and even in retirement Dave still fields media requests to share his expertise on the subject.

Dave was the PA director at Air Training Command headquarters at Randolph AFB, Texas in 1979 when the exiled Shah of Iran unexpectedly arrived at nearby Lackland AFB's Wilford Hall Medical Center to continue his recovery from cancer treatment. The Shah's presence in the United States at the onset of the Iranian hostage crisis was highly controversial, and Dave had to deal with conflicting guidance from Washington about whether reporters would be allowed on base to cover the story. Working the issue with fellow Hall of Famer Mike Terrill, who was the PA chief at Lackland at the time, was probably the only enjoyable aspect of that difficult episode.

Not many people get to be a MAJCOM headquarters PA director, but Dave was selected for that challenging duty three times. In addition to his stint at Air Training Command, Dave was the director for US Air Forces Europe at Ramstein and Air Force Systems Command at Andrews, where he originally thought his military career would be ending after just three short years. With one last job, this time at the Pentagon as director of Defense Information in DoD Public Affairs, those three years had somehow turned into 29.

Dave retired from the Air Force in 1988, but not from public affairs. Although that job as

the Yankees play-by-play announcer had still not opened, Dave nonetheless managed to go on to an award-winning civilian career. He served as spokesman for the Hughes Aircraft Company, which later merged with Raytheon Corporation, and became Raytheon's Director of Media Training and Development in Washington, D.C.

Even after writing his book, Dave has remained on a mission to make us better communicators. With posts on Facebook explaining "Today's idiomatic expression" and catchphrases like "Write on," he helps untangle the confounding rules of proper grammar for his many followers. Reading witty and informative posts from Dave, affectionately known as "The Professor," is like taking a master's class in English — and enjoying it.

In 2012, Dave received the prestigious Lauren D. Lyman Award from the Aerospace Industries Association for outstanding achievement in aerospace communications.

We can all learn from Dave and the lessons he has passed on to us from his illustrious career. The PA career field has been exceptionally fortunate to have a leader and mentor like him, the consummate communicator and teacher. He continues to leave a legacy that few can match.

LEO "MIKE" TERRILL

To say Mike Terrill had a diverse and exciting career would be the classic definition of an understatement.

From playing baseball for a Baltimore Orioles farm team, to going to South Korea as an Army

soldier, to teaching English at his high school alma mater, to advising a popular TV show, to volunteering for an organization that trained Sunday school teachers, Mike did and saw just about everything — and that list is just a small sample. And, oh yes, in between he became one of the finest public affairs officers to ever wear an Air Force uniform.

That wide variety of experiences also describes Mike's military career. After graduating from his Arizona high school in 1955, Mike was drafted — but not by the Army. He decided, though, to turn down an offer from the Orioles and instead enlisted in the Army, pulling a tour of duty in Korea as a chaplain's assistant and clerk typist. After three years in the Army, he received a hardship discharge when his father, who was a miner, became ill with tuberculosis and Mike had to return home to care for the family.

After working in the same mine as his dad for a while, Mike pursued his college education, first at community college and then at Northern Arizona University, where he earned a degree in English in 1962. After graduation, he taught English at the high school where just a few years before he had been a student. In 1963, he was accepted at Officer Training School and began a 22-year Air Force career, though he didn't start out in public affairs.

Mike proved his aptitude in multiple disciplines during his time in the Air Force. He completed navigator training at Mather AFB, California, and was an award-winning supply officer at Webb AFB, Texas, and Da Nang, South Vietnam. While at Da Nang, he was selected for AFIT, and went on to get his

See "Hall of Fame" (cont'd on p.15)

LORD GUARD AND GUIDE



WILLIAM M. DEMPSEY

William Michael Dempsey had a long life and a peaceful death. With family near him, he died Thursday evening, April 13, 2023 at home in Fairfax, Virginia, age 91.

Bill was born July 23, 1931 to Dr. William T. and Mary Barry Dempsey in Philadelphia, Penn. As a college student, he met Jean Dinote while both were interns at WCAU radio station. They married in 1953, were together 69 years, and had two daughters, Eileen Sharon and Diana. Bill was in ROTC at St. Joseph's College and he became an Air Force public information officer after graduating in 1954.

Bill and his family were stationed in Taiwan in 1959. There he learned to speak Chinese and maintained a lifelong appreciation of Asian people and culture.

An excellent photographer, Bill recorded his Air Force trips to far off places such as Hong Kong, Borneo, Pt. Barrow, Alaska, and Greenland with his Petri rangefinder camera.

Bill served a year in Vietnam in 1967, covering helicopter air rescue operations.

Major Bill Dempsey retired after 20 years in 1975. He continued as public information officer with the U.S. Marshal Service beginning in 1976, and retired again in 1999.

Bill was very proud of his Irish ancestry. He liked Irish music and was a fan of James Galway's flute playing. Houseplants and pets thrived with him.

When Bill started at the U.S. Marshals Service, he bought a little goldfish which he kept in a small fishbowl in his office. He named it Deputy Freddy. Bill kept Freddy swimming for 19 years, almost long enough for the Guinness book of records!

Bill was predeceased by his father, his mother, his sisters Peggy and Ellen, and his daughter Diana. He is survived by his wife, Jean; his daughter, Eileen, and several nieces and nephews. His mass was celebrated April 25, 2023 at St Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church in Fairfax, Va.

A graveside service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Bill and I were majors in TAC Public Affairs at Langley in 1976 and in retirement we were neighbors in Fairfax, Va. He was a kind, soft spoken, very wise

counselor whose advice I sought and valued highly.

A true professional, after retiring from the Air Force he had a very successful 22 years in Public Affairs for the United States Marshals Service. Pax Vobiscum, Bill.

