



## Final Fly-Bye 2020

Robert “Bob” Tipton, 701<sup>st</sup> Airlift Squadron, Flight Engineer, passed away Friday July 24. Bob was a flight engineer in the 701<sup>st</sup> for many years from the late seventies into the nineties when he retired. Funeral services were held Monday at 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Bellamy Funeral Home in Hiram Chapel with Rev. Dennis Bellamy officiating. Interment was followed at the Paulding Memorial Gardens. The family received visitors Monday from 11:00 am – 01:00 pm

CMSGT Clyde H. Clayton, 81<sup>st</sup> Aerial Port Squadron, passed on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 91. He served in the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing for 30 years and 7 months. Clyde is survived by his wife of 69 years, Elanor; two daughters Deborah “Debby” Culberson, Jimmy of Jacksonville, FL, and Robin Phillips (Steve) of the Isle of Palms, SC, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

Civilian Brenda E. Oxford, 315th AW CBPO & 707th AS, spouse of Delanda Del Oxford, passed on 22 May 2020 at the age of 66. Brenda had an accidental fall in our beautiful new home we had just moved into and she did not recover. Brenda was the love of my life for 35 incredible years. Brenda is survived by our three daughters, Michelle, Miranda and Jill and four grandchildren. Brenda held the position of professor of history and director of Phi Theta Kappa at Trident Tech. We will miss her smiling face and her laughter. If you count her wealth by relationships, then Brenda was a very wealthy woman. Brenda was laid to rest at Carolina Memorial Park on Rivers Avenue, directly across from Trident Tech where she served nineteen years as an educator. A Celtic cross will be carved on her crypt as she was a vivid collector of them and there’s one made of stone on our front porch. When my time comes to fly west, I will join my beloved Brenda in this very beautiful setting.

I truly appreciate the numerous condolences I have been receiving and all of them are heart felt. There was a good turn out from the 315th AW according to Linda Skillman. Brenda’s fellow faculty members, students and members of the Phi Theta Kappa were in attendance.

Services were provided to our family by Parks Funeral Home in Summerville SC. You may pull up Brenda’s obituary, hit view, and sign the guest book at [www.parksfuneralhome.com](http://www.parksfuneralhome.com)

CMSGT David T. Bowman 315 Aircraft Generation Squadron, Superintendent, passed away on Friday April 17 at home. Surviving with his wife, Janey, of 54 years, is his son, Paul Bowman and his wife, Ryan, of Chattanooga, TN, and grandchildren, Joshua Paul, Connor Christian and Luke Patrick Bowman, all of Chattanooga, TN. He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Timothy Gail Bowman; and cousins, Mary Jane Bowman, Carolyn Burkman and Doris Ivy.

A graveside service will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2020, in the Bear Creek Baptist Church Cemetery in Jennings County, IN, with Larry Carmichael officiating. Arrangements were entrusted to the care of Dove-Sharp & Rudicel Funeral Home and Cremation Service in North Vernon, IN. Memorials may be made through the funeral home in honor of David to Bear Creek Baptist Church Cemetery, Summerville Baptist Church, or Silverdale Baptist Church Missions.

Lt Colonel Don Moore, 315th AES Chief of Standard Evaluation passed quietly on 5 January 2020. I will get more information about Colonel Moore from Martin McKenzie.



## Final Fly-Bye 2019

MSgt (ret) Jack Webster, Sr., 707<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron Loadmaster, passed at the age of 87 on 17 December 2019 of a heart attack. I talked with his son Chief Jack Webster Jr to get details about the arrangements. Jack said there would be no arrangements at the time, as the family would keep his ashes until his spouse passed and then they would be laid to rest together in Beaufort, SC. I flew with Jack several times back in the early seventies. He sure was a fun type of guy to be around always and he was highly efficient in every respect as a dedicated air crew member. That's the way we will always remember Jack and that will be his legend.

*Forever aloft on Silver Swept Back Wings.*

TSgt Earl L. Brooks, 81<sup>st</sup> Aerial Port Squadron passed on 21 July 2019. Sergeant Brooks is survived by his spouse Shelly and he has always been an active member of the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Alumni Association. Earl and Shelly lived at 2806 Nursery Road, Conway SC 29526.

*(Information provided by secretary and membership chair Linda Skillman)*

CMSgt (ret) John Whitten, passed on 29 August 2019 of congestive heart failure and sepsis.

*(Information provided by alumni member Audrey Cheney, spouse of Chief Wade Cheney)*

Lt Colonel Don Moore, 315<sup>th</sup> AES Chief of Standard Evaluation passed quietly on 5 January 2020. I will get more information about Colonel Moore from Martin McKenzie.

