

# SHORT BURSTS

## Air Force Gunners Association

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OK you smart BUFF instructor gunner guys, start writing your paragraphs of your unique experiences in the BUFF. Same with you B-36 guys and the B-26 gunners that actually flew in the co-pilot's position when not manning the guns. Same with the AC-47 or all the gunners that became airborne radio operators or AWACS crewmembers. We'll even print your experiences after you got laid off and went to satellites, flight engineers, helicopter gunners, or any other AFSC the gunners literally took over in short time. Send them in to the editor by any means that you can. E-mail is preferred, doesn't have to be a Word document, if you hand-write a letter, print the best you can so I can scan it and get your actual letter in print on these future pages. It is your Short Bursts, get your story in print now! Remember, as GUNNERS, we are very SPECIAL people! SPECIAL!

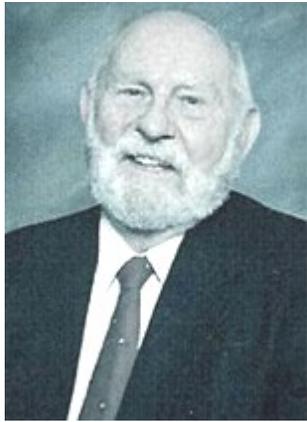




**FORMER AFGA ASSOCIATION OFFICERS**



NEIL RICHARDS



PAUL SAVKO



ANDY ANDERSON



DON MURPHY



BOB MATHERLY



JIM HOKE



PARKER BLAKE



IGGY CRUZ



JOHN STANTON



CHUCK DEAN



## ***AFGA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JOHN STALLINGS***



Hello Everybody,

The 2017 Reunion at the Sheraton Music City, Nashville, Tennessee is now in the books. I would like to thank everybody who attended the reunion. I would like to especially thank those who showed up for the first time and hearing how much they enjoyed it. Even though attendance was down, everybody had a great time. If you took any pictures at the reunion, forward them to Pete, our editor and he will include them in future Short Bursts. If you have not been to a reunion, give it a try. You might be surprised how much fun it is.

Currently we do not have a BX officer. Our past BX officer had to resign for personal reasons and one was not elected at the reunion. In its place, for now is a committee to look at the BX process and stream line it. The idea is not to carry so much inventory so we can reduce the amount of items we ship from reunion to reunion. This will also reduce the cost to the association. To start this process, the first step was to have a sale at the reunion of all the items we had. We started with 13 boxes of items sent to Nashville and by the end of the reunion, we reduced that down to four boxes. This sale reduced our inventory and will be the starting point for a more efficient operation. A lot of the items had been around for some time and were not moving, by reducing the prices, we were able to move a lot of the inventory. Due to this sale, we had to take down the BX page of the website to prevent selling items that we no longer have. If you have an idea of an item that you think might sell, pass it on to me and we can look into it. In addition if you know of a vendor who might be able to produce your idea, also include that. More to follow.

During the Nashville reunion, it was voted that Oklahoma City will be the host city for the 2019 Reunion. Planning for this reunion is underway. A hotel has been picked and I'm in the process of securing a contract. Once it is secured, I'll post the dates and the Oklahoma City hotel information. As it looks right now, the rate is going to be around \$125 plus tax. This is the same rate we had in Nashville. It was the absolute best I could do. Planning for reunions continues to be a challenge and I continue to fight for the absolute best prices. Stay tuned.

In closing I would like to wish everybody a happy and safe holiday season and a Happy New Year.

*John Stallings*



**AFGA VICE PRESIDENT - BOB ASHLEY**



Hello Fellow Gunners,

The Reunion was a great time thanks to all the hard work by the officers and others. The tours we went on were great. The bus tour of the city of Nashville was the way to go. We saw so much of the city we would have missed if we tried to view it on our own. I was extremely surprised never being there before how beautiful and interesting the city was in so many ways. The time at the Grand Ole Opry was also very fun. The hotel we stayed at was very nice and served a great meal during the banquet and open mike Sunday night.

Seeing everyone again, and making some new friends was so enjoyable. Talking to many gunners about their experiences in the Air Force brought back many great memories. Special thanks to my friends Chuck and Pat Dean for making my trip special by taking me to an AAA baseball game and giving me rides to places around town. And to Dan and Linda Danish, dinner and wine at Darfon's was great! Also talking to Chief Rich Lake and receiving his bio to print in the next Short Bursts made for a great conclusion to a wonderful trip.

For those who could not make it, SEE YOU, at the next reunion.

*Bob Ashley*



## **MEMBERSHIP CORNER - BOB ETHINGTON**



Greetings from the Membership Corner

Hi all,

My name is Bob Ethington and I was selected to be the new membership officer at the AFGA Reunion in Nashville in September. Those of you who weren't there missed a great time.

By the way, I will be hounding every one of you that I can contact over the next two years to make it to Oklahoma City. We have a great organization and each reunion is an enjoyable experience. We get to renew old friendships, meet new acquaintances, and refresh old memories.

I have met those who are legends in our career field and heard the stories from those 'who were there'. If you aren't a member of the association, please take it upon yourself to become one. If you are a member, search your memory for names of those who aren't. If you have contact information, that is great. But even if you don't, if you can come up with a name, base, and dates of assignment, and any other information, I have sources to find most.

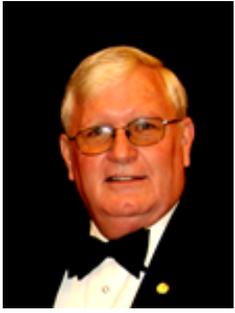
There are many, many gunners out there who aren't members and we need to get them involved and attending the reunions. The better the turnout, the better deals we can get and . . .if you are at the reunion, you get a say in where the next ones will be held. Chuck Dean has done a great job for the past few years as membership officer and I hope I can do as well.