— John Terino



**HALLIE E. "ED"
ROBERTSON**

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Ed Robertson, passed away peacefully May 12 at his home in Longwood, Fla., after a long illness.

Born in 1943 in Cambridge, Ohio, he graduated from Cambridge High School in 1961. He attended Muskingum College, earned a bachelor of business administration degree from The Ohio State University in 1966 and a master's degree in public relations from American University in 1975.

In June 1966 he was commissioned a second lieutenant through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

program.

Robertson was a career public affairs officer. A Vietnam veteran, he served at all levels of command, including special assistant for public affairs to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Pentagon and director of public affairs for the Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

In October, 1989, Robertson became the Air Force Director of Public Affairs. He completed his 28-year military career in September 1994 as a command director with the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo.

His military decorations and awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Honor Medal First Class.

After retiring from the Air Force, Ed embarked on a second career as a management consultant with Human Capital Associates, coaching business and community leaders in Lean and Six Sigma management practices.

He was an avid golfer and with his wife, Susan, followed the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team.

In addition to his wife, Robertson is survived by his two sons, Todd, of Littleton, Colo. and Eric, of Fort Worth, Texas, their wives and five grandchildren. He also leaves a sister, Reba Greeger of Delaware, Ohio and a brother, Sonny Warden of Cambridge, Ohio.

He was laid to rest on Flag Day, June 14, at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

Ed Robertson, a very dear and valuable friend, but he was much more than that to so many friends and colleagues.

Ed was a 'giver' to all...of his time, his wisdom, his wit and his friendship. Anyone who needed

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something... anything... Ed was a willing source.

As a highly professional public affairs officer he earned the respect of E-3s to O-10s, political appointees, all levels of GS employees, the defense press corps...and everything in between. He had that 'come on, let's get this done together' leadership style that benefited the Air Force, the PA career field and the careers of many colleagues.

Many times Ed's frank and experienced counsel helped the SAF/PA team successfully navigate the unexpected crises we faced decades ago. His well caged compass was always true and his sharply focused foresight proved valuable in every instance. He helped us succeed and survive.

We met as bachelors in D.C. prowled together through untold fun and adventures at parties, ball games, dining ins and outs, fun trips and inside the Pentagon she-nanigans. Somehow we survived, laughed about it all later and retold the stories many times - more colorful each time.

I'll miss Ed. His sincere brotherly friendship will live forever in my memories and I'll smile at each one. He met his challenges head on, some of them real doozies, but he met them with well earned, proud professionalism.

Ed never wavered. He held his head high no matter the circumstances and made us all proud.

Farewell Fast Eddie. Go in peace.

- Mike McRaney

Ed was one of the very best Air Force public affairs professionals. He impressed both his seniors and subordinates with his knowledge, expertise and willingness to take on the

toughest challenges. Even more important, Ed was a caring and compassionate leader who always put others before himself. He was a mentor to many and friend to all. His smile was infectious and he made everyone feel special. Farewell old friend - I look forward to seeing it up with you on the universe course in the sky!

- Art Forster

We have lost one of the best. Ed Robertson was the epitome of the quiet, competent Public Affairs professional. It was a privilege to have served with him.

- John Terino

We were fortunate to have Ed Robertson leading Public Affairs. If you were to design a perfect career for a PA director, you'd include just about everything that Ed did. From serving under fire in Viet Nam, to a stint at WGN to being the PA Special assistant to two Joint Chiefs chairmen, he worked the most sensitive and classified programs and activities. Even though I was several rungs from the top of the ladder when I served with him at the Pentagon, I knew him to be not only an excellent PA, but also professional in every sense of the word and just a kind and decent man. My condolences to his wife, Susan, and his family on their loss.

- Alan DeFend

Sad to hear this. Prayers for him and his family.

- Chuck Merlo

(cont'd on next page)

One of the best gone too soon.

- Doug Kennett

Great guy, a quiet professional.

- Mark Foutch

A good man and a good friend.

- Joe Purka

General Robertson was a very great leader and gentleman. Prayers for Susan and his family.

- David Smith

Sad news. A friend, colleague, and mentor. Gone too soon. Rest in peace.

- John Worthington

The best boss I ever worked for. He will be missed in this crazy world. RIP.

- Michael L. Warden

Farewell Old Friend! A true Gentleman and leader. Rest in Peace!

- Rick Fuller

Ed was one of the good guys! Smart, dedicated, and a friend! RIP Ed

- Terry Arnold

He was a good friend and colleague. I have good memories of him and what he did for the Air Force.

- Donald H. Hessenflow

*Worked for him at TAC/PA.
Great boss, great guy. RIP*

- John Banusiewicz

Sad loss. Remember Ed well, both serving as O-6s on the TAC staff back in the late '80s.

- Jay B Welsh



WALTER S. "WOODY" HOGLE, JR.

Walter ("Woody") S. Hogle Jr. died peacefully in his home surrounded by his family, April 4, after a 16-month battle with lung cancer. He was 78 years old.

He is survived by his wife, Jan, three children and their spouses: Sean and wife Cindy, Chris and wife Yvonne, Jessica and husband George; six grandchildren: Brody, Kyle, Walter, Solana, Charlotte and Teddy; and brother Bob Hogle and his wife Janix.

Born in Pleasantville, N.Y., to Walter S. Hogle, Sr. and Jesse Bowerhan Hogle, Woody graduated from Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y. where he left with a degree in psychology but of more significant impact, Jan, his wife and life-partner of

56 years. Despite the fact that his only flying experience was on his honeymoon, he was commissioned through Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) and then completed pilot training at Laughlin AFB in 1968. He was a command pilot, flying both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters to include the C-5, C-9, C-17, C-21, C-141, KC-135, HC-130, HH-3, and the HH-43.

