



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

5 September 2018

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

2018 Alumni Luncheon Schedule Sponsored by Heritage Trust Federal Credit Union

7 September, Friday, 2018, 11:00 am, at the Charleston Club. The Alumni Board Meeting will be held prior to that time at 9:00 am. All members and non-members are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

30 November, Friday, 2018, at 11:00 am, at the Charleston Club. The Alumni Board Meeting will be held at 9:00 am. This will be our annual Christmas Celebration.

A Message from the Editor

I have been away for some time on a much needed vacation in the mountains of North Carolina in my home town of Valdese, next to Hickory and close to Asheville. During that time I hosted my 63rd Valdese High School reunion. Seventy graduated from my class and through 6 weeks of intensive research from various resources I found that 35 were still alive even though I could not actually locate all of them. We're all 82 years of age so not all of them are still living at home and are probably in a rehab facility or living somewhere with family. I had 22 attending and they looked pretty much like they did in 1955 when we graduated. Some of the guys looked like they

had been eating well and the girls were pretty as ever! This was a last hurrah for us as we will never see some of them again and we said our final goodbyes. In the meantime, I will be publishing a twice monthly newsletter as long as we are all around to receive them.

The reason I'm taking the time and space here to tell you all this is because we have the same situation with our members of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni. The age process is setting in and our time to fly west keeps on getting closer. In the meantime, as your communications person, I will continue to keep us connected as long as we are all still all around. We're all packing it all in now as time is no longer plentiful like it was when we were younger and had plenty of time to waste. A good example is the 701st Airlift Squadron will be having their 75th Anniversary Celebration this weekend here in Charleston September the 7th and 8th. Here are the details:

The reunion will be held at the Cooper River Brewery in downtown Charleston, <http://cooperriverbrewing.com/> The reunion planner/coordinator is Tommy Peters, Flight Engineer, tommy_peters@att.net Tommy said to all the old "Turtles" that this is our UTA weekend so we had to keep the location central.

The golf tournament for Friday had to be cancelled because there were not enough players to meet the minimum for the Wrenwoods Golf Course on base according to Connie Danbury.

Saturday Sept 8th:

13:00 – "The History of the 701st presentation at the Yonkie building auditorium.

15:00 – C-141 static tour at the air park on base.

19:00 – 22:00 – Refreshments & revelry, Cooper River Brewing, 2201-B Mechanic Street, Charleston.

Landing Fee

\$30.00 per person. The landing fee gets you an anniversary t-shirt, drinks of the afternoon of the 8th, and drinks at the evening social. 701AS.T4L@gmail.com

Downtown Charleston Veterans Day Parade, Nov 4th, 2:00 pm Step Off

According to Col Gary Cook, Chief Fuller has done all the heavy lifting on this project for several years. Col Cook has suggested that we put the right person in charge and have them shadow the Chief this year and then take over. It's great exposure for the Alumni. Tom Crawford said he would be more than glad to ride on the float. Col Jim Roberts wants this to be ready to discuss and vote on ways to participate at our Alumni board meeting on Friday at 9:00 am.

Col Gary Cook, gcook2@sc.rr.com

Chief Master Sargent Harold Vinson, 315 MSX, retired Sunday, 5 August 2018 with 33 years of dedicated service. The retirement ceremony honoring the Chief was held at the Education Center. A reception immediately followed.

Joanne L. Gillespie
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Final Fly-Bye

SMSgt James Dennis Foote, 31st AES Operations, passed on 10 August 2018 at the age of 74, of Goose Creek, SC, the loving husband of 53 years to Kay Hudson Foote. He was born on 31 August 1943 in Largo, Florida. Dennis served in the 943rd Group and 315th Airlift Wing April 1969 thru May 1990 and he was a good personal friend.

The Changing of Times in the 315th Airlift Wing & Joint Base Charleston

My spouse and our two daughters recently enjoyed a two week vacation in Rome, with a cruise in the Baltic and seeing many historical sites on the continent. In the meantime, I took the grand opportunity to cruise around the base. I paid a visit to recruiting service, where I was a recruiter for eleven years. First thing I noticed was that two of the recruiters were wearing t-shirts on duty and one other one was in regular field uniform. All military personnel now wear the field uniform at the base and not the blue uniform as we did. Afterwards I went to the pharmacy to pick up some meds and the airman at the window was also wearing a t-shirt. Even in t-shirts they appeared to be very professional in their duties and appearance. My next visit was the Charleston Club, formerly the NCO Club, on a Saturday night at 9:15 PM. I only seen two cars in the parking lot so I was sure they were closed. I went inside to the bar and there were only six other people in the building besides myself and they were shooting pool. I found myself being the only one sitting at the bar. I ordered a draft beer. It was the smallest one I've ever seen in my life and it was \$3.25. I started to leave, but decided to stick around and think about how it was back in the day when I would return from long trip overseas and we would still be in our flying suits enjoying a few cool ones. At 9:15 on a Saturday night there would be two bar rooms open, the band would be playing loudly with great singing, and the dance floor would be packed. The whole place would be jumping. Many times all the seating would be taken if you didn't arrive early. Today the Club is still a very nice place indeed and the staff are the best. The Club caters private gatherings for those not in the military. It's a great place for our quarterly luncheons and our board meetings and we appreciate all they do for us. They're the best.

The world is rapidly changing all around us and so has our military. The 315th Alumni Association still remains pretty much the same but we keep up with the pace and technology.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday and don't forget your umbrellas.

MSG (ret) Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor & Historian ddoxford@aol.com

