

News and Notes

October–December 2025

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Nominations are open for positions on AFPAA Board of Directors

By Chuck Merlo
Vice President

The Air Force Public Affairs Association's annual Board of Directors election will have seven of the 13-member board seats filled in the election this coming April.

The two-year terms of office for Eric Schnaible, Carla Sylvester, Chuck Merlo, Brett Ashworth, John Dorrian, Cheryl Law and Annette Crawford all expire July 1, 2026. Schnaible, Sylvester, Merlo and Crawford are seeking reelection.

Full members of AFPAA can run for any of the seven seats. Potential candidates should make their desire to run known by Feb. 1, 2026, to the nominating committee chairperson, Judy Bivens. To be considered for placement on the ballot, potential candidates need to provide a head

and shoulders photograph (.jpg format at 300 dpi is preferred) and a three to four paragraph biography outlining their qualifications, how they have supported the association and why they wish to serve on the board.

The photo and bio should be sent to Bivens no later than February 1 at jjbivens@charter.net.

Candidates must understand that election to the board may also result in the individual possibly serving as the association's chairman of the board, president, vice president, secretary or chief financial officer.

Election results will be announced at the 29th Annual Membership Meeting, Saturday, May 2 in Fairfield, Calif.

From the President's pen...



As we wrap up this year and look ahead to 2026, it's a good time to celebrate our achievements and consider what's next for AFPAA.

A major success for 2025 was the dedication of the Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame display at DINFOS in April—a milestone years in the making. Special thanks to Art Forster for leading the effort, and to Clem Gaines, Lou Timmons, and Eric Schnaible for coordinating and participating in the ceremony.

We also added four new Hall of Fame inductees: Mehmet Birbiri, Dan McGovern, Jake Schuffert, and Hal Smarkola. Among other accomplishments, this year we awarded six Dalton Scholarships to deserving active-duty and civilian professionals, supported DINFOS Training Days, and began transitioning to the Club Express membership platform. Thanks to Chuck Merlo, Clem Gaines, Phil Ratliff and Jim McGuire respectively for their leadership in these efforts.

We skipped an annual meeting this year in order to return to the pre-COVID spring meeting cycle.

On the active-duty side, 2025 marked the retirements of Jerry Renne as SAF/PA director and Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder as Pentagon press secretary—both of whom led with dedication and distinction. We also welcomed Brig. Gen. Allen Herritage as the new SAF/PA director, along with Dr. Tadd Sholtis as his deputy. We look forward to supporting them as they take on these important roles.

Looking forward to 2026, a few key items deserve your attention. Our reunion and annual meeting in Fairfield, Calif., near Travis AFB, is fast approaching. If you haven't registered, now is the time. Our new Club Express platform offers not only a new registration process, but also updated information about the local area for those planning to extend their stay. Think, too, about whom you'd like to see there—and encourage former colleagues to join us. This is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends in connection with a trip to northern California.

A couple of our committee chairs are ready to hand over the reins to new leaders. If you'd like to contribute to the AFPAA community in a meaningful way, the Membership and Oral History committees offer outstanding opportunities. For more information, reach out to me, or to Christine Queen for Membership (cjqueen@comcast.net) and John Gura for Oral History (jtgura24@gmail.com).

Some board seats will be opening this year. If you're interested in serving, or would like to recommend someone, please contact Judy Bivens, chair of our nominating committee (jjbivens@charter.net).

As always, thank you for your support and involvement. I welcome your ideas! Feel free to email me at carla.sylvester@gmail.com.

Carla

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Dalton Scholarship applications being accepted

By Chuck Merlo
Vice President

The Association is accepting applications for the Brig Gen H.J. Dalton Jr. Scholarship program from March 1 to May 31, 2026. All active, Reserve and Guard 3NXX or 35X members and Air Force civilians in core public affairs occupational series or assigned to a public affairs office are eligible to apply.

The program is not limited to traditional public affairs members but also band members, Combat Camera and audiovisual Air Force personnel and employees.

The first career Public Affairs officer to make brigadier general and lead the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force (Public Affairs) — SAF/PA — Jerry Dalton worked

tirelessly throughout both his military and civilian careers to promote the advancement of the Public Affairs profession.

Dalton was well known for his commitment to mentoring and encouraging the professional development of Public Affairs personnel. He strongly promoted the value to PAs of taking advantage of the educational opportunities offered by programs like Education With Industry, the Air Force Institute of Technology, and the Air Force Short Course in Communications. He also advocated PAs achieving professional accreditation from organizations like the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA).

This is the fifth year of the program. It offers recipients up to \$1,000 to fund not just college

courses but also seminars, workshops, music lessons and courses provided by professional organizations (e.g., PRSA) specifically aimed at enhancing skills related to the PA career field. AFPAA encourages PAs to first maximize their use of Air Force tuition assistance before applying for a Dalton Scholarship. This provides more Dalton Scholarships to be available for professional development opportunities for which Air Force funding is not available.

Up to five \$1,000 scholarships can be awarded each year. More scholarships can be awarded in a year depending on the funds required to meet the cost of approved applicants' training and education. Payment will be made to the scholarship recipients upon successful completion of the approved course

(cont'd on p. 21)



Members of the military public affairs associations salute at the wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery during a noontime ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 7. The members include (l. to r., back row): Rebecca Wriggle, president, Army Public Affairs Association and Eric Schnaible, chairman, Air Force Public Affairs Association; (l to r. front row) Kathy Rhem, former president of the Army Public Affairs Association and CAPT Brook DeWalt, Navy Public Affairs Association. The wreath was presented by the Joint Public Affairs Association Committee, an informal group representing military public affairs associations. (Photo by Clem Gaines)

Joint Public Affairs Association Committee places wreath at Arlington's Tomb of the Unknowns

By Clem Gaines

Representatives from each of the public affairs associations presented a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at Arlington National Cemetery.

This was the first time that these associations gathered together for a presentation. The group formed an informal military public affairs association committee known as the Joint PA Association Committee.

Those presenting the wreath included: Kathy Rhem, former president of the Army Public Affairs Association; Eric Schnaible, chairman, Air Force Public Affairs Association; CAPT Brook DeWalt, Navy Public Affairs Association;



Members of the military public affairs associations approach the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery during a noontime ceremony on Tuesday, Oct. 7. The members include (l. to r.): Eric Schnaible, chairman, Air Force Public Affairs Association; Rebecca Wriggle, president, Army Public Affairs Association; CAPT Brook DeWalt, Navy Public Affairs Association and Kathy Rhem, former president of the Army Public Affairs Association. (Photo by Clem Gaines)

tion; and Rebecca Wriggle, president, Army Public Affairs Association.

"The hallowed ground at Arlington National Cemetery is perhaps our nation's best-known memorial to military sacrifice," noted Schnaible. "It was a 'bucket list' honor for me to represent AFPAA with our service counterparts at the wreath dedication with the Army Old Guard sentinels."