His helicopter flying experience solidified his natural inclination to extensively plan for the worst but hope for the best in all facets of life, which was met with mostly appreciation but sometimes irritation at home. (Think duct tape and cookie sheets installed to prevent a wooden fireplace mantle from bursting into flame during an extensive power outage.)

Woody embraced servant leadership to his country, family, community and colleagues. He held numerous staff positions and commanded four wings. He was the Director, Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs from Nov. 1992-June 1994. He retired a lieutenant general from Travis AFB, Calif., as Commander, 15th Air Force in 2001.

After retiring from the Air Force, Woody worked for L-3 Communications Integrated Systems as vice president of operations, ACS Defense as senior vice president and Rockwell Collins Government Systems as vice president and general manager.

After his second retirement, he and Jan moved to Smith Mountain Lake in Huddleston, Va., where he commanded a ski boat, jet skis, a canoe and three kayaks and persistently – but unsuccessfully – defended the landscaping against large herds of deer. In July of 2021, they moved to Patriots Colony, a close-knit community for retired men and women who served in the military, foreign service or civil service.

Though cancer was the toughest battle he ever faced, Woody would be

the first to say that even in this, he found his Lord and Savior to be totally trustworthy.

To borrow and personalize some words from his favorite poem High Flight, by John Gillespie Magee Jr., Woody has slipped the surly bonds of Earth, put out his hand, and touched the face of God.

A memorial service was held at Patriots Colony on June 8. An additional service and internment at Arlington National Cemetery will occur at a date to be determined.

I am saddened to learn of his death. I am so fortunate to have had General Hogle for a boss twice in my career, first when he was SAF/PA and again when he was AMC/CV. He pinned me to both lieutenant colonel and colonel. RIP, General Hogle.

- Linda Garlitz Leong

I flew with Capt. Hogle in HH-43s at Tan Son Nhut AB. He was my aircraft commander and I was the medic (E-4) on his "Pedro" crew for a time. It was 1972 at Detachment 14, 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group. Unfortunately, I missed him at SAF/PA, retiring shortly before his arrival in 1992.

- Dick Cole

One of my favorite people.

- June Forte

RIP old friend.

- Rick Fuller

Terrible news. He was a great guy and a fun boss. Can't believe he's gone.

- Catherine Roeder

Far too young. PA my last year in an Air Force uniform in '92.

- Jay B. Welch



WELDA ANNE SMITH

Welda Anne Smith died on Sunday, April 23, in her San Antonio home with her wife and dog at her side.

Welda was born on July 7, 1928 in Cotton Valley, La. to Ada Cornelison Smith and Weldon Ted Smith, who combined their names to create "Welda." As the first born into her generation, she was the delight of aunts and uncles. Welda was preceded in death by her parents, her beloved Aunt Ida and her brother R. Ted Smith.

Welda is survived by her wife, Karen Vaught; her brother, T. Ned Smith (Pam); her sisters-in-law, Adelaide Smith, and Kathleen Norris (Danny); nieces, Leslie Mathias (Billy), and Danielle O'Toole (Ryan); nephews, Greg (Chris), Stephen (Shelley), Andrew (Kathleen), Adam (Elizabeth), Ted Jr, Steve (Deborah), and Patrick Norris (Audrey); many great nieces, great nephews, and beloved friends.

Welda's father worked in the oil fields and so the family moved often.

They were only in Louisiana briefly and her siblings always teased her about being born in Louisiana. Welda attended many schools, including the two-room school in New Berlin. She was in high school during WWII when many of the teachers left to serve, resulting in a loss of accreditation for the school. Her parents then sent her to the Holding Academy near Laredo. She graduated at 15 which was far too young for her parents, and they enrolled her in Aransas Pass High School for a second senior year.

Welda received her BS from Trinity University in its prior location near Woodlawn Lake. She loved her time at Trinity and was proud to have contributed to Trinity every single year after graduation. Welda worked for the Aransas Pass newspaper and taught briefly at Aransas Pass HS before entering the Air Force.

In 1952, Welda was commissioned a second lieutenant at Lackland AFB. She worked at all levels of command, from squadron to DOD joint command. Her assignments took her to most major and many smaller military installations in Europe, the Pacific and the continental United States. Welda taught women ROTC students at Gettysburg College. She was stationed in Hawaii twice, once before it became a state. She worked in the Pentagon where she learned to hate the telephone. Although Welda opposed the war in Vietnam, she served honorably there as executive officer, Directorate of Personnel, Headquarters MACV when called. From there she went to US Security Assistance Group at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand. Welda was the Director of Information for Headquarters, USAF Security Service at Kelly AFB. Welda retired in 1976 from the USAF as a lieutenant colonel.

Welda received the Meritorious Service medal, Joint Services Commenda-

(cont'd on next page)

tion medal, and the Air Force Commendation medal with two oak leaf clusters.

As a woman officer at a time when that was unusual, and during the war in Vietnam, Welda had come to understand the importance of politics. Welda became active in politics while she lived in Alexandria, Va. and was active in politics for the rest of her life. She met her wife Karen during the Ann Richards campaign and they never looked back.

Welda and Karen loved traveling together, whether long road trips or flights across the ocean. Rockport, Texas; Salida, Colo.; Santa Fe, N.M.; San Diego, Calif.; and Paris, France were places of great meaning to them. But Welda never had a bigger smile than when she was white water rafting. Once when returning from a trip to Rockport, Texas, they saw a house for sale and called the realtor on the spot. Rockport became a refuge for them, and they spent many happy times in that house.

Welda was a member of many organizations: Women's Equity Action League in D.C.; National Women's Political Caucus; Women's Overseas Service League; Women in Communication Inc.; a charter member of The National Museum of Women in the Arts; and the Military Women's Memorial and was part of its groundbreaking ceremony. She volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

Sports were always a big part of her life, she was an ASA State Champion in 1949, and a SWC runner up in basketball in 1953. She played golf. Welda adored football, basketball, and golf and was not to be disturbed when watching those sports. Attending every San Antonio Silver Stars WNBA home game was a highlight.