C'est La Vie,

*Bob Ethington*



## HISTORIAN'S COMMENTS - RORY KOON



Fellow AFGA Members, greetings from the AFGA Historian. Just a quick update following the AFGA Reunion in Nashville. As for me, this was one of the best reunions to date. The entertainment and tours were outstanding and the meals were great. My wife and I got to spend a lot of time catching up with some very old friends which is always the highlight of any reunion for us. The guest speaker for the Banquet dinner was outstanding and provided an excellent insight into the future of the Air Force. The open mike night proved to be entertaining as well as very nostalgic, great job gentlemen.

Nashville definitely lived up to its reputation for being rich in southern history and having an outstanding country music scene. It exceeded any expectations I had for the trip. Kudos to John Stallings for all his hard work in coordinating the tours, meals, and lodging. During the general membership meeting, the members voted the next reunion, two years from now to be in Oklahoma City with San Diego being the reunion site in four years. Now is the time to start planning for the OKC reunion.

Having lived in Oklahoma City since 1991, it has a lot of unique experiences available for visitors. Oklahoma City is also pretty much centrally located in the country and has a large airport and direct access north, south east and west through the interstate system. OKC has undergone a renaissance of sorts in the past 15 years and has added an entertainment district known as Bricktown. Part of Bricktown is a Riverwalk similar to the one in San Antonio. Close to downtown is Stockyard City with some unique shopping opportunities as well as the Western Heritage Museum and Cowboy Hall of Fame. The Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial site and museum is also a well-known destination in OKC.

Tinker AFB is located just east of the metro and is the largest depot complex in the Air Force. It remains the primary maintenance depot for all B-52 aircraft and we still see B-52s flying in the pattern on a regular basis. It might be possible to set up a tour so anyone wanting to see the "old Buff" up close and personal again will be able to do just that. Currently discussions are ongoing to keep the B-52 operational for many more years so it will still be here.

There was significant discussion during the membership meeting regarding our membership numbers. Each year we lose more members than we gain. I know there are a lot of gunners out there that are not participating in the association for whatever reason. Whether it is ignorance or apathy, (I don't know or I don't care) it is incumbent on every member to try and contact old friends to find out why they are not participating and try to encourage them to join. The majority of the members still want to keep the organization unique and limit the membership to those gunners who flew on bomber aircraft. We all know there are other airframes out there with "guns" on them. Without any new blood, we are destined to decline in membership numbers until there is no longer an AFGA.

Chuck Dean has done a great job as the Membership Officer but recently had to step down due to conflicts with his work schedule. We elected a new Membership Officer, Bob Ethington and with him comes new ideas and hopefully many new members. There are no new bomber gunners being created and with no new input and with the loss of approximately three members a month, it will not take too many more years to completely deplete our numbers. Very few WWII members are still around and the Korea War Era gunners are rapidly declining as well. Bob and I will be joining forces to work out ways to recruit gunners who are not currently participating in the Association.

We all have a classmate or good friend from our gunnery days we are still in contact with that is not currently a member of the association. Now it the time to reach out to them personally and invite them to join the organization. Hopefully, they can do the same in turn and we can begin building a bigger and more sustainable association. If not, it will not be too many years before we won't be able to share the comraderie, swap old stories (true or not) with folks who have the same unique heritage and history as our own. I know there are still a lot of folks younger than me with the same pride and memories they earned as gunners. I would like to see them keep the traditions going.

*C'est La Vie, Rory Koon*

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS - PETE KARJANIS



This issue of the Short Bursts will focus on the Nashville Reunion that was the fastest four days filled with so much magical moments. First of all, thanks to the folks that took the time and resources to attend and to the folks that made it happen in extremely fine fashion.

Lucky for us there was a convenience store close to the Sheraton and each day several gunners were observed there reloading, purchasing refreshments and ice. But more importantly, the accommodations at the Sheraton Music City with their inner courtyard was very relaxing and conducive to visiting at all hours.

Early on one evening we were affected by an outer band of the first gulf hurricane that brought five inches of torrential rain to Nashville along with a small tornado very close to the hotel. In true gunner fashion while the tornado sirens were going off, there was a group of gunners telling stories and getting reacquainted underneath a covered patio area in that courtyard late into the night. The rest of the time we were in Nashville, the first cold front came through and cooled things off for late summer and brought high pressure and clear skies for most of the outstanding tours.

The tours were an initial orientation to this fabulous city and the comments we most heard was, "We have to come back and spend more time here", whether at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, the Grand Ole Opry, the Fontanel Mansion, or the Hermitage.

Since we won't have the luxury of a Memory Book of the Nashville Reunion, we will use this edition of the Short Bursts to compile the personal photos contributed by Bob Matherly, Chuck Dean, Eric Emde, Mike Roll, and several other contributors that took the time to get me their personal memorable pictures of this very special four days. Please enjoy!

For the contributors that have sent in articles, writings, memoirs, bios, and historical pictures, we can't thank you enough for being involved and so considerate to make the Short Bursts publication enjoyable for all. So please keep those contributions coming, they will print in the April 2018 edition since we just didn't have any space in this Reunion edition.



## THURSDAY REGISTRATION - HOSPITALITY ROOM



**Thursday 31 August 2017**

About 120 folks were registered as the reunion officially got underway. Everyone mentioned missing Liz and Andy who have been doing registrations for most previous reunions. We all wish them the best.