Visitors on the marble steps watched in silence as the members brought the wreath forward to the tomb with the aid of a Soldier known as a sentinel.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is the burial site (in a white, marble sarcophagus above it) of a World War I soldier whose remains were unidentifiable.

After a design competition was held in 1928, the winning project was completed in 1932. The site now also includes the gravesites of two other unknowns, one from

World War II and one from the Korean War, who were buried under two slabs between it and the Memorial Amphitheater behind it.

The World War I "unknown" is a recipient of the Medal of Honor, the Victoria Cross, and several other foreign nations' highest service awards. The U.S. unknowns from World War II and Korea have also received the Medal of Honor.

The tomb is guarded around-the-clock by a tomb guard from the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard."

"The service showed our commitment to freedom, at a place where the connection between those who honorably wore the uniform and their families and the nation we served is honored," Schnaible noted.



It's easy for you to take care of AFPAA business through Club Express. Have you used it yet? (USAF Photo)

Have you logged in to Club Express yet?

By Jim McGuire
AFPAA Board Member

The Association's partnership with Club Express is continuing to grow, with many of the association's administrative functions and website pages now added to the Club Express platform.

More Club Express features are on the way, but you won't be able to use them unless you've activated your account. Activating is not difficult—simply log in to the new website and follow the steps to review and update as needed your personal contact information.

What happens if you don't activate your account? Okay, we won't give you an Article 15. On the other hand, you won't be able to renew your membership, register online for the annual meeting, designate whom we can contact in the event of an emergency,

purchase a challenge coin, vote in AFPAA elections, personalize your directory listing with your picture and bio, protect your privacy by editing the visibility of the contact information that appears in that directory listing, or tell us if you want us to mail you a printed newsletter,

Not sure how to log in? Use the new temporary user name and password credentials you received in the Club Express welcome mail on September 29. If you're not able to find the email with those credentials, just go to <https://afpaa.clubexpress.com>, click on member login in the upper right corner of the page, and then "Forgot My Username/Password." You'll receive an email with the temporary credentials you'll need to get started.

Having problems? Send us an email at jwmcss@me.com and we'll help you get set up.





Dear Dick:

Thank so much for another information-packed AFPAA newsletter that includes my small contribution. I'd like to express appreciation to the PAs that collaborated with me on my Air Force Pilot Instructor Training story that appeared on the front page of the *Hill Country Community Journal*. Any chance I could receive four copies of your outstanding newsletter to share with the PAs, who hopefully will want to affiliate with AFPAA? Best wishes!

Regards,

Bob McCullough
APR, Fellow PRSA

Thanks for the kind words, Bob. Hopefully you got the box of five copies I asked our

printer to mail you. — Ed



Dear Dick:

The latest *News and Notes* (April-September 2025) was very nicely done! I like the listing of promotions. While most of those currently serving weren't there when I retired, our younger AFPAA members probably still have contacts with them. A note of congratulations from our members can be an important link. Likewise, snippets from the oral histories reminds all of the rich heritage we share.

Well done!

Bud Ross

Thank you sir! As long as I keep getting that info (thanks

to our SAF/PA liaison Lou Timmons!) I'll keep including it! — Ed



Dear Dick:

Jim Hart, one of the Association's original founders, had a stroke September 18. He's at home now and starting to recover. His daughter is taking care of him during this long recovery. She asked that her father not receive calls, cards, or letters right now because he has trouble remembering things and it's really stressful for him. You can keep up with his recovery by following Melanie Desimone on Facebook.

Best,
Phil Ratliff

Don Hessenflow has been doing a great job keeping everyone up to speed on Jim's recovery on the AFPAA Facebook page by reposting many of Melanie's updates. Members are welcome to send cards now that things have calmed down a bit. Melanie says Jim really enjoys getting them. Send them to Jim Hart, 7371 Cox Road, Bascom, FL 32423



The music and radio businesses have sure changed since my AFRTS days!

By Dick Cole
Editor

As you may recall from the last issue of *News and Notes*, I've been doing a lot of recording of my original music with musicians in the Richmond, Va., area.

In the past, of course, the way musicians got their music heard by the public was to sign with a major recording label. The labels signed the artists to contracts, usually paid their studio costs, paid them for delivering an album, gave them money based on record sales and radio play (royalties) and promoted the artists and got the songs played on radio stations.

Well, the emergence of digital distribution services has certainly turned the recording industry on its head.

Over the past six months, I've recorded three albums with five to seven songs per album. I bore all of the studio costs and then paid a distributor—in my case CD Baby—\$147 per album to distribute my songs to streaming services. My music has been distributed to Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes, Pandora, Deezer, YouTube Music, Amazon Music, and SoundCloud.



Cole at his drum kit in the studio, preparing to lay the drum track for one of his recordings.

Getting the songs to a streaming service does not guarantee they will get listeners.

To get listeners, or potential radio play, you then have to hire a company to pitch the songs to “playlist curators” on various streaming platforms and radio stations. If they like what they hear, they add your song to one of their playlists or offer it to radio stations.

A couple of my songs got pitched to “radio stations” overseas and have been garnering considerable airplay. It's amazing that something I wrote and recorded could get airplay and become popular in the U.K., Ukraine, Belgium, Colombia and Nigeria! One of my songs has had more than 40,000 plays between October 29 and now.

Plays, of course, are not the same as sales or downloads, which is how I get paid. For all of

my investment in the music, so far I've made a little more than \$10 in the past three months!

The radio stations playing my music overseas aren't the traditional, over-the-air broadcast stations, but rather they are digital stations online providing programming like traditional broadcast stations.

Through this whole exercise, there is one thing I was really surprised to discover. Just as digital music services like Napster led to the death of the traditional recording industry model, traditional radio stations are slowly dying and being replaced by digital services.

Streaming is growing and may soon make traditional commercial radio obsolete. Streaming platforms like Spotify or Apple Music tailor playlists to individual tastes, unlike radio's one-size-fits-all programming. Users can listen to any song, album, or playlist instantly,

rather than waiting for radio rotations.

Streaming works anywhere with internet access, while radio is tied to local stations. Smart speakers, smartphones, and cars increasingly support streaming apps, making them as easy to access as radio. Algorithms and curated playlists help listeners find new music more efficiently than radio DJs.

Radio remains dominant for now. In the second quarter 2025, radio accounted for 64 percent of daily ad-supported audio listening, compared to 14 percent for streaming services. Streaming is rising, growing from 12 percent in Q1 2025 to 14 percent in Q2 2025, showing steady momentum.

Podcasts compete strongly holding about 19 percent of daily listening, especially popular among younger demographics.

Age differences matter. Among listeners aged 18–34, radio makes up only 45–47 percent of daily audio time, while streaming and podcasts together take a much larger share. For those 35 and older, radio dominates with 71–73 percent.