Welda was interesting, she loved to read, learn, and travel. She cared deeply about the environment, the food insecurity, and the animals. Welda was an avid photographer

until her vision began failing. Welda was honest and honorable. She was a true friend. There was always a dog in her life (and once-even cats), and she adored them.

Welda was a feminist, a democrat, a mentor. She loved to laugh, she was a great cook.

Welda's eyes twinkled when she was smiling at those she loved. Those beautiful blue twinkling eyes were a gift to us all.

A Graveside service was held Friday, May 19, 2023, at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



PEGGY A. WHITLOW

Peggy A. Whitlow, age 78, of Belleville, Ill., born March 5, 1945 in Belleville, passed away May 11, 2023 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, O'Fallon, Ill.

Peggy grew up in Mascoutah, Ill., one of 10 children born to Arnold and Ruth, nee Curry, Funk. She graduated from Mascoutah High School, and furthered her education at Texas Lutheran University, Wayland Baptist University, and American University in Washington, D.C.

Peggy began her long and successful career in Washington, D.C. as a civil service reporter, and continued working in military public affairs,

spanning Scott AFB, Randolph AFB, Lackland AFB, and Andrews AFB, retiring in 2000 after 35 years of service. Throughout her career, she was honored for exemplary service as Distinguished Air Force Civilian of the Year, Honorary Citizen of Texas proclaimed by former Gov. George W. Bush; and she also received various journalism awards and citations through the Air Force.

After Peggy's formal retirement, she stayed active with part-time jobs, including Southwestern Illinois Tourism Bureau as a staff writer, as a legal assistant with Dale Funk Law Firm, and support roles at Prairie Farm Dairy, Tapestry Room Restaurant, and Wolfersberger Funeral Home. Her boundless energy and love for her community kept her busy with many philanthropic groups, such as Relay for Life, Cystic Fibrosis Fundraising, Fine Arts Council in Lebanon, auxiliary volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital in Breese, and volunteer nurse's aide with the American Red Cross. Peggy was a member at Lebanon First United Methodist Church where she participated in many church and community events, including the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sisters Nelda Koch, Sharon Kaemmerer, and Sandra Peterson; brothers Dean Funk and Darrel Funk.

She is survived by her son Gary Whitlow and his wife Rachael of Belleville, Ill., her beloved grandson Porter Whitlow whom she loved with all her heart; siblings Arnold (Inez) Funk, Jr., Darrel (Joan) Funk, Nelda (Norma) Koch, Bonnie Nesbit, Jewel Baker, and Mary (Don) Finney. She is also survived by many nieces, nephews, and loving family friends.

Online condolences may be shared at www.wfh-ofallon.com. Memorial donations are suggested to the [USO of Missouri](http://www.usoofmissouri.org) or Lebanon First United Methodist Church.

She was laid to rest Thursday, May

18, 2023.

RIP Another of the good guys!

- Rick Fuller

Oh, sweet Peggy. I just chatted with her a couple of weeks ago. She was the ComRel chief at Randolph when I arrived there for my first duty station in January 1987. For a time, she would drive to the dorms at 5 a.m. and we would do a two or three-mile run.

- Gary J. Kunich

I worked with Peggy at Randolph. I remember her as a quiet professional who built personal contacts with the community. Just a really good person to be around.

Michael Pierson

Oh I'm so sorry to hear this! I met her when I was at Scott. She was a great person and a great PA.

Annette Fogt Crawford

Oh I'm so very sorry to hear this. She was my very first supervisor, and I enjoyed working for her immensely at the 459th at Andrews.

- Anita Diaz



Register NOW!

TAMPA
Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association
27th Annual Membership Meeting
October 26-28, 2023

Before you forget!



When Col. Mike Terrill retired, Johnny Carson sent him an autographed photo wishing him "all good luck."

Hall of Fame (Cont'd from p. 11)

master's degree in public relations from Boston University in 1969.

After AFIT, Mike made his mark in Air Force public affairs, managing to find himself in some of the most difficult PA challenges of the 1970s and 80s, handling them with a savvy that earned him numerous accolades and awards, including the Aviation/Space Writers Association's Public Information Officer of the Year award.

The most visible highlight of Mike's career was when he was the chief of public affairs at Lackland AFB, Texas. In 1979, at the onset of the Iranian hostage crisis, the overthrown Shah of Iran came to Lackland's Wilford Hall Medical Center to recover from cancer treatment. News of the Shah's presence resulted in protests, demonstrations, and threats of violence, and made international headlines. For Mike, it meant fending off hundreds of reporters clamoring for information, and he earned praise for his calm, measured

response in an impossibly difficult situation.

Mike headed to the Pentagon after Lackland, and by now his ability to handle countless media inquiries a day was well established. That talent came in handy as the spokesperson for the B-1 bomber and the MX intercontinental ballistic missile. The planned mobile basing of the MX in Nevada and Utah was especially sensitive politically in those states, but once again Mike dealt with those sensitivities with the coolness under pressure that was his trademark.

Mike had fun working with the entertainment community in his last active duty assignment as the director of the Air Force Western Region Public Affairs office in Los Angeles. He was an Air Force technical advisor for the popular ABC-TV series, "Call to Glory," starring Craig T. Nelson, Elizabeth Shue and Keenan Wynn. Other entertainment notables he worked with included

See "Hall of Fame" (cont'd on p.24)

ELECTION RESULTS

2023 AFPAA Board of Directors

Once again the association successfully concluded its election for six members on the corporate board.

The elected board members will serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2025.

Only members in good standing (dues paid up-to-date) were permitted to vote. To be counted, all ballots had to reach the Election Committee by midnight Thursday, June 15, 2023.