## LIST OF REUNION ATTENDEES For NASHVILLE 2017

JOHN and CAROL HOUTS  
 BOB ASHLEY  
 ERIC SCHWARTZ  
 STANLEY E. DUPREE  
 DOUGLASS and YVONNE CAHILL-SEWARD  
 RORY and CHERYL KOON  
 KENT R. and MARJORIE A. PFREMMER  
 JAY E. INGLE and GAIL NOVAK  
 CLETUS W. and MELISSA JUNE YOW  
 RICHARD L. and JACKIE LAKE  
 MANSELL and VIKI L. GILMORE  
 JULIA ROBERTSON  
 FRANK and EVELYN O'NEIL  
 RONALD and MARGARET (MARGE) WERNER  
 C.C. CEASE and BILLIE WALKER  
 PHILIP E. and MARY ANN LABADIE  
 PETE and CONNIE KARJANIS  
 DAN and MICHELLE WRUCK  
 KENNETH A. and DEBORAH A. RIGARD  
 ERIC and HEIDI EMDE  
 JIM and NANCY TOOMER  
 RALPH M. STEARNS and TERRIE McWHORTER  
 GEORGE and GAIL RAGLIN  
 CHUCK and PAT DEAN  
 NOAH (SKIP) ELLIOT  
 MICHAEL and JO ELLEN ROLL  
 RODNEY and SHARON ROBINSON  
 SCOTT and DORSEY DEMASTER  
 JOHN T. and ANN M. STANTON  
 RICHARD W. and SHERRY M. PARKER  
 PETER D. BURNS  
 BOB ETHINGTON  
 JOSEPH C. and PAT HINSON  
 DONALD L. and NADINE COOPER  
 BOB and JANET MATHERLY

WADE and TERRY PALMER  
 DUSTIN PARKINSON  
 GEORGE H. and GAIL E. SCHRYER  
 JOHN and THERESA STALLINGS  
 PHILLIP N. and SHIRLEY A. SMALL  
 GERALD WAYNE and ALICE R. SMITH  
 JIM and JO ANN HEDGECOCK  
 WALTER E. EDWARDS  
 ROGER and SUN POLLOCK  
 DEBORAH HUFFMAN  
 WALLACE A. and DAN HARTZELL  
 IGNACIO and MARTHA CRUZ  
 DAVID LAI and DONNA EDSON  
 LLOYD and MARGARET McCABE  
 CHARLES and ELIZABETH WOOD  
 JEFF MORGAN  
 WALTER J. and MARY K. DARNELL  
 DAN and LINDA DANISH  
 PAULINE G. DANISH  
 STEVE and MARY HARPER  
 STEVE DRING and NANCY MONCRIEF  
 CLEVELAND M. and DEBORAH B. O'QUINN  
 SCOTT T. and JENNIFER A. SMITH  
 BOB and VICKI MOERING  
 STEVE and LIN DUMMITT  
 JAMES GARY and CHERYL MAGERS  
 JIM DUNN  
 MIKE STEARNS  
 DOUG STEARNS  
 LUKE and MARTI LINDSEY  
 TED DREWS  
 WESLEY PENNINGTON  
 VICKIE BAKER  
 THOMAS FISHER



Thanks to the gunner that brought his helmet bag full of very interesting stuff and kept us quite amused at various group gatherings.

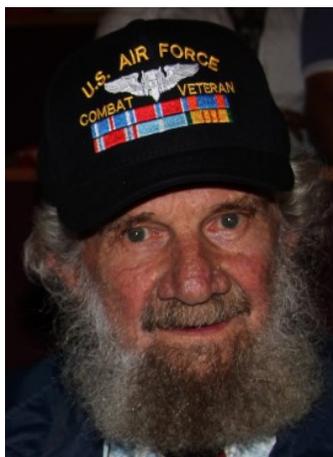


**FRIDAY MUSIC CITY TOUR**

**SING ME BACK HOME**  
*The Journey Begins*

**McELROY AUDITORIUM**  
 WATERLOO, IOWA 7:30 P. M.  
**TUE. APR. 27**  
 SMOKEY SMITH PRESENTS  
**THE MERLE HAGGARD SHOW**  
 FEATURING  
**MERLE HAGGARD**  
**BONNIE OWENS**  
 AND THE STRANGERS  
 PLUS EXTRA FEATURE ATTRACTION  
**THE PLAINSMEN**

**ARENA BUILDING**  
 Cape Girardeau, Mo.  
**WEDNESDAY - JULY 20th**  
 8:30 P. M.  
 Presenting... **ELVIS PRESLEY**  
 \* "Blue Moon" with... \* "Good Rockin'"  
**SCOTTY AND BILL**  
**WANDA JACKSON**  
**BUD DECKELMAN**  
**JOHNNY DAUME**  
 AND HIS OZARK RIDGE RUNNERS



**MINNEAPOLIS AUDITORIUM**  
**SAT APR 22**  
 SHOW 8:30 pm Blockbuster Number 18  
 SMOKEY SMITH Presents  
**THE FABULOUS JOHNNY CASH SHOW**  
**JUNE CARTER THE TENN. THREE**  
**MOTHER MAYBELLE & CARTER FAMILY**  
**The STATLER BROS.**  
**CARL PERKINS**

Cease Walker was overheard at the Johnny Cash display at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum saying, "Wow, I actually outranked SSgt Johnny Cash!"

**FRIDAY GRAND OLE OPRY, DINNER and SHOW**



Friday night dinner at the Santa Fe Cattle Company Steak House then to the show at the Grand Ole Opry!