Streaming has even become commonplace in what used to be known as the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service of my day.

I served in AFRTS at the headquarters of the American Forces Information Service from 1985–1989. Neither of those organizations even exist any longer. With the creation of the Defense Media Activity in 2008, AFIS went away. In the subsequent years, so did AFRTS. Now it is known as Amer-

ican Forces Network.

For more than seven decades, AFRTS brought music, news, and entertainment to service members through radio towers, satellite feeds, and local stations. Today, that mission continues through AFN, which delivers content via streaming apps, mobile devices, and digital platforms to troops and families in more than 170 countries and aboard Navy and Coast Guard ships.

I had no idea that AFRTS had gone away and a digital AFN was now the way content was being delivered to our troops.

Military broadcast-specific funding declined from \$14.3 million in FY 2021 to \$3.5 million in FY 2023, reflecting cost savings and digital efficiencies. (I found that particularly interesting since my job in AFRTS for four years was working in the Air Force

matched personalization, convenience, and global reach. Unlike radio's fixed schedules and geographic limits, streaming lets listeners choose what they want, when they want it, on any device.

Younger generations are already leading this change, favoring on-demand content and tailored playlists over one-size-fits-all radio programming. This trend is even more pronounced for military personnel overseas, where AFN is embracing streaming to better serve a dispersed, tech-savvy audience.

Streaming platforms like *AFN Go* offer a variety of content accessible anywhere with internet, eliminating the constraints of radio signals. They also reduce operational costs by consolidating programming and cutting less popular radio shows.

While radio still holds value for local news and community connection, its role is shrinking as streaming becomes the preferred medium.

In short, streaming's flexibility, personalization, and global accessibility make it the inevitable future of audio broadcasting, especially

for Armed Forces Radio overseas, where traditional radio's limitations are most apparent.

The move from towers to apps represents more than a budgetary shift—it's a cultural evolution. I never would have become aware of any of this had I not embarked on my journey of distributing and seeking play for my music. A lot has changed since I retired in 1992!

Streaming services are on a clear path to surpass traditional radio, both in the U.S. and especially on Armed Forces Radio

Board structure to fight for program 8 funds for Air Force Broadcasting Service.)

Traditional broadcast crews were consolidated into DMA's workforce, with automation and centralized production reducing overseas staffing

Streaming services are on a clear path to surpass traditional radio, both in the U.S. and for military audiences abroad. The shift is driven by streaming's un-

LORD GUARD AND GUIDE



**FREDERICK LESH
WATKINS**

Frederick Lesh Watkins slipped the surly bonds of Earth on Oct. 8, 2025, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Born Nov. 8, 1932, in Atlanta, Ga., Fred lived a life defined by faith, family, and country.

Fred's faith was central to his life. He and his beloved wife Cathy were members of St. Mark's United Methodist Church for nearly 40 years. He served many roles, teaching Sunday school for decades.

While still in high school, Fred joined the Georgia Air National Guard. His unit was federalized during the Korean Conflict, marking the beginning of a distinguish-

ed military career.

Taking time off for education, he attended Duke University, participated in Air Force ROTC and earned a commission as an officer in the United States Air Force. After completing pilot training, he was assigned to various fighter and bomber aircraft.

During the Vietnam War, he flew 118 combat missions in the F-105 Thunderchief. Fred was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and 13 Air Medals.

Following Vietnam, Fred continued to serve in various positions, retiring in 1983 as Director, Public Affairs for NORAD. His love of flying never diminished. He spent many years as a certified flight instructor and an FAA master pilot.

Beyond his military accomplishments, Fred was known for his outgoing personality and generous spirit. Since his days at Duke, he was an active member of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. An avid golfer and natural raconteur, he never met a stranger. He also dedicated time for volunteer work throughout his life — always smiling, ready to lend a hand or share a story that lifted others' spirits.

Fred and Cathy moved twenty three times over their 70-year marriage. They returned to Raleigh in 1987, and for the last

eight years have been residents of the Springmoor Retirement Community.

He is lovingly remembered by his wife Catherine; daughters Lee Newick (Glenn) and Marty Weinberg (Dave); son David Watkins (Isela); grandchildren Matthew Weinberg (Cat), Allison Rickert (Kregg), Grace Newick (Stephen), Drew Watkins, Carson Watkins (Brooke), Brady Watkins (Taylor), and Graham Newick; and three great-grandchildren.

Loved by all who knew him, he will be missed. A Celebration of Life was held November 15 at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Raleigh with a reception immediately following the service.

A great friend, mentor, and neighbor. My sympathies to Cathy and his great kids. So many good times, and challenges as we worked together in the SAF/OI front office. The daily commute from Woodbridge to the Pentagon gave us a lot of time to share ideas and principles. Rest in peace, Airman.

— **Michael I. Burch**

I worked with Colonel Watkins at NORAD Public Affairs in the early '80s. A good man.

— **Raymond Klipsch**

What a life. Prayers for peace and happy memories for his family and friends.

—Gary J. Kunich



EDWARD RUSSELL LANSDALE

Edward Russell Lansdale, 86, of Garden City, N.Y., died at home October 6 with family at his side.

Born in San Francisco, Calif. in 1939 to Edward and Helen (Batcheller) Lansdale.

The son of a career military officer, Ed spent his childhood in places such as Northern California, Washington, D.C. and the Philippines.

Upon graduating high school, Ed worked for the 1960 Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, Calif. Soon thereafter, he moved to Tucson where he attended the University of Arizona and joined the Air Force ROTC.

Upon graduation he received a regular commission as a second lieutenant.

A proud veteran, Ed served 20 years in the Air Force, attaining

the rank of lieutenant colonel before his retirement. While serving his country, Ed attended the National Security Management School, Air Command and Staff College, and Squadron Officer School, among others. He also earned a master's degree in communications from Boston University, and served abroad in South Korea and Canada.

Ed spent most of his time with the Air Force Office of Public Affairs. Upon his retirement from the Air Force, he spent another 20 years working in the public relations industry, where he specialized in crisis communications, before retiring as a senior vice president and senior partner with a large, international public relations agency.

Never one to sit still, he then taught business classes to undergraduates for many years at several colleges.

Ed's true passion and joy, however, was his family. A devoted and loving father, Ed taught his children the values of humility, quiet determination, and hard work, all under the banner of the Air Force motto, "Aim High!"

Ed was a fantastic writer who played the role of the loving family copy editor, never passing up an opportunity to point out a dangling modifier in any school report that may have been left out too long on the kitchen table.

He was a captivating storyteller, and his time abroad and in the military provided him with a rich store of material.

Ed was a proud grandfather to five grandchildren who delighted in his unique combination of

quick wit and military bearing.