## Final Fly-Bye 2018

SMSgt Deborah Frances Stempin, ART, 315<sup>th</sup> AW Personnel Records Section, passed on the evening of 28 May 2018 at the age of 67 and surrounded by her family. Debbie had a long term bout of multiple sclerosis. She was preceded in death by her husband of 32 years, Chief Master Sergeant Leonard "Len" Stempin, 315<sup>th</sup> AW Senior Enlisted Advisor. Len was also our Treasurer of the 315<sup>th</sup> AW Alumni Association.

Some of Debbie's closest 315<sup>th</sup> AW friends were Barbara Pack & her co-worker Marty Davis (now Marty Druschel) next door in the pay section, and Dee across the hall, secretary to the personnel officer and Brenda of personnel records and DPMU.



## Continuation 2018

Debbie's other friends were her four legged ones. I remember when we fed and took care of them when she and Len were vacationing. Debbie was an animal lover and avid supporter of local and national humane societies. She will be greatly missed by her four-legged companion Gidget. The family will have a Celebration and Life and Inurement at the Beaufort National Cemetery where Debbie and Len will both receive full military honors. The date has not yet been determined.

Barbara T. Pack, 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Reserve Pay Section, passed at 12:10 AM this morning, 30 April 2018, at the age of 92. Barbara had a stroke at home and was taken to Trident Hospital. The next day she was admitted to rehab at Life Care Center in the same area located at 2600 Elms Plantation Blvd where she passed this morning. I talked with her daughter Susan this afternoon and she will contact us soon as arrangements are made.

I published the April newsletter last Friday with a full story on Barbara and it was posted on our official website at: <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>

*MSG Del Oxford, Newsletter Editor & Historian* [ddoxford@aol.com](mailto:ddoxford@aol.com)

SMSgt Bobby R. Drinnen, 300<sup>th</sup> Squadron Loadmaster, passed on 5 February 2018. Funeral services were private. However, a memorial service is planned for March 15<sup>th</sup> in Maryville, TN. The time is yet to be determined. According to postings on Facebook, Bobby was a mentor and role model to many. Bobby was also assigned to the 707<sup>th</sup> squadron before going to Seymour-Johnson to join up with the KC-10 unit along with the late Jack Barrett. We will get back with everyone on the time.

CMSgt John H. Bozard was Chief of the 315<sup>th</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron and he was a past President of the 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association. He passed in February 2018. He moved from Charleston to Eutawville at Rocks Pond many years ago where there was plenty of good fishing. I called his residence and left several messages. He never had the internet. Any further information that we may receive will be published in the next newsletter edition.

MSgt Geraldo "Flash" Bechtel, 701<sup>st</sup> Squadron Loadmaster passed 10 March 2018. He is survived by his daughter and his son Michael. Michael can be reached at (812) 664-8547 for more information. Services were held in Terre Haute Indiana.

MSgt Ronald "Ron" Goodrow, 300<sup>th</sup> Squadron Flight Engineer passed on 19 February 2018 from a heart attack/stroke.



## Final Fly-Bye 2017

Lieutenant Colonel Eileen Smith Hadbvany, Flight Nurse, 31<sup>st</sup> / 315<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, passed early Tuesday 24 January 2017 at the Ralph H. Johnson (MOH) Veterans Medical Center in Charleston SC. Eileen, who had spent nearly a lifetime helping others passed while battling her 4<sup>th</sup> bout of oral and neck cancer since 2008. Eileen passed following an episode of Carotid Artery failures as a result of radiation scaring following treatment of cancer #1 and #3, according to her spouse, Michael T. Hadbvany, Commander, US Navy retired. Eileen's obituary appeared in the 29 January issue of the Charleston newspaper, The Post and Courier, and covers over two full length columns. Everyone should read the inspiring information in there about her life, career as a Flight Nurse in the 31<sup>st</sup> / 315<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, and her incredible life of volunteer work. You may read the write up and sign the guest book at:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston>

SMG George Michael "Mike" Counts, retired 317<sup>th</sup> ALS Chief Loadmaster, passed on 3 February 2017 at the age of 56, according to Lt Col Stan Davis, Commander. Mike was involved in an automobile accident and lost his life, as well as the lives of his spouse Cynthia M. Counts and his father George M. Counts, Sr. Mike was in the 315<sup>th</sup> Wing 31 years. Shellhoue Rivers Funeral Home in Aiken SC provided services to the family. You may sign the online guest book at [www.shellhouseriversfuneralhome.com](http://www.shellhouseriversfuneralhome.com)

Mr. Harold A. Major, the Budget Director of the wing, passed in November. We have no information at this time on Harold. He has been a very active member of the Alumni and attended most of our luncheons. I called his current phone number but it had been disconnected. He lived in the vicinity of Miler Golf Course in Summerville and he served in the US Army. There were many very nice postings on Facebook about Harold. We will try to locate information on him thru Ledgens.com

