



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

17 May 2021, # 1

Visit our website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>
You may view all back issues and more at this website.

Our next board meeting & luncheon

The next board meeting and luncheon are scheduled for 11:00 am – 12:30 pm on Friday, 4 June 2021, in the Joint Base Charleston Annex Base Chapel. Set up time is 10:30 am – 11:00 am. To make sure enough food is available, Col Jim Roberts is asking those that plan to attend RSVP the Alumni Secretary Linda Skillman at lindaskillman@outlook.com

Many of you have been asking for a very long time about the next luncheon and now we have it. I will send this newsletter out to as many as possible and it will be posted on our website as shown above

<http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/> This newsletter will also be posted on Facebook at 315th MAW/AW and several other webpages set up by our Alumni membership. We're asking everyone to put the word out as we can never reach everyone listed on the membership rosters. We will be practicing social distancing and we expecting a large attendance as many will be attending that we have not seen for a very long time. Some will be traveling long distances.

MSgt (ret) Jim McDonald, 300th Squadron Flight Engineer

Many of you know Jim as he is a good old regular kind of guy and every body's buddy. Jim is having big health issues at this time and he needs your help. His best friend and fellow flight engineer Chris Beiler posted a message under 315th MAW/AW on Facebook saying that Jim has been dealing with memory issues for the past five months, been hospitalized, back home recuperating, unable to walk and speak coherently. Chris is asking that we send him cards of cheer, get well, thinking of you and humor. He is not well enough to be on Facebook, email or text or speaking on the telephone. Cards would give him time to study them over accepting messages from friends. I have already sent him the largest card they had in the Hallmark store. I received an early morning call from 300th pilot Derek Duke and Jim was his flight engineer for many years. Derek said Jim is as much a patriot as anyone he has ever flown with and that we all face a decline as we age. Derek sends his thanks to all of us for sharing and caring.

The old age process

We're all getting there. Some much sooner than others.

MSgt Bob Steward makes the top of the list turning 90 on 19 May 2021. Bob was First Sergeant of our medical service squadron at Pope AFB and when it deactivated he became an aero med tech in the 31st AES. Chief Ernie Weaver of the 707th Squadron comes in second. Ernie can still do 100 push ups. SMSgt Ray Ardis of the 31st AES and charter member of the Alumni comes in about 3rd. Ray, Bob and myself are close friends. Chis Beiler is about my age. Clint Eastwood, former US Marine, will turn 90 on 31 May 2021. At this time we are seeing all the seniors of the Alumni Association at their very best. At our age time is no longer plentiful and we have no time to waste. We give every day our best shot!

Final Fly-By

Tech Sergeant Steven M. Linder, Loadmaster of the 300th Squadron, passed on 15 April 2021 after a long bout with cancer. Steven is survived by his wife Joanne of Bonneau. Steven set up first account on Facebook, 315th MAW/AW but 701st Flight Engineer Tommy Peters does the posting.

Forever aloft on silvery swept back wings

The past and future of the 315th AW Alumni Association

The future of our association has never looked better. We have all the right leadership in place like never before in our 27 year history. Col Tom Alton, former Deputy Commander of the maintenance complex was our first President. Col Alton was one of the most vibrant officers I have ever known and he was our best friend in Recruiting Service. There came a time when Tom could no longer attend the Alumni board meetings and it was a struggle for him to attend. Currently Tom is in a care facility near his family in Florida. Our longest serving President was Chief Dick Fuller and we all know Dick. Today Dick is also in a care facility locally and that facility is unknown to us but I'm in contact with his daughter. In the past Dick organized C-141 and C-17 orientation flights to North Field near Orangeburg SC, burger burns and fish fries maned by Chief Jim Newberry at the grill, and the list goes on. We have certainly had a colorful past. However, we can't cling on to our past and it is imperative that we keep moving forward. As we fast forward to the present we now have Col Jim Roberts is place as our current President along with three outstanding new directors that were sworn in by Chief Sam Brock at our last board meeting. They were SMS Virginia W. Jamison, Chief Pam Minton and MSG/Civilian Joann Gillespie of the 315th AW Public Affairs.

Current world order

Members of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association will continue to maintain our close connection during these times and carry on our business as usual with all the technologies available to us. We are still looking into an Oktoberfest and other activities. Jim Roberts's daughter Amy attended our last board meeting and she will utilize a system that Jim has already put in place to send the newsletter to each member at their email address. Andy Savage said earlier that he will pick up the tab if there are any expenses involved. It can never be 100% but we will certainly do our very best with what we've got.

That's it for now folks. We'll be talking.

Del Oxford, Communications