



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

9 February 2021, #1

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

You may view all back issues and more at this website.

I post the two monthly issues of the newsletter on this site.

Delanda D. Oxford

27 January 1936 – 27 January 2021

I have had an incredible 85 year life span. Born at the hospital in Morganton NC at 4:00 am on 27 January 1936 when my folks were living in the Morganton rural community of Antioch. This was back in the sticks. No electric current, unpaved roads, drew water from the well, out house toilet with a good supply of corn cobs. We were still in the depression era so there were very few cars. Lots of very healthy food from the farm and we had lots of pinto beans, red eyed gravy and fat back. The Southern Baptist Church was down the road and we had a fire and brimstone preacher. World War II had not started yet so life was very peaceful with beautiful heavy snow on the mountains in the back drop. Snow was always falling late on Christmas Eve as I looked down at our home with the Christmas tree all lit up and the fireplace going. A beautiful life experience I will never forget. I have an artist sketch of this in my office. I'm sure many of you had that same kind of experience. Let me hear from you.

This was soon to be over as my family moved to the adjoining town of Valdese and World War II started. I vividly remember the attack on Pearl Harbor and all that followed. Sugar and gasoline were rationed. We pledged to the allegiance of the flag every morning before class started. Many of our family and friends were missing in action and a gold star was placed in the window. We were a strong community and we pulled together like no other time in recorded history. I lived all the way through the war and remember the day it all ended.

From here we moved into the middle fifties and I joined the Air Force upon graduation from high school. The BMT bases at San Antonio and Parks in California were filled up because of the Korean War build up. I shipped out to Sampson AFB in Geneva New York near Syracuse, flight 3951. Stayed around for one year as a TI. Attended Admin School at F. E. Warren AFB Wyoming and was assigned to the Base Flight Section at D-M AFB in Tucson. I maintained aircraft maintenance records which was too tame so I switched from a 70250 to an A43151A aircraft mechanic on flight status on a B-25 N model. I was also on flight status on a B-17 H model for a short time and then moved to the C-47 Gooney Bird like the one in front of base headquarters. Later signed up with the Air Guard and graduated from NC State earning liberal arts degree in business. Served as an Air Force Recruiter for the 315th Airlift Wing for 12 years. Worked with my supervisor SMSgt Nelson Bennett, Betty Stevens, Mike Winter, and the recruiter all of you know, the very colorful MSgt Jo Terrell. I met my wife of 35 years at the time and she was assigned to personal records and worked near Barbara Pack and Marty Davis in the pay section. Brenda later was reassigned to the 707th Squadron and worked with Col Jim Roberts, Dick Fuller, Wade Cheney, and Linda Skillman worked down the hall way. Brenda returned to the university to earn her advanced degrees and be assigned as history professor and the director of the Phi Theta Kappa at Trident. Brenda passed on 22 May 2020 after an accidental fall in our beautiful new home and she did not recover. I still maintain our home and live alone. When my time comes to [fly West](#), I will join my beloved Brenda at Carolina Memorial Gardens on Rivers directly across from Trident. I will be in my class A uniform, have a full military funeral, ask Andy Savage our JAG Officer to deliver the eulogy, 21 gun salute, the bugle will play taps, marking the end of an incredible life and a life well lived.

Currently I perform a daily sweat workout, have no health issues, and enjoy motivational speaking with Toastmasters TRANSAT Chapter located on base.

Why I'm providing this information

At this time our country and the world is divided and in more turmoil that we have ever seen in our life time. It is not my intention here to promote Brenda and myself, but to show you how anyone can start life with little or nothing as many you have proved already. As historian, I could set up a history file with your accomplishments much like the one written here for the future generations. I'll check back with everyone on this in future newsletters.

From here on the newsletter will have a very different twist and will be adjusted to the times we are currently living in. During my 22 years as the newsletter editor and historian I have witnessed numerous loyal members like never before. We have many that are anonymous donors providing hundreds of dollars to our treasurer. We have the best leadership in our history. Membership fees have been the same for 26 years. Jim Roberts has made every effort thinkable to keep us involved in activities throughout the virus. Jim put out a message yesterday indicating that he would hold an Alumni meeting and luncheon during February and we are to get back with him.

At this time we don't see a chance of any social gatherings any time soon. In the meantime I will publish the newsletter more extensively and keep us connected.

Final Fly-By

MSgt Harry "Cliff" Osborne, ART Flight Engineer in the 701st Squadron, passed on 1 February 2021 at the age of 74 from leukemia at the University of Kansas Hospital. Cliff married Michelle Reynolds on 14 February 1997 and lovingly referred to her as "my bride." Cliff was born on 21 August 1946 in Ridley "West by God West Virginia" to Harry Clifford Osborne, Sr. and Ruth Cathleen (Ferguson) Osborne. Committal services with full military honors under the US Air Force will be conducted at 12:30 PM Friday 5 March at the Levanworth National Cemetery in Parkville MO 64152. Memories of Harry and condolences may be shared at meyersfuneralchapel.com

Lt Colonel David Brown Jr, 300th Squadron, passed on 21 January 2021 after fighting a long bout with cancer. This information was provided by Colonel Mike Lierley 300th and 317th Squadron, 315CV.

Civ Sandra Harris Jones of Dorchester, 315th AW Military Pay and worked with Barbara Pack, passed 27 January 2021 at the age of 78. Sandra was laid to rest at the Glendale Memorial Cemetery, 2210 Mount Carmel Road in Walterboro. Visit the registry online at www.briceherndonfuneralhome.com Visit the guestbook at legacy.com/obituaries/Charleston.

Happy Valentine's Day everyone. Enjoy your day with that Special Someone.

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