MSG Jack Lester Barrett, retired 701<sup>st</sup> Flight Engineer, passed on 28 April 2017 in Goldsboro, NC, at the age of 71. Jack was a Flight Engineer with Gemini Air Cargo, after he finished his 7<sup>th</sup> career as a KC-10 flight engineer at Seymour-Johnson AFB NC. Many posting were made on Facebook about Jack's health status up until the time of his passing and many of us communicated with him on a regular basis until he was no longer able to speak to us. Jack was our friend and a regular kind of guy, but it was his time to fly west. Daniel Coffey, Flt Engineer 707<sup>th</sup>, sent us a special message written by his daughter Leslie Anderson. It reads: "My wonderful Daddy is walking the streets of gold with a new cancer free body and a brand new perfect mind. RIP sweet gentlemen. I love you." Obituary information:

<http://www.sumatefaulk.com/obituary?id=305289>



## Continuation 2017

Lt Col Ed Hernandez, 701<sup>st</sup>/707<sup>th</sup> pilot, plans to list the names of many former members of the 943<sup>rd</sup> Group/315<sup>th</sup> Wing that served with us on a special Facebook page under 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Friends. He currently has 192 former members on there. Ed will be asking for help on this. We will provide names to Ed of those we know, and they will need to have a FB account.

CMS Leonard “Len” Stempin, former 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Senior Enlisted Advisor, passed on 23 May 2017. Len was a 315<sup>th</sup> Board Member and he was our Treasurer. We have been advised by his spouse, MSG (ret) Deborah Stempin that arrangements will be made at a future date. In the meantime, you may sign the guest book at [PALMETTOCREMATIONSOCIETY.COM](http://PALMETTOCREMATIONSOCIETY.COM)

Major Chet Collier passed on 26 July 2017, according to Chief Ben Futrell, our former 315<sup>th</sup> Wing Senior Enlisted advisor. Chet was a master sergeant flight engineer in the 701<sup>st</sup> squadron before receiving his commission. After he was commissioned, he took the position of executive officer of the 701<sup>st</sup> squadron. He held other positions in the wing before becoming the executive officer of the wing. Chief Futrell had this to say about his fellow wingman: “I lost a good friend. Chet told me once when we were talking about the old C-141 flying days that the song American Pie reminded him of those days and the airplane we crewed. I will never forget. Rest in peace brother.” Then we received another message from our current 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Commander Colonel Greg Gilmour: “It’s with great sadness that I am informing all of you of the passing of a member of our 315<sup>th</sup> family. Major Chet Collier, 315<sup>th</sup> Wing Executive Officer passed on 26 July 2017. Please keep Chet’s family, friends and coworkers in your thoughts and prayers. Chet has been one of our family members for years and was loved by many. He will be missed.” A memorial service for Chet will be held on Sunday, 6 August 2017, at 10:00 am, at the Base Education Center. Also, for anyone interested, grief counselors will be available in buildig 60 auditorium on Saturday, 5 August at 10:00 am. They will discuss normal responses to losing a friend/coworker, triggers, coping measures and personal stories for anyone to share.

Robert “Bob” McKinnon Griffeth, Jr. (rank not confirmed), C-141 Pilot, 707<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron 1973-1987, passed on 17 August 2017 at the age of 66 in Savannah, GA due to complications of cancer. He is survived by his wife, Hidi Hess Griffeth . From 1986-2015, Bob was a commercial airline pilot for Piedmont, US Airways and American Airlines. He was a longstanding member of the Quiet Birdmen. Burial will be at Beaufort VA National Cemetery at 1601 Boundary Street, Beaufort, SC 29902 on Friday, October 6, 2017 at 1:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Port Royal Sound Foundation <http://prsfoundation.info/donate-now/> Information presented by Lt Col Steve Avery, 707<sup>th</sup> AS Pilot



## Continuation 2017

Lt Colonel James Alvin “Al” Edwards II, 315th Airlift Wing passed on July 24, 2017. Colonel Edwards was assigned to the 315th Wing Commanders staff in an administrative capacity. He retired in the early nineties. He was known for being easy going, very patriotic, and he was well respected. Services were held July 31, 2017 at 2:00 pm at Greenlawn Memorial Park, 845 Leesburg Road, Columbia, SC with interment and full military honors followed. Colonel Edwards was an active member of the 315th Alumni Association. *Information presented by Lt Col Andy Savage, ret 315th Wing Legal Officer*

## Final Fly-Bye 2016

CMSGT Jarvis M. “Joe” Williams, Chief Flight Engineer of the 300<sup>th</sup> ALS, passed on 29 December 2016 at the age of 88. Joe lived alone in Hanahan, SC after his retirement. Joe is the last of us that was aircrew on the B-29 bomber and served over 30 years of service in the Army Air Force, the USAF and USAFR. Joe is preceded by the tragic death of his son Joseph “Jake” Williams, Flight Engineer. 300<sup>th</sup> & 701<sup>st</sup> ALS, and passed 23 July 2016. There was no local service for Joe, as his final resting place was at Greenlawn Memorial Gardens in Spartanburg, SC, being laid to rest along with his son Jake. Joe’s family is from Spartanburg, but he is originally from North Carolina. More details will follow in the February.

