



*315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
315th Airlift Wing Excellence over the Years
Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina*

Number 5

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You may click on here to pull up our website: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

The 4th of July has passed. Many of you are still taking vacation time to travel around the country or to see the world. I see your postings and photos on the social media. I was not among those traveling on the 4th, but my spouse and daughters were. They were traveling the Baltic Sea area and they enjoyed two days in Russia. I stayed back and held down the home front. Being home alone there were no honey dues to attend to! So I took all this extra time to call many of our 315th Alumni, checking up on them. It was an incredible experience and it was a lot of fun, talking and socializing. When making that many telephone calls, you can always expect some bad news, which I certainly did, and I will explain here.

Many of those I called were doing great and enjoying the good life. I talked to some that we have not heard from in years. I found their address information from our old listings, and I found others on Facebook. Unfortunately, I found that one of our active Alumni members had passed. After several telephone calls, I finally reached the family of **Shirley B. Watts**. Many of you knew Shirley. She was assigned to the assignments section, DPMU, in personnel for many years. I could not reach her spouse Fred in Ft Lauderdale, but I found her son Bobby here in Charleston. Shirley passed while she and Fred were living on their boat, the "Shirley B." berthed at Ft Lauderdale. They had been living there following Shirley's retirement. I'll get the details from the family and publish a story on Shirley.

The Social Media

Recently many of our 315th Wing retirees have signed on with Facebook, and they are showing up in record numbers. They have their smart phones and their tablets. When I respond to their postings, many of them get right back to me within seconds. I have daily conversations with them. This is great for the Alumni as we find many former members that have dropped off our listings because they moved and forgot to notify us of their change of address. If you're on Facebook, you might want to check out some of the following pages:

- 1 – 315th Airlift Wing Friends. The administrator is Lt Col Ed Gonzales. They have 50 members.
- 2 – 315th MAW/AW Alumni. The administrator is TSG Steve Lindler. They have 143 members.
- 3 – 300th Airlift Squadron. The administrator is MSG MSG Jim Milsap. They have 120 members.
- 4 – 701st Airlift Squadron. The administrator is MSG Tommy Peters. They have 215 members.
- 5 – 707th Military Airlift Squadron. The administrator is SMS Dave Brock. They have 74 members
- 6 – 315 AW Final Flyby and the administrator is SMS Dave Brock. Dave has over 100 of our 943/315 people listed that are deceased. There are many more. I have a listing that will be added soon.

Most of our 315th Alumni membership have the internet but they are not on Facebook, and many more do not have computers. Those without computers will receive the newsletter by regular US mail service.

Final Fly-Bye

SMS Wesley R. "Rudy" Snipes, 315th FMS, passed June 2016. Ray Ardis sent the following message: Love to the family of SMS Rudy Snipes, Alfreidia, wife, from his military friends of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni which he attended and enjoyed fellowship among his comrades. Rudy was a member of the 315th Field Maintenance Squadron for many years. We will miss that smile and may God bless you for all your years of service to our country...you loved so much. *Ray Ardis (SMS ret) 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association, Charleston Air Force Base, SC.*

Lt Colonel (ret) Stephen L. Avery, 707th ALS pilot, sent the following messages for publication:

Steve received the following message from **CMS Wade "JW" Chaney, Chief Loadmaster 707th ALS:** Steve, how are you doing? Haven't heard from you for a while. I hope your health is doing better. I got more problems that just lymphoma. They stop the chemo because of fluid around my lungs which is a result of inefficient heart (25-30% efficient) The cardiologist told me "there is nothing I can do for you. Your heart is too damaged from two heart attacks you had in the past." They called in palliative care for me, which means they will try to keep me comfortable for the rest of my time. Every day is a blessing. Steve, hang in there.

(A note from Del: I talked to Wade for a very long time and I got his consent to write the article above. Today I met Wade & Audrey (spouse) while shopping and he has lost weight. While we were talking, Bill Blackburn (former Chief of Admin) walked up, and so did Charlie Wall, former base photographer.)

