



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

27 April 2018

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

Brigadier General Richard L. Kemble

General Kemble is a former pilot of the 300th Squadron. We knew he left to accept the position of Vice Commander of the 22nd Air Force, but Lt Col Barry Strauss said he no longer held that position and had moved on. I called him late Sunday evening to get an update on his status and we enjoyed getting all caught up again. This is the information he gave me:

Vice Commander 22nd Air Force March 2016 thru February 2017.

Headquarters AMC February 2017 thru January 2018.

Wing Commander 94th AW at Dobbins ARB Georgia 5 January 2018 to present.

General Kemble said, “we have eight of the best C-130 H3s in the command and the best Airman in all of the 22nd Air Force.”

Rick is well known by many of us including those in many of the non-flying squadrons and he’s on Facebook with many of us also. I was on the flight deck with Rick when he made a few orientation flights out to North Field. I was invited up there again when he flew the Alumni Association to Wright-Patterson AFB Ohio to see the last C-141 take flight. Colonel Gary Cook was our 315th Wing Commander at the time, set it up for us, and then came by very early in the morning to see us off. Colonel Cook is currently the Vice President of the 315th Alumni Association. During our conversation, Rick said he would try to be up here on **Friday, 8 June 2018** for the Heritage Trust Sponsored quarterly luncheon.

Wiley Johnson, former 300th Squadron Pilot and the Mayor of the town of Summerville, South Carolina

I had the great pleasure over the weekend of having Mayor Wiley Johnson accept my Facebook friend request. He gave me his current email address so that I can begin sending him the newsletter. Two of our Alumni members went to visit the Mayor immediately after he took office. They were MSG Chris Beiler and MSG Jim McDonald, both 300th Squadron Flight Engineers. Photos were taken of their visit and they were posted on Facebook. We will certainly be communicating with him and would like to invite him to our quarterly luncheon on **Friday, 8 June 2018**.

Barbara T. Pack, 315th Airlift Wing Reserve Pay

While sitting here typing this newsletter, I was interrupted by messages from Linda Skillman, a Facebook message from Bill Hamilton, and a message came in on the i-phone all at about the same time letting us know that Barbara Pack had fallen and was found unconscious by her daughter Susan Eadie. Susan had been trying to call her mom with no response and decided to go check up on her. When she arrived, the door was locked and she called for assistance to get inside. Once inside, she found her mom lying on the floor unconscious. EMS was called and she was taken to Trident. I went to Trident today to check up on her. Her daughter Susan was there and Barbara was still unconscious. We talked for a very long time. Susan said that on Friday, she will be taken to rehab at Life Care Center, 2600 Elms Plantation Blvd, North Charleston SC, (843) 764-3500. It's located only a few blocks away on Hwy 78 on the opposite side of the street from Trident. You can reach Susan at her email address: sdeadie54@gmail.com

We have all known Barbara pretty much all our adult lives and she knows about all of us. When we need to ask about someone, we go to Barbara. She attends all our 315th Alumni Social functions and she attends every quarterly luncheon. The Alumni recently celebrated Barbara's 92nd Birthday! She is still pretty as ever at the age of 92 and her mind's still at 100%. When I was talking to her daughter Susan today, I told her about all the times many of us flyers would come back from a long trip broke and needed our money urgently, myself included. Without hesitation, even when she was very busy, she would process the voucher and send us to finance & accounting. That's how we will always remember Barbara.

Barbara will not be recovering. If there should be a big change in her status, I will publish a *Special Issue News Bulletin* which will be posted on our website at <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/> and all the individual squadron pages on Facebook. In the meantime, we will be contacting our former 315th Wing Chaplain Lt Colonel (ret) Cliff Gilmer. Cliff is an active member of the Alumni and we will be keeping him informed. This was Barbara's request. In the meantime, let's be praying.