## Continuation 2016

Colonel Edward “Ed” Eugene Lusk, Commander 707<sup>th</sup> ALS, passed on 5 August 2016 at the age of 82. Ed is survived by his wife of 54 years, Joanne. Ed was a Navigator and one of the original members of the 943<sup>rd</sup> Group, along with Colonels Bobby Hammond and the late Jerry Yarchiever who were also Navigators. Ed and Joanne lived in Warner-Robbins GA when he passed. He was laid to rest in Birmingham, Alabama on 8 August. Many of us in the Wing knew Ed quite well and he was one of the guys. Ed was a very serious member of the 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni Association, strongly supported us, and always paid his dues well in advance. Please go to [www.mcculloughfh.com](http://www.mcculloughfh.com) to sign the Online Registry for the family. McCullough Funeral Home in Warner-Robbins had been entrusted with the arrangements.



Harold William Johnson (rank not given) 701<sup>st</sup> ALS Loadmaster, passed on 4 August 2016 at the age of 69 in Mt Pleasant, SC. He served six years with us. Harold married his childhood sweetheart, Joan Russell, to whom he was a devoted husband for 47 years. He graduated from Bishop England High School and Clemson University. Arrangements were made by Parks Funeral Home in Summerville, SC. [www.parksfuneralhome.com](http://www.parksfuneralhome.com) You may visit the guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston). MSG Roy R. Carson, 701st ALS, [carson@lowcountry.com](mailto:carson@lowcountry.com)

Lt Colonel Bernice Stanley, Flight Nurse, 31<sup>st</sup> AES, passed recently in Florida. She was among some of the first members of the squadron. We have no further details on Col Stanley at this time. Colonel Stanley had some very fascinating stories about her early flight nurse career. She was a flight nurse on a C-47. *Lt Col Eileen Hadbvany, Flight Nurse, 31 / 315 AES*

TSGT Delma V. Cole, Loadmaster, 300<sup>th</sup> ALS, passed on 8 September 2016 at the age of 79. I called Delma earlier that day to remind him of the Heritage Trust luncheon the next day, and he said he would be there. We wondered why he did not show, as he very rarely missed a luncheon over the years. Later on into our luncheon Wade and Audrey Cheney gave us the sad news. The obituary in the Post & Courier said that he was a member of the 315<sup>th</sup> Alumni. Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.dialmurrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.dialmurrayfuneralhome.com) you may visit the guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston) *MS Del Oxford*

SMSGT Edgel Cletis Hash 315 AGS - Edgel "Clete" Cletis Hash, 71, of Summerville, widower of Lynda M. Hash, passed away on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at Trident Medical Center. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2016 at 10 o'clock AM at Dorchester Memory Gardens, 11000 Dorchester Road, Summerville. Clete was born on August 26, 1944 in St. Albans, West Virginia, son of the late Charles Vinton Hash and Margie Louise (Adams)

### Continuation 2016

Hash. He was a retired veteran of the [United States Navy](#) and the [United States Air Force](#). Surviving are: daughter: Jennifer Porter, Charleston; son: Gerald Lee Johnson, TN; six brothers and sisters: Joyce Ann Lincolnogger, Culloden, WV, Arlie Vinton Hash, Buffalo, KY, Lois Lee Hash, St. Albans, WV, Anna Pauline Price, St. Albans, WV, Paul Eugene Hash, Thomasville, NC and Elizabeth Lorraine Hash, TN. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to [Wounded Warrior Project](#), P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675 A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com). ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040. Visit our guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/) charleston



Dewey Lee Stokes 315 AGS - Dewey Lee Stokes, 69, of Summerville, passed away on Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at his residence. Friends and family are invited to attend his visitation at James A. Dyal Funeral Home on Friday, August 26, 2016 from 6 o'clock until 8 o'clock PM. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2016 at 11 o'clock AM at James A. Dyal Funeral Home. Burial will be held at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery in Macon, GA. Dewey was born on November 20, 1946 in Macon, GA son of the late Lobelia O. Stokes and Martha Jeanette (Harris) Stokes. He was a retired veteran of the United States Air Force and he also retired from civil service at Charleston Air Force Base as a crew chief. Dewey was an avid fisherman and a member of several fishing clubs. Surviving are: two children: Dewey Lee Stokes, Jr. (Lacosta Proveaux) of Summerville and Lindsey Diane Scott (Kenneth Paul Scott, II) of Moncks Corner; three grandchildren: Leah Hollon, Logan Stokes and Morgan Stokes; one brother: Pete Stokes of Macon, GA ; one sister: Patricia Touhy of Macon, GA. A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at [www.jamesadyal.com](http://www.jamesadyal.com). ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483 (843)873-4040. Visit our guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/) Charleston - See more at:

