



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

31 July 2017, #2

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

It's been a great summer and we've been hearing all those good vacation stories many of you have been telling us. We're starting to see the beginning of a cooling down trend as the long hot summer is beginning to wind down. Things have been pretty quiet with the alumni association folks but two of our aircrew have passed. Major Chet Collier passed on 26 July 2017 and only recently we received news that Lt Colonel Elaine Randell of the 31st AES passed on 12 January 2007.

We will soon be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the 315th Alumni Association and the 50th anniversary of the 315th Airlift Wing. The Vice President of the 315th Alumni Association SMSG Ray Ardis has suggested that we combine the two and have one celebration. Alumni President Chief Dick Fuller will be contacting the wing to see if this can be worked out. We have did this before in the past. We will be keeping everyone updated on our progress.

Election time is coming up and all of our membership will have the opportunity to nominate the candidates of their choice to serve as officers of the association. The election ballots will be attached to the next issue of the newsletter. We will list all of those that are currently serving on the board so that you can place an X beside their name if you wish for them to serve another term, or can write-in a candidate of your choice.

Final Fly-Bye

Major Chet Collier passed on 26 July 2017, according to Chief Ben Futrell, our former 315th Wing Senior Enlisted advisor. Chet was a master sergeant flight engineer in the 701st squadron before receiving his commission. After he was commissioned, he took the position

of executive officer of the 701st squadron. He held other positions in the wing before becoming the executive officer of the wing.

Chief Futrell had this to say about his fellow wingman: "I lost a good friend. Chet told me once when we were talking about the old C-141 flying days that the song American Pie reminded him of those days and the airplane we crewed. I will never forget. Rest in peace brother."

Then we received another message from our current 315th Airlift Wing Commander Colonel Greg Gilmour: "It's with great sadness that I am informing all of you of the passing of a member of our 315th family. Major Chet Collier, 315th Wing Executive Officer passed on 26 July 2017. Please keep Chet's family, friends and coworkers in your thoughts and prayers. Chet has been one of our family members for years and was loved by many. He will be missed."

A memorial service for Chet will be held on Sunday, 6 August 2017, at 10:00 am, at the Base Education Center. Also, for anyone interested, grief counselors will be available in buildig 60 auditorium on Saturday, 5 August at 10:00 am. They will discuss normal responses to losing a friend/coworker, triggers, coping measures and personal stories for anyone to share.

Chief Ben Futrell

Lt Colonel Elaine "Cookie" Franta Randle, former Flight Nurse of the 31AES, passed on 12 January 2007 at the age of 64. Cause of death was kidney failure. Elaine was born February 1943 in Detroit, Michigan and her family moved to Lakeland in the mid 1950's. She attended Crawford Long and Grady Nursing School in Atlanta, GA. In 1973, Elaine transferred from the Air Force to the Air Force Reserve, 31AES. She attained the rank of Lt Colonel and received the Outstanding Reserve Nurse Award for year 1980. She was survived by her husband, John Randle of Hampton VA. Visitation was held by Heath Funeral Chapel. The services were provided by St Joseph's Catholic Church. Heath Funeral Chapel www.heathfuneralchapel.com

Col Alicia Tollison, former Flight Nurse 31 / 315 AES

Alumni Board Scheduled Meetings/Heritage Trust Sponsored Luncheons for Year 2017

2 Aug, Wednesday, 10:00 am, Special Board Meeting, Charleston Club

8 Sept, Friday, 0930 am, Special Board Meeting, 11am, [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.

Enjoy the late summer time, stay cool, and we'll see you at the next Heritage Trust sponsored luncheon on **Friday, 8 September at 11:00 am**, at the Charleston Club.

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