

# \$5,000 Anonymous Donation To Dalton Scholarship Fund To Benefit All Active, Guard & Reserve Public Affairs Specialities

“We are off to a great start thanks to the \$5,000 check we received from one of our AFPAAA Life Members,” observed Chuck Merlo who heads the Brigadier General H. J. Dalton, Jr. Scholarship Program. The donation was made anonymously.

“Now it’s up to us to get procedures governing the program completed so we can receive requests for grants before the end of the year and make the first awards for 2022,” he said.

AFPAAA’s Dalton Scholarship program will make \$5,000 available each year for individual awards of up to \$1,000 to those serving in the Band, Broadcasting, Visual Information/ Combat Camera, and traditional Information Public Affairs specialties.

“The objective is to advance their skills and enhance their duty performance which benefits the Air Force,” Melo explained. The awards may be used for courses, seminars, and workshops from colleges, universities, and professional institutes and organizations.

AFPAAA is a tax exempt organization and donations to it are usually tax deductible. To make a donation for the Dalton Scholarship Program indicate that is your intent and make your check payable to AFPAAA and send it to:

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

or use the donate button on our website at: [www.afpaaa.org](http://www.afpaaa.org)



## Board Leadership Shuffled, Perry Nouis Chairman, Jim McGuire New Member

Incumbents Julie Briggs, Perry Nouis, Dave Phillips, Phil Ratliff, and Greg Smith were reelected in our April Board of Directors election, and website guru Jim McGuire joined the Board. They will serve for two-year terms that will expire June 30, 2023. McGuire takes the slot occupied by former chairman Jay DeFrank. Following AFPAAA’s leadership progression plan, Perry Nouis is now chairman. Brett Ashworth and Greg Smith have moved up to president and vice president, and John Dorian has been appointed secretary. Phil Ratliff continues as treasurer completing the slate of officers that was effective the first of this month. Other members of the board are John Gura, Doug Kennett, Chuck Merlo, Carla Sylvester, John Terino, and SAF/PA appointed non-voting member Jerry Renne.



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Julie  
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Jim  
McGuire



Chuck  
Merlo



Dave  
Phillips



Jerry  
Renne



Carla  
Sylvester



John  
Terino

# Hall Of Fame Honors Bands, Broadcasting, Information/Public Affairs & Visual Information/Combat Camera With First Inductees

Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association Chairman Jay DeFrank and Air Force Director of Public Affairs Brigadier General Pat Ryder have announced the first group of inductees for the new Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame. Included are 15 enlisted, officer, and civilian men and women from Band, Broadcasting, Visual Information/Combat Camera, and traditional Information/Public Affairs specialties who made significant and lasting contributions to Air Force Public Affairs' history and traditions. Establishment of the Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame was initiated by AFPAAA.

The inductees were chosen by a committee of representatives from all the specialties included in Public Affairs. Art Forster of AFPAAA chaired the effort, other members were Renee Tyron, AF Combat Camera Association; Pat Miner, AF Broadcasters Alumni, Larry Hill, AF Musicians Association, and Judy Bivens, John Dorian, Clem Gaines and Johnny Whitaker of AFPAAA.

Two well-known Air Force leaders, General Hap Arnold, former commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Forces, and Brigadier General Jerry Dalton, the first career public affairs officer to be Air Force Director of Public Affairs, head the group.

Other inductees include the former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and retired Lieutenant Colonel Bill Greener; retired GM-13 Ken Hackman, the 'Godfather' of Air Force visual information; Lieutenant Colonel Alf Heiberg, from 1941 to 1944 the first leader of the Army Air Forces Band; Stephen Leo, the first Air Force Chief of Public Relations, and Chief Master Sergeant Chuck Lucas, editor of the Military Airlift Command and later the Air Force News Services from 1964 to 1972.

Also in the initial inductees are Colonel Bill McGinty, who led Air Force public affairs operations in Vietnam and Far East Air Forces; Chief Master Sergeant Doug Morrell, who was in three wars as a combat camera cinema-



tographer; Brigadier General William Nuckols, who headed public affairs for the World War II Allied Expeditionary Air Forces, and Colonel Barney Oldfield, who was in charge of press operations for General Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery during World War II.

Completing the group are Alice Price, the first civilian to be named Chief of the Air Force Arts and Museum Branch in the Pentagon; Buzz Rizer, a retired lieutenant colonel and the longtime Director of the American Forces Information Service; Reed Switzer, the first Public Affairs NCO promoted to both Senior Master Sergeant and Chief Master Sergeant, and Colonel Reade Tilley, who directed Air Force Public Affairs during the Berlin Airlift and later for Strategic Air Command under General Curtis LeMay.

