



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

29 April 2017, #2B

Visit our website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

**U S Air Force Chief of Staff General David L. Goldstein Paid Tribute to the  
Doolittle Raiders During the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Raid Memorial Service**

On 18 April 2017, a memorial service was held at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton Ohio to honor the 80 men who achieved the unimaginable when they took off sixteen B-25 bombers from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet on a mission to bomb Japan on 18 April 1942.

Lt Colonel Richard “Dick” Cole, Doolittle’s co-pilot in aircraft number 1, is the last man still standing out of the 80 aircrew that participated in the raid and took part in the events held at the National Air Force Museum. Sometimes chuckling, sometimes reflective, Cole sounded military officer courteous during an associated press interview. Asked about his historical legacy, Cole replied that he believes he speaks for his late comrades in saying they considered themselves no more special than anyone else who served. He said, “we don’t want to be remembered any more than the rest of the people who took part in the defeating of the Japanese.” Cole said “they started it and we finished it.”

There were numerous beautifully restored B-25s around Wright-Patterson for a period of three days and Cole did a complete walk around without any assistance. On 21 April, eleven B-25s participated in the Memorial Fly Over during the memorial service. Four returned and flew the Missing Man formation. In closing, there was a B-1B flyover.

In General Goldstein’s presentation, he said to Cole, “thank you for representing all those you served with and thank you for inspiring all of us every day since then. Godspeed”

### Our Legends in the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing

Many of us agree that we have two legends in the 315<sup>th</sup> that stand out in our minds among all of our other great men and women who have flown west. We have Major General Bob Stephens and we have Chief James Earl "Jimmy" Newberry.

Lt Colonel Dereck Duke, 300<sup>th</sup> pilot wrote: "In memory of my best friend, General Bob Stephens left us too soon 6 years ago on 8 March 2011. We had many a great day together and great memories abound, particularly around airplanes." (*Derek is a very active participating member of the Alumni*)

Bob Stephens once wrote a very inspiring article about Jim Newberry, and how he impacted many of our lives and his great sense of humor. Bob said Jim was "one of a kind."

### History of the 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association

Several years ago, Chief Dick Fuller felt we should publish a history of the Alumni Association and a history of many of our people. Dick tasked me with this additional duty and I agreed. Over the years an additional section was set aside to provide information about our organization and about those who served with us. My immediate plans are to publish a history on our website at <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/> Chief Tom Clemmons, our webmaster, will set up a special history section on the website. This could prove to be an overwhelming task, and I will be asking many of you for your assistance. Many of our Alumni members are passionate about our past and they will be coming forward with their ideas.

### Those we have lost

We're unable to locate SMS Wayne B. Cunningham, 300<sup>th</sup> Flt Engineer from Kennesaw, Georgia. Many of you have been asking about him, especially his close friend George Martin Flt Engineer/701<sup>st</sup>. My last communication with Wayne was 2 January 2012. I was reminding him of his Alumni membership dues and we had a long conversation afterwards. Several of our members believe that he is deceased, but we have not confirmed this yet.

Chief Jack Pinkerton, 707<sup>th</sup> Flt Engineer & KC-10 engineer at Seymour-Johnson has relocated back to Charleston according to his friend Jim Bell Flt Engineer 300<sup>th</sup>. Jim said that he still owns his home in Goldsboro and does not know why he relocated here or where.

SMS Connie Danbury Lucas of the 701<sup>st</sup> Admin Section lost her spouse of three years, Albert Lucas, on 18 April 2017. Albert was a close friend of many of our former air crews. Funeral services were at Warner-Robbins GA on 21 April and burial services were in Milledgeville. Arrangements were provided by McCullough Funeral Home. There was a great turnout of family, friends and squadron mates of the 701<sup>st</sup>. Some of those attending were Jimmy

Johnson, Johnny Mike Spanos, Bundle Bill and Ann Hamilton, Bill Leech, Jerri Martin and Loraine Sapp.

### ***Final Fly-Bye***

**MSG Jack Lester Barrett**, retired 701<sup>st</sup> Flight Engineer, passed on 28 April 2017 in Goldsboro, NC, at the age of 71. Jack was a Flight Engineer with Gemini Air Cargo, after he finished his career as a KC-10 flight engineer at Seymour-Johnson AFB NC. Many posting were made on Facebook about Jack's health status up until the time of his passing and many of us communicated with him on a regular basis until he was no longer able to speak to us. Jack was our friend and a regular kind of guy, but it was his time to fly west. Daniel Coffey, Flt Engineer 707<sup>th</sup>, sent us a special message written by his daughter Leslie Anderson. It reads: "My wonderful Daddy is walking the streets of gold with a new cancer free body and a brand new perfect mind. RIP sweet gentlemen. I love you." Obituary information: <http://www.sumate-faulk.com/obituary?id=305289>

**Lt Col Ed Hernandez**, 701<sup>st</sup>/707<sup>th</sup> pilot, plans to list the names of many former members of the 943<sup>rd</sup> Group/315<sup>th</sup> Wing that served with us on a special Facebook page under 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Friends. He currently has 192 former members on there. Ed will be asking for help on this. We will provide names to Ed of those we know, and they will need to have a FB account. **SMS Dave Brock**, 300<sup>th</sup>/701<sup>st</sup>/707<sup>th</sup> Loadmaster already has a page listed under 315AW Final Fly By for many of those that are deceased. He currently has over 100 listed. I will post Dave's list on our website <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/> under *Final Fly-Bye*.

**A Special Alumni Board Meeting** will be held at the Charleston Club on **Tuesday, 2 May 2017 at 09:30 am.** All members of the Alumni are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

### **Alumni Board Scheduled Meetings/Heritage Sponsored Luncheons for Year 2017**

2 June, Friday, 09:30 am, Special Board Meeting, 11 am, **Heritage Luncheon** Charleston Club  
8 Sept, Friday, 09:30 am, Special Board meeting, 11 am, **Heritage Luncheon** Charleston Club  
7 Nov, Tuesday, 10:00 am, Special Board Meeting, Charleston Club  
1 Dec, Friday, 09:30 am, Special Board Meeting, 11 am, **Heritage Special Christmas Luncheon** at the Charleston Club.

At our Special Board meeting on Tuesday we will be making tentative plans for our next golfing event and dinner at the Charleston Club. We had to cancel this last year because of Hurricane Matthew and the aftermath clean up. Many are looking forward to this gathering.

Enjoy a great summer, stay cool, and enjoy some vacation time. I'll be cooling off in Alaska!

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