MSgt John Wilson, former First Sergeant 31st AES passed according to his loving wife, Magdalene Wilson. Martin McKenzie of the 31st said "loosing such a quiet, wise and gentle man isn't something any of us wanted for Christmas, but in his case he's now home." Services will be held 23 Dec 2016 at 11:00 hours, at Kingston Lake Education & Business Center, 3410 Church Street, SC 29569. Service to the family being provided by McKeiver Funeral Home in Conway, SC, (843) 248-2706. Martin McKenzie, 31 /315 AES

Col Beryl Asbury, former Commander of the 31<sup>st</sup> / 315<sup>th</sup> AES, passed on 8 February 2016 at the age of 78 in Floyd, Texas. Col Asbury was laid to rest at the National Cemetery near Arlington, Texas, with full military honors. The "Sisterhood" is planning a remembrance of Beryl at the Isle

### Continuation 2016

of Palms, SC, on the weekend of 16 April 2016, which would have been her birthday. Everyone who knew Beryl are invited to come share memories. There will be country cooking, take out, BBQ and more. More information will follow in future newsletters from Med Tech Martin McKenzie. He posted this newsletter on the 31<sup>st</sup> / 315<sup>th</sup> AES Alumni Page on Facebook. He makes frequent postings on there and does a great job keeping the AES connected.

Col Ted Neff, 300<sup>th</sup> AS, passed on 11 February 2016. Col Neff was among the original members of the 300<sup>th</sup> and graduated from the Air Force Academy. Colonel Wayne Lauten, former Commander of the 707AS, attended the funeral services. *Ray Ardis*



MSGT (ret) Joseph Darryl “Jake” Williams, Flight Engineer, 300<sup>th</sup> ALS and 701<sup>st</sup> ALS, of Summerville, SC passed on 25 July 2016 in a boating accident at the age of 51. Jake and friends were enjoying an outing on their boat about three miles out from Short Stay when they made a short turn, hit a wave and all the passengers on board were thrown overboard. Jake and his friend Nathaniel Hawkins did not survive the incident. Rescue found them days later. This was aired on the local TV news channels for several days throughout each day. Jake was a very special friend to many of us in the 315<sup>th</sup> Wing and the 315<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Alumni Association. We are running this special issue of the newsletter for him and his family. His father is CMSGT (ret) Joe Williams, Chief of the Flight Engineers of the 300<sup>th</sup> ALS from Hanahn. Jake was an easy going kind of guy and he has touched the lives and hearts of many people. Numerous inspirational comments have been posted on the social media about him, especially by his friend Pete Shovey, his fellow flight engineer of 20 years.

MSgt Wayne D. Salisbury, 300<sup>th</sup> AS, passed July 2015. Wayne was from 2413 Branbelton Ave., Roanoke, VA 24015. Toby was his beloved spouse.

SMSG William C “Craig” Bernad, 707<sup>th</sup> ALS Loadmaster, passed on 29 April 2016. Arrangements for the family were made by Curie-Jefferson Funeral Home, 2701 John Hopkins Pkwy (Hwy 150) , Hoover Alabama. Several of Craig’s friends were very helpful to the family in making arrangements and securing his DD 215 on-line. Cards and letters of condolence may be sent to Craig’s sister, Gwyn Strickland, 2029 Renford Point, Maritta, GA 30062. Craig’s Mother had just celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and lived with Gwyn. Those attending the funeral services were Clarence Thornburg, George R. Bailey, H. L. Wiggs, Cliff Cobb, Paul Westbrook, and Danny Griffen.

## **Final Fly-Bye 2015**

Civ (ret) Shirley Watts, 315<sup>th</sup> DPMU Personnel Records, passed about 9 June 2015 at the age of 85 in Ft Lauderdale, Florida. Shirley is survived by her spouse Fred Watts of Ft Lauderdale and her son Robert “Bobby” Watts of Charleston, SC. I notified everyone in the 15 July 2016 newsletter about Shirley’s passing but no specifics were available at that time. I talked to Bobby yesterday and he filled us in. Shirley and Fred have been living on their boat, “The Shirley B.,” at Ft Lauderdale for the past 26 years, ever since she retired. I’m sure many of you still remember how excited Shirley was telling all of us about the good life her and Fred would be living on their boat. They certainly did exactly that and we stayed in contact with them, sending them the newsletters to their P. O. Box and keeping them in the loop with us. It all came to an end back in June when Shirley started having great discomfort on the boat and the EMS was called. They



