



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

**2. 315AWAA Newsletter 2/11/2023**

Delanda D. Oxford - 27 January 1936 - 27 January 2023.

Born in the rural Antioch community of Morganton, North Carolina.

First car I rode in was a Model T Ford with no starter. You used a hand crank at the front of the car to start the engine.

My first airplane ride was a Piper Cub Scout. You started the engine by spinning the propeller by hand after turning on the magneto.

No electricity in our community, unpaved roads, no running water, you took a bath in a tin tub, cooked on a Hazel stove fired up with wood, kept warm by a small wood burning stove and open fireplace. Graduated from high school in 1955 and joined the Air Force so I could use my GI bill to attend and graduate from NC State while serving in the Air Force Reserve and Guard as a flight mechanic on flight status. Later in my Air Force career I became a flight engineer and administrative specialist maintaining maintenance records on assigned aircraft. Earned by pilot's license at the base aero club and the list goes on. The primary purpose of publishing a portion of my resume is to say that we can make things happen in this great country. I have heard many of your great stories and I have recorded them. To publish your story you may contact me at my desktop computer, [ddoxford@aol.com](mailto:ddoxford@aol.com). Look forward to hearing back from you.

Aircraft nose art. Calamity Jane, Aces High:

My father flew B-17's with the 8th Air Force in England during WW II. All aircraft had names. He chose Calamity Jane as she was a frontier woman, expert marksman, chewed tobacco and cussed. His P-47 Thunderbolt fighter, called the Jug, was named Aces High. The most legendary B-17 was named Memphis Belle. The pilot was 21

year old 2nd Lt Morgan. The aircraft has been fully restored, toured the country, and on display at a museum in Los Angeles.

Air Force Reserve Commander (ret) Colonel Talmadge P. Callison was Commander of the 8th MAS, Charleston AFB SC. He published a book on the bombing mission of Rumania and his life. I have a signed copy. Ray Ardis had many copies and brought them to the Alumni meetings. He served as a B-24 pilot during World War II at the rank of major. Callison served in the largest bombing mission against the oil fields and refineries at Ploiesti, north of Bucharest Romania. He said he could feel the heat inside the aircraft from the intense fires. George McGovern, later a Senator, flew a new B-24 on the mission.

New and renewing membership of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association:  
Dues are \$5 per year, \$12 for 3 years, \$24 for 6 years  
Direct membership questions to Linda Skillman  
at Linda.Skillman@outlook.com or (843) 553-5045.

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Heroes are remembered, legends never die...  
*George Shultz, Cartoonist, Peanuts*

*Del Oxford, Communications*

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