Profiles and photos of the inductees can be read and viewed on the new Hall of Fame page on AFPAAA's website: <https://www.afpaaa.org/halloffame.html>

A video display of the newly named and future Hall of Fame members will be a prominent part of the Air Force Heritage Wall which is now under construction at the Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Maryland.

Each year a new group of Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized at AFPAAA's Annual Membership Meeting.

Because of COVID-19, the initial group will be honored at the next meeting which is scheduled for September 29 to October 1, 2022, in Fairborn, Ohio and Wright-Patterson AFB.

# From The President's Pen



*I'm excited to write my first President's Pen as the COVID-19 pandemic subsides and our nation optimistically returns to a more normal way of life. Hopefully, all of us and our families are doing well.*

*AFPAAA shares that optimism as we continue to serve our members and support the Air Force Public Affairs community. With those goals in mind, two of our major initiatives are moving to completion: The Brigadier General H.J. Dalton Jr. Scholarship Program and The Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame.*

*The Dalton Scholarship Program got a big boost thanks to one of our member's anonymous \$5,000 donation that will fund 2022's first year of scholarships. And, the initial group in the Hall of Fame is now a part of our website - <https://afpaaa.org/halloffame.html> They and future inductees will have a permanent video display as part of the Air Force heritage wall now under construction at DINFOS.*

*Thanks to the efforts of Jim McGuire, John Gura, and Judy Bivens we have really ramped up our communications with you. In the past year Jim and John have completely remade and updated our website. It is really worth going through it and checking out the many informative pages and links it offers.*

*When it comes to our Facebook presence, Judy has taken it to another level which is testified to by the more than 1,000 followers it has. And, John Terino continues to provide an informative, attractive newsletter.*

*One of AFPAAA's most popular features, our annual meeting, which has been missing for two years, is back. The twice-postponed 27th Annual Membership Meeting, will be September 29-October 1, 2022 at Fairborn, Ohio and Wright-Patterson AFB.*

*Restrictions there are slowly being relaxed. The National Museum of the United States Air Force is open and no longer requires masks for those who have been vaccinated. As restrictions on group visits to Wright-Patt's labs and facilities ease, AFMC/PA Wendy Varhegyi and her staff and Al Cummings, our on-site coordinator, expect to be able to prepare an excellent agenda for us by the fall. We'll get word to you as soon as the agenda is available.*

*Looking over our website, it is clear that AFPAAA has a lot to offer those in uniform and civilians who are serving in all the Public Affairs specialities, as well as those of us who are retired or no longer serving. We welcome new members from either group. Give the Membership Application on the next page to someone you know who should be in AFPAAA.*

*Be sure to take full advantage of your AFPAAA membership. Use the resources we offer, share what you're doing with us, and encourage others to join the group. We encourage and help each other and have fun together. And don't hesitate to let me know what you think about or how to improve AFPAAA; my email is: [brettashworth@afpaaa.org](mailto:brettashworth@afpaaa.org)*

*-Brett*



## Membership Application

### Eligibility

**Full Members:** Former members of Air Force Bands, Broadcasting, Visual Information/Combat Camera or traditional Information/Public Affairs (Military, Civil Air Patrol or DoD Civilian).

**Associate Members:** Current members of Air Force Bands, Broadcasting, Visual Information/Combat Camera or traditional Information/Public Affairs career fields including Military, Civil Air Patrol or DoD Civilian or Affiliate/Widow.

I am applying for and enclosing a check (U.S. Funds) Payable to: *AF Public Affairs Alumni Association*

\$300 Lifetime Membership (One-Time Payment or Four Quarterly \$75 Installments)

\$ 25 One-Year Full Membership

\$ 50 Three-Year Full Membership

FREE \*Two-Year Introductory Associate Membership (Complimentary)

\$ 10 \*One-Year Associate Membership (Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, CAP, DoD Civilian, Affiliate/Widow)

\$ 20 \*Three-Year Associate Membership (Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, CAP, DoD Civilian, Affiliate/Widow)

This is a gift from (include contact information) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Form & Check to: Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association

PO Box 2446

East Peoria IL 61611-2446

\*\*\*\*Join ONLINE: <https://afpaaa.org/memberapplication.html> .

