



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

July Newsletter #1

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

A Message from the Editor:

A long period of time has elapsed since the June 2022 issue of the newsletter. I have experienced numerous issues with my service provider, AOL.com. They have eliminated my account. I found a way to dig my old account back up, the one I'm using right now. This temporary measure will not last very long and in the meantime, I will need to decide my next move to keep the newsletter coming. At our last Alumni board meeting, Col Jim Roberts asked for a status update on the newsletter. I will be publishing the newsletter more frequently in view of the situation with our country and the world. I will need to keep the news short and more frequent.

The newsletter is posted on our website at <http://www.315awaalumniassoc.com/>. All back issues of the newsletter and special news bulletins are updated by our webmaster Chief Tom Clemmons.

Earlier today I received a joke cartoon from Ray Ardis, which originated with Michael Craig. This is a classic example of how we function sometimes in our digital society. Simple solutions on our smart phones can turn out to be overly complex and cumbersome. There are also huge advantages. I recently purchased an Apple i-phone 13 that does it all. You can reach me there at (843) 459-0450.

South Carolina Air Medal License Plate:

On 20 April 2022, Lt Col Ed Hernandez submitted a letter to Col Jim Roberts with some incredible ideas on how to recognize those aircrews that excelled beyond the call of duty.

Dear Col Roberts,

My first assignment in the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant was the 76th MAS in July 69. Flying the C-141 A was a dream assignment. Flew over Danang Vietnam EC-47 M, then return to 76th MAS in Nov 1971. Worked at Gen Sadler's staff as Budget Officer in 437th Wing Plans. In June 1975 I went to work for Exxon and joined the 315MAW after 21 years of flying. I got my first desk job as Deputy Group Commander in the 315th Support/315th Combat Group until I retired in 1996.

I began a one-man campaign working for three years to obtain a SC License Plate to recognize airman that have earned this prestigious Air Medal.

Please give this notice the widest dissemination, as I feel those who have earned it in Vietnam, Desert Storm, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any "Meritorious Action in Flight" would be proud to have their wives and children ride with them while displaying their prestigious accomplishments.

I'm sure some of our Finest Pilots have earned the Air Medals during their amazing careers!

Having an Air Medal plate on your family's POV could be a great morale booster!!

Sincerely,

Edward B. Hernandez

New 315th Airlift Wing Commander effective 5 June 2022

Col John F. Robinson took command from Col Willis on the weekend of our last 315th Alumni Association Quarterly Luncheon 3 June 2022. Col Robinson served with the Wing previously and we remember him as very cordial and outgoing. I will visit with him in the near future and brief him on the mission of the Alumni Association.

History - about the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association, *Military Professionals of the Present - Past - Future*

Our organization began under the leadership of Colonel James D. Bankers, Commander, 315th Airlift Wing. on 9 July 1994 at 9:30 am, in building 171. The first charter meeting of the Alumni Meeting began 9 July 9:30 am in building 171. During this meeting a set of By-Laws and the election of Officers were established under the direction of the Public Affairs Officer, Major Chris King and the Jag Officer Lt Colonel Andy Savage. Andy filed a copy of the documentation on 8 September 1994 with the state of South Carolina IRS as a non-profit organization. The 315th Airlift Wing Association (315AWAA) was founded July 1994 and includes all squadrons and units. Our organization started with fifty-five (55) charter members. Our members are active

reservists (associate members), civilians, retirees, and those reassigned or separated from the 315th Airlift Wing. Andy got us started out and we all know Andy. He has taken the time out from his Law Firm over the years to be with us and he's a very strong supporter of the Alumni.

315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association

Application for New or Renewing Members

Dues \$5 per year -- \$12 for 3 years -- \$24 for 6 years

Please contact our membership chair Linda Skillman for an application or renewal application by email message or regular US mail service:

Linda Skillman, Secretary
315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association
7033 North Kenwood Drive
Charleston, SC 29406

Linda.Skillman@outlook.com

We look forward to your fellowship as a new/renewing member.

Final Fly-By

MSgt Air Force Reserve Technician William "Bill" Freeman, 315th FMS Sheet Metal, passed away at his home on 28 May 2022 at the age of 80. Bill served in the US Air Force and Reserve for 36 years. He is survived by his wife Sue of 44 years, and four children. Joe Whetstone said Bill one of the best! Bill knew those C-141 and C-17 aircraft backwards and forward. He had integrity, intelligence and was a kind and hardworking man according to the 1 June 2022 issue of the local Post and Courier newspaper. His knowledge and experience were over the top. Bill is also a current member with dues paid of the 315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association. Bill is listed on our membership roster as a MSgt. He taught at Trident Technical College and Boeing. Bill was a Mason, enjoyed dancing, square, shag and clogging and going fishing. Bill certainly lived a long and incredible life. Services to the family were provided by Pugh Funeral Home and a graveside service was held following services at Luther's Lutheran Church, 4955 Richfield Rd., Richfield, NC 28137. You may visit the guestbook at legacy.com/obituaries/Charleston

You may be receiving the newsletters by email message awhile longer. I will need to open up a new account with AOL or I could utilize my other email address at delox1936@gmail.com

I will also need to use a template to get the C-17 photo letterhead back on again. Our webmaster Chief Tom Clemmons has already accomplished this on the email newsletters he has posted on the website he set up for us many years ago. You may get all the back issues of the newsletters and other valued information at: <http://www.awaalumniassoc.com/>

There are old pilots, and there are bold pilots, but there are no old bold pilots. 😎

Del Oxford, Communications