Ed shared 59 wonderful years of marriage to Carol, who complemented him in the most wonderful ways. They famously met on a blind date arranged during one of his first assignments in Madera, California. Together, they forged a life built upon love, respect, and admiration. In Carol, Ed met his match, not to mention his soul-mate, and they spent their years of retirement traveling around Europe and doting upon their grandchildren.

Ed is survived by his wife Carol of Garden City; his son Mark Lansdale; his daughter, Sarah Rudaitis, son-in-law Ron, and grandchildren Henry and Maggie of Greenlawn, N.Y.; his son, Ted, and daughter-in-law Kiki and grandchildren Charlie, Jane and Ben of Holliston, Mass. He was preceded in death by his brother, Peter, and sister-in-law Carolyn of Ponte Vedra, Fla., both of whom he loved very much.

Ed had a service October 10 at Fairchild Sons Funeral Home in Garden City, N.Y. followed by a private burial at Calverton National Cemetery.

Ed was a great professional and friend. God bless him.

—Joe Wagovich

May Ed rest in eternal peace. I'm so glad that our paths crossed at the Pentagon.

—Fred Gebler

I will always remember Ed crowing in the hallways of the Pentagon.

—Don Hessenflow

To say Ed was "unique" would be a gross understatement! He was a special guy who brought joy and friendship to all who knew and met. Ed was SAF/PA's "class clown" in the late 70's and early 80's. Whether he was throwing rolls at the annual Holiday Ball or standing on his Pentagon desk squawking like a chicken, Ed was the life of the party. But underneath that mischievous facade was a warm, caring man who made friends for life. We'll miss you Fast Eddie - rest in peace old friend!

— Art Forster



**MICHAEL R.
KINCEN**

Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame member Mike Kinchen passed away October 29 from cardiac arrest.

If you were ever stationed overseas, chances are you need to say "thank you" to Mike Kinchen.

A giant in the broadcasting world, Mike helped establish the Air Force Broadcasting Service in 1981, and his efforts to enhance

the quality and availability of radio and television programming for service members all over the world continue to pay dividends today.

The only individual to have ever received Thomas Jefferson Awards in both print and broadcasting, Mike enlisted in the Air Force in 1961. He had stints editing four base newspapers, including the Sheppard Senator at Sheppard AFB, Texas, where he won the Thomas Jefferson Award for the top newspaper in the Air Force.

Along with his newspaper editing talents, Mike had an extremely successful career as a military broadcaster, whether that entailed working in front of, or behind, a TV camera, deejaying on the radio, or managing operations behind the scenes.

He won his Thomas Jefferson Award as a broadcaster for a series of radio and TV spots he developed while stationed at Clark AB in the Philippines.

In addition to the Philippines, Mike served in numerous overseas assignments, including Korea, Okinawa, Puerto Rico, Alaska, Vietnam, and Thailand. As a member of "Operation Lamp-lighter" he was hand picked to help establish the Armed Forces Thailand Network and get it on the air. He spent over 23 years on active duty, retiring as a chief master sergeant in 1985.

As a civilian employee after his military retirement, Mike played a major role in overseeing American Forces Radio and Television Service operations at locations throughout the world. Regard-

less of the remoteness of the location or the technical challenges involved, Mike worked tirelessly to expand the options Air Force members serving overseas had for news, sports, and entertainment.

After 49 years of federal government service, Mike retired as a GS-15 from his position as the Director of Defense Media Activity-Air Force Production in San Antonio in 2011. In addition to his two Thomas Jefferson Awards, he was the recipient of the Freedoms Foundation's George Washington Honor Medal, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Service, and the Colonel Tom Lewis Lifetime Achievement Award from AFRTS.

Mike was buried with full military honors in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Nov. 21.

Mike was the Chief of Operations for the Air Force Broadcasting Service when I was assigned to Headquarters American Forces Information Service as the Air Force Service Information and News Center/Air Force Broadcasting Service liaison officer. I was new to the broadcasting community and also new to the budgeting process. A major part of my responsibilities was presenting the Air Force Broadcasting Service annual budget before the Air Force Board structure and answering questions. As a PA, it was a daunting task and Mike was a huge help in educating me about how AFBS and AFRTS functioned. My patient bosses Col Terry Mayer, Lt. Col, John Worthington, and Col. Paul Heye all invested great trust in me in large measure because Mike helped me learn to walk the walk and talk the talk. I enjoyed working with him and regret never having made it

out fishing with him.

—Dick Cole

May his soul rest in peace.

—Mehmet Birbiri

One of the great ones!

—Rick Fuller

Mike was a leader and a doer and he knew the business! He was a friend and a true family man. You served your country well. Prayers are with you!!

—Hal Smarkola

Raising a glass to brother Mike! RIP!

—Bill Petrie

Sad to hear this. Mike and I discussed fishing when we were at AFNEWS.

—Miconna Boaldin

I am so sad to hear of Mike's passing and remember fondly our time working together at AFNEWS where we worked through so many issues and deadlines. He was a one-of-a-kind professional and great colleague. We know you are all processing this loss and grieving for Mike. Please know you are not alone.

—Mike Perini

A true friend and leader will be missed, remembered and remain in our hearts

—Tom Halbert



KENNETH HACKMAN

Kenneth "Ken" Hackman, known as the "Godfather" of Air Force visual information, passed away Dec. 4.

Ken Hackman has always had a unique ability to mentor and shape young photographers and give them the training and expertise they need to be successful.

Hackman's love of photography propelled the Lancaster, Pa., native into an Air Force photography career at the age of 17. He left the Air Force after his first enlistment and, in 1960, became a civil service photographer with the Aerospace Audiovisual Service until his retirement in 1995.

Ken took the official photographs of Air Force One from 1975 to 2000 and most Air Force aircraft from 1960 to 1995. For

his final Air Force One official photo, he flew to South Dakota to photograph the President's aircraft in front of Mt. Rushmore.

In both his active duty and civilian Air Force career, and after retirement, Ken has been known and respected for the many "photo-journalism seminars" he conducted across the military. He founded and directed, for over 20 years, the DoD Worldwide Photography Workshop. He also directed the annual Communicator of Excellence Award competitions and other training events.

In 2002, he was selected as an adjunct professor for the Syracuse University "study abroad program" in London. During one semester, he taught a select group of 20 juniors and seniors.

His prodigious photographic output also included, to mention just a few, coverage of atomic bomb testing in the Pacific, the war in Vietnam, eight winter and summer Olympic games.

His numerous military awards include the Air Force Exceptional Civilian Service Award (1974), Air Combat Camera Service's Lifetime Achievement Award (1993), HQ AAVS/Combat Camera Service Outstanding Civilian of the Year (1993) and the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service (2011).

In the civilian world, Ken was recognized in 2013 by the National Press Photographers Association with the highest honor in photo-journalism, the Joseph A. Sprague Award.

