



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

4 October 2019, Issue #1

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

25th Anniversary Celebration of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association

There has been a change of plans for the Friday evening dinner 18 October 2019

In the previous newsletters dated 6, 14, and 17 August, we stated the 25th Anniversary dinner would be held at the Charleston Club on Friday 18 October at 6:00 pm and all the arrangements were made to do this but this will not happen. We have recently been advised the dining facilities at the Charleston Club will be closed through March 2020 for renovation. Linda Skillman has set us up with the Dive Bar & Grill located at the Naval Weapons Station in Goose Creek SC. The address is 1680 Fletcher Street, Goose Creek. It's in the vicinity of the exchange and commissary on Red Bank Road. There's no military gate or check point. It's pay as you go dinner and there will be a happy hour. This is our best second choice and we will certainly enjoy our evening. Dress will be casual.



PLANS FOR OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

In our current and last newsletter, dated 27 August 2019, I went into great detail about our 25th Anniversary celebration to be held on Friday, 18 October and Saturday, 19 October 2019 explaining exactly what was being planned.

It I don't believe it will be necessary to rewrite the information all over again, so let me give you the short version:

- 1 - The first event is on Friday the 18th of October, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm in the Dive Bar & Grill at 1600 Fletcher Street in Goose Creek SC at the Naval Weapons Station.**
- 2 - The second event is on Saturday the 19th of October, 6:00 pm - ? This will be the 300th Squadron's annual Octoberfest at the home of Lt Col (Retired) Barry Strauss, 4980 Lambs Road, North Charleston SC 29418. I have attached a formal invitation for both these events to make things a lot easier. The invitation explains very briefly what's going on and we will need your response back if you plan to attend so that we can plan accordingly. Linda Skillman put this invitation together and the RSVP is NLT 5 October 2019 which is tomorrow. I haven't been available until today to get this information out to everyone so please get back with Linda soon as possible.**

We have the best reunion planners and coordinators putting this celebration together than I have ever witnessed and we may very well have the best and the biggest party any of us have ever seen before! Linda Skillman coordinated all the details for the Friday night dinner and printed the invitations which are attached here. During the past two days I made a few visits to the 300th Squadron and spoke with Captain Adam K. Malson. He said if there should not be sufficient parking at Barry's place in his yard and on the roadside, we can park at the Burger King (closed, out of business) where you turn off Dorchester Road onto Lambs Road. Lambs Road is directly across from the Air Force Base. If you should be coming out the Dorchester base gate, you would turn left onto Dorchester Road. Soon as you see the Burger King, you would then turn right onto Lambs Road. Barry's place is on the right. While I was visiting the 300th Squadron again yesterday, I spoke with Lt Col Mark Pool, the Director of Operations. He covered much of what Captain Adam had said. Kegs have already been brought in from Germany. Seems everyone in the squadron is involved. After I left the base I had lunch with Barry at the Sub-Station II. Barry covered many of the details. Paper name tags will be provided. If you have a nice name tag already, you may wish to wear it. Barry said there would be plenty of seating but you may bring your own folding chairs. Wear comfortable foot wear.

Many of you have already received the current newsletter published 17 August 2019 and I have received your responses back indicating whether or not you will be attending our 25th celebration. Since the Friday night dinner has been changed from the Charleston Club on base to the Dive Bar & Grill on the Naval Weapons Station, I will need to go down my listing once again and send you this specific newsletter so that you will know about the change. Once again an invitation is attached here and you will need to fill out the bottom portion and return to Linda Skillman.

Col Jim Roberts has requested we invite all the former Wing Commanders and all former Wing Senior Enlisted Advisors/Command Chiefs to our special 25th celebration. A great idea. There is no known listing of them anywhere. However, there are plaques

hanging all along the wall outside the 315th Public Affairs office in the hallway honoring each of them. There are 18 former group & wing commanders and 12 senior enlisted advisors and command chiefs. I took out my clipboard and pen and copied them all down and will be publishing their names in the next newsletter.

While I was on the base, I dropped in to visit the 315th Wing Commander, Colonel Gregory Gilmour. Col Gilmour will be retiring the 7th and 8th of December and there will be a change of command ceremony at the C-5 hangar. The new Wing Commander will be Colonel Willis from Wight-Patterson AFB Ohio. Our first Commander was Colonel Willis. I'll be sending out the invitations and they will be attached to the newsletter.

Final Fly-Bye

Lt/Colonel Chaplain Clifford "Cliff" R. Gilmer, 315th Wing Chaplain, passed on 7 September 2019 of a stroke. Cliff is survived by his loving wife Faye. Cliff has always been an active member of the Alumni Association but he has been unable to join us in recent years because of declining health. I've been speaking with Cliff on a regular basis over the years, as he married my spouse and I on this date 34 years ago. He has married several other couples over the years that were assigned to the 315th Wing.

SMSgt Daniel A. Coffey, 707th Squadron Flight Engineer, passed on 15 September 2019 of liver complications. Daniel had his beloved German Shepard dog Zoey close at his side when he passed. Daniel worked for Chief Dick Fuller and said Dick was the best supervisor of his life time, and they were close friends. Daniel has always been an active member of the Alumni and he's from Pensacola Florida. Daniel is my distant cousin on my Mom's side of the family, the Coffey's. I've always invited Daniel to all our family gatherings over the years.

TSgt Earl L. Brooks, 81st APS, passed on 21 July 2019. He is survived by his loving wife Shelly and brother Rodney Brooks. Earl has been a long standing member of the Alumni Association for many years. Rodney will be providing more information.

The next Heritage Trust Sponsored Luncheon and Board Meeting will be held on **Friday, 20 March 2020, 11:00 am, luncheon at the Charleston Club, and the Alumni Board meeting will be held at 09:00 am in the Rookies Bar.**

The kitchen facilities at the Charleston Club will be closed for renovations through the first part of March 2020, so there will be no **Christmas Luncheon** this year. Sorry folks. I will however send out a special **Christmas Edition** of the newsletter in December.

Del Oxford, Communications