took Shirley off the boat and placed her in the ambulance but she didn't make it. Bobby said no obituary ran in the Charleston newspaper as they lived in Ft Lauderdale. Since Shirley handled all our personnel records back when we had about 3,400 assigned to the Wing. She knew many of us personally. The last time I seen Shirley was about two years ago when she was here in Charleston visiting family and I met her in the shopping mall. She had a great looking tan, was all trim and slim and telling about all the good times she was having down in Florida MSgt Bradley "Brad" Baird passed in Wilmington SC. We all remember Brad when he was an ART at the clinic. He was reassigned to the 707th Squadron as a Flight Engineer and became a commercial pilot after his retirement.

MSgt Herbert G. "Herb" Dais passed at the age of 72 at The Villages, Florida.

MSgt Carl Jennings Hill passed 29 October 2015 at the age of 85 in a Moncks Corner hospital. Carl was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

TSgt Walter L. R. Harrah, III, 701st Squadron Loadmaster, passed from a heart attack. We have no other details at this time.

Donald Newberry, son of CMSgt Jim Newberry, passed at the age of 55 from a heart attack. Donnie was assigned to the 300th Squadron as a Loadmaster.

Capt. Gregory Lynden Elam, passed 6 Oct 2015 at the age of 67 of lung cancer. He was a C-141 pilot in the 315th Airlift Wing.

TSgt Ken Burger passed 20 Oct 2015 in Mt Pleasant SC, and he was assigned to the 315th

Public Affairs. Ken was a distinguished award-winning journalist and author in The Post and Courier, Charleston SC from 1984 to 2011. He published five books that are currently on the market. Some of our Alumni members have been asking about the title of his books and they were listed in today's news. They are: Swallow Savannah, Sister Santee, Salkehatchie Soup Baptized in Sweet Tea, and A Sporting Life.

Lt Col Herbert "Herb" G. Davis passed on 9/22/2015, near his home in Villages, FL. Born 7 April 1943. We go back many years in 1968 in Vietnam, where he flew the C-7 Caribou. We crossed paths in 1973 in a new hire class for Eastern Airlines. (2nd officer/flight engineers) Been flying C-141s at McChord AFB, Washington, and I got him to transfer to the 701st ALS at Charleston AFB SC. We both flew together at EAL and in the 701st at Charleston until the late 80's or early 90's, when we both retired as C-141 aircraft commanders and retired as Lt



## Continuation 2015

Colonels. He flew for US Air after his retirement. He flew the 747-400 around the world for Atlas. His wife Donna was an American Airlines Flight Attendant. He was a good friend and a good pilot. I will miss him.

CMSGT Wayne B. Cunningham, former 300<sup>th</sup> ALS Flight Engineer, passed at the age of 82 on 25 November 2015 with parkinsons disease. He was survived by his spouse of 60 years, Carolyn Jordan. Wayne was an engineer for Lockheed Martin, Saudi Air and Japan Airlines. They were from Kennesaw, GA. Funeral arrangements were provided by Winkenhofer Pine Ridge Funeral home of Kennesaw, GA 30152. Wayne was a faithful Alumni Association member but had not responded back to us for years. We did not know that he had passed. Recently many have been asking about him. Dave Brock finally decided to do a time consuming investigation and found the information shown here. Wayne was one of our best and highly likeable. That's the way we will always remember him.

## Final Fly-Bye 2014

## Final Fly-Bye 2013

CMSGT Dick Thomas Richard "RC" Charles Thomas, Sr. of Givhans, SC was 82 years young when he flew away with the angels on Wednesday, February 13, 2013; the start of the season of Lent.

## Continuation 2013

Dick was born in Lewiston, Maine on August 14, 1930. He lived and went to school in Winslow, Maine. During his senior year at Winslow High School he was elected governor of the student body, where he met Constance, the love of his life. Little did she know that being part of the crossing guards under Richard's watch would culminate a 58 year marriage. After graduation he worked for the Waterville poster advertising company with his father Merton Thomas. Then, he entered the US Air Force which he served proudly for 34 years. His service included time in Italy, France, Korea, Ohio Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserves in Charleston, SC. After retiring as Chief Master Sergeant, he continued to provide volunteer services at Charleston Air Force Base in the pass and ID department for many years. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge #33 in Waterville, Maine. He also earned his 32<sup>nd</sup> degree in Charleston, SC in 1957. He attended Trinity United Methodist Church in Givhans, and was a member of