A total of 158 ballots were received in time to be counted—113 electronic ballots through the association website and 45 printed ballots.

Elected to the board were: Julie Briggs; Alan Heritage; Jim McGuire; Perry Nouis; Mike Paoli and Phil Ratliff.

Next June, there will be an election of board members who will serve from July 1, 2024 until June 30, 2026. The next election will determine the Chairman of the Board, President of the association, and the AFPAA secretary and other board positions.

JULIE BRIGGS

Julie Briggs is a Life Member of AFPAA. She was appointed by the Board of Directors to fulfill the second year of Tom Dolney's term when he resigned in 2020. Julie

retired from 26 years of active duty in Public Affairs in 2012 as a senior master sergeant. Her assignments included wing and MAJCOM positions in Arizona, Colorado, Guam, South Carolina, Texas, Japan, Iraq, Turkey, and the UK, and at the U.S. Air Force Academy. She was the training department NCO in charge at DINFOS when she left active duty to join the DINFOS faculty and teach the Public Affairs Qualification Course. Julie is a GS-14 and chief of policy, information, and records for the Defense Media Activity.

ALLEN HERRITAGE

Colonel Allen Herritage is the Deputy Director at SAF/PA. He is responsible for supporting the SAF/PA Director in creating and executing strategies to build informed public support for the Air Force and air and space power.

Commissioned through the AFROTC program, Col. Herritage is a 1997 graduate of the Citadel. He has commanded a mission support group and a combat camera squadron, and has been a PAO at multiple organizational levels.

He deployed to Haiti in support of humanitarian exercises, to Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and to Iraq twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His previous job was PA advisor

to the Chief of Space Operations.

He represents SAF/PA on the AFPAA board and is the board's first active duty voting member.

JIM MCGUIRE

Jim McGuire served 26 years in the Air Force as a services officer, general's aide and PA officer.

After PA assignments at numbered air force and major command level, he was the deputy Public Affairs Officer, US Forces Korea; chief of the Air Force Press Desk, and USAFE director of Public Affairs.

He retired as a colonel in 1997 and worked as a stockbroker for Morgan Stanley, a certified financial planner for USAA, and most recently as director of volunteer services for New York's Central Park.

He maintains AFPAA's website, and with Frank Hufnagel, shared the 2014 Mike McRaney Distinguished Service Award for managing AFPAA's endowment fund. He and his wife Carla Sylvester, also a retired Air Force PA officer and AFPAA board member, live in West New York, N.J.

PERRY NOUIS

Perry Nouis is AFPAA's annual membership meeting coordinator and a past President and Chairman of the Board.

He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2005. During his 24-year career his assignments included Director of Public Affairs at the U.S. Air Force Academy and Chief, National Affairs at HQ



Julie Briggs

Col. Allen Herritage

Jim McGuire

Perry Nouis

Mike Paoli

Phil Ratliff

NORAD/U.S.

Space Command. He was commander of American Forces Network Iraq in 2003 and a DINFOS public affairs instructor and chief of the school's broadcasting division.

After retiring he founded a state-licensed assisted living facility in his hometown of Little Falls, Minn. For two years, he co-hosted the politically-oriented "Up Front" program on KLTF-AM radio. Perry and his wife Jean have four children and eight grandchildren.

MIKE PAOLI

Mike Paoli was the 1996 recipient of the AFPAA "Best of the Best" award and a two-time team recipient of PRSA's Silver Anvil award.

An AFPAA life member, and cur-

rent PA director for the 412th Test Wing at Edwards AFB, Mike's 20 active duty years in Air Force PA earned him a reputation as a leading expert in risk and crisis communications. He served on five aircraft accident investigations, including the Croatia crash that killed Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, responded on scene to the Khobar Towers terrorist attack, and led the Air Force Press Desk in the Pentagon.

After active duty and before his current job, Mike was the chief communications officer for a Washington state utility, the founder of Tri-Cities Public Relations, and the president of PRSA's Mid-Columbia Chapter.

PHIL RATLIFF

Phil Ratliff is currently treasurer and has been a past President and Chairman of the Board of

AFPAA.

His Air Force career began in 1969. He was in the administration career field for 10 years followed by a tour in Turkey as an aide-de-camp to the Chief of Staff, CENTO.

He began his PA career in 1979 and had assignments that included chief of Public Affairs, 63rd MAW, Norton AFB, Calif.; the Media Relations Branch, SAF/PA; executive to the SAF/PA director, and Air University director of Public Affairs. Phil retired in 1991 as a lieutenant colonel.

He then was the regional manager of Wisconsin Physicians Services CHAMPUS Select Program in Alabama and Mississippi and President and Chief Operating Officer of Henley Memorial Company.

Phil is a lifetime founder of AFPAA.



Why join the Air Force Public Affairs Association?

There are probably as many reasons to join AFPAA as there are members.

When you join, you'll receive our annual membership directory. You'll find out what happened to "what's-his-or-her-name" who may now hold a prominent public relations or marketing communications position in a major company, is a broadcasting executive, or has a successful career in pop or classical

music. You'll find names, addresses, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of every AFPAA member. And, when the directory next appears, you'll be in it too.

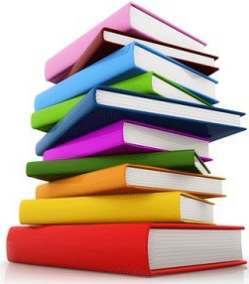
Members also receive a quarterly newsletter filled with information on what's happening in Air Force Public Affairs, Broadcasting and Bands; reports about AFPAA activities, and stories about our members.

