



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

Number 3

10 May 2016

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

[Please write this website down where you can always find it.](http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/)

The newsletter will be published on the website shown above every two weeks whenever possible. The newsletter will no longer be sent to you individually by regular e-mail message. Please try to remember. Those without computers will continue to receive the newsletter by regular US mail service every 90 days. At the very end of each newsletter on this website, I will indicate the approximate date the next newsletter will appear so you may be assured that you will never miss an issue.

A Message from the Editor

The newsletter has been around since the 315th AW Alumni Association was established twenty-two years ago. CMSG Donnell V. Blewer published our first newsletter. It was typed written on a regular typewriter and it was one page long. CMST Darrell L. Eidem published the second one in the same manner. Then SMSG Ray Ardis published the newsletter for the next 16 years and became the first newsletter editor. I currently hold this position. Ray and I have maintained the newsletter at a good level and we took a more conservative approach that that was applicable with the times. Today's technology has changed considerably and so has our readership. They have i-phones, tablets and other devices, and they can read this newsletter while shopping at the Wal-Mart. If you have only a regular personal computer you can get this newsletter on our official website at <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com>

Today we will begin taking a new approach. We will turn up the tempo. We will be talking more about our people and I will be contacting many of you for your stories. I've been talking to many of you already and you have submitted some incredible stories that will be of interest to everyone. I have numerous stories from our air crews and will be getting stories from our aerial ports, aircraft maintainers, and civil engineering. I will be calling many of you to assist with this newsletter and get involved. Ray Ardis is still involved, submits great articles on a regular basis, and so do many others. The newsletter will be a team effort by all. From here on I will be publishing the newsletter on a regular basis with the help of others from our membership. It will be a team effort. The age process is setting in for many of us that have been retired for a considerable number of years. Our life spans are beginning to get much shorter. When we were young we had plenty of time to waste. Now we make every day count. Many of our members who have become inactive over the years are back with us and they have renewed their membership. Many new members will be coming on board. We will be keeping everyone posted on our progress.

New Board Officers Elected

On 4 March 2016, new board officers were elected at our Annual Membership Meeting. The ballots had been posted on our official website in January and February 2016, and the ballots for nomination had been mailed out to those without computers. SMSG Ray Ardis took a count on the nominations, votes were cast, and new board officers were elected in accordance with the by-laws. New board officers are:

President -- Chief Dick Fuller, re-elected

Vice President – SMSG Ray Ardis, re-elected

Treasurer -- vacant. Chief Fuller's holding this position on a temporary basis.

Secretary and Membership Chairman -- Linda Skillman. This position was previously held by MSG Shirley Phillippi.

We appreciate everyone's support and more information will be forthcoming.

Lt Col Eileen Hadbvany was SELECTED for the American Citizen Honors Award for her life time of selfless service in the support of veterans and volunteer work with the Red Cross and the American Legion. The story of her nomination was published in the February 2016 Newsletter. We received the following great story on this from Col (ret) Mary Jane Koch, retired Flight Nurse from the 315th / 31st AES:

I was privileged to attend the National Medal of Honor Day in Washington DC. This day was sponsored by the Medal of Honor Society and it's purpose is to recognize outstanding service

and Valor by everyday citizens. Eileen was one of 4, the others were men involved in protecting others from shooting incidents plus the 10 year old who found \$20 in the parking lot and gave it to a soldier as a remembrance of his father who died in Iraq. It started a \$2 million charity to help others. I tell you all this so you can appreciate Eileen's efforts and recognition. This ceremony was so important that the networks covered it and 33 of the living 78 Medal of Honor winners were in attendance. Eileen had quite a cheering section including the Assistant Secretary of the VA, the new AF Surgeon General Mark Lediger, and top figures from the American Red Cross from DC and South Carolina. Eileen did her best to speak, but it was tough. She is very good on her on her iPad. Please join me in sending a message of congratulations to Eileen on this incredible award and recognition for her dedication to the Red Cross and Veterans.

Mary Jane Koch

We have another great story from Lt Col (ret) Robert H. Malone, former 943rd/315th pilot of the 701st ALS

Lt Col Herbert "Herb" G. Davis passed on 9/22/2015, near his home in Villages, FL. Born 7 April 1943. We go back many years in 1968 in Vietnam, where he flew the C-7 Caribou. We crossed paths in 1973 in a new hire class for Eastern Airlines. (2nd officer/flight engineers) Been flying C-141s at McChord AFB, Washington, and I got him to transfer to the 701st ALS at Charleston AFB SC. We both flew together at EAL and in the 701st at Charleston until the late 80's or early 90's, when we both retired as C-141 aircraft commanders and retired as Lt Colonels. He flew for US Air after his retirement. He flew the 747-400 around the world for Atlas. His wife Donna was an American Airlines Flight Attendant. He was a good friend and a good pilot. I will miss him.

Bob "Loophole" Malone. (Bob is currently an attorney and very active with the 315th Alumni)

MSG Chris Beiler, ret Flight Engineer wrote: "A dear friend of the past. Herb Davis has flown West my friends."

Final Fly-Bye

SMSG William C "Craig" Bernad, 707th ALS Loadmaster, passed on 29 April 2016.

Arrangements for the family were made by Curie-Jefferson Funeral Home, 2701 John Hopkins Pkwy (Hwy 150) , Hoover Alabama. Several of Craig's friends were very helpful to the family in making arrangements and securing his DD 215 on-line. Cards and letters of condolence may be sent to Craig's sister, Gwyn Strickland, 2029 Renford Point, Maritta, GA 30062. Craig's Mother had just celebrated her 100th birthday, and lived with Gwyn. Those attending the

funeral services were Clarence Thornburg, George R. Bailey, H. L. Wiggs, Cliff Cobb, Paul Westbrook, and Danny Griffen.

There are others that have passed recently, and their obituaries will be published in the next newsletter soon as we get further details.

VA Center in Charleston SC honors Vietnam Vets

On 22 March 2016, Scott Isaacs, Director of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, had members of his executive team and active-duty military were on hand to celebrate and hand out special Vietnam 50th Commemorative lapel pins and offer a personal “thank you” to each Vietnam-era veteran. He said “we open our arms to embrace those who did not receive a hero’s welcome.” I was there, received my lapel pin, and it was great to meet many from across the country that I had served with.

ESGR – Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, appreciation Luncheon, 5 April 2016, recognizing patriotic employers

The President of our 315th AW Alumni Association, Dick Fuller, is also the Area Chair of the South Carolina ESGR. Dick and many others in the 315th Alumni are very active in this very worthy professional organization. Dick speaks of their accomplishments frequently, and we will publish further information about them in the next newsletter. www.esgr.mil

The next Heritage Trust Luncheon will be on 3 June 2016.

There are Two Golden Rules to a Happy Marriage:

- (1) *The wife is ALWAYS RIGHT*
- (2) *When you feel she is wrong, slap yourself and read rule number rule 1 again*

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