In 2018, Ken was the recipient of the prestigious AFPAA President's

(cont'd on next page)



Hackman was recently inducted into the DINFOS Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2025 by Col. Richard McNorton, Acting Director for Defense Media Activity and the Commandant of the Defense Information School, left, and former DINFOS Commandant retired Army Col. Jeremy M. Martin, right. (DINFOS Photo)

Award. The President's Award recognizes individuals who are leaders in their particular field or who developed pioneering programs and policies that impact Air Force Public Affairs.

He was one of the pioneer class of inductees into the Air Force Public Affairs Hall of Fame.

On September 4, Hackman was inducted into the Defense Information School Hall of Fame Class of 2025. He was inducted by Defense Media Activity acting director and Defense Information School commandant Army Col. Richard McNorton and past com-

mandant retired Army Col. Jeremy M. Martin.

His funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.

Mentor isn't a big enough word to describe Ken Hackman's role in Andy Dunaway's and my careers and lives. In 1991, Andy was introduced to Ken through Rosie Reynolds, both of whom Andy credits for the direction and success of his early career. In 1992, Andy got the go-ahead from Ken to attend PJ school in Rochester. After finishing school, Ken was Andy's boss.

As for me, I met Ken in 2002 at

the DoD Workshop. He guided, critiqued, supported and encouraged me through the rest of my Air Force service and beyond.

For Andy and me, Ken was always more than a mentor. He was our friend who was there for many milestones in our life.... marriage, awards, assignments, retirements, setbacks and leaps forward.

There are so many stories Andy and I could share, but, suffice it to say, Ken was and will always remain a fixture in our lives.

Rest in peace. Until we meet again, we love you.

— Stacy Pearsall

Rest in peace, Ken Hackman. Your legacy will live on through the many lives you touched.

— Miconna Boaldin

Ken and I were from the old school. We worked together many times. I was proud to call him my friend and colleague!

— Robert Hayes

He set a high bar for those who follow.

— Johnnie Ben Kump



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!

He was truly one of a kind! He covered seven Olympics! He helped so many. He shared his talents with everyone and was always willing to help! RIP good friend!

— **Rick Fuller**

One of a kind! Sympathy to the Hackman family.

— **Julie Blackburn**

I'm so sorry to hear this. He was one of my mentors early in my career. He was the consummate professional and an excellent teacher.

— **Donna Christian Stratford**

He was the ultimate pro and such a special friend. His angel wings will be the Air Force version. Fly high now Ken.

— **Don Hessenflow**

He left an unparalleled legacy.

— **John Banusiewicz**

Dick (from heaven) and I send our heartfelt sympathy. I'm sure that Dick was in Ken's welcoming committee.

— **Ann Voelcker Abel**

A consummate professional and true legend, Ken's impact on public affairs and visual information will live forever. Perhaps his greatest contribution

was his mentorship and ability to bring out the best in people. Countless former and current military and civilian photographers, videographers and motion picture professionals earned their stripes under his tutelage. A pro's pro, Ken was a pioneer who set the standard for visual information excellence. We salute you, sir!

— **Art Forster**



THOMAS BONEPARTE

Thomas Boneparte of Lorton, Va., died on October 5 after a long illness.

Born to the late James and Dorothy Boneparte on April 19, 1954, in Orangeburg, S.C., Tom graduated from Wilkerson High

School, Orangeburg, and the University of Pittsburg before enlisting in the United States Air Force.

After being commissioned as an officer, Tom served as a Public Affairs Officer with the 314th Tactical Airlift Wing at Little Rock, Ark.; Thule, Greenland; and Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. Subsequently, he joined the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) in Italy.

Tom returned to public affairs at Whiteman AFB, Mo., as Chief, Public Affairs for the 509th Bombardment Group. At Whiteman, he worked tirelessly with surrounding communities to garner their support for the impending arrival of the B-2 bomber.

He continued his service as a public affairs officer at Yokota AFB, Japan, as Chief, Public Affairs Division for the 374th Airlift Wing. He ended his military career assigned to the AFRTS in the Pentagon.

During his military service, Tom was deployed as part of Desert Shield. While in the Air Force he continued his education attending various military schools and receiving a Master of Public Administration degree.

After his retirement from the military, he worked as a technical writer for several government contractors in the Washington, D.C. area.

Tom married Yvonne Mason in 1982 and she joined him on all assignments after Thule. They trav-

(cont'd on next page)

Read a good book lately that your colleagues should read?

Feel free to submit a review for publication in News and Notes! Send your submissions to editor Dick Cole at dickcole1853@verizon.net. Ideally, reviews should be 500 to 700 words.

elled to Europe, East Asia, the Caribbean and throughout the United States. Tom enjoyed dancing, bringing people together wherever he went and working with young people as a brother of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Preceded in death by his parents and four siblings, Tom will be sorely missed by his wife Yvonne, four siblings, many nieces and nephews and his numerous friends and associates.



DAVID NEUBERT COMPTON

On December 2, the 53rd anniversary of his wedding to his wife, Rebecca, David N. Compton died peacefully at the age of 77. He suffered from Lewy Body Dementia and spent his last days in the compassionate care of the Boise V.A. Hospice Unit.

David was born May 17, 1948, in Knoxville, Tenn., to Charles R. Compton, Jr., and Dorothy Neubert Compton.

He graduated from Young High School in 1966. He graduated from

the University of Tennessee with a BS degree in Sociology and Journalism in 1970. He was employed by the *Knoxville Journal* as a copy desk editor and reporter prior to joining the Army in 1972. After basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., he graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Okla., as a second lieutenant in field artillery.

In December 1972, he married M. Rebecca Shull of Nashville, who he had met at the University of Tennessee three years earlier.

His first assignment was at Fort Sill as assistant editor of the new *Field Artillery Journal*.

In 1975 he was transferred to Germany as a Pershing missile officer.

In 1978 he returned to Fort Sill for school before being assigned to the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Ky. In 1981 he was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

In 1984, he was reassigned to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he served as Deputy Director for Academy Relations and was promoted to Major. He also attended Polytechnic University in New York (now NYU) and received a Masters Degree in Computer Information Systems in 1988.

During the summer of 1987 he attended the Army Advanced Public Affairs Course at the University of South Carolina with a follow-on assignment to the U.S. European Command Public Affairs Office in Stuttgart, Ger-

many. In 1990 he headed to Fort McClellan, Alabama as the Director of Public Affairs. In 1992 he retired from the Army and moved to Nashville, Tenn.

In 1993 he became Vice President of Corporate Relations for Comdata Corporation where he developed a strong Public Relations staff and received the APR accreditation by the Public Relations Society of America.

In 1995, David and Rebecca moved to Maryland when he contracted to support the U.S. Army Chemical Demilitarization Program.

In 1997, David became a civil service employee on the public affairs staff of the U.S. Air Force in the Pentagon as senior administrator of the Air Force Web Information Service (Webmaster).