Each year, at our Annual Reun-

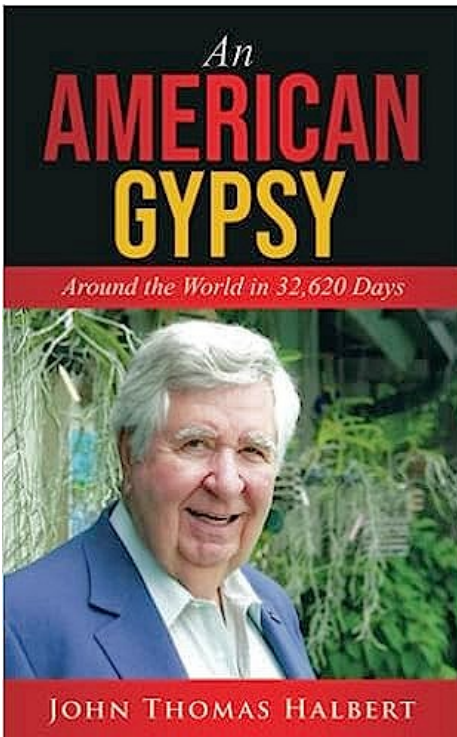
ion and Membership Meeting, you'll get an opportunity to be "re-blued" as we tour active duty installations amid ample opportunity to see old friends and make new ones.

We also have website — afpaa.org — to keep you up-to-speed between newsletters and to maintain a convenient resource for members old and new.

Why not join today?



BOOKS WORTH READING



An American Gypsy— Around the World in 32,620 Days

When I worked with Tom Halbert, SAF/PA's deputy director 1985-1987, I was the Air Force Service Information and News Center's Washington, D.C. liaison. I frequently met with Tom and Brig. Gen. Mike McRaney—SAF/PA director—to discuss Air Force budget requests for Armed Forces Radio and Television Service support and operations, and internal information program funding for

AFSINC. I never got to know Tom really well at that time. I came to know him better when he became the U.S. European Command's executive manager for AFRTS in Europe and he, I, and Lt. Col. Larry Pollack worked the installation of cable television in Europe for the delivery of AFRTS programming.

So, when I found that Tom had written an autobiography that was available for sale through Amazon, I knew I had to read it!

This wonderful adventure of Tom Halbert begins from birth in a South Dakota home for unwed mothers, to adoption by a family with roots in rural Iowa who were involved in the creation of a hybrid seed corn processing plant and statewide dealership for Pfister.

Tom's adventure takes you through the Great Depression and the World War II era, and his enjoying an idealistic childhood immersed in education, exploration, sports, fishing and swimming.

His first job at age 13 was washing store windows and vacuuming floors for a ladies ready-to-wear store. His mother was key in his earning his bachelor's degree at Drake University which opened doors for Tom to excel as a newspaper and wire service reporter.

Tom's skills resulted in being

assigned to interviewing prominent persons including former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Iowa Governor William S. Beardsley and Mt. Everest conqueror Sir Edward Hillary.

He was an Air Force advisor to many New York and Hollywood TV and movie productions working with legends including: CBS News Anchor Walter Cronkite; NBC News Reporter Roy Neal; former Chicago Cubs third baseman Chuck Connors as the star of the Rifleman TV series; columnist Hedda Hopper, actress Joan Crawford; actor and Air Force Reserve general Jimmy Stewart, and producers Bernie Lay and Norman Foster.

The Korean War interrupted Tom's journalistic career as he joined the Air Force as a pilot. He coupled his journalistic and pilot skills for 27 years, noting that many times generals sought his advice on media and community issues, something no editor ever did.

Tom amassed 5,000 flying hours in his career in a variety of aircraft including the KC-97 tanker and C-130 earning the Air Medal and the Bronze Star in combat. (I had no idea Tom had been a C-130 pilot and that we both had served in the 62nd Tactical Airlift Squadron "Blue Barons" although not at the same time.)

His expertise took him from base

level assignments, to Headquarters Strategic Air Command and Air Force leadership in Air Force Public Affairs.

It was the GI Bill that allowed Tom to gain his master's degree in public relations from The American University in Washington, D.C., which opened doors that led to Tom's eight year tenure as the senior civilian in Air Force Public Affairs and later a 10 year tenure as executive manager of Armed Forces Radio & Television Europe.

I had no idea that Tom had, like me, also been a wing historian during part of his career.

The more I read Tom's book, the more I realized we had in common. He was witness to many historic events that occurred during my adolescence and shared interesting stories about working as a technical advisor on the "Steve Canyon" television series (one of my favorites as a kid) and assisted with the film that made me decide I wanted to make the Air Force a career — "A Gathering of Eagles" starring Rock Hudson and Rod Taylor. (I loved those B-52Gs and that is precisely where I ended up for my SAC flying career.)

The book is about a discovery of purpose in one's life. Tom found his purpose in journalism as did I. But we also share the love of aviation, travel, and our Air Force.



The book recounts Halbert's experiences as a KC-97 pilot refueling SAC B-47 bombers from Lincoln AFB, Neb., and Goose Bay AB, Labrador. (US Air Force photo)

This "gypsy" went from a life in a small midwestern town to travel on missions to all 50 states and 66 countries on six of the seven continents.

As might be expected, the book is well written and an enjoyable read. I predict you will enjoy this humorous, thoughtful and sometimes melancholy journey reflecting on the bends in the road of John Thomas "Tom" Halbert's life.

The book is available from Amazon, and, at press time, was available for the price of \$10.24.

- Dick Cole

AF Public Affairs Alumni Association

We Want YOU!

To Recruit a New Member



The News and Notes is your publication!

We encourage your submissions! Tell us your professional news, share a professional book review, express your thoughts and comments. Got an interesting career story? Share! Have interesting photos from your PA days? Share! Send submissions to Dick Cole, editor, at dickcole1853@verizon.net!

