



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

18 June 2021, # I, Recap Issue

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

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

315th AW Alumni Board Meeting & Luncheon

Friday, 10 Sep 2021, in the Joint Base Charleston Chapel Annex. Times are as follows:

- (1) Board Meeting from 09:30 -1030
- (2) Setup for Luncheon from 1030 – 1100
- (3) Alumni Luncheon from 1130 – 1230

To ensure enough food is catered, Col Jim Roberts asks that those who plan to attend RSVP to the Alumni Secretary, Linda Skillman at Linda.Skillman@outlook.com

A Recap of the Past Two Newsletters

Alumni Newsletters were published on 17 May 2021 and 29 May 2021.

This issue of the Newsletter will be sent to everyone currently listed on the Alumni membership roster.

I will go back to many of the previous rosters and send this publication to all those that are listed as inactive as their membership dues have not been paid for many years. They have either forgot to pay their dues or they have changed their email address and forgot to tell us. Linda Skillman, or membership chair and secretary, sends out an email message notifying our members when they are due. You will receive a renewal application form. When your dues are paid, Linda will send you a membership card to place in your wallet. The card will have the expiration date listed. For questions about your membership contact Linda Skillman at Linda.Skillman@outlook or (843) 553-5045.

Dues \$5 per year - \$12 for 3 years - \$24 for 6 years

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check #: _____

(Make check payable to [315 AW Alumni Association](#))

Please mail your application and dues to:

**Linda Skillman, Secretary
315 Airlift Wing Alumni Association
7033 North Kenwood Drive
Charleston SC 20406**

The 315th Alumni Association is currently making plans for October and December celebrations. For the past 25 years we have held an Octoberfest celebration at the home of Lt Col (Ret) Barry Strauss's home on Lambs Road across from the Dorchester Road gate to the base. Historically the food and beverage has been provided by the 300th Squadron. The Alumni Association may pick up the tab this year. This is an outdoor event and there is always a tremendously large attendance. Two years ago we had rain storms and Jim Roberts arranged for us to hold the festivities indoors at a really nice warehouse further down on Dorchester Road. The attendance was down somewhat but we had a great time.

Our annual Christmas Luncheon will be held sometime in December. Christmas day falls on Saturday and Christmas Eve will be on Friday.

Our Last 315th AW Alumni Board Meeting & Luncheon, 4 June 2021

Board members present were Col (Ret) Jim Roberts, President, Col (Ret) Gary Cook, Vice President, CMS (Ret) Sam Brock, CMS (Ret) Pam Minton, SMS (Ret) Ray Ardis, SMS (Ret) Virginia Jamison, MSG (Ret) Tom Crawford, MSG/Civilian Joanne Gillespie, MSG (Ret) Del Oxford and Civilian (Ret) Linda Skillman.

Col Roberts presented a 315th AW Alumni Association coin to me in appreciation for my efforts in publishing the Alumni Newsletters and to ensure some of the Alumni's legacy retirees would always be in attendance at the luncheons. I responded in kind to the presentation and thanked all the Alumni members for all the kind words of appreciation that I have been receiving over the past twenty four years. That certainly makes all my time and effort very rewarding. Thank you everyone.

Final Fly By

This term is used to describe the passing of our members in uniform and our civilian personnel who support our mission. Some of those who passed within the past year are my beloved spouse of 35 years Brenda E. Oxford of the CBPO and the 707th Squadron; TSgt Steve Linder of the 300th Squadron, MSgt Dick Williams of the 707th Squadron, SMSgt Flow Marks, the Legal Office, Civilian Colette M. Pittman of the CBPO, MSgt Cliff Osborne, ART of the 701st Squadron, Captain Karen Lee of the 315th Aero Med Squadron.

Those who passed over the years: Chief Jim Newberry of the 707th Squadron and past President of the 315AW Alumni Association. Major General Bob Stevens, 315th Wing Commander and Commander of the US Central Command during 9/11, Col Billy Henderson, 315th Wing Commander, Col Eileen Smith, 31st / 315th AES.

Chief Dick Fuller, 707th Squadron & 315th AW Alumni President

Everyone knows Dick. He was a 707th Squadron Flight Engineer and served as President of the 315th AW Alumni Association longer than any other president. Currently Dick is a resident of a long term memory facility. Dick will probably be there permanently. He can't be contacted nor can you write to him. I'm in contact with his family and I will keep everyone posted on his status.

MSgt Jim McDonald, 300th Squadron Flight Engineer

Jim is unable to talk or speak coherently and not well enough to be on Facebook, email, text or speak on the telephone. His best friend Chris, 300th Squadron Flight Engineer, has requested that we send him cards of cheer, thinking of you, to raise his spirits. Jim's address

is 120 Gable Farm Road, Harleyville, SC 29448. I have already sent my Hallmark card to Jim. I wrote all the things in there that will be familiar to him.

Jim was Lt Colonel Derek Duke's flight engineer. Derek said that Jim's a patriot more than anyone he has ever flown with. Derek also added that we all face a decline as we age and thanks for sharing and caring.

Our Google Website is Up and Running

Colonel Jim Robert's daughter, Amy, briefed the board members during the 16 April 2021 Alumni board meeting on the use of Google when information is sent to multiple email addresses at the same time. In other words, we can send the newsletter out to everyone on the membership rosters with just one push of a button. Once again, and in the meantime, I will be sending this issue of the newsletter out to everyone on the current membership roster. I have never attempted to do this before. The task will take at least one week or longer.

A Message from President Ronald Regan

For America, freedom is a fragile thing and it is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by way of inheritance. It must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it only comes once to a people.

27 Years – 315th AW Alumni Association
52 Years – 315th Airlift Wing

At this time all the positions on the Alumni board are filled with those that are highly qualified for the positions they hold. Future activities are in the making. There may be problems on the planet but we carry on business as usual.

Del Oxford, Communications