Leaving the Air Force in 1999, he joined MicronPC.com in Boise, Idaho, as senior web strategist. In 2002 he started his own company, Compton Communications.

In 2003, with the start of the Iraq War, he returned to the Pentagon to work with Army Public Affairs as a contract senior analyst.

He returned home to Idaho in 2005 and restarted his company. In 2013 he retired and closed the company.

David was preceded in death by his parents, and by his sister, Elizabeth Ann Starleaf, of Ames, Iowa.

David is survived by his wife of 53 years, Rebecca; brother-in-law, Dennis Starleaf, of Ames, Iowa, niece Katrina Starleaf and nephew Christopher Starleaf; brother

(cont'd on p.21)



Public Affairs
Association™



JOIN US!

Annual Meeting & Reunion

Fairfield, Calif., is the site for the Air Force Public Affairs Association's 29th Annual Membership Meeting. The host facility for the gathering is Fairfield's Hilton Garden Inn. including a visit to Travis Air Force Base, the "Gateway to the Pacific," on Friday, May 1.

Hilton Garden Inn
2200 Gateway Court
Fairfield, CA 94533



Air Force Public Affairs Association
Annual Meeting & Reunion
April 30 - May 2, 2026
Travis AFB • Fairfield, CA



For more information:
afppaa.org/fairfield-2026.html

Does this airman look familiar?

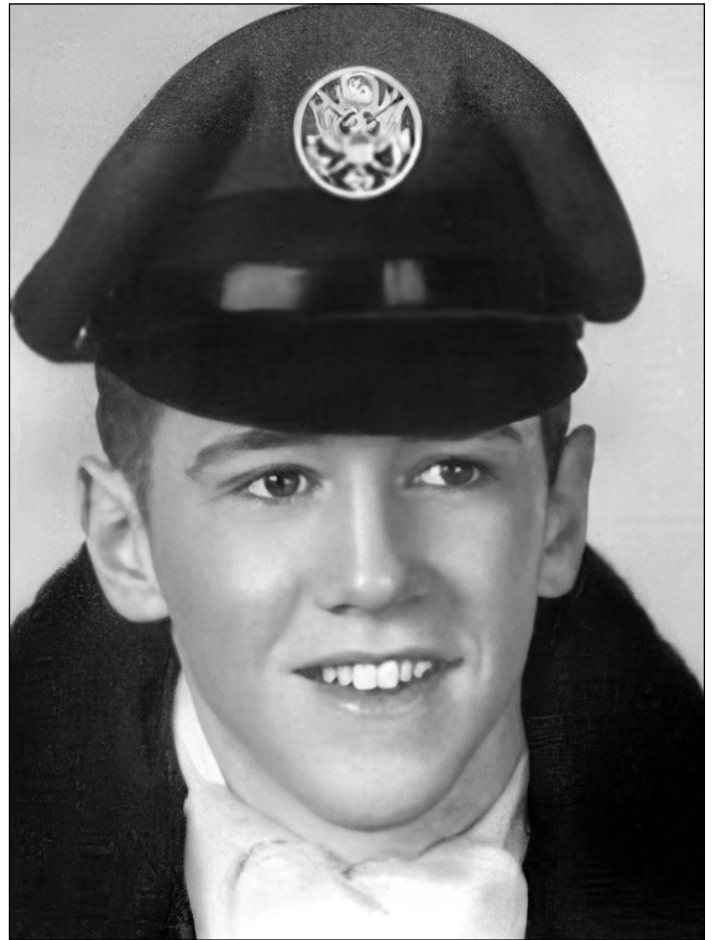
By Together We Served

George Denis Patrick Carlin, known for his sharp wit and incisive social commentary, remains one of the most influential comedians of all time. His career spanned decades, and his humor challenged societal norms, making him a voice for many who questioned authority and the status quo. However, before he became a household name, Carlin's life took a different path—one that led him to serve in the United States Air Force. While his military service may seem at odds with his later persona, it played a significant role in shaping the man he would become.

Carlin was born on May 12, 1937, in New York City to an Irish father, Patrick Carlin, and an Irish-American mother, Mary Bearey. Carlin grew up in a tough neighborhood and was known for his rebellious nature from an early age. He was raised on West 121st Street in a part of Upper Manhattan commonly known as "white Harlem."

By the time he was a teenager, Carlin had developed a deep disdain for authority, a trait that would become central to his comedy. He attended Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx. However, like many young men of his generation, Carlin found himself at a crossroads after high school. Unsure of what to do next and eager to escape his circumstances, he enlisted in the Air Force in 1954 at the age of 17.

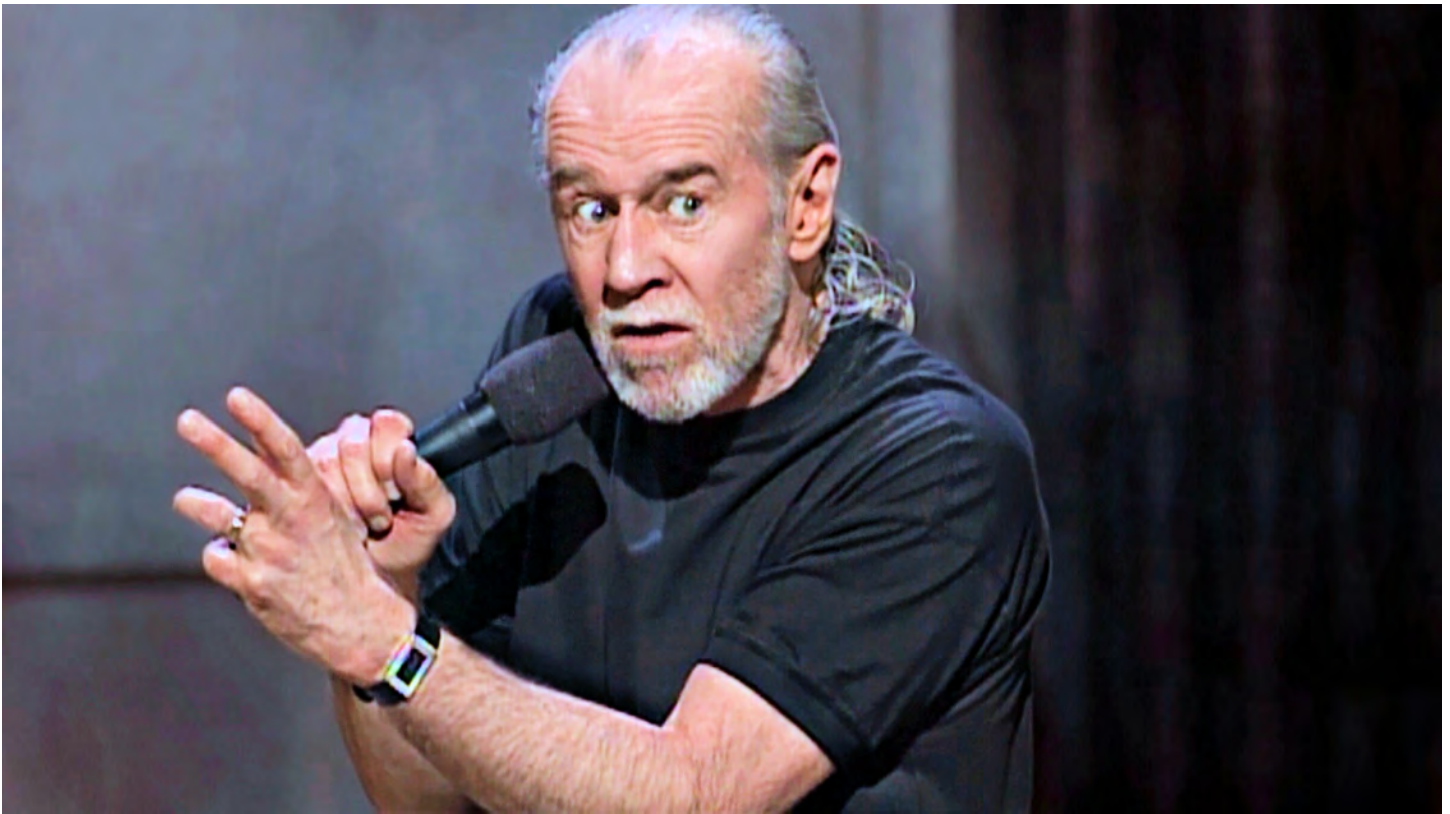
The Air Force offered him an opportunity to see the world and earn a living, even if it meant submitting to the very authority figures he often rebelled against. However, Carlin's time in the Air Force was anything but smooth.



