



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

**March 2023
Newsletter 4**

The next 315AW Association Board Meeting and Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, 17 March 2023, in building 60 auditorium. Times are as follows:

- (1) board meeting, 09:30 - 10:30
- (2) set up for luncheon, 10:30 - 11:00
- (3) alumni luncheon, 11:00 - 12:30

To ensure enough food is catered, Colonel Roberts asks that those who plan to attend send a RSVP to the Alumni Secretary, Linda Skillman at linda.skillman@outlook.com. Linda Skillman, Secretary, 315AW Alumni Association, (843) 553-5045.

701st Airlift Squadron

A gathering of the Turtles is currently being organized.

Where: Lake Gunthersville State Park, Alabama

When: May 7th - 11th

We will reminisce about our time in the 701st family. We will meet three or four days, do a little sightseeing, get together in the evenings for dinner, cold beer and old war stories. Time marches on and we're not getting any younger.

Tomy Peters, flight engineer, will be the reunion planner/coordinator.

Final Fly-By

Bernard C. Bodison, 38APS Vehicle Maintenance, passed on 4 January 2023. We received this information from TSgt (ret) Sue F. Cavanaugh, Joint Base Charleston Aerial Port Squadrons Alumni Association.

315th Airlift Wing Alumni Association Application for New or Renewing Members:

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

Direct membership questions to Linda Skillman at Linda.Skillman@outlook.com or call (843) 553-5045.

Linda will send you the application/renewal form to your email address. We still have some members that do not have the Internet, or a cell phone and they attend many of our gatherings. We value your membership and camaraderie.

Corvettes

The Corvette sports car stands out among all the rest. Dave Brock has a nice red one. Ed Hernandez has one. I've had a few for a very short time because of assignments to Iceland and Tripoli Libya. Currently I have a 2012, six speed stick shift, 350 engine that gets lots of attention and it's a collector's edition.

History of the 943rd Military Airlift Group and the 315th Airlift Wing

Colonel William A. Willis was our first Commander and took command on 8 October 1969. SSgt Dick and SSgt Jimmy Vaughn were among the first to sign up. They were assigned to the 780 Section where they configured the C-141A. The 300th Squadron was activated. The mess hall served midnight chow. C-141 shuttle flights came in from many parts of the country. I came in on the shuttle from Pope AFB NC along with my best friend Bob Stewart. We had to wait in a very long line at billeting. While we were waiting in line, Wayne Nettles had six packs of Old Milwaukee beer for us. After we got all checked in, we went to the NCO Club next door for another one and that was the only brand they had. We affectionally called them ole mill. Jack Pinkerton, ART of the Air Evac Squadron was always there waiting for us. The band was playing and there were couples out on the dance floor. We couldn't stay very long and there were many of us flying early the next morning.

I eventually needed some information from the PA office. There was only one civil service worker assigned and his name was Andy. One day Andy brought his big tom cat to work. He sat quietly on top of his desk and never moved.

If there was a good movie playing off base in the evening, Ray Ardis and others would give us a lift. While we were off base, Ray would take us to Jo Anns place for some good dining. Jo Ann's was very well known for many years until she passed. Afterwards, we all found a new place just outside the Dorchester Road gate, Sub-Station II. The reservists still go there in their uniforms, the manager is still Linda, she is very friendly and keeps us well entertained.

Derek and Ashley Bishop

I just met this great couple at my favorite watering hole, The Oak Road Brewery off Main Street in Summerville. Derek is an active member of the 315AW Alumni Association. Derek is a Lt Colonel currently assigned to the 317th AS/315 AW/SE and his office is located in building 51. He knows Jim Roberts, Andy Savage and many others in the Wing. We look forward to seeing them at the luncheon. Ashley and I were born in our hometown of Morganton, NC. We talked at length about all those we both know and places we enjoyed hanging out.

Pollen

Our cars, property and everything else is covered with pollen like we have never seen before. Spring came in February and we have 80 degree temperatures here in the Charleston area. Today I called my sister and her spouse in Rocky Ford Georgia, about two hours away and down the road from Walterboro SC. It's the same there as we have here.

I have enjoyed publishing newsletters for well over 45 years, Air Force, high school, NC State. The best adventure of all has been my Oxford side of the family when I paid a visit to Hadley, Suffolk County England. I found that my ancestral grandparents are Andrew Oxford & Mary Ann Brown. They came to my hometown of Morganton NC in 1733. I have published the 315AW Alumni Association Newsletter 27 years. Ray Ardis was the newsletter previously.

I recently celebrated my 87th birthday and there are no signs of dementia that I recognize. I will continue to publish this newsletter as long we are all still around to receive them.

Enjoy the beautiful weather weekend.

Del Oxford, Communications