Name (First, MI, Last, Nickname, JR/SR/III etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (First and Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Business/\*Military Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I Retired or Separated (please circle) from the Air Force as a (rank or grade) \_\_\_\_\_ in (year) \_\_\_\_\_

My last Air Force Bands, Broadcasting, Visual Information/Combat Camera or traditional Information/Public Affairs position was:

\_\_\_\_\_. It was at (base) \_\_\_\_\_

I am Part of the Active, CAP, Guard or Reserve Force or a DoD Civilian (please circle).

My rank or grade is \_\_\_\_\_.

My Current Air Force Bands, Broadcasting, Visual Information/Combat Camera or traditional Information/Public Affairs position is: \_\_\_\_\_ at (base) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Note: Military, please include a Family Member/Friend Address/Telephone Number.

# Senior Airman Rebeckah Medeiros Garners Public Affairs ‘Best of the Best’ For 2020 In First Enlistment

Senior Airman Rebeckah T. Medeiros is quite unique, she went from a basic training enlistee in August 2018 to become the first Airman 1st Class to receive the Brigadier General James W. Hart, Jr. Best of the Best Award as the tops in Air Force Public Affairs in 2020.

Airman Medeiros earned the honor while she was a broadcast journalist for the 18th Wing Public Affairs office, Kadena Air Base, Japan.

But she did much more than that title says.

In her brief time with the 18th Wing she has been a teacher, an equipment manager, and a cost saver, as well a flight-qualified videographer/photographer.

Included among the many accomplishments that earned her the Best of the Best award, Airman Medeiros strengthened bilateral relationships when she mentored Japanese university students in the first virtual language exchange at Kadena.

She taught 891 first term airmen in 42 classes about Air Force Social Media policy and the importance of not violating operations security.

In 20 AFSC merger broadcast training sessions she ensured that seven NCOs were fully mission qualified.

She revamped management of \$1.5M in resources by identifying and fixing gaps to increase the unit's ability to dominate the information battlespace.

Her work in overhauling the TV studio by realigning equipment and expanding strategic messaging options saved \$30K.

The airman was responsible for a major Covid-19 communications effort that reached 72,000 personnel through 16 educational videos featuring experts, mitigation techniques, and wellness strategies.

Her documentation of the command's bilateral Combat



Search and Rescue mission capabilities reached 488,000 people, and one of her images was an *Airman Magazine's* photo of the week.

During 2020 she was named a Special Operations Command Pacific Superior Performer for her photo and video imagery that projected lethality and generated credible deterrence.

Presentation of the Best of the Best Award to Airman Medeiros was made on April 9th by Brigadier General Joel L. Carey, Commander of the 18th Wing at Kadena.

She has been reassigned since then and began her new assignment in May with the 23rd Wing Public Affairs Office

at Moody AFB, Georgia.

With a father who spent 13 years in the Marine Corps and retired as an Army chief warrant officer after 13 years, plus a sister who spent four years in the Navy, it is not surprising that Airman Medeiros is in the military.

She was born in Apple Valley, California, and lived throughout the United States during her father's career.

After graduating from James Campbell High School in Ewa Beach, Hawaii, she attended the

University of Alabama for a year then "decided it was finally time to join the military after thinking about it for years".

Each year SAF/PA selects the individual who will receive AFPAAA's Best of the Best Award which recognizes the top officer, civilian, or enlisted person in Air Force Public Affairs for professional excellence and significant contributions to the effectiveness of the Air Force mission.

Funding for the award is provided by Lockheed Martin Corporation. In addition to the trophy, each recipient receives a \$1,000 check and a Life Membership in AFPAAA.



# Lord Guard & Guide

## John T. Correll

John Correll, who was a Public Affairs officer during his twenty year Air Force career, died from pancreatic cancer April 5. He was 81.

He was born in Conover, North Carolina, and earned a bachelor degree in history from Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory and a master's degree in communications from Michigan State University. During college and following graduation he was a reporter for the Hickory Daily Record.

John began his Air Force career in 1962 when he earned his commission through Officer Training School. His subsequent assignments included Thailand during the Vietnam conflict, a one-year Education With Industry internship at *Air Force Magazine*, editorship of *Airman Magazine*, and his final assignment as chief of editorial services for the American Forces Information Service. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1982.

He began an eighteen year career at Air Force Magazine in 1984 as senior editor. Two years later he was named editor in chief, a post he held until retiring in 2002. In addition to editing the magazine, he wrote many of AFA's white papers, reports, and annual policy statements, and was senior staff advisor on defense matters to the association's executive committee and board of directors.

A prolific writer, he continued to contribute articles to *Air Force Magazine* until his passing.