Dalton Scholarship Selectees for 2023 Announced

The Air Force Public Affairs Association has selected five recipients for the 2023 Brig. Gen. H.J. Dalton Scholarship Program. They are:

- **SSgt Casey Dodd**, Air Force Regional Bandsman, Band of the West, Lackland AFB, Texas
- **GG-12 Trevor Tiernan**, Chief, Public Affairs, 67th Cyberspace Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas
- **MSgt Joseph Vigil**, Public Affairs Superintendent, 87th Air Base Wing/PA, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.
- **GS-9 Erin Wood**, Chief, Community Events, 633rd Air Base Wing/Public Affairs, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.
- **TSgt Izabella Workman**, Public Affairs NCOIC,

352nd Special Operations Wing/Strategic Competition Cell, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom

Up to five \$1,000 scholarships can be awarded each year. Payment will be made to the scholarship recipients upon successful completion of the approved course work.

Chuck Merlo, chairman of AFPAA's Dalton Scholarship Committee, said "There were twelve applicants for this year's Dalton Scholarship Program. All were outstanding, motivated individuals. Our goal in the selection process was to pick those seeking reimbursement for the most effective courses of instruction to improve their public affairs skills with the greatest possible payback to the Air Force."

The scholarship program honors the legacy of Brig.

Gen. H.J. Dalton, the first career Public Affairs officer to be promoted to brigadier general and lead SAF/PA.

"Jerry Dalton worked tirelessly throughout his military and civilian careers to promote the advancement of the Public Affairs profession. He was well known for his commitment to mentoring and encouraging the professional development of Public Affairs personnel," said Merlo.

Any enlisted, officer or civilian Air Force member, whether active, guard, or reserve, working in one of the specialties of the Public Affairs career field—Band, Broadcasting, Visual Information/Combat Camera, and Public Affairs—is eligible for a Dalton Scholarship.



Lockheed VC-121A Again Takes to the Air Following Restoration

The newly restored VC-121A "Bataan"—Gen. Douglas MacArthur's personal VIP transport—returned to the air in June near Chino, Calif. Well known aircraft collector Rod Lewis purchased the historic Constellation in 2015 from the Planes of Fame Air Museum, which did much of the restoration work on the aircraft. Lewis, the CEO/founder of San Antonio, Texas-based Lewis Energy Group, a natural gas and oil drilling firm with a market capitalization of approximately \$2.2 billion, also operates Lewis Air Legends and the Air Legends Foundation, a collection of 26 airworthy historic aircraft including the only airworthy WW2 Douglas A-20G Havoc and Lockheed P-38F Lightning "Glacier Girl."

Air Force marks 100 years of Air Refueling

By SMSgt. Vincent De Groot
185th Air Refueling Wing
Iowa Air National Guard

On Tuesday June 27, 2023, units of the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command are conducted nationwide, air refueling fly-over events involving over 150 aircraft to commemorate 100 years of air refueling.

The event had Air Refueling units performing flyovers at major landmarks, population centers and state capitols in all 50 states.

According to the National Museum of the Air Force the first successful air refueling took place on June 27, 1923, just 20 years after the the Wright Brothers first flight. The event in 1923 took place when a U.S. Army Air Service DH-4B biplane received gasoline through a hose from another DH-4B flying beneath. The purpose for the experiment was to extend the length of time the receiving aircraft could stay aloft.

The mission of today's air refueling aircraft remains the same as is was one hundred years ago. Today however, extending flight has been expanded to a global scale.

In one day, U.S. Air Force KC-46 Pegasus, KC-10 Extender and KC-
News and Notes



An Air Force F-16B Fighting Falcon takes on fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker. (DVIDS Photo)

135 Stratotanker aircraft from the U.S. Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard commemorated the 100th anniversary of air refueling by performing flyovers at venues in every state.

Airmen from the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing conducted flyovers in Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota. Media and the public were invited and encouraged to view the flyovers in their states.

A KC-135 Stratotanker from the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing along with F-16 aircraft from South Dakota's 114th Fighter Wing performed a

number of flyovers in the Missouri River valley region.

In Iowa, flyovers occurred in Sioux City, West Lake Okoboji and over Jack Trice Stadium in Ames.

In South Dakota flyovers occurred at the state capitol in Pierre, the Badlands, Mount Rushmore and Sioux Falls.

In North Dakota the Air National Guard aircraft flew over Theodore Roosevelt National Park and the state capitol in Bismarck.

It was possible to track Sioux City's "Operation Centennial Contact" on flight aware (www.flightaware.com) by the callsign "TANKR85."



The Air Force's newest tanker—the KC-46 Pegasus—refuels an F-16 in flight.

Register Now – Tampa 2023 Annual Membership Meeting

By Perry Nouis
Annual Meeting Coordinator

Finally, we will meet again. Much has happened in the over four years since the Association's last Membership Meeting was held in Charleston. It is time to catch up. AFPAA's Annual Meeting Committee has been working to ensure the 2023 meeting, scheduled for October 26-28 in Tampa, will have been worth the wait.

The City of Tampa and MacDill AFB are ready to welcome us to the sunny gulf-coast of Florida and its great autumn weather. The City of Tampa offers a diverse collection of historic social clubs, sports stadiums, distinctive theaters and galleries, and a two-mile Riverwalk. The history of the area dates back to Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon who first arrived in the Tampa Bay area in 1513.

The first official event will be a mixer/icebreaker (open bar) Thursday evening at our host hotel, the Hotel Alba. For golfers early that morning, they will have the opportunity to play an 18-hole round of golf at MacDill's Bay Palms Golf Complex. Details will be provided to those who express interest in playing on their meeting registration form.

On Friday, a visit to MacDill AFB will include stops at the 6th Air Refueling Wing and the headquarters of U.S. Central Command and potentially U.S. Special Operations Command (details are still being worked),



Tampa's Hotel Alba will play host to this year's annual membership meeting, Oct. 26-28.

with a midday break at the Breakaway Events Center for the President's Luncheon.