# FRIDAY GRAND OLE OPRY SHOW



Very memorable evening show at the Grand Ole Opry House with three hours of entertainment from the inductees of the Grand Ole Opry.



# AFGA SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET 2 SEPTEMBER



Our guest speaker for the Banquet Retired Colonel Jim Dunn got us caught up on new developments for our future Air Force.

# AFGA SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET 2 SEPTEMBER



Skip doing the POW Remembrance Honors and Wade celebrating his birthday!



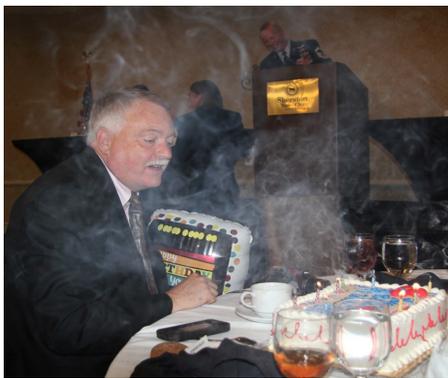
# AFGA SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET 2 SEPTEMBER



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**AFGA SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET 2 SEPTEMBER**



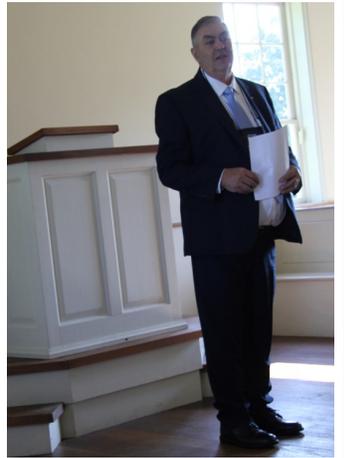
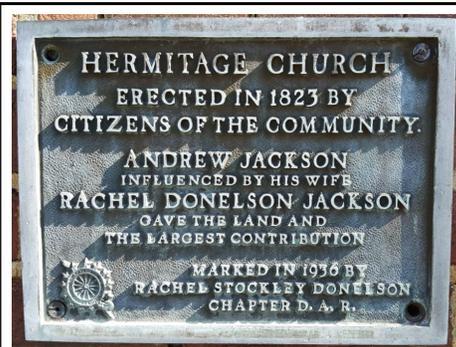
# AFGA SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET 2 SEPTEMBER



**AFGA SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET 2 SEPTEMBER**



# HERMITAGE MEMORIAL SERVICE and LUNCH TOUR



# HERMITAGE MEMORIAL SERVICE and LUNCH TOUR



Plenty of southern food and hospitality was enjoyed by all, no one went hungry or thirsty at the Nashville Reunion.

# SUNDAY EVENING DINNER and OPEN MIKE NIGHT



YOU'RE SPECIAL, I'M SPECIAL, BEING A GUNNER WAS SPECIAL, GUNNERS ARE VERY SPECIAL!



## AFGA NEWSREEL

If you haven't heard by now, the B-52s are back on alert after 26 years since the Cold War stand-down when they came off of alert on 30 September 1991. Barksdale is now in a 24-hour, ready to fly status and are in the old alert facility again.

Airmen at Edwards AFB, California, earlier this year successfully conducted a series of tests deploying **leaflet bombs** from B-52s. The 419th Flight Test Squadron tested PDU-5/B leaflet bombs twice at the Precision Impact Range Area at Edwards and eight times over the Mugu Sea Test Range, according to an Edwards release. The canisters, modified versions of older cluster bomb units, can deploy about 60,000 leaflets. They have been in use on helicopters and fighters, and have been deployed as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This series of tests focused on the external hard points of the B-52, with future tests on the jet's internal weapons bay expected.

Retired Col. Freeman "Bruce" Olmstead, a former Air Force reconnaissance pilot who survived 100 days as a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union, was buried with honors July 27, 2017, at Arlington National Cemetery. Olmstead, 81, died at his home on Oct. 14, 2016. In 1960, as a captain, **Olmstead was a copilot on an RB-47 Stratojet** of the 343rd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron when he was shot down by a MiG-19 over international waters near the Soviet Union. Of the jet's six-man crew, Olmstead and Capt. John McKone were able to eject and survive. They were picked up by a Soviet fishing vessel and were later charged with espionage. The two airmen were kept for 100 days in the Lubyanka prison, where they faced constant interrogations and sleep deprivation, according to an Air Force release. In January 1961, the two airmen were released and were greeted by President John F. Kennedy upon their return home. Olmstead received the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Purple Heart.

Three USAF bombers deployed to the United Kingdom in advance of weeks of training across Eastern Europe. Two B-1Bs from the 7th Bomb Wing at Dyess AFB, Texas, and **one B-52 from the 307th Bomb Wing at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana** landed at RAF Fairford, US European Command announced. The bombers will fly over the Slovak International Air Fest in Slovakia and the Radom International Air Show in Poland on August 26-27. After those events, the bombers will fly in exercise Ample Strike 2017 in the Czech Republic from August 28 to September 9, the release states. The yearly exercise focuses on day and night strike operations.

**A B-52 Stratofortress arrived at RAF Fairford, UK**, to conduct flying training, joint and allied training, and theater integration. The bomber will participate in SERPENTEX, a French Air Command-led exercise focused on integrating air and land forces that also will involve JTAC-qualified personnel. In June, three B-52s joined two B-2 bombers and three B-1Bs at Fairford for the first simultaneous deployment of all three bombers to Europe.