the men's group. He and Connie also worshipped at the chapel on Charleston AFB, and was a member of the Adult Sunday school class. Dad was a man of strong faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Holy Trinity. You found him each morning reading his devotionals and enjoyed saying prayers at meals and special functions. Dad had many hobbies and enjoyed teaching them to his children and grandchildren; he loved to play euchre, cribbage and pinochle. He and mom were part of a bowling team in Ohio, and then there was his world of Golf. He had a passion for making greeting cards while reaching out to many people this was a ministry to him. His letters to the editor in the Post and Courier Newspaper were frequently published. He was a social person and made a point to connect with his friends and relatives through mail and computer. He collected coins and watches, but his passion was classic cars. He had a love for flavorful cooking and enjoyed serving his meals to family and friends. He played Santa for his Grandchildren and others for many years. He was a devoted husband and family man. He had an active sense of humor, loved to laugh, and was a very generous man. He was predeceased by his father and his mother Merton and Eleanor Giles Thomas and his sister Geri Bealeau.

SMSgt Gene Hancock

### **Final Fly-Bye 2012**

CMSgt Robert C. "Bob" Cutrell, USAF (Ret.) WARNER ROBINS, GA - Bob Cutrell, 64, entered into rest on Friday, April 27, 2012. Mr. Cutrell was born on June 24, 1947, in Charleston, South Carolina. With pride and honor he served his country in the [United States Air Force](#) having served in the Vietnam and Desert Storm wars. Houston Lake Presbyterian Church was his church home. A volunteer with the antique department at the Georgia National Fair and the Perry Historical Museum; he was also member of the American Legion post 0388, and loved his annual fishing trips with his South Carolina buddies and his yearly trips to San Antonio, Texas

with his Amigos. His parents, Robert C. and Evelyn Cutrell, preceded him in death. His memory will forever be treasured by his loving wife of thirty-nine years, Mary Catherine Cutrell; daughter, Allison Muir Cutrell, Macon; siblings, Johnny Cutrell (Cathy), Michael Cutrell (Diana), Sylvia Edwards (Rodney), all of Charleston, South Carolina and Sally Gerald (Tom), Pollocksville, North Carolina; brother in law, Fred Altman (Betty), Charleston, South Carolina and several nieces and nephews. Visitation will be Monday, April 30, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at McCullough Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at the Houston Lake Presbyterian Church, Reverend Paul Bankson officiating. Interment will follow in the Georgia Veterans Cemetery in Milledgeville. Memorials may be given to the Houston Lake Presbyterian Church, 101 O'Brien Drive, Kathleen, Georgia 31047 or the Perry Historical Society, 901 Northside Drive, Perry, Georgia 31069. Go to [www.mcculloughfh.com](http://www.mcculloughfh.com) to sign the Online Registry for the family. McCullough Funeral Home and Crematory has charge of arrangements. Visit our guestbook at [www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston)



## MG James Czkanski

Maj Carrie Bell Bryant was released into Heaven on December 30, 2012 at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center of Charleston, SC. She was born in Dorchester County on July 1, 1950, as the second of three children, to Louise Bryant and the late Emery Bryant. She recently lived in Dorchester, SC. As a child, Carrie, along with her family, moved to Bronx, NY. There she accepted Christ into her life and joined Epworth United Methodist Church and served on the usher board and worked in other various areas of the church. She loved to worship the Lord! Later, Carrie moved back to South Carolina where she became a faithful and dedicated member of St. Daniel United Methodist Church and worked diligently with the Harleyville Parish. During her younger years, Carrie attended the New York Public School System, PS 114 (elementary school), PS 122 (middle school), and Taft High School, in which she graduated with honors in 1967 at the age of 16. She was a very intelligent individual. She was so intelligent that she was allowed to skip from 4th grade to 6th grade. After high school, Carrie attended Kingsboro Community College in Brooklyn, NY and graduated in 1969.

## SMSgt William Clinkscates

### **Continuation 2012**

She was then employed at Montefiore Hospital until 1981 and was a very dedicated employee. Carrie worked her way through Pace University and graduated with her Nursing degree in 1972. She loved helping people, sick and well. Carrie moved back to South Carolina in 1981, and worked in the Trident Medical Health System for over 20 years, until retiring March 2012. She joined the United States Air Force and became a flight nurse in the early 1980's. She served 20 years, made rank as a Major, and retired in 2003. She loved to travel, and very much loved to spend time with family and friends. She was a fighter and took pride in everything she did in life. She participated in various programs, and loved to spoil children.

