



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

March/April 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> AW Alumni*  
*&*  
*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing*

The 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Alumni Association Official Board Members have already held their first planning session for our 25<sup>th</sup> year celebration to be held during the month of **October 2019**. We don't have an exact date in October yet, as it will be on a UTA weekend and that date has not been confirmed. Most likely it will be 19/20<sup>th</sup> of October. Soon as the date is confirmed, we will get right back with everyone so you can mark your calendars and plan to attend.

At this time the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing has no plans in place for an actual 50<sup>th</sup> celebration event. Their last celebration was the 40<sup>th</sup>. There was a very large attendance and it was awesome in every respect. The 45<sup>th</sup> celebration was not held due to overwhelming mission requirements.

Our reserve unit was activated in July 1969 as the 943<sup>rd</sup> Group before we became the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing. Many of our original reserve members from that era, including myself, are still around and the age process has set in for us. We will be making a very monumental effort to contact everyone who ever served with us as this will surely be the last milestone reunion many of us will ever see.

The reunion will probably be pretty much be like those reunions from the past which worked out great for us. You will have choices of things to do. We have checked on a golfing event on Friday and a dinner for the golfers and guest on Friday night to present awards to the winners. Linda Skillman has checked with the Club Manager Harriett Barrett about a variety of possibilities for Saturday's festivities at the Club on base and the choices are many. The most major event of all will be an Oktoberfest celebration at Lt Col Barry Strauss's place across from the base and this will probably be on Thursday prior to our weekend of the other activities. Many of us have been to Barry's place each year for about 25 years and this is like nothing you've ever seen before. There's every kind of food and beverage you could imagine and it's put out there and organized by the 300th Squadron. We all greatly appreciate Barry providing the venue for us making it all possible. Most importantly, this is where you will meet everyone at one place at one time. Plenty of time to socialize and tell war stories while enjoying a few cool ones by a huge bon fire! You don't want to miss this!

Even though we have six months to plan this, we just wanted to give everyone a heads up for now. I will began a series of 315<sup>th</sup> AWAA News Bulletin updates between now and October to let everyone know what's going on. These bulletins will be posted on our website at:

<http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/> Once on the website, it will be under "events." This information will also be in the monthly newsletters. The bulletins will also be posted on Facebook where everyone with a smart phone will see them immediately.

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

Between now and October, I will be publishing a variety of News Bulletins about the history of the Alumni Association and a history of many of those who served in the 943<sup>rd</sup> Group and the 315<sup>th</sup> Wing over the past 50 years and events that

have taken place in the 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association during the past 25 years. I would like to do this before our 25<sup>th</sup> celebration in October. I recently checked with the 315<sup>th</sup> Wing History Office and talked to the Historian, TSgt Courtnee Hummel. I don't believe the wing maintains any information that would be of interest to us. I've published our history for 21 years and realize first hand that some are not particularly interested, but most are, and some are passionate about history like myself. That's normal. My spouse is a history professor and our daughter's a middle school history teacher and they say it's the same scenario everywhere. In the meantime, I have our history on file which is more than anyone could ever comprehend, but will share the information that would be interesting and inspiring to the troops.

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

Colonel Robert B. Devlin, former Commander of the 701<sup>st</sup> Airlift Squadron, passed 16 March 2019 at the age of 87 at his residence in Summerville SC. Bob's wake was held at Parks Funeral Home in Summerville. Those attending from the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing were Clearance Thornburg, Lenny LaBranche and myself. I talked to the family, especially his two sons Robert and Mike. Bob was a B-47 Bomber pilot in the Strategic Air Command (SAC) at Mt Home AFB Idaho in the fifties. I told Bob & Mike that I was a Flight Engineer on a KC-97K tanker that provided air refueling for B-47s during that same time period at Davis-Monthan AFB (SAC) in Tucson Arizona. Bob served in Danang Vietnam as an intel officer locating ground troops. I also mentioned to Bob & Mike that their Dad came by our Recruiting Office almost every day where we had a big jar of jawbreakers and he would always take one. We exchanged many good stories and I will be staying in touch with them. And finally, Bob loved golf and spent many happy days with his golf buddies at Miler Country Club. Col Devlin was laid to rest at Beaufort National Cemetery. Expressions of sympathy made to the family at [www.palmettomortuary.com](http://www.palmettomortuary.com)

Gerry N. Laughlin, rank unknown, passed 19 March 2019 at the age of 66, and served in the Vietnam conflict. Gerry received his associate degree in mechanical engineering from Trident Technical College and served in recovery with Boeing. [www.3henrysturhs.com](http://www.3henrysturhs.com)

**CMSG Alfred “Clary” Sprouse, of the 38<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron for many years, passed 5 December 2018 at the age of 73 at his home. Chief Sprouse deployed to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm.**

**MSG Joel Chandler Terhune, passed on 1 March 2019 at the age of 72 and he is survived by his spouse Alice Ayer Terhune.**

#### **Last Tuskegee Airman Deceased**

**Robert McDaniel, last member of the Tuskegee Airman passed on 19 March 2019 at the age of 96. He was trained as a bombardier and as a pilot at Tuskegee Institute, Morton Field and Tuskegee Air Field. He flew the TB25 and served as a Flight Officer with the 477<sup>th</sup> Bombardier Group. Recently a movie was produced about the Tuskegee Airman, called Red Tails and made a big hit at the box office**

#### **Last Doolittle Tokyo Raider Deceased**

**Lt Colonel Richard “Dick” Cole, the last of the Doolittle Raiders, passed at the age of 103 at Brooks Medical Center 9 April 2019. He was interviewed by the Associated Press recently and his mind was sharp and his walk was brisk. I talked to Dick Cole and Jimmy Doolittle when they were having their reunion aboard the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point in the late seventies and I talked to them again at two other reunions. They were just like your regular every day kind of guys. We had much in common as my first aircraft on flight status was the B-25 N model. I have a copy of Jimmy Doolittle’s book, “I Could Never be so Lucky Again,” my number one favorite book and I’ve read it many times. I’m sure all of you have watched the movie about their raid many times over, as it still comes on TV just like Top Gun. At their last reunion, Dick Cole said “we don’t want to be remembered any more than the rest of the people who took part in beating the Japanese. They started it, we finished it.”**

**The next Heritage Trust Luncheon will be held **Friday, 31 May 2019, 11:00 am** at the Charleston Club. The Alumni Board meeting will be held at 9:00 am prior.**

***MSG Del Oxford, Communications & Historian, [ddoxford@aol.com](mailto:ddoxford@aol.com)***