After many disappointing false starts at **re-engining the 55-year-old B-52**, the Air Force seems serious about the program, and could make an announcement to that effect "imminently," industry officials said yesterday. Rolls Royce senior Vice President Tom Hartmann said his company is ready to offer its BR725 engines for the program, while Boeing B-52 expert John Robinson said there are too many advantages to such a program not to take it seriously. New engines would pay for themselves within 10 years or so in reduced fuel usage, reduced need for aerial tanking, reduced maintenance, and potentially a smaller maintenance manpower footprint, both said.

Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said that he has become convinced that the **US must keep all three legs of its nuclear forces** in order to maintain a credible deterrent. "I've questioned the triad," Mattis told reporters in route to Minot AFB, N.D., according to the Omaha World-Herald. Minot is one of three ICBM bases, which make up the ground-launched portion of the triad. The US also has submarine-launched nuclear weapons and nuclear-capable bomber aircraft. "I cannot solve the deterrent problem reducing it from a triad," Mattis said. "If I want to send the most compelling message, I have been persuaded that the triad in its framework is the right way to go." After his visit to Minot, Mattis will travel to Offutt AFB, Neb., to visit the headquarters of US Strategic Command. The Pentagon is working on a nuclear posture review ordered by President Donald Trump in April.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Many thanks to John Stanton who has been the Gunner Chaplain for the past two years. John has stepped down due to health reasons and his contributions to gunners, whether it be informative articles or attending many regional services and funerals will surely be missed. Thank you so very much John for your voluntary services to the Gunners Association and all you have done. You are very SPECIAL!



Our new volunteer for the Gunner Association Chaplain is Mike Gilmore. He is a real preacher! At the Nashville reunion, he spoke so eloquently whether offering the blessing before we were fed at the Saturday evening banquet or presiding over services at the Hermitage Chapel Gunner Memorial Service. Thanks for volunteering and continuing on with the fine tradition that Iggy Cruz and John Stanton have done for comforting the Gunners and their families in their time of need.

### The list of members we lost the past two years honored and remembered at the Reunion Hermitage Chapel Service.

James Baird	Delmar Montgomery
Clarence Barker	Don Owens
Charles Blaney	Walter Patterson
Oscar Bottner	Frederick Payne
Louis Boyd	Diehl Pickett
William Brine	Ronald Pokoyski
Dayton Carlson	Lyle Pound
Gregory Chavez	Neil Richards
Richard Cibak	William Rosser
James Creech	Lester Rowley
Harry Crews	Raymond Rusch
James Crews	Edward Saylor
Laurence Cummins	Thomas Schaefer
Al Duyette	Thomas Schrantz
Roy Emberland	Ernest Sexton
Paul Emerson	Rick Shannon
Walt Ferguson	Neal Siedenbruner
Clarence Fowler	Jim Siedenburg
Berly Fulmer	Myron Slater
Clarence Gould	John Snell
Duane Griffin	Ocie Snyder
Robert Hanni	John Stach
Walter Hanz	Lee Summerville
Edward Harmon	Frank Taylor
Waymon Hicks	Neal Thomas
Howard Hoff	Gary Thoss
Joe Jofiel	Jackie Turner
Donald Lawhorn	Gary Watland
Donald Lepori	James Weston
Leroy Mace	Bob Wilkenloh
Joseph Mallard	Harold Winters
Thomas Milliken	Johnny Young
Dr. Jim Milstead	Paul Young

## FINAL FLY-BY



**WAYMON HICKS 27 JANUARY 1939 - 6 MAY 2017**

Waymon “Wayne” Hicks, age 78, of Somerset, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at UK Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky.

Wayne was born on January 27, 1939 in Ponce de Leon, Florida to the late L.D. Hicks and Marcell Sorenson.

He was a retired Master Sergeant with 21 years’ service in the United States Air Force. He earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star, and many other medals. Wayne was a Vietnam veteran and a gunner



on B-52s for most of his AF career in the Strategic Air Command.



He was a member of St. Mildred’s Catholic Church, American Legion Post number 38, Air Force Gunners Association, and Non-Commissioned Officers Association. Wayne loved country music, boating, and hunting.

He is survived by his wife, Rosemary Maughan Hicks whom he married in 1962 in Richmond, Indiana; two sons, David W. (and Tammy) Hicks of Lexington and Dana J. (and Keth) Hicks of Somerset; two grandchildren, Matthew (and Dionne) Hicks of Somerset and Amanda (and Raj) Olson of Hawaii; two great grandchildren, Cannon & Dexter; two brothers, Lonnie Ray (and Kaye) Hicks of Florida and James Adams of Florida; and four sisters, Cathie (and Jimmy) Whigham of Florida, Mona (and Everette) Minchew of Alabama, Sonnia (and Larry) Jordan of Alabama and Cindy (and Brenda) Lewis of Georgia.

Along with his parents he was preceded in death by two brothers, Jimmy Hicks and A. J. Hicks; step mother, Inez Hicks; and step father, Bill Sorenson.

Visitation was on Wednesday, 10 May 2017 at Lake Cumberland Funeral Home.

His funeral service was held on Thursday, 11 May 2017 at the Chapel of Lake Cumberland Funeral Home with Father Jay Von Handorf officiating. Burial was at Mill Springs National Cemetery. Military Honors will be conducted by the American Legion Post Number 38 Honor Guard.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests expressions of sympathy be made to St. Mildred’s Outreach or God’s Food Pantry. You are welcome to view the obituary and send condolences to the family at our website: [www.LakeCumberlandFuneralService.com](http://www.LakeCumberlandFuneralService.com). Lake Cumberland Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements.