Airman George Carlin in an Air Force 1954 basic training photograph.

Carlin was assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport, La., where he served as a radar technician. His duties at the Strategic Air Command base involved maintaining and operating the radar systems used to monitor and track aircraft. While Carlin was proficient at his job, his rebellious nature often put him at odds with military discipline. Carlin struggled with authority and frequently found himself in trouble for insubordination. His disdain for the rigid structure of military life led to multiple disciplinary actions, including demotions and confinements. Carlin himself later admitted that he was not a model airman, and his rebellious streak only grew stronger during his service.

Ultimately, it led to his court martial for insubordination, failure to obey orders, absence without leave and lack of discipline. He was discharged under honorable conditions in 1957. The official reason for his discharge was "incompatibility with military life," a description that Carlin would later joke about in his comedy routines. This discharge marked a



Carlin during one of his 14 HBO comedy specials.

turning point in Carlin's life, as it allowed him to pursue his true passion: comedy.

Thanks to his gripping comedy and amazing sense of humor, Carlin became a DJ for KJOE radio while serving in Shreveport. His work at KJOE helped him explore other opportunities in the entertainment industry. Carlin also entertained his fellow airmen with impressions and jokes, often poking fun at the very system he was a part of. These early experiences as a performer helped Carlin realize his passion for comedy and set the stage for his future career.

Upon returning to civilian life, he knew he wanted to make people laugh, and he wasted no time in pursuing this goal. Carlin moved to Boston, where he began working as a disc jockey at a local radio station. It was here that he honed his skills as a performer and developed the sharp, observational humor that would become his trademark.

While George Carlin's military service may seem at odds with the anti-establishment persona he later cultivated, it played a significant role in shaping his worldview. The discipline and structure of the Air Force contrasted sharply with Carlin's rebellious nature, and this tension became a central theme in his comedy.

Carlin's time in the military exposed him to the absurdities of authority and bureaucracy, experiences that he would later draw upon in his stand-up routines by targeting the hypocrisy and contradictions of societal norms, a perspective that was undoubtedly influenced by his time in the military. Carlin's ability to find humor in the rigid and often nonsensical rules of the military laid the foundation for his later work, which challenged audiences to question the status quo.

During his time in the Air Force, Carlin became acutely aware of how language could be used to control and manipulate. This realization became a central theme in his comedy, particularly in his famous "Seven Dirty Words You Can Never Say on Radio" routine, which highlighted the arbitrary nature of censorship.

Carlin ultimately starred in numerous cable comedy specials and movies, won multiple Grammy Awards for his comedy albums, was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and posthumously received a Kennedy Center Mark Twain Prize. Carlin passed in 2008. He was 71.



Oral History

Below is a gem from an Air Force public affairs practitioner who preceded us and shared these comments during their oral history interviews with John Gura.

About being a PAO...

"The future security of the country depends on how well the people are informed about the enemy threat and the capability and limitations and requirements of the Air Force and the Space Force of the future; the capability to protect this country through deterrence or, the ability to win a war, if we get into one. That's the job; it's vital; and everybody ought to take great pride in being an Information Officer (PAO) and doing the job to the very best of their ability."

— Col. Reade F. Tilley, USAF (Ret.)

Quote from Col Tilley's Oral History at: <https://www.afpaaa.org/oralhistory.htm>

[Editor's Note: Col Tilley was a WWII Ace with the RAF's Eagle Squadron. After the war he became deeply involved in the USAF information (Public Affairs) field. He was Director of Information for Air Forces in Europe during the Berlin Airlift, he became the architect of SAC's public information program, and served as PACAF Director of Information during the Vietnam conflict. He is arguably the one person most responsible for developing the structure and practice of "modern" USAF public affairs. Many innovations he introduced changed military public affairs forever and are still in use today.]

“Lord Guard and Guide” (cont’d from p. 16)

C. Randy Compton (Sharon) of Knoxville, Tenn., nephew Nicklas Compton and niece Lacey Compton; brother Nolan T. Compton (Dee Anna) of Soldotna, Alaska and Cameron, Texas; brother-in-law James M. Shull (Carol Ann) of Franklin, Tenn., nephew Jason Shull (Katy) of Franklin, Tenn., and nephew Jared Shull (Mohana) of Birmingham, Ala. and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was active in Rotary International and served as a founding member of the Idaho Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (twice serving as President). He was a ski patroller for many years. He attended First United Methodist Church in Boise, Idaho.

A committal service with military honors will be held at 1:00 pm, Friday, May 29, 2026, at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, in Boise, with a celebration of life to follow.

I worked as a contractor with David in the Army’s Office of the Chief of Public Affairs from 2003-2005. We were working on a computer-based media analysis program that David developed. The program analyzed the effectiveness of Army messaging. This was during the time of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal and we stayed extremely busy! David was a brilliant computer wizard, communicator and mentor. I learned a lot from him that I was able to employ in subsequent positions.

— Dick Cole

Dalton Scholarships (cont’d from p.3)

work. Selected recipients can apply for additional scholarships in successive years if they have successfully completed their previous course work.