John, with Bill Greener and Frank Jennings, was selected as one of the first three recipients of AFPA's President's Award which is presented to individuals who are leaders in their field who impacted Air Force Public Affairs.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Gina; daughter, Donna, and granddaughter, Rae. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery. Donations in John's memory may be made to the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research at <https://lustgarten.org/donate/>

*I knew John when I was with Air Force Magazine on the EWJ program. He knew his stuff. Great editor! Helped me learn to write and edit much better. It was guys like him who were unsung teachers, mentors and key public affairs officers.*

– **Bob Hunter**

We have lost the epitome of AF journalism . . . the end of an era as well.

– **Doug Kennett**

*Although I had only a passing acquaintance with John during our Air Force careers, I came to know him well as a prolific, erudite writer for Air Force*

*Magazine. His monthly articles brought Air Force history to life. We will miss him.*

– **Dave Shea**

*Early in our Air Force careers we were roommates at the Boston University short course where John's writing and editing skills shone, as well as his keen, wry sense of humor. Eighteen years later he tabbed me to replace him as editorial services chief at American Forces Information Service for which I'll be forever grateful. A model for writers and editors to emulate, his passing is a great loss to the journalistic world. Pax vobiscum.*

– **John Terino**

*I met John in early 1966 at the Boston University Air Force Short Course. That was handy for*



*me a few years later. John was editing Airman and he brought his photographer with him to McChord AFB where the 25th NORAD Region controlled the SAGE blockhouse, widespread radar sites and interceptor squadrons, guarding our Pacific NW and up into Canada. Having our unit featured in Airman pleased our commander, to say the least. John's work at Airman was outstanding, but he really*

*hit his stride post-retirement, when he became editor of Air Force Magazine and a respected senior influencer of AFA's policies and practices. Not one to seek personal publicity, in that position he sparked successful public opposition to the Smithsonian's plans to negatively display the B-29 Enola Gay with biased information about its nuclear mission and U.S. policy near the end of WWII. After retiring as editor he produced more than a hundred deeply researched, tightly written, informative and gutsy monthly articles for the magazine on a wide range of Air Force history topics. I enjoyed our email conversations over the years, and was honored a few years ago when he drove to Tysons' Corners for breakfast with me at AFPAAA's conference hotel. John never joined AFPAAA, but a lot of our members recognized him and stopped by the table to greet him, which he clearly enjoyed. John told me last year that he was seriously ill and would not live much longer. Even with that warning it was a hard hit to be notified that he'd gone. Over the past few decades he had contributed tremendously to so many Air Force members' understanding of our heritage. Others will follow in his footsteps, but John Correll won't be, and can't be replaced.*

– **Mark Foutch**

## James M. Fillmore

Jim Fillmore, who had a distinguished career in uniform, first in the Navy then in the Air Force, and as an Air Force civil servant, died February 24th of a heart attack while quarantined for COVID-19. He was 87.

He was born and grew up in Hope, Michigan. Before joining the Navy he played minor league baseball.

After serving four years in the Navy, including duty on the aircraft carrier USS Midway as a journalist, he returned to Michigan to work on a newspaper.

He resumed his military career in 1966 in the Air Force that included duty in Vietnam, adding 21 years to his Navy service, until he retired as a chief master sergeant in 1977.

Jim then began a 25 year civil service career with Air Force Systems Command Public Affairs, Andrews AFB, Maryland, until he retired as a GM-13 in 1992.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Maria; sons Daniel and James; daughter Brenda; four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations in Jim's name may be made to the Disabled Americans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or your organization of choice.

*I first met Jim Fillmore when I signed in to the old Air Force Systems Command Public Affairs office at Andrews AFB in 1982. It didn't take me long to realize that he was an excellent writer and editor who was dedicated to his job. My wife, Dawn, and I also had the pleasure of getting to know his wife, Maria. Jim was a true gentleman who was a valuable asset to the office. I also learned that Jim was an avid baseball fan which led to many conversations about the game and his beloved Detroit Tigers. I had another occasion to spend some time with him after I retired, when he came to Albu-*



*querque to take part in a national bowling tournament - another sport he loved - and stopped in for a visit and dinner. My wife and I have fond memories of Jim and Maria. Rest In Peace.*

– Sam Giammo

Jim was on my staff when I was the Director of Public Affairs at Air Force Systems Command from 1985-87. He was a talented writer and an all-around good guy. I could count on him to get the job done. RIP, my friend.