Wayne was assigned to the 34th Bomb Squadron at Wright Patt in the early to mid ‘70s. He was a true gentleman and a positive mentor and role model to all especially the very young and new gunners just arriving from Castle. Wayne became a first sergeant after gunnery, he was a shining example as a gunner and people person always taking care of family, friends, and especially all gunners. Wayne was very special and made the difference!

## **FINAL FLY-BY**

From: Gary Heinz  
Date: July 26, 2017 at 14:11:50 PDT  
To: John Stanton  
Subject: **Waymon Hicks** Obituary

John, This is info I just received on a friend of mine from 4th Air Commando in Viet Nam, era 65/66. Wayne flew 310 missions in AC47D aircraft and was the designated Stan Board Gunner. I did not know Wayne prior to 'Nam and not aware of his home B-52 base. Please get this in the next Short Bursts.

God Bless,  
*Gary GUNZ Heinz*  
Life Member #3095



### **JACKIE TURNER 16 APRIL 1939 - 29 JULY 2017**

Jackie Turner, age 78 years 3 months and 13 days of Hohenwald, Tennessee, died July 29, 2017 following a battle with cancer surrounded by his loving family and wife, Barbara. He was born April 16, 1939 in Ohio to Marshal and Freeda Tatum Turner.

Jackie had a passion for the military and was military all of the way. He was described by his family as being one-of-a-kind, eccentric, and a trend-setter when it comes to fashion. He loved his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

While serving our nation in the Air Force, he was a tail gunner on a B-52 and flew around 22 missions in Vietnam. He was also a weapons instructor. Following his term with the Air Force, Turner joined the Tennessee Army National Guard where he retired in the early 90s. A funny story he would share with family and friends was that when he flew his first B-52 flight, he threw up in his face mask.

Back on October 18 of 1989 he won \$1.6 million in the lottery!

Survivors Include: Barbara Amacher Turner, Wife-Hohenwald, TN, Diena Hill (Jeff), Daughter-Hohenwald, TN, Vonda Mercer, Daughter-Hohenwald, TN, Bill Turner (Jacqueline), Brother-Hohenwald, TN, Jerry Turner (Jan), Brother-Hohenwald, TN, Judy Pickler (Jimmy), Sister-Hohenwald, TN, Sasha Powers (Josh),

Granddaughter-Hohenwald, TN, Lacey Dyer (Jacob), Granddaughter-Thompsons Station, TN, Whitney Ricketts (Dee), Granddaughter-Hohenwald, TN, Erick Turner, Grandson, Koley Turner, Grandson, Jacob Mercer, Grandson, Jessica Mercer, Granddaughter, Lathon Powers, Great-Grandson Landon Powers, Great-Grandson Rylan Ricketts, Great-Grandson Ellee Ricketts, Great-Granddaughter Harper Dyer, "Soon to be". Jackie was preceded in death by his father Marshal Turner, his mother Freeda Tatum Turner, and his son Barry Von Turner.

Funeral services were held at 2 pm Monday, July 31, 2017 in the chapel of McDonald Funeral Home with Bill Webb officiating. Burial followed in the Graves Cemetery in Linden, Perry County, Tennessee.

## ***FINAL FLY-BY***



### **GERALD LOWE, SMSGT USAF (Retired) 20 OCTOBER 1929 - 4 JULY 2017**

Gerald A. Lowe, "Jerry", died peacefully at Hospice of Spokane, Washington, the morning of July 4 after a short illness. In 2015 he was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Erna J. Lowe.

Jerry was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on 20 October 1929 to Alva and Cleo (Powers) Lowe and grew up in Kansas City, Kansas. He graduated from Wyandotte High School and enlisted in the Air Force in 1950.

He was trained as an aerial gunner in RB-36 and B-52 aircraft and was stationed at bases around the world during his career. Jerry served on a B-52 combat crew in Vietnam and retired from the Air Force in 1971, beginning a second career in sales.

Jerry was married in 1953 to Erna (a Canadian he met on a blind date in Spokane). He is survived by daughter Leslie (Richard Mann), son Stuart (Teresa), grandsons Michael Lowe (Erin), Brian Mann, and Casey Mann (Becky).

Jerry had a wide circle of friends who knew him as a guy ready with a joke, a smile and a story about his time in the Air Force. If you got on the elevator with him on the first floor he'd be your friend by the sixth.

He loved his wife, his family, the Air Force, the Maxwell House Tavern, the Seahawks, fishing, and his friends. The family would like to thank his friends for their support and love during this difficult time. There are too many to name here and we know we'd never remember them all if we tried.

Jerry was laid to rest at the Washington State Veteran's Cemetery at Medical Lake, Washington, on 18 August, at 11:15 am.

### **JAMES CHILDERS**

From: Robert G Matherly  
To: B-52 Gunners  
Sent: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 2:34 pm  
Subject: Just received the sad news that Jim Childers has passed away

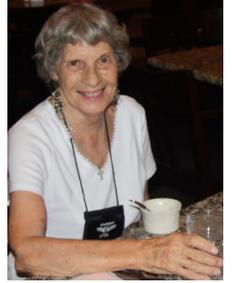
Just received the sad news that Jim Childers has passed away. I am sure many of gunners will remember Jim. A lot of us served with Jim at Kincheloe AFB, MI, back in the early-to-mid-70s before the base closed. He served as the Wing Gunner there. Jim also served at other B-52 bases as a B-52 gunner before and after those times. He was a true professional, mentor and a great friend of all of us. Don't have any further info on his passing (I am on travel to the Nashville reunion right now) but will keep all posted when I get more news.

