



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

18 January 2021, # 1, Rev. Martin Luther King Day

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Aviation Milestone

Firetrucks welcome two C-17 aircraft with water hoses Friday 15 January 2021 as the planes land in celebration of the 4 millionth flying hours for the C-17 fleet at Joint Base Charleston SC. After the commemorative flight, a ceremony was held with speakers including U. S. Rep. Nancy Mace, Lt. Gen Brian Robinson, [315th Airlift Wing Commander Colonel Adam B. Willis](#), and Ted Colbert of Boeing. “We are extremely excited and honored to celebrate this historic milestone with the airmen who made this all possible,” said Colonel Roux, the commander of the 437th Airlift Wing.

Brig General Chuck Yeager

A memorial service was held in Charleston West Virginia last Friday for a hero, legend and friend who would go out of his way to help others. Vice President Mike Pence started the service in his home state by calling him “America’s greatest aviator” during a 15 – minute address that detailed Yeager’s military career. During numerous video tributes, others spoke of the human side of Yeager, who died 7 December 2020 at the age of 97. His love of growing tomatoes. For hunting and fishing. Former astronaut Charles Duke said Yeager was his pilot school commander when he applied for the space program in 1965. Yeager was a great encourager of all students Duke said.

The World War II fighter pilot ace became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound in 1947. He named his aircraft Glamorous Glenis. He flew more than 60 years and piloted an F-15 to near 1,000 mph at Edwards Air Force Base in October 2002 at the age of 79. Yeager was born 23 February 1923 in Myra, about 40 miles south west of Charleston West Virginia. The family moved to Hamlin, the county seat.

Yeager and his first wife, Glenis, had four children and died on 1990. He remarried in 2003 to Victoria Scot D'Angelo. She said they met on a hiking trail. They returned for a hike the next day. She said he hugged her and that it felt "safe, warm and loyal." She said Yeager taught her how to fly, fish and hunt.

Final Fly By

SMSgt John C. Hurley, 84th APS according to our membership roster, passed on 22 April 2015 and died peacefully at his home at the age of 71, after a 7 year battle with cancer. John and his loving wife of 20 years are from Oxford, Alabama. John served 30 years in the Air Force Reserve.

Chief Dick Fuller

Dick was the best known member of the 943rd Group and the 315th Airlift Wing. Dick also goes on record as contributing more years of his time and his life than any of us. Today we wonder how he accomplished all this and kept his family life going. I could easily publish four pages here of all his activities and accomplishments. So let me give you the best short version I can come up with: He came on board as SSgt about the time the 943rd Group was activated and worked in the 780 section with Jimmy Vaughn before advancing to a flight engineer. He coached sports teams and little league in the wing, including Recruiter Mike Winter. He held the office as President of the 315th AWAA for almost ten years. He attended all funerals, even those out of town where he sometimes stayed overnight. He set up C-141 and C-17 orientation flights to North Field. He set up burger burns and fish fries. He held Christmas dinners in his home for the flight engineers or anyone else wishing to attend. Brenda and I attended all of them.

Currently Dick is a resident of a Memory Facility unknown to us where he is not permitted to receive friends, phone calls or mail. If you would like to inquire about him, the family has directed us to contact the 315th Public Affairs Office. I will continue to keep everyone posted.

There are those who wait for things to happen and there are those who make things happen.

That's affirmative,

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