Saturday morning will feature "re-bluetoothing" sessions with guest speakers, followed by the SAF/PA Director's Luncheon. We will learn about the challenges currently facing the leaders of Air Force Public Affairs. The annual membership meeting that afternoon should be of great interest as we discuss what the future will look like after the membership voted to drop the word "Alumni" from the association's name.

"The City of Tampa and MacDill AFB are ready to welcome us to the sunny gulf-coast of Florida and its great autumn weather."

To top off an exciting weekend the traditional awards reception and banquet Saturday evening will fea-

ture the induction of the 2023 Class into the Public Affairs Hall of Fame and recognition of the Air Force Public Affairs' Best of the Best.

Avoid a late fee by registering for the meeting prior to the October 1 deadline (a registration form is included in this newsletter on the facing page). The Association has reserved a limited block of rooms at the hotel until Oct. 3. The negotiated rate is \$159 a night while the supply of rooms remains available.

Spanish influence can be felt throughout the Tampa area, especially in the Ybor area. An optional event is being arranged for Friday evening that involves the famous Columbia Restaurant. The plan is to provide bus transportation to the Columbia Restaurant for dinner and a Flamenco show. Details will be provided to those who register.

We are expecting a great time in Tampa. Looking ahead, while our immediate focus is on Tampa, planning is already underway for the Association's future meeting in the September/October 2024 timeframe in San Antonio, Texas. Details to follow.

REGISTRATION FORM



Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ (Do you accept texts? Yes ___ No ___)

Guest(s) (Please indicate how you want names reflected on name tags)

How many in your party will go on the bus tour to MacDill AFB Friday, October 27, 2023? _____

Do you, or a guest, want to play golf on Thursday morning, Oct. 26 (there is extra cost TBD): Yes ___ No ___

Full Registration - Includes all events, except golf on Thursday.

Member Attending	___ x	\$200 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$200 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$250 = \$	_____

Individual Event Registration

Icebreaker Reception – Hotel Alba, Thursday, October 26, 5-7 p.m.

Member Attending	___ x	\$30 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$30 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$35 = \$	_____

Breakfast – Hotel Alba, Friday, October 27

Member Attending	___ x	\$30 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$30 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$35 = \$	_____

President's Luncheon – MacDill AFB, Friday, October 27
(Includes bus transportation from Hotel Alba to MacDill AFB for Friday's tours)

Member Attending	___ x	\$60 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$60 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$65 = \$	_____

President's Luncheon Only – MacDill AFB, Friday, October 27

Member Attending	___ x	\$40 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$40 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$45 = \$	_____

Breakfast – Hotel Alba, Saturday, October 28

Member Attending	___ x	\$30 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$30 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$35 = \$	_____

SAF/PA Director's Luncheon, Hotel Alba, Saturday, October 28

Member Attending	___ x	\$50 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$50 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$55 = \$	_____

AFPAAA Annual Awards Reception & Banquet, Hotel Alba
Saturday, October 28. Please indicate your meal choice(s):

*Beef _____ *Fish _____ *Chicken _____ *Vegetarian _____
(*Use M for Member Choice/G for Guest & Non-Member Choices)

Member Attending	___ x	\$105 = \$	_____
Guests Attending	___ x	\$105 = \$	_____
Non-Member	___ x	\$110 = \$	_____

Total Remitted \$ _____

Please make checks or money orders payable to: **AFPAAA**

Mail for mail and check/money order to:

Phil Ratliff, Treasurer
868 Trevino Terrace
Lady Lake, FL 32159

Meeting Registrations are due NLT Midnight October 1, 2023
Registrations received after this date will be charged a \$25 Per Person Late Fee.

NOTE: To register and pay by credit card online go to:

<http://www.afpaaa.org/tampa2023.html>

Hotel Reservations: AFPAAA has a block of rooms at the Hotel Alba at the rate of \$159.00+tax per night (single or double). The rate is valid through October 3, 2023, while rooms are available. Make reservations through the link at <http://www.afpaaa.org/tampa2023.html>, or call the hotel at 813-289-1950, select 1 for reservations. The reservation code is "AFPAAA Annual Meeting." A very limited number of rooms will be available at this rate up to three days prior and three days post the established meeting dates: Check-in October 26, 2023/Check-out October 29, 2023. Golf information and the associated cost will be provided separately to those indicating they wish to play.



P. O. Box 2446
East Peoria IL 61611-2446
(Address Correction Requested)

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

Hall of Fame (Cont'd from p. 15)

David Hartman (original host of ABC's "Good Morning America"), actor/singer Tennessee Ernie Ford of "Hee Haw," actor and Air Force Reserve general Jimmy Stewart, actor/singer Jerry Reed ("Smokey and the Bandit"), and director Jon Avnet ("Fried Green Tomatoes").

After retiring from active duty in 1985, Mike continued to display the variety of interests and talents he had shown in the Air Force. He worked for the Harris Group in Reston, Va.; the Los Alamos National Laboratory, in New Mexico; the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance in Alexandria, Va.; and Embry Riddle Aeronauti-

cal University in Long Beach, Calif. He was the deputy director of Public Affairs for the Missile Defense Agency at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama from 2009-2016 before retiring for good, providing him more time to devote to the numerous community, church, and charity causes he championed.

Though Mike's career accomplishments were legend, what set him apart from other public affairs professionals was his commitment to excellence and compassion for others. He was respected by both his seniors and subordinates as a "take-charge" leader who excelled when things got tough. He

mentored scores of military and civilian public affairs professionals, providing them with the knowledge, encouragement and confidence to succeed.

Mike was such a fixture in his community that the local television station profiled him when he passed.



Submission deadline for the next issue is Sept. 1!