*Bob Matherly*



## **FINAL FLY-BY**

From: Louise Conder  
To: CEASE  
Sent: Mon, Aug 21, 2017 5:21 pm  
Subject: Just received the sad news that **Jim Childers** has passed away



Cease, you probably are on your way to Nashville. Well, enjoy the Reunion. I know you all will. Might be sorry I did not plan to go, but just did not think was the time for me.

Anyway, I had to talk to someone, so will pick on you. About Jim Childers. How many times Bud talked about what a special guy he was. Bud was with him in Guam and with Bill Camp. Bud often talked about the three of them playing "hand ball" at the gym. Bud said that Jim beat him and Bill all the time. No matter how hard they tried, the two of them together could not beat Jim. Bud and Bill bought little motorcycles there and rode all around the place. Bud brought back his motorcycle and our boys rode it to school and to work. Fun to reminisce about people in our past.

Have a great time at the Reunion. "HI" to Billie, and "HI" to anyone else that might remember me.

*Lou Conder*



### **JAMES A CHILDERS, CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT, USAF (Retired) 1934 - 17 AUGUST 2017**

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of our beloved Husband and Farther Jim Childers August 17, 2017 of Redding, California. Born in Fresno to Jueldean and Halley Childers, Jim was a 30-year veteran and passed away at 83.

He'd served in Southeast Asia as B-52 Gunner, accruing 1500 combat hours. Jim retired from the Air Force in 1982.

In 1984 he graduated from the Fresno Police Academy at age 50 and served with the Hanford, CA Police Department for six years. While living on the coast for 25 years, Jim became a coxswain with the local Coast Guard Auxiliary.

2012 saw a move north to be closer to family at Redding, California.

There was a Committal Service with Military Honors at Northern California Veterans Cemetery, Igo, California, Monday, October 23, 2017.

Jim is survived by daughters, Deb and Laurie, Grandchildren, Jesse, Kelly, Riley, Kris and Great-Grandchildren, Noah, Sadie, Riley, Ben, Jane, and Gigi.

There was a simple reception at River Commons Senior Living, 301 Hartnell Avenue, Redding, California.

After the closing of Kincheloe Air Force Base in the mid-70s, Jim Childers came to K I Sawyer Air Force Base and became the wing gunner. He and his wife Sherie opened up a small shop and started making awards and plaques for the gunners and other Air Force members filling a necessary service and need at that time at K I. Jim was a traditional gunner and the best for organizing and feeding gunners, squadron crewmembers, and especially base ORI celebrations. Rest in peace Chief Gunner Jim Childers. You made the difference!

## **FINAL FLY-BY**

### **FRANK WASHBURN 1 FEBRUARY 1930 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2017**



Frank Washburn, 87, passed away on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 in Dayton, Ohio. Frank was born on February 1, 1930 in Merced, California to Frank Washburn and Mary Verrege.

Frank is preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Ann and Elizabeth.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy Washburn, Sons, Frank C. (Debbie) Washburn, III, Scot D. (Lynn) Washburn, Granddaughters, Emmalyn Washburn, Casey Washburn, and Krista Washburn.

Frank served in the Navy during the Korean War as a Radio Operator. He served in the Air Force during Vietnam and the Cold War as a B-52 Tail Gunner, He later retired as a Master Sergeant instructor gunner from the US Air Force.

After serving his country for 24 years, Frank served the government as a civilian employee for DSCC for 36 years.

Family received friends on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm at Centerville Christian Fellowship, 700 Spring Valley Pike, Dayton, Ohio. A funeral service was held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at 2:00 pm also at Centerville Christian Fellowship.

Frank will be laid to rest at Dayton National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Lung Association in Frank's honor.



### **ROBERT L IVEY 25 MARCH 1934 - 26 AUGUST 2017**

Robert Lorane Ivey, son of Elmer and Hazel Harrill Ivey, was born March 25, 1934, in Lebanon, Missouri. He departed this life Saturday, August 26, 2017, in Mercy Hospital, in Springfield, Missouri, at the age of eighty-three years, five months, and one day.

On April 9, 1955, he was united in marriage to Kathryn R. "Kay" Buck, and to this union two daughters and two sons were born. He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Betty Allen.

Robert is survived by his loving wife of sixty-three years, Kay, of the home; two daughters, Laura Silquero, and her husband, Ruben, of Fair Grove, Missouri, and Lee Anne Peterson, and her husband, Kevin, of Springfield, Missouri; two sons, Greg Ivey, and his wife, Amie, of Pineville, Missouri, and Matthew Ivey, and his wife, Laura Ann, of Mansfield, Missouri; nine grandchildren, Heather, Jennifer, Teresa, Aaron, Sarah, Hayley, Lucas, Tessa, and Adam; three great-grandchildren, Fred, Elijah, and Evelyn; two brothers, Tom and Jim Ivey, both of Lebanon, Missouri; several nieces and nephews; as well as a host of other relatives and friends.

He was born and raised in the Lebanon area and graduated from Lebanon High School in the Class of 1951. He then attended Southwest Missouri State University on a football scholarship. He entered the military as a young man and served his country faithfully in the United States Air Force for twenty-eight years. He received numerous honors, awards, medals and commendations during those years, and was stationed at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, and in California, Oklahoma, Guam, South Dakota, Washington, and Louisiana. His last assignment was as a

## FINAL FLY-BY

### ROBERT L IVEY 25 MARCH 1934 - 26 AUGUST 2017 (continued from previous page)

gunner on a B-52 Bomber. He retired on August 31, 1981, as a Senior Master Sergeant. He and Kay made their home in Pleasant Hope, Missouri for the last several years.

