



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

27 October 2021, #3 Issue

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

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

Final Fly-Bye

Colonel Jay Barnes, 300th & 701st Airlift Squadrons has flown west. Col Jim Roberts said that Jay was a longtime member of the 300th Airlift Squadron, very involved with the transition to the C-17 and an active member of the Reserve Officers Association. He kept up with the Alumni Association and tried to visit us when able. Details of the arrangements will follow. We received notice of Jay's passing from Lt Colonel (ret) Joe Stribling of the 300th AS, Joe.stribling@gmail.com.

CMMSGT Randy Thigpen's Retirement

CMMSGT Randy Thigpen, 315th Operations Group, will retire on Saturday, 4 December, at 02:00 PM and will be held in Building 54, Yonkie auditorium at Joint Base Charleston, reception to follow. RSVP by 3 December 2021.
POC: SMSGT Traci Johnson, (843) 532-4422.

Next Board Meeting & Christmas Luncheon, Friday, 3 December 2021

09:30 – 10:30, Board Meeting
10:30 – 11:00, Luncheon Set up
11:00 – 12:30, Luncheon

Please join us for the next 315th AW Alumni Association luncheon scheduled for Friday, 3 December 2021 at 11:00 AM. This will be a special **Christmas** celebration, and will be held in the Joint Base Charleston Base Chapel in the Annex portion of the chapel. To ensure that enough food is catered, our Alumni President, Col Jim Roberts, asks that those who plan to attend RSVP to the Alumni Secretary, Linda Skillman at Linda.Skillman@outlook.com

2021 Oktoberfest Feed Back

The Oktoberfest was held at the home of Lt Col (ret) Barry Strauss on Saturday, 2 October 2021. We had a good attendance, the fireworks were the best, there was a big bon fire of pallets, and lots of good camaraderie.

Air Force Reserve Recruiters

Everyone likes to talk about who their recruiter was and the experience they had signing up. Over the years I have received many questions about them and I published the responses to their questions in the newsletters over a 24 year span. Here's the lineup:

1 – SMSG (ret) Nelson Bennett was our supervisor. He recently built another home in Bonneau on three acres of land and on one level in preparation of old age not having to climb the stairs. He lives with his wife Dianne.

2 – MSG (ret) Jo Terrell Druckrey. I get more questions about Jo than all the other recruiters combined. Everyone knows Jo. She was colorful. Jo lives in Ladson, only a couple minutes from me. Jo lives alone as her husband Ed passed a few years ago and he was our Alumni webmaster for a short time.

3 – I was in Recruiting Service at the main office in Building 51 for eleven years. I served two years at MacDill AFB in Tampa Florida which was one of our satellite locations in the CBPO. The 315th Wing had a C-141 shuttle stop at MacDill three weekends out of the month to pick up the troops. I lived in base housing with my late wife Brenda and our three daughters. I was returned back to the Charleston office to finish out my time for retirement and we purchased a new home in the Archdale subdivision on Dorchester Road. This is where Brenda and I held numerous keg parties with food in our big two car garage for the troops of the 315th Wing and it was free. I'm sure there are many out there that still remember as we really let the good times roll big time!!

4 – MSG (ret) Betty Stevens, and she later married MSG (ret) Sam Hill, loadmaster with the 300th Squadron. They built a new home out in the country in Byrdstown, TN. Currently Sam is still in St Mary's Georgia fixing up the previous home. In the meantime, Betty has 25 cats, two dogs and 5 chickens that lay enough eggs to feed the family. Betty has very beautiful sister, Donna, that is single, and we've been talking. We plan to meet up at the Burger King to see if things click. I'm not sure if she'll like me but at least I believe she will like my car, a 2012 Corvette, light silver grey, six speed stick shift, 350 engine.

In future newsletters, I will be asking many of you for your tremendously interesting life stories, and I know for sure there are plenty. If you have a good story to share it with us, please send it to me at ddoxford@aol.com

The future of the 315th Alumni Association, our country, and the world

I plan to step up the tempo of the newsletter. At this time we need to stay connected more than ever. It has always been my policy never to mention political issues. I was born in 1936 and I still clearly remember the first day of World War II. History always repeats it's self so here we go again. The weak and the strong have always worked against each other and then we find middle ground.

At the end of the day, we live every day like it may be our last without actually giving it all that much thought. From here on, I will publish the newsletter with a different slant, and put the news out there as things happen, rather than a specific day of the month.

Chief Tom Clemmons posts the newsletter and many other subjects of interest on our website. Tommy Peters posts every newsletter immediately on all our Facebook accounts. Jim Roberts and Linda Skillman post messages and newsletters on our special G mail account 315th Alumni it goes out to everyone on our membership roster by pushing only one button. I believe Jim's daughter Amy helped set this up.

We got it covered. More later and we'll be talking.

Del Oxford, Communications