### **Final Fly-Bye 2011**



SMSgt Robert Allan Akin GOOSE CREEK - Robert Allan Akin, 72, husband of Maureen A. R. Akin, of Goose Creek, SC, died Wednesday, February 23, 2011, in a local hospital. A celebration of Robert's life will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at 2:00 p.m. in St. George's Episcopal Church, 9110 Dorchester Road, Summerville, SC. Arrangements by J. HENRY STUHR, INC., NORTHWOODS CHAPEL. The family will greet friends at the church following the service. Born July 25, 1938, in Orlando, FL, he was the son of Eva Marjorie Bell Akin, and the late William Baker Akin. SMSgt. Robert A. Akin was a [US Air Force](#) Veteran, attended UNC - Chapel Hill and was a member of the Order of Amaranth - Masonic Lodge in Raleigh, NC. SMSgt. Akin is survived by his wife of 51 years, Maureen R. Akin of Goose Creek, SC; his mother, Eva B. Akin of Midlothian, VA; his daughters, Caren Akin of Charlotte, NC, Roberta Akin Pate of Clarksville, GA and Laura Akin of Scotland; his brother, William Baker Akin, Jr. of Chesterfield, VA; a daughter-in-law, Lisa Akin Lynn of Charlotte, NC; two grandchildren, Emilie Akin of Charlotte, NC and Cameron Creech of Clarksville, GA.

MG Robert Stephens

## Final Fly-Bye 2010

SMSgt Prince Gilliard, Sr. N. CHARLESTON - The relatives and friends of SMS, USAF, Ret., Prince Gilliard, Sr., those of his wife, Mrs. Barbara Kinloch Gilliard, children, Col. Prince Gilliard, Jr. (Wanda), Lt. Col. Sheila M. Gilliard-Sewell (Rudy) and Mr. Paul L. Gilliard; brother, Mr. Alonzo Gilliard (Rebecca) and sisters, Mrs. Priscilla L. Gladden and Mrs. Marie Johnson (Al) are invited to attend his Home Going Service, Friday, January 8, 2010, 10:00 a.m. at the Charleston Air Force Base Chapel, 107 Arthur Drive, North Charleston, SC. Friends may call FIELDING HOME FOR FUNERALS, 122 Logan Street, 722-3348 or 1-800-290-5954. Viewing for SMS USAF, Ret. Prince Gilliard, Sr. will be Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home and 9:00 a.m. at the Base Chapel. Interment: Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, SC. The family requests that any donations be made to The [American Heart Association](#), 409 King Street, Suite 300, Charleston, SC 29403 (843) 853-1597 in his memory. Visit our guestbook at [www.postandcourier.com/deaths](http://www.postandcourier.com/deaths)

Continuation 2010



Lt. Col. Kenneth John Stevenson, 58, of St. Augustine, died May 24, 2005, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and had lived in St. Augustine for the past 23 years, serving active duty status with the United States Air Force at the Pentagon at the time of his death. He began work with Grumman Aerospace in 1974, which later became Northrop Grumman. He began as a jet engineer mechanic and test technician at the Calverton, N.Y., facility until he was transferred to Bethpage, N.Y., in 1978, holding positions in the Material Organization, such as advanced material planner, program material coordinator and proposal coordinator. He transferred to St. Augustine in 1983 and worked various positions as material manager, inventory control manager, program coordinator and material support. He served as the liaison officer with the U.S. Air Force. He was an avid scuba diver, member of the Air Force Reserve Officers Association and former member of the Historic St. Augustine Kiwanis Club. Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Craig Funeral Home Chapel with full military honors. Flowers are gratefully accepted, or those wishing may make a contribution in his memory to the St. Augustine Humane Society. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Marilyn; daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Kris Thompson of Albion, N.Y.; son and daughter-in-law, David and Kimberly Stevenson of St. Augustine; brother, Thomas and Judy Stevenson of Kings Park, N.Y.; two grandchildren, Lexi and Cassidy Thompson; and his sister-in-law, Dianne Thompson, of Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

LtCol Vardry Ramseur

Sgt Monte McClure

Col Sam Horton

Col Billy Henderson

Col Jerry Yarchiever

CMSgt Dick Thomas

LtCol Ronald Grickis

SMSgt Gene Hancock

## **Final Fly-Bye 2009**

Col Ed Carwile



LtCol Harlen Quamme  
CMSgt Willard Lang

## **Final Fly-Bye 2007**

Lt Colonel Elaine “Cookie” Franta Randle, former Flight Nurse of the 31AES, passed on 12 January 2007 at the age of 64. Cause of death was kidney failure. Elaine was born February 1943 in Detroit, Michigan and her family moved to Lakeland in the mid 1950’s. She attended Crawford Long and Grady Nursing School in Atlanta, GA. In 1973, Elaine transferred from the Air Force to the Air Force Reserve, 31AES. She attained the rank of Lt Colonel and received the Outstanding Reserve Nurse Award for year 1980. She was survived by her husband, John Randle of Hampton VA. Visitation was held by Heath Funeral Chapel. The services were provided by St Joseph’s Catholic Church. Heath Funeral Chapel [www.heathfuneralchapel.com](http://www.heathfuneralchapel.com) Col Alicia Tollison, former Flight Nurse 31 / 315 AES