Robert joined the Lebanon First United Methodist Church in his younger years. In his spare time he enjoyed being outdoors where his favorite activities were fishing, gardening, bird watching, and playing golf. He also really liked photography and loved taking pictures of nature. He was an avid reader, was always very detail oriented and believed in military precision. His family was very important to him and he especially enjoyed all of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Robert was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, and was a caring neighbor and friend. We celebrate his life and his accomplishments and know that his family and friends will treasure the wonderful memories he made for them during his eighty-three years.

A memorial has been established to American Cancer Society or Claws and Paws.

Subject: Another good friend gone...**Bob Ivey**

Sad to report the passing of a good man - Bob Ivey. He and I were assigned to Fairchild from 1970-1973 together - we went ARC Light together as well as Bullet Shot. Had lots of good times with him and his family while there at FAFB. I met up with him a few years back in Springfield when Jan and I were back that way to attend the Omaha Reunion and took a side trip to Branson and Springfield to visit with him and another close friend, Wil Harkins. We all went to Bass Pro for breakfast on a Sunday morning and caught up with each other. Bob and Kay were great to be around and Jan and I have a lot of memories of them.

Here are a few photos for you to choose from or use of Bob Ivey, Fairchild gunner, taken in 1971 frame at Utapao (or Feb 1973 for IPAO shots at Gunner's End of War party at IPAO beach).

The group of FAFB gunners at the party (Bob on Alert) are: Bob Ivey, Jim Buzboom, Jim Hunt, Bob Lechtanski taken in 1971. The one of him titled - Sqdn Board came from the photos that were in the Alert Shack in the hall just before the cafeteria if you recall. Ralph sent me all of them when they closed up operations there. Bob and wife Kay were taken at FAFB Gunners party in 1971 time frame I think.

*Bob Matherly*



IVEY

PCS SEP 74



## FINAL FLY-BY

### ROBERT L IVEY 25 MARCH 1934 - 26 AUGUST 2017 (continued from previous page)



### CALVIN SKYES 17 MARCH 1934 - 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Calvin stepped into life on March 17, 1934 in Jacksonville, Florida and he peacefully stepped into glory on September 20, 2017 in Sacramento, California.

Calvin leaves daughters Avril (husband Pete) and Crystal; son Ron (wife Donna); grandchildren Francisco, grandchildren Francisco, Ronnie, Zero, Hillary, and Zaeryus; and great-grandchildren, Isabella and Cruz.

Calvin was preceded in death nine months earlier by his beloved wife of 39 years, Josette, daughter Beverly, and numerous brothers and sisters.

At 19, Calvin joined the US Air Force, first serving as a Tail Gunner and, over the next three decades, was stationed in various states, including Maine, Texas, and Alaska before settling into Sacramento's Mather AFB as the Superintendent of Fuels and retiring after over 31 years of dedicated service.

Calvin continued working, retiring from Proctor and Gamble, then the County of Sacramento. Calvin was an avid jazz collector, an opera and wine enthusiast, and an expert griller on any number of his specialized barbeques. Calvin and Josette often traveled to her home in France, and took great joy in driving throughout the country visiting family and friends. There was a celebration of life on October 24, 2017, at 1:00 pm, at New Harvest Church, 8484 Elder Creek Road, Sacramento, California.

### LEON KEARNS 10 SEPTEMBER 1937 - 9 NOVEMBER 2017

I sadly pass on the news that one of our fellow gunners, Leon Kearns, has passed on. He died last night after a long fight with cancer. I was lucky to meet him a couple of years ago at a BAFB reunion. He told a wealth of stories and he had many more to share, just not enough time to tell them all. He was a gracious man who I will keep in my memory. C'est La Vie, Leon. *Bob Ethington*

Leon Kearns was born Sept 10, 1937, in Elkhart, IA. He served in the US Air Force from 1956-1978, flying many missions overseas and rising to Master Sergeant during his career. He logged over 500 missions as a tail gunner in the B-52 Stratofortress and lost many a friend and compatriot during the Vietnam War. He was called home on Nov. 9, 2017 to begin his watch from above. He is survived by his wife, Carol Jean of the home, one son, Steven Scott of Kansas, and one daughter, Kathleen Elaine of Missouri, 4 grandsons and 3 great grandsons. His passion upon retirement was family, genealogy, and landscape painting. He will be missed by many, family, friends, and his brothers and sisters, past and present in the Armed Forces. Thank you for those remembering him and his service.

**AFGA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ RANK: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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HOME PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ TODAY'S DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE'S FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I WAS A GUNNER ON: B \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A NEW MEMBER? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ IF "NO" - CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_

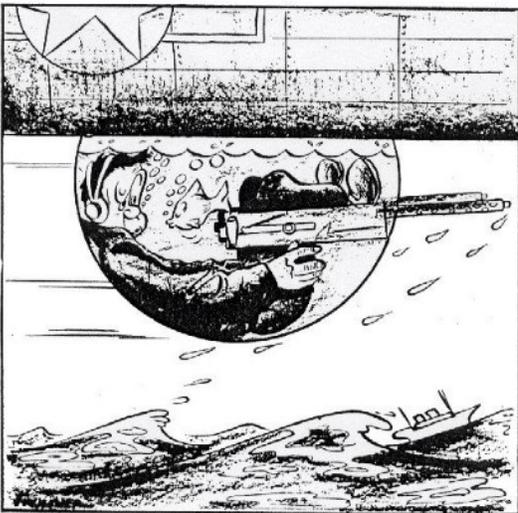
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SEPTEMBER 1944

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**IN MEMORY OF THE 88,119 USAAF AIRMEN WHO  
PERISHED IN WORLD WAR TWO  
NEVER FORGOTTEN, ETERNALLY GRATEFUL**