



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

June/July Issue Newsletter

**15 July 2019**

Visit our website to view all back issues of the newsletter and more at  
<http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Alumni Association**

**Friday, 4 October, 2019**

**&**

**Saturday, 5 October, 2019**

We are in the early planning stages for this very important celebration. The Alumni Board held several planning sessions already and here's what we have come up with so far:

1 – Golf tournament on Friday morning starting at 8:00 AM. Details will follow.

2 – Friday night get together at the Charleston Club (former NCO club). We will need to know the number planning to attend so we can provide enough food, beverage and seating.

**3 – Saturday morning is the 315<sup>th</sup> Wing UTA and there's a possibility of the wing providing a mission briefing. The Alumni Association President Col Jim Roberts is currently looking at many possibilities for Saturday's day time activities.**

**4 – Saturday evening around 5:00 or 6:00 pm the Alumni Association will have a get together combined with the 300<sup>th</sup> AS's Octoberfest at the home of Lt Colonel Barry Strauss's place at 4980 Lambs Road, located directly across from the base. If you come out of Dorchester gate, you turn left, then turn right on Lambs Road and Barry's place is on the right. Barry has been providing the venue for this celebration in the month of October for the past 25 years. Many of us have been there numerous times over the years and there is always a tremendously large attendance. A big bonfire going fueled by wooden pallets, every kind of food and beverage you can possibly imagine and the best friends you will ever meet and the best war stories you will ever hear. Many great ladies attending also. You don't want to miss this.**

**This newsletter will be going directly to almost all those on our membership listing. Even though our plans are not complete at this time we just wanted to give you a heads up in the meantime so you can mark your calendars and plan to attend. This will be the last celebration of this kind as many of us are getting on up there in years, like our seventies and eighties, and that includes myself. We strongly urge everyone to make a monumental effort to attend before it comes time for us to leave the planet. Many of you will be receiving a phone call from us. We're asking everyone to use the proverbial grapevine and contact those you're connected with. Before 4 & 5 October arrives, I will send out a special news bulletin with a breakdown on cost of the golf tournament, food and beverage. We will need for you to get back with us.**

**This year is also the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 943<sup>rd</sup> Group/315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. The Wing does not plan to hold a celebration. The last celebration was the 40<sup>th</sup>. Mission requirements prevented a 45<sup>th</sup> celebration. I talked to Public Affairs Officer Major Wayne Capps in his office so I could better understand why they will not be celebrating. The Wing personnel and all military personnel live in a completely different world from the one we knew back in the late sixties, seventies and eighties, both on the job and socially. We remember Friday and Saturday nights at the club when it was packed on those nights with two bands playing and everyone out there dancing and having a great time. Last year I was in the club at 9:00 pm on a Saturday night expecting the same. There were only 5 people in the club and they were shooting pool. I ordered a short beer for \$3.25 and just sat there for about 20 minutes looking at the wall and thinking about all the great times we had when Lenny LeBranche was our ring leader. We had plenty of friends sitting around in all directions. The new generation of troops have their i-pads going as they live a very different life style from the one we had but so does everyone else in our society and they are part of that world. What we may do in October is live just a little part of the past for two days and enjoy some of the good life again just like we did back in the day. I flew with all the squadrons for five years, then served 12 years in recruiting service before retiring and began publishing newsletters like this one for the past twenty one years. I will not miss the party in October!**

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

**SMSgt George H. Martin**, Flight Engineer of the 701<sup>st</sup> & 300<sup>th</sup> AS, passed on 15 June 2019 at his home in Pacifica, CA. He is survived by his spouse Sandra Lynn. I will get back with more information on George in the next newsletter. All of us who knew George know that he was a big story teller and he took great pride in his position as an air crew member. I've received more correspondence from George in the past 21 years than any other Alumni member. I will miss all those good stories and I will miss a really great friend.

*Forever aloft on silvery swept back wings*

**CMSgt Alfred Clary Sprouse**, 38<sup>th</sup> APS, passed on 5 Dec 2018 at the age of 74 in his home. Clary is survived by his spouse of 33 years Martha Wade Horne Sprouse. Chief Sprouse served in Vietnam, Desert Storm and Desert Shield and retired with 33 years military service.

**Civ Laura Caryle**, records specialist in the CBPO passed on 15 March 2019. Laura's late spouse Eddie was an Air Force Officer on active duty. Laura worked for Capt Alec Sawyer, Personnel Officer (now retired Colonel).

### **100% Disabled Veterans now Eligible for Space A Flights**

When congress signed the National Defense Authorization Act in 2018, 100-percent service connected disabled veterans became eligible for space available travel, better known as "space A" or military hops. Air Mobility Command (AMC) maintains an extensive network of flights throughout the Continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

*SMSgt Ray Ardis, Alumni Board Member*

### ***Turtle Times, May 2019 issue***

The Alumni is now on the monthly mailing list for the 701<sup>st</sup> Airlift Squadron, known as The Turtles. The Turtle First Lady is Kristin Schfer.

### **Our last Heritage Trust Sponsored Luncheon, 31 May 2019**

When the President of the Alumni Association Col Jim Roberts began our luncheon meeting, he asked for those that thought they were the youngest to raise their hand. That only took a minute and we recognized our youngest member. Then he asked us to rise our hand if we thought we were the prettiest. Ernie Weaver and I thought we were the prettiest and our hands quickly shot up in the air. We did not get selected. But I did get first prize at the last luncheon for being the oldest and I received a coin. If Ernie had been present the coin would have been his. I will continue this story in tomorrow's newsletter.

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