



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

30 June 2020

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

Fourth of July 2020

Backyards to light up this 4th as big shows cancel

Watching colorful pyrotechnics explode against a night sky is a time-honored tradition to celebrate America's independence each year, but not in 2020.

Every major municipality here in the Charleston area and many others across the state have cancelled their annual fireworks displays for the 4th of July, a move that could prove a boon to the roadside stands that pop up in June of each year.

Many of you will probably follow your family traditions that have been passed down to you. You may have bottle rockets, sparklers and cherry bombs. There will be burgers and dogs on the grill. My family always had a pitcher of lemonade made with real lemons and a big watermelon with stripes. Probably the best rule to follow at this time is stay home, be safe, and enjoy family and friends in your own back yard.

The future of the Newsletter

At this time our country and the world is changing at a very rapid pace like we have never seen before. Anarchy is all around us and our cities are on fire. When we took the oath of enlistment, we said we said "I will support and defend the United States of America against

all enemies, foreign and domestic.” We have the foreign enemies covered with the strongest and best military the world has ever known. What is not covered is our domestic enemies within. The patriots among us have our work cut out and they are in our corner. The newsletter will be taking on a different twist so as to insure us that we remain a free country. There will be newsletters with all the news like the one you are reading now and they will be published at least once monthly and more often if necessary. If an urgent situation should arise, like funeral arrangements for one of our 315th AW alumni members, a special news bulletin will go out immediately. Since I’m living alone now without my beloved Brenda, I will now have plenty of time to publish as many newsletters and news bulletins as needed.

Final Fly By

Civilian Brenda E. Oxford, 315th AW CBPO & 707th AS, spouse of Delanda Del Oxford, passed on 22 May 2020 at the age of 66. Brenda had an accidental fall in our beautiful new home we had just moved into and she did not recover. Brenda was the love of my life for 35 incredible years. Brenda is survived by our three daughters, Michelle, Miranda and Jill and four grandchildren. Brenda held the position of professor of history and director of Phi Theta Kappa at Trident Tech. We will miss her smiling face and her laughter. If you count her wealth by relationships, then Brenda was a very wealthy woman. Brenda was laid to rest at Carolina Memorial Park on Rivers Avenue, directly across from Trident Tech where she served nineteen years as an educator. A Celtic cross will be carved on her crypt as she was a vivid collector of them and there’s one made of stone on our front porch. When my time comes to fly west, I will join my beloved Brenda in this very beautiful setting.

I truly appreciate the numerous condolences I have been receiving and all of them are heart felt. There was a good turn out from the 315th AW according to Linda Skillman. Brenda’s fellow faculty members, students and members of the Phi Theta Kappa were in attendance.

Services were provided to our family by Parks Funeral Home in Summerville SC. You may pull up Brenda’s obituary, hit view, and sign the guest book at www.parksfuneralhome.com

CMSGT David T. Bowman from the aircraft maintenance complex has passed recently and I have inadequate information on him at this time. According to our Alumni roster, Dave’s last known address was Lake Saint Louise MO. I called the telephone number listed and I have his email address as BormanDave@msn.com. His spouse is Janice. Our webmaster Chief Tom Clemmons knew Dave quite well. I will contact Tom or he may contact me at my email address ddoxford@aol.com to get the information we need.

Distribution of the Newsletter

Col Jim Roberts plans to work on building an e-mail, Facebook/twitter system that can get information to all our members with a few clicks. The Alumni board made a motion and seconded to approve a proposal to pay up to \$200 to someone who can work up an email address list/system of Alumni members. We need an efficient way to communicate with as many members as possible. This may ensure that every Alumni member will receive a copy of the newsletter.

Future Activities

Due to ongoing construction/virus complications with the club on base, it does not appear that our normal luncheons will be feasible.

Col Gary Cook, Alumni Vice President and former 315th AW Commander, talked with the people at the Coosaw Creek Golf Course and Club House Restaurant about setting up a luncheon for the 315th AW Alumni Association. They can arrange for two 10- person tables and then add smaller tables as needed. With what's going on in the world today, buffets are temporarily not available. The restaurant can provide a selection of sandwiches and side items to choose from.

The next Alumni Board Meeting is scheduled at the Coosaw Creek Golf Course and Club House at **09:00 on 12 Sep 2020**. Hopefully we will have a full meeting followed by a luncheon with our members at **11:00**. More information will follow on this.

Col Cook plans to contact Dustin Haynes, Public/Employee Relations Manager at the Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union about funding the luncheon.

The 315th AW Alumni Association Get Together/Octoberfest will be held in October. We plan to continue this as an annual reunion on the Octoberfest weekend. This will include a Friday night social hour and the Saturday night bash at the home of Barry Strauss. More information will follow on this plan.

History Report

In our early years, we had a group known as *Fishin' Buddies*. To the best of my memory, it was established by former 315th AW Wing Commander Billy Henderson. When Col Henderson passed, his son Harold Henderson became involved and Chief Dick Fuller kept the group going for a long period of time. They are no longer active today, but let us pay tribute to all those no longer with us. Many of their spouses are still around and they are very active with the 315th AW Alumni. I believe they would be thrilled to see the names of their late spouse's listed here. Here's a tribute to our Departed Fishin' Buddies:

A Tribute to our Departed Fishin' Buddies

We're in Heaven, Dear Fishin' Buddies. Oh so happy and so Bright!

There's perfect joy and beauty in Everlasting Light.

All pain and grief are over, ever restless tossing past;

We are now at Peace forever, safely home in Heaven at last.

When your fishin' trip's completed, He will gently call you Home.

Oh, the rapture of that meeting, oh, the joy to see you come!

FISHIN' BUDDIES

Larry Houk

Mike Winter

Bobby Sheffield

Larry Wakefield

Wayne Tyler

Coleman Knight

Billy Henderson

Jerry Yarchever

Bob Cutrell

John Green

Ed Lusk

Jim Newberry

Len Stempin

Charlie Brown

We will never forget our Elite Fishin' Buddies!

**The poem shown above was provided by
Fishin' Buddy Chief Dick Fuller**

Col Jim Roberts, President of the 315th Alumni Association, had requested I send him a draft copy of the newsletter so that he could share his input along with any information from the 315th Alumni board. I haven't received a response back from Jim so I may assume he is off and running to a favorite vacation get away with family and friends

That's all we have for now. Enjoy the special weekend of patriotism to our great country! Look forward to seeing you back here for the July issue of the newsletter. Be safe.

***Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor and Historian* ddoxford@aol.com**

