



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

29 May 2017, #2

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

Memorial Day 2017

Many of us enjoyed a quiet three day weekend observing Memorial Day. I connected with many of you and typically you did your traditional back yard cook outs as always, caught up on some yard work and took time to visit with friends and family. Many others paid tribute to fallen family members of wars from the past by visiting their burial sites and placing a variety of arrangements on their tombs in recognition of their service to our country.

On Saturday, May 27th, Lt Colonels Jim & Eileen Wilson of the 315th Alumni Association hosted a fly in event called "The Cross Cotillion at Crosswinds." I was invited to attend along with my daughter and grandson. A variety of restored aircraft from World War II and earlier were flown in. Many were the open cockpit types, and the pilots wore their leather helmets and goggles. I saw the first aircraft that I logged some stick time in, a bright yellow Piper Cub, which was known as the Scout back then. Then I saw a Texan T-6 like the one that I got a back seat ride in while assigned to Davis-Monthan in the fifties. There were about 25 beautifully restored aircraft in mint condition, and my family and I were clicking away with our cameras. Our photos and videos were posted on Facebook that same day. Eileen hosted a large dinner in the hangar and I met and talked to many of the pilots. Jim has three restored aircraft of his own, a 1930 Fairchild KR-21, a 1936 Waco YKS-6, and a Piper L4-4. Jim is currently constructing two aircraft and one of them is almost completed. Jim took us up in the L4-4 the last time we were up there at their air facility in Cross, SC. Eileen is a Board Member of the Alumni and she's the Benevolence Chair person. Eileen sends out cards of condolence to Alumni member's families when they are deceased and she sends out get well

cards from the Alumni to all those in ill health. We appreciate all Jim and Eileen do for the Alumni Association, and we appreciate their service to our country on this Memorial Day.

Three Legends that served in the 315th Wing

On this Memorial Day 2017, let us recognize three of our great legends that have gone on before us. They are:

24 February 2017

Lt Colonel Eileen Smith Hadbvany, Flight Nurse 31st / 315th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron

24 April 2015

CMSGT James "Jim" Newberry, Chief Loadmaster 707th ALS

8 March 2011

Major General Bob Stephens, Commander 707th ALS, 315th Airlift Wing Commander, and assigned to the US Central Command during 2/11

All American Week prior to Memorial Day

Eighteen Gloabmaster III aircraft from the 315th Airlift Wing and the 437th Airlift Wing, Joint Base Charleston, flew over the Arthur Ravenel Jr Bridge in support of Global Response Force exercise on May 25, 2017. The exercise was supporting the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division's Joint Forceable Entry exercise at Ft Bragg, NC, during their All American Week and their 100th Anniversary. Multiple Joint Base Charleston C-17 aircraft provided airdrop support for American Response Force, according to the Charleston Post & Courier. This story was also published in the base newspaper, and on the 315th Airlift Wing Website. There were other exercises over the Ravenel Bridge, and one of them was 30 C-17s taking flight at one time, and another one had to be cancelled at a later date because of high winds. This information was posted on the social media and the information given was also posted by MSGT John J. Kellog Jr.

In Memorial....

"Medal of Honor Society honors long-time Red Cross Volunteer, retired 315th Airlift Wing/Air Evacuation Flight Nurse, Lt Colonel Eileen Smith Hadbvany on March 26, 2016." This was published in the 315th Alumni Association newsletter at that time. An American Red Cross volunteer of more than 26 years, Eileen received the Citizen Honors from the Congressional Medal Honor Society in Arlington, Virginia. Eileen said she was humbled to be finalist for

recognition and she still couldn't believe she was selected. Eileen served as a Flight Nurse for 28 years.

A charter member of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association for over 23 years, Eileen gave invaluable service to the association and was an inspiration to the association to include over 1,200 members of the 315th Airlift Wing's Squadrons.

There was a special edition 315th Alumni Association Special Fly-Bye Newsletter published at the time of Eileen's passing on 24 February 2017. We feel it appropriate to publish this once again on this very special day for one of our own who has flown west.

This information was provided by charter member, former newsletter editor, and currently Vice President of the Alumni, SMS Ray Ardis. Ray was a Senior Med Tech in the 31/315 AES almost since the time it was activated.

Final Fly-Bye

CMS Leonard "Len" Stempin, former 315th Airlift Wing Senior Enlisted Advisor, passed on 23 May 2017. Len was a 315th Board Member and he was our Treasurer. We have been advised by his spouse, MSG (ret) Deborah Stempin that arrangements will be made at a future date. In the meantime, you may sign the guest book at PALMETTOCREMATIONSOCIETY.COM

CMS Wayne B. Cunningham, former 300th ALS Flight Engineer, passed at the age of 82 on 25 November 2015 with parkinsons disease. He was survived by his spouse of 60 years, Carolyn Jordan. Wayne was an engineer for Lockheed Martin, Saudi Air and Japan Airlines. They were from Kennesaw, GA. Funeral arrangements were provided by Winkenhofer Pine Ridge Funeral home of Kennesaw, GA 30152. Wayne was a faithful Alumni Association member but had not responded back to us for years. We did not know that he had passed. Recently many have been asking about him. Dave Brock finally decided to do a time consuming investigation and found the information shown here. Wayne was one of our best and highly likeable. That's the way we will always remember him.

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.

Again, our next Special Board Meeting and **Heritage Luncheon** is next Friday, 2 June, as shown above. We will look forward to seeing you and drive safely.

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