Donny Griffin almost died from Leukemia twice and is back to normal. Also Tracy Miller from the 707th ALS (Command Pilot) almost died several times from Leukemia. Many other pilots/navs that we know are now coming down with 4th stage cancer (or are now deceased) from the apparent cocktail of Agent Orange under the floor boards and our Sarin gas, DOD Bug Spray, and depleted uranium (DU) that still remains classified that Lockheed refuses to release to the public. Both **CMS Wade Chaney and CMS Bob Strobel** are trusted agents who know the truth vs. those that took the cowardice approach.

SMS Dave Brock (707th ALS) almost died last year is now coming down with Parkinson's and not doing well. I talked to him all the way from Tenn. To Marietta GA while in the ambulance enroute to GA for brain surgery.

Colonel Bobby Hammond wife died unexpectedly following hand surgery and appears to have died from a blood clot. Col Hammond was an ART/Navigator from the 707th ALS. *Lt Col Stephen L. Avery*

RV Park and Campground

Several have been asking recently about the availability of parking their RV's and campers here at the base. I've checked by there a few times and there has always been available space. It's located adjacent to the Outdoor Recreation Center. Campers can go inside where there's a large screen TV, plenty of comfortable seating, rest rooms and reading material. Call (843) 963-1672, Fax (843) 963-1677.

CMS (ret) Don Youngblood, former 707th ALS, contacted Ray Ardis "thanking all who keep the Alumni association alive." Don said if there was ever another reunion, he will be down. On my very first day on the job as a recruiter, Don was my first applicant. He's the only recruit in our memory that made a near perfect score on the ASVAB test. I placed Don in aircraft maintenance under the new OJT program rather than attending tech school and later he was assigned to the 707th ALS as a flight engineer.

One of two remaining Doolittle Raiders dies, according to the Charleston's Post & Courier. SSgt David J. Thatcher, B-25 bomber engineer gunner passed at the age of 94. This leaves only Lt Col Richard "Dick" Cole as the only living airman of the raid of 80 that took off from the flight deck of the USS Hornet to bomb Japan after they had attacked us at Pearl Harbor. I attended several of the Doolittle Raiders reunions over the years and met Dick Cole. He was Doolittle's copilot. We asked Dick what thoughts he might have had going through his mind while sitting there beside someone like Doolittle waiting for their very short take off roll. His response was, "I'm sitting here beside the world's best pilot."

MSG Donald Vaughn, 300th ALS, passed of a stroke on 2 June 2016, at Warner-Robbins, GA. We received this information from Jeri Martin of the 300th ALS. Jeri said Donald was assigned to the SOC center. We will have more information at a later time under the Fly-Bye section in the next newsletter.

Colonel (ret) Thomas "Tom" Alton, former Deputy Commander of Aircraft Maintenance and past President of the 315th AW Alumni Association, has moved to Florida because of health issues. We lost track of him when he moved away and all my correspondence to him was returned. CMS Jackye Marks, former Treasurer of the Alumni Association, found him. The last time Col Alton attended one of our board meetings, he was unable to communicate with us. We will be publishing updates.

CMSGT (ART) Deborah Cole, 81st Aerial Port Squadron, enlisted in the APS 34 years ago. I was her recruiter. Deborah was on a long full time active duty tour at Langley AFB, VA. Her active duty tour expired and she returned back to us. She immediately became very active with us in the 315th Alumni Association as a board member and did a lot of work for us. I go to Deborah's office occasionally to visit and she always introduces me to her staff as "her recruiter," and I certainly feel honored. Deborah married her husband Jimmy recently, and they both have really great looking Harleys. They ride off to the beaches occasionally and make nice postings about it on Facebook.

CMSGT (ret) George A. Shread Jr, was admitted to the hospital today with an ongoing medical issue and will be released next Friday. I received this information from Dick Fuller a few minutes ago. George is our past President of the 315th AW Alumni, and he attends almost all our board meetings and activities.

I appreciate everyone's articles and write ups you have been sending me for publication in the newsletter. I couldn't get them all into this issue, but will do in the next issue within the next few days.

MSG (ret) Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor & Historian ddoxford@aol.com