– Dave Shea

*I had the honor of serving with Jim at Hq AFSC from 1987-91. He was our Director of Internal Information. A quiet and unassuming professional, he never missed a beat telling the Air Force's high tech story. I never worried about any assignment he eagerly took on. He led a long and fruitful life. God speed my friend!*

– Doug Kennett

## Maureen Sealund

Maureen Sealund, who had a twenty-year career as an Air Force Civil Service employee at Dover AFB, Delaware, died at her home May 18. She was 71.

She was director of community relations for the 436th Airlift Wing at Dover when she retired.

Maureen is survived by her husband of 50 years, Terry; three sons, Scott, Sean, and Steven, and seven grandchildren, as well as her mother, Gertrude O'Rourke of Massachusetts, and five brothers.

Burial was at the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Millsboro.

Maureen was a volunteer for Special Olympics at the University of Delaware.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to Special Olympics Delaware, University of Delaware, 619 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716-1901.



## COVID-19 Restrictions At National Cemeteries Relaxed, Check Before You Go

Since the onset of COVID-19 eighteen months ago access and screening procedures at National Cemeteries across the nation have recently gone from very restrictive to more liberal and open. If you will be attending an interment, honoring the site of a friend or relative, or just visiting a nearby National Cemetery, use the links below to get the current status, and consider making a phone call to the specific cemetery you are going to for a final check before your depart.

Arlington National Cemetery's is as fully open as possible. As of the end of May it had no limit on attending graveside funeral services however mourners were still limited to 50 inside the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Old Post Chapel, and to two family members in the ANC administration building. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the President John F. Kennedy Gravesite, and exhibits in the Memorial Amphitheater and Welcome Center are fully open. Masks are required at indoor venues and visitors should enter through official access points with screening conducted either inside or outside the Welcome Center.

For information on COVID-19 restrictions at National Cemeteries go to:

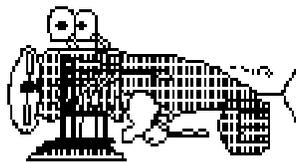
- <https://www.cem.va.gov/alerts.asp>
- <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/COVID>
- <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Funerals/Funeral-Schedule/Daily-Funeral-Schedule>

**Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association News & Notes**, John Terino, editor, is published quarterly for members by the Air Force Public Affairs Alumni Association, P. O. Box 2446, East Peoria, IL 61611-2446. On-line subscriptions are available at [www.AFPAAA.org](http://www.AFPAAA.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.AFPAAA.org](http://www.AFPAAA.org) **Officers and Board of Directors Members:** Chairman, Perry Nouis; President, Brett Ashworth; Vice President, Greg Smith; Secretary, John Dorrian; Treasurer, Phil Ratliff, Julie Briggs, John Gura, Doug Kennett, Jim McGuire, Chuck Merlo, David Phillips, Jerry Renne, Carla Sylvester, and John Terino. **Committee Chairmen:** Annual Membership Meeting Coordinator, Perry Nouis; Communications, John Terino; Development, Joe Purka; Elections, Kathy McCollom; Finance, Phil Ratliff; Membership, Christine Queen; Oral History, John Gura; Website, Jim McGuire; SAF/PA Liaison, Lou Timmons.



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**Welcome Aboard . . .** to new members *James Bentley, Pamela Fenner, James Heaberg, Bradley Kasch, Lisa Polarek, and Michele Ruff.*

**New Life Members . . .** *Edmund Memi, Dean Miller, Paul Muehring, Kelly Stewart, and Jason Tudor.*

**Have You Ever Wondered How Does AFPAAA Work? . . .** find out by going to our web-site <https://afpaaa.org/by-laws.html> and perusing our by-laws. Thanks to ex Board Chairman Tom Dolney's work, the by-laws with all the revisions and additions since our

*founding are there for you. And, Membership Chair Christine Queen will have them in the membership directory you'll receive later this summer.*

**Military Relations & Actions With Civilians Came . . .** into sharp focus January 6 at our nation's Capitol and are still being investigated by Congress. From draft riots, to the posse committatus act of 1878, the WWI Veterans Bonus March and Kent State, use of military force on civilians has always raised questions and controversy. Air University's summer **Strategic Studies Quarterly** at <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/SSQ/> explores the subject thoroughly with articles including "Civil-Military Relations in the United States: What Senior Leaders Need to Know (and Usually Don't)" which discusses how to improve civilian-military understanding; "The Line Held: Civil-Military Relations in the Trump Administration" covers the lasting effects of Trump treating the military as a political ally; and "Maximum Toxicity: Civil-Military Relations in the Trump Era" which explores the policy obstructions Trump faced from active and retired officers that corroded civil-military trust.