Those wishing to apply should visit the AFPAA webpage at www.afpaaa.org and click on Apply For A Dalton Scholarship for a full description of the program and to access an application form. Completed applications must be sent it to the AFPAA Dalton Scholarship Committee at scholarship@afpaaa.org.



Got Your Challenge Coin?



Challenge coins are traditionally given out to prove membership when challenged, to enhance morale and to be collected. AFPAA has continued that tradition with its own challenge coin. You can get the AFPAA Challenge Coin for a \$10 donation, plus \$9.95 for shipping and handling by going to <https://afpaaa.org/challengecoin.html>.



International Association
of Business Communicators

To earn the trust and confidence of the American people, the Air Force needs talented public affairs professionals who have the knowledge and expertise required in today’s information environment. Programs offered by the [Public Relations Society of America \(PRSA\)](http://www.prsa.org) or the [International Association of Business Communicators \(IABC\)](http://www.iabc.org) can help Air Force PAs develop the advanced public relations skills that will enable them to provide expert communications counsel to commanders at all levels.

That’s why AFPAA strongly supports membership in PRSA or IABC and urges PAs to earn the credentials these organizations offer. As part of its commitment to support the active force, AFPAA has established a stipend program to help PAs offset the costs involved in applying for accreditation by PRSA or certification by IABC.

Up to four stipends of \$250 each per fiscal year are available to Air Force personnel who successfully complete one of the PRSA or IABC credentialing programs. For more information, go to <https://afpaaa.org/prsa.html>. If you have any questions, contact us at scholarship@afpaaa.org.



The Hilton Garden Inn in Fairfield, Calif., will be home for the 2026 AFPAA Annual Meeting and Reunion, April 30-May 2, 2023.

Upcoming Annual Meeting and Reunion set for Napa Valley wine country

By Perry Nouis
Annual Meeting Chairman

Wine Country beckons as the countdown begins for the Air Force Public Affairs Association's 29th Annual Membership Meeting in Fairfield, Calif., scheduled for April 30-May 2, 2026. Registration is open and underway. Members can register online on the Association's website.

Fairfield's Hilton Garden Inn will again be the Association's host facility during the meeting. It is the same hotel that was used when the Association last met there in 2011.

The current itinerary includes a visit to Travis Air Force Base, the "Gateway to the Pacific," on Friday, May 1. Travis is home for the 60th Air Mobility Wing, the largest air mobility hub on the west coast. The base hosts a versatile fleet of aircraft including the C-5M Super Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster III, and KC-46 Pegasus aircraft.

The customary Annual Meeting activities include the membership meeting, guest speakers, receptions, and luncheons, concluding with the Awards Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Optional events that will be offered to members over the

three days include a Jelly Belly Factory tour where visitors can take a self-guided tour to see how the famous jelly beans are made. The experience includes interactive exhibits and plenty of sweet, wild-flavor samples. Other optional events will include a golf outing at Solano Golf Course and wine tasting at the hotel. Details about those events will be provided separately to those who register.

To register for the meeting, look for the registration form that is available in this issue of *News and Notes*, or find it online at <https://afpaa.clubexpress.com> by clicking on Meeting Registration under the 2026 Annual Meeting heading in the main menu.

AFPAA ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ First Annual Meeting? Yes ___ No ___

Address: _____ Are you a new member? Yes ___ No ___

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 Travis AFB? _____

Do you want to play golf on Thursday morning, April 30th, 8 am-1 pm, at Solano GC (Extra cost: \$69*): Yes ___ No ___

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

Member Attending _____ x \$250 = \$ _____
Guests Attending _____ x \$250 = \$ _____
Non-Member _____ x \$300 = \$ _____

Individual Event Registration

Icebreaker Reception – Hotel, Thursday, April 30, 5-7 p.m.

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

Breakfast – Hotel, Friday, May 1st, 6-7:30 a.m.

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

President's Luncheon – Travis AFB, Friday, May 1st
(Includes bus transportation from the hotel to Travis AFB
for Friday's tours)

Member Attending _____ x \$70 = \$ _____
Guests Attending _____ x \$70 = \$ _____
Non-Member _____ x \$75 = \$ _____

President's Luncheon Only– Travis AFB, Friday, May 1st

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

Breakfast – Hotel, Saturday, May 2nd, 6-8 a.m.

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

SAF/PA Director's Luncheon, Hotel, Noon Saturday, May 2nd

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

AFPAA's Annual Awards Reception & Banquet, Hotel
Saturday, May 2nd, 6-9:30 p.m. Please indicate your meal choice(s) :
*Beef _____ *Fish _____ *Chicken _____ *Vegetarian _____

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

(*Use M for Member Choice/G for Guest(s) & Non-Member Choices)

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

Centurion Donation - \$100 \$ _____

Mail form and check/money order to:

Total Remitted \$ _____

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

Optional Events:

Free Wine Tasting, Friday, May 1st, 6-8 p.m., Hilton Hotel, Number Attending _____
Jelly Belly Factory Tour, Friday afternoon, May 1st, Number Attending _____

Meeting Registrations are Due NLT Midnight April 1, 2026. Registrations received after this date will be charged a \$25 Per Person Late Fee.

Hotel Reservations: AFPAA has a block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel in Fairfield, CA, at the rate of \$110.00+tax per night (single or double). The rate is valid April 30-May 2, 2026, while rooms are available. Make reservations at: <https://afpaaa.org/hotel-2026.html>, or call the hotel at (707) 426-6900. The reservation code is "AFPA25". Deadline for hotel reservations is April 9, 2026. 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 April 30, 2026/Check-out May 3, 2026. * The cost of golf is \$69/person, payable at the Pro Shop. Further details will be provided separately to those wanting to play.



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

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE



Looking for a New Membership Chair!

Christine Queen, Membership Chair, is looking for someone to take her place. Please contact her at CJQueen@comcast.net or (309) 648-1884. Christine and Jim McGuire, website chair, will work with the new membership chair to familiarize them with the program. Phil Ratliff, CFO, is also available to verify a member's membership payment.

Website: The new <https://afpaa.clubexpress.com> website requires all members to review their membership information.

The AFPAA Annual Directory will be sent to the membership by mid-December. When you receive it, *open it up* to verify your information!

New Policy: The cost of sending the annual directory is over \$3 each. If a member's directory is returned due to an incorrect address, the directory will not be resent. Sometimes the USPS charges a return fee.

This policy also applies to the AFPAA newsletter, which costs more \$1 to resend.

Christine spends considerable time trying to contact each mem-

ber to update their information. Please return her calls or respond to her emails.

If a member does not update their newsletter preference on <https://afpaa.clubexpress.com> they will continue to receive it by email.

New Life Members:

Mehmet Birbiri (Sponsors: Carla Sylvester and Jim McGuire)
Andrew Bourland
Andrew Lingle
Jennifer Lovett
Sean McKenna

New Members:

Olushino Bolden, Jr.
Daniel Condit