Chief Richard “Dick” Fuller, former President of the Alumni Association

Dick was our 315th Alumni Association President for over ten years. Last December elections were held and the majority voted for Colonel Jim Roberts, now our current President. Jim was not present for the voting process, and we told him after the fact that he was now our new President. We loved Jim’s response back when he received the news as it was full of humor as you might imagine knowing Jim. Dick still remains as active as ever, like he always has ever since he has been in the wing. At our last quarterly luncheon, we recognized Dick for all his work and accomplishments over many years and he was given a full round of applause. We all remember that when any of us became terminally ill, or one of us passed away, Dick would always be there for the family to assist and get the word out to everyone, and he still continues to be out there for us. I was in rehab last November & December, and Dick was there to see me every day. A few times he brought me my favorite candy bar, a big Hershey with almonds. For those who may not know Dick, he was the Chief of the Flight Engineers in the 707th Squadron.

The Alumni Association has been very fortunate over the past 24 years to have the best leadership in the wing and we continue to do so with our current officers and directors. Now we need everyone’s help in collecting dues and maintaining the membership. Linda Skillman is our Secretary and our Membership Chairman and can’t do this alone. Many of us are on Facebook and the other social media 24/7 talking among ourselves. Ask your fellow alumni members if they are a member of the alumni association and if their dues are current.

We published membership information in the last newsletter. In case you may have missed it, here it is again:

Linda Skillman, 7033 N. Kenwood Dr., Charleston SC 29406, (843) 553-5045, Linda.Skillman@outlook.com Linda can send you the alumni application form or renewal form by regular US mail service or online. The form is also on our website. Membership for one year is only \$5 per year or \$12 for three years.

Being a member of the alumni association is fun and easy. We have a special quarterly luncheon at the club that is sponsored by Heritage Trust. The seafood buffet is free to all members. If you’re not a member and you would like to join us, Linda will sign you up when you arrive. The quarterly luncheon is like a mini reunion and we normally have between 50 to 80 attending. The next luncheon will be held on **Friday, 8 June** at the Charleston Club, formerly the NCO Club. The luncheon and sign in time is 11:00 am. Prior to that time, we have our Alumni board meeting at 9:30 am in the club. All members of the Alumni are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Luncheon dates for year 2018 are **Friday 8 June, Friday 7 September and Friday 30 November**. The Friday 30 November luncheon is also when we celebrate **Christmas**.

Chief Loraine C. Sapp, 315th Alumni Treasurer

Chief Sapp has volunteered to take the position of treasurer on the Alumni board. Loraine has her own business in bookkeeping and tax consultation according to her business card. We value her expertise and appreciate her taking this position which has been vacant for a very long time. Loraine was assigned to the 701st Squadron

Lisa A. Sweatt, former Director, Airman & Family Readiness

Lisa has volunteered to open an account with Facebook for the 315th AW Alumni Association and be the administrator. We have been asking for this for years. On Facebook we can find many Alumni members that we have lost over the years mostly because of their change of address. We have lost many and hopefully we could get them back again. Many of our membership are not on Facebook and the social media and really don't care to belong. We understand. Those Alumni members can enjoy our official website not on Facebook at <http://315awaalumniassoc.com/> The webmaster is Chief Tom Clemmons.

The Air Force Thunderbirds will not be here this weekend

Early this morning, Friday the 27th, I picked up my morning newspaper off the driveway and it said "Thunderbirds cancel expo performance." It went on to say "The Air Force Thunderbirds will not participate in Saturday's Air & Space Expo at the Charleston Air Force Base. The demonstration team cancelled its performance because the six-pilot squad isn't ready after recently losing one of its members in a crash, according to the Thunderbird's base in Nevada." I called the 315th Public Affairs Office and spoke to MSG Joann Gillespie to confirm this, as the base newspaper, the Patriot, has been promoting this for several weeks. Joann reminded me that Friday is family day for the Air & Space Expo. So if you go out there today all the aircraft and displays are set up and you can avoid the big crowds on Saturday.

Replacing the Thunderbirds as headliners will be the Aero Shell Aerobatic team, a group of World War II-era T-6 Texan aircraft. That performance is set for 3:00 pm. The gates will open at 8:30 am and close at 5:00 pm. Some of the aircraft on display are the F-22, B1B, B-52, C-130J, C-47, Cessna 172, and the Red Tail Squadron, a tribute to the Tuskegee Airmen.

The next newsletter will be published and posted on 30 April 2018. In the meantime, enjoy a beautiful weather weekend at the Air & Space Expo.

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